

The Washington

HATCHET

March 1994

ISSUE 6 • WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL • 4747 WEST WASHINGTON • SOUTH BEND, IN • 46619 • VOLUME 7 • 50¢

PantherWatch

April

1

*NO SCHOOL
Good Friday

4

*Vincennes University Visitation
Day
9:30 and 12:30

9

*SAT taken at IUSB

1-10

*NO SCHOOL
Spring Break

11-22

*COE and IOL Candy Sale
Fund Raiser

16

*Golf Port-a-Pit

17

*Indiana National College Fair.
Indiana Convention Center-
Free admission. 12-4:30 p.m.

30

*Multi Cultural BBQ

Suicide:

A cry for help



The Streets

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On The Cover: Suicide--the facts

Cover by: Eric Siebenaler

The HATCHET is a publication of Washington High School, 4747 West Washington Ave., South Bend, IN 46619. Printed at LaSalle High School by Mr. Frank Moriconi and the Vocational Printing Class.

Photos to the Editor

Images of Strike of '94



photo by Mrs. Carolyn Peterson

Juniors Chris Maslowski and James Luchowski have an apple for the teacher during a rally at Union Station.



photo by Mrs. Carolyn Peterson

Junior Erin Erlacher picketed in hopes of protecting her dream.

Editorial Policy

The HATCHET is a monthly newspaper written and designed by the publications staff at Washington High School. It is a school news magazine which upholds all the ideas and ideals of the First Amendment to The Constitution of the United States of America, freedom of the press.

The HATCHET has been established as a forum for student expression and as a voice in the uninhibited, free and open discussion of issues. Editorials represent the opinion of the editorial board but not necessarily those of the administration, staff, or student body. The HATCHET will not print obscenities, libelous material, or anything that disrupts the educational process or invades the privacy of any group or individual.

Letters may be submitted to the HATCHET from the students in order to provide a full opportunity for students to inquire, question, exchange and submit ideas. Content should reflect all areas of student interest, including topics about which there may be dissent or controversy. The HATCHET also reserves the right to condense, edit or not print material submitted by students at the discretion of the editors and supporting staff. Letters that are submitted must have the author's signature but may be omitted upon request.

Respect code in action

By Laura Borlick
Staff Writer

The idea of a Respect Code originated about two years ago when a group of students, teachers, and parents decided that WHS needed a way to encourage and reward respectful student behavior.

The concept was taken from Battle Creek High School in Michigan. This group went to B.C.H.S. to observe the program. They found that Battle Creek's "Respect Code" was exactly what WHS needed.

"Basically we took their program and brought it back to Washington. It really didn't need any changing to adapt here," business teacher Mrs. Sue Paulin said.

The Respect Code is an evaluating system based on positive behavior in the hallways and the classroom.

In a letter sent home to parents this past fall, the rating system was explained.

A rating of a one or two means that the student usually treats others with respect and courtesy. A rating of a one or two given by all teachers earns that student the right to membership in the Panther Honor Guild*.

Ratings of three, four, or five shows that the student needs to improve his/her behavior or attitude. These ratings exclude the student from the Panther Honor Guild.

Math teacher Mrs. Shirley Golichowski chaired the inservice training and later the entire program. This training was to acquaint the teachers with the ideas of the Respect Code.

"I believe the Panther Respect Code is a worthy undertaking! It encourages students to exhibit positive behavior toward their peers and staff members," assistant principal Dr. Dianne Greaves said. "It rewards students that might not receive academic recognition. The Respect Code promotes an image that Washington students care about themselves, other students, and the adults that are involved in their education."

Fifty students were surveyed for a psychology project as to their thoughts on the Respect Code. Only 10 said their behavior had changed as a result of the code.

Students think the most respect being shown is in the classroom. The least respect is in the halls, according to the poll.

A teacher told this as follows about a student not following the Respect Code: A student demanded that the librarian copy some articles for him for the paper he was writing. The librarian pulled back at the command and told him that that was not how to ask for something. The student stormed off and told the teacher that the librarian would not help him. The teacher felt responsible and took the student to find the root of the problem.

When asked, the librarian told the teacher that the student had demanded help and had not asked politely. The teacher

the Honor Guild. This allows them to receive special benefits. One of these is being able to go to lunch 10 minutes early. Other benefits include discounts at participating businesses and breakfast with the honor roll students.

"I find this (the rewards) especially good compared with gifts of a pencil. It is something that the students can really see working. When part of the class gets to leave early it makes students want to act appropriately so next semester they can leave early too," Moriarity said.

"I like it (Respect Code) because we get rewards for doing good.

Also the extra time for lunch is really good," sophomore Christy Laurence said. "Student behavior has improved because of the early lunch."

"I use it in my English class," English teacher Mrs. Sandy Wyer said. "If a student talks when I am, I will lower their Respect grade. That really counts when report cards are issued. The rest of the class leaves early, and they must stay in for 10 more minutes."

Some students think differently. "I think it is a good idea but it hasn't done much for the school

"I BELIEVE THE PANTHER RESPECT CODE IS A WORTHY UNDERTAKING! IT ENCOURAGES STUDENTS TO EXHIBIT POSITIVE BEHAVIOR TOWARD THEIR PEERS AND STAFF MEMBERS," ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL DR. DIANNE GREAVES SAID.

suggested to the student that if he would say please maybe the librarian might help. The student responded "no" saying he would not beg for help and that he would just not do the paper.

"We can't assume that everyone knows how to communicate with people," English teacher Mrs. Kathy Moriarity said. "Some teachers ask for respect from students and try to show it, but most students expect it and then don't show it in return. That is why the program is so effective. It allows the students to learn different ways of communication and earn rewards for that."

If students receive all ones or ones and twos, then he is entitled to membership in

so far," junior Amy Wimberly said.

"It has not really improved behavior," junior Tyler Donlon added.

Coach Rick Tomaszewski had this to say, "I think it is a good idea, but maybe it was just put into effect too soon.

I see students that have problems with attendance, and they are not always 'good' models for others. I don't see it as the positive reinforcer. There are too many ideas to try and include. If a teacher gives a student a two or three the students will hold a grudge instead of looking at themselves as the problems. The marginal students it may help but in the hard core students nothing like this Respect Code will help." ■

What's in a name?

