

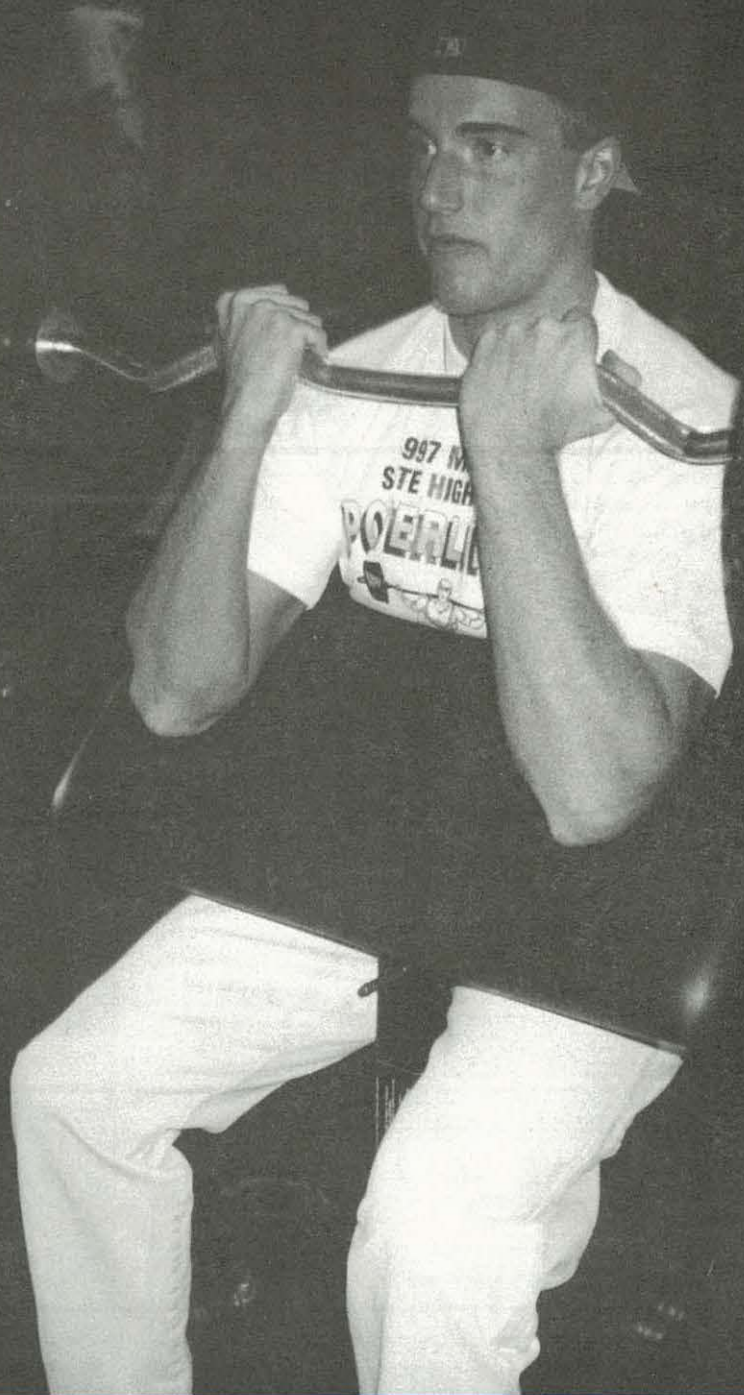
The

# Blazer

Flushing High School's Independent Voice

Volume 49 Number 7

Flex



April

1997

Flushing, MI 48433

# The Blazer

1997 Staff

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It is the *Blazer's* responsibility to strive for the highest standards of accuracy, completeness, and careful research in its presentation of material. It is our goal to inform, persuade, and entertain our readers, and to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas. We will provide balanced and fair reporting of topics of interests to our readers. Libel, invasion of privacy, and disruption of the educational process will be avoided. It is our policy to address all persons or groups fairly.

The *Blazer* is a recipient of the 1995 and 1996 Michigan Interscholastic Press Association Spartan Awards. The *Blazer* has also been awarded the 1992, 1993, 1995, and 1996 Quill and Scroll International First Place. The *Blazer* is affiliated with MIPA and Quill and Scroll Society.

## Corrections

After the last issue went to print, the date of the senior's last day was changed to May 28. Joe Daily's name was misspelled.

Write us at: FHS - Blazer Staff 5039 Deland Rd. Flushing, MI 48433  
 phone: (810)-659-0630 fax: (810) 659-0693

## Letter from the Editor



**PAMZERBINOS**

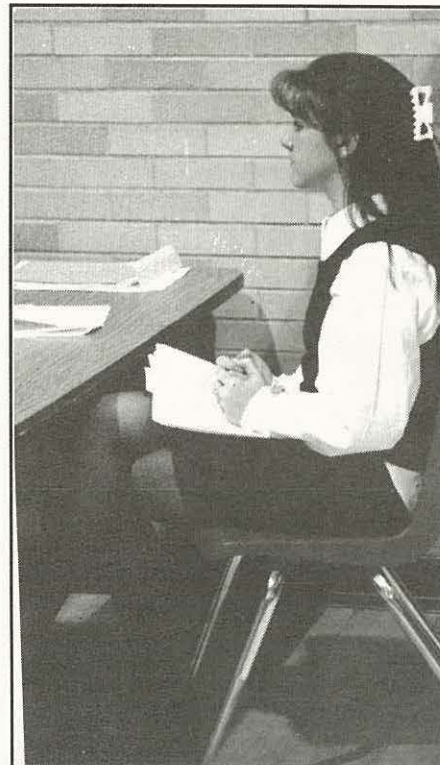
Good morning, loyal readers. Hello and welcome to THE BLAZER!

SPECIAL EDITION (with THA sound)...

With the long-awaited coming of Spring (OK, OK... so the weather's not exactly consistent, but it's a start) come lots of bonuses to FHS life.

Spring sports are well under way; look for the girls' track team to bring home the Big 9 title for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year in a row. Also be watching the girls' soccer team; they've got a lot of experience but they're up against some tough teams. Should be interesting. Check out the sports section for details.

Also turn to the Features Dept. for the scoop on gargoyles & military academies (quite a variety). And that's all I have to say about that...  
 Pam



Senior Kim Mark waits to be interviewed at this year's mock interviews, held on February 21. This year's interviews were the fifth year that Mrs. Jekel has organized the event. Photo taken by Dave Campbell.

Mock Interviews

# In This Issue

## On the Cover

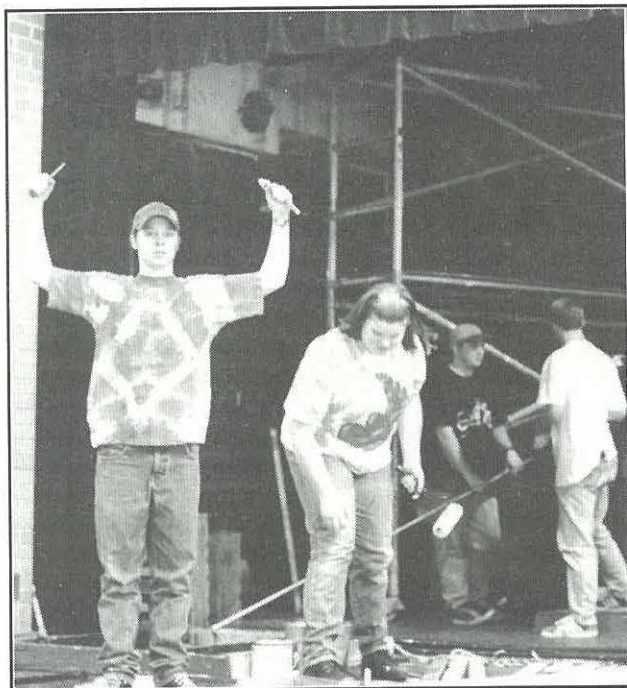


**Senior Ken Faber** works out in the school's weight room. Ken recently competed in a powerlifting competition. See page 31 for more details. Photo by Ali Buell.

**Junior Sandy Hintze** is congratulated by her interviewer after successfully completing her mock interview. Sometimes these mock interviews can lead to real jobs. Photo By Dave Campbell.



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**Sophomore Allen Van Houzen** shows his enthusiasm for set-building of the all-school musical *West Side Story*. In the musical Allen will be playing the role of Bernardo, a member of the Shark Gang. Photo by Dave Campbell.

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# With press freedom comes responsibility

On Feb. 17, the *Mott Post* ran an editorial about financial aid. The editorial was written by Bryon Quertermous, the newspaper's Editor-in-Chief. In it, he identified himself as a white, middle-class male and wrote about his difficulty receiving financial aid because he is not a member of a minority group. He then started in on the job market, saying that "all the jobs will be filled by blacks, women, criminals and poor people, leaving middle-class white males in the minority."

The biggest problem with this is that Quertermous was writing the editorial, not a column. By definition, a staff editorial is the opinion of the entire staff, not just the Editor-in-Chief. And while the editorial is written by the Editor-in-Chief at most newspapers, this person does not get their name on the article. The author shouldn't be "identified" as a white, middle-class male unless the entire staff is white, middle-class, and male.

The *Post* editorial, which was based on Quertermous' own experiences as opposed to any research, elicited a flood of student reaction. Erika Molloseau (FHS '96), who is the former news editor of the *Blazer* and a current writer for the *Post*, feels that the article has been blown out of proportion.

"He read it out loud to the staff, and there was a lot of conversation about it. But I think that's what he wanted- conversation from people about something we printed. He wanted people to look at the financial aid situation and see how screwed up it is, but everyone turned it into a race issue."

Mott students have held one rally already, but Molloseau feels it was misdirected. "The first rally was more of a Bryon-roast than anything else. If they were going to attack something, they should have attacked the financial aid situation, or the article, but it was a personal attack on Bryon. They had about 500 signatures on this

petition, and they wanted him to resign right then and there." The protesters did not talk to the *Post* staff, to Bryon, or to the adviser.

As an African-American on the *Post* staff, Molloseau gets a lot of questions regarding her feelings toward the article. "A lot of people think I'm a sellout. They think that because I'm African-American, I should have 'stopped him.' But what can I do? I'm just a writer. And while I don't agree with what he wrote, as a journalist, I do think he had a right to print it if that's his opinion." She doesn't think he should print a retraction, "but he should have done some research before he wrote it. Everyone receiving financial aid has their own situation, and I think what some people are losing sight of is the fact that financial aid is an extra boost. It's not a punishment if you don't receive it."

The key to this is that he should have done the research. As journalists, we have this enormous tool at our disposal, and we need to be careful with it. We can't just run around shooting our mouths off every time we get ticked off about something. "Freedom of the press" doesn't mean "we can say whatever we darn well please." Imagine if the *Blazer* started printing things like "hey! If you're a moron with no academic skills whatsoever who is looking to improve your GPA, then you can take sock knitting! Sock knitting class is for idiots; you should do well." While sock knitting isn't a course at most schools, we still couldn't print that opinion. It's not true, for one thing. Before we can print our opinions, we have to make sure that they are based on facts, not whims or prejudices or grudges.

An editorial is written because the staff thinks there's something important for readers to think about. It's written to suggest a course of action, to praise something if we ever manage to find something praiseworthy, or it's written to provoke readers into considering an important issue. But even provocation needs to be based on information, not hot air.

## Bakuri BY ANDREW HELMS



# Make the punishment fit the crime

Recently the staff at Flushing High School has gone suspension crazy. The faculty are suspending students left and right for ridiculous reasons and throwing a fit about everything else. About two weeks ago one of us went home at lunch (God forbid without a pass) and what was the punishment received? One day of Out-of-School suspension the following Monday. If you give someone enough days of Out-of-School, they're going to stop coming back. Real effective. Don't you think that keeping kids in school longer would be a more appropriate punishment? (By the way, thanks for the three-day weekend!)

The next issue is the parking lot. Someone (who shall remain nameless) received a one-day suspension for parking in the teacher's parking lot, then later received four more days for

making an obscene gesture at a hall monitor. Come on, now. This suspension thing is getting out of hand. We're not saying that these actions don't deserve punishment, but let's be realistic about it, shall we?

We think that if the teachers can park in our parking lot (which they do!), we should be able to park in theirs. Maybe our parking lot is closer to their classroom, but what if their parking lot is closer to our first hour? What's the difference?

The last issue we have to discuss is about the kids getting busted for various illegal drugs in school. Now, please don't get us wrong - we are glad that they got to come back to school. That one incident should not wreck the rest of their high school years (or months). But come on, the same punishment is issued for bringing drugs to school as giving a hall monitor the finger?

We think not.

**-MICHELLE NORTON & JAIME FONGER**  
seniors

*Mr. Bickel was given the opportunity to read and respond to their letter. He remarked that he would support keeping skippers in school if he had a cell to keep them in.*

*He said that he hands out punishments according to the guidelines in the student handbook, explaining that "students need to know what to expect. If we just randomly handed out punishments, their fate could depend on Mr. Whitmire's mood, and that wouldn't be fair." The punishment set in the student handbook for drug possession without intent to sell is five days out-of-school suspension.*

*He also explained why the student was suspended for five days for parking in the teacher's lot and making obscene gestures at the hall monitor. He had dealt with this student before, for "doing something stupid that he knew he wasn't supposed to do but did anyway." The student received two days of suspension and a warning that the next time, it would be three days. The student did not heed the warning and was issued a three-day suspension. The parking lot / gesture incident was the third incident, and therefore warranted a four-day suspension.*

*Mr. Bickel is also aware that the North parking lot is in bad shape, and he is currently making calls and trying to get it repaired.*  
-ED.

## Baileysisms

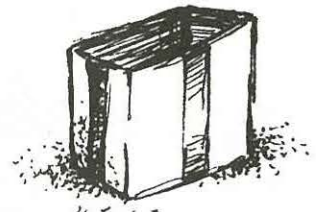


At last Dr. McFadden could get his revenge on Santa Claus by throwing his patented Extra Stinky Cheese at Jolly Old St. Nick. Needless to say, Dr. McFadden never got another Christmas present for the rest of his naughty life.

## Empty Spot

BY MIKE ROBSON

An Empty Box...



Filled With Love...

## Opinions Policy

*Our Humble Opinion* reflects the view of the *Blazer* staff. The Editorial Board chooses and discusses the topic to be covered in the staff editorial. Standing columns are the opinions of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Editorial Board or the faculty and administration of Flushing High School. Editorial cartoons are the opinions of the cartoonist.

The *Blazer* is an open forum and encourages suggestions, comments and letters. If you have something reasonably constructive to say, write it down and drop it off in room 121; there is a significant chance that it will be published in the *Bulletin Board*. Unsigned letters will not be printed, although names may be withheld with reason. The Editorial Board reserves the right to change letters for grammatical and spelling errors and for length. No personal attacks or insults will be printed.

# Extracurricular eligibility

BY LAURIE STEWART

About 30 extracurricular activities, in addition to sports, keep FHS students occupied. 85% of the people ranked in the top 10 of their respective classes are involved in extracurricular activities. Half of these people are in sports. This indicates that scholarship and extracurricular activities go hand in hand.

On March 7, 106 surveys were given to every fifth person on the honor roll. 32 of these surveys were returned, and everyone that returned a survey claimed involvement in some sort of extracurricular activity. Names on the honor roll were color coded according to which activity the students were involved in. Although all four classes had over 50% extracurricular participation, the junior class was most involved with over 74% of the honor roll participating in extracurriculars.

Any extracurricular activity that takes up a substantial amount of time has the potential to interfere with students' grades. Eligibility has been used as a method for keeping athletes' grades up for years. Everyone should be expected to pass all of their classes, no matter what. If students pay attention in classes and do all of their work, passing isn't that hard to do. A member of the marching band or someone involved in a play is just as busy as an athlete.

I propose a change in eligibility that members of any time-consuming activity should be passing all their classes. Their grades should be checked weekly like they are now for athletes. Anyone failing a class should get "benched" from their activity.

In addition to the eligibility requirements, coaches and directors need to support homework and studying. During exam time, this is particularly important. Many coaches and directors say that they encourage studying, but when it comes down to it, they would really like their activity to come first. Maybe practice time should be lightened during the week of exams. School work should come in first.

Half of the people surveyed agreed that there should be a requirement for all activities. Junior Ali Buell said "the importance of school is to learn. Extracurricular activities are for fun and if they take away from your learning and grades, than there should be an eligibility requirement."

According to freshman Alaina Sarver, "it depends on what the activity it is. I think the more demanding activities should have eligibility requirements because if you are not doing well in school, [extracurricular activities] won't help much. School is more important."

Other people believe that there are other reasons that eligibility in all activities would be helpful. Sophomore Alex Faxlanger says that eligibility requirements need to exist because they "encourage you to get help in those subjects that you are having trouble in before the problem becomes too big."

On the flip side, others argue that changing the eligibility requirement would be a bad thing, saying that some people have trouble passing classes, even if they work as hard as they can. If this is the case, the students having trouble should take advantage of the tutoring programs that go on in the school. NHS offers free tutoring to anyone who may need it. The class curriculum is not designed to make people fail, it is to help people learn. Unless a student takes a class like Calculus or Physics that he is not prepared for, there is no reason why he shouldn't pass.

