

# THE Review



Co-Ed Sports: See News page 3

Experiencing X: See Centerspread page 4-5

Swim wins: See Sports page 3

1902 South Fellows Street

Volume 32 Issue 3

February, 2002

## Riley's blue ribbon is getting noticed

### Review Staff The Riley Review

➤ *Riley has been named one of best schools in the state.*

According to principal, George McCullough, Jr., Riley High School is the 'best kept secret' in town.

He is speaking about Riley being named one of twelve 'blue ribbon' secondary schools in Indiana.

Diversity is Riley's hallmark, and excellence is its strength. Students at Riley represent eleven nationalities, seven races, and speak eleven languages. Riley's neighborhoods are economically diverse as well. Students who live in half million dollar

mansions attend class alongside students who live on public assistance. However, although Riley is urban, its students excel in the academic, athletic and extracurricular arenas.

According to Dr. Suellen Reed, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Riley was selected for its high attendance and graduation rates along with its challenging standards and curriculum.

Lieutenant Governor Joseph Kernan noted Riley as a state-of-the-art complex that emphasizes technology while providing students with skills to face the 21st century. He said that Riley has a cutting-edge, student centered approach to education.

Reed also mentioned that Riley won the award for its excellent teaching environment, its school, family

and community partnerships, and its student performance on achievement tests.

Riley was selected for the award after an intensive year of self evaluation. A committee of twelve teachers and administrators studied every aspect of Riley's academic programs and compiled an exhaustive report which was submitted to Dr. Suellen Reed at the Indiana Department of Education in October. Riley was notified of its winning status a month later.

Blue Ribbon secondary schools are chosen every other year; elementary schools are chosen on the

■ **See Blue Ribbon:** on page two

**CONGRATS:** The South Gateway Association congratulated Riley with two of these billboards on Michigan and Main Street.



## Diversity Week

Compiled by Sarah Michalos  
Viewpoints Editor

### Day by Day

#### Monday

Celebration of diversity, star signing activity, hanging of the flag, opening of the RHS art exhibit

#### Tuesday

Special Ed. Diversity Activity

#### Wednesday

Taste of diversity, school-wide cultural trivia test- 300 winners get a diverse meal

#### Thursday

Diversity sports

#### Friday

Celebration of diversity in the theatre, all classes are invited, two events in the morning, including Gospel Choir, Orchestra, String Quartet, and activities with teachers.

### Enjoying cultures

To help students realize the different elements involved in diversity

To assist students in coming to an appreciation of the diversity among us.

To showcase the talents and achievements of various sectors of this diverse student body

To bring about a feeling of greater unity among all members of the Riley family

To promote greater understanding and cooperation among the diverse members of this student body

## Teaching staff lacks minorities

Tara Stokes

Editor-in-Chief

Although the corporation is in the midst of a court battle over the controversial Plan Z, there is an important issue that is being ignored. The number of minority teachers in the South Bend Community School Corporation is low. Only 9.6 percent of the corporation's teachers are minority.

"I feel the lack of minority teachers is a pressing issue. I believe in diversity, and we need to take a look at the diversity in the schools and classrooms," said George McCullough, principal.

In the year 2000, there were 1,544 teachers in the entire corporation. Out of that number 148 of them were black.

"Compared to the increasing number of minority students in the South Bend schools, that number is very low," said Sue Pantoja, English teacher.

According to the Office of Administrative Research, only 29.2 percent of South Bend students are white. Black, His-

panic, Asian, Indian, and multiracial students comprise of 50.8 percent of the student body. Twenty percent are either Special Education or Adult Education.

Desegregation laws stipulate that the number of black teachers in each school must be within plus or minus five percentage points of the total number of black students in the corporation.

The compliance ranges for the 2000-2001 school did not meet those standards. According to McCullough the number of minority teachers at Riley could be improved.

"However, there are more minority teachers here at Riley than at any other high school," said McCullough.

Pantoja, who is an advocate of increasing the number of minority teachers, only recently

became aware of the situation.

"I was reading through the Plan Z booklet left in the teacher's lounge when I read the numbers. I was shocked," said Pantoja.

