

The Review

James Whitcomb Riley High School
405 E. Ewing South Bend, IN
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NEWS Briefs

ATTENDANCE

A new attendance policy was instated on January 24. This policy allows three absences per semester regardless of reason.

If a student misses more than the three allowed days, he or she must make them up after school or have them excused by the waiver committee.

HOMEcoming

The following boys made the homecoming court; Brian Cherry, Daryl Smith, Steve Wiltfong, Leonard Swedarsky, Dwight Fulce, Marcus King, Justin Elmerick, and Bobby Waite.

The winner was announced during the half time of the Elkhart central game, held on February 4.

Music

Riley band and orchestra members participated in the annual ISSMA Solo and Ensemble competition at Penn High School on January 29.

The following students qualified for state competition; LaMont Barlow, Jeremy Sexton, Erin Beutter, Miranda Porte, and Melody Lao.

The Riley Flute Choir, along with various other emsembles, also qualified for the state competition in Indianapolis on Saturday February 26.

Still The Same

Teachers say yes to block 4

Ajaz Chaudhry

Editor-in-Chief

Block four stays! That is what an overwhelming majority of the teachers decided.

Teachers voted to keep block four by a 78 to 12 percent vote.

"I am very happy to see the result of the vote, I love block four and would not want to go back," said Lauren Wiand, English teacher.

Even though most teachers approve of the block four format, many feel small changes are needed to make the program more effective.

"We need to make some changes in the block four, especially for the extra curricular activities such as band and ROTC. These groups should be able to meet year around," said Jan Witherall, math teacher.

Students seem to share the teachers' sentiments about the block four system.

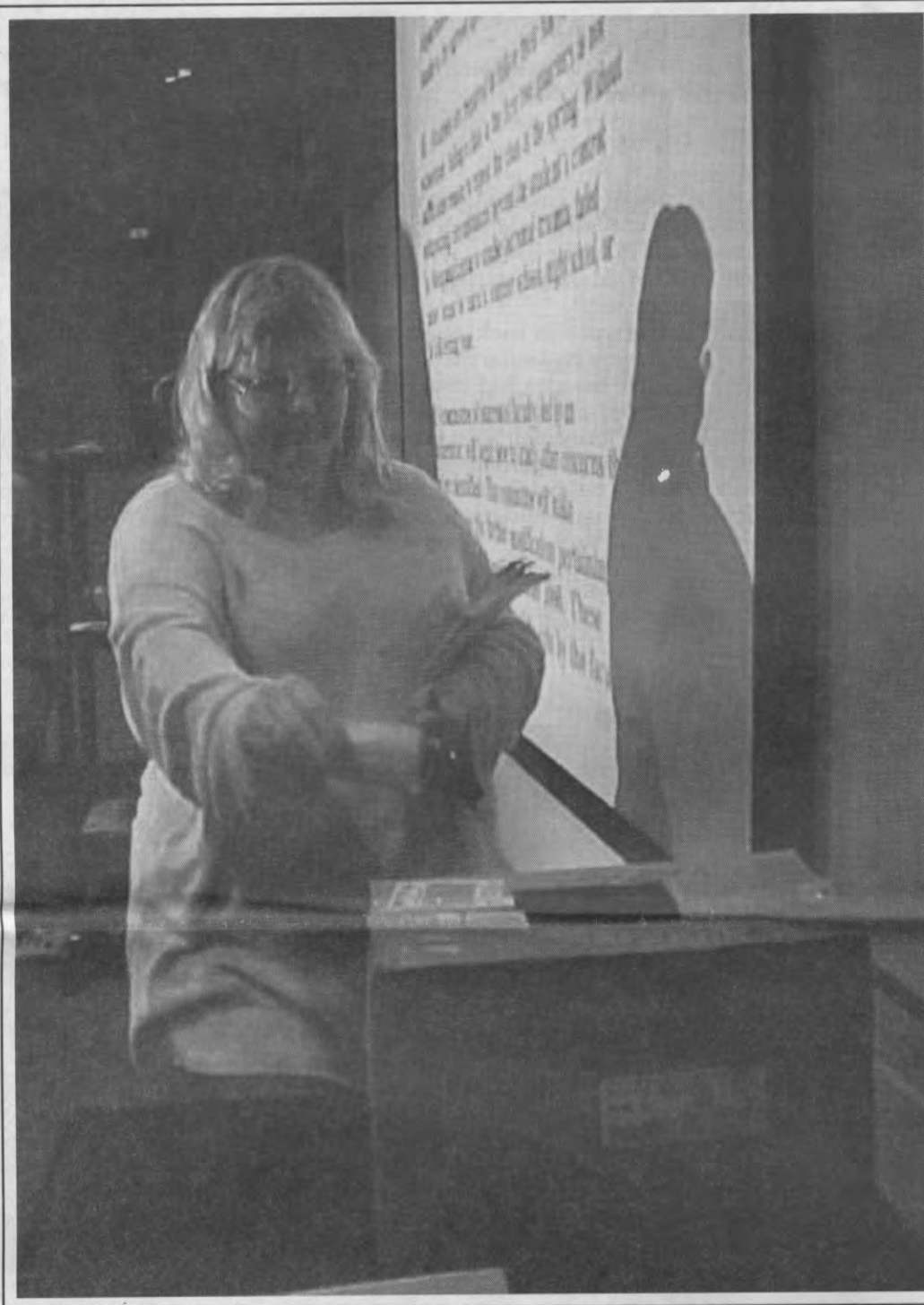
"Even though block four is not perfect, I would not want to go back to a six class schedule. It was too hard to concentrate on so many classes," said Camille Johnson, senior.

Teachers feel that students are also getting a better level of education with block four.

"I think block four has worked very well. It allows me to do more creative projects with my students and develop a better relationship with them," said Christine Phillips, English teacher.

Teachers do, however, find it difficult to cover all of the material in half of the year.

"We have to adjust our classes and skip some of the mate-



Grant Jones

DECISIONS/ Judy Hums, counselor, deposits her ballet at the meeting on January 27, in which teachers voted to continue block four.

SEE SCHEDULE ON PAGE TWO

Riley security stands up to the test

Ashley Coker
Staff Reporter

Some people like to say, "Necessity is the mother of invention."

At Riley one may say, "Necessity is the mother of extra security."

With each year, the school has added more security guards, a total of six, (including two full time police officers, one part time police officer, one full time security guard, one part time security guard, and a security camera monitor). This is more security than any other high school in South Bend.

"The reason we have so

many more security personnel than other schools is because our school is so much larger! We have 375,000 square feet on four floors, and we have 1600 students. There are also about 30 doors on the first floor. Naturally we would need more security than a smaller school," said principal George McCullough.

The addition of extra security has helped to secure the environment here at Riley, leaving the students, faculty, and administration feeling safe.

With extra manpower has come an increase in the quality of security at Riley.

SEE SECURITY ON PAGE TWO



Cameron Stouder

SECURITY/ Assault can happen anywhere, even at Riley. (This is a posed picture.)



SWAT

Are police ready for local shootings?
See News three.



Basketball

Update on the great record.
See Sports three.



College

Keys to success in college.
See
Centerspread



Clubs

An overview of academic clubs.
See Eye Candy

Love At Any Price

Senior class date auction yields high profits



Missy Tulchinsky

Eye Candy Editor

Although a date auction may seem like an odd way to make some extra money, the senior class made \$450 by raffling off our senior guys.

The idea was thought up by this year's seniors, and it has never been done before.

"I knew it was a good idea and I'm glad that the school responded so well. Everything went as planned and I think the kids really deserved to see their work pay off," said Val Phillips, senior class sponsor.

There was a lot of preparation involved in the date auction. Before and after the event, the class officers showed their organizational capabilities.

The auction took place in the Riley High School cafeteria on January 26.

First, the idea had to be approved by downtown (school administration) and by George McCullough, principal. Then the class officers had to find guys willing to participate and pay for the dates. Flyers had to be distributed among the students to make sure as many students as possible would come.

"It just sounded like a good idea. I'm glad that it went as well as it did," said Leonard Swedarsky, senior class president.

The night of the event took a lot of preparation. Janitors had to set up the cafeteria, a security

guard had to be on duty, and an auctioneer had to be announcing.

In the end, the date auction was a success. One reason the auction was profitable was there were very few expenses involved in setting up the event.

Approximately 18 guys were auctioned off to the highest bidder. The dates will take place this month. Also, a chaperone must be present for liability purposes.

"I'm glad the auction worked out. I hope future classes can benefit from our idea," said Swedarsky.

Although the date auction of '00 went well, Phillips speculates future auctions could make even more money.

"Since the money helps finance the junior and senior prom, next year juniors could be

auctioned as well. I think that could add to the profits. Also, now that people know that it is fun, more people might be interested in coming next year," explained Phillips.

"I wasn't sure what to expect in the way of attendance, but I was happy to see a lot more people bid than I had speculated," explained Steve Wiltfong, '00 class vice president.

"I didn't think there would be a very good turn out. But I was glad to see that people were willing to put up money for some hot senior guys!" said senior, Nichole Williams.

"I'm glad the auction worked out. I hope future classes can benefit from our idea."

**-Leonard Swedarsky
Senior class president**

Schedule

Continued from page one

rial because of the block four. Nonetheless, students have a chance to do more group and creative work which was not possible in 50 minute classes," said Wiand.

At a staff meeting, on January 20th, Beth Horban, dean of students, took time to explain some of reasons they originally switched to a block four format.

"We hoped that with the block four, students would have more time for each class and could concentrate on four classes rather than six. This would lead to more hands on application, improvement in grades, and standardized test scores," said Horban.

The improvement in standardized scores is very clear. The students in eighth grade who took the ISTEP improved scores dramatically in two years. The math score went from stanine 39 in eighth grade to stanine 51 as sophomores, and English jumped from stanine 39 to stanine 61.

"Even though block scheduling may not be the only cause of these improvements, they are nonetheless contributing. Students can now take ISTEP preparation classes throughout the year," said Witherall.

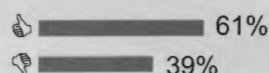
Even though block four was approved with a 78 percent vote it will be voted on again next year. This is due to the NEA's (Na-

WILDCATS

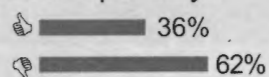
Respond

Block Four

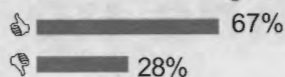
1. Do you prefer block four scheduling compared to traditional six?



