



# Smoke Signal

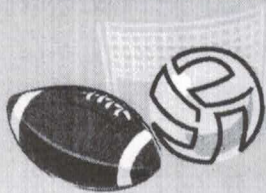
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## Wilde attends convention

By Elizabeth Crisp

This summer junior Mark Wilde attended the 11<sup>th</sup> annual International Society of Poets 2001 Summer Convention. It was held August 17-19 in Washington, D.C.

Wilde was selected to attend because a poem he submitted to poetry.com was nominated for competition.

The conference was held at the Washington Hilton in Washington, D.C. It cost \$595 to attend. Poets attended workshops and lectures, competed in competitions, attended banquets, read poetry in open-mic rooms, and learned about publishing their poems.

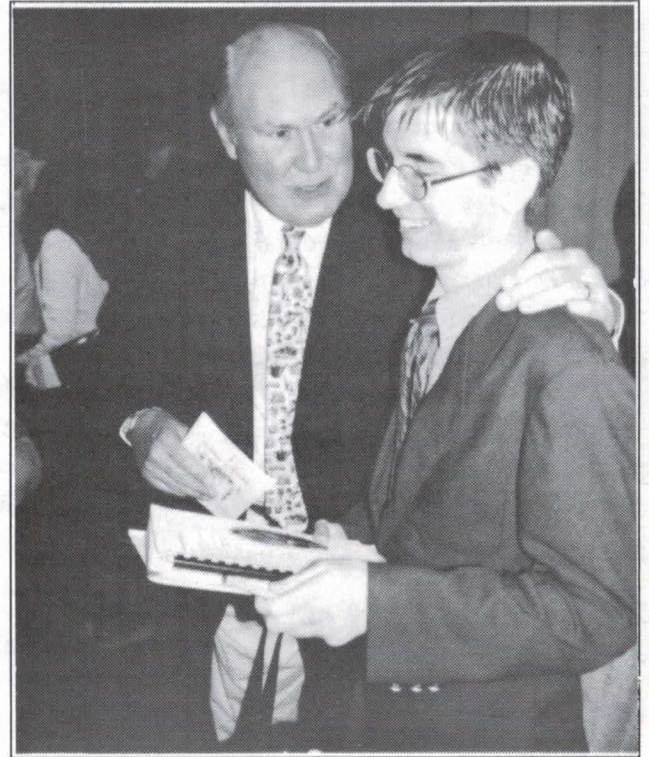
Wilde attended workshops held by Dr. Gary Fincke, Dr. Herbert Woodward Martin, Dr. Len Roberts, and Dr. Fleda Brown. From them he learned about writing poems, using imagery, and getting poems published.

In the competition, poets were divided up with approximately 150 people per room. In these rooms they read their poems aloud.

Wilde's competition poem was titled "Hoi-Pollii Harlequin Harum-Scarum Hokum."

About 150 people attended the conference, from all 50 states as well as 39 other nations.

This year a project of the convention was to create the world's largest poem for peace.



*Wilde speaks with Willard Scott from the NBC Today Show.*

Wilde's contribution was titled "The Seasonal Girl."

While in Washington, D.C., Wilde stayed with his uncle, who took him to see many of the attractions, such as museums and monuments.

Although Wilde did not win the competition, he still considers it an honor just to be picked to go.

"It's almost misleading. You may think there are fewer people going and expect to win. But it was still an honor to be nominated though," Wilde said.

# Summer world history class offered

By Jill Pecoraro

This summer Derek Clements taught a world history course at Pocahontas High School for the first time. The class met June 18 to July 27, from eight to twelve in the morning.

The students attending were Brady DeClerk, Casey Grissom, Jason Tyler, Kristin Morris, Matt Walton, Lauren Pennington, Alex Burns, and T.J. Thompson.

The class studied many intriguing topics, such as wars and communism. Sometimes they viewed movies of

historic subjects. The entire group, with the exception of Lauren Pennington, chose Sir Kenneth Clarke as their favorite movie narrator.

The course proved to be worthwhile, and overall, a success.

"I felt like I learned more because it focused on one subject and it was a smaller group setting," Pennington said.

Principal Jerry Malone explained the circumstances requiring the summer class.

"The world history class was

offered to help some of this year's seniors reduce the number of courses they would have to take this school year. Taking the world history class made it possible for the students to have flexibility in their schedules. As a result of the increased flexibility, the students were able to schedule all the courses that they needed to be Students of Distinction and vie for the position of salutatorian and valedictorian," Malone said.

The students all seemed to enjoy the class, and it was a learning experience as well.

# Students gain driving experience

By Amy Whitehorn

This summer 25 students from Pocahontas High School took a drivers education class. Students paid a fee of \$160 for the class. It began the last week of May. There was a morning class from 8 a.m. till noon and an afternoon class from 1 p.m. till 5 p.m.

