

Forum: Issues Day should include non-Catholic views, *see page 3*

Feature: Theater's backstage mystery men in action, *see page 7*

Sports: XC places second in Jesuit Invitational, *see page 5*

St. Louis University High School

Prep News



"If nothing else, value the truth."

Volume LXV

Friday, October 6, 2000

Issue 6

Issues Day rouses students with debates, discussions

Kevin Moore and Andy Neilsen
Core Staff

After watching the presidential debate on Wednesday night, SLUH students eagerly waited for their own version of an issues-based debate. SLUH's Issues Day provided a discussion of the election-year themes which candidates will have to confront.



Hancock and Temple sweat the issues.

gave an introductory speech stressing the importance of an open mind on political issues and voting. Barber said that politics should be used as a "backdrop of our ethical responsibilities to others." Christianity, he believes, should be incorporated into how we vote. Barber went on to encourage all students to exercise their voting rights, saying that there

are "so many people whose needs call for see **STARS AND STRIPES, 2**

Theater goes Greek with *Oedipus*

Peter Wiedmann
Reporter

Chanting and shouting, curses and prophecies reverberate off the walls of the Fine Arts wing. Fog drifts into the nostrils of anyone entering the theater. The unusual and often horrifying story of an ancient man whose life is tormented by the Fates and the gods will excite the imaginations of those who attend this weekend's Dauphin Players' production



Kevin Kloster as Oedipus

of *Oedipus Rex*.

Directed by Joe Schulte, the show will take place this Thursday and Sunday at 7:30, and Saturday at 6:00 and 9:00, with a special performance for senior Morality and Greek classes Friday at 1:30. It features a cast and crew made up of students in all four classes, with underclassmen representing a relatively large percentage of the cast. An see **TOGAS, 6**

Students choose Bush in mock election 2000

Andrew Ivers
Assistant Editor

It takes the United States nearly three months to complete the process of electing a president. It took SLUH just over two hours. Last Wednesday afternoon, Junior Bills voted for presidential candidates, homerooms cast electoral votes, and the school elected George W. Bush as new Commander in Chief, with time left for homework.

After a morning of Issues Day's small-group sessions with various political speakers, students returned to their homerooms to cast their individual votes for presidential candidates.

"I thought it was a great idea," said junior Joey Neilsen on the application of the national election process to this mock-election.

The candidates for presidency and vice presidency on the ballot were as follows: Democrats Al Gore, Joe Lieberman; Republicans George W. Bush, Dick Cheney; Libertarians Harry Browne, Art Olivier; Constitution Party representatives Howard Phillips, J. Curtis Frazier; Reform Party representatives Pat Buchanan, Ezola Foster; Natural Law Party representatives John Hagelin, Mike Tompkins; and Green Party representa- see **W, 3**

STARS AND STRIPES

(from 1)

a response from you.”

After Barber’s opening speech, students returned to classrooms around the school for the more specific small group presentations. Last month students ranked their choices for topics on a sheet with over twenty options.

Topics for these groups ranged from foreign policy to the state of homelessness in the United States. Presenters to the small groups tried to impart to the students a better understanding of the issue and give the students a perspective on how each candidate dealt with the particular topic.

Attorney Chet Pleban, who spoke about capital punishment, said he thinks the day provided “a wonderful opportunity to share ideas and opinions in a relaxed academic setting.” One of the best aspects of having the small groups was that it “[allowed] us to mix practical experience and real issues with the academic community.”

Since there were so many different topics, students’ experiences differed; individual speakers had no preset format and some emphasized candidate stances on issues more than others.

“I was definitely disappointed (that) at some of the meetings I went to, the

speakers didn’t talk about candidates’ positions on any of the subjects,” said junior John Moramarco.

Many students did not share Moramarco’s reaction. Sophomore Tom Queathem commented, “Issues Day went really well. It taught us a lot about the electoral system. I also thought the (small group format) where we learned about specific issues and what candidates thought about them was really good.”

Even groups with the same labels provided different points of view on their issues. One genetic engineering group had a speaker from Monsanto and another group had a speaker from Washington University’s genome sequencing center. Other presenters gave more one-sided presentations, such as the gun control group that was headed by NRA board members.

