



Recruiting LaSalle: See News page 3 (left)

Lack of sleep: See Centerspread page 4-5

Boys' Golf: See Sports page 3

1902 South Fellows Street

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Shattered windows go unnoticed

Parking lot vandalism continues

Tara Stokes
Editor-in-Chief

There is a criminal lurking around Riley. Throughout the day while students are in class, someone is breaking car windows, stealing CDs, and damaging expensive cars. No one knows who this faceless, nameless delinquent is, but it does not seem like his/her path of destruction is stopping any time soon.

Jeremy Sexton, senior, has had his car broken into twice this year.

"I went inside and told Brian Kendall [school resource officer] the first time, because a lot of property was stolen. He filled out a police report for me, but I never received anything from my insurance company, or heard anything from the school. The second time I didn't inform the school, because I didn't bother trying to get any compensation, and nothing is ever done about it anyway," said Sexton.

But Sexton is misguided about parking lot protocol. According to George McCullough, principal, even though the parking lot is considered school property, the school does not have a responsibility to replace or repair stolen or broken property.

"We cannot be held responsible for break-ins and vandalisms, because when a student purchases a parking sticker, the corporation says 'We are not liable,'" said McCullough. "You park at your own risk."

If a student's car is broken into or vandalized in the school parking lot, McCullough says the student should immediately notify the school. Kendall will help the student file a police report. In the case that Kendall is unavailable, the school will call the police department. If there is a known suspect, he/she will be named in the police report. It is then the students responsibility to notify their insurance company.

The school has taken measures to thwart

■ **See Cars:** on page two



Geoff Duncanson, Photo Editor

A MASKED ATTACK: This is a posed picture of a car being broken into in the Riley parking lot. This has occurred at least six times to students at Riley. Although most incidents were reported, few were resolved.

Final farewells: Pittman and Swafford retire

Nick Henry
Staff Writer

Retirement: it is a word that holds an uncertain promise for the unprepared.

This year, there are two teachers retiring from Riley, social studies teacher Nat Pittman and art teacher Dale Swafford.

Both are veteran educators, with over 76 years of combined experience in the teaching business.

Pittman has taught for 41 years, ten at Riley; every thing from psychology to sociology, *United States History* to economics, and he even dabbled in seventh grade math for one year. His favorite



Nat Pittman and Dale Swafford

subject to teach, however, is *Street Law*.

The only thing he will not miss about his job is driving from Elkhart to South Bend in bad weather.

Conversely, the things he will miss are the students and the chance to help those younger than himself, and also

the camaraderie with his fellow faculty members.

Part of Pittman's success as a teacher has been his emphasis on class participation as well as a concerted effort at communicating with his students.

He maintains a friendly relationship with his students, and says that he gently teases and jokes with them as he does with his own children.

"These kids aren't just my students, they are my kids,"

said Pittman.

Despite the comfortable atmosphere, Pittman demands respect, and acknowledges that respect is a two way street.

During his retirement, Pittman intends to spend more time with his wife.

He also plans on fishing, one of his favorite past-times. Pittman does not intend to abandon teaching entirely; he plans to substitute teach three days a week, keeping the weekends free for time with his wife.

Swafford, who has been in the teaching business for 35 years, the lastest nine at Riley, is also retiring. He has taught elementary, middle, and high school and a plethora of art disciplines.

He said that when your age and teaching experience add up to 85, you get one of the highest increases on your pension. That is why he is leaving. He also adds that it is always good to leave on a high note.

"The last few years have been incredible. One day I just decided I wasn't going to have any more bad days."

Swafford's post-retirement plans involve travel. He suggests that he'll find his way to Japan or Europe to find a teaching position, complementing his working knowledge of French and Japanese.

"Each of [Swafford's lessons] teaches me something, even if I don't see it at the time. Yeah, I'll miss him," said Kristi

Dunn, a junior ceramics student.

Stephanie LaFree, junior will miss Pittman,

"His class was lots of fun, I'll be sad once he is gone."

Principal George McCullough said, "I have tried to convince both of them to stay at least one more year. They are two of the best teachers in the corporation. We will miss their professionalism, their rapport with the students, and the positive energy they bring to the school."

According to McCullough, they are two guys that he would like to see stay at the school. ■

News at a glance

■ Prom 2002

Prom is Friday, May 10. It is being held at the Century Center and the theme is *Enchanted Evening*. Tickets are on sale in the treasurer's office for \$25 per couple and After Prom tickets are \$5 per couple.

■ Senior Survey

Senior surveys will be featured in the *Eye Candy* section of the next issue of *The Review*. Surveys were distributed last week to all senior English classes and must be returned to Room 429.

■ Early Release

Administration decided that seniors will take final exams two days early and still receive an early release. Seniors will have finals on June 4 and 5, while underclassmen will have finals on June 6 and 7.

■ FPS

The *Future Problem Solvers* team of Myra Brazier, Elyse Chudzynski, Ashley Coker, Colin Cybulski, and alternate May Lee Lockhart went to state on April 13 and won a second place for their skit.

■ Ugly Winners

Seniors, Scott Parker, Adam Nevel, Becky Hedman, Ashley Dueringer, Elyse Chudzynski, and Bobby Ullery competed in Ugly Couples' Week. Parker and Chudzynski won free prom tickets by col-

lecting the most money over the week's time. The other two couples were very close behind and all received after-prom tickets. Altogether the three couples collected \$696.28 which will be contributed to the prom account.

Silent reminders: Riley's new WCN Channel 68

Chelsea Steele
Sports Editor

There's a new way to receive information at Riley High School, thanks to the initiative of Michael Lane, senior.

The Wildcat Communications Network (WCN) began broadcasting in February as an informative television channel exclusive to Riley. Although the concept of broadcasting a signal throughout the school was conceived during the days of Old Riley, the project fell victim to the corporation's cost-cutting efforts a few years ago and has waited until now to be resurrected.

It was kind of funny. Mike said, "I've got a great idea. We ought to put announcements up [on the television]." said John Wibbens, biology and multi-media teacher. "It was a great idea, but it was about five years old."

According to Wibbens the corporation's technology program first envisioned broadcasting a videotaped newscast throughout the school at the end of first hour. Slide shows conveying announcements would be shown during the remainder of the day, and announcements over the loud speaker would be eliminated.

However, equipment for producing taped newscasts and money for technology gradually disappeared. Little black boxes should have been installed on each TV so that a switch would flip every TV in the school on at once, but many TVs are without them.

Wibbens was also supposed to have a class hour set aside for coordinating the school website and television announcements, but that period was also eliminated during cost-cutting.

"I needed a student to undertake it [broadcast announcements] as a project," said Wibbens. "It's a lot of work."

Lane finally became the student Wibbens was waiting on when he transferred into the independent study multi-media design class about half

way through the first semester.

"I saw that we had the equipment to broadcast a television signal throughout the school, and so I asked Mr. Wibbens and Mr. McCullough if I could do it," said Lane.

Lane brainstormed for a channel name and chose *Wildcat Communications Network* himself.

In order to broadcast a signal throughout the school, a signal must be filtered out through routing boxes located in the library. In this case, the corporation chose to filter out channel 68 and replace it with the school's channel.

The announcements are prepared as a power-point presentation on the computer, and a signal sends the information to a connected VCR. The VCR is what sends the signal throughout the entire school.

"The cable to the entire school was very distorted, and a lot of adjustments had to be made to the electrical rooms on each floor to fine tune the signals," said Lane. "There's still a little bit of a problem with another channel 68 bleeding through, but it's not that noticeable."

Lane arrives at school around 6:45 a.m. every day to edit the slides and prepare the announcements for the day. The job can take anywhere from two minutes to half an hour. Fortunately, he occasionally receives help from Wibbens, Brain Drown, sophomore, and Aaron Nowak, senior. However Wibbens is concerned that the announcements could disappear next year.

"I've got a bit of a fear, to be honest, because if someone doesn't adopt it as a project next year, it will disappear," said Wibbens.

Despite Wibbens' concerns, Lane remains more optimistic about the future of WCN. If the multi-media class is re-introduced, taped announcements could happen as early as next year. Lane envisions a once-a-week taped look-back at Riley news and events, with the slide announcements running the rest of the time.

