

THE EAGLES EYE

Delta High School

3400 E. S.R. 28, Muncie, IN 47303

Volume 36, Issue 4

12.17.04



BRAIN POWER

Senior academic stars bring home two TV Brain Game victories.

Story, photos on Page 6.

Also featured in this issue ...

It's This Story

Local band This Story plays a unique blend of folk, rock and pop. What exactly is the story behind This Story?
(Story on Pg. 3)

Holiday Spirit

106 students were recently surveyed over their holiday favorites. See what was voted favorite movie, gift, and more!
(Story on Pgs. 8-9)

Road Trips

Student-athletes reminisce on past sports road trips. See what happened, when it happened and to whom it happened!
(Story on Pgs. 14-15)

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Pg. 10: Dept. of Defense

Varsity basketball team is on track for another season of holding opponents below fifty points per game.

(Story by Jarred Brooke)

Pg. 12-13: Where Is It?

Can you identify which room in the school these nine mystery items can be found? If so, you might win \$10!

(Collection by Maggie Dely)



Pg. 14-15: Road Trips

When athletes jump on the bus to head to an away contest, who knows what might take place? Now, you do.

(Story by Kristin Crider)

Pg. 17: Ping Pong Kitty

A peaceful game of ping-pong ... disrupted by a feline.

(Column by Kristin Crider)



write
US

Questions? Comments? Complaints? Send 'em in! Submitted pieces may be published in future issues. Either submit your letter (complete with name and grade) to Mr. Tim Cleland, Room 124, or e-mail us at tcleland@delcomschools.org, care of Jerrick T. Adams.

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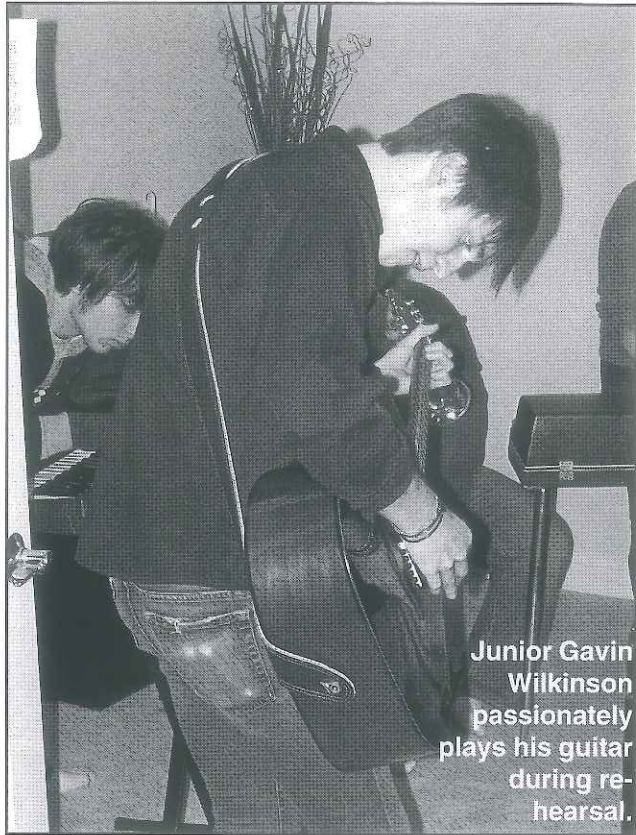
Issue #7 - March 31, 2005

Issue #8 - April 29, 2005

Issue #9 - May 18, 2005 (Senior Issue)

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Junior Gavin Wilkinson passionately plays his guitar during rehearsal.

"Some things seem the same, all or nothing and everything else folds within ... the things labeled as important at the time and then to a memory, forgot and passed on. a blossoming flower tells the tale like a replayed history book, the petals are pages and the story comes in picture form. We watch from the seed we form, we rise and stand only to wither and fall ... I'm sorry about letting this realization wait ... and I've found without hope, only acceptance will be left.

And for a simple second of carefree and innocence, we'll sit with the photographs and the stories will sound over and over ... our eyes will close and the pictures will still stream, the motion will fill the frame and life and love will fill in all that's void. Time for embracement seems prompted, a greater appreciation for all things comes as forced idea ... and I'm sorry about letting this wait ... and I'm sorry I've lied to myself and you."

—the petals are pages (for Ellis); Gavin Wilkinson
(See Pg. 4 for commentary)

It's not my story ...

It's not your story ...

It's This Story ...

Story and Photos by
Jerrick T. Adams ♦ Editor-in-Chief

The small living room is filled to capacity with young men and women, instruments and amps. Small talk and tuning is heard as each one searches for a place to stand and play. An eight-foot tall, artificial Christmas tree serves only as a hindrance to the movement of these musicians. There are no complaints, though. The atmosphere is warm, the camaraderie is genuine and the excitement all-too evident.

Tattered pairs of Chuck Taylor sneakers are strewn about the entranceway to the room. The bandleader pulls a wad of gum from this mouth, places it against a fine French door and uses the sticky mess to attach a crumpled sheet of lyrics. He turns to the band, mumbles instructions and begins strumming his acoustic guitar. The band follows his lead.

A trumpet blares. A piano chimes. Keyboard, Wurlitzer, snare drum, bass, violin, xylophone ... the freewheeling, thin, mercurial sound pours forth from the instruments. The room slips into a dreamy ambiance. The voice of the bandleader is nearly

indecipherable, but the individual words do not seem to be of great importance. The passion of the performance spells out clearly and concisely what This Story is all about.

GETTING IN TUNE

"A lot of people were wondering when I first started out playing solo why I just didn't name it after myself and call it Gavin Wilkinson. I wanted people to make it theirs too, though. I didn't want to go up there and it just be my thing. In my lyrics, I talk about stories a lot so I thought, 'It's not my story and it's not your story ... it's this story. And it can apply to anyone,'" said junior Gavin Wilkinson, bandleader of This Story.

This Story first existed as a solo act in the summer of 2004. Wilkinson, with the lone accompaniment of his acoustic guitar, would perform in venues as varied as church basements and coffee houses. Aside from the occasional guest performer, This Story was entirely Wilkinson's.

It would not be for long.

"The whole thing with This Story is that my name is probably always going to be behind it because I'll probably still play myself sometimes. But I'll always open the door for my friends to come play with me," Wilkinson said. "The fact that they just want to use their musical talents too is awesome. The whole sound of a band just makes it so much better, so why deny them the chance, too? I knew from the beginning I wanted to add other people."

The addition of piano, bass, violin, drums, Wurlitzer, xylophone and trumpet to Wilkinson's guitar and vocals resulted in the formation of the band as it currently exists. However, the process that led to this formation was one of gradual evolution and discovery. Through various connections, members met each other and began to play together. Friendships were formed and the group began its work.

The public debut of This Story took place at a show in West Lafayette on Dec. 4. The group opened for a number of more notable area acts, such as Theredracer, The Inheritance, When Midnight Turns to White, and Time and Distance.

"The other bands were all so amazing and that didn't help our cause. It's hard to be first, to be the one band there no one knows, and not as talented maybe as some of the others ... or just not as refined maybe," said Wilkinson after the performance. "Still, it was a good experience for the band."

DIVERSITY AMONG MEMBERS

The faces are as diverse as the music. Two bandmates (Kimi Badger and Arrah Fisher, Delta graduate) are attending Ball State University. Another two (Michael Huerta and Julie Turner) attend Yorktown High School. The remaining four (Wilkinson, sophomores Natalie Trotti and Jordan Knox, and senior Ian Duvall) are all Delta students.

The levels of musical expertise and experience differ wildly from bandmate to

bandmate. For some, This Story is the first band they have ever been a part of. For others, it is one of many.

"Jordan's our bass and piano guy and he plays in a metal band. He's our secret weapon. He has this infinite knowledge on music theory and he always helps us figure out stuff. He's definitely a big power weapon," said Wilkinson.

Knox is no stranger to the world of music performance. He currently performs with the school's Wind Ensemble, Jazz Band, This Story and the metal band Far Be it From Me. He discovered the bass in sixth grade and his passion has only grown since then.

"Music is now a major role in my life. My schedule is filled with school-related performances, practices and outside gigs. Music helps me express and create something that I hope others can benefit from," said Knox.

Yet another unique musical background belongs to Trotti. Although she considers This Story her first "casual band," she has had previous experiences in more classical media. She has played with orchestras, wind ensembles and small groups consisting only of other violinists.

Like most of her bandmates, she shares a profound affection for music.

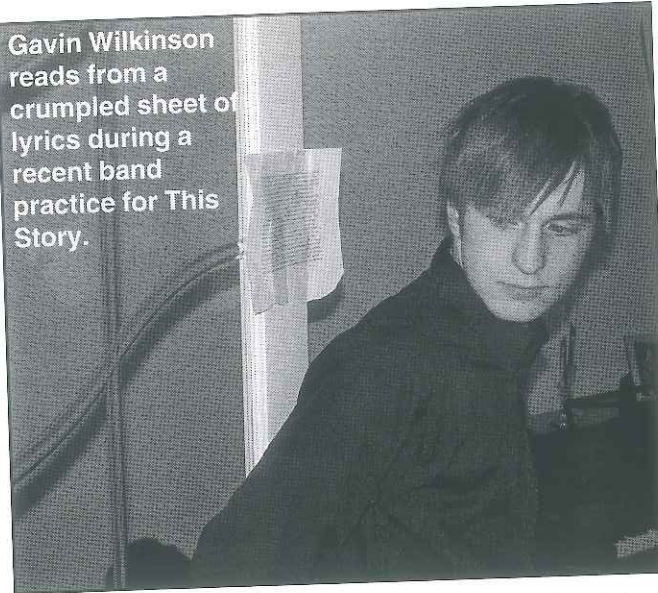
It is the common thread that unifies the group.

"For me, music is something I've loved since I can remember. I was always singing and plunking at the piano, then by age 4 I wanted violin lessons. From there, my love for all different instruments has only grown," said Trotti.