2. Do you learn more in a block four environment compared to having six classes per day?



3. Do you prefer block four over block eight?



This was a random survey of four different grade classes. A total of 100 surveys were given with 92 responses.

tional Education Association) regulation, which requires a vote each year.

"If results from this vote are any indication, block four will remain at Riley for longer than just one year," said Wiand.

Security

Continued from page one



The security guards have assisted in many severe incidents recently. For example they nipped an assault in the bud. It occurred on January 13 in the World Geography classroom of Edward Linetty. This happened because Chester Wigfall, in school suspension supervisor, was right outside his door on the fourth floor atrium.

According to Linetty, two students were running around his classroom and plowed right into his desk. This quickly progressed into what was considered assault. Although Linetty was not severely injured, he was bruised and sore. "I was startled at first, but I had to react quickly so I could hold one of the students down," says Linetty.

He wasn't the only one startled. Freshman, Tyrone Robinson, a student in the class witnessing the incident, said, "Everyone was just sitting there watching. They were shocked."

Wigfall was first on the scene, arriving within 45 seconds to one minute. As Linetty held one student down, Wigfall grabbed the other, bringing the conflict to a halt. Only a few minutes later, Officer Brian Kendall arrived on the scene as well.

"It was pretty calm when I got there. It was pretty much already taken care of. Linetty handled both himself and the students very well," said Kendall.

Of course, much of the damage had already been done, but the efficiency of both Wigfall and Kendall amazed the students. All involved suddenly felt secure in their environment, even amidst confusion and turmoil that had just taken place. According to sophomore Claudia Pedraza, the security guards did an excellent job of getting the situation under control. "I really never

felt like I was in any danger. Mr. Linetty and the security guards did a really good job of controlling the situation," she said.

"I think (the students) like us a lot, and they trust us. If they need us, they know we will be here. But business is business, and they know that too. That's what makes our relationship (with the students) good," said Kendall.

This year particularly, everyone has had to adjust to a new building with new policies and different obstacles. Riley's security is no exception. There are many new entrances, the addition of a fourth floor, more classrooms, more security cameras to monitor, and even more students, all new obstacles for security guards. It is apparent though, that they are adjusting just fine, according to assistant principal Anthony Byrd. He comments, "They realize they have a bigger building. They know what the new responsibilities are, who has what floor, etc. I think they are adjusting very well."

There have also been various incidents involving people trying to enter the building without permission. According to Kendall, these have all been minor cases, but each one has been taken care of with professionalism.

"In the future, we are going to lock all doors and visitors will have to ring a bell to enter. Then of course we will have them on video as well, so we will know who is coming inside this building," said McCullough.

"Having our security guards divided among our four floors allows our staff to be able to ensure safety in every classroom," said McCullough.

CONDITIONS OF BLOCK FOUR APPROVAL

- ⇒ A faculty committee will begin to study concerns. They will make recommendations for further modifications for the 2001-2002 school year by December 2000.
- ⇒ Department heads will help build a master schedule that resolves conflicts and balances classloads.
- ⇒ Students are required to follow a full year schedule. Failing a class the first two quarters is not sufficient reason to repeat the class in the spring.

Swat team trains for tragedy

Beth Marshall

Centerspread Editor

We're all familiar with school violence. We've seen it on TV, or read about it in the newspaper. A large majority of students even report first hand knowledge of a violent situation in their school.

Teachers and school administrators have all been told how to prevent violent situations from occurring in their classrooms and schools. They know how to identify 'troubled' students, and there have been procedures set on how to handle such teens.

The SBCSC (South Bend Community School Corporation) even participates in a cooperative program with the South Bend Police Department, designed to place designated South Bend Police Officers called School Resource Officers in area high schools to keep the peace.

But what happens when prevention isn't enough? What happens when a teacher finds him or herself in a dangerous school situation? It's a safe bet the majority of South Bend teachers wouldn't know how to keep themselves or their students safe.

This is where a new program comes in. The SBCSC is now teaming up with the South Bend Police's SWAT (special weapons and tactics) team, to teach teachers and administrators what to do if they're ever faced with such a situation, and for SWAT to practice ending violent school situations.

"It was for us to practice if we had a [school shooting] situation, for us to practice going into a school like that and also to show teachers and administrators what to expect if we had to come into a school like that. They should know what we look like, the orders we'd be giving them, and what we'd expect them to do," said Dave Chapman, SWAT team commander.

The team conducted their first training session with area teachers and administrators over Christmas break. The sixteen member SWAT team, along with approximately 30 volunteers met at the old Nuner School building on a frigid December morning.

It was a small turn out, but Chapman was satisfied.

"I was surprised that so many teachers did show up, especially because it was vacation for them," said Chapman.

administrators gathered in the auditorium, and waited for instructions about the next exercise.

When the session was over, the volunteers and team members met for a conference at the new Nuner school. SWAT officers discussed the procedure they follow during situations like the ones they participated in earlier. They explained why they do the things they do, and described how teachers could keep their students safe during violent situations.

Most participants agreed that the program was beneficial.

"I think it was good. I'm disappointed that more people weren't here, but it certainly increased my awareness as to what this is all about," said Barbara Ettl, the Strategic Planning Coordinator for South Bend Schools.

Now that teachers and administrators are aware of SWAT procedures, the next step is coordinating rescue programs with the corporation.

"Every South Bend school has a red alert program. We want to take it a step further, where teachers can give us some kind of sign that everything's OK in their room. If they need help we need to give them some kind of code name or number so that when we're outside their door and knocking, they know it's the police.

"We need to work on staging areas in every school, so if we have a massive evacuation of students then there's some place to put them. If it's bad weather, we can't leave them outside. You can't have parents come to school when this is happening, so we need to have a staging area where the parents and students can meet up. So those are the kind of things we're working on," said Chapman.

But is all this preparation really necessary? You have to admit, South Bend, isn't exactly the toughest city in the around. Still, most believe that the SWAT program is important.

"I don't expect it ever to happen at LaSalle, but if we did have a situation, if it was a hostage situation or something where we would have a SWAT team or some type of police action taking place, I would want to know what to expect," said Beth Beiersdorf, a LaSalle science teacher who attended the training.

Commander Chapman agrees.

"I think there's a need for it everywhere. That doesn't mean I think it's going to happen here," he said.

The team ran six mock exercises, based on what might happen during a school shooting. Volunteers were divided into small groups, and assigned different rooms throughout the school. They were given options on how to react when members of the SWAT team entered their room. It was up to the teachers if they were going to run screaming, or drop to the floor with their hands covering their heads.

The SWAT team stormed the building, avoiding fake bombs distributed throughout the building, screaming "GET DOWN," and shooting blanks at anything that moved. Some teachers ran, some dropped, and others stared in shock. The sound of gunfire echoed through the school.

"They learned a lot, and I think we learned a lot. I think the teachers and administrators learned what we look like, why we have to do the things we do, and why we give certain orders. I think it was beneficial for everybody," reported Chapman.

At the end of each scenario, the teachers and

A GUIDE FOR TEACHERS:

HOW TO KEEP YOUR STUDENTS SAFE

- Remain calm
- Follow set emergency procedures
- Follow police instructions
- Make sure all students are accounted for
- Report all developments & important information

THE 411 ON 911

WHAT THE EMERGENCY OPERATOR NEEDS TO KNOW

- Number of suspects
- Age of suspects
- Clothing
- Weapons & actions
- Perpetrator's Statements
- Last known location

HOW WOULD YOU REACT TO A VIOLENT SCHOOL SITUATION?

Jessica Hudak

Senior



"If somebody came into the school with guns, I would run away"

Maureen Warter

Junior



"I really don't know what I would do until it actually happened."

Bobby Ullery

Sophomore



"I would probably try to be a hero, and if that didn't work I would run."

Tales From the Dorm: The secrets of a college existence

Annie Gustafson
Riley Review 1998

I am writing this story on a laptop computer in Cafe Espresso from a poignantly unglamorous airport. Between the calls of flight cancellations and a recording urgently stating, "Attention you are now approaching the end of the moving sidewalk," I am attempting to reflect on my first year and a half of college.

The summer before my freshman year, I swapped a few emails with my roommates throughout the summer. In the first email I received, Elisa shared standard information such as what she looks like, (supplied to help me identify her within our cubicle-sized dorm room, of course), but more importantly, she told me about her bunny collection. No, not real bunnies but stuffed bunnies overpopulating our room.

In the first email for Jess, my other roommate, she asked me if I had an allergy to plant. That's right, plant. Jess has a bit of a green thumb (I, on the other hand, can't even sustain a chia pet) and she was wondering if she could bring a portion of her greenhouse. So my thoughts of bunnies were new coupled with luscious flora- would I need to swing on a vine in order to make it to my desk?

Luckily, neither of my

premonitions were true. Elisa only brought two rabbits (which stayed on her bed) and Jess brought five potted plants, none of which turned into living versions of *Little Shop of Horrors*.

Another fear I had about going to school was getting lost. Part of the problem was the fact that I go to school in Maine, live near a town in which the biggest street is Main Street, and the name of my dorm is Maine. In order to avoid embarrassing myself, I decided to carry a map around campus. One day in the fall, while unsuccessfully attempting to fold the map, someone stopped to ask me if I needed some help. The kind student inquired, "Are you a visitor?" My cheeks turned as red as the brick on the science building.

Another problem adjusting to college life: sleep deprivation. Although aware of my disability of attempting to function as a morning person, I decided that this fact would not interfere with my hot pursuit of knowledge. For some unknown reason, I decided to take an 8 a.m. class.

My professor said he didn't mind if we ate breakfast during class, so I decided that eating would be my salvation, allowing me to prolong a conscious state. At first it started out with muffins and bagels, but by the end of the first month I was

toting a four-course meal; eggs, bananas, hot tea, orange juice, and English muffins with cinnamon and sugar.

Most of my charades with breakfast, however, only lasted for the first 45 minutes of class. This only put me at the halfway point: the battle was not over. Unfortunately, I usually fell asleep in class. I knew the unintentional habit had become a serious problem when I greeted my professor on the quad (it was during the afternoon). He simply responded, "Annie, You're awake!"

