

Inside this week's *Prep News*...

Forum: STUCO promises Spirit Week will happen, *see page 3*

Feature: Tim Hodits, '98, camps in box for Habitat for Humanity, *see page 9.*

Sports: Grapplerbills lose close one to Hazelwood, *see page 5*

St. Louis University High School

Prep News

"If nothing else, value the truth."

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Issue 12

Senior Kennedy named to Habitat for Humanity Board

Raj Joseph
Assistant Editor

To build a house, one needs first to decide where to lay the foundation where he or she wishes to build. Similarly, by consistently volunteering to work for the housing redevelopment program Habitat for Humanity, St. Louis U. High senior John Kennedy built a foundation of commitment to this program upon which an invitation to serve on the St. Louis Habitat for Humanity Board of Directors was laid.



Kennedy, '01

Two weeks ago, Kennedy accepted a position on the Board of Directors of the St. Louis chapter of Habitat for Humanity. When he is officially appointed on January 1, 2001, he will become the youngest Board of Directors member in the history of Habitat for Humanity. Kennedy will be working with members whose ages range from the 30s to the 50s.

Board Member Kathy Sorkin said, "It's the first time in history that someone under 25 was named (to the Board of Directors)." **see JFK, 8**

SLUH makes play for new baseball stadium in Forest Park

Andrew Ivers
Editor

Roughly a year and a half ago, Sam Haise—a member of the Forest Park Forever project, the privately-funded sect of the Forest Park Restoration Project—approached SLUH board member Ted Hellman '66 with a proposition: a home field for the SLUH baseball teams in neighboring Forest Park.

Hellman took the idea to President Paul Sheridan, S.J., who also liked the

Thurber Carnival comes to town with Dauphin Players production

Dan Sutter
Reporter

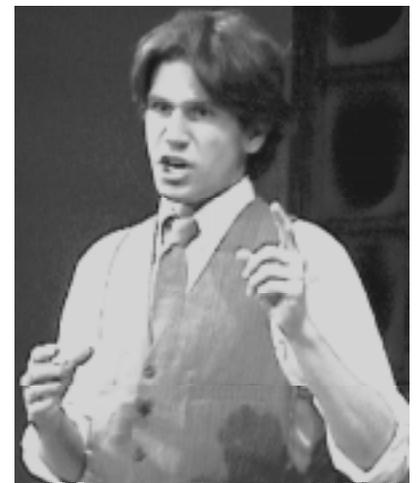
SLUH has always patted itself on the back for its ability to stay current with technology and state-of-the-art school supplies. It is common to walk past a classroom full of students working on iBooks, or a journalist walking back to the *Prep News* office with a digital video camera. It is easy to get lost in the frenzy of modern gots-to-have-'em-ism, but there is one man who can remind us of the simple joy of laughter this weekend: not James Thurber (he's dead, folks), but Joe Schulte. Theater director Schulte is directing the Dauphin Players' most recent

idea, and thus began the process to give the Sluggerbills a true home. The negotiations between the many parties involved are nearing an end, and Sheridan estimates that the initial negotiations required for the planning and construction process to begin could be less than a week away from completion.

"Everything has gone as we hoped," said Hellman.

The plan calls for two baseball fields

see GRAND SALAMI, 8



Peter Weidmann cracks up the audience in Thursday's rehearsal.

see MITTY, 4

Commons closed, couches filled with trash, fruit flies

Tim Piechowski
Reporter

Last Tuesday during the end-of-school announcements, Dean of Students H. Eric Clark informed the student body that the Student Commons was closed indefinitely. Clark felt the need to close the Commons after multiple attempts to get students to clean up after themselves failed. Students were frequently leaving lunch trays in the Commons, and were failing to throw away their garbage.

The Commons were so dirty that "if you were to walk in the room with your mouth open, a fruit fly [would] fly in your



The sign proclaiming a closed Commons

mouth," commented Clark. The fruit flies most likely came from the food stuffed underneath the couches.

Of the students irresponsibility, Clark said, "What upsets me is that this is [the students'] school, and they treat it like crap."

Student reactions to the closing of the Commons were mixed. Sophomore David Haenni expressed his opinion, saying, "I care deeply; the lunchroom is overcrowded, and it gave me somewhere to sleep in the morning."

Sophomore Dan Sinnett had a different reaction. "I don't care," Sinnett commented, adding,

"The Commons are always so dirty that I never want to go in there."

Since its being closed, some students have been working to get the Commons reopened; however, Clark believes that "the students won't be able to get it cleaned the way it needs to be."

He added that the only way the Commons can truly be cleaned is with the aid of the maintenance staff. The room needs its carpets cleaned, and it needs to be fumigated.

Unfortunately, its maintenance crew has other items on their schedule, and the Commons will have to wait.

