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## St. Louis University High School

# Prep News

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

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Issue 24

## Maurer dismissed as varsity basketball Head Coach

**Tim Elfrink**  
Editor in Chief

In a move that left most involved in the basketball program dismayed, distraught and confused, Principal Robert Bannister informed varsity basketball head coach Don Maurer on Tuesday morning that his contract would not be renewed for next season, the same fate which has befallen SLUH's last three basketball



Maurer compiled a record of 178-163 in 14 years.

coaches.

Maurer was offered a position for the upcoming year, but administrators were unable to comment on the nature of the potential job.

Maurer met with his assistant coaches on Wednesday morning, and then called his players into a meeting, where the coach and many of the players broke into tears. All three senior varsity players were

*see MAURER, 8*

## Cashbah '01 ready for action

**Brian Kane and Pat Meek**  
Reporters

Since the early 1970s, Cashbah has been the staple fundraiser for St. Louis U. High, bringing in a profit of over \$300,000 for the school the past three years.

This lavish night consists of a delightful supper served by students and volunteers, followed by live and silent auctions.

Cashbah has a long history at SLUH. It was first started in the early 70s as a way to allow alumni to come together, have a good time, and contribute to the school. According to SLUH President Paul

Sheridan, S.J., "The goal of Cashbah is to bring our school together as a family, to further the work that allows our school to exist, with all elements of our school together in support of our students. This is

*see CASH MONEY, 8*



A view of the partially set up gym.

## SLUH releases changed dance guidelines

**Kevin Moore**  
Core Staff

Creating a behavior policy for students to follow while at dances and mixers has been a controversial topic around St. Louis U. High over the past few months. Some faculty members, parents, and students have shown concern about what they believe is improper dancing and clothing. Others, however, believe that there is not a problem with the current activity at dances. The topic was even an important item on the agenda of last month's meeting of the Student Advisory Committee.

In light of growing discontent with many students' behavior at SLUH dances and mixers, not just students from SLUH, a seventeen-person committee, including Dean of Students H. Eric Clark, Student Council moderator Brock Kesterson, teachers, students, and parents, devised a mission statement and behavioral guidelines for dances and mixers at SLUH.

"We tried to come up with goals, standards, and guidelines for dances," said Clark, "and we think we did a pretty good job." The written guidelines, many of which have been difficult to enforce in

*see TUBE TOP, 4*

# Students spend Spring Break on service

## *Habitat builds homes in Alabama, while OEC works in Belize*

**Raj Joseph and Drew Niermann**  
Assistant Editor and Reporter

Rather than indulging themselves in Panama City or San Padre Island, about twenty students spent their Spring Break performing service projects in distant areas. One group of OEC members worked in Belize, while another combined with students from St. Joseph's to construct Habitat for Humanity houses in Alabama.

For the second year in a row, the OEC, led by moderator Parick Zarrick, ventured to the untamed jungles of Belize, Central America, where students worked in various service projects.

The trip started in a leisurely fashion as the group ventured to South Water Caye, an island located on the Belize Barrier Reef, the second largest reef in the world. Led by native Belizeans, they spent four days exploring the reef ecosystem. After three days, the group moved inland to the city of San Ignacio, ten miles from the Guatemala border.

There they started their service at the Sacred Heart Catholic parish, the largest

Catholic school in the area, with over 1300 students. The work consisted mostly of mixing and pouring cement and building a fence alongside the church. According to the foreman, they saved the church at least six weeks of work.

According to sophomore Greg Stahl, "The people in San Ignacio had a very positive attitude toward everything, and they were very appreciative of our work."

Fr. Murphy held a private mass where he thanked OEC. He explained, "Very few people spend their vacation mixing cement and shoveling dirt," adding that it was "a major help to the church and to the people of the community."

According to Zarrick the trip was a "great success, except for the encounter with a parasite that caused several group members to become ill." Zarrick felt that "the group learned a lot about the luxuries that we take for granted in our society."

Meanwhile, closer to home, a SLUH group helped build houses in Alabama.

At 4:45 a.m. on Sunday, March 18, a bleary-eyed group of SLUH and St. Joe seniors piled into vans to travel to Fairfield,

a suburb of Birmingham, Alabama to construct houses for Habitat For Humanity. Four parents chaperoned the 22 students.

Since it rained, the bulk of their work consisted of painting a middle school in downtown Birmingham and tutoring at a different middle school. After the rain stopped, the group began actual construction work on two houses in the suburb of Bessemer, Alabama.

While the group hammered in the tresses and applied the drywall, three professional contractors and four Americorps volunteers, a division of the Peace Corps, supervised the construction.

During the evening hours, the group visited such cultural sites such as the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute. They witnessed a groundbreaking ceremony for eighty future homes and also met future owners of the houses they helped build.

St. Joe senior Ann Davidson said, "By working side by side with the future owners, we understood what [their own house] meant to them. It was rewarding in that the homeowners could thank us personally."