Another piece of advice, especially for those of you who are going to school out of the state is to be proud of your Hoosier heritage. Although I had to ward off countless questions concerning corn and cow tipping, most of my friends were fascinated with tales from wondrous state of Indiana. Because of my origin from this mystic land, I earned myself a special nickname. You guessed it, *Indy-Annie*.

Well, the mechanical droll of the voice emitting from the moving sidewalk is getting on my nerves, and it is time for my flight to leave. With five-eighths of my undergraduate career ahead of me, I look forward to another semester. Seniors, Good luck-you'll have your own stories to share next year.

School counselors help

Ajaz Chaudhry
Editor-in-chief

Graduation day, something that every senior awaits eagerly. It is a time to go out into the real world and leave behind high school. Even though that day is more than four months away, preparation for what you are going to do after high school needs to begin now.

After graduating from high school, most seniors decide to attend some kind of a two or four year colleges, and many of those colleges have deadline dates in February.

Each year counselors meet with seniors to help guide them through the tough process of applying for college. This process includes writing essays, getting recommendations and finding ways to pay for college.

"I explain to most college bound

kids that there is them for college, counselor.

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The proc begins with seei ting them know est you. Throu been college visi school, and ther coming months. is coming to Rile the meeting in tl

It is also the college cam and setting fits. Most colleges ha lowing you to sta and meet with tl

making the grade

It's coming, be prepared: Steps to choosing a college

Step 1: EXAMINE YOUR PRIORITIES

Ask yourself questions like:

- How do I learn best? In large lecture-style classes or in small discussion/seminar settings?
- Do I prefer being one of the best in a class, or do I need the presence of equally bright peers in order to challenge myself?
- Do I learn best when structure is clear, or would I rather make my own choices about how I use my study time?
- What extracurricular activities have been most important to me? Which will I want to continue in college?
- What have I learned about my academic interests and abilities that will influence what I might study in college?
- Who are my friends? Do I want my relationships in college to be similar or different?

Step 2: CONSIDER CHARACTERISTICS

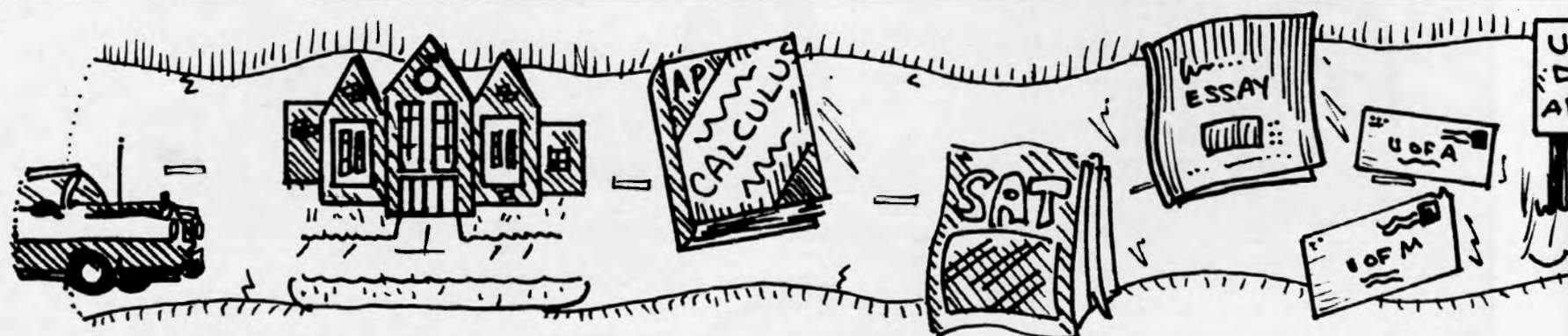
most students chose institutions in one of the following categories.

- **Liberal arts colleges** focus on the education of undergraduate students, and most are smaller than universities. Classes are generally taught by professors, and more one-on-one attention is available.
- **Tech. Institutes & Professional Schools** are for students who have made clear decisions about what they want to study and emphasize preparation for specific careers.
- **Women's colleges** have a larger number of female faculty and administrators. They offer female students greater opportunities to serve in a full range of student leadership positions, and a greater awareness of career possibilities for women.
- **Community or Junior Colleges** offer the first two years of liberal arts education, or specialized occupational preparation.

Step 3: RESEARCH, RESEARCH, RESEARCH

Use the following materials to find out more about the colleges that you're interested in.

- **College guidebooks**
- **College-Produced Resources**
Don't ignore the college mailings that occupy 90 percent of the space in your mail box during senior year.
- **Computer Resources:**
Most colleges now have web sites that offer among other things-virtual campus tours and on-line applications. You can also discover scholarship opportunities on websites like fastweb.com
- **People Resources:**
Talk to your high school counselor, visiting college representatives, and alumni of your school who attend or have graduated from colleges you are considering.
- **College Fairs & Open Houses**
- **Campus Visits:**
It's important to visit the college you think you will attend before making a final commitment.

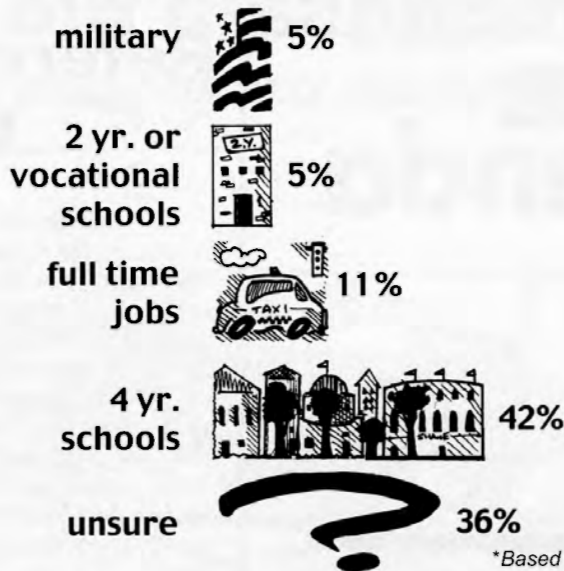


students find scholarships

a lot of money available to said Judy Hums, guidance counselor. College applications must be submitted to the counseling department. They also need other materials to applications. The process of applying for a college is long and tedious, which colleges might interrupt throughout this year there have been various colleges to our attention. It will be some more in the future. If a college of your choice is not available, you can sign up to attend the guidance office. It's a good idea to go and visit the campus and see if the life style is what you are looking for. There are over night programs already in the dorms, visit classes, and the faculty.

If you find a college that interests you, the next step is applying. Applications to most colleges are available in the counselor's office, many colleges also allow students to apply online. When applying for a college, along with your grades and SAT scores, many schools take into consideration a written essay. Topics for the essay may be given to you or you might be asked to write about something of your choice. "More and more colleges are starting to ask for an essay, and some colleges consider the essay as important as grades and SATs," said Hums. In a study done by *USA Today*, colleges prefer essays which are strong and about what the person truly feels. If you apply now, most colleges will make a decision and get back to you around April, giving you time to enjoy rest of your high school experience.

Where do Riley students go after graduation?



*Based on a 1999 survey, by Riley Student Services



Tips for surviving higher education

Step 4: DECIDE WHEN TO APPLY

- Early Decision allows you to apply before the regular admission date and hear your admission status before the regular notification date. In most cases, early decisions require you to make an absolute commitment to the school.
- Early Action allows you to apply early and hear your admission status early, but doesn't require to commit to the college.

Step 5: CHECK ADMISSION STANDARDS

Large public universities usually make their admission decisions based largely on objective information, including the number and difficulty of high school sources, GPA, class rank, and standardized test scores. Private and highly selective schools will also consider special talents, community service, extracurricular and leadership activities, and other unique qualities you can bring to campus. Many selective colleges will also weigh application essays, recommendations, and interviews.

*information courtesy of *College Times*, 1999/2000

Struggling to keep up: Former Salutatorian adjusts to Notre Dame

Jason McFarley

Riley Review 1999

If life in high school were a sport, it would be a light jog. It's casual, leisurely, and important yet not always fulfilling exercise. Yes, sometimes the pace quickens and things become hectic, but those moments are, for the most part, fleeting. The jog never fails to return to rates to which we are accustomed and with which we are familiar—our comfort zones, so to speak.

College, though is a whole other matter. I can only wish that the same "rules of the game" in high school applied to my experience at the *University of Notre Dame*. For me, the past five months have been no easy jog, no slow and steady run. To further the metaphor, it's been a marathon, an all-out race at break-neck speeds.

And what scares me is that by no one's standards—neither my own nor others'—am I keeping up. I'm so used to being a pace setter; why do I feel like I'm lagging behind all of a sudden?

That's what I've asked myself for weeks now, ever since receiving my first-semester grades. The A's and the occasional B of my once comfort zone are memories, replaced with low B's and C's. The honor roll is long gone, and making the Dean's List apparently means kicking into high gear.

It's not that I wholeheartedly choose to gauge myself by academic performance, but right now I don't have anything else by which to measure my success. My standing in that race, I can't help but feel, is my only indication.

Indeed, I don't have the newspaper staff calling on my services anymore. I don't have meetings to organize for 70 Student Council members. I don't have the senior class to lead. In many ways, I have depended on all of these people to assess my achievement, and it's discouraging now not to have a clear standard of excellence within sight.

Perhaps, I'm just too far behind in the race.

Don't get me wrong; I value the extracurricular positions I hold at *Notre Dame*. Still, now more than ever before in my life, I realize exactly how replaceable I am. I don't think I truly ever thought myself irreplaceable, just maybe not easily replaceable. Now I'm faced

with the fact everyday that there are hundreds, if not thousands qualified—probably even more so than I, who are capable of satisfying the roles I play on campus.

That both humbles and scares me at the same time. On the one hand, it puts my place at *Notre Dame* and in this world in brilliant perspective. The idea of "one of many" certainly springs to mind. And viewed in this way, the competition I'm in is with my fellow students.

But to be sure, it is unquestionably against them. There's something very frightening about the contentious atmosphere at *Notre Dame*. That is, I fear what the "spirit of competition" has already done and will persist in doing to me. I'm afraid to think of my classmates as opponents, or worse, as adversaries. I'm not callously looking to bump their class rank while advancing my own. I'm not trying to steal their seats in law school or their future jobs.

I just want to catch up in the race.