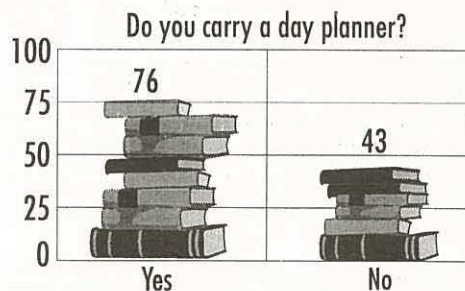
Others may argue that it is up to the parent to decide whether or not their children may participate if they are not doing well in school. There are many cases where the parents may not be aware of their students' ineligibility. If a parent has a problem with the eligibility requirement, perhaps they should have to sign a progress report giving their student permission to participate. This might appeal to sophomore Noelle Silas who says "I think it is the parents' job to decide."

Another way to look at the issue is through senior Kim Wolfgang's perspective. "If a person wants to be active in school, but they don't have the G.P.A. they just won't try and school spirit will go down."

These things may be true, but first and foremost, school is a place for learning. Activities certainly are fun and they make the school a better place. However, without eligibility requirements, it is possible for education to come in second. This is definitely not what we want to happen.

## One Minute Survey

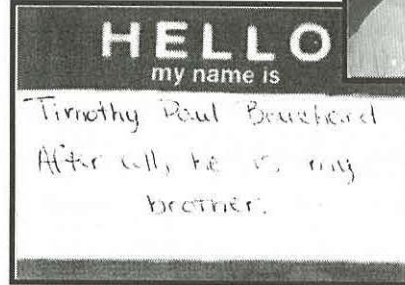
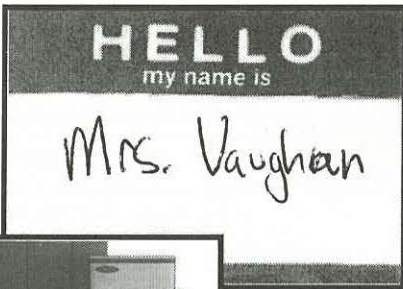
# Organization running rampant at FHS



The One Minute Survey was conducted during A, B and C lunches on Wednesday, March 12. The results of the survey show that 63% of people consider themselves organized. 63.8% carry a day planner; 67% of those who do were male. Both males and females say that they do not keep their room tidy. The majority of females (62.5%) say that they always turn their assignments in on time, while most males (47.6%) only turn their homework in sometimes.

BY STEPHANIE WILSON

# If you could pick any name for yourself, what would it be?



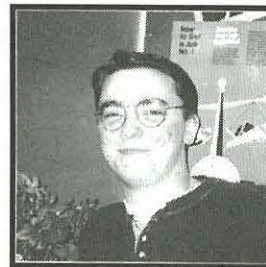
-JESSICA BOUCHARD  
freshman



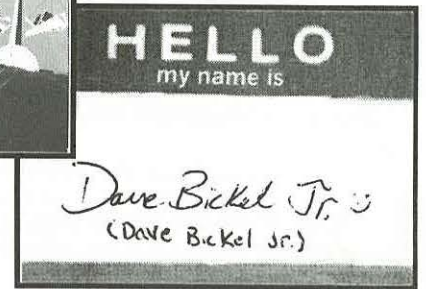
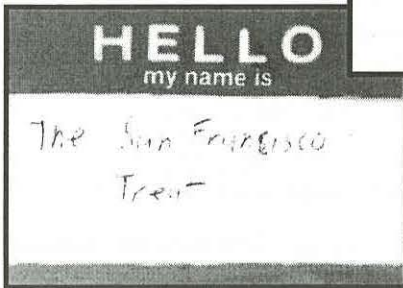
-B.J. STRIMPLE  
sophomore



-JOE FRANCISCO  
sophomore



-MATT POPOVITS  
junior



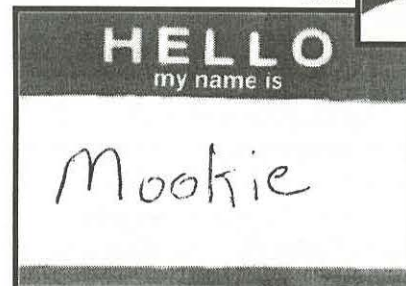
-ANDREW WILSON  
freshman



-BRIAN GOODWILL  
senior



-JEFF BUIS  
senior



-JEFF DUNCAN  
senior

# Ongoing efforts to keep drugs out of school

## The tail wagging professional

By LISA FOTENAKES

Blue, the drug dog works with Sgt. A.J. Navidonski of the F.A.N.G., the drug unit of the Genesee County Sheriff's Department.

Navidonski, said that the drug dogs are trained at a young age to smell marijuana, crack cocaine, powder cocaine, white and brown heroin and methamphetamines. This is done by putting the drug inside a piece of PVC pipe and using the pipe when playing with the dog. The dog thinks it's a game, and learns to enjoy the scent of the drug and relate it to game playing. The scents are administered three at a time, and can be given in any combination - for example the dog is first taught to sniff a combination of marijuana, crack and methamphetamines. Once the dog learns the scents by just playing with the pipe, the game is made harder, and the trainer will hide the pipe in a field of tall grass, so that the dog has to work harder to find it. Over the next three months or so, the dog is trained to be able to detect the scents separately, until he has learned them all. When a dog has completed training, he must get certified, so that he can work for the police.

Blue was certified at the North American Police Work Dog Association. It is here that the dog and his trainer are taken to an

empty school building for example, and tested. The master trainer will hide real drugs in the building and the dog is expected to find them. The dog must be recertified every two years to insure that he maintains a high level of proficiency, Navidonski said.

Blue was trained to be an aggressive alert dog, which means that when he smells drugs he will scratch, bite, or sometimes cry at whatever the drugs are in, whether it be a locker or car or house. It's because of this, and a U.S. Supreme Court ruling, that Blue is not allowed to search people.

"He could hurt someone pretty badly if he was allowed to sniff them and they had drugs on themselves," said Navidonski.

When Blue does searches at a school, Navidonski takes him around the building and lets him sniff the lockers. When he makes an identification, Navidonski will walk him past the spot two more times to identify the exact spot, and make sure that he didn't stop because he smelled someone's lunch.

"What people don't realize is that since the lockers aren't airtight, if someone has ridden to school with someone who has smoked a joint, for example, even if the one person didn't smoke, the scent is still on them - their clothes and their body, and the dog can smell it. We make [Blue] identify the same spot three times to make sure it's accurate," Navidonski said.

It is also legal for Blue to sniff around cars.

"The air space around cars is everyone's to breathe, and if he makes an alert outside of it, [the police] then have probable cause to search the car for drugs," Navidonski said. Blue's nose is so sensitive that he has sniffed out two marijuana seeds inside of a car.

Blue has done 1,800 searches in his 3 1/2 year career. When he's not sniffing out drugs, he lives with Navidonski and his family.

## Preparing for the future

By MICHELLE ZVONEK

Drug dogs aren't sniffing the lockers at Springview Elementary; because of their D.A.R.E. class, sixth graders got the inside scoop about drugs and high school from senior D.A.R.E. role models.

Springview kids learned a lot that day about what to expect at the high school. Bridget McClain, a senior role model, said, "A lot of the kids thought that the high school would be like 90210, but there's really no big kids in trench coats offering you every kind of drug you can think of."

Role models gave the kids tips on how and why to stay away from drugs and that it absolutely does not make you cool.

"Some kids might take some drugs because they think other kids will like them, but that's not true," said Jennie Dearing, a sixth grader.

Other sixth graders from Mrs. Dudley's class asked the D.A.R.E. role models questions ranging from "Do you take steroids," to "Can bigger kids stuff the littler kids in lockers at the high school?" Role models strongly assured them that no one will do this.

## Procedures keep the search legal

By LISA FOTENAKES

The school was made a little safer on Feb 24, when the Flushing Township Police Department along with Blue, roamed the halls in search of drugs.

The dog identified three lockers that smelled of drugs, and two students were found to be in possession of marijuana and cocaine. They received five days of out-of-school suspension and a night in the Genesee County Jail.

To do a drug search, the school must first have reasonable suspicion to believe that drugs are present in the school, said Assistant Principal Gary Whitmire. The drug survey taken by students earlier in the school year given by Western Michigan University showed that a large percentage of students said there were drugs at FHS, and therefore the search was done.

Legally, if the school has any suspicion of contraband in the lockers, they can do a search of the lockers. The lockers do not belong to the students, they belong to the school. As a precautionary measure, 67th District Court Judge

Arthalu Lancaster was present to issue search warrants for the lockers. Chief Doug Kennedy, Investigative Sergeant Dan Ganson, Sergeant Navidonski, Blue, Principals and class officers were also present during the search. Class officers were present so that they could answer any questions that students may have had about how the search was done.

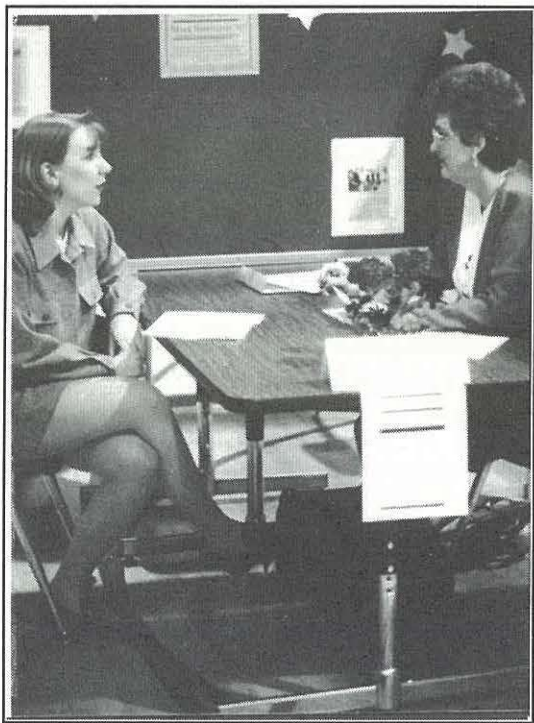
When a student is found to be in possession of an illegal substance, the school's procedure is to suspend them for five days out-of-school and refer them to drug counseling. Before they are allowed to return to school, the student is required to meet with a drug counselor, or take a drug test to determine whether or not they have a drug problem, and to possibly get treatment. The principals are not required to be notified of the results of the meeting, but the student must show proof that they met with a counselor, said Mr. Whitmire.

The parking lot was not searched. Mr. Whitmire said to expect a search there in the near future.

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Junior **Christina Battstone** is interviewed by **Mary Holloway** at the 3rd annual Mock Interviews. Photo by **Dave Campbell**.

## Working together

# School, businesses make Mock Interviews a success

By **ANDREW RYAN**

Recently 126 Flushing High School students took part in the 3rd annual Mock Interviews. The interviews are set up to help students gain insight as to how to react in an interview situation. Students had different reactions to the interviews. Some were nervous but most seemed to be relaxed enough to do their best.

Junior Dan Dean said, "It helped me develop better interviewing skills and furthered my knowledge of what employers like to see in an individual."

Mrs. Karen Chrysler, B.E.S.T. teacher, said the classes did various things throughout the school year to prepare students for the interviews.

"We spent a lot of time on writing resumes, letters of application and follow-up letters, as well as talking about what to wear, what kinds of questions to ask and how to answer questions," she said.

The Moms Who Care helped in the Mock Interviews by taking students to their interviews and making them less nervous. They also provided refreshments for the employers.

Employers had nothing but positive things to say about the Mock Interviews. John Brissaud, who is a former Flushing High School principal, said it "helps him to see how students handle themselves under pressure" and that he will most definitely help with future interviews.

Mark Heaton, Vice-President and Director of Admissions at Baker College, said that the interviewers are not there to embarrass the students or make them nervous.

"They just want you to relax and be yourself," he said.

Heaton believes that students should be given clues to help them out in future interviews.

Mrs. Roberts, who coordinates the interviews every year said that the 1997 turnout was the largest ever, and that the business department plans to continue the interviews.

## Co-op hosting annual appreciation breakfast

By **MATT TRAVER**

The annual co-op appreciation breakfast will be held at the Flushing Valley Country Club on Wed. April 30. The breakfast is being held to give co-op students the opportunity to show their appreciation to their employers.

100 students will attend the breakfast, along with 100 employers from 70 local businesses in the co-op program.

The co-op program and breakfast have been going on for 29 years.

## Students balance jobs, school and friends

By **NATE ROBINSON**

It's 2:35 P.M. on a Friday afternoon. School's just getting out and your friends have big plans for the weekend. You really want to hang out with your crew, but you can't, because you have to work.

Know the feeling? You are not alone.

Recently a survey was conducted on students with after-school jobs. Out of 165 students, 89 of them have after school jobs. 57% of the students said they work between 15-25 hours a week. 77% of those with jobs say that having a job interferes with time spent with their friends and getting a good night's sleep.

"Between school and work, I don't have as much time as I'd like for other stuff," said senior Dustan Dinshaw. Dinshaw works 25 hours a week.

On the other hand, junior Billy Cleland says that school and work cause him no problems with his school work or social life.

Out of the 165 people surveyed, 135 were juniors and seniors, proving that the older you get, the more responsibilities you have to take on and the harder life becomes. We aren't kids anymore.

### **The survey says...**

*Out of 165 students surveyed:*

135 of those surveyed were juniors or seniors

89 have after school jobs

57% work between 15 and 25 hours a week

77% said that having a job interferes with time with their friends, and getting a good night's sleep

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## Cheerleader tossing



Rose Kovalsik controls her elevation in the basket toss. It's up to her to jump and then ride the lift before she goes into the russian at its apex. She also controls the descent, trusting her teammates to catch her as she drops in the perfect position.

"It goes so fast that I don't even think about it. I just know they'll catch me," she said.

If you want to see this stunt, come to the home football and basketball games. Because of liability laws, cheerleaders are "ground bound" at away events.

Photo by Tina Kovalsik.

-MICHELLE ZVONEK

## Curbside recycling cuts into Booster's fundraiser

By TAMMY BUKOSKY

The Flushing Band and Orchestra Boosters have been doing newspaper recycling for a number of years as one of their main fundraisers. Figures show that in 1995 there were 20 trailer loads of newspapers recycled, which amounted to 426.67 tons of newspapers. That brought in \$15,015.29 for the music program to use in their budget. However, in 1996, only 15 trailer loads were collected. That amounted to only 315.94 tons of newspapers bringing in \$6,789.97.

Newspapers are dropped off at the recycling bins on Seymour Road across the street from the Flushing School's bus barn. Twice a week, volunteers show up to unload the bins of newspapers into trailers.

According to Dave Lakies, First Vice-President of the Flushing Band & Orchestra Boosters, the drastic drop in revenue is due mainly to two factors. He indicated that the price per tonnage of newspapers received in 1995 was \$40 per ton. In 1996, the amount dropped to \$20 per ton. The other factor is that the amount of trailer loads has dropped from 20 loads in previous years, to 15 loads in 1996. This drop can be attributed to the fact that the City and Township of Flushing is now picking up newspapers in the home recycling program, which was not done in the past.

"We have no control over the amount [of newspapers] that we are receiving from the recycling program. But we can make people aware that when they have stopped taking their newspapers to the Band Boosters, they are hurting the music program for the community's children. This program consists of a big portion of the budget which is raised through this fundraiser," said Lakies.

## Dress code to be reviewed

By MIKE STRILER

Look out hat-wearing underclassmen. You could be in for a style change next school year.

The dress code is getting strong backing for a change. When some of the staff and principals meet with the Board of Education to discuss changes for the '97-'98 school year, one of the proposed changes may be the dress code - particularly hats. Mr. Bickel and many staff members would like to see hats not part of the everyday school attire.

Mr. Bickel said the wearing of hats is sending a message of disrespect to many teachers. He also said he realizes students are not trying to send this message.

Many of the teachers surveyed said that they allowed hats in class, but would like to see a change implemented next year.

Mr. Hoffman, CAD and shop teacher said he believes that hats really have no place in a class setting. He also went on to say that he believes that guys who wear hats should "show their hair while they have it."

Other changes of the dress code that may be discussed are short "bellyshirts" and "short shorts."

## Minimum age requirements change for student drivers

By JOE DAILY

Driver's training is just around the corner, and this year the program has been changed.

One change is in the age requirement. Students are no longer required to be 15 years old to take driver's education. Students now only have to be 14 years and 9 months by June 30 to complete the course.

Another change is the addition of the Pre-Driver Education Assistance Program. According to Mr. Gerald Evans, chairman of the Driver's Education Program, the program will help students get experience at a slower pace.

"I expect that only 10 to 15 students will take advantage of the program," he said.

When driver's education sessions overflow, the older students will have first preference. Younger students will have to take whatever is left.

Mr. Evans anticipates that about 300-400 students will be taking driver's education this summer through the school. Sessions begin on June 9.

