



BETTER



Simply



Kansas Scholastic Press Association, 2005 State

# *Simply* **BETTER**

## Kansas Scholastic Press Association, 2005 State Contest Winners, Vol. 12

The contents of this literary magazine display the best in a body of work collected at the 34th annual KSPA State Contest. More than 900 students participated in the contest, which took place May 7, 2005, at the University of Kansas in Lawrence. This twelfth issue of *Simply Better* contains the first place entries submitted from 16 out of 18 contests from the three combined classifications (1A/2A, 3A/4A, 5A/6A).

Judge's Comments have been added as a side bar on every page for each entry except for Newspaper Photography.

Winning entries not displayed in *Simply Better* are from the Editing and Broadcasting categories. Editing winners include: 1A/2A, Aimee Beisner, Natoma High School; 3A/4A, Jessica Sain-Baird, Wamego High School; and 5A/6A, Justin Childres, Kapaun Mt. Carmel High School. Broadcasting winners include: 1A/2A, Schuyler Coates and McKenzie Grace, St. Francis Community High School; 3A/4A, Melanie Robins, Rebecca Bush and Alicia Phillips, Pratt High School; and 5A/6A, Kyle Curry, Haley Kreutzer and Caleb Knueven, Leavenworth High School.

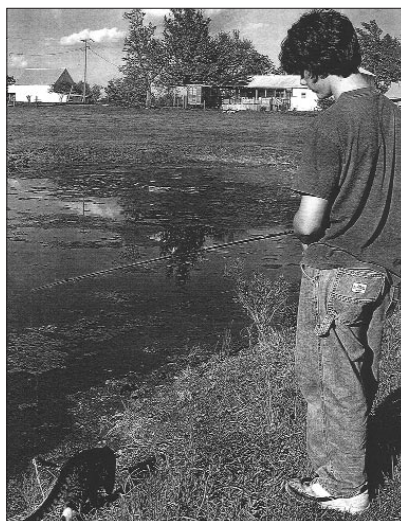
The front cover photographs were winning entries from the Newspaper Photography contest. Top: Parker Rome, Garden City, 5A/6A winner; middle: Jeremy Logan, Haviland, 1A/2A winner; bottom: Ashley Maxton, Humboldt, 3A/4A winner.

Students in the Newspaper Photography category were required to select one of the following assignments: non-school-sponsored sports or weekend activities.

**Jeremy Logan • 1A/2A • Haviland**



**Ashley Maxton • 3A/4A • Humboldt**



**Parker Rome • 5A/6A • Garden City**





NEWS WRITING  
1A/2A

Nice quote lead. You follow up with who, what, when, where and why in the next graph. Great job writing on deadline. Good quotes. Nicely organized. Very thorough. Excellent job.

HEADLINE WRITING  
1A/2A

First headline needs to be written as straight news headline. Fills space well. Never, ever use an exclamation point.

# Hipp take on evolution: broadcasting project

Jacinda Hinkson • 1A/2A •  
Chase County

Tom Hipp's in-depth report on "Evolution v. Intelligent Design" aired last night on Kansas Week. The report was shown on Kansas Public Television stations KPTS in Wichita and KTWU in Topeka.

Hipp, a KU senior from Overland Park, made the report as a requirement for his broadcast journalism class, but his broadcasting professor submitted the piece to Kansas Week because of the story's statewide relevance.

As Hipp explained in an interview, news stories must fit three criteria in order to be effectively "newsworthy." Stories must be new and interesting to those who will read them; they must contain a conflict; and they must be close in proximity to their readers—the issue should be near or relevant to them personally.

Hipp also revealed his "unwritten rule" for journalism—to serve the public.

"It's our job to be the whistle-blower sometimes," said Hipp.

And that was Hipp's intention in choosing to report on the Kansas evolution controversy. He knew there had been a conflict in the state as to whether or not the teaching of evolution in schools should continue in the way it has been, so with this issue, he knew he fit all three criteria.

The five-minute long TV news story, which is rather long for a TV news story, began by focusing on Jessie Hoover, a 9th grader from a local high school. With this anecdotal opening, Hipp was able to "humanize" his story, or to "give it a face," as Hipp explained. The interview of the young girl brings the issue to life for the viewer, showing Jessie's stance on the issue and how it affects her life at school.

Hipp also interviewed John Calvert, director of Intelligent Design committee at KU, and U.S. House of Representatives member Mary Pilcher-Cook. Presenting the story from

both sides was important to Hipp, who said a neutral stance on the issue by the reporter brings more honesty into the story.

"My news story was objective, as all news stories should be," said Hipp.

The project took approximately two months to complete and Hipp worked entirely on his own.

The report can be viewed over the internet at [ku.tv.edu](http://ku.tv.edu), in the "in-depth news stories" section.

Tom Hipp will graduate from KU this month with a degree in broadcast journalism.

Principal position  
open for 30 more  
days; apply now!

Fourteen students integrated into  
National French Honor Society

**Bachman's boast: bronze**

Library assistant

 shows her superiority  
at skating

Matt Worcester • 1A/2A • Hill City

Danny Szlauderbach from  
Independent High School  
received first place in 3A/4A  
News Writing. His contest was  
not available during production  
of *Simply Better*.

# Evolutionary broadcasting documents debate

Victoria Ukaoma • 5A/6A • Maize

University of Kansas senior Toni Hipp originally created an in-depth report over "Evolution vs. Intelligent Design" to fulfill a requirement for his Broadcasting class.

Yet, its' relevance to the Kansas school board's on-going battle over whether or not evolution should be taught in the classroom prompted Kansas week to our Hipp's video last night.

Hipp, himself knowing very little about evolution, attempted to remain objective throughout the piece and provide the public with both sides to the controversial issue.

"Anything that has to do with genetics is somehow interesting to the public," he said. "I feel like, especially with a topic such as this, it is my job to serve the people who lead and see my work. It's part of the heart that is journalism."

The project itself took Hipp approximately two months to put together. His sources ranged from main prosecutor, John Calvert, to high school biology student, Jessie Hoover.

"I wanted to speak with someone that would be directly affected by the board's ruling; I thought my audience would want to see her side as well," Hipp said.

An avid Christian, Hipp found the most difficult part of his task was remaining unbiased throughout his work.

"To remain objective in my heart was impossible," Hipp said. "We all have opinions, but bringing up my own is not my job as the reporter."


