

Swafford

After years of dedicated service to Riley, veteran teacher Dale Swafford is preparing to give up his duties as the advisor of the *Hoosier Poet* yearbook staff.

NEWS/ P2



Baseball

Sports editor Steve Wiltfong talks with some members of the baseball team about a few of their rebuilding strategies. Turn to Sports to see the story.

SPORTS/ P6



Teens and Stress

This month's centerspread for Eye Candy deals with the issue of stress affecting teens: why teens get stressed and how they can cope with it.

EYE CANDY/ P8



The Review

Riley High School / 405 East Ewing

Issue 5, Volume 29/ March 1999

No decision from board leaves Calvin in limbo Both those for and against Calvin vocal on issue

Ajaz Chaudbry
News Editor

Virginia Calvin has headed the South Bend Community School Corp. for the past six years. In those years she has been the target of controversy.

The latest problem concerns the contract extension for Virginia Calvin.

This issue was discussed at the monthly South Bend School Board meeting on February 1, 1999, at Clay High School.

Calvin's supporters came out, as they have always done so, to stand behind their superintendent.

Calvin's contract extension is in doubt, in part, due to the low Indiana Statewide Testing For Educational Progress (ISTEP) scores for the South Bend Schools.

Calvin's supporters pointed to her many achievements in improving school safety and the level of education in SBCSC. The critics, on the other hand, say that the discipline problem in the South Bend Schools continues to get worse, and they demand changes.

"I want to know that in three years my son can graduate and go to a good college," said Sherry Dubois. She was one of the people who spoke in favor of some changes in the system but did not, however, directly call for Calvin to leave.

Calvin's supporters called for improvement in teaching methods and changes in the school board.

"We have problems and need more discipline, but we cannot blame one person," said Pat Mayfield, a speaker at the school board meeting.

"Virginia Calvin cares about our kids' educations. Dr. Sheehan, the president of the school board, does not send his kids to any of the South Bend schools."

Calvin Johnson, one of Calvin's strongest supporters, spoke out, harshly criticizing the school board and pointing to Calvin's accomplishments.

"Virginia Calvin cares much more about our kids than the school



BRYAN PROVEN

SPEAKING OUT/ These South Bend residents were anything but silent when they shared their views on Virginia Calvin at a recent school board meeting.

board," indicated Johnson.

"Virginia Calvin cares about our kids' education," said Johnson. "Dr. Sheehan, the president of the school board, does not send his kids to any of the South Bend schools," he said.

Calvin's accomplishments include changing the SBCSC general fund deficit of \$3 million in 1994 to a cash balance of \$7 million in 1998. She also started the first alternative school in South Bend. She also negotiated a three-year contract with all of the employee union groups in 1996. In addition Calvin was instrumental in the construction and renovation of area schools.

Her critics point to the ISTEP results. Those results were below the state level by 16 points in math and 9 points in English. They also point to lack of innovative ideas to discipline children and make the learning environment safer.

Most people who spoke at the School Board Meeting felt that the schools are providing good education for those who want to learn. "I can say that my kids got an excellent education here in South Bend. The quality of education is there for those that want to take advantage of it," said Cemore Baker, a spectator.

Most of the students, however, do not care either way. "We never see Virginia Calvin so it really doesn't matter to me if she stays or not," said Bryan Proven, sophomore.

Some students do, however, want

Continued CALVIN/ P2

Calvin's accomplishments

- Superintendent of the South Bend Community School Corp. for the past six years.
- Started Hamilton Alternative School, the first of its kind in South Bend.
- Turned a \$3 million SBCSC general fund deficit in 1994 to a \$7 million cash balance in 1998.
- Played a critical role in getting both construction and renovation measures for local schools passed.

What opponents say

Non-supporters of Virginia Calvin have blasted the SBCSC Superintendent due to a trend of corporation-wide low ISTEP scores, which through the years have remained below state standards. Critics also claim that Calvin has lacked innovative ideas to discipline children and to make the learning environment safer.

"I want to know that in three years my son can graduate and go to a good college."

-Sherry Dubois

What pro-Calviners say

"I can say that my kids got an excellent education here in South Bend. The quality of education is there for those that want to take advantage of it."

- Cemore Baker

Some students claim Riley dress code limits self expression

Beth Marshall
Staff Reporter

High school is a time of self-discovery. Many students use their high school years to find out who they are and what they want in life. It is during these years that children begin to pull away from their parents and become independent. Views are formed and opinions are changed. Their lives are about freedom, discovery, and most of all expression.

Once they get in touch with their newly discovered identities many of them can't wait to show them off. They want the entire world to know who they are and why they're here. Some of them use music or art to express themselves, some use sports, some use academics, and all of them, at some point or another, use clothes.

A few Riley students feel that their right to express themselves through clothing is being snatched out from under them, and they're furious. Just

the mention of the term *dress code* sends these students into a panicked frenzy.

"It's the most horrible neo-fascist idea ever conceived," said freshman, Jennifer Krewson.

Krewson's opinion is extreme. The truth is that although a majority of Riley's students support the dress code, some still think that it could use a little improvement.

"I feel the dress code is a good idea but should be more lenient towards everyone," said freshman, Scott Parker.

Riley principal, George McCullough, disagrees with Parker. He believes that Riley's dress code is very fair.

"It's not a dress code," said McCullough, "it's a standard. We have a right as a public school to expect

"It's not a dress code, it's a standard. We have a right as a public school to expect proper dress standards."



McCullough

proper dress standards." In *Tinker vs. Des Moines, Iowa*, John Tinker,



ERICA FLEISCHER

his sister Mary Beth, and their friend Christopher Eckhardt were suspended for wearing black armbands to school to protest the Vietnam War. The Supreme Court ruled that the suspension was a violation of the student's First Amendment rights to free speech.

The court also ruled that any speech and expression that "disrupts classwork or involves substantial

Continued DRESS CODE/ P2

Swafford leaves behind a legacy of excellence

Cameron Stouder/Max Kauffman
Staff Reporters

After five years of being the advisor/teacher, Dale Swafford has decided to resign from the yearbook. Swafford said that he didn't have time for anything else in his life and also wants to focus more on his art classes. He also said that yearbook required lots of time and energy.

Other teachers agree.

"Like basketball coaching and many other positions, yearbook is a year round commitment and after a number of years you realize the number of other activities you are missing," said science teacher and former basketball coach Bob Berger.

"Nobody looks at sponsoring an extra-curricular activity as job. They do this because they enjoy it. That said, any sponsor puts tremendous time and energy into their activity. Swafford probably puts more than others. On numerous occasions I would come back to the building at 9:00 p.m. or later, and he would still be working on the yearbook. Over a period of years this will wear on the individual. Not that it isn't enjoyable, but maybe not as fresh and challenging as it was before," said social studies teacher, Dave Dunlap.

Swafford took over the yearbook after a year when the yearbook was on a downward spiral. Since then, the staff with his guidance has drastically improved the yearbook, winning the American Scholastic Press Association Award the past two years. This award is based on cover design, photography, writing, theme development, and overall design.

The contest judges are not the only ones who have noticed the work Swafford has put in to make the yearbook better.

