

# What's INSIDE

## Holiday trends

Find out about jobs, different celebrations, and what teens are doing in the community.

CENTER SPREAD P5,6



## Raves: a new trend for teens

Melissa Lodoen and Andy Podell rave about the new trend.

MIDDLE P6,7

## Students experience Million Man March

Jasmine Brown talks to those who marched and gives the view of women's place in the march.

DIVERSE IDEAS P3

# the review

James Whitcomb Riley High School 405 E. Ewing

Issue II, Volume 26/December, 1995

## Call of the wild: Ecology teaches love of nature



LOUANN KENSINGER

**FOR THE BIRDS/** (Left to Right) Seniors Alan Kelly, Jason Kovach, and junior, Jennifer McQuerry bird watch at Potato Creek State Park.

### ERIN WIBBENS ADVANCED REPORTER

*Ecology comes from the Greek word, 'oikos', meaning house. Hence the definition 'the science of living quarters'.*

When students walk into the ecology room, they notice its life. The plants are beautiful. The entire room is full of life, vibrancy. The students seem to have ownership of the room.

Louann Kensinger, the ecology teacher, has piloted the program for three years. She describes ecology as, "A class which studies science in the form of the ecosystem, and the study of nature."

"I have always thought that people who lived in the city need to form some kind of connection with the natural

world," said Kensinger. And so she piloted the *Wildlife/Ecology* class here.

In its entirety, the class lasts one year.

"The ecology class studies ecosystems, biodiversity, water, nutrient cycles, insects, populations, hepatology, and birds," said Kensinger.

While the class was recently studying birds, they learned about bird instinct, food preference, color distinctions, and life habits. This lesson included a field trip to Potato Creek State Park, where the students had an opportunity to bird watch. The class also built houses as a final project.

"My lessons are explained in various ways. Some lecture, video, hands-on, labs, and field trips," said Kensinger.

Privileges such as field trips and nature projects are a main part of the class.

"Field trips are definitely a privilege. You come out of the experience with a love for nature and wildlife," said Courtney Ruiz, senior.

While on field trips, students visit and observe unique areas in Northern Indiana.

"When we visited the beaver dam this year, the morning class saw a tree that was freshly chewed halfway through. By the time the afternoon class got there, the tree was chewed all of the way through and had fallen over," said Kensinger.

Animals also add interest to the class.

A brown snake, rat snake, two toads, wood frogs, garter snakes, anole, gerbils, and a box turtle all call the ecology room home.

The animals

are housed in

various

aquariums

and cages in

the far corner

of the room.

Other than

holding and

observing the

animals, the students are also responsible for feeding them.

"The animals are great, everyone likes them! We learn how they live and what they eat. We even learn when a snake is going to shed its skin!" said Sabrina Slone, senior.

"I would encourage students to try ecology. I think it is a lot of fun, we have the opportunity to go a lot of neat places," said Kensinger.

Slone agrees, and added that the course would be a great choice for anyone considering a career in the field of animals or wildlife.

"I want my students to appreciate the nature in their own back yards. For this reason, I tend to avoid dolphins and whales. While I do recognize the importance of these unique creatures, I have found by the time students reach high school, too many know more about them than their own local wildlife," said Kensinger. ■

Kensinger named *Teacher of the Year*. See story p8/flip.



## Students receive AIDS message

### MELISSA LODOEN EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The health classes put up posters around the building, and faculty received brochures and articles to hang in the classroom, to talk up *AIDS Week*, said Wally Gartee, coordinator of *AIDS Awareness Week*.

"AIDS should be talked about more than just one week, but it is a sensitive subject," said Gartee.

According to Gartee, it is important to have AIDS awareness in the schools because it is the number one killer of people ages 21 to 24.

"When people are dying

of AIDS at ages 23, 27, and 28; this means they contracted it when they were young. We are going to lose a whole generation if we don't do something about it now. We must educate," he said.

Students also realize the importance of dedicating one week to AIDS awareness in the schools.

"We all have to deal with because it can happen to anyone," said Julie Brassuer, sophomore.

*National AIDS Day* is December 1, according to Gartee, but Riley commemorates it for one week.

"I think that we should give at least a month to AIDS

CONTINUED AIDS P8/FLIP

## The Review wins Pacemaker

### MELISSA LODOEN EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

For the second time in three years, *The Review* has received a National Pacemaker from the National Scholastic Press Association.

The Pacemaker is called the 'Pulitzer Prize' of high school journalism. *The Review* editors traveled to Kansas City, Missouri, after finding out that they had been named a Pacemaker finalist. All of the 37 finalists were notified prior to the convention, but no one knew who the winners were until the awards assembly.

*The Review* placed in the top six newspapers in the nation in their division (newspapers over 16 pages). Overall 225 high schools entered this year's Pacemaker contest, with 17 winners judged in all categories.

Entries were judged on content, quality of writing and reporting, leadership on the opinion pages, in-depth reporting, design and info-graphics. The judges change every year. This year journalists from the *Kansas City*



MONICA SWINTZ

**WAY TO GO/** Left to right: Editors-in-Chief Melissa Lodoen and Courtney Ruiz pose with the *Pacemaker* finalist award. Lodoen gives a thumbs-up to the 1994-95 newspaper staff for achieving this award. In just moments the winners of the 1994-95 *Pacemakers* were to be announced.

*Star* newspaper in Kansas City were the judges.

*The Review* puts out at least seven issues a year. The award was based on their seven issues from the 1994-95 school year. ■

## check it out

### ✓ MOCK TRIAL TEAM

Meetings for mock trial have begun in Jim Spears room 211B. Mock trial is for those students interested in law or debate. It is open to primarily juniors and seniors who are 'A' or 'B' students. The team members began practicing in mid-November for the February 17 state contest.

### ✓ THEATRE AUDITIONS

Get theatre training in acting for stage, film, television, musical theatre and dance. Through this program scholarships will be offered. For more information call 1-800-367-7908.

### ✓ SECOND CHANCE

If you are between the ages of 16 and 21 and have dropped out of high school earn your GED (general education degree) by calling 289-6249 to find out how. You will receive personal GED instruction, basic academic skill training, independent living skills, and pre-employment / job placement assistance.

### ✓ FACULTY APPRECIATION

Student council's student concerns committee gave teachers from the math, business, and health departments a bag full of goodies to show them they are appreciated.

Different departments will be chosen each month throughout the year. By the end of the year each member of the faculty will receive a goodie bag.

### ✓ CHRISTMAS LIFT

*Friends* members sponsored patients from the Mental Health Association. The cost to sponsor one patient was \$5. Anyone could sponsor a patient. A bell with the patient's name and a gift wish was given to the students. Gifts were purchased and given to the patients.

### ✓ TOYS FOR CHILDREN

Student council members collected toys for the children's waiting room at Riley Children's Hospital.

### ✓ COLLEGE VISITS

Listen to the announcements to find what colleges will be coming to visit. Sign up in the guidance office to receive a pass to attend.

### ✓ CHRISTMAS TREES

The junior class sold pre-sale Christmas tree tickets for \$15. Don't forget to pick up your trees before Christmas day. Information about where to go to pick up your trees are printed on the pre-sale tickets.

### ✓ MCS DANCE

The Multi-Cultural Society is sponsoring a dance on December 21 at the Jackson Middle School cafeteria. The dance will begin at 7 p.m. and end at 11 p.m.. The cost is \$3. Everyone is invited, so come and bring a friend.

# 'Friends' show they care



DENNY KIELTON

**ANOTHER SESSION/** Left to right, first row: junior Joe Warter; senior, Bryson Toothaker; juniors, Alexa Hilal, Kristy Wiseman; second row: juniors, Amy Mead, Brian Hurt, Chris Vest and senior, Melissa Lodoen, learn about dealing with different personalities at the Fall Youth Conference.

### MELISSA LODOEN

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Marcus Barlow, senior, vice president of *Friends Incorporated* has used his knowledge of suicide awareness to prevent seven teens from committing suicide in the last four years.

"First I asked them how they were planning on killing themselves, then why they wanted to kill themselves. They listened to their own words and realized how stupid it would be to take their own life," said Barlow.

Posters and brochures are placed around the school (with the names of the members in the brochure) so that students can know who they can contact.

"I don't really think that many students know who we are. They only know us if they know a *Friends* member

who knows us," said Chris Vest, junior and first year member of *Friends*.

"They can tell us by our *Friends* shirts when we wear them. We might start wearing them more often so we can be identified," said Joe Warter, junior, and first year member of *Friends*.

Another job of the *Friends* is to help new students in their

orientation to high school.

"When I am showing a new student around Riley, I tell them that there is nothing to be afraid of. Riley is so big and there are so many people that they are bound to find someone with similar interests to be friends with," said Barlow.

*Friends* members also serve as positive role models to younger students in the elementary feeder schools. This involves working with the *DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education)* program for fifth graders.

During these visits, the fifth graders prepare questions for a panel of *Friends*. The *DARE* officer tells them that they may ask the *Friends* members any questions that are on their minds. The *Friends* are aware that the fifth graders may ask them anything, but still some of the questions are a shock.

"Honesty is the best trait," said Vest, "when serving as role models for the stu-

dents."

"I was asked if I have ever been shot, or if I've shot anyone. I told the student that I have never shot anyone or been shot. I explained to them that there is not a lot of violence in high school; it is just a stereotype," said Warter.

