

THE WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL
HATCHET

DECEMBER 1995

Dating in the 90's:

times have changed, and so has your role



See the Feature article, pages
8 & 9



Should females pay on dates?



"No, if you take someone out, you should pay. After all, you are treating them."

Freshman
Kyle Folk



"I think that the guy should always pay."

Sophomore
Pablo Garcia



"No, the guys should always pay on a date."

Junior
Sara Young



"If a guy takes a girl out, then he should pay. But if the girl asks the guy, then she should pay."

Senior
Jill Turczynski

January

Are you ready to ring in the new year? Jan. 1 is **New Year's Day**. Have fun at all the New Year's Eve parties, Panthers, but party safe and smart.

Classes will resume from **winter break** on **Jan. 8**. We will be attending classes 5-8, **White Day**.

Sorry, Panthers, but only one **candy sale** is scheduled for January. The **cheerleaders** will sponsor a sale from Jan. 8-15. On the upside, however, this should help out all those with New Year's resolutions to drop some pounds.

January is a short month as far as classes go. In addition to winter break, we will be free from classes on **Jan. 15** for the celebration of **Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday**. There is also no school on **Jan. 19** for the **end of the semester**. **Jan. 30** will be a **half day**, so make your plans now to sleep late, and relax.

Attention all music enthusiasts! The **district solo and ensemble** contest for **band and orchestra** will be held **Jan. 27**. The contest for the **choir** will be held on **Jan. 13**. Unfortunately, there will be no duets this year. So, clean out those pipes, limber up those fingers, and get ready to compete against the best of the best.

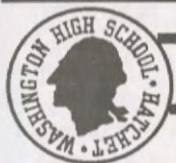
Yet another chance to take the SAT and ACT is here. Clear out all of those useless bits of information and brush up on the little known facts of the parabola. The **ACT** is held on **Feb. 3** and the **registration dates** are **Jan. 5** for the **regular** and **Jan. 19** for the **late**. The **SAT** test date is **Jan. 27**, and the **registration dates** were **Dec. 21** for the **regular** and **Dec. 22-Jan. 3** for the **late**.

January is full of sporting events, including three **boys' basketball** home games. Check out your green notebook, the morning announcements, and home newsletters for details of sports and times.



Artist: Eric Seibenaler

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On the cover: Who's picking up the bill? Cover by Mark Sniadecki

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Support is appreciated

Dear Editor,

As a part of the Class of 1997, I would like to thank the staff and students that have helped us to make our paper recycling project a success. Because of all your efforts we are able not only to raise money, but we are also cleaning up our school and helping the environment.

When we first started planning this project, we weren't sure if it would be successful. Our doubts were soon erased, however, by the support of the staff and students. I especially would like to thank Mr. Kaser for helping us to make this project effective. I'd like everyone to remember that this is a year-long project. We will appreciate your continued support. Thank you all once again.

Heather Stokes
junior

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.

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

Suspension: There is a way out

by Keyna Langhofer & Kathy Lute
News Writers

Instead of three days home suspension for excessive attendance problems and minor behavior problems, students and their guardians have an alternative. It is the new way to keep students in school: community service.

This program provides students who are suspended with the opportunity to spend a few hours helping out at various businesses and return to school the next day instead of missing two to three more days. It's strictly an option. It is not the student's choice alone, however, as their parents also have a say.

The YWCA and YMCA, the Parks and Recreation department, Western Branch Library, Goodwill, St. Joseph Care Center, and Transitional Health Services have volunteered to give students work. Jobs vary from helping out in the YMCA day care to general maintenance for the Parks and Recreation department.

Lois, an anonymous student who participated in community service, spent her day shelving and checking in books at the library. She said the work "made me feel good about myself, and I would definitely do it again."

Students are placed according to their means of transportation and what businesses are available that day. No more than one student is sent to each site at the same time. The students' skills and interests are also taken into consideration.

The goals of the program are to get students to come to class and school on time, to return them to school as soon as possible, and to give them something constructive to do when they are out of school.

According to Clark, another anonymous student, the program works.

"I've learned my lesson; getting into trouble is just not worth it." Clark spent the day cleaning bathrooms and raking leaves for the Parks and Recreation department. Though he doesn't plan on it, he said he would opt for community service if given the choice again.

WHS is the first South Bend school to have the community service option, and remains the only one to provide its students with this opportunity.

Principal David Kaser said, "Suspending a student who is a truancy problem is like giving candy to a child who is misbehaving." According to Kaser, parents do not want their teens to stay home without adult supervision.

The Parks and Recreation department also thinks this program will have a positive influence on students. Assistant recreation director, Susan O'Connor, said, "I think this program is a great idea. It gives students an opportunity to experience what it is like to be in a working environment."

The views of the teachers at WHS vary. Science teacher Cathy Baker remarked, "I think it's really a good program. That way, at least they are doing something constructive instead of sitting around home watching TV, or having a party, or whatever they do when they are out of school."

Geometry teacher Carolyn Peterson said, "It is still too early to tell if the

program will work, though I am certain it will."

Social studies teacher Constance Green believes, "It benefits the image of the school more than the behavior of the student."

Student opinions include that of freshman Chris Glenn: "Most kids don't care if they go to school or not.

So if they have to go to school and be punished at the same time, they might learn a lesson."

Senior Carol DeGeeter said, "I don't think it will work because most kids will want to stay out of school, and their parents might not care what they do. It just depends on the student."

"I think that community service is a good idea because it keeps the kids working with something and helping people instead of sitting around at home on suspension," is sophomore Kevin Marek's opinion of the program.

Not only those who have attendance or behavior problems need to think about community service. It is possible that the program will be required for graduation in the near future, perhaps within the next year or two. Community service already is a requirement for National Honor Society, student council, and multi-cultural society members.



Placing students in a positive environment where they can experience the realities of the work world is a helpful way to stress the importance of a high-school education. The students are able to experience the kind of jobs that they might end up having unless they get an education, such as unskilled labor. They also are exposed to managing and other types of work that they'll never have without one.

Connie Nicely, the supervisor of the Western Branch Library, has worked with community service programs for 10 years and is generally pleased with the outcome of them. "I've had nine students so far this year and they all had very good attitudes. Everyone was cooperative and willing to follow instructions first time given," said Nicely.

Peers helping peers resolve conflicts

By Erin Coleman and Nichole Kaufman
Staff Writers

Two best friends, Denise and Renee, are starting to disrupt their third-hour English class with their heated argument about Denise's suspicion that her boyfriend was cheating on her with Renee. Two doors down, Jacob and Chuck are causing tension within the walls of their AP math class, over Jacob spreading rumors about Chuck's girlfriend.

Before any physical violence breaks out, these students can be helped to work through their problems by the members of Peer Mediation, a program designed to help students resolve conflicts.