One of the major reasons for Pantoja's concern is the ever growing population of minority students in the corporation.

"It just seems that as the number of minority students increases, so should the number of minority teachers. They [minorities] should be represented throughout the teaching field," said Pantoja.

According to Pantoja, minority students will benefit greatly

from having a teacher of the same race.

"I feel all students would like to have someone they feel they can relate to. Kids need role models and mentors at their schools, especially of the same

■ **See Minority:** on page two

## News at a glance

### ■ Homecoming

Mike Green was crowned the 2002 Homecoming King. Court included Phillip Cusic, Chris Eikleberry, Kynan O'Hara, Adam Nevel, Bobby Ullery, John Willis, and Roger Wiltfong.

### ■ Scholastic Keys

The following students received awards in the Northern Indiana Regional Art competition held at Century Center. Gold and Silver Keys and Honorable Mentions went to Andrea Gartee, Ashley Fragomeni,

Heather Cook, Corinne Betz, D.J. Charvat, Lyndsey Chapman, Sherell Wardlow, Stacey Turza, Kevind Aris, Andrew Kirksey, Alain Helfrich, Geoff Duncanson, Liz Hooser, Connor McDonald, and Amanda Leal.

### ■ Blue Ribbon

Riley High School was selected as a finalist in the Blue Ribbon Competition. Riley did not, however, make it to the national level. Almost all scores were extremely high and Riley was asked to apply again.

### ■ Sectionals

The boys' swim team won sectionals on February 14 and 16. Seven team members qualified for state including Louis and David Cavadini, Mark Dubois, Brian Johnson, Andy Ray, and Chris Denton.

### ■ Best Olympians

On Saturday, February 16 the Science Olympiad team won first place at regionals. Team members will be going down to the state competition in Bloomington on March 23.



# This is the law

## Public Law 221 to improve Riley

### What is Public Law 221?

Public Law 221, a law passed by the Indiana legislation, affects all schools in Indiana including Riley. PL-221 is a school improvement and accountability legislation, and its intent is to raise the academic achievement of all Indiana students by giving each school the authority to develop its own plan to improve student achievement. Its success is important because failure has unsatisfactory consequences. Schools must show improvement in ISTEP scores and other measures, such as attendance and graduation rate. The law involves everyone. Parents, teachers, the principal, and the community together are working together to ensure the success of the law.

### Who is involved?

#### Steering Committee

##### Principal

George McCullough

##### Teachers

Ed Linetty  
Jill Marston  
Christine Phillips  
Jan Witherell

##### Parents

Calvin Johnson  
Billie Newman

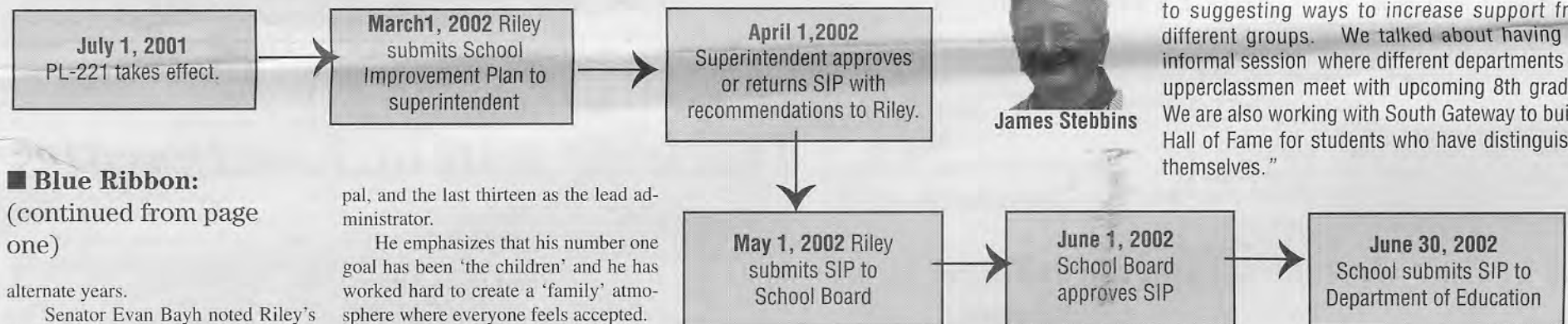
##### Community Reps

Charlie Asher  
Michael Patton

##### Business Rep

Jim Frick

### What will happen?



#### ■ Blue Ribbon:

(continued from page one)

alternate years.

