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St. Louis University High School

Prep News



"If nothing else, value the truth."

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Issue 13

Forest Park Forever, CSP form partnership for future

Andy Neilsen
Core Staff

Just as SLUH has recently announced its plans for a baseball stadium in Forest Park, the Community Service Program and Outdoor Experience Club have recently made ties with Forest Park Forever, a group with the task of maintaining the second-largest urban park in America.

SLUH board member Ted Hellman

and CSP director Pat Zarrick wanted to continue SLUH's cooperation with Forest Park Forever in the form of park cleanup and other service by the two clubs.

Citing April 7 as the beginning of a school-wide project, Zarrick hopes to get 20-25 SLUH freshmen to help with park cleanup during the Freshman Service day. Soon after that, the OEC will be working in May with the Mothers' Day/Kite Festival in the park, doing everything from

see PARK SERVICE, 7

Gilfoil qualifies as best jazz tenor saxophone in state

Kevin Moore
Core Staff

Over the weekend, senior Andy Gilfoil competed in the state band competition in Columbia, Missouri. His impressive tenor saxophone playing earned him the first chair in the state jazz band.

High school musicians from around the state first had to compete in districts in order to qualify for the state audition. Judged by various band directors from throughout the state, Gilfoil

and his tenor saxophone were pitted against approximately thirty-five other tenor saxophonists from Missouri.

The competition involved playing memorized scales along with a number of songs made available to all high school musicians in the summer.

"I had been working towards this for a long time," said Gilfoil.

Gilfoil wasn't the only musician from St. Louis U. High to receive honors, however. Senior **see TAKHOMASAX, 7**



Gilfoil wowed the judges last weekend.

Winter Concert wonderland set for Sunday

J.R. Strzelec
Reporter

If you find yourself coming to school this Sunday—and I know you're thinking, "He's kidding right? A Sunday AND the day after the mixer?,"—know that you won't be alone. Hundreds of SLUH students will be there with you, demonstrating their artistic and musical talents in SLUH's annual Winter Concert, a bigger event than ever in 2000.

The concerts begin at 1:00 with the instrumental music portion of the afternoon. The school jazz bands, the concert band, and the symphonic band will all be there, playing styles that range from Swing to Latin to Classical music.

"They sound really good," said sophomore listener Mike Renard. His convictions are backed up by the fact that All-State tenor saxophone player Andy Gilfoil will be playing, along with students who participate in various youth and professional bands throughout the area.

Next is the Chorus and Dance segment, spiced up with a bonus Circus Club performance. The Chorus will be performing Christmas songs from around

see SLEIGH BELLS, 2

Freshman teachers meet to discuss workload

Group discusses workload, stress

Brian Kane
Reporter

Earlier this year, the St. Louis U. High administration convened with the freshman teachers to discuss the workload being experienced by freshmen. The meeting was the result of several changes, especially in the schedule, which have impacted freshman for the first time this year.

According to Dean of Academics Art Zinselmeyer, the agenda of the meeting was discussing concern about "the freshman curriculum and the homework load." The secondary purpose was the issue of study skills among the freshman class.

Zinselmeyer noted that the meeting was not to change policy, but a time for the teachers to get together and discuss their thoughts and feelings about the year so far. "It's been more of a conversation than a meeting," he said.

An invitation was extended to every freshman teacher. A majority of the teachers actually attended. The reasons for concern originate with this year's new schedule: the addition of a full year of biology, a full year of history, and the infamous seven-period day.

While the addition of the seventh

period creates a forty-five minute utopia for many upperclassmen, there has been a considerably negative impact on the freshmen. While it is not impossible for freshmen to have a free period, the availability of one is non-existent more often than not.

An integral part of the discussions which occurred during the meetings was the results of the surveys freshmen completed during their senior advisement sessions earlier in the year. Zinselmeyer seemed confident in their results.

A specific point of success was that there was a 3% drop in students having difficulties with their courses, and a 5% rise in students handling all of their work well. He made reference to the likely possibility of using the surveys later in the year, as well as for next year's sophomores at the beginning of the year.

English teacher Tim Curdt mirrored Zinselmeyer's great praise for the use of the surveys. "It's good to get the data instead of relying on the subjective impression of a few individuals," he said.

While there were many good remarks made about the meetings, there is still the remaining problem of what changes—if any at all—are to be made to the freshmen workload.

The importance of activity periods was a topic which also found its way into the meeting. Foreign language and math department teachers noted that they are seeing fewer students for extra help at activity period than they would like to see.