Figuring out how to do so is one of the greatest challenges I'll confront in the coming weeks and months. I know from experience how quickly eight semesters can progress. And we can either proceed with this movement of time or merely be bypassed. I'm not quite ready to bow out of this race, yet developing a strategy continues to perplex me. I'm left in constant limbo between feelings which tell me that the race is of little significance and those which compel me to fight like a dog for a winning position.

All I know for sure is that staying on track means to keep running of my present course.

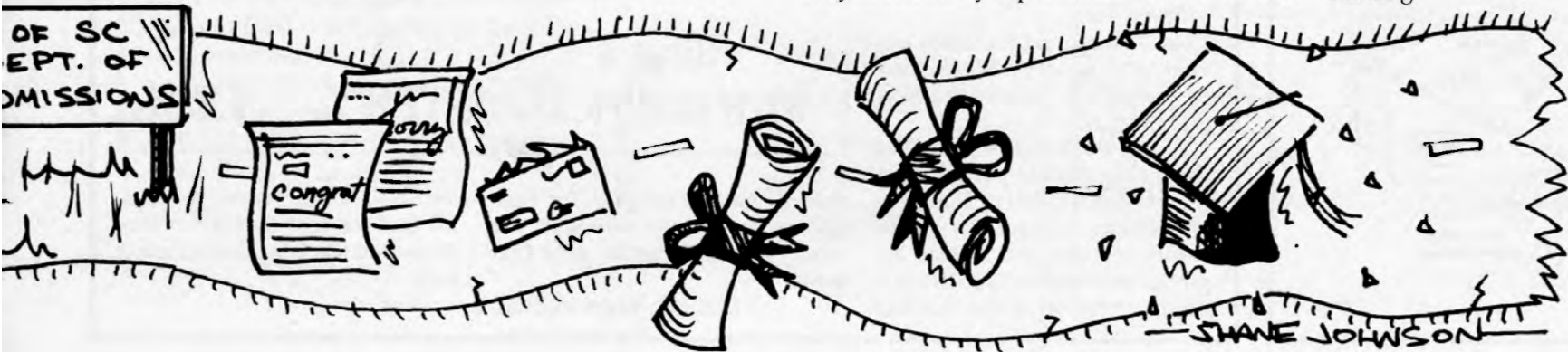
And that's what I do each day. I wake up and sprint to make it to class on time. I rush to finish last minute papers or homework assignments. I dart to the library to study for an upcoming test. I scramble to evening help sessions. I race for an admirable spot among a sea of talented young people.

I run; and I run some more, as fast as this 17-year-old mind, body, and soul will take me. I hit the wall, run out of breath and sometimes will, and stand very nearly on the edge of physical and mental collapse.

But it's a competition, and I keep running.

"And what scares me is that by no one's standards—neither my own nor others'—am I keeping up. I'm so used to being a pace setter; why do I feel like I'm lagging behind all of a sudden."

—Jason McFarley



AJAZ'S Agenda



By
**Ajaz
Chaudhry**

Millennium preparation, a total waste of time

Years here.... And apparently no one can recall the pre Y2K hype was just that: hype. The apocalyptic event that many people were expecting never arrived, instead the only explosion heard on Y2K were fire works.

Throughout 1999 major corporations pushed the consumers into believing that Y2K would be a catastrophic event and that consumers must prepare. The media helped put out an image that if you didn't prepare for Y2K by purchasing excessive amounts of food and other items, you were not being a good parent.

Hundreds of new companies sprang up selling everything from Y2K computer software to generators and heaters. Each one of these companies made millions in profit and then most shut down after the year 2000 arrived. This made it impossible to get refunds.

These companies should be forced to give some money back to the people who bought their products. The media also owes people an apology for the huge amount of hype and the scare that they created.

Even people that did not buy excessive amounts of food still prepared in less expensive ways. Most people bought some extra gas, food, and water just in case. Even though these supplies will be used regardless of Y2K, they still got them at a much higher price.

"My parents prepared for the end of the world. They put us in the basement at 11 p.m. and refused to let us leave," said one anonymous freshman.

The South Bend Community Schools also prepared by spending thousands of dollars to upgrade all computers for the bug that never showed. The corporation says that the Y2K bug wasn't a problem because they were proactive and spent the needed money.

If that is the case, then why are other places, around the nation and around the world, that spent no money on Y2K doing so well?

The money that has been wasted on this pointless cause is gone, but we should salvage as much of the money back as we possibly can and hold the companies that contributed to the hype responsible. ♦



References to death are not allowed

Jennifer Krewson
Guest Writer

The dress standard at Riley seems, for the most part, reasonable. However, it is becoming increasingly clear to many students and some of the staff that all is not well.

I understand the concerns of the administration. If an act of violence occurs within the school, they are burdened with the blame. Also, certain styles may single out and isolate teens, making them prone to receiving more cruel remarks.

Our lives are sculpted by the environment we grow up in. It's impossible to say that an excessively restrictive environment is the most healthy environment for a growing teenager.

T-shirts sporting references to alcohol, smoking, or sex are banned from most schools. Why? What could one possibly hope to accomplish from hiding depictions of things high schoolers *already know about anyway?*

"Any shirt that has beer, smoking, or gang related ideas must be turned inside out. Metallica and such bands may resemble these offenses," said Chester Wigfall, security guard.

I was forced to turn my *Exploited* t-shirt inside out by a security guard once. It featured the logo of the band (a skull with a mohawk) and the phrase *Punk's Not Dead*. I was told that 'references to death' were not allowed in school. Ironical how last year, in the old building, I wore my *Exploited* t-shirt often and didn't even receive a sideways glance. Obviously it wasn't offensive then.

Principal George McCullough explains, "We believe in a safe environment. We don't want any offensive clothes, gang related clothes and cult clothes. These are not needed. I consider myself a mayor of a small city and we need to try and take care of our students."

Some students view the dress code as an attack on their individuality. Ryan Wannerton, a straight A student, said "My favorite band is Manson and I wear what I wear to support my favorite bands. There's nothing wrong with that."

One student was made to reverse his *Blair Witch Project* shirt on the grounds that it is cult related. What cult? The movie itself had *nil* to do with witchcraft and even so Wicca is a valid, practiced religion



Bryan Proven

EXPLOITED NOT PERMITTED/ This is the image on Krewson's shirt, who was told to turn it inside out. It depicts the logo of a band.

like any other.

I sincerely doubt shirts featuring rock bands or alcohol are offensive or harmful to anyone. A quest to abolish different or 'distracting' looks from school is a quest for uniformity. If everyone looked the same, perfectly manufactured to be visually appealing to the masses would we really become the 'perfect' people inside?

It seems that calling something distracting or offensive is a cop out. You can easily weed out things you dislike from your empire with such an easy attack. Giving an administrator the power to ban something on the grounds that it is 'distracting' is giving them boundless authority. Where would it stop?

In short, freedom is the very fabric this country is woven out of. Pulling out one strand of our liberty will unravel the whole American flag. ♦

WHAT WE

Think Block four is here to stay

We the review staff agree with the faculty decision to stay with the block four schedule. We feel that the schedule allows students to concentrate on less classes and gives them a chance to perform better.

Block four also gives students and teachers more time to develop better relationships, and allows time to do more group work.

The two extra classes per year provided by block four have shown to be very practical and helpful.

We do, however, feel that the ninety minute period must be used efficiently. Teachers should not lecture the entire ninety minutes, but instead do group activities to keep the students' interest. If the teacher

doesn't have a set plan for each class with various activities, the ninety minutes can be very tiresome.

The first two years of block

four have been overall successful and we feel that Riley students and teachers have adapted well. ♦

Alternative Scheduling Ballot

	YES	NO
Block 4	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
WITH MODIFICATIONS	78%	12%

Year 2000: just another big disappointment

Katie Grembowicz
Viewpoints Editor

New Year didn't bring us any changes

I woke up *New Year's Eve* morning, and immediately became excited. I thought about how cool it was to be able to be born soon enough to celebrate the new millennium.

Of course, being a typical mother, my mom had filled up a few gallons of water and checked the batteries in our flashlights 'just in case.' My dad and I, however, could have cared less, and we went about our day just like normal.

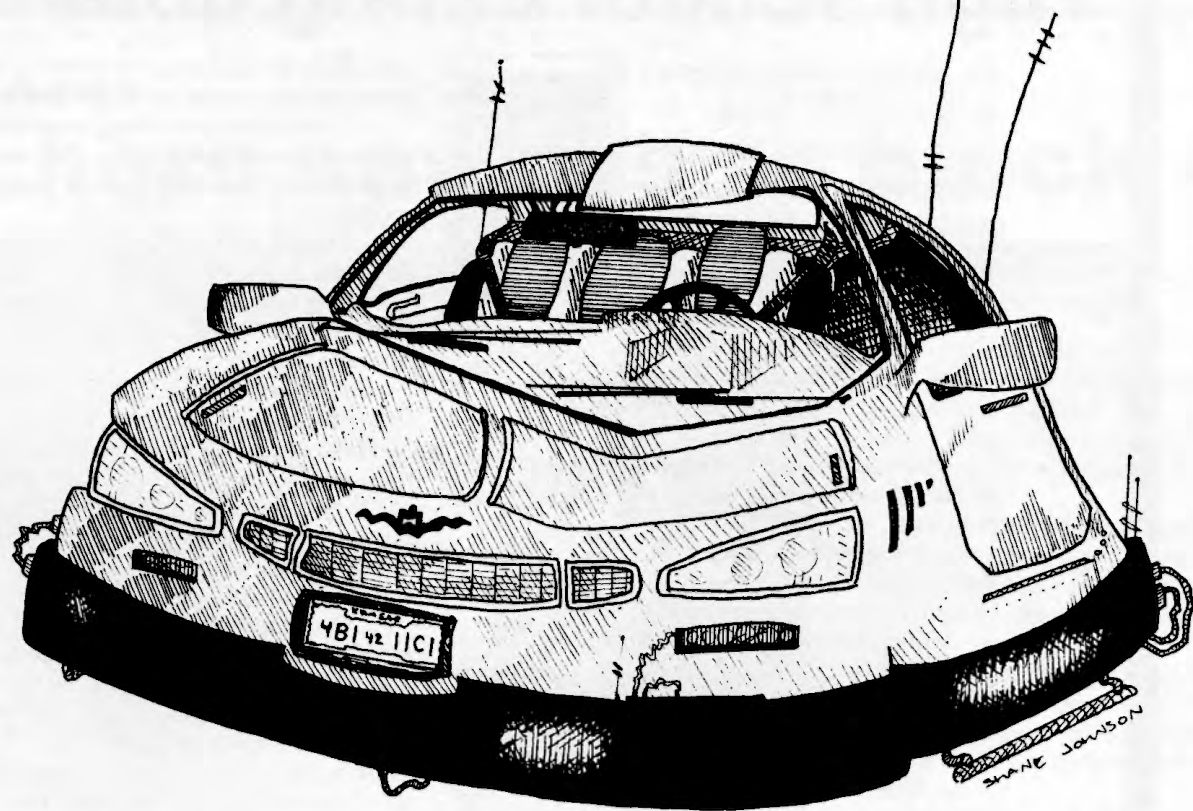
At about 8 p.m., I went over to my best friend's house and we had a ton of fun. As the moment drew near to the turn of the century, we were all excited, and we stood around with glasses of sparkling grape juice, ready to ring in the new year.

