

# THE Review



Credit Redemption: See News page 3 (left)

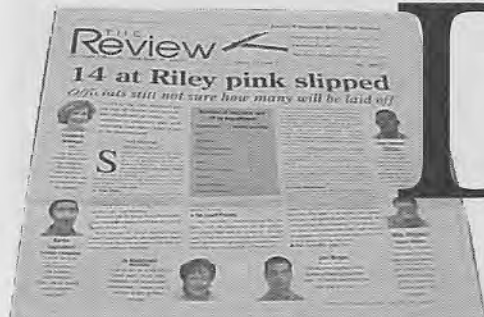
Life After Riley: See Centerspread page 4-5

Softball Sectionals: See Sports page 1

1902 South Fellows Street

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## Deja Vu: Pink slips pile up again

Chelsea Steele  
Sports Editor

The conclusion of school typically means final exams, graduation, and summer vacation. However, in the past two years the South Bend Community School Corporation (SBCSC) has added one more trademark to the end of the school year: pink slips.

### ► Deja Vu

Just like last year, approximately 300 teachers have been notified that they may not have a job with the corporation next fall. According to Dick Beeching, National Education Association (NEA) director, the pink slips notifying teachers of their possible reduction came as a result of nearly 100 position eliminations.

"They [the school board] eliminated about 110 positions, and my best guess right now is about 20-30 [teachers] will actually be eliminated," said Beeching.

Approximately sixteen pink slips were distributed to Riley teachers on May 1, but that doesn't mean they will all be without a job next fall. The process of re-assigning teachers is taking place currently. Teachers with more seniority are given job placement preference over those with less seniority.

"In the June board meeting they will have a final list of names [to be laid off]," said Beeching. "[The school board] will a c -

tually vote to terminate their contracts."

Among those positions cut are approximately 75 regular teaching positions, elementary counselors, orchestra/band pull-out instructors, six social workers, and four physical education teachers due to the elimination of the weight-training program. Beeching estimated only 25 job losses will be a result of the closing of LaSalle.

### ► Riley Losses

Principal George McCullough declined to comment on the effects of the upcoming lay-offs at Riley because it is a sensitive personnel issue which causes hurt feelings and uncertainty. Jennifer King, yearbook adviser and English teacher, has experienced the pain first hand.

"Laying off teachers hurts students as well as the teaching profession," said King. "It's like putting a band-aid on a wound without first cleaning out the wound."

The distribution of pink slips also creates rumors as to who will be back and who will not return next year. Shawn Harrington, choir director and music department head, fielded questions after his May 30 choir concert from parents who had heard rumors that he wouldn't be returning next year. Although Harrington received notification that his contract may not be renewed next year, he feels it is unlikely.

"For the choir, it's very reasonably assured that I'm here [next year]," said Harrington.

Julie Marcussen, school librarian, doesn't think parents realize some of the problems that

the lay-offs will create. For example, library para-professionals are being cut, which means the librarians may need to close the library for a period of time during the day to get the work completed that would normally be done by the para-professionals.

"I know they have to cut back somehow, but the ramifications of some of it is not good," said Marcussen. "I think they [the school board] needed to take longer to plan it [the budget cuts]."

Until she is notified of her job status in June, King has no way of knowing whether or not she will be back at Riley next year. Still, she is not merely concerned with how the lay-offs will affect her.

"I am very concerned about the long-term effects of laying off teachers," said King. "Laying off teachers hurts students because as it is, teachers and support staff are overextended and will only become more so with teacher layoffs."

King is also concerned that younger teachers will be discouraged from pursuing the teaching profession, and a shortage of teachers will occur as senior teachers retire and younger teachers are not available to replace them.

### ► Looking Ahead

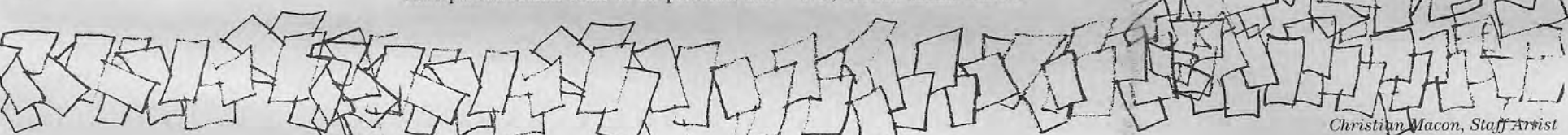
According to Dennis Kielton, Director of Student Services, the potential teacher reductions have made no significant impacts on courses available or scheduling for next year. However, Kielton admits that stu-

dent services is behind schedule this year. Normally, the master schedule of classes has been composed for the following school year. But this year uncertainty about the teachers available has caused it to be delayed.

"Every year teachers come and teachers go," said Kielton. "The only added burden to that is the indecisiveness as to who will go and who will stay."

Very few courses have been eliminated for the 2002-2003 school year, and most were cut due to low enroll-

■ See RIFS:  
on page two



Christian Macon, Staff Artist

## Breathe in, breathe out at prom

Tara Stokes  
Editor-in-Chief

Prom, for most kids, is an unforgettable night filled with memorable events. There are the expensive dinners you eat with your friends, the nervous yet exhilarating feeling of hearing your name being called and walking down the stairs in the spotlight. Then there are the romantic stolen moments you share with your significant other. And of course, the moment when you receive a breathalyzer.

For the first time, Riley administrators decided they would conduct random breathalyzer tests at prom. This decision was made at the

urgings of the senior class sponsors, who were hosting the event, and parents. These tests came at no cost to the corporation because the South Bend Police Department provided the service.

According to Brian Kendall, student resource officer, all of the other South Bend high schools did the same.

"Drinking has become a traditional part of prom. We wanted to find a way to keep students from partaking in the activity," said Kathy Johnson, athletic secretary and senior class sponsor.

This statement is backed up by a senior student who wishes to remain anonymous. "It was not as easy to have a good time at prom without being drunk."

Johnson, along with two other sponsors Kathy Byrd and Paula Nimtz, who all have daughters in the senior class, were 100 percent in favor of giving the tests to students.

"Anything that deters underage drinking can only be a good thing," said Johnson.

George McCullough, principal, also agrees with giving breathalyzers.

"It makes the prom safer. Our goal is to avoid injuries or loss of life to the students," said McCullough.

Kendall was put in charge of the operation. As the students waited in line to be admitted to the prom, Kendall stood post with his Portable Breath Test (P.B.T.).

"Kendall standing post

didn't really bother me, or ruin any part of my night," said Cory Newland, senior.

Testing students was not limited to just at the entrance of prom. Kendall walked the crowd throughout the evening and gave random tests to anyone whom he thought was acted intoxicated.

"I gave a P.B.T. to anyone who showed signs of in-

■ See  
Breathalyzer:  
on page two



Craig Swift, Staff Photographer

**TAKE A BREATH:** Kendall presents the breathalyzer and its tools on the back of his police car.

## News at a glance

### ■ Prom Court

Dionna Topps and Josh Drake were named Prom Queen and King. Prom 2002 and After Prom made the most profit in the last few years, according to class sponsor Kathy Johnson.

### ■ Riley Review

The Riley Review was named the best newspaper in Northern Indiana by the Society of Professional Journalists. According to the judges, the Review was easily the best all-around newspaper in the group.

### ■ Class Officers

The following students were voted by their classmates to be Senior Class Officers for 2002-2003: President: Louis Cavadini, Vice President: Ryan Crozier, Secretary: Deb Gates, and Treasurer: Lauren McLeod

### ■ Commencement

Commencement will be at the Morris Performing Arts Center on Sunday, June 9 at 4 p.m. Chelsea Steele, Valedictorian, and Emily Johnson, class President, will give speeches.

### ■ Senior Video

The senior video will be played at the Baccalaureate on Wednesday, June 5 in the auditorium. Aaron Nowak will sell the video for \$5. Pictures were contributed by various willing seniors.

### ■ Camp Ray Bird

Anyone who is interested in going to Camp Ray Bird for a week this summer can pick up an application in the Guidance Department.



# Brass quartet is playing all over

Ben Marshall/Patrick Kavanaugh  
Eye Candy Editor/Guest Writer

Sophomores Adam Ward and Kyle Springer, and freshmen Stephanie Sinka and Kenny McCreary are all talented trumpet players by themselves. Put them together however, and they join the ranks of Riley's brass quartets.

"The four of us just [several months ago] started playing together. We started out just me and Adam, and Stephanie and Kenny, but then this year we decided to play as a quartet," said Springer.

Despite the fact they just started playing together, the quartet is doing quite well. Ward alone has already played at a Bowlathon and an ROTC ball, and he and Springer played a trumpet fanfare and *Symphony Number 4* at a recent event at the *Studebaker National Museum*.

The first time that the four of them played together was at a *Silverhawks* game at *Coveleski Stadium*. There, they played *The Star Spangled Banner* and several other patriotic songs.

As a quartet, they do not play in order to make money. They play because they enjoy playing

their instruments. However, Springer has the potential to make a little bit of cash on the side.

"I've played in [other] things such as weddings and other gigs. I can get paid for a performance at my church called, '*Home of the Brave*.' I was able to sit and play alongside other professionals," said Springer.

But, as far as the group goes, they usually do not get paid to perform.

"We just thought it would be fun," said Ward, "and unless people want to make a donation, we don't charge or anything to play places."

A number of performances are being arranged at various events throughout the summer. Both Ward's aunt and mother are helping the quartet out by helping them to find places to play, as are various other people.

"The mayor's secretary is setting us up with lots of gigs for us to play at," said Springer. "We are supposed to play at a formal breakfast for the mayor, and we are doing a September 11th dedication thing. A not-so-rigorous practice schedule also leaves plenty of time to perform."



Photo courtesy of South Bend Tribune

**QUARTET:** Riley High School trumpet players, from left, Stephanie Sinka, Kenneth McCreary Jr., Adam Ward and Kyle Springer, playing the national anthem prior to a Silver Hawks game at Coveleski Stadium this week.



**BILLBOARD:** South Gateway Association donated the money to create three billboards for the last couple of months in support of Riley High School. The first billboard congratulated Riley High School for receiving the Blue Ribbon Award. The second billboard recognized the girls' basketball team for their winning season. The third billboard shown above supports Riley High School principal George McCullough.

## ■ RIFS: (continued from page one)

ment- not because of teacher lay-offs. Creative Writing, Adult Roles and Inter-personal Relationships, and Manufacturing Processes have been eliminated at Riley only because of low interest in the courses.

"Some of this low enrollment is the transition from block to traditional [scheduling]," said Kielton.

Weight training was also cut, but it was a corporation wide reduction. 98 students were enrolled in weight training at Riley, and they have been notified that it will not be available next year.

"We had them just choose another appropriate elective for themselves," said Kielton.