Math teacher Don Steingrubby specifically stated, "Sometimes it seems the freshmen are overscheduled, meaning that we have a lot of activity periods when they have to do stuff, and it's hard to meet with the kids. It didn't seem that way last year."

Tom Flanagan, also a math teacher, seemed concerned with the added period to the freshmen workday. He said, "The schedule that the average freshman has this year is similar to a schedule that a freshman who chose to take zero hour would've had last year, but this year the freshmen didn't have a choice. They were given that. It just doesn't seem to be a wise way to go about changing the schedule."

The issue of whether or not to make changes to the schedule may be a difficult one to decide. There has been a pretty decent balance of pros and cons so far in the conversations. While the work level may have raised, grades for the first quarter have as well, according to Zinselmeyer. All in all, many see the meetings as a success.

SLEIGH BELLS

(from 1)

the world. Traditional songs like "Deck the Halls" and "Joy to the World" will be accompanied by folk songs like "Riu Riu Chiu" and "Bethlehemu."

Freshmen participating in the Fine Arts survey course will join in both the Chorus and Dance sections. The freshman dance was choreographed by senior Mark Milford, who has been taking dance at SLUH ever since he came here.

Milford is not the only student doing choreography, though. Senior Kurt Kleinberg has been working since this past summer on a dance to the popular

Backstreet Boys song "Everybody (Backstreet's Back)."

Joining him are fellow seniors Tom Freesmeier, Matt Burke, Matt Chartrand, and STUCO religious commissioner Joe Nagle.

Following the "boy band" idea, Dance teacher Jan Strzelec asked Abby Powers and Christina McArthur, two students of hers at Lindenwood University, to choreograph a dance to N'Sync's hit "Bye Bye Bye." The Dance II class will be performing it on Sunday.

Sunday is not just about the concerts, though. The SLUH Speech Team will be hosting the 2nd Catholic Speech League

meet of the year. SLUH won first place last time, and the team hopes to repeat its victory.

With all these events, there's a good chance that half the school will be exhausted come Monday morning.

For senior Mike Nigh and junior Chris Storey, that exhaustion may come sooner. Both of them will be participating in all of the concerts as well as the speech meet.

One thing is certain. If you come into school on Sunday, you won't be bored. For a quick recap: Band at 1:00, Chorus/Dance at 4:00, \$1 admission. See you there.

Commentary

Elfrink rides the roller coaster of college applications

Tim Elfrink
Editor in Chief

I hate college. If you are a senior at SLUH, chances are you made it through three and a half years of high school with the idea that your work would lead to a trip to college somewhere down the line. If you're anything at all like me, after about 10 minutes of looking at a college application, you're probably pretty close to screaming with frustration and abandoning altogether the notion of furthering your education after high school.

I spent the first few months of school this year trying to figure out why these seemingly innocuous lists of personal questions and the odd essay filled me with such a sense of anxiety and dread. I came to the same conclusion reached by many in my situation: between a busier-than-ever school year and newfound responsibilities at school and work, the approaching deadlines of college applications simply had no place in my schedule.

This seemed a reasonable enough explanation for my loathing of the college process, and one easy to complain about. But then I realized that, even on nights with absolutely no other responsibilities, I still could not bring myself to touch these hated forms. So another possibility presented itself, one that I think many of us overlook and that may be the underlying cause for the distaste many of us feel for the college application process: for most of us, this will be the first truly independent decision of real weight we must make.

The more I pondered this explanation, the more I realized its

truth. The reason I always quietly diverted the conversation when my parents tried for the millionth time to ask me where I wanted to go to college, the reason I felt the approaching application deadlines like a bullet train through my intestines, was that the decision terrified me.

In picking a college, we must weigh the chance to stay in an area familiar to us and close to family with the more intimidating, but more exciting, option of a school far from home. There are a million reasons why any college could be wonderful, and a million reasons why we could be miserable there, and no matter how much research and thought we put into the decision, most of us still feel underprepared. We are being asked to figure out where we are going to be happy for the next four years, and, as Fr. Harrison reminded us at the Thanksgiving mass, we have no other option but to make this decision, because SLUH will simply not have us back next year.

It's ironic that people like me have spent much of their adolescent lives pushing and pulling for more authority and the chance to make life-changing decisions on their own, yet when a real-life chance to do exactly that presents itself, it fills many of us with dread, not excitement.