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Blazer

# Prom will transform gym into a rockin' tropical paradise

By **TIM CHURCH**

"Part of the advantage of having prom at the school is the ability to adjust and modify, to accommodate our plans," marketing teacher Dave Hedges said. "The hard part is finding the right supplies to turn the gym and the surrounding parts of the school into a tropical wonder."

The gym's wiring is being modified to accommodate special lighting. There is also talk of relandscaping the courtyard with plants indigenous to Michigan.

Mr. Hedges and his staff would appreciate any help, supplies, or even ideas. Decorations include volcanoes, waterfalls, palm trees, and other tropical plants. Some of the decorations will be donated or borrowed from various companies and businesses like Sloan museum. Hedges' business class is in the process of making paper flowers that will be hung on the walls.

The DJ for the prom will be PR Productions. Live music will also be played by the Mott Adult High School steel drum band. Photos will be taken in the cafeteria by Hicks Studios of Flint.

Prom will take place Saturday, May 17 with tickets priced at \$45 a couple and \$25 if you're going alone. Decorating will start Wednesday, May 14 and continue through Friday night. Any help on any day will be greatly appreciated.

"The prom can only be as good as we can make it," said Mr. Hedges.

## The Amazon woman

By **PAM ZERBINOS**

While most people would find it hard to name an advantage of being an underdeveloped country, mycologist and plant pathologist Tracy Wacker can name several. Wacker is a professor at the University of Michigan - Flint, where she teaches mycology (study of fungi) and genetics. She was here at the high school on Mar. 5 giving a presentation to members of the Science Club and EAG.

The main topic of Wacker's presentation was her two-week stay in the Peruvian rain forest, where she went this past summer to study the environment. One of the things she pointed out was that Peru does not have the economy to support slash-and-burn agricultural techniques, so their rain forest is in much better condition than Brazil's. Slash-and-burn techniques are used to clear fields; all the trees are cut down and the vegetation burned. Some native Peruvians do use the technique to clear out land for their homes, but because they clear off so little land (less than an acre), the rain forest is able to rejuvenate itself within four years.

Wacker spent the majority of her stay at the Amazon Center for Environmental and Educational Research (ACEER), which was built two years

ago. She said some of the scientists thought it was too rustic - there was no electricity; kerosene lamps and mosquito netting abounded. It houses 10 researchers at a time, and there is one scientist who signs up for an entire year and acts as the caretaker of the research center.

The research center has also recently completed the Canopy Walkway, which is a series of suspension bridges connecting the jungle's treetops. It is the largest and highest walkway of its kind in the Southern Hemisphere. Wacker said to expect scientists to be discovering "new" organisms, because they have never had the opportunity to study the ecosystem of the rain forest at that height.

Wacker spent the majority of her time in Peru studying fungi; there is only one mycologist in Peru. She took a couple botany classes, and was later granted a three year research grant at Michigan State University. She insists that giving yourself several options for your later life will help in the long run.

"Just keep everything open. Don't burn your bridges, and things will fall into your lap."



*Craig Gasperosky puts the finishing touches on his painting of Billy Corgan. The painting was displayed at the parent-teacher conferences on March 13. Photo by Lisa Fotenakes.*

## Art curriculum going hi-tech with claymation films

By **NATE SMEJA**

The Art Department has recently completed a claymation unit, which is the first of many new areas art teacher Mary Beth Reineke wishes to explore.

Claymation, which is the animating of clay figures with stop-motion animation and for the past month, art students have been involved with the movies. Despite its simple idea, claymation is actually a complicated process requiring artistic skill, a camera and a lot of patience. Most of the finished films were shown on the last two days of the marking period. The films ranged from an interpretation of Siskel and Ebert to wild kids in the hall.

Mrs. Reineke said she would like the students to vary their media, like claymation, for instance. She would like to get away from the "paint and markers" curriculum and explore areas where technology will be used more.

Of these fields, Mrs. Reineke would like to see film used more, and possibly a production studio put in the art room. Another would be computers. Many other schools have labs devoted to art.

As well as a new media center and possible studios, she would also like to have speakers from various art fields come in.

Whether it be movies or animation, Mrs. Reineke is sure everyone will be happy with the finished product.

## Off to Madrid

### Spanish students plan trip

By MITCHELL WEND

Madrid is the destination of nine FHS students and one Spanish teacher.

Mrs. Aubrey and her husband are taking nine students to Spain over spring break. The group is leaving March 27 and will be returning April 7. The students are all enrolled in current Spanish classes, and have been meeting once a week since January to prepare for their trip.

"The trip is a great experience for the students to learn about the culture, people, food and way of life," said Mrs. Aubrey.

The students' main focus point is Madrid, where they will spend all their nights in a hotel. Day trips are planned to the surrounding cities of Segovia, Avila, El Escorial, and Toledo.

"I am really looking forward to the trip," said sophomore Alexandra Faxlanger, one of the nine students headed to Spain.

Even though the trip is only nine days long, the students will get to see many sights, like the Royal Palace in Madrid, the Prado museum, and the Valley of the Fallen, an enormous mountain basilica commemorating the thousands who died in the Spanish Civil War. The students may also have the opportunity to visit the birthplace of St. Teresa and experience an authentic Spanish Flamenco dance performance.

Mrs. Aubrey has taken students to foreign countries before, including one trip to Spain and twice to Mexico. Even though the trip has educational purposes, the school is not sponsoring it due to liability reasons.

### DECA students excel at state competition

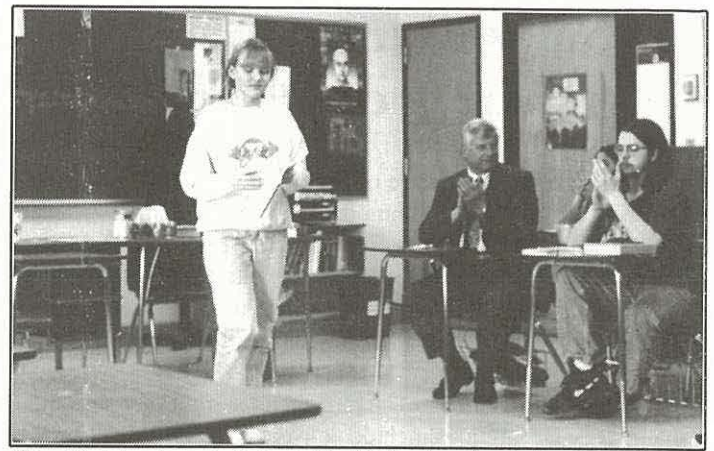
By MATT CHRISTOPHER

The Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA) traveled to Dearborn the weekend of March 14-16 to compete in the State DECA competition. Tim Bouchard, Michelle Norton, and Andrea Bernardini all placed high in the competition, and Kim Vaughn placed first in the Apparel and Accessories Division, which qualified her for the National Competition to be held in Anaheim, California.

The contestants each had to take three tests, two written, and one role playing test. The students were each given a business problem to solve within a certain amount of time, while the judges watched. Kim Vaughn won the first place award for overall role playing, while Ron Schwarz won first place for role playing in his category. Tim Bouchard placed 3rd overall in the Vehicles and Petrol marketing competition.

Dave Hedges, marketing teacher accompanied the finalists, along with Terry Hameline.

"I think they all did super, and I was really impressed. I feel bad that they didn't all place, because they were all very capable," Mr. Hedges said.



Missy Bastuk recites poetry in Mrs. Reinhard-Phillips class. Photo by Dave Campbell.

### Freshman English classes host First Annual Poetry Reading

By DAVE CAMPBELL

The First Annual Poetry Reading of Room 508 took place March 11 in Mary Reinhard-Phillips' classes. It was an opportunity for students to share their favorite poems, their own writings, or just a poem that interested them with the class.

Mrs. Phillips says it's important to be part of a community of thinkers which is why she felt that having a poetry reading would be an important experience for her students. Both her first and fourth hour classes participated. Since poetry readings frequently are set in a cafe, students were allowed to bring beverages for the event.

Readings included favorites from Edgar Allen Poe and lesser known published poets to student work. Mrs. Phillips said she thought it was a success because it gave people a chance to see others from a different perspective and to see they think more deeply than had been apparent.

Mr. Bickel dropped in at one point and before getting out he had to read a poem too. He chose Expectations and Standards. He explained that he has given this poem to teachers before and says he liked the message in the poem that "pretty good" isn't enough.

He also said that he liked the work the students did with writing and reading poems and was happy that the students were getting a good exposure to poetry. Mrs. Phillips also encourages her students to attend poetry readings outside of school at places like Borders Book Store.

### Band, orchestra in top form

By PAM ZERBINOS

Flushing's Wind Ensemble and Orchestra brought home straight 1's from their festival performance on Saturday, March 14. FHS sent three groups to the District Band and Orchestra Festival, held at Carman-Ainsworth High School.

Each group must perform three rehearsed numbers, on which they are given three different ratings by the performance judges. The performance average is determined from these ratings and then averaged with the sight-reading score.

The Wind Ensemble and Orchestra received three 1's in performance and a 1 in sight-reading; Concert Band received a 2 in sight-reading but was given an overall rating of 1.

All three groups qualified for State Band and Orchestra Festival, held in April.

# Watch out! it's Bridget

By ALANE MILLAR

"My laugh sounds like the devil's." she remarks about her voice. She is know by her friends as "Gravel Voice." Bridget hangs upside down, reading about astrology. "What's your sign?" she says smiling as always. "I believe in astrology. I believe it's more than just a coincidence."

If you haven't met her in a sport or a club, you probably know her as the senior class clown. Bridget McClain has been involved with three years of basketball and volleyball. She is currently involved in her fourth year of track. Bridget is also involved in Student Leadership Organization, Varsity Club, Students Against Drunk Driving, A Cappella and is a DARE Role Model. She also enjoys working and holds a number of jobs. She runs the intramural volleyball program, works at Gill Roy's hardware store and is also employed at Aeropostal.

Bridget will attend a teen leadership conference at Michigan State this summer. She was one of 5% of the students in Michigan asked to apply and one of 40% chosen out of the 5% to attend the conference.

Bridget thought for a long time on what's the best thing she's done this year.

"Thrashing in the Pantera pit. Second row, man, that was awesome."

In her free time Bridget also enjoys watercolor painting, rollerblading, hanging out with friends and going to Standish.

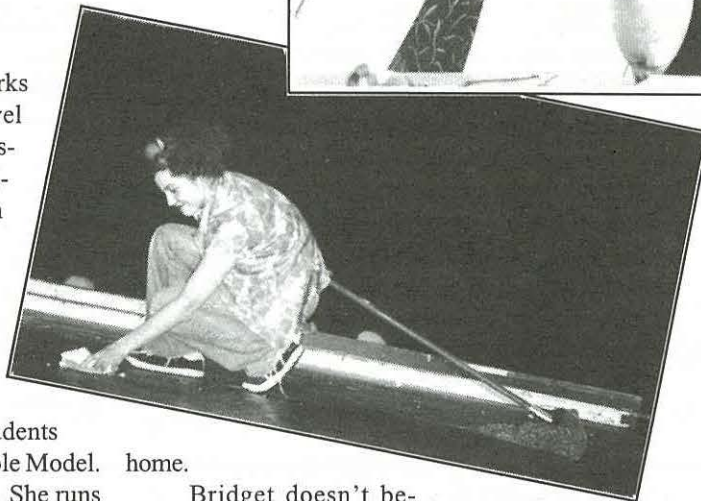
Bridget moved to Flushing in February of 1992 from Carmen-Ainsworth. She lives with her mom Tari McClain. She also has two sisters who live in the Flushing area, Julie and Amanda. Her father, Ted McClain, lives only three minutes from her



Bridget '97  
© Rousseau



**Above:** Bridget and her Homecoming date Ryan Hammond are all smiles at the City Lights Restaurant. Photo by Michelle Lintz.  
**Right:** Bridget plays janitor at Singled Out, cleaning up after the Vernors competition. Photo by Alane Millar.



home.

Bridget doesn't believe in making fun of others because people used to make fun of her for being overweight.

"I like to aggravate people who think they're above everyone else." she says with a devilish smile.

Bridget's biggest influences are her grandpa and her mom. "My heroes are my grandpa because he was able to get along with everyone and make them laugh and my mom because she's the hardest worker I've ever met," she said, smiling.

You may see Bridget striking a pose in her mu mu. Most likely, though, you'll see her in her favorite jeans, Texaco patch and all. "I love everything, I have a lot of neat junk."

"I say stuff everyone's thinking but doesn't have the guts to say. I guess I have dry humor," she said about her upbeat personality.

"When I pull up next to someone, I love to just look cracked out." she said, laughing.

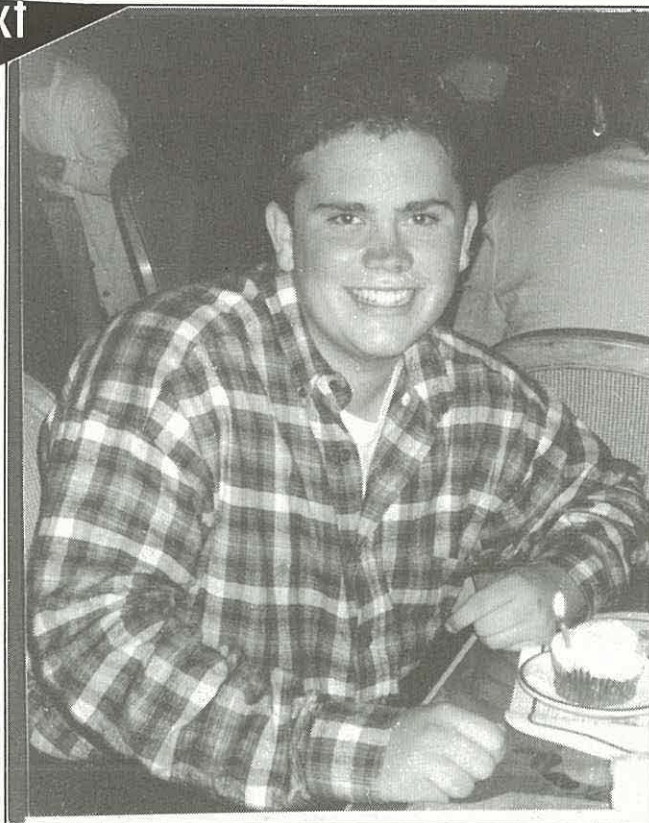
Bridget has big plans for her senior year. She'll be going to Redondo Beach, California, for spring break. She also plans to go to the Jimmy Buffet concert and visit her cousins in Grand Rapids and Standish. Yet her biggest plan is a special one.

"I wanna pull a good senior prank," she confides. Bridget will be attending Michigan State in the fall and rooming with her best friend, Celeste Boudreau.

"My life is just one big funny story," said Bridget, "in Wendy's drive-through they were making fun of what we ordered so I leaned into the driver's seat and said into the microphone, we can see you laughing at us," she exclaimed.

Bridget is looking forward to graduation and wearing her cap and gown to school.

"Walking out of school and knowing I didn't have a ton of enemies, that's cool." she said.



Wes Johnson celebrating his 17th birthday at Timbers in Cadillac, Michigan.

## All about Wes Johnson Montoy\* without dismay

By MALENE MORTENSEN

Going to the Raiders football games or hearing the A-Cappella choir perform are two good ways to see Wes Johnson. Even showing up for this year's drama production of "Stage Door" would have been a good way.

Depending on when Wes is caught, he might give the impression of being a shy, quiet senior, but that illusion won't last for long. He will soon turn into an outgoing, happy guy trying his hardest to put a smile on people's faces.

"Actually," says Wes, "I'm just a very simple guy. I show everybody respect until they prove that they don't deserve it." Respect seems to be the key word to describe Wes Johnson's life.

Being elected Homecoming King mostly surprised him. In his own words, "it was unexpected and nice receiving that kind of respect and honor from my peers."

In school, two of his favorite teachers, Mr. King and Mr. Gandolfi, describe him as a nice guy, and Mr. Gandolfi adds with a smile,

"He just doesn't work hard enough."

Mr. King, on the other hand, says that Wes is the kind of student who always wants to learn more and more.

About school Wes says, "I don't think there is anything really wrong with our school." After pausing for a second he

*\*Ask Wes about his dog.*

"I'm just a very simple guy. I show everybody respect until they prove that they don't deserve it."

-Wes JOHNSON

continues.

"Mostly it is people who need to change their attitude and general mentality about the school."

When school is over, Wes is still a busy young man. Aside from playing football in the fall he somehow manages to fit in homework, the FHS A-Cappella choir, seeing his girlfriend Sara Lecki and singing with The Flushing Singers.

"Even though I have only been doing organized singing for about a year, I had a solo with The Flushing Singers, when we did 'Beauty and the Beast'," Wes tells.

He also appeared in the Drama Club's production of "Stage Door" as Fred Powell, and he tried out for this year's musical "West Side Story". Wes may soon be seen as Riff, the gang leader of the Jets.

"I'm also involved with 'Big Brothers/Big Sisters'," he says and explains, "it's for kids who need special attention; we take them out and do things with them like talk, help with their homework. We are sort of role models for these kids or older brothers, so they have a fatherly figure to look up to."