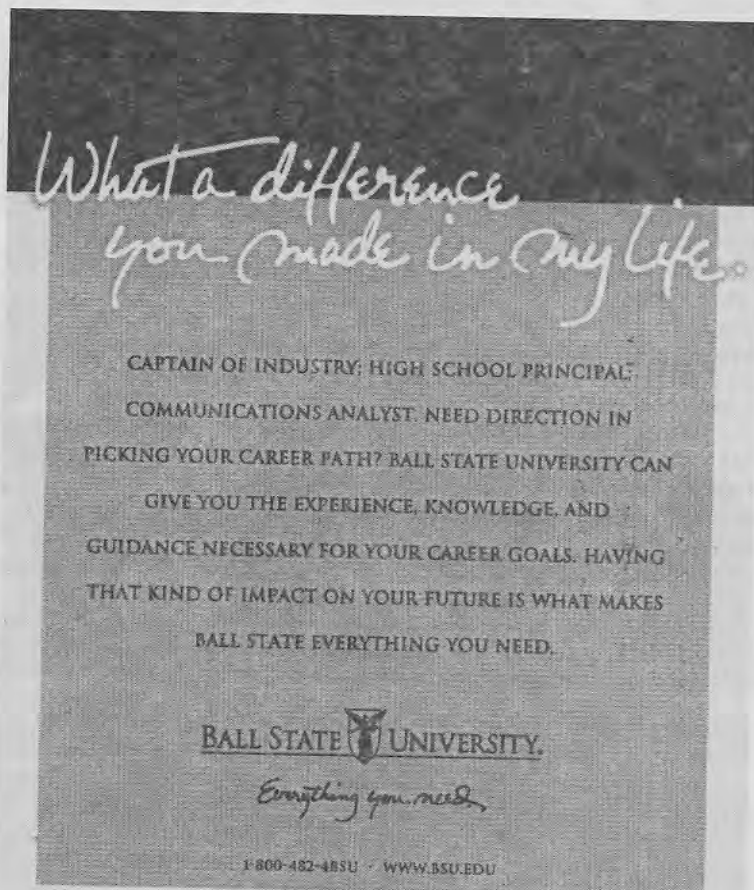
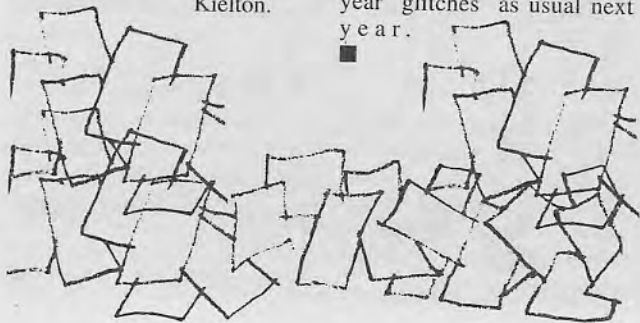
Upper level honors and advanced placement courses will continue to be combined together, but they were always combined before the birth of Block 4 scheduling.

Upper level foreign language courses and all German levels will also be combined, but Kielton says they, too, were typically combined together before Block 4.

Kielton expects classes to be closer to full capacity next year because of the additional students transferring from LaSalle, but he does not expect overloading to last all year.

"Things tend to start out as a boom-town and then settle down," said Kielton.

Overall, Kielton is anticipating only last minute changes and the same school-year glitches as usual next year.



## ■ Breathalyzer:

(continued from page one)

toxication or adnormal behavior," said Kendall.

The students were warned of the serious consequences if they were caught drinking.

"They would have been issued a ticket, their parents would have been called, and then they would have been escorted home. A possible police report could have been filed," said McCullough.

No one at prom who took the *P.B.T.* tested positive so no one suffered any of those consequences. According to Kendall, he administered approximately 50 *P.B.T.*'s.

One of those tests was given to Colin Cybulski, senior. Although he initiated the test, not Kendall.

"I went up to Kendall and asked for a breathalyzer because I saw people dancing with tubes in their mouths and I wanted one, too. He just laughed and gave me one," said Cybulski. According to Colin, it was all a joking matter.

"He [Kendall] joked that I hadn't passed, although I had," said Cybulski.

Although administering breathalyzers was supposed to be a serious threat to teenage drinkers, most students did not take Kendall, or the tests, seriously.

"I think Kendall should have taken the tests more seriously. Especially with kids who are known to drink or have been caught drinking before," said Cybulski.

Kendall disagrees.

"Although I do not feel the threat of the tests deterred kids from drinking, I do feel the consequences scared them," said Kendall. Cybulski does admit that there were fewer people who attended the prom drunk, although he says there were a few.

"I did not see anyone staggering around like I had seen in years past, and because of some of the comments I heard people make about drinking after prom," said Cybulski.

The faculty did manage to deter the majority of students from becoming inebriated before and during the prom. But many students, however, just waited until afterwards.

"I was too scared of being caught during the prom, but there were a couple parties after the prom was over and my friends and I wasted no time in getting drunk," said an anonymous senior.

But for many Riley students and their dates, they took the non-alcohol route, and opted to attend the after-prom held at *Chippewa Bowl*. The attendance at the after-prom was an all time high. They sold out of tickets.

"The after-prom turn-out was phenomenal," said Johnson.

Despite the faculty's hard efforts, teen drinking is not a trend that seems to be fading. They are, however, using all the resources they have to their ability and plan to keep cracking down.

"I think breathalyzers at school dances will start to become a regular thing," said Kendall.



# CREDIT CHAOS



**FULL HOUSE:** Nikki Schaefer and Kelci Huegle, juniors, work in crowded quarters along with over 100 other students at Credit Redemption on May 29. Contrary to popular belief, the program will continue next year.

## Redemption program continues despite glitches

Elyse Chudzynski  
*Editor-in-Chief*

**> A 95 percent on a test is an A. A 94 percent is still an A. But if you were to miss more than five percent of any of your classes at Riley you would be on no-credit status.**

Indiana's state attendance policy says all students must be in class 95 percent of the time, which is equivalent to five absences per semester. Because of this rule, many students at Riley lost credit and were forced to attend something called Credit Redemption.

Credit Redemption is the opportunity for students to make up class work and class time in order to gain back credit status. Fifty-five minutes after school makes up one absence from class. Teachers have the option to handle redemption for their own students. Redemption starts the third full week of each term and is available every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday for the rest of the term. This is the official definition and description in the student handbook.

Credit Redemption has taken place at Riley for more than ten years, and according to Beth Horban, assistant principal, it has proved effective.

"We wanted to put a little more teeth in our attendance policy, and throughout the years the attendance has improved," said Horban.

Since the law says students must be present in class 95 percent of the time, Credit Redemption is a way to circumvent the law. If students miss more than five days a semester, Credit Redemption offers them the opportunity to make that time up. Before Credit Redemption was offered, students had no way to make up their absences.

"There are some kids who think 'I can miss because I have a way to make it up,' but there are a number of students who say 'I can't miss because if I do I'll have to make it up in credit redemption,'" according to Horban. The current question is the efficiency of Credit Redemption.

Carol Wallace, geometry teacher, who has volunteered three times this year for Credit Redemption, is questioning the effectiveness.

"The faculty voted and decided that this was the very best way to curb absenteeism. 70 percent voted several years ago, some of the older teachers who voted for it, however, have since then retired," said Wallace.

"Credit Redemption did work better with *Block Four*. Now there are too many classes for students to make up, and kids are still missing frequently."

Ed Linetty, social studies teacher believes there are both positive and negative aspects of Credit Redemption.

"It gives students a chance to recover their credit status, but it gives some students a false sense of security," said Linetty. Linetty has also volunteered three times this year.

"I do it because, for it to exist, faculty must participate," said Linetty. "For many students, yes, it is effective, but for some no matter how many opportunities you allow, they will not take advantage of them."

Credit Redemption is a unique program that few schools offer. It is, however, not the only way to encourage attendance.

"In one corporation, students who had too many absences in class were sent to the dean of students and then withdrawn from the class and transferred to a study hall," said Horban.

Wallace explained another tactic.

"In the '60's and '70's if a student missed no more than two days in a semester their final exam was waived. This kept the bright students from skipping. Now there are way too many bright kids skipping. You want to build up the numbers of those who enjoy school."

Linetty offers yet another idea. "Some type of required community service may prove more effective," said Linetty.

The handbook also lists the rules of Credit Redemption which include punctuality, no passes, appropriate materials, no eating, no sleeping, and no disruptions. Any disruptions result in early dismissal for a student and no credit for the time he or she spent there.

Lately, however, the students' description has been a bit different. Phillip Cusic, senior, said the first time he went to Credit Redemption it was quiet at the beginning, but with so many students, the teachers couldn't control it anymore and everyone started talking and having fun.

"Man, on my life, I have dreaded going to credit redemption, but once I experienced what it was really like, it was one of the best experiences," according to Cusic. Other students concur with Cusic.

Lauren Dietz, senior, went on vacation for a week during this past semester. Combined with her other absences she was over the limit of five.

"I've gone about 10 times this year. I usually get stuff done in the first 20 minutes, until a magazine becomes more entertaining. After the first 40 minutes though, everyone gets a little noisy,"

said Dietz.

Another rule that has been altered is the number of people at a table. Recently there have been up to five people at one table when the original rule was one per table, according to Dietz. This is no surprise to Horban, however, because attendance at Credit Redemption always skyrockets towards the end of the semester.

"Earlier in the semester there may be five or six kids and the teachers could take them into their own classroom," said Horban. "But as it gets closer to report card time, there can be over 100 students with only three or four teachers supervising."

On May 22, 159 students attended Credit Redemption. For only three teachers, this could have been a difficult crowd.

"With that many students you better be a well respected teacher and have a sense of humor to do Credit Redemption," said Wallace. Teachers are asked to volunteer for Credit Redemption at least once a semester. Less than 50 percent of the faculty actually does, according to Wallace. Teachers have expressed their choice not to volunteer to Horban.

"Many of the teachers aren't even opposed to Credit Redemption but everyone has things to do after school. Some never volunteer but then there are others like Master Sergeant Roy Mullins who volunteer nine times in one semester." According to Horban the program will continue until the teachers' committee reconvenes and comes up with a different plan.

"They know attendance is so important," said Horban. "You can't make up days when you're a business person. Students view the five day policy as five 'skip days', but they should be legitimate skip days with valid excuses."

Due to the lack of volunteers some students were worried about credit redemption returning next year.

"After three days of Credit Redemption was cancelled, I figured since the teachers wouldn't volunteer, they wouldn't continue the program next year," said Dietz.

Credit Redemption, however, will not be cancelled. It is a part of Public Law 221 so it must continue. Principal, George McCullough has already made a plan for next year.

"We plan to have a meeting and create a strategy in order to encourage teachers to volunteer at least once a semester. Even administration will volunteer for a night. It is an excellent program and we intend to keep it going for the students," said McCullough. ■

I may have  
skipped  
class...  
But give me  
some credit

Tara Stokes  
*Editor-in-Chief*

High school, like most things, becomes very old, very fast. The thrill and excitement that gets you through the first week, very soon wears off. Not to say that high school is not an enjoyable experience, but you soon grow weary of the countless assignments and constant pestering from your teachers.

Then there's that one day that you forget to do an important homework assignment and decide to skip the class to avoid public humiliation from your angry teacher. But you do not want to just wander aimlessly about. So you recruit a couple of your friends to skip class with you to go out to lunch. You are having so much fun that you decide to do the same thing the next day. And then one day next week, and the next...and before you know it, you have six absences and are on no-credit status.

The first teacher warns you you have no credit, you freak out and are the first one in the cafeteria during the next scheduled credit redemption. Then you realize,

well there are three days of credit redemption a week for the next six weeks, so I can miss a couple days and just wait until the end of the year to make them up. Problem solved!

Unfortunately, although it sounds dumb, skipping class is like an addiction. Once you start, it's really hard to stop. You get used to going out to lunch once or twice a week, or staying home every now and then to veg out on the couch and watch soap operas all day.

But before you know it, those absences pile up and it is impossible to make them all up. And if you are like me, you are struggling your senior year to earn credits you should have earned two years ago.