"I think Swafford did an excellent job. He was in a difficult position and put his total self into the job. I don't believe that any of us appreciated all the time and effort Dale put into the yearbook. We are going to miss him and he will be hard

to replace," said Dunlap.

"I personally know Swafford spent many weekends at Riley. I know he put in enough time to do a good job," said Berger.

Despite these high opinions Swafford remains modest; insisting that it is the staff that makes a good yearbook if they want to produce a good yearbook.

"This year I had two different staffs. Every year he has had a different type of staff. The first year I was here the staff was really burnt out due to the previous yearbook. Last year nobody wanted to come in after school and on the weekends so they got the work done in class. Last year's staff sold more yearbooks than any other staff for the last ten years. Dedication is what we're really talking about. How good the yearbook is depends on the leadership within the group. I cannot recall a bad yearbook staff," said Swafford.

Swafford is glad that he took over the yearbook because it was such a great learning experience, made

him more deadline oriented, more aware of his writing skills, and taught him about computers and photojournalism.

There has been no decision on who will replace him. Swafford will continue to aid the new advisor for the next year until the new advisor gets his feet wet. He is trying to get his planning period the same period as the yearbook class so he can help out even more. When asked if he was going to be involved in the decision making process he replied, "no." He said he may be asked his opinion but will have no say in who replaces him.

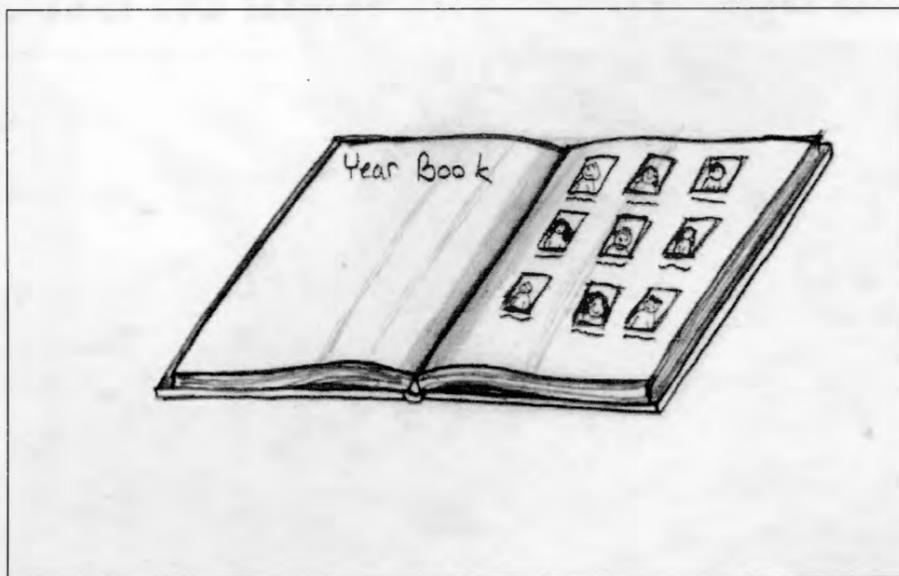
"They have enough to worry about hiring someone without me putting my two cents in," Swafford added.

"Technically it isn't necessary that Swafford has a say

in the decision making process. On the other hand, he is the one that knows best what the job entails and would be the best suited to determine if a person could do the job. Thus, the transition would be much smoother. Therefore, it would probably be prudent to include Swafford in the selection process," said Dunlap.

Berger agrees with Swafford, "No, once you leave a job you have cut off any impact you have in the program."

Since then the staff with his guidance has drastically improved the yearbook, winning the American Scholastic Press Association award the past two years.



Dennis Miller

Great job, well appreciated

Cameron Stouder
Staff Reporter

"Never was so much owed to so few, by so many," Winston Churchill made this statement to England during World War II. This is what should be said about the custodians at Riley High School.

Have you ever wondered about the custodians at Riley? What are their duties, what they like or dislike about their job? What adjustment will have to be made at the new building?

Students have no idea what goes on behind the scenes at our school. Students think that custodian jobs are easy. In fact their job is probably harder than what you learn in school every day.

They get to do all the dirty work and get no thanks in return.

Some students treat the custodians as slaves when in fact, it is the custodians that deserve all the credit for keeping this school in as good as shape as it is in.

Custodial jobs at Riley consist of knowing what every room needs and what rooms need special attention. They also have to know how to safely install lights and know how to deal with any type of emergencies. With only six custodians and two engineers on staff during the day, the nightshift is a key element to making sure the building is clean. They also have to dodge students going to class during the day and after-school activities at night.

For some custodians this is a challenge for others it is a pleasure.

"I like seeing the students and enjoy watching their after-school activities. I stay out of their way and they stay out of mine. So students don't bother me," said nightshift custodian Linda Ryback.

"My job is an organized process of knowing what rooms require what needs and do it in a timely matter. Making sure I did everything that everybody needs. Being ready for emergencies of student needs," Ryback continues.

Most custodians receive on-the-job training. They learn how to safely take care of what needs to be done, from changing a lightbulb to putting out small fires.

"I had to learn certain areas of the third floor that needed the most work, learn where the light switches were, as well as safety objects such as fire extinguishers. I also had to learn where the security system was and what the code was," said Ryback.

With the move to the new building coming soon custodians will also have to adjust to a new way of doing things.

"With everything being state of the art, I will have to learn new codes to the security system, the new locations of the exits and make sure they're secure. I will also have to know where all the phones are in case of an emergency, as well as the new boiler room in case of something being abnormal so it can be reported," said Ryback.

Some of the custodians have worked at other schools in the past and indicate that Riley is in the middle of their favorites to maintain. Others say that Riley is the best maintained school they have worked at, while others say it is near the bottom. They all agree though that it is the students who are the key item in how much they enjoy their job.

"Nothing at Riley upsets me. The students here have a great deal of spirit and are not afraid to be individuals. I truly love working with the students. It brings back memories of being a teenager," said Ryback.



Dennis Miller

Calvin to remain as the superintendent. "I think she has done a great job, and the fact that ISTEP results were lower than expected should not be blamed on her. She does not teach any classes, she has done a great job making the budget and improving school safety," said Jason McFarley, senior.

One issue which came up again and again, at the Board Meeting, was the fact that many members of the School Board were supported by the National Educators Association (NEA). The NEA does not support Virginia Calvin and would not like to extend her contract.

Many of the speakers seemed to be frustrated with the NEA supporting the board. "Whose side is the school board on, ours or the NEA," asked Johnson.

The school board members are not allowed to comment on anything having to do with Virginia Calvin's contract. "You have to ask Virginia Calvin to discuss her contract, she can sue us if we talk about it," said Ralph Pieniezkiwicz a board member.

Calvin was not present at meeting. She was out of town on a previous engagement. Calvin still has one year remaining on her contract. The issue will not be taken up until later this year. This issue is sure to spark debate for many school board meetings to come.

disorder or invasion of the rights of others," is not protected under the Constitution.

McCullough believes that Riley's dress code doesn't violate students First Amendment rights. In his opinion, there are two main reasons for Riley's dress standards.

One, to prevent gangs; two, to prevent disruptions.

