

Southeast side witch

Discover the amazing life of Krissy the witch. Learn about how her life has evolved and how she discovered and entered a coven. EYE CANDY / Page 6



It's all about Sex Baby

Read all about generation sex in Centerspread. Laura Pippenger explains all you need to know about birth control. We also take a serious look at the issue of teenagers having sex.



Meeting the coach

Monica Swintz talks with new Riley baseball coach Ed Faulhaber about the leaving of former coach John Nadolny and what he expects from the 1998 season. SPORTS/ Page 7



The Review

Riley High School / 405 East Ewing

Issue 3, Volume 28 / December, 1997

Do we have to go to school?

Superintendent checks with surrounding schools before closing

Laura Pippenger
Sports editor

BRRRRRING! Your alarm clock goes off in the morning, and you immediately run to the window. Due to another South Bend weather hazard, it looks like a blizzard outside. Snow is blanketing everything.

You then proceed to turn on the radio, only to find out to your dismay, that the South Bend Community School Corporation schools are among the only public buildings open today.

Does this sound like a familiar story? If you are the kind of student who lives for snow days, you may be interested in the new school corporation policy on school closings and delays due to snow.

"With the new policy, the superintendent has a number of steps to take in her decision. She checks with the director of transportation, and with the local weather stations. She also checks the status of the surrounding school corporations before making her decision whether to keep schools open, or to close or delay the schools," said George McCullough, Riley principal.

According to McCullough, the main change in policy is that the superintendent checks with the surrounding school corporations before making her decision.

"The policy changed because people were disappointed that schools remained open last year during a heavy snowfall. There were a lot of choices to make, though. Although the safety and welfare of the students is important, the students had final exams that day, and they needed to be in school," said McCullough.

According to McCullough, the deci-

sion to keep schools open that day was a good one.

"There were no injuries, no stranded busses, and no accidents involving students that day. Many students were driven to school by their parents as a safety precaution. I attended Washington High School, and we went to school in much worse weather than that," said McCullough.

McCullough reiterated that closing school puts undue stress on the working parents of children.

"We have approximately 10,000 elementary school children in the South Bend Community School Corporation. School closings affect their parents as well as the parents of high school students. If those parents have to work, it is difficult

to find people to watch 10,000 children on short notice," said McCullough.

In response to parents and students who feel that driving in a snowstorm

is simply too difficult for a young, inexperienced driver, McCullough states that there are many other ways to get to school.

"If students can't or don't feel comfortable driving, there are many other possibilities. Parents can take the responsibility to drop their kids off. If the school bus or city bus runs near their houses, students can hop on the bus. I just don't see a reason to close schools because a snowstorm is predicted. I walked a mile and a half to Washington every school day for four years, and I only missed two days of school," said McCullough.

According to McCullough, schools should only be closed when the state officials report a state of emergency in which the roads are unsafe for driving.

"Besides, I would be willing to bet that the silent majority of South Bend is glad when the schools stay open and business goes on as usual," said McCullough.

Clip a badge on me baby

New computerized photo ID's hope to bring safer halls

Monica Swintz
News editor

Along with drug dogs and no tolerance policies comes another way to make Riley safe: computerized badges.

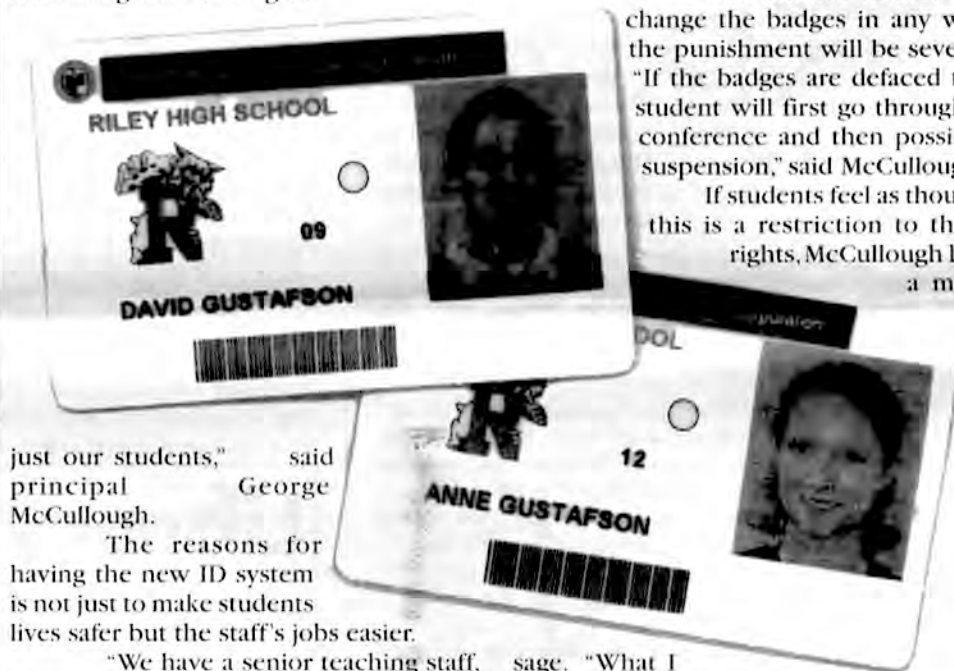
"The idea for photo IDs came from a high school principal meeting. We thought it was a good way to keep track of students in our buildings in student lunches, books in the media center, and to limiting our building to

The new badges will be coming to a student near you soon. "We've still got a few more to do because of absences; but our target date to get them out to everybody is January 23," said Bev Schreiber who is in charge of making the IDs. Until then, students will not be required to wear their badges.

The badge requirement will change in the fall of 1999. "In the new building the students will always be required to wear their ID badges on their clothing," said McCullough.

If students deface or change the badges in any way the punishment will be severe. "If the badges are defaced the student will first go through a conference and then possibly suspension," said McCullough.

If students feel as though this is a restriction to their rights, McCullough has a mes-



just our students," said principal George McCullough.

The reasons for having the new ID system is not just to make students lives safer but the staff's jobs easier.

"We have a senior teaching staff, and with an average retirement of four to five teachers a year, new teachers cannot recognize all or our students, the badges will make the jobs easier for them," said McCullough.

McCullough went on to explain, "Another reason for the IDs is for faculty to identify students, with 1500 students and six new lunch room supervisors these new IDs will give them a way to get to know the students."

sage. "What I would say to kids who don't like the idea of the IDs is that at most universities you are required to have your badge with you at all times; most corporations have to wear identification badges. Society is moving to identification; soon it's going to become only a minor formality."

Latin can food drive competition feeds families

Monica Swintz
News editor

This year's Latin class's canned food drive grossed almost three times as many cans as last year's total of 947 canned food items.

Jim Stebbins' five classes competed with each other to earn \$400, 2,844 canned food goods and four turkeys.

You may wonder where all these cans and turkeys are going. The classes are donating the goods to six Riley area families. The food left over will not go to waste either. It will be donated to area food pantries

to help other needy people.

The Latin food drive has been a tradition for years at Riley.

"We've been doing this for around 10 years now. I guess it started by our con-

"The kids I've got each hour were so competitive and determined, the spirit took over."

cern for others; we knew we were so fortunate and we wanted to help others. We started out helping one family, and now it's a tradition," said Stebbins.

To get the kids motivated for and during the food drive, Stebbins set up a little friendly competition.

"During the competition each can was worth a point. We had a ratio set up so that the number of people you had in your class was not a disadvantage. We were all working for the pizza party," said Adam Turner, senior.

"The kids I've got each hour were so competitive and determined, the spirit took over," said Stebbins.

The people who are receiving the holiday treats are not the only ones feeling good about the Latin competition. "I'm always so impressed how the students are so giving and anybody and everybody pitched in. It was an everybody project," stated Stebbins.

"I think it's a positive

thing for any foreign language department to do. It was good because we're giving and doing it for all the right reasons," said Turner.