Being around kids is something Wes enjoys, whether it's coaching or setting a good example. He even likes it enough that he wants to make it his profession. Wes would like to combine spending time with children and his favorite subject, history, by becoming a high school teacher.

"I think his personality will be an asset for him in that way," Mr. Gandolfi comments.

Mr. King agrees, saying, "He would definitely be good as a teacher; he is what I would call a 'people-person'."

Mr. Gandolfi's Civil War class was one of the things that helped Wes make a choice about his future.

"I think history is interesting," Wes says, "that's also why I'll be going to Gettysburg, PA, with my family over spring break, to see the town where a big battle in our Civil War took place."

Aside from future plans of graduating from U of M- Flint and ambitions to become a teacher, Wes sees himself as a real family man down the road.

"I guess, that in another 10 years or so I want what you might call 'The American Dream': two kids, a wife, a dog, a house. All within the Flushing area," Wes announces and goes on, "I don't need a million dollars; money won't make my life happier. I just enjoy small things like making people smile. I love it when people are happy and laugh."

His senior friend and fellow football player at FHS, Matt Palacios, says that the first thing that comes to his mind about Wes is that "he is a complete stand up comedian!"

Matt continues, "He will probably end up with somewhere around 15 kids or so."

At home Wes and his twin sister Shannon, along with their younger brother Brodie, have their parents Denise and Ron as a solid base.

Wes summarizes himself like this, "I'm just a down-to-earth guy, trying to do the best I can, trying to be nice to people," and then he smiles.

Inside the student teaching experience

## Rookie for a year

By Karin Pierson & Kerri Benson

Imagine having to teach 30 people 10 years younger than you a certain regimen of education. Imagine you come up with a lesson plan for your first day of teaching them, making everything perfect, then talking too fast and not having anything to do or say for the rest of the hour. This is exactly what happened to Ms. Kerry Woughter, a student teacher at FHS.

Ms. Woughter is one of the three student teachers currently working at FHS. The others are Andy Finn and Craig Healey.

Mr. Healey, 23, coaches freshman football and baseball at Clio, so he can relate easily to his students.

"I can relate to their problems," says Healey. The strangest experience for him was when the librarian thought he was a student when he wished to use the Internet.

According to these student teachers, the transition from student to authority figure is not that big of a deal. Most of the student teachers are about 10 years older than most FHS students.

Some teachers had it differently, though. For example, Ms. Gill says that when she was student teaching at Birch Run, the students made fun of her because she wasn't old enough to "buy for them" since she was only 20. Mr. King describes a similar experience when he student taught, but instead it concerned size rather than age difference. He explains:

"I student-taught a physical education class where the football coach was my supervisor and the students

were mostly on the football team. I only weighed about 140 pounds back then, so when I stood and checked off the guys to make sure they all took a shower, they were like, 'who is this squirrely character making us

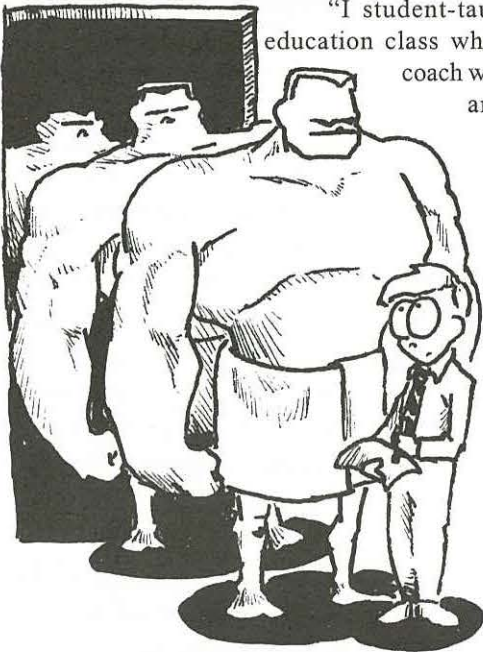


Illustration by Andrew Helms.



Mr. Andy Finn experiencing his first parent-teacher conferences with Mrs. Bengelink on Thursday, March 13.

He describes the time he has spent at FHS as, "Fantabulous, I've enjoyed it one hundred times more than I imagined I would. I'm going to miss this place like crazy."

Mr. Finn has student taught for Mr. Martin and Mr. Gandolfi.

"He has as much enthusiasm and creativity as I've seen in a long time. I hate to see him go, because now I have to go back in there," Mr. Gandolfi says with a chuckle. Photo by Rebecca Williams.

take showers?"

The biggest complaints of student teachers here are not size or age, but instead tired feet and lack of free time.

"My feet really hurt by the time I get home," says Mr. Finn, who also says he barely has enough time for his girlfriend. This is understandable, because in order to become a certified teacher, a student teacher must both teach and take classes.

Student teaching can be very scary, in more ways than one.

"When my lesson plan for the day crashes and burns, I just have to tough it out. You also have to have an alternate game plan," says Mr. Healey.

Mr. Finn agrees, saying, "You don't expect the worst to happen, but you have to be prepared for anything."

Mr. Hedges knows about the value of preparation. When Mr. Hedges was a student teacher, he taught at an inner-city school. There was a certain student there that the teachers warned him about, who had been in jail and had gotten into fist fights with teachers. When the time came for a test, this student refused to take it, saying he didn't have a pencil. Mr. Hedges "magically" produced a pencil out of midair. He then watched the eyes of the previously unreachable student light up.

Mr. Forsleff, the new orchestra teacher, describes a couple of frightening experiences, one on his first day of teaching. He was in charge of the band class at Central High School, and after his supervising teacher gave a long, articulate inspirational speech he then turned to Mr. Forsleff and said, "why don't you say a few words?" Mr. Forsleff also remembers a later experience, when a gun was taken from one of his students.

Overall, student teaching is not simple.

"Most people think it is easy," says Mr. Mikolowski, "but it is not at all."

Ms. Sleno compares the experience to driver's education.

"If you screw up, there is always someone to save you. When you are a certified teacher, you have to do it all by yourself."

Student teaching can be similar to driver's ed, fun, scary, hard on the feet, or as Mr. Buckel puts it, "your first introduction to the real world."

Sometimes parents are not able to care for their children the way they should, that's when foster care comes in

# WHEN BREAK

By LEEANN BURCHFIELD

**A**lley is five years old. Alley's mom is an alcoholic and has a drug problem. Alley has been seen by her friend's mother Nancy with bruises on her face, and she has seen on more than one occasion Alley's mother drunk and high. Nancy thought that the best interest of the child is to have her away from her house, so she called the D.S.S., which is short for Department of Social Services.

They handle most or all cases of children. There is usually one in each county. D.S.S. will send a case worker who is assigned to this case to talk to Alley, and then talk to Nancy, to see if Alley is in real danger staying at home with her mother. If that is the situation then the case worker will show up with two police officers to escort Alley to a foster home. Next, officials have to decide if Alley will be

in temporary or permanent foster care, or perhaps place Alley with a suitable relative. Alley is not a real child, but the Department of Social Services deals with children in situations like hers every day.

At least three important people will decide for that child's best interests: the case worker, (also known as the Social Worker), the judge, and a lawyer who will represent children like Alley in court.

Since placing children in permanent care will cost the state a lot of money, they try to find alternatives for placing kids. If Alley's mom wants her daughter back, the judge could tell the mom that she can have her back if she goes to a drug rehab program, attends A.A. meetings and parenting classes, and gets a stable job. If she passes those classes and gets certificates from them, she will have her daughter back.

If her mother fails to follow the curriculum, Alley might be put in permanent foster care. Permanent will mean that Alley will never return home to live with her mother again. Alley might be allowed to see her mom through visitations, but she would most likely be put up for adoption. Her mother's parental rights would be served.

Because she is so young, and being in permanent foster care will cost the state a lot of money, the state will try to find an adoptive home for her. If Alley's foster parents want to



# FAMILIES DOWN

adopt her, then they will be checked out to see if it would be a suitable placement.

Not all cases are abusive. Some cases are about parents who can't deal with their incorrigible child. Billy is 16, the oldest out of 2 children. Billy's mother Diane and father Jack both work a lot, while Billy is left to watch his younger brother Jordan who is 14. Billy and Jordan do everything together. They are partners in crime. They are highly influenced by other peers to fight and rebel. That is the only way they know how to protect themselves. Mom and dad didn't have time to actually pay attention to what their sons accomplished until the police arrested them for fighting in the mall parking lot, and one brother was caught with a gun. The kids appeared before a judge and the judge laid down the law. The parents finally were aware of their children's actions and started being more strict and

cautious about what they do. Billy and Jordan were not used to this supervision, so they retaliated. Things got out of hand, and the parents could not control them. They go before a judge again with the same problems. Now the judge feels that the brothers should be dealt with by the state and put into the system, until they show signs of improved behavior. They might be placed in a juvenile detention center or a foster home.

Being a foster parent is not an easy job. Mrs. Marian Rosa, a resident of Flushing, has been a respected foster parent on and off for 30 years.

"I came from a broken home, so I understood the fear, hopelessness, and loneliness of children in a mixed up environment. I wanted to give kids a safe, and loving place to live in their time of need," she explained.

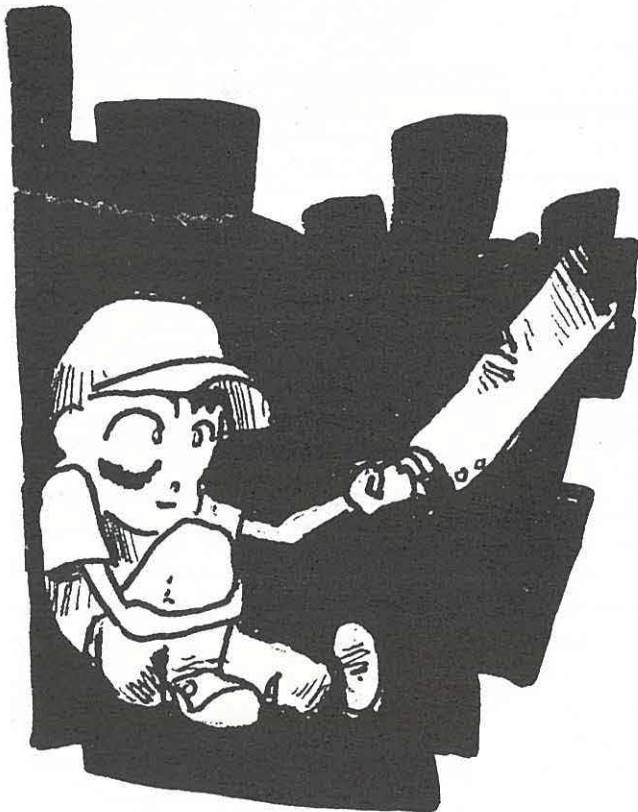
There are many advantages to being a foster parent. One advantage is seeing the children's self-esteem improve as they build a sense of belonging to family or community.

While in foster care the kids are assigned to a counselor or therapist for as long as they are in foster care, or until they are adopted. The children will talk on a regular basis with these professionals to help them understand life, and help them out in the world.

Even if they are placed in long term foster care, they are able to see their biological parents. In the meantime, the child will maintain a normal family life.

The people who help and are there to protect the children in need of foster care should be looked at as saints. They open their houses to total strangers, mostly not knowing what to expect. They are not money hungry, nor any other stereotype. The children who go into those houses should be looked at as human beings who need someone there for them, not to be looked at as freaks or nut cases. Just remember one thing: this world is not very perfect, but some good hearted people try.

Illustrations by  
ANDREW HELMS.



# Stone Defenders

By RON BAILEY



**G**argoyles are defenders of the night. The grotesque stone figures that guard Gothic buildings stir the imagination with their unusual appearance. The gargoyles of various cathedrals around the world are, according to superstition, creatures that frighten evil spirits away from the buildings that they sit upon. Imitated in paintings and used in various works of fiction, the gargoyle is one of the most unique forms of sculpture due not only to its fantastic appearance but also to the fact that it was originally intended to perform a practical purpose.

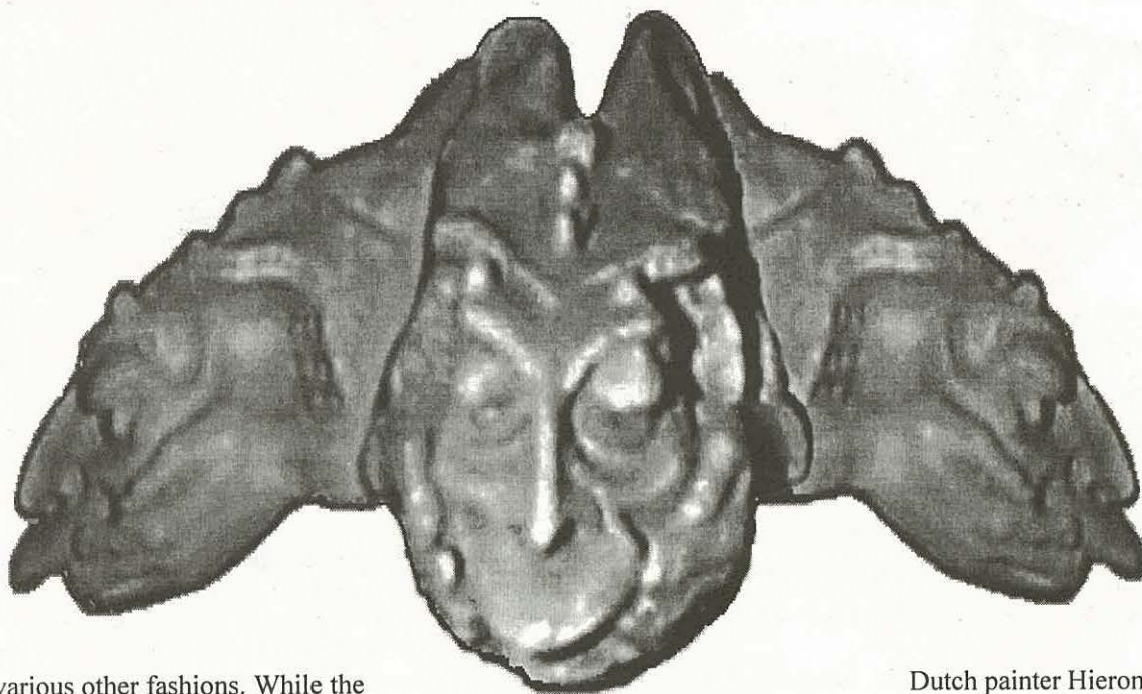
The word gargoyle really means "water spout" because that was what they were in the beginning. Gargoyles did not start out as fantastic beings attached to the sides of Gothic cathedrals. The first gargoyles were merely what their name means, unadorned water spouts that were attached to rain gutters or parapets. The largest gargoyles extend three feet from their buildings. Their purpose was to allow water to fall free of the building to prevent seepage and damage to the masonry. Eventually, the plain water spouts would become more ornate and depicted creatures with grotesque features. The gargoyles served a practical purpose of a water spout until the introduction of the lead drain pipe in the 16th Century which forced the

gargoyle to become merely a decoration.

With the task of spouting water no longer its purpose, the gargoyle became more diverse in its design. Early gargoyles were mostly a half of a creature's body protruding from a building because of the need for water to run through them. After

the lead drain pipe was invented, the gargoyles could be designed in





various other fashions. While the trend in gargoyles is sitting, the sculptors of the Gothic creatures had no real restrictions or set design to follow. Anything ugly and fantastic looking could be considered a gargoyle. Land animals with wings and creatures with pointed snouts

and ears could now be found sitting on various buildings constructed in the Gothic era. Gargoyles

are not limited to structures made in the 16th Century however. The Chrysler building in New York has gargoyles resembling hood ornaments as part of its design.

The name "gargoyle" is generally used incorrectly when referring to all sculptures of strange grotesque creatures on medieval structures. When the creature is not constructed to be a drain, the correct term for the beasts are "chimeras." The word "chimera," (or chimerical) is used to describe anything that is absurd or wildly fanciful and fantastic. The term's origins stem from the Greek myth of the Chimera, a fire breathing monster with the head of a lion, body of a goat, and the tail of a serpent. But like most things in the world, a popular term has overridden the correct one so that all mediaeval creatures of a fantastic design are called gargoyles.

The sale of various types of small gargoyles (or more correctly, chimeras) has become popular in recent years. These small replicas of original gargoyles are usually around three to five inches tall, though they can be larger or smaller, and are placed in gardens and around the house. This recent rise in popularity may be due to Disney's cartoon creation, *Gargoyles*.