Clark said there will need to be changes made in the Commons if and when the Commons are reopened. He believes that in order to keep the Commons clean in the future, all couches will need to be removed from the room.

Also, food would most likely not be allowed in the Commons, as it is the cause of most of the messes made there.

Regarding overcrowding in the cafeteria due to the closing of the Commons, Clark stated that for the time being, "Students will have to sit on each others' laps."

Students collect goods for Bosnian families

Brian Kane
Reporter

Last week, many were indulging in their Thanksgiving joy and taking time to remember what they normally take for granted. But there were some families who had to worry about necessity, not surplus.

There is a high number of Bosnian refugees currently living in St. Louis. Many of them do not have what they need. At least forty-one of those families, some of them fleeing from the war in their homeland, will receive special aid from Saint Louis U. High students this winter through a STUCO-sponsored service project.

"It's great that SLUH students can put aside their own wants and help the less fortunate with their needs," said Drew Tangaro, a senior advisor from homeroom M109.

Earlier in October, a St. Pius representative began discussing plans for the project with STUCO Moderator Brock Kesterson. In November, Kesterson received the guidelines for the project, as well as the list of families SLUH would be assisting and information about them.

During the half-week of school before the Thanksgiving holiday, information about the drive was released throughout the school, and students started to sign up to bring in specific items. A wide variety of items are being collected, from bath soap and shampoo to paper towels. Most of the items are things many people use on a daily basis without a second thought regarding their importance.

Each homeroom of the school is
see X-MAS TIDINGS, 10

Prep News Nightbeat

Varsity Wrestling

SLUH 40, Windsor 27

Quick Pins

Nick Born, 119 at 1:02

Dan Wankum, 171 at 1:32

Additional Wins

Robert Nahlik, 112

Sean Staed, 125

Stan Niemeier, 130

Mike Huelsing, 140

Colin O'Brien, 145

Ben Purcell, 160

John Horman, 189

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

STUCO begins Christmas season with plethora of activities

Hi-dee-ho, Jr. Bills,

Yes, it's been a while since you have heard from me (not long enough), and I know you (hardly) missed my witty (boring) letters to the editor (tyrant). FYI this letter is jam-packed with humor (yeah) and pizzazz (whatever that means).

First off, bring in all your goodies for the Bosnian Drive. The final day is December 15 and delivery is Saturday, December 16. So, don't be like me, bring in your item before Saturday morning on the way to deliver your baskets. It's a really good cause, and it feels good to give.

In the spirit of giving, your STUCO delivered a big loss to the non-existent *Prep News* homeroom on Thursday. It's settled; we now know who really runs the school. Homeroom Hoops continues for juniors and seniors; and for you frosh and wisefools, homeroom b-ball starts after the Christmas break. Note to M106: STUCO is going to whoop up on you tomorrow.

The Mario Tennis Tournament is still being played, and there are many matches today. See Casey Barrelle or the tournament board on the STUCO office window.

Next item on the agenda: the SLUH Christmas Mixer 2000. "It's the most wonderful time of the year," says Tommy Chibnall. When you enter our winter wonderland, nine out of ten of you stallion-like Jr. Bills will proclaim, "It's a Christmas miracle!" 100% guaranteed (not actually guaranteed).

This Sunday our varsity basketball team opens up its season

against Jerseyville at 1:00 p.m. at SIU-Edwardsville. What else are you going to do...watch the Rams? Let me tell you something, Kurt Warner is back, and the Rams are going to run all over Carolina. What else are you going to do...homework? Kyle Bruno says, "Man, I don't even *do* homework. Pssht." Take his advice and don't take your girlfriend to see *The Grinch*. Go watch the Bills play some hoops.

Spirit Week is coming up (for real this time). December 11-15 is filled with tradition and fun. Look for an extravaganza of Twinkie-eating, Crazy Clothes Day, and another stellar pep rally. There is another celebrity guest that will blow your mind, so watch out.

That's all I have for you today, my fellow Jr. Bills. Remember, keep your feet on the ground, your eyes on the road, and keep reaching for the stars. (I apologize for this lame attempt at humor—*Prep News* NightBeat wrote it, not me.)

See ya,
Paddy Kelleher
STUCO Sports Commish

Editor's Note: The Prep News has contested the decision of the homeroom basketball game. Do not be fooled by STUCO's monkeyshines and doubletalk that may lead you to believe they were victorious. The results of the recount should be in after Christmas break.

Pro-Life Club elects officers and looks for members

Dear Fellow Jr. Bills,

As many of you know, a club that has started up in full force this year is the Pro-Life Club. With Mr. Chik at the head of the effort, the Pro-Life Club is working hard to get the word around SLUH and the St. Louis community that we care about life and the right to life for all beings.