Hour	# of items
1st	93
2nd	535
3rd	194
4th	315
5th	1365
Other	504
TOTAL	3006

GRAPHIC DONE BY DAVID GUSTAFSON

Flash Back

■ Exchange Day

A student council day was held on December 11, Thursday, for the entire day. Student Council members from Riley, Washington, Clay, Lasalle, and Mishawaka participated.

■ Senior Pictures

The senior class had their picture taken for the yearbook on December 9, Tuesday during second hour. The picture was taken in the auditorium with Lenny Swedarsky in the spotlight with his class looking on.

■ Drama Play

The drama class put on "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" on December 4, Tuesday, in the auditorium at 7 p.m. It was their first play of the year.

■ Carnations

The senior class sold carnations for a dollar to be given out on December 19, Friday, before the Christmas break. The profits will go toward the senior class prom.

■ Dance

A Fiesta Latina dance was held on December 5, Friday, from 8-11:30 p.m. at Washington High School in the small gym. The dance cost \$3 to get in and a high school ID was required to get in. The DJ was Mario Soria.

■ Block Four

On December 4, Thursday, assemblies were held to inform students, except for the seniors, about the block four to start at the beginning of the 98-99 school year. The assembly was held by people from Colorado who were supposed to come sooner, but could not due to the bad weather in Colorado.

■ German

The German class went to Century Center on December 4, Thursday, to see a one hour concert given by a music group that is from Germany and tours during the school year.

■ Mock Trial

A mock trial was held during the weekend of December 5-6 at the St. Joseph County Courthouse for the Notre Dame law students. Riley students participated in the juries as extra credit for business and criminal law classes.

PSAT challenges students

Rebecca Cripe
News Editor

Students usually take the PSAT in the fall of their junior year. It is taken as preparation for the SAT, but students can also earn a scholarship.

"The PSAT is actually the *National Merit Scholarship* qualifying test. The score that determines your eligibility for the scholarship is the sum of your math, verbal, and writing scores," said Dennis Kielton, director of Riley guidance.

He continued to explain, "The college board, which sponsors the test, comes up with a cut-off score for the finalists who are in the top one percent in the nation. There are also students who receive commended honors who rank in the next half. Finally, the finalists submit applications to the college board for the scholarship. Riley, on average, usually claims two or three winners of the scholarship. The winners receive \$2000 for this achievement," said Kielton.

"The test itself is not used by colleges.

It is used as a qualifier for the *National Merit Scholarship* as well as for financial aid and to prepare students for the SAT test. The financial aid is given out based on your ability, not need," said Elizabeth Horban, guidance counselor.

Riley's winners last year were Thomas Eby, Joshua Howell, Charisse Johnson, and Deirde Baskin. Eby and Howell were commended scholars. Johnson and Baskin won the *National Merit Scholarship* for Negro Students.

The score is determined by two times the verbal score plus the math score. 240 is the maximum score. The cut-off score for last year was 211 for the semi-finalists and 199 for the commended finalists. These students each have goals of their own.

"My expectations are to go to medical school and become a doctor," said Johnson. But being a *National Merit Scholar* or commended scholar can put extra pressure on someone to succeed.

"It pressured me to succeed because my grades kept me from advancing. Now, I pressure myself to work harder to improve my grades," said Eby.

"It did not pressure me to succeed because I always feel I should do my best at everything and put my best foot forward," said Johnson. It is quite an honor to be a *National Merit Scholar* winner.

"I feel very privileged even to be considered for the scholarship, and I am proud of my accomplishment," said Eby.

"It is nice to know that when you pursue academic excellence, you can achieve success," said Johnson. The honor can motivate you to improve your grades.

"The honor motivated me to work harder because I expected more of myself."

"I realized that colleges do not just look at these standardized tests, but at your classes and grades. Therefore, I have to take harder classes and do well in them," said Eby. Our peers' admiration can be an honor in itself.

"A lot of friends were surprised, but still thought it was cool," said Eby. There are several different strategies for preparing for the test.

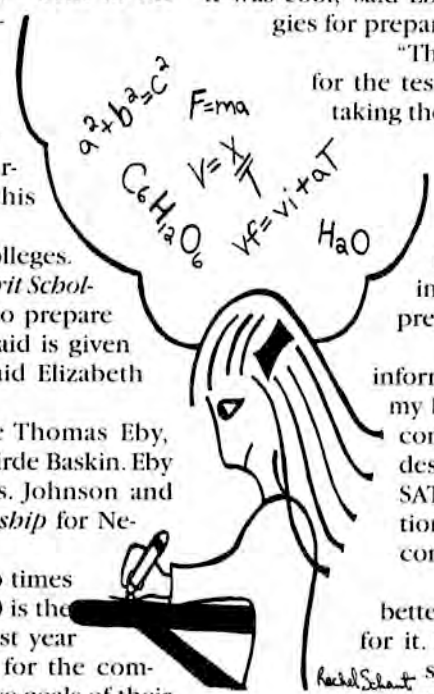
"The best way for students to prepare for the test is to be a good student, continue taking the right kind of courses such as math, English, sciences, and learn all you can. Coaching and computer programs can help, but they can not make you do well on the test. Their main purpose is to teach you test taking strategies," said Kielton. Everyone prepares for the PSAT in a different way.

"I prepared for it by reading the information I got when I signed up. Also, my English teacher took us down to the computer lab to practice on a program designed to prepare students for the SAT," said Greg Ruchti, junior. Preparation for the test also influences the outcome.

"I believe I could have done better on the test if I would have prepared for it. I did not prepare for it because I signed up for it at the last minute," said Keith Henry, junior. Students score better on certain subjects on the test because they are better at certain subjects than others.

"I did not do well on the comprehension section of the test because it is not my strong suit," said Ruchti. Despite varying scores, most of the people who have taken the PSAT are happy to have the practice before the SAT.

"Even though I did not get scholarship money, I know it was definitely worthwhile to take," said Annie Gustafson, senior.



The Review

The Review is published by the Publications staff at Riley High School, 405 East Ewing, South Bend, Indiana, 46613. The intent of The Review is to inform and entertain the public of events occurring within and outside the school. Any opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily the opinions of The Review, except for the editorials in the Viewpoints section. The Review gives maintains the right to print others' opinions, but is unbiased and does not support them.

The Review is a self-supporting publication. Advertising is our main source of revenue. We accept contributions from any guest reporter. We accept advertising from area merchants and corporations. The printing of this publication is done by Frank Moriconi and his Graphic Arts class at LaSalle High School.

Editor-in-Chief

Nick Schafer

Centerspread

Annie Gustafson
Nick Schafer

Diverse Ideas

Jason McFarley

News

Rebecca Cripe
Monica Swintz

Viewpoints

Erica Costello

Eye Candy

Diana Szymanski

Ad Manager

Erica Costello

Lab Technician

David Gustafson

Photo Editor

Alison Pickarski

Staff Photos

Adam Collins

Sports Editor

Steve Wiltfong
Laura Pippenger

Head Artist

Erica Fleischer
Rachel Schaut

Staff Artist

Eva Kalwitz

Senior Staff Reporter

Tony Black
Dan Jancha

Staff Writers

Jennifer Clements
Melissa Davis
Erica Fleischer
Elisa Garza
Nicole Hortan
Amanda Mudrovich
Charlie Orban
Amy Parker
Adria Phillips
Jeff Price
Angie Samarich
Heather Thompson
Jessie Tobar
Cami Thurston
Adam Vanderheyden
Derek Young

Copy Editors

Kylea Asher
Annie Gustafson
Jason McFarley
Nick Schafer

Advisor

Marcia Kovas

Library access is questionable

Rebecca Cripe
News Editor

The library's accessibility is very important to the students who use it. A library's resources are one of its most important aspects.

"I do not think the library provides enough resources; this is mainly the students' fault because they either steal or lose materials. There are not a lot of resources for the classes at school and the books need to be updated," said Mariah Covey, senior. The librarians are limited on what they can have due to funding.

"Our budget is approximately \$8000 a year. Students destroy and lose approximately \$100 to \$150 yearly in materials," said Shirley Jenkins, head librarian.

"We try to keep the library updated, but we do not have ample funding to purchase new books. Also, books are more expensive than before," said Jenkins. The accessibility of the library is very important.