Social worker and sponsor Mary Lahey said, "The purpose of Peer Mediation is to resolve conflicts before they escalate into something more serious."

Principal David Kaser said, "If we can eliminate potential conflicts in the hallway, we can reduce or stop student fights. We hope that young people will understand that violence is not the way to resolve conflicts, and that will make school a safer place for all of us."

Nine staff members sponsor this program: Mary Lahey, Donna Krol, Amelia Munoz, Sue Paulin, Joel Krueger, Jeanne Ciuksha, Mike Sacchini, Shirley Golichowski, and Leanne Swintz. Lahey, Krol, and Munoz were chosen because of their previous training and interest and the remaining six were chosen because of their interest as well.

Sixty students, chosen by their teachers last year, joined 60 students from Riley High School, for a two-day workshop at the Century Center. The money for this training came from a grant that Riley received.

Before a mediation takes place the two disputants have to sign referral forms agreeing to mediation, thus making the process strictly voluntary.

Several questions are presented in the forms concerning the disputants' feelings about the mediators. Lahey said, "We don't want to

put the mediators in the middle of friends; even though it is possible to remain neutral, they're not going to be perceived as being neutral by somebody that knows the other disputant is their best friend."

Mediators and disputants will conduct the mediations as soon as possible. A room has been set up solely for the purpose of Peer Mediation.

The referral forms will be given to teachers, counselors, and administrators to distribute when needed upon request or suggestion.

Once the forms are turned in, Lahey will choose the mediators, randomly or according to the form, and set up an appointment.

Computer instructor Janet Buda said, "Because of the problems kids have today, they need to talk to others. They might feel more comfortable talking to a peer than an adult."

Science teacher Burt Gates thinks that the program is a step in the right direction because it will show students that their peers care about them.

A script is used to guide the mediators during mediations. The script was given to WHS by Jackson Middle School and has been revised to better meet the needs of high-school students.

The mediation begins when the two sets of students, the disputants and the mediators are introduced, along with the purpose of the program, and the plan that will be followed. Next, the rules are discussed which each individual has to agree to in order to follow through with the session. Finally each disputant gets to tell his/her side of the story with no interruption, one of the rules agreed to beforehand. Then both get to tell each other how they feel about the conflict and talk about what they need from one another to solve the conflict.

Junior Kim Robak said, "I would use Peer Mediation because I'm not the kind of person that likes to fight, and I would want to talk my problems out."

The goal is for the disputants to reach an agreement that is solely theirs; the mediators do

not solve their problems. The mediators' purpose is to probe each person to get to the root of the problem and to make sure each person has an equal opportunity to talk. If the disputants do not reach an agreement, the session is ended and their problem is no longer dealt with by the mediators; the conflict goes unresolved and is corrected by the administrators if more problems occur.

The mediators will end the session as well, if there is any hint of violence. A teacher will always be nearby if any problems occur that the mediators cannot handle.

Sophomore Stacy Lindorf said her only concern about the program was that she thought it might put the mediators in a difficult situation.

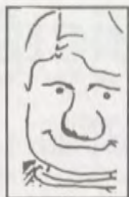
Sophomore mediator John Nyikos said, "I think we, the mediators, will keep it confidential, and it will be good as long as it is kept that way." Just as the disputants have rules, so do the mediators. They have a confidential code they must follow or else be terminated from the role of mediator.

After the consultation, the mediators will talk to one of the sponsors about what went on during that time. After this they will no longer talk about the session to anyone.

Kaser said, "We hope young people will understand that there is a better way to resolve conflicts than fighting. If they understand how to resolve conflicts as teenagers, maybe it will carry on into adult life. We hope students understand that just because you're upset with somebody or you don't like what they're doing, it doesn't give you a right to physically assault them. We need to understand that we have to respect people as people. We hope this learning process will carry on into their adult lives."

Spanish teacher Joel Krueger said, "Well, I think in today's society, people don't know how to settle small conflicts, let alone large conflicts, before things get out of hand. I think this is something great, so that the kids can learn to talk it out before something serious happens physically." □





Derek Dabrowiak

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.



Kim Harness

The Issue: Title IX Reform

Title IX is the National Collegiate Athletic Association rule which states that colleges receiving federal funding must have equal scholarship representation and financial spending for both men's and women's sports. It was passed by the Supreme Court in 1972.

Ever since Title IX was put into effect, a debate has existed over how to make sure that both men and women are equally represented in all aspects of college sports. Many schools are finding it difficult to offer an equal number of sports for both sexes without cutting funding from the other sports.

"They then choose to comply with the rule in one of three ways: A school can either spend more money on women's sports, pare away at football, or cut low-profile men's sports, like wrestling. More and more colleges are choosing the last of those options. As colleges attempt to comply with the law, they shouldn't be slackening their commitment to minor men's sports; civil rights statutes are supposed to lift disadvantaged groups, not lower others to disadvantaged status" (*Sports Illustrated*, Oct. 25, 1993).

One solution would be to make college football programs exempt from complying with the NCAA's rule that the number of male to female athletes currently receiving a scholarship at a school is in ratio with the student body as a whole. This is to say that since Division I-A football teams have an average total of 85 scholarship players on each team with some teams having as many as 130, they would be better off not being counted towards the school's total number of athletes. This would allow the schools to provide more of an opportunity for the low-profile sports to acquire scholarships and become more prominent in the college sporting world.

Many people who favor cutting college football programs do not realize that 111 of the NCAA football programs bring a profit back to their school (*Sports Illustrated*, Feb. 6, 1992). This increased income allows the school to provide an even greater opportunity to increase spending on women's sports.

In light of all of the facts mentioned above, many people still insist that college football is an "overfed sacred cow" (*Sports Illustrated*, Oct. 25, 1993). Football is one of the few sports in college that is at least partially self-supporting. Cutting school funding would decrease the revenue that the sport brings in because they would not be able to field as successful of a team as they could have with continued support.

As former Michigan State head football coach George Perles stated, "You can't bite the hand that feeds you. If you cut and cut and cut, your product won't be worthwhile to sell to advertisers."

The other sports that benefit from their profit, would therefore, lose part of their funding also. Cutting a college football system which is at the present time successful is not the solution to the Title IX problem.

In conclusion, a solution to the problem is needed immediately. The solution must come from another source other than cutbacks in the existing sports programs.

When this legislation was enacted 24 years ago, the present day problems were unforeseen. Until a solution is found, a cease-fire in the current wars between the haves and the have-nots is not even a possibility.

Since the beginning of earthly existence, a battle has raged furiously to determine the rightful positions of female and male creatures among each of their individual societies. In our current society, one may witness traces of this age-old battle in the vivacious efforts of the feminine community to achieve undisputed equality.

