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St. Louis University High School

# Prep News

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

Volume LXV

Friday, February 2, 2001

Issue 18

## Seniors successfully wrap up Senior Project '01

*Mueller and Keefe finish final year as project coordinators*

**Matt Snively**  
Sports Editor

This week, much of the talk in the hallways at SLUH revolved around card playing, vomit, and other accidents involving bodily fluids. No, the circus club did not hold auditions; these stories came from the seniors, fresh out of their four-week senior projects.

Returning from 66 different sites—some as exotic and far away as Ghana, Belize, and Honduras, some mere minutes away—the seniors settled into the fi-

nal stretch of their careers here.

This year's project culminated with a prayer service held in the chapel Monday morning, where Dave Murray and Alex Curcuro gave reflections on how senior project affected their outlook on service, and the

varsity chorus sang a rousing prayer to children.

One reason that the project went smoothly this year was the tireless work of art teacher John Mueller and French teacher Dick Keefe. Mueller and Keefe were the faculty moderators for senior project, and had been meeting at least once a week since



Keefe and Mueller spending their usual hours in the Pastoral Office.

see **THE PROJECTS**, 4

## Black history mass preaches tolerance

*Fr. Stefan Brown celebrates diversity in rousing liturgy*

**Raj Joseph**  
Editor

On Thursday, Feb. 1, St. Louis U. High celebrated Black History Month in the gymnasium during an all-school liturgy. Father Stefan Brown, a guest priest, presided, and a guest performer, Sherry Haynes-DeHaan, led the choir.

According to Pastoral Director Robert Garavaglia, the goal of the Mass was "to demonstrate unity through diversity," the theme of the Mass.

Even though there is a certain amount of risk associated with isolating one group,

Garavaglia feels that this separation is necessary to highlight a group's history.

Director of Diversity Spencer McCall said that this theme was reflected through "the flow of water since it flows through [everything]," as shown by the fountain attached to the podium on the eastern side of the gym.

Other decorations related to both

this theme and black history itself included water jugs from Africa, woven tapestries hung from the rafters, and other artifacts that seniors and ACES members Ryan Sickles and Kwofe Coleman brought back from their Senior Project in Ghana, Africa.



Fr. Brown delivers his homily on Thursday morning.

Jeff Harrison, S.J., originally contacted Brown. McCall said that

see **SISTERGIRL**, 2

## Hail Mary, without a trace

**Pat Meek  
Reporter**

Since the fall of 1999, the statue of the Immaculate Mary has been a prominent figure on the southeast side of the quad. However, the words on many people's lips Wednesday were "Where is Mary?"

The answer to this question is quite simple: the statue was in the basement of the school, next to the rifle range.

Why was the statue down there? For



The Mary-less grotto on Thursday.

repairs on the pedestal, which had been deteriorating for the past several months. Maintenance supervisor Ray Manker said, "The pedestal needed to be fixed so that it didn't fall down."

Manker and Al Teske of Ground Maintenance had to remove Mary to fit a new pedestal. The two then had to glue Mary to her new base and wait for it to dry. The repairs amounted to a whopping \$25.

Manker said that the maintenance staff "[showed] great reverence to Mary while they were repairing her."

## SISTERGIRL

(from 1)  
he was chosen to preside because of his work revitalizing downtown St. Louis through his pastorship at the St. Nicholas parish. Brown was initially "shocked [and] surprised at the size and multicultural [makeup of the school]."

He mentioned that he has spoken at a school in California at which there were only whites and Hispanics. Even though there were no black students there, they still celebrated a Black History Mass. Brown has also worked in Louisiana and Indiana.

When asked how he would reach a potentially unresponsive audience, he re-

sponded "I tell people the truth of why we are here."

He mentioned both in his homily and afterward that he knew some people did not want to be there, but, like the tapestries in the gym, people's histories are all woven together.

He also instructed the community to "lay down their water jugs" (the burdens and prejudices in their lives) in response to the message of the Gospel.

Beside this Mass, other celebrations of Black History Month will include announcements of the accomplishments of various African-Americans, a display in the library, and Diversity Week. The display in the library will consist of artifacts from Africa and reports by Harrison's junior history classes.

Despite the fact that some people may choose to ignore the morning announcements entirely, ACES member Shawn Henderson feels that they still should be read because one has to believe that some people listen and respond.



Shawn Henderson plays the violin during Communion.

## Democratic Socialist club formed for '01

**Ben Wastler  
Reporter**

Quick, sound the alarm! Take cover under your desks! The Communists are bombing SLUH!

Although this depiction of SLUH students' overall reaction to the formation of the Democratic-Socialists is somewhat exaggerated, it clearly illustrates the misconceptions about SLUH's newest political organization.

The Democratic-Socialists are a left-winged political party at SLUH, committed to reforms to improve social welfare. Junior Eirik Cheverud founded the club nearly two weeks ago for the primary reason of discussing political issues. He asked Jeff Harrison to be the club's moderator. Harrison accepted the role and was "very impressed" with the party members' knowledge of political issues and their "eloquence" in discussing them.

Easily confused with the term "communist," the mere mention of the word "socialist" ignited gossip and suspicion this past week among students who were intrigued by the organization of radicals admit this conservative institution. Club members have struggled with misconceptions, such as stories in which suddenly the 'Comms' are supposedly conspiring to storm the third floor administration and take control in a coup d'etat, establish a totalitarian dictatorship, deport their critics to the rugged and barren lands of Vianney and CBC, and post giant pictures of Joe Stalin and Mao Zedong all over the school.