# Grier in Wash. U. show, *Darker Face of Earth*

**Andy Neilsen**  
Core Staff

When theatre productions begin to surpass grade school retreads of "Annie," such productions require a higher class of actors. In Washington University's production of Rita Dove's *Darker Face of Earth*, premiering tonight at 8 p.m. at the Edison Theatre, SLUH English teacher Miles Grier plays the lead role of Augustus Newcastle, a biracial slave dealing with his biracial heritage in the plantation-driven Old South.

Directed by Andrea Urice, *Darker Face of Earth* is an adaptation of Sophocles's tragedy *Oedipus Rex*. The play focuses on the effects of slavery on the love relationships that families and lovers have. Grier's character, Augustus

Newcastle, takes the role of the Oedipus figure as a slave who was abandoned at birth by his parents.

The conflict of the play centers around Newcastle's outrage at the institution of slavery and the ambiguity of his past.

He has no idea which of his parents was white, and thus can have no verified claim to freedom.

Newcastle's connection to the white power so eminent in the South of the times makes him even angrier about his enslavement.

Newcastle's fixation on his heritage and his anger at his curse of slavery alienates him from other characters in the play, just as Oedipus's quest for his parents removes him from his loving relationships.

Grier became involved with the production through his connections to

Washington University. Grier graduated from Wash. U. last year, having as much directing credit as acting there.

After a number of other options fell through, Grier's friends at Wash. U. convinced him to audition for the play. Grier's former advisor in one of his previous productions at Wash. U. directed *Darker Face of Earth*, and also encouraged him to audition.

Despite the great time commitment, Grier says, "There's always a thrill in the freedom that you get to react passionately and rudely and spontaneously to things in acting without the same consequences of real life."

Tickets are \$12 and are available by calling Metro Tix at 314-534-1111 or by calling the Edison Theatre Box Office at 314-935-6543.

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Basketball team feels Maurer was unfairly judged for record

Dear *Prep News*:

I am sure that by now most of you have heard the news that Mr. Don Maurer has been relieved of his position as varsity basketball coach at St. Louis U. High. As a player on the team this year, I would like to express my own appreciation for Coach Maurer, yet I speak for the entire team and for most others who have played for him when I express this appreciation. Most people do not receive the privilege of getting to know Coach Maurer and what kind of person he really is aside from a coach or a teacher. I could go on about how great of a coach he was and how he centered his life around the basketball team, spending endless hours scouting other teams, working with us in practice, or even worrying so much about the next big game that he could not sleep. However, I would like to focus not on his invaluable love for the game and devotion to his job, but rather on his invaluable love and devotion to us.

Many coaches worry simply about winning or losing and could care less about being a friend of the players. On the other hand, you have Coach Maurer, who was not only greatly concerned with winning and losing but looked forward to being with his players and being able to form unique relationships with each individual. He was always with us and brought us laughs even after tough losses; he would often yell, like any coach is supposed to do to get a point across, but would apologize if he felt he went too far; he would also always be there if anyone had a problem and they needed someone to talk to. He was a basketball teacher, teaching us the perfect defensive stance or how to set good picks, but as every member of the team can agree, he taught us much more than basketball. From my own opinion, having experienced many different coaches and teachers in my life at many different

levels, Coach Maurer is one of the best, and it is rare to find such a good coach with such great dedication anywhere. Not only would it be hard to find such a coach, but next year, when it looks as if the varsity team will be very successful, it will also be hard for all of the players to learn a new style of basketball and play for an entirely new coach they don't know at all.

I guess the reason why Coach Maurer was relieved of his job was the fact that some people felt he was not a good enough coach and did not win enough games, which I strongly disagree with. Nonetheless, I find it most troubling that in a high school such as SLUH, whose mission statement says that the teachers and staff attempt to assist their students in building Christ's Kingdom of justice, love and peace, would be so caught up in winning and losing that it would become alien to its own principal values. Yes, everyone loves a winning team, but when you are up against schools who recruit and whose main focus is athletics, it is all the more difficult to be winners. In this case with Coach Maurer, it all comes down to the fact that some people seem to find winning in sports at a high school level more important than teaching students to be good people. Teaching students to be good people is SLUH's mission and exactly what Coach Maurer taught everyone on this year's team and previous teams he has coached, aside from how to play basketball. He will be missed in the eyes of those who appreciate the quality and time he put into teaching his players to win with pride and lose with dignity all the while learning what the game is all about.

Sincerely,

Steve Howenstein and the Varsity Basketball Team

*Editor's Note: The three seniors on the varsity basketball team were on retreat and were unavailable to co-sign the letter.*

## Williamson wonders about anti-Catholic admissions policy

Dear *Prep News*:

Mr. Dave Neuner should be applauded for uncovering the anti-Catholic conspiracy which has corrupted the SLUH admissions department. Apparently Admiral Michalski and the rest of the Admissions Board have forgotten that they are working for a Catholic institution. Sure, only seven percent of the class of 2005 is non-Catholic, but what about the class of 2006? The percentage could be eight, or even nine! These subtle attempts must not be tolerated.

Mr. Neuner did not, however, raise an even more serious issue. I am sure that he is aware of it, but is afraid of the possible repercussions of being the whistle-blower. How many non-Catholic teachers are there, working in collusion with General Michalski, corrupting the minds of the 93 percent Catholic students? We all know that not all teachers at this school are Catholic, but why aren't those statistics published? I have no fewer than two (2) teachers who are not Roman Catholic! It is a

miracle that I have survived with my Catholic-ness intact.