Senator Evan Bayh noted Riley's high academic standards. It was one of the first two schools in Indiana to pass the state Performance Based Accreditation and North Central Accreditation tests.

"We decided to apply for the Blue Ribbon Award because we felt the need to communicate to our community how good we are. We wanted to get the word out that our school can compete with any other out there," said McCullough.

Winning the Blue Ribbon Award has been one of McCullough's long time goals for Riley.

He explained, "Our students can compete with those at

any other school, and they can compete once they are in college and in the workforce." He also said, "We have outstanding programs and progressive partnerships with local businesses. Our partnership with Coca Cola now brings in \$10,000 in scholarships each year for our students."

McCullough noted that the teachers are exceptionally caring and he said that, "Although we are an urban school, we are safe. Teachers, staff and students are never afraid to walk the halls, to eat in our cafeteria, to enjoy coffee with their colleagues and peers."

McCullough has led Riley for 19 years, spending six as assistant principal,

and the last thirteen as the lead administrator.

He emphasizes that his number one goal has been 'the children' and he has worked hard to create a 'family' atmosphere where everyone feels accepted.

And it's true, a 2001 summa cum laude graduate Beth Marshall, editor of the Riley Review, had her choice of high schools when her family moved to South Bend from Utah four years ago.

"Our students are succeeding, winning scholarships and recognition and competing in the work world. Our partnerships are working, and our test scores are up."

-George McCullough  
Principal

"I chose Riley," because the principal made me feel accepted. It was the only school where someone remembered my name. I felt I would fit in," she said.

Congressman Tim Roemer noted that each student is served "individually at Riley," and the "overwhelming pride and attitude among the teachers, students, staff and parents," set it apart from other schools.

"We are an urban school that works," he said. "Our students are succeeding, winning scholarships and recognition and competing in the work world. Our partnerships are working, and our test scores are up."

"And," he continued, "We have third and fourth generation families who have graduated from Riley. People love living on the south side of town. Riley is one of the reasons they stay here." ■

### 7 subcommittees

#### 1 Professional Development

#### 2 Learning Environment

#### 3 Goals and Strategies

#### 4 Curriculum

#### 5 Data Collection and Analysis

#### 6 Parent/Community Involvement

#### 7 School Profile



Mike Megyesi

"We look at things like the environment of the school, how students feel about school, an alternative schedule (is block four better than six day period?), and parents and students perception of schools. If we have a problem out there we need to try to correct these things or inform people if there is a misconception."



Mary Finley

"My committee is concerned with goals which are central and significant. We have to have attainable goals and we need strategies to achieve those goals. The two most important goals are raising ISTEP scores and attendance. We hope to offer an ISTEP class next year as part of the schedule as well as before and an after-school remediation program."



Jan Witherell

"Our job is to identify strengths and weaknesses in the present system and to document continuous improvement. We take all data from state website and present it to our staff and community to help them to understand the data. We also work with analyzing ISTEP and NWEA (Ninth grade ISTEP). We also help analyze surveys."



James Stebbins

"Our committee is charged with examining the present structure of community involvement and to suggesting ways to increase support from different groups. We talked about having an informal session where different departments and upperclassmen meet with upcoming 8th graders. We are also working with South Gateway to build a Hall of Fame for students who have distinguished themselves."

#### ■ Minority: (continued from page one)

race. I think it would have a positive effect on students to see adults of their race working in jobs other than the food service and custodial fields, although those are perfectly respectable jobs," said Pantoja.

An expert in the field of minority students and teachers in a school setting, Dr. Ruby Payne, teaches diversity through the use of realistic teaching scenarios.

