

Retiring Staff

News Editor Ajaz Chaudhry reports on the lives and careers of two of Riley's most respected staff members who are retiring: Lee Weldy and Barbara May.



NEWS/ P2

Alcohol

The February installment of the Centerspread touches on the topic of alcohol. Turn to this section to read some personal experiences and up-close reports.



CENTERSPREAD/ P4 & P5

Hockey Team

The Wildcat Hockey team prepared for the State Tournament which took place February 26-28. Sports editor Gretchen Lemmer explores the team's thoughts.



SPORTS/ P7

The Review

Riley High School / 405 East Ewing

Issue 4, Volume 29/ February 1999

Recognizing Black History February brings attention to otherwise little touched on subject

Tara Stokes
Staff Reporter

The month of February is a very important month. Not only is it the month of Valentine's Day, but is also Black History Month. Although often overlooked, Black History is important to all people.

It is not just limited to African Americans, but it is important events that African Americans have been a part of. The contributions of African Americans reflected the drama, vigor, and grandeur of African Americans, past and present, convey the story of America's development, the historical journey of the African American, and the chain of events which resulted in unified action to conquer the wilderness.

Through the actions, attributions, achievements, and tribulations of African Americans, such as the majesty of Frederic Douglas, the courage of Harriet Tubman, the greatness of Ralph Bunche, the humanity of Paul Cufte, the genius of George Washington Carver, and the virtue of Martin Luther King Jr., African Americans have prospered.

Riley High School has gotten into the spirit of Black History Month. Every morning during announcements may not seem important, but they are. Students learned about African Americans who have made a difference, but are not mentioned in History books. Also, on February 18, Riley held an assembly about African American history in the auditorium, one



the 1800's. However, you won't have the chance to read about the invention of the pacemaker by Otis Boykin or the discovery of sugar by George Washington Carver. Why do textbooks not mention the achievements of African Americans? Hopefully, someday all inventions and contributions of African Americans will be included in books. Until then I have collected samplings of a list of items used everyday that were developed by African Americans. All are essential to society. ■

in the morning for students and faculty, and one in the evening for parents. With guest speakers in attendance, students from Riley recited poetry, sang songs, and entertained the crowd with wonderful dancing.

Nearby cities did not miss out on the opportunity to educate the community on African American history. In East Chicago, Indiana, for example, a third grade teacher, Sandra Scull, came up with the idea to make a miniature museum out of her classroom. It showcases African

Americans inventions from every letter of the alphabet. The purpose of her museum is to inform the public about the inventions that African Americans have contributed to society which are not mentioned in school books. The Black Patent Museum, as Scull calls it, was entire month of February from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. with free admission.

When you open your history books, you can easily read about the inventions of the telephone, light bulb, and even the cotton gin, that was only used in

Some famous black inventors

- Sarah Boone: ironing board
- John A. Burr: lawn mower
- John H. Johnson: wrench
- John L. Love: pencil sharpener
- Alexander Miles: elevator
- G.T. Sampson: clothes drier
- George Washington Carver: ink, flour

Underage Riley students use neighboring corner to smoke

Katie Grembowicz
Copy Editor

On an average day after school, a student can walk outside Riley High School and notice the swarm of kids flocking across the street, while almost being run over, to "Smoker's Corner."

They can also notice George McCullough, Riley principal, and Tony Ross, Riley security guard, standing on school grounds, watching kids light up right across from them.

At the beginning of the year, the atmosphere at Riley was very anti-smoking. Threats were made to give tickets, fines, suspensions, and anything else that could be thought of to deter kids from smoking on or around school property. But it seems that as the school year continued, administrators began to be more lax about enforcement.

Ross said that only about ten tickets have been handed out this year, but there are at least 30-40 kids congregating at the corner of Erskine and Ewing every day. They smoke marijuana along with cigarettes in plain view and some say it's because they don't have to worry about the punishments because there aren't any.

Tara Stokes, freshman, said about Riley security, "At times [they do their jobs], but if they're concerned about smoking as much as they claim, there would be no "Smoker's Corner."



Erica Fleischer

Having any lit tobacco or chewing tobacco is in violation of the fire code and will result in about a \$90 fine and a 2-day suspension. Since "Smoker's Corner" isn't on school property, there is nothing any Riley authority, except Officer Ross, can do about it.

Cameron Stouder, sophomore, said, "They should at least be forced to disperse."

Continued SMOKING/ P2

Riley, SBCSC ISTEP+ results in, below Indiana state standards

Ajaz Chaudhry
News Editor

ISTEP testing has now become a standard part of school. Each year students are sent into a testing room and are asked to sit for hours filling out the endless bubbles. Most students never knew why they did these tests; they never affected grades or school performance. This was true until the state of Indiana passed a law requiring all high school students graduating in or after the year 2000 to pass the ISTEP+ exam.

Students were hit with a shock when they were mandated, during their sophomore year, to take a long test which could possibly keep them from graduating.

The results from this year's testing were not promising. Only 63 percent of the students passed English and just 42 percent passed the math portion.

"I didn't think the ISTEP was too hard, but I also think that it is unfair that we have to pass them to graduate," said

Eric Purkey, sophomore.

Teachers, however, feel differently.

"I believe it is essential to have some form of standardized testing to ensure that every graduate has a level of comprehension," said English teacher Lauren Wiand.

The low number of students passing the exam could be due to the fact that in 1996 the state of Indiana raised the standard needed to pass the test. Indiana

isn't the only state which requires standardized testing in order for students to graduate. In fact, 23 states require high school graduates to pass some sort of standardized test.

The Indiana test standards are established by English and math

teachers. Each student's test is graded and then compared to the standard in order to determine if the student was successful in passing the exam.

"Even if the students don't pass the first time, retakes are allowed. Students

Continued ISTEP+/ P2



Paula Howard

"Even if the students don't pass (the ISTEP+) the first time, retakes are allowed. Students have up to five chances to retake the test."

Riley staff members prepare to retire

Ajaz Chaudhry
News Editor

As the students and teachers prepare to move into the new Riley, the old furniture and the history of the building aren't the only things we won't see at the new Riley. At the end of this year two distinguished individuals who have been a part of the Riley staff for most of a decade will be leaving, Barbera May and Leland Weldy have been a part of the great teaching tradition at Riley.

McCullough said there have been many complaints from neighbors and he has contacted the police department, asking for a beat officer to park their car there before and after school. Mr. McCullough quoted the responding officers from the South Bend Police Department as saying, "We don't want to babysit."