The students that attended the morning class were Matthew May, Daniel Hibbard, Nick Martin, Jason Cummings, Jason Manis, Jace Kincade, Eric Flagg, Elizabeth Holt, Brittney Hart, Katie Flagg, Holly DeClerk, Melissa Huckabee, and

Courtney Johnson.

The students that attended the afternoon class were Matthew Walton, Robby Olvey, Matthew London, Brittney DeClerk, Laura Presley, Nathan Baltz, Lee Thielemier, Derek Lee, Matthew Bickers, Brandi Dean, Joe Housman, and Jordan Baker.

The class met at the junior high. The instructors were Coach Bennett and Coach Wellman.

"We covered a book on drivers ed, and had a test on several fundamentals of driving. We also watched some pretty weird movies that had Fords in them," Matt Walton said.

The grades were important to the students that took the class.

"I made a 95 on my driving test, and a 100 on the work part," Eric Flagg said. He also told why he went to drivers ed. "To lower my insurance."

Some of the people in the class went for other reasons.

"My parents made me go," Matt Walton said.

The teachers used a device that made the students feel intoxicated, Flagg explained.

"We put goggles on that made us feel like we were drunk. They had cones set up and you had to drive through an obstacle course," Flagg said.

## Odyssey of the mind team advances to World Finals

By Brent Miller

Each year many students participate in Odyssey of the Mind and work to solve its various problems.

This year one team from PHS earned the right to attend Odyssey of the Mind world finals held on the campus of the University of Maryland—College Park. Angie Baltz, Leah Baltz, Jillian Pecoraro, Elizabeth Crisp, Lyle Williams, and Brent Miller made up this team. "This team worked very well together. The problem was challenging and they really had to apply themselves to get some stuff done," team coach Scott Miller said.

The team's problem was called Ody-SEE-ing Sounds. The team built two contraptions that made six

sounds and four devices that each made one sound. They also wrote a skit that tied it all together.

To make it to world, the team first competed at the regional competition held at Pocahontas High School on March 10, 2001. At the competition the team placed first and won a Ranatra Fusca Award for outstanding creativity. The team then advanced to state competition held at Lakewood Middle School in North Little Rock on April 21. At this competition they again placed first, which won them the right to compete at the world finals in Maryland.

World Finals were held June 2-5. The team competed on the 5<sup>th</sup>. Throughout the week they took trips to Washington, DC to see the sites.

"We saw a lot of sites and did some shopping. It was fun, but we were always thinking about the competition in the back of our heads," Leah Baltz said.

The team placed 8<sup>th</sup> out of the 52 teams competing in their problem.

"I was too excited for words. We'd worked so hard and it was great to see it pay off," Angie Baltz said.

The top six teams in each division are recognized at the awards ceremony and the top three receive bronze, silver, and gold medals. The team that won the world championship in this division was O T P DAMB from Gdansk, Poland.

"All in all we had a great time. The bus broke down in Jackson, Tennessee, so we had to spend an extra night there, but everything turned out okay," Williams said.

Soon the team will begin work on this year's problem, which they hope will lead them straight back to world competition to be held at the University of Colorado in 2002.

## Marching band attends summer retreat

By Rhonda Ricker

This summer the PHS marching band attended a summer retreat held at Smithville, AR. Their camp was Aug. 5-10.

The PHS band and color guard went to the Smithville camp "to be drilled on marching basics and music basics, and to begin to learn their 2001 production," director Howard Dunn said.

"We took the entire band to Smithville because it's far enough from Pocahontas that it allows us to get away from all the distractions of home (work, family, dates, etc.), and

allows us to concentrate on preparing our new production for the fall," band director Brady Massey said.

"Even though the camp was strenuous, it was a lot of fun," sophomore Zac Thielemier said.

"We have worked really hard to get what we accomplished during that week," senior Bridget Kick said. "I really enjoyed myself that week. Being out there really helped us concentrate."

Guest instructors went to Smithville to help the band and color guard. Brenda Harbison of Valley View High School instructed the percussion; Mike Wells of Batesville High School worked with the brass section; Marcy Wells also from

Batesville High School spent the week fine-tuning the color guard; and Doug Annala of Kettering High School in Dayton, Ohio, choreographed the color guard routine for the new production.

The band officers this year are president Lauren Pennington, vice-president T.J. Thompson, secretary Jennifer Riney, quartermaster Kristin Morris, senior rep. Lance Williams, junior rep. Kim Petrakis, sophomore Rep. James Gates, freshman Rep. Laura Williams, Student Council rep. Leah Baltz, drum major Matthew Walton, and color guard captain Amy Downs.

## Two PHS students chosen to attend AGS

By Elizabeth Crisp

The Arkansas Governor's School (AGS) is a six-week summer program for high school students completing their junior year. It was started in 1980 by then-governor of Arkansas, Bill Clinton.