But if we admit that the pain of the application process is caused mostly by our fear of making such a major decision, we can also move past this feeling and instead savor the excitement inherent in the choice. If you're a senior, imagine yourself four years ago as compared to today, and then imagine this change

see **ELFRINK, 10**

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Neuner implores students to pick up after themselves

To the editors and student body:

Recently, the student commons was closed because of the horrible condition of the entire room. With trash between the couches and fruit flies all over the place, it was not a great place to be. I very much agree with the decision to close the commons, and I want to say that I do not think the problem of students not picking up their trash is limited to the commons.

I have seen many instances all over the school of students not picking up trash. There are candy wrappers and papers all over the classrooms and hallways, students leaving the library while they are waiting for their own papers to print up (causing the library to become cluttered with paper by the end of the day), and I have even seen a potato chip bag and water bottle in the library lounge area. First of all, food is not allowed in the library, but this student did not even have the decency to throw his trash away.

How physically inept are we at SLUH that we cannot throw our own trash in the many trash cans that are provided for us? Are

we all that lazy that we cannot spare five seconds out of our lives to get up and throw away a simple piece of paper in the trash cans instead of sitting there wherever we are and throwing the trash on the ground?

Unfortunately, the mindset of many students is that the maintenance staff will clean up after us and pick up the trash we leave behind. That is not their job! The maintenance staff has more important things to do than mother us and clean up after our messes.

We must take the initiative of reminding students who do not throw their trash away that trash belongs in the trash cans, not on the floors or between the couches or stuffed on top of the lockers in the locker room. As Mr. Clark said when he closed the commons, this is our school. All of us at SLUH must be willing to take care of it.

Sincerely,
 David Neuner, '01

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Mr. Grier decries racial prejudice

To the editors:

This letter began with a small incident; one might even call it petty. But that incident has led me to a larger question that I think will be of interest to all in the St. Louis University High School community.

It is oddly appropriate that, during this quarter in which I'm teaching poetry to juniors, I would come across this bathroom rhyme:

Twas the night before
Christmas and all through the
house Mr. Greer is a
nigger and not a
mouse.

I went through several stages of thought. I tried to decipher the exact meaning of this passage. I used all the skills I'd shared with my students, but still could not determine the form of the poem or its purpose. The line breaks disrupt the rhythm of the children's rhyme without any purpose or effect, and the central term, "nigger," is defined solely as something that is not a mouse. This definition would make us all niggers, I suppose. Perhaps I should be more understanding of the limitations the author's canvas imposed on him; were I a bathroom poet, I too would be frustrated that the stingy margins of toilet-paper dispensers do not provide me ample space to create lines with consistent rhythm or to develop fully my definition of "nigger."

I ran through the litany of self-centered questions: Who wrote it? Why did he write it? Within a short time, however, I began to focus on a more important question: How? In other words, under what conditions would such a thought become expressible? I have arrived at an answer I consider to be useful: Whoever the person, whatever the cause, anonymity provided the necessary cloak.

I can understand that students would want immediately to distance themselves from this act. In fact, one student told me earnestly, "That [behavior] is not representative of this school." I would be glad to grant him that I've not seen "nigger" etched

onto any other surfaces; however, I do think the larger lapse—behaving or speaking without regard to another person's dignity—is more prevalent than one would imagine. Not surprisingly, anonymity provides the perfect vehicle for our most vicious words and actions. Anonymity hides the source of the insult, making him either unpunishable or, as I will argue later, blameless.

This incident made me think of a few other such anonymous remarks I've seen written on other walls here or heard yelled or muttered in the halls. On the Sunday of the Family Mass, I went to the restroom and saw sexual comments about a woman faculty member. I failed to meet the challenge of considering this incident fully until something similar happened to me, but I hope to remedy that by reporting it here. As I recalled this event, I realized that the sexual conjecture was, on its face, more threatening than the one I received because it contained her name and expressed a desire to violate her person, whereas the holiday verse only placed my name in a rather nonsensical rhyme. Yet the cases are similar in that both authors found the freedom to attach nasty remarks to another's name in an act that hid his own.

Then there are the hallway remarks. These remarks take place under a different kind of anonymity, one far more prevalent than the others—the anonymity provided by being one member of a crowd. Under this type of cover, people will do everything from mocking a peer to making ridiculous and indefensible generalizations about what makes one a hoosier, ghetto, gay, or "womanly." If confronted about these generalizations, the person will respond that he is simply "being a guy" or that he is blameless because "everybody does it." In these cases, the group in which he claims membership provides his cloak of anonymity. The critic should give up trying to correct or punish him because the one culprit multiplies into a thousand clones, a group that is "right" not because of special insight or compassion, but because they claim to be a majority, a norm. This group can neither be counted, corraled, or condemned; it expects those who would like
see **GRIER, 7**

STUCO, Nelly wish a happy holidays

What's up, Jr. Bills?