"At some point, you have to send the message that this is a serious learning environment," said McCullough.

Editorial

Hall groups make moving hard

In Riley during the day, the halls are a congested mess of people hurrying to get to class, looking for something in their locker, just arriving, or standing in the hall and talking or wrestling around and acting like an idiot. It's the latter of these that is the subject of this editorial. This isn't just annoying, it's downright rude. Everybody likes to have conversations with their friends between classes, but talking doesn't mean that you have to stop and congregate and hold everybody else up.

Another thing that is common behavior in the halls is running around, shoving or acting like idiots. Many will recall doing this kind of thing in the lunch line regularly in elementary school, but by the time people get to high school it appears that they haven't matured a day since they still act like immature little elementary schoolers. Sure, it's fun to act goofy with friends once in a while, but at Riley it seems to have gotten excessive.

Students need to learn to respect each other and realize that they aren't the only people in the school.



Old photos contain memories

Jason McFarley
Editor-in-chief

The leather-bound photo album on the upper shelf of my mother's closet is old and dust-covered. Its finished, antique look seems strikingly out of place among her scattered knickknacks and cardboard-boxed belongings. Yet the album serves as the ideal storage chest for the precious treasures it conceals within: captured moments and feelings, all taken in a blaring instant in time and framed in my memory from there on.

A few quick puffs removes some of the dust from the album's surface, and I turn my head just as quickly to avoid a resulting sneeze from the debris. The leather, though cold and timeworn, is soft to the touch as I open to the first page of photographs.

"It's been a long time," I think to myself, referring to the last time I, or anyone else, for that matter, had leafed through the book. It certainly had been a long time, but the memory as to exactly how long escaped me.

I set the album down on Mom's bed, which, by its pristine condition, had obviously just been made. I was looking for something. Photo? Yes. Of importance? Certainly.

It was all the assurance I needed to rifle through the album's pages like the summer wind through the trees. I indeed knew where to turn, and when I arrived at my destination, it was like a homecoming from a Homeric odyssey. Laid out before me, as if waiting on the shoreline, there they were, my enduring fragments of personal value, my hopes for the future and means to the past, my universe, all displayed in magnificent images and sealed in the fragile existence of a pair of old photographs.

I peel back the sticky plastic sheet protector and remove the first photo. It's dated "1-10-89" with the inscription on the back: "Jason (6) and Justin (10 months)." I remember this as my favorite picture with my brother, although looking back now, it seems like the sort of obligatory shot taken of all children with their much younger siblings.

The photo is professionally done. The two of us are in a portrait studio, JC Penney or, perhaps, Sears. My mom frequented both stores back then. The backdrop is a library of various children's books, with titles like *The Cat in the Hat* and *Curious George* prominently featured amidst the other smaller lettered works. One book, though I cannot quite distinguish its title, is placed directly in front of Justin, who is propped up (rather uncomfortably, it appears) in a booster

seat. I with a big, toothy grin and all, am seated adjacent to him with index finger locked in his secure infant grip.

Even in a photo, Justin's inquisitive nature is evident, as his glance is never really fixed into the camera. But the symbolic beauty in this lies in the fact that he, with his little neck straining, is desperately trying to obtain a peak at the 10 year old beside him. At that moment, I'm sure, my little brother, in every respect of the word, looked up to me.

It is probably the same way in which I looked up, both literally and figuratively, to my mother in the second photograph.

This one, like the first, is also professionally done. Though it offers no date on the reverse side, I am certain that it was taken a year or so before Justin's birth. I would have been around five; my mom would have been, as she would put it, "old enough to be your mother."

As I reflect on the decade old, yet still glossy 5X7 photo, the background strikes me as dramatically out of place. Our Hawaiian flowered tops and bare legs are in stark contrast to the backdrop of rugged, snow-capped mountains as well as the surrounding evergreens, whose silhouettes, completely whitened, remind me of frosted Christmas cookies.

Mom is the one wearing the big smile in this photo. Perhaps, it's because



she knows that, sitting right beside her, is someone who idolizes her and loves her unconditionally; or because she has everything she needs in the world in the dark, shining eyes of a 5 year old. Her seemingly tight embrace around me lets me know that I, too, have everything I need.

The thought is almost enough to make me cry; reminiscing, I suppose, is bittersweet.

I replace the photos back beneath their protective sheet in the album. As I do so, I cannot help but wonder if Mom and Justin ever feel the urge to look through these old pictures. Do these fading

Continued on page 8

The Review

Editors-in-chief
Jason Mcfarley
Diana Szymanski
Steve Wiltfong

News Editors
Jason Mcfarley
Ajaz Chaudhry

Viewpoints Editor
Bruce Duncanson

Centerspread Editors
David Gustafson
Marcus King

Sports Editors
Gretchen Lemmer
Steve Wiltfong

Diverse Ideas Editor
Steve Wiltfong

Eye Candy Editor
Diana Szymanski

Photo Editor
Bryan Proven

Head Artist
Dennis Miller

Business Editors
Desiree Boulds
Yolanda Burton
Beth Marshall

Lab Technicians
David Gustafson
Zach Hohulin

Staff Reporters
Chris Henry
Katie Grembokowicz
Jeff Skarski
Jeremy Wade

Advisor
Robert Smith

Printing
Frank Moriconi

The Review is published by the publications staff at Riley High School, 405 East Ewing, South Bend, IN 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 and 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, subject to editing, from any guest reporter. We also accept advertising from area merchants and corporations. The print of this publication is done by Frank Moriconi and his graphics art class at Lasalle High School.

Two-faced people aren't true friends

Jeremy Wade
Senior Staff Reporter

What do you hate more than a two faced person? You know, a person with one personality around you and a totally different personality at any other given time is two-faced.

A two faced person is cool around you and a total jerk around others. They have many names: phony, fake, counterfeit, shady. They really tick you off because they're either cool around you and a jerk elsewhere, or they smile to your face and then talk about you behind your back. Two faced people are nice when it's just the two of you, lulling you into a false sense of friendship. Out of nowhere, they totally snap and start to turn on you.

Two faced people are especially bad if they are one of your friends. When you really value a person as a friend you

usually trust them and are comfortable around them. With a two faced person you never know when they will be themselves or their evil alter ego. Worse yet, after they have ticked you off they try again to be your buddy. With one as a friend you go through constant cycles of love and hate.

Here is a worse case scenario: you are in class with one your friends. You talk, screw around, laugh... you know "friends stuff." The bell rings and it is time to go to lunch. At lunch your friend's other buddies come around. Now every joke you tell your friend he busts you out on in front of everyone and he won't talk to you. The next day in class there is your friend again, until lunch that is. Get the picture?

What can you do to avoid having to deal with mild mannered Bruce Banner turning into the Incredible Hulk? Here are some tips to recognize these people:

- ✓ If a person is overly nice around you and you hear that they really don't like you very much.
- ✓ If a person suddenly seems to find you annoying when around other people.
- ✓ If someone you know becomes obnoxious or snooty when around other people.
- ✓ If a person talks about one of your friends to you.
- ✓ If you overhear someone, make fun of someone else, and then smile to their face.



Feature

Classroom management...

