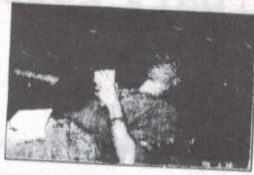
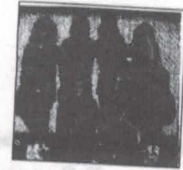




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Pocahontas High School

January/February 2001



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School's blood drive is a success

By Angela Phillips

If one unit of blood can help save the life of one person, then 46 people were helped at the PHS blood drive January 18.

"I decided to give blood because I want to help people. What better way than to give life?" junior Brad Ashcraft said.

Leo Club and Smoke Signal sponsored the blood drive. Leo Club members served refreshments at the blood drive. The Smoke Signal members were in charge of advertisement.

"It depends on the size of the school how much blood we receive. Today we are looking to get about 35 units of blood," Randy Staly, blood drive worker said.

Therefore, Pocahontas gave more blood than Red Cross workers expected.

When donating blood a person has to read an information pamphlet, take a history questioner, and have vital stats taken. Then the nurse scrubs the arm with iodine and betadine and takes the blood.

After donating blood, the donor eats cookies and drinks a softdrink. It takes about five to ten minutes to



Senior Brandi Downum watches as a nurse takes her blood in the library.

give blood and about forty-five minutes for registration and a health check.

The test tubes of blood are sent to St. Louis and the units are sent to Little Rock for distribution. If the tests come back negative for any type of disease, the blood is sent to hospitals all over this region.

"There is a shortage of blood because less than 5% of the population donate and many people don't think about it until someone they know needs it, and most people think they are afraid of needles," Kathy Barber, blood drive worker, said.

"I gave blood because it might save a life, maybe a friend or family member. I was nervous before I gave. It didn't hurt at all. I was expecting a lot of pain, but it

didn't hurt," senior Candice Seagraves said.

"I was a little nervous when she stuck the needle in. It hurt at first, but you get used to it," senior Amanda Guthrie said.

"I thought it was pretty successful considering the fact a lot of people have been out sick. A few people had to be rejected because they were on antibiotics, but everything went really well," Scott Morgan, Leo Club sponsor, said.

See page 7 for more from the blood drive.

News

PRIDE distributes drug survey

By Miranda Pierce

In today's society, drugs have been given an increasing amount of attention. Three times in the past nine years the Pocahontas school district has sponsored a drug survey for students through PRIDE. The survey was given in 1992 and again in 1995, and lastly in 2001.

The questions are centered on how often, how much, and what kind of drugs the students are using. The National PRIDE Database comprises these questions. The results of the survey are returned within a month from the time taken, and then they are reviewed by counselors.

PRIDE members gave the survey in complete privacy of the student. The only thing that can be revealed is the student's grade, age, and gender.

PRIDE has an extensive impact on our community. The district's PRIDE program is allotted \$8,000 a year. This money provides comprehensive drug prevention program and training for the members of PRIDE.

The main purpose of this survey is to find out how often students participate in drug activity. The survey allows the community to see what drugs are most used in our town.

Rachel Wise, a PRIDE member and senior, is positive about the survey.

"I believe that high school students are pressured by themselves to meet other students' standards. Therefore, they participate in drug activity to fit in. I also believe that drugs are a cry for help. We as classmates should never give up on them, but always try and are there for them."

This survey is a way for the counselors and PRIDE to know what drug counseling to focus on.

Councilor Sally Malone is grateful for the students' cooperation.

"The school appreciates the participation of the student body and their honest answers to fairly evaluate the safety issues in our school," Malone said.

Cisco Class

By Lance Williams
and Elizabeth Crisp

There has been a new class added to the PHS curriculum this semester. It is called Cisco, and it teaches students how to work with Cisco technology, such as routers and hubs.

The students of this class are learning how the Internet works and how to set up their own servers and networks. They are also spending their time reading the Cisco curriculum, and taking up to four tests a week.

Some of the benefits of the course are four college credit hours and the possibility of a CCNA (Cisco Certified Network Associate) license, making

the student a valuable commodity to businesses across the nation.