Lane feels that the response towards WCN



Craig Swift, Staff Photographer

COMPUTER NERD: Mike Lane works diligently on the computer in order to prepare the announcements for the day. He arrives at school around 6:45 a.m. every day to work on it.

has been positive.

"Most of the teachers are in favor of it so they don't lose class time," said Lane.

John Koellner, chemistry teacher, likes the idea of WCN and tries to turn it on every morning before school.

"It's kind of a non-intrusive way to get information out- it teachers like me remember to turn it on," said Koellner.

Unfortunately, there are still many teachers who either don't know about WCN or are choos-

ing not to turn it on during the day.

"I think we'd be lucky if 50 percent of them are turning it on," said Wibbens.

Lane recommends teachers turn their TV onto the VCR and turn the VCR channel to 68 for the best reception.

If teachers learn to use WCN with more regularity, loudspeaker announcements could be eliminated entirely. ■

Photo Poll Can the dress code be broken during spirit week and ugly couples' week?



George McCullough-
Principal

"Yes, it generates enthusiasm and high school spirit and creates the entire school experience. As long as it is not vulgar or gross, it's okay. You have got to let young people relax sometimes."



Beth Horban-
Assistant Principal

"Some rules are relaxed or suspended but on the other hand, we still want people to be decent looking and not create a disturbance because of what they're wearing. A student will be asked to fix anything questionable."



Drew Albright -17

"I think you should be able to express yourself when we're supposed to."



Tim Ryan- 12

"Why would you have an event and say you can't do it?"

Elyse Chudzynski, Editor-in-Chief

SCANDALOUS: Scott Parker, senior, dressed up as a Playboy bunny on one day of Ugly Couples' Week. His outfit was considered suggestive by some, and at one point he was sent home to change. He, however, returned later that day in his outfit after talking with George McCullough, principal.

■ Cars: (continued from page one)

vandalisms and robberies through the use of security cameras. A camera is permanently focused on the student lot. If unusual activity is seen, it can be zoomed in enough to read the license plate number of the car in question.

According to McCullough, a police officer has even been hired specifically to come and watch the parking lot camera from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. during the lunch hours. If he sees anything suspicious, he takes a golf cart out to check the lot.

However, according to what the school told Sexton, the cameras were frozen at the time of his break-in.

"They didn't explain anything to me about the cameras like where they were or why they were mechanically malfunctioning. They just told me that they were frozen," said Sexton.

The cameras not working properly was not an isolated incident.

Two years ago Cory Newland, senior, walked out to the parking lot to discover that a brick had been thrown through his rear window shattering it entirely. Newland drove his car home that afternoon but reported the incident to McCullough first thing the next morning.

McCullough directed Newland to Cynthia Merrit, security guard, who then went over films from the camera with him.

"After the school did nothing, I contacted the police who filed a report," said Newland.

"It [cars being broken into] is not as common as everyone thinks it is. It has basically stopped," said Kendall.

McCullough says that the occurrence of break-ins has been reduced to almost zero since the dirt parking lot directly across from the school has opened.

The lot was originally intended to be paved for visitors, but it was opened for students when the need became evident. There are plans to pave it in the future, budget permitting.

Newland, however, does have a problem with the school charging students \$10 to park in a lot that is not supervised in any way.

"I should not have to pay money for people to break into my car. I would be glad to pay the fee if there was good security, but unfortunately, there is not," said Newland.

Newland is not the only student to feel this way.

"They should not have to pay anything if no one is willing to patrol the parking lot. The school should have to pay half of the student's damages since they are required to pay to park there," said April DeCook, freshman.

The money that is generated from the parking lot stickers is put into the student activities fund.

"The student activities fund is used for things like pizza parties for groups who have excelled, to pay for groups going down to state, and for students who cannot afford prom tickets," said Linda Krzyaniak, school treasurer.

An even larger issue to many students is the malfunction of the cameras during the break-ins.

"What's the point of having cameras if they're not working?" asked Cherrelle Woodmore, junior.

According to Kendall, there are constant maintenance problems.

"We always have power surges and it throws the cameras out of whack," said Kendall.

Lack of security has also been blamed for the break-ins.

"Because of budget constraints, we are unable to hire additional security. There simply isn't any funding in the budget," said McCullough.

Hiring another security guard for the sole purpose of patrolling the parking lot has been suggested. This, however, cannot be done because of low funds. It would cost approximately \$20,000 to move the camera into the student parking lot.

"If the budget would allow for it, that would be an excellent idea, but we can't," said Kendall.

In the meantime, McCullough recommends students not leave CDs, tapes, and other valuables sitting out visible in their cars. He also suggests getting stereos with removable faces and not letting other students know where the faces are kept.

"Don't let too many young people ride in your car," warned McCullough. "They may find out where you keep your things and tell other people."

It is difficult, however, to convince students the current security is not to blame.

"There is no security out there [the parking lot] and something needs to be done," said Newland. (See related story page seven) ■

Parking lot presents dangers

Chelsea Steele
Sports Editor

Riley's largest threat to student safety is often overlooked. Despite a history of problems, the parking lot hazards continue to be ignored.

One of the largest parking lot hazards is also the easiest to fix. The lot has consistently been littered with glass, sheet metal, and screws that could easily puncture a tire. Admittedly, the presence of shattered glass and broken beer bottles was almost eliminated this fall after police officers began enforcing rules against weekend loitering. However, a recent surge of miscellaneous car parts lying on the ground has turned the parking lot into a crude obstacle course.

Of course an obstacle course wouldn't be complete without rough terrain, so the Riley parking lot has plenty of that, too. The south side of the lot contains more than its fair share of crumbling asphalt and

potholes, including a giant crater that just keeps growing. The potholes are too large and too close together to avoid, so drivers must hope to do as little damage as possible as they bounce over them.

A driver may manage to come and go without popping a tire or doing damage to their shocks, but their interior might not fare so well. Theft has once again been a major issue in the parking lot this year, and the cameras never catch the criminals in action.

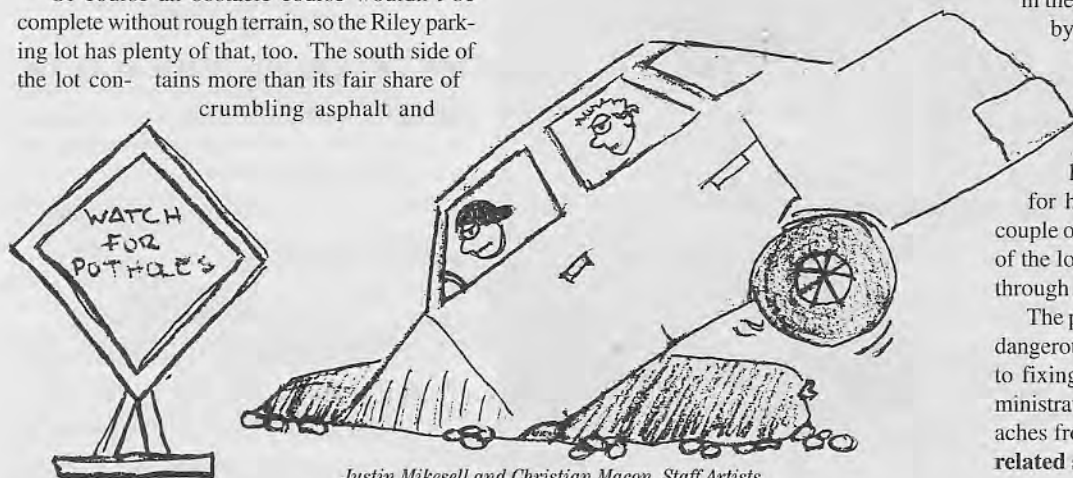
The final parking lot hazard is an age-old problem that has been addressed, but no action has been taken to fix it. It can take as much as fifteen minutes to exit the parking lot and get through the

Fellows and Ewing intersection after school. The stop-and-go stream of bumper-to-bumper traffic is not only an inconvenience, it's also dangerous. It's also difficult to see traffic coming from opposite directions because of the long stream of cars backed up from the intersection and the waiting parents parked on either side of the exits.

Since the parking lot is school property, the Riley administration should take the responsibility to fix the parking lot problems. Filling in the large potholes and cleaning broken glass would be a great place to start. Even if the school is unable to provide the labor to clean the lot, perhaps TREES or NHS could undertake it as a service project. Furthermore, security cameras should be used to more closely monitor security in the lot. Occasional visits to the parking lot by security guards would also be an easy way to deter theft.