Most groups accomplished their goal of presenting the issues accurately. One of the capital punishment groups, a favorite of those who attended, had a guest speaker who had a relative on death row, giving the students an idea of how capital punishment affects families. Even if students disagreed or disliked the material presented, it served at least to make everyone think about their issues, either confirming or questioning their beliefs.

Senior Pat Rosen said, “I really had

been pro-Republican beforehand...but I was really interested in the arguments.” Rosen said the day made him think about his viewpoint, but he said the day “strengthened [his viewpoint] a little bit.”

Students appeared very enthusiastic about these discussion/presentations, and many responded and asked questions actively. After receiving their specific political issues backgrounds, students were ready to elect their candidates.

Upon returning to their homerooms, students were given a list of prospective candidates and began to vote. In the model of the electoral system of the United States, all votes for each homeroom would go to the candidate receiving the majority in that homeroom. Each class was given a certain number of electoral votes based on homeroom population.

The students then handed their votes in, and focused their attention on making campaign posters for the candidate that they elected. Each homeroom also agreed on a probing and insightful question to ask the two debaters later in the day. In the meantime, the entire school ventured down to the gym, where the debate between Democrat and Republican was about to begin.

Faculty and students ambled into the gym to patriotic fanfare provided by the SLUH pep band, eagerly awaiting the climax of all the day’s education. The Republican party sent John Hancock, the head of Missouri’s Republican party. The Democrats also sent their party’s Missouri head, Roy Temple. The debate began in an orderly fashion, with homeroom representatives proceeding to the front to ask their questions. By and by, the candidates began to sense the rowdiness of the students emerging after a slow-paced day. The debate began to settle into a sort of contest as to who could make the sharpest quip at the other’s expense, while still moderately sticking to the question.

Hancock and Temple left amid a flurry of cheers from both sides, the bottled excitement of the day finally released. After the masses calmed down, the homerooms announced their results with George Bush winning.

OEC builds trail, sees Rams

Drew Niermann
Core Staff

Last Sunday there were more than Rams on the playing field of the Trans World Dome; there were 30 Billikens from the U. High as well. As part of the Rams Community First program, the Outdoor Experience Club took part in a major service project, extending one of the St. Louis area mountain bike trails.

On Sunday, September 23, the OEC took part in the largest service project in its history. Over 25 SLUH volunteers

worked along with over 50 other volunteers from the St. Louis area. After the trail was completed the club took part in the ribbon-cutting ceremony, at which the OEC was commended for its service and dedication to the St. Louis County Parks. The OEC was also recognized by the Rams Community First program, which awarded the club several Rams tickets.

Last Sunday at the Dome, the Club was allowed onto the field to receive their award. After watching the team warm up, the club had its picture taken in recognition of their work.

ISSUES DAY

Issues Day should include non-Catholic views

“Even if we reject another’s claim, the fact that we consider it, the fact that we do not dismiss it as stupid, that we appraise the reasons given on its behalf, means that we pay respect to the person who makes the claim,” said Fr. Mike Barber, the keynote speaker of Wednesday’s Issues Day.

What a wonderful message. In this time of ridiculous voter apathy, few messages are more important to broadcast to the youth of America: think for yourself and consider all the facts, because your decision matters.

Which is why it’s so unfortunate that the final format of Issues Day didn’t entirely reflect Barber’s inclusionary vision. Controversial issues such as abortion and capital punishment were presented to the student body, but only those speakers advocating the Catholic viewpoint were invited to speak.

Okay, so SLUH is a Catholic institution, and many would be understandably offended if, for example, a pro-choice speaker had been invited. But the uproar this invitation would inevitably cause stems from the same misunderstanding that brought about such hostility last year at the suggestion of a homosexuality discussion group. Openly discussing a particular viewpoint with

which the majority disagrees is not the same as supporting that viewpoint. In fact, as Fr. Barber eloquently pointed out, discussing and respectfully considering both sides of an argument is the only real way to form an independent opinion about an issue.

So how can students be expected to think for themselves and form their own opinions if the only argument presented to them about controversial topics like abortion is the opinion, however valid, with which they’ve always been presented?

