

THE WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

# HATCHET

MAY 1996

## Right to pray



RETEK KELLY  
907

RETEK '96

see the feature, pages 8 & 9



# PASSING TIME

What would you change about your high-school career?



"I would have been more involved with school activities, because I could have made more friends."

-Eniko Hunyadi  
senior



"If I could change something, I would have changed my study habits."

-Jerry Ellinger  
senior



"I would have worked harder my freshman year and raised my G.P.A."

-Demetrious Minor  
senior



"I wouldn't have skipped so much my senior year."

-Olivia Cano  
senior

## JUNE

The end of the year is here, but there are still some more tests for you procrastinating test takers. **June 1** is the SAT I&II. The registration dates were late in May. The ACT is offered on **June 8**; the registration dates have also passed.

The Muscular Dystrophy Summer Camp is **June 8-15**. If you would like to act as a counselor or assist in some other way, call (219) 259-9912 or contact the guidance office for more information.

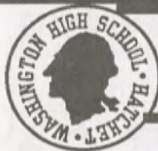
The last day of school for students is **June 5**; by then the seniors will be long gone. They will return, however, on **June 3** at 8:30 a.m. for graduation rehearsal and again for commencement on **June 9** at 1 p.m.

The end of school doesn't always mean that all clubs stop their activities. The band is still going strong in the late days of the school year. The River Forest Parade is **June 22**. Rehearsal for the Ethnic Day Parade is **June 24-25**, and the parade will be held on **June 29**.

Have A Great Summer, Panthers!!

Panther by Eric Siebenaler

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On the cover: **Praying in school** Cover by Mark Sniadecki

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Dear Editor,

WHS is an incredible school where I have been given the opportunity to change and grow. I appreciate that opportunity, and now it is time for me to move on and to take new risks. My husband and I will be moving to Louisville, Kentucky, in June.

When I joined the faculty three years ago, I was welcomed with openness by the administration, faculty, and students. All were accepting of me. They showed me around and helped me adapt to a new school, schedule, and system.

The students I teach are unique young adults, all individuals and independent. I have enjoyed interacting with them. They work hard and have fun doing all of the strange things I require--*The Dating Game*, commercials, family trees, COMMANDS (under chairs, on top of the tables, ect.), and Espia. My students are caring and patient with me when I'm not my best. Most importantly, they laugh at my jokes!!

WHS has been a good place to change and grow because the people who work here are open to new ideas, and to trying better ways of doing their jobs. In the three years I have been here, they have made huge advances: Block-8, seminar, service-learning programs, the Greenway, and the respect code and its rewards. These people are committed to WHS. They are true professionals who live what they believe. I have learned a great deal from them about how to be a better teacher. I consider them friends as well as colleagues.

It is with joy and a heavy heart that I say farewell (for now, not forever). I know we all move forward to continue to change, grow, and reach for our personal best.

Ever Onward,  
*Marquerite Jorgensen*

### RECENT HATCHET AWARDS

1996	Columbia Scholastic Press Association, First Place - Mark Sniadecki
95-96	ASPA First Place
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

### 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.

# From poms to flags

By **Christine Borkowski**  
News Writer

In the early 1970's, WHS formed the first pom-pom squad in the city of South Bend. The pom squad included 16 varsity and 16 B-team girls who performed at the half-time show of every basketball game. The girls performed self-taught dance routines using poms to specific music. The squad was never considered part of the band or athletic groups.

In 1984, library para-professional, Bonnie Tafelski took over as active pom-pom sponsor from English aide, Pat Rozmarynowski.

Tafelski said, "The pom program gave many girls at WHS a chance to be involved in a great school activity."

The squad participated in many parades and then was allowed to perform at a football half-time once a year. Other high school pom squads, such as Clay and Riley, performed at every football game. Among the South Bend schools performances were not consistent.

When Jackson Middle School teacher Pherbia Engdahl was appointed Director of Fine Arts, she wanted consistency with the organization of the pom-squad performances. She decided to have the same girls be a marching-flag auxiliary with the band in the fall and also a pom-pom squad to perform for the basketball half-times in the winter.

Fifteen girls were selected from each school to form a flag auxiliary in the fall and a pom squad in the winter. Not all schools, however, followed Engdahl's new decision.

Some band directors allowed a pom squad to march with the band,

while other band directors such as former WHS band director, Jerry Lackey, did not think that a pom squad was appropriate to march with a band. Grayling Hawkins, Lackey's replacement, had many problems trying to find someone qualified to coordinate both flag and pom routines.

In 1989 Hawkins left WHS to teach at Navarre Middle School. After two frustrating years of trying to find a choreographer for both flag and pom routines, new WHS band director, Richard Keely, decided to form a winterguard.



**Marching Panthers take to the streets in the '94 Ethnic Festival Parade (Junior Vanessa Whitmer, Sophomore Stacey Kuharic, Sophomore Theresa Pace).**

"By eliminating the winter pom program, finding a coordinator for only flag routines would be much easier," said current band director, Ted Lilly. WHS and Adams are currently the only high schools with winterguards. "I think that a winterguard show is much more interesting than a pom squad," said Lilly.

A winterguard involves flag, rifle and sabre work. The rifles closely resemble a real rifle but are wooden and padded with white tape. A sabre resembles a real sabre but guard sabres are plastic and padded with tape also. The guard chooses flag and tape colors to coordinate with the theme of the show.

Science teacher Tim Hardt is the sponsor of this year's winterguard. Hardt said, "I feel that being a guard sponsor is a good way to work with some of the gifted students of WHS." Hardt was a member of IU's marching 100 for two years.

This year's winterguard has 16 marching members, with senior Amanda Martensen, and juniors Scott Siri and Vanessa Whitmer as captains. "Members of the guard work a lot harder than many people may realize," said Hardt. The guard practices as many as 15 hours per week.

"Just like any other sport, good practice time is essential to become successful," said Martensen.

The guard takes part in many competitions, which are held in Indiana, Illinois, and Ohio. Members must raise funds to travel to compete in these competitions. This year's members received sponsorship by having a spin-a-thon.

The city winterguard/pom competition was held at WHS on March 15. The guard was defeated by Adams by a mere four points. On March 30-31 the winterguard finished their season in finals competition in Tinley Park, Illinois. Out of 12 other guards competing, only the top five guards would advance to the final competition the next day. WHS defeated the other seven guards to place fifth and to compete the next day. The guard placed fifth in finals competition.

"The guard performed at its best during finals competition," said sophomore Jocelyn Orłowski.

The winterguard performed to Bon Jovi's song, *Wanted Dead or Alive*. The song is different from many of the traditional performances which use classical music. "This year's show is much more challenging than any other of my past years," said Siri.

"The guard did exceptionally well this season and it's only up from here," said sophomore Michelle Goodsell. □

# Animals in jeopardy

**By Nicole Woods**  
News Writer

According to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, "Endangered Species means any species or subspecies of wildlife whose prospects for survival and reproduction in the state are in immediate jeopardy. Threatened Species means any species or subspecies of wildlife likely to become endangered in the foreseeable future."

"The Endangered Species Act (ESA) prohibits the "take" of endangered species and threatened species that are by regulation given similar protection. "Take" is defined in the Act as "to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any conduct" (*Congressional Research Service Report for Congress*).

Some endangered animals in Indiana are the bobcat, Indiana bat, gray bat, southeastern bat, and some waterfowl. Many things have caused these animals to become endangered. A lot of animals, like the upland sandpiper, became endangered partly because of the destruction of their homes. These birds used to live in the grasslands of Northern Indiana. Some of these grasslands are almost fully depleted now. Another problem is the legal and illegal killing of these animals.

For example, a problem is the destroying of areas some animals use to bear their young. Parts of these areas are also used, by the animals, for food. Areas, like forests, are being cut down to industrialize the world (*These are the Endangered* by Charles Cadieux).