"I think the library could be open longer after school for the students who cannot make it there during school hours. It would really be helpful to them," said Sarah Tyler, senior. The librarians are thinking about flexible hours, according to Jenkins and Julie Marcussen, assistant librarian.

"I have suggested that I would come in early in the morning and later during the day and stay longer," said Jenkins. The blue pass issue can cause problems for students who want to use the library for the right reasons.

"I think the blue hall passes are terrible because those students who do not have a fourth hour

and want to use the library cannot. However, I do understand why they have them," said Jill Baldwin, junior. The blue passes are school policy, which the librarians must follow.

"I feel we need the blue passes to know where a student is coming from," said Jenkins.

According to Marcussen, the library can be taken advantage of as a place to skip classes.

"Students take advantage of the library the same way they take advantage of teachers in the classroom setting. They leave garbage on the floor or sometimes they talk instead of doing their work. However, the majority of the students do not take advantage of the library," said Jenkins.

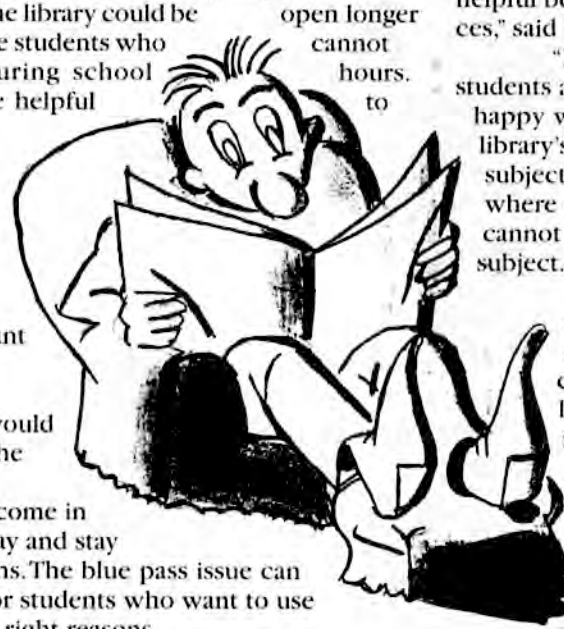
The librarians' attitudes are important because students have to feel comfortable to ask a librarian for help when they need it.

"I believe the librarians are friendly and helpful because I know them from past acquaintances," said Baldwin.

"I think the librarians are frustrated with students and that affects their attitude. They should be happy when students need help," said Covey. The library's organization of materials on a certain subject is important because if you do not know where to look for the material on your subject, you cannot use any material from the library on the subject.

"I do not think the library provides enough ways to find materials on a certain subject because all they have is the card catalog and the periodicals. It would be better if they had a computer with all the information on it," said Baldwin. According to the librarians, they are working on it.

"We will certainly have a computer catalog by the time we are in the new school. Right now, we are working on entering all the book's LSI numbers in the computer and getting numbers from the *Library of Congress* for those we do not have," said Marcussen.



Viewpoints

Riley High School / 405 East Ewing

Issue 3, Volume 28 / December, 1997

Editorial

Put a little love in your heart

Christmas is said to bring out the best in people. We, of the *Riley Review*, believe there is no better way to spread the holiday spirit than to volunteer for a local organization or charity.

Thousands of people everyday suffer from hunger, homelessness and disease. Volunteerism enables people to receive the proper help needed to make their life better.

All too often, student here at Riley who volunteer are doing it only to earn credit for school or an organization. True volunteerism comes from the heart. Volunteering should be done not only on special holidays but throughout the whole year.

Whether it's volunteering for the *Salvation Army* or *Humane Society*, every person makes an everlasting contribution to society whenever they volunteer. Volunteers brings peace to a chaotic world. It also brings out appreciation for both the volunteer and recipient.

Rage against the machine



Listen Up



Erica Costello
Viewpoints Editor

I admit it. I'm gullible with a capital G. I believe *anything* I am told. I never thought this was a problem until my friend in nursery school told me there wasn't a *Santa Claus* or *Easter Bunny*.

I was shocked! How could there not be a jovial, old man in a red suit who goes down the chimney? What about all the

candy I received from the white rabbit who I pictured from *'Alice in Wonderland'*?

Since then I have believed many more odd coincidences. For instance, did you hear about the aliens who landed on the roof of Riley?

Ever since then weird gases can be mysteriously detected coming from the science classes on the third floor. Some even say John Koellner can glow in the dark. Chemistry? I don't think so.

Ever wonder why some classes in Riley are as cold as *Antarctica* while others are hotter than, well, you know..? This can be explained by the moods of the teachers. Now you know why the classes were so cold during ISTEP. It's like having our personal El Nino

season at Riley, which, by the way, was caused by the *Yankees* losing the pennant.

Did you know the architect who built the *Leaning Tower of Pisa* also designed Riley? Take a look at Ephie Gevaes room. Every year the wall tilts twenty more degrees off its axis.

Why is chicken day in the cafeteria only on Tuesday and Thursdays? You see, there's an overabundance of chicken in *South America* that can only be exported only Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Did you also know the old security guards, (you know, the ones with the yellow shirts), are on a mysterious sabbatical somewhere in the *Middle East*?

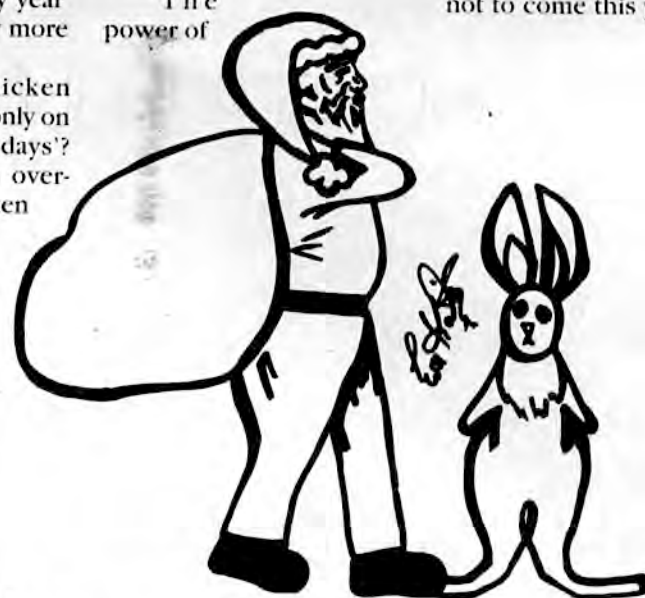
Finally, it has

been rumored that the mess in the bathrooms is caused by *Penn* students who wish to psyche our basketball and football teams out. Too bad it doesn't work, even if all the guys' bathroom stall doors are missing.

The power of

believing without seeing should not be taken for granted.

Now that I am not as gullible, I can rest assured that there isn't any mythical *Easter Bunny*. I just hope *Santa Claus* doesn't read this and decide not to come this year. ■



Learn to appreciate your teachers



Monica Swintz
News Editor

Throughout the year we rarely hear positive stories about teachers.

There are always

those bad stories about the teacher not letting you go to the bathroom even when you are vigorously shaking your leg. Or the time you asked your teacher what your grade was at the end of October and he doesn't even know your name.

There are teachers in the building who do care and want to help us grow. I know you sometimes feel as though they are few and far between; but they aren't playing hide and go seek all the time.

"The teachers in my life who have been the most influential are the ones who try to understand."

I've realized that teachers can be nice.

You could possibly have a really mean teacher who will give you valuable clues to success.

The teachers in my life who have been the most influential are the ones who to understand. They help make learning enjoyable. Because let's face it, teachers don't want to be baby sitters.

Ed Faulhaber, algebra/trig teacher, is a leader in making math enjoyable. Sometimes I've wondered if he is running on adrenaline or black coffee,

but he assures me it's merely lack of sleep. He jumps around the room like a jack rabbit, teaching us how the pythagorean theorem works.

The fun part about his class isn't all the goofing around, but the time he spends helping the class get to the point of understanding a very difficult subject. He spends hours before and after school helping students make up for their mental mistakes. He's also an awesome sports enthusiast.