Well, this week the Pro-Life Club had its inaugural election of officers. Although we had some difficulties with the voting in Palm Beach County, we were still able to complete the election, and I am proud to announce the new officers to the St. Louis U. High Pro Life Club. The president is senior Chris Conard, the vice-president is Craig Hinders, the publicity officer is senior Joe

Nagle, and the secretary is junior Steve Mongiello. With these guys at the wheel, the Pro-Life Club is in for a ride.

Also, anyone who is interested in joining the club is always welcome; just talk to the guys mentioned above or to Mr. Chik. We have a lot of events and things we want to do this year to have fun and make a name for our club. We have meetings every couple of weeks, and if you're interested, just stop on by and get involved. Thanks for your time and congratulations to all the newly elected officers of the club.

Sincerely,
Chris Conard, '01

Jim Blase, '75, encourages student volunteers

I just wanted to echo the comments made by Raj Joseph in his editorial of November 17, urging students to consider service beyond Senior Project.

Before last week's SLUH Board of Trustees meeting, I was reading an article in the Fall issue of the Jesuit Bulletin entitled: "Will You Build Me a House?" Rockhurst University Students Give Up Their Spring Break to Do Service Projects," and I

thought to myself, what a great idea for SLUH! I recommend this article for reading by all SLUH students. To be true "Men For Others" requires the sacrifice of time over and above that already carved out of the SLUH school schedule.

Jim Blase, '75
Member, SLUH Board of Trustees

Tai brings Confucianism to library

Andy Neilsen
Core Staff

Last year, an art exhibit at UMSL marked the 2550th anniversary of the birth of China's great thinker and teacher, Confucius. With pictures as well as artifacts, the St. Louis chapter of the Confucius Association of the United States honored China's most respected teacher.

This year, SLUH's sole Chinese teacher, Ching-Ling Tai, has brought some of this exhibit to the Robinson Library here at SLUH.

As well as panoramic pictures of Chinese ceremonies from the Confucius Association, Tai has mixed in artwork

and artifacts from her own personal collection.

The collection features a large clay pot inscribed with Chinese writing all around its surface. Artifacts from much earlier times in China are on display, such as combs and eating utensils.

The display also shows large scenes of the ceremony in China held to honor Confucius's birth, picturing grand towers and large scale dances.

Tai's main hope in bringing this exhibit to SLUH is to educate all students, not just those in her class, about Confucius's influence on Chinese and western thought.



One of many items in the Confucius exhibit in the library.

MITTY

(from 1)
undertaking, "A Thurber Carnival," which will open tonight at 7:30 pm and continue with three more shows this weekend.

Schulte still chuckles at the stories Thurber tells and the author's underlying wit. "He wasn't a joke-writer," explains Schulte. "He was a humorist. He was very subtle and found humor in normal life, like Will Rogers, or Bill Cosby today."

The play itself is a collection of his short stories and cartoons acted on stage. The format of the play could be compared to a variety show. When one scene ends, a new one begins and all the actors take on new roles.

The only time the audience will see the actors in what looks like the same roles is during the Word Dance sketches. The Word Dances open and close the show, and consist of eight actors (four couples) in a cocktail party setting. They are all dancing (choreographed by senior Kurt Kleinberg), and the dialogue is taken from Thurber's various cartoons that were published in the *New Yorker*. The end result is a series of one-liners, intertwined with dancing, that will have everybody in the audience laughing.

Thurber is also known for the sophistication of his humor. When asked about the work of the author, English teacher Rich Moran replied with arguably one of

the most ingenious ideas since the new block schedule.

"As opposed to interviewing incoming freshman, I always said we should just put them in a room with a book of Thurber's work and a little window to see if they are laughing. If not, they're out of here." That may never happen, but Moran will be in attendance for the show Sunday night at 7:30 p.m. and promises to be laughing.

The production features a cool jazz group on the side of the stage that will play all the music for the show. The four-piece set of junior Mark Siebenaler and seniors Mike Nigh, Ryan Vilbig, and Dave Willard give the audience lively entertainment before each show begins, playing jazz each night while the audience finds their seat.

ASC member Ken Ferrigni, who has spent long hours helping Schulte with the actors, says he has loved Thurber since he was eleven years old. The best part for him is "how (his humor) held up after fifty years."

Schulte echoes his remark, saying, "Some of it is dated, but his humor is still very popular."

Stage manager Craig Hinders said the best part of the play for him is that "it's not all high-tech and fancy, it's all comic genius. That's what makes it funny."