WILKINSON'S STORY

Gavin Wilkinson would be the first to admit he isn't a

Gavin Wilkinson reads from a crumpled sheet of lyrics during a recent band practice for This Story.



Wilkinson on his song "the petals are pages"

I wrote this recently after my grandfather was placed in the hospital. Things seemed suddenly so serious and all I could think about was everything I thought about hope, life, and love ... everything was tainted. Anything and everything could change in the shortest amount of time and all you have left after that is the constant desire to cling to every memory, every pure and happy thought or just acceptance, which you would still have that desire but you would feel more of an appreciation for everything rather than a hopeless fit to have it have it all back again. I felt like I lied to myself and everyone I had ever instilled hope into, and I wrote this as my apologetic hymn we could all sing along to.

-Gavin Wilkinson 12 / 9 / 2004

typical teen. His style contrasts wildly with what would be considered the norm. His skin-tight jeans, the messenger bag he carries over his shoulder, the jackets he wears adorned with buttons and pins ... he seems to represent a complete rejection of the typical and ordinary.

His development can largely be attributed to his discovery of music.

"I started to listen to punk during middle school. I first picked up the guitar and right from the moment I learned my first chords and my first song, I played that stuff all the time. I said to myself, 'Oh, this is what I have to do!' I just knew I wasn't going to be happy working some kind of 40-hour-a-week desk job. For me, expression was something I had to do," said Wilkinson.

From those first chords, Wilkinson's hunger for music only intensified. It was not long before the hand that strummed the guitar strings found the pen. Songwriting became an integral part of the musical experience

"I think I see things a lot differently than most people do. I just don't see things the way everyone else does Sometimes I see the world for the dry, hopeless place it is, but other times I see it as this immaculate chance for living," he said. "I think I'm very manic-depressive about a lot of things. When it comes to things like love, one minute I'll be hopelessly endowed to the idea of it, so I try to fit all those emotions into the song and it just makes for one big, chaotic spree of emotion."

The outpouring of emotions grew more refined and, as a result, the songs grew stronger.

"I'm really just trying to connect with someone. I'm not writing for myself really, but I'm looking for someone out there like me; who's looking for a lot of the same things. If for one minute they hear something I just said and can feel like, 'Man, that's exactly what I'm feeling and no one else can say that any better!' then that's exactly what would make me feel like what I'm doing is so worth it," he said.

"The biggest compliment I get from people on what I write is that they like how I take one second of time and describe it for so long and try to capture everything. Maybe I won't always

talk about it from a first-person perspective; maybe I'll talk about it from the perspective of something lying on the grass observing it all and try to capture the nature and everything in one moment and force it into something beautiful."

The pieces were falling into place. The next step in Wilkinson's musical journey was public performance, the culmination of his playing and songwriting. For him, the experience is otherworldly.

"When I play live, my friends will make fun of me because I kind of space out; I won't know what's going on around me because I'm just so into it. Especially when I meet eyes with someone and I feel like what I just said connected with someone ...

That's so cool for me," he said. "The whole experience of actually seeing your music come together on stage and seeing other people perceiving it and catching on to what greater message there is in it ... that's so incredible for me."

Wilkinson's love for music encompasses it in all of its forms. While the drive of performance is an incredible thing for him, he can be just as moved by a recorded song he can personally connect to. To say his taste is eclectic would be to understate. Everything from melodic classic pop, nihilistic punk and raw bluegrass can be found in his record collection.

Sophomore Natalie Trotti draws her bow across the strings of her violin during rehearsal.



Senior Ian Duwall discusses the arrangement for a song during rehearsal.

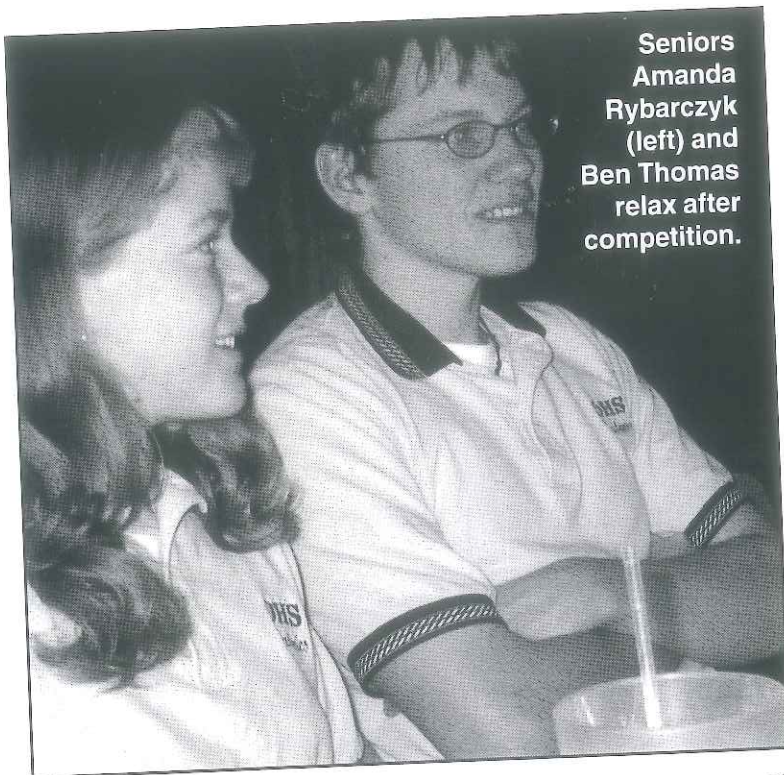


THE COMMON THREAD

With such diversity within a group, it would be very easy for This Story to meet an anti-climactic end. However, one thread binds them: their love for the music as a defining factor in their lives.

"It's the defining figure of everything I

am. I find a connection amongst lyrics and I find people who write and actually look at things deeper than most people and there's just this constant vibe of connection with all things around us. I hate watching television because I can't get anything from the 30-minute plots, but when I listen to a song ... if a writer can throw so many emotions into two-and-a-half minutes in a song, then that's just amazing for me," said Wilkinson.



Seniors
Amanda
Rybarczyk
(left) and
Ben Thomas
relax after
competition.



The Players

Brain Game - Alex Whiteman, Abe May, Ben Thomas, Megan Rybarczyk, Amanda Rybarczyk

Quiz Bowl - Abe May, Joshua Fortriede, Dan Buis, Vanessa Fry, Aaron Gordon, Rob McReynolds, Heather Turner, Alex Whiteman

Spell Bowl - Megan Rybarczyk, Amanda Rybarczyk, Ben Thomas, Kylie Wright, Kalen Choate, Eric Tank, Elliott Ferguson, Caihy Reynolds, Emma Dragoo, Chelsea Thomas

Super Bowl teams will form in January.

Suddenly, it's cool to be smart

Jessica Quakenbush ♦ Feature Writer

"What are people in Liverpool, England called?" asked Chris Wright, weatherman at Channel 13 and host of television's Brain Game. The members of Delta's Academic Team were desperately looking for the answer. Finally, senior Abe May decided to take a wild guess and rang in with what he hoped was the correct answer. Liverpoolians. Surprised and amazed, he was correct.

The Academic Team had an amazing experience by winning two rounds of the Brain Game competition for the first time in many years. The students beat Greenfield and Broad Ripple before losing to Hamilton Southeastern.

"More people have noticed that the Academic Teams do various competitions and we represent Delta well. It's nice finally to be recognized for that," said senior Amanda Rybarczyk.

Like Ken Jennings, who took home \$2.5 million after winning 74 games of Jeopardy in a row, they have received lots of attention lately.

"Many people in my church watched the first show and then *had* to talk to us," said senior Megan Rybarczyk.

Senior Alex Whiteman added: "I think it is cool to be smart. Many people have asked me what it was like to go to the Brain Game."

Mrs. Angie Goodman, speech and English teacher, and Mrs. Dawn Raleigh, English teacher, took over the academic program in 2003. Their goal is to build a strong, competitive

tradition of academic excellence.

The Brain Game team advanced to the final eight teams before losing. "The best part was getting into the final eight and having fun doing it," Whiteman said.

Senior Ben Thomas said he enjoyed the competition and the nice meals afterward. He said he wasn't nervous - "nervousness is a waste of energy."

The students enjoyed meeting the other teams and the host, Chris Wright.

"He's really nice and he liked mentioning that we won the Spirit Award for Operation Football. [He] probably said it four to five times," said Thomas.

The actual ranking for the Academic Teams will not be determined until the spring when the final competitions end. There is Quiz Bowl, Spell Bowl and Super Bowl.

"Sometimes everything is hectic, but I always find time. I enjoy doing what I do, but then people expect a lot from you," said Amanda Rybarczyk. "I always give all my activities 100 percent of my effort because that's what I expect of myself."

All of the students on the Brain Game team have busy academic and extracurricular schedules.

"What is free time? What is sleep?" Megan Rybarczyk said. "Is there even a television in our house?"

If so, it probably is tuned to the Brain Game.



BOBBY HELFST RANDOM RANTINGS

You know what? Country ain't country no more. It's become a safe haven for the people who can't make it big in the world of pop. No longer are the unique sounds of the fiddle, banjo or steel guitar common in country music. Country bands now usually consist of – you guessed it – an electric guitar, a bass and drums. It's rare now to even hear an acoustic guitar.

The people to blame for this atrocity are the "cross-over" artists. Shania Twain has slaughtered country for too long. Her songs sound exactly the same as the ones from when she first sprang onto the scene. The new band, Big & Rich, although entertaining, belongs... somewhere else. Their rap/rock/country mix simply doesn't belong on CMT.

Martina McBride...oh, Martina. Where should I start? This woman has a wonderful voice, but I have never, ever heard her sing a happy, upbeat song. Thanks to Martina, I now know about all the horror in the world. "This One's for the Girls," "With a Broken Wing," and "Concrete Angel" are all about girls who are abused. Sing a happy song for Pete's sake, woman!