Issues Day was a wonderful idea and was certainly a huge success, judging by the excitement it stirred within the student body. The organizers should be applauded for having the courage to orchestrate such a radically different activity and for all their dedication to its planning.

But, as Fr. Barber warned, “As religious people, firmly committed to our values, we run the risk of pushing ahead with our religious or value agenda, imposing on others beliefs they do not freely endorse.”

Only when SLUH recognizes this danger and respectfully considers views outside of its own will Issues Day truly live up to the enormous potential envisioned by Fr. Barber.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

STUCO plans to wrap up the first quarter in style

What’s up Junior Bills? STUCO has a busy week in store for the U.High next week, so hold on to your desks, because you may be blown away (most likely not, though).

On Tuesday we’ve got the blood drive being held in part with the American Red Cross. It’s a great cause for any Billikens age 17 and older, and if you donate your platelets, you get out of two periods. (Please do not give blood just to miss class, unless you have not read for your upcoming quiz.) See Greg Auffenberg, Shawn Henderson, Mr. Kesterson, or any STUCO member for details (except Keith Peterfeso).

Friday there is the annual Blue-White pep rally in preparation for our MCC football game versus DeSmet (SLUH-West). The celebrity guests include: Nelly, Kurt Warner, *NSYNC, and Britney Spears. (Really, this time, they will be there).

So get ready for nothing but Shenanigans, Tom Foolery, and Ballyhoo “le prochaine semaine.” (I think that means next week in French, but my Francais is pretty rusty).

Paddy Kelleher,
STUCO Sports Commish

<p>W (from 1) tives Ralph Nader, Winona La Duke.</p> <p>The winner of each homeroom received all the electoral votes of the homeroom; homerooms were given 5, 10, 15, or 20 electoral votes based on population.</p> <p>Some homerooms were swayed mainly one way or the other on the popular vote; others were very divided. Neilsen said the race in his homeroom, M218, was close between Bush and Nader, the eventual winner. Some hot topics in his room, he said, were student vouchers, capital punishment, and abortion.</p> <p>After the voting, homerooms drew up questions to present to Democratic and Republican Party representatives at a ques-</p>	<p>tion and answer session.</p> <p>The SLUH community then assembled in the gym for the session between Missouri Republican Party Executive Director John Hancock, and the Missouri Democratic Party Executive Roy Temple.</p> <p>American history teacher Jeff Harrison, S.J., one of the Issues Day organizers said the idea of the session was “to give the students as much information as possible.”</p> <p>He thought the representatives “expressed...the national parties very well, ” and did nicely in showing the differences between party views.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">see JUNIOR, 6</p>
---	---

Cross Country runs away with second at first Jesuit Invitational

Tom O'Brien
Core Staff

On Saturday at Chaminade the SLUH cross country team ran in the first Midwest Jesuit Invitational. The event was a celebration of Jesuit identity and cross country running.

Coach Tom Sothers of DeSmet gave birth to the idea, which was first intended to be a tri-meet comprised of SLUH, DeSmet, and Rockhurst. However, with just a few phone calls the meet soon grew in size.

The festivities got underway at 4:00 with the varsity race. SLUH did well in a field of eight teams that included DeSmet, Marquette, Rockhurst, Dallas Jesuit, Houston Straake, Denver Regis, and New Orleans Jesuit.

In the varsity race, SLUH was led by Dave Godar through two miles, after which he reluctantly relinquished his lead to Tom O'Brien and Ryan Hatch. The varsity squad had five medalists in the race:

Tom O'Brien (8th, 17:11), Ryan Hatch (10th, 17:14), Dan Leinaur (13th, 17:23), David Godar (14th, 17:26), and Patrick Leinaur (24th, 17:38). Also running in the varsity race were Andy Skosky (34th, 18:04) and John Parr (40th, 18:17). These times were good enough for a second place finish behind DeSmet.

The junior varsity race got underway after the varsity race was finished. In the JV race, the field included the same eight teams and finished with much of the same result. Led by Kyle Gonnerman, SLUH's JV finished second only to DeSmet in a stacked field.

Rounding out the scoring five were Pat Kim (7th, 18:15), Geoff Stewart (10th, 18:20), Chris Crews (12th, 18:30), and

Peter Schaefer (14th, 18:34).

