



Smoke Signal

50¢

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Pocahontas High School

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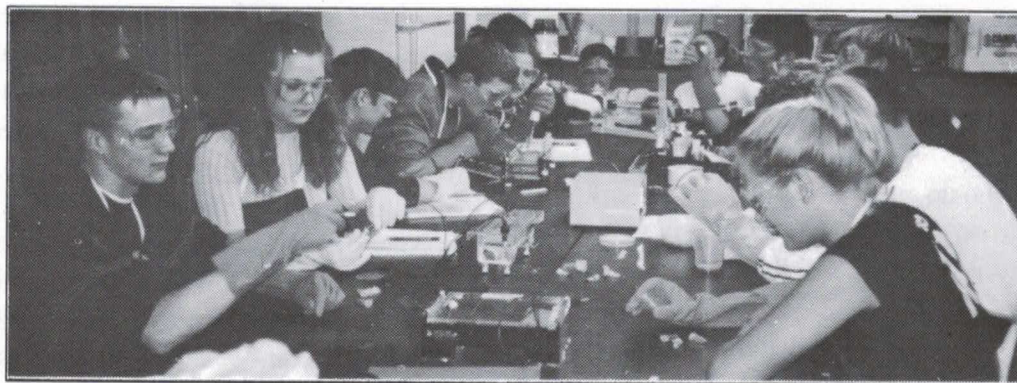
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Surprise your
Valentine with an ad in
the *Smoke Signal*

and more!!

AP Biology added to curriculum



AP Biology students work in the lab. They are (Clockwise from front L) Ryan Swindle, Lindsay Baltz, Evan Waggoner, Casey Grissom, Kristin Morris, Lauren Pennington, Erin Sullinger, Jennifer Collins, Bradey DeClerk, T.J. Thompson, Tara Kendall, Alex Burns, and Bridgette Kick

By Brent Miller

A change has been made in the PHS curriculum this. In the past seniors have had the option of taking advanced biology, but this year teacher Betty Busby and the administration chose to make the class advanced placement biology (AP).

The biggest differences between advanced and AP are labs and content.

"The students are striving to complete the AP level labs. The labs are more intense. We also cover the basics in much more detail," Busby said.

"In Advanced Biology we basically did anatomy. We still do some anatomy, since there is not an anatomy course offered. Essays are also very important in AP."

"It is a very demanding class. The labs are a challenge, but it is a 5.0 class now, so it is not supposed to be easy," student Jennifer Collins said.

AP classes count as a 5.0 on a 4.0 scale. This gives students a chance to

raise their grade point averages if they are willing to do the extra work required to gain the 5.0.

Currently PHS offers four advanced placement classes: American history, calculus, English, and biology.

Switching to advanced placement requires special training.

"Once I asked for it and the administration okayed it, I had to train for a week and a couple of weekends as well," Busby said.

She considers the AP classes a challenge and commends those students who are willing to leave their comfort zones and go out and challenge themselves to reach just a little higher.

"My advanced students always deserved AP credit, so now they're getting the credit they have deserved all along," Busby said.

"It is a good course that helps students rise to the top and use the ability they've always had."

Military conflict influences students

Options, lives, and homes are changed by the war in Afghanistan

By Lindsey Luther

Since the events on September 11, things have changed. Those seniors who do not know what they are going to do after they graduate now are more closely considering their options.

Some of them are looking to the military. Because of the war in Afghanistan, more people are joining the different branches of the military every day.

Some seniors commented that they would choose to help fight terrorism for our country.

"Yes, I would because I love being a U.S. citizen," Michael Secrest said.

Jeremy Stout was undecided.

"If I did, I would because I enjoy having the freedoms that I have. I would like my children to have the

same freedoms," he said.

Chris Wellman is positive that he would go.

"Yes, because America is what I am. I will fight to defend my country and freedom," Wellman said.

Seniors feel strongly about the actions in Afghanistan. Sam Sloan and Noah Wallis believe America's actions are appropriate.