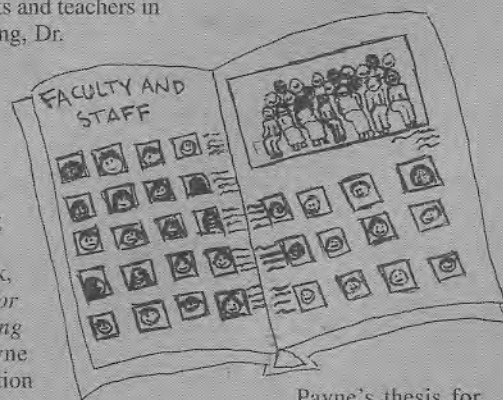
In her book, *Framework for Understanding Poverty*, Payne focused attention on sources of support, or resources, which might or might not be present in a student's life.

"This issue is not just about race, it is about different classes being represented in the schools," said Pantoja.

"A child, and not necessarily a minority child, will relate, and therefore perform better knowing that the

person teaching them understands their living situation. I think this could definitely make the school system more successful," said Pantoja.

The main goal of Payne's book is educating people about the differences that separate economic classes and then teaching them skills to bridge those gulfs.



Payne's thesis for *Framework* is simple. Individuals accustomed to personal poverty think and act differently from people in the middle and upper economic classes.

Most teachers today come from middle-class backgrounds. Economic class differences, in an educational setting, often make both teaching and learning challenging. Too often,

teachers don't understand why a student from poverty is chronically acting out or is not grasping a concept even after repeated explanations. At the same time, the student doesn't understand what he/she is expected to produce and why.

Payne discusses at length the social cues or "hidden rules" that govern how we think and interact in society; and the significance of those rules in a classroom.

Payne presents the issues central to teaching students from poverty, then takes the next step by offering tools faculty can use immediately to improve the quality of teaching in their classrooms.

"In the real world, there is so much diversity. I think having a more diverse teaching population would prepare students of all races for their jobs. Most likely their workplace will be represented by people of all classes and races, and they need to be equipped properly for that," said Pantoja. ■



# BOYS VS. GIRLS



*Should girls be able to play on the same sports teams as boys?*



## Title IX enforces sexual equality in sports

Chelsea Steele  
Sports Editor

**> Title IX: No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education programs or activity receiving federal assistance.**

**T**itle IX has single-handedly had the best and worst affect on sports across America in the past three decades.

Its proponents are passionate about its cause, but its opponents are equally determined to overturn it.

### >What is Title IX?

According to [www.schillerlawfirm.com](http://www.schillerlawfirm.com) Title IX was a part of the 1972 Education Amendment made to the Civil Rights Act of 1964. It requires gender equality for athletes in scholarships, participation opportunities, treatment, and benefits. It also covers a wide range of equality issues, including the provision of equipment and supplies, scheduling games and practices, and provision of facilities.

Schiller Law Firm, located in Cookeville, Tennessee, specializes in representing females in Title IX cases. While they recognize that advancements have been made on behalf of female athletes at the college level, more progress is needed in high school, middle school, and elementary sports programs.

"If girls are to compete for ever-expanding opportunities in athletics at the collegiate level, they need to develop the necessary skills at the earlier grade levels," said Schiller.

Recent legal cases have made improvements in female sports at the high school, junior high, and elementary school levels.

"Schiller Law Firm has filed numerous Title IX lawsuits in federal court and has prevailed in each and every one," stated the firm.

### >The Pros

While women's sports seem like an every day occurrence, 30 years ago they were not the norm. Marcia Kovas attended LaSalle High School in the mid '70s and joined the boys' tennis team in 1974.

"There was no female tennis team," said Kovas. "The only thing there was for females when I started high school was cheerleading."

Kovas grew up near Leeper Park and played tennis frequently. When she entered high school,

she was encouraged to join the boys' tennis team by older girls who were already members of the team. Even though girls' sports were almost nonexistent, very few girls chose to play on male teams. Although it was the only option for her at the time, Kovas still encountered disapproval from some individuals about her decision.

"A lot of people asked me why I played for the boys' team," said Kovas. "At the time, I thought it would be a learning experience."