In his cartoons, Thurber has an obvi-

ous fascination with dogs. He is famously quoted as saying, "The dog has seldom been successful in pulling man up to its level of sagacity, but man has frequently dragged the dog down to his." Thurber's love of simplicity is apparent in all of his cartoons, many of which are featured during the show. His influence over the modern cartoonists at the *New Yorker* today is uncanny, where his style has found a home in the back pages of its magazine. His simple pen drawings, usually of dogs, will decorate the set and a few sketches this weekend.

Kevin Kloster, with a large, very un-Oedipal smile, says, "The best part of the play is I don't have to kiss Laura Winkler." He is of course referring to the numerous on-stage kisses he shared with her as husband and wife, or mother and son... whatever they were during *Oedipus Rex*.

Schulte and Ferrigni started the show a little differently than planned. Instead of the required nine roles (five male, four female) for the play, they increased the cast to 16 actors (12 male, four female).

In regards to the change, Ferrigni stated, "Due to the format of the show, we were able to increase the cast, and now more SLUH guys get to be in the spotlight than originally intended. It worked out great, because we had so many excellent actors to choose from."

Wrestlers kick off season aggressively

Despite losses, team pleased with progress

Mike Smallwood
Reporter

A sense of eagerness and anticipation was felt as the wrestling Jr. Bills prepared to take on the Hazelwood West Cats on Tuesday evening. This was a tough season opener for U. High wrestling, but the team was ready to take on the challenge.

In the first two matches, SLUH and Hazelwood West exchanged open lineup spots with Rob Nahlik receiving a forfeit at 112.

After suffering a pin at 119, SLUH was down 12-6, but in the very next bout, Sean Staed quickly tied up the score by pinning his opponent.

Stan Niemeier followed with an impressive 19-3 win over his competitor in the 130-lb. category, earning the team 5 points by a technical fall. He all-out

crushed his enemy, slamming him to the ground several times after lifting him off his feet and then torturing him with moves that twisted his legs in obscure ways.

The Cats didn't worry, though, and SLUH suffered a loss at 135, putting Hazelwood up by one, 18 to 17.

With this tight of a match, the door of opportunity was swinging back and forth. The Bills decided to bust it open. SLUH won the next four consecutive weight classes decisively.

Mike Huelsing, 140, crippled his opponent in a 16-0 decision in which he applied continuous pressure to his opponent—not allowing him a moment's rest and leaving his face in a constant state of wretched pain. Colin O'Brien collected a forfeit and six more



Stan Niemeier slams an opponent.

team points, while Joe Bommarito pinned his man 3:26 into the 152-lb scrimmage. Joe Gilfoil, wrestling at 160, flipped and rolled his way to a pin in only 2:24. This streak put SLUH up big, 40-18.

However, this was not an insurmountable lead with four matches left. The Jr. Bills lost the 171 and 189 weight classes in closely contended bouts, which tightened the team score to 40-30. With SLUH having the last two weight classes open, the Cats collected 12 more points to push barely past the Billikens. The final score was Hazelwood West 42, SLUH 40.

"We should have had it. We just had a couple of opens that cost us the match," commented captain Stan Niemeier.

Despite the loss, the team competed very well; assistant coach Todd Clements remarked, "Everyone gave a 100% and that is what we look for each time."

Following the disappointment, head coach Tim Curdt said of the actual score, "It's tough giving up the points on forfeits, but with four pins and two technical falls, I felt it was a very good first match for a young team with a lot of potential. The challenge will be how to build on the good things and fix the problems. We wrestled aggressively and didn't back down."

Puckbills start '00 with 2-2-1 record in opening weeks

Jon Neff
Reporter

The Buseybills entered their game against conference rival Vianney hoping to better their 1-0-1 record. The Vianney defense, however, shut down the SLUH offense and allowed no goals.

While goalie Geoff Schuessler played a solid game, the SLUH defense twice left Vianney forwards open in front of the net, leaving Schuessler with no chance to stop the point-blank shots. Vianney added two more goals to seal the game in their favor 4-0.

After this disappointing loss, SLUH looked to improve on its performance against another conference rival and one of the best teams in the league, Chaminade.

A large SLUH crowd came out to see what promised to be an exciting game, and neither team disappointed. Both teams came out strong, playing aggressively on offense, but Chaminade struck first on a goal by forward Mike Torrente.

SLUH continued to play well however, and quickly countered with a power play goal by sophomore winger Tim Mudd, bringing life back to the quiet crowd. Chaminade, however, backed by strong goaltending by Keith Van Gels, was able to keep strong pressure on Schuessler and the SLUH defense, and added two more goals by Aaron Thompson, including one on the power play again by Torrente, before the period ended.

The second period continued at the

see ZAMBONI, 6

Basketbills look to improve in 2001

Mauer looks for improved defense, shooting

Shawn Furey
Reporter

A little more than a month ago, head basketball coach Don Maurer's Basketbills took the court for the first practice of the season. The Jr. Bills look to improve on last seasons sub-.500 record with not only an improved record, but an overall increased excitement about Saint Louis U. High basketball.