Overall, Hipp felt his class assignment strengthened his beliefs and changed his mind on certain topics.

After graduating in May he hopes to work his way up on the broadcasting food chain or find his spot in photography.

Community, faculty  
assemble to choose  
new CHS principal

National French Honor Society  
expands with 14 new members

**BREAKING THE ICE**  
*CHS librarian flourishes  
on women's skating team*



Matthew Kelling • 3A/4A • Piper

Board of parents,  
staff, students to  
select principal

Fourteen with above-average grades  
join National French Honor Society

a **novel** routine



After school, library assistant Julie Bachman takes part in a competitive, synchronized ice skating team that has won medals and a bid to a national competition

Andrea Sammarco • 5A/6A •  
Blue Valley Northwest

NEWS WRITING  
5A/6A

You nailed the lead and touched on the key elements of the story in a well-organized manner. This is especially impressive for deadline work. You've got a talent for reporting—I hope you stick with it!!

HEADLINE WRITING  
3A/4A

Don't use "CHS" in headlines.

HEADLINE WRITING  
5A/6A

Good and clever wording on the graphic headline, but lower portion is too long. No bad breaks in the first headline—good.

EDITORIAL WRITING  
3A/4A

Good on details of "To Kill ..."  
Previous vote of committee would have strengthened argument about not even going to the "book committee."  
Overall, excellent with just a couple of small, but important, bumps.

EDITORIAL WRITING  
1A/2A

Solid, focused opinion.

EDITORIAL CARTOON  
1A/2A

Most of your text is too small and very difficult to read. Try using shading or tones in your work to add to its visual appeal. Well done!

# Definition of smut: parents not needed

Lacey Ninemire • 3A/4A • Norton Community

Many people agree that required reading in English is a good way to teach the classic books that are read and taught have deeper meanings than just what is on the surface. They are meant to teach people important lessons. By letting "Moms and Dads Opposed to Smut" ban those books *The Catcher in the Rye* and *To Kill a Mockingbird* will certainly shortchange the educations of students at Sunflower High.

MDOS's petition against these two top-selling classics should not go to the book committee. The school's policy about the other choices of books if a student has a problem with what he or she reads should stand. If there is a problem, all a student has to do is request a different book. Rob Haworth, the Chairman for the English Department, wholly agrees with the school district's policy.

"These petitions are becoming more and more common. I guess it reflects the time in which we are

living. No one in this school system would attempt to harm students by the choice of assigned novels."

*To Kill a Mockingbird* is a great novel that explains and shows students the power of racism and courage and the harm that comes to a small community during trying times. It also helps students to learn not to judge people. What does MDOS want their students learning? How to hurt people and get away with it or never standing up for what is right?

John Walter, a member of the MDOS organization makes a good point when he told reporters, "It's a shame that we can keep the Bible out of the schools and yet allow this other smut."

He is very right because the Bible does have good lessons we all need to learn but just because the Bible is banned does not mean that every other classic novel should be as well.

The school policy takes care of this problem without going to the board of education. If a parent has a problem with what their child reads, then please request that a new book be assigned.

## Students opposed to banning classics

Sloane Schulz • 1A/2A • Hill City

To read or not to read? That is the question that seems to have come up in the English classes of Sunflower High. Moms and Dads Opposed to Smut (MDOS) have struck yet again by declaring two classic novels, J.D. Salinger's *The Catcher in the Rye* and Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird* violent smut.

Three hundred twenty-five people signed the petition to oppose the reading of these books in our high school. They have sent this petition to the school board committee to rule either to retain the books or discard them. Superintendent James A. McGreevey said, "I feel certain this committee will do what is right for the educational concerns of the students of Midway public schools."

But this petition wasn't signed by the students. Adults, whether they have kids in school or not, are trying to step in and do what is "best" for the students. We have a rule in affect that states that any student who considers a book offensive has the right to choose an alternative book. In comes MDOS and they try to take away classic literature from students who enjoy these types of novels.

*USA Today* came out with a list of the top-selling classics of the year in October. *The Catcher in the Rye* was fifth and *To Kill a Mockingbird* was third. As students, we are fortunate to be able to have the resources available to us that allow us to read these timeless tales.

The book committee should vote to keep these books in the English classes. The "smut" does not put



Melissa Baer • 1A/2A • Burlingame

the students in any type of danger.

"These petitions are becoming more and more common. I guess it reflects the times in which we are living. No one in this school system would attempt to harm students by the choice of assigned books," said English Department Chairman Rod Haworth.

By reading these books, we are enlightened and forced to use creativity and imagination. Don't take the classics away from the students.



# Parents oppress student rights

Allie Santiago • 5A/6A • Kapaun Mt. Carmel

On May 11, the book committee will meet to review a petition presented by a parent group called Moms and Dads Opposed to Smut. The group seeks to ban the books *The Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger and *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee from both the English curriculum and the Sunflower High School library.

The petition to ban these books from the senior and sophomore English classes is absolutely absurd. It is understandable if certain parents do not believe their children are mature enough for these novels, but students at SHS are not forced to read an assigned book. If he or she considers the book to be offensive, it is possible for any student in the school district to request an alternative work. Thus, there is no reason for MDOS to ruin every students' education for the mere satisfaction of a few.

Superintendent James A. McGreevy said that he was "certain this committee will do what is right for the educational concerns of the students at Midway Public Schools." What is right for the students is to be given the opportunity to read great literature. Last October, USA Today listed the top-selling classics of the year. *To Kill a Mockingbird* was third on the list while *The Catcher in the Rye* was fifth. How can works with such high literary achievement possibly be unfit for the classroom?

Members of MDOS must understand that their views have been heard and their children are allowed to read alternative novels. It is simply not logical, however, to remove the books from the curriculum completely. To do so would discourage all students' rights to an appropriate English education. Moms and Dads opposed to smut? It seems that these Moms and Dads are more opposed to learning.

PARENTS IN THE SCHOOL YARD... Meanwhile... BACK AT HOME...



FOCUSING ON THE RIGHT THING???

Amanda Solter • 3A/4A • Andover Central



Vincent Cheng • 5A/6A • Wichita East

EDITORIAL WRITING  
5A/6A

Nicely done—(note about last paragraph) ok, but your sarcasm may hurt your point.

