

THE WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

# HATCHET

APRIL 1996

## Birds of a feather: the clique phenomenon



RETEK KELLY  
907

see the feature, pages 8 & 9



## Would you jump off a bridge if all your friends did?



"No, because I believe in being my own person...I'd rather be a leader than a follower."

-Tiffany Pates  
freshman



"Heckno, I wouldn't; that's their problem."

-Mat Willoughby  
sophomore



"No, because that would hurt."

-Brian Adams  
junior



"I might if all my friends did and yelled that it was fun."

-Carol Degeeter  
senior

## MAY

Panthers, are you ready for the end of the year? There are three more **candy sales** before the close of the school year. The **Class of '99** will sponsor a candy sale from **May 6-13**. Buy a bar to support the freshmen. May also brings the **Art Club** and **HATCHET** sales.

The Panther band will be busy this spring. On **May 4**, the **marching band** will perform at the **Fiesta Cinco de Mayo** celebration at **10:20 a.m.** in **Howard Park**. On **May 11**, the band will sponsor a **band fair** from **9 a.m.-6 p.m.** and a **Port-a-Pit** chicken sale from **11 a.m. to 2 p.m.** On the **27th**, the Panthers will march in the **Memorial Day parade** at **8:30 a.m.** **May 15** is the **fine-arts festival** in the old gym, complete with representation of all of the arts.

There will be a **late start** on **May 14**; school will begin at **9:15 a.m.**, so sleep late and come to school well-rested for a day of fun and learning. There will be **no school** on **Monday, May 27** in order to commemorate **Memorial Day**.

A **Symphony of Stars** is the theme for the **junior/senior prom** which is to be held on **May 17** from **8:30-11:30 p.m.** in the Grand Ballroom of the **Century Center**. Bring your date, your friends, or just come by yourself. It will be a night of magic.

The spring **sports banquet** will be held on **May 29** in the **cafeteria**. Brush up your bats, running shoes, and rackets for a night of recognition.

The end of the year is here, and that means tests galore! See the list in the **guidance office** for dates and times for **AP tests**. The ACT will be held one last time on **June 8**. **Registration dates** are **May 10** and **May 24** for you procrastinators. The **SAT I** will be held on **May 4**; the registration dates were in April. **SAT I & II** will be held on **June 1**; the late dates for registration are **April 27-May 8**.

The **Top 20 academic recognition dinner** for the best in all classes and all academic-award winners will be held on **May 23** at **St. Hedwigs** at **6:30 p.m.** Not only will those hard-working students be recognized, but they will also enjoy a delectable Polish dinner.

**Job Fest 1996** will be held **May 18** from **9 a.m.-12 p.m.** in the **cafeteria** of the **IUSB administration building**. Call **288-8336** for more information.

**Cap and gown day** for seniors is **May 30**. **White day finals 5-8** will be held on this day. **May 29** is the **G1 final**. **May 31** is the last day for seniors, and will include a **Senior Awards Assembly!!!** Unfortunately, **G3-4 finals** will also be held this day.

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Dear Editor,

After last month's success of *South Pacific*, I wanted to let the student body know how grateful I am for all of the hard work and l-o-n-g hours put in by the cast, crew, musicians, and set designers.

A drama production involves talents from all areas of study. No one can do everything it takes to complete a project like this. The person who can act and sing might be a maniac with a hammer, while someone who can build a wall would never dream of picking up a violin. Every person in the production is indebted to every other person: we thank those who painted leaves, pounded nails, swept the stage, helped with make-up, prompted during rehearsal, put in light bulbs...and a million thanks to everyone who ran to get me a Diet Pepsi. This alone took a small army.

Many thanks also to the teachers who honored my passes for students to work on the stage during the school day. This was invaluable time. Thank you also to every teacher who encouraged both students and myself. *South Pacific* really was the "school musical." We're looking forward to the fall production...to be announced August 1996!

*Loris Kraus*  
Drama Club Sponsor

**RECENT HATCHET AWARDS**

- 1995 Women's Press Club Award  
Mark Sniadecki
- 1995 Michigan City Scholastic Press Award  
Mark Sniadecki
- 94-95 ASPA First Place with Special Merit
- 1994 ASPA Best Editorial - Marcy Ross
- 93-94 ASPA First Place
- 91-92 ASPA First Place



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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.

# Do weighted grades tip academic scales?

By Katharine Chan  
News Editor

Technological advancements in the world are requiring more jobs to include a knowledge of computers. Statistics now show that by the year 2000, 85 percent of all jobs in the United States will need training or education beyond the high-school level.

College is often one of the major worries of high school seniors.

The information on a college application is a major factor in the selection of students. Types of classes taken, extra-curricular activities, standardized test scores, class rank, and Grade Point Average (GPA) are some of the data that colleges take into consideration.

Being in the top 10 percent of a high school class is considered a prestigious honor. It is also something that colleges look for when they begin their selection process.

GPA determines the rank of students in their class. GPA is the average of the letter grades in all the classes that a student has completed.

South Bend high schools are currently on the 4.0 scale. This eliminates A+'s from the grading scale. With the 4.0 scale, A's are worth 4.0, a B is 3.0, and so on.

Is it fair to allow a student who takes regular classes and receives high grades in them to have a higher ranking than a student who is struggling through an AP class? This argument has presided in many high schools where weighted grades are not present.

Weighted grades is a system in which grades in a higher placement class such as honors, advanced or AP, are given more credit compared to the same grade in a regular course.

But without weighted grades, an average A student who takes regular classes can still become valedictorian.

In the case of student teacher

Julie Kiel, a graduate of Mishawaka High School where weighted grades are also absent, she was salutatorian of her class, yet she took some higher classes than both valedictorians. She believes that if MHS had weighted grades she would have been valedictorian.

Junior Heather Deka is a former student of St. Joseph High School where a weighted-grading system is used. "The big difference between WHS and St. Joe is probably the outcome of class rankings. At WHS you can have people in regular classes who get A's but are ranked higher than those in AP classes who are working harder."

Senior Eniko Hunyadi said, "I think any student who's willing to take an AP class should be recognized for it."

Junior Brad Langhofer agrees with Hunyadi and adds, "If someone is in a regular class and getting an A from that class, shouldn't he be moved up to an honors class? This would be more fair for all students."

French/Spanish teacher and head of the foreign language department, Will Perry, concurs and said, "I think they [weighted grades] are more fair for AP and honors students. Students choose to be in the tougher classes."

Honors and AP students are in these classes for a reason: they want more challenging work and can perform at a faster rate than other students. It is also true that higher-placement classes may move at a more strenuous pace and require a greater amount of homework.

The absence of a weighted-grading system may also discourage students from taking a higher-placement class because they want to improve their GPA. Deka said, "I have friends [who go to a high school where they don't have weighted grades] who have taken lower level classes in order to help their GPA."

But regular students argue that they work just as hard as students in higher placement classes.

Although honors and AP students often receive tougher assignments, some argue that regular students work just as hard, if not harder to attain the grades that they also earn. "When other people are ranked higher than you but you know that you worked just as hard as those people, it doesn't feel very good," said junior Lori Wood who is enrolled in regular math and English.