Knowledge of origins important to self-definition

Michele Perez
Staff Writer

The West Side has long been noted for its cultural diversity. WHS has almost twice the school corporation's average number of Hispanics. With this large ratio comes confusion. Hispanic youth are constantly besieged with questions of what is their race, nationality or ethnicity. While these questions seem simple enough, a lot more lies behind the answers.

Webster's definitions of race, nationality, and ethnicity are virtually interchangeable: "of or pertaining to a people with common interests, habits or characteristics." If Webster is unclear as to the difference amongst these terms, then it is safe to assume that Hispanic youth will also be unclear.

According to foreign language teacher Mr. Will Perry, "A majority of students today are confusing nationality with race and ethnic background." He said that everyone needs to develop a way of being American without forgetting his ancestry. He also said that, in his opinion, nationality indicates birthplace; ethnic background describes family tribal customs and dress. People may be of different racial backgrounds but have the same ethnic backgrounds.

In an attempt to be "politically correct," a poll was administered to approximately 45 WHS Hispanic stu-

dents to help determine why and how these students refer to themselves.

Those polled were asked to first select their ethnic background and then their preference for identification. Although 32 of the 45 indicated Mexican-American ethnicity, responses to preferences were more varied.

The students responded in the following order; 19 chose Hispanic, 9 chose Mexican-American, 7 chose Latino, 4 chose No Preference, 3 chose Chicano, 2 chose Puerto Rican, and 1 chose Spanish.

Ms. Amelia Munoz, bilingual coordinator for WHS, says that names don't matter, but it's important to know the origins of the names so you can choose to say whatever word you feel comfortable calling yourself. For instance "The word Hispanic was first used in the 1980 census to describe people of any Latin or Spanish descent. It has since gained widespread use."

Latin American or Latino is defined as a native or inhabitant of any of the countries of North, Central, or South America whose official language is Spanish or Portuguese. Mexican-American and Chicano are defined as an American of Mexican descent.

The term Chicano is used by a person born in the United States who has knowledge of their heritage and is involved in the political struggle for justice.

Munoz said; "I consider myself a Chicana, but I don't mind some of the

other terms which may lump everyone together (such as Hispanic or Latino) because there are so many cultural ties between us."

Senior Juan Estrada said that he prefers to be called Hispanic because it is a more respectable way to call any Spanish gender.

Senior Patricia Manriquez prefers to be called Mexican-American because "I'm Mexican, but I'm also American. It sort of says it all by being called that."

Senior Melissa Velez chose to be called either Hispanic or Puerto Rican. She said that she chose these because not everyone is the same, and the word Hispanic describes everyone. She said that she chose Puerto Rican because she is simply proud of her heritage.

Freshman Jennifer Salinas chose no preference because she thinks "we are all just about the same. We speak the same basic language and have familiar customs, and it is not right to separate our culture like that (with words) because we should all be together."

Junior Max Olivarez said, "I prefer being called Mexican-American because most people lump all Hispanics, Puerto Ricans, etc. as being from Mexico and that is not true. I was born in the United States, so I'm American; but my heritage is Mexican, and I'm proud of it."

Wholesophomore Damien Cruz chose no preference because "all the names mean the same, and it's just something for people to get confused with." ■

Panthers win awards in regional art competition

<u>Gold Key</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Media</u>						
Michelle Hagedorn	12	Textile	Victoria Nilsson	12	Photog-	Erin Maenhout	10	Fiber
Ricky Kedik	12	Sculpture	raphy			Design		
Ricky Kedik	12	Ceramics	Jessica Watts	12	Ceramics	Amanda Martensen	10	Ceramics
Michael Lagodney	11	Ceramics	Michael Szynski	12	Photog-	Leigh Nawrot	11	Sculpture
Eric Siebenaler	11	Print	raphy			Victoria Nilsson	12	Photog-
Connie Wroblewski	10	Ceramics				raphy		
			<u>Honorable Mention</u>			Cathy Pate	11	Sculpture
			Dujuan Bureau	11	Pencil	Jennifer Putz	11	Photogra-
<u>Silver Key</u>			Lisa M. Cyman	11	Ceramics	phy		
Todd Davis	10	Drawing	Justin Dynak	11	Ceramics	Sonia Rios	12	Ceramics
Michelle Hagedorn	12	Ceramics	Erin Erlacher	11	Ceramics	Eric Sienbenaler	11	Drawing
Lacie Napier	11	Ceramics	Ricky Kedik	12	Ceramics	Kyle Whittaker	10	Drawing



Kelly Wyant

FACE-OFF

This page is designed to present two opposing viewpoints on topical issues. The arguments are strong to create thought, controversy, and interest. If you have any comments, differing opinions, or questions, please write a letter to the editors, Kelly Wyant, or Kim Starzynski.



Kim Starzynski

The Issue: Battered women

FACT: Two million women are battered by their husbands or lovers each year.

FACT: There are three types of men who abuse their partners. Type 1: "family only" aggressors who are not likely to be violent outside the home; Type 2: generally violent men who use violence outside the home as well as in it; and Type 3: men who are emotionally volatile, with high levels of anger, depression, and jealousy. (*Psychology Today*, Nov. 1993).

FACT: Richard Celeste, the governor of Ohio, granted a clemency or lenient judgement to 25 abused women convicted of killing or assaulting their mates. (*Time*, Dec. 1990).

Paybacks are death

Today, with more and more homicides occurring than ever before, the average person is becoming more acutely aware of the possible dangers in his everyday life. Unfortunately, along with the increasing number of homicides, the number of abusive relationships is also on the rise.

Joyce Steiner was convicted of killing her husband after he repeatedly abused her. She owned her own detective agency and was considered by her peers to be a "very businesslike and respected person." She allowed herself, however, to be beaten into unconsciousness repeatedly.

She was married to Robert Steiner, the son of a wealthy man and a Vietnam veteran. Florence Winifred Steiner, one of Steiner's ex-wives, told *The Washington Post*, "I'm absolutely appalled. There was a door there . . . (Joyce) could have walked out the door—I did."

For a woman who is obviously intelligent, it is pretty amazing that she could endure so many years of abuse without even the thought of turning her husband over to the police ever crossing her mind.

Poor Joyce didn't think that anything was wrong until one night while watching *Tour of Duty*, a TV show about the war. Suddenly Robert Steiner left the room and came back with his face smeared with camouflage paint and jumped from chair to couch to cocktail table.