The final race of the afternoon was the crosstown match between the SLUH and DeSmet freshman. SLUH soundly defeated DeSmet with a near perfect score of nineteen points. Led once again by Andrew Linhares (1st, 18:48) and John Oliver (2nd, 18:49) the freshmen squad turned in a huge race as a whole with eight runners under the 20-minute barrier. Rounding out the top five for SLUH were Brennan Connor (4th, 19:09), Joe Marincel (5th, 19:32), and Greg Kohler (7th, 19:46).

The day ended with a Mass at DeSmet, followed by an awards banquet in the DeSmet cafeteria.

Jim Becker of Rockhurst summed up the evening quite well, saying, "This is the coolest meet ever—and the food is great too."

During the awards ceremony there was a slide show followed by a speech by Sothers. He expressed his happiness with the proceedings of the night and said that he plans to hold the meet again next year.



Dave Godar sprints ahead

Polobills defeat DeSmet, improve to 10-2

Jeff Dueker
Core Staff

At DeSmet. That "other" all-male Jesuit high school. SLUH had the privilege of playing its Jesuit brothers in water polo last Saturday, and DeSmet had the distinguished honor of being beaten badly by their "more equal" Jesuit brothers. It was in this spirit of love that SLUH spanked DeSmet 9-6, and any spectator could easily see the friendship in all of the holding, pushing, grabbing and sinking that the teams freely and frequently exchanged with each other. Needless to say, it was a rough game. No matter: SLUH won.

The Polobills' play in the first quarter was especially notable. The passes were

on target, the shots were well placed, and the drivers actually got the ball when they were open. After all was said and done in the first seven minutes, SLUH was on top 4-0. Senior Zach Hartwig put it best when he bellowed "Yeah, we played like a team!" shortly after the end of the first quarter.

Unfortunately, the varsity team's play slowly deteriorated after that, so much so that they allowed DeSmet to outscore them 6-5 in the rest of the game. Take away the first quarter, SLUH loses. And that's not good.

SLUH did not improve their level of play during the John Burroughs game last Monday. Fortunately, John Burroughs wasn't good enough to capitalize on SLUH's sloppiness, and the Jr. Bills ended

up winning 10-2.

"Everything was sloppy: the passing, the shooting and the defense" said Coach Busenhart. The Polobills did win, but that kind of play will not cut it against quality teams like Country Day. So even in the midst of victory, the SLUH team is worried.

"This was not our best week," quipped Coach Baudendistel. The entire team seemed to feel the same way about the past week.

But it's not all bad, because the team has shown that they are capable of playing excellent polo.

"If we played like we did in the first quarter of the DeSmet game, nobody could beat us," prophesied Coach Busenhart. We shall see.

Cross Country runs away with second at first Jesuit Invitational

Tom O'Brien
Core Staff

On Saturday at Chaminade the SLUH cross country team ran in the first Midwest Jesuit Invitational. The event was a celebration of Jesuit identity and cross country running.

Coach Tom Sothers of DeSmet gave birth to the idea, which was first intended to be a tri-meet comprised of SLUH, DeSmet, and Rockhurst. However, with just a few phone calls the meet soon grew in size.

The festivities got underway at 4:00 with the varsity race. SLUH did well in a field of eight teams that included DeSmet, Marquette, Rockhurst, Dallas Jesuit, Houston Straake, Denver Regis, and New Orleans Jesuit.

In the varsity race, SLUH was led by Dave Godar through two miles, after which he reluctantly relinquished his lead to Tom O'Brien and Ryan Hatch. The varsity squad had five medalists in the race:

Tom O'Brien (8th, 17:11), Ryan Hatch (10th, 17:14), Dan Leinaur (13th, 17:23), David Godar (14th, 17:26), and Patrick Leinaur (24th, 17:38). Also running in the varsity race were Andy Skosky (34th, 18:04) and John Parr (40th, 18:17). These times were good enough for a second place finish behind DeSmet.

The junior varsity race got underway after the varsity race was finished. In the JV race, the field included the same eight teams and finished with much of the same result. Led by Kyle Gonnerman, SLUH's JV finished second only to DeSmet in a stacked field.