Wood believes weighted grades are unfair. "I think the AP and honors kids get off easy because they probably find their work easier than we do."

Junior Kelly Ford agrees with Wood and adds, "I think that everyone should be treated fairly...especially when it comes to grades."

Joyce Katona, Director of Guidance, said, "For students who take honors and AP courses, it isn't fair for them if their English, math, and science classes are weighed, yet their business, art, or physical education classes are not."

Katona's point of view is similar to Wood's. She asks, "Is it fair for those students who don't have the ability to work in an honors or AP class, who might work just as hard as those students [AP and honors], to be ranked lower? So until every department adopts a standard, level policy for a weighted-grading system, I do not think that it is fair for all students."

Kiel disagrees and said, "Weighted grades are fair for everyone because all classes are based on how hard students try for their grades. I don't see how a student in a regular class would be hurt by receiving credit for the effort they put forth."

But with weighted grades comes a more distinct "labeling system" which distinguishes those honors and AP students from the regular students. Katona adds, "This immediately identifies people, and aren't we trying to get rid of this." □

# Weyer: Winner at WHS

By Amy Bastine and  
Amanda Whittaker  
News Writers

Lights, camera, action. It's 9 a.m., the cue cards are written, the sound is working, and the announcers are ready to go. Thanks to her, Channel One will remain in good hands next year when graphic communications teacher Bob Swintz retires.

English teacher Sandy Weyer, who will become the sole producer of Channel One, loves her work. In fact, so do many of her co-workers. Weyer was chosen to be WHS's Teacher of the Year for 1996.

Swintz said, "Mrs. Weyer brings enthusiasm, interest, and a background in audiovisual training."

Weyer has a Master's in communication, with some experience in radio and television production.

Swintz and Weyer have a good working relationship. "I walk out of the room, and she takes over the class," he said with a laugh. He added, "I'm trying to show her the technical half, and she takes care of the production half."

Senior Tatum Munoz said, "I enjoy having Mrs. Weyer help with Channel One, she has always been one of my favorite teachers."

The teachers nominate co-workers from the staff that they think are suitable for the Teacher of the Year honor. These nominees are chosen for their innovative teaching skills and their devotion of time and talent during and after school. The teachers then vote on the nominees.

Of the nominees, the three who receive the most votes are then voted on again by the faculty to become that school's Teacher of the Year. After being elected by the faculty, the teachers are then in the running for the corporation Teacher of the Year. The teachers have to put together a portfo-

lio which includes letters of recommendation from teachers, students, and administrators. Their portfolios are then sent to a panel of judges, who select the school corporation's Teacher of the Year.

Principal Dave Kaser said that Weyer does a great job in the classroom teaching the important skills of English. "Mrs. Weyer relates well to kids. She has an attitude of caring; she lets students know she likes them," said Kaser.

He also said that Weyer is very cooperative beyond the duties of the classroom. She helps with extracurricular activities whenever she is asked.



**Weyer enjoys helping junior Ivan Blount prepare for the Channel-One announcements.**

One example of her fine attributes is her willingness to volunteer her time after school as a scorekeeper for quiz bowl, and as a sponsor for Academic Decathlon and Project Excel.

Weyer, a home-grown Hoosier, grew up in Wolcottville, a town with a large number of Amish. In fact, Weyer's best friend growing up was an Amish girl. She attended the local high school, Lakeland High School. It was in high school that she first thought of becoming a teacher because of the influence of her drama teacher. Although Weyer had originally wanted to get a job in the medical field, her drama teacher changed her mind.

She said with a smile, "I decided to

go into teaching, because I love the drama."

This desire to go into teaching led her to Ball State University.

After college she taught speech, drama, and English for seven years in Crawfordsville, IN. She then taught English for a year in New Prairie. During the last 10 years at WHS, Weyer has taught speech and drama both as classes and as extracurricular activities.

After her son was born, Weyer gave up her after-school responsibilities to dedicate time to being a mom. She is now an English teacher for students in grades 10, 11, and 12. Her classes range from regular to advanced.

Heather Deka, a student in her junior advanced class said, "She relates well to high-school students. Through her teaching, she expresses to us that she truly does enjoy being a teacher."

Weyer is concerned that the lessons she teaches are relevant and that her students are learning what is important for them to succeed. Weyer worries about teaching skills that aren't necessary for her students to learn, now that time is more precious with the Block-8 schedule.

She believes that what her students learn in high school affects the rest of their lives. "She is conscientious and challenges her students," remarked Kaser.

Weyer said, "You must work hard to fulfill your dreams. I believe that if I can help my students to work hard now, they are more likely to strive to achieve other goals they have when they are older."

This advice that she gives her students is the same advice that her father gave her when she was young. Her family's encouragement helped her to succeed, and so she hopes that the encouragement she gives her students will help them to succeed. □



Katharine Chan

# 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 editor.



Derek Dabrowiak

## The Issue: The SBCSC's Debt-Reduction Plan

First it was the teacher's strike in 1994, then the closed lunch decision in 1995, and now Dr. Virginia Calvin has managed to anger both students and parents alike once again with her recent announcement of her five-year plan. It included school closings, redistricting, moving sixth graders to the middle schools, and reducing the size of the SBCSC's growing debt.

Calvin's plan has been in heated debates and was recently voted down. Hopefully, the following facts presented will help the SBCSC, students, parents, and the community to stand their ground in the future.

The school closings would have led to a dramatic redistricting of the entire corporation. Many families have moved to a certain district just so their children can attend the same high school that they graduated from. The five-year plan could have shattered these hopes of children and parents. Also, special programs offered by certain schools were often reasons parents may have wanted their children to attend a specific school.

Many smaller programs were overlooked in the course of this plan. Each school has activities that would be changed or wiped out by going through with the five-year plan.

Many of these "little" losses may seem insignificant, but they are a very important symbol of community strength and support. By going through with the proposed five-year-plan, the SBCSC would have lost important community backing for these programs.

Overcrowding is another problem the school board would have to deal with. The enrollment number at WHS is currently around 1200 students and the closing of Adams may push it up to 2000. The idea of WHS handling 800 more students is beyond belief.

Although WHS's student count reached about 3000 in the '60s and '70s, there was no day-care facility or a special-education program then. These programs require a great deal of space.

More students in each high school would mean more competition for everything, especially in academic and athletic programs. Competition is always healthy, but only to a certain extent. Of course in sports, not everyone that tries out for a team can be accepted. With an increase in enrollment, sports numbers would be up, but this could discourage many to try out and would increase the number of cuts made in each sport. Not everyone would get to participate in the sports that they enjoy because of the stiff competition within their own schools.

The inconsistency of a child's school career would be detrimental to his well-being. A continued redistricting every five years might cause a student to feel out of place by always having to re-adjust to new schools and friends.

Another part of the proposed plan was expanding the middle school program to include sixth graders. The average sixth grade graduate is only 12 years old; allowing them to attend school with teenagers would put them in an uncomfortable situation. They may be bullied or feel inferior to the seventh and eighth graders.