Well, I'll tell you what's up. We have a busy weekend, and Spirit Week lingers in the near future like the flies in the Commons, so go to Schnucks and buy all the bread and milk you can because that is what you're supposed to do in St. Louis whenever it snows.

First off, you had better be bringing in your items for your homeroom's Bosnian family. If you aren't, Nelly said that he would not give it up for the St.L anymore, and we can't have that. The last day is December 15th.

Do your stretches and practice your *NSYNC moves because the STUCO Xmas Mixer is on Saturday. Nelly, Mandy Moore, New Kids on the Block, Santa, three elves, Dasher, and Vixen will be in attendance. Sorry, but Rudolph cannot attend

though he sends his regards.

Finally, Nelly has doubts about Spirit Week being any fun. I had to tell him, Nelly, you're living in a world of make-believe, with flowers, bells, leprechauns, and magic frogs with funny little hats. Spirit Week is going to be off the hook! To which he replied, "Word." There will be lots of Twinkies to be eaten, crazy clothes to be worn, and peps to be rallied.

I think that is enough nonsense for one letter, but before you lose interest, here are some good synonyms for nonsense: tomfoolery, ballyhoo, highjinks, shenanigans, and my personal favorite, bunk. Thanks for reading.

Sincerely,
Paddy Kelleher

Basketbills open with victory; set to face Eureka in Webster tournament

Shawn Furey
Reporter

With six games already under their belts, the Jerseyville Panthers looked to roll over the Junior Bills on Sunday in the second annual Full Court Classic at Edwardsville.

Jerseyville looked to take advantage of SLUH's first-game rust, but the Jr. Bills, despite some sloppy play, ruined the Panthers' plans and left Illinois (except for Troy Lindbeck, current resident of the east side), with a 54-41 victory.

Most of the game was an evenly played contest, with fouls hurting the Jr. Bills early. Senior center Kyle Bruno quickly picked up two fouls and was put on the bench for the rest of the first half. The absence of Bruno's height seriously took away from the Bills' ability to rebound successfully.

Head coach Don Maurer said, "We really need to improve boxing out. We did

a bad job rebounding."

The rebounding led to some second chance points for Jerseyville's star center Brent Hawkins, who finished with 22 points and 12 rebounds. Hawkins offen-



drawing by Mike Garcia

sive production was countered by the Jr. Bills' tandem of Troy Lindbeck and Chris Lowes, who scored 15 and 13 points, respectively.

The game was somewhat sloppy for both teams. SLUH had trouble making and receiving passes successfully, as did Jerseyville. Also, the teams combined for 32 fouls.

With the score close as time wound down, Jerseyville's Hawkins fouled out. The absence of their big man allowed the Bills to pull away and gain a season-opening win.

The Bills hit every shot solidly from the line, and shot well all game, going 20 for 27 overall.

Of the win, Bruno said, "It was not a real good game, but it is nice to know we can beat a good team while playing below our potential."

"It was a good win, but we will continue to improve," Maurer said of the game overall.

The Jr. Bills have a big weekend ahead of them in the Webster Hoops Classic when they are looking forward to showing their true abilities.

Puckbills outshoot St. Mary's Dragons 36-13, but settle for a respectable 2-2 draw

Jon Neff
Reporter

Coming off last Monday's 7-6 victory over Althoff, and with a record of 2-2-1, the Puckbills took on the St. Mary's Dragons last Saturday night.

It looked like it would be an easy game for the Jr. Bills as they fired a barrage of shots at the St. Mary's goalie. The Dragons, however, were undaunted by this offensive attack and scored on a bad-angle shot that somehow snuck past goalie Chris West.

Even after this goal, SLUH's offense refused to let up, and their defense held St. Mary's to only four shots in the first period. They were finally rewarded for their persistence when center Chris Prater

won a faceoff from the right circle in St. Mary's zone. Prater laid a perfect pass onto the stick of winger Bob Lachky who backhanded a shot from the slot that beat St. Mary's goaltender with 15 seconds left in the first. SLUH's first period dominance was seen in the 14 to 4 shot total in their favor.