Teachers find new ways to motivate students

Shannon Howell
Staff Reporter

Classroom management styles vary from one teacher to the next. Classroom management is a complex set of behaviors that a teacher uses to establish and maintain a classroom environment that enables students to learn effectively.

It may be the most fundamental, and the most difficult task that teachers perform.

Dave Dunlap, a psychology and economics teacher, explains, "Any good teacher teaches to his strengths. There's not a universal or generic way to teach."

Dunlap indicates that his management styles may differ based on the composition of his class.

"I notice when underclassmen are in an upperclassmen class they tend to be a little hesitant when answering questions. I will catch them looking around wondering what the other students are thinking about.

Dunlap considers himself to be an assertive and instructional teacher. He feels that the role of the teacher is to be responsible for controlling student behavior in class.

"The way teachers see themselves and the students see themselves is often different," said Dunlap.

On the other hand, Jaki Vanderweide, an English teacher views her classroom management technique as an intimidator, permissive, and a cookbook teacher.

The intimidation approach views the role of the teacher as one in which the teacher forces students to behave according to the teacher's directions; the permissive approach stresses the need to maximize student freedom; the cookbook approach is a reactive approach directed to specific problems and uses short-range solutions.

Vanderweide calls this her style of classroom management, indicating that, "kids won't talk to me the first month of class." She also says she's sometimes sarcastic and gives empty threats.

For example, "I'm going to take you to the top of a building and throw you off if you don't behave." When responding to this statement students laugh but, it makes a point, she says. It gets the students' attention. She also calls herself permissive because she ignores a lot of

comments that students make.

She explains, "acknowledging rude comments makes more disruption than just letting it go. Giving hugs, goes a lot farther."

Vanderweide feels she is a cookbook teacher, stating, "That there is a new recipe of classroom management on every page, if one doesn't work try something else."

Mr. Morgan, a biology teacher, indicated that his method of classroom management is a three prong approach characterized by the instructional, socioemotional, and group process.

The instructional approach argues that effective management is the result of high quality instructional planning; the socioemotional approach builds on the assumption that effective classroom management and effective instruction is the largely a function

of positive teacher-student relationships; the group process suggests that schooling takes place within a context the classroom group and that this group is a social system with the characteristics of other social systems. He said he does a lot of mixing but he leans toward Socioemotional.

Morgan said, "that he does a lot more lab projects than other types of instruction. It helps students to understand better.

"When students talk to students learning is easier

than when teachers talk to students."

He commented, "that motivation is internal."

"I can't motivate students; students have to make the decision that motivation is important.

Assistant principal, Mrs. Horban, uses the behavior modification management approach because she has to take into consideration the different students and their maturity level. The four major behaviors Horban has to consider in dealing with her students are positive reinforcement, punishment, negative reinforcement and extinction. Horban states that discipline is part of teaching and educating. She doesn't give students what punishment they may be looking forward to receive. For example, if a student comes into her office and says, "I've done wrong give me the punishment of suspension so I can leave." Horban will elect to implement another form of punishment.

She says, "that is what the student wants to have done. Instead of eliminating the behavior, I am reinforcing the negative behavior if I suspend she or he.

"The way to reinforce good behavior is not always with material things," says Horban.

Through the use of positive reinforcement approaches, for example, praise, encouragement, and "thumbs up," students' self-esteem is promoted. By interacting with students on an adult to adult basis, increased respect is given and received.

"I know the skill of effective discipline is mastered when a student is leaving my office after I have given punishment says, "thank you." When this happens, I feel that I have gained a friend, and not an enemy.

Effective classroom management is achieved when teachers and students establish positive interpersonal relationships within a pluralistic approach to classroom management.



Dennis Miller

Getting creative with clay

...Riley students discover ceramics

Gena Verielynck
Staff Reporter

The ceramics class at Riley is more than just art class. It is a class that allows students to experience building things with their hands. The ceramics class at Riley is made possible by book fees and vending machine revenues.

Mike Rozewicz is the teacher of the class, which is located on the first floor, and when you first take it you should ask for Ceramics 1 and 2. Rozewicz has been teaching the class for 23 years. There are three classes offered at Riley and 22 students attend each of the classes. In the class the students are taught hand building methods, coil, slab, mold, and sculpture.

According to Rozewicz, "Concentration is the most important thing."

It is also possible that some students' pieces could be sent to art shows. Most of the entries are sculpture and pottery pieces.

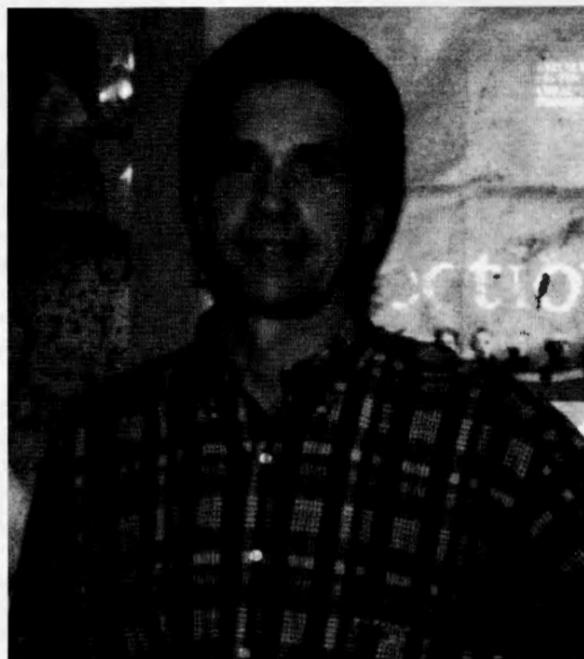
Rozewicz said he tries to coach his students by pointing out good things, never criticizing, but pointing out things that need to be concentrated on more. Rozewicz has taught art and ceramics classes both. The only difference between the two is that art is two dimensional, and ceramics is three dimensional.

Sophomore Katie Couture, a first-year student in the class, stated she took the class because her older siblings did.

Couture also said, "I took the class because you can work at your own pace, and you can talk to your classmates." Couture said the hardest thing for her to grasp

was the idea of rolling a coil for her first pot.

To make a standard clay pot, it takes two to four weeks; this includes ideas, making, firing, drying, and



Mike Rozewicz
Courtesy of yearbook

"Our class in general needs more recognition, so that the other students and faculty can see what talent some of these students possess."

glazing or staining. Rozewicz and Couture both stated they were looking forward to the new school, because the art class was going to have pottery wheels. Rozewicz said, "Riley is the only South Bend School without them."

Junior Brooke Hammer, a former ceramics student who is now an art student, said she found ceramics a lot more challenging than art. Hammer said her worst problem or experience was that she could never get anything to come out even, no matter how hard she tried.

Dee Bybee a 15 year ceramics hobbyist said, "I consider ceramics to be a very enjoyable and relaxing kind of art." Bybee works on her projects only one day a week. So, instead of a standard pot taking her two to four weeks, they usually take her 10 to 12 weeks. Most of the tools that Bybee uses are the same as the ones students use at Riley. Some of these tools include clay knives, spoles, sponges, and paint brushes.

"Our class in general needs more recognition, so that the other students and faculty can see what talent some of these students possess," said Rozewicz.