It is inexcusable for a woman of high intelligence to plead the "battered-woman syndrome." Many women are now using this excuse to justify why they killed their husbands. The "battered-women syndrome" leaves women so despairing after years of abuse that they may come to believe that killing their mate is the only way out. Any woman with a shred of intelligence could find another way out of an abusive relationship. In killing their abuser, women are becoming as hated by the public as their abuser was to them.

Children are told repeatedly that two wrongs don't make a right. In 1979 Joyce Steiner was the mother of a 12-year-old girl and yet, she killed her husband for abusing her instead of trying to find a better way out. This woman can never again tell any child that two wrongs won't make it all right.

Many women say that the reason that they stay with their husbands is that they are more afraid of leaving than staying. These women must overcome their fears, or they will have to either face the beatings every day or the harshness of prison life.

Joyce says now, "I never stopped believing it was my fault. That's what we're taught. It's a man's world." This just isn't true. The world in which we live is only a "man's world" if we let the men in our lives overcome our own thoughts and reasoning.

It is true that being abused is a terrible thing, and no one should have to endure the pain it causes, but many women wouldn't have to if they would stand up for themselves. ■

All facts from *Ladies' Home Journal*, Oct. 1991.

Woman's plea for help

6 pm. A wife is in the kitchen rapidly cooking dinner. It has to be done when her husband gets home at 6:30, or else he will be very angry. She gets beaten if supper isn't done when he gets home. Ever since the beatings began, she tried to think up a way to leave the house, but where will she stay, where will she get money, what will happen to her child?

Supper is almost finished when her husband comes home. The second he steps in the door, he shouts that dinner better be on the table.

He walks into the kitchen. He grabs her by the hair, throws her against the wall and beats her until she is curled in the fetal position. He then sits down at the table and says, "Hope you've learned your lesson. I want supper on the table when I step through that front door. Now, let's eat."

After supper, the husband goes to the front room and starts reading the newspaper. The wife goes to the bedroom to see what kind of damage her husband's fists did to her face. The face in the mirror is not her own, although it has become all too familiar. The eyes on this face are puffy, there is blood on the lip, and bruises adorn the cheekbones.

The eyes on this face, then, grow very glassy. She opens the bottom drawer of the nightstand, where her husband keeps a loaded gun for protection.

She grabs the gun and walks to the front room. Her husband, still reading the paper, hears a shot, then everything goes black.

Sadly, this scenario is not uncommon anymore. More than four million women are battered every year. That number is only the reported cases, however. Studies show that at least 25 percent of all marriages include some form of violence.

The raging question is "Should battered women be labeled as murderers?" Some people think that battered women should, but is this really fair? These same people don't live in homes where such things are happening. They don't see the torment and cannot possibly understand it.

The other side of the issue involves people who have compassion and sympathy. These people believe that a battered woman should be able to claim battered woman syndrome, not be looked upon as a cold-blooded killer.

Self-defense is the only correct way to defend battered women. Self-defense is defined as "the right to protect oneself in the event of a crime." Other people use the self-defense rule and are looked upon as people who had no alternative. Isn't the situation the same for battered women, or is it perfectly normal for a man to be his wife simply because "she's his property, and he has the right to beat her whenever he sees fit" and she has no right to protect herself?

An argument against battered women is that they should have left home. Many women do try to leave, but their husbands track them down. Often, money becomes a problem. These women usually do not have enough money to live on their own, let alone, to move far away. If the woman stays with family and friends, the husband will look for her at those homes first.

Some men look for their wives and apologize. They say that they will never lay another hand against her and that they will go to therapy to help their problem. The wives, low on money and feeling guilty about staying with their friends, believe these lies and go back home. However, when the wife returns, promises go unheeded and violent beatings return.

Some women get lucky and succeed in leaving and getting their husbands arrested. Many trials leave the husbands in jail. Problem solved.

In the case of Lisa Bianco, an Indiana resident and mother of two, however, jail did not solve her problem. Her ex-husband, Alan Matheney, was in the process of serving a five-year prison sentence, when he was released for eight hours for good behavior. As soon as he was released, he went to Lisa's home and brutally murdered her. Problem not solved.

Battered women syndrome, unfortunately, is an everyday occurrence in many relationships. Battered women have a right to protect themselves with self-defense. They cannot be denied this constitutional right. ■

All facts from *Good Housekeeping*, June, 1990

Panther Pics

by Ms. Miller's photography class



Glass lid exposed many times
by freshman Robert Kling



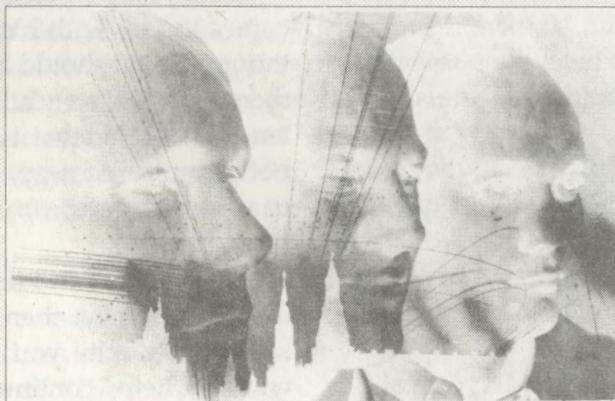
Pop bottle and hair
by freshman Shannon Mata



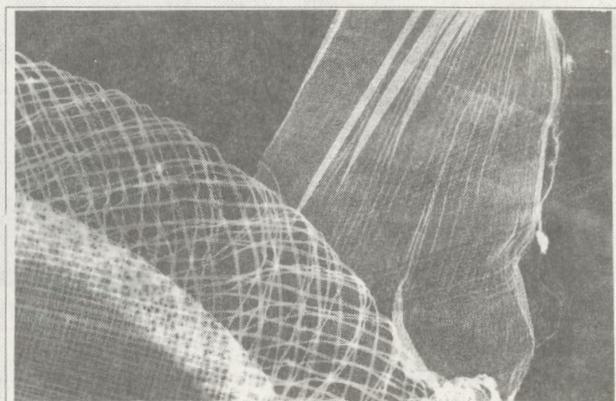
Magazine pages and scraps of paper
by sophomore Gina Kitts



Plastic wrap
by freshman Danielle Hughes



Magazine pages
by sophomore Nick Focosi



Nylon and a straw mat
by senior Kip Walters

Suicide-- the second leading c

by Stacey and Stephanie Kaufman
Feature Editors



Another teenager will have tried to commit suicide by the time you have finished reading this story. The thought is surely appalling, but; unfortunately, it is a fact. Suicide is the second leading cause of death among young people between the ages of 13-21. Sadly, the number of teen suicide is still increasing each year and has tripled in the last two decades.