Rounding out the scoring five were Pat Kim (7th, 18:15), Geoff Stewart (10th, 18:20), Chris Crews (12th, 18:30), and

Peter Schaefer (14th, 18:34).

The final race of the afternoon was the crosstown match between the SLUH and DeSmet freshman. SLUH soundly defeated DeSmet with a near perfect score of nineteen points. Led once again by Andrew Linhares (1st, 18:48) and John Oliver (2nd, 18:49) the freshmen squad turned in a huge race as a whole with eight runners under the 20-minute barrier. Rounding out the top five for SLUH were Brennan Connor (4th, 19:09), Joe Marincel (5th, 19:32), and Greg Kohler (7th, 19:46).

The day ended with a Mass at DeSmet, followed by an awards banquet in the DeSmet cafeteria.

Jim Becker of Rockhurst summed up the evening quite well, saying, "This is the coolest meet ever—and the food is great too."

During the awards ceremony there was a slide show followed by a speech by Sothers. He expressed his happiness with the proceedings of the night and said that he plans to hold the meet again next year.



Dave Godar sprints ahead

Polobills defeat DeSmet, improve to 10-2

Jeff Dueker
Core Staff

Ah, DeSmet. That "other" all-male Jesuit high school. SLUH had the privilege of playing its Jesuit brothers in water polo last Saturday, and DeSmet had the distinguished honor of being beaten badly by their "more equal" Jesuit brothers. It was in this spirit of love that SLUH spanked DeSmet 9-6, and any spectator could easily see the friendship in all of the holding, pushing, grabbing and sinking that the teams freely and frequently exchanged with each other. Needless to say, it was a rough game. No matter: SLUH won.

The Polobills' play in the first quarter was especially notable. The passes were

on target, the shots were well placed, and the drivers actually got the ball when they were open. After all was said and done in the first seven minutes, SLUH was on top 4-0. Senior Zach Hartwig put it best when he bellowed "Yeah, we played like a team!" shortly after the end of the first quarter.

Unfortunately, the varsity team's play slowly deteriorated after that, so much so that they allowed DeSmet to outscore them 6-5 in the rest of the game. Take away the first quarter, SLUH loses. And that's not good.

SLUH did not improve their level of play during the John Burroughs game last Monday. Fortunately, John Burroughs wasn't good enough to capitalize on SLUH's sloppiness, and the Jr. Bills ended

up winning 10-2.

"Everything was sloppy: the passing, the shooting and the defense" said Coach Busenhart. The Polobills did win, but that kind of play will not cut it against quality teams like Country Day. So even in the midst of victory, the SLUH team is worried.

"This was not our best week," quipped Coach Baudendistel. The entire team seemed to feel the same way about the past week.

But it's not all bad, because the team has shown that they are capable of playing excellent polo.

"If we played like we did in the first quarter of the DeSmet game, nobody could beat us," prophesied Coach Busenhart. We shall see.

TOGAS

(from 1)

An archetypal Greek tragedy, the play is widely considered one of the best ever written.

Although Sophocles wrote *Oedipus Rex* thousands of years ago, with a different audience and different methods of production in mind, it has great relevance today, and not only Schulte and SLUH drama students hold this opinion. Schulte calls this “the year of Oedipus” because in July, a Greek theater company put on the play in the Colosseum, where it was originally performed. Coincidentally, a group in New York opened with *Oedipus* Thursday night, the same night the Dauphin Players’ production opened.

Schulte made the decision to take on such a challenging work, an unusual selection for a high school production, for many reasons.

“The Greeks and the Greek plays have always fascinated me,” Schulte says, “I first read *Oedipus* when I was here at SLUH, and I took Greek... it is ideal for an all-male school.”

Adds Schulte, “I love mysteries. There are many ways of looking at this show, and one is as a detective story. It has one of the most fascinating twists of any possible detective story.”

There are several technical firsts in this production, including the scene shop’s being incorporated into the set and the use of three-quarter round seating. The crew also uses two brand-new smoke machines that give the show an eerie atmosphere.