Maurer described his preseason outlook as "cautiously optimistic" and added, "We have some very good shooters on this team, and if we can improve with the inside game as the season gets started, we'll just be that much better."

As is the tradition, a short time before the season's first game, the Jr. Bills suited up for their Blue and White scrimmage. With the team evenly divided and looking to get some simulated game experience, the 2000-2001 SLUH Basketball team showed their stuff.

The game was a back and forth battle which displayed the team's knack for



Troy Lindbeck drives to the basket in Thursday's practice.

outside shooting. They shot an impressive 44% from behind the 3-point arc. The guard duo of the Blue team's Troy Lindbeck and the White's Adam Siebenman strutted their stuff as they exchanged outside shots for much of the game. Lindbeck finished the scrimmage with at team-high 21 points, followed by Siebenmann's 19.

Lindbeck, who averaged 12.2 points per game last year, said of the upcoming season, "We will improve on last season and we will try to stay competitive in our conference."

ZAMBONI

(from 5)

same high pace. SLUH brought the difference to one on a goal by senior center Tom Merkel, and it looked as if they could even up the score.

Their aggressive play finally turned into a partial breakaway, though, with Chaminade forward Steve Bruce streaking down the center of the ice. He fired a shot from the slot that Schuessler was in good position to stop, but defenseman Todd Turner, the only SLUH player back, attempted to block the shot with his stick and actually redirected the shot past Schuessler.

This goal proved to be the turning point of the game, and eventually the game winner. Chaminade's Cole Dunlop added another power play goal at the start of the third, and sophomore Bob Lachky

added one more power play goal for SLUH. While the loss was disappointing, it was the first game in which the team showed what it is capable of.

Senior forward Geoff Hill said "It was the best game we've played all year, and it proved that we can play at Chaminade's level."

Coach Charlie Busenhart said "If we play all of our games like that one, we can stay in any game."

After its second straight loss, the team played what seemed would be an easy game against the Althoff Crusaders. SLUH, however, played what Busenhart called a "weak defensive game." The Jr. Bills, however, squeaked by, with Lachky scoring late in the third period to take the victory, 7-6. The other goals were added by Merkel, Joe Mantovani, Matt Pijut, another by Lachky and two by Turner.

The Jr. Bills open their season against Jerseyville on Sunday afternoon at 1 p.m. in Edwardsville, and then enter the Webster Tournament Thursday night with a first-round game against Eureka. The two teams will be good early tests for the squad, because they offer two very different attacks.

Of the upcoming opponents, Maurer said, "Jerseyville is a team which features some good shooters, and they are a smaller team that uses speed shooting, whereas Eureka is a bigger team with some key returns from last year. They will be two good tests for us."

Team Captain Kyle Bruno said of the new start for the team, "We are looking to get SLUH's name back on the basketball scene—we want to turn some heads this year."

The season starts Sunday. With great fan support and consistent performances by their core of talent, the team looks to improve all year long. It's the winter sports season, Jr. Bills—get ready to turn your heads.

TAI THE KNOT

(from 4)

Confucius was so respected in China that his family grave site is the largest undisturbed plot in all of China. Confucius's temple is also the only other place in China where a strong dragon motif is found in the design. These dragon decorations are reserved strictly for the emperor, but, because of his standing, Confucius's temple was allowed to display this symbol of respect.

Even the Chinese emperors make pilgrimages to Confucius's hometown to honor the great thinker. Tai hopes that SLUH students will also be able to see this greatness. The exhibit will run for another 2-3 weeks, and is located just inside the library. Tai has also made packets of information on Confucius available there for anyone interested.

Racquetbills sluggish with 1-3 start to '00

Tom Broeckelman
Reporter

After losing their first match in a devastating 6-1 defeat by Kirkwood, the Racquetbills hoped to rally through the next three games and show off their true abilities. Much to the Racquetters' dismay, the Griffins of Vianney had other plans.

The talented Vianney squad skirted past the Jr. Bills, with several games going to a third game tie-breaker. With junior Kevin Moore winning on account of forfeit and sophomore Chris Guilfooy winning his game in a tie-breaker, only two more victories were needed to defeat Vianney. But victory slipped through the Racquetbill's fingers as the doubles team lost in a tie-breaker, along with team captain Joe Sharamitaro's devastating third-game loss.

The Jr. Bills awoke during their recent road trip to Hazelwood, with a 5-2 routing of an outmatched Parkway West squad. But this awakening turned into a slumber during the Monday night face-off against Kirkwood. Again the match came down to tie-breakers, with four of

the seven matches going to a third game, but ending with a Jr. Bill loss.