Teachers are constantly waging the battle of being innovative individuals. Teachers, such as Mademoiselle Mary McMann, french teacher, not only teach their kids with an overhead, but also with clay, news clippings,

books, and cookies. This gives everyone an opportunity to learn.

Shakespeare wasn't as important as knowing the importance of your life. The time you have left on earth was one of the many discussions that went on during Al Deruc's fifth hour honor's class. We spent the whole hour calculating the time we may have left on this earth and what we can do with it. This is something I've thought of more often than *'Romeo and Juliet'*.

Teaching doesn't only occur on an overhead projector or chalkboard. Learning can be interesting as well as fun. Many teachers at Riley are doing a great job. We should be more appreciative of their efforts and contributions. ■

"Relationships are like sand; if you hold on too tight, it slips through your fingers, but if you don't hold it at all, you've lost it forever."

-Anonymous

I've made up my mind... I'm keeping

Erica Costello
Viewpoints Editor/ Ad Manager

Alicia Walker* was like every other middle school girl. She was young, attractive and loved to play basketball. But at the age of 13 while most girls were worrying about clothes, make-up, and boys, Walker was worrying about whether her child would be a boy or girl. Walker was pregnant with her first child.

Walker became sexually active when she was just 13 years old. "Everybody else was doing it, so I wanted to see for myself," said Walker. "I should have waited a little longer."

Walker found out in November of 1995 she was pregnant, after having sex only two times and using both birth control and condoms. "I was scared and didn't tell anybody," said Walker. "I still played sports so nobody would know."

Although the baby's father did know, it was three months before Walker told the first person she was pregnant. "I told my aunt," said Walker. "She told me I had to make a decision on whether to keep the baby or put it up for adoption."

Even though Walker didn't want to have the baby, she realized she had to take the responsibility that came along with having the baby. "I knew for the first time I would keep the

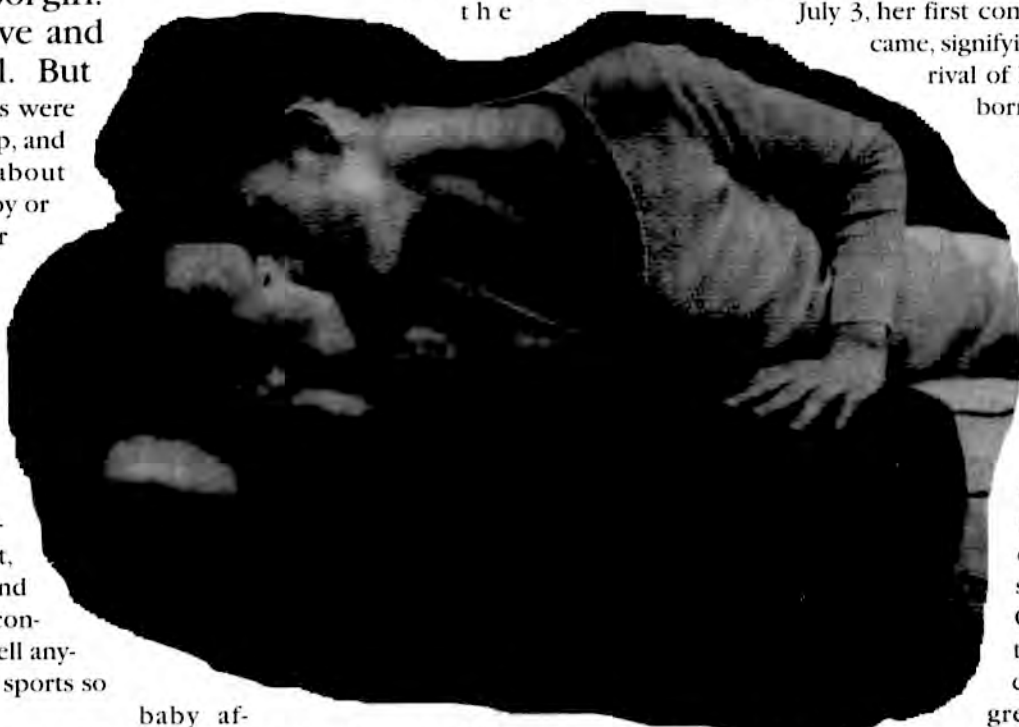
questions like was I scared or hungry," said Walker. "They would also help me a lot by carrying my books."

Still, the day of her delivery had Walker in anticipation. Then at noon, July 3, her first contractions came, signifying the arrival of her newborn baby.

"The contractions hurt a lot," said Walker. "I had to have an IV and a muscle control shot. Overall, though, I do not regret it and

it's not as bad as it seems on TV." At 9:48 p.m. a baby girl entered into the world after a nine month wait.

Soon after the birth of her daughter, Walker and her boyfriend (the baby's



baby after going to the doctor's office and hearing the heartbeat on the ultrasound," explained Walker.

Throughout her pregnancy, Walker was amazed at how nicely her friends treated her. "Everybody asked me a lot of

Photo courtesy of Men's Health.

TROJAN-EN COMMON SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DIS

CHLAMYDIA

* Can lead to sterility and damage to reproductive organs for both men and women.

SYPHILIS

* Can cause heart disease, brain damage, blindness and death.

GONORRHEA

* Can cause heart trouble, arthritis, and blindness as well as other serious infections.

HERPES

* Incurable, can be passed to a baby through childbirth.

GENITAL

* Can cause increased risk of M... de

3 PREMIUM LATEX CONDOMS

Do you know enough about birth control?

Laura Pippenger
Co-Sports Editor

"I am sure I don't know as much as I should about birth control methods," said freshman Carly Walasinski, who reiterated the opinion of most teenagers interviewed on the topic of birth control.

According to Carole, registered nurse and gynecologist at *Planned Parenthood's Urbancare Center*, today's teenagers are very uninformed about sex in general. Carole is unable to reveal her last name because of the safety risks associated with working with women who are seeking abortions.

"Sure, kids know how to have sexual intercourse, but they often don't realize the consequences, and they certainly don't know about the prevention of these consequences," said Carole.

Kristin Sieracki, junior, claims that she has learned about the available meth-

ods of birth control from her parents and the media.

According to Carole, teenagers are lucky if their parents discuss birth control with them often.

And while they do not provide their children with adequate information, they are also too permissive with them, she said.

"Many need to set higher standards for their children, such as expecting them to attain reasonable grade point averages and perform household responsibilities. Along with these responsibilities, parents need to make it clear to their children that sexual activity is risky and dangerous," said Carole.

Carole also claims that while sex is not for every teen, some children will make the decision to have sex very early in life. It is for these teenagers that birth control methods absolutely *must* be presented and discussed in school.

"Children who are ignorant of their options will make uninformed decisions that cost them their lives."

"Children who are ignorant of their options will often make uninformed decisions that cost them their lives," said Carole. The risks can include HIV infection, STD's and complications with pregnancy.

According to Carole, there are many different methods of birth control, and while some are very expensive and difficult to get, some are very reasonable and are available over the counter.

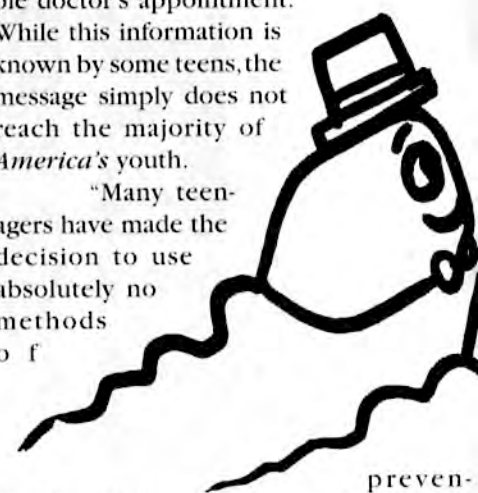
"Some methods of birth control are simply not practical for most teenagers. These include the *Norplant* implant, which is a strand of fibers implanted into a woman's arm that stops ovulation, and the *Depo-Provera* contraceptive injection, which prevents egg cells from ripening for three months. These aren't practical for most teenagers, because they are extremely expensive, and don't protect against sexually transmitted diseases," said

Carole.