And Kenny Chesney, what's up with that!? I believe that this metro sexual (finger quotes) man makes his money by using his body to hypnotize women and send them out to Wal-Mart to buy his newest albums. He is, seriously overplayed on the radio, and he is bald! He is bald! He is very bald! The cowboy hat just covers it up. His earlier songs such as "Young" or "The Good Stuff" were good music, but his recent hits aren't as good and sound alike.

There are many artists, however, who are moving back toward the more traditional sounds of country music. One, for example, is Alan Jackson, who has always had that traditional sound. The twang of his singing voice and the traditional sounds of his arrangements are blended together to make great music.

Willie Nelson, the redheaded stranger, has never strayed far from the path of traditional country music. Granted, he's not the best singer in the world, but neither is Bob Dylan, and both are world renowned for their music.

The late, great Johnny Cash will always stand out in my mind as the figurehead for country music. The man in black was always the rebel, making his own way through country music. His final album, *The Man Comes Around*, is one of the most religious and personally revealing albums ever made.

These days, most country artists are sellouts to their genre of music. You rarely hear traditional country arrangements on the radio nowadays, even though

several young artists who are new to the industry are trying to bring back the time-honored, traditional sounds of country music. These artists are not nearly as successful as the sellouts (with Billy Currington as an exception). Sure, Shania's music was fun at first, but with her, Kenny Chesney, and Tim McGraw ruling the radio, I fear we will never again hear true, pure country music. The days of Waylon Jennings, Willie Nelson, Dolly Parton, Merle Haggard, Johnny Cash, Hank Williams Jr., Dwight Yoakam and Randy Travis are waning. Country music has sadly begun its downward spiral into the age of country pop.

P.S. Martina McBride recently has performed a duet with Jimmy Buffet, and for once, it's happy! "Trip Around the Sun" is a fun song, thanks to Buffet. The album is *License to Chill* by Buffet, and it is worth picking up.

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Over one hundred students completed a survey concerning their favorite holiday items. These are there answers.

BEST CHRISTMAS MOVIES

Alex Wagner ♦ Copy Editor

A Christmas Story was the school's favorite Christmas movie, receiving 37 of 106 first-place votes on the surveys. This is a movie that is filled with laughs and fun.

A Christmas Story is about a kid named Ralphie who tries extremely hard to get a Red Ryder Carbine Action Two-Hundred Shot Lightning Loader Range Model Air Rifle with a compass in the stock. The movie is about Ralphie's adventures and how he desperately tries to convince his parents, teacher and Santa Claus that he should have one. Everybody says that he will shoot his eye out.

"This movie is all about Christmas and is great to watch with family and friends," said freshman Kassidi Downing.

Senior Amy Winchester doesn't think it is Christmas until she has seen *A Christmas Story* a thousand times.

"[*A Christmas Story*] is hilarious, funny and entertaining, and my whole family loves to watch it," said freshman Jessica Tstinic.

For those like Winchester you can catch a 24-hour marathon of *A Christmas Story* on Christmas Eve starting at 8pm on TBS.

Top Five Holiday Films

1. *A Christmas Story* - 37 votes out of 106
2. *Christmas Vacation* - 19 out of 106
3. *The Grinch* - 16 out of 106
4. *Elf* - 7 out of 106
5. *It's a Wonderful Life* - 6 out of 106

STRANGE TIMES

Barbara Sattelkau ♦ Feature Writer

When Miranda Dobbs was 13, she asked her dad to get her a hot model for Christmas. The following year at the Christmas Tea Party when Santa showed up, someone else came in with him. When it was Miranda's turn, Santa said: "Miranda, your wish came true." She got to spend the whole day with the model. His name was Patrick. But not everyone had such a nice Christmas like Dobbs did.

Jordan Crow: I jumped on my parents' bed when I was about seven. My dad pushed me off and my leg got caught on the metal bed frame and cut it. I also hit my head on the floor, knocking me out for an hour.

Courtney Mathews: On our way back from visiting my family in Florida, a huge bird ran into our headlight and got stuck. We drove about 5 miles on the interstate before we realized it was still stuck there.

Hannah Bullock: My aunt got her tongue pierced and my grandma saw it. The whole family was throwing punches and fighting because my aunt causes so much trouble. My grandma was hitting my aunt with a yardstick, and the babies were crying on Christmas Eve.

Wiley Grant: One Christmas Eve I was sleep-walking and walked upstairs to our Christmas tree where my parents were putting out the presents. I walked over and tried to open them. They scolded me and sent me to bed. When I woke up the next morning, they were mad at me, but I couldn't remember a thing.

Jocie Lancaster: One year on Christmas Eve, my sister got me a remote control fart machine from Spencer's. On Christmas morning, one side of my family gets together. I stuck the fart machine under the table. When we all sat down to eat, everyone was talking. Then I pushed the button on the remote. It made a loud fart noise, and everyone got real quiet. Everyone was looking around to see who it was. I died laughing.

HOLIDAY TRADITIONS

Hillary Writtenhouse ♦ Feature Writer

Every year, Kelsie Mauck will automatically wake up around 4:00 in the morning and go up to her big sister's room to wait a couple of hours, to build their excitement about opening presents.

After the time is up, they will wake up their parents. Their mom will get them some orange juice, then they go out into their living room and take their first look at all the presents.

Then they will eat breakfast and start their "scavenger hunt." The scavenger hunt starts out with a clue that leads to the next spot where the next clue is. This is where their mom is with their first present. Mauck said, "The scavenger hunt may also lead us out into the 40-degree weather."

Like Kelsie, Rhea Hines gets up early, around 5:00 or 6:00 a.m, and opens presents with her family. Then Hines and her family start to open and play with the gifts they have received.

Then Hines and her family go to her grandparents' house in Eaton. There they eat lunch and after lunch they all go to the living room and the grandchildren take turns passing out gifts. The tradition is that while they are passing out presents they have to wear a Santa hat.

HOT TOYS THIS SEASON



Jessica Quakenbush ♦ Feature Writer

The child development class had a Christmas party for the children where they met Santa. Most of the little girls in the class wanted a new baby doll, such as a Disney Princess doll. Most of the boys wanted sports equipment such as a basketball or baseball or action figures such as Spiderman.

CAROLS & SNACKS

Lauren Foster ♦ Feature Writer

Christmas carols spark a variety of different memories for DHS students. Freshman Danielle Kischuk likes Silent Night because her mom used to sing it to her when she was little, before she went to bed. Freshman Ben Anderson likes Jingle Bells because when he hears them he feels warm and fuzzy inside.

Christmas time is a great time of year to splurge on treats. Sophomore Maeci Evans loves cookies because Santa loves them too! Freshman Danielle Kennedy likes creamed eggs. Sophomore Ronnie Davenport likes cookies and milk because he usually doesn't eat them any other time than Christmas.

FUN & GAMES

Top Five Holiday Games

1. **Snowball fights** - 48 votes out of 106
2. **Sledding** - 11 out of 106
3. **Football** - 6 out of 106
4. **Ice skating** - 4 out of 106
5. **Basketball** - 3 out of 106

UNWRAPPED

Alex Wagner ♦ Copy Editor

Clothes were the number one item on students' Christmas lists, receiving 20 of 106 survey votes. Most people wanted this for Christmas because they needed them.

Sophomore Lauren Letsinger, "I'm girly, and girls like clothes."

Another student interested in clothes is freshman Cassandra Scroggins. Scroggins wants clothes because she likes to keep up with the new styles.

Some other people were not as interested in clothes as they were other things.

Sophomore Dan Buis, a penguin enthusiast, wants penguin paraphernalia for Christmas. "I really like penguins," he commented.

Some people want dogs just because they are cute, but freshman Nicole Terry wants a new dog so she can show it at dog shows.

Top Five Holiday Gifts

1. **Clothes** - 20 votes out of 106
2. **Money** - 15 out of 106
3. **Cell Phone** - 9 out of 106
4. **Car** - 8 out of 106
5. **Movies** - 7 out of 106

Girls' basketball team builds with freshmen

Dan Klingenberg ♦ Photo Editor

Sarah Miller is the only freshman starter and one of two on the varsity girls' basketball team list. When she was asked how it felt to start varsity she said, "I was ecstatically ecstatic."

She also said she was not surprised when she was part of the varsity team as a freshman because she has been playing all her life. She has played on a 16-and-under Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) team.

Glen Stewart, the first-year head coach of the girls' basketball team, said, "Miller is a tremendous asset to the team.

The Roster

Seniors - Malorie Smith, Chandra Hart

Juniors - Kelly Costello, Emily Nickels, Whitney Whitehair

Sophomores - Katelyn Eskew, Emily Miller

Freshmen - Sarah Miller, Demi Selvey, Alissa Calhoun, Ashley Kilmer, Libby Arnold, Kaleigh Reynolds, Brooklyn Case, Paige Stafford-Vest, Caitlin Sanders, Brittany Schwarzkopf, Nicole Terry

Managers - Amanda Hines, Kristina Koenig

Head Coach - Glen Stewart

Assistant Coach - Traci Rudy

J.V. Coach - Rachel Grider

She brings a lot to the court and is our best ball-handler. She can still improve and is starting to really fit into a leadership role."

Miller says she has learned that she has to work harder to pose a challenge to the other teams that are much bigger and stronger than the middle school teams were.

Miller modestly said she only hopes

that she is able to make the team better. Teammate Demi Selvey said, "She is a good point guard with an aggressive style, and with a good point guard, the team, obviously, will be better."

This season the team has gotten off to a slow start at 3 wins and 6 losses going into a game against Muncie South at home.

The girls have wins over Blackford, Winchester and Cowan while scoring 40 points in each game and losses to New Castle, Alexandria, Elwood, Mt. Vernon, New Palestine and Muncie Central.

"We are getting better with every game," said Coach Stewart. The team should have a good chance to slide in and steal the sectional title, he added.

For the next couple of seasons the team shows a lot of promise with only two seniors, three juniors, two sophomores, and 11 freshmen. With a big smile on Coach Stewart's face he said he is really looking forward to coaching the future teams and that a coach can ask for nothing better than a JV team made completely from freshmen.