Erika Barlow, freshman, was asked if she used alcohol or was in a gang.

One of the jobs is to teach the student to say 'no'.

"We sometimes do this by role playing situations that he or she may face someday in life. We show the students that it is possible to go to high school and have a good time without conforming to things that you don't want to do," said M. Barlow.

Another way that the *Friends* members teach the students how to say 'no' is by sharing their own experiences with peer pressure.

"I was once asked to smoke weed. I told them 'no' because I don't have time for that. I am too involved in positive activities like cheerleading and student council," said E. Barlow.

According to Warter, if you are involved in extracurricular activities there is no time for drugs and/or alcohol.

According to Denny Kielton, *Friends* sponsor, the *Friends* members help Riley to be a more caring and friendly place.

"I always have a smile on my face and I hope that that will make others smile along with me," said E. Barlow.

"I say 'hi' to everyone that I make eye contact with in the hallways," said M. Barlow.

The *Friends* members are glad to be involved in the program.

"I am glad to be a member because it is a chance to use my own good judgment to help others to make good judgments," said E. Barlow. ■

## Weighted grades could benefit honor students

### ANNIE GUSTAFSON

STAFF REPORTER

The girl sitting next to you in class is incredibly smart, but she takes regular classes to ensure a high grade point average.

The guy sitting behind you is struggling with a B in college level physics. The girl becomes valedictorian, but does she deserve it more than the boy?

If the grading system were weighted, there wouldn't be a controversy.

According to principal George McCullough, a committee was active in the evaluation of the weighted grades policy for community schools recently.

The basic concept of weighted grades is to widen the grading scale by giving more credit for the according difficulty of classes taken. Cherie Smith, a guidance counselor at Marian, explains that an 'A' in an honors course is a 5.0, an 'A' in a regular class is a 4.0, and an 'A' in a fundamental course is a 3.0.

According to Melissa Hunsberger, former Marian student, basic students are at a disadvantage. "At their level, their 'A' can only equal a B average on the 4.0 scale," she said.

Bryce Milligan is a St. Joe student. His weighted grade policy is the same as Marian's. He said, "I like the weighted grade program, because it gives me the advantage I deserve as an honors student." He has a high G.P.A. of 4.0 and

plans to attend college.

"Both above and below average students benefit from this program. The amount of credit received is marked appropriately on their transcripts. It gives each kid more options," said Smith. And, according to Smith, no hard feelings are created between the students at Marian.

Opinions vary at Riley. Heather Polando, sophomore, believes weighted grades should be instated here because the advanced placement classes require more work and thought. "Advanced students study and work harder and longer; we deserve weighted grades," said Polando.

However, regular English students sophomore Chris Jebelian and freshman Priscilla Wolfe do not believe in the weighted grade policy. Both students would probably move into honors classes if weighted grades were in effect, but they do feel challenged by the work levels in the regular classes.

Indiana University of South Bend accepts 1200 to 1500 public high school students per year, and admissions director Esker Ligon, said that weighted grades do not affect acceptance.

"The strength of the applicant's record is also very important when reviewing a transcript," he said. "We consider the difficulty of course work when judging the grade."

In a hypothetical question between choosing an honors student with non weighted classes and a class rank of 25 versus an honors student with weighted classes and a rank of 50; Ligon said he would consider them both equally qualified. However, some of the more competitive schools such as *Stanford* and *Harvard* put equal importance on G.P.A. and SAT scores; according

"Both above and below average students benefit from this program. The amount of credit received is marked appropriately on their transcripts. It gives each kid more options."

Cherie Smith / Counselor

to a survey of selected colleges published in an issue of *Gifted Child Today*, November, 1990.

A questionnaire by *Talley and Mohr* in 1991, also published by the same magazine, found that 61 of the 100 college admissions officers surveyed believed high schools should weight honors grades because students without them are at a disadvantage.

Honors and A.P. English teacher Leona Johnston wishes letter grades did not have so much emphasis in the classroom atmosphere. "I believe that a weighted grade policy would inspire more students to take

CONTINUED GRADES FLIP/P8

# diverse ideas

James Whitcomb Riley High School

Issue II, Volume 26/December, 1995

## Down with the past, up with success

### Million Man March leads to unity

JASMINE BROWN  
DIVERSE IDEAS EDITOR

Buses were arriving at the mall in Washington D.C. all night long on October 15, and at 5 a.m. the festivities started. Someone on stage was hitting a big drum, and African dancers danced and paraded across the stage. A smoking pot was on stage with a light going through it. "What's Going On," by Marvin Gaye started playing, and the crowd became alive.

"It made me feel like I was really in Africa," stated Kazie Cole, senior.

As the men marched, some in silence, some sang, and some prayed, things went through their minds that might change how

the world viewed African-American men.

"Many people view us as incompetent and unable to gather together. There was a bad outlook on the march, hopefully the march brought more respect," stated Cole.

Both Cole and Roosevelt Hersey, junior, attended the march to stand and be accounted for with these men. At 10 a.m., the speakers began talking and the eyes of the men were opened to change. Some of them looked for a way to change their lives, others looked for a way to improve their communities, and some were there just to unite. The men were soon to find that they were in the right place.

The central theme of the march was for African-American men to stay in school, work hard, take care of their families and their communities.

"The march succeeded because it emphasized wholeness in the communities and tightness of black men. It also was to acknowledge black men in society, to influence them to vote, and to unify the black community," said Cole.

Nat Pittman, U.S. History teacher, at first had second thoughts on the march because he questioned the leadership. He questioned if the leaders were

there just for show. Once he arrived, his outlook changed and he supported the effort.

Pittman who attended the 100 Man March

"Many people view us as incompetent and unable to gather together. There was a bad outlook on the march, hopefully the march brought more respect."

Kazie Cole / Senior

in Elkhart feels that if the men were really sincere about changing, that it would affect their communities positively.

Pittman has already seen the marches' effects in his community and church. He has discussed it at home with his family and at church meetings.

In Elkhart, they are getting programs together with children to teach them to be positive, to teach a strong belief in religion and God. They have meetings every month, and they followed up the 100 Man March with a woman's march so they could show their support.

Even though the men didn't believe in

all of the speakers' views, they still had a good time and were surprised at the success of the march.

"There was a lot of friendliness, courtesy, and love. I've never seen gang members of opposite gangs, from different cities, together, getting along. Then to get bumped into and to get an 'excuse me' followed by hug truly made you feel happy to be there," said Cole.

All agreed that the march was positive.

"The march stressed black leadership. If we start within our own race and instill pride and a belief that we are somebody, and can be somebody, then we can go into other races and unite," says Pittman.

As they were sent home there was a lot for the men to think about. How could they put what they learned in to plan of action? How can the African-American communities unite? How could they rebuild a country that is poisoned with racism? How can they become better fathers, husbands, and citizens in our country?

"This is a reflection back on the past. Black men used to be seen as insignificant unless they were elite. We're trying to make it so that black people aren't considered inferior. As long as someone gives us a chance to succeed, we should take it," said Pittman. ■

## Male fights stereotypes

JASMINE BROWN  
DIVERSE IDEAS EDITOR

"Stereotypes against black teenagers oppress us. There is a judgment passed and people don't want to help us. We have no choice, but to be stuck with something less," said Kazie Cole, senior.

Poverty, lack of dominant, positive role models, lack of education, and violence are main problems that face the African-American communities, and hurt the young black teens.

In this country two out of three African-Americans are born to unwed parents. Therefore they become statistics of broken homes. For the most part, the mothers take the dominant role, and become the backbone or support of the family, according to October's US News.

"African-American males not only need to look up to affluent figures such as George McCullough, principal, for a role model, they should also look to each other for influence, also," says Jason McFarley, freshman honors student.

"There are plenty of things to bring the African-American communities down, and keep teens from succeeding. Black communities have more liquor stores, gun shops, drugs, and violence than white communities," said Kaliah Wade, junior.

Although the communities have churches, recreation centers, and schools, they still have things such as 'black on black' crime to overcome before they take a step towards success, she said.

Cole believes they're there (the illegal activities) because they know that's where the money is, and it's partly the reason for community being so down.

"In most instances where black youth gather where there's violence, there are not a lot of instances where you get black males together and become organized," said Cole, about the success of the Million Man March.

Despite the negativity surrounding African-American males, they are very much taking a step towards success, he said.

"There is a need for education in the black communities. There also needs to be more communication between teachers and students," said Cole.

When asked what he would do to improve the black communities, Cole said, "I would find a select group of role models, a few local role models, pro-sports players. With them I would have a benefit rally where communities could get involved and express opinions and suggestions for getting rid of drug activity and better education."

To help improve the black community, Cole

thinks he's a good role model by staying out of trouble and taking care of his responsibilities.

"The process is slow, but greater things are to come," says Cole. ■

## Women: Backbone of support

JASMINE BROWN  
DIVERSE IDEAS EDITOR

As hundreds of thousands marched and millions watched, the question of, 'Why weren't women

allowed?' still puzzled many.

The purpose behind this was that Louis Farrakhan felt that women were always the "backbone" or "support system" of the home and to their African-American men. He wanted to bring the African-American males up, to show that they can be positive influences in this world.

LaTonya Griffin, sophomore, believes the reason behind women not being at the march was that responsible black males are a rarity, and they wanted to show that they could unite in a positive way.