And even as I realized the hole I was digging for myself, I continued to miss classes. It was not until I realized I was on the verge of becoming a second year senior, how serious the problem was. The thought of missing my own graduation ceremony and all of the activities that go along with it, is what finally woke me up.

Although I do not blame anyone for my own behavior, there should be more strict rules on truancies and leaving the building. Not once in the four years I have attended Riley have I been stopped at the front doors by a security officer as I walked out of the school to grab a bite to eat.

In the student handbook, it states that after five absences, a parent will be notified. Not once were my parents ever called to let them know of my missed days.

Luckily, there was time for me to make up my absences. I was able to overcome my mistakes and I will be able to walk across that stage and receive my diploma with my classmates from the last four years. But many students are not going to be as fortunate. I know that we should be mature young adults and make sure we make it to class. But we are still teenagers, and occasionally we need a rough shove in the right direction. ■



# A look back on t

## Top ten ranking seniors of the cl

- |                    |                |
|--------------------|----------------|
| 1 Chelsea Steele   | 6 Ashley Coker |
| 2 Kari Meersman    | 7 Joshua Cott  |
| 3 Elyse Chudzynski | 8 Jennifer     |
| 4 Andrew Craker    | 9 Auston       |
| 5 Salima Oudghiri  | 10 Rebec       |



## Planning ahead

### Future plans for 200

Indiana University South Bend-38	
Indiana University Bloomington-29	V
IVY Tech-24	Colum
Ball State-16	
Purdue-11	
University Of Southern Indiana-7	A
Notre Dame-4	Linc
	Illinois

## Moving o

Katie Grembowicz  
Writing Specialist

What's out there after high school? That's a question every graduating R asking himself/herself at this time of year. there will be many individual answers, one thing in common. After the last pers across the stage to receive his or her dip last tassel is switched to show we truly ha the real world, we will all feel some sor will all have s sadness or wor is to come and left behind.

### opinion

But the that this is all normal. Doctors and psy that everyone who has experienced som will feel some kind of grief or separation a are many causes for these feelings of worry.

Separation anxiety is caused by c moved from his or her element. This ap school seniors because we will all be le thing behind. The pressure of succeeding tional strife for all of us, and this can cau depression in not knowing what the fut This is what causes some of us to sit bac the rest of our lives more often now. Our cern at this time last year was whether c enough absences to skip the last three ho



# he step forward

ass of 2002

## Saying goodbye to mom

Stacey Turza  
Buisness Manager

Life is supposed to be great after high school. College begins, no curfews, no rules, and you can be yourself. Maybe some people feel that way, but to me, life after high school won't be all that is cracked up to be.

I was the typical teenage girl who hated her parents her freshman year of high school. I felt like no one could tell me to do anything, especially my parents. Little did I know then that my parents actually knew what they were talking about and that I probably should have listened.

My mom and I never got along. I fought with her all the time. I can't even remember a time when I wasn't fighting with her. We fought about stupid things: boyfriends, phone time, dinner, clothes, school, and even stupid things like the length or color of my hair! Whatever I could think of, we would fight about.

Now the end of my senior year is coming and my mom and I have worked almost everything out. I guess

maybe because we both realize I am leaving. I am leaving a lot sooner than most seniors. I am a camp counselor for Camp Millhouse this summer and I leave the day after commencement. I don't come home until the day before I leave for college.

It's sad to think that I will be leaving my mom so soon. My room is cluttered now with open boxes starting to fill with the memories of my past 17 years. Sitting on the floor of my room with my mom helping me sort through photos is a new memory for us. I didn't plan on packing my room until mid-July.

The emotions from leaving Riley, leaving my mom, and realizing that these are the last days of being a child, it is all so overwhelming that I can't even sleep most nights. I just keep thinking of things that could have been different with my mom and me.

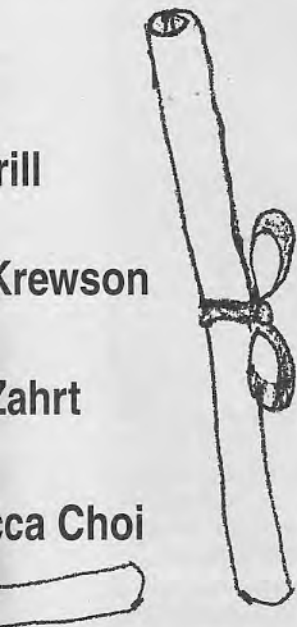
Looking at the photos of her and me, I see the smiles on our faces were strained.

I wish I could go back and smile truthfully. I wish that I could have been nice to my mom and been considerate of her feelings. I said so many hurtful things

to her, things that made us both cry things that I regret day after day. But I can't go back in time I can only try to make up for the awful things I did to her.

I decided to go to a college close to home. Not only because it was the college most suited for me, but because it is close to my mom. I want to be close to her. I want to become really good friends with her and make up for the time we lost in our past. I even decided to major in art, which is what my mom wanted to do but never had the opportunity. I didn't decide to do it just for her, but it is one of my goals to make her dream, a dream that we share, come true.

I love my mom and my dad too! I will miss them so much, but I don't regret the way my mom and I treated each other in the past. Those times only make the times we now have in our future that much more special. I'm sorry for all of our bad times, mom, please forgive me. I will try my hardest to make you proud of me!



### 2 Seniors

Holy Cross-3  
Rose-Hulman-3  
ncennes University-3  
bia College Chicago, IL-2  
Indiana State-2  
epauw University-2  
Anderson University-2  
ln Technical Institute-2  
Institute of Culinary Arts-2

Lincoln College-2  
Glenn Oaks Junior College-2  
Brown Young Adult Program-2  
St. Mary's College-1  
Manchester-1  
Davenport College-1  
Tennessee State-1  
Bethel-1  
LeTourneau University-1  
Otterbein College-1  
Bucknell-1  
Taylor University Ft. Wayne-1  
Goshen College-1  
Capital University-1  
IUPUI-1  
Western Illinois University-1

Mid-American College-1  
Defiance College-1  
Appalachian State-1  
Tulsa Community College-1  
Theology School in England-1  
Grace College-1  
Edgerton's Travel School-1  
Purdue Statewide Technology at IUSB-1  
Devry Institute of Technology-1  
University of Michigan-1  
Chattanooga State Community College-1  
Herron School of Art-1  
University of New Orleans-1  
Tri-State University-1

University Technical Institute-1  
Millikin College-1  
St. Elizabeth's School of Nursing-1  
International Academy of Design-1  
Northwestern University-1  
Triton Jr. College-1  
Western Michigan University-1  
Grace Theological Seminary-1  
Premier Beauty College-1  
Apprentice Programs-4  
Military Service and Marines-3  
Army-3  
Air Force-1  
Navy-1

### on with anxiety

and hit Nevel's pool party. We feel lost without the familiar hallways and warm faces we've seen almost every day for the last four years.

Grief happens when there is a significant loss in someone's life. And we're all losing something very important. We're losing the people and places we've known virtually all of our lives.

So what's the diagnosis? Eat some graduation party cake, make some new friends at college or a new job, and make sure to call your old friends in the morning.

That overwhelming feeling of dread will eventually go away. The ball in throat that you just can't seem to swallow while thinking about childhood memories will grow smaller with time. The nauseating feeling in the pit of your stomach when you have to leave your boyfriend or girlfriend for new experiences and new people will fade away. And someday, you may even forget the names and faces of the people you have spent every Friday night with for the past four years.

And if the feeling of loneliness and sadness and loss don't go away? Talk to someone. It doesn't matter if it's your mom, your brother, your best friend, or even a professional. But if you feel that graduating, leaving, growing up, or anything else bothering you, is too much to handle, seek counseling.

It's over. And with everything that eventually has to come to an end, there's a time of sadness. Just try to make the best of the time you have left with high school, and look forward to what the future will hold for you.

### 10 ways to cope with anxiety

Get Professional Help

Get a Physical Exam to rule out other possible causes

Practice Muscle Relaxation and Deep Breathing Daily

Exercise Regularly

Eat Nutritiously

Avoid Caffeine and Alcohol. Stop Smoking.

Meditate

Think Positively

Identify, Express, and Ultimately Face your Fears

Explore Alternative Therapies that suit YOU personally

### Symptoms of anxiety

▼ trembling, twitching, or feeling shaky

▼ fatigue or restlessness

▼ muscle tension or jitteriness

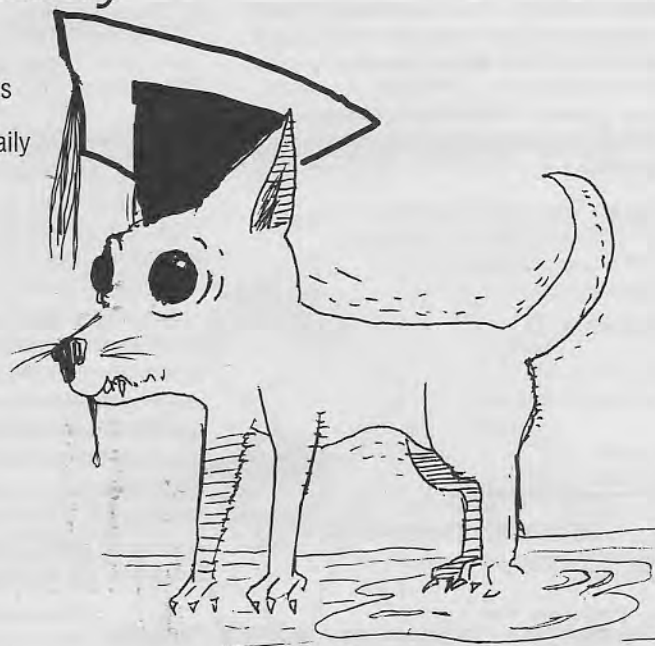
▼ feeling dizzy or lightheaded

▼ fast heartbeat or breathing rate

▼ sweating, or cold or clammy hands

▼ dry mouth, nausea, or diarrhea

▼ irritability, impatience, easily distracted





# Finals discourage good students

Ashley Coker  
News Editor

The semesterly ritual is ingrained in my memory; as the semester comes to a close, the chalkboard is filled with a complicated series of fractions, percents, letter grades, while the teacher explains what the bare minimum final exam grade is in order to pass the class. "Now if you have a C for the first semester (worth 2/5), and an F right now (also worth 2/5), you'll need to score at least a 62.3% to pass my class..."

Perhaps what every teacher overlooks is the stress incurred by the A student, the one who has an A in the grade book for both grading periods. The thought of a final exam from this student's perspective is much different. Instead of stressing about not passing the class, the A student is inevitably worried about this one test ruining all his hard work for the semester.

For a student who has worked hard to get the A all semester, the final exam should be a non factor. It should be eliminated completely. A new policy should be put into effect next year; students with an 'A' average for both nine week periods by the time finals roll around should not take the final exam in that class. Their final grade will be based solely upon the nine week grades, and the student will receive an A automatically. Many high schools, including Marian, have already adopted this policy, and Riley should be the next to do so.

A final exam measures how much a student has learned over the grading period. If a student has earned an 'A' for the semester, he has already proven he has learned the material, and should not be tested again. It can really be compared to a court case; once the defendant has been proven innocent, is it really necessary to hold the same trial again? Of course not, and it's illegal to do so. The same holds true in our case. An 'A' student has proven he knows the material, so a second trial, also known as a final exam, should be equally illegal.