The team also has two freshmen on the varsity team. Their experience will rub off on the other freshmen when it is their time to play varsity.

A senior member of the team, Chandra Hart, said, "Having a freshman as a starter is good for the team."

Freshmen Alissa Calhoun (left) and Demi Selvey converse during a basketball game. Photo / Kayla Cross



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It starts with defense

Boys' basketball team again holding opponents under 50

Jarred Brooke ♦ Feature Writer

TIGHT DEFENSE

Points allowed per game by our defense during the last 10 boys' varsity basketball seasons:

Season	Avg. Pts. Allowed
2004-05 (so far)	47
2003-04	45.6
2002-03	48.1
2001-02	48.9
2000-01	51.9
1999-2000	51.1
1998-99	56.5
1997-98	52
1996-97	57.4
1995-96	58.1
Total	51.7

Source: www.ihsaa.org

Last season, the boys' varsity basketball team allowed an average of 45.6 points a game.

The Class 3A state champions, Evansville Mater Dei, allowed 56.2 points a game.

"We take pride in playing our defense. That's why our defense is good," said Coach Paul Keller.

The team works hard on defense in practice every day.

"We practice all the small things of defense, like talking and asking for help," said junior Andy Kennedy.

In the last 10 years, Delta has averaged 51.6 points allowed per game.

"Good defense keeps you in tight games you would not be in if you didn't play good defense," said Kennedy.

This year's team lacks size inside, and so Kennedy has to guard bigger players instead of using his arm length to harass smaller guards.

The team has a record of 3-2, including wins over Monroe Central, Cowan and rival Yorktown.

The two losses are to Pendleton Heights and Muncie Southside.

In these five games, the team has allowed an average of 47 points a game. This is the fourth year in a row that opponents have scored less than 50 points per game against our team.

"We put pressure on the ball and attack the ball," said Kennedy.

"No matter what sport you play defense will win you championships," said Coach Keller.

Hitting the SLOPES

Alex Wagner ♦ Copy Editor

Snow is in the air and that means only one thing for freshman Emby Duncan. Snowboarding.

Duncan's interest toward snowboarding was set upon him by what other than TV. Watching the X-Games, an extreme sport tournament, first interested Duncan in a snowboard at the age of eight. The X-Games usually consist of skateboarding, biking and snowboarding. Once Duncan saw this he had to get one for the small hill he has outside his house. He begged for his parents to get him one. Begging finally paid off on Christmas day when Duncan received a new snowboard. Immediately, he ran outside and tested it on the hill near his house.

Now, Duncan goes to Mad River Mountain in Ohio. Duncan enjoys this place because he likes how they create their own snow. "Going down a hill is really fun and an adrenaline rush," he said. Duncan gets up to speeds of 40 mph when riding down a hill.

Duncan has been very fortunate with injuries. The worst injury he has had was a twisted ankle. "I don't get hurt," Duncan said.

Another snowboarder is senior Jared Burt. Burt also got interested in snowboarding by watching the X-Games.

Burt likes going to northern and southern Michigan and Ohio. He makes these trips about five times a year.

Burt started out renting snowboards until he was 16 and went out and bought himself the snowboard he owns now. He bought a K2 snowboard.

Burt has suffered only a few injuries, but one of them was serious. He broke his collarbone. Burt has also suffered a bruised shin.

Burt enjoys the freedom and constant thrill of snowboarding. "I like how you can be alone when you are going down a hill," he said.

When it comes to tricks, Burt can do grabs, which is grabbing the snowboard and spinning, and 180's, which is turning around halfway on a jump.

"Most people think it is easy to snowboard. You'll find out that it is a lot harder than it looks to just stay up," Burt said.

"It's a constant thrill [riding down a slope] because it's so easy to fall without even knowing it's about to happen. You are helpless when you fall," said Burt.

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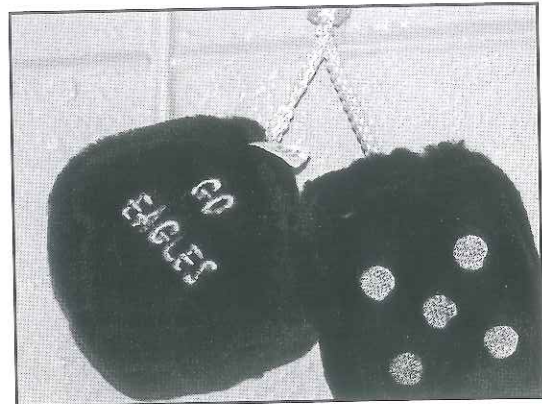
Compiled by
Maggie Dely and Jarred Brooke ♦ Feature Writers

2 This hand-constructed backdrop serves as a calming focal point in this teacher's room.



1

Have you seen this interesting mask from South America in any of your teachers' rooms?



3

These fuzzy dice can be found dangling from a chalkboard in which teacher's room?



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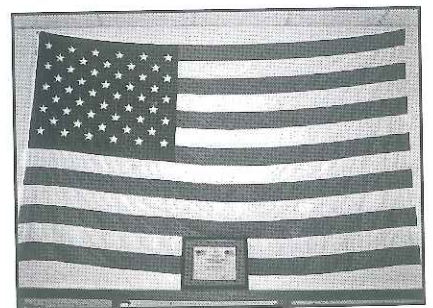
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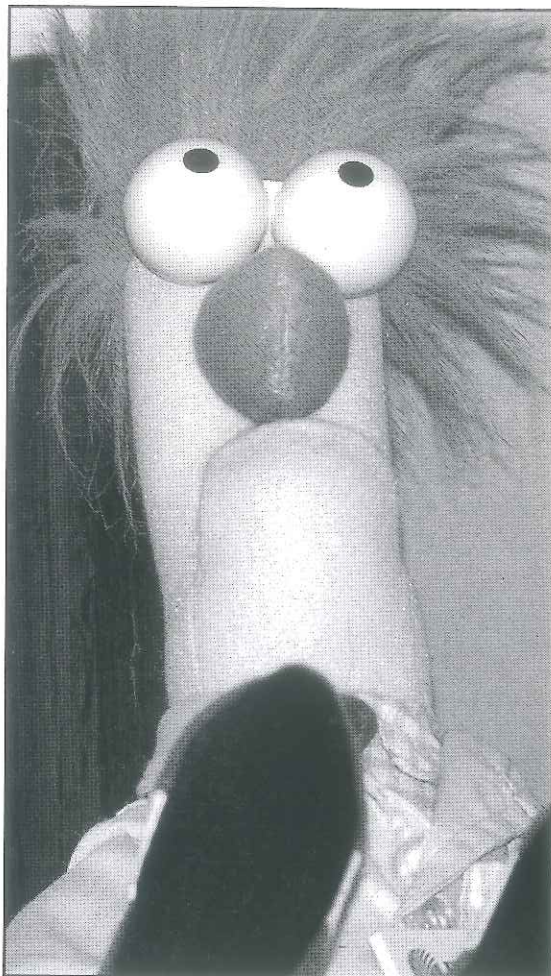
4

This flag was flown in Washington, D.C., in remembrance of the 9/11 attacks. Who does it belong to?



5

This doll of Beaker can be found in what teacher's room?



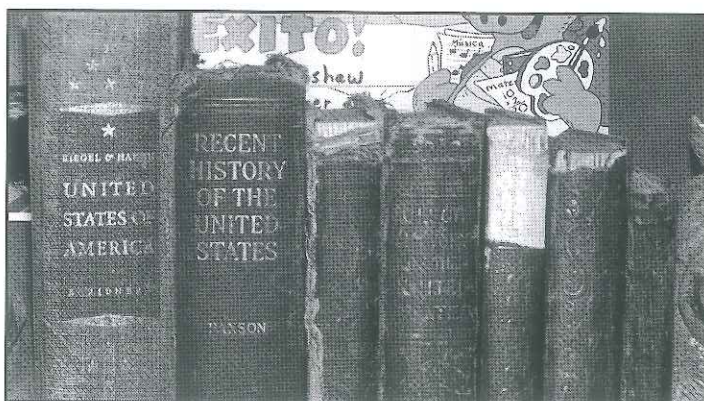
6

Who is the proud owner of this Elvis Presley statuette?



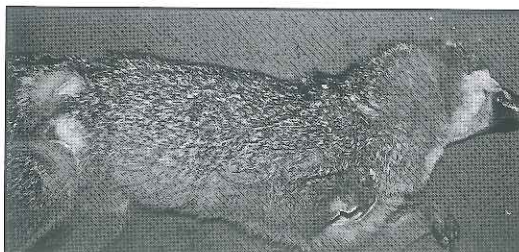
7

These late 1800's textbooks belong to which administrator?



8

This stuffed fox belongs to which teacher?



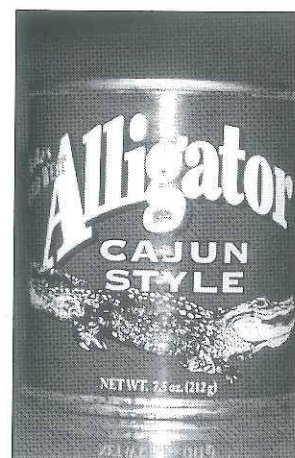
Name _____

Grade _____

WHERE IS IT?

Each of the items photographed on pages 12 and 13 is in the room of a DHS teacher or administrator. Write in the name of the teacher or administrator in each blank. Turn in to Mr. Cleland in Room 124 by 3:00 p.m. Monday, Dec. 20 to be eligible for a \$10 prize. If more than one person gets all answers correct, the winner will be drawn at random.

- Photo 1 _____
- Photo 2 _____
- Photo 3 _____
- Photo 4 _____
- Photo 5 _____
- Photo 6 _____
- Photo 7 _____
- Photo 8 _____
- Photo 9 _____



9

What teacher owns this can of alligator meat?