"I don't know why women weren't allowed, but I don't think it's right. Black men and women are just as important as each other. Black men are supposed to be the head of the household, but there are a lot of women running households. We are just as important and should be acknowledged as well," says Angie Hale, junior.

Even though the march received some negative feedback because of the 'no women rule,' many felt strongly in supporting the march.

Many women were told by their church leaders and African-American males in the community, to stay home, go to church, and to celebrate October 16, 1995, as a national holiday, not just a holiday, but as a holy

day, also.

Though neither Griffin nor Hale stayed home; both showed their support to the men and discussed the march at church the following Sunday.

As buses left and arrived to and from town, women stayed waiting for the men. There were cookouts for those unable to attend so they could unify anyway, and there were religious get togethers at churches so that women could speak out about the march and to pray for the men.

"I feel the march was a very positive thing to do and it was long overdue," said Griffin.

"The march was about bringing unity in the black community and to bring black people together in peace. Many people don't want to hear about us doing something positive, they want to hear about us doing something negative instead," says Hale.

Griffin feels that the march was a step in the right direction; it showed that the men could accomplish something great.

"Hopefully America now views black men as responsible, and before the march they were viewed as a problem. Hopefully they'll see it's the troublemakers that are a rare few instead of the good men being rare," says Griffin. ■



It's been 32 years since approximately one million African-American men have gathered together for one cause...to unite. Since Martin Luther King Jr.'s March On Washington in 1963, violence and crime has taken over the lives of many. Controversial and spirited, the One Million Man March led by Louis Farrakhan on October 16, 1995, was called to get rid of these problems.

**Key Club**

The *Key Club* is a service group which has hundreds of branches throughout the country. This year their holiday plans include food baskets for the less fortunate, and a Christmas party at the Northern Indiana State Hospital.

**National Honors Society**

Sponsored a paper products drive for the homeless. Items donated were toilet paper, deodorant, notebooks, and other various needed items.

**Latin Club**

The Latin Club is holding an annual food drive. The food will be donated to Saint Vincent DePaul Society, the Salvation Army, and local families in need. The goal for this year is \$550 and 1,000 items.

**JROTC**

The JROTC program, along with the Salvation Army, are participating in the *Toys for Tots* program (a program that collects toys for needy children). There are bins placed in the halls. The toys need to be new and unwrapped. All the toys go to needy families.

**Clubs lend a helping hand**

**"When you volunteer you get a good feeling inside, you end up feeling good about yourself through helping someone else..." Ann Baldwin, junior**

*Teens*

**How I found out S**

**COURTNEY RUIZ**  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

*A favorite Christmas tradition in many American families today is Santa Claus. Teens look back at their Christmas memories when they still believed.*

A common tradition for children is leaving snacks for Santa on Christmas Eve.

"I totally believed in Santa when I was little. I even left treats for Santa to thank him. I left little treats

**"I remember when I was little, finding the letter I wrote to Santa in my mother's dresser."**

**Monica Lodoen / Junior**

like cookies and and milk for Santa and carrots for Rudolph. I loved Rudolph so much," said Sarah Tezich, senior.

Another Santa memory is sending Christmas lists and letters to Santa at the North Pole.

"I remember when I was little finding the letter I wrote to Santa in my mother's dresser. I asked her why it was in her dresser and not in the North Pole with Santa. She told me 'Santa sent it back because it had such beautiful penmanship. That's when I started questioning if there was a Santa,' " said Monica Lodoen, junior.

Many Riley students believed Santa Claus was real and finding out the truth was traumatic.

**GET A JOB**

**Holiday jobs pay big bills**

**COLLEEN JURKAITES**  
CENTERSPREAD CO-EDITOR

'Tis the season... to be on winter vacation.' It is the time of year when the countdown begins, the countdown to winter break. But, what are you going to do during your 17 days of freedom?

One answer to this question may be to get a job. Last year some students did just this.

"I was one of Santa's helpers at the mall. My job was to take pictures of the little kids when they came to see Santa," said Rusti Rhodes, senior.

This job only lasted during the Christmas season, which was from the day after Thanksgiving until Christmas Eve.

Denny Kielton, guidance counselor, said that usually around the holidays there is an increase in the requests made by students wanting work permits.

"Some students are working for money for college, while others are trying to support their families or their cars. There are other students who are just working to get money," said Kielton.

For Rhodes, money was not the main reason why she took the job as one of Santa's helpers.

"I got the job, not really for the money, but because I thought it would be fun," said Rhodes.

She said that the worst part of the job was when the children would cry and not be able to go up and see Santa. The job did have its advan-

tages.

"It was fun to see all the little kids get excited about being able to see Santa," said Rhodes.

Getting a holiday job will not only give you something to do on holiday break, but it might also help you get into the holiday spirit.

"I did get into the holiday spirit more because of my job. There was Christmas music playing all the time so it was hard not to," said Rhodes.

A holiday job can also provide you with some extra spending money, which is the reason why Aubrey Evans, senior, took on a job for this holiday season.

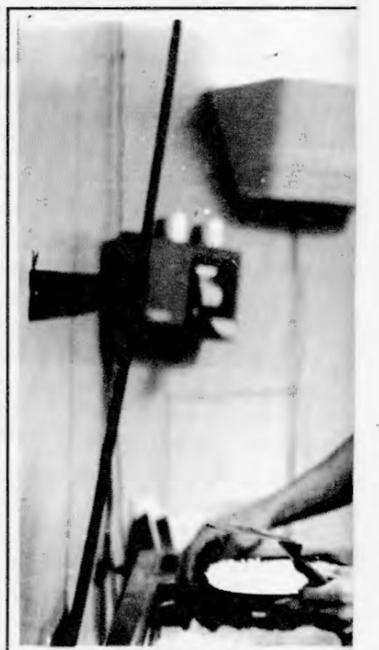
"I am working at *Sycamore* until January 10. I got the job because I needed some extra spending cash for Christmas presents," said Evans.

According to Evans the worst part about having a holiday job is that you have to work on the busiest days of the year, but you know that if you mess up that the job is going to end at the close of the holiday season.

Chris Stoner, team relations leader at the *Target* store located in *Scottsdale Mall*, said that their store usually takes on 25 new employees during the holiday season.

"People who want a holiday job should apply as soon as September. We look for employees who are outgoing, adaptable, self-reliant, and team players," said Stoner.

She said that the holiday season goes through the months of November, December, and the first part of January.



**WORKING FOR BIG BUCKS** makes a pizza during the Ch

# discuss Christmas past, present

## Santa's a fake!

"I didn't believe my sister when she told me Santa wasn't real. I ran to my room and cried. I was in total denial," said Amy Kozlowski, senior.

"I couldn't believe it. I was in the fourth grade when my mom told me that he wasn't real but she told me not to tell my little sister. I was very disappointed," said Heidi Raines, sophomore.

"When I found out Santa wasn't real I immediately said, 'Does that mean the Easter bunny's not real too?' I wanted to know if that meant I wasn't getting any toys," said Tezich.

Parents play a major role in Santa activities.

"On Christmas eve my parents would wrap all of our gifts all night long. They would also eat all of the snacks left for Santa and Rudolph. They also grated the carrots in the sink to make my sister and I think that Rudolph actually ate the carrots," said Tezich.

Other parents had the task of hiding presents from curious youngsters.

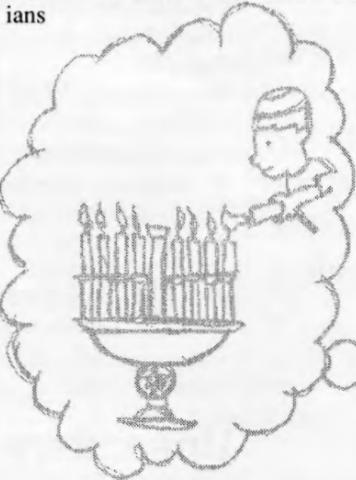
"My sister and I jammed a pair of scissors in a door of the room with my presents because we wanted to find our presents so badly. My dad found the scissors in the door but could not open it until after Christmas. So that year we couldn't celebrate Christmas day with gifts," said Kozlowski.

The Santa tradition started in 1809 and will continue according to Raines.

"Santa is a symbol of generosity and giving. I will always remember sitting in his lap in the mall," said Raines.

### HANUKKAH

The Jewish holiday, lasts 8 days and began when the Jews defeated the Syrians



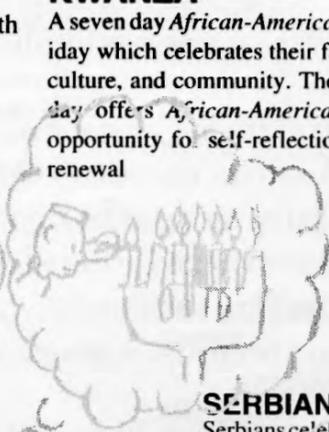
### CHRISTMAS

The Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ



### KWANZA

A seven day African-American holiday which celebrates their family, culture, and community. The holiday offers African-Americans an opportunity for self-reflection and renewal



### SERBIAN CHRISTMAS

Serbians celebrate Christmas a week later than the Christian holiday. They celebrate the coming of the wise men who brought the baby Jesus gifts.



AARON SCHAFER

## 'I wish I could still celebrate Christmas'

**BECKY BANKOFF**  
COPY EDITOR

*Many religious leaders in this country take the position that interfaith marriages are not appropriate.*

Children raised in such a diverse atmosphere, especially if both practices are observed, ultimately are confused and insecure regarding how they feel and what they believe.