Early exposure to certain "bad-influence" teenagers by younger children may have a detrimental effect on what they conceive to be right and wrong. They may begin to look up to "bad" teenagers who take them under their wing. Sixth graders just aren't ready to be placed in an environment with kids that are more mature.

The SBCSC's main reason for this five-year-plan was the large deficit they are experiencing. They feel that this plan would help pull them out of debt. Yet closing a perfectly functional high school, tearing down another, and constructing a 10 million dollar state-of-the-art high school in its place would not solve the SBCSC's financial problems.

Concerning the redistricting, students would often have to be bussed farther away than necessary to attend school. This will be more costly on the part of the SBCSC.

If the SBCSC only planned on closing Adams because they claim that it needs 30 million dollars worth of renovations. This is not true. The 30 million dollar estimate came from a "wish list" that was passed around to teachers asking how Adams could be improved. An eight million dollar auditorium, similar to the Bendix stage, a relocation of certain offices and an ultra-modern greenhouse were included on this list. But these certainly aren't things that are vital to the school's good-standing.

If the five-year-plan has been on the table for several years, why did they build Wilson and then announce to close two elementary schools in the same district? This and other remodeling of schools, such as Edison Middle School, are certainly situations that could have been avoided in order to save a few million dollars to renovate Riley or to try to keep Adams open.

The five-year-plan has been severely criticized by the public, but the truth is that something has to be done to improve the public-education system in South Bend. This plan, though, expected too much change in too little time. Modifications should be made gradually so members of the community, and most importantly the students, can have time to adjust and accept. □

The South Bend Community School Corporation (SBCSC) is currently in a state of financial chaos. By the end of this current school year, the corporation will have a budget deficit of \$2.9 million. Superintendent Dr. Virginia Calvin was asked by the school board to come up with a plan which would balance the corporation's budget within five years.

On Thursday, March 21, her plan was unveiled. It consisted of closing seven schools, shifting sixth graders from the elementary to the middle schools, requiring corporation-wide redistricting, closing the downtown Education Center and relocating the corporate offices. "We're not cutting. We're altering and redesigning," said Calvin (*South Bend Tribune* March 21, 1996).

The school closing which aroused the greatest amount of public reaction and resentment was the closing of John Adams High School in the eastern part of South Bend.

Built in 1940, Adams is one of the oldest buildings in the corporation and seemed the ideal choice to be closed, since the plan for a new James Whitcomb Riley High School had already been approved. Dr. Calvin estimated a savings of more than \$4.2 million for the school corporation over the next five years if her plan would have been put into effect (*South Bend Tribune* March 26, 1996). Concerned groups of parents and students all over the city planned and participated in protests over the closing of schools.

Many of these groups are claiming that the educational programs would suffer due to the enlarged student-to-faculty ratio in the classrooms. "The money saved from operating fewer facilities can be used to create new programs and respond to requests from the community—such as improving security in schools and providing more educational options," Calvin said (*South Bend Tribune* March 20, 1996).

People are currently claiming that other options have to be available rather than closing our schools. No plan is currently on the table which can present an alternative solution. Nancy King, a former school board member, said, "Unless you have an alternative plan that will balance the budget in the next couple of years, accept the plan," (*South Bend Tribune* March 19, 1996).

In the past, closing schools has proven effective for the corporation. Back in 1970, a similar battle was fought over the closing of South Bend's most revered school, Central High School. That year, Jackson High School became Jackson Middle, and Central shut its doors forever. The students were then transferred to the five remaining high schools, Adams, Clay, Riley, Washington, and the newly-constructed LaSalle.

Former Central principal Roy Hafner summed up the current situation when he stated, "Central closed, but it lives forever. People make the school, not bricks and mortar."

Most recently in nearby Michigan City, the city's two high schools, Elston and Rodgers, were combined to form Michigan City High School. People in their community have been impressed by the successful transition made by students. When asked to issue a grade about the two schools' consolidation, Principal Tim Bietry said, "I'd probably say an A-," (*South Bend Tribune* April 1, 1996).

The main point the community has to remember is that life constantly changes and nothing remains the same forever. LaSalle graduate Sue Tyler also felt the pain of losing Central. "It prepared me for the rest of life's disappointments," she said, "and things do have to change," (*South Bend Tribune* April 1, 1996). Many Adams students felt as though they would lose a piece of their heritage. This heritage, however, will still live on in their hearts, even if the building isn't standing.

This can be best exemplified by the Central students who still gather to march in the city's major parades and show that the school's pride is still present.

Another of the community's concerns is over the tension between rival gangs if high schools were to be combined. One of the fears of many people in the community is that the west side gangs will clash with ones from the south side if they are all placed in one school.

Lt. John Collins, head of the police department's gang crimes unit, said "Name one school that had to shut down or was under siege by a gang. Is there a gang presence? Yes. Do they monopolize this city? No," (*South Bend Tribune* March 26, 1996).

In conclusion, Calvin's plan, in most people's opinion, could have used a little revamping. The main point is that the plan would have done what it was asked to do: reduce the SBCSC's budget deficit. □

# Panthers

By Angela Retek

## Sights and Sounds of the South Pacific



# Panthers really

By Jennifer Hess and  
John Nyikos  
Feature Writers

As a student walks down the hall, he looks ahead and sees a crowd. Getting closer to the gathering, it turns out to be sophomores Steve Lekarczyk and Tony Mathews' bunch of jocks. As one proceeds to take a left down the 800 hall, another flock of people comes into view. Everywhere one looks, groupings are noticeable. What are these groups? Obviously they are friends. Maybe it's a clique.

Random House Dictionary states that a clique is "a small exclusive group of people." Supporting this definition, nearly everyone asked said that a clique was a group of friends who hang out together.

Senior Carol DeGeeter agreed, "A clique is a group of people who always does things together, calls each other when they want to go out, and socializes mainly with each other."

Basketball coach Milt Cooper said, "When I think of a clique, I think of rich socialites who try to run the school."

Cliques form for many different reasons such as cultural and religious backgrounds, sports, and other extracurricular activities. Vivian Paley, a Chicago teacher and author of a new book, *You Can't Say, You Can't Play*, believes that cliques are often based on toys (material things), power, certain skills, and sometimes looks.

Psychologist Thomas J. Berndt, at Purdue University, said it's part of human nature for cliques to form: "When kids are tossed together every day, six hours a day, for the

entire school year, friendship groupings form quite naturally," (*Current Health* 2, October 1995).

Lekarczyk and Mathews said, "To be in our clique, you have to play sports." Similarly, the common bond in Jamal Henry's group is basketball. In junior Jeremy Wasmer's clique, the set standard is smoking.

Some people think because these groups are based on such activities as sports, that all cliques are exclusive and founded on having only one thing in common.

Sophomore Keyna Langhofer said that she wouldn't consider her clique to be exclusive, but she didn't think that others would necessarily want to be in the group. Contrary to what others may think, Langhofer said that one doesn't have to like country music and rodeos to be in her group; it just helps. Freshman Dawn Sieczkarek said, "The only standard in my clique is being true friends."

The support of a group and the feeling of belonging is a strong part of the reason cliques form. Carolyn

Hoyt in *Good Housekeeping* October 1995 said, "Identifying with a group of kids can help a child develop strengths and talents altogether different from his family's, discovering things about himself he wouldn't have tried otherwise."