The school cannot be expected to widen Fellows and provide a turn lane, but perhaps they could lobby the South Bend street department for help. Furthermore, it was suggested a couple of years ago that the barricade in the back of the lot be pulled out to allow students to exit through the alley.

The parking lot harbors some of Riley's most dangerous hazards, but there are simple solutions to fixing them. A little attention from the administration could save a lot of students the headaches from vehicle damage and auto theft. (See related story page one) ■



Justin Mikesell and Christian Macon, Staff Artists

Seniors: Take responsibility for applications

Tara Stokes/Chelsea Steele
Editor-in-Chief/Sports Editor

A successful senior year requires the cooperation of students, counselors, and parents. Effective communication is essential for making sure colleges receive test scores, transcripts, and applications in a timely fashion.

Unfortunately, some transcript mishaps took place this year, and all parties involved share the blame.

In a large school such as Riley, it is reasonable that the counselors would have a large workload. But it is also reasonable that when a student gives them their college application, it should be sent out immediately.

When applying to colleges, a student's school is heavily involved. In most cases students take their applications to their counselor, and the counselor sends out the application with a copy of the student's official transcript and SAT scores.

Occasionally, a student may need to deliver the application with a transcript and test scores themselves. When this happens, the student receives his/her transcript/test scores in a sealed envelope with 'Unofficial if already opened' written across the seal. In most cases, either process is executed without any problems and as efficiently as possible. This year, however, there have been many glitches in the system.

►The Incidents

Heather Cook, senior, went to her counselor in the middle of December and asked that the needed materials be sent to *Indiana University* (IU). She was assured the information would be sent before the end of the week. But after Christmas break she received a letter from IU informing her they had not yet received her transcript. Angry, Cook's mother personally went back to the guidance office and demanded to know why they had not been sent.

While Cook's situation is not an isolated case of transcript troubles, it is not necessarily because the paperwork was never sent.

"The colleges have been losing them this year," said Carol Wallace, guidance office secretary. "We've sent them and have proof, but the college calls and says they never got them."

In addition to college applications, scholarship dispatch has gone awry. Ashley Coker, senior, is a *National Merit* finalist. She gained this recognition by having one of the highest PSAT scores in the country. After filling out the necessary application and writing an excellent essay, she was chosen for an award from *Ball State University* (BSU).

BSU contacted Coker and informed her they

were receiving applications from many *National Merit* finalists, and they were running out of awards. So she quickly took her envelope containing all the needed information to the guidance office. After Coker explained the dire need for it to be sent out immediately, Wallace assured her it would be sent out the next day.

Two days later Coker went to make sure the school had sent the package to *BSU*. Wallace had not, but assured her that it would be sent that day.

Coker's father called *BSU* a week later to check on the status of the application and discovered they had not yet received it. He immediately called the school guidance office, and they admitted to still having the application sitting on the desk.

Coker's father felt exasperated because there was no way the scholarship would reach the school by the deadline, so he called the university. He set up a meeting with the admission officers for the next day. Coker was forced to drive to *BSU* on the opening day of her play in order to request special consideration.

It is unclear why Coker's scholarship application was delayed, but Wallace says many scholarships this year have been dropped off to the guidance office late.

"They do bring them in last minute and expect them to come out that day, and we have other kids to do, too," said Wallace.

►The Outcome

Fortunately, Cook's materials finally reached IU and Coker won her scholarship. Nevertheless, solutions need to be found so incidents like these don't happen again.

Wallace admits she is probably more to blame for application hassles than the counselors. It is her job to pull up transcripts and test scores and pass the package on to the counselors for final preparations. However, Wallace is also responsible for a wider range of guidance office activities that includes everything from scheduling to answering questions.

It is ridiculous to expect her to be a secretary for over 1400 students and four counselors. In an ideal world, there should probably be a second secretary, or at minimum, a part-time assistant. But everyone knows that budget woes won't permit extra personnel, so other adjustments need to be made.

►The Solutions

For starters, students should get all applications into the guidance office a minimum of one week before the postmark date. They should also hand the paperwork directly to Wallace to make sure it is not lost.

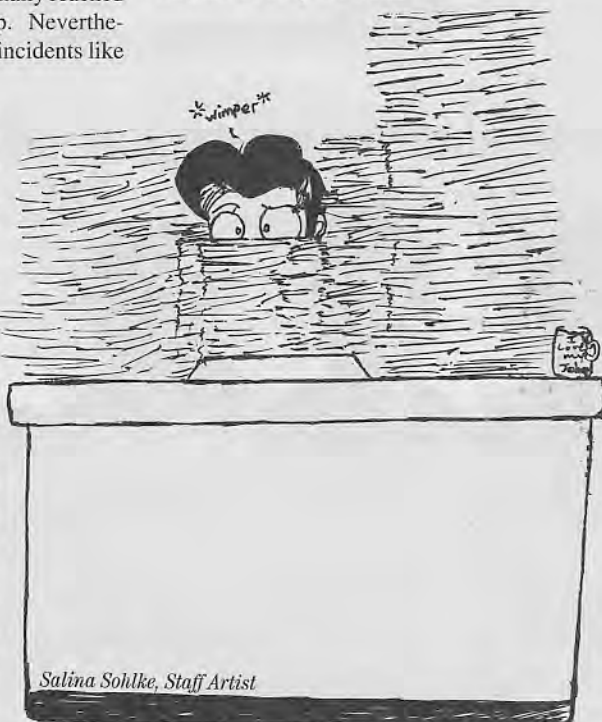
"Some kids will throw it on my desk and don't tell me," said Wallace. "I just find it there."

While some students have chosen to avoid the guidance office completely and just send the applications themselves, Wallace does not recommend this.

"Most places (colleges and scholarship foundations) like [transcripts] to come from the school," said Wallace.

The best solution instead would be for the student to send their application with an unofficial transcript enclosed and ask the school to follow it with an official transcript. Sending both an official and an unofficial transcript will be the safest route and would make students responsible for their own future.

The guidance office and students alike need to be more careful when dealing with college applications. Guidance office personnel should continue to do the best they can to send applications out on time, and students should do their part to get paperwork turned in responsibly. Students need to take responsibility for their own future and can even have Wallace check her files to find out the specific date an application was sent. If everyone works together, these problems should be easily solved. ■



Salina Sohlke, Staff Artist

Leave summer school alone

Ashley Coker
News Editor

Something's got to go, but it's not summer school.

Classes during the summer provide an opportunity for students to make up classes in which they failed to earn credit during the school year. Yes, students can still earn make-up credits the following year, but finding time to make up last year's classes and take this year's required ones is an extremely difficult task, especially with only six classes per day.

Many students were even under the assumption that if they had not met the minimum requirement of 40 credits to graduate, they are still allowed to walk across the stage with their class, provided they are signed up for summer school.

According to Dennis Kielton, director of guidance, this is untrue; regardless of summer school attendance, students not having 40 credits by June 9 will not graduate on June 9.

While enrichment programs like drivers' education and summer gym have been cut for sure, the fate of the adult education program still has not been made public. In other words, no one, including *South Bend Tribune* reporter Nate Trela and the entire Riley guidance staff has heard whether or not adult education will continue in the corporation. *SBCSC* public information officer Judy Tovey did not return a telephone call to comment.

The lack of information has led students to believe that they will not have an opportunity to make up failed credits until next year. Just two credits short, senior Jesse Bragg can't graduate with Riley class of 2002 regardless of what he does this summer. Instead, Bragg will attend *Washington High School* for one more semester in the fall so he can earn two credits in any class, since Bragg has completed all required classes.

Bragg's dad, Tim, is very disappointed that summer school is not an possibility.

"They should have left some sort of alternative for kids to graduate with their classes, be it at Riley or any school," he said.

While some seniors like Bragg are planning to return to high school, some already gave up on graduation once they found out summer classes are not an option.

According to Kielton, most of the students who do not graduate on time will pursue summer adult education at *Hamilton School*. He says that few, perhaps only four or five students, will return to Riley the following year.

Obviously coming back for a second try at senior year isn't practical to most.