Shawn O' Donnell is the teacher the new class.

\$197.

Allen Archer, one of the ten students taking the class, said that he really liked the class even though they were being rushed this year.

The Cisco class itself is intended to take a full school year to complete, but the students this year are taking the course in half that time.

Students interested in the class that did not have the opportunity to

take it this year will most likely have the opportunity to take

the class in the future.

"The class will always be offered as long as there was an interest," O' Donnell said.



L to R: Nick Sacman, Steven Malone, Justin Walker, Jason Whitehorn, Shawn Hatch, Kent Hubner, and Moya Hawkins pose with their teacher Shawn O'Donnell.

"To set up the class itself cost over \$30,000, but for the student it only costs Black River tuition," O' Donnell said. Black River tuition is about

FFA chili cooking contest

By Lori Turner

didn't have a smooth beginning though; a member forgot the most valuable tool, the cooker. Without the

The clock is ticking, an hour and a half; can the team make it? The tension builds as teammates mix the necessary ingredients.

The identity of the judges had to be withheld from the members until the moment of judging, because bribes

Competitors are all around listening to the strategy. Will this be the winning pot of chili?

mercy of fellow FFA members the team would've had raw chili. The team was awarded cans of beef jerky for their resourceful and delicious chili.

At the FFA chapter's annual chili cooking contest, twenty-five members asked that same question. The contest had members rallied up over who really had the best chili.

"We're just good cooks!" Prince said when asked the secret of their success.

Teams ranging from two to six met in the agri building to challenge each other with their cooking skills. A variety of ingredients were used, including deer meat, hot spices, and salsa.

The announcement of the winning team shocked one group in particular. Apparently they had given the winning team the ingredients for their chili, which this gave the team an advantage.

Judges for this event were Jon and Janet Crabbe.

Derek Baltz said that his team had the biggest pot, which happened to be empty by the end of the event.

"We shouldn't have lost, we gave them our chili powder!" Baltz said.



The winners of the chili cooking contest: (L to R) Bradley Vanwinkle, Micheal Prince, Jason Brown, and Eric Koster.

and sweet-talk have been used by groups in the past.

Michael Prince, Eric Koster, Jason Brown, and Bradley Vanwinkle were the winners of the contest. The team

Drama students see two productions

By Elizabeth N. Crisp

Students taking drama this year are given the chance to see two professional productions.

The first play they attended was on October 9 at UALR. It was a production of the Alabama

Shakespeare Festival entitled "Fair and Tender Ladies."

Twenty-five students went on the trip. They were only required to pay \$10 for their ticket and their meal expenses for the night.

The next play the thespians went to see was on December 6 at the Arkansas Repertory Theater in Little Rock. It was "Joseph and the

Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat."

"Joseph" is a critically acclaimed musical loosely based on the bible tale of Joseph, the son of Jacob, and his coat of many colors.

Twenty-two students went to see it. The students paid \$26 for their ticket and bus expenses, and paid for their meal expenses in North Little Rock.

Editorial

Style wars: fair or unfair?

By Elizabeth N. Crisp

Prep, punk, and jock are among the long list of terms commonly associated with style. But what is style? Is it the result of psychological factors such as self-esteem, peer pressure, and a desire to fit in or stand out? Is it imbedded within a person's genetic makeup, or is it determined by the way they're raised?

Unfortunately, I don't know the answer. No one really does. It's probably different for everyone. But style is a major part of our lives, whether we realize it or not. We've all heard the cliché about first impressions being "everything" and in many cases it's true. As sad and superficial as it may seem, opinions are based on style.

At PHS it is obvious that there are many styles. Style, or a lack thereof,

is displayed through clothes, hair, tattoos, body piercings, and make-up. Of course, these things are in addition to the music we listen to and the cars we drive.

When you look at groups of friends it is almost humorous to see how they tend to dress alike. Is this because friends share certain personality traits that also happen to determine the way they dress, or maybe they just go shopping together?

Some styles are just so risqué and intriguing that you have to love them. Who hasn't relished in the thought of a new, exciting style? Maybe you see someone in a magazine or someone in school and you can't help but think, "wow."