According to Carole, the best methods of birth control for teenagers include condoms used with spermicide and birth control pills. Condoms are easy to obtain, and are available over the counter. The birth control pill is available through a simple doctor's appointment. While this information is known by some teens, the message simply does not reach the majority of America's youth.

"Many teenagers have made the decision to use absolutely no methods of

prevention for STD's and pregnancy," said Carole, "and until teenagers begin to abstain



g my baby

(father) broke up on amiable conditions. The baby was not a part of our break up," said Walker. "At first he wasn't ready to become a father, but he did accept that I was pregnant." The baby's father still visits his daughter every weekend. Walker, who is now a sophomore in high school has to struggle with the hardships bestowed upon the single teenage parent. Everyday she continues to go to school while her daughter is cared for at a daycare facility. "I want to prove to people that I'm not going to be one of those girls who drops out of high school after she has a baby," said Walker.

Walker is now unable to play basketball and do some of the activities that she previously enjoyed because of the demands on her time. "I loved to play basketball, but now I love spending time with my daughter," said Walker. For now, college plans have been put on hold. "I don't know if I'm going away or to a community college," said Walker. "Having this baby made me grow up fast and mature more."

"My best advice to teenage couples faced with the decision of pregnancy is to think of what you're getting yourself into and of all your options," said Walker. "A baby won't make a relationship better," she emphasized.

* Name changed to protect identity

GENERATION



An investigation of forming sexual relations, the hazards involved, and possible consequences.

OPINION/ PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

Like a Virgin

Anonymous
Guest Writer

It has never occurred to me to have sex at this point in my life.

Yes, I have had my share of dates; and yes, I have even had several serious boyfriends. And while we've shared more intimacy than a "good night's kiss," I've drawn the line well before we got to the point of "no return."

In my romantic fantasies, I can imagine us being together "forever" and staying happily in love. I daydream about the house we'll build, the children we'll have, and spending out our days together. But then, I give myself a reality check, and say no.

Why? I know many of my friends are having sex, and feeling little remorse. I also know how to use birth control, and am aware of how to avoid contracting HIV. But my decision is not about how to avoid getting pregnant or satisfying wild desires, it's about keeping my soul intact.

I know myself too well to believe having sex would not change me forever. Sex, to me, is a bonding of the mind and soul as well as the body. And at this point in my life, I value my freedom.

Yes, my freedom. I want to feel free to make decisions that are best for me right now. Maybe this is selfishness, but I do not want to have to consider the feelings and emotions of anyone else.

Sure, I could try to kid myself and say I can have a quick fling and feel no repercussions. But I've always been a deeply sensitive person. How can I kid myself to think that someone like me, who cries easily at mushy movies and can be bothered for several days by an argument with a friend, won't be strongly moved by a sexual relationship?

If I did cross the line, I'm afraid that I would become "needy" of reassurances from my partner. Reassurances that he loves me for myself, not for his need to have sex with me. And when it comes time to choose between the university downstate, or the one I dream of attending in New York, will I feel free to leave? Having sex is a major commitment I don't want to make.

And should the birth control fail? What would become of me or my child? Would I feel pressured to force him to marry me? Would I have the strength to raise a child alone?

And what if, worst came to worst, I contract HIV? What would my dreams for the future mean then, nothing? That would be living not a dream, but a nightmare.

So then, why do I say no? Because that *small voice of fear* within my heart won't be silenced by a romantic evening, and loving talk. I care too much about myself to give up on my dreams.

Unlike a Virgin

Anonymous
Guest Writer

When I left my house on that typical Friday night, I had no idea that my actions within the next few hours would cause me to lose one of my best friends.

It started out the same as most other nights, except a few more people were at my friends' house than usual. The drink of the night was made in a big plastic tub with Everclear, Vodka, Rum, Hi-C fruit punch, and a bountiful array of fresh fruit. After about two or three large glasses, I was pretty drunk. We were just chillin', listening to music. I was so relaxed, I asked for a massage. I didn't think anything would come of it, but the next thing I knew, we were in an unknowing, yet understanding friend's bedroom...and yes, we had sex.

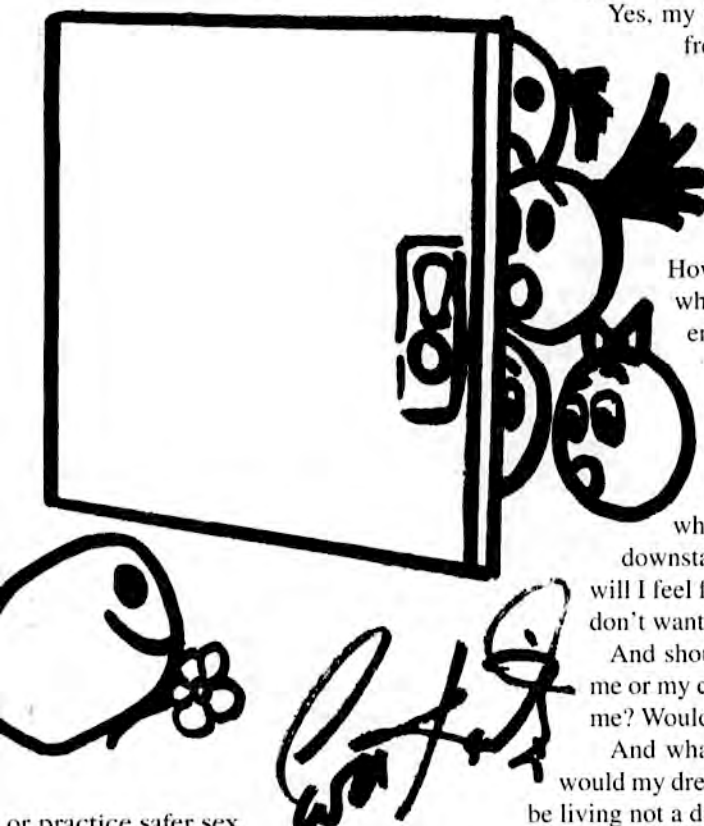
The next morning I vaguely told one person what had happened. Somehow, by the next Monday morning at school, a number of my classmates had heard it. Most of the accounts were exaggerations that could not have been farther from the truth. I was accused with, "Oh my god, did you do *that*? Tell me it isn't true!"

I couldn't believe it. I had never heard people talk about me like that before, and it didn't make sense to me how it could be considered acceptable for me to have sex with my previous boyfriend, and not this particular guy. In all of the turmoil caused by my actions in only one night, the worst part was that one of my closest friends refused to talk to me. I realize she's entitled to her own opinion, but it was still hard to get used to.

It would be hypocritical to claim that I don't gossip, but I also know that it is none of my business to interrogate someone over a rumor. Can't people understand it's none of their business to gossip about issues that doesn't concern them? Some of my peers purposely tried to make me look and feel bad. Although I am not ashamed of what I did or what I do now, I think it is sad that some people waste that much time, and make up elaborate stories about others' social lives. Hopefully, they will learn to focus time in their own relationships or lack thereof. I'm going to do what makes me happy, and if a person disagrees, it's a personal decision. However, that also means I don't always want to hear it.

I am very happy with the decisions I've made, whether I've lost friends or not. If I could go back to that night, I wouldn't change my decision to have sex with him. I would go through it all again, I know I can't let other people control my life. Maybe people hadn't seen this side of me before, but my parents know that I've had sex and though it may be against their religious and moral beliefs, they love me for who I am.

Since this glimpse of my social life has been revealed, I have been called different things ranging from a slut to a player. But to my true friends, I'm the same person I have always been, without a label.