Lots of kids at Riley seem to smoke socially. Others, such as a sophomore who would like to remain anonymous, said that she is addicted and can't stop because the habit's so hard to break. When asked how many of her friends smoke, she replied, "The majority."

McCullough feels this could be a reason for smoking. Students are influenced by their friends and they think they'll look cool or they just want to fit in.

Ross said he sometimes finds that teenagers smoke because they think it's okay since it's in all the movies and television shows and everybody looks cool and laid back when they do it.

Shannon Howell, sophomore, said she smoked, "Because a friend got me started." Now she smokes socially when she's with her friends. She also said she's not ashamed of what she does, it's just a hard habit to kick.

Some people smoke because their parents do it or let them, like Howell's parents. That's where some kids get cigarettes and other tobacco products. Some steal it, get it from older friends, and even buy it from convenience stores.

There was one local supermarket that seemed to get singled out a lot. They're notoriously known for selling tobacco to underage teenagers. Scott Parker, freshman, said, "Some of my friends have told me that they've gotten cigarettes from there, no questions asked."

But there are Riley students who have more respect for themselves and their bodies.

Colin Cybulski, freshman, said, "I think it's sick and unhealthy."

Sarah Tidwell, freshman, said she stopped smoking because she had to go to the hospital for it. Her lungs were so filled with tar that they almost collapsed and they had to be cleaned out.

There are tons of education classes about the dangers of tobacco that were started in elementary school. For example, the different kinds of cancers, taste and smell loss, heart disease, emphysema, and other side effects. But these classes don't seem to be working with today's teenagers.

Ashley Dueringer, freshman, said, "They [students] may hear it, but it doesn't sink in."

And apparently that is the case. But how does it look to students when teachers that teach these classes smoke?

McCullough said it sets a very bad example. He said, "Anyone who smokes and makes it known to young people sets a bad example."

He also doesn't think the punishment for students is fair if the teachers who smoke on school property, which is against school policy unless in a designated area, don't get the same punishment. "We are the ones who are supposed to set the example," he said.

And if adults don't, who will? Hopefully, the problem will at least diminish a little when we get into the new school, and maybe not. It seems that kids are going to do what they want no matter what. So maybe when they start dying at a younger age, teenagers will begin to understand the dangers of smoking and how the problem doesn't just affect them, but everybody around them.

Maybe they should think about those neighbors on the corner who have put up with smoke drifting into their open windows or the students that have to inhale it as they try to get through the throng of people on their way home. Or if not those victims, they should at least think about themselves. They're slowly committing suicide by filling up their lungs, killing their hearts, and

Born in Wakarusa Indiana, Leland Weldy attended Goshen College and Indiana University, Bloomington. He started his teaching career at Jackson High School, "I opened Jackson High School when I started teaching and I am closing Riley High School as I leave," said Weldy.

Weldy says he is a little disappointed that he did not get to teach in the new building but he didn't want to move for just one year.

"The best part about working at Riley was the great staff. They have always been very cooperative and easy to get along with. I have also truly enjoyed working with the kids. High school kids keep you young in your thinking" said Weldy.

His plans about what he wants to do after retiring include spending more time with his family and travelling.

"As I look back on my career I can truly say that I am satisfied with what I have accomplished. There comes a time in your career when you just know that it's time to go," said Weldy.

His great leadership will be missed by students "Mr. Weldy is a great counselor and he is easy to get along with" said Max Kauffman

His colleagues and students will surely miss him, but he assured them that he will come back and continue to visit.

Barbera May has been at Riley for seven years. she has been a teacher since 1959. During her tenure she took 13 years off to spend time with her children. She has taught at LaSalle, Adams, Marian, and

some middle schools. Growing up in Huntington Indiana, she had no aspirations to be a teacher. She pursued and obtained a degree in management from Indiana University, Bloomington. She received her Graduate degree from IUSB. "Upon graduating a good teaching job opened up at a South Bend school and I never regretted the decision" said May.

After retiring she wants to travel and do volunteer work. When asked if she was disappointed about not teaching in the new school she responded, "There is no new school there is a new building, it is the teachers who make the school, and it is a great staff here that I taught with."

The teachers aren't the only ones who will miss the her. "Mrs. May has been a part of the Riley history, her guidance, experience and great leadership will be greatly missed" said Bryan Proven, sophomore.

"I truly can leave with a sense of satisfaction and completion," said May.

Mr. McCullough shares the staff's sentiment "Their contributions will be greatly missed," said George McCullough.



Lelyn Weldy



Barbara May

ISTEP/ Continued from page 1

have up to five chances to retake the test," said Paula Howard, Riley guidance counselor.

The number of students re-taking the exam was high even at corporation level. Community wide, 420 students retook the English portion of the test, while 601 were re-examined on math. The number of students retaking at Riley was also high, 112 retook the math while 69 retook English.

In the past, Wiand has offered classes during the summer for Riley students who failed the exam the first time or for those who have yet to take it.

"The summer workshop lasted for two weeks, and we had an average of 15 kids per week," said Wiand.

The math department also offered a program to help the kids who didn't pass the first time. The students had a chance before and after school and on a Saturday to attend an ISTEP preparation course.

According to math teacher Carol Wallace, the entire math department participated in this remediation effort.

"The math test is not an IQ test. It is a problem-solving test which requires the students to apply the learned skills," said Wallace.

The retake results from 1998 don't look very promising either.

According to Wes Bruce, the head of the ISTEP program in the SBCSC, "only 39 percent of those at Riley

retaking the the English portion of the test passed, while just 26 percent of the retakers passed the math portion."

Corporation results were a little better, with 43 percent of retakers passing English and 29 percent passing math. The SBCSC lags behind the state average by nine percentage points in English and 16 points in math.