Sophomore Olivia Jacobson-Reighter said that the encouragement of her friends helped her to decide to try out for *South Pacific*: "It made me feel good that my friends would support me in that decision."

Also, most people asked agreed that those in their clique are always available to talk to and to help them get through the hard times.

Sophomore Suzi Myers commented, "Sometimes there are little fights but for the most part everyone is there for each other." Wasmer also said, "My friends are there for me."

When cliques form because of looks, the way the group dresses, or a particular sport, sometimes it is very obvious to others. People can separate these people and their



Cliques often result from students sharing similar interests like these energetic drama club members.

Photo courtesy of Memory Lane

# do "clique"

clique from all others.

Sophomore Stacey Kuharic said, "People can tell who we are, mainly by the way we act and some times by the way we dress." She acknowledges that she and sophomore Tracy Cavinder both have Nike warm-ups and satin outfits, and the others in their clique like to dress the same by sharing outfits.

Myers said that about the only way to identify the people in her group is that most of them play soccer. Langhofer said that people in her clique could be identified by their boots and the clothes they wear. However, Cooper thinks that WHS is not clique-oriented and also says, "When you walk down the hall, you really can't tell who is rich and who's not—everyone is about the same." DeGeeter, agreeing with Cooper, said, "There really is no way to randomly identify the people in my clique."

Not only are cliques noticeable in the halls or at social events, teachers observe cliques in the classrooms, too. Chemistry teacher Cathy Baker said that when deciding on where students will sit, she tries to separate the cliques: "I try to separate friends, but they always find a way to talk to one another, especially during labs."

English teacher Louise Drapek said, "I try not to notice cliques; it helps me to treat everyone equally." After a moment of thought she added, "Although, maybe I should; that way I could separate them during group work."

In the advanced stages of clique formation, some people even have names for their cliques. Mathews and Lekarczyk consider their crowd to be jocks since their clique's common bond is sports.

Wasmer said, "My clique is called the junkies because we smoke and cut classes." Sophomore Cody Donlon's clique calls themselves the "Gimps." Donlon said that the origin of this most unusual name comes from the movie *Pulp Fiction*. DeGeeter said that some people consider and even call her group snobs, but she does not agree. She believes that people in her crowd are nice if others take the time to get to know them.

Furthermore, most of the students interviewed consider themselves to be in more than one clique, which may be a good thing because social comfort with only those of their own nature does not recognize what true friendship is. Teens may have a few very close friends, but hang out with lots of people in many different crowds. "Sometimes having one or two close friends is more fulfilling than being just another member of a clique," stated *Current Health 2* in an article about cliques.

Sophomore Andy Nalepinski believes that he is in more than one clique because on Friday he might go out with Steve Lekarczyk and that clique, and on Saturday he might spend time with junior Andy Cenkush. Many think that this approach of being with as many friends as possible is the best thing to do because they get a variety of everything each group has to offer.

Junior Vanessa Whitmer said, "No matter how anyone looks at it, friendship is a vital part of life. My friends give me support and a helping hand when I need one."

Whether a few close, personal friends, or being in many cliques is a person's preference, the bottom line is to be happy with the group in which one belongs. □



**How do you know if you are in the wrong clique?**

- You feel pressured to dress or act a certain way.
- The other members of the group discourage you from having other friends.
- You find yourself doing things you don't really enjoy, just to fit in.
- They openly insult others and expect you to do the same.

When you're with a group that makes you feel out of place, it's tempting to blame yourself--after all, if you don't measure up to the group's standards, there must be something wrong with you, right? No, you're dead wrong! It simply means that these particular people don't have enough in common with you. This can happen even if you're with the most popular kids in school. Don't stick around just because you think it's better than being a loner. It's important to remember that true friends will accept you for being you.

(*Current Health* October 1995)

# Feminism re-explored

The topic of this article probably has everyone groaning at the thought of another written lecture on "the complaints of those stupid unrelenting women." The purpose, however, is not to whine about the evil men who don't respect the integrity females. It is to explain that, before people pass judgement on the ideas and goals of a particular group, they should at least make an attempt to understand the facts of the issue.

## Opinion

The women's movement started as nothing more than a small group of womyn (this is a spelling that gives the correct recognition to womyn as a specific people, not a masculine subculture) realizing their right to social equality and acknowledging an innate desire to reject the oppression thrown upon them by society. The issue of womyn and equality is one of the most heated debates of the century.

Although feminism has no set definition, it is best referred to as the movement dedicated to the equality of womyn throughout all aspects of human life. The unfortunate circumstance of womyn having been discriminated against through the course of history has forced this collaboration of angry souls to unite. The desire to create a better lifestyle for womyn as equal members of society grew as more persons woke up to the unfair treatment of the female gender.

The majority of people who give feminism a bad reputation don't understand why such a movement is needed. Because of sex discrimination, womyn, on the average, are paid less than 75 cents for every dollar men are paid for full-time employment.

This may sound like an insignificant amount, but amounts to womyn earning \$6,250 less than a man making an average \$25,000 yearly salary.

As a competent (yes, just as smart and aware as a man) individual of today's society, a womyn should be given equal

wages and an unbiased opportunity to excel in the field of her choice. To limit one's options for the future just because she happened to be born without male genitalia is a cruel and harsh punishment.

Unfortunately, disagreements on womyn's issues are just as common among the feminists themselves as the arguments between movement ideas and society's patriarchal ideals of old. The ignorance of the mass population and the misconceptions circulating about feminism cause a great majority of this liberation's chaos.

As viewed by the public, a common feminist is a hairy-legged, man-hating, seclusive, complaining, female whiner. Some even believe that in order to be a true feminist, one has to be lesbian, or at least a bisexual.

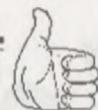
The truth is feminists are both men and womyn, who work towards the common goal of gender equality. Any womyn who simply recognizes that her place in society is not beneath that of a man represents the heart of the feminist movement.

In order to defy the institution of gender discrimination, womyn and men must work together to make known the accomplishments and advancements of womyn all over the world. Womyn use literature, music, journalism, broadcasting, and the individual strengths of each supportive person as mediums for their activism.

The feminist movement asks for equal recognition for achievements made by womyn that men, having done the same thing, would receive attention for accomplishing.

Feminism, as a basic concept, is simply that womyn have to work as hard as men do, if not harder, to accomplish the same job. No one is implying that womyn should have special privileges or advantages over men just because they've been treated unfairly.

Feminism is a way of saying to the world, "I am a womyn, I am a person. Just like any man, I can perform well at any job or in any field--if simply given an equal opportunity." □



Thumbs Up  
Thumbs Down



### THUMBS UP

...to the new picnic tables in the court yard. Now if nice weather would grace us, we could eat in style in the open air. Until then, the tables look great sitting out in the elements.

...to the winter guard for their fifth place win at the WGI midwest circuit competition. The guard has only been getting better; the only place for them to go is up. A special thanks to Mr. Hardt, Mr. Lilly, Mr. Rinne, and all of those who helped to make this show a success.