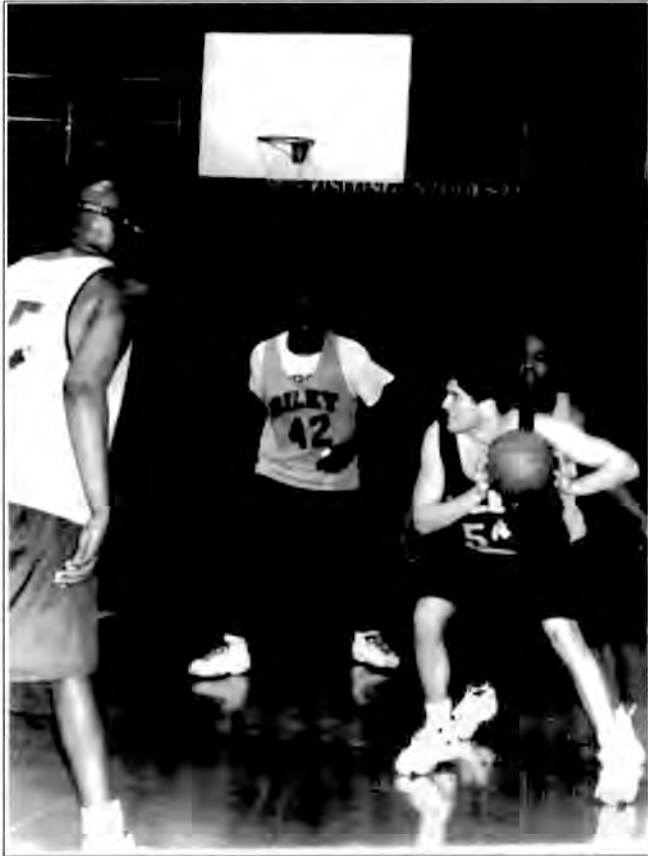
or practice safer sex. the teen pregnancy rate of the United States will continue to increase," she added.

Sports

Riley High School / 405 East Ewing

Issue 3, Volume 28 / December, 1997

Facing tough year with a positive attitude



Erica Costello

PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE/ Seniors Caleb Wilson, Shawn Henderson, and Duke Franklin, and sophomore Ron Dokes scrimmage at practice.

Monica Swintz
News Editor

This year's Riley basketball team is in the midst of transition.

The team has started the year off with a

new coach and two losses, but they are focused and positive. "We're practicing with a new system, and with that we're continuing to get better. Coach Tom Debaets is trying to get a different work ethic out of us," said senior Jeff Steele.

Though Debaets learned much of what he knows from coaching with former Riley basketball coach Bob Berger, the players see clear differences. "The two have different philosophies. I think Debaets is pushing the team harder. It's a little tough for everyone to adjust, but it will all work out," said junior David St. Clair.

The new relationship formed between the team and Debaets seems to be a hard working and positive one. "He's intense and tough on the court, but outside he's told us that when you play on his team your part of his family and he'll take care of you, it's true," said St. Clair.

"He's a great person, but on and off the court he's very serious. If you're screwing up, he'll let you know," said Steele.

Believing in what Debaets says is easy for the team to do. "He's proven himself as a coach. You can tell he knows what he's doing, and we've all got respect for him," stated St. Clair.

"Our team is getting there. Everyone believes what coach

Debaets says is true, and if we follow what he says, we'll be alright," said Steele.

During practice, the players are pushed to the limit. "Debaets is really intense and focused. He tries to get us to work our hardest, and he wants us to be successful. You can tell by the things he says. He tells us about winning state, and what it takes to get there," said St. Clair.

"Defense is always first, and at the end, we work on offense. There is never any 'standing around' time. Repetition is the key and that is how we improve," said Steele.

"Practice is always tough. We run

"Practice is always tough. We run scrimmages, do drills, and run some more. It's so tough that when I get done all I want to do is go to bed."

scrimmages, do drills, and run some more. It's so tough that when I get done all I want to do is go to bed," said St. Clair.

After losing their first two games there is still work to be done.

"We need to carry over what we do in practice to the games and hustle on defense and we'll be fine," said St. Clair.

"We need to get seven or eight guys to devote their *all* to the team, and we'll be fine," said Steele.

Even though their

practices are difficult, and they have faced two losses, they have a positive outlook.

"I think we're seeing a lot more hustle. We're coming together, and get a rewarding feeling knowing every day we're getting better," said St. Clair.



Photo courtesy of Tom Debaets

STARTING A NEW TRADITION/ Although Tom Debaets has been head coach of Riley basketball for only a short time, he has already earned respect and admiration from his players.

One door closes, another opens for new baseball coach

Monica Swintz
News Editor

After much speculation about who would replace head baseball coach John Nadolny on the Riley roster, the athletic department has named a new head coach, Ed Faulhaber.



Alison Piekarski

IN THE CLASSROOM/ New baseball coach Ed Faulhaber teaches Riley students on and off the field.

Nadolny and Faulhaber have been coaching friends for a long time, and Faulhaber is glad to help the team.

"I feel bad for Nud because I know how much baseball meant to him. He put much of his life into the program, but I feel fortunate for getting the job," said Faulhaber.

Faulhaber's advice for Nadolny comes from personal experience.

"When a door closes, God always opens a new one. For me, I was the head baseball coach at North Liberty and that door closed, but one here has opened," explained Faulhaber.

Walking into this controversial position has not made Faulhaber feel uncomfortable.

"There has been controversy and some unhappiness. We've had umpires say that they will not work our games because they support Nadolny, but I haven't felt any pressure. I've had many parents approach me, saying that they were pleased that I am the new coach because I've coached their kids on the B team," said Faulhaber.

Faulhaber has already met with the team once, and he understands their loyalty for Nadolny.

"Any time you've played under a coach for years

it will be naturally difficult to change, but these are mature upperclassmen who have a job to do," said Faulhaber.

Experience is not the only thing that Faulhaber has to offer. He's coached baseball, tennis, basketball, and softball as well.

"I've always been a jock. I love sports, and I think that through my successes and my failures, I have a lot to offer them," explained Faulhaber.

When Faulhaber explains the strengths of this senior-led team, he points to success.

"They've had success, which breeds self-esteem. They expect to win, and know what it takes to win. The strength of this team will be their senior leadership and unity," said Faulhaber.

The new coach is looking forward to a winning year, and has a plan to continue the seniors' success.

"I want to develop discipline, determination, and dedication, or the three D's. I want a team that is not too high, and not too low. They need to be even keel, not devastated over a loss, but not out of control after a win. I would like to peak at the end of the season, so we can win sectionals and possibly go on," said Faulhaber.

Fall sports seniors shine in the Northern Indiana Conference

The class of 1998 makes Riley proud with these fall sports awards

Boys Cross Country

Adam Turner- MVP, Kiwanis Award

Girls Cross Country

Annie Gustafson - Kiwanis Award, Honorable Mention N.I.C.
Carrie Talboom- Most Improved
Jenny Segner- MVP

Football

Brad Davis- Honorable Mention N.I.C. (Offensive Back)
Ryan Gibson- 1st team N.I.C. (Offensive Back, Defensive End, and MVP)
Nick Hintz- 1st team N.I.C. (Offensive Guard and Down Lineman)
Aaron Kaser- Honorable Mention N.I.C. (Quarterback)
Nate VanLaere- Kiwanis Award, 1st team N.I.C. (Defensive Back)

Girls Soccer

Ashley Bell- 1st team N.I.C.
Terri Lloyd- Mental Attitude
Dana Varner- Kiwanis Award

Boys Soccer

Zack Bauschke- MVP, 1st team N.I.C.
Nick Kolesiak- Kiwanis Award, MVP, 2nd team N.I.C.

Boys Tennis

Nick Schafer- MVP, Kiwanis Award, 1st team N.I.C., Academic All-State
Chris Wodrich- Honorable Mention N.I.C., Sportsmanship

Volleyball

Amy Druehinger- 1st team N.I.C. (setter)
Whitney Dueringer- MVP, Kiwanis Award, Honorable Mention N.I.C.

Depth is key to girls' swim team success

City meet and sectionals head the list of goals the team has set for their season

Dan Janča
Copy Editor

The girls' swim team is looking to improve this year, with what head coach Jeanne Troyer believes is key to their success: depth.

"The key to our season this year is our depth. I could mention 34 girls as major performers who will contribute to victories," said coach Troyer.