Well, what styles are "in" right now? It's hard to tell. There's the so-called "goat roper" style with cowboy hats and tight jeans, the "raver" style with its excessive amounts of glitter and bright colors, the "prep" style with

names such as Abercrombie & Fitch exhibited, the "jock" style with flight suit pants and ADIDAS stripes, and this list could continue forever. The point is different opinions make almost anything acceptable by someone.

So, what style category do you fit into? It is somewhat harder to classify ourselves as we do others. It's so much easier to say, "she's a prep" or "he's a jock" when referring to someone else, but no one wants to classify himself or herself into such a simple group.

If we can't do it to ourselves, should we judge someone else by these things? You may feel bad for doing it, but everyone does, whether they want to admit it or not. Therefore, if we are all a little guilty of doing this then why do we feel so bad for it?

That's another question I, unfortunately, cannot answer.

Smoke Signal Staff

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

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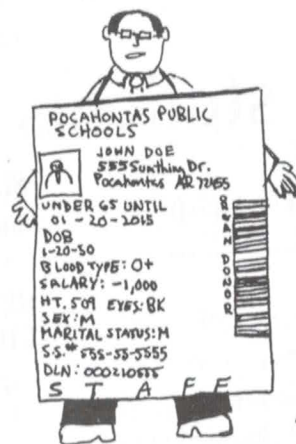
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Mr. Doe is concerned that his ID card may be causing a distraction in his class.



What do they really do in agri?

By Lori Turner

Have you ever wondered what actually goes on in the agri building? The fact that the classes are away from most school interactions adds to the curiosity. For many students though, agri is a place to expand their knowledge on everyday activities, whether farm related or hobby enjoyment.

Mr. Ashcraft has taught agri education for twenty-six years and says that the classes teach life skills. He recommends that new ag students take ag mechanics and small gas engines. But when asked what classes he enjoys most, he listed gas engines and animal science as his favorites. Every ag student, whether in the FFA or not, has a supervised educational agriculture program (SAEP). Students keep records all year on projects, for example animal management or agriculture jobs. Although many ag students complain about the record keeping, the information can go towards FFA degrees and scholarships.

The ag students have several projects underway. The ag structures

class completed an 8x8 and 11x16 building, plus a carport for Mr. Waites. Ag structures is a year long class and is second hour. This class has lots of hands-on projects in the shop.

"It's important to know the safety procedures when using the saws, since you work a lot in the woodwork area." Brandon Reed, a senior, said.

As a tenth grader, new students are enrolled in ag mechanics. This full year class involves learning shop safety and completing small shop projects during first and sixth hour.

Michael Brown is a tenth grader working in the sheet metal area on a sheet metal box. He said that this class is challenging.

"You get to tackle things that you didn't think you could do," Brown said.

The ag department has a facility to raise farm animals for the fourth hour animal science class. This class has learned animal involvement in the agriculture industry. This class has had the responsibility of raising a calf and two pigs this year. Animal science is a year round class but turns into animal science special topics at

semester.

Aquaculture and natural resources is a class held during third hour. The aquaculture class has been working with albino catfish. They also built a fish cage, which will be used in the summer in the school pond. Tobin Baker, a tenth grader in Aquaculture, has five hundred bluegill, catfish, and bass in his SAEP. Tobin is also in natural resources, where the class learns about soil, land, forestry, and aquaculture conservation.

Another ag class, small gas engines, deals with rebuilding an engine by learning the parts, functions, and specifications.

Ag metals is a second semester class that involves using the welding area in the shop. The class is currently learning the safety procedures and principles of welding. This class uses different welding techniques and will begin their projects soon.

Students who are interested in joining an agri class may talk to Mr. Ashcraft or any agri student. They can give the inside scoop on class projects as well as their personal opinions.

Systems invade Pocahontas

By Kishan Amin

People who have heard a bumping sound from a vehicle passing through a parking lot or street recognize this as a speaker system. Audio systems are popular in this small town.