News Analysis

Students prepare to leave behind a legacy

Tara Stokes
Staff Reporter

Imagine having to pack up all the belongings in your house and moving them right next door. Seems kind of dumb, right? That's exactly what Riley High School is preparing for. When the new school is complete and the school year is over, everything will be boxed up and sent next door. It may not seem like such a big deal, but it's a huge job.

James Jasiewicz, Director of Buildings and Grounds for the South Bend Community School Corporation, is in charge of the Riley move. He was also in charge of the Muessel move last Christmas. Jasiewicz estimates that it will take anywhere from six eight weeks to move everything out.

"Moving Riley will be similar to moving Muessel, but the process will be bigger and it will take longer. This is not a job that can be done in one day, but will be completed over the course of weeks."

No particular moving company has been chosen for the job, but Jasiewicz has a couple custodians he wants to check out. The custodians from Riley are not going to be helping out in the move. They will just make sure the new Riley is clean when all the furniture arrives. Although movers will make sure school property is delivered next door, teachers will be responsible for their belongings. Jasiewicz is also busy looking for contractors to move all the heavy machinery.

Each room will be a task to pack, but it is the teachers responsibility to make sure everything is packed and ready to go. While certain teachers only have books to pack up, others like the biology teachers, have test tubes,

microscopes, and important lab experiments.

The library will be one of the most difficult to pack up. With thousands of books and magazines, the librarians will be receiving help with the packing. According to librarian, Shirley Jenkins, she has not begun to pack, because the library is still in use. College students and hired help will be brought in to assist them. They're not sure how everything will be packed, but they have a few plans in mind. Luckily, all the old furniture will be sold by the corporation. SBCSC has purchased new unit tables and chairs. The library in the new building will also be furnished with lounging chairs for reading.

The movers do not have to worry about shipping the computers over to the new Riley. Only programs will be sent over to the new building. The school is buying new state of the art Macintosh computers for the labs and classrooms. The old computers will be filtered out to local elementary and middle schools.

Along with a new school, Riley High School students are also receiving new furniture.

"We have spent \$60,084,744.01 total on new furniture," said Judy Tovvy who works for SBCSC.

So far, Riley has purchased the new student and teachers desks. Soon SBCSC will purchase lecterns, cafeteria tables, computer tables, chairs, work stations for teachers, lateral files, activity table, and the list goes on.

Without a doubt, both the old and new furniture will be transported safely to the new Riley. Jasiewicz, who has moved a school before, assures it. ■

OPINION

New baseball field unsuitable

Chris Henry
Senior Staff Writer

When described as one of the top sports programs at Riley as of the past couple decades, Riley baseball comes to mind. Indeed Riley has had a very strong team in past years winning 20+ games in most of the seasons.

The team has supported itself and many of it's needs by various fundraisers including the bowl-athon, and the famous "smoker". The team, along with the grounds keepers have kept the current varsity playing field at Jackson in excellent condition by raking the infield, mound, home plate, sweeping the dugouts, and sometimes mowing the infield. So all in all, the current playing field at Jackson is a great playing field. When I heard that they had built a new field at Riley, I had to go and check it out for myself.

I wandered my way over to the new Riley to see a pretty good looking dugouts, infield, and even saw the professional foulpoles. But then I looked at the outfield. It wasn't level. It wasn't even close. The outfield ground looked like the top of the Joyce ACC. If the rightfielder had to go and try to catch a ball in right center, he would have to run uphill to get to the ball.

Another situation that disturbs me is if an outfielder had to dive to make a catch in left, center, rightfield, the umpire would have no idea if he caught the ball or not. I talked to the varsity baseball coach, Ed Faulhaber. He said, "The field is not in playing condition, and I hope it will be fixed."

If there was a player standing in left field, he would not be able to see a baseball or even a softball sitting in rightfield due to the crown on our field. "I would have rather have a complete field without a crown on it, than a field with professional foulpoles," said junior Steve Fielder.

It is sad to know that the Riley Baseball team might have to play a season on a field suited for Youth Group slow pitch softball. I talked to James Jasiewicz, the director of Buildings and Grounds for South Bend. He is the one who looks over the development of the new baseball field at Riley.

He said the reason that the new field has a crown on it is because the field has to have a drainage system on it, because there is a creek that runs under the field and if the field was flat, then the field would always be wet and be hard to play on. Jasiewicz said, "The field has the correct grade for a field that lies on top of a flood plain," said Jasiewicz.

He also said that Rockford High School in Michigan has the exact same field as Riley does and they have been playing on it for years. "I think that the team would rather have a field with a lesser grade, than this sorry excuse," said junior Justin Elmerick. Since the field does not pass the inspection of the coaches, the team will continue to play on the perfectly fine facility over at Jackson. This is a problem that I hope will be fixed before the season gets underway. ■

James Whitcomb Riley High School



South Bend
Community
School
Corporation

URS Greiner
Architects, Engineers
Program Manager

Malkows
Futcher
Anella, Inc.

Salba Construction
General Construction
Shawsh, Concrete
& Masonry

Interstate Welding and
Fabrication, Inc. -
Structural Steel

Shenbrot & Sons
Tree Protection

Practitioner Controls
Controls

Tran Tech Electric
Electrical

D.J. Steinhilber
Pumping

Stella Roofing
Roofing

Sales, Inc. -
HVAC

Bookstore gets new home

Scott Parker
Staff Reporter

As the move to the new school approaches, students wonder what will become of the school bookstore on the first floor. To find out what was going to happen I went to interview Mrs. Peggy Prikosovich and her co-worker Mrs. Kathy Johnson. What I found out was very surprising.

The name and format of the bookstore will be changed after the move. All of the Riley apparel and paraphernalia will be moved up to the brand new schoolstore to make more room for paperwork.

The name has been changed too, it will now be a smaller office called the accounting office. The bookstore has slowly been moving this way more and more.

The school decided that more attention needed to be focused on the accounts and purchases of the school with more of an emphasis on business matters. Accounting will handle all of the extra curricular activity purchases and

accounts, along with textbook purchases and school accounts. At the new school it will be located on the first floor near the main entrance area.

Prikosovich and Johnson feel that the change is for the better so more attention can be focused on one activity. They have both been working in the bookstore for the past four years, but Prikosovich has been working at Riley for the past seven years.

Johnson hails from Michigan and Prikosovich is from South Bend. Both have kids who have graduated from Riley. Johnson has two daughters that are graduates and another two that are still in Riley while Prikosovich has one graduate of Riley with two coming next year. When asked why they worked here Johnson said, "We both like to work here because we like to work with kids in high school." ■



Sports

Riley High School / 405 East Ewing

Issue 5, Volume 30 / March, 1999

Baseball team starts the rebuilding process *Strong pitching could be the key for the cats'*

Steve Wittfong
Editor in Chief

The Riley baseball team will be fighting an uphill battle towards success. Graduation is the program's worst enemy. Nine lettermen and six starters are gone due to eligibility. A lot of young players will be suiting up and seeing substantial playing time this season.

Coach Ed Faulhaber understands what to expect from his young team.