How can SLUH expect to prepare us for the world, which is obviously dominated by Roman Catholics, with such policies? As a senior, I am deep into the college process, but I am still undecided. My attempts have been focused on attempting to find a college where the percentage of Roman Catholic students is at least 98 percent (I can tolerate a few Protestants), but it is not as easy as one would think. Catholic virtues have been supplanted by a desire for "diversity."

In conclusion, I urge His Very Holy Very Catholic President-ness Fr. Paul Sheridan to discharge Major Michalski and to re-draft the class of 2005, in the true spirit of the Jesuits, the true spirit of Roman Catholicism.

Ryan Williamson, 2001

P.S. Perhaps we should consider a name change for our school? How about Bob Jones University High?

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Neilsen thinks there is room for Catholic community and diversity

Dear Prep News:

In the spirit of recent letters requesting change in religious policies at SLUH, I have my own point to make. I found the message of David Neuner's letter, which expressed concern about the percentage of Catholic students in the class of 2005, disturbing, for I think he is mistaken about the nature of our education.

While I do agree with Neuner that the majority of the student body should firmly support Catholicism, I also believe that diversity must have a strong influence on our development here at SLUH. Along with stating that SLUH is a Catholic community, our mission statement also says that this school seeks "to educate...young men who reflect the economic, geographic, and social diversity of the St. Louis metropolitan area." If we are to embrace diversity as the mission statement says, then we must be willing to embrace differences in every form, including religious beliefs. Aren't all Catholics, and Christians for that matter, called to be open to everyone?

It seems to me that diversity is a foundation of Jesuit education. An important principle in Jesuit philosophy is that understanding both sides of an issue can bring better understanding of one's own position. Our theology classes already work to explain the reasons behind our beliefs. Why not reinforce them with understanding of someone else's? Even the "Profile of the SLUH Graduate at Graduation" states that, by graduation, we ought to have had "exposure to non-Christian and non-Catholic religious traditions." Isn't talking with non-Catholics in an educational setting the best way to experience their faith?

As to non-Catholics understanding Catholic faith, theology classes take care of that. I must admit, before freshman year, I didn't understand Catholic tradition nearly as much as I do now. These theology courses are designed to develop understanding of Catholicism in SLUH students. If the theology teachers continue to do their job, I don't think they will have a hard time explaining their beliefs to non-Catholics.

Neuner also worried about non-Catholics being forced to understand Catholicism. I feel I should point out that no one is forced to understand it. We are an openly Catholic school, and it is no secret that a requirement for graduation is four years of theology; students should understand the faith after four years simply due to paying attention in class, but not everyone does that. We still ought to give every student the chance to consider Catholicism before we question their understanding of it.

I certainly doubt, at any rate, that the administration is discriminating against Catholic students. If those on the Admissions Committee do not feel that a student can do well at SLUH, they have a right to deny that student admission, whether or not he's Catholic. On the same note, it should also be the right of the Committee to select the students who are best qualified to attend SLUH, whether or not they are Catholic.

As Men for Others, I think we are obliged to respect and accept everyone. In this case, that means that having non-Catholics at SLUH can allow us to follow our traditions more closely and still understand others. I would encourage the entire SLUH community to take advantage of this situation.

Sincerely,  
Joey Neilsen '02

## TUBE TOP

(from 1)

the past, include limits on "simulated sexual acts" and revealing clothing such as tube tops and backless shirts. "We're mostly concerned about the mixers," said Kesterson.

SLUH also plans on making sure DJs avoid songs with explicit lyrics by providing them with song lists. Even though an initial dance policy has been drafted, Clark emphasized that "nothing is set in stone."

One of the most difficult things about the new policy has been trying to figure out how to actually enforce it. "We want to have constant communication with our students about their behavior like we do over the P.A. before dances," said Clark. SLUH also plans on putting the regulations on flyers given to other schools and posting the rules at mixers and dances.

"We needed to...at least get the ball rolling at the meetings," said Kesterson. Eventually, the rules will be written in next year's Parent-Student Handbook.

Clark's plans on enforcing the rules at the dances and mixers

are still not complete, but he believes students will probably be given one warning by chaperones about their inappropriate behavior before being dismissed from the dance and calling the student's parents. Chaperones may also be used in the parking lot to check for proper clothing before the students enter the dances. Kesterson added, "The inappropriate clothing can be stopped, but a lot of the other behavior is so subjective."

SLUH also plans to communicate with other Catholic high schools in St. Louis about dance and mixer policy. "We are hoping there will be a consensus between other schools in the area," said Clark. "But we feel we need to do something as a school...because we have certain standards."

### *Quote of the Week*

*"April is the cruellest month"*

T.S. Eliot

# Curcuru leads baseball squad to 10-0 clobbering of Mehlville in opener

**Andrew Ivers**  
Editor

This year, the varsity baseball team, with a large number of new players, is focusing on the development of game experience early in the season.

"We're as ready as we can be," coach Steve Nicollerat said before the team's first game Wednesday. "But there are two kinds of ready: practice ready and game ready. We're a little bit inexperienced...We'll learn during the game."

