

# Parks' memory inspires students

KAMILAH ROUNDS  
STAFF WRITER

Rosa Parks was a woman of few words and great modesty and magnitude. Although she recently passed away on Monday of October 24, her contributions to the National Association Advancement for Colored People and civil rights movement were astounding. Defying the Jim Crow laws of the south was a turning point, and gave African Americans hope for their future. But something many people overlook is Parks's impact on women's rights.

Being an African American she had been accustomed to the Jim Crow laws of the south. She is most widely known for when she sat in the "whites only" section of the bus. While this was considered a crime, Parks was reluctant to move and was taken down to the police station and charged with violation of state law. What Rosa did was take a stand for civil rights. In most cases people do not generally think about the importance of her actions. It took a lot of courage for her to stand up to a person considered superior to her at that time. Seeing as though she new the consequences of her actions she still continued to do what she thought was right and just. This one event from a soft spoken woman caused the black community in the south to take more action.

Black people never thought to go against "the law" in those days. But soon after Rosa's incident, they made stands and sit-ins all across the south. Rosa however never stopped pushing herself, and this is what people don't see. Rosa didn't just get arrested, but she helped organize the Montgomery bus boycott. For the first time a woman helped to start a major protest. Nowadays African Americans are able to express

on the African American community but on women's rights as well. Rosa was one of the first women in the south to ever stand up against an oppressor in order to achieve better treatment. Her contribution and beliefs still inspire many students today. When asked how students felt about Rosa Park's impact in women's rights, many responded with positive connotations. "She showed women to fight for themselves not only as a group but as an individual," said Senior, Emily Johnson. For years black women had been horribly oppressed in the south, but Rosa defied the law and gave a name for millions of women in this country. "She set an example for women, she was independent and made African Americans feel more important," said Freshman Ashley Parroh. With her will to have justice prevail against laws of the south, Rosa set an example that will never be surpassed. "I believe she has a great influence on many women today through her active protest. She fought for every right which we will have forever," said Junior Katie Goldberg.

Rosa Parks, over the past 55 years, has earned the title of "The Mother of Civil Rights". Her acts against discrimination and her perseverance have given her the role as hero. And even though Rosa Parks is no longer alive, her acts and determination for a better society will forever be with us.



themselves more through politics and the media. They now have the opportunity to sit at the front of the bus, which may be considered trivial to others nowadays but should be thought of as important to everyone. This single event is important in American history because it gave African-American people not only a chance to change society, but a chance to be heard. Rosa Parks did not just have an impact

# Fashion show stripped down

FRANCIS HATHCOCK  
STAFF WRITER

The American Girl dolls are widely popular with girls ages 7-13. They are known as having qualities that many young girls should have, such as honesty, generosity, and humbleness. However, recently the A.G. doll fashion show was cancelled at a Catholic middle school it was scheduled at due to the "questioning of morals" concerning a branch of A.G. called Girl's Inc. The club is an online group in which preteen girls can talk to other preteen girls about life, and learn about adolescence. Some websites that the Girl's Inc. website reference in order to provide information and advice to members include sites that accept and affirm homosexual orientation and accept the option of abortion for teen pregnancy issues. The Catholic Church is opposed to both subjects, combating acceptance of homosexual orientation and choosing pro-life over pro-choice. The AG Doll company reports that it is "shocked and surprised" according to its official website, claiming that it has never had the complaint before. However, the point is that if the St. Luke School in Milwaukee, WI, disagrees with the company or its affiliates, then it has the right to defend its views by not associating with a company that does not share its views.

"It's a bargain we'll just have to pass up," wrote Frank Malloy, St. Luke pastor, in an interview with the AP. "The cost is too high. Our integrity isn't for sale."

The American Girl fashion show was to be a fundraiser for a new playground and a refurbished library; however, the school administration felt strongly enough about their compromised morals enough to cancel it. There is nothing wrong with not following through with such an event because of the organizations affiliated with it is one whose political standings are considered wrong by the school in question. It is the school's choice whether or not it would choose to promote or confirm certain information to its students or other fashion show viewers.

Many parents not only at St. Luke, but across the nation, are also disappointed that an innocent notion such as a doll company would have politics play a part in its success.

"I feel like there's nowhere safe," said Tracie Cross to Newsweek magazine, parent of four American Girl doll frequent buyers, who has vowed not to buy anything from American Girl as long as it's affiliated with Girls Inc. "I have to have a clear conscience."

The choice to decide that the confirmation of lesbian orientation and pro-contraception affiliated American Girl as more parents and private schools reconsidered their support of the company. The disapproval of American Girl for its show-cancelling customers does not change the decisions of parents, private schools, and organizations to exercise their right to have their own beliefs regarding pro-life vs. pro-choice or the existence of lesbian orientation. Until American Girl severs its affiliation with Girl's Inc. or sidesteps the sensitive topics, it will have less customers and more protests and boycotts from former customers and religious organizations alike.

# Dance classes provide creativity

KAMILAH ROUNDS  
STAFF WRITER

"I won't dance don't ask me" is a song that comes to mind when talking to high school students about dancing. However dance is an essential part of life and should be taken as a class in high schools across the country. While students may oppose the idea, believing it is unnecessary and is a waste of time, dance is a great way to interact with people socially, and boost confidence and creativity.

For thousands of years, dance has been a way of self expression and has not stopped since. With different cultures and influences, throughout the years, dance has shaped the way we interact and relate with music. It is not just arms flying and hips shaking. It is an art form that should be embraced by students. The Chicago Tribune stated that Chicago Public School Board has announced plans to have the teaching of dance in 18 public schools across the city. Even though the personal fitness gym class offers dance in the curriculum, it still does not offer the importance of learning the history and performing the activity on a daily basis like the Chicago schools. With the proper teaching and instruction, a dance class could be a perfect addition to H-F's classes. The class would not just consist of one dance, but would contain many different

genres of the art such as tap, salsa, ballroom, hip-hop, ballet, swing, and line dancing. The class could be a semester long and would feature a new dance every other week.

## Boogie Beats!

•The Waltz and the Tango were considered scandalous in the 1900's, because partners touched

•Juvenile ballerinas should not attempt dancing on pointe until

•Dance originated 9,000 years ago in Pakistan and the

Students would also be tested towards the end of the unit. "There would be two different semesters of dance," said Physical Education teacher Jennifer Lazuka. D1 (the first semester) would consist of multicultural dancing: folk salsa and line dancing. This gives the student a cultural and social background of different dances. D2 (the second semester) would consist of more contemporary dances: Ballet, tap, jazz, and hip hop. Along with the second semester class, students would put on a recital and learn how to organize groups and themes for their productions, stretching the student's creative skills. But dancing will not be the only thing the class offers. Learning about the history of each dance and the styling will be a vital task in the curriculum, not only will students learn dance but he or she will learn about the history of the "movements". Students however

these days seem to have a different approach to the subject matter. Many students feel that dancing is not important and is boring. But dance is one of the most recognized art forms in modern times. "A class is a great way for students of different kinds to interact and learn new ways to dance to different types of music," said Lazuka. With the class students are able to learn new ways to express themselves by dancing on the floor with a partner. Also, a dance class would be a great way to boost the confidence of students who have two left feet and are ashamed or embarrassed to perform on an actual dance floor with their date. "With this class, dancing allows students to express themselves with others, by opening up a side of themselves to friends and peers they never new they had," said Lazuka.

A dance class is a great way to boost confidence and knowledge with students in an interesting fashion. If the school incorporates it as a class then more students can learn the art form. And if the class comes into action next year, our school will have more culture in its halls.

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