According to the Menninger Clinic of Albuquerque, about five suicides and five hundred attempts happen daily. Experts believe that the number is even larger than reported because some states will not classify a suicide as so, unless a suicide note is found.

Sophomore Molly Blount thinks that the rate of teenage suicide is so high because teens have a lot of problems, and they just cannot take the pressure. Although she realizes this choice is not wise, Blount admitted that she has thought about suicide. When her mother passed away, she couldn't handle it. She was not passing in school, and she felt like she couldn't do anything right. Realizing suicide was a stupid alternative, Blount decided she could make something of her life and make her mother proud.

"There is more pressure for students to succeed and get better grades than there was in the past," commented senior Elijah Owens on why the rate of suicide is increasing.

Mrs. Mary LAhey, WHS social worker, agreed: "Teenagers are under a lot of pressure. Also, they tend to be impulsive. One of the differences between teen suicide and adult suicide is that one can usually see a long pattern leading up to adult suicide, whereas for teenagers it's an impulsive act, maybe a breakup or something."

Blount thinks "Most teens want help, but don't know who to ask."

*"MOST TEENS WANT
HELP, BUT DON'T
KNOW WHO TO ASK."*

-MOLLY BLOUNT

She also said that counseling can really help a person who is facing these types of choices.

Owens said, "If there is someone to talk to or to help, the possibility of someone committing suicide is greatly decreased."

The majority of teens who are contemplating suicide would turn to a friend's advice before they would seek professional help. Junior Kim Alerding disagreed, "Professionals are better help."

She explained, "If you talk to friends, they might just say anything to change your mind; but if you talk to

a counselor, he knows how to talk you through it."

Lahey stressed that professional counselors are definitely beneficial when a teen is suffering from depression. Yet, she thinks that a solution that would prove just as helpful to the problem of teen suicide is to educate teens in general. A lot can be done if teens learn the certain warning signs and how to react to the symptoms."

"Talking to a friend or to anybody else does have a benefit," said Lahey.

Yet, she thinks that it is better to seek professional help, "The friend or the family member may tend to downplay it. That may be the biggest problem; not that they wouldn't say the right thing, they just may not react to it as seriously."

Owens argued that it would be more effective to talk to someone they know, because they would feel more relaxed knowing that person really cared about them. He added, "Anyone who wants to commit suicide is just crying out for help."

Lahey emphasized that if a friend comes to you with his own suicidal thoughts, you should help by giving them access to an adult who will listen. She also said that it is important to not promise secrecy, and then go against that person by breaking the promise.

"If the first adult doesn't react or take it seriously, then you need to keep trying until you find an adult who will help," continued Lahey.

Alerding sympathized with the choice of suicide: "I have problems,

cause of death among teens

too. It's not like it has never crossed my mind as I'm sure it has crossed lots of people's minds."

Alerding thinks that the greatest factor towards teen suicide is low self-esteem, while Owens believes that it is a combination of many problems.

Most people would assume that the teens with apparent confidence in themselves aren't in danger of taking their own lives. *Parents Journal* reported, "Parents who think their teen is too talented, happy or well adjusted to ever think of suicide should note the results of a poll taken by *Teenage* magazine: Of some 500 respondents, 73 percent said they have contemplated suicide, and 70 percent know someone who has attempted it."

A poll taken by nearly 200 WHS students revealed this same findings. When students were asked if they had ever thought of killing or causing bodily harm to themselves, twenty-eight percent answered yes; eight percent said they had in fact attempted to harm or kill themselves. Of the same students, forty-six percent said that someone had shared suicidal thoughts with them at least once; fifty-five percent reported that they knew of someone who had attempted suicide; and twenty-six percent knew someone who had successfully committed suicide.

Joe Sanders, M.D., chairman of the committee on adolescence of the American Academy of Pediatrics said in *Parents Journal*: "There's really no socioeconomic profile of the 'teen most likely to' [commit suicide]. The only

clear constant factor is depression, coupled with some triggering event."

Sanders stressed, however, that parents can help their children. He explained that it is very important to remember that no teen is "immune" to the misconception of suicide, and at some times teens should be watched more closely than at other times. Sanders continued, "Suicides tend to be seasonal—the worst times are around Thanksgiving and in the spring—and they tend to occur in clusters."

Owens thinks that suicidal thoughts occur mostly during the teenage years, because they are the years that are so unstable and there are so many questions teens want answered, but there are really no right answers to anything in the world.

For anyone thinking about suicide Owens advises: "Think about all your options before considering suicide. Nothing could be that bad to want to kill yourself. There is always an alternative and a light at the end of the tunnel." ■

Warning signals that often precede a suicide attempt:

- * Preoccupation with death
- * Changes in eating or sleeping habits
- * Unexplained or unusually rebellious or disruptive behavior
- * Depression and withdrawal
- * Running away
- * Persistent boredom or difficulty concentrating
- * Drug or alcohol abuse
- * Failing grades
- * Unusual neglect of appearance
- * Radical personality change
- * Psychosomatic complaints
- * Giving away prized possessions
- * Expressing suicidal thoughts, even in a joking manner

-- taken from *Parents Journal*

Striking teacher gives her views

Everyone needs to understand why I, a teacher, voted "yes" to strike and why I was committed to stay out as long as it took, so that we can more intelligently understand the reasons behind the strike.

Opinion

One, the central administration and the School Board are preaching diversity, but not practicing diversity themselves. The social studies change in graduation requirements will negatively affect the minority child, the poor child, or the child of the uninformed parent. I publicly want to thank Mr. Lennon for voting "no" on the social studies change.

One should have observed the many teacher picket lines across the South Bend community. Teachers are truly modeling the real meaning of "valuing diversity" in these lines. The teachers "on the outside" have developed understanding and respect for one another and quality bonding in their common goals.

Two, there are other ways to meet the administration's goals of prevention and discipline without hiring new prevention specialists or starting JROTC. Present school corporation counselors could have their duties re-defined so that their duties truly reflect the guidelines for developmental counseling as set by the state of Indiana.

Three, there is a real contradiction between "budget facts" and administrative proposals. Lack of money and the huge deficit are always cited as why teachers and other employees must do without. They cannot "cry debt and deficit spending" when money that is regained by reorganization and pro-

jected upcoming teacher layoffs is not applied to correct the problem, but is instead spent for new prevention specialists and JROTC.