EDITORIAL CARTOON  
3A/4A

Great use of humor and an excellent point! If you use a water-proof ink pen, when you erase the pencil out the ink won't smear like ballpoint ink will. Well done!

EDITORIAL CARTOON  
5A/6A

Very well-drawn. Strong use of humor! The student reacting to the scene is extremely effective at demonstrating your opinion about the issue. Try using more tones, shading, cross-hatching, etc. I think you'll like the results. Well done!

SPORTS WRITING  
3A/4A

Creative lead. Well organized. Good, concise sentences.

SPORTS WRITING  
1A/2A

Well balanced and organized. Good use of quotes. Short, concise sentences. Good job.

ADVERTISING  
1A/2A

Great use of spot color. Great headline. Great job of putting ad elements in the right order of importance. Good mix of fonts, but not too much.

# California basketball star asset for Sailors

Steven Dickson • 3A/4A • Piper

Next year the Sailors' basketball team should receive some help from a Jordan. No, not Michael, but junior transfer student Jim Jordan.

Jordan, a 7-foot-3 inch center will be transferring from Visalia, Calif., where he was named Mr. California Basketball. At Visalia High, Jordan helped lead the Rockets to two state championships, with an average of 27 points and 14 rebounds per game.

"We've never had a kid of Jordan's talent transfer into Midway. This Jordan kid is classy and a heck of an athlete as well. We have been blessed," said athletic director Bill Martel.

Although Jordan will have to sit out the first four games according to Kansas State High School Activities Association rules, Sailors' coach Willie Wanstead said that he believes Jordan will still have

a big impact on the team.

"I have seen tape of Jim but have not seen him play live. If he is half as good as he shows on tape, this kid will be a huge difference maker for the Sailors," said Wanstead.

In addition to being the first junior to be named Mr. California Basketball since 1962, Jordan also plays AAU basketball for legendary coach Mark Cousins.

"Jim pretty well won every award that he could in California as a basketball player. It will be fun to see what he can do his senior year in Kansas. He fell in love with Midway the day I came here to interview," said Robert Jordan, Jim Jordan's father who will become the new manager of J.C. Penney Co.

Jordan should be a great asset to an already solid Sailors team. Four starters return next year from a team that went 14-7 last year and took third at the state tournament.

## Sailors gain new talent

Cindy Brake • 1A/2A • Kinsley

Jim Jordan, a current junior from Visalia, California, will be transferring to Sunflower High next fall to play on the Sailor basketball team.

"I'm looking forward to playing my senior year in Kansas," Jordan said.

Jordan will miss the team's first four games due to the Kansas State High School Activities Association's rule that states that all transfer students must sit out one semester.

Jordan is a 7-foot-3-inch center who averaged 27 points per game and 14 rebounds at Visalia High. He also led the Visalia Rockets to two California 6A State Championships in 2004 and 2005.

"I have seen tape of Jim but have not seen him live," Sailor's coach Willie Wanstead said. "If he is half as good as he shows on tape, this kid will be a huge difference maker for the Sailors."

Jordan was also selected a Mr. California Basketball, the only junior selected for this award since 1962. He also plays AAU ball for legendary coach Mark Cousins.

"Jim pretty well won every award that he could in California as a basketball player," father Robert Jordan said. "It will be fun to see what he can do his senior year in Kansas."

Jordan will join the Sailor's four starters from last year that helped lead the Sailors to third place in class 4A at the state tournament.

"We've never had a kid of Jordan's talent transfer into Midway," athletic director Bill Martel said. "This Jordan kid is classy and a heck of an athlete as well. We have been blessed."

Make it about  
*Mom*

**\*Mother's Day Special\***  
10% Off Mother's Day Flowers  
Purchased by SHS Student With School ID

Monday - Friday • 9am-6pm  
Saturday • 10am-4pm  
Featuring  
Same Day Service  
& Nationwide Delivery

*Dean Frederick*  
**Florist**  
When ONLY The BEST  
Will Do.

218-345-0000  
1195 South Main Street  
Ask About Our Senior Graduation Special

Ben Coffey • 1A/2A • Canton-Galva



ADVERTISING  
3A/4A

Great art, color; flower ties it all in. Nice headlines. Logo should have been at bottom. You obviously put thought into this, not just throwing everything into the ad just because you could.

ADVERTISING  
5A/6A

Too many fonts. Clever, original way to go about this. Good color scheme. "F" might be a bit much.

SPORTS WRITING  
5A/6A

A very solid job on a pretty straightforward sports story. The only complaint would be to introduce Jordan's stats a little sooner. But not a big deal. Thorough throughout and a good job of using quotations and transitions.

seen tape of Jordan but that has been enough to have Wanstead raving about his team's new addition.

"If he is half as good as he shows on tape," Wanstead said, "this kid will be a huge difference maker for the Sailors."

Along with Jordan's transfer, four starters will return from last year's 14-7 team that placed third in the 4A state tournament.

The transition from California to Kansas is a welcome one for Jordan and his family as he said he is looking forward to playing his senior season with the Sailors. Jordan's father, Robert, is just as thrilled to see his son play in a new setting.

"It will be fun to see what he can do this senior year in Kansas," Robert Jordan said. "He fell in love with Midway the day I came here to interview (for a job)."

Jordan's debut as a Sailor will have to wait, however, as he will miss the team's first four games due to Kansas State High School Activities Association rules that state that all transfer students must sit out on semester.

Jordan, who averaged 27 points per game and 14 rebounds at Visalia High, already will have set a school record when he does first suit up: the tallest player in school history.

"We've never had a kid of Jordan's talent transfer to Midway," athletic director Bill Martel said. "(Jordan) is classy and is a heck of an athlete as well. We have been blessed."

Dean Frederick  
Florist

Take care of  
**MOM**

10 % off  
Mothers Day Special  
with SHS student ID



Remember the  
**GRAD**

25% off  
graduation special

1125 S. Main St.  
Tel. 218-345-0000  
9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mon-Fri  
10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sat.

Chad Stoway •  
3A/4A • Piper

Still looking for that  
perfect gift for Mom?



10% off all Mother's Day  
orders from SHS students

Don't forget our 25% discount  
on all graduation floral orders!