Most students neglect the 'Democratic' element of the party's label. Junior Jason Wever reported that one sophomore interrupted a meeting last Friday, shouting "Go back to Cuba!" as he walked by. Junior Chris Storey, after

see COUP, page 8

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Dunn finds “Men for Others” lacking in area of theft

To the editors:

When people ask me where I go to school, I nod in assurance with a proud, goofy grin that I go to the “U. High.” I absolutely love everything about SLUH: the teachers, the students, and the overall experience. SLUH has helped shape me into who I am today. I would like to think that SLUH really stands for the values that it preaches and promotes: honesty, integrity, selflessness, and charity. SLUH’s motto, “Men for Others,” is an ideal that I would hope the students could live up to.

Last Tuesday, however, after only my second day back from my senior service project, I wearily trudged out to my car to find my whole CD collection missing. Then on my walk back to my locker, I saw an empty ten pack of blank CDs that had also happened to be in my car sitting next to the dumpster. I knew right then that a fellow student must have ripped me off. First of all, I don’t think that there are too many petty thieves who are Phish heads, and secondly, I think that a robber looking to make a profit would have been more interested in my CD player and speakers rather than a collection of primarily burned CDs.

Robbing from a fellow U. high brother reeks with shame. It burns me too that a fellow classmate who passes me in the halls everyday has such a lack of integrity. SLUH is supposed to be a

brotherhood. We claim that we are “Men for Others.” When we start robbing from each other, we become “Men for Ourselves,” solely interested in bettering our own situation without a thought for anyone else. Our motto becomes a farce, an illusion, and a facade that shields who we really are. If we can’t act with integrity and respect among our own classmates, we fall well short of the “Men for Others” standard.

First of all, robbing a CD collection of that size is a felony (it’s worth well over \$300). Secondly, if you’re caught you will have to deal with Mr. Clark. I told him that I would rather give the person a chance to return my CDs. I don’t want to see anyone get nailed; I just want my CD’s back. If you happen to notice anyone with a new blue CD case full of Phish CDs, contact me, Mr. Clark, or anyone really. For the person that has my CDs, I would appreciate it if you, of your own accord, gave them back. You can put them in my locker (No. 68—it’s unlocked), in the STUCO office, or just leave them conspicuously lying around school for someone to find. For all of my U. High brothers, let’s act with a little more honesty and integrity so that our motto doesn’t become just a catchy, contrite phrase.

Kieran Dunn  
Class of 2001

## STUCO rhymes school into sporty weekend

Well, well, well. Did you miss us? Didn’t think so. We’re back from the old Senior Project, and you know, we’re really surprised this place functioned without us. But seriously though, how did you do it? We know you weren’t attending sporting events because the Jr. Bills cheering section seemed as scarce as the correct answers on our physics exams. Remember, we are not DeSmet, and therefore, too cool to support our school.

Check out the back page calendar for the times and places for all the games this weekend. At every game this weekend a special prize will be given to the fan with the most spirit, so if that doesn’t make you go, I don’t know what will! Oh, right, girls will be there too.

Tommy C. told us to put in his poem about our “too cool” winter sports. So, remember when you said Kelleher’s letters were bad? Wait ‘til you read this! (It’s way better.)

Basketball is fun to play  
Especially on Friday.  
Deeyunk deeyunk on DeSmet,  
Will the Bills represent? You bet!

Hockey is best when played on ice.  
SLUH beats CB. Thata be nice!  
We’ll put the dog in the bun.  
Eight o’clock tonight at Affton.

Ecco the dolphin swims in the sea.  
Who goes to swimming districts?  
Pssst. I dunno, you and me!  
Today at 4 in the P.M. at the world of C.

Backyard Wrasslin’? No way man!  
These Grapplers need some fans.  
I’m sorry Miss Jackson. I am for real.  
Saturday at Parkway N. How do you feel?

Thanks for your support, Baby Bills.

Dave “I thought I was Irish” Brooks  
Paddy “I am WAY too Irish” Kelleher  
Tommy “I wish I were Irish” Chibnall

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters can be submitted to any editor or moderator, delivered to the *Prep News* office — located on the second floor of the Jesuit Wing— or emailed to [prepnews@sluh.org](mailto:prepnews@sluh.org).

# Knapp leads survey regarding layout of chapel

## *At issue is the importance of facing the tabernacle*

**Brian Kane**  
**Reporter**

What do people, seasons, governments, opinions, and St. Louis U. High have in common? The answer is simple—they're all prone to change.

When Pastoral Director Jim Knapp, S.J., was given his new position last year, he considered the option of moving the altar of the chapel. In late spring, he talked with the members of the Theology department, as well as the other priests and deacons of the school to get their opinions on the issue. In the end, the change was made.

"There were some people who had

## THE PROJECTS

(from 1)

August to prepare everything.

"We spent about one day a week in August preparing, and increased to around 4 hours of work per day in January," said Mueller.

Keefe added, "It's a lot of work, but it's well worth it...Everything we do has a purpose."

However, after several years of fine-tuning the senior project, Keefe and Mueller have decided that this year was their last leading the project. "It was a personal decision for me more than anything," said Mueller, adding, "I felt that I needed to spend more time focusing on artwork." Keefe offered similar sentiments, feeling that it was the right time for him to step down.