These efforts have overcome many obstacles. Womyn (this is not a typing error, but an effort to defy the written conformation that "women" are second to men) continue to advance as time progresses; however, a few areas remain submerged in the pool of male dominance.

Athletics are one of those select areas that continue to drown in masculine waters. It is also the focus of the combined efforts of the government and womyn's equality groups.

In 1972, congress passed into law an amendment to secure equal opportunities for womyn to compete in sports at the intercollegiate level. Title IX of the Educational Amendment states that, "...no person in the U.S. shall, on the basis of sex be excluded from participation in, or denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any educational program or activity receiving federal aid."

With the conditions applied to schools by this amendment, colleges had to conduct financial overhauls of their sports programs. "To bring the totals of male and female athletics into balance, a school can either spend more money on women's (womyn's) sports, pare away at football, or cut low profile men's sports like wrestling. The majority of colleges are choosing the last of these three options, therefore angering many minor college men's sports." (*Sports Illustrated*, Feb. 6, '95)

These underdog men's sports are lobbying to have football treated as a separate entity. This is based on the belief that if the male athletes on the football team were not included in the ratio of male to female athletes, that it would allow more opportunities for the lower-profile sports.

To support this even further, some claim that the profits made from Division I-A football teams not only pays for themselves, but also underwrites womyn's sports. The truth is, that only about one-fifth of the NCAA's 554 football teams pay for themselves; one third of the programs in Division I-A are running an annual deficit that averages more than \$1 million (*Sports Illustrated*, Feb. 6, '95).

The argument to have football excluded from Title IX not only violates a constitutional amendment but also exemplifies how men are trying to bend the rules in order to preserve masculine dominance throughout the sports world. Neither the government nor the feminist community will succumb to these petty attempts at denying womyn the right to equality.

The advantages of athletic participation are even more evident today than when Title IX was initiated. According to the Institute for Athletics and Education, girls who participate in sports are three times more likely to graduate from high school, 80 percent less likely to have unwanted pregnancy, and 92 percent less likely to use drugs. The health benefits are also extensive. Studies are reporting that womyn who participate in sports lower their risk of breast cancer and reduce the chances of osteoporosis (Norma V. Cantu, U.S. Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights).

As feminist efforts continue to successfully eliminate the pools of male dominance, the status of womyn as equals in all aspects will rise. The feminist equality revolution has launched a full scale battle against sex discrimination, the opposition is foolish to resist and will inevitably be terminated.

Panthers

By Tim Hecklinski

A look behind Channel 1.



△ Juniors Ebony Nailon and Mindi Monroe run through the announcements one last time.

▷ Sophomore Philip Evans gets help on a camera from Channel 1 mentor, Mr. Swintz.



△ Senior Dave Podemski does the hard work of Channel 1, pushing buttons.

▽ Sophomore Alexandria Densmore sets up the cue cards for the announcers.



△ Sophomore Rolando DeLeon operates the camera while displaying eye contact.



Coupledome : Do you

by Jennifer Hess and
Olivia Jacobsen Reighter
Feature Writers

Dating is a good way to get acquainted with members of the opposite sex. It can be fun and a good learning experience. (Not that a good learning experience is the reason most teens date!) Dating someone doesn't mean a future marriage; it's just a groovy way to spend time with someone and gain experience in relationships. It is being with some one you care about and with whom you have things in common.

In this day and age, dating has be-

come much less formal and more relaxed. For many, this is a relief, but questions still tend to linger: Who should pay? Am I ready to make a commitment? Is he/she right for me?

When teenagers begin to date, it is a new stage in life for them as well as for their parents. Sometimes it's hard for parents to "let go." Suddenly an interrogation is aimed at the teen about their date: how did things go, when do they get to meet her/him, is he/she nice? Teens should relax, take a deep breath, and respond to each question honestly—parents are only voicing their concern. Communication is important when the teen begins to date because parents worry about and want what is best for their child.

Senior Jeff Kaser finds it easy to talk to his parents about his date. "They act normal about it; they don't make me feel like a little kid."

Taking time to let parents know about a date might make them more apt to let their child date more often. Sophomore Chrissy Borkowski said that her parents respect her decisions about guys.

Apparently more parents are as understanding as Borkowski's. Barry and Stella, the parents of junior Kathy Chan, said, "We've never had the problem of disliking one of our daughter's dates. We trust her judgment."

Many people said their parents expected to meet their date before the couple goes out. Most parents do this so they can actually put a face with a name to be able to recognize them in public. (Even if the teen would prefer that they didn't.) Senior Kelly Rupert said, "My mom wants to know if my date seems responsible and acts like a gentleman."

Before a relationship evolves, somehow two people have to find a way to get together. At least one person has to be seriously interested, but it usually works best when both agree that a more formal relationship should be started. This way nobody has to grow accustomed to the idea of being with this person.

While tradition says that the guy is supposed to initiate everything having to do with dating, THIS IS THE 90'S! A woman should feel free to go after anyone she wants to start a relationship with as long as it's okay with the guy. Girls shouldn't have to wait around for someone to ask them out.

Senior Kienast Wadley said, "It happens all the time. Sometimes they call and ask what I'm doing that weekend." Wadley also said that he thinks that it is good because the guy shouldn't always have to ask.

It's likely that the guy is just as nervous to ask her out as she is to ask him. Unless someone takes the initiative, the two people will never get together.

Even after the dreaded moment of asking someone out is over with, the first date, by itself, can be very stressful. Teenagers exert a great effort to impress their date when they go out for the first time, attempting to appear cool and confident even though they are sometimes very nervous. Senior Ed Jones said, "I was nervous because I didn't want to make a bad impression."

The fear of embarrassment and rejection often makes them hide their real personality from their dates. Most of the guys polled said that they weren't nervous at all on their first date. (Interpret this however you want, girls.)

People only discover their partner's true personality when the novelty of the first date wears off, and the couple becomes secure in their relationship.

Senior Carol Degeeter said that she and her boyfriend, senior Kevin Dixon, are like best friends: "We can tell each other anything." Dixon also thinks that their relationship is good.

As well as going out themselves, many teens enjoy setting their friends up on blind dates. The matchmaker should make sure the two people have several things in common even before they meet.

Sophomore Cody Donlon thinks that blind dates are "cool." After all, he was set

GUYS

(50 students polled)

Do you expect to pay?

YES ☒ 58%

NO ☐ 42%

If you are paying, should you be able to pick where you go?

YES ☒ 83%

NO ☐ 17%

Were you nervous on your first date?

YES ☒ 28%

NO ☐ 72%

Did your parents choose your dating age?

YES ☒ 78%

NO ☐ 22%

have what it takes?

GIRLS

(50 students polled)

Do you expect the guy to pay?