We counted down the seconds, the ball dropped, and that was it. That was it? Yes, that was it. We all looked around at each other, toasting, talking, and laughing, just like any other New Year's. But nothing changed.

There was no big burst of excitement, no lights went out, the computer was on, and the celebration on MTV looked just like it had since 1981. The phone lines still worked, and everything seemed to have gone off without even the slightest hitch.

I went home that night, happy that I had spent the evening with my best friend since third grade, but also having a sense of disappointment. Even though Y2K hadn't really even crossed my mind, I was kind of upset that something didn't happen. That seemed to be part of the excitement to the millennium. Everyone was waiting and wondering, and then there was nothing.

Grant Jones, junior, agrees,



“Honestly, I think things will get worse if they change at all. Our relations with other countries won't get better, and I don't think we'll ever establish peace anywhere.”

Jael Castillo
Sophomore

“Y2K was hyped up way too much. Companies just wanted to make money, and sadly, they conned people into buying things they didn't really need. And then when nothing happened, they retracted the statements they had made last year.”

Jones wasn't the only one who didn't prepare for Y2K though. Jael Castillo, sophomore, says her family didn't do anything to get ready for any glitches in the system.

“My family and I didn't do anything. It was just a bunch of junk,” she said.

Not only was Y2K made too big a deal of, but the change of the century was too. There were no huge parties, at least not ones

any different from previous *New Year's*. No big tragedies happened like predicted. And the biggest disappointment, for me at least, was waking up the next morning and realizing it was just another day.

For some reason, I thought the change of the millennium would bring about some kind of change. A change in me or in the people around me. But it didn't. I still got in a fight with my mom, my friends still had the same old complaints about things, and we all had the same old problems we had the day before. The only thing that seemed to change was writing 2000 on a check instead of 1999.

And Castillo is doubtful that anything will change at all this

year.

“Honestly, I think things will get worse if they change at all. Our relations with other countries won't get better, and I don't think we'll ever establish peace anywhere,” she commented.

Only time will tell what really happens in the next 1000 years, but hopefully the next turn of the century won't be as hyped up for no reason.

But like Castillo says, “If nobody wants to change or anything, what's the big deal? It doesn't matter what year it is, people will keep their old ways.”

I guess that's certainly something to consider. ♦

LETTERS TO THE

Editor

Manson shirts aren't a sign of satanism

Dear Editor:

I am writing to tell you why I think we should be able to change the dress code and wear t-shirts that other people think are dumb and immature. To us it could mean the world. Not every person wears the same clothes and the teachers should look past the clothing and get to know the person who wears the clothes. A lot of people in this school think that by letting some students wear Marilyn Manson shirts it's like bringing in satanism. But not every person who wears or listens to Marilyn Manson is a satanist, many of them still believe in God. I wrote this so people could understand.

Why can't we wear our t-shirts and the other kids get to wear their 2 Pac shirts? He was gangster related

and they are still allowed to wear those shirts. It would be better if the school changed the dress code.

We were told since first grade not to let people tell us what to do, but now they want us to change because some students opened fire in a school. But we aren't the bad guys.

The people who should read this should understand why I wrote it and they should understand me and what I stand for. Not even this school will keep me from expressing myself.

Sincerely,

Glen Wesaw

Glen Wesaw

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Students speak out on: Dating

High school dating does work

👍 Dating in high school is definitely good. It gives people a chance to experience new people and things. It's a lot of what high school is about.



Katie Grembowicz
Viewpoints Editor

We all come from middle school excited about the world we're about to walk into: High School.

We wonder what our four years here will be like, and we look forward to many things. One of them is dating. Real dating.

In about sixth grade, after people of the opposite sex no longer have imaginary diseases (like cooties), it all starts. You find someone you think is cute, talk to them on the phone for an hour every night, and say you're a couple.

Then middle school roles around, and you may go to a couple movies with someone, but you don't have a job, or a car, and nobody believes you're even sixteen much less eighteen.

But then high school hits! You have friends who drive, and ones who work at cool places that can get you the hook up on stuff. There's Homecoming, and semiformal, and prom. Things that virtually scream 'You need a date!'

Some people say dating in high school is a waste of time. There's no way your relationships are going to last, so spend your time focusing on something else. Have you ever heard a parent tell you you're too young to date or to afford to date, or to even know what love is? Well, half

the adults in this country seem to be in some of the same predicaments, so they have no room to talk.

Dating is a great thing, especially in high school. It opens you up to new experiences, new people, and new places. Dating makes a person very well-rounded.

Dating also establishes a lot of people's values and standards. It's kind of like a process of elimination. You find what you like and don't like in people, and you also find out what you will and won't do at a certain age.

High school dating also establishes the basis for future relationships in life. You experience happiness and heartbreak, so when you get out in the real world on your own, you'll know how to handle it.

Not only is dating a good thing for the future, it's also a great thing for the present. Although dating can cause stress at points, it can also take away stress and make a person very happy.

Do you ever notice that extra bounce in your step when you start a new relationship, or the way you smile after you've talked to that special someone in the hall? Or what about how sometimes you know the only reason you drag yourself out of bed in the morning is to see your significant other during every passing period. And hey, even though you're not really here to learn, sometimes you might actually end up paying attention.

And not a lot of high school relationships last for very long, but some do. There are some people that leave high school, and end up getting married and having families.

It's been said that there's one person in this world for everyone, and if that's true, who knows? Maybe you'll find your soulmate sitting next to you in chemistry or meet them while they're buying cookies at the bookstore.

Serious dating: make or break

Dating in high school can be a big waste of time. There are more things here to focus on than people of the opposite sex.



Scott Parker
Eye Candy Editor

We all know the feeling.

That boy/girl you've been eyeing for the past couple of weeks finally smiles and says 'hi' to you in the hall. You get that rush of happiness and you can't wait to tell your friends.

Then they start coming to all your basketball games even though you sit the bench most of the time. They call you and you go out on your first date, and by Monday morning half the school knows you two are 'together.'

Most of these high school romances don't last. Someone cheats on someone else, you get bored, it happens. But what about the ones that do last? Is it healthy? In most cases, no. Teenagers tend to start 'playing house' and they end up missing out on everything high school has to offer.

First of all, some couples spend way too much time together. Have you ever blown off your friends to hang out with your significant other? Have you ever skipped a practice because they convince you that you two just don't spend enough time together even though you've been out with them the past three Friday and Saturday nights?

You never have any time to miss each

other. It's okay to want to spend time with your boyfriend/girlfriend, but sometimes enough is enough!

And you also end up losing your relationships with your friends, some that you've had since you could walk. What happens when you break up with someone and your friends have practically forgotten what you look like? Whose shoulder are you supposed to cry on? Who are you supposed to talk about new crushes to? Your parents? I don't think so!

Another aspect of a relationship is getting along. Some couples fight constantly about anything and everything they can think of.

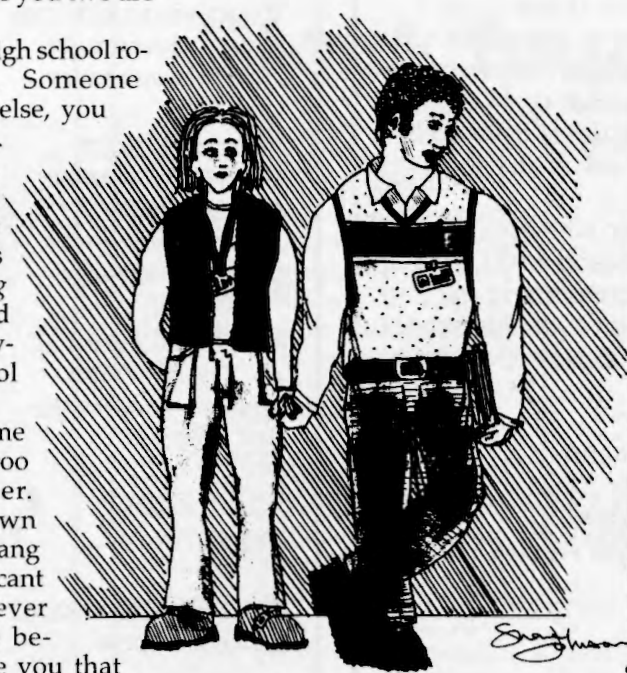
It causes unnecessary stress and it basically makes a life miserable. If you can't get along, what's the point of being together? Yeah, I know, you love each other so much. News flash: it's not love when you've argued over stuff like the best video game for the fifteenth time that month!

And abuse is also something that goes along with argumentative relationships. That's completely unacceptable whether it's done by a guy or a girl.

High school is a time of change. You come from middle school, excited about finding all the new and interesting things there are to being older. You tell yourself you want to just be involved no matter what you do. You dream of going to Friday night football games and being able to say it's your school on the field, or the dances like Homecoming and prom. And that's okay.

Dating is a great thing, as long as you can handle it. Just remember that there is more to high school than falling in love.

Serious dating could make you or break you, so don't give up your life. And if you do happen to fall on a bad relationship, know that there are always other fish in the sea.



WHAT YOU

Think ABOUT DATING

Heather Coleman

Senior



"High school dating is good when there are two people really committed to a relationship. Otherwise, it just doesn't work out."