This marks the end of a long run as project coordinator for Mueller, who took over senior project during the '87-'88 school year. After taking a year off, he returned, and has led the project ever since. Keefe has coordinated senior project for three years.

Mueller became involved with senior project when he volunteered his services to then-principal Mr. Paul Owens,

some reservations, but I figured we won't know unless we try," said Knapp.

In choosing to move the altar, Knapp attempted to balance both Church guidelines and the needs of the chapel for SLUH.

During homeroom this week, Knapp's surveys were distributed to students and faculty. Only homerooms of sophomores, juniors, and seniors received copies of the survey, as it contained questions comparing it to last year's chapel.

A factor often noted in some of the replies dealt with the possibility of someone wanting to pray in front of the tabernacle or the statue of the crucifixion.

In that case, the person had the option of facing it from the seats across the chapel, or sitting closer to the sacramentals but having to face away from them. Now, it is

possible to sit directly in front of them and not feel so distant.

Knapp was hoping to generate conversation on the chapel issue. He also mentioned that the survey is not a vote as to whether or not the chapel will be rearranged in the future, it is just a "midterm evaluation" of the effects of the switch.

Knapp stated, "I want to listen to the students and I want to listen to the faculty."

So far, no concrete decision has been made about the future of the chapel. According to Knapp, "This is the first step; the second step will be some conversations. The third step is to make a decision on what to do next year."

and took over the program. On his logic as to why he volunteered, he said, "I believe in it (senior project), it's been something that's been a part of my life-service." Also, he stated, "The main reason I do this is that it helps kids who haven't done service to make it part of their lives.

Keefe adds that he sees the project as "an awakening" for students who might otherwise ignore service opportunities while at SLUH.

"[Senior Project] puts me in touch with students I wouldn't otherwise know, because I only teach freshman and junior French," Keefe stated.

Senior Project Committee member Raj Joseph spoke highly of Mueller and Keefe's leadership, saying, "Those two are the most organized men I know." He further praised the duo, adding, "They tried their best to make sure each student got what he wanted."

They accomplished this by making endless phone calls to prospective sites, sending out letter after letter to site coordinators, and maintaining constant contact with students who wished to make the most of their experience. One such way this is accomplished is the end-of-project

surveys, which are available for all students to read in the Pastoral office. These surveys contain student responses to each site, and are invaluable for undecided seniors.

The two are quick to point out that senior project is something that the whole faculty becomes involved in, from project advisors to project site visitors. "The two of us could not do this without the support of the faculty," said Mueller. "They support us 100%."

With their departure, a gaping hole is left in senior project, but the project that they leave is one much different from the one they began working on. Mediocre sites have been weeded out through feedback and surveys; the organization of events has been refined to near perfection. All in all, Keefe and Mueller have refined senior project, and their work will live on in years to come, with future seniors reaping the benefits of their hard work.

Over a decade after starting his work on senior project, Mueller's conviction in the merits of the project remains, as he comments, "I do believe it's one of the finest things that we do at the school."

# Basketbills lose two more squeakers

**Shawn Furey**  
Reporter

Seven points may not seem very significant to a basketball fan who has just watched two high-powered offenses such as Chaminade and CBC play a shootout, or who has seen Vashon or Normandy dismantle an opponent for a 30-point victory, but to the Jr. Bills this past week, seven points *combined* was the difference between winning and losing two more agonizingly close games.

"We just can't ever close out a game—we just go cold," said team captain Troy Lindbeck.

On Friday night the Jr. Bills played the slightly jet-legged Jefferson City-Helias basketball team in the SLUH gym.

Helias is more than a small jog away from the House of Hagan, so the Bills looked to take advantage of the team's long bus ride, hoping it caused them to play sluggishly.

Helias, however, showed no signs of fatigue and kept the game close throughout the entire first half, heading to the locker room only one point behind.

Senior Kyle Bruno said of the Bills consistent second half problems this season, "We just need somebody to

step up every game and hit the big shots, and so far that hasn't happened."

Despite an excellent shooting effort by scoring leader Kris Lowes, who ended the game with 18 points, Helias was able to squeak out a win in the closing minutes, 52-49.

On Tuesday, the U. High traveled down south past Little Rock to tangle with Oakville. There, the Jr. Bills decided that for a change of pace they would play see **HOOPSTERS**, 11



Troy Lindbeck elevates on Friday.

# T-bone bills upset MICDS, look forward to strong performance in State

**Jeff Dueker**  
Reporter

It is human nature to establish festivals or celebrations to honor certain important events and achievements of civilization. For instance, there is the Mayan harvest dance, the more modern celebration of the birth of Jesus, and of course the lunacy of the full moon seance. However, there is no celebration in history that can compare to the excitement surrounding the eminent Speedobill-sponsored whoopin' of everyone as the season winds down. Yes, Swimparty-dance-concert-stockfest-seance is on, leaving the entire world frothing in anticipation.

OK, so maybe the excitement is a little embellished, but regardless, the team is really heating it up. The Latexbills are finishing strong, breaking school records, achieving personal bests, and, most importantly, shattering their own expectations. It all started with a great showing in Cape Girardeau three Fridays ago.

"We won big," said head coach Terry Murray, referring to the 139-49 victory over Cape Girardeau Central. Although there were no new state times, the team swam consistently and strongly in its decisive victory over Central.