Same day service and nation-wide delivery

Dean  
Frederick  
Florist

218-345-0000 1125 S Main St.  
Hours: Monday-Friday 9 am-6 pm  
Saturday 10 am-4 pm

Jennifer Torline •  
5A/6A • Bishop Carroll

## Top California player joins Sailor men's basketball squad

Stephen Montemayer • 5A/6A • SMN

One of California's top high school basketball players will be transferring to Sunflower High this fall, adding a welcome 7-foot-3 boost to the team.

Junior Jim Jordan from Visalia, California, brings with him a resume that

includes being the first junior awarded the Mr. California basketball award since 1962, as well as leading his team to consecutive 6A State Championships in 2004 and 2005.

Sailors coach Willie Wanstead said he has only



FEATURE WRITING  
5A/6A

First sentence  
is excellent  
lede.

FEATURE WRITING  
3A/4A

What about  
the controver-  
sial photo?  
Good lede  
attracts atten-  
tion.

INFOGRAPHICS  
1A/2A

I like the  
idea of the  
chalkboard;  
the problem  
is the chalk  
is larger than  
the headline.

## Times 'a changing for Jayhawk yearbook

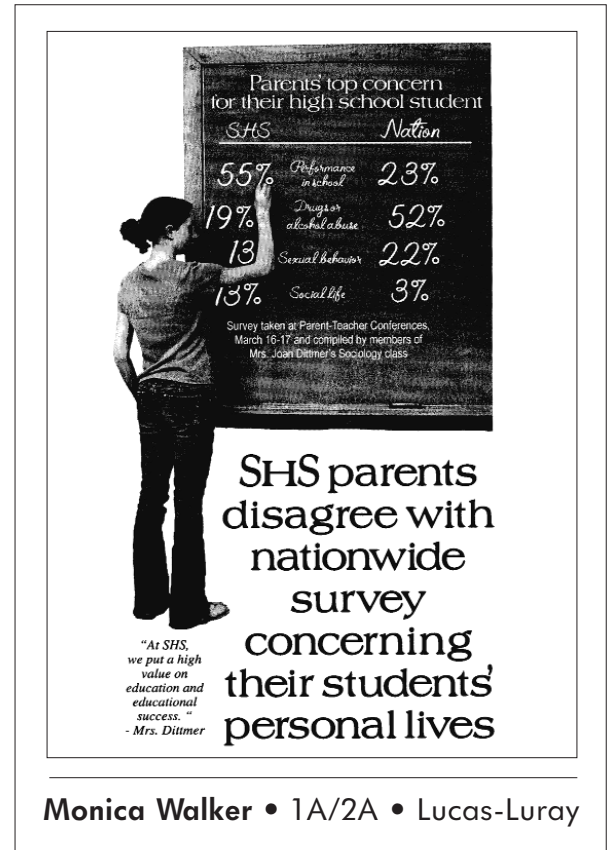
Kathleen Garner • 5A/6A • Lansing

Times are changing, and so is the yearbook for the University of Kansas. Despite history of being the oldest continuously published yearbook west of the Missouri River, editor-in-chief Ryan Scarrow felt the Jayhawker needed to change.

"My goal was to create a book that would make the students go, 'wow,'" Scarrow said. The new book lacks traditional student portraits and stories, focusing more on looks and feel. "(The book) becomes a collection of the year, the things we felt and saw," Scarrow said.

Not only were traditional yearbook aspects removed, but the name has changed as well. What used to be known as the Jayhawker Yearbook will now be known as Jayhawker. The Annual. Without identifiable sections in the new layout, students are encouraged to view the book as the year intertwined. "It doesn't need a story, just images to identify with," Scarrow said.

Beginning as editor last September, Scarrow said his main goal was to make students more aware of the book and change regular yearbook mentalities. Scarrow said, "A yearbook doesn't have to be in any one form. Something like (our book) should be more visible." Certainly with pictures of intimate couples and debatable quotes, concerns arose. But according to Scarrow, "There's been nothing but positive comments and adminis-



Monica Walker • 1A/2A • Lucas-Luray

trators love it."

As for next year, Scarrow's only comment is, "I've got ideas." Right now the staff is looking forward to the response and sales of the Jayhawker. The Annual MMV. Scarrow's opinion of the book, "That's a year at KU." He hopes others feel the same.

## Jayhawk yearbook changes image one photo at a time

Cole Malmberg • 3A/4A • Phillipsburg

A picture, turn the page, another picture, flip to later in the book, another picture. This publication isn't an atlas but the 2005 Jayhawker Yearbook designed by Ryan Scarrow.

After becoming editor of the longest continuously running yearbook west of the Mississippi, Scarrow began to make dramatic changes to the normal yearbook design. To begin with, Scarrow looked at previously published University of Kansas yearbooks and saw their dropping sales due to a boring design featuring, in his words, way too many portraits. From this he developed his own new design for the yearbook. "My goal was to create a book that would make the students go, 'wow,'" he said.

In September and October Scarrow assigned more than 30 stories to different students, but by the time they were due in December, he had received only seven of them. Based on this, he did away with

stories in the yearbook and decided on doing all photos with bare bones captions. "It came down to what we can offer that they can't get," Scarrow said.

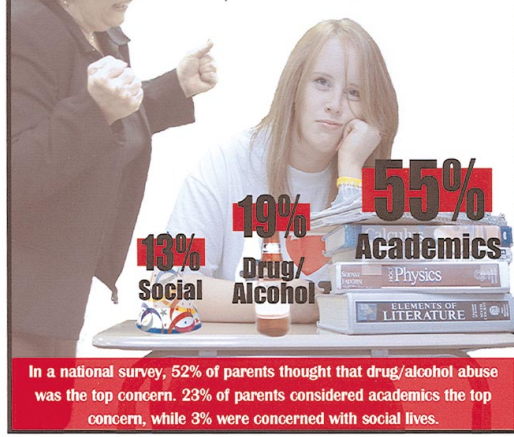
Scarrow who is a graduate of Humboldt High School, went with the bare bones captions to change the book. "I wanted the people to look at these photos and conjure their own thoughts about them," Scarrow said.

The staff tried to use photos that wouldn't be shown anywhere else. The staff was made up of Scarrow as the main editor, two associate editors, one photographic editor, and six photographers. What is glaring is the lack of writers, which Scarrow showed by saying, "I think I upset some people that wanted to write for the yearbook this year."

While there may be some controversy over the book, it is an interesting new design according to him. Scarrow said, "It's a way of seeing how things develop throughout the year without any structure to it."