In my case, I was never given the chance to find out if this is true. Until the time I was eight, my mother was a Methodist and my father a Jew.

My brother and I had it all, Christmas, Hanukkah, Easter, and Passover.

We were "pigs in the mud." (That was when we ate pork too.) However, all of this changed when my mother converted to Judaism.

An interfaith marriage, may have been lively, but my mother's conversion brought religious stability.

Many of my fondest memories

come from my early childhood of religious insecurity. Easter was my favorite holiday.

I can still smell the eggs and the paint used to color them. I remember all of my Easter baskets and the goodies inside them. Even the plastic colored Easter eggs filled with jelly beans became a fascination.

My brother and I would play hide and seek with them year round. I will also never forget preparing for Christmas.

**"Although Christmas was wonderful, how could it compete with Hanukkah?"**

**Becky Bankoff / Senior**

Selecting a tree for the family room, trimming it, and then staying up late Christmas Eve to gaze at the glowing lights. Being the youngest child, it was my duty to set out the milk and cookies for Santa Claus and to wake everyone up bright and early Christmas morning to open all of the packages.

Although Christmas was won-

derful, how could it compete with Hanukkah? Eight nights of story telling, celebrating, and opening gifts. Obviously, I had the best of both worlds.

Then one day our whole world came crashing down. My mother announced she was converting. She claimed to be doing it for us, our mental well-being, and our religious stability.

My brother and I were stunned. What did this mean? No more Santa Claus, no more Easter Bunny? How could this be possible? We were happy with our instability.

I will never forget the day my mom converted. My whole family dressed up and went to Temple Beth-El for the official ceremony. I recall my mom and six others standing on the bimah reading from the Torah. I was fascinated that my mom considered herself a Jew and so did I.

I was enrolled in Temple Beth-El Sunday School immediately. I began to learn Hebrew and my family attended Shabbat services. In my little eyes, things took a turn for the worst.

Forget Christmas, for get Easter; bring on Yom Kippur, Rosh Hasha-

nah, and Passover.

No more Christmas trees, only planting trees in Israel. No more milk and cookies, only apples and honey. My mother's master plan worked. She took away the best of both worlds, but gave me stability instead.

Last spring during Passover, my half-Catholic and half-Jewish niece and nephew came to South Bend.

I helped them paint Easter eggs and make Easter baskets. I even hid plastic eggs filled with jelly beans for them to find. I had a great time contributing to their religious identity crisis by introducing them to the wonderful world of Easter egg hunts and chocolate bunnies.

I still pine for the good old days when I was mentally unstable and religiously insecure. It has been nine years since our last Christmas tree, and I will never get over those plastic eggs.

I hope all of the religious leaders in this country are happy. My mother saved me from a horrible life of mental anguish over too many religious holidays and too much fun. Thanks, mom.



NICK CHAMBERLAIN

Bill Lapkiewicz, senior, Christmas holiday.

# viewpoints

James Whitcomb Riley High School

Issue II/ Volume 26/ December, 1995

## editorial

### No 'good' in gangs

Have family values deteriorated to such a level that we feel gangs are beneficial to our society? We agree that a group of friends can be beneficial, but gangs are too extreme.

Pam Boone's view of gangs is idealistic but unrealistic in her 'Hey You' column on page seven.

We do agree with Boone's view that, "if gangs refrain from committing crimes and had lots of love that everybody would be better off."

We are reminded of an incident from an area middle school. Three seventh and eighth grade students wanted to be initiated into a gang. Rumor has it that to get into a gang, students had to a choice of having their thumbs bitten off or broken. While the threat may have been idle, it nevertheless reveals a blatant disrespect for human dignity.

This year there have been 28 homicides in South Bend alone. At least six have been gang related homicides.

Does this show how gangs 'respect people' as Boone states?

Daily, we watch our news broadcasts and read our newspapers which report the violence of gangs. Where is 'the love and affection that they show for each other?'

Columbus Coleman is a sad example of how gangs show their respect for human life.

Two years ago while seven year old Coleman was playing in his yard, he became an innocent victim of a drive-by shooting. This is not what we call respect.

What about the respect for family members, friends, and then the many members of gangs who are dying daily from gang warfare? What happened to respect for themselves?

It seems loneliness and a need to be loved and accepted has overcome the moral values of many gang members in our society.

Being lonely gives no one the right to kill innocent people.

Many people in our society are lonely, but do not resort to violence. Responsible people seek professional help and guidance from counselors and clergy.

If gang members learned to help themselves first, perhaps they could become leaders in a positive way.

## Letters to the editor

### Paws for Peace

Dear Editor,

This is with regard to Monica Swintz's column 'Peer Mediation not for me!', November, 1995. Any successful program for teens must have input and ownership by teens. The peer mediation project known as 'Paws for Peace' belongs to the students. Students identified the students who would represent them and serve in this program. This is a strength that some of the other schools do not have. Every faction of our student population is represented. Riley followed the preferred selection process.

Mediation is not a 'Mickey Mouse' motion that belongs only to an elementary school. There is also a neighborhood mediation project in South Bend for adults.

Learning a language of peace can only be a positive force in our world.

Sincerely,

Bev Donati  
Social Worker

### Unsanitary school

Dear Editor,

I would not say that the sanitation engineers at our school do less than good job. However, there is one flaw that is a little hard to look at, something that makes your day just a little more intolerable. I am referring to the large collection of vomit in front of the lobby doors.

When something like that sits there for three days, it makes you sick. So my point is not to put down the job they do, but to say that they must keep better track of what needs to be done.

Sincerely,

Andy Hoff  
Senior

### Teacher with bad attitude

Dear Editor,

Why do some teachers always have to have a bad attitude? I mean, I have one teacher who enjoys flunking students and who is always degrading a certain school corporation.

Sometimes I dread going to class because I know this person will bring me down.

Who can learn when they are depressed? I am trying to change my class or else I may need years of counseling.

High school kids already have lots of problems, and teachers like that don't help at all.

Sincerely,

Jason McFarley  
Freshman

## Where We Stand

Where We Stand reflects the number of people on The Review's editorial board who agree with the stand in the above editorial.

YES 10

NO 3

The Review is published by the Publications staff at Riley High School, 405 E. Ewing, South Bend, Indiana, 46613. The intent of The Review is to inform and entertain the public of events occurring within and outside the school. Any opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily the opinions of The Review, except for the editorials in the Viewpoints section. The Review gives the right to print others' opinions, but is unbiased and does not support them.

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**Listen Up**



**What to do for Christmas**

**ERICA COSTELLO**  
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

It's the most wonderful time of the year! The beautiful decorations on the Christmas tree, the singing of timeless Christmas carols, the assortment of gifts and the endless hours of shopping; all of these are signs that Christmas is near.

But for some, Christmas can be a major pain. For instance, it's the only time of the year when getting a good parking spot near the mall is next to none, and the traffic inside the mall can be even more outrageous. Christmas can be a time of joy, but it can also bring you to the point of total insanity.

With the holidays quickly approaching, I'd like to mention a couple of ways to calm the many tensions that Christmas can bring.

Shopping is one of the easiest ways to relieve certain amounts of stress that the

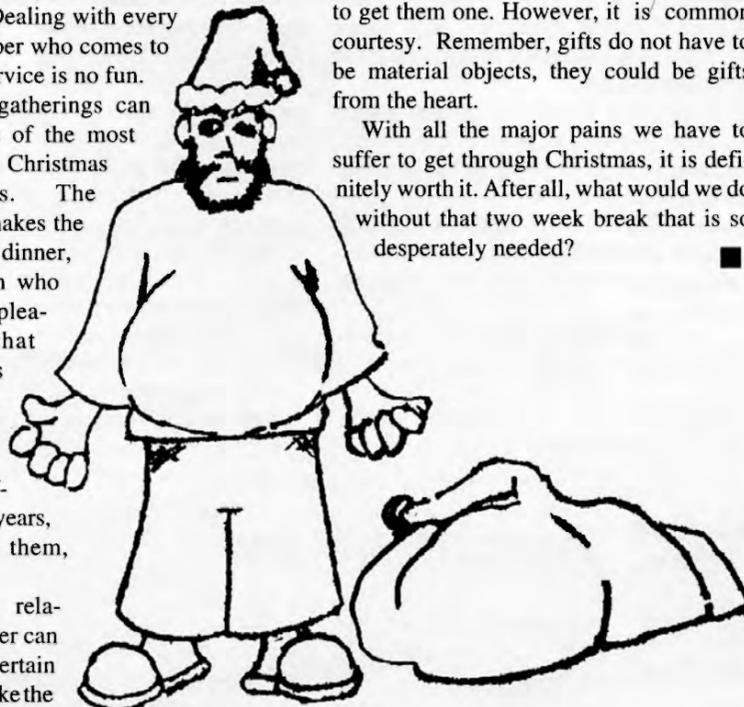
holidays may put on you. But it could also bring more harm than good. Besides the distant walk from the parking lot, the mall is often crowded with people who have the same intention you do, to shop for the best presents.

People may tend to be a little rude because of the atmosphere. Just the slightest mishap, like accidentally running into someone, could really set people off. Don't take it personally if someone becomes angry, just remind them that it was simply an accident and politely say you're sorry.