Four, the SBCSC gives lip service to cooperative learning and peaceful conflict resolution in the classroom, but then refuses to model these behaviors in their day-to-day dealings with employees. The current process of obtaining employee contracts in all work classifications is not working! This current crisis is certainly not a new problem, but rather one that has continued under many previous school board members and superintendents! The central administration and the Board always resort to pyramidal power dictation to employee groups. Teachers are called professionals, but teachers are not treated as professionals in the SBCSC. This dictator-like relationship in dealing with all employees is not only seen at contract time, but also in day-to-day relations.

The South Bend Community School Corporation desperately needs to be a positive role model in cooperative relationships and peaceful conflict resolution, and they could provide it by using their valuing diversity type committees in forming quality circle style management!

Five, all employees, School Board members, and central administrators of the SBCSC should and must learn from the past. We must somehow get out of this current impasse so that quality education within the SBCSC can continue now and proceed unharmed by this conflict in the future. We must correct this destructive process so that this will NEVER, EVER HAPPEN AGAIN!

Mrs. Carolyn Peterson

Math and computer programming teacher. ■



Thumbs Up
Thumbs Down



Thumbs up

... to the end of the teachers' strike. Teachers are invaluable to our education, and it is a relief to see all of them back and at work again. Too bad the strike didn't end sooner; everyone missed out on a week and a half of continuing education. But, nothing else could have been done to reach an agreement. All teachers should be given the respect they deserve for doing what they thought was right, strikers or non-strikers alike.

... to the no hats policy. So, maybe some problems are occurring over hats. Sorry, nobody can cover up those bad hair days with a hat anymore.

... to all the winter sports teams. Congratulations to all the winter athletes; your dedication and hard work paid off. Also, thanks again to the "basketball heads" for their terrific showing of school spirit. How do you spell Panthers—that was a nice floor demonstration. But what are you going to do now? Become bat boys or soccer ball heads?

... to the people who had enough school spirit to dress up and participate in the spirit days during homecoming, especially Gender-Bender Day. We were getting a little confused there for a while! Mr. or Mrs. Horowitz?

... to all the teachers who are concerned about the students and our school's image. Thanks for trying to promote good behavior and confront some of the problems our school faces.

Thumbs down

... to the student teachers who returned from spring break with great tans.

... to the last pep rally. It's too bad only a few students have to ruin everyone else's fun by acting really immature. But, we would like to commend all the students who did not run out onto the floor and who did continue to cheer for their class.

... to lunch time. Is it just us, or is lunch time becoming more and more feared when people can't behave and act right? Don't be surprised if we have more "talk" of closed lunch. It's upsetting to know that only a small number of students might ruin other students' opportunity for a continued open lunch.

... to the news media. O.K., O.K., enough already! Every school has its problems, so why does the West Side always get the bad press? Other schools have had incidents, but they never get the coverage like we do. The West Side is not as bad as the media portrays it to be. Give us a break!

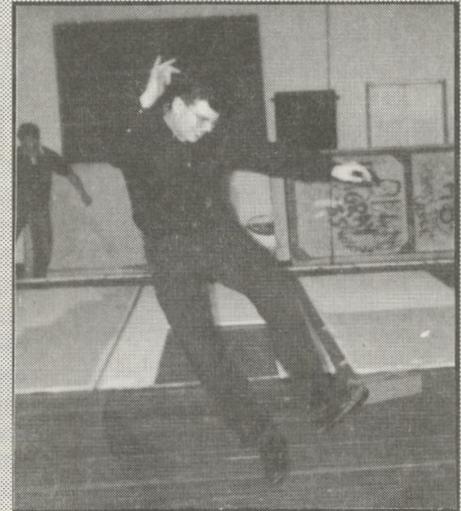
... to the superintendent for announcing that students not taking ISTEP could have Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday off, and then suddenly telling us we have to attend school. Many students had plans and were looking forward to three official days off of school. But, oh well, many students had just taken a week and a half break anyway.

Panthers

by Mary Fletcher

Winter is full of the good, the bad, and the ugly. The good: snow days. The bad: nothing to do. The ugly: pot holes and dirty snow.

Senior Amy Payne found that Howard Park ice skating rink helped pass the time this long, cold winter with several sessions throughout the week. She has also discovered that they've got a delicious concession stand. Notice she is guarding the popcorn machine.



Clap your heels; *The Music Man* is here. The school play has junior James Luchowski hard at work dancing to Shipooopi. Luchowski, along with many other cast members, will be raring to go on opening night.



I'm sure many of you car owners have found these to your liking. Yes, potholes! This isn't even the worst of them. They will get bigger and bigger until your car's front end is trapped in one. Where are our parents' tax dollars going? Beware there's a pot hole near you.

Aaaah, winter is so beautiful, so refreshing, so utterly cold and dreary. This lovely ensemble was found in Bellville Shopping Center after one of those hopeful thaws we had. Someone must have found this a lovely spot to picnic due to the number of bottles and Burger King bags in the area.



A good basketball game can occupy some time this season. Certainly senior Cary Woltman wishes Jan. 16 was a football contest between Michigan and Indiana University. She lost a wager against senior Amy Hoffman and had to wear I.U. gear when I.U. was victorious over Michigan.

Season avalanches to end

by Mike Whitlock
Sports Writer

The boys' varsity basketball team, which must have been inspired by the recent Winter Olympics, has fallen from the top of the mighty mountain to ground level. The Panthers went from first place in the Northern Indiana Conference (N.I.C.) to a tie for seventh place by losing seven out of their last ten games, including losing their last six conference games.

WHS started the plunge downward with a date at home against the currently 13th-ranked team in the state, the Clay Colonials. Junior LeShawn Nailon stole the show from his older brother Lee by scoring 19 points. The spotlight, however, was still on WHS's superstar senior, Kodell Jackson, who scored a game-high 29 points. Clay led by as many as 22 points in the fourth, but a late Panther run cut the final deficit to only 6 points. 3/8 WHS lost 80-74, but gained confidence knowing that they can play with a powerhouse like Clay.

The Panthers next conference game was against the Mishawaka Cavemen. WHS showed great balance with four out of their five starters in double digits: seniors Jackson with 15, Ricky Ward with 10, Shawn Lee with 19 and Brian Outlaw with 12 points. Ryan Watson's 20 points for Mishawaka proved to be the deciding factor, because

his last 4 points gave WHS a crushing 68-64 defeat.