ROAD TRIP

Girls' Track

According to senior Allison Cook, the funniest thing that has happened to the girls' track team was when they were coming back from Conference and stopped at a McDonald's. Cook said, "This old, junked-up Jeep pulled up and this seven-year-old kid jumped out and had a mullet so long it went to his knees! Everyone was laughing so hard and we all asked to take a picture with him!"

Senior Amanda Rybarczyk always has a fun time on road trips, laughing it up with friends Nicky Sutton, Leah Pichtel, and her sister, Megan Rybarczyk. After one late meet when the team had stopped at a fast-food place, the exhausted team piled back on the bus. "Nicky was walking down the aisle and tripped over a bag and almost went flying," Rybarczyk said. "We laughed almost all the way home."

Volleyball

The funniest thing that senior Amanda Goebel has witnessed on a road trip was "when Kristy Cox was dancing on the back of the bus on the way home from state."

"It seems whenever you put a group of volleyball players on a bus, something strange or weird happens," said Cox, a senior. "The funniest thing [that happened to us] was when our bus broke down on the interstate and we were stranded for an hour and a half."

She still laughs at how a state trooper came and drove the girls to the bathroom but didn't take Kim Ballinger.

Last year on an overnight trip, Cox had the whole volleyball team in her room, dancing to "Baby Got Back."

Stories Compiled By
Kristin Crider ♦ Copy Editor

Boys' Tennis

The boys' tennis team is full of hilarious road trip stories. Senior Ryan Mochal summed up a few. Mochal says one funny story was "when DJ [Daniel Jackson] put a nickel up J.D. [Greenlee]'s nose and he could not get it out."

On the way home from another tournament, "Jeff Kenefake depantsed Alan Robinson while he was ordering [at a restaurant]." Despite losing his shorts, Robinson finished giving his order and then pulled up his shorts.

Concerning overnight trips, the team had a memorable stay at Jeffersonville. Mochal said, "Freshman year, the seniors threw Bryce Bow into the pool with all of his clothes on," Mochal said, "They then took off his socks and started tossing them into the air to try to stick them on the ceiling. Then they got one of his socks caught in the rafter...and it was still there the next year!"

On another overnight trip, senior Todd Darroca recalls the time that he and senior J.D. Greenlee - "the good boys" - pranked Coach Tim Cleland's room. They piled all the room furniture on top of the coach's bed.

Boys' Basketball

Senior Ryan Pokorny had some stories to tell concerning basketball road trips. "We were at McDonald's in New Castle and on the overhead menu it said, 'Sorry, we're out.'" Joel Nickels, completely deadpan, asked, "Do you have any more 'Sorry, we're outs'?"

On a summer overnight trip to Lafayette, junior Michael Capstick wouldn't get up out of bed in the morning and said in feigned gravity, "Tell coach I'm not going."

Senior Bryce Bow said that on the same trip Capstick would talk to his food at McDonald's when he didn't think anyone was looking.

Wrestling

Sophomore Jordan Moran has an amusing memory of the wrestling team's trip to the Plymouth Invitational, but it might not have been amusing at the time.

"I decided to throw a piece of gum at my coach," he said. "He pulled over on the highway and screamed at me."

Boys' Swimming

The swim team's wild hairstyles create odd conversations wherever the team goes.

Junior Sam Pelkey says that one time when the team went to the movies, a woman there asked a teammate why their hair was bleached. "He said we were in a bleached hair cult and we were looking for someone for a blood sacrifice," Pelkey says.



Boys' basketball players ride the bus (above) on the way to a game at Yorktown earlier this month.

(Below) The boys return on the bus after getting a victory at Yorktown.

Photos by Mike Capstick



What they do on the road ...

Wrestling: Talk, sleep, pull pranks, and play with the emergency exit.

Volleyball: Entertain themselves by jumping on people to wake them up. Listen to JV team screaming and varsity team laughing.

Boys' Tennis: Re-enact MAD.tv or SNL, especially Will Ferrell. Tell funny stories. Talk about random things. Make fun of each other (all in good humor, of course).

Boys' Basketball: Listen to CD players, sleep, and play poker on their cell phones.

Girls' Track: Talk, play cards, sleep, listen to music, dance and sing to the radio, wave to people in cars, laugh.

THE BUCK STOPS HERE

Sophomore Charles Harvey bags what could be a state-record deer.

Jarred Brooke ♦ Feature Writer

At 6 a.m. sophomore Charles Harvey was just getting in to his tree stand in his woods near Albany without the slightest idea that on that day, Saturday, Nov. 20, he would bag the biggest buck in the state of Indiana.

At 8:10, Harvey saw the record buck about 400 yards away. It was walking straight towards him. At 8:30 Harvey saw the buck from about 80 yards. It took off running.

"I saw it running and all I had time to do was shoot it on the run," said Harvey.

"Luckily, I hit the deer's back leg or I would have never got it." The deer was 184 pounds and had 16 points on the antlers and was shot with his 12 gauge Remington 870.

"After I hit the deer, I nearly jumped from the tree stand I was so excited," said Harvey.

Harvey had to shoot the deer three more times to kill it. The first thing Harvey did after the buck was dead was show his dad. It was the biggest buck they had ever



Harvey

seen.

After killing the deer Harvey took the deer to a taxidermist, a person who mounts deer. The taxidermist is going to put the front half of the deer into a scene.

The size of a deer is determined by the points on the antlers, the width of the points and the circumference of the antlers. They also use a green score, which is the total of the deer. Harvey scored a 196. The record buck scored a 195. Even though it won't be official for 60 days after the mount, Harvey said, "I am very confident that the deer will beat the state record."

New goals for a new year

Virgil Jones ♦ Feature Writer

On Friday nights while others are out having fun junior Sara Hart is usually at home doing nothing.

Her New Year's resolution is to change that in 2005.

"I never do anything. I do not feel productive. My whole life is sleep, eat, swim and then eat some more. It's crazy," said Hart.

While many students sleep in on Sunday mornings, sophomore Kristen Davis is getting ready for church.

Her New Year's resolution is to get closer to God.

"I used to be closer to Him, but I seem to be drifting away," said Davis.

Senior Kendale Scott's New Year's resolution is she would like to live life to the fullest and take one day at a time.

"I would like to get more things done and have more fun," said Scott.

She feels that teenage life is taken too seriously and that we should just relax and have fun and not have so much stress and worries in our young adult lives.

Freshman JC Johnson said he is trying to quit all his bad habits for his 2005 resolution.

"The two biggest things I'm trying to quit is biting my fingernails and the other is very bad for my health," said Johnson.

Johnson will begin to bite his nails when he is nervous or if he has a big exam coming up.

Substitute teacher Mrs. Lynn Littler's resolution is to have better time management and not to procrastinate.

If a project is due Friday morning, Mrs. Littler waits till Thursday night to get started.



Donya Anthony does crunches with help from Chelsea Dargo. Photo / Virgil Jones

"Procrastination can be too easy, and there are not enough hours in the day," said Littler.

Junior Josh Engelbrecht's resolution is to stop swearing at teachers and students and to stop giving vulgar sign gestures.

"The reason I want to stop is so I don't get into trouble and so I won't get suspended," said Engelbrecht.

Walking around school and pointing and laughing at her friends' toes is something that sophomore Clair Berry would like to stop for her resolution.

"My friends cannot help what their toes look like and how they are shaped," said Berry.

The reason she laughs at her friends' toes is because she says, "They look like little goblins."

Junior Donya Anthony has been working on getting abs of steel. That was last year's and this year's New Year's resolution. "I've been doing crunches every night for the past year."

Her daily routine right before bed is 200 crunches. If junk food occurs, then it's usually 350-400 crunches a night.



KRISTIN CRIDER BEHIND BLUE EYES



Obstacles to prevent one from playing ping-pong are few. A modicum of skill is required to keep a decent rally going, the scoring is simple, and little to no athletic ability is needed. One would think that since I have played ping-pong for a number of years I would have no trouble at all peacefully rallying with a friend. Those who would think this haven't met Kit.

Kit is the calico scourge of my household. No crumb of food, no platform shoe, no ping-pong ball is safe from her all-seeing pair of green eyes. Full of herself, she struts her stuff and bullies her companions. But no one can ever seem to bring himself to punish this trilling, fluffy cat who stares worriedly at you with big kitten-eyes till she is convinced that she's melted your heart.

While cats are vastly superior to dogs, in my opinion, Kit rises above all other cats in her three best areas: quick reflexes, intelligence, and mischief-making.

While reading a book, one will barely notice the lazy hum of a fly in the background. Less noticeable than the hum is the slinking, de-clawed feline stalking her prey.

The fly is as good as dead.

There is a crash as Kit leaps at the fly and hurtles into the window screen. In a matter of seconds the pair is battling on the ground as the fly ceaselessly tries to escape and Kit swiftly pins it with an effortless bat of her furry paw. After one witnesses such an amazing display of speed, prowess, and incredible reflexes, the question of superiority between cats and dogs is rapidly answered.

Kit's true enjoyment lies in the game of ping-pong. When she was only a kitten, she leaped onto the ping-pong as my sister and I played and flattened herself

against the net, fascinated as we rallied back and forth. After praising her cuteness, we resumed play.

As one low ball passed over her, Kit suddenly sprang up and spiked the ball downward with her paw. In awe, I passed it to her again, this time a little higher. She leaped high into the air and spiked it back to me. She didn't miss a single ball after that, sometimes doing back flips to reach a particularly tough ball.

Though owning Kit forces my family to never leave a crumb of food unprotected, she has provided us with hours and hours of entertainment, from the moment of hilarity as she makes a face at smelling a sweaty shoe, to the warm-and-fuzzy moments where we find her sprawled in a beam of sunlight next to her sister Precious and her uncle John.

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HILLARY BRADBURN REALITY BITES

A couple years ago, a family moved into my neighborhood. They could have gone to any high school in Delaware County, but they picked Delta. Why? Because of Delta's reputation in sports. But is this really what we want our school to be known for?

Let's face it, Delta is a sports powerhouse. Most of our sports teams are excellent, and a great deal of money is spent to keep them that way.