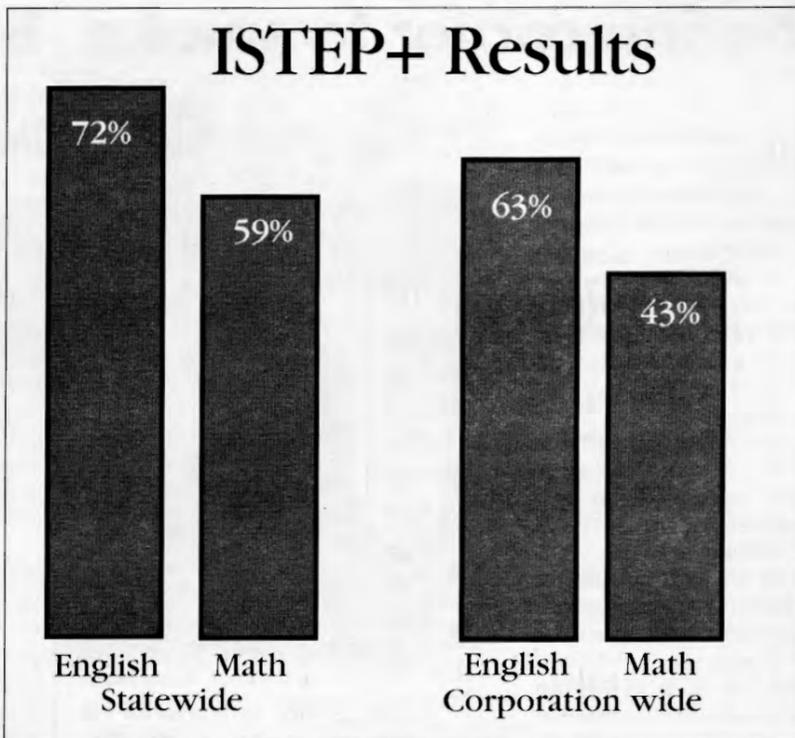
"Even though we are behind the state average, our kids have made significant gains since the third grade. In third grade our English gap was 25 points and the math

was 22 points. Both have reduced dramatically," said Bruce.

Even though every student is required to take the ISTEP, not everyone has to pass it in order to graduate. According to Bruce, there is a way of getting a diploma without passing the ISTEP. If a student meets Core 40 requirements and has gotten a grade of C or

above in each of the Core classes, he or she can receive a high school diploma.

Even though many students do have to retake the exam, there will be plenty of help available to them. Each school is given money to remediate students. Last year Riley received \$21,000 for English and \$31,000 for math remediation.



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Viewpoints

Riley High School / 405 East Ewing

Issue 4, Volume 29 / February 1999

Editorial

Congested streets outside Riley

After school, the area around Riley is a congested mess of people running for buses, walking home, going to friend's houses, etc. Many are also driving home and have to drive carefully due to all of the people walking across the street. Some people just walk across whenever there is a break in traffic, which is all well and good. Unfortunately, many kids decide to run across the street right in front of cars or expect cars to stop for them and just leisurely stroll across the street. The other day, I almost hit a couple of kids on a bike that rode out right in front of me. I've also nearly hit several other people during the course of the year. It's not because I wasn't watching, it's because these people chose to run across the street at exactly the wrong moment - right in front of my car.

People need to be more careful in the area around Riley after school and not try to dash across the street without looking at oncoming traffic and to be more alert of what's happening around them. At the rate things are going, a serious accident could happen. ■



Selective service is wrong

Bruce Duncanson
Viewpoints Editor

A few weeks after I turned 18, I received in the mail a card that said "important information for young men." Dismissing this as junk mail, I just tossed it onto the table and forgot about it for a couple of weeks like I usually do with junk mail. A week later, I saw this thing still laying on the table underneath a pile of old newspapers. I decided to open it up and give it a look. Inside I found a little card that said "selective service."

Selective service registration, a euphemism for the draft, contains a form that males have to fill out when they turn 18. If not, they're threatened with a \$250,000 fine or 5 years in prison...or both. I will have to fill this registration card out. I don't want to spend the next 5 years of my life in prison and I sure don't have \$250,000 to pay the fine. I don't want to give my life for the United States, or should I say the interests of corporate America.

I don't want to die for oil in Iraq or feed corporations by crawling through the mud in some third world country. I think it's ridiculous that I should have to be forced into military service when I'm already going to have to pay taxes to the government that will be used on things I don't agree with (like Kenneth Starr's 10 billion dollar tax payer funded war on Clinton).

The draft became a big issue during the Vietnam war when the US was getting stomped on and there was a severe shortage of troops. The government decided that they'd start up the draft to increase troops that they thought

to come out on top in this ridiculous war. The draft was heatedly opposed by many people, some burned their draft cards on the steps of government buildings and staged other types of peaceful protest.

More lower-class people were drafted than upper-class people because those with lower incomes were often the

ones that couldn't afford college. If you were in college, your status was deferred. It was also despised because many thought it was wrong for people to be forced into a war they may or may not agree with by a government that they may not even support.

Even with the draft opposition, the government refused to budge and continued to ship troops off to Vietnam. If the draft ever started again, I'd be on the steps with the rest of the draft-card and flag burners before I left for another country where I wouldn't be imprisoned.

I don't want to be pulled away from my family, friends, and surrender my life on the shores of a foreign country because a particular administration decides to start up a war. If I want to join the military (which you can bet I never will), it should be a personal choice, and not the choice of the government. If America ever gets into another big war where the draft is needed and I should happen to get drafted, I'm moving to Canada to avoid enlistment. I won't die for any government.

The draft is a totally unjust thing to force upon young men. Military service should be optional and not required.

The Review

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The print of this publication is done by Frank Moriconi and his graphics art class at Lasalle High School.

Parking spots taken by others

Diana Szymanski
Editor-in-chief/Eye Candy editor

I must say, I am extremely tired of my \$10 parking space being used by other people.

I have to leave everyday for cadet teaching. When I return to school, a lot of the time my space is occupied by someone who is obviously *very* rude. This gets to be very annoying.

I didn't pay \$10 dollars for someone *else* to use my spot. I have complained to George McCullough, principal, but I don't think I should have to file a complaint. I think that people should have enough respect for others and not use someone else's parking spot.

McCullough informed me that if my spot is continuously taken, then I should tell Tony Ross, security guard here at Riley. Then Ross will have the cars towed from my spot.

Thankfully, my friend's parking spot is right next to mine, and since she does not have any classes at Riley after first hour, she lets me use her spot when mine is taken.

I know who the people are that use my spot, and it angers me that they have the nerve to just park in my spot when they want. If I wanted them to use my parking space, I would have spent the \$10 to buy them a parking tag with my

parking number on it. But I didn't, so I ask that they park in their *own* spot.

I noticed that I am not the only one with this problem. I have seen my friend's spots taken on more than one occasion. This is a very irritating situation to be in. It is especially irritating for people like me who have to leave school for a class, and then return for other classes. I expect my spot to be open and ready for me to park in.

The snow covered parking lot was a whole other situation. Many people seemed to think that just because their parking spaces were covered in snow, they could park anywhere they want. Ever heard of guessing where your spot is? Many have not, because they were a few spots, even *rows* away from their assigned.

