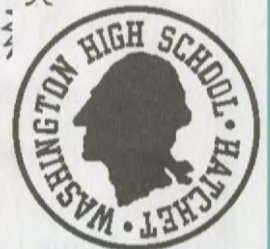
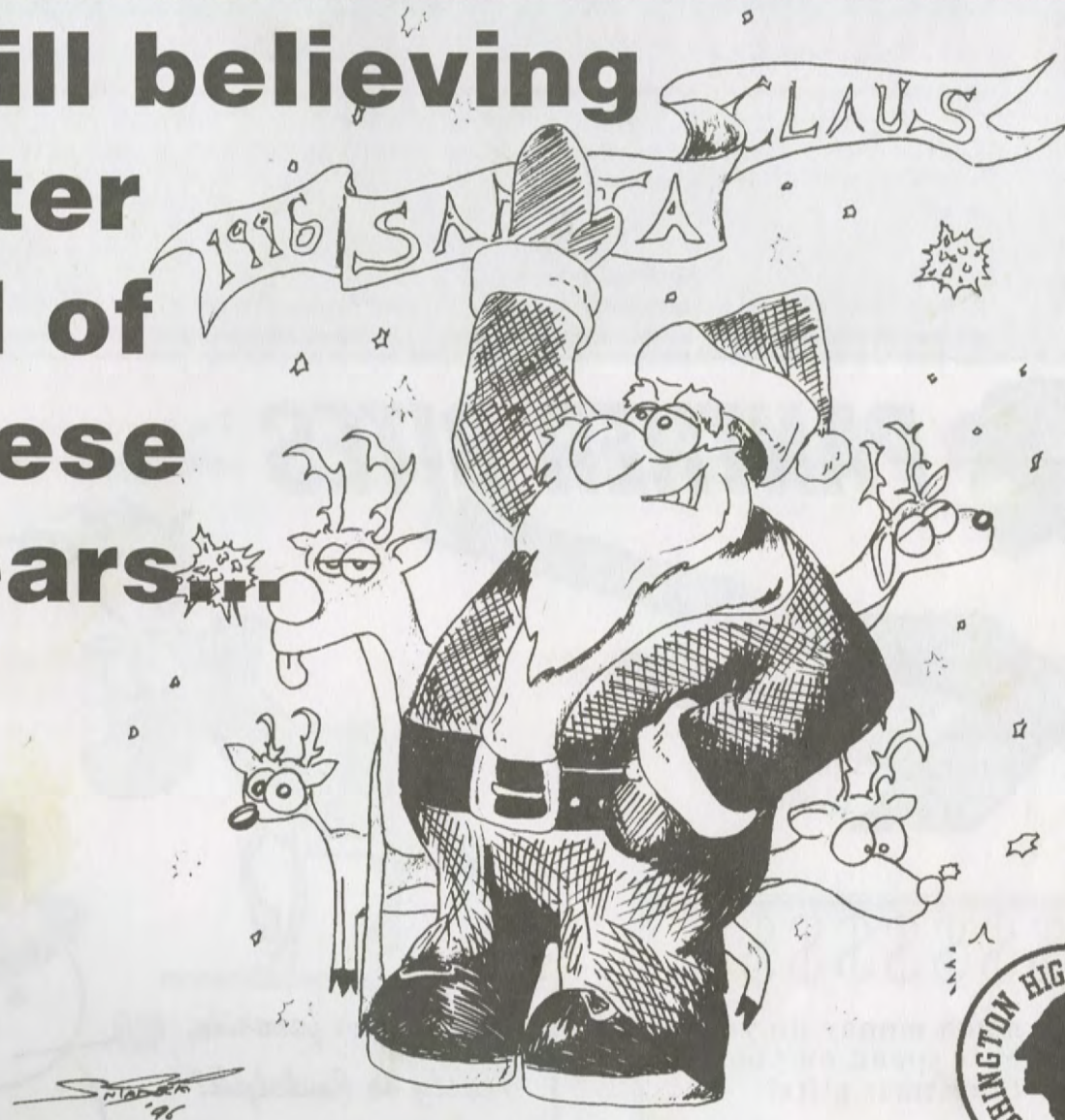


THE WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL HATCHET

DECEMBER
EDITION
FREE
• 1996

**Still believing
after
all of
these
years...**



Inside This Issue:

Fine arts students venture to Indianapolis and Orlando, and the orchestra keeps growing and growing... **p. 4-5**

A very "moving" experience comes to South Bend's Howard Park; a minimized Vietnam Wall commemorates the deaths of soldiers killed in the war. **p. 8-9**

Boys basketball most promising winter sport--there's a forecast for a great season. **p. 12-15**

Multicultural Society to have semi-formal

Katherine Chan
Co-Editor

SOCIAL STUDIES TEACHER AND MULTICULTURAL SOCIETY (MCS) SPONSOR

Constance Green, along with members of the club, have begun plans to host the first-annual winter semi-formal for WHS.

Green said, "Students talking about other schools' formals is what inspired the idea."

Arrangements have been made with St. Hedwig's Parish to use their banquet hall as a dance hall on Jan. 31. The semi-formal will last from 8-12.