YES ☒ 58%

NO ☐ 42%

Is it common courtsey for your date to open doors/pull out chairs for you?

YES ☒ 80%

NO ☐ 20%

Does where you go depend on who's paying?

YES ☒ 23%

NO ☐ 77%

Do your parents expect to meet your date before you go out?

YES ☒ 77%

NO ☐ 23%

up with his girlfriend by her cousin Vanessa Whitmer. "The only problem is it's a long-distance relationship, so we don't get to talk or see each other as much as we'd like to."

Experts say that matchmakers should avoid arranging a date for a friend with some one they have dated in the past or may wish to date in the future. If a relationship develops, it could lead to a serious jealousy problem.

Even when a couple is not the product of a blind date, the guidelines are still very

similar. "If a couple doesn't have anything in common, the relationship won't last," said junior Brad Langhofer.

Relationships that involve two people at different stages of personal growth often do not survive. A guy who has recently been dumped by his girlfriend or a girl who has recently been dumped by her boyfriend is often eager to enter a rebound relationship with a friend. These relationships usually do not last and leave the friend hurt and confused, possibly destroying the friendship.

Many considerations should be weighed before dating a former boyfriend/girlfriend. The potential for the same problems to resurface is great unless they are discussed before restarting the relationship.

For a relationship to really work, the individuals need to share common values and morals. Both need to feel the same way about important ethical issues. If they do, it is most likely to begin the relationship on the right track. When two people have a lot in common, they can talk comfortably about many issues.

While dating can be fun, teens who are obsessed with finding a date put unnecessary pressure on themselves. Sitting home waiting for the phone to ring rather than going out with friends can cause the teen to miss out on a lot of fun. Teens need to change their attitudes toward the need to date and enjoy their own company and that of their friends. Having a boyfriend or girlfriend isn't everything, and it's important to remember that friends are there even after the breakup.

Sophomore Nicole Fenimore said, "I don't want a boyfriend because I don't have the time to give all my attention to him. I just want to concentrate on my school work and have fun with my friends."

Platonic relationships are important. These friends can be helpful when advice is needed about a relationship. Donlon remarked, "I enjoy the company of girls who are just my friends; they can give me advice on my relationship with my girl-

friend."

Whitmer agreed: "I like being with my guy friends; they keep me laughing when I'm feeling down about a relationship with another guy."

While both are fun to be with, female and male friends are very different: "A woman [friend] will rarely tell you something you don't want to hear; no matter how badly you need to hear it, unless you say it first. A male pal, however, will casually inform you over dinner that your boyfriend is a no-good tarantula—and then, in the next breath, order another sloppy joe" (*Cosmopolitan*, March '95)

For some people, however, it is difficult to be "just friends" with some one of the opposite sex. Platonic friendships evolve most naturally when there is an obvious, nonsexual avenue for the relationship to develop. "It's a question of trust: Can I trust you with my secrets and my sexuality, or will you use what you know to get at me—or to get me?" says psychologist Perry Treadwell, author of *Making Friends, Leaving Loneliness Behind*.

Patience, communication, and expression of needs can help a relationship survive as the two grow together. Chances are good that a relationship is going well when a couple feels comfortable together and can be themselves around each other. □



Believing in Santa can save children from world

'Tis the season to believe in Santa Claus. Many today are appalled at this thought. "Why believe in him?" they ask. The answer is simple—for the sake of love, hope, and the preservation of innocence.

Yes, Virginia, there was a Santa Claus. Saint Nicholas, or Santa Claus as he is more commonly known, was born in the fourth century at Panthera in Asia Minor, now Turkey. He is the patron saint of children, and is associated with Christmas because the season is traditionally a holiday for celebrating children, namely the Christ child.

Editorial

Many stories are connected with Saint Nicholas' life. He is said to have brought three murdered children back to life and rejoined them with their mother, rescued a ship in violent seas, saved innocent men from death, and ended a famine in Myra where he was a bishop. He also gave presents to the poor anonymously, which is where the method of gift giving originated.

When St. Nick died on Dec. 6, 343, a band of Italian thieves stole his body from its grave. The Turks offered \$1 million for the return of the saint's body, but to this day the body of St. Nicholas reposes in a silver sarcophagus sealed in a dungeon beneath the church of San Nicola in Bari, Italy.

Santa Claus came to America as the figurehead of Saint Nicholas on the prow of the ship bearing the first Dutch settlers to New Amsterdam. Through the years, the tale of St. Nicholas' generous nature has become known far and wide. On Christmas, gifts are given to children as well as adults, to remind us of the virtue of generosity and giving unselfishly. (Facts from Daughters of the American Revolution Magazine, Dec. 1971).

Christmas traditionally reflected all that is good in the human race. The hope for a better world, feelings of fellowship, and of love.

Today, however, many mis-celebrate this joyous holiday: the spending marathons at the malls, the fight for the perfect tree, and the "X"mas signs everywhere are a few examples of the decline in the knowledge of the holiday season.

The first Christmas brought to mankind the hope for a better world with the birth of the Christ child. This hope today lies in the hands of the children—who are said to inherit the earth.

Children are the most pure creatures in this world. This is because they haven't yet lost the ability to enjoy life through love, happiness, and goodness. Why do we try to rob them of their innocence?

A small child sits alone at his desk looking

forlornly at a cardboard cutout of Santa Claus. The young teacher asks him why he does not play with the other children. He answers simply, "There is no Santa Claus." Shocked by his early knowledge of this fact, she asks him where he learned this. "Billy told me," he answers with tears in his eyes. Sadly the teacher realizes that this small, innocent child has just learned from a spiteful youngster, too knowledgeable for his years, that there is no longer a Santa Claus.

This ugly realization breaks the spell of the child's dreams of a perfect world. When one is a child, one needs the security of a kind and caring world. The early awakening from this dream forces the child to go blindly and unprotected into the cold, cruel world.

The pain felt by childhood dreams dashed creates a feeling of doubt which cannot be quelled by any short-term methods. Questions like, why did my parents lie to me, and how can I ever trust them again become common.

Besides, what good comes from telling at such an early age? This loss of innocence is only turning away from kindness and the spirit of giving.

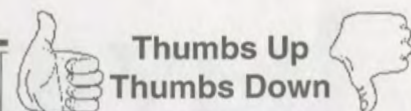
With the realization of this truth, children suddenly uncover the fact that the Easter bunny, Tooth Fairy and the Great Pumpkin are also myths. If a child is told the truth at a young age, he is more affected by this new responsibility he has gained through his growth in knowledge. Now that he knows the true identities of the celebrated gift givers, he must show that he is a responsible child, can act like a grown up, and can not reveal the "secret" to other children. This places a large amount of pressure on the child, especially if he is quite young.