## Someone to Watch Over You...

In a poll taken March 16 and 17 during parent-teacher conferences at CHS, all parents attending were asked what their top concern for their student was.

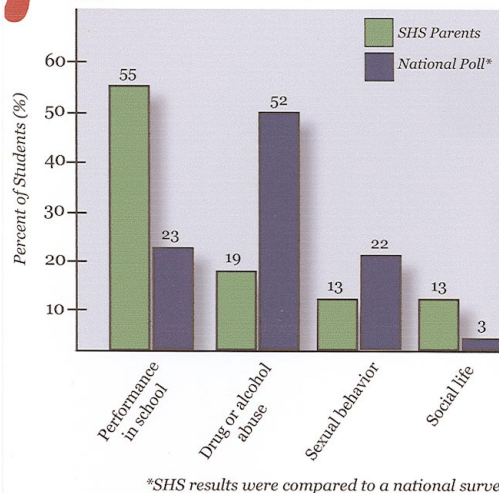


Cassandra Gentry • 3A/4A • Piper

## Parental panics

Academics rank high for SHS parents

Joan Dittmer's sociology class polled Sunflower High parents who attended conferences about their top concerns for teens.



Molly Mattingly • 5A/6A • Wichita East

### INFOGRAPHICS 3A/4A

Parents have children; teachers have students. Good photo. You left off an entire category. Good presentation of national results.

### INFOGRAPHICS 5A/6A

Don't like the serif font on the subhead. Good headline—simple and clean bar graph, but usually pie charts are used for percentages.

# New tradition for 117-year-old Jayhawker

Aubony Chalfant • 1A/2A • Hill City

No portraits. No sections. No stories. The Jayhawker Yearbook has undergone drastic changes after 117 years of the same traditional publication. Even the title has been modified to "The Jayhawker: The Annual."

But how did all these changes occur? Ryan Scarrow, a senior at the University, decided the traditional style of yearbook wasn't working. After becoming editor-in-chief of the 2005 yearbook in September, Scarrow understood that he wanted to make wholesale changes in the book.

"I wanted to make a book that every student could identify with," said Scarrow, "Not just a traditional record of the year, but a collection of things we saw, things we heard about or things we felt."

Scarrow created and designed every square inch of the book, with the help of two assistant editors and an editor of photography. And although Scarrow says that this new style of yearbook wasn't planned, he is still satisfied with the radical approach they took.

There are no longer pages full of portraits, but

photos that take up two whole pages all throughout the book. There are also no sections to the book.

"We didn't put sections in the book because there are no sections in the life of a student at KU," said Scarrow, "It's all intertwined, just like this book."

The captions of the pictures are also very simple, stating only who, where, and what day. Text is very scarce throughout the book, as well.

"You don't need a story, just an image to identify with," said Scarrow.

The books are just now starting to be distributed around the campus, and Scarrow reports that nothing but positive comments from everyone on campus have come to him.

But no matter what the overall reaction, Scarrow says the game plan will be changed by next year.

"I'm not going to do this format again," said Scarrow. "I have ideas for next year, possibly a book with stories and poetry. A literary journal. Something you don't normally see."

The books are now on sale for \$35. As for Scarrow's overall reaction to the completed project: "My main goal was to get people to think about yearbooks in different ways. I feel I have definitely accomplished that."

### FEATURE WRITING 1A/2A

Excellent lead.

1A/2A

Passive voice; otherwise good job!

3A/4A

Clear, concise captions. Well formed sentences. Information that enhances viewer's understanding.

5A/6A

This is a very good entry. The writer followed instructions, wrote clearly, succinctly and accurately. The writer's word choices enhanced the whole picture package and would assist layout and editing.



## SCHOOL PLAY *a view from the top*

1) Mary Beth Davis played the role of Hannah Logan, a local flower girl; Davis's father was played by Geoff George, the SHS English teacher. Doing their best on the Sunflower High stage, Mary Beth nervously recites her lines. "I was so nervous I thought I would faint," Davis said. "What a treat to work with this cast," George said.

2) Cheryl Stuart, junior, plays the role of Cousin Minnie. "This was my very first acting performance. I thought it went really well for the entire cast," Stuart said. Minnie waits for her lover to return with more information on the murder. "This experience only makes me want to get involved again next year," Stuart said.

3) Hannah's father is mysteriously murdered in the first act. "I really liked playing the lead although the role was totally demanding," Davis said. Hannah fears noises coming from under the staircase. "This was the highlight of my junior year," Davis said.

4) Chester, played by senior Blake Robinson, is the smooth-talking huckster from the city. Robinson is a transfer student to SHS this year. "I've been in three plays here at SHS and this one was by far the most enjoyable," Robinson said. Here, Robinson asks Mrs. Logan if he can date her daughter Hannah. "It's cool to perform a role in a play that no one has ever seen before," Robinson said.

**Melissa Montgomery**  
• 1A/2A •  
Valley Falls

1) Junior Mary Beth Davis and Sunflower High School English teacher Geoff George perform as Hannah Logan and her father, Mr. Logan, in the Sailors' school play. This was Davis's first performance on stage at Sunflower High. "I was so nervous I thought I would faint," Davis confided.

2) In a scene from "A View from the Top," written by Sunflower drama teacher Mark Cornish, Hannah is questioned by cast members in regards to her father's disappearance. The cast spent 12 weeks rehearsing for the two-act murder mystery.

3) "I really liked playing the lead although the role was totally demanding," said Davis, shown hearing mysterious noises from under the stairs. Davis went on to proclaim the play to be "the highlight of my junior year."

4) Chester, played by Sunflower senior Blake Robinson, smooth talks Mrs. Logan into allowing him to date her daughter Hannah. Although Robinson just transferred to SHS this year, it was the third Sunflower Sailors' play in which he has performed. "It's cool to perform a role in a play that no one has ever seen before," Robinson confessed.

**Sarah Davies**  
• 3A/4A •  
Hiawatha

1) Mary Beth Davis plays the role of Hannah Logan, a local flower girl. This is Mary Beth's first performance on the Sunflower High stage. "I was so nervous I thought I would faint," Davis said. Davis's father is played by Geoff George, a SHS English instructor. "What a treat to work with this cast," George said.