"It is right that the U.S. as well as many other nations are taking an aggressive stand against terrorism. The Taliban are just the first of many terrorist organizations to feel the might and wrath of the Free World," Wallis said.

There are some opposing views though. Heather Burrows thinks differently about the conflict with the Taliban.

"I don't understand why we are

creating a war. Two wrongs don't make a right. We are teaching them not to kill our people, but killing theirs? It doesn't make sense," she said.

A number of seniors know someone who has been called to active duty. Brian Hibbard's father and Mrs. Jeanette Thielemier's husband are two. They are both in the Army National Guard and their unit specializes in infantry. They will be in Colorado for two months for training, and then they will go to Egypt for seven months. They will be there on a peacekeeping mission.

Although he supports his dad, Hibbard said he would not go to fight.

"Because my mom and my sister couldn't do anything without me and my dad," Hibbard said when asked why.

HOBY/CLEWS strengthens leadership skills

By Jill Pecoraro

The Pocahontas Women's Club sponsored HOBY CLEWS, a biannual workshop intended to strengthen leadership skills, at the Pocahontas Community Center Oct. 25.

Twenty-five PHS students attended.

These students were chosen to attend based on an application and a written essay about leadership.

At the workshop students played

games and listened to guest speakers.

The games, dubbed the "mini Olympics", were all intended to strengthen teamwork.

The speakers were various residents and businesspersons from Randolph County. They discussed their jobs, their life experiences, and the importance of leadership in everyday life.

Many of the people in attendance said that they strengthened their leadership capabilities, and, overall, it

was a worthwhile experience.

The selected 25 were Gina Billeaudeau, Barbara Bishop, Brandi Dean, Holly DeClerk, James Girard, Nicole Grissom, Courtney Johnson, Stephanie Nieman, Katie Perry, Rhonda Ricker, Shanna Simpson, Jessica Throesch, Katie Tyler, David Wessel, Leah Baltz, Samantha Hall, Brent Miller, Stan Morris, Ben Thielemier, Lauren Pennington, Tara Kendall, Megan Hausman, Alex Burns, Justin Guthrie, and Ryan Swindle.

Respect: a forgotten concept?

By Elizabeth Crisp

Unfortunately it seems that respect is a concept with a diminishing popularity. It's true that a few people can make the whole look bad.

Recently at a pep rally the marching band performed their halftime/competition show for the student body. It was very disappointing that so many people did not know, or did not care, how inappropriate it was to yell during the middle of a performance like that.

Usually, it is common to hear "Go Skins!" at a football game when the football team makes a good play, but it is not the same with yelling "Go Skins!" during the middle of a song.

The same goes for a drama performance. The most distracting thing imaginable is someone yelling "Go (insert name of actor)!" right before a performer starts or ends a monologue or scene.

One can't help but wonder if people really feel it is necessary or even acceptable to yell and be obnoxiously noisy during such a performance.

For those who do not know rules of etiquette, during a performance of a group of musicians, such as a high school band, symphony, or orchestra, or during a drama performance there are certain behaviors that are expected.

But respect for people goes much deeper than such behaviors at band performances. At every pep rally some students refuse to stand during the alma mater (which in itself is disrespectful to the school) and insist on being noisy during the time that it is played, leaving others terribly annoyed. This is disrespectful to the school, administration, teachers, and the student body as a whole. Free speech does grant us the right to refuse to stand during songs such as the alma mater and the National Anthem, but common sense and manners prohibit us (or should) from making others unable to enjoy and honor these things.

Why is it that at homecoming coronation Mr. Eveland has to announce that it is "not a pep rally"? Is it really necessary that they announce it to keep people from being disrespectful? The sad truth is that it is necessary.

It's not just the students though. At the PHS football games, during the national anthem and alma maters of the schools, people act the same way. They walk around, talk loudly, and act as if they do not even realize what is going on. Not only are the disrespecting their country, and everything that those songs stand for, which, once again is a right that they are given, but more importantly they are disrespecting the people around them that do have reverence for these things.

There are many lessons to be learned in high school, and not all of them in a classroom from a textbook. It is a student's responsibility to know how to use this knowledge.