"Anything that would involve habitat involvement or improvement can help preserve these animals. You can start an outdoor lab or habitat improvement projects at home, or at your own school," said Rick Glassman, the Environmental Education Coordinator of the St. Joseph County Soil and Water Conservation District.

Recycling is a way to help. This way animals, such as bats and birds, will not accidentally eat plastic or other potential recyclables and kill themselves.

"Simple things like cutting up a six-pack ring can help these animals. That way

animals can't get caught in them and get hurt," said junior Janice Koch.

An on-going school improvement project, sponsored by the Class of 1997, is the pick-up of recyclable paper during seminar.

"Everyone, both staff and students, have really gotten into it. Most of the school has participated," said sponsor and science teacher Jeanne Ciuksza.

Many simple things can be done by teenagers to help preserve endangered animals as well. They can plant vegetation that some endangered and threatened animals nest in or use as food. For example, wildflowers can be planted as food for butterflies.

Sophomore Cody Donlon knows of a more difficult preventive measure that permitted zoos can do: "You can catch some of these [endangered] animals and breed them in captivity, and then set them free when they are old enough to care for themselves. The San Diego Zoo is currently doing this."

It is illegal for individuals to do this.

"We need to save these endangered animals for other people to see. If they die, it will ruin our eco-system," said Donlon.

Game reserves are one way to prevent this ruin.

"These animals shouldn't be killed. They should be put on game reserves, not in zoos. On a game reserve, they would be in their natural habitat. These animals can be saved. They don't have to die," said sophomore Mandy Waddups.

It is a "cycle" of destruction.

"In some ways, it is like a cycle, because when an animal goes from endangered to extinct, it will have a change on the environment," said Glassman.

In this area there are many endangered animals. The peregrine falcons were released in South Bend recently and are now successfully nesting in parts of Northern Indiana. The upland sandpiper nests every year at the Michiana regional airport. A great likeness to the grasslands they used to live in is found there. Another animal, the river otter, was reintroduced to an area south of us, in Northern Indiana. Also the eagle, National bird, sometimes passes through the St. Joseph County in the winter, and stays in the Potato Creek area.

## WHS bests seven area schools in historic contest

On May 3, 1996, seven WHS students participated in the 1996 IUSB Regional History Contest. Two different tests were given, one dealing with world history and one over American history. On the tests, the participants were asked to identify 20 items in 50 minutes dealing with that type of history. The schools which competed were Adams, Clay, Riley, WHS, St. Joseph, Marian, and Penn, from Indiana and, Buchanan and Lake Shore from Michigan.

In the overall team competition, WHS placed second out of the nine competing schools, coming in a few points behind St. Joseph. The American history team took first place, while the world history team placed third. In individual results, Dabrowiak finished first in the American history portion, and received a \$500 scholarship from IUSB. Owens finished second in American history, winning a \$250 scholarship.

This was the first time in the 12 years WHS has competed in the contest that two of the team's members finished first and second.

Social studies department chairman and team sponsor, John Killeen, said, "I think we did really well, and I believe it was our best showing yet."

The team consisted of freshmen Amy Ewing, Jennifer Zakowsk; sophomore Keyna Langhofer; juniors Kathy Chan, Derek Dabrowiak, Isaiah Dockery; and senior Martin Owens. □

# Meet the *Gearheads*

By Amy Bastine, Kathryn Lute,  
& Amanda Whittaker  
Staff Writers

While everyone is at home sleeping in their beds, nine students from WHS and LaSalle are busy beginning their day in the WHS auto shop.

Started in the early 1980's, WHS is the only South Bend School to have its own vocational auto mechanics class. Students from other schools are able to come to WHS for this three-hour course and then return to their school for the rest of the day.

The class begins at 6:30 a.m. and lasts until the end of first hour. Junior Adam Siczko said, "At first it seems like we'll be in here forever, but time really goes by fast."

The students in auto mechanics are called the "Gearheads." No one really knows where the nickname came from, but it's been around quite some time.

Senior Rob Putz said, "For all I know, the nickname could have been started back in the 1950's."

Rumors circulate that the Gearheads each have their own nicknames, but this might not be true. The only name that has been revealed is "Big Hungry," which belongs to junior Josh Koch.

Vocational auto mechanics is a three-credit class because of the long period. "Students who are short one credit often take auto mechanics to earn enough to graduate on time," said Dick Praklet, vocational auto shop instructor.

During class, students work on the cars of staff and other students. They do everything from oil changes and tire rotations to engine swaps. On any given day, the guys can be seen finishing a brake job, greasing wheel bearings, turning a rotor, or charging a battery. "My favorite thing to do during class is take motors apart," said Koch.

Junior Clint Butler said, "Usually Mr. Praklet pairs us up with the 'buddy system,' so we get along with each other while we work."

Students in auto shop are graded on what they do and how well they do it.

Praklet began teaching at WHS in 1990 after the previous teacher had medical problems.

His interest in cars started when he was 16 or 17 while working in a gas station. He went into the Army and then Ball State University where he majored in auto mechanics. He later received his master's degree from IUSB. Before coming to WHS, Praklet taught industrial arts at LaSalle High School.

Overall, auto mechanics is an educational class. "Although most of the students are beginners, they stay busy and are well-prepared for further training after high school," said Praklet.

Look for more in-depth information from the WHS auto shop in next year's issues. □

## AFJROTC Model Airplane Contest

by Kathryn Lute  
Staff Writer

First-year Air Force Junior ROTC members study the history of aviation from the earliest days of aviation in balloons and gliders to the present-day jet age. Students get a broad-based knowledge of the age of aviation. They see, for example, how in a span of just 50 years, airplanes went from a mere 40 miles per hour (the Wright Brothers first flight at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina in 1903) up to jets that traveled more than twice the speed of sound (about 1,400 mph) in the early 50's.

In an effort to better understand some of the aircraft they have studied, students were given the opportunity to enter a model-airplane contest.

Participants entered planes which interested them in the field of military aviation. They had the opportunity to enter either a jet or propeller airplane. The most popular design for this particular contest was jet aircraft.

Models were judged by two WHS staff members from outside the AFJROTC department. Industrial arts teacher Jim Bonham, a private pilot and aviation buff, was one of the judges and custodian Randy Zack, an aviation history enthusiast, was the other.

They judged the models based on detail, complexity, authenticity, and neatness. "I looked for planes that were well-constructed and detailed and had all decals applied correctly," said Bonham.

While the judges said all the models were well-done, they made the following selections based on the selection criteria: First place went to sophomore Jason Imler for his A-10 "Thunderbolt II," and second place went to freshman Frank Wierzbicki for his B-17 "Flying Fortress."

"I'm surprised I won, because the other planes were well-made," said Imler. □

# Games aren't problem solvers

Most high-school students regularly spend time talking with friends, studying, or taking a much-needed nap. Lunch periods are the ideal time, in addition to eating, to do these things.

## Editorial

Next year, South Bend schools will have closed lunch. As a result, students will have to do all of the above without leaving campus. That won't be so hard.

It seems, however, that some at WHS think it will be. They believe that, in order to make closed lunch a success, WHS should provide students with lunch-time entertainment to deter them from negative behavior. The addition of arcade games to our school cafeteria is an example of how WHS is providing for such opportunities. These video games are present at the request of a WHS closed-lunch student committee that was selected by the administration of WHS. The video games were here on a trial basis, and it has yet to be decided by the leaders of our school whether they will return next year.

These games may appeal to some students, but they will not change students' opinion of closed lunch. While most students are opposed to closed lunch, it is not because the cafeteria is not fun enough. The problem is that students will not have the option to go where they choose. The issue of closed lunch, however, has been settled. It won't be long until most students become accustomed to staying inside for their 35-minute lunch period.