Senior Kevin Kloster plays Oedipus, who at the beginning of the play has deciphered the riddle of the sphinx to save Thebes and be crowned king, thereby replacing Laius, who had been murdered only a short time before. But the citizens of Thebes soon find that their gods have abandoned them.

Oedipus calls upon the help of his brother-in-law Creon, played by junior Alex Green, and the support of his wife, Jocasta, played Cor Jesu senior Laura Winkler, to find the source of the city’s plight. Having returned from the prophetic oracle of Apollo, Creon tells Oedipus that the gods the people praise will

give them relief only if the murderer of Laius is found and either banished or killed. As Oedipus searches for answers, he is reeled into an examination of his own past and finds that everything he thought was true is not.

Being a Greek play, *Oedipus* also features two choruses, led by junior Karl Gunther and senior Paul Balfe, that represent the citizens of Thebes and serves to inform the audience of actions that cannot take place on stage. In addition, the play has greatly benefitted from the devotion of stage manager Kevin McKernan and the insight of ASC faculty member Ken Ferrigni.

Senior Laura Winkler offers the interesting perspective of the only female in the cast, saying, “Being the only girl was a learning experience for me; it really showed how the Greeks felt about women, and how, in ancient Greece, all the power was in the hands of the men.”

Those who think they know nothing about *Oedipus* will find in the play aspects of modern drama, the essence of tragedy, ideas that have dogged people for thousands of years, and a hero and king who, according to Kloster, “is more like them then they will at first realize; he is a normal man searching for straight answers.”

Conversely, those who think they know the outline of Oedipus’ story will find in *Oedipus Rex* ideas or connections they may not have noticed before. Many will recognize Oedipus’ name from the work of Sigmund Freud, who used Oedipus’ plight to describe a stage of development. The Greek director of the Colosseum production uses Oedipus and Creon as models for politics throughout history, saying that Creon represents the public’s ever-present illusion of its control of governmental affairs, while Oedipus represents a leader who holds the actual power. Psychology, politics, philosophy, honesty, betrayal, incest, and irony are only a few of the subjects Sophocles confronts in *Oedipus Rex*.

This weekend on the SLUH stage, Oedipus keeps his promise to “leave nothing undone. With God’s help (he) will prove fortunate—or fall.”

JUNIOR

(from 3)

Harrison also was initially surprised that the questions were focused on national issues, and none were related to the race for governorship.

Junior Dante Henderson of M210 presented an interesting question to Temple, asking “Is money everything? Is the system (based on money) flawed? Does it serve the people?” Temple was very honest which “impressed” Neilsen and many others in audience.

After the session, the homerooms announced their electoral votes. The majority of freshman and junior homerooms cast votes for Bush; 2 sophomore homerooms voted Nader, 4 Gore, 5 Bush; 4 senior homerooms went Nader and 6 Bush; one fine arts homeroom voted Nader and the other Gore.

A total of 475 electoral votes were cast; at least 238 votes were needed to win. Nader received 96, Gore 127, and Bush—the winner—252.

Harrison remarked that he expected Bush to win; in 1992 and 1996, SLUH elected Republican candidates.

“I was surprised at the strength of Ralph Nader,” he said. “I suspect a senior influence...(especially) in the freshman homerooms.”

Although some students did believe in their vote for Nader, many members of the SLUH community attribute his success to the humorous endeavors of students.

Senior Ben Wiesehan elaborated on the lack of solemnity: “I would appreciate it more if more people took the vote a little more seriously because...I can surmise that a lot of the people who voted for the Green Party voted without a sense of...what the [party’s] platform was.”

Convention bills even appeared on the front page of Thursday’s *Post-Dispatch*.

“The system [SLUH] used helped to demonstrate the system our country uses,” Neilsen concluded. “I found it interesting...I know a lot more now about the presidential race than I did [Tuesday].”

Theater Tech: Falling rainbows, giant tricycles, and other theater misadventures

Justin Austermann
Features Editor

Editor's note: *I am humbled by the vast array of stories that I am faced with in trying to compile a story about SLUH's stage crew. Luckily, many of said stories proved unfit to print, making it much easier to find a starting point.*

Final dress rehearsal. The curtain opens, the lights go up, and the show runs without a hitch. At the climax, an immense rainbow arcs across the stage, the lead proclaims, "And the rainbow covered the land of Og." St. Louis U. High's 1989 production of *Finian's Rainbow* is ready to open.