...to the musical *South Pacific*. All of the students and staff worked exceptionally hard in order to make this a successful event. During these last few months of school, can't you almost hear Bali Ha'i calling you?

...to the band boosters for raising the money to get the trailer painted. After all these years, it's about time something got done to display the pride of the marching Panthers. Keep up the good work, and good luck in all the future ventures.

...to the hard-working, dedicated students. As the weather gets warmer it is harder for students to concentrate, let alone to make it to class. To those of you who have held out against "senioritis," congratulations!

...to seniors. A little over a month until graduation—enough said.

...to all of the student teachers. We thank you for your guidance and teaching; it is greatly appreciated. Hopefully, you learned as well as taught. Good luck in the future; we'll miss you.

### THUMBS DOWN

...to those students who cannot read the calendar. This is May people, not June! School is still in session, like it or not. Stop cutting classes because of the "nice weather" and stick out the year. You've lasted this long; what's another month and a half?

...to those teachers who believe that their class is the only one still in progress. Many (senior) teachers give exit projects that are due in a few weeks. In truth, much more time is needed. It's hard for anyone to concentrate these last few months, let alone to write a doctoral thesis on the subterranean world of the mites of Tunisia.

...to those seniors who still act like eighth graders. Graduation is fast approaching and some members of the senior class are still whining, crying, making excuses, and bribing to get out of situations in which they have gotten themselves.

# ART Gallery

By Alicia Ladewski



◁ Stacey  
Lentych,  
senior  
*Evening  
Shade*

paint and pencil

▷ Todd  
Davis,  
senior  
*as nice as a  
warm cup  
of pea*

ink drawing





## Promising trails lie ahead

**By Eric Bastine**  
Sports Editor

Take back a couple of unfortunate plays in the field and this year's Panther baseball team would have only a single loss and would be two games ahead of all the competition in the race for the Northern Indiana Conference (NIC) crown.

These plays, however, cost the Panthers two wins against an underestimated Marian team and a Penn squad who won the NIC last season. They have won eight games in between the 7-6 loss to Marian and the heartbreaking 11-11 tie with Penn. This win streak has put the Panthers near the top of the list of the best teams in the area.

WHS head coach Rick Tomaszewski commented on the team's early success, "We can hit the ball, but our pitching has been up and down. We need to throw strikes, and we will win games."

After the season-opening loss to Marian, the Panthers went on a tear, winning their next seven games before wearing down and losing the second game of a Saturday morning double-header to visiting McCutcheon.

The Panthers dominated St. Joseph, Glenn, and Dowagiac, averaging about 14 runs each time they stepped on the field. Those, however, were the non-conference games, warm-ups for the "real" season--the race for the NIC championship.

WHS opened their NIC campaign with a 14-2 destruction of Elkhart Central. Senior Ryan Evans took the mound for the Panthers. He struck out nine and picked up his second win of the season. Evans helped his own cause by hitting a single, a double, and knocking in two RBI's. Junior Andy Cenkush had two singles and three RBI's for the win.

The Panthers' next game was a contest at Coveleski Regional Stadium against Clay in a battle for the top spot in the NIC. Sophomore Tony Mathews pitched an excellent game for the Panthers, and they used a balanced offensive attack that enabled them to come out victorious, 5-3.

The Panthers returned to Coveleski two nights later to play a night game against Adams. Evans returned to the mound for WHS and totally shut down Adams' bats. Evans didn't allow a hit until the fifth inning and didn't allow a runner to reach second base until the Eagles posed a worthless rally in the seventh inning.

As for offense, it wasn't much of a problem for the powerful WHS lineup as they scored in five of the seven innings and again used a balanced attack, which, along with Evans' pitching, secured a Panther shutout, 8-0.

With a 6-1 record and a six-game winning streak, the Panthers hosted an early morning double-header against visiting McCutcheon. In the first game, junior Todd Bella pitched an outstanding

game to lead the Panthers to an easy 3-1 victory. Senior and Clemson recruit Matt Wood helped out the pitcher with a two-run homerun in the fourth, and WHS used great defense to shut down the Mavericks' offense, whose only run came on an unimportant solo homerun with two outs in the last inning to break up Bella's shutout.

The second game wasn't as good for a Panther squad which was playing their third game in less than 16 hours. Pure fatigue and poor fielding led to an 11-1 defeat in which the Panthers managed only three hits and one run, which came in the first inning.

Tomaszewski commented on the loss: "We had a mental letdown. They wanted to be able to say that they beat McCutcheon. They did that; but we had a mental letdown, and it cost us a victory."

After their blistering week, which included five games and four wins, the Panthers stood with a record of 7-2 and a 3-0 conference record. This put them on top of the standings.

The Panthers' next opponent was Riley, and after a heavy downpour the day before, the team had to travel to soggy Jackson Field for a game against the Wildcats. Mathews started the game for the Panthers, but was relieved by Bella in the third when Riley had loaded the bases with only one out. Bella came in with three balls and no strikes on the batter, one bad pitch away from walking in a run.

It was not to be for the Wildcats as Bella came in and shut them down by striking out the first batter and getting the next to pop up to first base. "It was like a dream," Bella said, "to come in a situation like that and get out of the inning. It felt good."

It may have been a fine moment for Bella, but it was actually a spark plug for the Panthers, as they went on to earn the hard-fought victory, 5-3, and preserve first place in the conference.

"Todd has really stepped up this year. He has gone from not even being in the lineup and being our number four pitcher to hitting close to .500 and challenging for the number one-spot in our rotation," said Tomaszewski.

Penn, the defending NIC champ, came to Redling Field to face the Panthers just one day after the energetic win over Riley. The music was playing early, and the Panthers were pumped, ready to knock off the powerful Kingsmen.

Evans went back to the mound with a 3-0 record and an unblemished ERA of 0.00, probably due to the fact that Evans had pitched 25 innings, had not given up a earned run and had struck out 39 batters, a team high. Penn, however, took advantage of Evan's slumping fastball and put a run on the board early. The Panther offense responded, with their first four batters scoring and giving WHS a comfortable 4-1 lead. The four-run firstinning was capped off by Mathews' two-run homerun.

Penn responded by rocking Evans in the third.

Then, mainly due to the fact that he gave up back-to-back homers, Evan was pulled in favor of Bella who came in and retired the next batter to get out of the inning with only a one-run deficit as the Panthers trailed 6-5.

WHS then used clutch hitting and smart base running to build a four-run lead going into the last inning. Mathews relieved Bella; with one out and a man on first, he proceeded to walk the next two batters and load the bases.

It was all she wrote as Bella re-entered with a 2-0 count on the batter. It was Riley all over again. Bella got the clean-up hitter to hit a line drive right back at him.

After he knocked it down, he made an errant throw to first, which was dropped by the first baseman. An attempt to throw out a runner at third was overthrown, and two more runs came in to score. Then it was tied. A four-run lead had been blown.

Bella struck out the next batter and got the next to fly to shortstop; the inning was over. The score was tied at 11. The Panthers had one more chance, one chance to redeem themselves and pull out a win. Evans led off the inning with a single and advanced to second when sophomore Jamal Henry reached on a bunt.