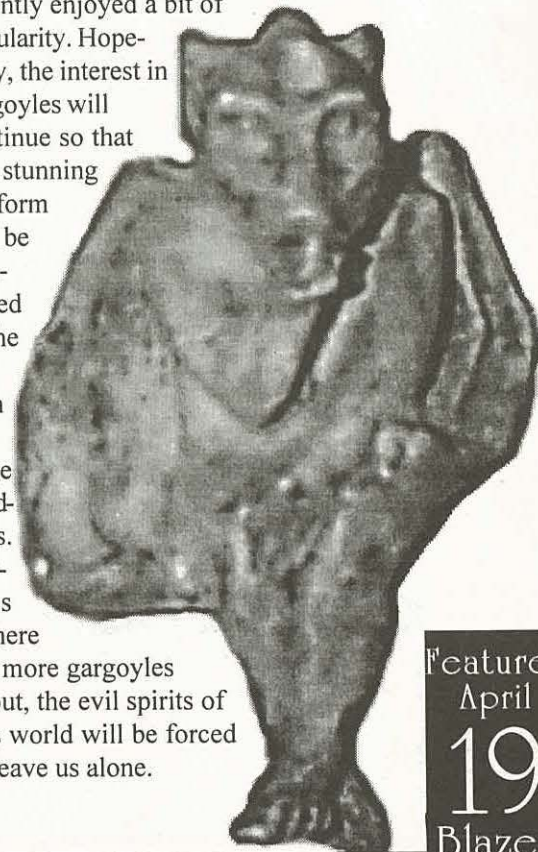
*Gargoyles* is based on the legend that gargoyles are protectors. The cartoon follows the adventures of the last of the race of living gargoyles who protected the castles of medieval times. These creatures are intelligent beings that have survived through the ages by means of a magic spell that caused them to sleep for hundreds of years until they were finally awakened in present day New York. The gargoyles are stone during the day but when the sun sets, they come alive to protect the city from evil doers. *Gargoyles: The Goliath Chronicle* can currently be seen on Saturday mornings on ABC. For more Disney gargoyle action, check out *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* which features three talking gargoyles that live in Notre Dame Cathedral.

Disney artists are not the only artisans to be inspired by the gargoyle. Artists who lived in the era of gargoyles were also fascinated by the mystical properties of the gargoyles.

Dutch painter Hieronymus Bosch (c.1450-1516) was inspired by the grotesque appearance of the creatures. He used the images of the gargoyles in his eccentric paintings of religious visions that depicted the torments of Hell.

Gargoyles have many aspects that appeal to people. They are ugly, they are mysterious, and they are believed to have protective powers. They are one of architectures most stunning creations and have just recently enjoyed a bit of popularity. Hopefully, the interest in gargoyles will continue so that this stunning art form

will be reinstated in the design of large buildings. Perhaps if there are more gargoyles about, the evil spirits of this world will be forced to leave us alone.



# In the

# ARMY

# now

## Applying to a service academy

BY **PAM ZERBINOS**

"Enlist! Enlist!" Sound familiar? Everyone knows someone who is currently being hassled by a military recruiter, and we've all seen them down by the cafeteria handing out bumper stickers. However, there is a different way to go for those interested in the military.

A service academy offers a lot of options for someone seriously considering a career in the military. For one thing, it's a very expensive, top-of-the-line education for free. Students are issued a computer and guaranteed a well-paying job after graduation. The military will also pay for any graduate work, depending on how much time a person is willing to stay in the service.

All four branches of the military - the Army, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard - have a service academy. While the academies don't offer very many majors (the Air Force Academy has the most, with 26), the education is superb. Most degrees are in various engineering fields, although the exact field varies by Academy. The Air Force Academy offers Aeronautical Engineering, the Naval and Coast Guard Academies offer Ocean Engineering, and Environmental Engineering is offered at West Point. All academies offer majors like physics, chemistry, computer science and mathematics. However, it is also possible to major in the humanities. Majors in political science, history, economics or English are available at all academies. Humanities majors don't get out of anything, though. They are required to take all the core classes in math, chemistry, physics and engineering; because of this they are awarded a Bachelor of Science degree.

Graduating from an academy is not easy. There is very little time off; summers are occupied by various training camps. The Naval Academy sends every midshipman to SEAL school, marine training and flight school so they will be better able to choose the field they want to enter when they graduate. There are strict guidelines at each academy, and every cadet lives by the Honor Code. This code is taken very seriously, and ethics violations, as well as physical, medical, academic or military failures, can result in expulsion from the academy. For example, if a cadet is doing drugs and another person has knowledge of it but elects not to say anything, both are guilty and both will be expelled.

It all starts with Plebe Summer (Swab Summer at the Coast Guard Academy), a five- to seven- week program of intense physical and emotional training. According to the Naval Academy handbook, "Plebe Summer is not gentle easing into the military routine. You start your days at dawn with an hour of



*Graduation ceremony at Annapolis.*

rigorous exercise and end them long after sunset, wondering how you will make it through the next day. Forget television, leisure time or movies. You will have barely enough time in the day to finish your assigned plebe tasks. The summer also builds the foundation for the tangible and intangible qualities that make an outstanding naval officer. You learn self-discipline, to organize your time and decide which things are most important. You reach top physical condition and develop your ability to think clearly under stress and react quickly when the unexpected comes your way."

While going to an academy is definitely one of the most difficult and intense experiences of a lifetime, it is also one of the most rewarding. Graduates have nothing negative to say about it, and current attendees are just as positive. Midshipman Third-class Graham Baldwin, a sophomore at the Naval Academy, says that the Academy has taught him a lot of things that he will use later in life. "I really think that Plebe Summer is one of the best things a person can go through. Yeah, it's really hard - one girl seriously went crazy; she just flipped out one day and went screaming down the hallway and ran into a wall or something and we never saw her again- but it's worth it if you make it through. I'm a much stronger person now, both physically as well as mentally and emotionally."

For those interested in an appointment to a service academy, the time is now. The application process is long and involves many forms, letters, interviews, and various physical and medical examinations. A nomination from a Senator or representative is needed for appointment. Extremely qualified candidates can also seek a Vice-Presidential nomination; sons or daughters of academy alumni can seek Presidential nominations.

The first step in the application process is contacting the selected academy's admissions office. Request a precandidate questionnaire, fill it out, and send it in. The academy will take it from there, sending all the forms and making all the necessary appointments. Those interested in applying should be sure to sign up for the SAT or ACT; scores must be forwarded to the academy. The codes are not in the registration booklets, but are available in the guidance office.

### Interested? Here's who to contact:

*United States Military Academy*  
Director of Admissions  
606 Thayer Road  
West Point, NY 10996-9902

*United States Naval Academy*  
Candidate Guidance Office  
117 Decatur Road  
Annapolis, MD 21402-5018

*United States Air Force Academy*  
Admissions Office  
HQ USAFA/RRS  
2304 Cadet Drive, Suite 200  
USAF Academ, CO 80840-5025

*United States Coast Guard Academy*  
Director of Admissions  
15 Monegan Avenue  
New London, CT 06320-4195

# Annapolis in June

## My week at the Naval Academy

BY PAM ZERBINOS

The Naval Academy is a tough place. I was there for a week and I worked harder than I ever have in my life; anyone expecting it to be a breeze is sorely mistaken.

Being there during the summer meant two things: hot and humid. I stayed in Bancroft Hall, the Academy's only dormitory (it's also the largest in the world). Bancroft is not air conditioned, and Annapolis during late June is not pleasant. I was part of a week-long Science and Engineering Seminar, although the program seemed to be more about acquainting us with the Naval Academy than anything else.

I was immediately assigned to a squad, a platoon, and a company. During the next week, I became very close to my squad. We spent literally every waking moment together; bonding was hard to avoid. We were issued T-shirts and schedules, shown a video about the glories of the Naval Academy, and sent to bed. Then the real fun began.

Alarms were set for 4:30 in the morning. Physical Training (PT) was at 5:00. We lined up by company, platoon, squad and height and ran five miles every morning. As the shortest member of Delta 3-3, I was dead last in line. All those movies where you see large groups of people running in step screaming "napalm sticks to kids" are real. We were then in for about 45 minutes of calisthenics led by a Navy SEAL. Most of these exercises bordered on medieval torture; arm circles will never be the same again.

PT ended at 6:30; by 6:40 we had to be showered, changed, and outside our



squad leader's door. This amounted to two minutes to shower and change; clothes were laid out in the morning and we jumped into the shower fully clothed. One day I had a whole five minutes to shower and I considered it "free time."

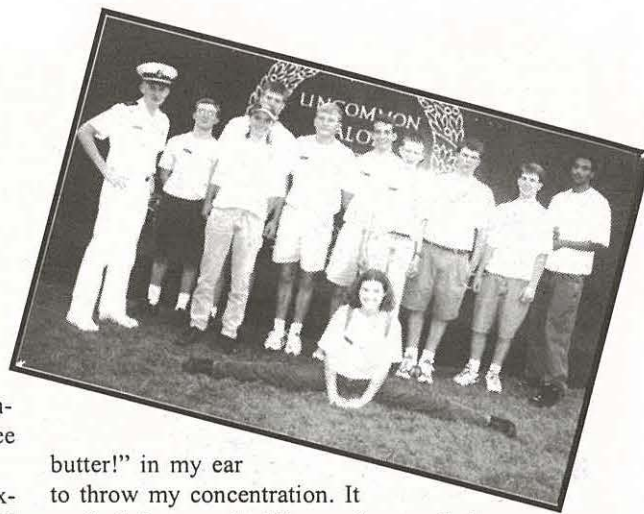
"Free time," as such, does not exist. You're either in class, doing drill (marching maneuvers), eating, or playing some sort of team sport. There isn't even time to sleep; we had to be in bed by 11 but memorizing rates kept us up most of the night. Rates are things like the Mission of the United States Naval Academy, the chain of command (starting with yourself right on up to Bill Clinton), the Marine Hymn, etc. This was to prepare us for Midshipman Indoctrination.

Known as "Indoc," the two-hour time span I spent as a Plebe were the two hardest hours of my life. Your first year at a service academy, you are a Plebe. As a Plebe, you are nothing, you are the scum of the earth, you are a maggot. You are told this repeatedly and treated as such.

There are several basic rules to being a plebe. You don't look at anyone, you don't talk without permission (you're only allowed to say five sentences anyway) and when you do talk, you scream. If you see a Midshipman ("Mid" for short), you greet them (no, not "hi." It's "sir, good evening sir!"). You run everywhere. At dinner, you sit ramrod straight on the front two inches of your chair. To eat, you bring your fork straight up to the level of your mouth, straight in to your mouth and then back down in the same manner. You put your fork down and your hand in your lap; then you may chew. At

any given moment, you may be

asked to recite the Mission of the Naval Academy or sing the Marine Hymn. Concentration is key; I was halfway through the Mission and a Mid screamed "peanut



butter!" in my ear

to throw my concentration. It worked. I stopped talking and got yelled at. Any turn you make has to be 90 degrees and you must pivot on your heel. The bottom line is that you do whatever the Mids tell you to, no questions asked.

Teamwork is key. They herded us up to the 6th floor of Bancroft and made everyone stand against the wall. Each section of the wall had about 15 people against it. If one person in a section screwed up, everyone was punished. The person who messed up then had to apologize to everyone else for causing push-ups or jumping jacks or whatever the "punishment" of choice was at that particular moment.

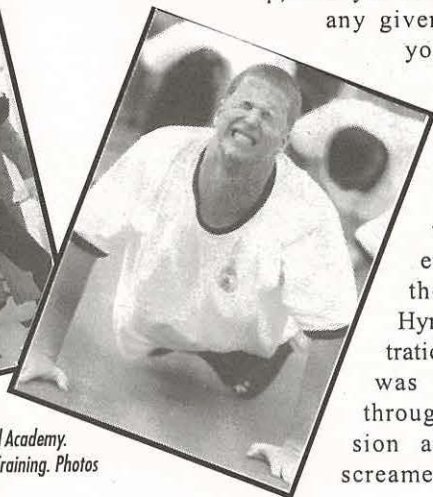
Verbal abuse runs rampant, and I have never seen so many males crying as I did in the two hours of Indoc. Everyone gets absolutely ripped to shreds. Those movies showing a bunch of officers screaming vulgar obscenities to defenseless trainees who stand there screaming "sir, yes sir!" over and over because it's the only thing they're allowed to say are not jokes. This really happens.

No, this does not sound like fun. It sounds like hell. Why would anyone want to go through this for seven weeks? I can honestly say that it's the hardest thing I've done before or since. It's also one of my greatest accomplishments, and unless you've been there, you probably won't understand. When Indoc was over, I felt great. I had made it through, I did not break or cry or quit and go back to my room. It wasn't just me, either. Everyone who went through it felt the same way. It's not really as simple as "gee, I can do 800 arm circles" or "hey, he called me a mean name and it didn't bother me." There's a lot more to it. If you can make it through Indoc, you can make it through Plebe Summer. If you can make it through Plebe Summer, you can make it through absolutely anything. And there is simply no greater moment in your life than the one where you realize that there is no limit to what you can accomplish.

*My squad and I in front of two Jims. Participants in the seminar visited Washington, D.C. to see the Marine Silent Drill Team and the Drum and Bugle Corps.*



*Left: Midshipman taking part in a play at the Naval Academy. Right: A Midshipman having fun during Physical Training. Photos from the Naval Academy catalogue.*



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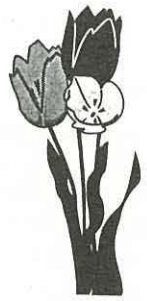
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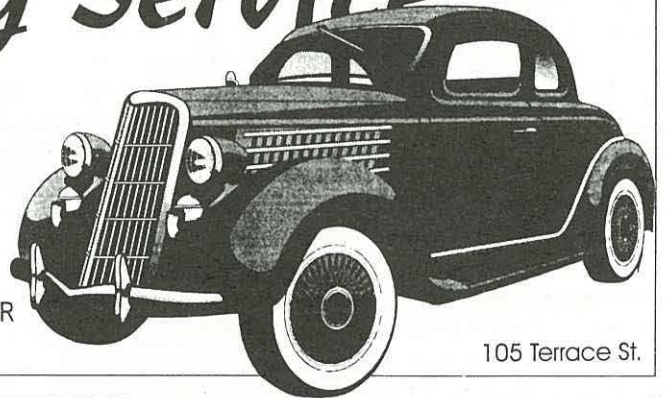
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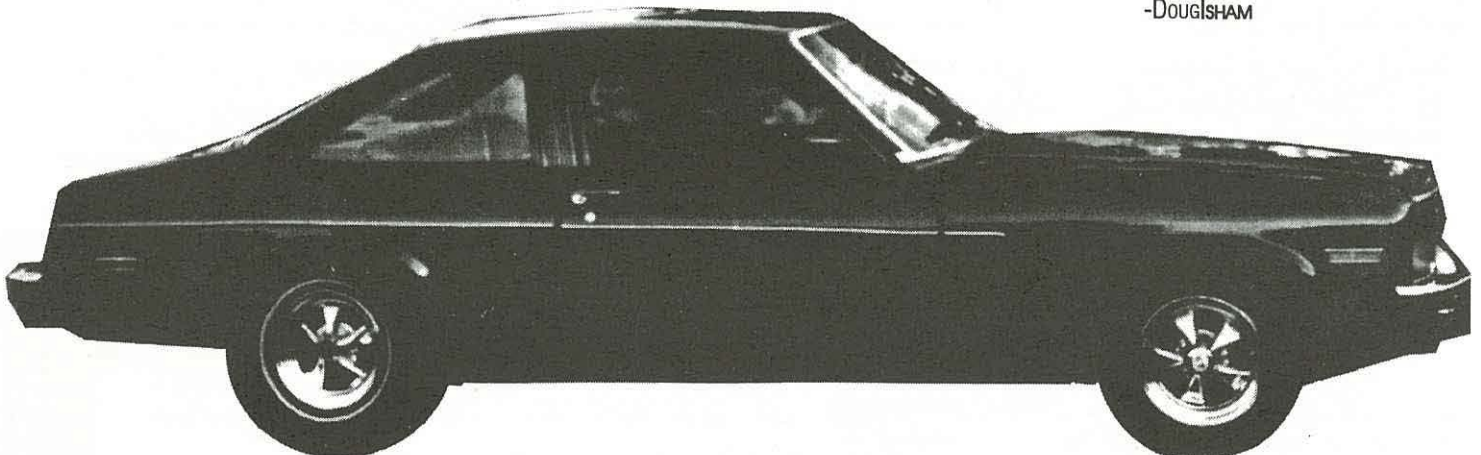
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# CAR OF THE MONTH

It's time again to start looking at all those cars out there that have been fixed up, souped up, jacked up and screwed up. One of those cars is owned by Tim Church who has a burgundy 1978 Chevy Nova. If put into respective categories above, this car would be in the fixed up, then screwed up, then fixed up and souped up category. It is an award winning car, having won the first-place trophy for best in class in 1995 at the Clio Firemans Park, and third place in its class at the American Legions Hall.

The car has a 350 Olds engine and a 400 Turbo Buick transmission, along with a 750 Quadrajet carburetor to maximize the fuel consumption. The exhaust is handled by a very capable set of headers that are connected to three and a half inch piping dumping the exhaust just past the rear axle. In the back there's a factory-standard 9-bolt rearend that is going to be changed to a 4:10. The rear wheels are Craiger SS Rims, Mickey Thompson tires that are over 12 inches wide. The car has a date with an airbrush that will change the paint from burgundy to champagne red. It wasn't all peaches 'n' cream fixing up the car, because in 1995 after the car shows, the car suffered some vandalism. Repairing all the damages took a couple of months. He had plenty of help from his family though, who are all Nova owners themselves. Now he's back in business and the Nova is looking as good as ever.