There is nothing wrong with a strong athletic program, but I believe that sports are overpowering our school's other clubs and organizations. Academic teams, the school's band and choir, and organizations such as the FFA

are just as important as sports are. Where's the recognition for them?

Sports do have their benefits. You get in shape and improve your athletic skills while learning teamwork and cooperation. But they also have major disadvantages. You can get injured, you have less time for schoolwork, and all that rivalry just isn't too healthy. Some athletes (or their parents) just push themselves too hard. They end up all stressed out and unhappy. Or they take sports way too seriously and their emotions go crazy, sometimes even causing them to get into fights.

After graduation, it won't matter if you were the quarterback of the football team, but it will help you immensely if you do well in academics. It will also greatly benefit you to participate in school or community service.

Our school is definitely lacking in the area of character-promoting organizations. Yes, there's the National Honor Society, but not everyone can get into that. We need an organization that everyone can join where the members of the organization will leave this school with more character and integrity that they entered it.

I'm not saying that we should stop being strong in sports or that good athletes should quit. If you are an athlete and have amazing talent, more power to you! But if we all work hard academically and socially as well as physically, then our school will be unstoppable!

GO Eagles!
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A NOTE FROM THE STAFF ...

The staff of *The Eagle's Eye* would like to wish its patrons a safe and happy holiday season and a prosperous new year.

With the number of teens nationwide who visit tanning beds rising, the many health risks associated with the practice often go unnoticed. Who is at risk and what could be the cost for those who are ...

Jillian Puckett ♦ Sports Editor

Burning to be cool

As spring break is quickly approaching, only 64 school days left, many high school students are visiting tanning salons to achieve a golden tan. "You don't want to look pasty white in the winter, and definitely not on spring break," said a bronze Brittney O'Bryant.

Although a tan is attractive, it has a major downside. Skin cancer. Skin cancer is the most common type of cancer and over 1 million people are diagnosed with it every year in the United States alone, according to the American Cancer Society (ACS).

Many high school students do not think that skin cancer will happen to them. "I'm not worried about skin cancer, I don't go (to tanning beds) enough to get it," said junior Ryan Smith. Skin cancer can happen to anyone at any age. People 65 and older have a dramatically increased risk, however, according to the ACS.

Besides the high risk of skin cancer, tanning also can cause eye damage, immune system changes, wrinkles, cataracts, and premature aging of the skin. Use sun block, and if you do choose to go to a tanning bed be sure to use protective eye wear such as goggles.

People with the Greatest Risk of Skin Cancer-ACS

- Have fair skin
- Men are twice as likely to have basal cell cancers and three times as likely to have squamous cell cancers of the skin
- People who go tanning
- People with weakened immune systems
- People with skin disease
- People who smoke

To prevent Skin cancer- ACS

- Stay in the shade, especially in the middle of the day when the rays are the strongest
- Use sunscreen, at least SPF 15 or higher, and apply every 2 hours
- Wear sunglasses
- Don't go to tanning beds
- Cover up, wear a shirt and a hat with a brim

Q & A with Maggie Naffziger

Q: What made you start swimming?

A: I started swimming when I was 6 years old. I was on the Halteman swim team every summer because all of my neighborhood friends were doing it. I started swimming year round when I was 9 because I liked it so much.

Q: What are your season goals?

A: My season goals are to improve my times enough to swim in the top 6 in sectional finals, break the school record in the 500 yard freestyle, and achieve times to let me swim in a Division I college. I'd also like to see our team send girls to state. A funny goal I have is to break a minute in the 100 yard freestyle. It's kind of a constant joke because distance swimmers don't always do well with sprints. Of all the senior swimmers I am practically the last one to break a minute and get a shirt saying I am in the 50 second club.

Q: What is your most challenging meet?

A: I don't know which meet will be our hardest. We just try to



enter each meet with the same mindset that we can do anything we really want to. If anything, everyone's last meet - be it the final dual meet or the sectional - is the hardest meet because it is the last chance you get to do what you've been working hard for the last 5 months to achieve. It all comes down to that last race.

Q: How has the new coach affected this season?

A: He has brought about a lot of change. We have more conditioning practices in the morning and regular swimming in the afternoon.

Q: What will help you reach your goals?

A: I am starting to eat healthier and I'm trying to get more sleep, but there are only so many hours in a day. Other than that I just try to work hard on the sets I am given in practice and see where it takes me.

Interview By Dan Klingenberg

Senior dives into new experience

Skyler Meadows joined the swim team for the first time this year and is doing surprisingly well.

Kailey Good ♦ Features Editor

First big race. Adrenaline is pumping as the first steps upon the starting block are made. There isn't any real pressure since it's the first race and not much is expected. Out of nowhere, once the 50-meter freestyle race is finished, a glance up at the time clock shows 29.6 seconds—an unanticipated time for newcomer Skyler Meadows.

"I thought [racing] would scare me but when I first got on the block and into the water, it just felt natural," Meadows said.

Meadows, a senior who has decided to participate on the boys' swimming team for the first time this year, has had much support as well as many comments that he should have began swimming his freshman year.

Part of his motivation was a fellow senior swimmer, Mike Fair, pushing him to take part in the team this year.

"I wanted him to swim because he said he could do it with no problem," said Fair. "I wanted to prove him wrong."

Although he's doing well, there are still the cons of the new sport. Learning new strokes can be a difficult task as well as making it through the long, grueling workouts. Butterfly receives the number one spot for Meadows as his least favorite stroke.

"I'm like kick, splatter, splatter, drown," Meadows said. "I'm not doing good at getting the dolphin kick down."

Yet he manages to blow everyone's expectations while participating as a varsity cheerleader at the same time. Meadows

has decided to make the best of this year and "go all out"—participate in as many sports as possible while doing it at the height of his capabilities.

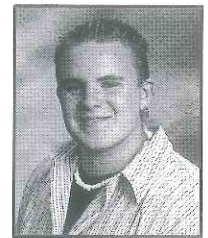
While the cheerleading coach believes that he does not need to be at every practice to be successful, boys' swim coach Mr. Tim Brannock feels a missed practice should be made up.

"I have to get up at 5 a.m. and be in the water 5 minutes till 6 a.m.," Meadows said. "I have to do that every Thursday."

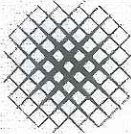
So far, the hard work is paying off and not causing Meadows to regret his decisions to swim this season.

"I like this a lot. I've lost weight and I'm having fun. It feels really good," Meadows said.

A season full of hope for more races, better times and better swims are in the eye of the beginner who has so far been full of surprises.



Meadows



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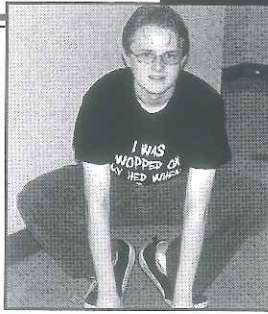
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Go Eagles!



MARSHALL RICHARDSON DARE TO BE MATURE

You're walking down the hall minding your own business when suddenly you feel a small kick on your right heel, sending it into your left foot. This causes you to trip and go sprawling, sending out anything you were holding into the air. You manage to get to your feet and look around just in time to see a group of people laughing and walking away.

Maturity is something as students and young adults we lack. We need to grow up and stop laughing at stupid things that only you find funny and to others is hurtful. We are not children anymore and we cannot go around giggling at every comment like we used to.

I must admit I am not the most mature person in the group, but I know when it is time to shut up or when enough is enough. I know when people have had enough of my mouth.

I have done many things during this school year to test the maturity of the school, some more noticeable than others. On Nov. 8, I wore a skirt to school.

How are we going to be able to live in the real world if we can't even handle a guy wearing a skirt?

Not only that but I put on a pink ribbon around my forearm and head and wore it from third hour on till the end of the day. I was met with disgusted looks and comments that I feel should not be repeated.

People also seemed to be turned away by the way I paint my nails. When I first painted them I got awkward stares that have not seemed to stop. People seemed to be turned off by my new look, and I find this funny.

What I found was there are many people who don't know when to let a subject go. It has been over a month since some of these things have happened, and I still am getting comments about them.

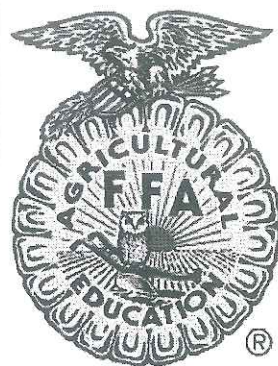
People also are not mature enough to say something

finally got letters to the newspaper, but those people were too cowardly to sign their names to them after the comments they made. This is just as bad as talking behind someone's back, which to me is the worst kind of immaturity.

So for all those who like to poke people, or trip people, or curse, or drive your car so stupidly that you almost wreck, or anything else that people find immature, all I can say to you is "GROW UP". Learn when to shut up and when just to walk away.

This school is supposed to be a stepping-stone to life, but if we have to rely on some of the people in this school then we are all in a world of trouble. We all must learn to act our age, or better yet older than that.

You are now faced with a choice to grow up and get ready for the real world, where these stupid things will not be found funny or cute, or you can stay the way you are.



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Slouching lazily in your desk, pondering the meaning of this imprisonment some call education, have you ever wondered what became of the other souls that passed through this building? Have you ever wondered ...

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Sean Hays ♦ Opinion Editor

It's the middle of your junior year in high school and you have the urge just to give it all up and drop out. But then your conscience kicks in. "What are you doing, stupid?! Light a firecracker under your butt and get motivated." You then realize that college is right around the corner. "What do I want to do?" you ask yourself. Having no clue, you begin to think what some Delta graduates have gone on to do, and this thought motivates you to take action.

Many Delta graduates have gone on to do some pretty spectacular things. One such student is Allison Rufatto, now Allison Ebert, who graduated from Delta in 1995. She is currently completing her doctorate in Neuroscience at Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill.

When she first entered high school, she really had no clue that one day she would be doing stem-cell research in an attempt to cure Parkinson's disease.

"When I first entered high school, I actually wanted to go to dental school," Ebert said.