Despite feeling intimidated by her stronger and bigger teammates, Kovas continued to play on the boys' team for almost two years. During her junior year, Title IX went into effect and Kovas was able to join the newly formed girls' team.

According to Kovas, Title IX was met with resentment from males who thought funding would be cut from their own programs.

"On the St. Joe tennis team a boy decided to play on the girls' team because of Title IX just being passed," recalled Kovas. "He did it for a political statement, but he helped them win the state championship. A lot of girls thought it was unfair, but if they could do it (join the opposite sex's team), so could he."

Contrary to males' fears, Kovas does not remember any boys' sports being cut. Instead, she remembers girls' sports gradually being added to school athletic programs. Kovas feels that the addition of women's sports has been an important part of helping women socialize, exercise, and learn to work with a team.

"As women's sports have grown, it has created women athletes," said Kovas. "When I was in high school, being a cheerleader was the thing to be. Now, girls want to be on the team."

### >The Cons

While female athletes continue to praise Title IX, a growing number of complaints are emerging. *The Prep Page* is a website devoted to fighting Title IX with facts, quotes, and opportunities to contact senators regarding the issue. The statistics reveal the dark side of Title IX.

*The Prep Page* reports that since Title IX requires equal opportunities for both genders, schools cannot offer multiple male teams and only a couple female teams. If there is not enough funding available for female sports programs, cuts have to be made to the male programs. This could result in the loss of teams, players, or scholarships.

Since 1973, 20,900 male athletic opportunities have been eliminated across the country and only 5,800 women's programs have been added, according to *The Prep Page*.

While every male sport has been affected by Title IX in one way or another, wrestling presides as the most affected male athletic program. Over 375 wrestling programs have been dropped

since Title IX, but there are more participants in high school wrestling overall than ever before.

Since wrestling ranks as the sixth most popular high school sport, there is enough interest to support the collegiate programs. But lack of funding and the threat of females joining the teams has encouraged many colleges to eliminate their wrestling programs.

Brandon Sandefur, senior, has seen the damage of Title IX on wrestling programs firsthand. Although he admits it's not exactly difficult to find colleges with wrestling programs, locating small colleges with smaller classes and wrestling is a challenge. In fact, all schools in the South-eastern Conference have entirely eliminated their wrestling programs.

"(Title IX) has hurt wrestling," said Sandefur.

"They give very few full rides (to wrestlers). Now, even at Division I, all you're going to find is half scholarships."

### >The Results

According to John Berta, Athletic Director, Riley has never had any law-

suits or articles filed against it regarding Title IX.

"Yes, we've had complaints, but not legal complaints," said Berta.

As complaints have been made, they have been addressed and changes have been made. But as Berta points out, sometimes it is difficult to know how much to change.

"Each change can infringe on something else," explained Berta. "Girls' sports filled a void and grew."

Girls' basketball and volleyball were among the first female sports added, and swimming and cross-country were added around 1978. The most recent addition was girls' golf in 1998.

"Parents usually brought the interest in a sport to attention to begin a team," said Berta.

While the surge of women's sports in America can be attributed primarily to Title IX, so can the decline of collegiate wrestling. It will likely take more than a few games to determine the winner of the Title IX debate. ■



Josh Drake, Staff Photographer

**STOP! NO GIRLS ALLOWED:** Kendra Reynolds, freshman, proves she can keep up with junior Adam Scholtes during a friendly after school game.

## Female athletes struggle to wear the pants on boys' teams

Katie Grembowicz  
Writing Specialist

Girls have made it a long way since the corset wearing days of the early 1900's and the bra burning days of the 1970's. Women are beginning to be paid the same amount as a man for doing the same job, they're no longer expected to be pregnant and barefoot at home, and they're even encouraged to become powerful figures in the world.

But there is still another barrier that women are just beginning to break down. For a long time, women have been a force in sports. Besides the Olympics, women's sporting events were rarely televised or put much emphasis on. But lately it seems that women have become a force to be reckoned with in the sporting world, and women's sports teams are more popular than ever.