The goal of *South Bend Schools* should instead be to do everything in its power to increase the graduation rate, and to be sure no students can just fall through the cracks. Of course these students in danger of not graduating should have just buckled down and passed classes the first time around. But just because they made poor decisions previously does not merit the corporation taking away all hope, leaving them with no options.

Besides providing an option for graduation, summer school provides a way for students to get requirement credits out of the way, so they can focus on subjects that interest them during the school year. During the year, then, students have opportunities to take courses in art, music, and extra academic classes. While electives were a possibility when Riley was on a block four schedule, the reduction to only six classes per semester has made enrichment summer school crucial to Riley students who wish to take electives.

Since students will not be able to take as many electives from now on, it's reasonable to say enrollment in these classes will drop. And it'd be no surprise if the programs were cut altogether, consequently.

It is understandable that the school board is just trying to make ends meet, but sacrificing the quality of education and especially the graduation rate isn't worth much, let alone eight million dollars. ■

Pro/Con

Goin' fishing: Should Riley try to recruit LaSalle students?

Athletics do not attract students

➤ **Riley is helping LaSalle students make the right choice.**

At one of Riley's most recent open houses, middle school students and LaSalle High School students were invited to our building, speak to our faculty, and ask questions about our school.

Members of some sports teams saw this as an opportunity to distribute fliers about their sports and speak to prospective Riley students who showed an interest in our athletic teams. In the past, Riley students have been able to do this, so there was seemingly no reason to discontinue it this year.

However, these students were told that they were not allowed to do this because it would be viewed as recruiting.

The *Indiana High School Athletic Association* strongly disapproves of recruiting athletes. The organization even has a section in their *By-Laws and Articles of Incorporation* devoted to rules against recruitment.

Such rules are necessary. It would be unfair for schools to offer things like money or privileges to students with the intention of enticing them onto sports teams.

But the students at the open house weren't trying to do that. They would most likely have been allowed to present information about their athletic programs if the LaSalle students hadn't been at the open house. In the past, Riley students have been allowed to talk about their sports teams to students from Jackson, Stanley Clark, St. Matt's, and other middle schools. But the presence of the LaSalle students at the open house suddenly made it wrong to distribute such information.

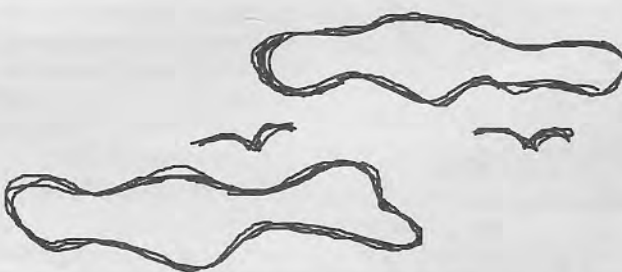
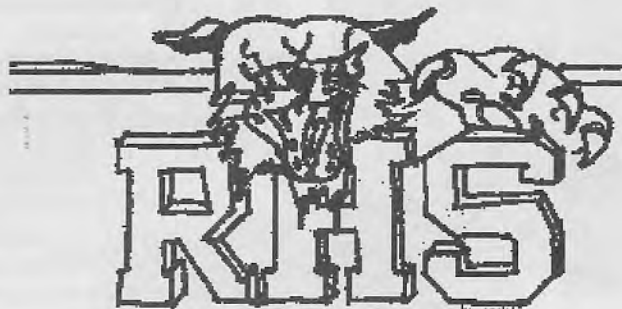
Nobody is trying to make Riley seem better than LaSalle. Nobody is trying to attract LaSalle students away from their school and into ours. But LaSalle students will unfortunately be unable to attend their school next year, and are faced with the decision of where to continue their education. Riley students are only trying to help these students make the most informed decision possible.

The purpose of an open house is to show students who consider attending our school what is available to them here. People who are considering our school are given information about our academic programs at open houses. Why, then, is it wrong tell them about our athletic programs?

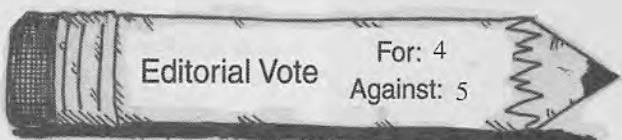
It is important to choose a school based mostly on what it has to offer academically. But extracurriculars are a large part of what makes a student well-rounded. For this reason, Riley students should be allowed to present information about athletics to LaSalle students as well as incoming freshmen from feeder schools.

No student will choose to attend Riley just because we have great athletic teams. Even the smallest glimpse of our school will show people that it has much more to offer than that. But knowing what extracurricular options we offer can help students make a more carefully thought-out decision of what school to attend. ■

Molly Shook
Viewpoints
Editor



Matt Frucci, Guest Artist



Coaches should use caution

➤ **Coaches of sports teams have good intentions.**

Recruiting athletes in high schools has always been highly disapproved by the *Indiana High School Athletic Association*. The rules against recruitment are specifically outlined in the Association's *By-Laws and Articles of Incorporation*.

So why all of a sudden do our area schools think it is all right for them to start recruiting students from LaSalle and other area schools?

I understand that school administrators need to inform the incoming students of the options they have for academics as well as sports in their schools.

But coaches need to be careful. I know that the coaches have good intentions for their sports teams, but it would be a shame to risk the *IHSAA* scrutiny and possible censure because of a few fliers at an open house.

I'm not saying to stop fliers at open houses or to just forget about informing prospective students, but coaches should be extremely careful about the way they go about getting students to join their sports teams.

Coaches should put all the advantages about Riley into a letter, not just information on their own sport. The *IHSAA* can suspend teams at their schools for up to one year. I think most schools would rather have a losing team, than no team at all.

If talented athletes want to go to a particular school because of its athletic programs, that seems to be fine; but the students and coaching staff are not permitted to actively encourage this.

There is also a misunderstanding many students have about the recruitment issue. The LaSalle athletes are allowed to pick whatever *SBCSC*, or local private school, they wish to attend. So whoever wants to come to Riley may do so.

The Riley coaches, staff, and students are simply not permitted to actively entice the LaSalle athletes to their programs with promise of a better team, monetary compensation, or another form of incentive. As long as we sell the school, not the team, we should be okay.

In all honesty, a student will choose to go wherever they want to go, even if someone tries to recruit them. Don't forget that there are such things as district lines. ■

Stacey Turza
Business
Manager



Nick Henry
Staff Writer

Photo Poll Should Riley be able to try to recruit LaSalle students?



Kynan O'Hara-12

Karnel Jones-10

Mike Cook-12

Tom Fautz-11

Alex Green-10

Louis Cavadini-11

Andy Biggs-9

Lindsay Schafer-10

Lauren Neal-10

"Yes, it will better the competition for Riley athletics and expand the diversity of the school."

"I think they should because they will need something better to do."

"Yes, if those students want to go to Riley they should be allowed to."

"They should be able to go wherever they want."

"No, because there'd be too many problems- we don't get along with them."

"Yes, I think of Riley as an equal opportunity school."

"No, because I think it's going to start trouble."

"Yes, because they have nowhere to go."

"Everyone has the right to go to RHS."



Four Aces: See page two

Gifted athletes (left): See page three

Running away with it: See page four

Penn rains on Riley's parade

Shaun Martz
Staff Writer

>Although a victory slipped right between Riley's fingertips, they are not letting that get them down. With half a season to redeem themselves, Riley is looking forward to winning the rest of their games, and overcoming Penn in sectionals.

With the weather just starting to warm up outside the varsity baseball team is bringing on some heat of their own.

After winning their first three games, the mood of the team had not only brightened, but reached new heights. Their spirits and sense of team work had increased as well as the season progressed.

"We're ready to keep our winning tradition alive," said Ed Faulhaber, coach of five years. "We play positive, we play aggressive, and we play to win."

The team's victory over LaSalle on April 9 marked the first high point of the season.

"We were very fired up to play," said Faulhaber, "and had enthusiasm."

Troy Fye, junior, played an impressive game also. After giving up only one hit over the final two and a half innings, Riley was led to victory with a score of 5-2.

Fye, a member of last year's B-team, stands out in Faulhaber's mind as an outstanding member of the team.

According to Faulhaber, his avid dedication is very impressive.

"Troy has showed his hard work and has learned something along the way," explained Faulhaber.