Two Mondays ago, the team held its head high, marched right into Chaminade's pool, and gave them all that they had. Unfortunately, plagued by injuries and the regular Monday slowness, they lost by 25 points. This narrow loss to a team ranked just above them, at second, inspired a new drive in the team, and they couldn't wait to get their hands on Hickmann/MICDS/Columbia Rock on Saturday.

It seemed everybody was on last Saturday, pumped up and ready to go. With five state times and thirteen personal bests achieved in the meet, SLUH was able to overcome all three teams for the total win.

Quite excited about the team's ability and promise this year, Coach Murray said, "We beat MICDS by 12 points, beating them for the first time since I have

been coaching SLUH."

But most importantly, the Speedobills entered the conference semifinals last Wednesday motivated by their achievement at the previous meet. While only ranked third in the conference, senior Charlie Maitz said that SLUH should be "a very tough third," and might even surprise Chaminade in conference or in State.

"DeSmet is going to win the conference" said Murray, while explaining how well they swam at conference. "They [DeSmet] might even win State," said Murray.

While the swimming conference finals are tonight, the diving competition finished Wednesday night. Senior Keith Peterfeso finished second overall in conference and Dave Parker finished eighth, an amazing achievement for both of them.

State is rapidly approaching, starting next Friday night, Feb. 9, at the RecPlex in St. Peters. It should prove to be exciting, and it may possibly involve an upset of Chaminade the following day.

# Hockey prevails through tough defense

**Jon Neff**  
**Reporter**

The Hockeybills' match last Saturday against Webster was dominated by two things: the ability of the offense to step up and score goals in a tight game and Chris West. West stopped all 27 shots he faced and shut down Webster's normally potent offensive attack to end the game in a 3-0 shutout. With his stellar play and the help of an excellent defense, he recorded his first shutout of the year.

West said of his performance in goal, "I played consistent and stopped the shots I needed to." By disabling the opposing offense, West and the defense allowed the Jr. Bill offense to keep sustained pressure on Webster.

The game remained locked in a 0-0 tie through two periods and neither team showed signs of letting up. On the other end of the ice, Webster goalie Russ Sprague shut down SLUH through two periods with his own share of great saves but not without some luck.

On one shift defenseman Todd Turner nearly broke the tie twice with shots blasted from the point. On the first shot he managed to hit the nub of Sprague's stick, knocking it out of his hand. Sprague was able to recover his stick, but seconds later Turner ripped another shot that clanked off the left post. Webster's defense was starting to wear down and it seemed like only a matter of time before the Jr. Bills would put one in.

In the third period SLUH refused to let up their pressure on Sprague and the defense, and it finally paid off. With 11:42 left in the game, center Chris Prater crashed the net after an initial shot by Tom O'Meara to give SLUH the 1-0 lead.

A little more than two minutes later SLUH had several more fantastic chances right in front of the net. Shots by both Prater and Joe Mantovani were turned away and the puck even slid through the crease once. However, with 9:35 left in the game, the puck popped out of the pile in front of the net, and Shawn Leahy picked it up and shot it over Sprague, who was down on the ice and out of position. Leahy then skated just past center to see ICING, 12

# Winchesterbills set school records while demolishing all opposition

**Jon Neff**  
**Reporter**

SLUH's Varsity Rifle Team has been chasing school records all year long, and the last two weekends have been no exception. Senior team member Bill Everding already holds the school record for the fastest completion of Distinguished Expert, the highest rank that can be achieved.

In the past two weeks, he has added two more records to his collection. First, in the National Sectionals at Highland, Illinois, he broke the school record (392 out of a possible 400), set in 1962, with a score of 394. He even bested his own personal record by six points. Making his achievement even more amazing was the fact that he had not shot in over a month due to an operation, and he entered the match on one day of practice.

About breaking the 48-year-old record, Everding said, "I just went out to try and post a high score like I always do, but on that day it all came together."

Last week Everding continued his assault on the record books by breaking the record for the standing position by shooting a perfect 100, crushing the old record of 96 set back in 1963. The day before, the school's record for the sitting position was also broken by senior Jon Neff, as he shot a 248 out of 250, breaking the previous record of 244 set in 1980. Finally, freshman Chris Seals tied the freshman prone record of 249 set in 1961.

Everding, Neff, and Seals weren't the only ones running down records, though. The Varsity team of Everding (394), Neff (377), Giles Walsh (383), and Todd Mazurkiewicz (371) posted a score of 1528 out of 1600, and for the second time this year came with in six points of breaking the school's team score record. The score would have placed the team second place in the nation last year, so they are optimistic about their chances this year.

Of his teams chances for the national championship, Coach Mike

Brummett said, "When teams post scores this high, the smallest mistakes can add up and anything can happen."

Everding's score should place him in the top ten in the nation and the team's score should place it somewhere in the top three. The JV team of Adam Hilkenkamp, Peter Berns, Chris Seals, and Patrick Reynolds posted a respectable score of 1404. At the sectional Everding took first overall, Walsh took first Inter-Junior, Neff took first Junior, and Hilkenkamp took second Inter-Junior.

## Rifle Stat Box

posted at the Highland Sectionals

Shooter	Score
Everding	394
Walsh	383
Neff	377
Mazurkiewicz	374
Total	1528

February 2, 2001

# Racquetbills make strong showing at State, climb to fourth-place finish

**Tom O'Brien**  
Core staff

In the nineties there were Todd Barrett, Scott Ziegler, Jeff Rombach, and Jeff Mueller. They made SLUH into a powerhouse racquetball team: destroying competition, winning five state racquetball championships, and even the National Championship in 1998. Although the dynasty may have fallen on hard times, it is by no means dead.