Smoke Signal Staff

The Smoke Signal is a member of the Arkansas Scholastic Press Association.

Editor-in-Chief: Elizabeth Crisp

Staff:

Lindsey Luther

Brent Miller

Jill Pecoraro

Rhonda Ricker

Amy Whitehorn

Advisor: Janet Crabbe

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See Mrs. Crabbe for details!

All proceeds go to the Arkansas Children's Hospital.

Anthrax scares cause new fear for Americans

By Elizabeth Crisp

A new fear has broken out among Americans. Prior to September 11, people hardly thought twice about receiving a package in the mail. In these recent months a rise in anthrax scares has sent terror through the hearts of millions.

People even opted to toss aside an age-old tradition of trick-or-treating on Halloween for safer, more convenient, organized group activities.

With all of the anthrax myths and hoaxes going around, it becomes hard to tell fact from fiction.

Anthrax is an acute infectious disease and is not contagious. It is caused by the spore-forming bacterium *Bacillus anthracis*.

Anthrax is most common in agricultural regions where it occurs in animals such as sheep, cattle, goats, camels, and other herbivores.

For years anthrax has been considered a "potential" agent for use in biological warfare by the Department of Defense because of certain characteristics of it. The spores are resistant to sunlight, heat and disinfectant, and can remain active in soil and water for years.

It is transmitted in three different forms. They are cutaneous (skin), inhalation, and gastrointestinal/intestinal.

The most common form is the cutaneous anthrax. About 95% of all anthrax cases are of this form. It is contracted when the bacterium enters a cut or abrasion on the skin. This

can occur when handling leather, hides, wool, or hair products of contaminated animals. Infection of this type begins as a raised itchy bump that resembles an insect bite, but within 1-2 days it develops into a vesicle and then a painless ulcer, usually 1-3 centimeters in diameter, with a black necrotic area in the center. About 20% of untreated cutaneous anthrax infections result in death, but deaths are rare with proper medical treatment.

The most severe type of anthrax is inhalation anthrax. It occurs when the spores are taken into the body by breathing. The initial symptoms of it resemble a common cold, but within several days these progress to severe breathing problems and shock. Most cases result in death.

A less common form of anthrax is intestinal anthrax. It is obtained by eating contaminated meat. Intestinal anthrax causes an inflammation of the intestinal tract. Early signs of it are nausea, loss of appetite, vomiting, and fever. These progress into abdominal pain, vomiting of blood, and severe diarrhea. Death occurs in 25-60% of all intestinal anthrax cases.

There is a vaccine for anthrax. It is manufactured and distributed by BioPort Corporation in Lansing, Michigan. It is reported to be 93% effective in protecting against anthrax, but is being reserved for military personnel at the time. It is not available to civilians.

A mandatory vaccination of all active duty military personnel who might be involved in conflict has been

initiated by the Department of Defense.

As for the US Postal Service, the Postmaster General says he eventually wants to start a system to irradiate all mail sent through the USPS.

Irradiating the mail is a technique in which ion-beams or gamma rays are used to render the spores inoperative by crippling their DNA.

This would not be very cost or time efficient though since they handle 210 billion units of mail each year in 300 plants.

For now, plastic gloves and surgical masks are being distributed to postal workers. The use of these items is voluntary, and some postal workers complain that the vinyl and high grade plastic gloves cannot be worn at all times because they make their hands too hot. Also, only masks approved by the Centers for Disease Control are effective in protecting workers.