2) The play, "A View from the Top" is an original play written by Mark Cornish, drama teacher. Cast members question Hannah as to the disappearance of her father. "I've never had so much fun being in a play cast as this one," Brodie McGinnis, senior, said. "This murder mystery was performed in two acts. The play received a standing ovation opening night—that was too much," said Bart Vivian, sophomore, who played the role of Earnest, the wayward son.

3) Cheryl Stuart, junior, plays the role as Cousin Minnie. "This was my very first acting performance. I thought it went really well for the entire cast," Stuart said. Minnie waits for her lover to return with more information on the murder. "This experience only makes me want to get involved again next year," Stuart said.

4) Blake Robinson, senior, plays the role of Chester, the smooth-talking huckster from the city. Robinson is a transfer student to SHS this year. "I've been in three plays here at SHS and this was by far the most enjoyable," Robinson said. Robinson asks Mrs. Logan if he can date her daughter Hannah. "It's cool to perform a role in a play that no one has ever seen before," Robinson said.

**Raina Blanken**  
• 5A/6A •  
Pittsburg



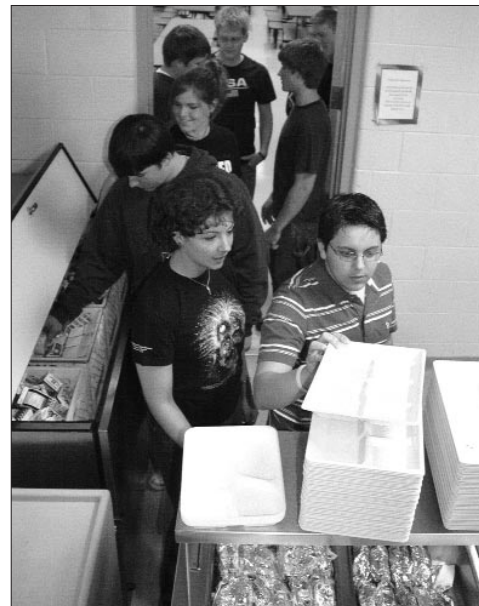
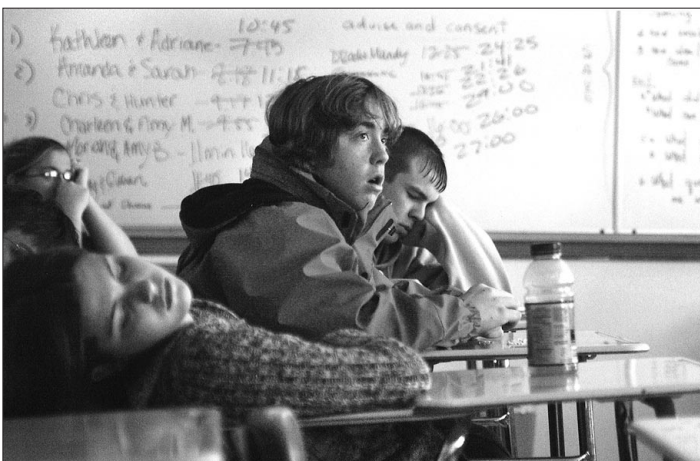
**Lynette Belleau • 1A/2A • Hill City**



**Michelle Palmer • 3A/4A • Piper**



**James McCallister • 5A/6A • SMN**



Yearbook Photography competitors were assigned either to an academics spread on social studies or a student life spread on the cafeteria.

## 1A/2A

I like the close-up the best because of the expression on the girl's face. I think your distance shot is a little slower and lacks visual interest. I do like the angle you shot from though. Nice work.

## 3A/4A

I love that you shot from different angles (high/low) because of the interest it adds to your pictures. On the overhead shot, try cropping in to simplify: strengthen your center of interest. I also think you need a greater difference in your close-up and distance shots. Nice work.

## 5A/6A

I really like the moments you captured. It evidences an interesting way you are able to see things. Try shooting from different angles to make more of a difference between your shots. You did an excellent job of shooting with available lighting. Really nice work overall!

COPY WRITING  
5A/6A

I like your selection of quotes and how they work in your well-organized story.

LAYOUT/DPS  
1A/2A

Good, clean design. Look for keeping copy off important parts of the photo. Classy.

COPY WRITING  
1A/2A

Short, sweet and to the point! Just the way it should be.

LAYOUT/DPS  
3A/4A

Block isn't reader friendly. Spread layout title design. Pull quote sort of competes.

# Dancing creates lasting memories for KU student

Lauren Brenton • 5A/6A •  
Mill Valley

Tension fills the auditorium as expectant fans wait for the half-time show to begin. Cheers erupt as the University of Kansas dance team takes its place on the basketball court. Among its ranks is junior Elena Ferrantelle, who finds herself filled with energy. For her, the experience would be a memorable one.

"I don't think a lot of people can say that they've cheered in front of thousands of people," Ferrantelle said.

With a lifetime of experience behind her, Ferrantelle became a member of the University of Kansas dance team in her freshman year. She began dancing at the age of three, and performed such styles as jazz, tap dancing and ballet. She believed that being a member of the team boosted her confidence.

"You can't go out there and look all washed out in front of thousands of people," Ferrantelle said.

Confidence while performing often gave way to stress while traveling. Ferrantelle found that hard work preceded success in many instances, but long trips seemed to hamper this.

"It's hard to do homework on a 12-hour bus ride when you're in a bus full of the dance team and the band," Ferrantelle said.

A future in dancing, however, did not appeal to her.

"It's time to grow up, and there's not a lot of money to be made," Ferrantelle said.

With this in mind, Ferrantelle encouraged those interested in dance to try out.

"Try (out), even if you don't make it. It's a lot different than high school dance and it's a great experience," Ferrantelle said.

## Rock Chalk dancer shows KU pride

Michelle Nunn  
• 1A/2A • Skyline

There are many ways a KU fan could show their team spirit. One of them is to become a KU dancer.

Elena Ferrantelle, a KU junior, had been a KU dancer for three years. She had been dancing since three and did everything from jazz to tap. Now she dances in front of thousands of people.

"It's awesome doing what I want to do in front of thousands of people," Ferrantelle said.