"This is going to be a challenging year for us," explained Faulhaber. "There could be some growing pains with six new starters. If the underclassmen mature quickly and the seven returning lettermen step it up a notch it could be an exciting year.

The pitching staff returns four of their top five pitchers from the season before. Senior Garrett Ginter is

coming off a great season. Last season he had a record five wins and one loss with an Earned Run Average (ERA) of 1.54. Senior Jared Chrzanowski who was seven and one last season with several wins coming from the bullpen is another strong arm on the staff. Seniors David St Clair and A.D. Stackhouse are hard throwers who can get people out.

"I am excited with the way are pitching staff looks. I think that we can win a lot of games this year on pitching alone," said St Clair.

Ginter and St Clair are the aces of the staff. Stackhouse and Chrzanowski will see a lot of innings. Two new pitchers that could see substantial innings are senior Pat Ruth and sophomore Mike Golichowski.

"Ruth and Golichowski will provide important relief and spot starts," commented Faulhaber.

The offense for the Cats' this season is a mystery. Senior Reid Platt was second on the team last year in runs batted in with 23. He also homered five times. St Clair has the potential to put up some great numbers.

According to Faulhaber Ginter needs to step up on his .277 batting average from last season.

"Platt, Ginter, and St Clair will be the heart of the order. Our problem is who will protect them in the order and who will be key one and two hitters in the lineup," said Faulhaber.

Behind the plate the Cats are solid. Junior Justin Elmerick will probably get the starting nod and sophomore Eric Moore is a good backup.

There is a lot of team competition. Sophomores Chris Horvath, Brent Lootens, Reggie Swanson, Tom Coughlin, and Josh Wiand are all fighting for innings. Juniors Chris Henry and Chad Nichols are also pushing for some playing time.

"There are some

many good ball players this year it will be tough to get innings," stated Henry.

The Wildcats have a tough schedule this season. Games against state champ Penn and Ft Wayne Snider. The Cat's will also come across some good teams at the Caramel tourney. Six teams on the schedule are state ranked.

The team is in a very competitive sectional. Other than Penn teams like Adams and Clay are no walk in the park. LaSalle has improved and also could be a tough team.

"Even though are sectional is tough, I still think that we can win the sectional," replied St Clair.

What kind of goals has the team set for the season.

"Our goal is to win twenty games, be NIC champs and be tourney champs. The big question is can we do it," said Faulhaber.



Bryan Proven

LETS HAVE A CATCH/ The boys baseball team loosens up their arms before a practice at Jackson. The team has the majority of their practices and plays their games here.



Bryan Proven

SACRIFICE ATTEMPT\ Senior Garret Ginter is instructed on laying down a bunt by Coach Faulhaber.

Golf team goes after consecutive sectional championships and more

Steve Wittfong
Editor in Chief

Repeating a championship in any sport is tough to do. Every team is gunning for you and giving their best shot. Trying to repeat as sectional champs is going to be a tough chore for the Wildcat golf team.

Coach Chris Jurkaites enters his third season at the helm of the Cats golf team. He is optimistic about the Wildcats repeating as sectional champs and being

contenders for the Northern Indiana Conference (NIC) crown.

"I expect us to win the sectional again, and if we don't finish in the top two in the conference I will be disappointed," stated Jurkaites.

The team will tee it up this year with an outstanding lineup. The team returns its whole varsity from the season before. The duo of reigning conference Most Valuable Player sophomore K. C. Wiseman and all conference selection Mike

Pryzgoda give the Cats a strong one two punch. Behind them will be a strong threesome consisting of seniors Jesse Ault, Tyler Back, and Ryan Bensley. Other impact players could be sophomores Chris Plank, Brett Bensley, and freshmen Chris Becker, and Drew Albright.

"With the quality players we have, I am confident we will have a season," said Wiseman.

At a typical practice the golfers will play a nine to eighteen holes. Then they will work on there short game, putting, and ballstriking. Practice a mininum of two hours, but for the dedicated golfer practice could last five hours.

The NIC will be a tough conference to win this season. Clay, Penn, and Elkhart Central are going to be formidable foes for the team.

"We need to play are best golf in these matches if we hope to compete for the conference title," explained Back. "One bad day and we can find

ourselves finishing in second place."

The sectional could be harder to win then the conference. The field is stacked with many good teams. Along with Clay, Penn, and Elkhart Central, there is Marian. Marian also proves to be a tough opponent.

"To win the sectional we all just have to play to our capabilities," said Wiseman.

The goal for the team is to win the sectional get out of the regional and play in the state championships. Wiseman, Pryzgoda, and Ault are all expected to make waves at the state meet. This is a team that has the potential to compete with any team in the state.

Returning all the varsity members from a team that won sectional title you can't help but wonder how far this team could go," Wiseman stated.

For the seniors on the team winning is everything at the end. One slip up and the season is over quickly.

"If this season ends

before the state meet I will undoubtedly be upset. All the hard work done over the years will be gone," commented Back.

After this season the golf program does not go downhill at all. Wiseman, Pryzgoda, Plank, Becker, Bensley, and

Albright will keep the program on the winning side of things.

"We have a lot of good young golfers in our program that will keep putting wins and titles in the record books for Riley," ended Jurkaites.



Bryan Proven

FOUR!/ Sophomore Mike Pryzgoda tags the ball off the tee at an early season golf practice.

Early Season Golf Schedule

4/13 Wawasee

4/20 Plymouth

4/22 Penn/Mishawaka

4/23 Kaeppler

Girls' softball ready for upcoming season

Gretchen Lemmer
Sports Editor

The beginning of what is predicted to be an exciting season for the girls' softball team started with tryouts on March 1 and 2. The team is preparing for the first game of the season which is a double header against Wawasee over spring break.

"We've been conditioning since the beginning of February, and I think that we look like we're in pretty good shape. We have been working hard and it appears that we have a strong team this year. By the time the Wawasee game comes, I'm sure that the team will be ready to claim our first victory," said captain Adria Phillips.

The team started conditioning on February 1, and has been preparing for the upcoming 24-game season, according to head

coach Mike Megese.

"We condition by running both for speed and distance. We also include agility drills to work on coordination and foot speed as well as strength training," said Megese.

Returning players and hopeful incoming freshmen show good signs of uniting as a team and playing compatibly, according to captains, Phillips Kelly Carson, and Emily Hollister. Senior Stacy Culp is the 'Cats' returning pitcher and senior Carson, who was the conference's leading hitter, plays third base and catcher. Juniors Beth Lesar, Adria Phillips, and Kristy Andert are coming back as starters and display good leadership on the field. Sophomore Lisa Cowper is also a returning starter.

"Because we are all used to playing together our line-up looks really good this year. Almost everyone on the team, including the freshmen, played summer ball together. The fact that we're all comfortable with each other on and off the field, playing as a team comes naturally and that makes winning easy," said Phillips.

With last year's record of 10-16, Megese is looking for the team to reduce errors in the field and increase hitting throughout the entire lineup.

"Last year our defense was young in the infield as well as the outfield; we hope to use their experience this year. We are also looking to increase our wins from last season. We were in every game, now we just need to turn the tables and pull out wins," said Megese.

taken upon them.