Nicollerat said the change from a team with highly experienced players, such as last year's, to a fledgling team like this year's "forces me to investigate new things I...took for granted before."

Nicollerat cited pitching as the team's strong suit going into its opener against Mehlville. He also said he could count on the veterans for solid hitting. "I think, fundamentally, we're doing a good job. It comes down to the next level—game level—with game intensity, game success, and game failure," he concluded

Wednesday. "I couldn't ask for anything else; I'm really proud of them."

Some of the truest fans of the team arrived at Heine Meine field that night despite near-freezing temperatures. The most activity Mehlville showed the entire evening was in the first inning, when they put a total of four runners on, stranding



Alex Curcuru grounds out

three, after a hit, a fielder's choice, and two walks by Alex Curcuru.

SLUH followed in the bottom of the first by loading the bases after a two-out single by Jamie Brandt, only to strand all three runners.

An uneventful second, with the exception of a single by Kevin Shaughnessy, led to a one-hit third for Mehlville. Two outs were strikeouts by Curcuru; by the bottom of the third, the game was scoreless. With one out, Joe Maher walked, advanced to second on a hit by Brandt, to third on a wild pitch; and scored on a sacrifice fly by Victor Rodriguez.

The bottom of the fourth inning began with a walk and a stolen base by Steve Keys; next up, John Beck tripled. Pinch-runner Andrew Zimmerman then scored for Beck on a Dan Chik double.

With the score 3-0, the Mehlville pitcher threw a wild pitch and Chik advanced to third. Shaughnessy then walked and another wild pitch drove him to third and Chik home. Pinch runner Ryan Wessels scored on an RBI grounder by Curcuru.

Two batters later, Joe Maher made it to second on what should have been a strikeout, when Mehlville's catcher overthrew a dropped third strike to first. Brandt

see PITCHOUT, 10

# Volleybills spike Chaminade in game one

**Jeff Dueker**  
Core Staff

Bumpbill volleyball 2001 is off to a good start with a decisive win over Chaminade last Tuesday. They won in two games, with scores of 15-8 and 15-6. The coaches and players have reasonable expectations of the team this year, and this win over Chaminade, although expected, has helped them feel very comfortable in their current position.

"This year is a rebuilding year," said head coach Terry Quinn. "Paul Scovill is an excellent coach," he added, grateful for Scovill's presence and obviously excited with coaching the volleyball team for the first time.

A March 25 *South City Journal* article about the SLUH volleyball team. Highlights the graduating of five tall seniors from last year's team, but notes that SLUH still hopes to "hang with the giants" this season.

"The kids we have back are largely back-row players. We'll have some younger kids trying to man the front-row sports," Scovill said in the *Journal* article.

As far as height is concerned, SLUH is average, but they have no intention of letting physical size get in their way. Junior Jim Lutkewitte towers at 6-4, although the team lost junior Kris Lowes, another height advantage.

"We are going to have to mix it up a lot this year" said Quinn. "It should make

for some interesting volleyball" he added, still confident in this team's ability.

Senior Andy Price was reported to be injured when he bit through his tongue, but he was back at practice on Wednesday feeling just fine.

The Netbills have a home stretch next week, taking on St. Mary's on Tuesday, DeSmet on Thursday, and Parkway Central on Friday, all starting at 4 with JV and 5 with varsity.

"DeSmet will be the challenge" said Quinn of this next home stand, but the team seems ready to play on a regular basis.

All things considered, this team might surprise a few people over the course of this season.

# Riflebills wrap it up with 7-0 season

**Jon Neff  
Reporter**

**B**ill Everding. Jon Neff. Todd Mazurkiewicz. Giles Walsh. The four members of arguably the best varsity team in the storied history of the SLUH Rifle program. Both as a team and individually, they have broken almost every major school record in the books. They finished their season with an undefeated 7-0 record. They will make a serious run at the national championship this year. Coach Mike Brummett called them "the best team he has had in his 14 years at SLUH."

Since the mid 60's, every team has lived in the shadow of those great teams that Marty Hagan, S.J. coached to national championship after national championship. This year, though, the varsity team broke out from that shadow and not only matched the scores of those great teams, but also surpassed them. "Even though the technology of the sport has changed, the basic principles of shooting, practice, and hard work, and the importance of the mental aspect of the sport have not," said Everding.

As a team, they broke the three-position record of 2127 with a 2160, the 80-shot match four-position record with a 3096, and the 40-shot four-position record, set by the 1959 national championship team, of 1534 with a 1548. As individuals, they were just as destructive to the record books. Everding broke the four-position individual record and the stand record; Neff broke the sit record; Walsh broke the kneel record. "This is probably the best season of any team in the program's history; it has definitely been our best season by far," said Walsh.

"I think these new records clearly show the work and dedication that we have put in over the last four years and also how well we came together as a team," said Neff.

The team started its season against

Quincy High School with a three-position match. All of the members of the top team shot their own personal bests in competition, but still under the scores that they had been shooting in practice. They still managed to beat Quincy by an unbelievable margin of 365 points with

their 2121-1813 win. "It was our first match and we just went out to do the best we could, but when we saw what we could do, even when it wasn't our best day, it gave us a lot of confidence," said Everding about the match.