Why can't we let our children be children? Children are already exposed to the harsh realities of modern life too soon. Many children today live in states of poverty, hunger, homelessness, and divorce. The pleasant tales of youth provide a ray of hope in an otherwise dark world. If these breaks from the cruel world are taken away, the children are forced to grow up too quickly. Let them have time to play in the sunshine, feel the spring breeze, and enjoy the roses without worry.

This Christmas season, remember the sleepless nights spent waiting for Santa Claus, the joy of opening presents on Christmas day, and the love felt during the holiday season. Bring to life the decorations, parades, carols, snowy playlands, and the feelings of giving and love, home to family and friends.

With these images, the world comes one step closer to truly offering a sense of peace on Earth and goodwill towards men. This holiday season, between the frantic shopping and numerous holiday chores, remember one very important message—do it for the children; they are the light of the world. Preserving their innocence is part of each of our acts of human kindness.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus.



Thumbs Up

-to the joyous celebrations of a holiday-filled season: Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Happy Kwanzaa, and a Happy New Year.

-to what will surely be a white Christmas and to the culmination of another year. Seniors, keep in mind that 1996 is just around the corner.

-to all those seniors (and juniors) who met deadlines and finished their research papers before Christmas break. Please, take a moment to sit back, close your eyes, and breathe a deep sigh of relief in honor of a job done well (hopefully).

-to the student council for sponsoring a canned-food and donation drive; keep up the good work. Congratulations to the generous prize-winning seminar class.

-to winter break (Need we say more?)

-hats off to the WHS staff for responsibly enforcing the corporation-wide policy of no hats in school and at athletic events.

-to the music department for their holiday concert. The talented participants gave the audience an early Christmas gift.

Thumbs Down

-to those students and staff who have been on winter break since late November. Your acting up and lack of enthusiasm is draining on the rest of us. Keep in mind that it takes just as much thought and energy not to do something as it does to actually do it.

-to the new and improved skating rink in the parking lot, how festive!

-to the recent wind chill of 40° below zero. Mother Nature, please, give us a break.

-to the great differences between seminar classes. It seems that some teachers and students should take another look at seminar rules and regulations. While in some classes students get work done, other classes run amuck, oftentimes making seminar period take on the appearance of passing period.

ART Gallery

by Tim Hecklinski



△ Scratch drawing by
senior Michelle Rodriguez

▷ Photo by junior Jason Lula

▽ Photo by junior Kimm Robak





THE SPORTS PAGES



Basketball team up for challenge

By Eric Bastine
Sports Editor

Not until the final basket is made and the final points are scored for the 1995-96 basketball season, will the speculation and uncertainty of the future of this year's Panther team be determined.

This team certainly possesses star power and almost unequaled talent. The question, however, is if the personal gratitude and individual accomplishments of the players can be pushed aside in time for the team to gel as one.

Head coach Milt Cooper said, "I feel we have a team that could be very competitive in the conference this season. We have a pretty good team this year."

"Pretty good," by the end of the season, could turn out to be a drastic understatement, or, on the contrary, it could turn out to prove that the size and depth of the team could keep this year's squad from achieving its goals. Goals that may include a sectional championship, which would be a first for WHS since the 1964-65 season.

Leading the charge this year will be junior Cedric Moodie. As a sophomore, he averaged 23 points a game and will, as an all-state candidate, be counted on to lead the Panthers' offensive attack this season.

Help with the scoring will come from seniors Matt Johns and Matt Wood, who return this season to help the Panthers' all-around game. Johns, who possesses a silencing outside shot and plays tenacious defense, brings a lot to the table. As does Wood, who last year averaged 14 points a game for the Panther squad. Wood will also help junior center Edmund Kyle out by throwing opponents around in the middle.

Running the offense this year will be sophomore Jamal Henry. He will step into the starting spot this year with a lot of weight on his shoulders, a burden he must be able to carry due to the ever-thinning Panther bench.

"Todd Bella and Wayne Avance, two reserves, will have to step up coming off

the bench. We need them to play tough defense and score some points for us this season," commented Cooper.

One player who won't be coming off the bench this year is Moodie. Moodie has developed into one of the best players in the area and will be sure to excite some fans this season.

"Cedric has improved both his attitude and his skill over the off-season. If he can improve his defensive play, he could easily be a Mr. Basketball candidate next year," Cooper said.

Moodie responded by coming out and scoring a game-high 38 points and 11 rebounds for the Panthers in their season opening loss to a talented Gary Lew Wallace team. Wood added 23 points and eight rebounds, and Johns threw in nine points and five assists.



Senior Matt Wood dunks over helpless junior teammate Todd Bella during practice.

The Panthers, who in past years have lived and died with the three-point shot, fell like a basket full of bricks against Wallace, as they shot a horrendous five for 25 from the three-point line in the game.

Another downfall for the Panthers was that they gave up 22 offensive rebounds in the contest. Cooper commented that if the Panthers are to win some games, this number must be cut in half.

"They were a very athletic team.

If we would have boxed out and played a little bit smarter, the game would have been much closer. I think we will come back and play well against Riley at home," said Johns.

That is exactly what they did. After a rough first half against the visiting Wildcats, the hard-nosed Panthers came out in the second half and played tough. Then, after going into the fourth quarter down by nine, the Panthers showed poise as they came from behind and dropped Riley by the score of 79-69.

Moodie kept up his unbelievable scoring pace as he scored 38 points in the game. Kyle played an outstanding game in the middle, while scoring 20 points and grabbing 11 rebounds.

"It felt good to play well against Riley. I just did what I felt was necessary to help the team win the game," said Kyle.

Wood threw in 11 points and skied for a game-high 17 rebounds. Henry dished off eight assists in the contest and did a marvelous job moving the ball up the court.

The very next night, the Panthers improved their record to 2-1 after they slammed the Marian Knights, 65-57.

Moodie again led the Panthers with 23 points and snared six rebounds. Wood grabbed 12 more boards and scored 21 points, with 11 of those coming in the first quarter as the Panthers jumped out to a 14-4 lead. Henry had five assists to go with his five points.

"We have been working hard in practice on boxing out and rebounding. We have to execute well because we are much smaller than many of our opponents," commented Wood.

Through three games this season, Moodie is averaging 33 points a game, which is easily the best in the area. Wood is shooting a blistering 63% from the field and averaging 12.3 rebounds per game.

This Friday and Saturday, the Panthers will travel to Warsaw to play in the Holiday Tournament. They will play No. 2 ranked Clay in the opening game. □

Swim team looks to improve record

By Brain Schoonaert
Sports Writer

It's 7 am on a Saturday morning. While most of WHS is still in bed, a dedicated group of swimmers is starting to warm up for the first invitational of the season. The Panthers had just come off of a disappointing opener against Riley and were hoping they could change things around today.