The second period was played with the same fierce attack, and even with Joe Mantovani being sent to the box on a questionable call for unsportsmanlike conduct, the offense still had some great shorthanded opportunities.

The Jr. Bills scored again when Todd Turner blasted a shot from the blue line that was knocked in off the rebound by Tim Mudd, with assists from Mike Macauley and John Greffet, to go one up

on St. Mary's with 1:28 left in the second. St. Mary's refused to give up, and with stellar netminding, they were still in the game.

St. Mary's evened the score when a St. Mary's winger stole the puck from a SLUH defenseman at his own blue line. He broke out, skated right down the center of the ice on a breakaway, and put a shot past West with 8:48 left in the third.

While SLUH continued to pelt the St. Mary's goalie with shots, he held his ground and turned away everything they could throw at him and the game ended in a 2-2 tie, despite SLUH's out-shooting St. Mary's 36-13.

Prater commented, "We played aggressively, but despite our high number

see **FACEOFF**, 10

Singletbills pick up two wins on the road

Mike Smallwood
Reporter

The wrestling team had two matches this past week and came out victorious in both close, hard-fought contests.

Last Thursday, the team competed at Windsor and continuously wore down their competitors. In the 103 lb. weight class, SLUH had no competitor, so the spot was open and the Windsor Owls took an early 6-0 lead.

Robert Nahlik (112 lbs.) started SLUH in the winning direction after his opposition chose the down position to start the second period. He got three near-falls, picking up eight points, to win the match 9-3. Nick Born (119 lbs.) attacked his opponent and put his full intensity into the match, getting a pin in only 1:02. Sean Staed (125 lbs.) rolled his opponent all over the mat, wearing him down for a 10-2 victory. Stan Niemeier (139 lbs.) continued the SLUH way by outlasting his opponent and earning a 10 to 6 victory.

After Windsor finally got a win at 135, the teams were in a close match with the score SLUH 16, Windsor 12.

The 140-lb. match started out fast, but Mike Huelsing outlasted his man as the match slowed and won by major decision (by eight or more points) 10-2. Colin O'Brien (145 lbs.) also overpowered his opponent and pinned him 2:44 into the match.

Windsor picked up a decisive win a 152, but Ben Purcell countered with another major decision in the 160 lb. weight class. He embarrassed his opponent with a burst of energy in the third period to win 15-3 and put SLUH up 30-15. Dan Wankum (171 lbs.) didn't give his opponent chance to get into the match, pinning him in 1:32. This victory guaranteed the win, and John Horman (189 lbs.) added to the final score with a 14-4 win. SLUH gave up two forfeits at 215 and 275, but still won 40-27.

On Tuesday, the team traveled to

CBC where they faced off against the rival Cadets. Again SLUH gave up the 103-lb. weight class, but this didn't matter since CBC forfeited at 112 and 119 to Rob Nahlik and Jim Pagano.



Brian Wallisch puts the hurt on his CBC opponent.

At 125, Sean Staed worked his opponent down to a pin at 2:55.

Losing 18-6, CBC clawed their way back into the match by winning at 130, 135, and 140 to take a 21-18 lead over the Jr. Bills.

Colin O'

Brien came out

ready to wrestle and took down his opponent seconds into the match. As soon as he was able to pressure him onto his back, it was over as O'Brien pinned his man at 1:20. Joe Bommarito (152 lbs.) fought a tough match and took some chances but was able to hold out and get an 8-6 win, despite a reversal by the Cadet he was facing.

see SPANDEX, 10

T-Bonebills lose to Lancers; continue to improve

Jeff Dueker
Staff

Last Friday, head coach Terry Murray's swimmers ventured to Lafayette to test their skills against those infamous Lancers, and they came up short, losing 103-82. The Swimbills also lost to Parkway Central last Tuesday, 100-79. Although the team is now 2-2, winning meets is not the most important thing in the world.

"We are doing very well," said Murray, "and Parkway Central and Lafayette are top-five state teams anyway."

"Our swimmers also keep qualifying for state," added Murray, "and we already have 9 qualifying times in 3 meets."

It is also very hard to win meets in swimming and diving.

"Winning a meet requires depth, multiple event swimmers, and a strong diving team," says Murray.

This year's team has multiple event swimmers and depth, but the diving team is still under construction.

"We only have one diver, Keith Peterfeso, and the other 3 divers are in training," stated Murray, adding that diving points count for half of a team's points at a meet.