-DOUGLISHAM



# U2's *Pop* is nothing short of brilliant

By PAM ZERBINOS

Even if you live in a hole in the ground, you should be quite aware that U2 has released a new album. Living in a hole in the ground is also no excuse not to have it already.

*Pop* is nothing short of brilliant. It is yet another experimental album, veering farther from the course set by albums like *The Joshua Tree*. Much of the album has a new wave techno feel, and it's closer to dance music than anything U2 has ever released.

However, despite the fact that U2 has once again managed to change their musical style, *Pop* is still somehow vintage U2. It's pretty hard to make a voice like Bono's unrecognizable, and there are hints of *Achtung Baby* and *The Joshua Tree* all over the album. "Do You Feel Loved" is built on a typical Adam Clayton bass line, and "Last Night on Earth" could be from any U2 album released thus far.

Highlights of the album include the entire thing. There's a beautiful ballad here and there including "If God

Will Send His Angels" and "If You Wear That Velvet Dress." "If God Will Send His Angels" starts out with Bono singing a cappella and builds from there, and "If You Wear That Velvet Dress" has an incredibly haunting melody line that makes you want to cry.

For your personal listening pleasure, there are three flat-out rock songs in a row - "Staring at the Sun," "Last Night on Earth," and "Gone" - that should have the Silverdome jumping come Halloween. I'm partial to "Last Night on Earth," but which of the three songs is the best is a personal preference.

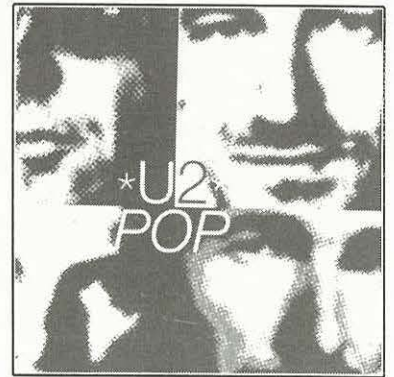
There are also a lot of miscellaneous songs that are too distorted and sampled to fall into any current musical genre. "Miami," which sounds the teeniest little bit like "Bullet the Blue Sky," has a pretty irritating background beat but it grows on you after a while. "The Playboy Mansion" is straight off *Zooropa*, and you all know what "Discothèque" sounds like by now.

"Mofo" is a highly energized dance anthem that sounds at times like C + C Music Factory with some actual talent.

Lyric-wise, this album doesn't stray that much from previous albums.

Bono has once again gone religious and makes references to God and Jesus throughout. "Wake Up Dead Man" starts with "Jesus, Jesus help me" and continues the plea for the rest of the song. He gets a little trite on "If God Will Send His Angels," singing "it's the blind leading the blonds / it's the stuff of country songs."

The sometimes dumb lyrics aside, *Pop* is definitely one of their strongest albums. It's a must for any U2 fan; in fact, it's a must in general.



## Performers' deaths stir obsessions

By NATE KINNEY

In the last few years every popular genre of music has experienced a tragic death. Artists such as 2pac, Kurt Cobain, and most recently The Notorious B.I.G. have been lost from the entertainment world forever. The thing that puzzles me is how kids seem to get depressed, sometimes to the point of suicide at the loss of an entertainer.

All three of the artists mentioned above died before their natural time and of violent deaths. Yet even after they die people still look up to them as role models. This is especially ironic because before they died, everyone seemed to have criticisms and problems with what they did. All of them were surrounded with critics when they were alive but after they died they were all looked at as perfect angels. Not only that, but their deaths also brought them new fans.

After Kurt Cobain killed himself, Nirvana sales sky rocketed, the same with 2pac. All of the sudden their rough cuts and poetry were ingenious and

people who hated them before just happened to start liking their music. Their other fans all became really depressed and suicidal at the death of someone who they only knew through music, someone who most likely would not even talk to them if they met. But in the fans' little fantasy they were best friends. It's hard to believe people would even go as far as suicide and candle-lit vigils in the artist's home town.

After Kurt Cobain died especially, people seemed to be wearing Nirvana shirts. And then after a couple of months special shirts were made to commemorate his death. It is one of the most ridiculous things that can happen, and the worst part is it has been happening since we've had rock 'n roll stars to worship. People cried, and still do cry at the death of Elvis. Hundreds of thousands of visitors pack Graceland every day to see where the "king of rock 'n roll" once lived. There was a movie made about the six months or so

Richie Valenz spent at the top of the charts. The question is, what is the point? It's someone who you never met. The only reason why they even wrote their songs was to make money. It is like worshipping Bill Gates or David Geffen, in fact they would probably be better role models because I'm sure they never did heroin, or smoked pot, or joined a gang, or got arrested for gun charges, or were in detox. With the rap artists especially I don't see why people were so upset when they died. They all saw it coming. They both knew that they wouldn't live out their natural years.

It is to be expected of someone who lives a lifestyle full of the stuff they did to die at a young age. It all comes with the territory of living fast and having all of the wrong kinds of fun. So it's kind of pointless to cry or consider doing the same kinds of things they did. After all, none of us want to go through the same kinds of deaths as the artists we so love have.

# Morphine is highly addictive

By **PAM ZERBINOS**

Once read that listening to Morphine is like slowly burning yourself with a cigarette: it hurts, but you're determined to know what it's going to feel like at the end. This is true. If you start listening to a Morphine album, you're going to listen to the whole thing.

Their latest album, *Like Swimming*, is no different. The trio from Boston consisting of Mark Sandman on 2String Slide bass, Dana Colley on the baritone sax, and Billy Conway on drums has done it again. *Like Swimming* is short, (only 37 minutes) and sweet. Sandman opens the album with his bass, managing to sound very much like Colley's opening on *Cure For Pain*. The first track, "Lilah," is a 58-second instrumental that segues right into "Potion." "Potion's" swing beat is going to be stuck in your head for days.

Several songs on the album are oddly reminiscent of Sting's *Ten Summoner's Tales*. "Murder for the Money" and "I Know You (Pt. III)" are the best examples of what Sting would sound like jazzed up and on sedatives. They don't exactly make you want to dance, but snapping your fingers is a necessity. Other highlights on the album

are "Early to Bed" and "Hanging on a Curtain." "Early to Bed" has a funky bottom beat and is getting lots of radio play in East Lansing.

"Hanging on a Curtain" is a Morphine song in the same vein as "Cure for Pain" and "You Look Like Rain," both off earlier albums. The melody line is so beautiful you want to cry, and the underlying music is equally brilliant. The title track has the same effect, as does "Empty Box."

If the album has a worst song, it would probably be "Eleven O'Clock." Although the actual music is wonderful, it's hard to get by Sandman singing "every night about eleven o'clock" repeatedly for three minutes. This gets old pretty quickly and ruins the great music behind it.

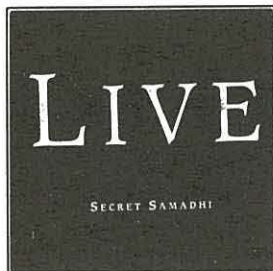
Sandman's philosophy about lyrics may have something to do with this. Morphine is generally mood music; every part of every song goes toward creating a certain mood. The lyrics aren't there to tell a story or impart a useful message. In "Hanging on a Curtain," Sandman sings "little red feet with big blue toes / lemme put my hand inside your clothes." This is not exactly meaningful.



The album's only flaw (besides the irritating lyrics of "Eleven O'Clock") is its overall similarity to *Cure For Pain*. Released in 1993, *Cure For Pain* was the group's "breakthrough album," and *Like Swimming* hasn't really done anything different. However, those of you who are already Morphine fans will find *Like Swimming* a necessary addition to your collection.

If you've never heard of Morphine before, and I'll wager most of you haven't, you should try it out. It's a completely different sound and one definitely worth cultivating. *Cure For Pain* is the album to buy first, and then *Like Swimming* or *Yes. Good* is their first album and has a few classics ("You Look Like Rain" is on this album), but overall it's pretty evident that it was their first attempt.

If you're interested and over 18, Morphine will be playing Clutch Cargo's (in Pontiac; it's also called the Sanctum) on April 18. Missing this concert would be a bad idea.



## Live *Secret Samadhi*

By **MITCH WEND**

The grand Canyon couldn't get any

bigger, and *Secret Samadhi* couldn't get any better. This latest creative arrangement by the boys from Hershey Pennsylvania is the best follow up album around. With the success of 1994's *Throwing Copper*, Live returns with an album of comparable integrity. The first single that was released was "Lakini's Juice," a song that contains enough

meaning to carry the whole album. Fortunately, this one song is backed up by numerous others.

"Rattlesnake," the first track, is about a small town, and the angst that is involved with being in one. The songs "Graze" and "Ghost" are excellent collaborations of their titles. "Century" is the next tune worth mentioning. The lyrics go "Everybody's here / puke stinks like beer." "Century" is an excellent example of Live's variety. It breaks away from the serious for a moment and brings us a good song. To

continue with the albums greatness, Live gives us the song "Insomnia and the Hole in the Universe." The melancholy layered beat becomes addictive after hearing it a couple of times. With five tracks out of the twelve, Live goes out with a bang. The momentum rises with "Turn My Head," "Heropsychodreamer," and "Freaks." It is capped off by the tell all "Merica" and ending with Gas Hed Goes West," a great tune telling of "Gas Hed marching on. Possibly a metaphor for the band itself.

# St. Andrews Hall is Blurred once again

By PAM ZERBINOS

The last time that Blur played St. Andrew's, which was during their 1995 *Parklife* tour, *Rolling Stone* magazine called it one of the best concerts of the year. Blur is currently on tour for their fifth album, and their latest appearance at St. Andrew's should draw the same response.

Blur is the British band that's giving Oasis a run for their money back home in England. They're more new-wave than Oasis is, but if you like Oasis, Blur is definitely worth checking out. They've been putting out an album a year for the past three years, and while they're big in England, they haven't been picked up by mainstream America.

Their latest album, simply titled *Blur*, will hopefully change that. With songs like "Looking for America" and "Chinese Bombs," both of which are getting limited radio play (in Detroit, anyway), the album is a bargain at 12 bucks.

The March 14 concert was also a bargain; it was worth a lot more than the \$10 ticket price. Blur managed to sell out St. Andrew's, and although the concert hall only holds about 250 people, it was a still a good-sized crowd. A portion of the crowd seemed to be transplanted

Brits; on the whole, it was a good-natured, feel-good crowd. Even the mosh pit was friendly.

Although there were rumours of an opening band, when the lights came up it was Damon Albarn and the boys from Blur standing onstage. They opened the concert with "Beetlebum," also the first song of their new album. The song is much better live than it is on CD; Albarn has incredible stage presence and knows how to show the audience a good time.

The set consisted of songs mainly from *Blur*. These songs went over very well considering that the crowd was less familiar with the new album. From my mosh pit perspective (judging crowd response on how much I got hurt; the more painful the song, the better it was liked), the definite crowd-pleasers from *Blur* were "Song 2," "M.O.R.," and "Chinese Bombs."

One of the strong points of the concert was the variety of songs they played. They played a lot of their older stuff and several instrumentals, and the tempos varied from very fast songs like "Popscore" to the more mellow ballads like "To The End." "The Universal," another ballad, was probably the

prettiest song they played. The two horn players that they brought in added a whole new dimension, and the keyboardist was excellent. (Albarn plays keyboards on studio recordings, but is usually too busy singing during concerts.)

Some of the biggest surprises of the night came with what they left off the set list. They played nothing from *Leisure* except a b-side called "Inertia." While "Inertia" was a pleasant surprise, they neglected "There's No Other Way," which was surprising considering that it's one of their biggest American hits.

The encore was pretty long, consisting of about seven songs. The first was an instrumental from *Modern Life is Rubbish* called "Supa Shopa," which segued into "Stereotypes." They also played "Parklife," which was when the mosh pit reached its highest frenzy of the night.

If you missed this show, shame on you. They are leaving for Europe on April 2nd.

*A great big "thank you for all the help" goes out to Dave Baldwin; without him, I'd have been lost.*



## Various Artists *Beneath the Icy Floe*

By CARRIE LAMAY

Although *Beneath the Icy Floe* is labeled a sampler, it is a definite soundtrack to everything that the California label Projekt has to offer. Although gothic in its

entirety, it goes from dark ambient to almost pop-gothic in range. In the realm of gothic music, this has everything you ever wanted. A veritable alchemic compilation that makes you remember everything you like about the winter. The songs "Lieberflusse" and "Love's Labour's Lost" by Love Spirals Downwards have textural melodies that drift towards you like the color of the sea after a storm. The light melodies and airy sounds of "Von Stauffenberg" by Thanatos and "Drifting" by Lycia make you feel trance-like after listening. If you're looking for pop-goth (i.e. Cure or the Cocteau Twins) try "The Silent Dance" by Human Drama or "Dreaming Among Stones" by Eden. Looking for a harder edge? Try "A'dam and Eva" by Attrition.

This CD plunges its head through all six feet of hallowed ground in an attempt to exhume the music's own inherent beauty. Anyone who appreciates misty contrasts and silver-edged melodies should definitely check this out and reap the benefits of bliss that comes after a good listen.

## Concert Dates

April 10

Kiss  
Van Andler Arena

April 16

Stone Temple Pilots  
Wendler Arena

April 17

Violent Femmes  
Hill Auditorium

April 19

Bush  
The Palace

April 23

Silverchair  
The State Theater

April 25

Marilyn Manson  
Wendler Arena

April 30

Collective Soul  
State Theater

A & E  
April  
25  
Blazer

## The Cast\*

### The Jets

Riff.....	Wes Johnson
Tony.....	Matt Popovits
Action.....	Brian Goodwill
Big Deal.....	Ron Bailey
Baby John.....	Daniel DuPuis
Arab.....	Matt Sunday
Snowboy.....	BJ Strimple
Pauline.....	Kimberly Gauthier
Velma.....	Heidi Kiacz
Graziella.....	Sara Lecki
Anybodys.....	Erin Robinson
Minnie.....	Sara Robinson
Maggie.....	Lisa Storer
Clarice.....	Karen Weissert

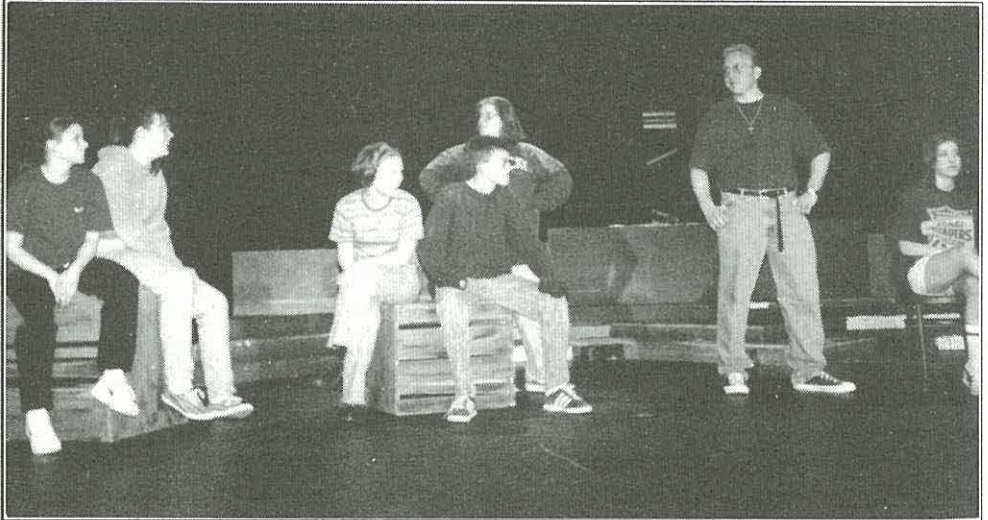
### The Sharks

Bernardo.....	Allen VanHouzen
Chino.....	David Rench
Nibbles.....	Ruston Fritcher
Pepe.....	Nate Kinney
Toro.....	Matt Norko
Indio.....	Pat Santala
Juano.....	Mike Scancellia
Anxious.....	Noel Snyder
Anita.....	Breena Trombly
Rosalia.....	Sarah Maloney
Maria.....	Hannah Bira
Mercedes.....	Allison Buell
Margarita.....	Sarah Maloney
Estella.....	Lucinda Olsen
Sarita.....	Franziska Pille
Francisca.....	Kristen Rench
Teresita.....	Melissa Schack
Dalla.....	Jennifer Spencer
Consuelo.....	Laurie Stewart
Doc.....	Mike Gardner
Lt. Shrank.....	John Popovits
Officer Krupke.....	Erik Anderson