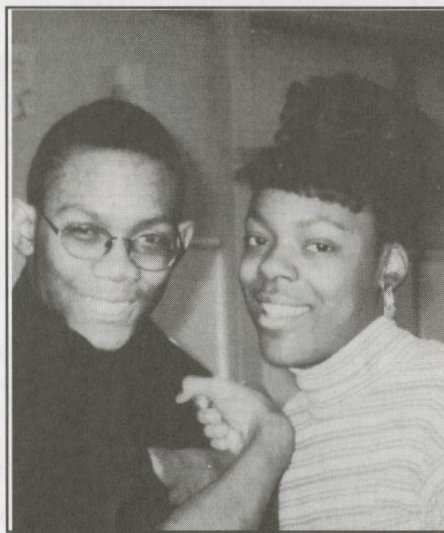
Tickets will be sold for \$7 per person; there is no couple ticket price. Junior Amy Bastine thinks this is a good decision. "The 'one-price' idea might put less pressure on people to find a date. It'll encourage people to come in groups."

The semi-formal is serving as a fundraiser for the MCS and all the profits will go toward the club. MCS president, junior Tina Brantley said, "We want to raise enough money to see a cultural play."

The dress code has not been clearly established, but MCS vice-president, sophomore Larry Levine said, "It doesn't have to be a totally flashy dress or outfit, just as long as you're

appropriately dressed."

Since the prom is scheduled to for May 16, the MCS doesn't want this dance to conflict in any way with the preparations involved with prom. "The semi-formal is in-between a homecoming dance and prom...we don't want you to spend a lot of money on something to wear or a limo...just look nice and have fun. This is NOT a prom!" said Levine.



Happy couple freshman Larry Levine and junior Tina Brantley find that by joking around, they can have more fun and enjoy their work with the semi-formal planning and MCS.

The MCS is often perceived as an all black club, but this is not true. They have a mix of races involved with their activities which tries to promote more racial integration. Levine encourages more people to get involved with the MCS. "The more people we have, the more things we can do and the more fun we can have."

The theme of the semi-formal,

"Set the Night to Music," also has a message of unity in it.

"We want to bring everyone together with this," said Brantley. This is also a reason that the dance is not only restricted to only juniors and seniors, but is open to all students of WHS.

"I think it's a good idea to be open to underclassmen because it's a good way to get to know upperclassmen and it'll prepare us for prom," said sophomore Michael Drain.

Levine, who is also head of the music committee, agreed with other members that the DJ should meet the specifications of being able to play any and all types of music. Levine said that everything from country to polka music can be played. "The music that we are going to have is going to be clean and there is going to be a definite variety," said Levine.

Black and gold were chosen to be the colors by MCS and semi-formal committee members and will adorn the hall in the form of balloons and table decorations. Refreshments including cake, punch, and cookies will be served.

Since the announcement of the semi-formal, many have mixed opinions about it.

Senior Jenny Brenner said, "It's not a good idea to have it on the night of a basketball game."

"I'm looking forward to it, it's a major step up for WHS...I'm glad they decided to have something like this my senior year," said senior Erik Kolacz. □

Panthers deliver holiday spirit

By Erin Coleman
Staff Writer

FRIENDS ALWAYS THERE, PEER MEDIATORS, AND STUDENT COUNCIL MEMBERS were involved in a food and toy drive for St. Vincent de Paul.

The participants went out into the community in an effort to collect non-perishable canned food items and toys. St. Vincent de Paul provided the groups with five large collection barrels that were placed in the front lobby.

The groups chose to join forces and work on this project because each one showed an interest in having a food drive.

After the food drive was over, a representative from St. Vincent de Paul picked up the collection barrels for distribution to the many families they help each year. The students who were involved will help distribute the food and toys to the homes.



Wishing the St. Vincent De Paul cans could be overflowing, are sponsors of the food drive senior Eric Kolacz, social worker Mary Lahey, and Suzanne Myers.

Social worker and sponsor for peer mediation, Mary Lahey, said, "It is a good experience for the students or for anybody who goes out and helps, be-

cause they are contributing to the community."

Member of Friends Always There, junior Suzy Myers said, "It is important to be having a food drive, but it makes me angry that people won't help out. It also makes me sad that no one really cares enough about helping others."

Guidance counselor and baseball coach Rick Tomaszewski gives out T-shirts with a specially designed logo to prospective spring baseball players as Christmas presents.

He does this every year just before break, as a way to show his appreciation to the possible and returning players. He usually has a senior on the team pass out the shirts to the other players.

For several years Tomaszewski has passed out shirts to the guys who have signed up to be on the team. He said, "It's good that they have T-shirts to show they are part of the team, especially for the freshmen coming in. They often feel left out, because returning players can show that they have contributed to the team."

Senior Todd Bella said, "It is something that we can wear to support the baseball program."

Tomaszewski said that the team always needs extra support. "The kids are pretty fortunate that they have excellent support from the parents, but it doesn't need to stop there."

Tomaszewski also said that it is sort of a reward for having a good season last year and as a motivator to do well again this year. It also gets him in contact with the team members to remind them that the new season is coming up soon: "It gets them 'fired up.'"

This year the Home Economics Related Occupations (HERO) classes are making and delivering gingerbread men, Christmas trees, and stocking door hangings for the St. Joseph Care Center West nursing home.

The students and HERO teacher Mary Ann Dentino will personally de-

liver 30 decorations.



Senior Andy Cenkush is holding the T-shirt that Coach T passes out to his team every Christmas as a motivation for the upcoming season.

Dentino said that last year the HERO class made wreaths and gave them to the nursing home residents. They were greatly appreciated, and she hopes that this year's decorations will be greeted likewise.

Dentino said, "Usually I do not get much of a reaction from the students when we make the decorations; they really seem, however, to enjoy giving the decorations to the elderly people. They also enjoy giving someone else happiness."