So far the team has a record of 4-1, with victories over Washington, Laporte, Elkhart Central, Marian, and their only loss was to Goshen.

"We want to continue to improve and would like fewer than three losses. Also, we want to have a good showing at city and sectionals," said coach Troyer.

The team has many goals: they would like to perform well in the city and sectional meets but

would also like to beat some of their rivals in the regular season.

"We have a big rivalry with Clay, and this year the meet is on senior night. The team is very excited because we believe we have a good chance of winning," said senior captain Julia Cavadini.

"We want to upset Penn, Clay, and St. Joseph, or at least give them a good run for their money in the dual meets and at the sectional," said Troyer.

The girls have been working on a variety of things during practice to prepare for the post-season.

"We are doing a lot of hard training to build muscle and endurance, and working on our starts, flip-turns, and finishes. These elements are important and can make or break a race," said senior captain Kim Flesher.

The senior captains believe that not only does the team need to be prepared physically, they

also must be led in the right direction.

"I am trying to be the best role model I can, and encourage the team to do their best. I try to get them fired up as much as possible to swim," said Flesher.

Along with good leadership from captains, coach Troyer feels that the team needs to keep good attitudes and work ethics.

"The attitude has been positive because they see that they have the opportunity to be successful. They have had a good work ethic, and there has been good competition within the team," said Troyer.

Katie Cavadini, Julia Cavadini, and junior Krissy Wells made it to the state championships last year, and the team believes that even more swimmers have the chance to go down this year.

"We have three very strong relays that have the potential to go all the way to state. There are also



ALISON PIEKARSKI

TAKING A REST/ Seniors Eva Kalwitz and Julia Cavadini along with sophomore Elizabeth Flora and freshman Ashley House pause at swim practice to smile and pose for the camera.

some individuals who also will score well in sectionals and hopefully will go down state," said Flesher.

Club Volleyball increases in popularity

Adria Phillips
Staff Reporter

Club volleyball, also known as organized winter (off-season) volleyball, is a blooming activity. Now there are over 6,000 different club programs nationwide. A local club for South Bend students is the *East Race Volleyball Club*. It has about 10 teams and 120 girls joining.

"It is important for girls who want to go to the next level beyond high

school to play club ball. It is more competitive and trains the girls to improve for high school season or college," said Vince Streffling, director of *East Race*.

Club season usually lasts from the month of December of one year through July of the next year. These months generally include 12 tournaments and a lot of intense playing.

"Club ball gives girls an edge because it is constant volleyball. Girls that play are playing all year long," said Amy Druelinger, Riley senior and *ERVBC*

18's Elite setter.

Playing club also helps girls receive scholarships, not only because the girls are playing all the time, but for more obvious reasons as well.

"The budgets for girls' volleyball college teams aren't enough for coaches to travel to each high school of a girl that they think has potential. With club, they can go to one place for one tournament and see over 200 girls," said Streffling.

Most parents agree that club is extremely beneficial to their kids who

play volleyball

"Club allows my daughters to be well-trained and ready for high school. It also gives them an outside activity to do. It gives them six more months of practice time," said Valerie Phillips, mom of two volleyball players.

It may seem like it costs a lot, but over a six-month period it pans out. There are teams that range from 10 years of age to 18 years. Yet, there are girls in third grade playing. So, if you have any interest in playing volleyball, look into playing club.

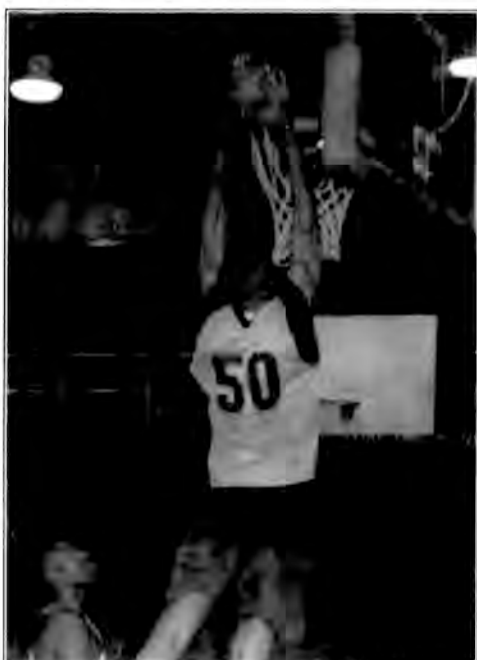
Reynolds looks forward to season

Steve Willfong
Sports Editor

Senior Steve Reynolds is a starter for the boys' basketball team. He has played varsity basketball

since his sophomore year. This year he expects to help lead the 'Wildcats' to the sectional title.

Former coach Bob Berger simply stated, "Reynolds is one of the best basketball players in the area. He has a good work ethic, and is mature beyond his years. He brings versatility to the team, and he is very hard to guard. Steve is also a good student."



ERICA COSTELLO

MONSTER SLAM/ Senior basketball player Steve Reynolds, dunks the ball for an easy two points at practice.

In his second game against Merrillville, Reynolds had a game high twenty two points. Reynolds also grabbed eight rebounds.

Reynolds is looking forward to conference play this year. He is hoping this team can win the sectional title. "Coach Tom Debaets is a no nonsense coach. We work hard in order to be a good team. If we work hard there is no telling how good this team will be. I think I help the team the most with my ability to play four positions. I can play any position except the point," said Reynolds.

Debaets said, "Steve is one of our best inside players, and he is our best outside shooter. He really understands the game. He has a great attitude, and he has the skills to become a division one basketball player."

Duke Franklin, senior varsity player, and fan of Steve Reynolds said, "Steve can shoot over you or post you up. He has good handles for a big man.

I've played with him a long time. He is a true baller. Also he is easy to get along with on the court."

In Reynolds' last season he finished third on the team in scoring with 10.6 points per game average. He finished second on the team in rebounding at 6.6 per game.

"Reynolds is definitely college basketball material," said Berger. Reynolds has received letters from division one, two, and three schools. He has received mail from Weber State, Ohio State, and Indiana State.

This year's basketball team also features seniors Franklin, Shawn Henderson, Jeff Steele, and Caleb Wilson. The team also added sophomores John Fissette, Ron Dokes, Mike Washington, and junior David St. Clair. Sophomores Ramon Lenoir and Mike Mays may also play.

You can see Reynolds, and the rest of the Riley team in action against Knox on 12/19 and Hammond East on 1/3.

Riley swimming tradition lives on

Kylea Asher
Copy Editor

I imagine trying to uphold a winning streak that is older than you.

This is exactly what the boys' swim team is trying to do. Riley's swim team is battling to uphold a 16 year old tradition that includes 169 consecutive dual meet wins in the *Northern Indiana Conference*. And during the recent Elkhart Central meet, swimmers and the coach alike thought that that legacy might become merely a memory.

"I didn't expect Elkhart Central to be as strong as they were," said Coach Steve Smith. "I turned to one of the

psychologist. You wear more than just one hat," said Smith.

"I am trying to create a whole new feeling on the team," commented Smith. "We are trying to have more fun. I don't want to do something because it has always been done. I am trying to create my own program, but that does not mean that I don't respect the former program and its achievements. Former divers and swimmers are always coming back and their spirit and tradition have built a legacy."

Now the team is focusing on the Penn meet, and this year the wildcats need to be most concerned with the performance of Jason Mallory.

"He's really fast. He can swim any event well, and so Penn can put him wherever they want. He used to swim for the Marlin's, but

the head coach from Michigan's swim team talked him into swimming for Penn. He's a nationally recognized swimmer," said captain Adam Turner.

"I am optimistic that when the time comes, we'll be prepared," said Turner. "We need to be a team. We need a real sense of brotherhood," he said. Everyone needs to pull for everyone else. I've seen a bit of it, but we haven't had a big test yet," said Turner.

"We really want to keep our tradition. We'd be extremely disappointed if we lost conference. If we did lose, however, it would give us all the more initiative to do well at state," concluded Turner.