After standing in line for lunch and then actually eating, a student won't have to worry about filling that much time anyway. They will have, at the most, 20 minutes to spare. With this time they can, as mentioned above, talk, study, or nap. Enough time for video games is not necessary, nor does it exist, unless WHS wishes to promote that students skip eating.

It is clear that a small number of misbehaved students ruined the freedom of open lunch for a great number of well-behaved students. These students who were key in the decision to overturn the open-lunch

policy went out for lunch in order to get their thrills. Their obnoxious behavior included, but was not limited to, loitering, reckless driving, and other sometimes illegal activities. Oftentimes in this wonderfully destructive process, they "lost track of time" and managed to take a double lunch.

Closed lunch will have achieved the goal of its supporters if it can, end or at least curb, these behavior problems. It is possible, however, that such behavior will continue or enhance due to the closed confines of a school cafeteria. No disciplinary measures or major disruptions have resulted over or for the video games as of yet. The likely results of this funhouse atmosphere, however, are behavioral problems.

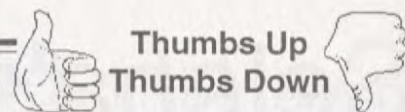
Video games will serve as predecessors to other such "fun" activities. Those who will enjoy and benefit most from these games will be these lunch-time thrill seekers. WHS should not make any attempt to appease or cater to these high-school miscreants. In doing so, those students who did nothing wrong in the first place will be forced not only to stay in for lunch, but also to witness some of the same students who ruined open lunch enjoy themselves with video games or other entertainment possibilities.

Other strong opinions about the video games can be broken down into those who view the video games as harmless fun and those who view them as harmful fun.

Those who view them as harmless fun believe that they are just video games. If that's what kids enjoy, then let them enjoy. Those who share the opposite view believe that video games, especially violent ones, have no place in school. By placing the video games in the cafeteria, WHS is providing for, and therefore complacent to, such mindless entertainment.

The harmfulness of the video games is not the issue, however. WHS should instead consider whether or not 35 minutes is a long enough period of time to warrant providing for the entertainment of certain mischievous students and, in turn, if WHS should have to provide for students' diversion in the first place.

The video games have no place in our school and should not return. WHS should not make such veiled attempts at deterring misbehavior. □



### Thumbs up

...to the graduating Class of 1996. Congratulations on this terrific accomplishment and always remember your Panther background. Good luck in all you do. Ever Onward.

...to the Class of 1997 and their sponsors, Mrs. Ciuksza and Mr. Laskoski, for putting together such a beautiful and exciting prom. All of your hard work was evident in the smiling faces of prom-goers.

...to the prom court and royalty: Demetrious Minor, king; Tiffany Brooks, queen; Eloy Alvarez, prince; and Rosalinda Leyva, princess. Long live the royal family of Pantherland.

...to the English department's efforts to expand the horizons of their literary inventory. The senior advanced English class especially appreciates taking part in the recommendation process. Hopefully, the coming years will include an expanded library of classroom sets which will expose students to contemporary literary forms.

...to the many seniors who have won scholarships, grants, and awards. All these years of schoolwork are finally paying off in monetary form. Cha-ching! Too bad the financial-aid offices will be cashing the checks. No cha-ching.

...to the end of the school year and the upcoming summer recess. Three months of rest and relaxation (for the unemployed and inactive that is) is exactly what the doctor ordered. Don't enjoy yourselves too much, however, because it will soon be time to decide on that outfit for the first day of next school year.

### Thumbs down

...to underclassmen who skipped school on senior skip day. Were all those talk shows and soap operas very interesting?

...to the premature heater termination. It's always a good idea to check the weather reports before deciding on an entire school's temperature range.

...to teachers who are unclear and inconsistent in their assignments and grading practices. The end of the school year is stressful enough, but this only makes things much worse. For a serious project to be taken seriously, teachers must lead by example.

...to the non-graduating Class of 1996. You are old enough now to suffer the consequences of your decisions. To those underclassmen who are making some of the same decisions i.e., skipping school, fighting, failing, please realize that this is where you are heading.

# Selena's memory survives

**By Erin Coleman and  
Nikki Kaufman**  
Feature Writers

"The role in itself is not about Selena the singer but Selena the person." Senior Noelia Salazar said this while sitting in the crowded cafeteria surrounded by her peers. Noelia, although very down to earth and humble, just may be on her way to becoming a star.

To Noelia, however, this opportunity is more than fame and glory; it's a chance to show the nation who Selena Quintanilla Perez was in her life. Beyond the tragic ending of her life and the fast-moving career preceding it, Selena was to many a caring symbol of the determination to succeed. The undisputed queen of Tejano (Texan) music, (according to *Billboard* magazine) was killed on March 31, 1995. Her murderer was none other than the former president of her fan club, Yolanda Saldivar, who was sentenced to life in prison this past October.

Selena was born in Lake Jackson, Texas, in 1971. Her first taste of performing began when she sang with the family band, Los Dinos, at the age of nine. Years later she married Chris Perez, a member of her band. She continued living in a working-class neighborhood in Corpus Christi even after she achieved fame and fortune.

Noelia, who has cousins who receive a local Spanish station on the radio, called her five minutes after the news of Selena's death was broadcasted.

"After I had heard about it, I just didn't want to do anything. I went into my room and started reading over all my magazines I had of her." Asked if Selena's death was hard for her to overcome, a somber look comes over her face as she quietly answers, "Yes."

From the first time Noelia heard Selena in 1991, she became a devoted fan and chose her for her role model. Noelia believed in Selena's focus: "I really liked what she stood for. She was pushing for kids to stay in school and off

drugs. She had an enormous amount of talent, and she was a great role model."

Noelia said that unfortunately in newspapers and other articles the media branded Selena as another Madonna. Growing up with her as a fan, however, it was evident that she wasn't.



Photo courtesy of Angelica Kuehler

**In her living room turned studio, Noelia's sister shot this picture last fall for Noelia's first audition for the role of Selena.**

"Selena was known for her sexy costumes and attitude, but that was just for the performing aspect of her career," Noelia said. Selena was a devoted Catholic who spent most of her time with her family.

In early fall Noelia heard pieces of information on *Entertainment Tonight* of a Hollywood bio-film to be made about Selena. The producers, including Selena's father, were looking for girls to play the parts. Noelia was interested immediately; with her outgoing personality, she is no stranger to being in the spotlight.

Noelia talked to her father about what she had heard. "He has some friends who live in Chicago that know Selena's father. My dad contacted them for me, and we just started from there."

In Oct. of '95, Noelia made her first

audition for the part of Selena, which was a home audition. She had to make a video of her songs like a music video.

Then she made a portfolio of black and white and colored pictures. Noelia modeled as a child and is now working closely with Cover Shots, a modeling agency. After Noelia wrote up a resume, she sent it all in to be looked over by the judges. Recently, Noelia went to Chicago for the second audition, which was an interview-type audition.

"They asked me questions, and I had to take more pictures. Now I'm waiting for the cuts!"

Noelia has no idea if she's close to getting the role, because they haven't given out any information about who is in the lead. Originally, though, she was up against 15,000 girls, and now after thousands were eliminated for not being within the 18-20 age bracket, she is up against 8,000.

"In my heart and soul I am determined to make it," Noelia said.

Noelia will probably attend Marion College in the fall, where she was asked to be a part of the cheerleading program. She hasn't decided, however, if she will take part in the program. If she doesn't get the role in the movie, she still wants to continue singing with her band which is just now organizing.

"I performed a few weeks ago at a concert, and I got the feel of being on stage. I loved it! It was very exciting, and I told my dad that this is what I wanted to do. My sisters all agree that they always knew I would do something behind the camera or on stage."