Senior Kristen Andrae thinks that going to the nursing home is a good experience, "I like being able to do something for others, and it is good to be helping those who are a different age."

The Consumer Education class are also going to the same nursing home, but to deliver their gingerbread cottages.

Consumer Education teacher Judy Leatherman said, "Society is always 'me, me, me.' I think we should do more giving."

Leatherman said that some of the students are reluctant to go, but once they do go, they usually feel good about what they have done. □

Photo by Nikki Kaufman

Jingle all the way

Hatchet Christmas Messages

To: Heather Deka

I hope you liked your presents at Erik's party! Let's take the Transpo again sometime.

From: Kathy

To: Sara Ewing

Thanks for being such a good friend and listening to all my great stories about... well, you know who. Hope to see you at my birthday bomb at Jessie's.

From: Pru

To: Lawanda

To a sweet young girl. I'm glad to have you as a friend!

From: Sam

!

To: Mr. Salty Lips

Wanna rock my world? A simple yes or no would suffice.

From: Al

To: Jessica Rogers

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. See you Christmas Eve.

From: your cousin

To: All WHS Panthers

Happy holidays to all! Have a wonderful Christmas and an exciting vacation.

From: Mrs. Pat

To: All Cross-country runners

Cross country was great this year, guys. I hope everyone comes out again next year, or even better yet run track, too. Merry Christmas.

From: Amanda

To: Brother

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

From: Sister

To: Mr. Alspaugh

Hope you get all the caramel rolls you want for Christmas.

From: Your W5 calculus class

To: Ray, my honey

Have a Merry Christmas. I'll be with you.

From: ???

To Ryan:

I just wanted to tell you how much I love you! I've never been happier in my entire life. I love you, honey!

From: Jenny

To: Heather, Kelly, Janice, Tara, Christi, Hitomi, Monica, Erik, Kelly, and Lori

Merry Christmas

From: Kathy

To: Josh Kaser

Merry Christmas and have a Happy New Year! I'll try not to have too much fun over the holidays!

From: Al the Canadian

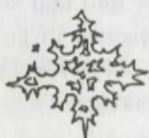
To: Staff and Students

Best wishes to you and your families during the holiday season.

From: D.Kaser

To: Jenny

Merry Christmas, honey. I hope you have the best Christmas ever. I love you!



To: Kimmie

To the closest and best friend that I have ever had. You are just like a sister to me. Have a great Christmas.

From: Erin

To: To all the HOTTIES in the school

Best wishes and party down. Toshia, Brooke, Stacie, Melissa, Chrissy, Lisa Sara, Alison, Everyone.

From: Josh Northam

To: Kelli, Andy, Christin, Derek, Emily, Brad, Amy, Jessica, and anyone else who got on a headset during "Father of the Bride"

Merry Christmas!!

From: Mark

To: Kewe

You smell like a goat. Will you join me for some goat cheese and melba snacks next Friday? Clarence the cross-eyed goat says hi!

From: Ewe

To: Jason

Merry Christmas to a great guy that I go out with. Hope we have many more memories together.

From: Love, Katie

To: What's up?

You been ridin that train? uh! ah! that's the sound of the men working on the train.

From: You know who. Me!!

To: Mis estudiantes

Les deseo a unas vacaciones llenas de felicidades. Que se diviertan, descansen, y reciban muchos regalos.

From: Señor Krueger

To: Jaime Kurzhal

To the greatest friend in the world! Thanks for always being there for me. I don't know what I'd do without you.

From: Karen

To: Courtney

To the greatest person in the whole world. I'm so happy I sit next to you in chemistry. Now, thanks to you, I am getting an "F."

From: Andy Nalepinski

To: Hanny

Thanks for letting me stay in the HATCHET office all those times; I really enjoyed it. If you need anyone to go to those Christmas parties, give me a call! Merry Christmas.

From: Pru

To: Aaron Glassman

I think you're very sweet and cute. But you don't ever talk to me. Call me sometime. See ya' around.

From: Your Secret Admirer

To: Table-roller

Me-sta, me-sta -- GET THIS OFFA'ME!

From: GD co-worker

To: Swing Choir Guys

Hope those Madrigal tights didn't get you too badly.

From: Brad Wilson

To: Jenny Bailey

To a nice girl I've just met. Maybe I could get to know you better.

From: Andy Nalepinski

To: All my friends

I hope you have a Merry Christmas!

From: Courtney

To: Katie

Merry Christmas to a special friend. I swear I thought that was my leg!

From: Matt

To: Nic Boocher-The Afro King

Happy New Year!

From: Matt



Just give me something to believe in. . .

by **Nikki Kaufman**
Staff Writer

Christmas. People have many different ways of celebrating this special day, and some choose not to celebrate at all. No matter what the belief, it is hard to escape from the holiday hoopla that emerges at the end of November.

Freshman Brady Maller explained what Christmas day means to him: "Jesus Christ, my Lord and personal savior, was born on Christmas to fulfill his duties on earth as the ultimate sacrifice for our sins."

Senior Isaiah Dockery said, "Christmas has always been a religious experience. It's a time when the knowledge of Christ and Christian education is spread the most."

Senior Brad Langhofer said that every Christmas his dad reads the Christmas story out of the Bible before the family opens presents. Langhofer went on to say that his favorite part of Christmas is the act of giving.

Sophomore Reshell Walton said that Christmas does not hold a religious meaning for her, because neither she nor her family have religious beliefs.