As far as constructing a team for state, the Speedobills are doing very well. Five swimmers qualified for state in the past two meets. Freshman Kurt Doll qualified for the 200 Freestyle, freshman Gabe Toennies qualified for the 200 Medley,

sophomore Tom Heafner qualified for the 100 Butterfly and the 100 Breast, sophomore Carl Thompson qualified in the 500 Freestyle, 200 Medley Relay and the 400 Medley relay, and Junior Greg Szewczyk qualified for the 100 Freestyle and the 100 Backstroke.

In other news, the swim team will return to Forest Park Community College pool this Monday when it is reopened.

"We have a very good team," said Coach Murray, so come out and see them sometime. The team has the Marquette Relays at Marquette Friday and Saturday. Next week the team will meet Parkway South on Tuesday and Parkway West on Wednesday; both games will be at the newly rebuilt Forest Park Community College Pool.

GRIER

(from 4)

correct its behavior instead to condone or tolerate. The anonymity of the group provides the terrible freedom to speak venomous ideas without fear of correction or punishment. Like the anonymous writer, the man-in-the-mob considers himself blameless.

I think many more of us can recall times when we have fallen into this trap — excusing ourselves and our compadres from wrong-doing in the name of group identity. Anonymity, then, can sometimes place a person not alone, but solidly within a larger group. With the comments I have heard and seen, I cannot then dismiss the broken verse I read as a blue-moon occurrence. On the contrary, I consider it a variation on a common but hurtful desire to vent malice without consequence.

One way to meet the challenge of these breaks in the community is to change the way we communicate. The ideas we understand and agree with mark the boundaries of our community; thus, the ideas we accept define who we are. I am not at all suggesting that we ban the word nigger, that we stifle talk on sex, or that we do not speak about economics, gender, or sexual orientation. Rather, I am suggesting that we watch the ways in which we talk about people. Are we showing respect; are we looking twice? In other words, have we looked at both sides of the objects of our talk, the surface and the underside? Have we noted something positive about them to soften our hatred for their total difference from ourselves, something different to match our rush to consider them little more than our own

TAKHOMASAX

(from 1)

Mike Nigh earned the fourth alto saxophone chair for the district concert band at a competition held at Chaminade. Gilfoil's younger brother, Joe Gilfoil's trumpet playing earned him an alternate spot in the district concert band.

Andy Gilfoil says he still hasn't decided whether or not he will study music in college. "I'm excited but also relieved,"

reflection, something similar to urge us to reincorporate those whom we thought utterly different and despicable? I am presenting a difficult challenge, one that I struggle with myself. I have made fun of someone, knowing I could not be blamed because the act would be popular and acceptable. I have described people in one-sided terms, forgetting to realize that we might be more different, or more similar, than I first imagined. I invite you all, then, to undertake the challenge I posed (and still pose) to myself: to respect people, to look twice, to speak with real consideration, to take responsibility for my words.

My father would be worried that I am angry. I am not angry; I'm merely disillusioned. Yet I have retained my hope that the few who accept this life-long challenge immediately will hold others responsible for doing the same. Rather than offering me pity to offset the contempt I already received, I invite you and remind myself to look to the challenge of respect. Although it is not present here, I have also retained and sharpened my sense of humor on this rude event. I have invented several possible endings that preserve the appropriate rhythm that the poet botched. I find them humorous.

All that aside, I look forward to the subsiding of the swirling winds of argument and bittersweet laughter. I look forward to returning peacefully to the job the high school offered me, one I undertook with an enthusiasm these events haven't the power to dim: teaching English literature.

Sincerely,
Mr. Miles Grier

said Gilfoil. "(Winning the state competition) was at the top of my list of goals."

Quote of the Week

"It's good to encourage kids. If they get an answer right, tell them it was a lucky guess. That way they develop a good 'lucky' feeling."

—Jack Handy

PARK SERVICE

(from 1)

selling sodas and kites to helping with the Ecolab presentations.

One of the best attractions and learning tools that Forest Park Forever employs, the Ecolab is a mobile trailer with research equipment and activities for learning about science and Forest Park. Forest Park Forever sees the Ecolab as a way for younger kids to gain more appreciation for the park and for science at once.

Forest Park Forever board member Eileen Rueth is working on the park's behalf to involve SLUH students in Forest Park activities.

"We've seen that kids tend to respond better to older teenagers and young adults rather than older presenters," Rueth said regarding Ecolab activities during the balloon race.