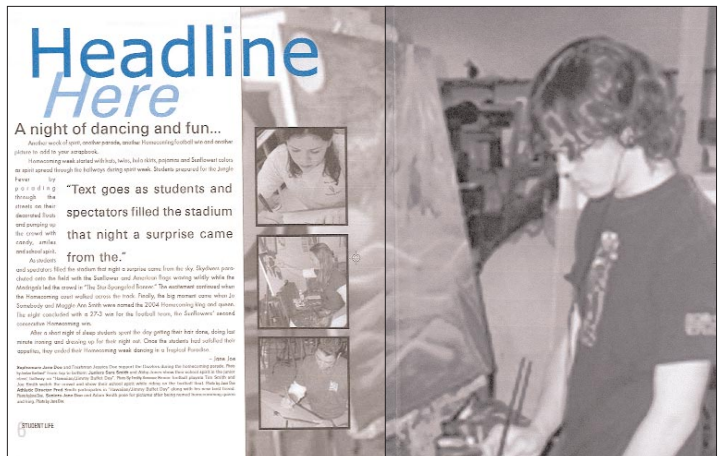
Though she loved dancing, Ferrantelle sometimes had a difficult time balancing dancing and school. It was mandatory to be at all of the football, basketball and volleyball games, but team members also had to maintain a 3.0 GPA.

Ferrantelle, who wants to go into advertising, believes that all of the stress and hard work was worth it.

"Dancing made my college experience a lot more memorable," Ferrantelle said.



Justin Geist • 1A/2A • Fairfield



Lindsey Palmer • 3A/4A • Buhler



## Dancer fights injury/schedules for KU teams

**Mallory Ruth • 3A/4A •**  
Piper

With music blaring and fans screaming, Elena Ferrantelle and the 19 other members of the KU dance team moved their feet in time to the carefully choreographed dance moves. With smiles on their faces, the young women felt their hearts speed up and slow down to keep with the music's beat. This was only the beginning.

"I love performing at pre-game because you can feel the anticipation of the crowd," Ferrantelle said. "Their excitement gets me excited."

Ferrantelle, a three-year member of the KU dance team, has been dancing since she was three and competing since she was five. She has won national recognitions, helped teach dance classes and made it through many different injuries.

"Once, when I was 15, my team was competing at nationals. We all lined up to do our kick line, but when I kicked my hamstring tore off my pelvis bone,"

Ferrantelle said. "I was in so much pain, but I still had to finish the dance."

Yet the pain couldn't keep Ferrantelle down. After taking the time she needed for her body to heal, she got right back in the game.

"Dancing is like very other sport. Injuries will happen," Ferrantelle said. "You just have to learn to get through them."

Finally, after 13 years of dancing competition and many more injuries, Ferrantelle found herself facing a difficult question. Should she dance in college?

"I was ready to grow up," Ferrantelle said. "And I wasn't sure if I wanted dancing to be part of my life."

After much debate, Ferrantelle decided to try out for the KU dance team (then called the Crimson Girls). After three days of kicks, spins and tumbles, Ferrantelle received the news; she had made it!

"It was nerve-wracking to look around at 130 good dancers competing for one of the 20 spots," Ferrantelle said. "But seeing my

name on that list in the end made it all worthwhile."

As a new member of the team, Ferrantelle had to learn to manage her time wisely. Requirements of the team were strict, including a minimum 2.5 GPA and taking 12 hours a semester. The young women were also allowed only one missed practice a year and lateness was not tolerated.

"If you were late, you were benched," Ferrantelle said. "It was hard for me to fit in everything I needed and wanted to do."

Over the three years Ferrantelle has adjusted to her schedule. She didn't find her busy schedule quite as demanding.

"Dancing is what I love," Ferrantelle said. "I have to be willing to make sacrifices for what I love."

Even though Ferrantelle had her doubts at first, she can't imagine what it would be like not dancing in college.

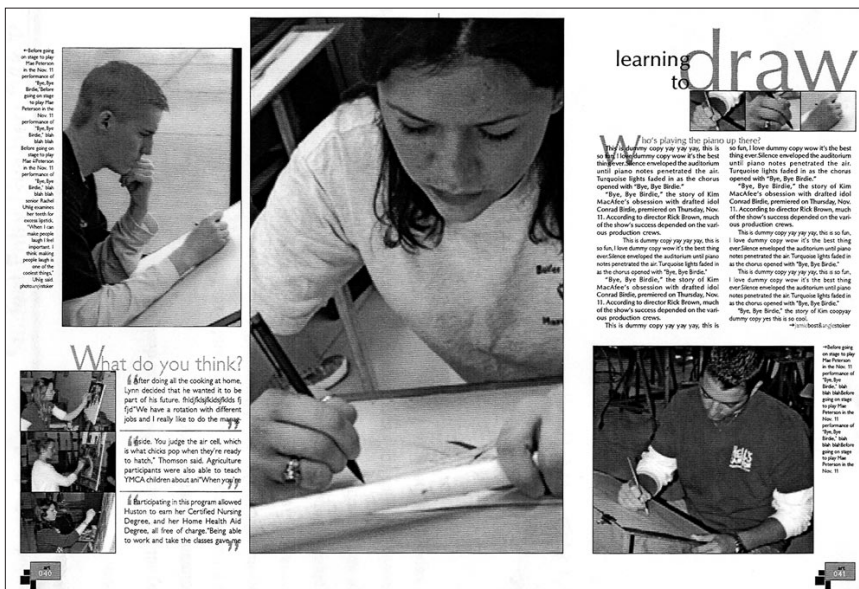
"Dancing changed my life," Ferrantelle said. "It figures it would change my college experience too."

COPY WRITING  
3A/4A

Wow!  
Exciting, eye-catching lead; smooth-as-silk transitions; strong quotes; good background information. You've got it all here, and it's written and arranged so well. Bravo!

LAYOUT/DPS  
5A/6A

Nice concept.  
Fine tune  
alignment.  
Terrific title.



**Chyla Eugster • 5A/6A • Mill Valley**









1A/2A

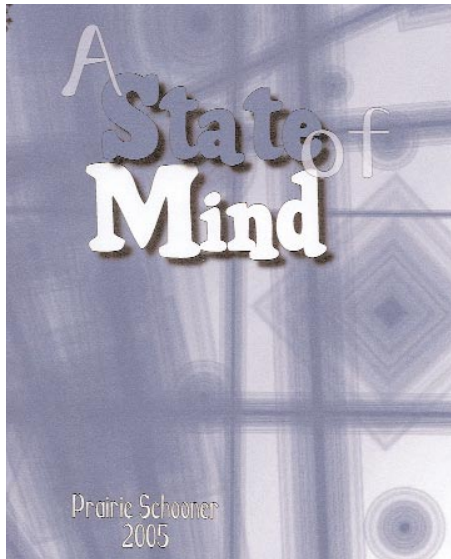
FYI: For future contests, do not use anything that could be construed as a real student's name, e.g. Joe Masters. Use Susie Student, John Doe, Mickey Mouse. Big problem on design entry—what is content of each photo you've used. Photo content should move the theme along. It is the one glaring weakness I see.