Approximately 400 students are picked to attend the program. Elizabeth Crisp and Lorna Hawkins were chosen from PHS to attend AGS this summer.

AGS is made up of students in eight different areas: choral music, instrumental music, drama, visual arts, mathematics, language arts, social science, and natural science.

Hawkins attended in the language arts area and Crisp attended in the social science area.

In addition to classes in the area they apply for, which is referred to as the student's "Area I classes," the students also had classes known as "Area II" and "Area III."

The focus of Area II was epistemology, the study of knowledge and thinking. The AGS Handbook described the main objective as "helping students develop their critical thinking skills and therefore enabling them to make intelligent and informed decisions." The eight Area II classes were made up of a variety of students from each of the Area I groups.

Area III was a class devoted to personal and social development. Its purpose was "to fulfill the students' needs to process and discuss

information and experiences so the learning process will be more active and meaningful," according to the AGS Handbook. The Area III classes were also made up of students from each of the eight Area I groups.

At Governor's School, the students had classes from 8:35 in the morning until 3:15 in the afternoon, Monday through Friday.

On Tuesdays and Thursdays they listened to guest speakers at 10:00 a.m.

This year's speakers included James Randi, the author of five books on psychic frauds and recent winner of the MacArthur "Genius Award"; Jack Thompson, a lawyer currently representing the parents of three students killed in a school shooting at Paducah, KY; and Leonidas Lipovetsky, a widely traveled concert pianist, recipient of the Van Cliburn Scholarship at the Juilliard School of Music, and Associate Professor of Music at Florida State University.

Also on Thursdays, students attended required films.

The required films this year were *Koyaanisqatsi* (1983), *The Mission* (1986), *12 Angry Men* (1957), *Mr. Death: The Rise and Fall of Fred A. Leuchter, Jr.* (1999), and *Thirty-Two Short Films about Glenn Gould* (1993).

Students were also required to go to events such as choir and orchestra performances, drama performances, an art shows and a presentation of the musical *Evita* at the University of Central Arkansas.

In addition to these required events, students chose optional events at AGS to attend, such as dances, talent shows, swim parties, tennis tournaments, quiz bowl tournaments, elimination tag, ultimate Frisbee, and optional movies.

On Saturdays students only had two classes. On a couple of Saturdays students went to "sampler classes." This allowed them to learn things in areas other than what they are specializing in at AGS.

On Saturdays visitors come on campus and participated in the optional activities with the students or visited in the dorms and the "pecan grove."

Sundays were the only days students are allowed to leave the Hendrix campus.

"I wasn't really sure about going. I mean, six weeks is a long time, but I'm really glad I went. I met a lot of great people and had a wonderful time," Crisp said.

### Smoke Signal Staff

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

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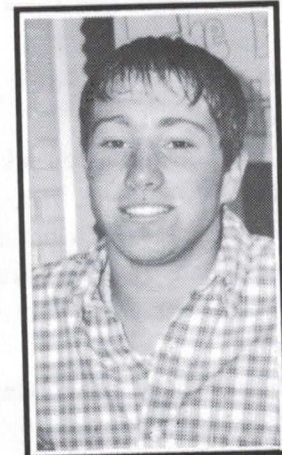
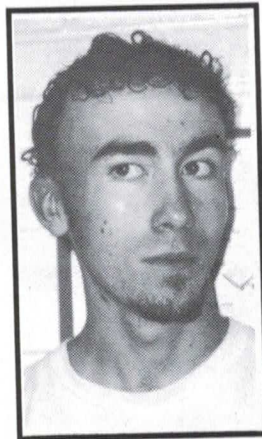
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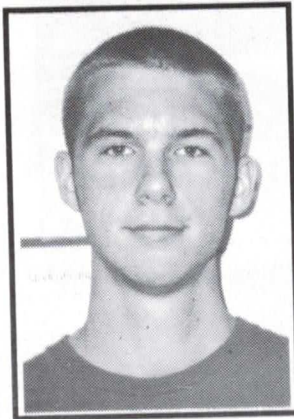
## Students respond to tragedies of Sept. 11

How do you feel about the situation that our country is experiencing after the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon on Sept. 11?

Daniel Turner: I think that there is nothing to worry about. It may take a few months to get back to normal, but I feel they will find who did it and punish them and that will be the end of it.



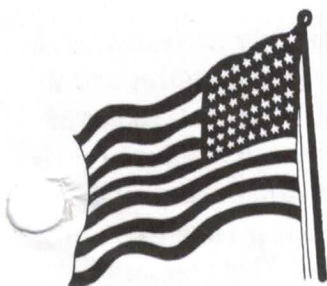
Josh Singleterry: I think it's sad. I think that it will affect our economy greatly, and it could put a lot of people out of a job.