When asked about the unusual 1-3 start, Doc Koestner replied, "With the hardest part of the season out of the way, as well as the beginning nervousness, we look forward to smooth sailing the rest of the way." Even though the annual state champion Racquetbills have already suffered three losses this season, these losses have come from two of the best teams in the state.

The team, led mostly by juniors, is growing exponentially in skill, experience, and heart. During the last game against Kirkwood, five of the seven matches were finished with Kirkwood winning each, but that did not dampen the hearts of this SLUH team; instead, they all stayed and cheered for Moore and Sharamitaro, who were still playing in a tie-breaker. Even though the match was well over and lost, the pride of the Jr. Bills shone through as they cheered Moore on to victory, evading the near shutout.

The team is ready for its rematch with Vianney on Tuesday, wanting to show the Griffins "who's the boss" and I don't mean Tony Danza.



A Jr. Bill backhands a volley.

Junior Racquetballer Mike Gau captured the true meaning of the competition with his own personal motto: "It's not whether you win or lose, but how you play the game that counts," which he quickly followed by another Gau original, "I love racquetball; put another dime in the jukebox baby."

Despite what the Laxbills are trying to tell you on every door of the school, come to the true "fastest sport on two feet"—racquetball. Admission is free and seating is not a factor, so come see the big game Tuesday at 3:30 at Concord Sports Complex in South County, to watch SLUH desecrate the Griffins in a Racquetball Battle Royale.

Speedobills splash to a win over Clayton, look to swim away with state title in '01

Jeff Dueker
Staff

Swimming 2000-2001 kicked off the season with a win last night over Clayton and Cape Notre Dame. SLUH accumulated 169 points, while Clayton received 82 points and Cape Notre Dame received only 74 points. In addition to the win, four SLUH swimmers earned state times, a significant feat for the first meet of the season. junior Greg Szewczyk won a state time in the 100 Freestyle, sophomore Tom Heafner blasted a state time in

the 100 Butterfly, sophomore Carl Thompson swam very stately in the 500 Freestyle, and freshman Kurt Doll completed the hat trick plus another state time in the 200 Freestyle.

Head coach Terry Murray has high hopes for the team this year. Assisted by social studies teacher Pete Cerneka and by diving coach Brendan LeBrun, Murray looks to lead his swimmers to a very successful season.

This year's team will be relatively young. "We have 53 swimmers and 4 divers this year," said Murray, "and of those we have 17 freshman, with most of

them swimming on the varsity level." The team also has strong returning seniors, including Zach Hartwig and Charlie Maitz.

Unfortunately, the swim team will have the same disadvantage that water polo had: the lack of a home pool. Forest Park Community College's Pool is still unfit for use, so the coaches have to painstakingly schedule practices at other pools. This should have no effect on the team's performance, because water is water and SLUH will undoubtedly be SLUH.

The Speedobills have a meet tonight against Lafayette at Lafayette, starting at 4:00, so go there.

GRAND SALAMI

(from 1)

to be constructed at the west end of Aviation Field, just north of Highway 40 and west of the St. Louis Science Center Planetarium in Forest Park. One field will be a practice field which will have a natural surface complete with a grass infield and an irrigation system.

The performance field, which will lie to the north of the practice field (farther away from the highway), will be constructed in the same way as its counterpart.

The performance field will also have lights, a scoreboard, dugouts, bullpens, seating for spectators, restrooms, locker rooms, and a concession stand. A small maintenance building will lie between the two fields.

Clayco Construction, "a very qualified company," according to Hellman, will design the actual facility. The company's past jobs include Rams Park and the new renovations to Busch Stadium.

Also, "(Steve) Nicollerat played a very crucial role in helping to design the field as well as design a schedule," according to Sheridan. Nicollerat, the varsity baseball coach, has been involved with Hellman and Sheridan since the beginning of the project.

The other main parties involved in the project are Forest Park Forever, the City of St. Louis and its Parks Dept., and St. Louis Cardinals Care—a charitable organization of the Cardinals baseball organization.

Cardinals Care and SLUH have both made pledges for \$250,000 to Forest Park Forever; that is, they have promised the money to the project but have not yet provided the check. The reason the process is where it is now is because the City Alderman and Board have not fully agreed to the conditions set forth by both SLUH and Cardinals Care.

One condition of the agreement is that the outfield fence, which will be temporary, will be replaced with a permanent

one before the second season if there is a problem with its stability during the first.

SLUH and Cardinals Care have asked, in a very lengthy report, that the St. Louis City Parks Department provide proper maintenance for the fields, which entails managing the irrigation, fertilization and cutting of the grass, and the repairing of any damage to the facility. The report specifies that Forest Park Forever may review the maintenance work and determine if the work is not satisfactory.