Opening night. The curtain opens, the lights go up, and the show runs without a hitch. At the climax, an immense rainbow arcs halfway across the stage... then the cord breaks, and the rainbow's wooden frames whip backwards with a clatter. Correctly assuming the show must continue with or without its title set piece, the lead says, "Well, looks like Finian couldn't quite get it up tonight."

Despite such unexpected antics, SLUH has boasted one of the finest theater programs in the area for many years. Its success has depended on the talent of its student performers, the freely-given wisdom of theater director Joseph Schulte, and the blood (occasionally), sweat (often), and tears (rarely) of the low-profile stage crew.

A revolution of sorts began in the late 1980s, when every set was designed and built by a group of particularly dedicated students. Then, as now, the laws of physics thwarted the efforts of the valiant techies. Too little time, too much gravity—such problems had to be overcome in order to create successful shows. After locking up following rehearsal, a strange ritual occurred. The techies who had driven off with Schulte only minutes earlier returned to the building, where one member

had waited, holding open the locked door. Working well into the night, they thus conquered the physics of time, but not their physics homework.

Not only did the crew build and paint the set and run lighting and sound, they



A rainbow rises behind the TechyBill

also handled publicity. Today, we take posters for granted, but until the early 1990s, every single poster advertising a show was silkscreened by hand. Rows of posters were lined up on the floors of the corridors, and each color had to be done separately. For many years after, the maintenance staff wondered why they kept finding stenciled silkscreens from past productions on the backs of floor mats and ceiling tiles.

More entertaining publicity developed from a favorite stage crew past-time: speeding through the corridors on an oversized tricycle. A clever techie decided that their joy-rides could be used to advertise shows—a sort of mutant belly-brigade. Said current theater technical director Tom Dunsworth, '89, "It may or may not have increased ticket sales, but it was certainly funny."

Though their unusual behavior may leave you questioning their sanity, Martin Hagan, S.J. describes past crew members as "a bunch of geniuses." Why then, you may wonder, was a group of such hard-

working geniuses plagued by production mishaps? Obviously, it was all someone else's fault:

When an actor is knocked unconscious during a scene change by scenery being lowered from the ceiling, it is his own fault. (The techies call this not-uncommon occurrence a "fly-kill," and actually kept a record of the kills for each show by stenciling symbols onto the wall of the old auditorium.)

When an actor finds peppermint schnapps in his prop glasses during a performance, it is because the crew set up for the show too soon; the fake stuff must have fermented.

And when the infamous rainbow broke, having been rigged with merely a phone cord, Dunsworth could hardly believe his eyes. He was heard to mumble, "It must have been structural, Schulte said so..."

The decision to construct a new theatre building signaled the end of that accident-laden era. Dunsworth returned to work at SLUH after college, working closely with Schulte and the architects in an attempt to "turn a pretty building into a functional theater." The larger shows and better tools available in the new theater have made the stage crew's job even more challenging, but one of the biggest challenges is getting underclassmen involved in the program.

"Every year," says Dunsworth, "seniors show up and want to work on a show. When they see what it's all about, every one of them regrets having waited so long to get involved."

Skip ahead a few years from the era of fallen rainbows to the opening night of *Oedipus Rex*. Dim light filters through the hazy air, illuminating the marble palace of the king of Thebes. The flickering fire and eerie music set the tone of the show before a single line is spoken. Best of all, nothing falls apart—a testament to another successful production courtesy of the unseen stage crew.