Diverse Ideas

Riley High School / 405 East Ewing

Issue 3, Volume 28/ December, 1997

Grandma's illness provides more reason to share love

Annie Gustafson
Centerspread Editor/ Copy Editor

My grandma is a typical grandma. She watched me act as *God* in the lead of the sixth grade play, and she came to my tap dancing recital when I was in eighth grade. My last high school cross country meet was a few weeks ago, but she was not healthy enough to attend. My grandmother's Alzheimers disease has had a significant influence on my life.

Last year, grandma moved from Arizona into a special care unit in nearby Goshen, Indiana. We needed to have her closer in order to manage her condition. When I visit her, there is an antiseptic odor; she shares her home with nineteen complete strangers while her husband is in a nearby apartment. There are drawings on the wall of indiscernible shapes comparable to art completed by preschoolers. When I give Grandma a hug her face brightens, but she doesn't know my name.

My current relationship with Grandma exemplifies the phrase, "It's the little things that count." For example, she isn't capable of discussing politics, but she loves to sing, attempt her own variation of the waltz, or have her nails painted. Grandma's condition has forced me to put a variety of issues into perspective. I appreciate the importance of waking in the morning and at least knowing who I am.

At times it is frustrating and difficult to love Grandma. I am the director of one-sided conversations and am constantly putting effort into a relationship where there aren't necessarily any immediate benefits. How can I love her if

I don't know why she puts her shoe in her purse or mixes her soup into her salad before eating it?

Five years ago she was brave enough to ride horses with my brother and me in Arizona; now we need to coax her to go on a walk. Her lifestyle has obviously changed as well as variations in my own way of living.

My mom, for example, makes the forty-five-minute to visit at least two or three times a week. I can understand her desire to visit her mother, but other times I resent it. Wouldn't time be better spent with her two children than with someone who won't even be able to remember your presence? It's not that I'm heartless, but sometimes I just want to

stop trying to comprehend Alzheimers. It's simply impossible to put myself in her shoes and always be able to understand.

Grandma's Alzheimers has enabled me to come to a few valuable realizations. Throughout the progression of her disease, I have witnessed the vulnerability of life; no one is able to control or

influence their ultimate fate. If optimism is faith in the phrase, "Things will work out in the end."

Grandma is a living example of contradiction. She didn't do anything to deserve this disease; it can simply happen to anyone.

My preference would be to have a stereotypical grandmother, but I have discovered she is still an emotional human being.

Because she can still experience emotion, I know she is also capable of benefiting from my love.



Band to 'pep up' both boys' and girls' home ball games

Rebecca Cripe/Jason McFarley
News Editor/ Diverse Ideas Editor

Since early in December, the girls' basketball team has been competing in their scheduled home games. . . to the accompaniment of the Riley pep band.

"Playing at the girls' games is a wonderful idea; they deserve just as much support and respect as the boys," said sophomore Amy Kaehr.

Assistant band director Terry Bettner agrees.

"It's very important to support all your peers. This goes to show that the band supports all of the sports, boys' and girls'," said Bettner.

Along with the new change, comes slight chaos in regards to schedules and a little reluctance on the band members' part to play.

"Many people don't realize the hectic schedules that our members have to deal with. They have activities, including band, stretching them in all directions," said Bettner.

On the positive side, there have already been noticeable differences as a result of the band performing at the games.

"At our first game, the band definitely succeeded in livening up the crowd and making the fans move. That made the game more enjoyable for me," said basketball player Erin Miller.

Bettner believes the players, and

especially the coach, appreciated having a band present to 'pump up' the crowd.

Band members also reaped the rewards.

Kaehr enjoyed knowing what's happening with both the girls' and boys' basketball teams.

Junior Amanda Harbaugh liked the convenience of playing at the girls' games in the Riley gym.

"Because Riley is closer to my house than Jackson (Middle School, where the boys' games are held), there is less risk

involved in driving on hazardous winter roads," said Harbaugh.

Although Miller is pleased with the new situation, she feels it is long overdue.

"Girls' sports still don't receive as much recognition as boys' sports, but this is a positive step towards bettering the situation," Miller said.

Freshman band member Lindsey Bergen believes the inequality in terms of fan support is clearly evident.

She notes the lack of fans and fan enthusiasm at the girls' games.

"There's definitely a lot fewer fans and cheering in support of the girls. There's more of an atmosphere of school pride, excitement, and intensity for the boys," said Bergen.

But despite the lack of exuberant cheers of "Go, team, go," for the girls thus far, most are content to see Riley go forward in its attempt to advance the support, and in turn the morale, of the female athlete.

The Gray Area Opinion of the Editor

There's a battleground for social reformation; the cause is change. And for every person diligently fighting the war in favor of change, there exists another person laboring just as strongly against it.

It is this ongoing feud that keeps many women in sports from achieving the same glory or even fan support as their male counterparts. It seems that forces trying to pull women to the forefront are always counter-balanced by those pulling backward.

For now, hopes of a truly level playing field and an indiscriminatory culture remain distant dreams as we await the realization of both.

Gangs pose dangerous threat to members and community

Expert maps out positive alternative paths to 'dead-end road'

Jason McFarley
Diverse Ideas Editor/ Copy Editor

Somewhere in the city someone will potentially fall prey to a gang's drug trafficking efforts or drive-by shooting attempts. Elsewhere, members of Dogg Life and the Gangster Disciples will fight in a traditional territorial feud over South Bend's southeast side. Today's gangs represent one of the strongest and deadliest independent crime elements in the community and the country at large.

Although teens and young adults comprise the majority of the gang population, children as young as four years old often get caught up in the turbulent whirlwind of gangs.

"Kids are being welcomed into gangs younger and younger all the time. Older members realize that they can easily influence and use the children," said social worker Bev Donati.

Many children's reasons for joining gangs stem from their own psychological shortcomings. "A lot of children may be struggling with personal insecurities and join gangs as a way to be a part of something or to belong. Others achieve a sense of family or protection through gang membership," Donati said.

The acquisition of full-fledged gang membership often entails an initiation procedure. The initiation usually becomes a process of taking away an individual's feeling of self-worth and a handing over of one's personal power to think to the "boss" of the gang. According to Donati, gang initiations may involve killing rival gang members, robbing stores and banks, or having sex with higher-ups

in the gang.

Once in the gang, the consequences are often dangerous, sometimes deadly. The *GANGS 2000 Report* published by the United States Department of Justice estimates that by the year 2000 gangs will become more entrepreneurial and violent. "Individuals will be targeted because of race. Retaliation against individuals and systems will occur and innocent bystanders may be included in the violence." In fact, 2000 predicts that juvenile courts and detention centers will be gridlocked because of children committing gang crimes.

Although gang involvement encompasses a long, winding path, the road to recovery and re-establishing one's life may begin with the awareness of family, friends, teachers, and other people close to the gang members.

Donati pointed out signs which may signal gang involvement. "Family and close friends should be looking for dramatic changes in clothing, language, and peers. Also, recognize attempts at separation from home life and anti-social or secretive behavior," she said.

Even after gang activity is recognized, a prodigious task still lies ahead: gang membership is more often than not a life-time deal; getting out is an extremely difficult, if not impossible, feat.

The worst possible thing to do when dealing with children involved in gangs is to lose hope.

"Many get involved in gangs in the first place because they don't have any hope or anyone to care for them. Kids without dreams don't expect to live. There's

"By the year 2000, there will be a 200 percent increase in gang membership, with many of the involved youths being generational, meaning they will be born into the gangs."

no substitution for goals and dreams," said Donati.

Becoming educated is critical in preventing gang involvement. From gang awareness hotlines to programs sponsored by mental health agencies, solutions are widely available.

Donati is busy organizing workshops which will focus on aiding kids already in gangs. The purpose, Donati explained, is to help them see that there are many alternatives to being in gangs.

From the societal standpoint, people would like to see the gang problem improve. Statistics, however, undermine this bright vision for the future. 2000 estimates a 200 percent increase in gang membership in the coming years, with many of the youths being generational, meaning they will be born into the gang environment.

"I have faith in the youth growing up today. I trust them to never surrender and to never relinquish their ability to make their own choices," Donati said.