WHS stopped their four-game losing streak by dominating an outmatched Michigan City Marquette team. The Panthers exploded out of the blocks by taking a 22-0 lead, and never trailed in the game. Marquette, however, never quit and kept picking away at WHS's lead. Even though the Panthers won by only two points, they were never in fear of losing the game.

Senior Shawn Lee said, "We only won by two, but everyone in the gym knew we had Marquette beaten in the first couple of minutes."

The next weekend WHS faced two completely different teams, on Friday an 18th-ranked M.C. Elston club and on Saturday an out-of-conference, outmatched Chesterton team. Both games, however, ended up with a Panther defeat. Against Elston the Panthers trailed all game and lost 73-61. Against Chesterton, on the other hand, the game was a nail-biter till the end when Lee hit a three-pointer to put WHS up by one. The Trojans scored with one second to go to win the game and send the Panthers home with an embarrassing defeat.

WHS then gave eventual N.I.C. champions, Elkhart Central, a run for their money. The Blue Blazers led by four points late when Ward received a technical foul. Central cashed it in for a five-point play and iced the game by hitting 13 out their 19 free

throws and thus winning the game, 88-72.

The Panthers regained their winning ways by knocking off the Northridge Raiders. Of course, Jackson, who scored 22, and Lee, who scored 13, had their share of the scoring, but some unlikely faces were also in double digits including senior Jim Wiskotoni's 10, junior Derry Bush's 13, and sophomore Matt Wood's 16 points. WHS won 79-68 and improved their record to 7-9.

WHS finished their N.I.C. season by hosting Penn and Riley. The Penn game came down to the buzzer with the Kingsmen coming out on top. The home finale saw Riley change a 41-38 third quarter score into a 77-55 blowout. Jackson scored 21, but it wasn't enough as Riley had their own way on offense.

Head coach Milt Cooper said, "We didn't play defense. We couldn't even cover our mothers out there tonight."

The Panthers began their title hopes with a bye against Clay in the second round of the tournament. Clay was on fire while WHS struggled with all parts of their game. Clay sparked by three all-sectional players ended the Panthers' hopes with a 84-44 victory. The Panthers hung up their shoes with a 7-12 record (3-6 NIC).

Sophomore Matt Johns said, "We have played hard in the JV games, but the inexperience on the team has hurt us late in the games." ■

Panthers prosper despite disease

by Jason Whitmer
Sports Writer

The Panther wrestling season was a success for the most part, though the most ironic accomplishment was fielding a team. The mighty grapplers pinned their way to an outstanding 16-5 record. They managed to win the St. Joe Triple Dual and easily coasted to a first in WHS's first-ever super dual. But as everyone knows, the sectional crown was what was most important, and as defending sectional champions, it looked good for the Panthers.

Sickness and early retirement, two things that plagued the team all season came to be the factors that cost them a sectional championship loss to Clay by a mere 16 points. But the remaining 12 blood, sweat, and tears Panther wrestlers struggled on without look-

ing back. With all the problems in the air, the team still had a goal—a championship.

After the first round, the score was tight and the Panthers matched seven of their finalists against seven of Clay's. It started with sophomore Nick Focosi who lost a close one to Clay at 112. Then at 119, sophomore Nate Reeder livened things up with an upset.

At 125, senior Shad Robakowski kept Panther hopes alive with a pin of a stunned Clay opponent. At 130, junior Jason Whitmer battled to a last-second reversal for a 6-5 victory. Sophomore Matt Andrzejewski neck wrenched his way to a near victory of state-ranked Kevin Downey, and senior Carl Levy clinched WHS's fourth sectional championship of the day, and the fourth victory over Clay.

Despite beating Clay in four of the seven head-to-head matches, and despite wrestling without three varsity wrestlers, WHS fell just sixteen points shy of victory.

In the regionals, the Panthers qualified nine of their twelve sectional wrestlers, but bad draws were the newest Panther disease. Despite the bad luck, Levy came away with a first-place finish; senior Knute Orange came away with a second; Robakowski came away with a second; and Whitmer picked up a third, with an upset of the #8-ranked wrestler in the state.

In the semi-state, Orange was the only one of the so-called "Four Horsemen" to advance to the State Finals. In the finals at Indianapolis, Orange wrapped up a third place, bettering his last year's performance of seventh place.

Coach Carl Evans commented: "I'm a little disappointed for the guys. I really felt like this was our year to win the conference, sectionals, and regionals. But the effort the 12 sectional wrestlers put out was outstanding. I'm really proud of the few who were able to stick it out." ■

Sultan of slam to sultan of swat

by **Jim Wiskotoni**
Sports Editor

A few months ago, I wrote an article concerning the retirement of basketball superstar Michael Jordan. I figured that would be the last article I would do in reference to Jordan, but now he is popping into headlines once again.

Who would have thought that Jordan would retire from basketball, only to attempt a career in baseball? It has always been Jordan's dream to play pro baseball, and now he has the chance to make that dream come true. The Chicago White Sox gave Jordan a tryout this winter, signed him to a minor league contract, and invited him to spring training.

So far, Jordan has proved he can field the ball well, throw the ball well, and draw people to the stadium. Now he has to prove that he can hit major-league pitching. Most critics think this is the one area he will not be able to excel in, and it will relegate him to late-inning defensive work, if he is able to make the team at all. Jordan did, however, hit a homerun off of a minor-league pitching coach, with a little advice from last year's MVP Frank Thomas.

Other critics have said that Jordan should not try a baseball career. Some think that he has achieved enough glory in basketball and is only playing baseball because he is bored. That is just not true.

Jordan is pursuing the American dream of making one's dreams come true. His dream is to be a professional baseball player, just as some dream to become a pilot, or an engineer. Because of his talent, he has a chance to fulfill his dream, just as many have the chance to fulfill their dreams by going to college. What is wrong with a person attempting to accomplish his goals? In this country, absolutely nothing.

Some may think that Jordan is just riding the popularity of his name into baseball, but he has proven to the White Sox organization that his

talent is for real, and that he may be able to play at the major-league level.

Another aspect that must be looked at is if Jordan doesn't make the big leagues right away. Will this superstar be able to adjust to the trials and tribulations of minor league baseball? After all, he would have to ride a team bus to games instead of flying a charter plane as he did with the Bulls. And can a city survive Jordan for more than two days at a time?