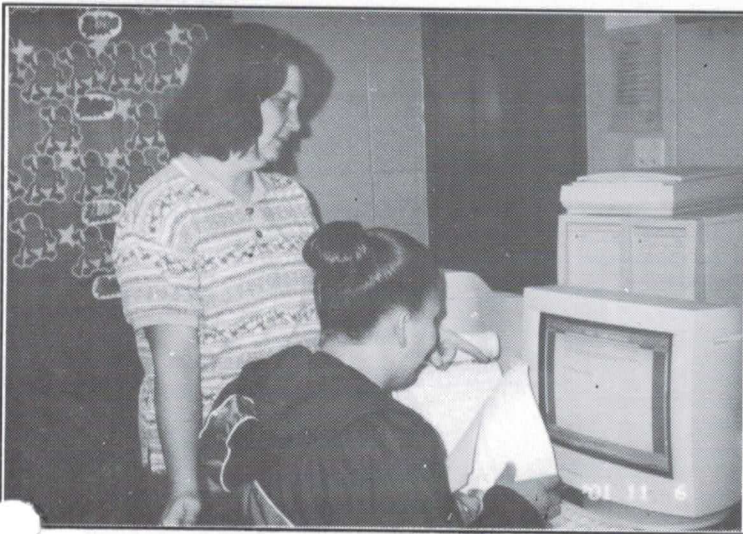
The mathematical odds of receiving an anthrax-contaminated package are pretty slim, considering about 680 million pieces of mail are delivered across the country every day. But the Center for Disease Control suggests that people be cautious of envelopes with unfamiliar return addresses, excessive postage, or arrive wrinkled or stained.

Upon receiving mail with these characteristics, it is suggested to put the mail down immediately, cover it, walk out of the room, shut the door, wash hands with soap and water, and then call the police.

Source: CNN News online

Teacher Spotlight

White influenced by high school teacher



Angie White teaches a junior high student at the computer.

By Amy Whitehorn

Teaching is one of the many things Angie White enjoys doing. She has been a teacher at Pocahontas schools for 10 years. Before PHS, she taught at Williford High School for seven years.

White was influenced to be a teacher by her high school business teacher, Janice Clayton.

"She always expected more from me than I thought I was capable of doing. She wouldn't lower her expectations and I found out I could achieve more than I thought I could," White said.

Out of the various classes White teaches, multimedia applications is her favorite.

"It's the most interesting class and also the hardest to teach. We use up to ten different software packages and the Internet, plus cameras, scanners, microphones, and video editing machines, so it's hard to stay updated on all changes. This is a brand new class that the state is offering, so there isn't any standard way of teaching it, and textbooks have not been developed. The work is individualized so it is hard to know how much time to allow

"The best part of being a teacher is working with young people and being able to encourage them to do their best."

for the projects, and of course when you are working with computers and the internet you're not sure what will happen next!" she said.

"The best part of being a teacher is working with young people and being able to encourage them to do their best."

In addition to teaching, White works on her family's farm.

"My husband and I raise cattle and sell hay and fescue seed as a hobby. I enjoy farm work and anything else that can be done outside," she said.

White said if she could, she would have chosen to work at home and volunteer in community activities, but since she has to pay bills, she wanted to find a job that would either let her be outside as much as possible or was related to a field that she enjoyed.



With the help of Mrs. Judy McClain, retired teacher and devoted Redskin fan Pete Waites cooks for the football team the night before the playoff game against Trumann.

Miller attends world HOBY convention

By Jill Pecoraro

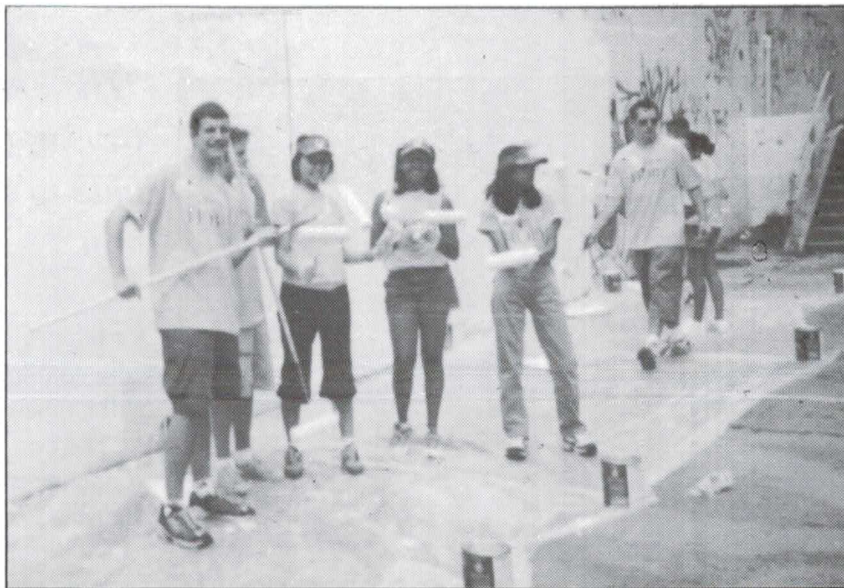
Junior Brent Miller attended the World HOBY conference July 13-21 at George Washington University in Washington D.C.