Why do teens like 100 decibels of

noise constantly pumping in their ears? Do teens enjoy the loud chest throbbing bass or the ear piercing treble?

"I like my music loud and deep with bass," Josh Singletary, a junior, said. Singletary has two 12" CompVRs powered by a Kicker ZR240 amp.

"I get my system to sound best when I have my bass down, treble up, and amp up," said Dale Thielmier, a junior. "But the most important thing is good wiring."

Teens take car audio as a hobby, whether it is installing a complete

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system or just listening. Other people have made it an obsession. The obsessed use almost every paycheck to add on to their system.

"I enjoy loud music, but systems can get expensive," Hawkins said.

He has two 12" Kicker Solo-Barics powered with a Kicker ZR240 amp.

There have not been any audio

competitions among PHS students but they show off their stuff when they drive around the school and town. The average system usually consists of a CD player, hi and mid range speakers for treble, subwoofers for bass, and an amplifier to power the subwoofers. The top subwoofer companies in this area of the United States are Kicker,

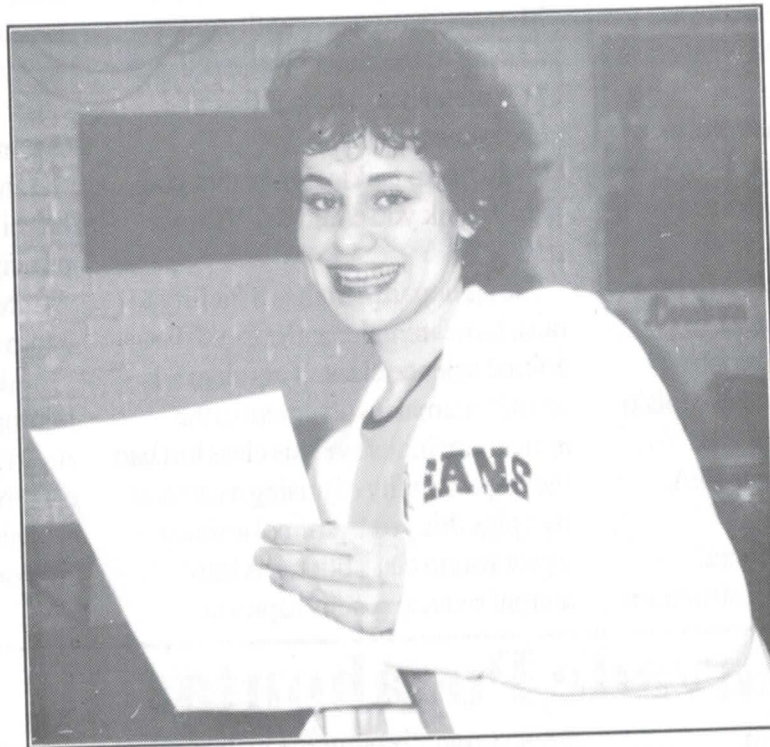
Rockford Fosgate, Pioneer, Alpine, Infinity, and MTX. The top amps are Kicker, Alpine, and Rockford Fosgate. This equipment is purchased from stores like Audio Express and Jac's in Jonesboro, Sound Choice in Paragould, magazine like Crutchfield, pawnshops, or Internet auctioning sites like Ebay. A system can range from \$500-1,000+.

Hungarian student adjusts to America

By Megan Smith

Nora Moldovanyi is from Hungary. She came to Pocahontas as an exchange student. She is seventeen years old and she is a senior this year. She enjoys Pocahontas but it is still hard for her to adapt with out her family.

After graduation Nora plans on going to college to become a lawyer. If that does not happen then she enjoys doing social work and homemaking. The name of her school in Hungary in her language is Toparti Gimnasium ES Muveszeti szakkol Episkola. The schools in Hungary are very different from here. They do not have worksheets at her school and they do not speak to the teachers. It is required to study 2 foreign languages to graduate from her school. Nora is studying English and Germany. Everyday after school



Nora Moldovanyi is a exchange student from Hungary.

the students go home and study for 3 to 4 hours. The next day they must give and oral presentation on what they studied at home. They have 2 tests a day. The students are not allowed to have after school jobs.