In basketball the team only stayed for one or two days, but in baseball the team stays for two to four games. Critics say that Jordan will take too much attention away from "the real players." If Jordan is on the team, this makes him a real player.

Critics just need to leave Jordan alone. He has been under scrutiny for too long. Many say part of the reason he retired from basketball was because of the pressure put on him by the media to be a perfect role model. If this is true, the media already destroyed one brilliant career. I hope they don't go on to destroy another for this great man.

Questions from a local perspective is, what if Jordan ended up playing here in South Bend for the Silver Hawks? How many people would flock to Coveleski Stadium to see Jordan play? I know that I would go. It is a possibility that the stadium would be sold out night after night. What a difference that could make in the community.

Many people wonder how Jordan's presence will affect the other White Sox players. It shouldn't be a problem. They went through a similar situation last season with the return of Bo Jackson from hip-replacement surgery. These two celebrities are not very much alike, yet their situations are similar. They both have tried to overcome the odds by playing baseball. For Jackson it was a return after major surgery; for Jordan it is a return after almost 15 years away from the sport. Jackson's return was a success, even though he did not play often. The outcome of Jordan's return is still in question. ■

Sports Profile

Name: Kodell L. Jackson

Year: 12

Awards and Achievements: MVP in basketball 92-93; All NIC Honorable Mention 92-93; All Holiday Tourney team 92-93; All Sectional team 92-93; All Holiday Tourney team 93-94; Ranked number one in the Top 20 scoring in the state of Indiana.

Age: 18

Class Rank: 88

Role Model: Parents and Michael Jordan

Favorite Class: College algebra and English

Favorite Food: Hamburgers and Reese's Peanut Butter Cups

Favorite TV Show: *Martin*

Favorite Book: *Seawolf* by Jack London and *The Ox-Bow Incident* by Walter Van Tilburg Clark

Sports Played: Basketball

Future Plans: Attend a Division 1 college on a basketball scholarship and receive a masters degree in dentistry.

Clubs at WHS: Friends Always There and Class of '94 officer

Greatest Accomplishments: Being elected to the All-Sectional team my junior year and going to the Nationals in AAU my freshman year.

Most Proud of: Being able to stay out of trouble and get good grades.

Most Embarrassing Moment: As I was leading the team on the court against LaSalle this year, I started warming up at the wrong end of the court while the rest of the team stood and laughed at me.

Summary of the Sports at WHS: There is a lot of pride at Washington which lets everyone be the best he can be. One thing I have learned from WHS sports is to always believe in yourself.

Season ends in a ripple

by **Craig Langhofer**
Sports Writer

Coach Reggie Glon's little marines are staying up with the competition, just barely. With three wins and four losses, the team is in need of some victories in order to obtain a record greater than .500, which they are so hopeful of reaching.

Their losses have been very close ones though, especially with St. Joe, who, despite their small numbers, were a force to be reckoned with. The meet turned out to be a very exciting one. The first half St. Joe showed their potential, leaving WHS in the dust.

But the Panthers made a dramatic comeback, after Glon's inspirational half-time speech. The last event decided the final outcome, St. Joe winning by two points.

"It was the 2nd's and 3rd's that we

needed to win the meet, they just weren't there," commented Glon after the meet.

Unlike the close, unpredictable St. Joe meet, the first meet of the year was far from close. It proved to be disappointing, but at the same time rewarding, as they competed against Bremen and Tippy Valley in the yearly dual meet. The Panthers easily defeated the small band of Tippy Valley swimmers but not before losing to Bremen. Bremen's ability left the Panthers out in the cold, who regretedly ate too much turkey during Christmas vacation, as many swimmers fell short of their personal best times.

"I feel that most of the team slacked off during break and got out of shape. If we would have worked harder, we could have defeated Bremen. But that is all in the past, and we are just going to have to make it up later in the year," said junior Nick Cline.

LaSalle was next on the Panthers' list, and it definitely was a kill. The Lions, who were desperately short of swimmers, received a whipping as the "Green Wave" rolled over them in a 120 to 70 victory, taking back the bragging rights of the West Side and adding another valuable win to its record.

Since the season is quite young, the team can still make or break its record.

"The team can be as great as it wants to be. If we believe in ourselves and have the courage, the determination, the dedication, the competitive drive, and if we are willing to sacrifice the little things in life and pay the price for things that are worthwhile, it can be done," said Glon in response to his outlook on the rest of the season.

The majority of the meets are yet to come and the Panthers are hopeful in achieving their goals and keeping the over .500 tradition. ■

State dreams end for Lady Panthers

by **Zayed Henry**
Contributing writer

When the time came for the Panther's motto, "think state," to mean something, it seemed as though that would be their destination, but it wasn't. Their destination ended up six games and 12 points short of making it there.

The journey all began in the Laville Sectionals with a game against the John Glenn Falcons. The team came out playing relaxed and feeling confident. They used a full-court pressure defense, and forced the Lady Falcons into an up-tempo game.

Junior Zayed Henry led the Panther attack by dumping in 24 points to go with senior Tasha Reed's seven and seniors Erin Taylor and Jodi Johns' six points apiece. With the game well in WHS's hands, coach Jack Disler decided to go to his bench. Playing strong defense were juniors Liz Shearer, Jill Cunningham, Charlena Vandeviere, and Bridget Martin, and freshmen Courtney Litka and Winetta Neely. They each provided a hustling effort to

keep the pace of the game going till the end for a 57-31 Panther victory.

With the win, WHS moved into the semi-final round of the sectionals, where they would play the New Prairie Lady Cougars. As the game started, things favored the Cougars. New Prairie held their biggest lead, 26-14, with 5:15 left in the second quarter, due mostly to their pressure defense and half-court zone coverage.

Late in the second quarter the Panthers began to put the pressure on New Prairie. In the third period, the Cougars cracked under the pressure, converting just three of nine field goal attempts.

After an evenly balanced first four minutes of the fourth period, New Prairie looked to pull away. A Cougar basket with 1:27 remaining gave New Prairie a commanding 50-44 lead. Coach Disler immediately called a time-out to regroup his troops.

After the time-out, the lady Panthers responded by scoring seven unanswered points to take a 51-50 lead with 18 seconds remaining. A foul at the 10 second mark gave the Cougar's Kelly Bartoszewicz two free-throws that she converted for a 52-51

Cougar lead. Destiny looked to be on the Cougar's side.