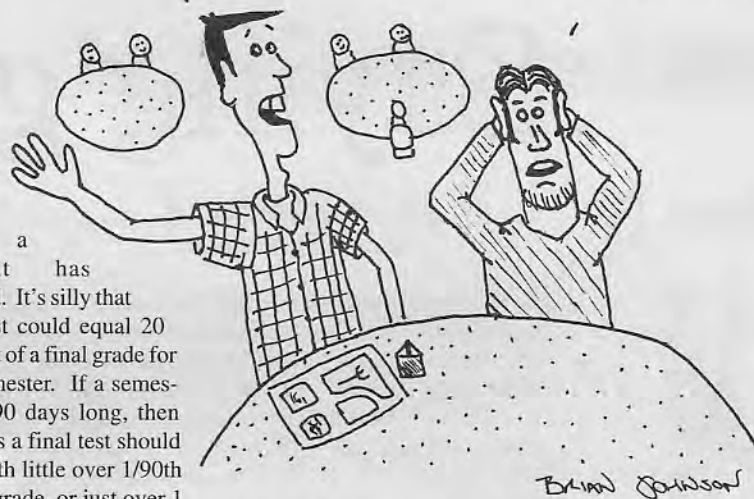
Also, 'A' students have earned a break anyway. Assuming that it is more difficult to earn a grade of 'A' than a grade of 'D', the 'A' student has worked hard enough already, and a reduction of the stress factor is in order. Abolishing final exams for 'A' students will raise students' standards. Quickly realizing that while a 'B' is fine, but an 'A' saves lots of stress, students will be more than willing to put in the extra effort; they will study more, do more homework, and have better attendance. Better grades and better attendance means a higher graduation rate, and isn't that what high school's all about?

Currently, there is little incentive to do well, academically, during the nine week grading periods. Regardless of those grades, the final exam usually seeks to destroy. If 'A' students are rewarded by not having to take a final exam, this will give them incentive to do their best work all year, instead of cramming at the end.

The final exams are not true indicators of how

SO SHE SAYS  
EVEN THOUGH I HAVE  
AN A, I STILL HAVE  
TO TAKE THE FINAL.  
THIS IS OUTRAGEOUS!

LIKE WE'RE EXPECTED  
TO EARN OUR GRADE  
OR SOMETHING.



much a student has learned. It's silly that one test could equal 20 percent of a final grade for the semester. If a semester is 90 days long, then perhaps a final test should be worth little over 1/90th of the grade, or just over 1 percent. Even the brightest students can have a bad test day. That one bad test day can bring a grade way down. A bad day should never overrule a semester of good grades.

On top of all the other reasons, teachers will have fewer final exams to grade if the 'A' students don't take them, reducing stress for them during the hectic final exam week.

It's time to start recognizing positive perfor-

mance. It seems that there are few times that the academically strong students get the perks: grades aren't weighted, honor roll doesn't exist materially, etc. Next to the honors breakfast that occurs annually, honors students have little to show for years of hard work and dedication. Eliminating the final exam for these students is one step to recognizing positive performance schools should be striving for. ■

## letters to the editor

### Review staff excels

Dear Editor,

I would like to thank the *Riley Review* for all of your hard work for this 2001-2002 school year. For the past two months or so, I have come to the journalism room at C lunch and have watched everyone on the staff do their job. At first, I figured the job would be really easy. But after watching, it's not all that easy. Having to try and think of a story to write, then getting all the information to be able to write the story is hard enough. But I wouldn't say that's the hard part. Actually it's a toss up between lay out and working on the computer designing the pages. I have noticed the attitude changes when layout comes. The students are more serious and they really crack down to make sure the paper is done by deadline. Even through all this hard work, the students manage to still have a good time. There seems to be a good friendship among the staff on the *Review*.

I know that most of the students are seniors and will be leaving us Wildcats behind and be making a new life! So I hope that the students to come who will take your place will do just as good as you have done. So again, I would like to say thank you. Obviously, it's not as easy as it looks. Without the hard working staff, the paper could never have been this successful.

Sincerely,

Christen Scogins

Christen Scogins

items that are great resources of information, simply because a keyword or certain Java script appears, or because it is hosted on a free server. BESS is nothing more than a form of censoring the youth at Riley.

BESS has delivered the ultimate insult to our community. For, one day in mid-May, the St. Joseph County Library website and Riley High School website were both blocked by BESS, meaning no one in our school could access them. When questioned why, BESS indicated 'Pornographic Content.' I assure you, there is not and never was such content. And, to my surprise, it is not the first time BESS has blocked the site. BESS arbitrarily blocks sites, and worse, stops the free flow of information. It is time to take a stand against censorship and this incompetent software and eliminate BESS from SBCSC computers.

Sincerely,

Mike Lane

### Headbands forbidden

Dear Editor,

I was asked to take off my headband more than once because it was considered a weapon. I don't understand why! If a headband can be a weapon so can a pen, pencil, book, paper and any other school supply. So why are headbands not allowed? A belt is as dangerous if not moreso than a headband. If you think about it any thing in this school is dangerous. If a person gets mad enough s/he could use anything at hand. Now, you may have had troubles in the past but that is in the past. Some girls only like to wear their hair down. But the only way to keep it out of her face is by a headband. Just like the only way for a guy to hold up his pants is by using a belt. So why are headbands not accepted?

Sincerely,

Jessi Marts

Jessi Marts

### Censorship excessive

Dear Editor,

The internet is a wonderful resource for students and all people. The world is put at anyone's fingertips instantly. There is one thing that stops this: BESS.

BESS is an internet filter system that is used by the school corporation to filter out what could be considered 'questionable' content. More often than not, it will filter

## Public records should be accessible

When *The Review* chose 'teacher layoffs' as the front-page news story, no one realized what an ordeal the story would be. Obtaining a copy of the so-called 'public' record of who exactly received the pink slips proved to be quite the task. After 'asking around' for the list, we realized that none of our most utilized sources were willing to give out the information. The staff, in turn, made a formal request for a disclosure of public records from the South Bend Community School Corporation. Our request for the record was originally denied by SBCSC communications officer Sue Pace, with the explanation that the layoffs were a 'personnel issue,' and was not a public matter at all.

Disappointed that the information was given to the *South Bend Tribune* but not to a student publication, *The Review* looked to *The Tribune* for support. While *The Tribune* did not feel comfortable handing over the information, managing editor Tim Harmon and staff writer Nate Trela helped our staff finally obtain the record.

*The Review* wishes to extend a hand of gratitude for all the support and help *The Tribune* has given this year. All year, *The Tribune*, especially Trela, has been our primary source for information about school news. His interest in student press is commended and appreciated. But *The Review* does regret that it was not able to go straight to the SBCSC, and had to look elsewhere. We feel that an open line of communication between Riley and the corporation is a must.

Public records should be truly public. The

layoff is a reduction in force as a result of budget constraints; it's not like 300 got fired because of a top secret incident, so it's not a 'personnel issue,' as we were told. This situation affects the entire community, Riley High School included. In order to get the story right, we had to interview the teachers. In order to interview them, we had to know who they were. In order to know who they were, we needed some cooperation. Especially as a student publication, we need the support of the corporation. *The Review* has the same rights as any professional publication; to give *The South Bend Tribune* a list of pink-slipped teacher but withhold it from *The Review* is blatant censorship.

Less speculation and 'guesswork' would have occurred had we been granted access to the record. The entire staff literally had to sit in a circle and brainstorm as to who we thought might have received a pink slip. With help from Anne O'Connor, a political action counselor, we did eventually receive the list from the office of communications of the SBCSC after the second request.

It is disappointing to note that this was not the only communication battle *The Review* fought this year with its own school corporation. Earlier in the year, staffers felt forced to make a presentation at the school board meeting because they were not given a reply regarding several requests to travel to accept an award in New York City. The decision that we were not allowed to attend was reversed only after a long, unnecessary battle.

We believe the lines of communication should be kept open. A simple 'open door' policy would benefit both the corporation and our staff. ■

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Thank you for contributing your letters this year. We look forward to hearing from you in the fall.

The Viewpoints section of *The Review* contains opinions written by Review staffers and Riley students. Although we provide a forum for a wide variety of opinions, *The Review* does not necessarily endorse published opinions, with the exceptions of staff editorials and editorial board votes.



## Please don't cut my teachers

Meagan Orban  
Eye Candy Editor

Joan Raymond came out of retirement for this? Hired to help our school corporation with its' outstanding budget problems, Raymond has done quite a lot to bring us out of the red. Her actions, however, have many parents seeing red.

To be fair, Raymond has done an excellent job based on why she was hired. She has saved the corporation millions, and cut the budget drastically in a very short period of time. Raymond has been forced to make many controversial decisions and it is admirable that she can stand by them so strongly. Dealing with situations like the budget is Raymond's specialty, so maybe she should be given the benefit of the doubt.

On the other hand, while cutting teachers and programs will save huge amounts of money now, will it actually end up hurting the corporation in five years when Raymond is retired in Florida?

More than a few of my friends have said their younger siblings probably won't be attending Riley. Their parents are dishing out the extra money to send them to private schools.

This may not be a problem right away, but it has the possibility of becoming an epidemic. Many parents are willing to pay for what they believe to be a quality education, and public schools just may be in danger of losing the ability to provide one.

Cutting teachers based on seniority is a tough thing to do. Many teachers have put in a lot of time at a certain school, and deserve to keep their jobs. But what about the incoming teachers who may be just as great, if not better, than their seniors? I know of more than a few teachers who pass off nothing but busy work as a learning experience. I would rather have a teacher who tries to get the entire class excited about the subject matter than one who just gets the time to go by with worksheets.

If students are judged based on performance, I believe teachers should be judged in the same way. Seniority could play a part in this, but it wouldn't be the deciding factor. That way, great teaching wouldn't have to take a back seat to years served.

Also, what happens when these teachers retire in a few years? What incoming teacher is going to want to dip into this corporation's job market? Fear of losing a job one-year after being hired has a tendency of keeping applicants away.

Then there's the issue of cutting the music programs out of regular curriculum. Yes, the corporation will save money from salary cuts, but what about the money it will have to spend to provide activity buses for the children who stay after school to be in activities like band and orchestra? What about the money for the buses that will have to ship kids from one school to another due to lack of participants?

There is no doubt that something has to be done. The corporation is in dire need of funds, and cuts are evident. Instead of cutting teachers, who shape the future of this community, or programs that could lead to a college education for students, why don't we cut things that aren't needed?

Why do we need cable television in each classroom? So the students can watch MTV when there's nothing to do?

I'm sure if the school board put their heads together, and cut back, lots of money, positions, and programs could be saved. ■

## 'Seniority' a bad excuse for bad teaching

Shaun Martz  
Staff Writer

Experience and loyalty are two very important qualities every teacher must acquire. But at what point do veterans overstay their welcome?

A hot topic flowing through the school is whether or not teachers should automatically be guaranteed a career due to seniority. I disagree with this rule for several reasons.

Many of our newest quality teachers receive pink slips each year while our veteran educators stay. Most students are drawn to the exciting, visual, and hands-on new activists this school has hired. Yet time and time again, these are the same faculty members in danger of the much-feared layoff.

"Seniority," said history teacher Jim Spears, "is simply knowing what you're doing after experiencing years of teaching students."

One of the most shocking aspects about this topic is that none of our teachers receive regular performance reviews. The performance review is a way to decide a teacher's output and work attitude and has been in use for years.