Matt Spurlock: I think people are panicking a little too strongly. My opinion is that this is not going to be a major war. This is more of a spiritual war. This is not WWII. The people who committed this Kamikazee act against our country obviously feel that they have done a good thing for them and their country. They want us gone because they know we are powerful. This is prophecy from Matthew 24 where Jesus said there will be wars and rumors of wars and perilous times will follow; but the end is not yet for these things should first come to pass. So I don't think we should worry as much as we have, but it is still a tragedy and we should still pray for our country and everyone involved.



Rachael Parten: I feel we should take action but not the same type that was taken upon us. Because we need to remember that there are as many innocent people over there that would get hurt as much as was over here. We always need to remember that God said he will not let anything happen that you and him cannot handle together. We need to remember the families of the victims that perished during this awful tragedy. We just need to constantly pray for all the things that are going on, because prayer is a powerful thing.



## Volleyball team "serves up" wins

By Lindsey Luther

The PHS volleyball team defeated 4-time state champs, Crowleys Ridge Academy, on September 4.

At press time they are 5-0 in conference play.

In July the team attended Licking Volleyball Camp at Rolla, Missouri. The camp consisted of 28 teams. The Redskins competed against seven different teams, winning six out of seven games.

The team practices on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 5:00 to 6:15 after school in the M.D. Williams gym.

Games are held in the new community center on Tuesday and Thursday at 5:30. Admission is \$2.00.

Coach Gary Hagood says the teams goal is to get to the state tournament. He also commented that seniors Susie Harper and Alison Carter are good enough to play in college.

Susie Harper discussed a possible

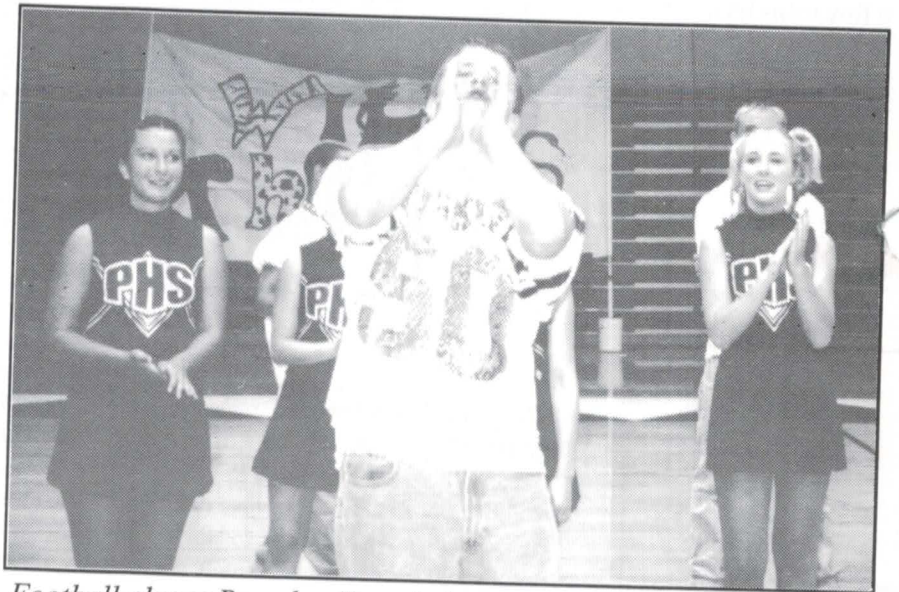
college volleyball career at Lyon College.

"It is a small, private school which is one of the best schools in Arkansas. They have a strong volleyball program as well as a strong academic program. Lyon is also close to home so that I can come home and visit family and friends when I want to, and not be five or six hours away from

them," Harper said.

Coaches of junior olympic volleyball are also college coaches; therefore, many coaches have seen her play.

"Rhodes College, Christian Brothers University, and Lyon College are some that I know of for sure," Harper said.



Football player Brandon French does his "wild thing" call at a pep rally. At press time the team's record is 3-1, with their only loss being to Kennett, by one point.

## Sequel leaves audience *cruelly* dissatisfied

By Amy Whitehorn

I wonder why they call it Cruel? That's what I thought after I saw the movie "Cruel Intentions 2."

"Cruel Intentions" is an all-around good movie with a good cast and good plot. Unfortunately, in the sequel, the cast from the first movie doesn't return to do the second.

Another thing that surprised me is in "Cruel Intentions" the main character, Sebastian, dies, but he is somehow alive in the second movie.

The sequel's idea is the same as the first. Sebastian gets shipped off to live with his dad and soon to be step-mom and step-sister. He has to get used to going to a private school and

to his evil step-sister. Sebastian falls in love with an unpopular girl at school. His sister does not like his choice of girlfriend because she thinks the girl is going to become more popular than her, so she tries to get him fixed up with another girl. That's basically all there is to the movie. It was a very short movie that had an awful ending.