Henry had a different view, however, and hit a desperation three-pointer that sent the Cougars back to their den and left the Panthers prowling through another victory. The Panthers won the game 54-52 and set a new record for most three-pointers hit in one game of the Laville sectional with six.

The Sectional Championship was slated for the next night, and the Panthers would face the Plymouth Lady Pilgrims. The Lady Panthers began the game with the same confidence they had at the beginning of the John Glenn game and the same spirit as at the end of the New Prairie game.

Their confidence soon eroded, however, as the Pilgrims set the tempo of the game early. The Panthers were never able to adjust to the tempo and fell to Plymouth by the score of 45 to 33.

This left the Panthers' chances of three-peating as sectional champs blowing in the cold winter wind. The Pilgrims were crowned sectional champs, as the Panthers had to settle for second best. ■

Run and Shoot

Well, we're back. Too bad for you, but we get a little more publicity.

It's that time again; yep, the Winter Olympics are here again. As usual, commercials take up more time on the broadcasts than the actual events do. Then you get into all the stupid interviews and analysis of an event that took place two days ago. Every now and then they do televise an event, but even then it has been over for 12 hours and you have already seen the results. Oh well, at least it is finally over.

Of course, we haven't heard the end of the Nancy Kerrigan-Tonya Harding saga. After all, Kerrigan skipped out on the closing ceremonies and said that going to Disney World was "the corniest thing" she had ever done. She did give Mickey a public apology, however, and said that he was her favorite mouse. What a lucky rodent. I bet Jerry, Mighty Mouse, and Fivel are pretty hurt by that.

We can't forget that Harding is still in danger of being banned from figure skating by the United States Figure Skating Association. She will face a hearing sometime in March.

On a warmer note, baseball season is just around the corner. Spring training has begun, and so have tryouts for our Panther baseball team.

Coach T. has had these guys in shape for some time now, but not quite as good of shape as he would like, so they will continue to run. Run will be playing baseball as soon as the basketball season is over; don't we all feel sorry for him? Of course not.

All you girls out there, don't forget to try out for bat girls. I know it isn't as exciting as being a swim manager, after all the guys aren't wearing Speedos every day at practice and in the games, but they need just as much support.

We have been asked why our basketball team has not lived up to our expectations, and we have only one answer: No comment. Sectionals were a definite disappointment, but every team has to have an off day. And when they come up against a team that has a great day, you're bound to lose. It

working for a living.

We would like to express our sincere apologies to the Basketball Homecoming Court and everyone else in the gymnasium. We regret that you had to witness the terrible event that occurred at the pep assembly. We hope, however, that the evening made it the special event that it should be. Congratulations to Tish McCurn on being crowned queen.

Run and Shoot would like to express our sincere gratitude to the "basketball heads": Brett Buda, Brian Blondell, Shannon Dobrucki, Eric Kurzhal, Josh Cousins, Lance Robbins, and Kenny Zielinski. Thanks to you, our home games were spirited and exciting. Since all of you are seniors, we hope some of your craziness will rub off on the underclassmen, and they will be just as wild next year. Oh, and that doesn't mean they should steal ideas from the seniors, because they are the best. At least that's what Shoot says.

Congratulations to all of the winter sport athletes. A special farewell goes out to the girls' basketball coach Jack Disler, who announced his retirement after six years at WHS and over 30 years of coaching. Good luck in the future.

We hate to go into another serious issue, but it is one that affected everyone in this school: the teachers' strike. I'm sure most of the students enjoyed it, because they were able to stay home and sleep in, while some of us, just because we are athletes were forced to come to school. Shoot is glad this happened because he got good points in a class that he desperately needs to graduate.

Well, that's all for this month. Enjoy yourselves over the next few weeks. To all you seniors, only three more months till you graduate. And to all of the underclassmen, hope the time goes by as fast for you as it did for us. ■



was sad, but we will get over it.

Run wanted us to win the state tournament just so he wouldn't have to enter the baseball season. Just kidding, he loves running 20 miles a day. Shoot didn't want the season to end either, because he had to start work as soon as it ended. Baseball has started for Run, and boy is he living up to his name. As for Shoot, he has moved on to

PASSING TIME

What are your plans for spring break?



"I'm going to Alaska to spray paint puppies (baby seals)."

Freshman
Tara Kenjockety



"I'm going to Disney World!"

-Sophomore
Joe Tiseo



"I plan on staying home, sleeping in, watching soaps, and relaxing."

Junior
Jessica Mentag



"I'm going to do what every person in their right/left mind would do-SLEEP!"

-Senior
Jennica Pawelski

Entertainment Scene

Katherine Chan
Staff Writer

Once in a while, everyone needs to get away from the serious side of life and laugh until his face hurts. If this is what you are looking for, *Ace Ventura: Pet Detective*, is the movie for you.

Jim Carrey, the all-purpose guy from *In Living Color*, plays a

"pet detective" in Miami. He mimics some of his characters from his hit sit-com in a hilarious fashion. There are also cameo appearances by Dan Marino and other football stars. Tone Loc also co-stars as a police officer and a close friend of Ace Ventura.

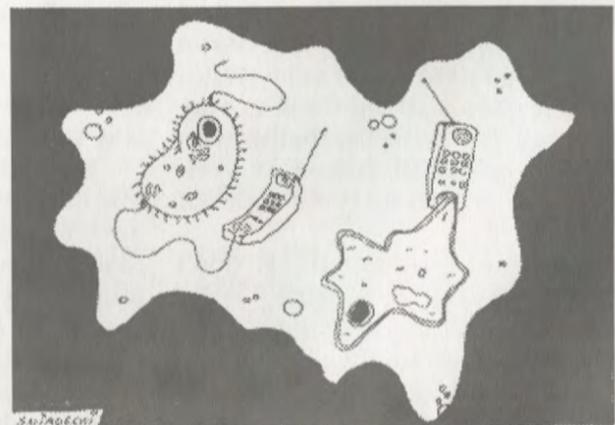
Although some of the humor is funny in a disgusting and stupid way, it's a great movie to see with friends for some side-splitting laughter. Parodies of

other movies and events may also add to the humor of this movie.

The ending is the obvious, having the Ace get the girl and the bad guy being put in jail, but with a little twist. I don't want to give away all of the movie, so enough said.

Overall, *Ace Ventura: Pet Detective* is a great movie, especially if a good laugh is needed. ■

DIMENSION X by Mark Sniadecki



Cellular phones