Once an educator has been at Riley for five years, their performance reviews come once every three years. Frankly, this isn't nearly enough

to evaluate the teachers' true habits of the classroom.

Some, not all of our beloved educators simply pass out worksheets or show their classes movies.

"Teachers," explained junior Meredith Malone, "are really important to the students here, but we definitely feel cheated when we see our new teachers with pink slips while veterans seem to be let off the hook."

It seems to me that the more years a teacher has under his or her belt, the less scrutiny they receive. Is this right? All of our educators should be given equal rules and standards to live up to.

A retirement plan should also be put into effect for our veteran teachers. Many are extremely helpful, in-

sightful, and enjoyable, but who's against giving new teachers the chance to fill their shoes? The school system is known for taking chances that usually work out fine. Why not take this one?

Retirement is a reward in itself to many. This way, teachers who deserve to stay will stay. Many of them simply love their job and will continue to do a quality job while keeping their ideas fresh and putting forth a feeling of professionalism.

To be honest, I think the idea of seniority should be abolished altogether. Teaching merely

represents getting ideas and facts across in a fresh, informational, and sometimes fun manner. Why does it matter whether a teacher has been employed for three years or 20 years? It shouldn't.

Has anyone taken the time to think about what impression pink slips are giving to incoming teachers? Many may be getting the wrong idea about our school system. Will they be laid off? Is it worth it to earn their degree and give Riley a go?

Jennifer King, yearbook advisor and English teacher, feels the life-long effect of being pink slipped.

"I am passionate," she explained, "about what I do and it grieves me deeply to be laid off. The last thing we should be doing is devastating people's families. They feel the true pain."

Teachers, old and new, are our most important resources and absolutely essential in this school. They are appreciated and loved by all, but I think that for some of them, it's time to let go.

While Riley continues to abide by the school corporation's wishes, I believe we can change the future of our teachers' longevity.

Perhaps six-month performance reviews, yearly test score checks, and observation of their students' behaviors would be a more fair method of determining who goes and who stays.

"Nothing can replace the people who have given their all for our school. Laying off teachers only hurts everyone's morale and sends the wrong message," said King.

Who wants to be viewed as dispensable? Certainly none of our teachers. ■

Why does it matter whether a teacher has been employed for three years or 20? It shouldn't.

## New rules went in one ear and out the front door

Katie Grembowicz  
Writing Specialist

With the culmination of another school year right around the corner, I'd like to take the opportunity to critique how Riley administrators and personnel did on enforcing the 'new rules.' If you'll remember, I cited some of these rules in the first issue of the newspaper.

Let's review: there was to be no leaving during school hours without a pass out. We were all supposed to look out for the senioritis bug that was hopping around which was suspected

reach into the lower classes by mid-year. We were all supposed to park in the main parking lot, be sure to wear IDs, and stay in line with the dress code.

First of all, where did you have lunch last week? Someone's (definitely not my own, of course) dining experiences included the scrumptious *Big Mac*, the new \$.99 seven-layer nachos, and a taste of the orient at the *New China* take-out buffet. And after being admitted back inside, I believe my conversations with our fabulous security guards consisted of 'Hey, how ya doin'.'

Also, during the past four months or so, I have been seriously afflicted with a horrible disease.

It's called the 'Sit on my behind and do nothing until otherwise told' syndrome.

Guess who wrote their senior English paper in four hours the day before it was due! Also, refer to the Eye Candy section of our newspaper, and you will come across an award for the best sleeper.

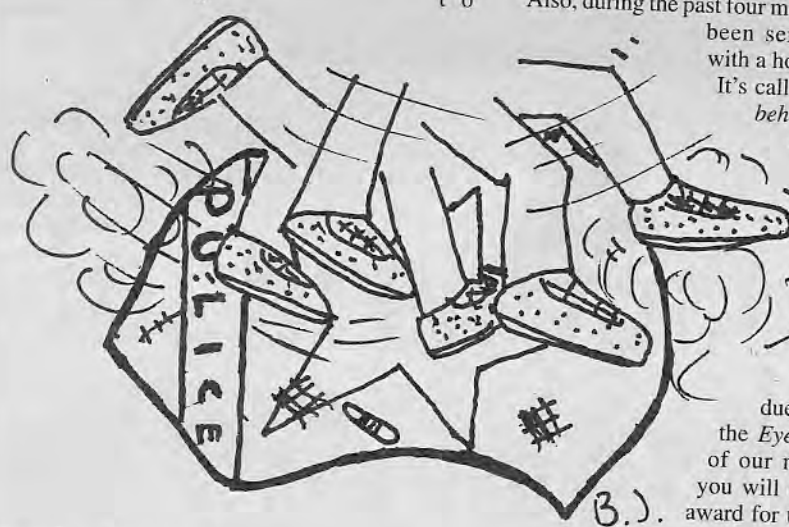
I believe this sums up senior year in a nutshell.

Let's talk about ID's. Some unnamed ID checkers really need to get with the program because I have walked into school every day for the past three weeks without an ID on and have not been stopped, but the girl I bring to school has been stopped numerous times. Oh well, I guess I'm just too slick.

And someone in this school needs to tell some of these girls walking around that *DeJaVu* is in Michigan and unless they plan on making a pit stop there after school, they need to wear some clothes a little less revealing. I don't need to see anybody's 'other' parts hanging out of their shirts, shorts, skirts, etc... It may be 80 degrees outside, but we all know if it's hot outside, it's cold in Riley.

Also, what is wrong with some of you people that park in the dirt lot across from the school? Are you that late every day that you have to park horizontally in the middle of a lane? Learn how to park or suffer the consequences of being left nice little paint reminders that you are parked the wrong way. And I realize we're really not supposed to park there anyway, but when a complaint is made that people are being blocked in, could the security guards please stop 'watching' the mesmerizing video cameras and perhaps DO something about it.

Ah yes, it's been another year at good old Riley. Maybe that's why seniors feel bad when they have to leave her; we're just so used to nothing ever changing. ■



## Underclassmen should attend drinking assembly

Stacey Turza  
Senior Staff Writer

Every senior class gets the annual, 'Don't Drink and Drive' assembly right before prom. It is a great assembly that features the emotional, physical, and lawful aspects of making decisions about drinking and driving.

I think the assembly should be conducted every new school year for all four classes. I mean, let's be serious, most high school students don't wait until their senior prom night to drink for the first time. Besides most students start drinking even before they enter high school, especially if they have older siblings or friends.

So why does our administration wait until our senior year to give us the speech that could save our lives? Our administrators, a drinking and driving specialist, a police officer, and the county prosecutor give useful information, information that stays in the back of your mind when you make decisions like drinking and then driving.

By conducting the assembly every new school year it would keep the advice constant in our minds. And hopefully it would reduce the number of students who drive after they have been drinking.

I know that I never took drinking and driving seriously until I heard Jason speak at the assembly. He told us about how he drank one night after a football game. He killed his best friend, and his girlfriend at the time now has epilepsy from the accident.

He gave us vivid descriptions of what happened that night: how he heard the glass breaking, his girlfriend screaming, and his best friend laying against a tree feet from the car.

Drinking and driving is something that your parents and administration tell you not to do. But until you see a man standing in front of you, with trembling hands, and tears in his eyes telling you the story of his drinking experience; then it all hits you. Maybe one day it could happen to you or to one of your friends. You somehow place yourself in that car, with your friends sitting with you and you see the accident unfold in your mind. It seems so real. Then you come to reality.

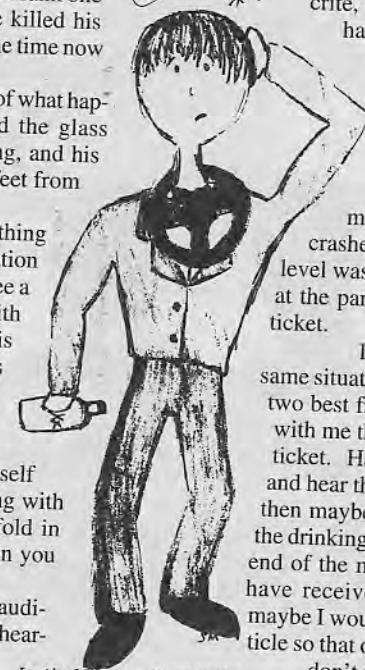
It was hard to sit there in that audience wearing a SADD t-shirt and hearing Jason speak, mostly because

I was given a drinking ticket about a month before the assembly. I felt like a hypocrite, sitting there knowing that I have to go to a drinking and driving meeting at the end of June.

This was my punishment for my drinking ticket.

But what really made me listen; the speaker crashed his car when his alcohol level was .03, which is what I tested at the party the night I received my ticket.

I could have been in the same situation. I could have killed my two best friends who were in the car with me the night that I received my ticket. Had I have been able to see and hear that man my freshman year, then maybe I wouldn't have to go to the drinking and driving meeting at the end of the month. Maybe I wouldn't have received a drinking ticket and maybe I wouldn't have to write this article so that other students in the future don't make the same mistake. ■



Justin Mikesell, Staff Artist



# Pro/Con

## Doing time:

Is Credit Redemption a good alternative to class attendance?

### Students need the opportunity

➤ **Although it's a hassle, credit redemption is a chance for students to keep their attendance under control.**

In the past few weeks Credit Redemption has become a very hot topic at Riley. In practically every single classroom in every single hour, at least one person is complaining, or stressing out in most cases, about Credit Redemption. They are stressing because four of the planned nine days that were left of Credit Redemption were canceled. Why? Because teachers are not signing up.

Many teachers at Riley do not agree with the Credit Redemption system that is in use. A great number think that Credit Redemption encourages skipping, and in a way it does, but in my opinion, it should be mandatory for teachers to sign up for at least one day of Credit Redemption a year.

If teachers are going to keep on voting for policy that only five days in a semester can be missed, then they should have to supervise the consequences of that policy.

**Tara Stokes**

*Editor-in-Chief*



It is true that many students who are often truant know they can just go to Credit

Redemption at the end of the grading period. It is not fair to those who are in class every day, but just because a person has made some poor decisions does not mean they should be denied their diploma.

Besides, a lot of students who are over a day or two are receiving a B or higher. If a student can maintain such a high average, why should they receive an N because they have six absences instead of five? It is a ridiculous rule, and circumstances like that should be taken into consideration by the teacher.

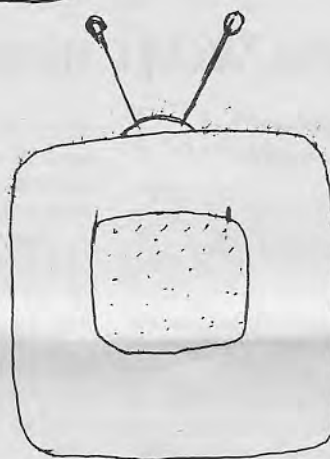
I understand why teachers get so upset that students who skip their class repeatedly can simply go after school and make up the day. I also know that not all students who have run over their limits are habitual skippers. Many of those students have gotten severely ill, and not all of their sick days have been waived.

A few of them are making up their time after school because they were on college visits. Although the school allows two college visits a year, many students are taking more than just two schools into consideration. Should the school set a limit on how many colleges a student can visit? The past four years all we have heard is 'it's hard to make a wise decision without actually visiting the college.'

And Credit Redemption can serve a good purpose as well. The majority of students use the hour that they are there to catch up on the work they have missed in a class, or classes. It is often a quiet place where a student can concentrate, and get their work made up quickly and on time.