The Pilgrim Relays were held at Plymouth and featured six schools all hungry for victory. Of course, the Panthers are pretty hungry at seven in the morning, too. The team had a great day coming in third in the invitational. They were a mere two points away from winning the second-place spot.

The Panthers captured several first-place wins. The team of seniors David Lute, Adam Hooten, Colin Nuner, and junior Josh Northern took the 100-free. The 200-free was also won by sophomore Kyle Basker, and seniors Matt Dixon, Hooten, and Lute. Senior Tom

Hathaway and junior Harry Densmore also added to the team total by coming in fourth in the team diving competition.

"It was important that we made a good showing of ourselves today," said Coach Dave Woods. "We showed every school there that the Panthers were not to be taken lightly."

Next on the Panthers' hit list were the Cavemen of Mishawaka. This was the team's first home meet, and the Panthers were looking forward to the home advantage. They got a great start when Eric Bastine, Lute, Northam, and Nuner raced hard and got a first place in the 200 medley relay. The success was continued as Matt Dixon won the 200 freestyle.

Hathaway executed several near perfect dives which brought the crowd to its feet. He took a first in the diving competition.

Soon it was time for the 500 freestyle, a tremendous test of endurance where the participants are to swim

20 lengths of the pool.

Kevin Dixon took the early lead and never lost it. At the cheers of his teammates, he went on to win the event followed closely by sophomore Kevin Marek. They finished the meet on a high point by winning the 400 freestyle relay, which consisted of Matt Dixon, Kevin Dixon, Hooten, and Brad Langhofer. The final score of the night was 116-68.

"The team performed like professionals. They worked very hard to beat the times they had gotten in the first meet," said Kevin Dixon. "The team needs to work on different strokes such as fly, back, and breast. We also need to just work harder to improve times."

In their next meet, the Panthers faced off against the Penn Kingsmen. The team lost this hard-fought battle by a score of 144-42. Although they lost, the Panthers still had 13 personal best times.

The Panthers' next meet is Jan. 2 at home against Bremen and Tippy Valley. □

Girls back on track after slow start

By Drew Griffis
Sports Writer

The girls' basketball team currently stands at 3-4 after starting off the season with two losses.

The Panthers were defeated by two strong teams in Northridge and LaPorte. But the 0-2 start is only a minor setback in what could be another good year for the Lady Panthers.

"The girls played well enough to win in the first two games," said head coach Marilyn Coddens. "Our poor shooting percentage was what kept us from winning those games."

The girls would not be denied of a win any longer. They destroyed New Prairie by a score of 69-55. Senior co-captain Jodi Jurkowski led the team with 15 points, sophomore Tasha Johnson netted 11, and junior Nicole Drabecki added nine for the Panthers.

The junior varsity squad also was victorious over New Prairie. Freshman Rynne Litka led the team in scoring.

WHS saw its first Northern Indiana Conference action of the season against Penn. The Kingsmen jumped out to an early lead by capitalizing off Panther turnovers and 13 missed

free throws in 22 attempts.

The opponents led by over 20 points at times. Even though the Lady Panthers never gave up, they still fell short by a score of 50-37. Drabecki and Jurkowski led the team with eight points, while senior co-captain Kisha Perry added six.

The JV overcame a huge deficit to almost pull off a victory, but their strong rally wasn't enough and they also lost to Penn 35-30.

"I was hoping that the season would start off better than it has. Losing four out of our first five games was caused by lack of hustle, communication, and being out rebounded," said Drabecki. "Our team has the athletes to become a successful team, but in order to do that, we have to come together as a team."

The Panthers hoped to improve their 1-3 mark when they faced off against Triton. The game was very close the whole way through, and for a while it looked as if the girls would pick up their second victory of the season. It was not to be, however, as the girls lost the hard-fought battle 59-56. Junior Courtney Litka led the team with 14 points, Drabecki added 12, and Johnson scored 10.

The JV also played Triton. They lost a close game by the score of 29-25. Rynne Litka led the team with 10 points.

The Panthers stopped their two-game slide with a victory over St. Joe. The girls hit 17 out of 26 shots from the free-throw line and created many turnovers in the win. Junior Winetta Neeley led all scores with 18, Perry added 14, and Jurkowski added 12.

The JV was also victorious with a 37-36 overtime victory over the Indians.

"We've been playing well all season. We lost a few close ones, but if we keep playing at this level and practicing hard, we'll do well," said Coddens.

Next up was Riley; the Panthers showed no mercy to Riley as they gave the Wildcats their sixth loss of the season with a 61-50 victory. The two senior captains scored close to half of the team's points.

Jurkowski led the way with 18, Perry added 12, Neeley had 10, Drabecki scored nine, and Litka netted eight for the Panthers' second win in a row.

This season the focus has been on the hole team," said Coddens. "We have had a different player step up in almost every game."

The girls will be in action on Dec. 28 against LaVie. □

"Blood, Sweat, Tears" is cruising early on

By **Ryan Hanyzewski**
Sports Writer

The Panthers have begun their season on a roll with three dominating victories.

They were over the John Glenn Falcons, the Elkhart Central Blue Blazers, and the John Adams Eagles.

"I am very happy with the way the season has started. We are performing well as a team, but we cannot quit," said Coach Carl Evans.

The Panthers traveled to John Glenn for their season opener. The Panthers lost the first two matches and fell down 10-0. They then turned to two freshmen, Nick Johnson and Shannon Althouse, and they came through with flying colors. They both won their debut matches in impressive style, and more importantly gave the team a 12-10 lead.

Next up for WHS was the defending sectional champion, senior Nate Reeder. Tied 8-8 with just 40 seconds to go in the match, Reeder reversed his opponent and received back points to overcome his opponent by the score of 12-8.

After sophomore Kyle Bach lost by a pin, perhaps the best match of the night took the mat. It featured senior Matt Andrzejewski.

Throughout the entire match, they went back and forth. With the match tied 8-8, and Andrzejewski down on the mat, he reached deep down and managed to escape with just three seconds left in the match to prevail 9-8.

Following the Andrzejewski match, junior Isaac Evans dominated his match and pinned his opponent in the first round.

Next up were the Comeau brothers. Senior Josh Comeau won by pinning his opponent in the second round of the match, and sophomore John Comeau won by a convincing decision.

Another defending sectional champion, sophomore Phillip Evans took the mat. An impressive showing of both skill and strength was too much for his opponent as he won by a pin in the first round.

In a grueling match, senior Andy Delchambre lost a heartbreaking decision by the score of 4-5.

Closing out the day, senior Tim Dyszkiewicz won by a pin in the first round and junior Eloy Alvarez won by a forfeit.