Calendar

October 6 - October 13

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6

Schedule #1

Freshmen Advisement @ Activity Period

V-FB vs. Francis Howell North @ 7pm

- Maryville University
- Union College-New York

Our Little Haven @ 3:15pm
JV-SC vs. Roosevelt @ Forest Park #3 @ 4pm

MONDAY, OCTOBER 9

Schedule #1

Mission Activity

AP Biology Lab

College Visits @ Activity Period:

- Lewis and Clark College

Karen House @ 3:15pm

V-SC @ Hazelwood West @ 4:30pm

JV-SC @ St. Francis Borgia @ 5pm

B-SC @ Hazelwood West @ 4:30pm

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12

Schedule #1

Mission Activity

Rosary @ Activity Period

College Visits @ Activity Period:

- Trinity College
- U.S. Naval Academy—Brian Tkach, SLUH '97

Lafayette College @ 9:45am

B-FB @ DeSmet @ 4pm

C-FB vs. DeSmet @ 4pm

B/V-SC @ Marquette @ 6/7:30pm

JV-SC vs. CBC @ Forest Park #3 @

4pm

JV/V-WP vs. Ladue @ 4/5pm

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10

Schedule #1

Mission Activity

Blood Drive

Young Republicans Meeting

Frosh Eng Tutorial @ Activity Period

College Visits @ Activity Period:

- Rochester, University of

B/V-SC vs. St. Mary's @ 4:30/6:30pm

C-SC vs. DeSmet @ Forest Park #3 @ 4pm

JV/V-WP vs. Chaminade @ 4/5pm

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13

Schedule #1

College Visits @ Activity Period:

- Case Western Reserve University @ 12:45 p.m.
- Emory University @ 12:52 p.m. - 1:22 p.m.
- Northern Arizona University @ 2:30 p.m.

Young Republicans Meeting

Pep Rally

Our Little Haven @ 3:15pm

V-FB vs. DeSmet @ 7pm

C-SC vs. St. Mary's @ Forest Park #3 @ 4pm

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11

Schedule #1

Junior Spirit Mass

College Visits @ Activity Period:

- Harris Stowe State College
- Kenyon College

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The St. Louis University Mother's Club is hosting a card party on Sunday, October 15th, 2000 at 1:00 p.m. A craft boutique and bakery booth along with door prizes add to the fun. The doors open at 11:00 a.m. for shopping and lunch. "Who wants to be a Billikenaire?" will be held in the school gymnasium at 4970 Oakland Ave. Tickets are available through Geri (314/892-2707) or Susan (314/965-1076)

For the "Who Wants to be a Billikenaire?" Card Party, the Mothers Club is in need of mothers to donate breads, muffins, cupcakes, cookies, cakes, and pies (no custard or whipped cream pies), homemade jams, jellies, preserves, and fudge.

These should be delivered to SLUH on Friday, October 13 to the switchboard by 5:00 p.m. or Sunday, October 15 from 9:00 a.m. until start of card party.

Prep News

St. Louis' only
weekly high
school newspaper.

www.sluh.org

prepnews@sluh.org

"Vice President Credits"

Volume LXV, Issue 6

Editor in Chief: Tim "Spiro Agnew" Elfrink

Assistant Editors: Andrew "John Nance Gardener" Ivers, Raj "Elbridge Gerry" Joseph

Sports Editor: Peter "Schuyler Colfax" Bartz-Gallagher

Assistant Sports Editor: Matt "Martin van Buren" Snively

Features Editor: Justin "George Clinton" Austermann

Core Staff: Kevin "William Wheeler" Moore, Andrew "Hubert Humphry" Neilsen, Drew "Aaron Burr" Niermann, Tom "Hannibal Hamlin" O'Brien, Ryan "Alben Barkley" Oldani

Layout Staff: Matt "James K. Polk" Hoffman

Web Staff: Woody "Garret Hobart" Krummenacher

Photography: Ryan "Alben Barkley" Oldani, Matt "George H.W. Bush" Snively

Artist: Mike "John C. Calhoun" Garcia
Reporters: Jeff "Levi Morton" Dueker, Shawn "George Dallas" Furey, Garry "Chester Arthur" Holland, Peter "Charles Curtis" Wiedmann,

Computer Consultant: Mr. Bob "Thomas Hendricks" Overkamp

Moderators: Ms. Bonnie "Gerald Ford" Laughlin, Mr. Steve "Al Gore" Missey, Mr. Patrick "Richard Nixon" Zarrick

Masthead design: Rachel "Adlai Stevenson" Marling

The Prep News is a student publication of St. Louis University High School. Copyright ©2000 St. Louis University High School Prep News. No material may be reprinted without the permission of the moderators and Editor in chief.