When I drove to school, I guessed about where my spot was, and it wasn't a very difficult thing to do. I am sure that we are all old enough to figure out how to be fair.

I hate to complain and whine, but I know that many people agree with me on this situation. When we wasted \$10 at the beginning of the school year, we all expected to get to use our spots everyday. Well, we were in for a rude awakening. ■

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According to the logic of the laws in the United States, you can die for your country against your will when you're 18, but you still can't do other "adult" things like consume alcohol. I don't care how intense a war becomes. If wars didn't get started in the first place, there wouldn't be a need for a draft. ■

I prefer coke please

Hidir

anonymous

In high-school, parties and drinking go together. There are few parties if any that are without alcoholic beverages. It is very easy to become an alcoholic on the high-school level.

My choice is not to drink. I have nothing against drinkers, I just prefer to stay sober. When asked, *Why don't you drink?* I can give many reasons.

I don't drink because I like to have complete self control. Being able to think and reason for myself is something I like to do all the time. I don't need something to happen that I can't handle because of intoxicating conditions. If an emergency were to arise, I would like to be on the ball, prepared to handle anything.

Many embarrassing things could happen to a person that is wasted. Some of these things are small like saying stupid things, pulling your pants down revealing yourself, or urinating in the wrong place. Horrible things also could happen like waking up naked somewhere with cheese whiz all over you or another kind of substance. I really don't need the embarrassment.

Another issue is that alcohol is obviously illegal to minors. Getting a drinking ticket would stress me out and I don't need that aggravation. The violation is long process with a court date and a monetary fine. My parents wouldn't be thrilled about the whole ordeal either. Drinking is not worth it.

Sometimes I hear things that really hit home with me. There will be a commercial on television explaining that alcohol kills more people under twenty-one than car accidents, illness, and disease. I will hear about how a father will spend his paycheck on alcohol instead of diapers and other family priorities. Alcohol wrecks lives and families. Under the influence a person may have no self control, and take their anger out on another individual or individuals. That individual may be a child or spouse. This action wouldn't have happened if the person wasn't under the influence.

Just because a person drinks doesn't mean they

are an alcoholic, but every alcoholic had to start their drinking somewhere. They didn't just become an alcoholic in one day. It was an accumulation of drinking that led to an alcoholic addiction. Being a social drinker could definitely lead to being an alcoholic.

When going to a party with some friends, it isn't a bad idea to have someone stay sober for the night. It is always good to have someone with you whose thought process is not affected. You never know when something may go wrong. You may need a ride somewhere or something else a sober person would be better at handling. People think that being drunk helps them have a better time at a party. I feel that I can have as much fun being sloppy sober as being sloppy drunk.

People use drinking as a way out of their problems. It isn't a way out it is more like a vacation. When you become normal again your problems are still the same. Drinking may even add problems (family issues, troubles with the law, school, etc...). A person may have to run an errand of some sort and forget because he or she is plastered.

The way I see it drinking could lead to many problems that I don't need in my life. As a teenager I already have enough problems, I don't need another.

anonymous

I'll never forget my 19 break. Who would have thought that night of fun would lead to me regaining trust and years of consequences.

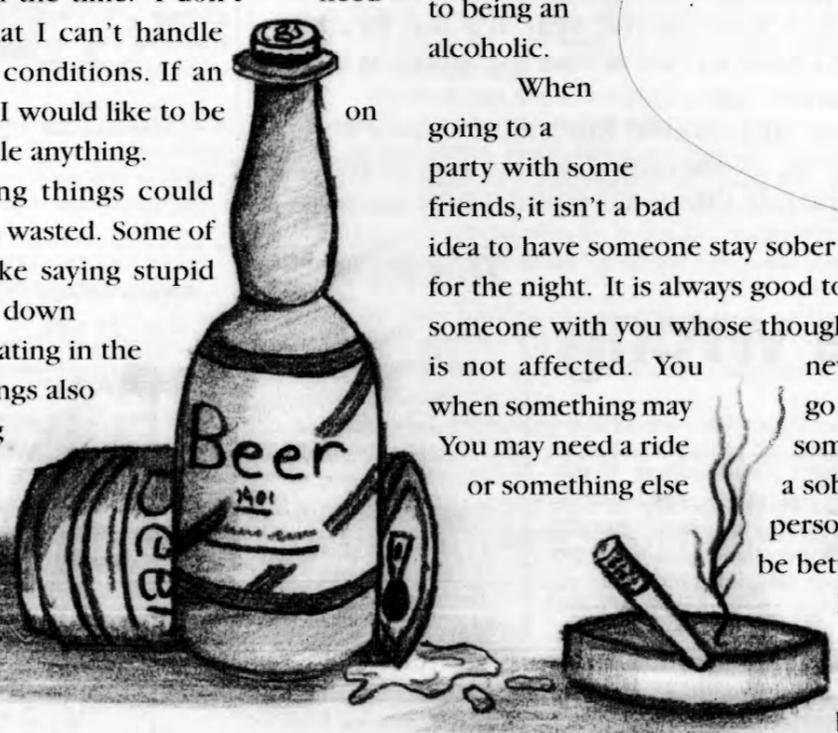


Alcohol Can Ruin Your Life

I thought that the week was start when I arrived at the first night. I was having fun, just dancing, and yes, drinking.

In a split second all that was having turned into complete found myself hiding in a closet were there. I remember hearing voices as they told the host that they would be taking a look. There was nothing that anyone because the parents were out. I heard their footsteps coming stairs millions of questions slipped my head: What would my parents say? What would my coach say? What they going to do with me? The door opened and my heart started two policeman standing in front.

They told me to go down with all the other people and move. I instantly broke into tears didn't know what to do and put my emotions in overdrive could calm me down. I had a breathalyser test and I didn't pass. The police told me they were going to pick up my parents and have them pick me up. They also informed that a notice was in the mail to tell me when I had to report to the juvenile center.



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When my parents came to pick me up the expression on their face was unbearable. They didn't say a word to me when we got into the car, or even when we got home. In fact they didn't talk to me for a couple days after that night. I knew I had disappointed them and it would take a long time to gain their trust back as well as my privileges.

I knew that the school would be informed, and through them my coach would find out. I decided that it would probably be better if he heard the bad news from me. It was one of the hardest things for me to do, but I finally gained enough courage and I called him. I could sense that disappointment in his voice. I knew that I had let him down. By drinking I broke the team's code of conduct. I would have to pay the price.

