

THE KANSAS CITY STAR.



JILL TOYOSHIBA | THE KANSAS CITY STAR

In Kansas City on Thursday night, brothers Jonathan Louis (center) and Nicholas Louis (right) enjoyed hip-hop artist Flip Francis at the National Catholic Youth Conference.

Catholic kids mix fun with their faith

Along with lighter side, national youth conference in KC offers spiritual aspects for 21,000.

By HELEN T. GRAY and MEREDITH RODRIGUEZ
The Kansas City Star

The nun in the gray habit was too busy playing basketball to talk. Teenagers climbed up, ran through and slid down giant inflatables.

Others played ping-pong and soccer. A band played in the coffee shop while team challenges were going on at a giant tree house.

The energy spilled to the streets as others among the 21,000 teens — from Austin, Texas, to Detroit, Puerto Rico to Hawaii — filed out of buses and joined the largest Catholic youth event in the country and the third-largest convention in Kansas City for 2009.

They swarmed downtown streets Thursday night as they tried to shout out each other outside Bartle Hall, the Sprint Center and every intersection in between.

“NCYC!” they shouted, calling out the abbreviation for the three-day National Catholic Youth Conference, which will end Saturday. “Christ Reigns” is the theme.

One girl crossed Grand Boulevard as the light turned yellow, pumping her hands in the air as she ran. “Woo for Catholics,” she yelled.

Outside of Genghis Grill and Chef

SEE CATHOLIC | A11

No crimes among K-State irregularities

But a report finds “an awful lot of power invested in too few people,” the school’s president tells regents.

By DAVID KLEPPER
The Star’s Topeka correspondent

TOPEKA | Kansas State University’s new president said he hoped the institution could move on now that a final report on widespread financial irregularities found that no crimes were committed.

The report released Thursday also clears head football coach Bill Snyder of any wrongdoing, university president Kirk Schulz said. Nearly \$846,000 in previously unexplained athletic expenses found by outside auditors were legitimate expenses, Schulz said.

Schulz took over at K-State in June, the same week an audit revealed undisclosed payments, conflicts of interest and accounting mistakes at the university and in its athletic department.

The task force created by Schulz to review the audit’s findings concluded that Jon Wefald, then the college president, gave too much power to Bob Krause, then vice president and athletic director. Krause’s management of university funds was a focus of the original audit.

SEE K-STATE | A20

FYI AT THE MOVIES

Teenagers have it rough — and that’s without being chased by werewolves and vampires. Of course, “Twilight: New Moon” (★★½) is the big draw, but there are three other troubled teen movies worthy of ★★★ reviews: “An Education,” “Precious: Based on the Novel ‘Push’ by Sapphire” and “The Blind Side.” | C1

TODAY’S WEATHER: LOW 33, HIGH 56. FOGGY, THEN NICE. | B14

75¢

LOCAL

SURPRISE MOVE OUSTS CAUTHEN AS MANAGER



DAVID PULLIAM | THE KANSAS CITY STAR

Thursday began with Wayne Cauthen serving as city manager as he had for six years, but by the afternoon Cauthen found himself being escorted out of City Hall by the head of security, Dave Severenuk.

Funkhouser adds 3 council votes this time, but critics decry a “palace coup.”

By LYNN HORSLEY and MICHAEL MANSUR
The Kansas City Star

Two years ago, Mayor Mark Funkhouser of Kansas City tried to remove Wayne Cauthen as city manager.

On Thursday, he finally succeeded in a move that passed the City Council by just one vote and that took City Hall completely by surprise.

Cauthen, who was manager for more than six years, was escorted from the building by the security chief.

Council members were tight-lipped about their decision, with the only clue coming in a brief letter Funkhouser wrote before the meeting.

“I believe we need new leadership for the city,” the mayor wrote.

Some council members said they got that letter just five minutes before they walked into a weekly council meeting.

Opponents cried that the abrupt action amounted to a “palace coup” and “government by ambush.”

Following a contentious debate, six council members sided with Funkhouser, which was just enough to ratify his decision.

Go to KansasCity.com for a photo gallery and video.

Council members supporting Funkhouser were Jan Marcason, Deb Hermann, Bill Skaggs, Russ Johnson, Cindy Circo and Beth Gottstein. Opposing were Terry Riley, Melba Curls, Sharon Sanders Brooks, Ed Ford, Cathy Jolly and John Sharp.

The council then voted 7-5 to appoint Budget Officer Troy Schulte as acting city manager for a minimum of six months, at a salary of \$3,600 per week plus benefits.

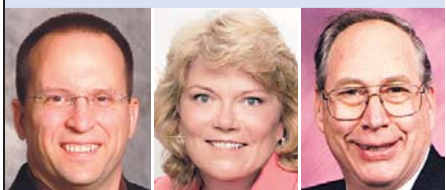
As Cauthen left the building, he declined to comment Thursday, but his attorney said there was no reason for him to lose his job. Schulte also declined to comment.

The council set in motion a process to buy out Cauthen’s contract. An ordinance to terminate Cauthen’s employment contract is scheduled for debate in the Finance and Audit Committee in early December. His contract suggests he would be owed 15 months of severance, but the actual cost to taxpayers is not yet known.

SEE CAUTHEN | A12

ON THE MAYOR’S SIDE

The three council members who voted with Funkhouser against renewing Cauthen’s contract in December 2007: Russ Johnson, Deb Hermann and Bill Skaggs



THE NEW VOTES

The three who joined them Thursday to remove Cauthen from office: Jan Marcason, Cindy Circo and Beth Gottstein