# WEST SIDE STORY

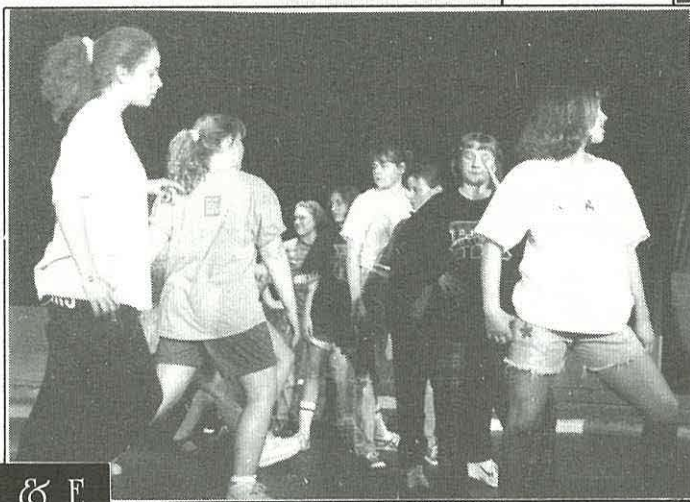
## *Dancin' in the gym*

By Laurie Stewart

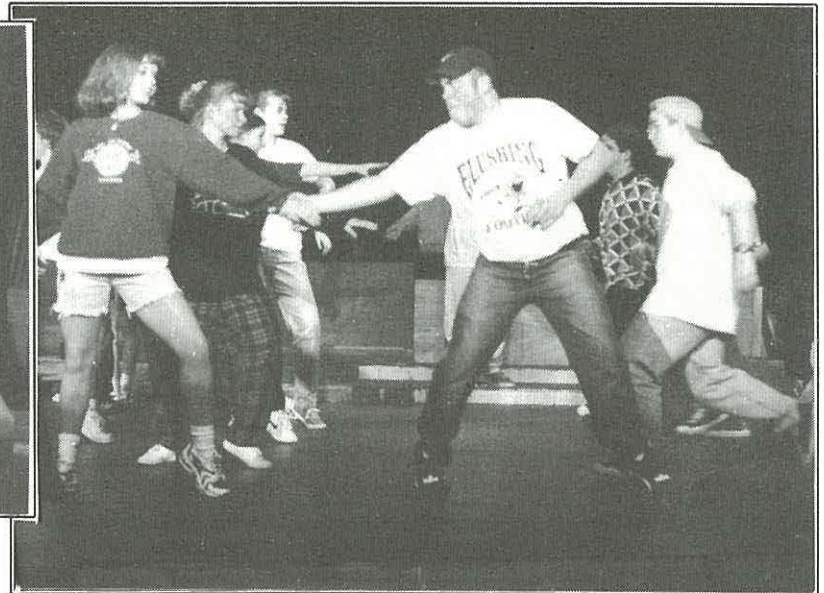


**Above:** The Jets hang out on stage waiting for their direction. The cast this year is made up of 18 females and 18 males. Photo by Laurie Stewart.

**Right:** Juniors Heather McWilliams and Becca Winston mix paints to decorate the set. Painting is what most people end up doing at set buildings.



**Above:** The girlfriends of the gang leaders face each other off while doing the Mambo in the gym scene. While there is no verbal confrontation between Breena Trombly and Sara Lecki, the tension can be felt.



**Above:** "The dancing is the hardest thing for me. I've never really danced, except for country line dancing. It is very tiring repeating the same thing over and over again" said senior Wes Johnson.

\*Cast subject to change.

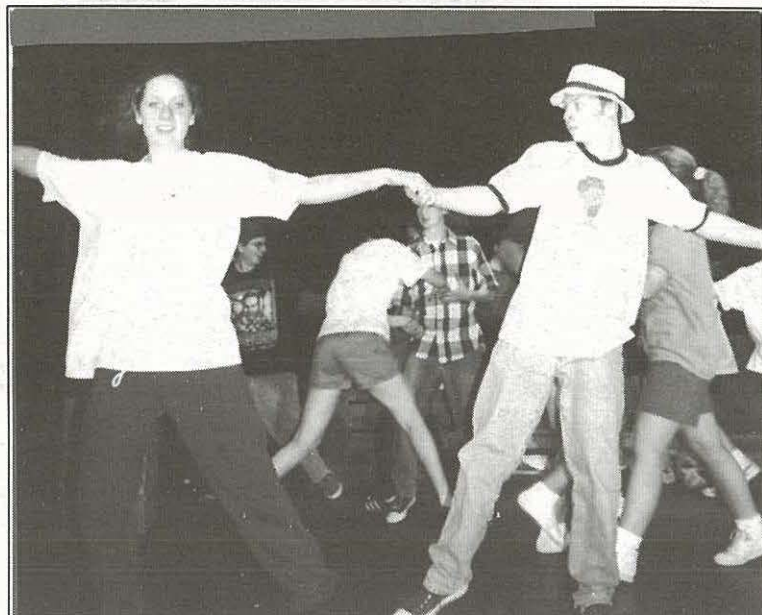
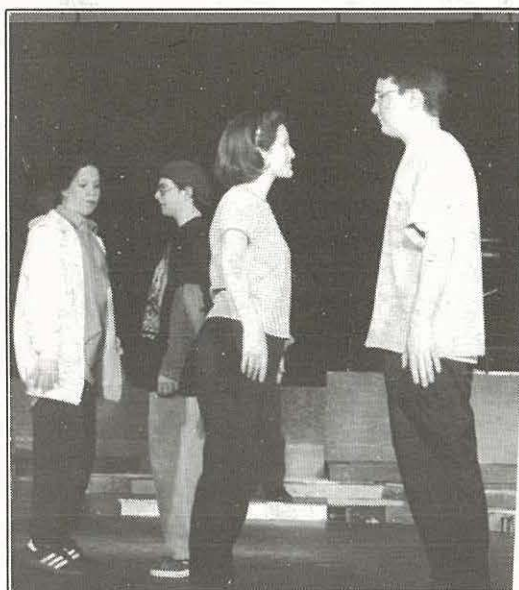


**Right:** Rolling up your shirtsleeves and getting dirty is one of the highlights of setbuilding, held every Saturday from 10 to 6. Most of the set is built at this time. Pictured here are juniors **Erin Robinson** and **Lisa Storer**. Among some of the highlights of setbuilding are numerous paint fights and a lot of hard work. **Below:** "The musical is probably the most fun I have ever had, but it can be very tiring. The hardest thing is partnering with Matt [Popovits] for one of the dances because he is a foot taller than me," says **Hannah Bira**, a junior who is playing Maria, the female lead. Hannah is pictured here rehearsing lines with **Mrs. Vaughan**, the assistant director. Photo by Laurie Stewart.

**Below:** Bill "The Wildman" Heath (FHS '63) reprimands the cast after practice for running around without any shoes on. While the set is still under construction, there are many sharp objects on the stage. Mr. Heath is the technical director for the drama department. His job consists of making sure all of the lights and sound works properly. He also designs all of the sets to make the production a success. **Bottom Corner:** Rehearsing the "dream sequence," juniors **Matt Popovits** and **Hannah Bira** struggle through another run-through. This is approximately the seventh time they have practiced this same scene.



**Below:** West Side Story tells the story of two rival gangs, the Jets and the Sharks. The Jets are a gang of hoodlums from the streets of New York and the Sharks are all immigrants from Puerto Rico. In the modern day Romeo and Juliet love story, Maria, a Puerto Rican falls in love with Tony, the ex-gang leader of the Jets. Maria's brother, the leader of the Sharks forbids Maria from seeing Tony. In this picture junior **Breana Trombly** (Anita) and sophomore **Allen VanHouzen** (Bernardo) rehearse the gym dance where Maria and Tony first meet and fall in love. The dance turns out to be a competition between the gangs to see who can "Mambo" better. Photo by Laurie Stewart.



All photos by Dave Campbell unless other wise noted.

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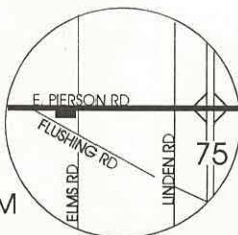
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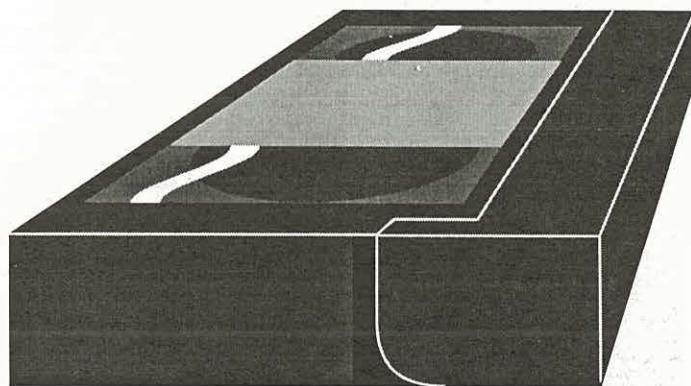
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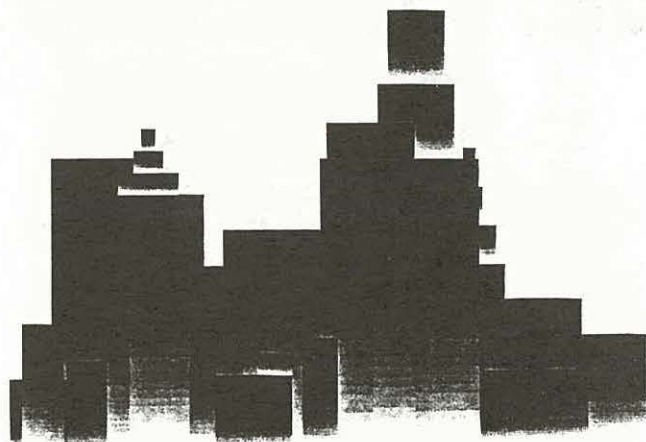
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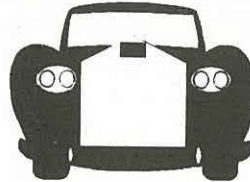
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*Left: Steve has run cross country and track for all four years of his high school career. He was the captain of this year's cross country team. Far Left: Steve and his teammates John Welch, Justin Cannon, Schaefer Arnold, and Jeff Richards take a minute to relax before their cross country race against Fenton. All Photos courtesy of Steve McKone.*

# Steve McKone

## All fired up

By HEATHER McLeod

Whether he is on or off the track, Steve McKone is just trying to have a little fun. He was voted senior class "Most Spirited." You are sure see Steve cheering in the stands at almost every Varsity Football and Basketball game. He likes to lead the chanting in the crowds at these games and get a little crazy. One of his favorite things to do after a football game is tailgating with his friends. They relax by playing football in the parking lot, listening to music and grilling up some hotdogs.

Steve is a busy guy. He is both an athlete and a leader. He has run cross country and track for four years. He is following in the footsteps of his older brother Matt. His parents Charles and Janice and his other brother Dave are also big supporters. He enjoys being a part of the team and says he loves getting the teams motivated. The practices are sometimes really hard with the members running for an hour and a half to two hours. He thinks that the most difficult part of being on a running team is training and getting in shape. Steve runs the four hundred-meter dash and the mile relay for the track and field team.

Other extracurricular activities Steve is active in are Student Leadership Organization, Varsity Club and American Field Service. He is president of AFS and thinks that is just a way to learn about different nationalities and meet new people.

Travel seems to be in Steve's future plans. He doesn't know exactly what he wants to do, but he knows he wants to live in the tropics. The trip he took to Belize with Mr. Hinds and many of his friends last year opened him to new ideas.

"I'd like to pursue a field dealing with the tropical rain forest or the coral reefs," he says.

While in Belize, Steve went snorkeling and scuba

diving in the reefs. He was really impressed by all of the different kinds of fish.

"Scuba diving was almost like flying underwater," he recalls. "I plan on living on an island in the Caribbean someday."

Steve loves the laid-back tropical atmosphere and thinks it would be wonderful to own his own sailboat in the future. He has a real "beachbum" attitude.

It is no surprise that Steve is a die hard Jimmy Buffet fan. Steve likes Buffet because of his laid back style. He says that he hopes to be more like him someday. He and his friends went to the Buffet concert last year. To get good seats, they got up at three in the morning to wait in line. While waiting they got busted by the police for trespassing. They still got the tickets.

In his spare time Steve likes to listen to Buffet and Aerosmith and watch The Simpsons. He has an obsession with The Simpsons, especially Homer Simpson. He and his friends take quizzes on the cartoon on the internet and he watches that show religiously everyday.

One of the most important parts of Steve's life is his friends. Steve is known by his friends as being fun-loving. He says his policy is simply "be honest."

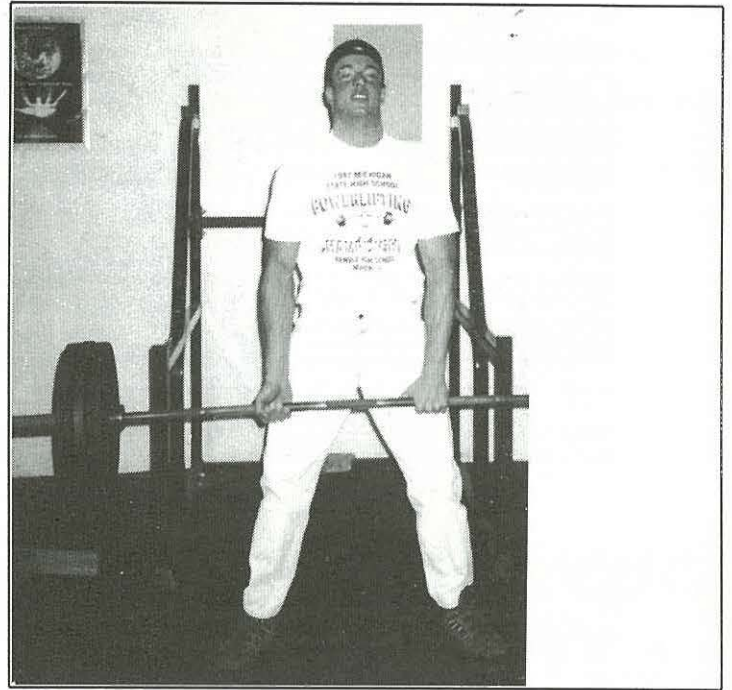
"Steven is straightforward and blunt. When you do something wrong, he'll let you know," says Heather Mordue.

Steve is going to attend Michigan State University next year and he has been accepted into Lyman Briggs a residential science college there. He wants to major in biology. He is looking forward to the freedoms of college. For now, he just plans on enjoying the rest of senior year. He intends to follow his personal philosophy.

"I'm always out to have a good time," he reveals.

# FEEL THE POWER

*This amount of weight is nothing for Ken Faber, who dead-lifted a record breaking 535 lbs. He just didn't want to break a sweat for his picture. Heck, this is only 315. Photo by Ali Buell.*



BY JIM DVORAK

**K**en Faber broke the state record at Bentley High School Saturday, March 15 by dead-lifting 535 pounds in the 1997 Michigan State High School Powerlifting Championship.

Ken works out five or six days a week at Lehr's Gym. He found out from a friend Friday about the competition, his first. The judge told Ken to make sure he could do his first attempt, because he only had two other attempts after that before he would be disqualified. Ken admitted he was nervous at first because the rules are so exact, but once he got the hang of it, he was more comfortable.

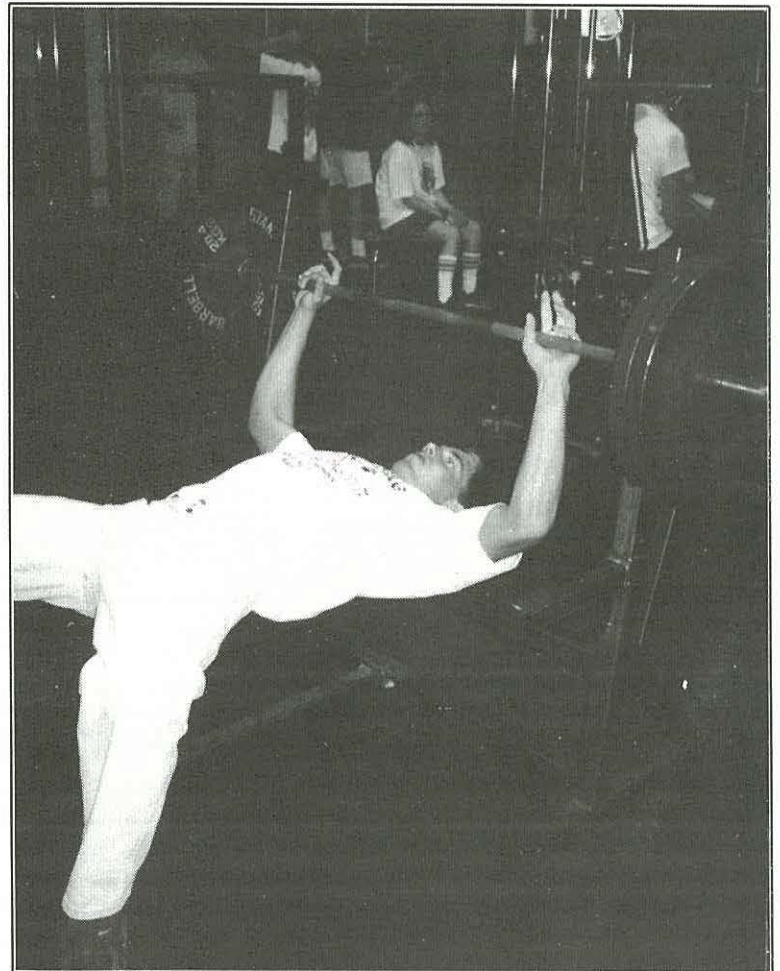
The first event was squats, and he was competing with 35 other men in his weight class. Ken was down to his last attempt before putting up the weight.