Rueth also believes that SLUH's "men for others" dictum makes SLUH students especially prone to volunteering, and hopes that they will reciprocate her enthusiasm for volunteer work. Forest Park Forever also hopes that SLUH students will volunteer for work in their offices.

"We are in the middle of reorganizing our storage facilities," says Rueth, "and would appreciate help building shelves and reorganizing our records."

Both Rueth and Zarrick hope to involve the entire SLUH student body eventually, making it possible for all students to participate in true community building and city beautification.

They hope to present even more opportunities for volunteer work as time goes on, and want to foster a long-term relationship between Forest Park Forever and SLUH. "Although initial discussions involved Forest Park Forever and CSP, we want to encourage everyone at SLUH to become involved in these projects," Zarrick said.

As Rueth said, "Since SLUH is the closest neighbor, we want to have a working relationship that benefits both organizations as well the community."

The U. High you never knew existed

Secret places in words and pictures

Narrative by Justin Austermann
Photographs by Peter Bartz-Gallagher

A few weeks ago, more than 300 students confidently guided tours over every inch of St. Louis U. High. Well, *almost* every inch. A few of the most intriguing recesses of the school were, for reasons I don't care to examine, left off the tour. In case you haven't come across some of these sites during your wanderings at the U. High, come along on the second leg of the tour that began at Open House.

Where better to begin than the boiler room? Behind the imposing, vault-like blue door in the northeast corner of the weight room lies a room roughly the same size as the weight room. It's caged in on all sides by a maze of rusty pipes. The stairway against one wall meets a dead end at the ceiling. In the very center of the room sit three gigantic boilers. They sit immovable amid the foundations of the school, squat



One of the ancient and gargantuan boilers

and useless, like immense Billikens.

Next, walk through the rec room and into the rifle range. Remember, both rooms were dug out after the construction of the main part of the building. The dig was more extensive than the size of the rooms would suggest, and a long crawl space extends from the rifle range all the

way to the computer lab, just behind the east wall. Careful, though: the floor of the crawlspace is nothing but mud.

Up the basement steps, now, and down the first floor corridor. As we go out the west doors (by the switchboard) toward the upper field,

note the unobtrusive wooden door just below the pay phone. Legend has it that the Billiken itself lurked deep in a room beyond this door.

Out of the basement, now, and across the field to the theatre. It may be newer than the boilers, but looking at its guts, who can really tell? The drop ceiling of the bathrooms is supported by spider-like steel cables. You can't see it from the ground, though. If one was to view this cabled structure, he would have to hang over it on a twelve-foot wall ladder. By the way, don't touch the insulation—it leaves a pretty bad rash.

It's a bit of a walk to our next destination: from the theatre to the tippy-top of the science wing.

After a brief stop at the third floor physics and chemistry classrooms, the stairs keep on going. The stair terminates at a tiny door, not quite 5-1/2 feet tall. The tiny, bare-brick room on the other side seems to have been forgotten for nearly two decades. Two musty shelves fill the cramped space, housing an assortment of outdated scientific magazines. Don't be surprised by the faint breeze; an air shaft in the ceiling leads directly outside.

see SECRET, 9



The mysterious entrance to the Billiken's former lair.



The labyrinthine web of cables

SECRETS

(from 8)

Back down onto the beaten track, the nervous system of the school traces back to a little room off the center corridor, second floor. Countless bundles of wires keep the school's computers, or phones, or *something* running at a steady hum. No one really knows what it all does. Except the FBI. It may be tempting to see what exactly would happen if a few of the wires got redirected, but please don't touch.

Continue down the corridor to the English office. Here it is history rather than technology that emerges from the

wall. Just ask any English teacher to show you the pillar capital that was never covered over with drywall. It is a remnant of times gone by, when the office was actually the choir loft of the chapel.



A detail of the stunning woodwork in the North American Martyrs Chapel



This drop-ceiling is only visible with improvised lighting twelve feet off the closet floor.

While we're on the subject of chapels, stop by the North American Martyrs Chapel at the end of the second floor hallway in the Jesuit wing. The victim of remodeling and low student traffic, the chapel is one of the few quiet, sacred havens amid a bustling campus.

Our final stop is the roof of the Jesuit wing, and a "sky unbound by laws." The snowplow hasn't made it up here yet. There's not a great deal more to be said about this roof more than any other roof, just one question: who decided that the best place for a lightning rod was bolted to the back of the cross?