Things started to cool down a little bit. About a month passed without me hearing anything from the school or the legal system. However, I continued to be reminded of my mistake from my parents. I heard about how I let them down everyday. I knew that they would never allow me to forget that night.

Then it happened. Mr Berta, the athletic director, took me out of my third hour class and brought me to his office. He asked me questions about the night, and why I made the decision that I made. He also informed me of what would be happening to my athletic career. I was suspended from all school sports for 30 days. Fortunately for me, I was not in season. However, if I were to ever receive another drug or alcohol ticket at any time during high-school I would be suspended from sports for an entire year. It finally hit me that there were no chances left for me to mess up. If I wasn't careful, I could put all the years

of hard work and all the dreams I had in jeopardy. I knew that I wouldn't get a second chance.

A couple of weeks later I received a letter in the mail telling me when I was to report to the Juvenile Center for court. It said that I must show up or there would be worse consequences to suffer. I had to bring at least one parent and I had to be prompt. I had butterflies that entire day during school. At 2:55 I went home and then directly to the Juvenile Center with both my mom and my dad.

When I arrived I had to sign in and then wait in a room with my parents. What was only ten minutes in reality felt like an eternity. My name was finally called by a young woman. I followed her to her office and took a seat. She introduced herself and told me that she would be my probation officer.

First, she asked me questions about the night, what I had been drinking, who gave me alcohol, if I remember anything, how I felt the next morning, and so on. She also inquired about my home life, how I did in school and the things I participated in. All these questions were asked in front of my parents. It was a very humiliating experience.

Second, she asked my parents to leave the room and then she questioned me individually. She asked me if I had drunken before, if I smoked, had I ever done drugs, which ones, had I ever attempted suicide, etc.. Then, I was asked to leave the room and my parents were privately questioned while I was filling out forms and surveys.

When they were done, I was led to a different room where I took a drug test. I had to pee in a cup and they said that

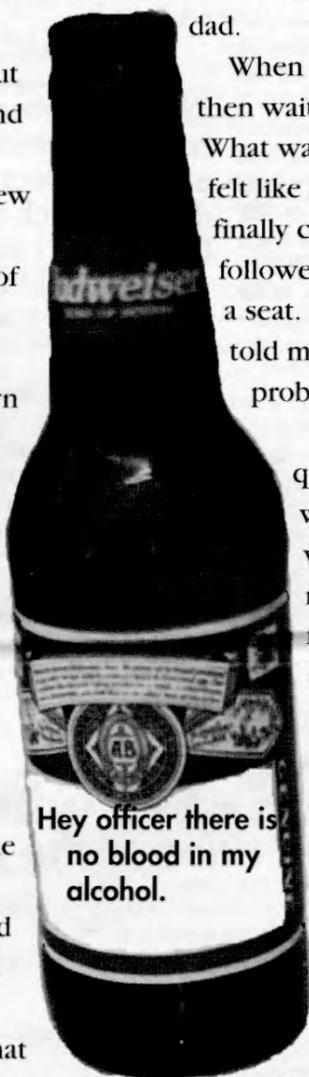
the lab would analyze it and send the results in the mail.

We went back to her office and she told me about the consequences. She told me that I was on probation for three months and that I would attend a drug and alcohol abuse meeting. If I didn't, it would be a violation of probation. If I got in trouble with the law in those three months further legal actions would take place, and that meant appearing in front of a judge at the courthouse downtown. She also informed me that because I was under age that my record would not be cleared until my 18th birthday. If I got into trouble with the law before then, I would have to report back to her for another meeting. I was pretty young when this happened and I had a long ways before I would turn 18.

Weeks later I received a letter in the mail. It informed of the time and date of when I was to arrive at the juvenile center for my mandatory drug and alcohol abuse meeting. I went and there were many other kids my age. My probation officer was speaking at the meeting. It consisted of tests and decisions about the effects of drugs.

Since that time, I have not yet been in trouble with the law, and I don't intend to be. It took a long time for my parents to trust me again. Even to this day they question if I have been drinking, and sometimes they smell my breath or do other tests to see if I had been drinking that night.

I have learned a lot from this experience. I put everything that I was working so hard for on the line just so I could get a buzz. If you are ever confronted with the decision of drinking, think about what is important to you and if it is worth losing for one night of partying. If you make the decision to drink or do drugs realize the consequences will always overpower the intoxicating feeling of this action. It happened to me, and I guarantee, if you aren't careful, it will happen to you.



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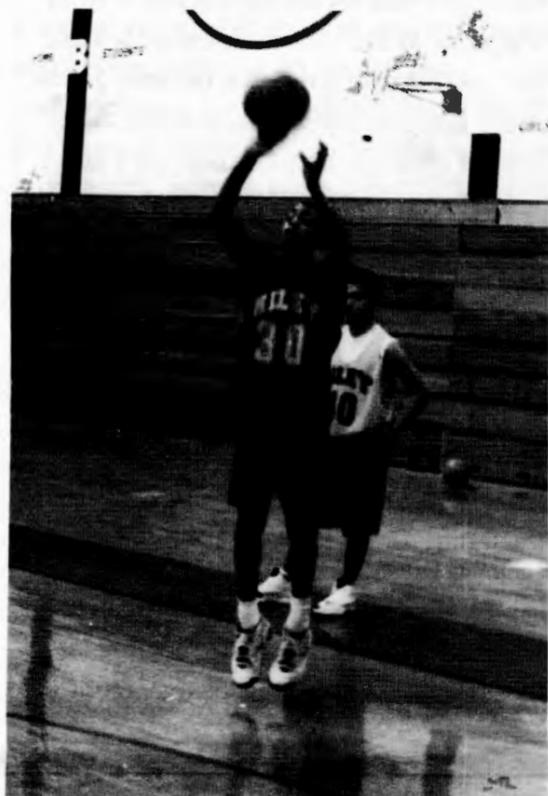
Issue 4, Volume 29 / February, 1999

Sectionals is the beginning of new season for tough luck 'Cats

Steve Wiltfong
Editor and Chief

Tough times don't last, tough guys do. Hopefully, that is the case for the Wildcat basketball team this year. The team has struggled in all offensive departments and sits on a 4-14 won loss record. It can only get better for the 'Cats' set of ballers.

The same set of problems have riddled the



Bryan Proven

EN FUEGO/ Junior guard Courtney Dixon attempts a three pointer in practice at Jackson.

Wildcats this season. Shooting woes and unforced turnovers have been the dagger in the team's heart. Putting the ball in the basket seems to be a tough task in most of the contests this season. The Cat's are being outscored by their opponent by an average of 57.6 to 47.2 points per game (PPG).