Another great player, according to Faulhaber, is senior John "Shorty" Willis. He is called Shorty

because of his outstanding short stop skills. Last year he hit over 400 and led Riley in walks and stolen bases, portraying a pacesetter attitude for the team.

Although sectionals and conference are in the back of all the players' minds, playing for the moment seems to be very important.

As junior Brian Biskupski explained, "Playing with your teammates and friends is really the best part of being on the team, winning aside."

Biskupski, a varsity member since his freshman year, also knows who their toughest competitor will be.

"Penn," as he sees it, "is always the game to practice hardest for."

Unfortunately, practice was not enough for the team to overcome their biggest rival. They were defeated 13-6.

Originally, the team played on Wednesday, April 24. After four innings, with the Wildcats leading 4-1, it began to rain. After waiting it out a couple minutes, the game was delayed by umpires.

"If there hadn't been a rain delay, and the game had not been moved, I believe we would have come out on top," said Chris Eickleberry, senior catcher.

According to Eickleberry, Penn was definitely prepared for them the second time around.

"We had one too many mental lapses, and they played off of that," said Eickleberry.

As Eickleberry saw it, the team took the loss hard because they had such a lead in the first game against them.

"We only needed to play one more inning and they would have called it a game," said Eickleberry.

In spite of their loss, that spirit and fire that drives the team has yet to die. Practicing is more important now than ever.

What exactly do the team's practices consist

of? "Reiterating fundamentals," exclaimed Faulhaber, "is very important."

Including pitching, pick-offs, bunting, cut-offs, and relays, another main goal for the team is strategy. "We go out there with a positive mind," said sophomore Keaton Jones, "the most rewarding part of baseball is winning."

The LaSalle game also brought on something the team didn't expect: a rocky start. However, as the players worked the field more and more, the win was theirs for the taking.

Nerves and anxiousness may be the cause of these types of starts. In response, Faulhaber offers advice to his team: don't play like you expect to lose. According to the team, that's like giving up the game.

Fort Wayne Snyder is another game the Cats are looking forward to winning. "Fort Wayne Snyder knows the game and Elkhart Central has improved this year," Faulhaber said, "and I'd love to beat both."

How do students respond to the team's winning power? "Seeing the guys come together as a team," explained junior Allison Jesswein, "is really great. The games are something I look forward to."

As for the future of the team, Faulhaber has no worries.

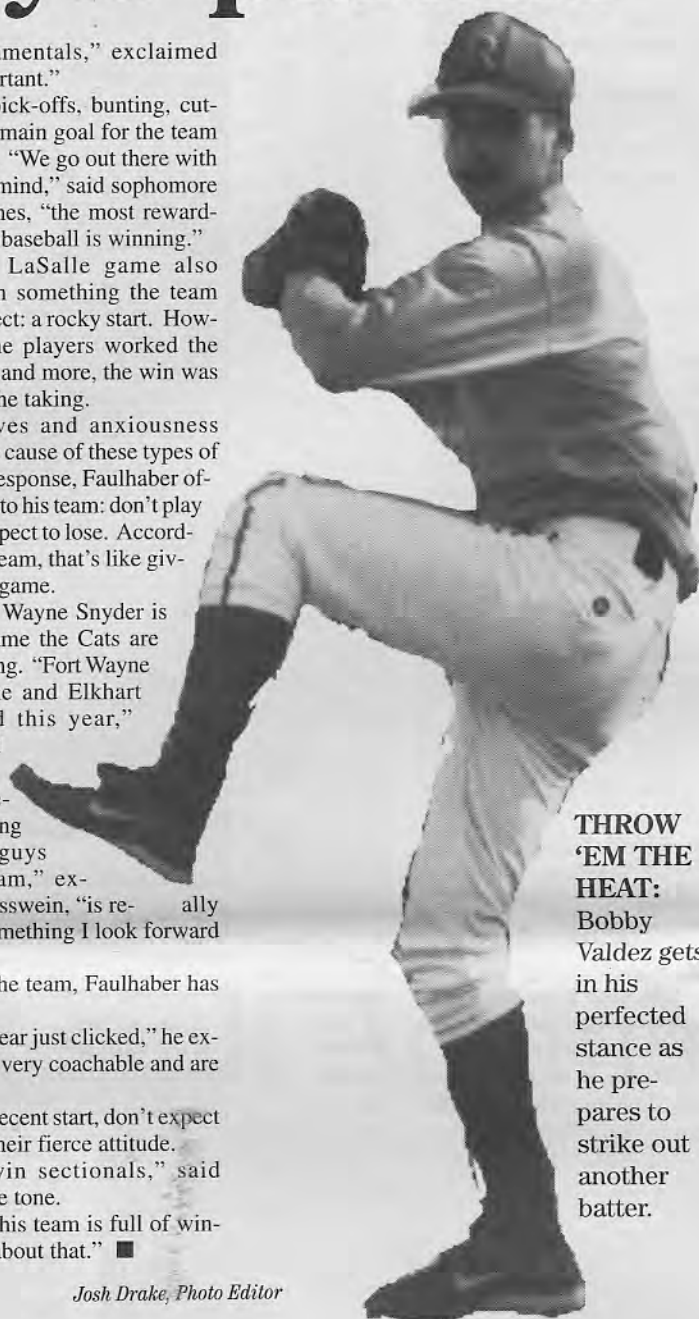
"The chemistry this year just clicked," he explained, "the players are very coachable and are learning quickly."

Despite the season's recent start, don't expect the 'Cats to tone down their fierce attitude.

"I know we can win sectionals," said Biskupski with a positive tone.

Faulhaber agrees, "This team is full of winners. There's no doubt about that." ■

Josh Drake, Photo Editor



THROW 'EM THE HEAT: Bobby Valdez gets in his perfected stance as he prepares to strike out another batter.

Softball sweeties prove their worth

Natasha Bokor
Staff Writer

Rain or shine, the Riley girls' softball team is out there on the field practicing and winning games.

Training takes place during preseason. Conditioning during the preseason begins in January and usually lasts for about two months. It includes lifting, running (sprints and laps), hitting, catching, and agility increasers such as lunges.

According to Mike Megyese, head coach, it really helps prepare the girls for the season ahead.

Conditioning seems to have paid off for the team this year. With a record of 12-5, they have improved drastically since last year, which was a losing season.

Beneficial practices have also helped the team. Although they go through the basics, hitting, defensive drills, pitching for the pitchers, and fielding, Megyese enjoys them.

"Practices have been fun this year. Last year we had so many difficulties with injuries. It's nice not to have to worry about things like that," said Megyese.

"The training is pretty basic, but there is not much you can do," said Maggie Swanson, freshman right fielder.

The team, however, does not practice as regularly as most teams. This is because they can have as many as six games a week.

"Softball is such a short season so there are a lot of consecutive games," said Megyese.

Brooke Lootens, junior, sometimes finds balancing school work and athletics challenging.

"It's a little hard for me to keep up with my homework because I have such hard classes. I am always coming in the morning for extra help," said Lootens.

Lootens, who was out all last season after tearing her ACL at practice, is relieved to be back after being out for the past 11 months.

Despite the balancing act, the team members seem to be doing a fine job.

"We have been hitting a lot. Out pitchers have been throwing well. We have taken a lot of ground balls and we have been doing well in fields," said Missy King, a senior catcher.

According to Megyese, King is one of the best players

he has.

"She is a great kid with a great attitude, and I've enjoyed her playing for me these past four years. She was also named *NIC Player of the Year* last season," said Megyese.

Megyese has not only enjoyed King, but all of his seniors.

"They're a great group of girls. They work very well together," said Megyese.

Teamwork is an important factor to create the right chemistry on the team. A lot of the girls are friends off of the field.

"We just end up hanging out on the weekends because we've all formed bonds," said Lootens.

They are all very supportive of each other. Before games to get pumped up, the team shouts different enthusiastic chants and they do special handshakes. Beatrice Pedraza, freshman, gives support to the team with her positive attitude on and off the field.

"The coach helps by giving small talks before the game, but Beatrice pumps the team up with her loud cheers and exciting personality," said Laura Helene, junior third base.

"I do cheers and talk it up," said Pedraza.

According to King, everyone plays their part.

"Our whole team is valuable because we don't have any weaknesses. Without one person our team is incomplete," said King.