"We play some tough teams, but we are just as competitive, if not more. We're contenders for the Northern Indiana Conference (NIC), and we should have a good showing at sectional which will hopefully lead us to go far into State competition," commented Phillips.

Other tough teams that are not in the 'Cats' conference include Merrillville who won state in 1997, Valparaiso, and Wawasee.

"I think we might surprise a lot of people. Considering that we lost four of our starting players from last year, all of whom played important positions, a lot of other teams aren't expecting us to do well this year. We have a young team, but the freshmen and all the underclassmen have really stepped up and are showing a lot of potential. I think we're definitely going to catch our competition off guard," said Carson.

With the hard conditioning that the team has been doing for over a month they appear to be ready to play and even more ready to win. From the performance that the 'Cats' have been displaying, the entire season is looking bright, according to Megese. The goal of ending the season with a winning record is appearing to approach closer and closer into Riley's reach. ■



BRYAN PROVEN

WATCHING/ Juniors Kristy Andert, Adria Phillips, Lindsey Frushour, and Rachele Chapman closing watch their coach show them good playing tactics.

Although there is tough competition in city as well as outside the area, the team believes that their hard work and focus will pay off when the season begins. Rivals such as Penn, Marian, and Mishawaka will be looked at to have revenge

Jock Talk



Name
Marrio Harris
Sport
Track
Year
Senior

What three words best describe your playing style?

Determination, success, commitment

Who is your sports hero?

Michael Johnson

What is the best part about being an athlete?

Being successful at everything I do.

What is the worst part about being an athlete?

Having a lazy team.

If you could watch any athlete perform who would it be?

Michael Johnson

What is your proudest moment as an athlete?

Being named 2nd Team All Conference my sophomore year in the 200 M, and being team captain my senior year.

Girls' tennis prepares to hit the courts

Marcus King
Senior Staff Reporter

Over the years, the Riley girls' tennis teams have a tradition to be a very competitive and dangerous team to compete against. This year the girls hope that this particular tradition will continue.

During the 1998 campaign, the Lady Wildcats finished their season with an overall record of 7-9. They showed their best performances in the Northern Indiana Conference matches, compiling a conference record of 5-3. Some of these victories included triumphs over rivals Mishawaka, Adams, and LaSalle.

"We hope to always improve on the preceding year's results, and I have been pleased with the self motivating attitude to enhance their skill level during the offseason," said veteran coach KaRon Kirkland.

This season the team is led by senior captains Sally Skodinski and Katrina Roach. Last year, Skodinski and Whitney Dueringer, a 1998 graduate, received first team honors playing doubles among the NIC's elite. The two were also recipients of All-State honors in 1997.

So far, it looks as though Skodinski and Roach will be playing singles this year. Freshman Ashley Dueringer will also be playing a singles position this season. The doubles teams are led by juniors Alicia Brazell and Jessica Hudak, and sophomores Sandy Archer, Laura Obenchain, Lindsay Manley, and Jessica Schreiber, as well as the addition of senior Erin Miller.

"We're going to have to depend on our senior leadership to have a successful year," stated Kirkland. "I think the singles players are well seasoned, and the doubles teams will improve greatly with some experience."

Kirkland has quite a few students out for the team. He has many new faces, especially with the addition of eleven freshmen.

"I appreciate seeing all these girls showing an interest for the game. I know that the Riley tradition of excellence will continue for a long time to come if we keep getting turnouts like this year. These beginners will be polished veterans by the time they leave Riley," boasted Kirkland.

The team has their sights set on key NIC matchups, hoping to be a strong contender in the conference.

"We have a positive outlook. When we gain more confidence, we hope to end the season among the top three teams in the NIC," said Roach.

A few of last year's defeats looking to be avenged in the upcoming season include heartbreaking losses to Culver and Clay. The girls will face up against Culver on May 3, and May 13. Other important dates for the team are Goshen on April 13, and back-to-back homestands with St. Joe and Penn on April 26 and 27.

When asked about the upcoming season, Skodinski said, "We as a team need to stay focused and go into every match as a big match. The team has lots of potential and can achieve great things if we concentrate."

Coach Kirkland is anticipating the upcoming season. He gave this statement about the trail ahead:

"Although we have an excellent cast of returning letter winners, virtually everyone will be at new positions. I'm confident in believing that we will finish in the upper echelon of the conference. This is my tenth season on the south side, and it seems that each season is better than the last because each team is different. I am eager to see these girls establish their own identity." ■



BRYAN PROVEN

Volley/ Freshman Ashley Dueringer sprints to meet and return a ball at practice.



Name
Beth Lesar
Sport
Softball
Year
Junior

What are three words that best describe your playing style?

Aggressive, determined, wild

Who is your sports hero?

Kiley Mahoney

What is the best part about being an athlete?

The friends you make: Rachele, Lyndsey, Kristy, Adria, and me (A.K.A The Jammin' Juniors).

What is the worst part about being an athlete.

Losing.

If you could watch any athlete perform who would it be?

Violet Chapman or Shoeless Joe Jackson

What is your proudest moment as an athlete?

Scoring the winning run in the 9th inning in the first round of sectionals.

Diverse Ideas

Riley High School / 405 East Ewing

Issue 5, Volume 30 / March 1999

Racism rears its ugly head yet again

Bruce Duncanson
Viewpoints Editor

Racism once again reared its ugly head in America last summer when James Byrd Jr. was dragged behind a pickup truck until death by three members of a white supremacist group.

This is just another incident in a saga of shame that, sadly, is taking place all over America, not just in Jasper, Texas. People are quick to point fingers at places like Jasper and call it a community that harbors racism, but they are just deceiving themselves. This type of hatred is most likely going on right under their noses. The only way to help combat racism is uniting and saying that bigotry won't be tolerated any more.

Although white supremacist groups may not make themselves quite as visible in this area as in Jasper Texas, they are around. They marched in Elkhart last year and have tried to make themselves more visible. When this happens, the community needs to stand up and voice their opposition. If people sit back and do nothing and pretend that these people don't exist, then there's nothing that can stop them from gaining more power. I hope that it doesn't take an incident like what happened in Jasper to take place somewhere in this area before people finally realize that there's a problem and start to do something about it.

A common misconception is that racism can only come from white people. This is completely untrue, racism and stereotyping can come from Mexicans, African Americans, Asians, and any other race under the sun. Whatever race hatred and prejudice may be coming from, it's always the same thing. Hatred is hatred and it needs to be stopped by people of all races learning how to live with and accept each other's differences. I think

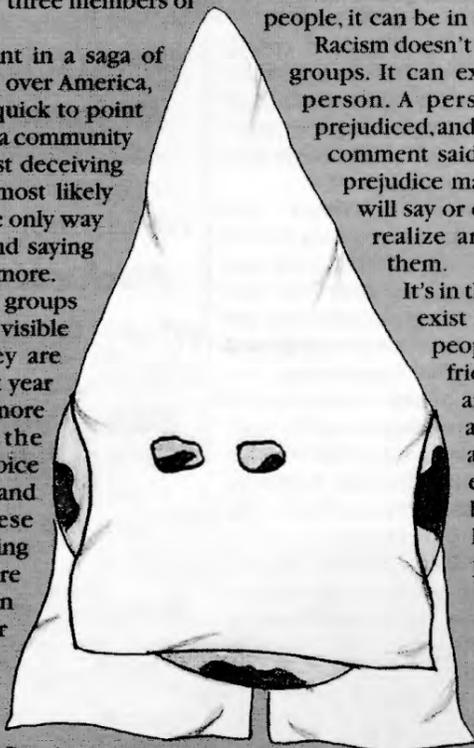
that if the incident in Jasper shows us anything, it's that people can learn from their mistakes and use their resources and efforts to further improve race relations in their community. This can only be done by realizing the fact that racism doesn't just exist in white people or black people, it can be in any race towards any race.