Nickie Myers

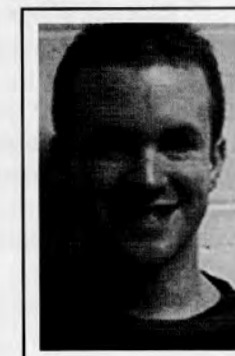
Sophomore



"I think that dating in high school can be a waste of time, but it's good if you know how to handle it. There are good and bad things about it, and you just have to know what you're doing."

Kevin Blue

Freshman



"Dating is really good in high school. It opens us up to all new people and new things to experience. It also gets us ready for our future relationships with people."

Precon

Swim team recaptures NIC title

TAKING THE PLUNGE/ Junior diver Lamont Barlow performs a dive during the Penn Meet on January 11 in the Riley pool. During the meet the team won the conference title for the first time in two years. It was the eighth conference title the team won in the last 10 years. Barlow finished second in the diving competition.



Photo courtesy of the South Bend Tribune

Steve Wiltfong
Senior Staff Reporter

The battle for the Northern Indiana Conference crown was settled in front of a huge crowd recently in the new Riley pool.

The swim team regained the conference crown, after losing it over the past two seasons, with a 102-84 victory over arch rival, Penn Kingsmen.

It was the first NIC title for a Riley sports team in two years. The last title was also won by the swim team during their conference reign of 17 consecutive conference championships (1981-1997).

During the week leading up to the meet, head coach, Steve Smith, tried different things to get his team ready to challenge the 18th ranked Penn. He gave the team the day off before the meet. He also ordered a team 'shave down' (a full body shave). The team mentally prepared as well.

"The coaching staff and I knew that this would be a mentally straining meet. We had the guys imagine what victory would feel like and what losing would feel like. We thought about how the crowd would respond to the different outcomes and how the team would handle themselves," explained Smith.

The environment at the pool was like one at a football game. The pool was packed with rows of screaming fans decked out in blue and gold chanting for a Riley victory.

"While we were in the

locker room we could hear the crowd screaming outside. It was awesome," said junior captain, Shane Johnson.

"It was the largest crowd I have seen at a swim meet in South Bend ever," added Smith.

The meet got underway with Penn taking the first two events. Going into the third event Penn held a 16-14 lead. Then freshman, Louis Cavadini, took over. Cavadini won the 200 individual medley and his junior brother, Peter, took 3rd to tie the score at 23. Going into diving, the score was knotted at 31.

Lamont Barlow took second in diving with Penn finishing 1st and 3rd to take the lead 40-38.

The second half of the meet was dominated by the Wildcats. The combination of Cavadini and Cavadini finished 1st and 3rd in the 100 butterfly with Louis winning his second race of the day. Penn tied the score one more time at 55 but that was as close as the Kingsmen would get the rest of the meet.

"I knew that if I just focused on winning that it would break my concentration, so my top priority was how well I performed. I knew that if the team went out and swam the way we know how, everything would just fall into place, and it did," stated Cavadini.

In the 500 freestyle freshman, Brian Johnson, senior,

SEE SWIMMING ON PAGE THREE

Boys' basketball team nets successful start

Steve Wiltfong
Senior Staff Reporter

The boy ballers of Riley have far exceeded the standards that have been set by teams before them. Their success rate is twice as high as last year and is continuing to escalate. Now holding a 12-3 record, at the mid-point of the season, the 'Cats have tripled their win total from the previous season.

Coach Tom DeBaets offered the explanation as to why his team is playing better. "The guys have better team chemistry. Everyone isn't in such a hurry to get out of the locker room after a game. The guys are getting along well."

Naturally a winning season is going to help a team have better chemistry.

"This season guys just want to work harder than last year," stated senior captain Ron Dokes.

After suffering through a miserable conference season (0-7) last year, Riley has won four games already in the conference. The Wildcats defeated a young Elkhart Memorial team 72-52, and in front of a large home crowd the Wildcats beat a scrappy LaSalle team 68-55. The

third win came over a weak Mishawaka ballclub 68-44. In eight games at home in the new gym, Riley is 8-0.

"We don't want anyone to come into our house and beat us. One of the goals we set this year is to go undefeated at home," said Dokes.

The Wildcats have dropped two conference games both on the road 60-51 to Penn and 52-49 to Clay.

"The Clay game was very winnable, but we just got out of our system and lost the game," explained Dokes.

The team's better play this year can be credited to strong backcourt play. Coach DeBaets has gone with a four man backcourt rotation that has accounted for 35.4 points per game (ppg) and 12.6 assists per game (apg). Junior Martell Taylor leads the way with 17.9 ppg and 3.5 apg. Taylor is the team's leading scorer and a three point threat where he has made 22 bombs from behind the arc.

Taylor's backcourt counterpart has been junior point guard Reggie Swanson. Swanson averages 7.2 ppg and leads the team with 4.7 apg.

A swinger from the starting lineup and sixth man position Mike Washington has been a

spark for the team. Washington is shooting a team high 43.9 percent from three point range. He averages an even 7.0 ppg.

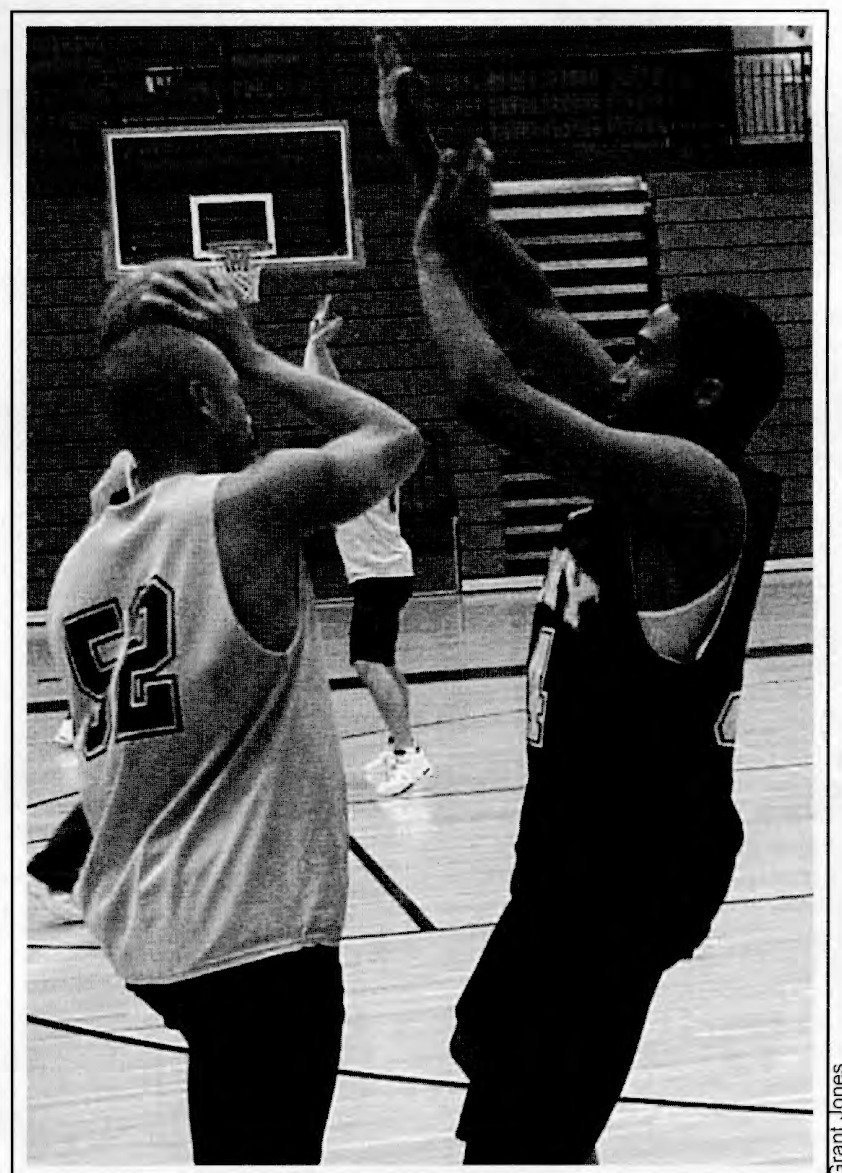
The fourth member of the guard rotation is junior marksman Mike Przygoada. Przygoada, another strong three point shooter has connected on 36 percent of his outside jump shots.

One of the huge problems the Wildcats had last year was a turnover problem. No one on the team had more assists than turnovers. This season Swanson, Taylor, Washington, and Przygoada all average more assists than turnovers.

"Our guys are taking much better control of the ball this year than any other year I've been here," said DeBaets.

"Last year we thought we knew everything. This season we the guards have a better understanding of the offense. We are more patient with the ball," explained Swanson.

"It is about roles. Each player understands their role this season. If you are supposed to pass you pass. Same thing goes for shooting. Everything is in



Grant Jones

PLAYING DEFENSE/ Senior forward, Darrell Foster, looks for a way to the basket around senior guard, Michael Washington, during practice. Both Foster and Washington have played key roles in the success of the team.

**SEE BASKETBALL ON
PAGE FOUR**

Hoopers prove to be unstoppable

Gretchen Lemmer
Sports Editor

The Ladycat Hoopers have taken the world of high school basketball by surprise this year. Ending the 1998-99 season with a disappointing 9-12 record, and the loss of star baller Erin Miller who averaged 20 points and 10 rebounds per game, players and head coach Mike Megyesi had their doubts.

"We knew that we would be faced with one of the hardest schedules in the state, and I think we went into the season with a lot of uncertainty. Miller was a huge loss, but we had been watching the younger players and knew that we'd have plenty of talent stepping up. We have a lot more speed this year, much more than last. I knew that the girls would be capable of playing a more up-tempo style of basketball this season," commented Megyesi.

He was right. The coaching staff had been working with upcoming freshmen, Suntana Granderson and Crystal Norman, for two or three summers to help prepare them for high school basketball. Senior captains Tonnis Phillips and Nicole Marbley stepped up to keep the girls motivated at practice and maintain a constant intensity in games. According to Megyesi, all the players contribute in different ways to make the team what it is.

"I know that all coaches say that every player on their team is a key player, but that really holds true for our team. Phillips is invaluable. Her defense is outstanding; she can go up against players a foot taller than her and she'll still shut them down," explained Megyesi. "Marbley is a strong assister. Lisa Cowper hits some clutch baskets. That's just to name a few. If someone on the team is weak in one area then another player is strong there. We have a good balance on the team this year."