They work in the summer only.

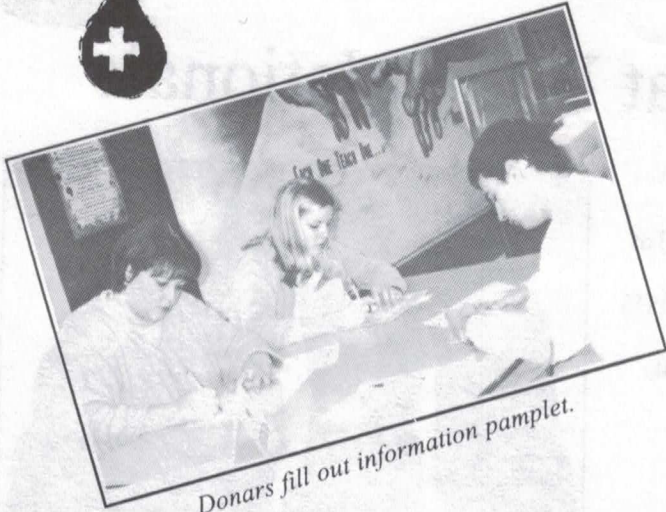
The houses are a lot bigger where Nora lives. The roofs are steeper and each house has many levels of floors. There are not any trucks where Nora is from everyone drives cars.

There are a lot of things that are familiar to her like the fast food restaurants. Her favorite place to eat in Pocahontas is Bonanza. Over Christmas break she tried Eggnog for the

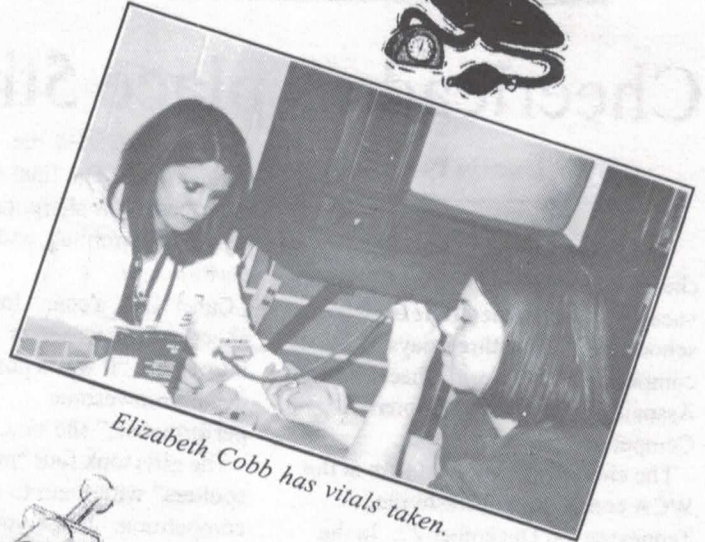
first time. They do not have eggnog where she is from. Her favorite thing to eat is chocolate, milkshakes, and eggnog.

Nora lives with her father in Hungary and she misses him a lot.

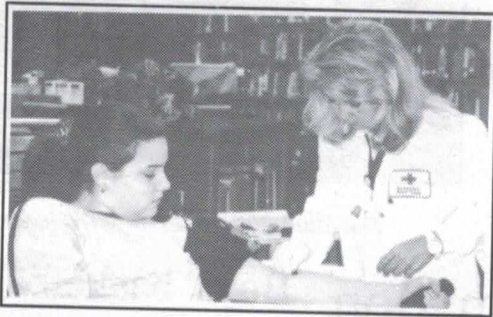
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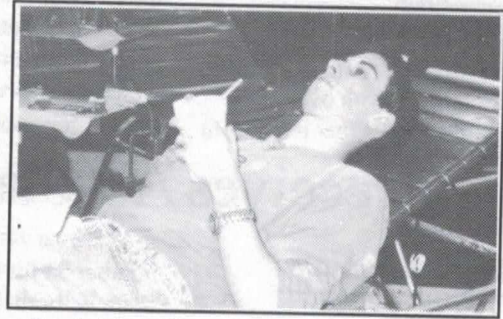
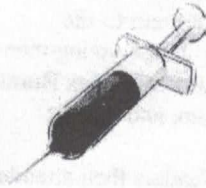
Donars fill out information pamphlet.