Megyese credits the team's confidence to a win against Griffith in the early season.

"I think them beating such a tough team on their own field made the girls understand how good of a team they are," said Megyese.

A recent win against Washington has also given the girls a boost. The final score was 6-1.

Megyese does his best to let all girls experience playing by allowing second stringers to play in non-conference games.

The team has many goals for the rest of the season. They are very optimistic on having a victory over another tough competitor, Mishawaka. Winning NIC and sectionals are some other of the teams many goals.

"Our goal is to go as far as we can in the tournament and do our best," said Helene.

Megyese agrees.

"I feel that we are a favorite in the sectional tournament," said Megyese. ■



Josh Drake, Photo Editor

PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT: Senior Christine Martin throws one home during an afternoon practice.

Second servings:

Tennis team re-groups after rough start

Sarah Michalos

Viewpoints Editor

The girls' tennis team has high hopes for this year's season.

However, with their recent losses against Rochester, Michigan City, Penn. Adams, Marian, and others, they'll have to work hard.

"Marian was a tough match. That would have said a lot if we would have won," said Ashley Giltner, senior.

Despite their defeats, the girls have very high expectations although they have a record of 2-6.

"If we work really hard, we can still have a winning season," said Stephanie Yergler, sophomore.

Lan Do, sophomore, the number one player on JV, alternates between varsity and JV.

Do joined the team her freshman year because she enjoyed tennis. That has not changed in her years playing on the Riley tennis team.

According to Do, she does not feel her learning experience is over.

"I hope to get better this year," Do said.

For Saray Rodriguez, freshman, the reason for joining the team was because tennis looked fun.

This year is the first year Rodriguez has played tennis, and she is feeling confident.

"Tennis is improving my skills. I had no clue how to play before," said Rodriguez.

Even though practice makes perfect, nothing is more perfect than the doubles team consisting of top varsity players Ashley Dueringer and Becky Hedman.

The number one duo have yet to lose a match. They have

contributed heavily to putting points on Riley's side of the score board.

The four varsity captains for this year are seniors Ashley Dueringer, Becky Hedman, and Katie Miller, and sophomore Stephanie Yergler.

Yergler, the youngest captain, is very proud of her title.

"It's amazing to be named captain as a sophomore," said Yergler.

She has two more years ahead of her to lead her team.

This year tennis is a popular sport, judging from the number of girls who came out for the team.

Although there are girls who don't play often as some, the whole team consists of 21 active members.

The team members range from freshmen to seniors, with lots of enthusiasm, according to Do.

Although the team has goals for the group, individual members also have goals.

"My goal is to work harder

every match than I did the last, and not to get hurt," said Yergler.

Yergler has had trouble with a knee injury in the past. Yergler also wants to assist the team in bettering themselves, while Rodriguez is planning on enjoying herself.

"My goal this year is really just to have fun," Rodriguez said.

"Ashley Gilpin, my doubles partner, and I are getting better," Rodriguez said.

She is not the only one.

"Gwen Barnett has done really good this year. Lots of girls have been improving," said Yergler.

With such a young and inexperienced team, it is hard to succeed in having a winning season. Especially when so

many other teams have so many veteran players.

One way that the girls improve their skills is their daily practices organized by head coach KaRon Kirkland and assistant coach Pat Culp. The team spends afternoons on the court to prepare for matches.

"We usually rally, practice volleys and hit," Do said.

Overall, the members of the

team want to become all-around better players this year, focusing on all different aspects of the game. They especially want to improve on their record from last year.

"We're really trying to come together as a team," Do said.

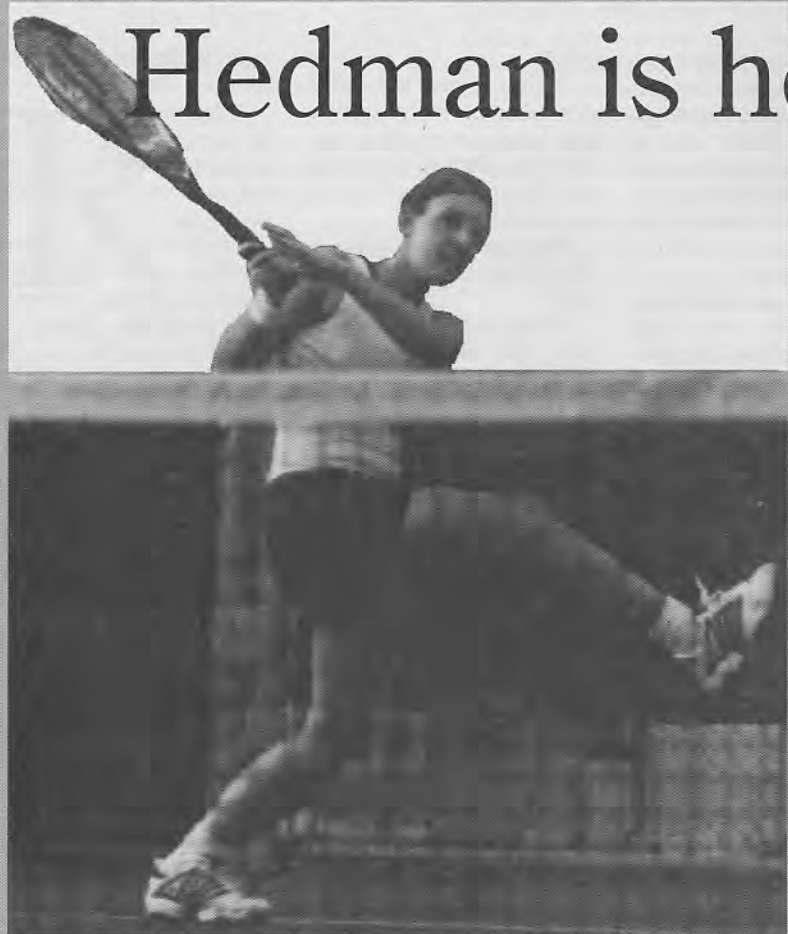
Hedman agrees.

"We are coming together, but we definitely need more team unity," said Hedman. (See related story below). ■



Josh Drake, Staff Photographer

LOVE OF THE GAME: Tennis coach KaRon Kirkland advises Becky Hedman, senior, (left) and her doubles partner Ashley Dueringer, senior, on how to remain undefeated. Dueringer and Hedman are both team captains along with Stephanie Yergler, sophomore, and Katie Miller, senior.



Josh Drake, Staff Photographer

ALL IN SWING: Becky Hedman, senior, is a tennis stand-out and an academic star. She manages to work a job in between her extra-curriculars and school.

Hedman is heading out with style

Meagan Orban

Eye Candy Editor

For many, balancing sports, school, and work is a major task. For Becky Hedman, senior, it's a normal part of routine. "It's just something I have always done," said Hedman.

Hedman, who has been playing tennis all four years at Riley, was named one of the team's captains this season.

"It was exciting to be named a captain, but it's great just to be a part of the team," she said.

Although Hedman has never taken lessons outside of the season, she was paired with senior Ashley Dueringer in the number one spot. Dueringer has held the position all four years, Becky being her fourth partner.

"Becky hasn't had much experience, this being her first year on varsity, so it has been a great learning experience for the both of us," she said. The duo has also had to face injuries this season.

"Becky has a hurt quad muscle and I have been playing with a hand injury due to volleyball. I think this has affected our play," explained Dueringer.

Despite the fallbacks throughout the season, the two get along both on and off the court.

"She's fun," said Dueringer. "I may be mad after a bad match, but I'm not upset with Becky. I just hate to lose," she said.

When things get tough, Hedman turns to the wise advice given to her by Marcus King, former tennis player and graduate. "I remember when I was hav-

ing a bad match and Marcus called me over to the fence. He told me, 'If you can hit 'um, do it!' It made me laugh," she said.

Hedman's favorite memories of the sport are centered on the bonding that happened amongst her and the other teammates throughout the seasons.

"The girls are so fun and goofy, we always have a good time," she said. She especially enjoyed singing the school song to and from a match.

"We keep the windows on the bus down so the other team can hear us," she said.

Hedman is also very involved in extra curricular activities, holding office in many clubs.