The combination of players on the court shows to have more chemistry this year. With two games remaining the 'Cats have tallied a 14-4 record. Tough losses were against Penn, Highland and Fort Wayne Snider, who are all state ranked, and Clay who won off a three pointer that was shot seconds before the buzzer sounded. The Ladycats were not



Gretchen Lemmer

Huddle up! The girls take instructions during a time out from head coach Mike Megyesi on what the next play will be in a game against Concord.

discouraged by these losses.

"The team gets really upset when they lose, but it only motivates them to work harder at practice and play tougher in the next game," said Megyesi.

Despite these losses, the team had some unexpected wins over power team rivals. When approached by Adams who had a roster full of all returning starters Riley took the court with the determination to win. Norman grabbed 26 points

and Granderson followed close behind her with 25. Phillips also helped to lock the win with 9 points which finalized the game at 67-48.

In a key game in the NIC (Northern Indiana Conference) standings it took Riley two extra quarters to do away with the persistent Mishawaka Cavemen. In the final seconds of double over time Norman

SEE LADY HOOPERS ON PAGE FOUR

Freshmen star ballers lead ladycats

Brian Cherry
Sports Editor

Having a star aboard is nothing unusual on a sports team, but having two great players is something special. The Riley girls' basketball team is the lucky recipient.

Freshman star number one is six foot forward Crystal Norman, who is averaging 23.7 points and 10.3 rebounds per game midway through the season. In the Wildcats' backcourt is exciting combo guard Suntana Granderson.

The 5 foot 8 inch freshman has put up electric numbers midway through the season as well, dropping 16.3 points and 8.3 rebounds per game. Granderson also leads the team with assists per game.

Besides lady wildcat fans, the biggest beneficiary has been RHS head coach Mike Megyesi, who raves about the two players most responsible for RHS's 14-4 winning record this season.

"Norman is a versatile player who can shoot, run the floor, play in the post, or step out and hit a three," said coach Megyesi. As for Granderson, Megyesi gushes that she is "as good a guard/forward that there is in the state. I wouldn't trade her for anyone." Megyesi added that they are young and still learning how to play defense.

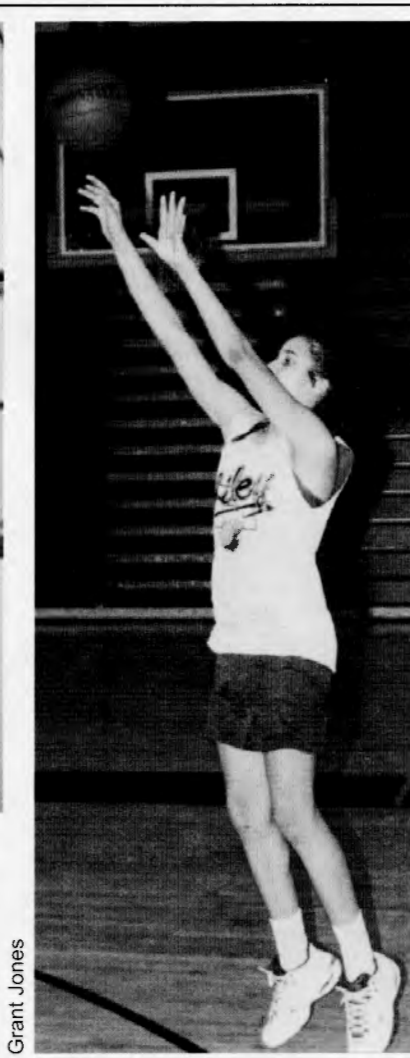
When asked if this season is an improvement from last, Megyesi simply said yes. "They are young, quick, athletic, and good jumpers. They bring instant



Bryan Proven

ABOVE: Granderson watches the basket after a free throw.

RIGHT: Norman spots up for three during a practice.



Grant Jones

offense to the team."

Most freshmen-led teams do not merge well due to problems within the team, mainly jealousy. That's not the case here.

"We are treated the same as everyone else on the team," said Norman.

Granderson added, "That's true, no one shows any kind of jealousy towards me or Crystal."

The team has improved immensely from last year. They work harder together as a unit, according to Megyesi, and are more able to move the ball. With the two

star freshmen and upperclassmen leadership to cover the experience department, the Lady 'Cats hold great potential as they appear to be possible state contenders; if not this year, Megyesi feels that the future of the team looks bright.

"Crystal and Suntana bring in fresh blood and give us [the team] a sense of urgency; they are obvious assets to the team. If all the girls continue to work together well like we have been, and now with the freshmen being so strong, I think that this is definitely the year of the 'Cats to represent at the state competition," said senior, forward Beth Lesar.

These fantastic freshman stars are truly team leaders, according to Megyesi.

"It feels really good to be able to come in as a freshman and already be considered a leader," said Granderson.

For most freshmen, a direct effect of being a key player on the varsity roster is a sense of arrogance which can result in slacking off in practice. The Riley freshmen, however, are the exception.

"They are special. They aren't affected by the spotlight and attention. They play hard day in and day out," said Lesar.

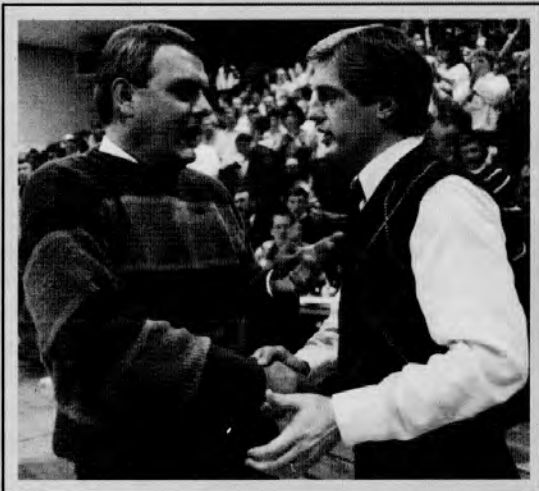
Norman and Granderson are not new to success. In middle school, they led Jackson to two consecutive championships.

The freshmen are already vital varsity players. With their increasing and unstoppable talent, they will no doubt continue to be an asset to the Ladycats. ♦

"Crystal and Suntana bring in fresh blood and give us [the team] a sense of urgency; they are obvious assets to the team. If all the girls continue to work together well like we have been, and now with the freshmen being so strong, I think that this is definitely the year of the 'Cats' to represent at the state competition."

-Beth Lesar, senior

Berger highlights Hall of Fame inductees



CONGRATULATIONS/ Bob Berger and Jim Hahn, former Concord basketball coach shake hands after a 1980 era basketball game. Berger was recently inducted into the the Riley Hall of Fame.

Steve W. Ilfong

Senior Staff Reporter

Every other year, Riley's athletic department selects new members for their sports hall of fame. On Saturday, January 29, Riley inducted 13 new members.

Science teacher and former basketball coach Bob Berger was one of the 13 chosen to be in the *Hall of Fame*. Berger coached the boys' basketball team at Riley for 20 seasons. In his career he had a winning record of 240-202 and won five sectional titles. Those achievements have given him the most storied basketball career in Riley history.

"Considering how far Riley athletics go back and how many great people have been involved, it is a great honor to be selected to be in the *Riley Hall of Fame*," said Berger.

Berger has molded many great players. A few of his top players have been Derrick Wesley (also a 2000 hall of fame selection), Marcus Wilson, Rico Swanson, Andre Owens, and Riley's all-time leading scorer Eric Ford.

Those players have credentials. Wesley went on to Ball State where he became third on Ball State's all-time leading scorer list. Wilson played college ball at Evansville, and was named conference player of the year. Swanson went on to star at Bethel where he was named national player of the year. Owens started in the NCAA final four with Oklahoma State, and 'Big Country' Bryant Reeves.

Berger's best season at the helm was his 1990 team. He coached the Wildcats to a sectional and regional championship.

"I've had a lot of great moments as a coach. One of my best moments was when we beat LaPorte 112-100 in the regional semi-finals of the 1990 season. People describe it as the best high-school basketball game ever," explained Berger.

Berger focused on teaching basketball, but also teaching the game of life.

"I'm proud of all my players that have come through my system. It is great to see former players contributing to society, not being the leeches of society," stated Berger.

Berger called it quits in 1997.

"It was my time to retire. I was very happy about where the program was when I retired, and then Coach (Tom) DeBaets came in and he is doing an exceptional job," said Berger.

In order to have a good present program there needs to be a solid foundation. Berger set that base over 20 years of coaching excellence and solid play. Coach Berger gave Riley a lot more than five sectional titles. He gave the entire school his time, dedication, and served as a role model. He committed his life to the Riley tradition and gave all the students someone to admire.

Increased prices: decreased spirit

CHRIS' Comments



By
Chris Henry

Shhh! Do you hear that?

That's right, nothing.

You heard nothing. That's what it sounds like at any number of Riley sporting events lately.

What little noise you do hear at a game or meet is usually not coming from our side of the stands. What has happened to this school's 'school spirit'?

When I was a freshman, the stands, particularly at the basketball games, were filled to capacity with screaming fans of all ages. I went to a recent boys' basketball game at home, only to have to pay \$4 to get in and sit by a bunch of freshmen.

The freshmen think they are cool coming to all of these events, but all they do is talk and half the time don't even watch the game. They might as well not come and waste their money.

It doesn't matter what sporting event you go to at Riley, it costs quite a bit of money to get in. It costs \$4 to get into boys' and girls' basketball games, and boys' and girls' swim meets cost \$3. I think that one main reason that students don't participate in cheering on their fellow classmates is that it is just too expensive. Many people say, 'Why don't you just buy an all-sports pass?'

That's a great idea, but about halfway through the second week of school I had intentions to do just that when I was told that they no longer sell them, so that idea was out.

So I, just like many other kids, have to pay for each and every game that I want to attend. This is why kids would rather not go to the games.

I have a great way to pack the stands, and at the same time give Riley High School home court advantage in every sport. Let any kid in for free with a school I.D., or at least make all sporting events \$1.

You would still make a large profit off all non-students and in the process be creating immense school spirit.

Right now charging \$4 for people to get into

a basketball game just seems like another way to make some money and that is not what high school sports should be about.