The final score of the varsity match was 53-6, and the junior varsity was even more dominant, crushing John Glenn by the score of 93-0.

With confidence roaring high, the Panthers

traveled to Elkhart for their first Northern Indiana Conference(NIC) match of the year against the Elkhart Central Blue Blazers.

After freshman Shawn Fisher was pinned, another freshman, Tony Heeter, pulled the Panthers even in the match as he pinned his opponent in the second round.

Following three straight forfeits, the Panthers led the match 24-6 and were in complete control.

With the momentum solely on the Panthers' side, sophomore Kyle Bach avenged his defeat at John Glenn by pinning his opponent in the second round to put WHS up 30-6.

The next match was another tough one for Andrzejewski as he was lifted off the mat and slammed down in the first round. This did nothing but make him angry. Andrzejewski took his opponent down and forced a near fall to take control of the match and win by an 8-5 decision.

After Isaac Evans fell in a tough decision, 0-4, the Comeau brothers came through again. They both won by pin, Josh in the second round and John in the first.

Phillip Evans and Tim Dyszkiewicz continued the winning streak by pinning their opponents in the first rounds, and a forfeit victory by junior Eloy Alvarez gave the Panthers their second straight dominating victory by the score of 63-9.

The Panthers then travelled to Lake Central for a 14-team individual tournament.

Eight Panthers placed in the tournament. Heeter and Minor placed sixth. Althouse, Alvarez, and Isaac and Phillip Evans placed fifth.

John Comeau placed second, and Dyszkiewicz won the entire tournament.

"I made it to the finals, and to win the tournament I had to beat the fifth-ranked wrestler in the state, and that is exactly what I did," said Dyszkiewicz.

Next for the Panthers were the John Adams' Eagles. The Panthers began the match with a 12-0 lead as freshmen Tony Krol and Heeter won by forfeit.

At 119, freshman Vincent Minor won by a pin in the third round to boost the Panthers to an early 18-point lead.

Following a loss by Althouse, Reeder pinned his opponent in the first period and put WHS up 24-6.

Next, the Panthers lost two straight matches: Bach by pin and Andrzejewski by a 5-10 decision.

Next was a very impressive showing by

Isaac Evans. Down 4-8 with 30 seconds left in the match, Evans reversed his opponent and got three back points to win the match 9-8.

Josh Comeau was defeated in a major decision to run the score to 27-20 in favor of WHS.

With an illness to John Comeau, freshman Jimmy McKinnis was forced to take the mat to take his place. McKinnis was down 5-6 going into the third period and was down on the mat the entire third period until one second to go when he reversed his opponent to win 7-6 in a very impressive debut.

This was perhaps the greatest showing of heart thus far this season.

Phillip Evans won his match by a 7-4 decision, and freshman Chris Glenn was dominant in his debut. He never trailed on his way to a 13-2 victory.

"It felt good to have a chance to wrestle varsity, and a win in my debut really helped my confidence," said Glenn.

Dyszkiewicz won by forfeit, and Alvarez pinned his opponent to move the Panthers to 3-0 and 2-0 in the NIC.

"The freshmen pulled this match out for us late; Minor, Glenn, and McKinnis all won and bailed us out," commented Coach Evans.

WHS then hosted a six-team invitational. The level of competition was very low as the Panthers closest match was against Rochester. The Panthers won 60-12.

The Panthers produced nine individual champions and could have had 10 if Heeter had been allowed to wrestle the girl from North Judson. Coach Evans would not allow him to wrestle a girl, and he was forced to forfeit and he lost the medal.

Krol won at 103, Minor at 119, Andrzejewski at 140, Isaac Evans at 145, Josh Comeau at 152, John Comeau at 160, Phillip Evans at 171, Dyszkiewicz at 215, and Alvarez at heavyweight.

Some of the day's highlights were that the Panthers won 84-0 over LaVille and LaLumiere.

Other highlights were that Krol pinned his opponent in 13 seconds, but not to be outdone Isaac Evans pinned his opponent in 10 seconds.

Andrzejewski and Krol were 5-0 with four pins and a forfeit. Josh Comeau was named the MVP with a 5-0 record and five pins inside one minute and 30 seconds. Three pins were inside a minute.

The Panthers' next match will be at Mishawaka for the Mishawaka Invitational on Dec. 27-28. □

Basketball tournament not such a good idea

By **Eric Bastine**

Sports Editor

"If it ain't broke, don't fix it."

We've heard it many times in our life, and now it is important to listen as basketball in the state of Indiana reaches a crossroad.

Recently, the Indiana High School Athletic Association proposed a plan to hold a three-class basketball tournament over the holidays, beginning with the 1997-98 basketball season. The tournament will include sectional, regional, semi-state, and state basketball games that will be played over the last two weeks in December and the first week in January. The catch is that there will be three classes, with each class being ranked by enrollment of students in the respected schools. This is much like the Indiana high school football tournament, which divides schools into five classes.

The class system was originally developed to enable smaller schools to have better success in state tournaments, thus giving the team a better opportunity to win a state championship.

For example, if a school the size of Oregon-Davis, say, 300 students, were matched up against Penn, a school of nearly 2500 students, Penn is going to have a definite advantage over an undermanned team from Oregon-Davis.

"I am against it," said girls basketball coach Marilyn Coddens. "I feel we can compete with teams like Penn. In football, you must have numbers to fill every position on offense and defense. In basketball, you can get away with having 10 players on a team."

Indeed, that is one of the major issues that arises when the tournament is being discussed at the dinner table—numbers. Many small schools think that the need for number of players is demanding in football. Therefore, the class-system in football is both necessary and beneficial.

On the other hand, we are talking basketball, which is the sport that will be forced to endure this difficult change.

It is a strong possibility, however, that in the future five other sports in Indiana could switch to a three-class system. These sports include baseball, softball, volleyball, boys soccer and girls soccer.

Head baseball coach Rick Tomaszewski said, "A class tournament in baseball would not give our school any advantage because

we would be in the biggest class. However, anything that could be done to give more players All-State recognition should be done. Currently, over 9,000 kids are playing baseball in the state of Indiana. Only 15 of those will receive All-State honors. With three classes, that number will be up to 45."

An organized, class-basketball system is one thing, but a class tournament that complicates the holiday sports calendar is another.

Athletic director Pat Mackowiak said, "In a basketball season, many games are scheduled over the Christmas vacation. If a class tournament were held over this period of time, many games would have to be canceled and rescheduled. It would be very hard to replay all of those games before the regular state tournament began."

Boys basketball head coach Milt Cooper gave another situation to consider: "I don't think that the tournament will equal out to be a success. If you went far in the tournament, it would be great to play six or seven extra games. However, if you happen to lose in the first round, you could go without playing a game for up to three weeks. That would be hard to deal with right in the middle of the season."