After Wood struck out, Mathews drew an intentional walk; the stage was set. Hot-hitting Cenkush stepped to the plate with the game on the line. He made contact with a chopper to second, which was fumbled by the second baseman. He recovered, however, and barely threw out Cenkush at first.

Due to darkness, the game was over. After a horrible defensive seventh inning, the Panthers escaped with a tie and a one-game lead on the rest of the conference.

Even after the tie, attitudes remained positive as the Panthers prepared for the upcoming three-game week against Mishawaka, LaSalle, and Elkhart Memorial.

"This could be one of the best teams I've had," said Tomaszewski. "We have a better batting average and a better ERA than a lot of my best teams. We have good chemistry, but we can't afford to have a mental letdown like we had against McCutcheon. We're number one. A lot of these players don't know what it's like to be number one. Everyone is out to get us and we've got to play our best each time out. We can't have a letdown."

They haven't so far and at deadline, due to a Penn loss to Riley and a Mishawaka loss to Central, WHS holds a two-game lead over all competition in the conference, a position which Tomaszewski is happy to be in.

The Panthers play Adams at home on May 2, and Riley at home on May 4.

Wins produce championships, and right now the Panthers are winning. Don't be surprised if this trend continues. □

# Golfers off to slow start

By **Ryan Hanyzewski**  
Sports Writer

The golf team will be in full swing with three returning letter winners.

Senior Dan Kopczyński, junior Ryan Hanyzewski, and sophomore Drew Griffis will lead the way in the top three spots for the Panthers.

One problem, however, is that the Panthers will have to fill the shoes of Kevin Kaminkas, who was first team all-conference for the past two years, and former most valuable golfer in the Northern Indiana Conference (NIC). Matt Ladewski, who was a four-year letter winner, also graduated.

"We have a very strong incoming class, but not all of them are freshmen; we also have a junior and a few sophomores who can compete for varsity this year," said Coach Milt Cooper.

There are five golfers currently competing for two varsity positions: junior Mike Szymarek, sophomores Paul Czajkowski, and Kyle Basker, along with freshmen Andy Petersen and Jeff Oltmanns.

It will be very competitive for the varsity slots, and that will help the team to play in varsity matches by competing amongst each other in practice.

"It is a match atmosphere every day, and the pressure will help me to compete in matches," said Basker.

Even with the three returning letter winners, the Panthers will need two others to step up in order to compete with any team in the city, let alone powerhouses Clay and Penn.

"Clay finished eighth in the state two years ago with freshmen and sophomores; now they are juniors and seniors and they will be very tough to beat," said

Kopczyński.

The golf team is coming off the best season since 1968.

Last year the Panthers went 12-3 and missed regionals as a team by just seven strokes. All three returning letter winners were within three strokes of individually qualifying for the regionals.

In the first match of the year, the Panthers hosted the Jimtown Jimmies. WHS cruised to a 1-0 record by smoking the Jimmies by 34 strokes. The Panthers fired a 167 to Jimtown's 201.

"We are going to need to be around 160 or better as a team to compete with the powerhouses in the NIC, but I am fairly pleased with a 167 in these weather conditions," commented Cooper after the victory.

Kopczyński led the Panthers with a 39, followed by Hanyzewski and Griffis, who both fired a 42. Czajkowski and Basker both shot a 44 to wrap up their first victory of the year. The decisions only got tougher for Cooper in this match, as Petersen and Szymarek shot 42 and 44 respectively.

The competition for the varsity slots seems to be getting more and more difficult every day.

The 167 fired this year beats last year's mark by six strokes.

This is a positive sign for the Panthers, who are looking to improve on a 12-3 record of last season.

The Panthers then had a match at Sprig O' Mint Golf Club against the Bremen Lions. The Panthers hopefully got their bad match out of the way as Griffis ballooned from a 42 in the first match to a 51, and Kopczyński, a medalist in the first match, fired a 48.

Hanyzewski led the Panthers with a 40, two

shots better than the previous match in the windy conditions at Sprig O' Mint.

Basker was second on the team with a 45, and Petersen was third with a 47.

"I got my bad round out of the way, and now I am ready to fire low in the NIC," said Griffis.

Despite playing poorly as a team, the Panthers moved to 2-0.

The Panthers' next match was against the Clay Colonials and the Elkhart Memorial Chargers.

The Panthers were overwhelmed by the Colonials, but Memorial just squeaked out with a victory over the Panthers.

Griffis got it together to shoot a 39, but he still was defeated by six shots by the defending state champ Wilkinson, who fired at the flags all day and shot a three under 33.

It was down hill from there as Hanyzewski shot a 44, and Szymarek and Basker came in with 45 and 46 respectively.

A bright spot for the Panthers was Petersen, who shot a 42 to finish the match with a disappointing 170.

"Griffis came in well, and so did Petersen. We need the older players to step it up a little more," said Cooper in response to the frustrating loss.

"We have a lot of talented kids. If we can all play to our potential and work hard, we will be a force to be reckoned with," said assistant coach Ken Czajkowski.

The Panthers are currently a disappointing 2-2.

The Panthers' next match is the South Bend Invitational on Sat., May 4, at the South Bend Country Club. □

## Panthers begin season with clean slate

By **Jenny Hess**  
Staff Writer

The girls' tennis team began their season with a clean slate; the only thing the team can do is improve after last year's record of 0-12. They can do no worse than this losing streak, and many members think this is the year for a comeback.

Both junior Vanessa Whitmer and sophomore Jocie Orlowski agree that this is a building year. "I feel we will improve, because this year we have more structure to our program," commented Orlowski.

"We are still building, but I can already see improvement from last year. Good coaches have helped with this improvement," said Whitmer.

For the last three years, each new season has brought a new coach. This year Theo Kok was added to help Coach Daryl Boykins in his second year of coaching girls tennis.

Orlowski said, "Both coaches are very helpful. Theo is awesome, and Boykins is great." Whitmer agreed and added, "Theo has helped immensely for being a new addition to the coaching staff this year."

Boykins thinks that this is a year for improvement: "We have promising underclassmen who, with a little extra practice, could be very good in the future. With more practice, the team could be more competitive." He added that he thinks the returning members

have improved: "I can see the improvement when I watch them play against tough competitors."

Even with good leaders and an excellent coaching staff, practices are not always guaranteed to be successful. Due to less than desirable weather, practices have been difficult. Location changes were also sometimes necessary, so that the team could practice indoors.

"Not having practice as often as the other teams has probably set us a little behind," said Whitmer.

At the Panthers' first match against LaVille, the weather again was a factor, as the wind made playing difficult. Sophomore Michelle Goodsell said, "I felt very nervous and upset, because the wind messed me up."

Freshman Carly Northam said that for her first game she didn't do too badly: "I've practiced in the wind, so that wasn't as bad as being nervous and being faced with playing against two people whose abilities I wasn't comfortable with the first time."

The Panthers' second match was against Elkhart Central where they were again defeated. "I played better than I did last time. I felt more comfortable with what I was doing," commented Goodsell.

The Panthers' first home match was against Clay. "Being at home always seems to make me feel more secure about my playing," said sophomore Samantha Anderson.