Of course, no team stays strong forever. Nearly devoid of any senior leadership other than Tom Broekelman, SLUH found itself putting up sophomores and juniors against other teams' seniors. Head coach Joe Koestner said, "Rebuilding is not just at the varsity level, we have a great crop of young kids that bodes well for the program in the next few years." However, this year it gave other teams an advantage over a normally-unstoppable squad.

In this year's State Championship at Concord Sports Complex in South County, SLUH finished fourth in a field of nine teams. The top three finishers were Vianney, Kirkwood, and Desmet, which edged SLUH by a mere five points. SLUH ended up struggling for a finish that was "respectable, but not exactly up to our standards," as junior Joe Sharamitaro put it.

"For us who are used to winning fourteen out of the seventeen positions, it was [a shock]," said Koestner. However, he also stated that, "This does not in any way negate strong showings by John Reagan in first place, and Kevin Moore, Andy Schumert, Chris Allen, and Phil Matthews in second place at their seeds."

Racquetball works on a seed system. Each team's best player is the number one seed, the second best player is the number two seed and so on. For SLUH, Sharamitaro was top seed; however, he did not get very far and was toppled in the first round by Brad Robertson of Parkway

West. "I had the shots, I just couldn't finish them," explained Sharamitaro, who looks to lead SLUH to a higher plain next year and return the Jr. Bills to the land of plenty in his final year.

SLUH's only state champion this year was freshman John Reagan, who was seeded fifth in the junior varsity seed one bracket. He took on the scheduled number one seed from Kirkwood, Nick Jablonski, and eventually took his entire bracket. "I



Kevin Moore smacks the racquetball into play.

just kept the ball in play and killed it when he gave me the opportunity," said Reagan of his match with number one seed Jablonski. "He was really tired, so my endurance helped me win."

In the second round Reagan needed three games to defeat the number one seed, but after that it was like butta' as Reagan took the final match with ease 15-10 and 15-4.

Moore, a junior, nearly took his varsity two bracket with a second place finish to the eventual champion, James Ritter from DeSmet. Moore and Ritter split the first two games. In the tiebreaker, Ritter served match point at 10-8. After a fairly long rally, Ritter hit a shot off several walls and into the front corner. Moore ran up to the front, but as he prepared to hit the

shot, the ball hit the crack between the side wall and the floor, took a bad bounce, and rolled out. Ritter had won.

"After playing matches the whole day, I got really tired in the tiebreaker against Ritter," said Moore. "I tried my best to not let my fatigue affect my shots, but I couldn't keep the ball low enough. He was really quick, and his strong endurance was just too much for me."

At the third seed, junior Andy Schumert breezed through the tournament until he ran into Vianney's Joe Ebert. He struggled to find his rhythm against Ebert as he lost in two games. Other important varsity points came from strong third place finishes by juniors Mike Gau and Matt Soraghan and the doubles team of senior Tom Broekelmann and sophomore Mike Brand.

Another contributor was Phil Matthews, in the junior varsity two bracket, who played a self-proclaimed "close match." The serves went back and forth in the championship match tiebreaker, with Matthews and Vianney's Grana vying for state honors. Matthews served for the win as he was up 10-9 in the tiebreaker. "My opponent tried to hit a soft shot in the corner; he was up against the wall out of play and I skipped a backhand." The serve went back and forth, but it was to no avail, as Matthews wound up losing a tough battle.

With rising stars like juniors Sharamitaro, Moore, and Schumert, sophomore Chris Guilfooy, and freshmen Reagan, and Matthews, SLUH has a strong future in the sport they once owned. As Koestner so aptly put it, "We have a program, not just a team."

## Quote of the Week

*"You know, people like blood sausage too. People are morons."*

-Groundhog Day

# Wrestlebills look impressive with third place finish in high-powered MCC

**Mike Smallwood**  
**Reporter**

The Wrestlebills went to the Metro Catholic Conference tournament at Chaminade last Saturday with high expectations of a good overall performance. The team came in strong and ready to wrestle and took an early lead after the first round.

The tone for the tournament was set by an exciting 7-5 victory by Colin O'Brien (145) when he was able to get his opponent to his back in the third period to rack up two nearfall points, and a dominating performance by Dan Wankum (171) that ended in a 10-0 major decision. However, O'Brien's match also showed that nothing was going to come easily. At the conclusion of the first round of the MCC, SLUH had posted an impressive 37 points.

The second round brought even more intensity. Boyd Gonnerman (112) was able to reverse his opponent for a pin at 3:57. Sean Staed (125) showed his endurance with an 8-0 win, as did Ben Purcell

(160), when he gained a pin at 5:49 in the third period. These victories, along with several others, accumulated 46 more team points for a total of 83.

The Halfnelsonbills continued their momentum in the third period. Staed obliterated his opponent by pinning him in only 33 seconds. John Horman (189) also was able to put his man down flat on his back at 3:19, in another dominating performance.

However, the round was filled with some extremely close victories as well. Gonnerman beat his competition 14-12 and Stan Niemeier reversed his opponent after starting from a down position to begin the second period for an even closer 5-4 decision. After all of this action, SLUH had picked up 25 more team points for a total of 108.