Walton explained what the favorite part of Christmas is for her: "Giving people presents and seeing the happy look on their faces. It's

just a great feeling you get when you see the person getting something around seven years old.

however, that they stopped believing



Contributed by Mrs. Retek

True believers: senior Kelly Retek, junior Angie Retek, and Class of '95 graduate Kyle Retek gather around their favorite fat man.

thing that they've been waiting for all year!"

Freshman Andy Tropp also said that Christmas isn't really a religious time for his family; it's just a time when they can all be together.

Whether Christmas holds a religious meaning in people's lives or not, one part of Christmas that most people believed in at one time in their lives is Santa Claus! The majority of people interviewed said,

they're supposed to believe in things like that."

Junior Angela Blondell said, "I think it's okay because it's fun to see the children so excited about something; when they don't get a present, they can blame Santa and not their parents. In addition, we need something good in this world."

"Children between the ages of three and seven need fantasy in their lives to master problems and de-

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus.

(This letter was written to the New York Sun at the turn of the century. It was answered, in print, by Francis Pharcellus Church. Church joined the Sun staff to write about controversial subjects, this probably being the greatest one.)

Dear Editor:

I am 8 years old.

Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus. Papa says, "If you see it in the Sun it's so."

Please tell me the truth; is there a Santa Claus?

- Virginia O'Hanlon

Virginia, your little friends

are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except what they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole truth and knowledge.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus! It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginia. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no

enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies! You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see.

No Santa Claus! Thank God, he lives, and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, maybe ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

velop creativity. A belief in Santa Claus gives children a belief in unconditional love and acceptance" (USA Today).

Since everyone needs unconditional love and acceptance, just what is it that makes people quit believing.

Sophomore Anthony Krol said that he stopped believing in Santa Claus at a younger age. "I was in the second grade, and I broke the head off my sister's Barbie Doll. She got me back by telling me there was no Santa Claus!"

Senior Jeremy Wamser said, "When I was six years old, my neighbor came over at noon on Christmas day dressed like Santa Claus. I knew it was he, so I also knew that Santa was a fake. I got scared and hid under my bed."

Senior Scott Siri said that he still does believe in Santa Claus, and that he just honked at him on the way to the store yesterday.

Santa Claus is more than just

the man people believed in who brought them toys when they were good. In an all too often cruel world, Santa Claus is a symbol of happiness and hope that makes people smile. Some, like Siri, will protest that Santa is real, but this doesn't mean that they really believe in Santa Claus. They believe in the idea of kind people willing to help others.

"A group of New England artisans make it their year-round business to produce crafts and toys that depict those given to children by Santa Claus. They then pass these toys onto underprivileged homes in the spirit of the season" (Yankee).

Maybe everyone should become like those New Englanders and spread some holiday cheer to children everywhere. After all, Santa can't do it all by himself.



The Maller siblings--Brady, Lindsay, and Jeremy--never believed in Santa Claus. They said their parents wanted them to learn about Jesus' birth instead.

To: Burger King Pals

Merry Christmas! Seen any talking French fries? Lost any hair or trays? Gotten bit by any rocks? Need any salt? Stripes: HMGHMALH!

From: ROG-TRAY

To: Jessica

Do you like candy bars or suckers better? Hope you and Rusty have a happy Christmas! Ha Ha Ha

From: Linds & Em

To: Mis amigos

We've had many good memories (school, b-ball games, parties, B.K.) I hope we have many more. Merry Christmas! Happy Birthday to me!

From: Melissa

To: Tricia, Amanda, Amanda, Ginny, Crystal, Jenny, Cody, Brad Laskowski

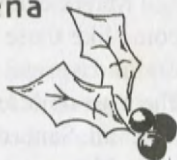
I want to wish all of you guys a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

From: Pru

To: Butt-head

I love you very much! Hope you have a great holiday and I'll be right by your side. She hates me.

From: Xena



To: Hercules

I want to be with you always. Don't let anything separate us from each other. See you at the cafe.

From: Cinnamon Girl

To: Brian

Merry Christmas!! This is our second Christmas together. That's so cool. I love you so much!!

From: Me

To: Red

Third time's a charm. Hope we have a great Christmas, and a great rest of our lives.

From: Santa

To: Sara

To a very special girl who means a lot to me. I will love you always and have a Merry Christmas.

From: Kyle

To: Ginny, Jenny, Mark and everyone I missed

Merry Christmas, Happy New Year. Good luck.

From: Sam (Shinkos)

To: Tameka

Merry Christmas!

From: Ivan

To: Aisha

A nice young girl. Stay sweet.

From: Ivan

To: All my TRUE girls and all the players keeping it real.

I love all y'all and thanks for having me back when I needed you the most. Have a very Merry Christmas. To all the b-ball teams, good luck, and listen for my mouth at the games. P.S. DON'T PLAY HATE, CONGRATULATE!

From: Your girl, Cheysten Willis #7

To: My niece Nicole and my nephew Mike

Have a Merry Christmas and a pleasant New Year. Love ya, guys

From: Katrina

To: Nate and Fatman

Just like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

From: Minnie

To: Mrs. Drapek

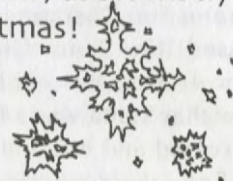
You've been the best teacher ever! I hope you have a wonderful Christmas.

From: Monica

To: A-Dog and Chuck

I'm really glad we've become such good friends. I hope you'll enjoy your Fat Daddy gift certificates; use it wisely. Merry Christmas!

From: Fay



To: Jenni (sky fire)P., Dawn, Kelli, Mellisa, Jamie, Jenni S., and everyone I forgot.

Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and good advice-don't throw any trays away!