Credit Redemption is simply a necessary evil. Teachers do not want to supervise, and students do not want to attend. But a couple of missed days should not stand in the way of a person graduating on time. ■

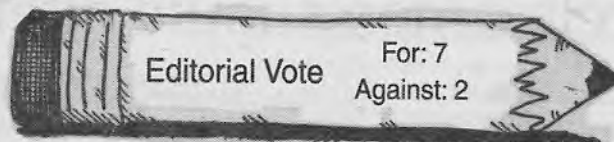
At home 11 a.m. to 2:40 p.m.



Credit Redemption 3 to 4 p.m.



Salina Sohlke, Staff Artist



### Credit Redemption is a waste

➤ **Credit redemption is a formal invitation to skip classes.**

Wouldn't it be nice if every student had the option of going to class either in the morning from 7:45 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. or after hours, at 3 p.m.? Somehow, that's what's happening at Riley. Some students miss a class during the day, and are able to make up their absence that same day in Credit Redemption.

The existence of Credit Redemption encourages skipping class. If Credit Redemption had a slogan, it would be 'don't go to class; it's way more fun here.' Especially toward the end of the semester, when students who attend claim to witness flying objects rather than studying, Credit Redemption couldn't be more of a joke. No wonder students are so incensed when it is cancelled because no teachers sign up to supervise; who would want to miss out on the opportunity to make up class at a party?

But it is no wonder that teachers don't sign up. It may be a great time for the students, but what adult of any kind would like to be in charge of groups exceeding 100 skippers, let alone adults that have already dealt with these students earlier in the day?

To digress, the term 'skippers' is not without some personal experience.

I have missed my fair share of classes, but have never been stuck in (or, perhaps, had the pleasure of attending) credit redemption. Most schools do not allow unexcused absences at all (hence, they are called unexcused); Riley allows us to miss each class five times per semester! So I'm not preaching a sermon about being in class every day, but it doesn't seem to be too much to ask to stay on credit status.

Returning to the point, Riley High School does not owe students an opportunity to make up skipped classes. The teachers who sign up are doing students a favor by offering credit redemption at all; one of the most annoying things to hear in the hallway is 'that isn't fair that they canceled credit redemption, I need to pass that class to graduate.' Are those students trying to say that it's the school's fault they are on no credit status? Well, maybe it is, but that's only because it's so ridiculously easy to walk out of school whenever we wish.

Basically, Credit Redemption has no value. Kids don't learn anything while they are there, it encourages truancy, and it's a hassle to teachers. Instead, students with excessive absences should be referred to the administrators. Excessive absence from school is considered juvenile delinquency, and it cannot be encouraged anymore.

Furthermore, the whole attendance system should be strengthened. Currently, it is so easy to justify unexcused absences, but so difficult to get a valid absence excused (waived). This is backwards. Riley needs to go back to the days of accepting notes or phone calls from parents of students who stay home sick, instead of insisting that students 'use their five unexcused absence days' for illnesses.

Students will be in class if they do not have the crutch of attending credit redemption. To continue offering credit redemption is to invite students to skip school, and students will always accept the invitation until Credit Redemption is no longer a party. ■

**Ashley Coker**

*News Editor*



## Photo Poll Is Credit Redemption a good way to make up absences in missed classes?



Sarah Taylor-10

Roger Wiltfong-12

Mike Markham-11

Tameia Taylor-9

Ashley Hairston-10

Edyza Deynes-12

Danielle Platz-10

Jason Karkiewicz-9

Aaron Knepper-9

"No, it just opens the option to skip."

"No, it creates more {absences}"

"No, because people figure they can skip more if they can make up their absences."

"No, because people are still going to skip because they can just make it up."

"No, it just lets people skip more."

"No, but it gives the students their chance."

"Yes, because it helps kids get back in credit status."

"Yes, because you can make up your credits."

"No, there's not enough credit redemption opportunities."



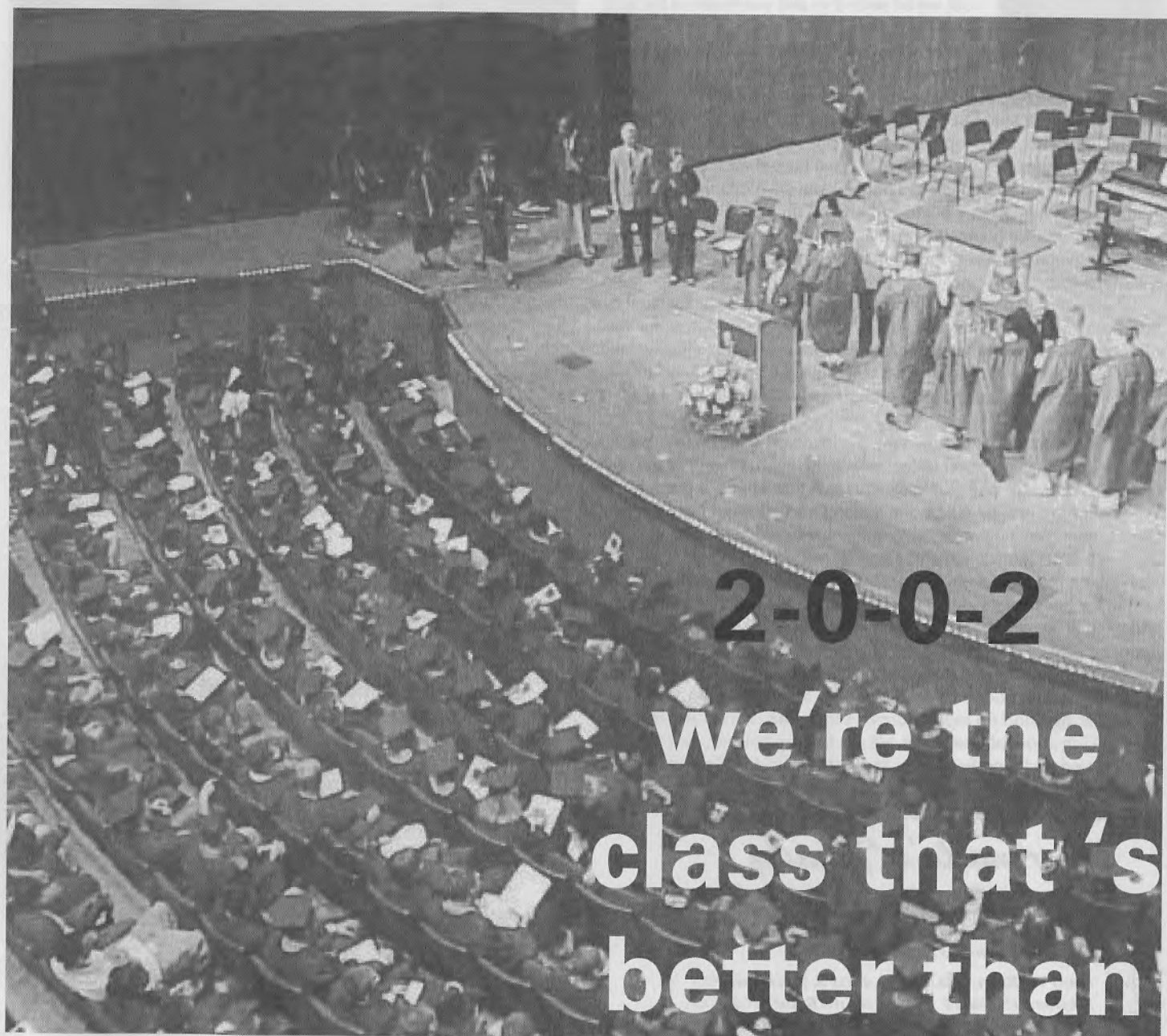


June 2002

Issue 6 Volume 32

The Magazine of the Review

# senior issue 2002



**2-0-0-2**  
**we're the**  
**class that's**  
**better than**  
**you 2-0-0-2!**



# Tara Stokes, Editor-in-Chief



High school has been amazing and my parents were right, time did fly. It feels like just yesterday we were freshman at the 'Old Riley'. I remember that we thought it was cool to be the last class to ever grace the halls of the 'Old Riley' and it was. But moving into the new school was an interesting experience. Everyone complained about the construction but we all settled in and eventually it became just like home.

That's what Riley is to me; a second home. Not just because I was here from 7:45 a.m. to

2:45 p.m. everyday, but because many of my classmates and even a few teachers, became like family to me.

My friends are the people that made high school so special. I will never forget the good and the bad times we have shared together. The slumber parties, the parties, the phone conversations that lasted for hours, the crying when a boyfriend broke your heart, the t-shirts we made every year for homecoming, dances, and the moaning and groaning about certain teachers are all memories that I will cherish for the rest of my life.

I would like to thank my friends Stacey, Heather, Meagan, Amber, Andrea, Cory, Dane, Kurt and Adam for always being there for me. Although we're not a close-knit group like we used to be, I just wanted to let each and everyone of you know how much you mean to me. High school would not have been half as fun without all of you. I love you all.

All of the teams or groups you get involved with enable you to meet people that you never imagined would one day become so close to you. Volleyball and Publications have influenced me the most. While running and sweating and writing and editing I have made a lot of friends. We all managed to make that hard work enjoyable and of course drove our coach and advisor mad.

Looking through all my pictures while I was searching for ones to turn in for the senior video, I could not help but reminisce. I cannot believe that we are graduating! It seems impossible that it's over already.

Although I'm excited about moving on and going to college and becoming independent, life will never be the same again. No more homecomings, and no more proms. A little part of me can't help but cry thinking about all the things we are leaving behind. So I wish all of you good luck and happiness in all that you do. Congratulations Class of 2002, we did it!



courtesy of Tara Stokes

ROAD TRIP: Seniors Ashley Coker, Tara Stokes (me), and Meagan Orban, prepare to leave for Franklin, Indiana. This one of the many trips The Review staff went on this year.

***"How do I say goodbye to what we had?  
The good times that made us laugh  
Outweigh the bad.  
I thought we'd get to see forever  
But forever's gone away  
It's so hard to say goodbye to yesterday.***

***I don't know where this road  
Is going to lead.  
All I know is where we've been  
And what we've been through.  
If we get to see tomorrow  
I hope it's worth all the wait  
It's so hard to say goodbye to yesterday.***

***And I'll take with me the memories  
To be my sunshine after the rain  
It's so hard to say goodbye to yesterday.***

***And I'll take with me the memories  
To be my sunshine after the rain  
It's so hard to say goodbye to yesterday."***

***-It's So Hard to Say Goodbye to Yesterday***

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# Elyse Chudzynski, Editor-in-Chief

Hello. How are you doing today? As I'm writing this I would just like to remind you that we only have three days left of high school. I know there will be even less when you read this, perhaps zero left by the time you get this newspaper, but for now, there are three. It seems like I'm supposed to sum up four years of high school in this tiny little space I left myself. I think that might be impossible. What I am going to say is this...Thank you. (for teachers, for Pat, for friends, for enemies, for Calculus, for all those wonderful experiences like being kicked out of school at 10:45 p.m., for all those horrible times that taught me how to grow, for the walk to school and the walk home, for Photoshop, for recycling bins, for Quiz Bowl, and for love). later...love, elyse.

prologue:

dice up my brains just so i can't think  
and this giant will grind my bones  
to make a dry rye bread.