Racism doesn't just exist with white supremacist groups. It can exist in even the most common person. A person can be racist, or at least prejudiced, and not even really realize it. A casual comment said without thinking or a person's prejudice may be so deeply-rooted that they will say or do things that they may not even realize are racist, unless someone tells them.

It's in this way that racism and prejudice exist right under our noses. Too often people don't even realize when their friends or even their own parents are prejudiced against a person of another race. If they've been around this type of thinking long enough, then they can become blind and numb to it. Hatred just keeps going on, inadvertently passed down from parent to child and then on again.

I think that the people of Jasper have learned a valuable lesson from the death of James Byrd Jr. They decided to better unite the races and unite the community against a common enemy, bigotry. Still, it's sad that it took someone's life before people finally started to do something about the racist threat in their community. Racism needs to be

combated on all levels, in all communities, and in all races. Not just in Jasper, but everywhere.



The World Is Still Masked With Racism.

Talk shows; The worst thing on TV

Beth Marshall
Staff Reporter

For most people watching TV talk shows is entertaining. For me, Ricki Lake is the most frustrating woman on the planet. In all my sixteen years of life I have only found a few things that leave me as confused and baffled as television talk shows.

It seems that talk shows have been in existence just about as long as television itself. Yet with all the discoveries and inventions from the past to the present, no one has been able to decipher their purpose. The way I see it there are three types of talk shows. First, the stupid, like Montel Williams; second, the mind-numbingly stupid, Jerry Springer; and third, the kind that think they're helping when all they're really doing is boring their viewers and embarrassing their guests, Leeza and Oprah, for example.

The one thing about talk shows that frustrates me the most is the fact that they try to take on more than they can handle. It's not possible for anyone to reform a cheating spouse or a school bully in the course of one hour. Another upsetting fact about talk shows is that, despite their claims to the contrary, they seem to be more concerned with violence and ratings than with helping people solve their "problems." The staged fights and outrageous topics have crossed the line into the world of fiction. The small percentage of guests that come to the show with actually problems end up leaving in worse shape than when they arrived.

Maybe it would be possible for the talk show industry to repair its reputation if they began to take on more real, everyday issues. I want to see Oprah talk about something I can relate to, something that directly influences my life. It's hard for me to believe that the women on Maury Povich last week really had a lesbian boyfriend that crossed-dressed and wore a size 36 EEE bra. It's even harder for me to believe that guests like these aren't being paid for their freakish testimonials. I can state with great confidence that 90 percent of talk show guests wouldn't be able to pass a lie detector test.

I guess I just don't understand why someone would agree to go on television and subject themselves to a studio audience of fiercely opinionated strangers and millions of home TV viewers. Why do people feel obligated to "air their dirty laundry" in front of the entire nation? I wouldn't want the entire world to know if I were having an affair with an 80 year old married man, and I don't want to know about others who are either.

I swear that I've seen the same women on five different talk shows in the same week. Monday, on Ricki, she was a man; Tuesday, on Jerry, she was married to a Klan member; Wednesday, on Oprah, her marriage was falling apart; Thursday, on Montel, she was dating her parrot; and Friday, on Jenny her husband/parrot, informed her that she was dressed way too slutty and was in dire need of a makeover.

Don't get me wrong, I'm not totally against talk shows. I just believe that everything has its place and its purpose. In my opinion, talk shows are meant to be lighthearted fun, nothing more. They shouldn't claim to fix broken homes or reunite long lost loves. Why promise something that you can't deliver? Talk show writers and hosts must see their television viewing public as morons who will believe whatever they put on our screen, no matter how unbelievable.

It disgusts me to see talk show hosts stand in front of a camera with a microphone and report on their guests as if they were prominent world leaders. Talk show hosts try to make their viewers believe that their topics are as serious as the ones presented by Sam Donaldson on the evening news. It seems that after awhile many people begin to see talk shows as a substitute for the evening news. Trouble starts when we take these shows too seriously. A good example of this is the Jenny Jones guest who murdered a fellow guest after they appeared together on a show about gay crushes a few years ago.

The saddest part about talk shows is that some people feel the need to believe them. There's a sick mentality in this country that you can validate yourself and your life by finding someone who is worse off than you. You have to admit that your life looks pretty good when your girlfriend isn't leaving you for your stepdad or your cat.

There's nothing wrong with finding entertainment in these fictional shows. We just have to remember that they're only fiction.

Old people cause more road rage than teenagers

Dennis Miller
Head Artist

Most people are worried about teenagers driving on the roads, but there is a worse threat out on the roads, which are elderly people.

The things they do on the road are incredibly dangerous. First they drive too slow causing traffic jams and road rage because people get extremely frustrated following them.

When elderly people drive they think they are the only ones on the road so they weave all over the road. They drive huge boats that they can't park or maneuver on the road and in parking lots.

It used to be that once elderly got to a certain age they had to take a drivers test every two years, to make sure they are competent to drive.

But now, all they have to do when it is time for them to renew their license is take an eye exam and pay \$8.00 to receive a license.

The state government needs to come up with a better idea because as you get older your reaction time slows so the elderly can't react to changing road conditions or avoid hitting people because they can't move fast enough.

Their hearing is going. They are unable to hear sirens or people's horns to warn them of danger.

They could have medical problems. Like a seizure, stroke, or a heart attack while driving and cause a terrible accident. An old man in his huge boat of a car could have heart failure while driving and ram his big boat into some innocent person's car. By giving the elderly their licenses the government makes the old people happy so government officials can win votes.

The new thing that the news wants us to worry about is road rage.

Nobody causes more road rage than old people driving. How many people get mad when they are stuck behind an old person going two miles an hour? How many times has one pulled out in front of you or weaved into you when they were trying to switch lanes? I don't know how many choice words I have said when stuck behind an old person going ten miles below the speed limit.

The best way to prevent unsafe drivers from being on the road is to make them take a mandatory driving test. Giving elderly people a license is not the answer to making our roads safe.

Continued from pg 3

memories mean something only to me? I hope not. But if so, then that would be all the better; the memories would be truly mine.

On tiptoe, I lay the album back on Mom's shelf and then straighten the cover on her bed, smoothing out the indentation from where I had been sitting. The chance to reflect has been nice, I think as I flip Mom's light switch off and exit her room, leaving the door slightly ajar behind me. I would be back soon. In there, up there, under some old leather and a little plastic, summed up in just two photos, was enough emotion and meaning to last a lifetime.

Regardless of the pictures' conditions, that was beautiful in itself.