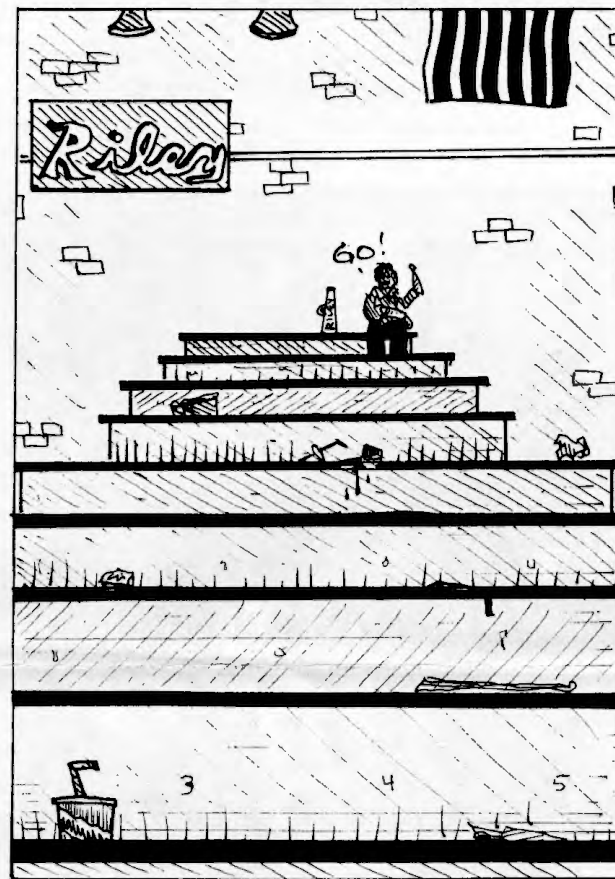
The basketball team does not need new uniforms every single year. I am sure that the team would rather have the support of 100 screaming students late in the fourth quarter than new uniforms.

One sport that fits my proposal is the cross country team, specifically the boys. They don't charge people to watch them run their race, so a decent amount of kids show up.

I will walk you through it slowly. It doesn't cost to get in, so the student fans come. The student fans come, so the team is encouraged and has a higher confidence.

The team is encouraged and has a higher confidence, so the team goes all the way to semi-state. Need I say more?

This proposal can happen and hopefully will open some eyes so that students can start a new tradition with a rejuvenated 'school spirit'.



Swimming

Continued from page one

Jimmy McKee, and junior, Sam Peat, went 2, 3, and 4 to make the score 64-62 Riley.

The Wildcats finished 1st (senior, Ryan Jesswein, sophomore, Mark Dubois, freshmen, Kevin Blue, and Cavadini), 3rd in the 200 free relay making the score 74-66. Another 2nd (Blue), 3rd (senior, Marcus King), 4th (Jesswein) finish in the 100 backstroke put Riley ahead by 12, 92-80.

The 100 breaststroke was won by Johnson who iced the meet for the Cats.

"I didn't know the score

going into the event. Coach (Mike) Luber approached me before the race and told me I had to win," said Johnson.

The last event of the day was the 400 free relay. The team of Jesswein, Dubois, and the Cavadini brothers won the race adding insult to injury and giving the Cats a 102-84 win and the conference championship. That race gave Louis Cavadini his fourth blue ribbon of the day. During Cavadini's anchor leg the crowd showed their support by raining down the cheers of 'N-I-C, N-I-C' over the Penn bench.

"This was the biggest meet I ever swam in. I am glad that I did a good job," exclaimed the younger Cavadini.

Winning the conference was redemption for coach Smith.

"After being the coach of the team that lost the conference streak two years ago, I feel like I have redeemed myself," said Smith.

Winning the conference was not a one person show but a team effort.

"We only won five of the 12 races but we had a lot of key 2nd, 3rd, and 4th place finishes. Everyone swam fast times for us," explained Smith.

It was those 2nd-4th place finishes that gave the 'Cats the victory. The disappointed Kingsmen could do nothing but hang their heads as echos of Riley cheers filled the pool.

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Swimmer remembers special night

Cameron Stouder

Sports Editor

Throughout the day of the Riley-Penn swim meet people asked me if I was nervous. I tried to lie and say no but the shaking of my legs did little to hide my obvious nervousness.

When the school day ended I went down to the pool. There I sat on the bench on the deck. I felt like I could run miles and not ever get tired. When we started to stretch as a team the nervousness increased as the start of the meet neared.

In the locker room prior to the meet is your last time to prepare yourself before you walk on the deck. I didn't need much help. Not only were we swimming against Penn but it was for a conference title. There was also the noise of the crowd cheering that got me ready to swim.

When I walked out onto the deck, I was in awe of the amount of students, faculty, alumni, and parents who had packed the Riley pool.

While we were standing as the *National Anthem* was being played the anxiety started to build.

When I dove in the pool to swim my first event, I was no longer nervous. My first swim was part of the

medley relay. Throughout my swim I remember being tired but not slowing down.

The first half of the meet went quickly. I didn't know the score but I knew it was close. I wasn't really nervous during the meet because I was so involved in what was happening in the pool.

When the score was tied at diving everyone believed we could win. You could see it in their eyes. I knew we would win.

When the final event ended, solidifying our victory, the feeling was



like no other I had ever felt in organized sports before.

I just sat there trying to absorb everything around me. When we shook Penn's hands after the meet, I don't remember anything they said. I was on cloud nine. We got over to the student section and sang the school song. It was controlled chaos.

Now that I sit back and reflect on that magical night, I wonder how we beat them. Were we more talented than they were? Maybe.

Were we better prepared than they were? Probably. Did they overlook us? Quite possibly. But I think it just came down to two things: one, we wanted it more than they did, and two, we wanted to continue the tradition of the swimmers that came before us. Is that what made us swim faster than I expected us to? Most likely. Everyone on our team swam faster than a lot of people imagined them to. It was a night that I will never forget. It was a special night. ♦



Grant Jones

PRE-GAME WARM UPS/ Junior Reggie Swanson warms up before a boys' varsity basketball game. Reggie is the point guard and the assists leader on a very strong wildcat team.

Boys' Basketball

Continued from page one

to do things to help the team win. The scoring is going to come, I am not too worried about it," said Taylor.

Strong guard play has opened things up for the inside game. The Cats' top inside threat has been Dokes who averages a double, double with 13.2 ppg and 10.8 rebounds per game (rpg). Dokes leads the team in blocks with 29.

"As long as we win, I don't care how many points I score. One thing I try to do is grab a certain amount of rebounds," commented Dokes.

During a season of Riley players stepping up, no one has stepped up more than senior forward Darrell Foster. Foster is third on the team

in scoring behind Taylor and Dokes with 10.9 ppg. Foster grabs 4.5 rpg which also stands third on the team. "Darrell is a guy that we (coaching staff) gave a role to and he has done his job well. He doesn't care if he scores. He just goes out and plays hard," explained DeBaets.

Another inside contributor has been senior forward John Fisette. Fisette has chipped in 5.6 ppg and 4.9 rpg.

The boy ballers have hit a speed bump on their way to success. Fisette and Przygoada have been suspended for an undetermined amount of time for violating team rules.

"We are going to miss those guys. John was just starting to fit into the system. This is just something we are going to have to overcome," said Dokes.

Without Fisette and Przygoada other players will have to step up. Juniors Mark Wilson (2.9 ppg) and Mark Woodmore (2.7 ppg) will pick up Fisette's minutes and sophomore Brian Foster (2.6 ppg) should get more minutes in the backcourt.

The boy ballers will get a tough test on the road against conference rival Washington later in the season.

"This season if we lose a game I think it is because we beat ourselves. So far that is a proven thing. The three games we have lost this year are due to our own mistakes. We are our own worst enemy," stated DeBaets.

As the conference season comes to a close the top players are starting to shape out. Dokes and Taylor each have a great chance to earn a spot on an all conference team. Last year no one on the team received a conference honor. ♦

-Tom DeBaets
Head Coach

Lady Hoopers

Continued from page two

spotted up for three and found nothing but the bottom of the net as the 'Cats took their fourth NIC victory. They are currently 5-2 in the NIC with a game against Washington remaining. Washington poses as a huge threat to Riley as they remain undefeated in the conference and hold a 13-1 record.

Norman has been a major contributor to many wins as she currently holds a 23.6 point- 11.3 rebound per game average. Granderson is the second high scorer as she pulls in an average of 16.3 points per game and 9.2 rebounds. Coming off the bench is senior Beth Lesar. Lesar is a hustle player who does the little things that aid the 'Cats in conquering their opponents. Also coming off the bench as a versatile player is sophomore, Missy King. King, a guard, who plays as an occasional forward, is showing strength in both positions as she gives starting players a rest.

Megyesi sports a three-guard, two-forward lineup to counteract the team's lack of size with quickness. A young offensive squad is backed by a solid string of upperclassmen leadership on the backcourt. Phillips, Marbley, and junior Lisa Cowper balance the inexperience of Granderson and Norman in the front by holding a defense that has only allowed four loses.

The Ladycats are now looking to the future for a sectional championship title.

"The sectional this year is wide open. Washington is not in our sectional so the top three teams to watch out for will be Riley, Penn, and Clay. I think what it will come down to who works the hardest and who gets the luckiest," said Megyesi.

Although the team has already shown vast amounts of improvement this year there is still a lot that needs to be worked on before the 'Cats are ready to take the court for the first sectional game, according to Megyesi.

"We can't let our good record trick us into thinking that we don't have to continue to work hard at practice and especially in all of the sectional games," Megyesi explained. "I have a lot of confidence in the team going into sectionals. They've been working hard all season, and they deserve it. Now they just have to want it bad enough."

"It's (the team's play) a big upscale from last year. We've clicked really well. We've been working extremely hard at every practice all year, for every game, not just sectionals, so we have a lot of confidence this year. There's no pressure. We're going to go into every sectional game the same way we've gone into every regular season game; with determination, hustle, and certainty," added Phillips.

The sectional final and semi-final will be held on Riley's homecourt. Tournament play begins February 15, and the final game will be played on February 19.

The Ladycats came into this season with everyone, including themselves, doubting their ability. They have picked up the pieces of a girls' basketball program that was left for them and rebuilt it into a team that refuses to accept failure. They have accomplished an outstanding winning season. ♦