Noelia said that she knows they want to start filming by the end of May or the beginning of June, so any time now she should know who will portray Selena. Although, she is praying for this opportunity, Noelia would be just as happy to keep singing and keeping Selena's name and purpose alive. □



# Prayer still has place in students' lives

**By Michele Daugherty and Kelly Holm**  
Staff Writers

Matt sits at the lunch table and wonders if he should pray. He shares a relationship with God, but he knows that his friends do not. He wants to discuss his religion with them, but isn't sure how his friends will react. Will Matt be teased by them if he shares his beliefs? Will his friends be offended by what he says? These are some of the questions that the religious students face when it comes to their beliefs.

Some people disagree that religion even holds a place in education. Disputes have also occurred over whether prayer holds a place in public schools.

Senior Tiffany Schoen said, "I don't really think we should have it (prayer) since there are so many different religions, also people can choose to go to a Catholic school if they want to pray in school."

Sophomore Erin Roe said, "Freedom is taught in school, yet we have no freedom! Prayer to some people is a part of everyday life, and it shouldn't matter if people pray in school or not, as long as it's not forced."

Assistant principal Jim Cohen said, "Prayer in public schools is okay if it is conducted privately."

Assistant principal Mike Sacchini said, "I don't think prayer belongs in school, because it's a violation of the separation of church and state."

Before 1962, public school students prayed to God each morning before school started. Madalyn Murray O'Hair, an atheist, thinks religion should not be included in schools. Murray won a lawsuit, in the summer of 1963, when the Supreme Court ruled that required prayers and Bible readings in public schools were unconstitutional. In April of 1964, Murray called for elimination

of the words "Under God" from the Pledge of Allegiance, in Baltimore, where her two sons attended a public school.

"We will proceed with whatsoever legal action is necessary to stop the practice," she said. Murray also went on to say, "We find this to be offensive to our individual liberties and to our freedom of conscience, since we are atheists," (*New York Times*, April 7, 1964).

Her request for the elimination was later denied by the Baltimore Board of Education. Dr. George Brain, superintendent of Baltimore schools, said, "The practice of pledging allegiance to the flag of the United States will be continued in the public schools of Baltimore City in compliance with the law of the state of Maryland..." (*New York Times*, April 10, 1964)

Many WHS students, however, think that religion does hold an important place in their lives. Some of these students exercise their beliefs by attending the prayer group held every Thursday after school in science teacher Burt Gates' room. This group is called T.R.O.O.P. (Teens Rockin' On Our Planet), which is named after a devotional book previously used in the group. A typical meeting consists of a Bible study discussion and ends with a prayer. The goal behind T.R.O.O.P. is to learn more about God and to become closer in friendship with other Christians.

Gates said, "I believe T.R.O.O.P. is very beneficial. It's very encouraging to know that there are kids that have similar faiths, goals, and values. Students are able to share their difficulties, and others can be a support for the rest of the group. It's a terrific opportunity!"

Sacchini added, "I think T.R.O.O.P. is great as long as it helps young people. Anything that encourages students is good!"

Some students exercise their rights every fall for "See You at the Pole" day. Teenagers across the country were encouraged to gather and pray for their schools, administration, and their nation. More recently, students met at the flagpole in the horseshoe to pray on the Day of National Prayer.

Sophomore Keyna Langhofer said, "I think this is a really good example of what we can do as a student body. It's a good statement and shows that we're not afraid to stand for what we believe in."

Junior Scott Siri said, "It's beneficial, because we were able to witness to other people through our actions. They can see how we really feel about our faith and our religion."

Gates added, "Several teachers have commented also that they support the prayer around the flagpole. I've never heard any negative comments, only positive."

Junior Brad Langhofer said, "It helps that our peers are there to support you, and we're able to pray and fellowship there with them."

Siri added, "T.R.O.O.P. is the kind of place where it's okay to express your feelings and beliefs. There's no pressure to be something you're not."

Some students may feel pressured by teachers during classes not to talk about different aspects of their religion. Senior Michelle Holm agrees with this: "Sometimes it's hard during class, when the teacher is cussing and making derogatory statements whenever a religious subject may come up. I know I should say something, but I fear being embarrassed."

Students aren't always the only ones feeling pressured by others. English and drama teacher, Lorie Kraus, said that she feels pressured to hide her religion, "in the overall sense that society no longer looks to religion for standards or values." She added, "On a personal level, I don't feel pressured." □

# Reputation for art

By **Mark Sniadecki**  
Layout and Design Editor

Among the lesser known habits of the Panther is the love and ability to create great, original art. WHS has a strong reputation in the fine arts, having been a stiff contender in competitions for the last six years. The art department itself is a strong, devoted team, striving to develop the talents of the students.

"It takes effort in pushing students to be original and stay with an art work until it is completely resolved," said Ann Hamilton, art teacher and 1993-94 teacher of the year.

WHS has four art teachers: Barb Shinkos, photography; Eve Woodward and Ann Hamilton, instructing basic and advanced art, respectively; and Tom Meuninck, sculpture. Combined, they hold a total of 20 classes—the largest high-school enrollment in the South Bend Community School Corporation.

Walking into the library earlier this year, one could not help but notice the art (both 2-D and 3-D) lining the walls, bookshelves and tables. They were the remnants of the huge collection sent to be judged for the Scholastic Art Awards.

Each year in early January, the South Bend Regional Museum of Art holds an exhibition of the Scholastic winners, in the Warner Gallery at Century Center. And each year, prior to the judging, art teachers around the area go on a matting spree, pouring over their students' work and mounting the best pieces for show.

This year, students from more than 55 schools all around northern Indiana and southern Michigan had their work among the 450 pieces which received recognition. Considering the over 3,000 entries, it's easy to see why so much emphasis is put on preparation. Those pieces shown in the library were cut, however reluctantly, from the final lineup.

Of the 180 pieces of art sent to be judged by WHS, 34 were selected as



**"Afternoon Tea." All art work shown at the Scholastic exhibition is an award winner. Freshman Jennifer Pawlak received honorable mentions for this and one other photograph--no small feat.**

award winners, a higher percentage than many schools which submitted the same volume..

The ultimate goal of the participants are the gold keys; winners of these highest awards in each category (ranging from painting to metalsmithing) have their work sent to New York City where they compete against a nation of student artists. This year WHS had seven gold key winners (the most of any South Bend school), and the diversity of categories attests to the school's art reputation: sophomore Lisa Carteaux, drawing; senior Shanna Dias, ceramics; senior Colin Nuner, sculpture; sophomore Tara Nyikos, printmaking; freshman Carrie Robak, photography; senior Michelle

Rodriguez, drawing; and senior Shannon Zaworski, ceramics.

Sending work off across the country can be a source of some anxiety for students, and with good reason. All the entries were returned, but not all in the same condition they left. Nuner's piece came back—well, in pieces.

"I wasn't surprised," said Nuner, "it was so big; I kind of expected it."

Besides Scholastics, WHS also had the opportunity to participate in an exhibition at the Fernwood botanical gardens in southern Michigan. By invitation, WHS sent 25 pieces for the spring showing.

Those who attended the Drama Club's spring production, *South Pacific*, saw first-hand the enormous ambition of the WHS art department. The set was constructed and painted not only by the cast, but by individual students from most of the art classes; at least two entire classes worked full-time, painting the profusion of leaves that graced the stage, as well as researching and constructing native masks to add as finishing touches.

"It felt...tropical. It felt like the real thing; I just wanted to jump in the water," commented junior Janice Koch, who had a leading role in the play. When the curtain went up on opening night, there were gasps from the audience.

The staff and students are proud of their work; the future of the WHS art department seems secure as many freshman and sophomores have already been winners in Scholastics. And though the teachers are weary from a long year's work, they're looking ever onward.