She was a self-motivated individual, who enjoyed school, but also liked to have some fun.

"I was a good student [graduated as valedictorian]. I could say that I was motivated by having my mom, [former English teacher] Mrs. Chalfant, in the building, but that's not really true. I knew I wanted to go to college and onto post-graduate work, so I had to keep my priorities in line so I could achieve these things," she said.

Even after 10 years she still remembers her most memorable times and favorite classes.

"I really enjoyed Chemistry because I always liked balancing chemical equations and stoichiometry. I also liked psychology because it dealt with the brain and specific diseases [Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, schizophrenia, drug abuse, etc.]," said Ebert.

"I had a great time in high school with my friends and playing sports [swimming and tennis]."

Ebert has been in school for almost 10 years, four in undergrad and close to six in grad school.

"My research has focused on Parkinson's disease, trying to learn more about what causes it and how best to stop it and how best to stop it using gene therapy. Now I am at the University of Wisconsin in Madison studying stem cells for use as a Parkinson's disease treatment," she said.

Stem cells seem to be a pretty big issue in the United States today, and Ebert is among those leading the way in researching

Allison Rufatto, 1995 Delta graduate

Now doing stem-cell research in an attempt to find cures for Parkinson's disease.

and using them. Many argue that stem cells are controversial, which Ebert agrees with. Ebert added that stem cells can be used as therapies or cures for diseases, so they should be studied and used.

So what are stem cells and why are they so controversial?

"In a general sense, stem cells can constantly regenerate to become particular cells in the body [e.g. heart, blood, liver, brain]. There are many kinds of stem cells. There are stem cells that can be taken from the adult, a fetus or an embryo. This is where the controversy comes in because of huge ethical issues concerning getting the cells," Ebert said.

"If cells are taken from an adult, say the bone marrow, no major harm is done to the animal or person, but those cells are pretty much committed to only bone marrow and they may not be able to grow as well," she added. "Fetal stem cells must destroy the fetus to get the cells, but these cells have a greater potential to survive and be manipulated to help develop therapies for diseases."

"The true stem cell is from an embryo, but again the embryo is destroyed. These cells can become anything because they haven't been chemically instructed to become anything yet," Ebert said. "Meaning, these cells can generate heart, brain, kidney, liver, bone, muscle, etc., given the correct environment, which makes them useful for all kinds of diseases."

She is basically doing research to try to discover therapies or cures for diseases. To many, she is a prime example of success. Certainly, her teachers couldn't be happier for the Delta graduate.

"Take advantage of what Delta has to offer in terms of classes, sports, clubs, etc. I was very prepared for college coming out of high school, so that says a lot about the quality of teachers at Delta," Ebert said. "Granted, it's not easy, but it's worth it. Also, if you plan to go to college, get organized; there is always time for fun, but the first year of college is the most important because it's very difficult to play catch-up over the next 3-4 years. Finally, take classes outside of your major; you never know what else is out there if you don't."

STANDING AT THE CROSSROADS

Compiled by Sean Hays ♦ Opinion Editor

Name - Michelle Costello

College - Albion College (Albion, Michigan) or Wittenberg University (Springfield, Ohio)

Reason for attending college - I am going to college to continue learning and prepare for my future career. I haven't decided what my career is going to be yet.

Steps taken in order to get into college - I went to campus visits to all of the colleges that interested me. Then I filled out all of my applications and mailed them by November 1 of this year.

Major - Undecided

Minor - History or Spanish

Hopes and fears - My fears are that it will be too hard and I won't be able to do it. My hopes are that I graduate, have a good career and have fun.



Name - Todd Darroca

College - Ball State University

Reason for attending college - Education is the key to success in life. Also, in order for me to achieve my goals I have to get a good education.

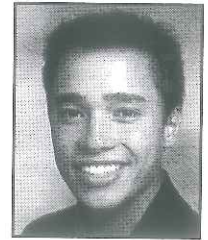
Steps taken in order to get into college - I filled out an application, took a tour, and sent a letter of intent.

Reason for choosing college - I want to major in broadcast journalism, and Ball State is ranked fourth in the nation for telecommunications.

Major - Broadcast Journalism

Minor - Public Relations

Hopes and fears - My fears are getting lost and not finding my classes, homework assignments, not making friends, and not liking my major. Hopes would be getting a great internship, having fun, getting buff, and excelling in my major.



Name - Kim True

College - Purdue University

Reason for attending college - I want out of here! But most of all, I really want to further my education and make something of myself.

Steps taken in order to get into college - I didn't fall asleep much in class. I made attempts at turning in my homework.

I suffered through SATs twice, then shipped my application and thirty dollars off to Purdue.

Reason for choosing college - I fell in love with the school when we first went to see it. I love the atmosphere and the classes. I think it's a great place for me. Plus, it's not here!

Major - Psychology

Minor - Teaching or Biology

Hopes and fears - I have no fear ... except for what I'm going to eat once my dining dollars run out. I hope to do well, meet lots of new people and just have a good, good time.



Name - Kayla Cross

College - Ball State University

Reason for attending college - I've just always known I'd go to college. I also feel like I'd be falling behind in a way if I didn't go to college. I'd also be more qualified for a job.

Steps taken in order to get into college - I've worked hard from the start of middle school keeping my grades up, volunteering and taking classes that I need for college.

Reason for choosing college - Ball State is close to my family and church and I'll have less costs because I can still live at home. Ball State also has a great program for what I'm majoring in.

Major - Fine arts, concentration in Photography

Hopes and fears - I'm looking forward to college. I'm somewhat nervous about the classes, but I'm mostly nervous about my art classes. I've heard from a few people that art professors can criticize pretty harshly.



Name - Megan Estes

College - Ball State University or Purdue University

Reason for attending college - I am going to college because I want to be a veterinarian. You can't be a vet if you don't go to college.

Steps taken in order to get into college - I filled out the application and took them to the counselor and she mailed them.

Reason for choosing college - I really want to go to Purdue

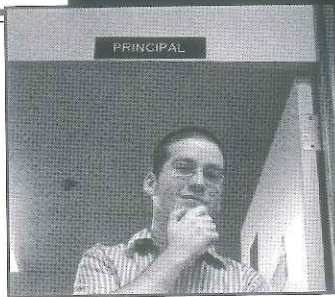
because it is the only veterinarian school in Indiana. Ball State because it's close.

Major - Veterinary Medicine

Minor - Archaeology

Hopes and fears - I hope to finish. I fear meeting all the new people and not finishing.





SEAN HAYS ME AGAINST THE WORLD

It's the weekend, and you get a call from your friend at 1:00 in the morning, asking you to come pick her up because she is inebriated. Being a good friend, you get in your car and drive to the party location to pick her up. As your friend gets in the car, she passes out. You take her to your house and take care of her, knowing that if she goes home, her parents will have a fit. You make her a bed and call it a night.

In the morning you go to check on your friend who you find is crying. You ask her, "Why are you crying?" She swallows back her tears. "I think I might have had unprotected sex last night at the party," she says. Both of you panic, having no idea what to do. She doesn't want to tell her parents and no one else for that matter. "It takes more than one time to get pregnant," she says. "I'm perfectly fine." For the next month you never bring it up or question it. Out of curiosity, your friend buys a pregnancy test. The test reads positive; your friend is pregnant.

I wonder what she did in that situation. Should she have the baby or have an abortion?

Most of you would say that she should have the baby and keep it or give it up for adoption. I don't think anyone would believe that having an abortion would be her first option, but it is an option nonetheless.

I believe that a woman has the right to choose what she wants to do with her body. Yes, it's HER body. Pretty hard to believe, huh? It doesn't belong to the government, it belongs to her.

I believe that the government CANNOT control a woman's body. By making abortion illegal, you're taking away a personal freedom from a woman. I mean what's next, the outlawing of birth control methods or The Pill? Will government make motherhood mandatory?

Legal abortion can protect a woman's health. For thousands of women that have kidney disease, sickle cell anemia, heart disease, severe diabetes, or other life threatening illnesses, having abortion available has helped prevent serious medical problems or even death from childbirth.

Regardless of the laws in place, young women will still want to have an abortion. They might not want to go through the harsh treatment from their parents, motherhood, or the embarrassment at school. If we make harsh laws on abortion, women will still find other ways to end their pregnancy. Some women could starve themselves or go to some "back alley" unlicensed person to perform the abortion. This can cause death or very serious diseases and put a woman in a dangerous situation.

Yes, abortion should be a last option, but for societal purposes, it is better to have a baby aborted than have it brought up in a poor, neglected family. It will suffer in society and possibly have an attraction to crime. I mean, without abortion, more women will be parents whether they want to or not, and if they are ready or not ready to be a parent.

We all know our parents, back in the day, worked around the clock taking care of us. Kids who are neglected and abused are the ones primarily that get involved in drugs and other criminal activity.

Some people might ask, "What if Ronald Reagan's mom had an abortion?" Some could also ask, "What if Saddam Hussein's or Adolf Hitler's mom had an abortion?" Funny how that works, isn't it?

Every child brought into this world should be a wanted child. If laws prohibit abortion, then there would be a lot of unwanted children brought into this world. This could be a problem.

Do I believe that abortion is morally right? No. Do I believe in a woman's right to choose? Yes.

I think it's important to remember that a woman has to live with the decision of killing her baby the rest of her life. Some care, some don't. I think the main issue is that government cannot tell a woman what to do with her body. It's every woman's civil right. This is what I believe and I'm sticking to it.

POINT / COUNTERPOINT

THE ISSUE - ABORTION

PRO-CHOICE vs. PRO-LIFE



KAILEY GOOD DO YOU LOVE IT?

An informal white ceiling hovers above the head of a woman who is about to change the course of the future. The icy, rigid table underneath her back seems to be the closest to comfortable that she can possibly reach at that instant.

As a suction pump begins to penetrate her womb, creating a vacuum of which the sole purpose is to obliterate an unborn human completely, she most likely has not taken into consideration the weight that the next few minutes will affect the rest of her life as well as the rest of the world's.