"In practice we are concentrating on shooting and keeping the turnovers down. We are working on playing fundamental basketball," said head coach Tom DeBaets.

The Wildcats schedule has not been kind. No one wants to see games against state powerhouses LaPorte and Merrillville on their schedule. Games against Elkhart Memorial and Elkhart Central are no walk in the park either.

"We did have a tough schedule this year, but there were games this year that we should of won that got away from of us," stated Washington.

Not playing team basketball has been an evident setback for the 'Cats. A player will come out and score 20 points 10 rebounds and play good defense one night, and be invisible in the next game.

"Junior Ron Dokes has been our most consistent player as far as scoring and rebounding are concerned. Junior John Fissette and sophomore Mike Pryzgoda have played some big games for us, but played poorly in others," commented DeBaets.

From a statistic aspect the scoring comes from a group of four players. Dokes averages 11.3 PPG and gets assistance from juniors Mike Washington 7.2 PPG and Fissette 6.4 PPG. Przgoda chips in 6.0 PPG. The rebounding comes from Dokes 6.7 RPG and Fissette 5.0 RPG. Washington and junior Courtney Dixon drop dimes for teammates. Washington has 52 assists and Dixon has 48.

The offense has been coming along as of late. In the last two contests the offense has kept the team in the game. The 'Cats just couldn't pull out a win. The team fell to Washington 65-5 and to Concord 43-47. These games could be confident boosters for the 'Cats spirits.

"I have seen things that unless you pay close

attention others wouldn't see," explained DeBaets. "The players are learning the offense better and are screening more for each other. They are doing the little things."

The Wildcats have done a good job on the defensive end of the floor. Dokes dominates the paint with his shot blocking skills. He has sent 46 shots in the opposite direction. Washington leads the team in steals with 35.

"On defense we try to disrupt the flow of the oppositions offense. We like to frustrate them and capitalize on their mistakes," said Washington.

In the conference the Wildcats have experienced maybe the worst thing that could happen. The 'Cats are winless in seven tries, and the game against Adams is a must win situation from the mental standpoint.

"We need a win against Adams to give us the confidence that we can beat anyone on any given," added Washington.

Every team needs a leader and the 'Cats lack a leader.

"We don't have a player that wants to step up and say something to the team. In practice that is okay but in games someone needs to take it upon themselves to get the team going," stated DeBaets.

Sectionals has to be on the mind of the players and coaching staff. All the work over the course of the season is towards

the performance the team will have in the sectional.

When asked about what he thinks the team needs to gear up for sectionals DeBaets said "We need something to raise the players confidence level. Players are starting to think about next year when they haven't finished this season."

Players intensity rises when the postseason starts. The 'Cats will need a rise in play if they want the season to continue.

"When the sectional comes I expect every one of my teammates to pick up their play. I think we will, and I think our season will go on," said Washington. ■

"When the sectional comes I expect every one of my teammates to pick up their play. I think we will, and I think our season will go on."

Swimteam keeps the winning tradition alive with an excellent season Swimteam wins 14 consecutive sectional titles at the pool in Mishawaka

Steve Wiltfong
Editor and Chief

On Thursday February 18 at Mishawaka High School pool the Wildcats dominated the preliminary round of the sectional. Outstanding performances were given by seniors A.D. Stackhouse, Matt Dubois, and freshman Mark Dubois. Each were seeded number one in there respective events. The 400 freestyle and medley relays each had a great day also giving them the number one seed for the finals.

Saturday February 20 was the day the Cats sealed their 14th consecutive sectional title. The day got off to a typical Riley start where sophomore Lamont Barlow took the sectional diving title. He was followed by senior Paul Lao, and junior Jeff Price finished fourth. All three competitors will be participating in the



Bryan Proven

READY,SET, GO/ Junior Marcus King dives in the pool at the sectional Saturday.

diving regional at LaPorte.

In the pool it was an emotional roller coaster for the catfish. Stackhouse, and the Dubois brothers were sectional champs in each of their respected events and will be competing in the state meet in Indianapolis. Stackhouse won in the 50 and hundred 100 freestyle. Matt Dubois set a sectional pool record in the 100 breaststroke and ranked second in the state in that event. He was also victorious in the 200 IM. His little brother Mark took the title in the 500 freestyle.

Although winning the sectional title there were a few disappointments for the Wildcats. The 400 freestyle and 200 medley relays consisting of the Dubois brothers, Stackhouse, and junior Marcus King that were seeded one finished second. Although bringing in a lot of points for the team second was not what the swimmers had in mind.

"It was a almost a tragedy that we finished second. I thought for sure we were on our way to the state meet," said an upset King.

Other swimmers that showed their presence at the sectional were seniors Eric Vandewalle, Ryan Brown, junior Ryan Jessewein and sophomore city

SENIORS
A.D Stackhouse
Paul Lao
Ryan Brown
Matt Dubois
Keith Henry
Eric Vandewalle

champ Shane Johnson chipped in individually and on relays.

Winning the sectional title was not a surprise to second year head coach Steve Smith.

"In the preseason we set some goals and winning the sectional title was one of them. Now we have to complete are season at the state meet," stated Smith.

Ranked in the states top 20 in the preseason the catfish enjoyed a successful season. The team finished with 11 wins and 1 loss. The one loss coming to number 6 ranked Penn Kingsmen. Although that loss ended all hopes for a conference title the catfish did not stay down. The Cats ended the season on a wave a big wins. Wins over Clay, Bremen, and Kokomo were

huge. The win over Kokomo was extra special because it was the last meet ever to be swam in the historic Riley pool. The Cats found themselves ranked in the state's top 20 again.

"The loss against Penn was disappointing. Losing was something we didn't want to experience the rest of the season," commented King.

As always the future for Riley swimming is bright. Diving will stay strong with Barlow and Price. In the pool it doesn't get any weaker. King, Jessewein, Dubois, Johnson and sophomores Peter Cavadini and Sam Peat return for another try at the conference title. The Cats look to be a force to be reckoned with. ■

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Hockey team advanced to state

Gretchen Lemmer
Sports Editor

The Riley Hockey team advanced to the next level by qualifying to play in the State Hockey Tournament which was held on February 26 through the 28 in Carmel, right outside of Indianapolis. The decision making game of weather Riley was going to State was played against Carmel. The 'Cats finished triumphant with a big win of 6-4. This game was very important in the destination of the team.