If this is the case, Forest Park Forever may then decide to hire a third party company to take over the maintenance work.

Both Hellman and Sheridan believe that the negotiations are in the final stages and will be completed relatively soon.

When the construction is complete, SLUH will have the field for 25 years, with the opportunity to renew their commitment. Jr. Bill teams will play 15 home games on the performance field and use the practice field six days per week.

The idea of a first class field will be "very motivational" for many involved in the baseball program, said Steve Nicollerat.

"This means more from a practice point of view," he commented. "We haven't had a home practice field in the 22 years I've coached."

In addition to Jr. Bills, baseball players from Forest Park Community College and the Public High League (PHL) will be able to use the field. Nicollerat has met with Damen Hendricks, baseball coach at Forest Park Community College, in his efforts to devise a facility which would avail itself to the schedules of SLUH teams as well as others.

"It will be good for lots of other people outside SLUH," Nicollerat concluded. "It will be good for us, too, but good for others as well."

That idea of neighborhood is a subtle addition to SLUH's efforts to more fully become a part of the area in which it has
see GOPHER BALL, 10

JFK

(from 1)

Directors]. We made the decision as we saw more high school volunteers. It's good for the Board [in that he can] give perspective and insight about ideas and how it works...It's part of our mission to bring in a young person with leadership skills."

She also said that such a young person could explain other learning experiences of Habitat for Humanity other than construction and finance, such as communication and exposure to people of different backgrounds.

For example, the volunteers could meet the future homeowners, since they also have to provide "sweat equity" of 450 work hours, since Habitat for Humanity provides "not a handout, but a handup."

Kennedy has been working at one of their construction sites at the intersection of MLK Drive and Goodfellow Ave since Thanksgiving of 1999. He contributed weekly until the summer of 2000, when he began helping two to three times a week.

His work consisted of laying concrete and other assorted construction "stuff".

This work, combined with a college essay that Kennedy wrote about Habitat for Humanity that the Board of Directors saw, led to the invitation to serve on the Board.

When Kennedy initially received this notice, he said he was "shocked, because [he] had done a little here and a little there, but [he] thought it was cool."

He now will attend Board meetings to make decisions to make it better, but will still help with the actual construction as well.

He hopes to possibly provide service opportunities for SLUH similar to the project in which Chaminade and Vianney jointly sponsored and built a house.

'98 grad Hodits lives in box for charity

Matt Snively
Sports Editor

Where do you see yourself in the future? Most of us probably see the doors of opportunity opening once we receive our SLUH diploma, the world at our feet. Would you think that not even four years removed from the U. High community, you would live in a cardboard box?

Neither did Tim Hodits, class of '98, but from Oct. 23 to Oct. 27 this year, that's exactly what he did. He voluntarily subjected himself to the perils of living on the street at the University of Missouri in Columbia.

Was he low on cash, you ask? Did he get evicted from his apartment? Not so much. He was actually participating in a fundraiser for the Mizzou chapter of Habitat for Humanity. Along with two other students, juniors Brad Finnegan and Dave Walton, Hodits set up what he would describe as "a bunch of refrigerator and dryer boxes taped together" to be their temporary home. They started the week with the ironclad resolve "not to leave until we raised \$2500," Hodits said. "We heckled people for money, things like, 'Gimme a dollar so I can take a shower.' That was a popular one." All in all, the trio raised \$3100 for Habitat for Humanity, shattering their goal and allowing themselves to finally take a shower, much to the appreciation of their classmates.

"We pretty much were in the box unless we had a class," Hodits said. "We basically spent the entire week there asking for money."

The generosity of the student body at Mizzou overwhelmed Hodits. "Kids were writing checks for \$50, we found hundred dollar bills in our box, it was amazing. Also, we didn't have to pay for food once; people we didn't even know would come up to us and give us coffee and food."

Even with all the positive support, Tim said the highlight of his week came on Tuesday night when a homeless man Tim knew came up to the box. He said he wished he had some change for them, but he was broke. Still, instead of walking away and leaving the students empty-handed, he fished deep into his pocket and produced a soda cap. "Do you guys want a free soda?" he offered, adding "It says here you get a free soda." Surprised by the generosity of the man, the three students accepted the cap thankfully, amazed that a man with so little would freely offer them all he had.

However, it wasn't always clear sailing for the trio of shackers. For example, around 6 a.m. on Wednesday, it began to rain in Columbia. How often do we shrug off late night rain as something that might only occasionally wake us with a clap of thunder? Tim and his compadres didn't have that luxury, as they had to wait out the storm huddled in their box. Hodits commented

on the storm, saying, "It kinda was a pain, but it wasn't so bad because our box was painted with slogans and stuff and it had a lot of tape on it. It was pretty much waterproof."