Lines tend to be longer during the holidays so just be kind, courteous and most of all, remember-no cutting. Eventually your turn will come. Also be especially kind to the cashiers, they have the worst job of all. Dealing with every picky shopper who comes to them for service is no fun.

Family gatherings can bring some of the most memorable Christmas experiences. The aunt who makes the best turkey dinner, the children who enjoy the pleasures that Christmas has to bring, and the grandparents, who after so many years, still enjoy them, too.

Bringing relatives together can also cause certain problems, like the



feuding relatives who never seem to agree, or the sisters or aunts who hold the annual 'who can make the most food contest.'

If problems do arise, remember that family is family, and there is nothing you can do about it. After all, without family where would Christmas be?

Gifts are probably the best part of Christmas. Nothing's better than getting a gift, this could cause some high expectations: like that ugly, pink sweater with polka dots on it that your aunt Bertha got you instead of the CD player you really wanted.

The best way to prevent this problem is to tell that person, the one who loves getting you these dorky gifts, clearly what you want.

If you receive a gift, you are not obliged to get them one. However, it is common courtesy. Remember, gifts do not have to be material objects, they could be gifts from the heart.

With all the major pains we have to suffer to get through Christmas, it is definitely worth it. After all, what would we do without that two week break that is so desperately needed? ■

**Hey You**



**Gangs are just a big family**

**PAM BOONE**  
STAFF REPORTER

When I hear about gangs, it's always bad. Usually on the news I hear about the gang relat-

ed shootings, followed by the gang rapes, killings, break ins, drug sales, and the numerous attacks: sometimes ending a life. I believe the bad things gangsters do should be punished and stopped.

But are all gangs bad? I say no. For individual people, gangs may make life better for some. For instance, a gangster can learn from a mistake he or she made with the gang, and keeps others out of trouble and advise them in the right direction.

A gangster may see a lot of the darkness in life and can use his or her wisdom to keep others (loved ones) safe.

Who said all gang activities are bad? Can't gang members go out and have fun doing things that do not cause trouble? Sure they can. Gangs are a club with members who are super close.

To my understanding, gangs are formed by a leader with an idea followed by people who are lonely or want to be accepted. Gangs seem to be close and share a bond.

For example, in the hallways they do their handshakes and sometimes even hug.

When somebody comes against one member, the entire gang comes together to protect that one. They stand up for who and what they love. In a way, they remind me of a family.

To me, gangs and their members have many positive points. They can be nice and warm towards others. I think they have loyalty. They respect people (some) regardless of their reputations. I feel people should not judge them.

After all, nobody is perfect. Gangsters do bad things because they are hurt. Society has beaten them down. Fighting back is a means of attaining self-esteem. Gangsters are human, just like every person who lives on earth.

If gangs had enough love to keep going and refrain from committing crimes, everyone would be better off.

If they would learn to do good deeds, it would be better for society. Maybe one day gangs will reform our world. Until that day, we can all pray for and with them. As long as we have faith, God will make a way. ■

**FACES IN THE CROWD**

How did you find out that Santa Claus was not real?



"I found a list of what I was getting from Santa Claus"

**Stacey Binder Senior**

"I saw my parents put my toys in the closet."



**Shawn Ware Senior**



"I prayed to Santa, and I did not get any presents from him."

**Chynelle Lee Junior**

"I don't have a chimney."



**Billy Hughes Junior**

"My 90 year old grandmother, Teedie, told me when I was six."



**Mindy Moore Sophomore**

"I was watching *Miracle on 34th Street*, and the truth was revealed."



**Nick Kovach Sophomore**



"When I found the presents lying around the house."

**Amy Carr Freshman**

"I woke up Christmas morning and saw my dad sleeping on the couch."



**Andy Liszewski Freshman**

**cheers and jeers**

-To *The Review* winning the Pacemaker award.

-To winter sports starting.

-To holiday vacation coming.

-To the girls that made it to state competition for swimming.

-To too hot and too cold classrooms.

-To waking up without the sun.

-To midterms.

-To painting the bathrooms instead of cleaning them.

# Get off my back: Teens react to parental pressure



**JASON MCFARLEY**  
STAFF REPORTER

For every parent who expects straight A's from a teen, there's another who doesn't even ask to see grades . . . and both extremes can harm a student's success. "It's unfortunate when parents don't expect enough," said George McCullough, "because as a result we get less." McCullough stresses that parents must start

expecting more because the business community and the 21st century, in general, will expect more.

That's not to say that, however, there are not parents who expect a great deal from their children.

McCullough, for one, admits that he insists upon a lot from his two daughters because he knows what it takes to succeed.

"My parents expect me to get good grades, be respectful to everyone, and stand up for my rights," said Laura Pippenger, "and to clean my room," she added jokingly.

Social worker Bev Donati claims that either type of parental expectation, whether too high or too low, can possibly hinder a child's success.

According to Donati, expecting a lot from a kid can give him the wrong impression and make him work only to please his parents, not himself.

Donati said children should become independent, and they must work for themselves first.

"They (students who work only for parents) get no personal satisfaction, and that's a basic feeling every student should have," com-

mented Annie Gustafson, sophomore.

Donati suggested that parents should value their children for more than their academic accomplishments.

To Donati's claim that low parental expectations can damage a child's success, Donati and Gustafson listed too liberal curfews and too much freedom as problems.

Senior Courtney Ruiz said that her parents know what the right amount of pressure to put on her is. Ruiz is an honors student, a member of student council, senior class treasurer, and editor-in-chief of *The Review*.

"My parents expect me to do well and get excited when I do well," said Ruiz.

Ruiz mentioned that if her parents did put a lot of pressure on her, she'd have a nervous break down, while Gustafson admits that she'd probably do just as well academically, regardless.

But, despite the devastating effects, such as severe depression, that can occur due to either the domineering presence or substantial lack of parental pressure, some pressure from parents must be present in order to have a successful child, said Donati.

"Without pressure you don't see any point in striving to succeed," said Pippenger.

McCullough said that the turnout at the

first open house was a good sign that parents were involved and cared.

Though the principal feels that parental expectations are on a downfall, he believes that kids today do not lack ambition. When he was young, McCullough had no dreams of being a principal; in fact, he wanted to 'get his motor running on the highway' as a cross-country truck driver.

But are kids with high expectations more ambitious than kids with lower ones?

Donati believes so. She cautions, though, that kids who are very ambitious need to stop and smell the roses and have some what is it called? Oh, yeah! Fun.

**"It's best to shoot for the moon; then if you fail, you fall among the stars."**

**George McCullough / Principal**

"They act psycho! They're too much into grades and GPA's and not involved in anything else," said Ruiz.

Yet, one question remains. Is there such a thing as too high an expectation?

McCullough questions the question. "What is too much?" he asked, "It's best to shoot for the moon; then, at least if you fail, you fall among the stars."

But, for a more simple answer, Pippenger offered, "All parents really need to expect is for their kids to try." ■

## Best teacher named

Related story p1

**ERIN WIBBENS**  
ADVANCED REPORTER

Louann Kensinger is Riley's *Teacher of the Year*. "She has many qualities that make her a deserving recipient. She goes above and beyond the normal duties for a teacher. She has continued her education in order to further her students', and she is always looking to further the Ecology program with the option of field trips," said George McCullough, principal.

"Kensinger's success may be because of her exceptional dedication, and all of her personal time and money she puts in," said John Wibbens, science teacher.

Kensinger's hands-on approach includes her arts and crafts projects which she believes makes her classroom approach unique. Students in her class build bird cages and are in charge of class pets.

"Kensinger is so giving. When we went to a pond to study zebra mussels, it was cold outside, and a few students had to get into the water in order to get the mussels we were to study. When Kensinger saw one of the students having trouble, she got in to help."

"She wasn't prepared to get into the water, but she didn't hesitate. She may have suffered the rest of the day, but at that minute the student and the lesson was more important," said Courtney Ruiz, ecology student.

"Kensinger isn't like every other teacher. She is fun to talk to. You get a warm feeling when you walk in her classroom," said Sabrina Slone.

"I want my students to stop and take a second look at things. Too many people look at a flock of ducks and don't bother to notice that there may be several species there," said Kensinger.

"Kensinger's personal touch can be seen by just looking around her room. She practices what she preaches," said Wibbens.

"I want my students to recognize their own place in the natural world. People really do protect what they love," said Kensinger. ■

## AIDS/CONTINUED FROM P1

awareness; we give one month to black history, so AIDS should have one month also," said Ashley Bell, sophomore.

"AIDS awareness should be every day of the year. But there are different times of the year that different topics are spotlighted. I hope that the messages that the students received during *AIDS Awareness Week* will stay with them though the rest of the year," said Holly Hosinski, of the *Women's Care Center*, who helped with the presentation to the student body.

According to Hosinski, the message that they were trying to get to the students was to let the students know that the only 100 percent 'safe sex' is to save sex (until marriage).

In order for the students to get these messages the students attended an assembly dealing with decision making.

The *St. Joseph's Health Department* put together a game show skit called "*Is the price too high?*"

The contestants were given questions to situations that every type of student may some day have to face. Then they got to see how the choices affected the rest of their life.

"This is serious business it is not just a game, we are talking about teens and their lives. The information that they received could save their lives," said George McCullough, principal.

This year's approach was different than last year's.