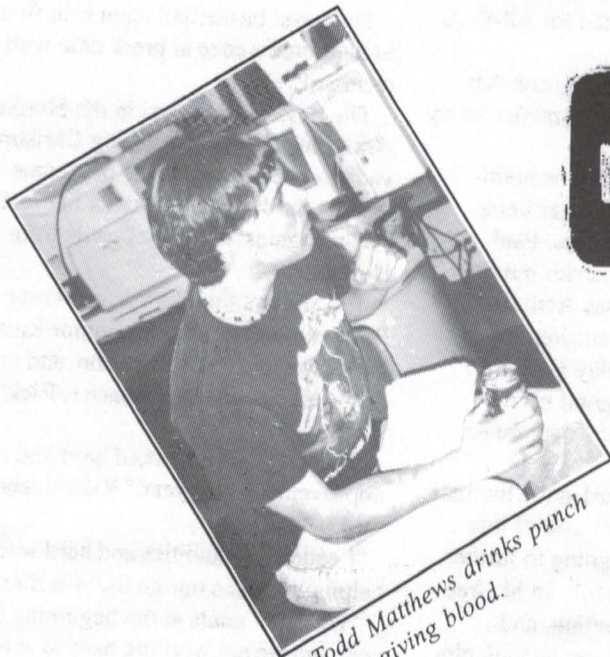
Elizabeth Cobb has vitals taken.



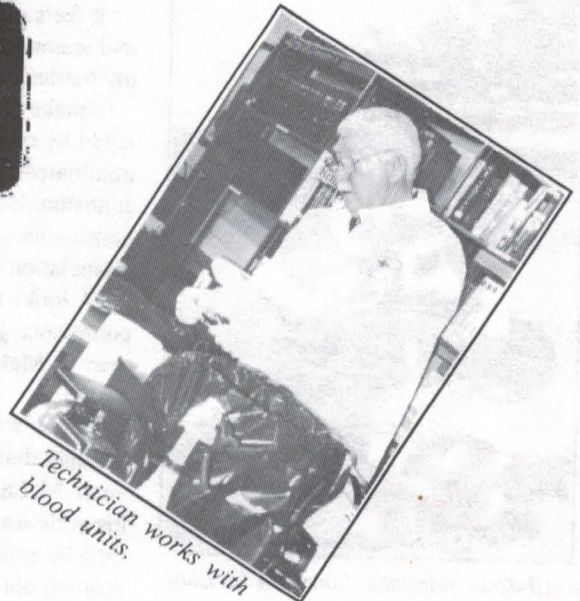
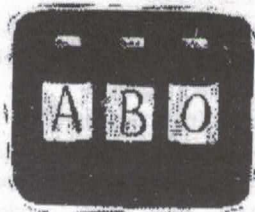
The nurse prepares Amanda Guthrie's arm for injection of the needle.



Brad Ashcraft recovers from giving blood.



Todd Matthews drinks punch after giving blood.



Technician works with blood units.

Cheerleaders place 5th at WCA Nationals

By Miranda Pierce

The Pocahontas High School cheerleaders had an exciting Christmas vacation. During their time off from school they spent three days competing at the World Cheerleading Association's (WCA) National Competition.

The cheerleaders placed fifth at the WCA competition in Nashville, Tennessee, on December 27. In the past six years, the highest Pocahontas has ranked there was fourteenth place overall. Last year the squad was not able to attend due to a fall of a stunt at regional competition.