The idea for the stunt came from a similar activity that took place at Mizzou the year before, an event aptly named "Shack 'n the Box," where around forty people slept out on Stankowski Field and raised over \$700 for Habitat for Humanity.

Tim's journey from the halls of SLUH to the streets of Columbia started when he was a senior at the U. High. He became aware that there was more to the world than just what was right in front of him, and wanted to make a difference in the community. He began hounding English teacher Terry Quinn to start

working with Habitat for Humanity, and through ferocious persistence started a program that met twice a month in North St. Louis to build a house.

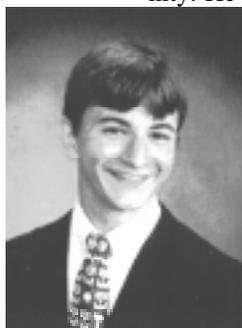
"Tim was very persistent about the whole thing. He called the St. Louis chapter of Habitat for Humanity almost every day until he accomplished what he wanted," said Quinn. "He really took off his senior year and did a lot of CSP work. I know his senior project had a huge affect on him," added Quinn. In fact, Tim still works during the summer at the very place where he spent his senior project, helping out with kids.

"I just like helping people," said Hodits. "SLUH ingrained that in my mind through the motto 'Men for Others.'"

From SLUH, Tim went on to Mizzou, where he became very involved with their own chapter of Habitat for Humanity. During his sophomore year he was made president of the Mizzou chapter, and from there he became a member of Habitat for Humanity's National Advisory Board for Campus Chapters and Youth Programs. His new positions have allowed him to reach out more and help people that he hadn't been able to help in the past. The Mizzou chapter has become a thriving center for educational awareness of Habitat for Humanity and a beacon of fundraising. During the fall semester alone, the Mizzou chapter has raised over \$10,000 from students alone. "We need to raise \$32,000 total to build a house from Mizzou," Hodits said.

Speaking about the reason he became so involved with community service work, Hodits said, "On college campuses, people become isolated, and they don't realize that there's more going on in the world. That's one of the reasons I try to help out, because I want to affect the community. It's our responsibility to help the less fortunate, because we have the opportunity."

Tim Hodits truly embodies the SLUH spirit of men for others. He gives selflessly of himself, donating his time, effort, and sometimes health in order to aid those in need. He has taken his experiences here at SLUH and applied them in the world, going out with the desire to make a positive difference. His example is a wonderful reminder of the mission we all have now, and the opportunity the future provides us in our lives.



Hodits raised \$3100 with his week in a box.

by Tom O'Brien

Calendar

December 1-December 8

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1

Schedule #1
Tornado Drill
Swimming: @ Lafayette @ 4:00 pm

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2

Mothers club mass and brunch 10 am

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3

Senior parents financial aid meeting 2-4 pm

MONDAY, DECEMBER 4

Schedule #1
Technology club

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5

Schedule #1
Freshmen English tutorial
AP biology lab @ Act. Period
Basketball: C Blue @ Marquette @ 4:00 pm
Wrestling: @ CBC @ 6:00 pm
Swimming: @ Parkway Central @ 4:00

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6

Schedule #5
Free dress down day
Faculty meeting @ 1pm
B-Ball: C White vs. Dubourg @ 5:30 pm

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7

Schedule #1
Senior class liturgy @ Act. Period
Pro life club rosary in chapel @ Act. Per.
Basketball: B team vs. Webster @ 3:30 pm

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8

Immaculate Conception: no classes
Basketball: C Blue vs. Chaminade @ 4:00 pm
Basketball: C White vs. Riverview @ 5:30 pm
Swimming: Marquette Relays @ TBA

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Credits

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GOPHER BALL

(from 8)

chosen to remain: the city.

"We want to be a leadership school," said Sheridan, "a generous and responsible school. We share the responsibility to improve life in the city."

Sheridan holds a hopeful outlook for the completion of the project, along with the others involved.

"We're patient, yet highly motivated to get a positive accomplished," said Hellman.

X-MAS TIDINGS

(from 2)

theoretically supporting one family. Some homerooms are collecting for more than one family.

On December 16th, the baskets of collected goods will be delivered to the families directly. The conditions of these beneficiaries are not known in full detail.

"We won't find out until we get there," said Kesterson.

Several students gave high praises to the drive, and on its impact on SLUH students individually, as well as the SLUH community in whole.

Homeroom FA2 Senior Advisor Greg Heany commented on the project, saying, "It's great how everyone comes together and takes money from their own wallets to help the Bosnians."

Senior Alex Curcuru gave his thanks for the project in stating, "It's a worthwhile experience that has changed my life."

Hung Pham, S.J.
Announcement

Any students who would like to email Pham birthday wishes are encouraged to do so.

Pham's e-mail:
hungteo@hotmail.com