"We knew what this game meant to the future of our team and what it meant to win. We all played hard and kept our focus. We went to State with the same amount of focus and determination. The improvement that we've made from last year and the beginig of this season is extraordinary. I think we were ready for the tough competition of State and we showed some of our top performances," said caption , senior Mike Greenwald, a student from Valparaiso.

The 'Cats faced Lake Central in the first round at State. With nine seconds remaining Central put one in the net which resulted in a final score of 3-4.

They then proceeded to compete against the Marian Knights. The 'Cats were the first team to put numbers on the scoreboard with a unstoppable powerplay combination. Despite the tight defense that was being

played and the offensive pressure, the 'Cats finished the game with a 3-4 loss.

"I anticipated greatness at State. We always play some of our best games at this tournament. The guys finally came together and started playing as a team. We knew that everything we had been working for this season built up to these final games, and although we didn't come home with victories, the guys hustled and played some of the best Wildcat hockey I've seen all year," said head coach Kent Ullery.

In the City Tournament the team came out 1-3. They had a disappointing loss in the first game against the Adams Eagles which ended with a score of 4-6. Riley then moved on to defeat St. Joe in a 3-1 success.

One of the most suspensful games of the year was the final game of the tournament. The 'Cats took on the Eagles for the second time. In an attempt to avenge their previous loss, the team came out playing hard and looking for a prideful victory.

"We really wanted this win, and I think Adams was starting to feel the pressure towards the end of the game. This was by far one of the best games we've played all year," said captain, senior Tyler Back.

The game concluded with a hard loss of 7-8 in overtime. If it had not been for a hurtful own-goal, victory may not have slipped out of the 'Cats hands.

"We went out as a team , we played as a team, and we came off the ice at the end of the game as a team. The guys proved th everyone who said the couldn't cut it that they could. They showed the talent that we've been hiding for most of the season. I was extremely proud of their performance as a whole, and although we didn't win this game, we sure took everyone by suprise," said Ullery.

The team completed the tournament fourth in the city. Adams took the overall win with a first-place position.

"I think we did a lot better than what everyone expected. All the games were close and the outcome of the tournament really reflected all the work we've been doing this year," said captain, senior Nick Vanholsbeke.

The team's regular season ended with a 15-28-1 record, and they finished ranked fifth in their division. This was a huge improvement from last year, and the team showed vast amounts of growth throughout the season, according to Ullery.

"It was amazing to watch what began as individual players, who just played for themselves, transform into a team who played as a team and improved as a team. We finally came together and started inching our way to victories," Ullery continues.

We began this year with a losing record and finished with a position in the state Tournament. The team, as a whole, has come a long way and I believe that this is only the beginning. Although we'll be losing a lot of senior leadership I have a good feeling that the upcoming years of Riley hockey will be much bigger and brighter," ended Ullery.



Bryan Proven

SET FOR THE NET/ Freshmen Bobbie Ullery winds up for a close net shot.

Jock Talk



Name
Kelly Carson
Sport
Softball
Year
Senior

What three words best describe your playing style?

Just having fun

Who is your sports hero?

Chipper Jones

What is the best part about being an athlete?

The friendships you make, and all the fun you share during the season. Also, when you work your butt off and accomplish a goal.

What is the worst part about being an athlete?

When you work your butt off for a game and you lose.

If you could watch any athlete perform who would it be?

Chipper Jones

What is your proudest moment as an athlete?

When we played Merriville and went up against the best pitcher in the state and I broke up her no hitter by getting a single.



Name
David St. Clair
Sport
Baseball
Year
Senior

What three words best describe your playing style?

Fast, strong, and dirty

Who is your sports hero?

David Wells

What is the best part about being an athlete?

Being able to compete, and the rewarding feeling of winning a game.

What is the worst part about being an athlete?

The long hours, and late nights at games and practices. Also, losing.

If you could watch any athlete perform who would it be?

Mickey Mantle or Joe Dimaggio

What is your proudest moment as an athlete?

When I pitched in the American Legion Baseball State Championships.

Congrats Superstar Wildcats

* Aaron Bogunia

Wrestling regional winner and first team NIC (Northern Indiana Conference). He also qualified for state.

* Bobby Aldridge

Wrestling regional winner and first team NIC.

* Trevor Battles

Wrestling first team NIC.

* Katie Cavadini

Swimming first team NIC, NIC most valuable player, and qualifier for state.

* Laura Dobslaw

Diving first team NIC second place in regional competition, and stat qualifier.

* Krissy Wells

Swimming first team NIC.

* Laura Horvath

Swimming first team NIC.

* Katie Coutre

Swimming first team NIC.

* Erin Miller

Girls basketball first team NIC.

Diverse Ideas

Fooled again and again

Gretchen Lemmer
Sports Editor

What began as a small ripple in the water soon multiplied into a raging wave. President Bill Clinton's impeachment was previously underway, and I was in full support of the termination of his position in office. This trial wasn't about sex or Clinton's personal affairs. This trial was all about breaking the law.

Allow me to begin my opinion with some background information.

The controversy began when Clinton was charged with sexual harassment by Paula Jones. In this case, Jones's lawyers attempted to bring forth information about Clinton having past relationships with other women such as Monica Lewinsky. They did this to support their case and tried to prove that Clinton had a past in sexual misconduct. Clinton denied these charges; in fact, Clinton denied these charges a number of times. A witness named Linda Tripp then provided incriminating evidence against Clinton to Special Prosecutor Kenneth Starr. This information consisted of tape recorded conversations of Lewinsky stating that she had sexual relations with Clinton. These tapes demonstrated that Clinton had made false testimony under oath. Sexual harassment and adultery are not impeachable offenses; however, perjury and obstruction of justice are, and Clinton violated both of these laws.

There were many levels to the investigation and trial. The first level involved Clinton's sexual misconduct. In any other job, if someone were to have sexual relations with another person of a subordinate level, that person would be fired with no questions asked, no trial, just a pink slip. A company's name is only as good as its leaders. Because of the fact that Clinton was in a higher position than Lewinsky, his behavior can be considered sexual harassment. Once again, I remind you, sexual harassment is not an impeachable offense. In that case, if Clinton had originally confessed to the charges, admitted that what he had done was wrong, and apologized to the nation, the trial of impeachment could have been entirely avoided. Of course, there would have been an uproar and a commotion among politicians, but the issue would have been dropped much early and long forgotten by now. However, in the heat of pressure, Clinton snapped. He was afraid of what would happen to his reputation and his career. Therefore, he lied to try to cover up the mistakes that he had made. Not only did he lie to the American people in a public address, but he also lied to the Grand Jury. This propelled the case onto an entirely new level. The trust of the People was then gone.