"We ate the whole pizza," said ceramics teacher Tom Meuninck, describing the awesome task that all the art teachers undertook this year. "I have a great senior class this year, and I'm looking forward to next year's seniors surpassing them. We [the teachers] all heal over the summer; I'll be excited in the fall." □

# Musicians *catch* award

**By Katharine Chan**  
News Editor

Normally when the West Side is featured in the local news, it involves some negative event that concerns the students of WHS. But recently two WHS juniors were honored as Fischhoff Artists of the Month. Katharine Chan was chosen for the month of March and Joshua Kaser for April. Both students' biographies were featured in the South Bend Tribune's Punch section in the last Sunday edition of that particular month.



**Josh Kaser**

Just to be considered as artist of the month, students had to fill out an application that was basically a "music resume." Their applications were then sent in and reviewed by a panel comprised of members of the musical community and administrators at IUSB. Choosing from a wide variety of applicants, the board then selects the instrumentalists they deem as most worthy and qualified.

Kaser responded to his award by

saying, "It's an honor to have been chosen considering that I was picked from all the high-school kids in the local area. The Fischhoff is very prestigious and I'm glad to be part of it."

As many students are honored for their accomplishments in sports and academics, this program began last year as an idea to honor high-school students' accomplishments in the fine arts.

At the end of the school year, all of the honorees are invited to a reception in their honor and, at that time, receive framed certificates. Their biographies are read before all of the previous winners of that year and their guests. A banquet is held afterwards where the students are recognized in front of all the Fischhoff participants. This is also the time when the three finalists in each division are announced.

Much of the honor as Fischhoff Chamber Music Artist of the Month draws from the name.

The origins of the Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition are rooted in South Bend and began with an avid chamber music lover, Joseph Fischhoff. The contest was not named after him because he funded it, but because he felt that everyone should learn to love and appreciate music as he did. He inspired and thought of the concept behind the competition.

Chamber music is music written for a small group of musicians, usually numbering between four and six. Much of this music was intended to be performed for royalty in the 1700's and 1800's.

The Fischhoff competitions are one of the most prestigious and unique chamber music competitions in the United States. It is held at IUSB at the beginning of May. Chamber groups travel from all over the U.S. for the semi-finals.

The competitions are divided into two groups, juniors and seniors. The juniors are comprised of mainly high-school students, but middle-school students are also allowed into the competition. The senior groups are college-level students who are often majoring in their particular instrument. The members of the senior groups cannot have an average age of over 30 years; this is in order to prevent professionals from competing and perhaps "sweeping" the competition.

The contest awards a great deal of money to each winning group. But the groups aren't necessarily competing for the money; the contest also sponsors three major concerts for each of the winners. The publicity that is gained through these performances can be a major asset to those instrumentalists who desire a professional career in music. One of the concerts takes place at IUSB, the second in Chicago, and a third in another major U.S. city. This publicity oftentimes gives the chamber groups a good chance to launch a professional career as performing artists. As the music business is extremely competitive, the groups will be featured as "the winners of the Fischhoff Chamber Music Competition." This could give them a lead in front of the competition, and they might have a much likelier chance of being recorded or commissioned to play. □



# NIC champions!

## Panther sluggers win conference title to go along with 19-4-1 mark

By Eric Bastine  
Sports Editor

When the Panther baseball team opened the season with a 7-6 loss to Marian, many began to feel pessimistic about WHS's chance to win the Northern Indiana Conference (NIC) title, or, for that matter, a sectional crown as well. It had only been the third time since 1980 that a Panther team had started the season with a loss, so, therefore, more pressure was placed on the shoulders of this talented bunch led by an outstanding group of seniors who have since played their last game at Washington's Redling Field. After that loss, things changed for the Panther squad.

Things changed in a very positive way. The Panthers went out and won 18 of their next 22 games and established themselves as one of the top 20 teams in the state, peaking at 13th three weeks ago. But more important than the 18 wins, more important than the 13th place ranking in the state, is the NIC championship that the Panthers won two weeks ago with a 2-1 victory over West-side rival LaSalle. The first title of such for all of WHS athletics since the baseball team won the conference in 1992.

The crown acknowledges the Panthers as the best team in the conference all season, not just the best team in the first game of the season, and not just the best team in a 3-game sectional tournament which began this past week. That is all season. Marian means nothing now. The Panthers are 19-4, and Marian is hovering around .500. The title is nice, but the Panthers have even bigger goals.

"The loss to Marian was sobering," said head coach Rick Tomaszewski, "It showed us that we couldn't just go out, throw our bats and gloves on the field and expect to beat a mediocre team like Marian."

"That loss proved to us that we're not just going to be able to just go out there and expect to win. We have to come out and play to the best of our ability," said senior Ryan Evans.

The Panthers began the quest of the championship by starting out the conference season with a 10-0-1 record. They had just blown a four-run, seventh inning lead to record the only blemish, an 11-11 tie with the Penn Kingsmen. After the letdown against Penn, the Panthers won six games in a row, mixing blowouts with dramatic wins in compiling victories over Mishawaka, LaSalle, Memorial, Central, Clay, and Riley.

Then came Penn again. The Panthers traveled to Penn High School to revenge the blown game that cost them a perfect record in the conference. Junior Todd Bella started the game and had control on Penn's bats early in the contest.

WHS took a three-run lead into the fifth with Bella leading the way. Bella, however, got in a jam in the sixth inning and was relieved by senior Clemson recruit Matt Wood.

Wood had not pitched in a game in over a year and was forced to come in a crucial game in a crucial situation. It proved to be more than Wood could handle as he walked a batter and served up a run-scoring single to right field to the next batter. It was more than enough. After the Panthers' star catcher, junior Andy Cenkush, was injured trying to stop a wild pitch, Wood was relieved by sophomore Tony Mathews. With the score now tied at three, Penn's Ben Eby ripped a two-run double off the fence. The Panthers had again fallen to another Penn rally, as the Kingsmen held off the Panthers' bats for a 5-3 victory.



Photo courtesy of Memory Lane

## Senior pitcher Ryan Evans delivers to the plate in a victory over John Glenn earlier this season.

The loss to Penn not only ended the Panthers' winning streak, but it also only prevented the Panthers from clenching the NIC championship against a team that WHS had not beaten all season; worst of all, it meant the loss of Cenkush, possibly the hottest hitter on the Panther squad as of late. He had hit five homers during the season, including a big two-homer, seven-RBI game against LaSalle and a monster game at Coveleski Stadium against Clay.

Cenkush's loss proved, however, to be minimal to the Panthers' run at the conference championship. Senior Greg Szymarek emerged as a quality replacement for Cenkush.

"Greg Szymarek was very instrumental in those three games we played to win the conference," commented Tomaszewski.

Although the Panthers lost a 3-1 heart-breaker to Mishawaka the following Monday, it gave WHS a chance to win the conference at home against West-side rival LaSalle.

Mathews got the start, and LaSalle managed to score a run in the top of the first before he was able to settle in.

The Panthers managed to score two runs in the last half of the inning to take a 2-1 lead. It was all that Mathews would need as he pitched his best game of the season, despite numerous walks throughout the game.

With that energetic 2-1 win, the Panthers had clinched the NIC championship.

"It feels good to know that my fellow seniors and I got a picture up on the wall. We've worked hard for four years now and it is very satisfying," said Evans after the game.

The NIC crown is the first of the "big three," as the team calls it.

"We've already won the conference, we're on the verge of winning our 20th game, and we're ready to play going into the sectional. It was our challenge at the beginning of the season to accomplish these three goals, and I think we've done a really good job," said Bella.

The Panthers added one more conference win with a 12-9 victory over Elkhart Memorial as senior Demitrious Minor picked up the win on the mound as well as smacking a home run in the contest.

The Panthers traveled to Clay Park the very next day to battle a red-hot St. Joe, a team who had won their last nine games, in the Colonial Classic.