"I can tell that I'm improving," said Whitmer. "This is the first match I have won this season."

In their second home match, which was against Jimtown, many of the games improved. Although the team didn't win the match as a whole, individuals and doubles teams improved their scores. Many won for the first time. The final score was 2-3.

As it is with many other sports, the varsity lineup is always subject to change. Boykins tries to rotate players around, so that as many players as possible can letter.

"I think it's good that he does his best to make sure that all the seniors letter," said senior Carol DeGeeter.

The team is led by senior captains DeGeeter, Stephanie Schwander, and Megan Nungesser. Goodsell said that these captains and other older members are helpful in many ways.

This year's other returning members are seniors Christina Creech, Patty Painter, Tiffany Schoen; junior Kathy Chan; sophomores Jenny Hess, Alisha Howard, Kathy Lute; and freshmen Barbara Bandera, Lisa Clark, and Kristen Orlowski.

Kristen Orlowski said, "I enjoy tennis very much; it gives me something to look forward to at the end of the day."

The Panthers will play May 2 at home against Mishawaka. □

# Track team optimistic about season

By **Brian Schoonaert**  
Sports Writer

The boys' track team has a very positive outlook on this season. How can this be after last year's disappointing season? Last year the Panthers barely had enough players to field a team.

This year they have a varsity team and a junior varsity team. With a full team comes a better opportunity for victory.

"We are going to restore the track team to former glory," said an optimistic Coach Joel Beckmen. "Our goal is to make Washington the area track power that it should be."

Before the season actually began, WHS took part in the South Bend Classic, an indoor event that takes place at Notre Dame.

The meet has participants from every school in the city. Unfortunately, WHS finished an extremely disappointing last. The Panthers scored only 13 total points. The team was discouraged after the bad finish, but they were determined not to let the trend continue into the regular season.

"The team was really upset after the Classic, but Coach Beckmen got us refocused in a hurry and we were really pumped for the season to start," said sophomore Brian Maslowski, one of the many new members of the team.

In the team's first meet of the season, the Panthers took on LaSalle, who finished three spots higher than WHS in the Classic and were favored to win the meet by everyone but the Panthers. WHS dominated the meet with nine first-place finishes and 10 second-place finishes.

In the 110 high hurdles, freshman Sam Burris finished first with a time of 17.5, and freshman Ken Palmer came in second with 18.1. The 1,600 meter event was won by freshman Tim Pehlke with a time of 5:28.

Sophomore Tyron Anderson placed a close second with a time of 5:30. In the 400 meter run, senior Kevin Kepler won, just beating senior teammate Chad Wlodorek by a fraction of a second.

Burris also finished first in the 300 low

hurdles with a time of 44.7. In the pole vault, senior Josh Comeau cleared a height of nine feet to win the event.

The Panthers also got second places in the 200 meter dash, the 3,200 meter run, long jump, high jump, and discus competitions.

Senior Lamont Preston also placed first in the shot-put event and said, "I have a really good feeling about this year's team. For the first time in years, we actually have a full team. With these new players, I think that we may actually have a chance at a sectional victory this season."

Preston threw for 35.5 feet against LaSalle and hopes to throw over 40 feet by the end of the season. The Panthers went on to win the meet by a score of 93-35.

The Panthers now have the momentum that they hope will drive them on during the regular season. Now that the Panthers have a full team, it could mean trouble for many other teams out there.

The Panthers' next meet is May 2 at Clay. The Colonials could be in for a long day. □

# Softball slugging away to quick start

By **Drew Griffis**  
Sports Writer

The girls' softball team hit the diamond early this spring trying to get in shape for a long season ahead.

Last season, the girls were one game short of making it to the semi-state round in the state tournament. They hope to have that kind of success again this year.

To enjoy a good season, the Panthers must find a way to replace varsity letter winners Zayed Henry, Amy Wimberly, and Bridgette Martin who graduated last year. This year's team is very young and has a lot of hard work ahead of them.

The team is led by three senior letter-winners: Jamie Infalt, who received honorable mention all-state honors as a pitcher, Rhonda Montgomery, and Erin Maenhout.

Junior letter winner Nicole Drabecki will also play a large role in the team's success. Drabecki received pre-season third team all-conference honors.

These four will not be able to do it by themselves as the freshmen and sophomores will have to step it up a notch in order to compete.

"The girls have a very good chance of doing well this season. I've really enjoyed working with this group, because they are all

very hard workers who give their best every day," said head coach Scott Biesel.

"The team has potential to be more successful this season than last; everyone gets along well and wants to win," said Drabecki.

After winning their opening game against Niles, the Panthers' next game was played at St. Joe in freezing cold temperatures.

The Indians came out with a 5-0 victory behind masterful work by their ace pitcher, and a four-run fourth inning.

Sophomore Sarah Wood broke up a no-hitter with one out in the fifth inning.

After the game Biesel said, "St. Joe was mentally tougher than us. The game should not have been played at all because of the weather conditions."

Drabecki also pointed out the cold weather, and she said that it's hard to play softball in a snowstorm. Infalt struck out eight in a losing effort.

The girls won their following game, 9-7 over Jimtown. Maenhout, Drabecki, and freshman Brooke Baumgartner each had two hits. Freshman Rianne Litka smacked a double, and sophomore Courtney Nawrot got her first win of the season.

"I don't feel we played as well as we can yet this season, but that's a sign of a good team if you can win without playing your best," said

Nawrot.

The Panthers then fell in a tough game against Elkhart Central by the score of 3-1 and impressively rebounded with a victory over the New Prairie Cougars.

Next, the Panthers played a home game against Clay. Montgomery scored the first run on a suicide squeeze, and Maenhout scored another off a double by sophomore Sarah Wood to take a 2-1 lead over the Colonials.

A one-run cushion was all Infalt needed, she mowed down Clay batters one after another en route to a two hitter. Freshmen Angie Ludwig, Litka, and Drabecki each had a double.

Next, the girls played at Marian. The Panthers could only manage to score one run in this game off a double by Maenhout.

Once again, however, Infalt saved the day with masterful pitching, as she hurled a one-hit shutout. With the victory, she improved her record to three wins and two losses.

The team currently stands at 5-2 and 2-1 in the Northern Indiana Conference.

"The last three games the girls have played very well defensively. They have only committed one error, and the pitching staff is doing very well also," said Biesel. "The team has very good chemistry, and everyone is contributing to our success."

The Panthers' next game is against rival Adams on Tues., May 7. □

# Today's athlete--role model or just another sports celebrity

By **Mitchell Otolski**  
Sports Writer

## Cochese in Charge



Every year professional athletes are paid an average annual salary of one million dollars to play the sport in which they excel. In turn we as the fans tune in, or if we are able to buy tickets, attend the games. With all of the publicity and air time that these athletes receive, should they be considered role models?

This question arose in the late 80's from an incident involving Charles Barkley of the Philadelphia 76ers. While trying to save a ball from going out of bounds, Barkley spit into the face of a fan who was sitting underneath the basket when Barkley was unable to save it. The National Basketball Association took actions against Barkley but only charged him a punitive fine with no suspension. In the present day, these actions by players have evolved for the worst.