3A/4A

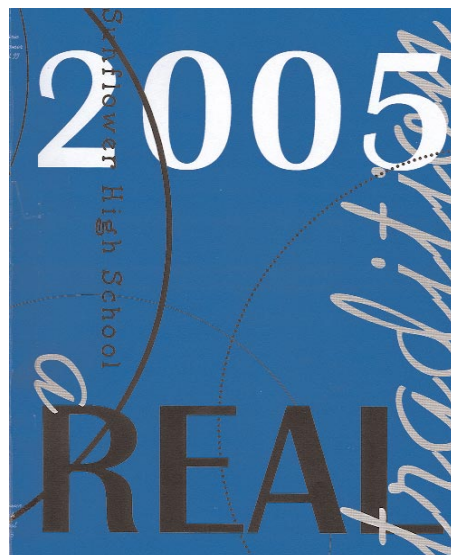
Nice use of reverse type and overprinting. Negative leading is sophisticated yet easy to read.

5A/6A

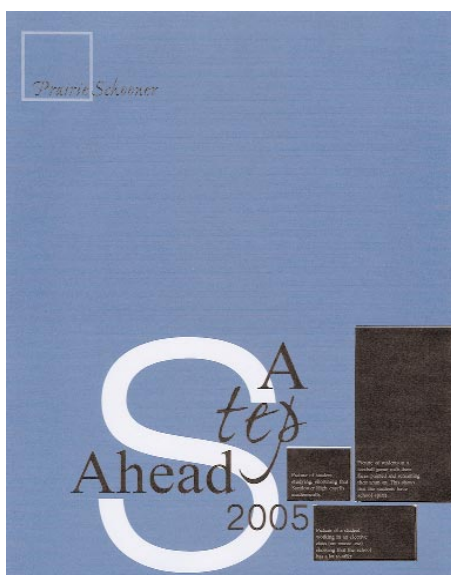
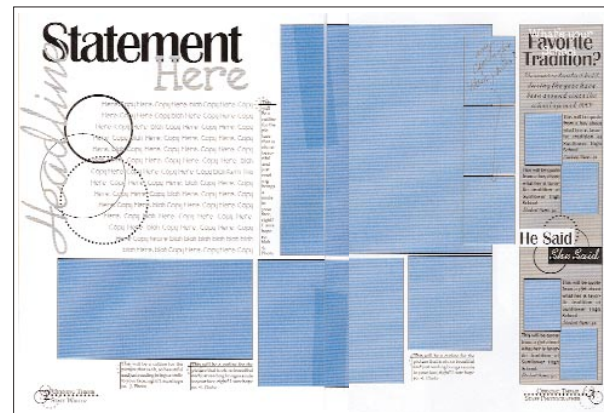
Sophisticated cover with cutouts. What really sets this work apart, though, is your treatment of the small elements, like the three small black boxes on far left of feature page.



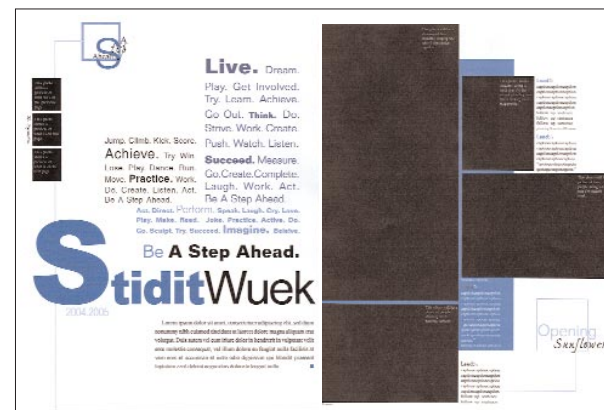
**Katie Harshman**  
•1A/2A•  
Chase County



**Katie Rages**  
•3A/4A•  
Buhler



**Aurora McCloud**  
•5A/6A•  
Newton





Andover Central.....	5	Lansing.....	8
Bishop Carroll.....	7	Leavenworth.....	1
Blue Valley Northwest.....	3	Lucas-Luray.....	8
Buhler.....	12, 16	Maize.....	3
Burlingame.....	4	Mill Valley.....	12, 13
Canton Galva.....	6	Natoma.....	1
Chapman.....	15	Newton.....	16
Chase County.....	2, 14, 16	Norton Community.....	4
Eudora.....	1, 15	Phillipsburg.....	8
Fairfield.....	12	Piper.....	3, 6, 7, 9, 11, 13
Garden City.....	1	Pittsburg.....	10
Haviland.....	1	Pratt.....	1
Hill City.....	2, 4, 9, 11, 14	Shawnee Mission North.....	7, 11
Hiawatha.....	10	Shawnee Mission Northwest.....	14
Humboldt.....	1	Skyline.....	12
Independent.....	2	St. Francis Community.....	1
Kapaun Mt. Carmel.....	1, 5	Valley Falls.....	10
Kinsley.....	6	Wamego.....	1
		Wichita East.....	5, 9, 15

# **SIMPLY BETTER**

Simply Better was designed and produced by Joanna Manaenkov, KU graduate student majoring in International Studies. For additional copies, please contact the KSPA office at 785.864.0605.

# KANSAS SCHOLASTIC PRESS ASSOCIATION

William Allen White School of Journalism and Mass Communications  
Stauffer-Flint Hall  
University of Kansas  
1435 Jayhawk Boulevard  
Lawrence, Kansas 66045-7575

Executive Director: John Hudnall  
Staff: Ryan Colaianni, Joni Hammer, Adam Hoxey, Joanna Manaenkov  
phone: 785.864.0605  
fax: 785.864.5945  
e-mail: [kspa@ku.edu](mailto:kspa@ku.edu)  
home page: [www.ku.edu/~kspa](http://www.ku.edu/~kspa)