Miller was the PHS delegate to the state HOBY seminar in May. While there he wrote a series of essays. Based on his essays, a panel picked him to be interviewed. He was then selected as a delegate to the World HOBY seminar.

HOBY is the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leader Program. It was started by Hugh O'Brian to promote leadership. It also gives leaders from all over the world a chance to come together.

"The best part was just growing as a leader. I learned so much that I can apply to my life," Miller said.

Approximately 200 people attended the seminar. The delegates



As a community service project, Brent Miller and other HOBY delegates paint over graffiti on a wall in Washington DC.

came from all 50 states and 23 foreign countries.

"Throughout the week we listened to national and world leaders speak on various topics. We also saw sites

and got to know people from all over the world," Miller said.

"It was so cool. I learned to so much and had the experience of a lifetime, and I'll never forget it."

PHS choir attends tryouts

By Rhonda Ricker

Senior Lee Jacobson earned a position in the Northeast Arkansas All-region choir at tryouts Oct 25.

Tryouts took place at Nettleton High School. Jacobson was the only PHS student selected for the choir.

The selection process required a lot of waiting. When the students got to Nettleton, they got numbers to notify what position they were in to sing. They also had to find out what parts they were trying out for. When it was almost a student's turn, he was put into a room by himself to practice that part. When it was the student's turn,

he was brought into another room where there were three judges to sing to.

Chorus members found the process long and tiring.

"When I got home, I went straight to bed, because the day was so long. The next day I didn't feel like getting out of bed," sophomore Amber Simms said.

Senior chorus students who went to try-outs were seniors Tiffany Casillas, Andrew Huttig, Steven Bagwell, Nathan Burgess, Rusty Farrin, Brandon Swann, and Barrett

Thompson, and Lee Jacobson.

Juniors who attended were Andrea Akins, Joe Hardin, Carrington Gray, Bridget Haynes, Monica Dominguez, Mandy Crosson, Rebecca Marrone, Candice Allen, and Jessica Gore.

Sophomores included Christine Font, Sara Johnson, Katie Carmen, Kendreia Prater; Meagan Tetreault, Courtney Haynie, Amber Simms, and Justin McQuay.

The senior chorus officers are Tiffany Casillas (president), Carrington Gray (vice-president), and Elizabeth Cobb (secretary-treasurer).

Students explain hunting craze

By Lindsey Luther

Hunting is the most popular activity in Arkansas.

Of the people in this state, 77% have a hunting license. Some hunters hunt for the meat, the sport, or just the enjoyment they get out of it.

Students tell other reasons for hunting.

"All of the men in my family have done it, and it is a tradition and just fun to do," junior Carrington Gray said.

"To get away from all the noise and all of the people. It is peaceful and though you have to get up early it is a time to rest and a good time to think," commented sophomore Jason Manis. Caleb Rogers, Michael Hogan, Rusty Amos, and Daniel Hibbard said they hunt for the meat.

Jace Kincade, a sophomore, hunts because he likes a challenge. That is why he hunts with a bow.

"It is more challenging. You must also be closer to them," Kincade said.



Ryan Thielemier displays his "trophy" after a day of hunting.

Nick Martin, a sophomore also, said he would rather have a muzzleloader.

"It will shoot farther and it's way more accurate," Martin said.