The second event was benching. His first attempt was 255 that he put up with ease. The second attempt was 275 which he successfully got. On his third attempt, Ken tried 300 and failed.

The last event was dead-lifting. In this event the competitor raises the barbell to mid-thigh and returns it to the floor. The rules require precise form and control. The first attempt he easily pushed up 405. The second attempt was 495 which was almost as easy. The third attempt they announced for the breaking of the old record. All eyes were on Ken. When he lifted all 535 pounds, everyone cheered and the judge admitted that he could probably have lifted more.

On May 10 Ken will try to beat his own record at Mt. Morris High School.

"I'll continue my regular work-out regimen with special attention to those three events," said Ken. "I'd also like to compete in body building when I'm 19. Since I'd be at the end of the age group, I should do pretty well."



*Ken Faber getting ready to demonstrate a mean 245 lbs on the bench, which for him isn't too much trouble. Photo by Ali Buell.*

Seven players on the **Girls Varsity Soccer** team will take their combined 26 years of soccer experience to the field in a season that looks to be very exciting. Returners include **Sarah Smith, Julie Linsenman, Alyssa Winkiel, Kirsten Vaughn, and Trisha Eavy** as four-year letter winners. Three-year letter holders include **Jenny Stanton** and **Jeanette Sutkowi**. Senior Sarah Smith said, "I feel like we have a good chance to go far this year, although there will be some tough competition, the toughest being Grand Blanc, who have won the Big Nine for as many years as anyone can remember. Last year they also won our district." They also face Powers who won the state crown in Class B last year. The other two schools Flushing has their eye on are Carman-Ainsworth and Swartz Creek. Those teams also will be fielding experienced players. The Raiders open April 7 at Saginaw Heritage.

By **MARK KLEINEDLER**

Flushing's **Varsity Baseball** coach Mike Yeagley has high expectations for the team. Returning players are seniors **Jeff Buis, Jeremy Dake, Tony Harold, Matt Palacios, and Ryan Jones**. Last season Jones got injured and couldn't play the rest of the season, but he's back and ready to play. Also returning are juniors **Mike Gates** and **Brandon Grice**. Out of the seven pitchers on the team, there are two starters: Jeremy Dake and Tony Harold. Together **Jason Roesner, Nick Ruppel, and Jeff Buis** make up the outfield. Mike Gates and Brandon Grice are going to see most of time behind the plate catching. Coach Yeagley also has a couple of "Ryans" with great potential, **Ryan Long** and **Ryan Sack**, both juniors. The team's first game is against Midland Dow at home on April 9.

By **ROB BITZ**

The **Varsity Softball** team, coached by Mr. King, will have a lot of talent returning to the field. The team is led by senior Captains **Paula Diehl** and **Tiffany Martin**, as well as **Melissa Lee, Heidi Yeagley, juniors Sarah Bedford, Beci Pierce, and Kelly Kashmerick**. Other returning varsity letter winners include seniors **Julie Rice, Kathy Rust, Justyn Kyle, Mandy Staley, Amy Hurrell, Trisha Brewington, juniors Julie Babcock, and Heather White**. Coach Ron King believes that this team will have a strong year because of all the talent that is returning. The girls start the season off at home against Flint Central on April 10.

By **JEFF DECAIRE**

The **Girls Varsity Golf** team is set to tee off Tuesday. With returning seniors Captain **Kari Prochazka, Captain Lindsay Cawthray, Lisa Cole, and Laura Martz**, Coach Paul Martin says, "Top to bottom, this is probably as strong as we've ever had." Martin also added, "We have good basic abilities with no hackers." He claims the team won't be ready April 9, "but come May 9 we will be tough." This is primarily because the team doesn't have the top six spots filled. Only the top four spots are set for now.

Clio will again be a big roadblock for the Raiders. With second-place finishes in state competition the last two years, Clio has a great chance to win the state crown this year. Powers, who won the Class B championship two years ago and finished second last year, will also be loaded with talent. Other top Big Nine teams will be Flushing, Swartz Creek, and Grand Blanc.

Martin predicted that "Flushing could finish anywhere from the middle to who knows where." Flushing has finished in third place the last three years in the Big Nine and placed sixth in the state last year. Flushing will be strong again this year, as history has shown. They have finished in the top ten in state the last five years.

By **MARK KLEINEDLER**



This year's **Girls Track** team has a lot to live up to, as they have won the Big Nine the last two years in a row. With many key contributors returning, this year's team should be no different. Seniors **Brooke Vizena, Megan Swenson, Heather Mordue, Andrea Bernardini, junior Jenny Gutscher, and sophomore Sara Lecki** will all do their part to help make the girls track team the annual powerhouse that it is. "We will contend for the [Big Nine] championship again," says Coach Stan Holmes. The Raiders' main competition will come from Grand Blanc, Powers, and Swartz Creek. The team started the season at the rescheduled SVSU indoor meet. The Raiders travel to Holly on April 10.

By **GRANT NELSESTUEN**

The **Boys Track** team began its season at the Shamrock Invitational at Siena Heights College. Junior **Chris Ryan** has already shown that he will be a force to reckon with in the Big Nine, as he ran a 4:34 mile and a 53.8 quarter mile in the first meet. The team placed a respectable tenth out of 24 teams.

Seniors Captain **Ed Guzak, Captain Mike Lintz, Ed Byrski, as well as juniors Tom Whitmire and Adam Schultz** will all help the sprint events. Junior **Chris Ryan, sophomore Mike Bentley, and junior Scott Vlahon** will front the distance events. Seniors Captain **Ryan Skene** and **Erik Potzmann** will score some points in the shot put and discus. Senior **Justin Cannon** and junior **Matt Foltz** will be very competitive in the hurdles and high jump.

Coach George Hackney predicts that the team will finish very high in the Big Nine, with a possibility of winning it. Kearsley, Davison, and Carman-Ainsworth will be the Raiders' main competition. The team competed at the SVSU indoor meet on March 21. The Blue Devil Relays, held at Lake Fenton on April 12, is the team's next meet.

By **GRANT NELSESTUEN**

**Boys Tennis** is just around the corner and with a full healthy team, Mr. Nelson expects to make it a full sweep, with all his teams making it to the state championships. So far, girls tennis and both girls and boys ski teams have made it. Now it's up to the boys tennis team to complete the sweep. The top players returning are four singles senior **Sami Banat**, one doubles senior **Mitch Wend** and junior **Ian Thomas**, and seniors **Ken Middaugh** and **Jeff Duncan**. Senior **Matt Christopher** will be missed. Other contributors will be seniors **Alberto DeStavola, Willie Ibacheche, and sophomore Chad Wend**.

Mr. Nelson says, "the team is going to need some of their young players to step up and win some close matches." Captain Mitch Wend adds, "We have to focus, concentrate and get the job done."

The team is sure to face stiff competition from Carman-Ainsworth, Powers, and Grand Blanc. Says Sami Banat, "our goal for the season is to place tops in the Big Nine."

By **SAMI BANAT**

# Attitude has a lot to do with success

BY ERIK POTZMANN

I would like to modify an old saying just a little bit. The saying "attitude is everything" is just about a perfect saying, but it is not so apt for the world of sports. The saying should be modified to "attitude is almost everything, but you need hard work and talent too."

Not too long ago, I happened to overhear a conversation between two people about high school basketball. In this conversation a person from one high school around here bragged that his high school was still in the playoffs for their class. He said, "well, at least some schools are still in the playoffs." To this, a player from a different class replied "well, some teams don't care if their teams are still in they playoffs." Now, I cannot speak for anyone else, but I surely hope that this person is just kidding. If he is not, I can definitely say attitude played a major factor in his team's downfall. Attitude means a lot.

If you'd like to see an example of a good attitude and team thinking, look at Minnesota. It is there where you will find a pair of forwards playing for the NBA's Timberwolves. Vin Baker and Glenn Robinson, are arguably the best pair of forwards in the league. These two have the highest average of any two forwards on any team except Michael Jordan and Scottie Pippen. Each one compliments the other so well, that the two have decided they play better when they share the load equally. These guys make sure each one gives the other guy

a chance. If one play is called for one of the two, that one will make sure the next is called for the other. Although these two carry the brunt of the burden, they realize the importance of the other three players. The team is not just Vin and Glenn, but five players playing a team game.

If you would like to see an example of what not to become, look no further than local favorite University of Michigan. U of M has the most pure talent assembled on one team since the beginning of time, but they continue to disappoint. Each of these highly recruited athletes could do just fine on a team all by himself, but when assembled together on a single team, you get a very bad attitude. These guys may get along, but each one thinks that he is there to win the game for the team. If each person is trying to win it, you destroy any kind of team attitude. This team also has a "better than you" attitude. Until this team checks their attitude, it will fail each year to reach any sort of good season, let alone win a championship.

If anyone can show me a team that can function without a team attitude and win, I will show you a team with less talent and a team attitude that will beat that team. No matter what sport you are in, you need a good team attitude. Even if you're on the track or wrestling team, where the events are scored individually, you still need a team attitude to win.

## ***Slok's Side***

# Tigers just can't hack it any more

BY RYAN SLOCUM

The smell of spring is in the air and we know what that means. Major League Baseball is underway. The sold out crowd at the new stadium, the great new prospects, and the good food. Oops! That's Cleveland; we're in Detroit. Our stadium is boring, 80 years old, and not quite sold-out. There are a few good-looking prospects. The Tigers just don't seem fierce this year. Yes, they have a few good hitters and a few new pitchers, but the team is almost identical to last year's team, and if history repeats itself it will mean last place.

The worst problems the Tigers have is the problem they've had for years. Their pitching stinks. The starting rotation will be Felipe Lira, Omar Olivares, Justin Thomson, Willie Blair and Doug Brocail. Who? I've never heard of these guys. It sounds like these guys are leftover replacement players from the 1994 season. Their front office has stated that this year's pitching staff is much improved from last year's. Felipe Lira and Omar Olivares are supposed to be the two leaders of the staff, but in spring training they showed very little improvement from last year. If anything did improve from last year, it was the relief pitching area.

The Tigers picked up Dan Miceli and Todd Gomez, who combined for 53 saves over the last two years. Maybe this year Detroit can hang on to a few of their late game leads.

Another problem the Tigers have is they don't know who's going to play what position. When Trammel, Whitiker and Sierra left the team they also left some big holes. Orlando Miller (who came from Houston) will play shortstop, but after that it's up in the air. Buddy Bell as no idea who will play second base or outfield, so expect a lot of different lineups.

Yes, the Tigers do have problems, but if some of these no-names pull through and their bigger names keep playing well, the Tigers could surprise some people. Don't jump to conclusions; they will come in last place, but they could win more games than people think. So, if you really like baseball, Tiger Stadium probably isn't the best place to go, but all bad teams do get better. Don't waste your money this year, but take a trip down to the new stadium in a few years and the Tigers might be a whole lot better and the game might be a lot more fun.

# Eligibility changes scrapped for now

BY TONY PATSY

It appears that the "Dumb Jock" rap is just not true at Flushing High School. Due to the fact that the average Grade Point Average of our athletes is higher than the entire student body's cumulative GPA, the decision has been made not to raise the academic eligibility standards for athletes for next year.

Over the past two years, athletes have been consistently able to maintain a GPA that is between .1 -.15 higher than that of the rest of the student body, according to data provided by the Athletic Office.

"I believe that the academic standards are adequate as of right now," said Dennis Noe, Flushing High School Athletic Director.

Flushing's standards currently meet the state minimum that students must have passed four classes the previous semester and be passing four classes in the current semester. The proposed standards were much tougher than the current standards, especially for juniors and seniors, who would have to be passing all of their classes.

Due to the fact that the standards were not passed, the question arises of whether the standards were not passed to help our teams.

"Yeah, I definitely know people on my teams who would be ineligible for next fall if the new standards would have been passed," said junior football and basketball player Jim Comer, when asked if he thought the new standards would have hurt our teams.

The new standards were proposed by the Athletic Control Board, which consists of coaches and administrators, in October of 1996. After two meetings in January, the decision was made to drop the proposal.

Although the athletes' GPAs are very good, that does not mean that they are all doing fine in all their classes. Mr. Noe would like to see a study hall, not just for the struggling athletes, but for all students that are having trouble in school.

Even though the proposed changes were shot down this year, this is probably not the last time we will see them. "There is a definite chance that these changes will be proposed again in the next few years" Noe said.



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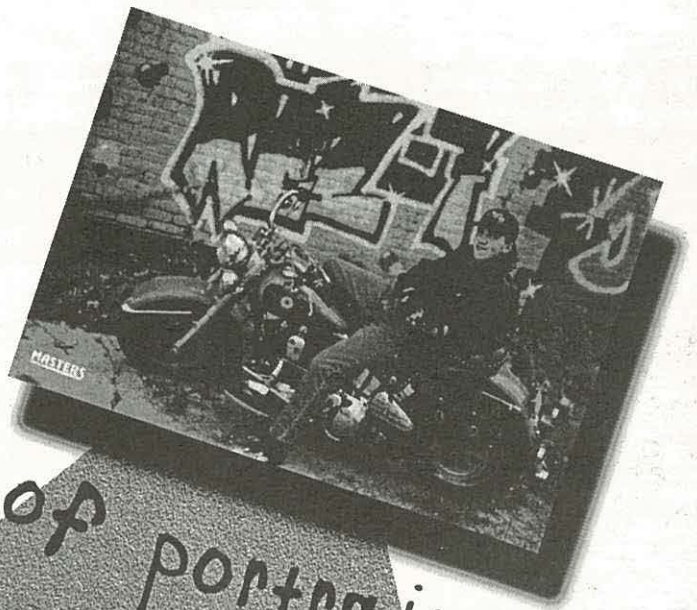
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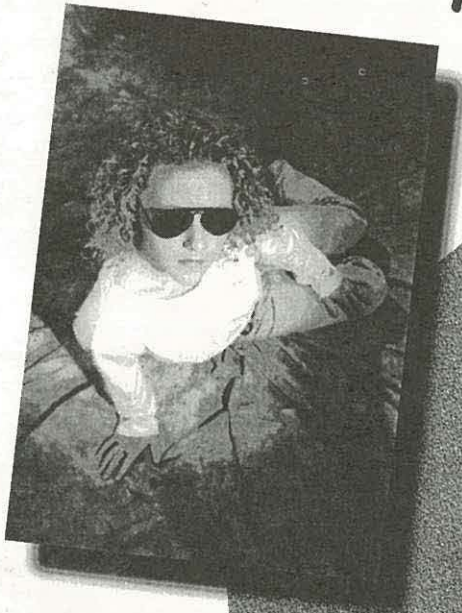
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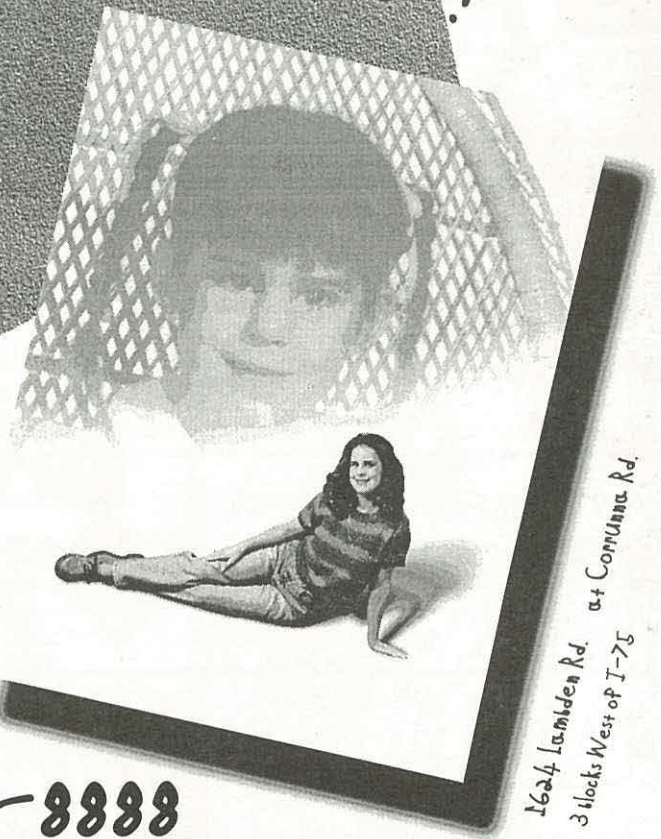
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