Hedman is the president of Riley's chapter of S.A.D.D., (Students Against Destructive Decisions) two years running. S.A.D.D. is involved with preventing prom drinking and driving. Along with S.A.D.D. Hedman is a member of Student Council.

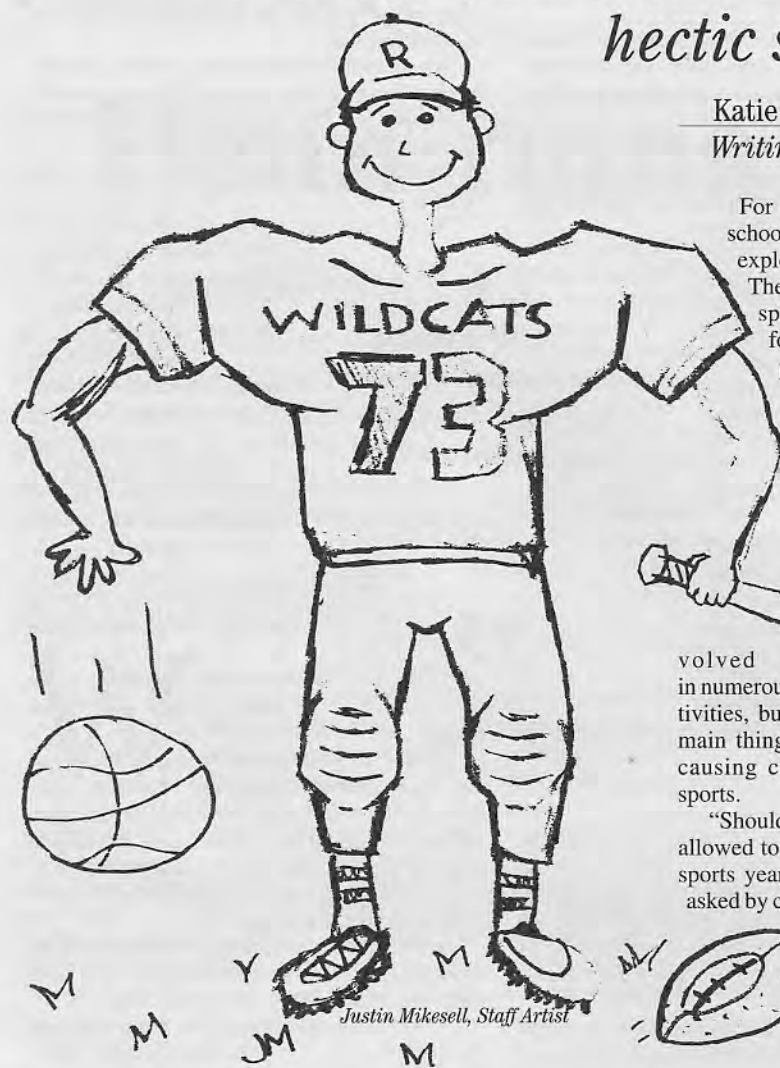
This year, Hedman was elected as the vice president of National Honor Society. According to sponsor, Jim Stebbins, this position requires time and responsibility.

"The main job of the vice president is to keep records of all of the members' service hours and to make sure they are in compliance with the requirements," said Stebbins. "She has been very efficient," he added.

Hedman also soars when it comes to academics. Ranking in the top 25 of the senior class and carrying a 3.7 G.P.A., she will be attending Purdue University in the fall. "I'm planning on majoring in pharmacy," she said. ■

Athletics worth the sacrifice

Three season athletes tell why they would not give up their hectic schedules for the world



Katie Grembowicz
Writing Specialist

For most students, high school is an opportunity to explore; to find oneself. There are many clubs, sports, and activities for students to participate in to help them do that. But some students at Riley may be pushing themselves too far to find their inner person.

Many kids at Riley are involved in numerous activities, but one of the main things that seems to be causing conflict for kids is sports.

"Should student athletes be allowed to play three different sports year-round?" has been asked by coaches, parents, and athletes for a long time.

The cheerleading squad tried

to address the issue at one time by telling girls they were only allowed to participate in cheerleading if they played no other sports during that season.

Jim Berger, Riley head football coach, knows what it feels like to want an athlete to only participate in one sport.

"I would never tell an athlete not to participate in a sport just because he or she also played football. But in my opinion, I'd rather have an athlete be really good in one sport than average in three," said Berger.

Berger cited Brian Foster, senior, as a prime example.

"He (Foster) ended up being a very, very, very good high school basketball player because that's all he did, and it paid off for him. He wouldn't have been half the player he was if he wouldn't have given so much time and effort to basketball," he said.

Mike Megyesi, head girls' basketball coach, disagrees.

"It's rare to find an athlete who excels at three sports, and to say that someone would've excelled or not at a particular sport if they had just done one is purely speculation," he said.

But he did agree that there may be other reasons a high

school student may not want to play sports year-round.

"It's very draining. Kids don't get a break that they need. When we [the girls' basketball team] came back from the state tournament, some of the girls expected to start open gym the next week. I just had to say no because the mental break that our varsity girls needed was crucial," he commented.

Chris Eickelberry, senior, claims he's never had a problem, mentally or physically, with playing a different sport each season. Eickelberry, who plays football, bowling, and baseball, and who added cheerleading into his busy schedule this year, claimed that if he had to do it all over again, he would.

"Playing all year keeps me out of trouble and keeps me active. I've also learned a lot and had a lot of fun," he said.

Missy King, senior, said that although playing all year can be stressful, she wouldn't trade her high school experiences for the world.

"It started out that I was just going to see how I did in each one. I had played them all during elementary school, and I didn't want to choose just one without experiencing all of

them in high school," she said.

It turned out that King, who plays soccer, girls' basketball, and softball, was good at all three of them. Her experiences and memories in each one can never be replaced.

This year, King helped to take her girls' basketball team to the state finals and regarded it as one of the best moments of her life.

According to King, the transition into softball was more difficult because of the six week layover in the basketball season.

"The transition was hard because of the time difference, but not difficult. Even though I really missed basketball, my body and my mind knew it was time for softball," said King.

Most three season athletes at Riley seem to be handling the pressure very well. They've gained memories that they'll treasure for the rest of their lives, while also staying involved and staying in shape.

And even with all the late nights, tired mornings, and perhaps a missed homework assignment or two, Riley athletes will continue to push themselves as far as they can for the love of the game. ■

Golfers sink putts and sink Adams

Cassie Howland
Staff Writer

As the boys' golf season reaches the half way mark, chances are, not too many students at Riley are very enthused about it.

"The biggest misconception people have about golf is that it is boring or easy. It's definitely neither," said Brandon Knutson, junior, who has been playing ever since he can remember.

The team doesn't have a problem with students interested in trying out, but more with students who are willing to stay dedicated.

"Many don't want to put in the time it takes to become a good golfer. And it takes a lot of time," said Knutson.

According to Chris Jurkaites, who coaches both JV and varsity, dedication is the key to a good golf player.

You also need the basic golf skills.

"The ability to putt well is very important," said Jurkaites.

All of the boys on the varsity team have mastered that skill.

Jurkaites compares golf more to a skill than to a sport. It is something you have to master.

But before you master the skill of golf, you have to learn patience and have a lot of mental strength.

"You're either good, or not," said Jurkaites.

That is why it is such a tough activity to coach. Jurkaites manages it though.

"I teach them the basics, like how to grip a club and line up a shot. It all comes with time af-

ter that," said Jurkaites.

This year the boys' golf team has 12 players. The five varsity players are Knutson, Drew Albright and Thy Kit, seniors, Erik Henry and Zach Hess, juniors. There are also five players on JV, and two are alternates.

"We really only need five players to compete on the varsity level," said Jurkaites. According to Jurkaites, these were the five that stood out.

"They basically had the ability to shoot a good score," said Jurkaites.

Albright and Kit were chosen captains this year because of their outstanding abilities.

To keep their coveted captain spots, they both practice really hard.

"I hardly ever miss a practice," said Kit.

A regular golf practice consists of traveling to the driving range, and practicing chipping and putting.

"We try to get in as many holes in before dark during practice," said Jurkaites.

And golfers practice much longer than most other sports.

"My varsity players practice for five hours a day," said Jurkaites.

And you have to be willing to be alone the majority of the time, because only general instructions are taught in a group.