In the morning is the more popular time to hunt, though some students go hunting whenever they get the chance.

Ryan Thielemier, a sophomore, killed an 8-point buck. He was very excited and shaky when he was about to shoot it. Thielemier says it's not a tradition to hunt in his family, but they

like hunting very well.

He explained why he hunts.

"I hunt for the fun of it. I like being outdoors and with my friends. I also hunt for the wildgame's meat," he said.

Thielemier said he prefers a muzzleloader.

"A muzzleloader will shoot farther than a bow and doesn't take very much practice."

Thielemier, along with other hunters, have the option of deer, duck, turkey, squirrel, coyote, rabbit, crow, quail, elk, bear, dove, goose, and coon hunting in Arkansas.

Though non-hunters may see hunting as cruel, if the wild game population is not reduced they will over populate the Earth.

In-school suspension vs. Saturday school

By Elizabeth Crisp

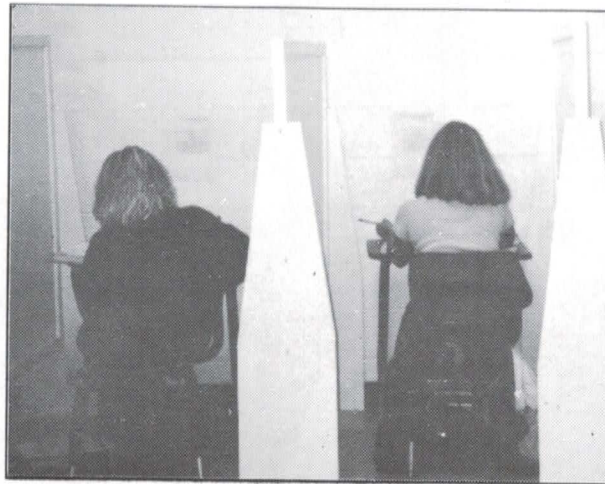
DISCIPLINE and PUNISHMENT: words that every teenager hates to hear.

At PHS there are basically two options for these horrifying 10-letter words.

In-school suspension:
PROS--

- 1) You don't have to wake up early on a Saturday to go to school.
- 2) You don't have to go sit through another lecture by your not so favorite teacher.
- 3) You don't have to deal with that person that sits beside you in class who you ALWAYS have to loan something to, whether it be a pencil, paper, calculator, etc.
- 4) You don't have to worry about how you look for school that day.
- 5) You can finally learn the alma mater (since it's posted on the inside of every "cell")

For minor infractions, such as tardies and PDA, students have the choice of spending time in In-School Suspension (ISS) or Saturday School (SS).



Time passes by as students sit in their ISS cells.

6) You get to have a quite lunch with Miss Mary.

CONS--

- 1) Who wants to spend a day in solitary confinement?!
- 2) Even when the people in actual class have a free day, you have to do work.
- 3) Sleeping in ISS = more days of in-school suspension.

Basically neither of the two options is great. That's why they consider them forms of punishment.

Recently a group of seniors were surveyed about their choice of discipline. It was a close race, 54% chose in-school suspension, while 46% chose Saturday school.

But what really goes on behind those daunting doors? And which should you decide if given the choice? Here is the 411 on ISS and SS.

Saturday school:

PROS--

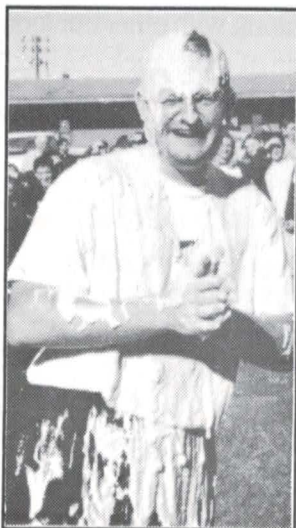
- 1) You don't have to worry about missing out on all the latest happenings during the normal school day.
- 2) You don't have to worry about missing out on an important lecture and then being stuck not knowing how to do your work.
- 3) You get a chance to catch up on your reading.
- 4) You get a school excuse to miss work, get out of family

things, etc.