The next question: Is perjury a major offense? The answer? Yes. For the president? Even worse. The fact that the president of the United States, the man who represents the country, lied under oath is pathetic. Not only was he previously a lawyer, but he now holds the highest position in America, and he broke one of our most coveted laws. You don't lie under oath. Plain and simple. Clinton was well aware of the fact that he was breaking the law. He knew exactly what

he was doing when he stood in front of the Grand Jury. He got scared, he panicked, he lied, and now he must suffer the consequences. If anything, his presidency should not have excused him from punishment, but only made the consequences much more severe.

This trial was not about sex or Clinton's personal affairs. This trial was all about breaking the law.

Because of the fact that we have left this indefensible offense unpunished, the standards of civility in America have only decreased. Now that have we ignored this one incident, how many more presidents will we allow to lie to us? How many more presidents will we allow to break the law? Now, for the rest of time the excuse of

others will forever haunt us... "Well, if Clinton did it, why can't I?" The easy thing to do was to let Clinton finish his term; because this is his second term he cannot be reelected; but, what is right is not always



Clinton's private life was none of our business. They said he is doing a good job in office, and that's all that matters. But the fact that the economy is doing well should not have justified breaking the law. For example, if I were a great student caught cheating on a test my entire educational performance would be questioned. The same goes for Clinton. I wonder how many other lies he has told, or people he has cheated, to get the economy where it is today. I'll state again, if Clinton had told the truth in the first place then his personal life wouldn't have been put under a magnifying glass. His private life became public when he, the president, a public figure to the entire world, lied. When he lied to everyone on television and before the Grand Jury he subjected himself to investigation. He was asking to be exposed. I'll be the first to admit that Starr took it to extremes with the inquiry of unnecessary details, but, on the other hand, Clinton took it too far when time and time again he denied the truth.

Both levels were present. By committing adultery he was morally and ethically wrong. By lying he was legally wrong. He abused his power to every degree. He took advantage of the gullibility of the American people. He distorted the image of our nation. He devalued the title of any past or future president. He committed a sin, and he broke the law. I think that he should have taken the responsibility for his actions and resigned as the president. This behavior should never be tolerated; therefore, Bill Clinton should not have been tolerated.

Truth and justice prevailed

Jason McFarley
Editor and Chief

I'll agree with Bill Clinton's hecklers and say that the hot water he was in had nothing to do with sex. But it had little to do with breaking the law either. Over the course of the last 13 months, Republicans have been out for Clinton's blood; and in the process of this political witchhunt, the state of the union, especially the presidency, has fallen into jeopardy.

The Clinton-Monica Lewinsky saga evolved from its start in January 1998 as a mere scandal (one that placed the President in the same company as countless chiefs before him) to a national crisis.

Make that a plague. That more aptly described this disease of a situation which ran rampant across the country for well over a year and ate away at both the heart of the central government and the morale of the American public.

How it could continued to do so for all that time escapes me.

The simple fact to to be remembered here was that Clinton was only human, subject to the same faults and temptations as the rest of us. In this circumstance, he happened to succumb to them. Was that a crime? No. A sin? Indeed. But religion played no part in this case and should have a limited one in the government as a whole.

By the way, how ironic was it that many of the same House and Senate members who tried Clinton came under fire as adulterers themselves. Talk about being tried by a jury of your peers.

I personally don't condone such behavior, but it is not my place nor anyone else's to pass such judgment on others' private lives. That is the point which went unheard for thirteen months, even though we were screaming it loud and clear the entire time.

The officials we put into office were not doing their jobs. They were not representing us in a manner consistent with the ways which we would have liked. They were not listening. If they had been, they would have recognized a while back that Clinton's impeachment was not something that we wanted to pursue and that the same went for the ensuing trial.

If they had listened, they would have seen that Clinton's affairs were wholly personal matters. He did lie, but it was about something that was no business of the government or the American public. And his involvement with Lewinsky had absolutely no impact on the execution of his office. If anything, the pressure he received from all directions from the Republican party is what has affected his performance as chief.

Despite arguments that Clinton has tarnished the good name of the presidency and America in general, his approval ratings remain high across the nation. That's probably because many can identify with him as a person. Americans seem to have a deep understanding that we will, from time to time, make mistakes but that that is no reason to be taken out behind the barn and shot.

While the Pres's conduct did extend beyond misbehavior, it did not nearly qualify as an impeachable offense, along the same order of the "high crimes and misdemeanors" our founding fathers described. However crass Clinton's motives were in his encounters with Lewinsky, they clearly provided no deliberate assault on American politics. Clinton at no time posed any threat to our

democratic principles or the judicial process, as Republicans say. Obstruction of justice was never the case here. Instead, the case against Clinton was a travesty of justice.

Gradually, Washington realized that. And even before a verdict was rendered, many speculated that Clinton would walk away unscathed from the Senate trial. He did. Long live the President! This dismal tale merited some sort of happy ending, bittersweet as it turned out to be.

But even in the event that the Senate had returned a guilty verdict, I said they should have written it off as time served. Clinton already endured the consequences, and so have we. What remains is a permanent mark of shame on one man's legacy and a nation left to pick up the pieces.

That's enough punishment in itself.

How could any elected officials claim to have the nation's best interest at heart when more time was spent relentlessly pursuing the chief executive than running the country?

Yes, Clinton's interludes with the former White House intern put him in a particularly sticky situation. But sequential investigations by special prosecutor Ken Starr proved over-the-top, both in scope and dollarwise. And the resulting historical impeachment vote and Senate impeachment trial served as little more than a complex, drawn-out game of politics.

How could any elected officials claim to have the nation's best interests at heart when more time and effort was spent relentlessly (and wrecklessly) pursuing the chief executive than running the country? No doubt, this problem preoccupied public and governmental attention for more than a year.

But while the public was certainly ready to move on, Washington was not. For what seemed like endless weeks, House members toiled over the issue of whether or not to impeach Clinton. Weeks later, after deciding to do so, the point went on to the Senate. Then, as we held our collective breath, the 100 members of our country's top legislative body went about to decide the fate of the President.

While no one will long forget this White House drama, the majority of Americans certainly forgave their leader.

Why Republicans and a small faction of the population could not do the same was beyond me. Exactly who were they to hold Clinton, President or not, to a higher moral standard than they held themselves?