Their next match against Missouri Military Academy (MMA), while not extremely important to their bid for a national championship, was one of the most important matches to the members of the team. MMA had dealt the team its only two losses to the team during the '99 season and both were fluke losses, with key SLUH shooters out with illness and other conflicts. While MMA had won the two matches in

see NEFF HERDER, 7



The 2000-2001 rifle team broke several records.

## Golf tees up a new season

**Bill Everding and Drew Ferris  
Reporters**

**T**he golf season started in late February, when golf tryouts took place. Although the weather has yet to heat up, the Titleistbills have been hard at work polishing their games.

After graduating seven varsity players last year, the team will be fairly young but loaded with talent. Returning players from the varsity team last year include seniors Drew Ferris, Bill Everding, and junior Pat Robert. With solid summer tournament performances, these three will look to compete with the best in the state.

Several first-time varsity players will also help the team, including seniors James Twellman and Ryan Rakel, juniors Andy Schumert, Joe Sharamitero and Ryan Schaller, and sophomore Mike

Dougherty.

Coach Bantle had a tough time in finalizing the roster for both J.V. and Varsity but said, "I have a positive outlook for this season. Our team should make a good run in districts and state, but I hope that some of the younger players can step up in the dual team matches."

On Monday, the Golfbills began their season when they traveled to Columbia to take on St. Mary's. Although St. Mary's offered surprising competition, the team readily handed them a loss. With four scores in at two over par or better, the Jr. Bills posted a score of 231 to St. Mary's 246.

Ferris said, "Our team put up a good showing for the first match of the season, and I feel that this is a big confidence builder for next week." Next Wednesday and Thursday, the Bills take on rivals DeSmet and Chaminade, respectively.

# Laxbills split opening games, look to upcoming match against Webster

**Matt Snively**  
Sports Editor

While most students crammed for exams and lusted for spring break to begin, the lacrosse team had something else on their mind, namely lacrosse. They faced off against Hazelwood Central way back on March 13th, in a cold game that most players would hope to set the tone for the coming season.

The BarrettBills planned to roll right over their overmatched opponents, but SLUH came out sluggishly and found themselves trailing early on in the game. Once they had settled down, though, things turned around and the midfielders started finding holes in the Hawk defense.

Solid ball movement from Mark Bittmann, Dave Willard, and Jeff Lane kept the offense running smoothly and allowed the attack time to break free from their defenders. Senior John Kennedy used his offensive prowess to rack up five

## NEFF HERDER

(from 6)

'99 by 12 and 13 points, SLUH defeated MMA by 95 with a decisive 1240-1145 win. Three weeks later and in the prime of their season, they defeated MMA by an unbelievable 465 points in a 2607-2142 win. This was also the match in which SLUH set the three-position team record. "It felt really good to beat Missouri Military by such a large margin because we knew those two matches last year weren't true representation of our team. We wanted to show them what we could really do," said Neff.

Finally, in sectional competition the varsity team was the overall winner in both the four- and three-position matches. Everding took first overall at the four and second overall at the three, Neff won first in the junior category at both matches, and Walsh won first in the inter-junior category at both matches. The total num-

goals, and fellow senior Ryan Sickles added four more tallies, equaling the entire Hazelwood offensive output between the two of them. Other attackmen contributing to the scoring were senior Brandon Costello, with two goals, and sophomore Matt Hof, who added three assists.

The Hazelwood Hawks managed to hang on for a while, however, as the score at halftime was a mere 4-3 in favor of SLUH. After a brief halftime speech by coach Barrett Smith, the boys went back to work, intent on dominating like they knew they could.

In the third quarter, the offense exploded, scoring six goals, while the staunch defense from the Twin Towers of Power, juniors Dennis Burke and Joe Bartell, held the Hawks scoreless. Another highlight of the second half was the play of the man-down defense, which did not allow a goal for the entire half. Senior Greg Ott led the charge, forcing the Hawks into poor turnovers and sloppy passes.

ber of gold medals taken home by the team as a whole and as individuals totaled five (six were rewarded). In both the four- and three-position categories the team will look to finish in the top three in the nation when the results are announced in August.

Overall, the team simply dominated its competition this year out scoring its opponents by a total of 1850 points with an average margin of victory of 230 points, a huge number.

While the team will lose Neff (captain), Everding, and Mazurkiewicz, they leave a strong team and a strong program behind. Of the prospective varsity team next year, which will consist of Walsh, Adam Hilkenkamp (a very talented sophomore), and most likely two of the current freshmen, Everding said, "They're very talented and Giles will lead them well and help them to gain experience and grow

Of the effort coach Smith said, "We started off rather sloppily, but after half we really pulled things together and showed what we are capable of doing this season."

After spring break, the Laxbills jumped right back into action, taking on the Highland Park Giants from Chicago. The game started off well, as the Stickbills jumped to an early 6-3 lead, dominating on both ends of the field. However, after halftime, the Jr. Billiken game plan fell apart, and Highland Park started to slowly close the gap, steadily wearing down the SLUH defense until it broke down altogether. The offense also had trouble, as they found their shots ricocheting off post after post. During the third quarter, the Giants pulled even at 9-9, and from then on, they took control, eventually winning 12-11.