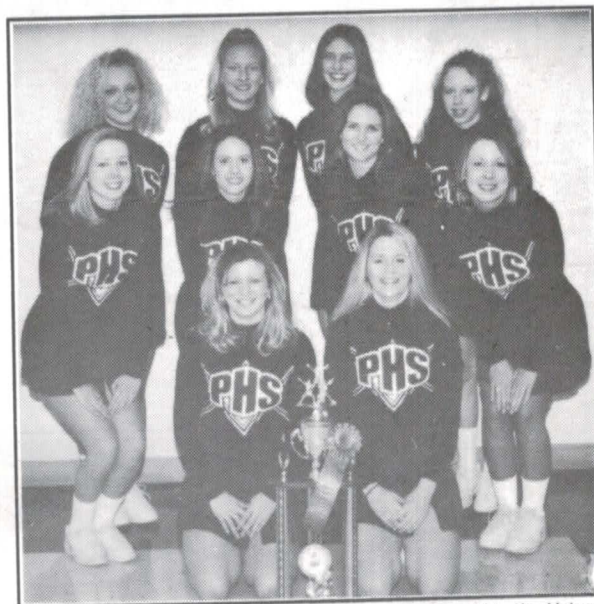
In the national competition the cheerleaders were competing against squads from schools with over 2000 students enrolled. No other team from

Arkansas attended the competition. The final scores were based on sharpness, creativity, tumbling, and level of performance.

Carol Kick, a coach for the PHS cheerleaders, was very impressed. "It was a powerful, dynamic, awesome performance," she said.

The girls took four "male spotters" with them to the competition. These young men were Randy Jo Anis, Alex Burns, Casey Grissom, and Justin Guthrie.

The cheerleaders then attended the Regional competition, which was held on January 24. The competition took place at Nettleton; there the cheerleaders placed first overall.

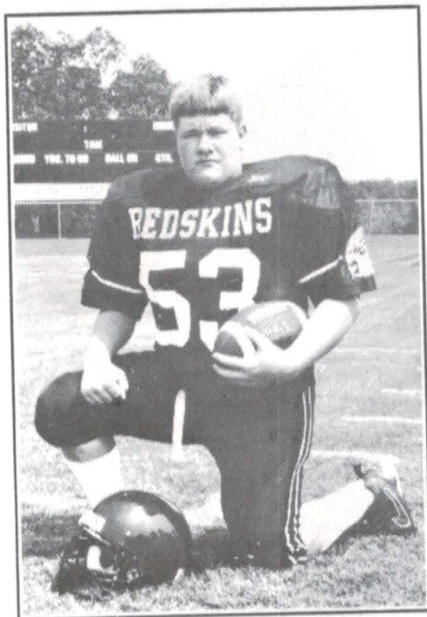


(Star Herald photo)

The 2000-2001 Redskin cheerleaders

McLain receives All-State nomination

By Kishan Amin



All-State nominee Jonathan McLain poses in his football attire.

This year Jonathan McLain, lineman and number 53 for the redskins, was nominated All-State in football. McLain is a senior this year. He was one of six players elected for All-State in the AAA division.

"It feels good to be All-State, my coaches and teammates pushed me every practice to try my hardest," McLain says.

To make All-State, players must be nominated by conference coaches. After being nominated, the state representative, Paul Johnston, Bald Knob coach, carries out the nominations, then the Arkansas Activities Association makes the final decision. The AAA looks for players who play in many conference games and show good performance. McLain played in 6 of 7 conference games.

McLain will receive his award at the football banquet that will be held at the end of this year. McLain said he is not going to further his athletics beyond high school. In his free time he enjoys basketball, hunting, and scoping out chicks. He is the son of Malcolm and Denise McLain.

Boys' basketball team achieves goals

By Megan Smith

The boys' basketball team is in first place in their conference at press time with a record of 7-1.

The boys participated in the Northeast Arkansas tournament during Christmas vacation. They won their first game against the Piggot Mohawks but lost their second against the Blue Devils from Hughes.

The starters this season are senior Joey Baltz, senior Ben Adkins, junior Rusty Farrin, junior Brandon Swann, and junior David Huffman. Their coach is Rick Hagood.

"The boys have worked hard and made improvements this year," Rick Hagood said.

"Leadership qualities and hard work are helping us reach our goals," Farrin said.

"We made goals at the beginning of the year and we are working hard to achieve them," Swann said.