Bella pitched a shutout and again helped himself out with a homerun during the 9-0 Panther win.

The next game in the Classic proved to be one of the most unusual games of the season for the Panthers.

The Panthers battled with host Clay for three scoreless innings in a pitching duel between Evans and the Colonial's Craig Knight. Knight was very effective in mixing up the speeds of his pitchers and silencing the thick Panther bats.

The Panthers scored eight runs before the rain fell and suspended the game to the next evening.

The Panthers returned to Clay park the next evening to complete the contest and Mathews relieved Evans, who had struck out seven batters in just four innings. The Panthers then put on an offensive display after Clay scored four runs off Mathews in the bottom of the fourth.

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# Panther golfers to challenge at sectionals

**By Ryan Hanyzewski**  
Sports Writer

The Panther golf team was off to a slow start, and things are not getting much better.

Last year, the Panthers were 6-2 in the conference, but this year they are a mere 3-5.

"This year has been a comedy of errors; everything has gone wrong," said Coach Milt Cooper.

With an 0-2 record in the conference, the Panthers traveled to Mishawaka for a match against host Mishawaka and Elkhart Central.

Senior Dan Kopczynski led the way with a 38, followed by junior Ryan Hanyzewski with a 39. Freshman Andy Peterson fired a 40, but on the weak golf course, it was not nearly enough as the Panthers were swept and moved to 0-4 in the conference.

Next up for WHS was a dual meet with LaSalle and Penn. Sophomore Drew Griffis led the way with a 37, followed by

Kopczynski with a 40. Hanyzewski and fellow junior Mike Szymarek both shot 41's as the Panthers defeated LaSalle, but came four strokes short of upsetting the future conference champs, the Penn Kingsmen.

The Panthers then traveled to Erskine Golf Course to play the Riley Wildcats and the Adams Eagles. Kopczynski was unable to play, but after two golfers came in, Griffis with a 38 and Hanyzewski, who shot a 41, the Panthers led both teams.

It was, however, all downhill from there. They did manage to defeat Adams, thanks to a strong performance from sophomore Kyle Basker.

With a 3-5 conference record, the Panthers headed into the Northern Indiana Conference tournament.

The Panthers made a very strong showing, but fell just a little short of placing well. They finished fifth, one shot off fourth and seven shots off third. Kopczynski placed fifth out of 45 golfers with a 79, and Hanyzewski placed sixth with an 80.

Kopczynski and Griffis were both named honorable mention all-conference.

The Panthers have, however, played well in practice and will be looking forward to sectionals.

"If the three returning lettermen (Hanyzewski, Kopczynski, and Griffis) can play to their potential, and we can get a low fourth score, we can easily make regionals," said assistant coach Ken Czajkowski.

The major problem this year was inconsistency. The Panthers had different fourth and fifth vascity players all year long.

Griffis, Hanyzewski, and Kopczynski have played in the top three spots all year, but the lack of consistency past them has killed the Panthers.

"We started the season in a slump, and we have been in it ever since. But we are coming out of it for sectionals, and we should be tough to beat," commented Griffis.

The Panthers will compete in sectionals on Friday and the regionals will be next weekend. □

## Losses aside, season still big success

**By Jenny Hess**  
Staff Writer

The girls' tennis season finished with a downward slope. Their losing streak continued long into the season, and by then the hope of improvement had died.

The team had dreams of success against LaSalle, but it did not take long before those wishful dreams were crushed. Although some did manage to win their own matches, the team as a whole did not.

Sophomore Jocie Orłowski was pleased with her playing: "I got to play with my good friend Jenny Hess, and not only were we able to win, but we had a lot of fun in the process."

Though LaSalle was the team's last hope of winning, they still had a few matches left.

Unfortunately, many of these matches had to be rescheduled because of the annoying reoccurrence of rain in the afternoon. These matches, against Penn and Elkhart Memorial were, as expected, unsuccessful.

"I was upset that we couldn't at least win one match this season," commented senior Carol DeGeeter. Because of the rescheduling, the team had a week full of matches ahead of them.

Monday they were defeated by Elkhart Memorial. "I felt okay with the way I played this time; I felt kind of dumb when I kept getting hit with the ball though," said freshman Carly Northam.

Tuesday, the Panthers played Adams at

home. As usual the team lost, even though many players said they played as hard as they could. DeGeeter thought that Adams had a good team and that being defeated was inevitable: "I think that both teams played their best; Adams' best was just a little bit better."

On Wednesday the Panthers faced Riley at home. It came as no surprise to the team that they lost. "Riley had a big team, so there was lots of room for good players," said sophomore Samantha Anderson. "The good thing about that was that I got to play twice; the second time I played my opponents weren't very good, so I won easily."

The Riley match was pretty much the end of the Panthers' fun.

Thursday, the team went to Penn...again. The first time the team was supposed to play Penn, they left WHS in the rain and returned a little over an hour later in the rain, not having played a single game.

When the team returned to Penn in the same conditions nine days later, they were again unable to play. Coach Daryl Boykins said, "You can't play tennis when the courts are wet. Both times we left with Penn guaranteeing that the courts were dry; but when we arrived, the courts were impossible to play on."

On Tuesday an announcement was made before the end of school stating that the girls' match against Penn had been canceled, and no further explanation was offered.

Sectionals, on the other hand, saw a high of 88

degrees on Friday. This time the sweatshirts were cast off, and the teams' t-shirts were revealed, only to be soaked with sweat by the end of the afternoon.

To many players' disappointment, this year's sectionals fell on the same day as prom, making it difficult for many of the juniors and seniors to attend the game. The Michigan City athletic director was granted permission from the state to change the time of sectionals from seven to one o'clock to make it easier for the players going to prom to make the game.

Seniors Stephanie Schwander and Patricia Painter, and junior Kathy Chan decided to go to sectionals; but with hair appointments and other pre-prom rituals, it was still too difficult for others to attend.

As was expected, the Panthers lost sectionals to New Prairie. "What can I say?" asked Boykins. "To begin with, our team is not that strong, and then to not have some of our best players at sectionals, there was really nothing we could do."

All in all, Boykins said that this year was really not so bad: "It was a year not necessarily for winning, but for improvement. I think some of these girls have come a long way since last year, and for the newcomers, the beginning of this year. If the girls keep playing through the summer, fall, and winter months, they may come back to be a very competitive team." □

# Boys' track team sends five to regionals

By **Brian Schoonaert**  
Sports Writer

After starting the season with a blow-out victory over LaSalle, the Panthers have had a very long and hard losing streak. In fact, the LaSalle meet was the Panthers' only regular season victory this year.

"We started out with a victory over LaSalle. That game gave us some confidence as we began our season. As we went on, however, we faced tougher competition," said assistant coach Brendon Gardiner.

WHS' first loss of the season came at the hands of LaVille, 78-51. The Panthers then lost an extremely close meet to Marian 69-60. Their losing continued as they were beaten by Adams and Clay by a score of 97-37. But the team did get something out of these losing efforts; several runners improved their times, and the new team members gained a lot of valuable experience.

"A number of young runners made significant improvements during the season. We are a very young team with only a handful of seniors. Chad Wlodarek, Lamont Preston, Josh

Comeau, and Kyle Whittaker were our senior leaders, and they did a good job throughout the season," said Gardiner.

The team also got a confidence lift when senior Josh Comeau went to the City meet and won the pole-vault championship. Comeau beat out pole vaulters from Clay, LaSalle, Adams, and Riley to win the prize.

"That was a big win and it gave Josh a lot of confidence. That was good for him," said junior Zeb Gathright.

Gardiner said, "The guys were upset after we dropped a couple of close meets, but we rebounded pretty well. They know we're a young team, so we tried to concentrate on personal bests, not just wins and losses."

