

gay straight alliance

students tolerate, discuss issues

By: Jennifer Konerman



Greg Blake, 12, and **Kian Fallahi 11,** discuss issues relevant to the student body. Every comment was welcomed, so everyone felt part of the group. The best part of this club was its openness and supportive atmosphere.

Sometimes students needed an open atmosphere to talk about controversial topics. Gay Straight Alliance provided just that.

"We here at GSA believe that people should stop discriminating against gay people, and we deal with ways to stop the hating," said **Kian Fallahi, 11.**

This club was mostly a relaxed atmosphere where people could discuss and debate issues surrounding sexuality. It provided an open forum for students to talk about these kinds of topics.

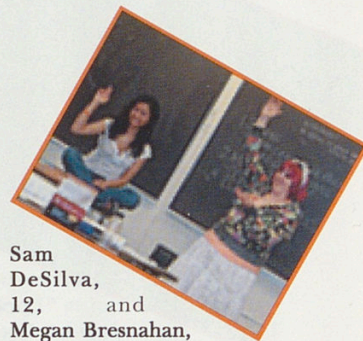
"GSA is a very important organization. In fact, GSA is to the school as milk is to the body. We

discuss important issues involving modern sexuality," said **Greg Blake, 12.**

Together, they watched movies, like "But I'm a Cheerleader," had picnics, went to Kings Island for Pride Day, but mostly just provide an open forum for issues to be discussed.

"GSA was revived this year in order to give homosexual students a place to feel comfortable. It's mostly a place for people to be accepted and open," said **Megan Bresnahan, 11.**

This club was mostly summed up in its motto: "GSA all the way! Come if you're straight! Come if you're gay!"



Sam DeSilva, 12, and **Megan Bresnahan, 11,** lead the group. As co-presidents, they put together events and organized meetings. They were open to new ideas and the topics students wanted to discuss during the meetings, making the group feel welcome.

mock trial

guilty... but now what?

By: Sam Pollak



Representing the prosecution, Jill Cohen, 10, testifies as Dr. Susan Pat, an expert in psychology. A witness's job was to memorize their provided statement so they can answer questions from both sides. Witnesses, although they seem unimportant, could make or break a case for a team.

What did the Good Forces, Mickey Jones, a screwdriver, and Terry Bale all have in common? They were all part of the 2006 Ohio Mock Trial Competition case. Mock Trial was a statewide organization of high school students interested in law.

Each team represented both sides of the case while competing for points in "mock" trials.

The teams got off to a rough start in the fall as they tried to find a new adviser. Luckily, **Mr. Jeremy Martin** volunteered to help out.

"Between my interests in law and the enjoyment I get from helping with extracurricular activities, I think Mock Trial was a great experience, and I look forward to doing it again next year," said **Martin.**

Official competitions against other Hamilton County schools were on January 31, and February 7.

"Despite all of the troubles we had while learning and writing our questions, I felt well prepared for the competition," said **Alexa Fogler, 10.**

Fogler, along with Elliott Skopin, 12, won Outstanding Witness awards. The Outstanding Attorneys were **Jasmine Nazek, 12,** and **Sam Pollak, 11.**

The mock trial case was different every year, and the 2006 case—which is always fictional—was a hearing in which the Defendant, Terry Bale, voiced that he should be exempt from the death penalty because he suffers from paranoid schizophrenia.

The defense had to convince the judge that this was true, and the prosecution said that Bale should be subject to the death penalty as a sentencing option. Both sides of the case, even though they did not advance to state, learned a great deal about criminal law, and *that* was the real verdict.

Feana Krimerman, 12, prepares to give her opening statement. Attorneys have the most work to do for a Mock Trial competition. "I liked being an attorney because I could combine all of the skills I learned in other classes and apply them to law topics. It was a lot of work, but it was very rewarding," said **Sasha Pinkerton, 11,** attorney.