"We did the skit in a comical way. It appealed to the students because it was fun it held their attention. We didn't just stand up there and preach. We showed them the consequences of risky behavior and hope that the students will make their own decisions based on that," said Hosinski.

"They presented a difficult topic in a way that teens could relate to," said Wally Botich, senior.

However, some feel that this approach was too lax.

"This year's presentation did not make as strong of a point as last year's slides.

It was too relaxed," said David Kapson, senior.

"If you are going to talk, about a subject as serious as AIDS, it needs to be done in a serious way, like last year's assembly which was full of statistics," said Brassuer.

"Personally I liked the shock message of last year. They did a good job this year. Maybe adults need to talk to the students and ask them which approach appeals to them. This is the most important message we can give to them; and it needs to be done in a way that is best for the students," said Garte.

After the skit the contestants took time to be serious. Hosinski told a story of an eighth grader who got pregnant by her ninth grade boyfriend the first time they had sex, while using a condom. "This shows that there is no such thing as safe sex. I can't give the advice to use contraceptives because I couldn't live with myself if someone I gave that advice to contracted a disease or got pregnant. I tell teens that sex can put you at risk and it

is worth it to wait," said Hosinski.

"I thought that the last two minutes were jammed with all of the information that should have been included in the skit," said Amanda Cooper, sophomore.

Not only did students learn about AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases in the assembly, but those students who take health received information through guest speakers.

"There should be more assemblies during *AIDS Awareness Week*. This is a serious topic and it should not only be the students who take health that get to learn from guest speakers. The rest of the school should have the opportunities to hear them also," said Brassuer.

"AIDS is one of the largest killers and it is completely preventable. Before you loosen up down there, tighten up, up here," said Chuck Freebe, who helped with the program, pointing to his mind. ■

## Final Thoughts



### T.R.E.E.S.

The Riley Environmental Education Society meets Thursdays after school in room 316.

### SAT Dates

The next SAT dates are January 27, March 23, May 4, and June 1. Pick up an SAT book in the guidance office to register.

### ACT Dates

The next ACT dates are April 13, and June 8. Pick up an application in the guidance office to register.

### Senior's Yearbook

The senior class needs to raise \$500 to have this year's senior section in color. The class is collecting a minimum of \$5

donations in the book store. Sign up ASAP.

### Credit Redemption

Credit Redemption ends at the end of this week. Hours are made up in the cafeteria after school.

### Sweetheart Dance

The Sweetheart dance is February 17 at Union Station.

## Things must go on for boys' swim team



BRIANNE STETHEM

**DIVING IN/** Mike Luber; junior works on his full 1 1/2 twist dive during practice.

### BRIANNE STETHEM ADVANCED REPORTER

When Dave Dunlap, 20 year head swimming coach at Riley retired, he had acquired a dual meet record of 379-38, two state championships, five state runner-up titles, sixteen sectional championships, and sixteen Northern Indiana Conference (N.I.C) victories. He took with him the memories of his many swimmers. But he left something very valuable with them all: tradition.

The tradition his teams have established include the ever popular *secret t-shirt*, the cheers, and a feeling you just can't describe according to his swimmers.

Tradition is also the ritual shaving of the heads, dying of the hair to prepare for an upcoming big meet, the smelly team room, and the famous "quote of the day."

"The swimming and diving team tradition is what makes our team so special. Our team must respect and want to keep the tradition, not only for alumni and coach Dunlap, but most of all for ourselves.

If this team takes care of the tradition, they will have something to talk about forever," said Craig Fox, 1989 Riley graduate and new head swimming coach.

Fox is also a student at *Indiana University at South Bend*.

Not only does tradition set this team apart from other swim teams, so does their dedication.

"We have more heart, more pride, and more dedication than any other team," said Bryson Toothaker, senior tri-captain.

The team continues to train hard. Practices are from 5:30 a.m. to 7:10 a.m. in the morning, and then again from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. at night. The boys are also weight training this year.

Before swimming the boys are required to do their daily stretches: 200 crunchers, a few minutes of crossovers, 40 push-ups (four count), and many other strenuous exercises.

"You can't feel sorry for yourselves when you work the hardest," said Fox discussing with the swimmers how hard they work.

One thing that has changed this year is the diver workout. They are now expected to swim.

"Not all the divers know how to swim, so it's not really doing them any good. But if you start doing things separate, you don't have any team unity. And that is what you need to be successful in life," admitted Mike Luber junior, diver.

With an N.I.C. win over St. Joseph 124-62 under their belt, these Catfish could be on their way to another record season.

All relay teams took first and second in all relay events. The three divers Luber, Brian Hurt, and Mike Obenchain, juniors, placed first, second, and third.

The team was 15-1 last year. They were all city champs N.I.C. champs, sectional champs, and state runners-up.

"We work harder than an army platoon. But we know it's for the better. The warm-ups are fun, we see a totally different world under water that we don't normally see," said Hurt.

## Team sets goals with Fox's guide

### BRIANNE STETHEM ADVANCED REPORTER

"At Bremen I had a three year plan. With each year, I wanted to add new ideas, in order to develop a team like Riley. With Bremen everything was new and exciting

to them. Here the program has been up and running for nearly 25 years," said Fox.

Fox and diving coach Mike White both swam for the 1986 state champion team.

"Since I am from Bremen and went to Riley, I only have the interest to coach these two teams. Bremen was a good experience for me. It was hard for me to leave. I also coached my brother at Bremen. Ultimately the pull to come back (to Riley) was too great.

Also I did not want someone from outside the Riley family to coach the team. Coach Dunlap gave too much time and effort to this team for the tradition to fall. I hope I am the coach to preserve this tradition," said Fox.

Fox has had to sacrifice many things for the team, like moving to South Bend, his mornings, and his social life.

"He has gotten one thing out of all this, a very large caffeine addiction," said senior manager, Stacey Binder.

The boys are working hard for another common goal this year, besides keep-

ing the tradition.

"We would like to have the highest G.P.A. of any sport," said Pat Kolesiak senior tri-captain.

"This is the best year for colleges to come scout me. I would like to swim for the *University of Michigan*, and hopefully some day for the Olympics," said three year state qualifier junior, William Bernhardt.

Bernhardt also swims for the *Michiana Marlins*, when not in competition season.

"The team I swam on was a lot more team oriented and

"I saw very little that I attribute to luck: an outsider might confuse luck with being very well prepared."

**Mike White / Diving Coach**

willing to sacrifice personal wishes, and agendas," said White, 1987 graduate and swim team alumnus.

The team has had to start from scratch. The team this year is going to build their own foundation. With 12 seniors last year not very much responsibility was put on the juniors, this year's seniors. They are now having to learn, quickly and efficiently.

The foundation of Dunlap's success was never built on 'luck'. It was built on devotion, according to Joe Warter, junior.

White said, "I saw very little that I attribute to luck: an outsider might confuse luck with being very well prepared." ■

## player spotlight



**Name:**  
Mike Luber  
**Year:**  
Junior

**Strengths:** Leadership, humor, and experience.  
**Favorite Dives:**  
Back Dives



**Name:**  
Marc Chodock  
**Year:**  
Senior

**Strengths:** Camaraderie with the team, and his drive to be the best.

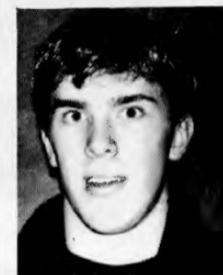
**Favorite Stroke:**  
Sprints and Freestyle



**Name:**  
David Platt  
**Year:**  
Senior

**Strengths:** Gets along with everyone, and he is a good floater.

**Favorite Stroke:**  
Freestyle



**Name:**  
Jim Marcussen

**Year:**  
Senior

**Strengths:** Doesn't get mad, positive attitude, and his drive to be the best.

**Favorite Stroke:**  
Freestyle

## SPORTS ROSTER

- ❖ Mike Becker
- ❖ William Bernhardt
- ❖ Ryan Brown
- ❖ Nick Caston
- ❖ Marc Chodak
- ❖ Josh Ciesiolka
- ❖ Matt DuBois
- ❖ Ralph Flora
- ❖ Corey Graham
- ❖ Brian Hurt
- ❖ Nick Kolesiak
- ❖ Patrick Kolesiak
- ❖ Paul Lao
- ❖ Mike Luber
- ❖ Andy Malec
- ❖ Jim Marcussen
- ❖ Mike Obenchain
- ❖ Eric Peterson
- ❖ Matt Phillips
- ❖ David Platt
- ❖ A.D. Stackhouse
- ❖ Bryson Toothaker
- ❖ Adam Turner
- ❖ Matt Turner
- ❖ Chris Utz
- ❖ Joe Warter

## SMALL TEAM FINDS STRENGTH IN DEFENSE

## Last year's experience brings new confidence

**MONICA SWINTZ**  
SPORTS EDITOR

Last year's winning season is now hanging over the heads of this young small boys' varsity basketball team.

Three out of the five starters are under six feet tall. And all are under 180 pounds.

"We lost two key players who the team could depend on for 50 points a night, Marcus Wilson and Mike Pflugner," said head coach Bob Berger.

"Every team has its own personality. This is one of the quickest teams we've had, but not the biggest," said Berger.

"We don't have super stars this year but the season's going pretty well," said junior Tomar Thomas.

They played in only two quarter games, one against New Prairie and the other against Elkhart Central. The boys tied New Prairie 14-14. They beat Central 19-13.