(my only wish is that i could go through  
these next few months  
with my eyes closed)

dim lights spot light on her face  
because her blackened fingers mirror all her bruises  
and her small feet are frozen to the ground

(blank stares and these comments left unsaid  
is exactly what i wish for  
a lack of conversation that means i lost again  
if i can just ignore the way i treat myself  
and how you greet the failure  
maybe we'll all get out  
a bit sooner and a bit less aggravated)

it must have been in the basement  
with the concrete floor  
and the worn wooden table  
with tools left untouched for twelve long years  
one green eye  
and an azure sky that is overflowing with black liquid  
one finger painted silver chrome  
and one tear hit the burnt wood before she finally  
said goodbye

(honesty can't be recognized until  
a great alteration consumes entire emotions  
and we're left standing (swallowing) beside the next one, the  
next one  
to walk on down the steps and to finally walk away)

that very night she decided  
they complimented all her stones  
an ulcer come too soon  
and a broken spirit to be found  
the next few years could be repeated and then she'd be  
defeated  
but she forgot the fairness and clung on to the glimpse  
she jumped out of the chair and nearly knocked it down  
she bundled up and bounded up the stairs  
to the door

she left.



while in search of things to say i  
stumbled upon this picture of myself.  
laugh.

A Journey

It's a journey...that I propose...I am not the  
guide...nor technical assistant...I will be your fellow  
passenger...

Though the rail has been ridden...winter clouds  
cover...autumn's exuberant quilt...we must provide  
our own guideposts...

I have heard...from previous visitors...the road  
washes out sometimes...and passengers are  
compelled...to continue groping...or turn back...I  
am not afraid...

I am not afraid...of rough spots...or lonely times...I  
don't fear...the success of this endeavor...I am  
Ra...in a space...not to be discovered...but in-  
vented...

I promise you nothing...I accept your  
promise...of the same we are simply  
riding...a wave...that may carry...or  
crash...

It's a journey...and I want...to go...

Nikki Giovanni

~Lindsey Hab "I don't know." ~Maggie Robinson "I wonder if Mr. Focht will write me up today!?" ~Amanda Jones "Dreams are to be achieved, not waited



## Ashley Coker, News Editor



As much as I tried to be stoic, Riley High School has changed me. I think I'm still Ashley, but there are a few things about me that I never thought would be. Who would have thought that I would ever know the answer to the question, "Evaluate the trigonometric integral and check the result by differentiation?"

When I imagined high school math, I

never figured it would contain so few actual numbers.

I don't remember looking forward to the great credit redemption program, and I remember being scared of the cafeteria (until this year, actually). I never thought I would find myself stuck in a bucket on an elevator, and never imagined knowing what a cytoplasmic determinant was. I never knew I would walk the halls dressed as an old lady with a huge booty just to get a laugh, and never knew I had the ability to fall asleep in class (now I seldom remember I have the ability to stay awake).

I didn't figure I would be able to convince a large group of people that I was Korean, and I never dreamed I could be the very first customer at the new Taco Bell, or that I would go there so often. No one told me I would speak at the dedication ceremony of the new Riley, or that I would ever feel so corny when I recited the words to "We are the World" at the diversity program. I remember how people called me "Ashley Suzanne" in middle school, and never figured my name would be just "Coker" in high school. I never thought I'd be the superhero "versefish" at the best summer camp in the world (Camp Ray Bird). I never thought I'd be a quiz bowl nerd or a drama weirdo.

I doubt that I guessed I would ever be best friends with Elyse again. I never dreamed I'd get pulled over by the police, ever. I didn't know I'd take a picture of a deformed muffin, and never knew I could be such a smart aleck. I didn't know that one day I would scream the words "you gutless piece of bologna" in front of the entire student body at a talent show. I never dreamed I could chew gum in class without getting detention as a result. Who'd have thought I'd work at a shoe store for two years, especially with my inherent hatred for feet? I didn't think I'd find myself with a security ink-tag still attached to my prom dress 35 minutes before I was scheduled to leave for my senior prom.

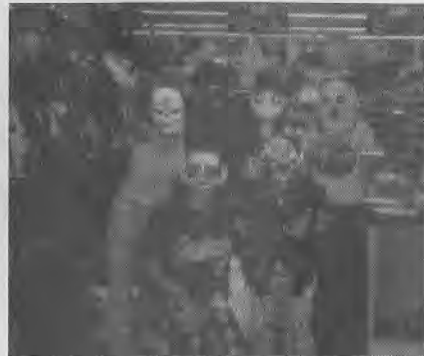
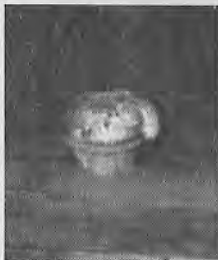
I never anticipated seeing *Rent* on Broadway, and never thought I would spend so much time at Steak 'n Shake. I wish I could have known that I would run out of gas 12 times during these four years, and never figured that one time it would be past midnight on the coldest day of the year in the middle of nowhere without a phone on a school night by myself.

I think I've become a lot more cultured, now knowing the meaning of the words "bling-bling" and "scrilla." I wonder if I ever imagined graduation being just 9 days away. I wonder if I would have still

come to Riley knowing everything I know now. I bet I'll be wondering the same thing four years from now, and I doubt I'll regret a thing then either.

Thanks for everything you have taught me, Riley High School. I don't think I'll spend hours crying because I miss you, but stranger things have happened.

Love Always,  
Ashley Coker





## Chelsea Steele Sports Editor

Dear Riley,

I entered your doors four years ago in search of an education. I wanted to make new friends, keep old friends, and find my future, but I received more than I ever expected. Thank you for all that you've taught me over the past four years...about life, about academics, and about myself.

Thank you for opening my eyes to different cultures, lifestyles, and people. I realize how narrow-minded I really was four years ago. Now I appreciate the colors of diversity that make the world more than a black and white photograph, and I can empathize with those whose lives have been blotted by affliction.

Thank you for giving me the key to success- education. When I stepped across your threshold in 1998 I met academic challenges I had never seen before and was forced to grow in knowledge and understanding.

Finally, Riley, you showed me who I really am. I have changed and stayed the same all at once. I know myself better thanks to you.

I'm moving on soon, but I'll be back to visit. I just hope and pray that you teach those that follow me as much as you have taught me.

Love,  
Chelsea Steele

P.S. Just for clarification, don't expect me to be the first woman president. I'm going to be the First Lady.



**Geoff Duncanson**  
**Photo Editor**

**Josh Drake**  
**Photo Editor**

**David Waddy Senior**  
**Staff Writer**

**Craig Swift**  
**Staff Photographer**

**Bye!**

After Awhile

By. Veronica A. Shoffstall

After awhile,  
You learn the subtle difference  
Between holding a hand and chaining a soul,  
And you learn that love doesn't mean leaning  
And company doesn't mean security,  
And you begin to learn that kisses aren't contracts  
And presents aren't promises,  
And you begin to accept your defeats  
With your head up and your eyes open  
With the grace of a woman, not the grief of a child,  
And you learn to build all your roads on today  
Because tomorrow's ground is too uncertain for plans,  
And futures have a way of falling down in mid-flight  
After awhile, you learn  
That even sunshine burns if you get too much  
So you plant your own garden and decorate your own soul,  
Instead of waiting for someone to bring you flowers.  
And you learn that you really can endure...  
That you really are strong.  
And you really do have worth.  
And you learn and learn...  
With every goodbye you learn.

contributed by Kim Russell



## Salima Oudghiri News Editor

Every year I've watched seniors graduating from high school and I've continually anticipated the time when my graduation would come. As our senior year is coming to a close, I'm growing more eager to our graduation day. The day when we say goodbye to high school and make the transition to another chapter of our lives. The past four years have been fun, filled with unforgettable stories, laughs, and memories of friends and teachers that will always stay with us.

The greatest experience about Riley is having so many influential teachers and meeting so many different types of people. Although I'm anxious to start college, I'll miss the all the great things about Riley. I'll miss working on the newspaper, going to Goshen College to compete for Science Olympiad and helping out with the elementary school children, going to Indianapolis for Future Problem Solvers, the pep assemblies, the talent shows, watching the school plays. I'll miss all the tough teachers I've had who motivated me to work hard and who have taught me so much. I'll miss all my friends who have made me laugh and who I have worked with in numerous activities. Senior year has been extremely busy for all of us. Choosing what college to go to, applying for that college, applying for scholarships, writing research papers, practicing for Science Olympiad, writing stories for the newspaper is just a taste of what this year has been for me. But it will soon come to an end and we'll only have the wonderful memories. Memories that I'll never forget. Thank you Riley for the best four years.



## Katie Grembowicz Writing Specialist



Everyone has a best friend. Someone they laugh with, cry with, tell everything to. Some people meet their best friend at the mall, on the Internet, through other friends. I met my best friend in third grade. I knew who she was long before then. We had gone to school together since first grade, but I had no idea how much she would change my life. Our third grade teacher sat us next to each other, and we were off. We've shared everything since we were 8 years old. Boyfriends, parents, old dogs, new dogs, dances, lunches, secrets. I don't even remember my life before we became friends. Like any best friends, we've done some crazy stuff too. Our games of "truth or dare" are legendary, and I'm so glad neither one of us are going to cosmetology school because the makeovers we give are horrendous.

Through all the friends and acquaintances since that day in third grade, she has always been the only one that I have never gone a day without being friends with. I look back at how so many of us have changed. Our faces have all changed, our problems have all changed. Sometimes I wish I could go back to the days when my biggest decision was which swingset I wanted to play on at recess. But those days are gone, and now we have to move ahead. My best friend and I have always done everything together, but now we have to leave each other and go on our own paths. It's so scary. Every single one of us has to leave someone behind or let someone go. But I'm so glad I got to have her for the 9 years that I did. She's made my school career most enjoyable.

high school years, they should be the best." ~Crystal Cesarez "Try to have fun while you're here because the years go by quick." ~Adrian Settles "You can't



## Meagan Orban Eye Candy Editor

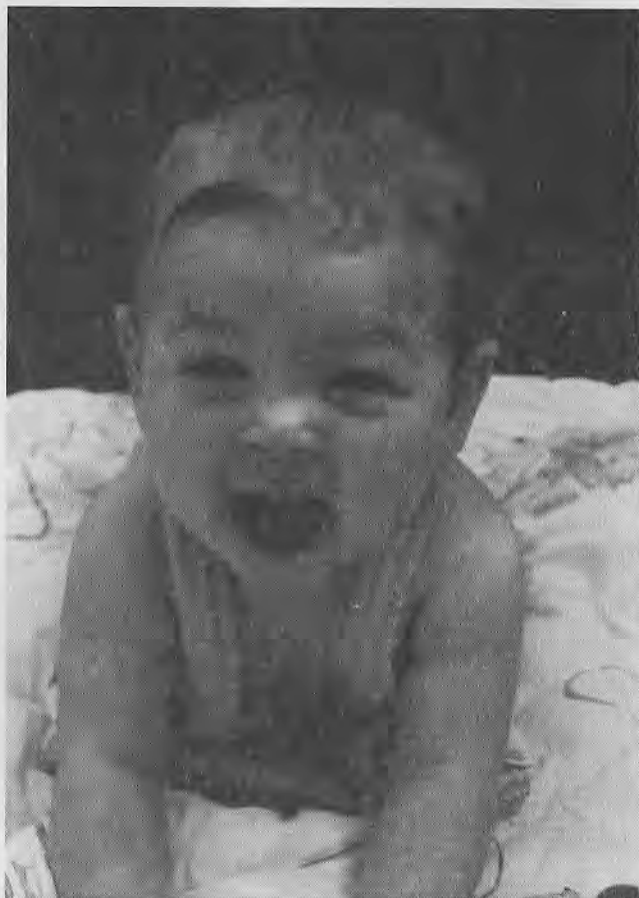
Okay, here it is. The famous "goodbye" I keep hearing about. I've only been on the staff for a year, and I never understood this ritual. Do people actually read these? I guess I'll go about it in the hopes that someone may. I have a confession to make; I am not nervous about the end of my senior year, and I'm not anxious about leaving. Maybe this has to do with the fact that I'm not actually going anywhere until second semester, or maybe it just hasn't hit me yet. If anything, I'm excited. I'm more than ready to move on and begin my life.