The team hopes to learn both from their success and failures as the season continues. Their next match will be Tuesday against Webster Groves.

into their new positions on the team." Of his new role as captain of the team next year Walsh added, "I want to keep the level of discipline and hard work we had this year, and hopefully bring the same close knit relationship this year's team had. I think part of this team success is due in part to how good of friends this team was outside of the sport, not just in competition and practice."

Neff had one final thing to add. "I and the rest of the team could not have asked for a better year. We won a lot of matches, but more importantly, we had a lot of fun doing it. We have to thank our coaches Mike Baron, Mike Brummett, and Will Bresnahan, and we would like to thank all of the students and teachers who wished us well throughout the year. Finally, on behalf on Bill (Everding) and Todd (Mazurkiewicz), it has been great being part of SLUH Rifle for four years."

## MAURER

(from 1)

on retreat this week, and have not yet learned of Maurer's dismissal.

"I was devastated by the whole process," said a visibly emotional Maurer on Thursday morning. "I had the impression all along that they were behind my program and the difficult schedule we played, but I guess I didn't have the support I thought I had."

The reasons for Maurer's dismissal are somewhat nebulous and added to the confusion of the players and coaches.

"It wasn't the record, it was just time to move on," said Bannister. "I have nothing but the greatest respect for Coach Maurer. He's been coaching for 14 years, and we decided we were at a point where we needed to move on."

However, most involved in the basketball program, including Maurer, assistant coaches Brock Kesterson, Tim Rittenhouse, and Kent Kershenski—as well as most of the players—felt that his dismissal stemmed from the team's record, which had slipped in the past two years.

"I don't feel I was given a clear-cut reason," said Maurer. "But I did feel that it had to do with wins and losses."

Rittenhouse, who also played for Maurer as a student, agreed, saying, "We weren't given any solid reasons, but we all assume it was the team's record. He was SLUH basketball for 14 years, and the whole program is sad, angry, and confused."

Maurer has been head basketball coach since the 1988-'89 season, compiling a 178-163 record over 14

seasons. Highlights include District Championships in '88-'89, '89-'90, and '92-'93, a trip to the State Quarterfinals in '92-'93, and MCC Coach of the Year honors in '98-'99. The past two years have been difficult, with a 19-34 record, but Maurer—as well as his coaches and players—insists that his relationship with his team off the court was far more important than his record.

"I'm just as competitive as the next guy; I hate to lose," said Maurer. "My philosophy has always been that, in high school sports, it's important to win, but more important to compete; to learn how to succeed in life, not just in basketball."

"I always thought of him as demanding but fair," said Rittenhouse. "If you went to battle for him, for the rest of your life he'd be loyal to you."

When asked about his coaching highlights, Maurer did not dwell on his achievements on the court, but instead spoke of the relationships he developed with players and coaches.

"We had good teams and not so good teams, but they were all great kids," said Maurer. "I'll eventually forget about all that stuff that happened on the field, but I'll never forget those guys."

"I've been around basketball for my whole life, and I've never met a coach as dedicated as Coach Maurer," said junior forward Kris Lowes. "He was almost a second father to me, always concerned about my grades, my academics."

Athletic Director Dick Wehner also had great praise for Maurer's coaching, saying, "Coach Maurer's teams were

always well prepared, well-coached and played hard. People were constantly impressed with their performance both on and off the court."

Many found the way former players stayed in touch with Maurer the most remarkable aspect of his coaching career.

"Don Maurer was more than a basketball coach, he was a personal friend who helped me understand and use my strong points," said Dan Kertz, '88, who played under Maurer in his first year as head coach. "He didn't just teach the game of basketball, he taught me the game of life."

Maurer is uncertain what the future holds for him, although SLUH has offered him a position next year which administrators were unwilling to discuss, but which seems to concern the development of a new sports facility on campus. Maurer has already received more than one job offer to coach elsewhere.

"I don't know what I'm going to do, but the options are there," said Maurer. "With my faith and my wonderful family I know I'll make it through, though."

While reflecting on his fourteen year career, Maurer wished to express his gratitude to all of those who helped in the program: Rittenhouse, Art Zinselmeyer, Tom Wilson, Kent Kershenski, George Mills, Gary Kornfeld, David Barton, Kevin Finlay, Matt Solamone, Kesterson, and Wehner.

Bannister and Wehner have no definite candidates for next year's coaching position, but soon plan to take out an ad in the newspaper.

## CASH MONEY

(from 8)

really done for students."

The Mothers' Club has been the pivotal force of the operation. As Thom Digman, Vice President of Advancement, stated, "They are the backbone (of this event). They run this thing, they do all the work, they should get all the credit."

Each year the dinner gets bigger, providing more work. The mothers start to

work on the auction after school lets out in June. Mothers do such jobs as painting furniture, setting up, and decorating for this dinner.

According to Sheridan, the event would not be possible without the help of the students. With 80 student waiters, a large group of freshmen dishwashers, and 50 students cleaning up Sunday, they are undoubtedly necessary.