It's not just older women in the WNBA (Women's National Basketball Association) or the LPGA (Ladies' Professional Golf Association). Girls of all ages are participating in many more sports, including ones that have been previously deemed 'boys' sports.'

This phenomenon has been happening all over the world, including right here at Riley. Recently, there have been girls joining the wrestling and football teams, and the girls' and boys' swimming teams have been practicing together in the same pool since 2000.

And even with all the controversy surrounding some of these girls, they've held their heads high and have been successful with their goals.

Nickie Myers, senior, played on the Penn hockey team for almost a year and a

half. She admitted that there were some struggles playing with all boys, but given the choice to play with all girls or boys, she would still choose the boys.

**“When you play with all girls, you don't get the same feel for the game.”**

-Nickie Myers  
Senior

"A lot of the guys said they didn't want me to get hurt, and some of them didn't talk to me because they thought I shouldn't be playing, but I still had a lot of fun. The guys just have a better game style, and I like the aggressiveness. When you play with all girls, you don't get the same feel for the game," she said.

But Steve Palmer, sophomore and varsity football player, says that given the choice, the boys wouldn't choose for the girls to play with them.

"We just couldn't be ourselves," he said. "Sarah (Tidwell) was cool and everything, but we had to be worried about what we said and did all the

time so we wouldn't offend her or Becky (Nijak)."

Coach Jim Berger, head football coach, said that he didn't think it affected his players at all.

"The only change we really had to make was better locker room supervision, but in terms of coaching, everything was done the same," he said. And John Berta, athletic director, said that he doesn't foresee greater female interest in playing on boys' sports teams to come.

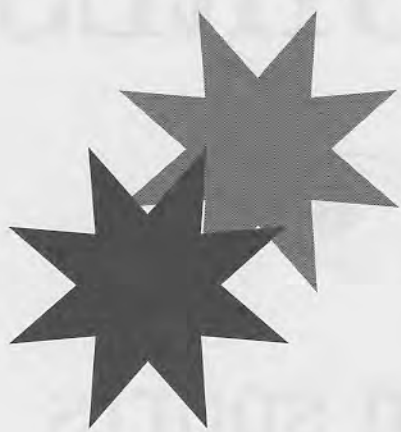
"We've had some interest from a few girls, but not even all the ones who come out for teams stay on them. The only other girl on our football team was Allison Nickle, and our only other girl on a boys' team was a wrestler about four years ago. Girls that want to play on boys' teams are few and far between," he commented.

So it looks like it may be a long time before girls at Riley feel like they're welcome on male teams, but all barriers are broken down one brick at a time. ■

Art by Salina Solkhe, Staff Artist



# Experiencing



9:30 pm	10:30 pm	11:00 pm	11:30 pm
We left for the rave about 9:30 pm. It was in an abandoned warehouse.	It was dark inside and there were six DJ's. The laser show had already started so I walked around and talked to friends.	Met up with dealer, bought six pills for \$10 a piece.	Took two pills with water, and started rolling (using Ecstasy) after 45 minutes. Started dancing.

# Ecstasy; the truth a

## Raves, risks, and reasons behind the increased use

Chelsea Steele/Adriann Shea  
Sports Editor/Business Manager

> The music is loud, electronic, and fast. The lights and glowsticks make the room colorful. The dance floor is filled with dancing 'ravers,' and the vibe is positive, according to Sarah Welton, freshman.

Raves formally were known as a place for teens and young adults to go have fun, dance, and be safe. Throughout recent years, however, raves have proved to be hot spots for Ecstasy users and dealers.

They seek positive energy and good vibes. They ignore the dangers. They are becoming more common. They use Ecstasy (also known as X).

Welton explains that when she is rolling, a term used to describe the feeling your body gets while you are high on Ecstasy, and dancing, her favorite part is the lightshows. A lightshow is a dance that is enhanced with glowsticks. Since X enhances a person's feelings and senses, the movement of the lights enralls the person who is rolling.

Ecstasy is typically available in tablet or capsule form and is occasionally produced as a powder. According to w.lec.org www.lec.org Ecstasy is made from a chemical compound known as Methyline Dioxmethamphetamine (MDMA).