5) You get out in time to eat lunch somewhere other than school.

CONS--

- 1) School, on Saturday?
- 2) Is it possible to come up with something to do to take up that much time?
- 3) You never know who the Saturday School teacher will be from week to week...

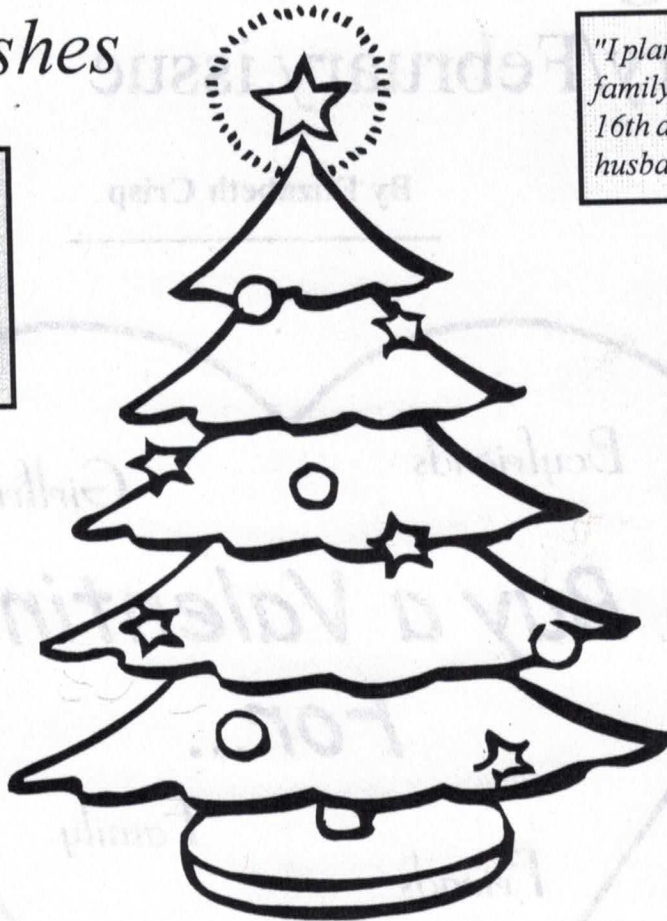


Coach Morgan was covered in slime at a recent pep rally after the team reached their goal of 240 points for the season.

Christmas



Teachers and students tell their Christmas plans and wishes



"I like jewelry, or CDs, but especially money for after-Christmas and January sales! I collect chickens so my kids usually get me something 'chicken.'"--Mrs. Henderson

"I plan to spend time with family and celebrate my 16th anniversary with my husband."--Mrs. Goetz

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"I plan to go to Cleveland, Ohio, to visit with family and friends. I also plan to catch up on my sleep."--Katie Perry.

Lee Jacobson plans to do "as much stupid stuff as possible" and for Christmas he would like to have "interesting school assignments" for the upcoming semester, but he knows "that's not likely."

Heath Ring wants a "2002 Trans Am or a nice sound system."

Denny Moore plans to "hunt and spend time with friends and family."

New clothes and a new camera, a new vehicle.--Alaina Rowe

Kenny Cason plans to "sleep, eat, and vegetate."

Jordan Ramirez plans to "go to Oaxaca, Mexico to visit relatives."

Wish list
Mr. Blaxton
1. Continued Happiness
2. Good Health

Gina Billeaudeau wants clothes, CDs, and books!

essamynn Evers plans to go to St. Louis with family and celebrate her birthday on Christmas Eve.

Amy White plans to go to the Eye to Eye Christian Youth Conference in Hot Springs during Christmas Break and she wants a band letter jacket for Christmas.

Jace Kincade wants a Lab puppy!