The vote among high school coaches seems to benefit the smaller schools. Of the 382 coaches polled, 90 % of the coaches at schools with less than 500 students voted to hold the tournament over the holidays. Of the schools with more than 2,000 students, that number was a mere 16 %.

With a split vote, and so many questions and doubts, it would be difficult to make a change for something that would not satisfy at least the majority of the schools who would be affected by the proposal. Some packages also carry tradition on their backs much of the time. Basketball in the state of Indiana is one of these packages. If the tournament were held, the winners of each class certainly wouldn't receive the same recognition and acknowledgement as the winner of the "real" state tourney in March should receive.

Complications do not lead to success. If this tournament takes place next year during the holidays, mass confusion could erupt for each and every school, athletic director, coach, and player. These things can not be sacrificed.

It works wonderfully right now.
Why should we try to fix it? □

Sports Profile



Name: Jamie Lynn Infalt

Birthdate: March 6, 1978

Year: Senior

Nickname: Jame

Sports played: Volleyball and softball

Awards and achievements: 1995 volleyball MVP, volleyball Honorable Mention All-NIC 1995, prom and homecoming courts

Role model: My father

Hobbies: Playing sports and spending time with my friends.

Favorite food: Pizza

Favorite TV show: *Seinfeld*

Favorite musician: Mariah Carey

Favorite sports teams: Dallas Cowboys and Notre Dame

Did you ever have a Care Bear when you were young? Yes, Grumpy Bear

What I love about school: Seeing my friends

What I hate about school: The homework and it's too early

Greatest athletic moment: I hit a triple to win the 1993 (softball) game against Mishawaka when they were ranked in the state.

My parents were right when they told me: I could do anything if I believe in myself.

Prized possession: My car

Most embarrassing moment: Last year I was pitching in a game and when I went to do my windup, instead of throwing the ball to the catcher, I threw it to the shortstop behind me.

If I won the lottery, I'd: Take care of my family and spend the rest wisely

Biggest fear: Not succeeding

Wildest dream: To go skydiving

Pre-game rituals: Praying and pep-talks

What turns me off: People who smoke and people who are immature

Person I'd like to meet: Troy Aikman

Best advice I've ever received: Always believe in yourself; no one can take that away from you.

Advice to others: Never give up on anything. If you want something, go get it.

In 20 years I see myself: As a teacher here in South Bend with a family

MONTHLY MUSIC REPORT



Fresh Horses Garth Brooks

Garth Brooks' new CD, *Fresh Horses*, was released this month. It is a spectacular album.

I didn't think this CD was as good as his previous one, *In Pieces*, but it has many great songs such as *She's Every Woman*, *Fever*, *Cowboys and Angels* and another favorite, *Beaches of Cheyenne*.

Brooks has put more variety into this album. *Fever* (a hit song) has the country lyrics, talking about a rodeo, but yet it has a fast rock beat. Another song on this album, *Ireland*, is not your usual country song. The name pretty much tells you that it is an Irish song, all the



way down to the instruments.

This CD has not been out long, but I can tell that it is going to be a huge success. Even if you aren't a country music fan, I suggest that you review it for yourself. -T.N.

White Man's Burden
Soundtrack

Regardless of how the movie rates, the soundtrack is a keeper. Artists highlighted on it include Bush, Blues Traveler, Dave Matthews Band, and Meat Puppets—yet it doesn't contain one hit song. Rather, it's a medley of songs usually found on the backsides of singles. *Regarding Steven*, a Blues Traveler tune included on the disk, can otherwise only be found on their single *Run-around*.

Other highlights: *Dream Baby* by Hootie and the Blowfish, *How Can I Live Without You* by Cracker, and original scores from the movie. -M.S.

THE USHERS

By Bob Palatino and Gary Zapf
Two Guys

The opinions voiced in this column are not necessarily those of the HATCHET staff. We'd also like to stress that Bob and Gary are real humans, though any attempt to uncover their identities may lead to severe head trauma, inflicted by a large hired thug named Knuckles.



Play With Your Toys.

BOB: Well, folks, it's been a long month. A loooooong month. Gary didn't have time to see a movie this month, so I'm going to review it on my own.

GARY: I'll say simple, noncommittal things like, "Right, Bob."

BOB: I have two words for you: *Toy Story*.

GARY: Say it again.

BOB: *Toy Story*! Quite possibly the best movie I've seen in two years. Not only is it a breakthrough (the first ever completely computer-generated feature film), but it is hilarious. It is not—I repeat, NOT—a little kids' movie. So if that notion has kept any of our readers from seeing it, wait no longer! I went with my girlfriend, the lovely Lucida Bright, to see it about two weeks ago.

GARY: That's right...he won't stop talking about it.

BOB: No one under 12 got the jokes; but

we "mature and sophisticated" members of the audience were laughing so hard that we thought we'd rupture our digestive organs.

GARY: He thought he'd bust a gut.

BOB: The premise is a simple one: as we all know, toys come to life when no one is around. Really, folks, I believe this.

GARY: Don't laugh; he does.

BOB: Anyway, we are introduced to the toys of a little boy named Andy. Andy's favorite toy is a cowboy doll named Woody (voiced by Tom Hanks), and that fact makes him leader of all the other toys (like Mr. Potatohead and a sarcastic Magic 8-Ball).

GARY: Ask again later.

BOB: All is well in the playroom until Andy's birthday—then in comes Buzz Lightyear, Space Ranger (voiced by Tim Allen). Buzz is delusional; he thinks he is THE Buzz Lightyear, when all he is a really cool action figure. Still, he makes quite an impression on the rest of the toys, and Woody watches in terror as Buzz becomes Andy's new favorite toy. Soon jealousy overcomes him, and Woody hatches a spur-of-the-moment plot to "misplace" his enemy.

GARY: Instead, he accidentally gets Buzz knocked out a second-story window.

BOB: How did you know?

GARY: You wouldn't shut up about it.

BOB: Anyway, after that the other toys pretty much want to kill the cowboy, so Woody goes out to find Buzz. The two of them end up hitching a ride on the family

car, and fall off later at a gas station. From there on it's a mission to get home before the family leaves (oh yeah, did I mention Andy's moving in two days?).

GARY: No, Bob.

BOB: We're running out of time. I hope you'll at least go and see it for yourself, it's well worth it.

GARY: Yes; I have not seen it, but after listening to Bob tell me about it over and over and over and OVER, I really want to go see what he's talking about.

BOB: Have a great holiday, folks!

GARY: Bye.

Bob & Gary's Top 5 Slap-stick comedies

1. *Spaceballs*
2. *Airplane*
3. *Ace Ventura*
4. *Hot Shots: Part Deux*
5. *The Naked Gun*