However, many manufacturers of Ecstasy use a variety of other ingredients along with MDMA to produce the pills they sell as Ecstasy.

"(Ecstasy) can contain even more powerful drugs such as heroin or LSD," said Precious A, an anonymous Ecstasy user. "You can never be sure of what you are going to get."

MDMA acts as a stimulant to the central nervous system. When drug users take Ecstasy, a neurotransmitter in the brain called serotonin is affected. Serotonin controls the body's sensations of hunger, fatigue, and depression.

Adequate amounts of serotonin allow the body's awareness to sense hunger and fatigue. Being able to react to the body's need for rest and nourishment provokes a feeling of being emotionally stable,

### Ecstasy: or MDMA or 'speed' with mind-altering or

says www.lec.org. However, inadequate amounts or serotonin desensitize the body hunger and fatigue, which will eventually lead to depression.

USA Today quoted research on February 11, 2002, that indicates that Ecstasy causes long-term deficits of serotonin production in the brain.

Although short-term effects of using Ecstasy include enhanced senses, users risk long-term feelings of fatigue and depression for the rest of their lives.

It has become the drug of choice among white middle class youths. The study also revealed that emergency room data indicates that X is increasingly used by marijuana users. Tablets seized by the Drug Enforcement Administration increased from 13,343 in 1996, to 949,257 in 1999 in the USA.

Statistics have shown that 1.5 percent of Americans (3.4 million) had used X at least once during their lifetime. The heaviest use was reported for those between 18 and 25 years old at 5 percent or 1.4 million people. For the second year in a row the use of X for tenth and twelfth graders has increased.

Raves: all-night dance parties that are held in settings such as vacant warehouses. They have music, offer a variety of high-tech entertainment, and often incorporate the use of drugs.

## This is your brain...this is your brain on Ecstasy



- Euphoria
- Enhanced mental or emotional clarity
- Feelings of well-being
- Anxiety and paranoia

Heavier doses can cause hallucinations, sensations of lightness and floating, depression, paranoid thinking, and violent, irrational behavior.

Long term effects include the destruction of serotonin-producing neurons in the brain. These areas in the brain control aggression, mood, sexual activity, sleep and sensitivity to pain.

### Other side effects of Ecstasy

- Loss of appetite
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Blurred vision
- Increased heart rate and blood pressure
- Muscle tension
- Faintness
- Chills
- Sweating
- Tremors
- Reduced appetite
- Insomnia
- Convulsions

### Riley's rave

A survey of 72 F various Have you ever b rave?

Did you use Ecs any other drug there?

Do you know a who has or doe Ecstasy?

### The nation's

Use of Ecstasy ar 19 1995 1998 2001







# Pro/Con

## Suiting up:

Do girls have a right to play on boys' athletic teams?

### Girls can handle boys' teams

➤ **Keeping girls off boys' teams violates girls' right to equality.**

It's no secret that women have come a long way in today's society. The world is much more woman-friendly than it was 30 years ago. Women vote, they hold office, they even work and have families at the same time.

Women do many of the same things men do. We compete for the same jobs, earn the same money, and retain the same intellectual skills.

So, what is the big deal with women in 'men's' sports? There's no difference between a woman being a corporate executive or a professional athlete. If a woman can perform the job and perform it well, why shouldn't she be allowed to play in a men's league?

Sure, women and men are probably on very different levels of athletic ability, but that doesn't mean a woman shouldn't be allowed to play just because she's a woman, when the weakest man is still allowed to participate without any complaint just because he's a man.

**Katie Grembowicz**  
Writing Specialist



Boys, especially high school boys, don't understand how difficult it still is to be a girl these days. Even with all the progress women have made in the world, there are still barriers to overcome, and sports presents one of them.

When Sarah Tidwell, senior, played on the football team this year, I never heard a complaint out of her. She did the 'two-a-days' in sweltering heat with pads on. She played through injuries and problems, not only within the sport, but also within her personal life, and she did it all with her mouth shut. She definitely wasn't a key player, and she didn't get a lot of playing time, but the point is that she did it.