From: Amanda Blye

To: Quazzi

To a guy who's just kinda' there. And if you ever pull up like you're the cops again, you'll have problems.

From: The Bird, (Doe Doe)

To: Alicia Ladewski

Thanks for being such a good friend to me. I have so much fun at the parties with you. We will have to go and party at Notre Dame sometime, maybe hook you up with one of Jason's friends? I hope you have a good Christmas.

From: Jaime Kurzhal

To: Buzzkill (Mat, John, Pinski, Steve, Ryan, Pickle)

Also known as X. Merry Christmas to all and to all a Buzzkill.

From: A high-ranking member

To: Penguin

It's ok, I promise. And may the X be with you.

From: Doe Doe

To: Jill Frances

I'm sorry about all the problems we've had lately but, hopefully, that phase is over! Remember all the good times and forget the bad! Thanks for being such a good best friend and putting up with me and my corny sense of humor! This year at the formal and prom is gonna be great cause we'll finally both be going for real! Don't forget the trip to Penn on Sunday and Padiddle. Merry Christmas. Love, as always, your best friend,

From: Alicia Anne

To: Suzanne Marie Myers

I hope you have a wonderful Christmas and New Year. You are the best friend in the world.

From: Jaime Lynn Kurzhal

To: the Goose Napper

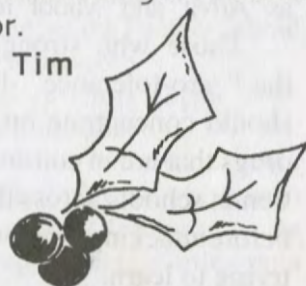
The great Goose Caper is yet to be pulled off.

From: The Bird (Doe Doe)

To: Sarah Sue

Merry Christmas! You're the best Christmas gift I could wish for.

From: Tim



To: Chad

All I can say is thanks! I owe you all my thanks for all the guidance you've given me and the pep talks we've shared! (You owe me a lot, too!) It's gonna be different when you're gone! Also thanks for all the laughs and the fond memories (All those songs we've sang esp. that one) I really appreciate everything you've done! Remember the moons, the star, the spaceship and everything else that needs to be remembered! Merry Christmas! Love always,

From: the one and only, Alicia Anne

To: Karen Mezzi

I hope you have a nice Christmas. Sorry I'm not going to be here over New Year's, but we will still have fun over break.

From: Jaime Kurzhal

To: the entire Hatchet staff

Great work on the paper this year! Keep up the good work at achieving those last-minute deadlines.

From: Kathy

To: Kyle

All I have to say is you better treat Jill great otherwise you'll hear from me! Merry Christmas.

From: Malibu Barbie

Less than likely "drug addicts"



Teens are often under a lot of stress from trying to balance schoolwork, a part-time job, and a halfway decent social life. Headaches, migraines, and stomach pains are minor symptoms that result from a great deal of stress and a lack of sleep.

The easiest and most common way to relieve these problems are by taking over-the-counter pain-killers or aspirins.

Editorial

But now many administrators have begun to crack down on students who bring these "drugs" to school. The punishments range anywhere from five or more days of an out-of-school suspension to an assignment to a drug-rehabilitation clinic.

For example, a teenager in Texas was recently suspended for 10 days and all of her letter grades were dropped by 20 percent just for bringing a bottle of Tylenol to

school. This was an inappropriate and undeserving punishment.

Reprimanding students for trying to rid themselves of discomfort in a safe and legal way is preposterous. Most only take Tylenol or other pain relievers because they want to concentrate on their classes instead of the pain. Some schools have even gone so far as to ban cough drops because of their "addictive and medicinal value."

Addictive?

If administrators want to rid schools of habit-forming substances, then certainly they should consider banning the ingestion of coffee and cigarettes by teachers and faculty. After all, caffeine and nicotine are two of the most addictive substances on earth.

It is highly unlikely that those who are dealing drugs include such names as "Advil" and "Midol" to sell.

Those who strongly support the "zero-tolerance" drug policy should concentrate on the "real" drugs that are in common circulation in schools across the country before attacking those who are just trying to learn.

Thumbs Up Thumbs Down

THUMBS UP

...to all of those "X" and "C" die-hard, tailgating basketball fans who include junior John Nyikos, Ryan Kring, senior Ryan Hanyzewski, and assistant principal Mike Sacchini. By braving the cold weather and snow, you show that Panther spirit doesn't "hibernate" in the winter months.

...to all of the improvements being made to the school. Repainting, internet hook-up, and phones in every classroom really help to move WHS into the 21st century.

...to drama sponsor Lorie Kraus for selecting William Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* to be the spring drama production. It is a major undertaking for the drama department, and we can't wait to see the end result!

...to the placement of a vendor of the day cart outside of the senior commons. Now those who dine by the auxiliary gym have an opportunity to have a hot lunch and beat the lines in the cafeteria. The addition of cold sandwiches to the vending machine is also a huge benefit. A job well done in responding to the letter to the editor!

...to peer mediators and Friends Always There members for purchasing gifts for the mentally challenged. You are embodying the Christmas spirit of giving.

...to seniors Josh Kaser, Jenny Jacox, Paul Ohnesorge, junior Brad Wilson, and band director Bill Rinne who got up early enough to entertain teachers on the day of the delayed start. The Christmas music helped start the teachers off on the right foot for their school improvement meetings. Thumbs up also to Ted Lilly for organizing this festive treat.

THUMBS DOWN

...to speakers who foster divisiveness. Enough said.