The fourth round maintained the excitement of the previous rounds and displayed the great conditioning of the U. High wrestlers. Gonnerman picked up another victory on points with an 8-0 win. This was followed with pins by both O'Brien and Joe Bommarito (152) at 2:30

and 3:08 respectively; Bommarito's victory came after a surge to escape his opponent's clutches and then an immediate attack to get a takedown that led to the fall. Horman also used his superior conditioning to outlast his opposition into the third period when he pinned them at 4:51. The team had 22 more team points to show after the round and jumped to 130 total points.

After receiving several forfeits in the previous rounds, Alex Born was anxious to wrestle in the fifth round and put his exuberant energy to great use, pinning his opponent in only 34 seconds. Bommarito had a similar performance in the fourth round but was able to pin his man in only 2:31. Purcell immediately followed this up with a 14-9 decision in which he basically overpowered his competition to gain several takedowns. These efforts, along with some other wins, added up to 24 more team points.

The team had nine of its members place in the MCC tournament. Stan Niemeier and John Stathopolus (275) both  
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## COUP

(from 2)  
responding to other taunts, was eager to debunk the notion that the Democratic-Socialists were tyrants. "We're not Commies!" Storey exclaimed.

The Democratic-Socialists ignore totalitarian governments such as Cuba and look to Democratic-Socialist nations such as France, England, and Germany as models on which to base their reforms. The constituents of these countries choose to give up about sixty-five percent of their incomes when they pay taxes so that they may receive the benefits of federally regulated programs such as free daycare, free health care, and social security.

Even visitors may share in these social welfare programs. Party moderator

Harrison recalled a visit to Germany, where he got sick. "I visited a doctor, got treatment, and it didn't cost me a penny."

These social welfare reforms would require a complete overhaul of the American economic system. "Americans do some of the most harping and complaining about their taxes," Harrison said, adding, "Something that few people know is that Americans pay less taxes than most of the countries in the industrial world, giving up about thirty percent of their incomes to the government."

Although left-winged politicians usually are pro-choice, Harrison, as well as other party members jump to the right side of the political spectrum for the issue of abortion. Harrison is personally pro-

life but claims that Americans' "attitudes need to change before abortion is outlawed."

"Imagine if a teenage girl walked into Mass and she was pregnant. How would everyone react?" Harrison noted that until the community "rallies around girls, supports them, and helps them have their babies," abortions will continue "regardless of their legality."

The Democratic-Socialists seek political reform for their ideas pertaining to social welfare. However, they realize that certain cultural patterns may need to be changed as well. Founder Eirik Cheverud summed up the club's long-term goal: "There's too much greed in the United States. We need to eliminate that."

# A look at what *diversity* means to our school

*Black History Month should prompt an examination of intolerance*

**Tim Elfrink**  
Editor in Chief

"There is a cancer amongst us, a cancer of intolerance..."

Ominous words, to be sure, especially when beginning a liturgy. But however shocking or negative students may have found these comments—made by Dean of Students H. Eric Clark at the outset of the Black History Mass—their accuracy is hard to deny. Intolerance at SLUH is a subtle beast—lurking beneath the politically correct student demeanor and fed by a lack of racial and sexual diversity—but an omnipresent one. And now is the time to talk about it, for the only real weapon that can bring this disease to an end is an open and honest dialogue amongst the students themselves.

"I've never noticed much overt intolerance at SLUH," says Custodial Supervisor Dee Byrd, a minority member of the community for over twenty years. "It's always subtle, never really jumps out at you."

As subtle as the problem has traditionally been, it has been out in the open recently.

"The continued existence of a problem with tolerance has been especially evident in the last two months, with racist and sexist comments written on a wall and discussed in the *Prep News*," said Clark. "I wish it were not a problem."

There are no easy cures for this "cancer," and certainly no fast ones, but the first steps towards acknowledging the existence of a disease were taken when the position of Director of Diversity was created in 1992.

"A number of minority alumni were concerned about the low number of minorities we were graduating," said Clark. "So we started meeting independently, seeing what kind of strategies we could come up with."

The administration soon made the job an official one, and Clark undertook the unenviable task of somehow trying to reverse a trend over a hundred years in the making. After four years on the job, Clark moved on, replaced by Rodney Franks, now in the Advancement Office, and then the current Director, Spencer McCall.

Many wonder what someone charged with such generalities as "increasing student awareness," and "fostering a more accepting attitude" actually *does* on a daily basis, and how such goals could be quantified somehow and accomplished. Clark and McCall believe that the job is every bit as challenging as one would expect, but that there are basically two ways to work

towards these goals: increasing the racial diversity of the student population, and somehow increasing awareness and tolerance of minorities.

"A Director of Diversity spends a lot of time going to churches and schools with lots of minorities," said Clark. "You just try to get qualified minorities to understand that they are welcome here, and that they will be comfortable."

The hope is that if the number of minorities in the school and faculty increases, the racial diversity will naturally help stem student intolerance. The second part of a Director of Diversity's task—increasing minority awareness—is much more difficult to quantify, but McCall hopes the creation of ACES and the activities—including car washes, mixers and monthly diversity weeks—will help to accomplish such awareness.

While these strategies may be all that can be done at an administrative level, most agree that they are essentially useless if the students themselves do not want to see a change.

"I think we have provided the students with a lot more *opportunities* to explore their diversity, but it is ultimately up to the student to make this choice," said McCall.