Parents have put on gift-gathering

parties. Faculty members will be supervising waiters. The maintenance crew and Fathers' Club will assist in the cleanup job on Sunday. The maintenance crew has also been an important group in setting up the gym for the auction.

The first \$100,000 in proceeds from Cashbah are put into the general endowment of the school. The rest of the money is used for capital purchases,

see **ROCKIN', 10**

# A Tale of Crime and Punishment

## *SLUH Alum languishes on death row in Texas*

**Justin Austermann**  
Features Editor

St. Louis U. High traditionally celebrates the intellectual ability of its alumni. But the mention of Craig Ogan, once a member of the class of 1974 with an I.Q. of 140, is met with mournful silence. Ogan, you see, has been called the “smartest man on death row.”

Exactly what happened at 1:00 a.m. on Dec. 9, 1989 has been obscured by a maze of conflicting testimonies and half-truths. Craig Ogan had moved to Houston, Texas less than three weeks earlier to work for the federal Drug Enforcement Administration. Prior to that, he had been associated with the St. Louis branch of the DEA for many years.

On the night of Dec. 8, according to a June 12, 1990 report in the *Houston Chronicle*, Ogan was supposed to be lying low in a hotel when he became involved in a heated argument with a hotel clerk about the heater in his room. He stormed out of the hotel and approached a police car parked on the other side of the street.

Here is where the accounts begin to differ. Ogan testified that he had sought out the officers for assistance, fearing that some of the drug dealers he had been involved with had tracked him down. According to a June 21, 1990 article in the *Chronicle*, Ogan said that when he told officer James Boswell that he worked for the DEA, Boswell became very hostile and leapt from the vehicle, fumbling with his gun. Ogan fired a single shot with his .38 revolver in what he believed to be his own self-defense. The bullet struck Officer Boswell in the temple and killed him instantly. A paramedic testified that only minutes after the shooting, Ogan said, “Oh, please don’t let him die. Let it be me.”

Boswell’s partner Morgan Gainer, in the passenger seat of the car when Ogan approached, testified that Ogan tapped on the window of the vehicle and was told to wait until the officers had finished writing a traffic ticket and dealing with a woman accused of public disturbance. Ogan refused to wait, and continued to tap on the window even after being threatened with arrest if he did not back away. With an arrest imminent, Boswell removed his gun from its holster, and stepped out of the car with the gun concealed against his leg. As he turned to unlock the back door, Gainer claimed in testimony reported in a June 30, 1990 article in the *Chronicle*, Ogan fired the shot. There had been no animosity on the part of the officers, in Gainer’s version. Ogan tried to flee the scene, but was shot in the back and arrested.

A week after Ogan was convicted of murder on June 26, 1990, a Texas jury sentenced him to die by lethal injection.

Craig Ogan’s story began long before that night, but sources around SLUH are even more vague and reticent than those involved in the criminal case. Ogan began attending SLUH in September of 1971. A long-time school official recalls that he came from a troubled, South city, working-class family and lacked many of the personal and educational privileges enjoyed by most SLUH students. As a young man who was already a loner, Ogan must have felt further alienated by his class.

Martin Hagan, S.J. remembers Ogan as, “quite a character,” and was not shocked by the tragic unfolding of his life. An alum from the class of 1974 expounded on Hagan’s assessment, recalling how Ogan dented a thick locker door with his head and hung by one arm off the footbridge over highway 40.

He concluded, “I liked Craig—he was funny, but after the DEA got a hold of him, he turned violent. I think he be-

longs in prison, but not in a casket.”

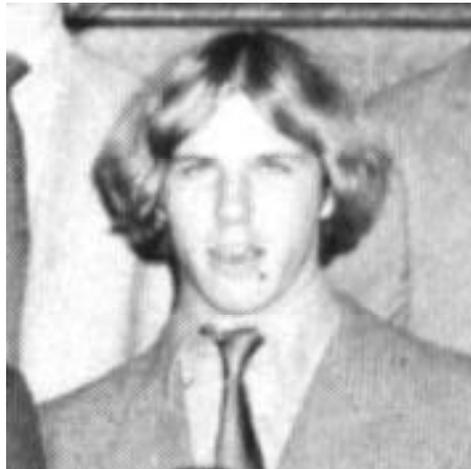
Ogan left SLUH for undisclosed reasons in October of 1973, his senior year. Former Dean of Students Dick Keefe could recall only his face.

Some years after leaving, Ogan came to deeply regret not having graduated from SLUH. He approached school administrators and asked to be granted some sort of legitimate diploma. He was denied. He returned with the same request each time new administrators were brought in. His request was repeatedly denied.

After transferring briefly to Cleveland High School, Ogan got his G.E.D. At some point during his post-high school years, he crossed the line from drug dealer to drug informant. He had hoped the DEA would provide a worthwhile reference so that he might pursue his real dream—becoming a “deep-cover CIA agent.” (According to a June 20, 1990 article in the *Chronicle*) Ogan had limited success with the DEA, and was transferred to Houston after the evidence for a large scale local bust may have jeopardized his safety. The rest is legal history.

Ogan’s case advocate, Rev. Steve Ackerman, was unavailable for comment.