...to the number of canned goods that the student body failed to produce for the St. Vincent DePaul's food drive. Christmas is supposed to be a holiday of giving and unselfishness, remember?

...to the craziness in to parking lot on snowy days. Where did you learn how to park, on a bumper car track? Even if you can't see the lines, you could at least park in the same direction as the other cars.

Wrestling looks tough early

By Ryan Hanyzewski
Sports Editor

The wrestling team began its season with a home match against the John Glenn Falcons.

The Panthers' major concern coming into the season was the first four weight classes.

Sophomore Tony Heeter, who wrestles at 119 lbs., is the only one of the four with any experience on varsity. The experience that he has was from wrestling in the 112 lb. weight class.

Freshman Jeff Laskowski began his wrestling career at WHS by jumping out to a 7-2 lead. He then proceeded to pin his opponent with just 16 seconds remaining in the first period.

Freshman Mike Mackenzie was in a tough match as he found himself on his back in the second period. He managed to reverse his opponent to get the upper-hand, but was reversed back and was pinned in the second period. This evened the match at 6-6.

Despite being pinned, Mackenzie showed a lot of heart in his first varsity match and could be a threat as the year progresses.

Heeter was dominant at 119 lbs. as he pinned his opponent in the third round. Heeter commanded the entire match and he pinned his opponent when he already led 13-3.

Sophomore Nick Johnson was victorious as well. He jumped out to an early 7-2 lead after one period and that was the way it ended.

He won by decision and put WHS up by the score of 15-6.

Sophomore Vincent Minor lived up to Coach Carl Evans pre-season expectations. He defeated his opponent by a technical decision, 17-2.

Sophomore Shannon Althouse was equally as dominant as he led his match 15-2 before pinning his oppo-

nent in the third period.

This put the Panthers up by the score of 26-6.

At 140 lbs., junior Tito Rivera made his initial appearance on varsity. Rivera led 7-5 late in the third period but gave up a reversal that tied the match and forced overtime.

Less than a minute into OT, Rivera got the takedown he needed



Junior John Comeau sets to square off against his opponent from Elkhart Central.

for the victory and won the match by decision to put the Panthers up 29-6.

At 145 lbs., junior Kyle Bach won a 5-2 decision and kept the winning streak alive.

Senior Isaac Evans, who wrestled at 152 lbs., pinned his competitor with just one second remaining in the first period.

Junior John Comeau, 160 lbs., battled all the way and was deadlocked in a 2-2 tie heading into OT.

Like Rivera, Comeau won by a takedown and set the Panthers ahead 41-6 in the team score.

Sophomore Chris Glenn overpowered his opponent at 171 lbs. Glenn pinned him in the third round.

Junior Phillip Evans, wrestling at 189, was simply dominant as he pinned his opponent in a little over a minute to put the Panthers up 53-6.

Sophomore Jimmy McKinnes, who weighed almost thirty pounds less than his opponent gave him all he could handle before being pinned.

After a forfeit at heavyweight, the final score of the match was 53-18, and the Panthers were not only victorious, but they stampeded over the Falcons of John Glenn in their first match.

The Panthers' next match was against the Elkhart Central Blue Blazers. Laskowski started the Panthers off right again by pinning his opponent in the first round.

With the match tied at 6-6, Heeter put the Panthers up 12-6 as he pinned his opponent only one minute and 17 seconds into the round.

The Panthers then lost four of their next five matches and trailed 18-26.

Issac Evans then took the mat and cut the deficit in half by winning his match 18-7.

Comeau won another close one as he won 4-1 and brought the Panthers within one point.

Glenn won by forfeit, while Phillip Evans and McKinnes both pinned their opponents in the second period and the first period respectively.

At the Heavyweight position, freshman Kevin Smigielski made an impressive debut on varsity by pinning his opponent in 57 seconds.

WHS won by the score of 49-26.

The Panthers then travelled to Lake Station for a 12 team tournament. The Panthers placed sixth and also had three top-three finishes.

Minor and Comeau each placed third and Phillip Evans remained undefeated by winning the tournament and pinning every one of his opponents on the way.

"I was happy to start the season off on the right foot by winning the first tournament of the year," said Phillip Evans. □

Boys basketball destroying opposition

By Ryan Hanyzewski
Sports Editor

As Dick Vitale would say, "It's show time, baby!"

The Panthers began their season with a tough game against the Gary Lew Wallace Hornets.

In the past two years, the Hornets have beaten the Panthers by a total of over 40 points.

"Jamal is the heart and soul of our team. He plays great defense. On offense, if you can score, he will get you the ball. With 99 points, it appears we can score."
-Coach Milt Cooper

"We have a very good team this year. If Wallace expects to come in here and walk on us again, they will have no idea

what hit them," said junior point guard Jamal Henry.

It was an up-tempo game from the very beginning, as the Panthers led by the score of 41-40 at halftime.

That was as close as Wallace could get to the Panthers.

The Panthers outscored the Hornets 58-38 in the second half as they went on to a 99-78 victory.

Moodie led the charge, scoring 19 of his game-high 35 in the second half, including an outstanding 11-14 from the free-throw line.

Five Panthers scored in double figures.

Junior William Avance scored 20; Henry scored 16; and senior Edmund Kyle and sophomore Quentel Howard pitched in 10 points apiece.

The Panthers also won the rebound battle 45-36.

Senior Todd Bella and Junior Kenny West each had nine rebounds for the Panthers.

"It was a good game until the end of the third quarter when we took over and went on a 19-6 run," said Kyle.

Wallace point guard Ben Coleman scored 16 first half points; Henry picked up the defense in the second half and held him to just four points.