Nearly everyone agrees that a problem with tolerance exists, and must be somehow addressed in the near future. However, there is some argument about how much meaning a term as vague as diversity should hold in the recruitment processes of a school. After all, our school can never be diverse religiously, simply because of the mission of our institution. And the very emphasis placed upon racial diversity merely reinforces the fact that many of us judge a person's color as a defining characteristic of his or her personality.

"I think it's interesting how we've come to use the word 'diversity,'" said English teacher Miles Grier, "like we all accept that it's this good thing and that we should all work for it, but we don't really think about what it means any more. What I'd really love to see is more intellectual diversity at SLUH."

More than one person has suggested that if our school is so concerned about fostering a truly diverse environment, that perhaps it should encourage this diversity in areas other than just race. For example, although SLUH undeniably supports the fine arts, it does not pursue the artistically talented with the same vigor with which it recruits those of academic merit. This can lead to

see **DIVERSITY**, 11



Fr.'s Brown and Sheridan celebrate the Eucharist.

## SENIOR PROJECT

## The sounds of silence: Gallaudet School

**Justin Austermann, Tim Elfrink**  
**Editors**

*Ya roll in on your white horse, not sure what they're expectin,  
 A hero, a teacher, or maybe perfection...*

Working with little kids can be a great deal more than freeze tag and 6+1. The role isn't always clearly defined; the answer isn't black and white (or even 7). At the Gallaudet School for the Deaf over on Grand, we toed the line in a curious dual role: friend and teacher, authority figure and confidant. It was a balance made all the more difficult by our own conflicting desires—as much as we hoped to impart some great mathematical expertise, a mere smile offered the most gratification.

*Struck hard by the silence of  
 the hall where you're walkin,  
 If it's a hero that's coming,  
 you'd expect some more talkin.*

*Well, that ain't no worry, your assurance hangs on,  
 But you enter the classroom with your confidence gone...  
 Drowned by a wave of incomprehension,  
 Set loose by a girl that your book failed to mention.  
 With a flurry of hands, her introduction flies at ya,  
 Twelve eyes and six smiles with their innocence catch ya...*

Sure, the project guide book said, "No sign language necessary," but when Judy introduced herself, the barrier was both palpable and unacceptable. (I decided right then to learn the alphabet as soon as I got home.)

For a second, the thought of spending four weeks with a deaf eye to children with so much to say was demoralizing. Book learning would be no help in face retardation, cerebral palsy, or profound deafness.

*Steppin over the shards of your heroic illusion,  
 You smile and nod amid the confusion.  
 The mind that you've sharpened and the tongue that ya prize  
 You set down beside ya and look into their eyes...*

That one disheartening second was immediately followed by reassurance. Eyes full of interest and enthusiasm (not to mention patience and giggles for an inept signer) filled any gap

in dialogue. We kept on trying to maintain our balance, guided (wisely) by teachers Mary Austin and Helen Warner or (terrifyingly) by impish eight-year-olds.

On our second day, the cheerful innocence that characterized all the kids was made dazzlingly clear. During indoor recess, an unknown five-year-old boy in a battered blue bicycle helmet wandered over and began to size us up. Staring intently, he decided we were safe and climbed right up, going from one lap to another. His somber face broke into a characteristic grin as bounced and teetered. Thank God for blue bicycle helmets.

The kids at Gallaudet take joy in the simple things that many of us take for granted and end up missing entirely. In Mrs. Warner's room, squirrels inspire such awe that their frequent sightings guarantee some excitement every day. (According to Markese, squirrels were responsible for everything from math homework to the hole in my shoe.)

Cars are equally exciting. I would have never anticipated DeMarko's elation as he sat in the driver's seat of my car. He gunned the engine like a pro and one-handed the steering wheel like the coolest nine-year-old stud I've ever seen. I don't suppose I'll forget those couple minutes, and I'm sure the car won't.

Chris, meanwhile, was infinitely excited by anything dealing with emergency vehicles or drills. When the rest of the class was all in a dither over a "Code 3" drill—in which they had to pretend there was an armed intruder and hide in a corner—Chris had the highlight of his week, running about and giggling. His favorite game was to threaten a call to the police by using his own made up sign for "police"—rapidly blinking his eyes to imitate a cop's flashing lights. He would then run to the corner of the room, pick up the phone, which only connected to the office, and babble into the wrong end, laughing maniacally. We all lived in fear of police action by the end of the project.

In fact, all my most vivid memories are just the simple, commonplace events that helped make the kids days just a little brighter. After an infamous attempt to participate in a "Picture the Music" contest, I brought my guitar to class. They put their hands on the face of the guitar and felt the strings resonate. Never had a better audience. Sadly, the "Picture the Music" contest did not fare as well; for some reason, the kids decided that the music they

see **GALLAUDET, 11**



Justin's kids, from left: Kenneth, DeMarco, Dexter, E'lisia, Judy, Markese

## GALLAUDET

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couldn't hear inspired them only to make a mess.

All said, I can't really claim that any lesson I helped the kids with will endure even to this date, one week later. But from them I learned to look more carefully at the multitude of tiny joys I overlook every day. I witnessed the strength and grace that erode adversity. I smiled more.

As Chris's goodbye note told Tim, "I love you...not! ... I do love ice cream,

## DIVERSITY

(from 9)

a left-brained school, a lack of overall creativity, or mabey just a uniformity in personality which can stifle any atmosphere.

But, despite all the incredible difficulties and glacier-slow pace of change, an impression that some progress has been made, at least since the days when Clark first took the job and almost every day he was forced to replace the posters outside his office—which preached sexual and

though." Ah, well. Can't argue with that.