The dismembered parts of a murdered human are placed callously in a jar, left for inspection to ensure that the cruel job of abortion has been completed.

What could that child possibly have accomplished? How would he/she have affected the way we would have lived? Who could that child have grown up to become? Why was the chance of life not given to them, just as it was given to their mother and father?

One may argue that a fetus is not human unless it has a heartbeat of its own. On the other hand, many believe that until the child is born, breathing on its own, eating on its own, it is not human; therefore it bears no human rights.

On the contrary, though, the instant that an egg has been fertilized is the exact point when another life begins; another soul embarks on the journey known as life. Whether or not there is a heartbeat, there is a soul that does have a purpose.

You may not believe in the same things I do and have a completely different faith. Fine, faith aside, consider this:

A human chromosome—it is what we are made of, it is what began our life. From the moment of conception, the very moment that the egg is fertilized, human chromosomes are there. That is inarguable. No religion, no personal beliefs, it is purely scientific facts.

Most abortions cannot even be performed until a woman has carried the child for nine weeks. At that point, a heartbeat is present, brainwaves are detectable, and every necessary organ is in place. The earliest a partial-birth abortion can be completed is at 20 weeks, which is around the same time a child begins to recognize its mother's voice.

There are many claims that pro-choice activists point out when attempting to argue their case. These are just a few of them, as well as my response:

"What will happen to a child born into a poor or already overpopulated family? Where will the unwanted children go?"

Killing a child will not change the poverty levels in America. A woman who became pregnant while she was poor will not gain wealth by aborting her child; everything will not magically "go away" because that one birth never took place.

"As a woman, I should have the right to decide what I want to happen to my body."

A mother's first responsibility is to care and make the best decisions every day for her children who are not yet independent. Yes, a woman has rights. If she does not want to carry and give birth to a child, she should know that is what she wants and consider that the next time she has sex. If she is not willing to accept and deal with the possible result from sex-pregnancy, then she should not be doing it. Thomas Jefferson stated in the Declaration of Independence that there are certain inalienable rights that cannot be denied to any human being—life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. There has not been an addendum taking away the inalienable rights of unborn humans. Can the child ask if he/she wants to die? Do they not have the right to at least grow up enough and then make that decision for themselves? If their own country, their own mothers decide against protecting them, then who will?

"Is it fair for a woman who has been raped to carry a child? What about a woman who is carrying a sick or disabled child?"

Rape is undeniably a terrifying act against a woman and although rare, pregnancy can be a result. While it may be difficult to carry the child, the baby is also a victim. In studies, it has been shown that a woman who is encouraged into an abortion often feels she has been put through additional violence—the violence of mechanical rape. Often, women can find encouragement by carrying the child for the full term, whether a biological parent or an adoptive one raises the child.

If a traumatic event happens to someone, causing either him or her to be mentally or physically disabled, what is done with that person? As soon as the disability is discovered, do you line them up and kill them? It would be considered prejudice against a disabled person to act in that manner. There is no difference between murdering the unborn disabled and murdering disabled adults.

If the rights of Americans cannot be preserved and we, as a nation, with even the smallest hint of a conscience, cannot protect those who cannot protect themselves, then what will become of us? What will happen to a nation when its moral values have dropped so low as to without a care, murder a defenseless human being? It will cease to function with the principles and freedoms it was founded on.

(Source: National Right To Life www.nrlc.org)

Unique, alternative celebrations

Steve Hopkins ♦ Feature Writer

Amanda Hansel

Jesus Christ, the Son of God or a prophet? This is the main difference between Christianity and Judaism. With her dad being Jewish and her mother Catholic, Amanda had to make a difficult decision about her own faith.

At age 13 she researched the religions and attended both places of worship.



After much deliberation, Hansel decided that Catholicism was the right faith for her.

"I believed in Jesus being the Son of God," said Hansel.

Both of her parents were supportive of her decision and she still respects her father's religious beliefs, even when others scrutinize him.

"We have had someone dressed as a Nazi come to our door on Halloween," said Hansel. "I don't think it is right for people to make fun of others because of their beliefs."

Amanda will join the Air Force after graduation.

"My dad just retired from the Air Force and I want to be a part of it too," said Hansel.

Kim Nguyen

Senior Kim Nguyen, a foreign exchange student from Vietnam, is a Buddhist.

Living in the United States, where the population is predominately Christian, would appear to be intimidating for Kim, but she says that she is doing just fine.

"I don't think that people think bad about me for being Buddhist," said Nguyen.

During this time of year,

Buddhists celebrate the New Year. They follow a lunar calendar. Their celebration is different than the New Year that Christians celebrate.



"The Buddhist celebration of the New Year is a little weird by your standards, but I love it," said Nguyen. "We dress up in traditional clothing and pray for good luck at the Pagoda."

"The children also receive money from the elders," said Nguyen. "It is our biggest holiday."

Elliot Johnson

A knock on the door is heard from the family room and you get out of your easy chair to answer it. A young man stands outside in the cold with a smile on his face and some pamphlets in his hand. He greets you and begins to explain why he is there. He is a Jehovah's Witness.

Elliot Johnson is a Jehovah's Witness. He goes from door to door trying to inform people of his religion.

Jehovah's Witnesses have very specific beliefs.

They do not celebrate Christmas

even though they believe Christ is the Son of God. After extensive study of the Bible, they believe that Christ was born in the fall.

The only religious holiday that they celebrate is the Memorial of Christ's Death, similar to most Christians' Easter celebration.

Some people are a little confused when Johnson first tries to explain his religion.

"Most people just don't understand where I am coming from," said Johnson. "But once they get the general idea of it, they do not treat me any differently."

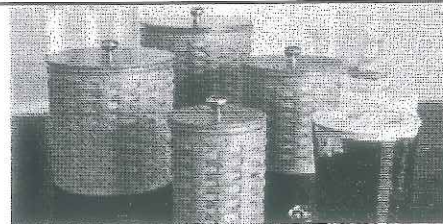
The parents decide at age five if they would like their child to be a Jehovah's Witness. Around 13, the young Jehovah's Witness is to confirm their beliefs.

Johnson plans to further his religious study after high school.

"I want to put in extra hours so I can become a pioneer," said Johnson. A pioneer is someone who goes above and beyond with his or her service.

Johnson also wants to go to Bethel, located in Massachusetts. Bethel is the center point of the Jehovah's Witnesses religion.

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*****LEARN TO LIVE LONGEBERGER*****

Loose Ends...

Your monthly guide to everything Delta.

Monday 12-27-2004

The boys and girls swim teams will compete at the Ben Davis Invitational on December 27, 2004. This is sure to be an exciting meet. Don't miss the chance to come out and support the Eagles!



Photo / Todd Darrocca

Tuesday 01-11-2005

The Varsity Boys Basketball County Tourney will be held here on January 11, 2005. If Delta gains a victory, they will play in the County Championship semifinals on Jan. 14 and then maybe the finals on Jan. 15. Come out and support the Delta Eagles!



Photo / Andrea Jobe

John H. Brooke

BROOKE ♦ MAWHORR

Attorneys At Law

P.O. Box 1071
112 E. Gilbert St.
Muncie, IN 47308-1071
jbrooke@brookemawhorr.com

765-741-1375
800-481-0900
FAX 765-288-7763

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Monday 12-20-2004

-Semester Exams

Tuesday 12-21-2004

-Semester Exams

Saturday 12-25-2004

-Delta vs. Broad Ripple on the Brain Game (Ch. 13; 1:00 p.m.)

Monday 12-27-2004

-Boys/Girls Swimming at Ben Davis Invitational TBA

Saturday 1-01-2005

-New Year's Day

Monday 01-03-2005

-Students Return (2nd Semester begins)

Thursday 01-06-2005

-Varsity Wrestling County at Wes-Del 4:00

Saturday 01-08-2005

-Senior Ball at the Civic Center 7-11
-JV/Varsity Girls Basketball at Pendleton Heights 1:00
-Girls Swimming at Bloomington North

Monday 01-10-2005

-Gymnastics Here Northwestern 6:30
-Varsity Girls Basketball County Tourney at Yorktown

Saturday 01-15-2005

-Varsity Girls Basketball County Tourney Championship 6:00
-Varsity Boys Basketball County Tourney Championship 8:00

Monday 01-17-2005

-Martin Luther King Day (No School)
-Freshman Boys Basketball at Rushville 6:00
-Gymnastics Here Muncie South/Western 6:30

Frequent text sender gets big me\$\$age

Brittney Houser ♦ Feature Writer

Sophomore Justin Richards walked into his bedroom, turned on some tunes, saw his cell phone bill lying on his bed, opened it and screamed.

Richards said he texts about five times throughout the school day, and it's \$2.99 to send one and 50 cents to receive one.

His last phone bill was a total of \$146. He spent \$140.50 for sending texts and \$5.50 in receiving.

"My first 100 texts were free, but I used them up within two days," says Richards.

He got his Verizon Wireless LG phone for his 16th birthday, and he is on a family minute plan.

"The reason I got this phone is because it was shiny and I was attracted to it," said Richards.

"I was told to cut down drastically on the text messaging, but did I listen? I think not!" said Richards.

Since he didn't cut down on the text messaging, he has to pay his own bill now.

During class, sophomore Shantel Hines sometime texts to either her boyfriend, Shane, or to her friends.

Hines has a Verizon Samsung phone and it cost her \$57. "My mom and I share the minute plan. It's cheaper that way," said Hines.

She got this plan because Verizon customers can talk for free and her mom knows that she loves to talk on the phone to all her

friends and boyfriend.

Sophomore Billy Helwig said he uses his Virgin Mobile to text during class to get help with homework. "I have a prepaid card of minutes, and it costs \$25," said Helwig.

The reason he has a minute plan is because he isn't 18 and can't get a contract.

"The reason I got a cell phone is so my parents can know where I am because I'm never home," said Helwig.

Justin Richards is a frequent user of cell phones and text messaging. Photo / Brittney Houser



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