Well, that's your school. Maybe this tour wasn't as spick-and-span as others you may have been on, but I think it's more real somehow. St. Louis U. High, just like any other place, has its guts as well as its beauty. Why hide it?



An uncommon view of this cross from the windswept snowy roof

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by Tom O'Brien

Calendar

December 1-December 8

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7

Senior Class Liturgy
Pro Life Club rosary in chapel
B-Ball: B team vs. Webster @ 3:30pm
B-Ball: @ Webster Groves Hoops Classic Dec 7-9
Hockey: vs. Desmet @ Queeny @ 9:15pm

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8

Immaculate Conception: No Classes
B-Ball: C (Blue) vs. Chaminade @ 4:00 p.m.
B-Ball: C (White) vs. Riverview @ 5:30 p.m.
Swimming: Marquette Relays @ TBA
Wrestling: @ Mehlville Tournament Dec. 8-9: 6 and 1:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9

STUCO Christmas Mixer
ACT exam

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10

Christmas Concerts 1 p.m. @ 4 p.m.
Diversity Week: Native American

MONDAY, DECEMBER 11

Schedule #1
Meteorology club
SAC meeting, 7 p.m.
Fortune Cookie Sale.
B-Ball: C (Blue) vs. Jennings @ 4:00pm
Hockey: vs. Pattonville @ North County @ 9:15pm

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12

Flex schedule
B-Ball: vs. St. Mary's @ 6:30 p.m.
B-Ball: B vs. St. Mary's @ 5:00 p.m.
B-Ball: C (Blue) vs. St. Mary's @ 3:30
Swimming: vs. Parkway South @ 4:00pm

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13

Flex schedule

Basketball: C (White) vs. Priory @ 4:00 p.m.
Wrestling: C team @ Hazelwood Central @ 6:00 p.m.
Swimming: vs. Parkway West @ 4:00 p.m.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14

Schedule #1
Junior class liturgy
Freshmen English Tutorial
Senior retreat meeting
Rosary in chapel
Basketball: C (White) vs. Lutheran-St. Charles 5:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15

Schedule #1
Junior/Senior Assembly
Bosnian drive ends
Wrestling: V and JV vs. MICDS @ 6:00 p.m.

SPANDEX

(from 6)

Ben Purcell also came out ready to wrestle and immediately took control and even had his opponent trying to flee the mat. However, his Cadet opponent made the match a tough battle. The turning point came after an injury at 3:05, when Purcell got up and reversed the Cadet's hold on him and almost pinned him. Going all three periods, Purcell won the match 11-8.

SLUH lost in the 171 lb. class, making the score SLUH 30, CBC 26. Jon Horman (189 lb.) contributed to the lead with an 8-0 win, making the overall score 34-26.

However, it was up to Brian Wallisch at 215 lb. to win since SLUH had to forfeit the 275 weight class. He came out pumped up and came ever so close to pinning his man in both the first period after a hard takedown and again in the second period after a reversal from a down starting position. He refused to let his opponent get any positioning or momentum, and won the match 10-0, guaranteeing a SLUH

team win. As head coach Tim Curdt commented, "Every wrestler knew what we he had to do and took the responsibility upon themselves." The final score of the meet had SLUH winning 38-32.

Following this the CBC meet, curdt said, "It was a huge win for our team to beat CBC with the opens we were giving up. It highlights the kind of character this young team is starting to develop.... I could not be prouder of a team at this moment."

ELFRINK

(from 3)

magnified by 100 depending on one choice. Down one path, you stroll the windswept streets of Manhattan, an urban veteran majoring in English, down another you relax in the rolling campus of a rural college, focusing on your philosophy, and whichever you choose, you will be indelibly and inevitably changed by the decision. It's enough to make anyone stop hating college.

FACEOFF

(From 5)

of shots, we just couldn't get one by [the St. Mary's goalie]. Concerning the game and St. Mary's performance, coach Charlie Busenhart said "It was a combination of great goaltending, a St. Mary's team wanted to beat SLUH, and better position playing (by St. Mary's)."

The team next faces DeSmet tonight at Queeny Park, The puck will be dropped at 9:15 in what is sure to be a great game.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attention students hungry for home-baked goodies: The senior moms' will be having bake sale on Friday, December 15 during activity period and all lunch period in the hall by the cafeteria. All goods will be 50 cents.

Attention STUCO: In light of your recent "victory" in the homeroom basketball tournament and your subsequent mockery of the *Prep News*, the *PN* extends the challenge of a "weekly-paper-making" tournament. Details later.