At the sectional, the Panthers made a good showing and placed 8th out of the 12 schools competing, scoring 36.20 points overall. The Panthers beat out Marian 26, Glenn 22.20, St. Joseph 21.20, and LaSalle 10.

The WHS top finishers were freshman Sam Burris in the 110 high hurdles with a time of 16.50, and junior Zeb Gathright with

a 11.47 time in the 100 meter. In the 400-relay, the team of senior Kyle Whittaker, Zeb Gathright Sam Burris, and George Tinnin placed 4th with a time of 45.31. That finish was good enough to make it to regionals. Gathright also got a strong finish in the 200 meter, while Burris got a 42.23 time in the 300 low hurdles. He finished 6th in the long jump.

In the high jump, freshman Quental Howard finished second which gave him a chance to compete in the regional. Gathright's sectional times also qualified him for the 200 meter in the regionals.

"I'm nervous about regionals, but I'm also excited since this is my first year in track. I wish more of the team was coming also. I'm proud of our team, however, because everyone has tried and done well this year," said Gathright.

Gardiner said, "Coach Beckman and I are excited about next year. Also, we look forward to seeing some of the younger guys improve in the off season. We also like to get more guys out for the team. Building up a good track program takes a lot of time, and we're hoping to keep improving." □

## Softball team looks to repeat at sectionals

By **John Nyikos and Drew Griffis**  
Sports Writers

After a quick start, the girls' softball team stood at 5-2 after the first half of the season. The girls kept to their winning ways; they won the Marquette Invitational with three impressive blow-out victories.

Junior Nicole Drabecki said, "Since we had won the tournament last year, we were all psyched to become the first team to win it in back-to-back years."

The first game of the Invitational pitted the Panthers against Michigan City Marquette. Drabecki and freshman Ryanne Litka led the way on the plate. Drabecki had a single, double, triple, and three runs batted in (RBI). Litka had a single and a double, with two RBI's. Senior Jamie Infalt led the way on the mound by throwing a one-hitter for the 12-3 victory.

In the next game, the girls were victorious over Adams 11-3. Litka hit a three-run homer. Sophomore Sarah Wood had three hits, and Drabecki had two hits of her own. Infalt picked up the win.

The final game of the Invitational had the Panthers playing New Prairie. An all-out team effort helped the girls to destroy the Cougars. Seniors Rhonda Montgomery, Erin Maenhout, and Infalt each had two hits. Senior Anna Cruz and freshman Angie Ludwig

had two hits as well. Infalt pitched another one-hitter for the win.

Drabecki said, "A lot of achievements were made in the Marquette Invitational by great pitching and great usage of our bats on offense. Everyone was feeling pretty confident throughout the three games. I believe our team was very aggressive on the bases and at the plate."

Next up for the Lady Panthers was West-side rival LaSalle. The Lions, who were once ranked among the best in the state, did not have a prayer against the Panthers who humiliated them 8-4. Wood had three hits and two RBI's, and Drabecki added two hits and an RBI. Infalt baffled LaSalle batters by striking 13 of them out.

Infalt commented, "I feel that our strong defense, outstanding offense, and the fact that we all get along so well helped us win this game and will continue to win us big games like this one."

After embarrassing LaSalle, the Lady Panthers looked to bury Riley on their home field. But this was not to be. Riley's Kiley Mahoney pitched a one-hitter in her innings of work to pace Riley to a 9-2 win. Infalt and Maenhout led the Panthers with two hits and a RBI.

The girls of summer looked to rebound from the loss to Riley by hurting Adams. Infalt did another fine job on the mound and

hit a double to get her ninth win. Wood also paced the Panthers to an 11-8 victory with two hits and five RBI's.

The girls ventured to Twin Branch to take on Mishawaka on May 15. Infalt tossed a five-hitter with two strikeouts to collect her tenth win as WHS pounced Mishawaka 4-1. Drabecki added three hits, including a double and a RBI for the Panthers. Junior Katie Shuamber had two hits, and Wood added a RBI triple for the streaking Panthers.

The Lady Panthers hope to keep their winning ways by beating Culver Military Academy 9-1 and then clawing their way to another sectional crown for WHS.

Everyone on the team has high hopes for the sectionals. Montgomery said, "I feel that we have as good a chance as anyone to repeat as sectional champs. Our main adversary will probably be Riley."

Assistant coach Cathy Baker said, "I think the team has a good chance of going a long way in the tournament because of our strong defense and pitching, combined with the leadership of seniors Maenhout, Infalt, Montgomery, and Cruz."

Drabecki said, "All elements of our team are starting to peak at the right time, especially since the sectionals are coming this Saturday. Hopefully, we will also become the first team to repeat at the sectionals." □

# Diaper Dandys: Kids playing a man's game

By Mitchell B. Otolski

Sports Writer

## Cochese in Charge



Each year the three most watched sports: basketball, baseball, and football, as told by *USA Today's* recent poll, have a draft. A draft consists of numerous graduating seniors with an occasional underclassman. Recently the National Basketball Association's draft has gotten out of hand.

Last year's NBA draft had eight underclassmen in the first round, including the first five selections with the fifth selection being a senior from high school. These athletes should stay in school and get their diplomas. The NBA will always be there for them to participate in.

So far this year's draft, which has a May 12 entry deadline, will consist of 13 underclassmen: Allen Iverson, Marcus Camby, Ray Allen, Lorenzen Wright, Stephon Marbury, Dontae Jones, Vitaly Potapenko, Ronnie Henderson, Darnell Robinson, Samaki Walker, Antoine Walker, Jeff McGinnis and another high school senior Kobe Bryant from Pennsylvania with the possibility of a second high school senior, Jermaine O'Neal, who is presently weighing his options.

It cannot be for the challenge that these underclassmen leave early because this year's NCAA champion, Kentucky, along with the past three champions, possess no underclassmen who wish to leave early for the NBA. Greed is the reason that the number of underclassmen in the draft is high. The players no longer respect the college degree as much as their desire for money. Selection by one of the 30 teams is not even guaranteed to any of the players who wished to be selected by a team.

For example, Scotty Thurman left Arkansas early last year in hopes of playing for a professional team, but was not selected by any of the teams. One of the best college players in the '94-'95 season, John Wallace, entered the draft last year, could have gone pro and been picked toward the middle or late first round. Wallace then changed his mind and decided to stay for his senior year. Not only did his team, Syracuse, get to the championship game this year, but Wallace is also picked by experts to be a sure lottery pick this year. This will earn him more money than being picked anywhere else in any of the other rounds.

The average grade level of the underclassmen is a sophomore, two years shy of a college degree. If these players would just stay the four years, they would most certainly receive a diploma in which they could fall back on if their

destiny was not that of an NBA player. The NBA is not having any problems gaining interest from the fans. If the money is there now, it will surely be there in two to four years.

That is why these athletes should stay in school and wait for the draft until they graduate. Staying in school is the best decision. □

## NIC--from page 12

The 15-run rule soon took effect, and the Panthers came away with a 21-4 spanking of the Colonials.

The win ensured the Panthers the Classic Trophy, due to two Penn losses in the tournament.

The Colonial Classic Championship was, however, not one of the big three. The next goal for the Panthers is to win 20 games and to win the sectional, which is being played this past week. The Panthers took on Adams in the opener and faced the winner of the Clay-St. Joe game to reach the final, which will be played this Saturday at Coveleski Stadium.

Evans has been the ace of the Panther pitching staff this year. He has a 7-1 record, a 1.24 ERA, and has struck out a team-high 112 batters in just 62 innings. He is a lock for first-team All-NIC, but the surprises when the teams are announced might be right below him in the rotation. Mathews has a 6-0 record and a similar ERA, and Bella falls right in behind them with a 5-1 record and has gotten the Panthers out of numerous jams this season.