I'm not trying to come off as one of those "anti-everything" kids who hate high school. I'll undoubtedly miss my friends and my parents. Who knows, I may even miss good old South Bend (well, maybe not). Whenever I look through pictures from my four years at Riley, melancholy feelings intertwine with those of joy and nostalgia. We all had some great times, didn't we? I'll notice how beautiful we looked at prom, or how tan the guys were over the summers.

It's the pictures from our lowly underclassmen days that really get to me. We all looked so young compared to now. When I think back to high school, I believe it's those days I will long for. We were all so naïve, but it was great. Playing tag in the street still amused us, and it felt like nothing in the world could break our friendships. Everything was still so fresh, and every experience seemed like an adventure. It just felt as if we were all so much closer, and that we related to one another so easily. Now we have all grown and have different world views, aspirations, and do different things on the weekends.

Yes, I am sad that we are all going our different ways. Most of us have grown up together, and I'm so proud of everyone. Maybe it bothers me a little that my best friends will have new ones come fall, but I know we will never forget each other, and it's impossible to replace the people you love.

Despite all of the changes, senior year really is one of the best. I notice how most of the divisions between groups of people have dissolved. There is almost an unspoken understanding that we all will have gone through some of the most important life experiences together, and whether we want to admit it or not, we respect each other. I feel that as a class, this is our closest year. Now that we've become a family, all that's left are the reunions. Good luck to everyone, I can't wait to see you as a whole in five years.



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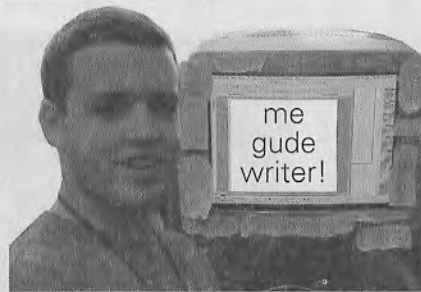
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**most likely to be a  
writer**



jennifer krewson & david jones

**unlikely e**

senior awards from

**most likely to be  
president**

josh cottrill &  
elyse chudzynski



**most  
likely to  
be  
married**

emily  
johnson  
&  
anthony  
wright

**best eyes**



tara stokes &  
andres salinas

**craziest**



tarena daniels & scott parker

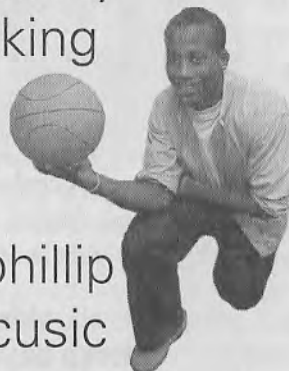
**best athlete**

missy  
king



&

phillip  
cusic



**best smile**



bobby ullery &  
meagan orban

**most morals**

chelsea steele &  
nate howell



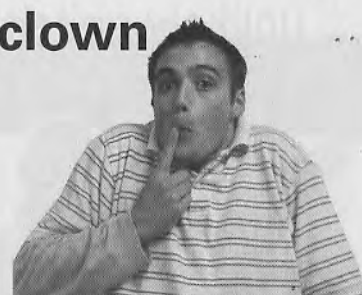


# epitaphs

in the class of 2002



**class clown**



amanda jones & chris noonan



**best sleeper**

andrea gartee  
& colin cybulski



**b  
e  
s  
t  
  
l  
a  
u  
g  
h**

katie grembowicz & roman woods



**best  
d  
r  
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d**



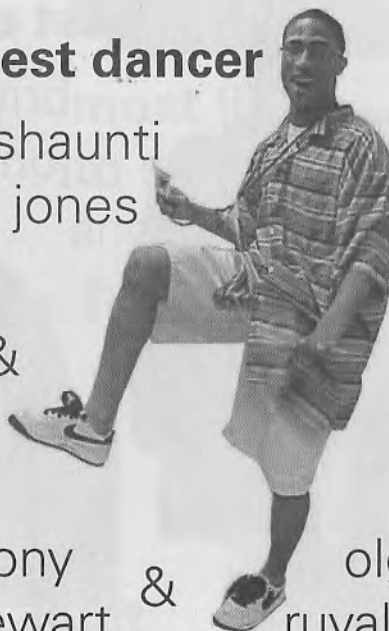
mike green  
& dionna  
topps



**best dancer**

shaunti  
jones

&



tony  
stewart

&

olga  
ruvalcaba





unlikely epitaphs

senior awards from the class of 2002



**most changed**  
alicia hess &  
kurt waggoner



**loudest**

marc mays  
& shalina  
wright



roger wiltfong &

**best hair**  
jimmy  
scales  
&  
n  
i  
c  
e  
s  
t

clara pedraza  
& dane tetzlaff



**most involved**



aaron  
nowak

**best looking**



kynan o'hara &  
christine martin

**best car**  
britne  
jones



**teacher's pet**

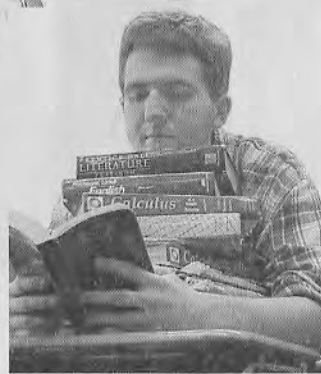


crystal collier &  
chris kelley

**smartest**



ashley coker & andrew craker





**key to be  
damous**



kim boone



rebecca  
choi

emily  
johnson  
&



**most likely  
to be a  
model**



josh drake  
& edyza deynes



**best party thrower**

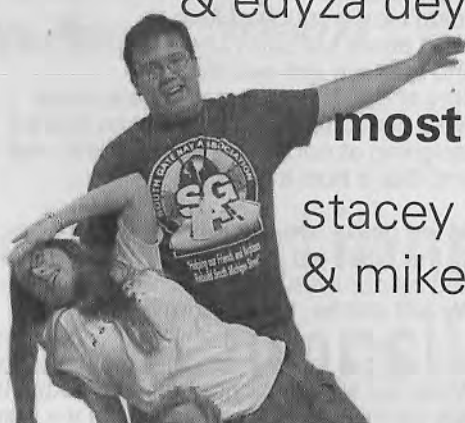
adam nevel  
&



adrienne lauck

**most dramatic**

stacey turza  
& mike lane



**best singer**

brent  
easton  
&  
teres  
king



**most likely  
to succeed**

anouphab  
chanthanongsy

&

john willis &  
ashley dueringer  
**most school spirit**



anyah  
williams



## Stacey Turza Business Manager



My past four years have been an overwhelming mass of sadness, happiness, stress, and even pure anger. I thank all of the people over the years that have been my true friends and you know who you are. And for the people, who said they were my friends, I won't miss any of you at all. But, never the less I am going to be nice to everyone in our class and wish you all the best of luck in all that you do.

I hope that one day we will all realize that high school relationships are ridiculous and most likely won't affect our futures in any way, shape or form. The only thing that I did learn from those meaningless relationships were that friendships do not come easy and are even harder to keep. And that people don't think about other people's feelings only about their own, and be sure to guard your heart because someone is their waiting to break it for you.

I'm really not bitter about my whole high school career. I did have a lot of fun here. Doing endless stupid things with my best friend of ten years. She and I lived high school laughing and making fun of ourselves for the stupid things that we had just done together. We cried over boyfriend breakups, and soothed ourselves with soap operas and chocolate. We stuck together when loved one's died and leaned on each other for support. It is sad to think that she and I will be going to different schools next year, but we both need to go our separate ways.

I guess I am excited about leaving Riley because my life is now just beginning. Living on my own, doing actual work in classes and not just busy work, and eating awful campus cafeteria food that will probably kill me. I am excited about all of those things. I am going to miss the high school parties, the groundings from my mom after those parties, and the endless hours of not sleeping on a school night trying to finish my work at the last minute.

Looking back on high school, I see my mistakes, and the mistakes of others. Things that I am sure all of us want to change but of course we can't go back in time. I regret doing a lot of those things, but I don't regret the lessons that I learned from all of those things. We all learned a lot here, and hopefully we will learn more in our futures. But seriously, I will miss most of you and I wish you all the best of luck in your futures!

### Graduation Song (Friends Forever)

And so we talked all night about the rest of our lives

Where we're gonna be when we turn 25  
I keep thinking times will never change  
Keep on thinking things will always be the same  
But when we leave this year we won't be coming back  
No more hanging out cause we're on a different track  
And if you got something that you need to say  
You better say it right now cause you don't have another day  
Cause we're moving on and we can't slow down  
These memories are playing like a film without sound  
And I keep thinking of that night in June  
I didn't know much of love  
But it came too soon and there was me and you  
And then we got real blue  
Stay at home talking on the telephone  
We'd get so excited, we'd get so scared  
Laughing at our selves thinking life's not fair  
And this is how it feels

As we go on, we remember  
All the times we had together  
And as our lives change, come whatever  
We will still be, friends forever

So if we get the big jobs and we make the big money  
When we look back now, will our jokes still be funny?  
Will we still remember everything we learned in school?

Still be trying to break every single rule  
Will little brainy Bobby be the stockbroker man?  
Can Heather find a job that won't interfere with her tan?

I keep, I keep thinking that it's not goodbye  
Keep on thinking it's a time to fly  
And this is how it feels

Will we think about tomorrow like we think about now?

Can we survive it out there? Can we make it somehow?

I guess I thought that this would never end  
And suddenly it's like we're women and men  
Will the past be a shadow that will follow us round?  
Will these memories fade when I leave this town  
I keep, I keep thinking that it's not goodbye  
Keep on thinking it's a time to fly

Vitamin C



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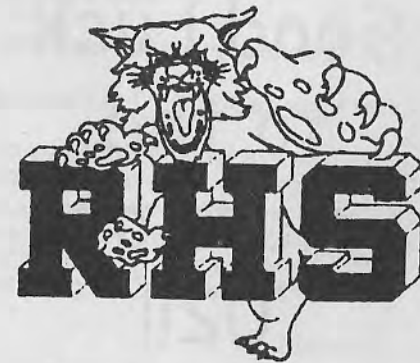
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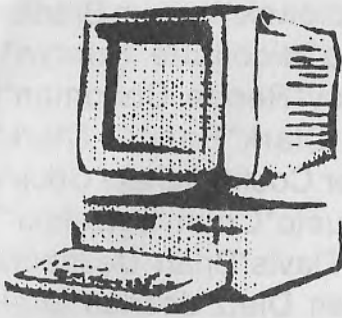
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school newspaper!*

*Thanks again for helping strengthen  
the south side!*



high school years, they should be the best." ~Crystal Cesarez "Try to have fun while you're here because the years go by quick." ~Adrian Settles "You can't





# TLF Enterprises

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*"The future belongs to those who believe  
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*-- Eleanor Roosevelt*



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