Valentine's Ads



Smoke Signal to sell Valentine's Day ads for January/February issue

By Elizabeth Crisp

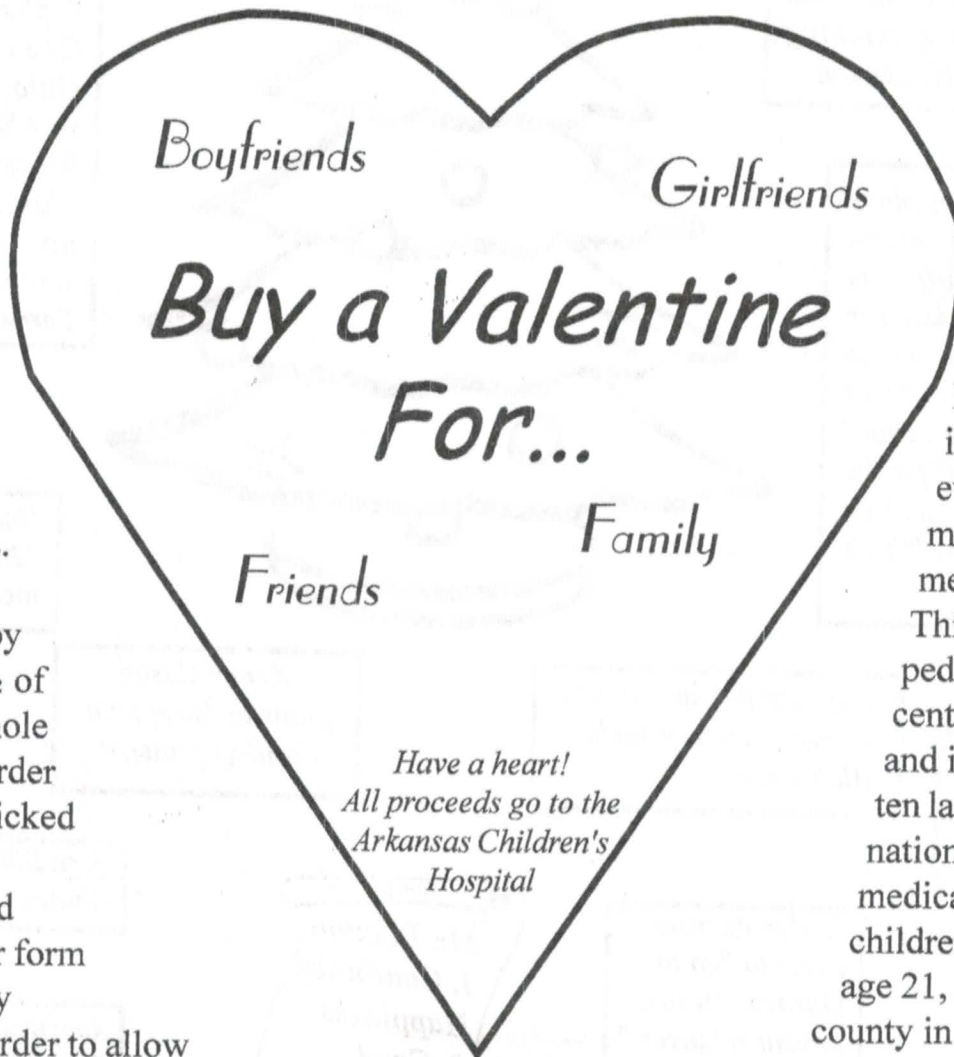
Each club or organization at PHS must perform some act of community service. This year, the Smoke Signal staff will be selling

Valentine's ads.

Students can purchase ads by 1/4 of a page, 1/2 of a page, or a whole page. An ad order form may be picked up in room 6. Students should return the order form and payment by February 5 in order to allow time for printing.

The ads may contain poems, clip art, and/or personal messages to loved ones.

All of the proceeds from the



ads will go to the Arkansas Children's Hospital, a private, non-profit institution. For more than 80 years, Arkansas

Children's Hospital has opened its doors to every child, every day. It began as the Children's Home Finding Society in 1912 and has evolved into a major pediatric medical center. This is the only pediatric medical center in the state and it is one of the ten largest in the nation. They offer medical care to children from birth to age 21, from every county in Arkansas and nearby states. Care is offered to every child, regardless of a family's ability to pay.