"Jamal is the heart and soul of our team. He plays great defense. On offense if you can score, he will get you the ball. With 99 points, it appears we can score," commented Coach Milt Cooper after the game.

Nine of the 10 Panthers on the team scored against Wallace.

The Panthers then hosted the St. Joseph Indians, and like Bella promised at the pep assembly earlier that day, it was over by halftime.

The Panthers demolished the Indians 87-39. According to the South Bend Tribune, this could be a sign to come for many more Panther opponents.

Moodie again led the Panthers with 23 points. He leads the area with an average of 29 points per game.

Kyle and Avance each pitched in with 17 points apiece.

WHS dominated the boards with a 38-14 rebound advantage in the game. □

Better than last year, but could be better

By Jacob Day and Ryan Kring
Sports Writers

"Right now we are 4-3 and we are better than last year, but we could definitely be better. We just need to improve on the little things and we should be tough come sectional time," said Coach Marilyn Coddens.

After losing badly to Northridge, the Lady Panthers rebounded with an impressive showing against the LaPorte Slicers.

Leading the Panthers in scoring was senior Winetta Neeley with 14 points. Senior Nicole Drabecki added 10, while juniors Tasha Johnson and Alicia Ladewski both chipped in 7.

WHS dominated the entire game, and at one point led by 13. Solid free-throw shooting gave the Panthers the win.

The JV girls also won 37-33 in double overtime.

After the win against LaPorte, the ladies traveled to New Prairie to take on the undefeated Cougars.

The girls came into the game with a positive attitude and a belief that they could compete with the best: "If we are on top of our game, we can hang with any team we play this season," commented Neeley.

The Lady Panthers were led by Nicole Drabecki who had 15 points, and Sarah Wood contributed with 13.



Junior Tasha Johnson rises above the competition to hit a key jumpshot for the Panthers.

WHS stayed in command throughout the entire game and handed New Prairie their first loss of the season.

The Panthers then travelled to Penn. The JV as well as the varsity came home empty. The

score of the varsity game was 61-42.

Drabecki led the team with 12 points, followed by senior Annil Hamilton with nine points. Freshman sensation Kenisha Gunn added seven for the Panthers.

WHS then hosted the St. Joseph Indians. The girls led the entire way and were victorious by the score of 57-48.

Drabecki again led the Panthers in scoring with 16 points, followed by Johnson with 10 points.

Johnson and Drabecki played key roles in the game. Johnson scored eight of her 10 points in the fourth quarter.

"We are playing as a team, and we are passing the ball well to open up shots for our teammates," said Drabecki.

WHS dominated the fourth quarter by outscoring the Indians 26-12.

The Lady Panthers next game was against the LaVillie Lancers. WHS led the entire game on their way to a 59-31 rout of the Lancers.

Cortney Litka led the Panthers with 14 and Tasha Johnson pitched in with 11.

The Lady Panthers suffered a hard-fought loss to Riley by the score of 51-54.

Cortney Litka again led the Panthers with 14 points and Hamilton was close behind with 12. □

Few problems for boys swimmers

By Monica Niemi
Sports Writer

Six weeks into the season, the boys' swim team already is facing some minor difficulties.

With only three meets down, the Panthers have yet to win, losing to Elkhart Memorial, Bremen, and Knox by the scores of 135-47, 101-74, and 97-81.

Coach Dave Woods is not yet worried about his team's performance so far. "Nearly three-fourths of our swimmers are underclassmen. This is going to be more of a building year," he said.

To boost morale in negative situations like these, Woods make a habit of pointing out the positive aspects of the meets. "Everyone's improving. Freshman Joey Reaves, for example, took 10 seconds off his 200 IM [Individual Medley] last week."

Woods' tactics seemed to have

worked, for there is a general feeling of optimism among the swimmers.

"Although we've lost so far, I'm pleased that we've strived to improve our times," said sophomore Jason Gorbitz.



Brian Ziolkowski prepares the pool for an important conference match.

Junior Kyle Basker commented, "You have to keep a positive attitude against the tough teams."

"We can't be upset with ourselves," said sophomore Bryan Ziolkowski. "We've worked very hard to get this far."

Woods hopes to get a break this week and bring back a victory for WHS against Adams.

"I will be disappointed if we lose this meet. They are one of our easier opponents this year," said Woods.

Sophomore Jimmy Bammerlin strongly believes that WHS's luck will change for the better.

"We're on a losing streak now, but by Christmas we will have won several meets" said Bammerlin.

One way to support the swimmers and help them reach their goals is by coming to the meets and cheering them on. "I'd like to see a few more spectators," said Woods.

Their first home meet is on Dec. 17. □

Freshmen stepping up for girls swimming

By Carly Northam
Sports Writer

The girls' swim team is looking to the future with two outstanding freshmen who are already stepping up and leading the team in freestyle, breaststroke, and individual medley.

Freshman Monica Niemi and Sara Page have been putting in many hours of practice and hard work to reach their goals.

Page has been swimming freestyle and Niemi breaststroke and individual medley.

Page said, "We've had a lot of close meets. Even with a small team, we are strong."

"Monica is everything I expected she would be, but Sara

Page's success in freestyle was a pleasant surprise," Coach Kristi Walz said.

The improvement of the entire team depends on every member. Hard work from everyone is needed to advance.

"We've really increased the distance as well as the intensity of the practices this year. The team was ready for tougher practices, and the hard work is paying off," Walz said.