According to Jurkaites, golf is really a competition between the player and the course.

"Unlike other sports you really can't control how your opponent plays. All you can do is try to play your best every day," said Jurkaites.

Zach Hess, junior agrees. "Golf is a game of solitude. You can't blame anyone else but yourself if you lose," said Hess. According to Hess, that does not mean there is no team ethic. "But in the end I think we play as a team," said Hess.

Although golf isn't as simple as it looks, many people don't realize that in reality, it is one of the most competitive sports.

"There are some tournaments where one stroke can determine second place from tenth," said Knutson.

Knutson's main goal for this season is to keep improving.

"I have other goals for myself but I am going to keep them to myself," said Knutson. Working on their game has paid off for one golfer in particular.

"My biggest accomplishment so far is helping my team to advance to regionals last year," said Kit. Not many people, however, were there to witness Kit's successful game. Low attendance is something

the boys have managed to get used to.

Even though not many spectators come to support the golf team, Kit doesn't feel it affects the team's performance dramatically. "Every athlete needs support, but we have never had many supporters so we don't think about it," said Kit.

Last season the varsity went undefeated. Although hopes were high they would do it again, they lost one match this year. Currently the team is 3-1 after playing two conference matches, including Adams and Elkhart Central. Kit feels there is pressure to win after going 18-0 last year.

"Many people expect you to do just as good again, and that makes it harder," said Kit.

Many players on the team were disappointed when they failed their goal to go undefeated again.

"I did wish that our varsity would go undefeated again. Last year was a great season; I was hoping the varsity can repeat it," said Hess.

Knutson also has high hopes for this season.

"I feel our team can do very well again," said Knutson. ■



Josh Drake, Photo Editor

CONCENTRATION: Erik Henry, junior, carefully lines up his putt during an important game. Henry has been on the golf team for three years now, and agrees that patience is a huge necessity to becoming a successful golfer.

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Low turnout troubles track

PASSING ON THE TORCH:

Junior Steve McPhearson perfects his timing with David Bishop, senior during a recent track practice. Due to a low turnout this year, runners are expected to participate in many events.



Tara Stokes

Editor-in-chief

Riley is the biggest school in the *South Bend Community School Corporation* with the smallest track team. Out of 700 males that attend Riley, only nine participate in track.

Visualize this: as the school buses pull up to the designated school, about two dozen boys pour out of the opposing teams' buses all carrying running shoes and other various equipment. Then Riley drives in, taking only ten seconds to unload, and walk out.

"We are low on numbers. Between boys training for football season, and many boys being ineligible because of low grades, we have very low numbers," said Carl Hubbard, head coach for the past three years.

According to Hubbard, it's been a tough year so far.

"It's hard to have a winning season with only nine guys. But we're doing the best we can," said Hubbard.

Hubbard is not the only one who finds having such a small team so difficult.

Sophomore Ben Marshall is always exhausted after any meet the school competes in.

"Because there are so few of us, we all run four races. That's a lot compared to what the guys from other schools run," said Marshall.

Sean Wright, freshman, agrees with Marshall.

"We have to work harder and try to do as many events as we can. We have a clear disadvantage," said Wright.

Although Hubbard does not like to compare teams, he feels this team is weaker than last year's.

"With [Chris] Delgado out because of injuries, and losing senior Ben Allen, it was tough to adjust to the changes," said Hubbard.

Allen, who was a state qualifier last year, chose not to run this year. Hopefully, Delgado will be back in action by the time of the city competition.

But they are not letting anything hold them back from working their hardest.

"Although it's hard to have a winning season with only nine boys, we are making the best of it," said Hubbard.

The team does have one key element: Wright. Against Penn, Wright ran the 400 meter race in 51.3 seconds. The average time is around 60 seconds. And Wright is only a freshman.

"It felt good to get such a fast time," said Wright.

He also has many other things to feel good about. So far, Wright is undefeated on the new track.

"I plan to keep it that way," said Wright.

Another stand-out runner, Steve McPhearson, junior, is making waves in long distance running. McPhearson, who runs the 1600 meter (mile long), is helping put points on the board for his team.

Those first place finishes do not come without vigorous practices. And they do plenty of it. The team practices three hours a day every day after

"It's hard to have a winning season with only nine guys. But we're doing the best we can."

Carl Hubbard
Coach

school.

They start out by warming up and stretching out. Then Hubbard directs them in ladders. Ladders are when the team runs 100 meters, then 200 meters, followed by 300 meters, and ending with 400 meters. After this is complete they 'run back down the ladder' by doing those four runs in the opposite sequence.

But track is more than just hard work. A lot of the boys walk away from the sport with fond memories that will last them a lifetime.

"I will never forget my first place finish at the LaSalle meet. It was in the 400 meter. I also raced in the 3200 relay race and placed second," said Wright.

According to Hubbard, they're focusing on preparing for sectionals.

"At this point we're looking forward to sectionals. I feel that a couple of the team members have a good chance of advancing," said Hubbard. ■

Warp Speed: Girls run star track

Shaun Martz
Staff Writer

Riley girls' track team has encountered a bittersweet season with many lessons learned. Perhaps losing to Clay, Penn, Adams, and Elkhart respectively has dampened a few spirits, but as team captain Andrea Gartee sees it, "Losing is a part of being on a team just as much as winning is."

Among the team players, Deb Gates, junior, stands out in Gartee's mind. "She has improved tremendously," said Gartee, "by running a season best at N.I.C. (Northern Indiana Conference) for the mile of 5:42."

Gartee herself is a major player on the track team.

According to Gartee, her experience and leadership abilities is the reason for her success as team captain.

"My friends, especially Amber [Scott], and family have inspired me tremendously," said Gartee.

Riley ran its best time in N.I.C. tournament, held at Elkhart Central on May 7, with a 10:40, breaking the previous school record and landing them in fifth place.

The runners included Gates and Gartee along with juniors Nicole Boston and Micaela Paulechewski.

Gates herself doesn't see the team as a losing one. "I'm confident," she explained, "that our

4x800 will qualify to make it out of sectionals." Goshen relays and the N.I.C. tournament are among the highlights of the year for the girls.

Aside from making excellent time and trying their best, the feeling of confidence it gave them was the best reward, said Gartee.

Junior Mary Therese Padberg exclaimed, "It was very exciting to realize we actually had it in us to overcome early losses!"

On the flip side, their triumphs over such competitors as LaSalle and Washington have been gracious ones.

Sports director John Berta was one of many to notice this.

"The effort to welcome," he explained, "and recognize LaSalle at the inaugural track meet was very impressive. To see the ribbon cut and watch the girls run was a very good experience."

Hard work is an important aspect of the team dynamic according to junior Nicole Redding.

"Winning at this sport," she said, "doesn't always come easy. You've got to have a positive spirit." Redding knows what she's talking about, too.

Since the season's start, many teammates have seen her improve in her performance and are lifted up by her hard work.

Newcomers have also boosted the team's spirit. Jenna Johnson, freshman, has had an excellent start in her first season and is seen as an integral part of the girls' so-called 'family,' said Redding.

"She plays hard and runs like the wind," explained Gartee.

When asked about her goals and thoughts on

"Winning at this sport doesn't always come easy. You've got to have a positive spirit."

-Nicole Redding
Junior

being the captain, Gartee explains that at first she was hesitant to take on such a title.

However, after witnessing the runners' promising attitudes, her mind was drastically changed.

"It feels like a big family of friends," she exclaimed.

Many girls are concerned with losing seniors Yikia Lott and Gartee next year.

"When those two leave," said junior Michaela Warnsley, "it will definitely affect our team." Warnsley has enjoyed a very productive season in her own right.

She is known as the team's top hurdler in 300 high hurdles and 100 high hurdles.

Gartee, however, thinks that the team will be just fine without her.

All losses aside, the team has not lost its signifying determination or its 'practice makes perfect' loyalty.

"We will never stop striving to be the best that we can be," explained Padberg.

According to Gartee, with so many obstacles overcome, the girls' track team will keep their heads held high and run through the remaining season with the finish line in mind and smiles on their faces. ■



Josh Drake, Staff Photographer

I BELIEVE I CAN FLY: Danielle Six, freshman, shows her versatility by competing in long jump. She was also an important component to the lady 'Cats' state basketball runner-up.