And of course not every girl on a football or wrestling team is going to be that way. Of course there are going to be girls who complain about language or 'boys being boys,' but that's something that these guys are just going to have to deal with.

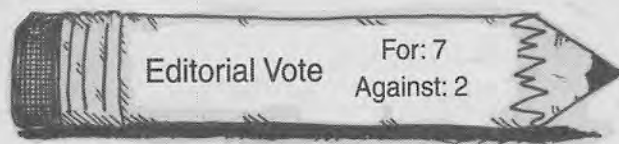
And as uncomfortable as it might make the boys that have to go up against these girls, the girls they're competing against are 100 times more uncomfortable. They're trying to make friends on the team and prove themselves at the same time. They've got boys touching them in strange places, and they're expected to take it without so much as a squirm.

Yes, there's a larger opportunity for injury when a girl plays with boys, but if that's their only option, then so be it. Society can't force girls to be cheerleaders or volleyball players when they don't want to be. We don't force girls to be teachers instead of doctors, so sports at any level shouldn't be any different.

I say, if the girl can take the pain and play the game, then she should be allowed to, without any comment or question from anyone else. And if a boy wants to play on the volleyball team, that's fine too. ■



Christian Macon, Staff Artist



### Girls' right to play is unfair

➤ **Girls' and boys' sports teams are separated for a reason.**

Girls claim that they should be allowed to play on football and wrestling teams because it's 'only fair.' But the moment a girl suits up as a member of a boys' team, she creates a situation that is extremely unfair.

Some boys are still taught not to hit girls. They're taught to respect members of the opposite sex by opening doors and pulling chairs out for them. When a boy prepares to tackle an opponent and realizes that he is about to take out a female, he is presented with a moral dilemma. Should he show her the respect she commands as a female and let her pass? Should he gently push her down to prevent from injuring her? Or should he disregard all previous training in manners and block her as any other good defender would do? After all, it is just a game. Or is it?

Ladies, men are already telling us that if we want the right to fight in the army, we should also be forced to register for the draft. Granted, we don't want to be forced to stay home without rights and produce only babies. But do we really want to lose our feminine identity? If it's okay for guys to cross-face us on the mat, how do we explain that we still expect them to walk on the outside of the sidewalk after the match?

Wrestling creates the most controversial situation for girls and guys to be competing in together. Extremely close contact, holds meant to inflict pain, and moves that would be considered perverse in any other situation are hardly acceptable for contact between opposite sexes.

However, if a guy opposes wrestling a female for personal reasons, he must forfeit the match. Why should he suffer a loss on his record and risk losing state rankings, tournament placings, and more, just because he is a gentleman? Theoretically, a girl wrestler could win a tournament if every wrestler in her weight class refused to wrestle with her; that's hardly a victory to be proud of.

Most of the conflict of interest with girls intruding onto boys' teams originates with contact sports. Nonetheless, there are concerns that could apply to any sport. The girl is not likely to feel part of the team if she is unable to participate in locker room conversation before and after the game. The boys will be mentally aware of the girls' presence, which could lead to distraction. Furthermore, the sheer size and ability difference between most girls and guys could lead to inferiority feelings for the girl.

Girls deserve a chance to play sports and have equal opportunities. But guys don't deserve to be forced into making a choice between their morals and their sport. ■

**Chelsea Steele**

Sports  
Editor



## Photo Poll Should girls be allowed to play on boys' sports teams?



Scott Berzai-12

"It depends on the sport, how physical it is; and it depends on the girl's talent."

Justin Thompson-11

"No, they're just not cut out for what we do."

Gina Robertson-10

"Yes, as long as they're willing to accept the challenges of being in a guys' sport."

Brent Easton-12

"Only if I can play volleyball and softball."

Becky Nijak-9

"Yeah, because there's no reason girls can't be tough enough to play with the big boys."

Corrina Garza-10

"Yes, it's sexist if they don't."

Zach DeShone-11

"Yes, because if guys can throw up, girls can throw up."

Colin Cybulski-12

"Sure, as long as they don't get hurt and blame it on the sport."

Maria Casarez-9

"Yes, because girls have the potential to be as athletic as guys."