Well, I don’t suppose you will find Craig Ogan in the alumni newsletter, but for better or for worse, he was and is a member of the SLUH community as much as any other student or alum. The school’s chance to help him has passed and gone; now all we can do is pray that he may find strength and peace.



Craig Ogan's junior yearbook picture, from 1974.

## Calendar

by Tom O'Brien

**FRIDAY, MARCH 30**

Schedule #1  
 Fast Friday  
 Fire Drill  
 Cashbah Preview party  
 Students return from Moscow  
 Lenten Reconciliation  
 Tr: C vs. Vianney @ 4pm  
 Ts: V/Jv vs. O'Fallon @ 4pm

**SATURDAY MARCH 31**

Bas: V vs. Perryville @ noon  
 Bas: C @ Vianney @ 10am

**MONDAY, APRIL 2**

Schedule #1  
 Bas: C @ DeSmet @ 4:15pm  
 Gf: Jv vs. CBC @ Stonewolf @ 4pm  
 Ts: Jv vs. St. Mary's @ Tower Grove Park @ 4pm

**TUESDAY, APRIL 3**

Schedule #1  
 Fr. English Tutorial  
 So. Bonus reading test  
 1818 Director Visit  
 Bas: V vs. DeSmet @ Heine Meine @ 7pm  
 Bas: B @ Desmet @ 4:15pm  
 Ts: V vs. MICDS @ 4pm  
 Ts: Jv vs. MICDS @ 4pm  
 Vb: vs. St. Mary's @ 4pm

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4**

Schedule #6  
 Department Meetings  
 Bas: V vs. St. Mary's @ Heine Meine @ 7pm  
 Bas: B vs. St. Mary's @ Wilmore Park @ 4:15pm  
 Bas: C vs. St. Mary's @ Carondelet Park @ 4pm  
 Gf: V vs. DeSmet @ Glen Echo @ 4pm  
 Gf: Jv vs. DeSmet @ Normandie @ 3pm

Tr: Vs. CBC/DeSmet @ DeSmet @ 4pm

**THURSDAY, APRIL 5**

Schedule #6  
 Parent-Teacher conferences  
 Bas: V vs. Cleveland @ Heine Meine @ 7pm  
 Bas: B @ Parkway South @ 4:15pm  
 Gf: V vs. Chaminade @ TBA  
 Gf: Jv. vs. Chaminade @ Normandie @ 3pm  
 Tr: V @ Webster Inv. @ Hixson @ 4pm  
 Ts: V/Jv vs. Parkway West @ 4pm  
 Vb: vs. DeSmet @ 4pm

**FRIDAY, APRIL 6**

Schedule #1  
 Bas: V @ Heine Meine @ 7pm  
 Bas: C vs. CBC @ Forest Park @ 4:15pm  
 Tr: C vs. CBC/Chaminade/DeSmet @ 4pm  
 Vb: vs. Parkway Central @ 4pm

## PITCHOUT

(from 5)

singled, advancing Maher; he then stole second. Rodriguez then cleared the bases with a double.

During his second at-bat in the inning, Keys popped out; but the score was 7-0 after four.

Curcuru struck-out one batter and the other two flied out in the fifth. In the bottom of the inning, Beck and Chik both singled.

Shaughnessy flied out and Tony Aiuzzi pinch hitting for Curcuru, singled. Another single by pinch hitting John Greffet and then a double by Maher ended the game at 10-0

"I think we did really well," said Curcuru. "We didn't make too many mental mistakes. It was a good team game."

On his first outing, he said, "I tried too hard in the first inning. After that I was a lot more relaxed knowing the defense was behind me."

Nicollerat thought Brandt was strong at the plate, Eric Enright was "steady

behind shortstop," and Beck made nice plays at third.

On Curcuru: "He did great. He had great command of pitches." He added that he pitched inside well, tying up the batters; he also changed speeds well. "He put on a clinic on how to pitch."

"We took advantage of their mistakes," he said of Mehlville. "They didn't play very well— Not as well as they should have. It was a pretty good game for four innings, then we took advantage of things."

Curcuru echoed: "We got some lucky hops. (Mehlville) made too many mental mistakes."

"This was a confidence-booster," Nicollerat concluded after the game. "We had some good at-bats and did some good things. We're ready for the next one."

The team plays at Perryville Saturday and faces DeSmet and St. Mary's next Tuesday and Wednesday. Both games are at Heine Meine, with an admission of \$1, which goes entirely to the Make a Wish Foundation.

(from 4)

general endowment of the school. The rest of the money is used for capital purchases, building repairs, the scholarship fund, and other other immediate expenses.

Concerned that the stock market's fall may make many supporters think twice before giving, Joe Patke, Director of Communications, said, "With the great downturn in the stockmarket people may not have the money to bid that they've had in the past." However, Patke expects to make a quarter of a million dollars this year. Others disagree. Digman didn't seem fazed by the slowdown, saying there is "no indication of economics hurting the operation."

Other than the small possibility of low donations, this year's Cashbah should be exciting. Donations this year included signed memorabilia of Mark McGwire, antique furniture, and a puppy. Another item up for auction is a duck hunting trip with Fr. Jim Knapp.