"I'm looking forward to putting a team together with some new people who are quick and eager. The team includes seniors: Kelvin Winbush, Bill Johnson, Eric Hollister; and Joel Gates; junior; Cephus Phillips; and sophomore Steve Reynolds," said Berger.

"Some of the players are back from last year but they weren't always the players looked upon to score,"

**Bob Berger / Coach**

er. Also I want this inexperienced team to develop a winning attitude. Then we'll start winning," said Berger.

This year's key seems to be defense. "The defense is looking quick and aggressive. Someone will have to step up and stick it (the ball). We've got to use them in some way," said Berger.

"We're going to have to get more fast breaks, get the ball out, and go for the easy points," said Thomas.

In practice, the focus is on defense and offense.

"We work hard on fast breaks, rebounding, running, and complete around ten suicidal sprints each practice," said Phillips.

"We're mainly worried about post defense, and rebounding," said Berger.

The starting team has returning veterans: Johnson, Phillips, Winbush, Gates, Hollister, and Thomas.

"Some of the players are back from last year but they weren't always the players looked on to score," said Berger.

"Our biggest competitors will be Clay, as long as they have Geron Cornel, and LaSalle because of their senior leadership, they'll be two of the best in the city," said Berger.

Although it is already time for a new season to begin, last year's sectional win and successful season is still inspiring this team.

"The win has brought us confidence that we can do it again," said Winbush. "The sectional win gave us confidence coming into the season and a positive attitude,"

added Phillips.

These positive attitudes have helped the players to appreciate and set high goals. "We all want to win sectionals, and move on through the state tournament," said Berger.

"Everyone has the common dream to play in the dome. We got a taste of that goal last year and we want more, I hope it puts pressure on the team," he said.

"The major thing is to develop the team. We've got to get the team atmosphere,"

"The defense is looking quick and aggressive. Someone will have to step up and stick it (the ball). We've got guards who are really quick, but we've got to use them in some way,"

**Bob Berger / Coach**

said Berger.

"It's going to be hard to get past sectionals. We can't think about the past right now, we have to focus on that now," said Thomas.

"I think this team is going to go out and play hard and aggressively and surprise a lot of people. We hope people will realize the team is stepping up," said Berger. ■

## Up and Coming

❖ On December 27 the freshman boys' basketball shoot-out will be held at Clay High School.

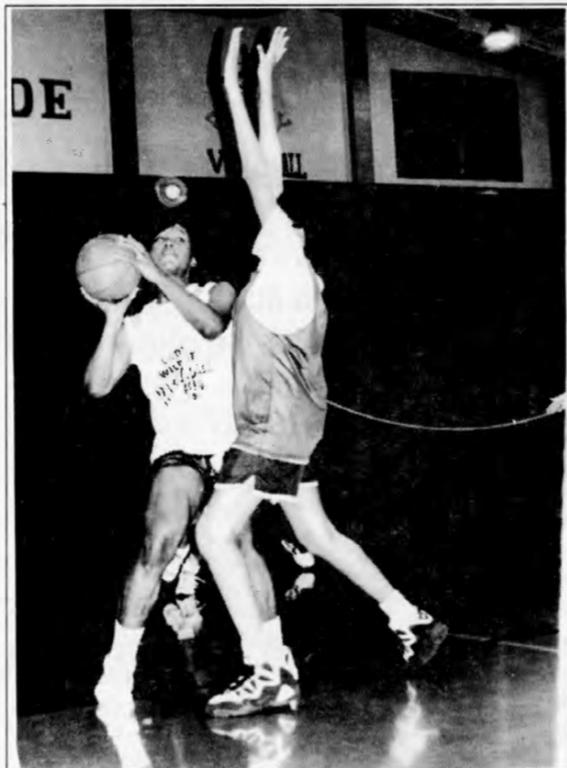
❖ The South Bend boys' city swim meet will be held on December 16 at Clay High School. Diving starts at 10 a.m. Swimming starts at noon.

❖ The Warsaw boys' Holiday Basketball Tournament will be held at Warsaw High School on December 22 and 23. The first game starts at 6 p.m.

❖ T.B.A: The girls' varsity Holiday Basketball Tournament.

## GIRIS' BASKETBALL OVERVIEW

# High hopes for tall, inexperienced team



COURTNEY RUIZ

**AIMING HIGH/** Yvette McCullough, sophomore, shoots for two points against Tammie Dokes, sophomore.

**KALIAH WADE**  
ADVANCED REPORTER

It'll be a tall order to win this year, but with a towering young team, coach Tim Dembinski expects it to happen.

A winning member of the team is Erin Miller, the 5'10" freshman. Miller said, "It's hard for me (being a freshman on varsity), but I wouldn't have it any other way. There are some people who don't agree with me

being on varsity, but if the coach didn't think I could handle it, he wouldn't have put me here. I think he picked me because we may have needed more size and I've got knowledge of the game and a lot of experience."

"This year's key players are seniors: Joanna Lugo second team (Northern Indiana Conference) with an average of 12 points, five assists and rebounds per game last year, Karen Court, and Valerie Kroening. All of them are three year varsity players.

Also on the team are juniors: Rachel Ruiz, Alissa Johnson, Sara Skodinski, Keilah Ehrman, Jacqueline Boone, and Lakesha Rodgers, sophomore: Yvette McCullough, and freshman, Miller

Despite last year's record of 2-18 the girls still have a positive outlook as this season takes off. Saturday, November 11, the girls' basketball jamboree was held at Clay. Like the boys' basketball jamboree, they only play two-one quarter games.

Riley won one quarter and lost another. They beat

LaVille 11-6, Ruiz and Johnson led in scoring with four points each. The girls then lost to Concord 16-4.

"We have a really hard-working group. Three of the girls from last year's junior varsity team have moved up. They are Skodinski, Johnson, and Boone. Their attitudes are great. The girls want to win and they are dedicated to doing so," said Dembinski.

Although the coach and team are confident about this year's season, there's still room for improvement.

"We have a lot of height on the team along with inexperience, but we also have some upperclassmen with experience. They should balance out the inexperience," said Johnson. Both Johnson and McCullough agree that the team needs improvement in rebounding, defense, and offensive shooting.

Dembinski helps them improve in these areas by doing lots of fundamental drills, and correcting their mistakes as they are made. Johnson said, "Our practices aren't very intense, but they get their point across."

Dembinski said, "Our

strong point has been our defense and we have a better concept of our offense this year."

"In the past years our offense wasn't executed because we had a lack of height," said Court.

In the NIC the toughest teams to beat will be Elkhart Central, Mishawaka, Penn, and Clay. In the sectional it'll be Plymouth, a two time sectional champ.

"They'll be the teams to beat and we're gonna beat them," said Dembinski. Lugo comments that the team prepares for these games and others by scrimmaging a lot.

The girls visualize success. Rodgers commented that she simply thinks about playing well.

"Before a game every-

one prepares in their own way, some by listening to music (on the bus), some by praying," said Kroening.

Dembinski has set high goals for the team, but he's sure that it's nothing they can't accomplish.

"Our goal is to finish as high as possible in the NIC, in the Holiday Tournament, and sectionals," said Dembinski.

Court said that, "In order to win these games, we need to play together as a team, have determination, and a little bit of luck."

Rodgers agrees, but adds that the team must first believe in themselves.

"We need to practice hard, change our attitudes towards each other and towards playing, and believe in ourselves," Rodgers. ■

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# jock talk



**Name:**  
Rachael Ruiz

**Position:**  
Guard for girls' Basketball

**Year:**  
Junior

**What has inspired you to do so well?**  
*My goal is to be the best and my family's support.*

**What are you aspiring to be?** *The best athlete I can be, and a woman Michael Jordan.*

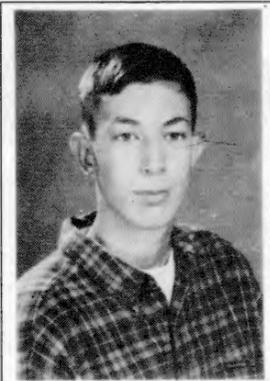
**What was your most memorable moment as an athlete?** *Being one of five all-stars at the McCracken Basketball Gold camp.*

**What is your favorite cartoon?** *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.*

**Who's your favorite opponent and why?** *Penn because they're Penn!*

**Who's your favorite person and why?** *My family because they're awesome and they are always there for me.*

**If you could see any athlete perform who would it be?** *Michael Jordan*



**Name:**  
Brad Milovich

**Position:**  
Tri-captain of Hockey Team

**Year:**  
Senior

**What has inspired you to do so well?**  
*My love for the game*

**What are you aspiring to be?** *I don't have much planned out for my future yet, I would like to play hockey in college, and if my skills allow me I will go further.*

**What was your most memorable moment as an athlete?** *When I scored my first goal of my life as a freshman*

**What is your favorite cartoon?** *Bugs Bunny*

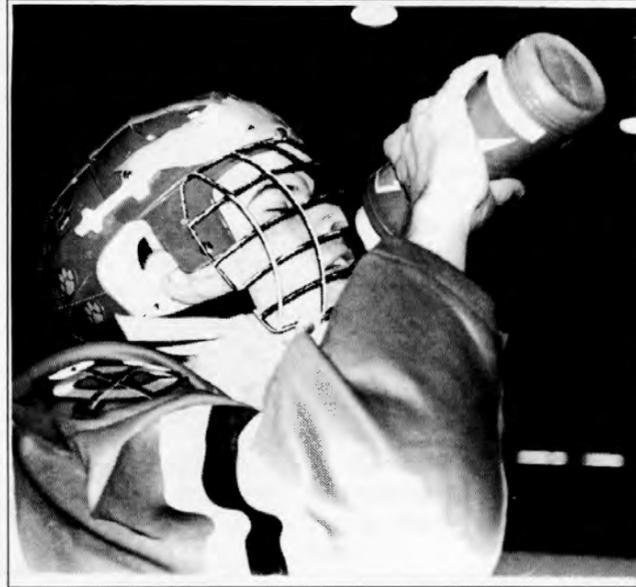
**Who is your favorite opponent and why?** *St. Joe because they are a tough team to beat and the fans are always involved in the games.*

**Who's your favorite person and why?** *My older brother Jake, because he is very nice to me and whenever he comes home from Alaska we have a great time.*

**If you could see any athlete perform who would it be?** *Mario Lemieux*

## PASSING IS THE KEY

# Hockey team won't be passed



COURTNEY RUIZ

**TAKING A BREAK/** Senior Chris Divine takes a time out of practice for a drink.

### CHRIS VEST SPORTS EDITOR

The icers are expecting to follow up last year's success with its strong defense and depth.