One of the biggest problems with athletes today is drugs. Two incidents occurred in the first week of April alone.

Bam Morris, a back up running back for the Pittsburgh Steelers, was caught with six pounds of marijuana. Morris has been suspended indefinitely from the Steelers for his actions.

Just one month ago, Michael Irvin, of the world-champion Dallas Cowboys, was found by Dallas police two days before his 30th birthday with his best friend in a hotel room that contained marijuana, co-

caine, and two prostitutes. Irvin has not professed his innocence; his only comments have been directed to his family and the National Football League officials saying that he does not have a drug problem.

Finally, Mike Tyson, the World Boxing Council heavyweight champion of the world, was recently accused of allegedly sexually battering a woman in a club while he was visiting Chicago. Tyson, who was just released in March of 1995 from an Indiana prison where he spent three years for a rape conviction, had no comment at the time he was approached.

Is the fast-paced lifestyle of stardom destroying some athletes? These questions can only be answered by the athletes themselves. Should athletes be judged individually or as a group?

Athletes, will, if good deeds are done, be considered role models for young America.

Take a look at Chris Zorich of the Chicago Bears. He donates 97 food baskets on Thanksgiving and Christmas (97 being his playing number) to families that live in the inner city of Chicago where Chris was raised by his single mother, Zora. Along with the food donations, Chris frequents the local hospitals in search of kids who could use some love. He also donates tickets for all of the home games to the needy kids.

In the world of athletics, good and bad will always be a comparison. The job of the fans is to root out the players who do not have the morals of role models and acknowledge the players with high moral values. □

## Sports Profile



**Name:** Rebecca Wilfing  
**Birthdate:** Sep. 1, 1978  
**Nickname:** Pro-Becky  
**Sports Played:** Soccer and track  
**Awards and Achievement:** Captain of soccer team, both junior and senior years; All-NIC for soccer  
**Role Model:** My father  
**Hobbies:** Jogging and reading  
**Favorite food:** Quiche  
**Favorite TV show:** *X-Files*  
**Favorite Musician:** Harry Connick, Jr.  
**Favorite Sports Teams:** Notre Dame women's soccer team, San Jose Clash (major league soccer)  
**What I love about school:** Time to be with friends  
**What I hate about school:** Homework  
**Greatest athletic moment:** Senior night against LaSalle, scored three goals and won the game, 3-1  
**My parents were right when they told me:** I can do anything I set my mind to.  
**Prized Possession:** Soccer cleats  
**Most embarrassing moment:** Cursing very loudly during a soccer game and getting a yellow card  
**If I won the lottery, I'd:** Pay my bills and buy a '96 Camaro  
**Biggest Fear:** College  
**Wildest Dream:** Becoming an actress  
**Pre-Game Rituals:** Track, talk to my father; soccer cheer: "Mark tight, play tough, kick butt."  
**What turns me off:** Laziness  
**What turns me on:** Confidence  
**Person I'd like to meet:** Director and actor Gary Sinise  
**Advice to others:** Always try your best in everything, and it will pay off.  
**In 20 years I see myself:** As an FBI agent in homicide for our government.

# TRACK 16

## Hootie & the Blowfish Fairweather Johnson

Most everyone is familiar with Hootie and the Blowfish and their last album *Cracked Rear View*. If not, I strongly suggest you become familiar with it. It is the best album put out by the band, and until the 22nd, it was also the only album put out by the band.

It features songs like *Only Wanna Be With You* and *Hold My Hand*. No other band can claim music like this: these are classics and all "Hootie."

Their first album made listeners want to move with the music; this is something that makes a song stand out from the rest. As for the new CD, I don't know what it is, but it's definitely not classic in any definition of the word.

On April 22, at exactly midnight, their new album made its debut in stores all

across town. *Fairweather Johnson* is now available just about everywhere-- although I don't know why anyone would want to buy it.



Many Hootie fans will flock to the "Blow"fish; this is an accurate name, because that is exactly what this album does. The songs do not appeal to the listener, and the listener



constantly feels like he is listening to the same songs over and over. Examples of this are *Old Man & Me* and *Fool*. The lyrics are hard to understand, and many of the songs are made from nearly the exact same melody.

These are some of the most monotonous and tedious "tunes" I have ever heard. Like the song, one would be a "fool" to buy this CD.

It is this reporter's opinion that if you were to buy this album, you would be wasting your money, your time, and your patience in the process.

-B.P.

# THE USHERS

By Hans Oldgerman and Dennis Gdansk  
Special Guest Guys

The opinions voiced in this column are not necessarily those of the HATCHET staff. We'd also like to stress that Hans and Dennis are real humans, though any attempt to uncover their identities will result in an "unpleasant" visitation from a hired, weenie computer-nerd.



DENNIS: Are you looking for romance? How about a long drawn-out love scene? Partial nudity? Well, if you are, then *The Usual Suspects* isn't for you.

HANS: I've never seen a better movie for suspense, intrigue, and downright violence.

DENNIS: *The Usual Suspects* is one of those films that gets you to believe you have the whole mystery figured out, and then at the end, it leaves you sitting there with your jaw scraping the floor. Hey, has that bruise on your chin healed yet, Hans?

HANS: Still hurts, but it's getting better! First, I must apologize for my dim-witted and long-winded friend here.

DENNIS: I should have killed you with that

stale movie theatre popcorn when I had the chance.

HANS: Don't get off the subject, nimrod.

DENNIS: Sorry, my fault, but when I get going....

HANS: Oh, well, back to the movie. It is a little confusing at first, because the time frame keeps changing. After about the first 10 minutes, the movie gets exciting and keeps you on the edge of your seat from then on.

DENNIS: Talk about long winded. Anyway, the movie features Chazz Palminteri as tough U.S. Customs agent, Daniel Kujan. The movie also contains five low-down NY hoods (Kevin Spacey, Kevin Pollack, Stephen Baldwin, Gabriel Byrne, and Benicio Del Toro), who are hired by a shadowy lawyer to intercept a \$91 million drug shipment from a rival gang.

HANS: That drug shipment bit wasn't nearly as riveting as the part about Keyser Soze. Now who was he again?

DENNIS: Dipstick, he was the Italian hood who killed just about a million guys in revenge for the murder of his wife and kids. In the end you find out he was really....

HANS: Shut Up! You'll spoil the ending of the movie. "Verbal" Klint (Spacey) was the best character. It was great how he was made to spill

the beans about Soze.

DENNIS: Almost the entire movie is recounted by Klint to Kujan (Palminteri). It is one of the best detailed descriptions of the exploits of NY hoods I've ever seen.

HANS: Well, that's about it. My partner and I feel anybody who likes mysteries should rent this movie.

DENNIS: Can I tell them how it ends now? PLEASE??

HANS: OK, tell them.

DENNIS: Alright, the real Soze is....

WHACK!!

HANS: I changed my mind. You'll just have to watch it yourself and see. □

## Hans & Dennis's Top 5 Jaw Droppers

1. *The Usual Suspects*
2. *Primal Fear*
3. *Seven*
4. *12 Monkeys*
5. *Sneakers*