*While the wall that sprang up only moments ago*

*Tumbles to ruin as ya right away know  
That you and these children won't be kept apart—*

*Herosim, after all resides in the heart*

*Of youthful innocence,*

*Of wonder about squirrels,*

*Of eyes open to love and learning, even  
when ears are not.*

racial equality—because someone had scrawled obscenities on them.

"It's going to be a slow process, but I do see things going in the right direction. As long as we do all we can, and remain open to everyone, the change will happen," said Clark. "I mean, who would've ever thought of a black Dean of Students?"

"Overcoming 180 years of tradition in just over eight years of work is simply impossible," said McCall. "But I think some good changes have occurred. Students can feel more comfortable here, and there is a greater awareness of minorities."

No matter how you feel about the importance of racial diversity at SLUH, it is hard to deny that intolerance still stalks the halls of our school at some level, and that such a disease must be eradicated soon. Cancer does not recede simply by willing it away or ignoring its destructive effects, and, similarly, the only way to treat the strain affecting our school is through a tonic called open-mindedness.

When we finally accept that even classifying those around us as "minorities" is to suggest ourselves at the center of the community, with "minorities" relegated to the edge, we can also accept that we all belong to one and the same community—and, at long last, a healthy community.

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## HOOPSTERS

(from 5)

a really close game that wouldn't be decided until the last few ticks of the clock. They managed to play out this plot for the third time in four games, and, unfortunately, the outcome was no different either, as they dropped another tight game to Oakville, 42-38.

The Bills hope to get their acts together soon, or they can expect a long week ahead, when they play three MCC opponents in eight days. Tonight the fun begins against DeSmet for senior night. The game will honor the hard work and dedication of the three senior leaders on the team.

by Tom O'Brien

## Calendar

February 2 - February 9

### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2

Schedule #1

Human Rights Speaker: Kathy Kelly

BB: V vs. DeSmet @ 7pm

BB: B vs. DeSmet @ 5:30pm

SW: MCC Finals @ Chaminade @ 4pm

Hoc: V @ Affton vs. CBC @ 8pm

### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3

Wr: Districts

Hoc: V vs. Altoff @ Affton @ 9:15pm

### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4

Alumni Mothers Club gift gathering party

Chinese New Year

Father/Son Banquet

Hoc: Jv vs. Lindbergh @ Affton @ 9:15pm

### MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5

Schedule #4

Free Dress Down Day

SAC Meeting 7pm

### TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6

Schedule #1

Sophomore Bonus Reading Test

Freshmen English Tutorial

College Reps: Christian Bro.'s University, at Jr./Sr. Lunch.

Track &amp; Field signups

BB:V @ Mehlville @ 6:30pm

BB:B @ Mehlville @ 5:30pm

### WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7

Schedule #6

Department meetings

NCAA Signings

### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8

Schedule #1

Sophomore Class Meeting

Rosary in Chapel

Community Service Retreat

### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9

Schedule #1

Senior Project Reports Due

BB:V @ Chaminade @ 7pm

BB:B @ Chaminade @ 5:30pm

Sw: State Championships @ RecPlex

## Junior Billikens and the Sanctions in Iraq

All students are invited to listen to the St. Louis University speaker, Kathy Kelly, speak about Iraq's role in history. She will speak at Activity Period tomorrow, in the theater.

Kelley coordinates "Voices in Wilderness," a campaign to end the U.N./U.S. sanctions against Iraq.

For bringing medicine and toys to Iraq, she has been threatened with a federal prison sentence. In 1986 she

## WRASSLE

(from 8)

picked up bronze medals for their third place finishes. Silver went to Born, Staed, Bommarito, and Purcell. Gonnerman, O'Brien, and Horman all got gold for their first place standings.

The team ended up with 154 points for a third place finish at the conclusion of the MCC tournament. This was only two points behind DeSmet and not very far behind the first place winners, CBC, who posted a score of 181.

"With the point total separating first and third, it was really anybody's tournament," commented Curdt. This was the

served nine months in a Lexington, Kentucky maximum security prison for planting corn on nuclear missile silo sites.

She is active with the Catholic Worker movement and, as a pacifist and war tax refuser, has refused payment of all federal income tax for 18 years.

Kelley will take questions from the audience after her presentation. For more information, call Rob Garavaglia at 531-0330.

best finish ever from the team, "but what is more important is that it gets us ready for districts," said Curdt.

## Quote of the Week

"I think it's a nice story. He comes out, wrinkles up his little nose... he sees his shadow... he doesn't see his shadow...it's nice. People like it."

—Groundhog Day

## ICING

(from 6)

SLUH's bench on one knee pumping his fist a la Brendan Shanahan. He finished his celebration with a salute to a SLUH bench where all of the players, and even Coach Charlie Busenhardt, were jumping up and down in celebration. SLUH wasn't quite finished though.

22 seconds later Turner got his revenge on Sprague. He lobbed a beautiful pass that landed right in front of Webster's blue line and was picked up by Mantovani, who ended the scoring at 3-0, SLUH.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Personal Information forms for NHS are available from Mrs. Eliot in the Math office and from Mr. Aylward in the Social Studies office. The deadline is February 28th.

Anyone interested in attending Missouri Boys State, a week long summer program established to give young Missourians a better understanding of our state government, should stop by the Counseling Office for an application. Applications are due March 23, 2001.