The girls won their first meet against Bremen, 96-81. The team achieved first in the 200-medley relay, 100 butterfly, 100 breaststroke, and 400-freestyle relay.

Page said, "It was a close meet, and it all came down to the last race."

"I'm glad that we finally had the opportunity to swim against a team of our size; we were also able to show how our hard work has improved us as a team," said junior Jocelyn Orlowski. Unfortunately, the girls lost a heartbreaker to Adams. The entire meet was a neck-and-neck battle, which came down to the final relay.

Seniors Katie Shaumber and Hitomi Terai, and freshmen Monica Niemi and Sara Page placed second in that event.

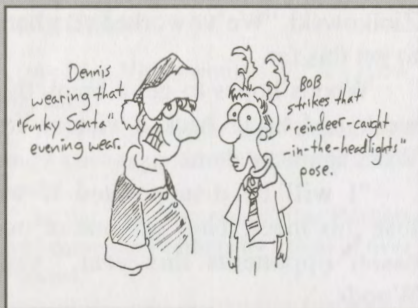
Their effort, however, was sadly not enough to overcome the Seagulls. The Panthers were defeated by the score of 93 to 90.

The girls' next home meets are Jan. 7 against Mishawaka and Jan. 9 against Marian. □

THE USHERS

By Bob Palatino and Dennis Gdansk
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 Dennis are real humans, though any attempt to uncover their identities will result in the immediate deployment of nuclear weapons, activated by a large hired thug named Knuckles.



Jingle All the Way

DENNIS: Now tell Santa what you want for Christmas, little boy.

BOB: I want a Turbo Man action figure, with the arms and legs that move, turbo discs and boomerang thingy, the jet pack, and a voice box that says five different phrases including "Arnold Swharzenegger would be a scary dad!" If you thought "Tickle-Me Elmo" was hard to find—well, it's nothing compared to Turbo Man.

DENNIS: I got little Jimmy a doll months ago. It's nestled safely...wait, I haven't got any kids. In case you haven't caught on by now, this month's stocking stuffer is the new holiday classic *Jingle All the Way*.

BOB: It stars Swharzenegger (*Terminator*, *Predator*, *Conan the Barbarian*) as Howard, the good-hearted but busy-

minded father of little Jaime, a child who idolizes a superhero-type character called Turbo Man, whose television show looks like a bad parody of the Power Rangers.

DENNIS: My favorite one is the Blue Ranger. Anyway, it's Christmas Eve eve, and Howard just realizes he has forgotten to buy the hottest toy of the year for his little boy. His search however waylaid by two factors; they made like three of these toys for the entire world, and also by a disgruntled postal worker named Myron (Sinbad). He kinda reminds me of Cliff Claven.

BOB: One of the funniest scenes in the movie is when Howard first meet Myron outside a toy store, where people have been lining up for about seven weeks. All I can say is Sinbad's speech is memorable—I just can't remember how it goes. Anyway, the doors open at nine o'clock, and it starts a stampede that continues (in one form or another) through the rest of the movie.

DENNIS: John Wayne couldn't have corralled these people. Howard's problem then appears to be solved by a shady Santa Claus (James Belushi) and his elf-like friend, who take him to an old warehouse, which isn't exactly "kosher." What he winds up with is a Turbo Man who not only is bilingual, but also makes a heck of a wet burrito.

BOB: It breaks in Howard's hands, there's a brief fight scene with a dozen or so Santas (yes, folks, you're really hearing this) and then "the Grinch" shows up—as in, the cops bust the place.

DENNIS: Howard's day is topped off by coming home and seeing his wife—gasp—with Ted (Phil Hartman), everyone's favorite neighbor. What ensues is one of the funniest scenes in the entire movie. Howard sneaks into Ted's house, steals little Jimmy's Turbo Man, gets attacked by a psycho Rudolph, and winds up kicking the flaming head of Balthazar (wise man #1) at a group of carolers.

BOB: Now, I know what you're all thinking: ha! This is a great, funny comedy that I want to see again and again! Well, it starts out that way, but about three-quarters of the way through something happened. I don't know, maybe the director's head fell off. But the film gets REAL corny.

DENNIS: You must forgive my friend; he's had a few too many alcoholic egg-nogs. Anyway, don't go into the theatre expecting a classic Arnold. Just take it all in, and let it all out when you're done.

BOB: Good movie, bad ending. Well, folks, that sums it up.

DENNIS: Just remember, you're my number-one customer! □

George's To-do List:

Too bad to those who made it their New Year's Resolution to never come back to school; **classes will resume Jan. 6.**

"Party hardy" on New Year's Eve, because it's "study

buddy" time when you come back. **Jan. 15 and 16 are final exams.**

If you're sick of turkey, ham, and egg-nog, stock up on your sweets all of **Jan. Wrestling candy sale, 6-10; art, 13-24; and Class of '99, 27-7.**

Report card day is **Fri., Jan. 17.** If you're not fully recovered from test overload by then, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day conveniently falls on the following **Mon., Jan. 20.**

WHS jazz band and other area jazz bands will be performing at the annual **Jazz Soundsations** concert. Come swing to the beat at the Century Center on **Jan. 22, 7 pm.** Tickets are \$3 in advance and \$5 at the door.

Relive childhood memories of playing in the snow on half day **Jan. 30.**

For all of our college-bound Panthers, the SAT will be offered **Jan. 25** to those who signed up **Dec. 21-2.** ACT registration is **Jan. 10 and 24** with the test date **Feb. 8.** If you missed these dates, try harder next time!

HAPPY NEW YEAR'S!!—from the HATCHET staff.