The six seniors on the team this season have also been very critical to the Panthers' success.

"This group has really good chemistry," said Tomaszewski. "Everyone really knows his role, and they are very unselfish."

As the Panthers enter the state tournament with high hopes, Tomaszewski likes to keep it all in perspective.

"No pitcher in the area should be able to beat us. What we have to worry about is beating ourselves. We have to keep pressure on the other team's defense with our running game and we have to force our opponents to make errors," added Tomaszewski.

The coach also hinted that Wood and Evans need to step up and swing the bat for the Panthers to be successful. He added that Mathews will be very critical on the mound and that he needs to be intense.

Whatever the opponent and whatever the case, the Panthers will be prepared come sectional time.

This isn't Marian. This is win or go home.

But the Panthers can go ahead and make a date for the regionals and, hopefully, much more.

"I'd say that if we don't make a trip to the semi-state this year, this season would be a disappointment," said Tomaszewski.

This Panther squad won't disappoint anyone. □

## Sports Profile



**Name:** Matthew Ronald Wood

**Birthdate:** October 28, 1977

**Year:** Senior

**Sports played:** Football, basketball and baseball

**Awards and achievements:** Football: 2nd team all-conference, sophomore; 1st team, junior and senior; 1st team All-State, junior and senior years as a defensive back; 2nd team, junior, and 1st team senior year as a punter; 1st team for quarterback, NIC MVP, senior year. Basketball: Honorable mention all-conference, junior and senior years. Baseball: 2nd team all-conference, sophomore; 1st team and NIC MVP, junior year.

**Role model:** My father

**Favorite sports teams:** Bulls and Cubs

**Favorite TV show:** *Friends*

**Favorite food:** My mom's Mexican lasagna

**What I love about school:** Seeing my friends

**What I hate about school:** Homework

**Greatest athletic moment:** Winning the NIC championship this year—it was a team award.

**My parents were right when they told me:** Work hard and good things will happen for you.

**Biggest fear:** Not being able to play sports

**Wildest dream:** Playing in the major leagues

**What turns me off:** Loud, obnoxious people

**Person I'd like to meet:** Michael Jordan

**Advice to others:** Don't let anyone tell you that you can't do something. If you set your mind to it, you're almost there.

**Paper or plastic?** Paper

**Number of tattoos:** One

**Best advice I've ever received:** Work harder because there is always someone out there who is better.

**In 20 years I see myself:** Married and a retired, millionaire baseball player

# TRACK 16

Tired of the same style of music? Sick of listening to all your friends play their favorite songs so incessantly that you know every word, scream, pause, whisper, beat, obscenity, and melody contained therein.

It's time to enlighten those one-set ears and open up to new and different forms of music. Everyone has a favorite type of music, but it seems that once a select style is chosen, deviation from this particular listening pattern is close to null. In an attempt to disturb the singular-style listening institution, I bring to readers.....Ani DeFranco.

Ani is a refreshing alternative to common radio fare or even the old favorites. Admittedly, not everyone will enjoy the exuberant and inspiring tunes of this female artist, but her true talent and originality is something most people can appreciate.

She creates all the songs with little help from outside sources. Ani plays all acoustic guitar using mostly her fingers instead of a



pick to enable the use of intricate patterns.

The lyrics accompanying such musical art cover a wide range of issues in depth, such as politics and government, discrimination, self-worth, and existence. The way Ani formulates her lyrics makes the song itself a form of poetry.

Miss DeFranco is on Righteous Babe

Records which has allowed her to selfproduce eight albums.

Among my favorites is *Like I Said* which is a compilation of two of her first albums and *Puddle Dive* which came out in '94. Both are exquisite examples of the extremely talented Ani style. She has six albums that I know of, but I have only had the opportunity, because of financial situations, to obtain to two of them.

Purchasing a CD or tape by Ani DeFranco will definitely broaden your music horizons and provide a new outlook on music style. Don't hesitate another moment. Go out at lunch, after school, or as soon as you get paid and bring the glorious sounds of Ani into your car or home. -K.H.



## 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 will result in an "unpleasant" visitation from a large hired thug called Knuckles who will beat you to death with a wiffle bat.

### BOB & GARY'S TRIBUTE TO SENIORITIS

BOB: It's that time of year again, folks. Time when all good high-school seniors (and, as of late, juniors, sophomores and freshmen) begin to say 'to heck with studying' and reduce themselves to mindless Dorito-eating slackers. We, as the Ushers, salute them.

**Fast Times at Ridgemont High**

GARY: The movie that started it all. Believe it or not, most people still haven't seen this movie. A must see.

BOB: I happen to be one of those people who hasn't seen it. Shoot me. Please.

**The Breakfast Club**

GARY: A simple movie with a cast full of greats. Six people sitting in for detention on a Saturday morning. Just imagine how this plot could expand. Emilio Estevez, Molly Ringwald, Judd Nelson, the list keeps going, just like the movie.

BOB: What? No Egg McMuffin??

GARY: Forgive Bob, he's.....rubber cementing his fingers together.

**Dazed and Confused**

GARY: OK, everyone knows this is the greatest high-school movie made. Part of that relates to the fact that every video

store in South Bend has had every one of their copies stolen. If you haven't seen this one, please find someone who rented it permanently.

BOB: I saw myself in that movie! Well, okay, not myself. But they looked like real high-school students. Except the one that looked like me. I need therapy.

**Dangerous Minds**

BOB: I wish my teachers were ex-marines. More so, I wish my teachers were Michele Pfeiffer. But those are unrealistic goals, kind of like this movie.

GARY: Ohh...poor Emilio! Just kidding.

Let's face it. This movie is so unrealistic, it made me laugh when I watched it. Perhaps if they brought it more down to earth, I'd enjoy it more. Plus that Coolio song didn't help it any.

BOB: Two words: *Amish Paradise*.

...

BOB: Ladies and gentlemen, today is a dark day. A day that will live in infamy. Or something like that. Gary has caught...the African Motabo virus. Gary, tell us something before you go.

GARY: Well, Bob, as my organs slowly liquify, I reflect back on the wonderful

movies I've seen. (And the coughing guy who gave this thing to me). Although a vaccine seems to be too far away, I'll enjoy my next five hours of pain and mutation. Well, not exactly. I will, however, be leaving the Ushers in hopes of taking over Siskel and Ebert's time slot. If not that, you can catch me on Conan O'Brien next week.

BOB: Farewell, Gary!

GARY: Farewell, Bob; may the forces of evil become confused on the way to your home. □

### Bob & Gary's Top Twenty-five Movies Ever

- |                                       |                                |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. <i>The Shawshank Redemption</i>    | 13. <i>12 Monkeys</i>          |
| 2. <i>Forrest Gump</i>                | 14. <i>Terminator 2</i>        |
| 3. <i>Return of the Jedi</i>          | 15. <i>Breakfast Club</i>      |
| 4. <i>Raiders of the Lost Ark</i>     | 16. <i>Full Metal Jacket</i>   |
| 5. <i>Stand By Me</i>                 | 17. <i>Dazed and Confused</i>  |
| 6. <i>Star Wars</i>                   | 18. <i>Animal House</i>        |
| 7. <i>Field of Dreams</i>             | 19. <i>The Lost Boys</i>       |
| 8. <i>Empire Strikes Back</i>         | 20. <i>Jaws</i>                |
| 9. <i>Indiana Jones: Last Crusade</i> | 21. <i>Blood In: Blood Out</i> |
| 10. <i>48 Hours</i>                   | 22. <i>The Blues Brothers</i>  |
| 11. <i>Seven</i>                      | 23. <i>Pulp Fiction</i>        |
| 12. <i>True Lies</i>                  | 24. <i>Clockwork Orange</i>    |
|                                       | 25. <i>Outbreak</i>            |