"We've worked hard to build success and tradition we have a higher standard at Riley, the players won't accept mediocre play," said Mike Freid, head coach.

The captains of this year's team are seniors Brad Milovich, Chris Divine, and Dave Kapson.

"The captains are doing a good job, they are rising to the challenge because they were selected by their teammates," said Freid.

"The talent on the team is evenly dispersed, this helps if one of the starters is missing," said Milovich.

This year the team is going to rely heavily on team unity to help them progress through the season.

"The team unity is very good this year, it is the best since I've been playing at Riley," said Alan Kelly, senior.

"There is a lot of team unity and togetherness, this year many people are stepping up their play this year. We win as a team," said Kapson.

This year's team has set high goals for themselves, and they are going to have to work very hard to accomplish these goals, he said.

"We want to win the city, and league championships, and we also hope to place very well in the state tournament," said Milovich.

"Our goal is always to win the league and playoffs and to do as good as possible at state, we try to build momentum and reach our peak at playoff time.

"In order to be successful this year it is very important for the seniors to step up and show the younger players the desire and effort

lin, and Robert Benes, to help out this year.

"Every newcomer will make an impact because we practice with them and we become better because of them," said Kelly.

"The exchange students are really great players, they bring a new style of play for us to learn, and they are fun to be around and they both have very positive attitudes," said Milovich.

They currently have a record of 6-1 with wins coming against Fort Wayne

Snider, Fort Wayne New Haven, Penn, Adams, Kalamazoo, and Kentwood. The team's only loss this year came against St. Joe.

"The Adams game was our best game so far this year, we passed really well that game and we picked the intensity up a notch. It was a good booster for the rest of the season," said Kapson.

The team is hoping to

implement some new strategies for their upcoming games to give them an advantage over their competition.

"We want to establish a faster breakout, our team flow is increasing a lot, and we should be able to do a lot of quick passing which will let us move the puck across the ice faster, and we will be able to control the puck very well in the offensive zone. This will increase our goals a lot," said Kapson

"We are starting to play the body more so if our op-

"The Adams game was our best game so far, we passed really well that game and we picked the intensity up a notch, it was a good booster for the rest of the season,"

Dave Kapson / Captain

ponents get the puck past us, they don't get around us," said Kapson.



COURTNEY RUIZ

**RECEIVING THE PASS/** Freshman Josh Bergland receives a pass during practice.

# sports stumpers

(answers below)

**Who was the Riley teacher who played on the 1951-1952 sectional championship basketball team?**

**What was EG White State Champion of in 1965?**

**Who was the Pittsburg Press National Champion in 1990-1991?**

# Wrestlers show their scrappy style

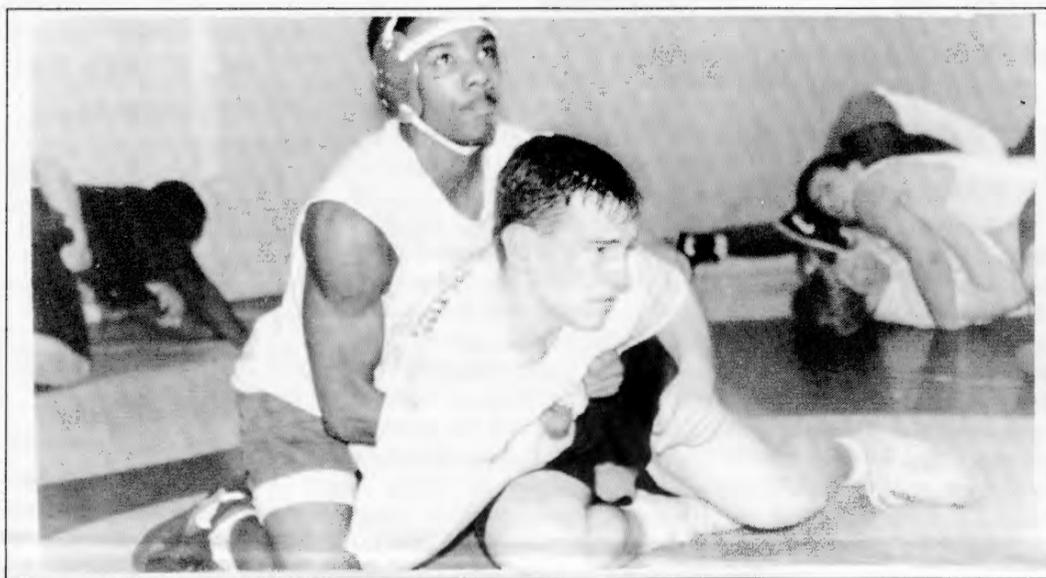
**TOP LEFT/** Chris Dawson, sophomore, shows coach Mike Smorin his wrestling skills.



ERICA COSTELLO



ERICA COSTELLO



ERICA COSTELLO

**TOP RIGHT/** Dennis Miller, freshman, is overpowered by his teammate during practice.

**BOTTOM LEFT/** Greg Clements, junior, gives a sour look while Armando Williams, junior, puts him in a hold he cannot escape.

## RETURNING WRESTLERS SHOW LEADERSHIP

# Veteran wrestlers lead

## Wrestlers look forward to a winning season

**JASON McFARLEY**  
STAFF REPORTER

Very young. That is all head wrestling coach Mike Smorin could say about this year's team. Smorin is concerned with

"I just don't know about them, and I really don't have any feel for what kind of team they're going to be"

**Mike Smorin / Coach**

the team's overall lack of experience.

"I just don't know about them, and I really don't have any feel for what kind of team they're going to be," said Smorin.

The team is comprised of 14 returning wrestlers from last year, including captains, seniors Ryan Heyde, and Mike Schaffer and Clarence Wigfall, sophomore,

Other returners include seniors: Quincy Lunford, Todd Wisniewski, Frank Long, and John Zircher; juniors: Ronny Ginter, Kevin Lewandowski, and Greg Clements; and sophomores: Mark Million, Lenny Swedarsky, Seth Gilbert, and Nick Hintz. Smorin also is concerned about the leadership the returners are showing.

"They're not showing any desire or dedication this year," he said.

Smorin, however, does feel that the returning wrestlers set a good example for the younger players.

Heyde and Wigfall predicted the outcome of the season opener before going into it. Heyde felt that the older players would do fine but thought that the younger guys would do "so, so." "It depends on how

"Ginter is really nice and helps us with anything we need help with. He doesn't criticize us. Instead he tells us what we're doing well."

**Trevor Battles / Freshman**

much interest they (the younger wrestlers) show," added Wigfall.

Although outlooks are not too bright this year, Smorin looks for such standouts as Trevor Battles, freshman, Ginter, Ryan Gibson, sophomore; and Dawson, as well as Wigfall, to lead the team.

But Smorin feels that with a little more experience, the Wildcats can be a great team. "They've got a lot of heart and determination; it's just the lack of experience that hurts them," said Smorin.

College helper Matt Ginter is a welcome addition to the team. Ginter was on last year's team and participated in state competition last year. Schaffer also competed in state finals last February.

Smorin said that Ginter is a terrific helper and with over 40 wrestlers his help is needed very much. Not only does Smorin appreciate Ginter, but the team seems to like him too.

"He's really nice and helps us with anything we need help with. He doesn't criticize us. Instead he tells us what we're

doing well," said Battles. Ginter explained, "I'm just happy to be here and help out."

Ginter helps during practices most days after school and teaches the team fundamentals and skills that helped him earn his trip to the finals in Indianapolis last year.

Sectionals begin January 27, with regionals to follow on February 3. Semi-state action will take place on February 10, and state finals will be held February 17 and 18.

Smorin said sectional rivals Adams and Clay are looking tough this year and the conference is "a lot tighter this year," he said.

Practice sessions have been productive and though Smorin feels the team is not in a position to top last year's season (in which they only lost one match), Ginter cautions the team and fans to remain optimistic.

"You never know what might happen," he said.

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## Upcoming meets

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December 28, Mishawaka  
Tournament

January 4, Washington

January 6, Wildcat Super  
Dual

January 13, N.I.C. Super  
Dual

January 18, LaSalle