

## INSIDE FEATURES

Get a behind the scenes look at the Revolutionary War reenactment.

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Check out how WMWA covered the 1996 Election results.

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## IN-DEPTH

Find out the role of superstitions at South. Also, read about the origin of famous fears including Triskaidekaphobia.

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## OPINIONS

See how Oracle editors reacted to the food drive.

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Are the changes on the PSAT warranted?

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# THE GLENBROOK SOUTH ORACLE

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Volume 35, Issue 4

Happy Holidays from the Oracle Staff!

Friday, December 13, 1996

## South helps local organizations, charities during holiday season

### Yes we can!

#### GBS surpasses food drive goal

by Scott Isen  
Editor-in-Chief

The 1996 Canned Food Drive (with the theme of "Together We Can") resulted in the collection of over 53,000 cans.

Students and faculty donated cans and money during Nov. 13 to 26. The drive benefited the Northfield Township Food Pantry and Onward House.

This amount, which surpassed Student Council's goal of 48,000, was mostly met during the last day of the drive. According to Student Council President Ryan FitzSimons, there were only 24,000 cans on Nov. 25, the second to last day of the drive. On the final day, students raised that to 53,367 cans. "The last day effort was phenomenal," FitzSimons added. "I was nervous at first because we were far from our goal, but was pleased that every student really helped out in the end."

According to Jim Shellard, Student Activities Coordinator, this year's drive included a major obstacle. Many of South's sources of income for this event did not donate as much money as they had in the past. The businesses that usually donated said that they had already given or could not give this year.

Shellard added that Student Council members encouraged others to participate in the drive, and added that they went out and collected cans on their own. "Student Council members worked



very hard throughout the drive and I am very proud of their efforts because a lot of effort was put into the drive," he added.

"The purpose of the canned food drive is to foster and encourage the idea and act of giving," Shellard mentioned. Although this is the main purpose, Shellard feels that incentives are necessary in the whole process. The top five 5-7/5-8 classes to bring in the most cans will receive a free breakfast. Donuts will be given to classes that averaged 25 or more cans per student. Shellard emphasized that Student Council will pay for the incentives and that no money raised from the drive will be used.

He also added that some teachers award extra credit to students for bring in cans. "It is up to the individual teacher to determine whether extra credit should be awarded," Shellard said. Although Chris Hilvert's class won the drive,

he donated the money that would be used for the free breakfast back to the canned food drive. "I want to express my appreciation to the 5-7/5-8 teachers for encouraging the can and monetary donations," Shellard added.

In the future, Shellard hopes that the donations will be more balanced. He would prefer if people did not wait until the last minute. "It shows more thought and effort if people donate cans instead of money," Shellard commented. Also, Student Council will also work to improve the drive in the future.

Other opportunities to give to charity are upcoming. Starting Monday, Claus Families will collect money to benefit The Chicago Tribune Children's Fund. Proceeds from Gym Jam (scheduled for March 1997) will also be donated to the Rainforest Foundation.



Students organize cans collected during the hunger drive (left). Senior Julie Chrobak (above) displays some of the goods that were donated to Onward House before Thanksgiving. The money raised will be used to purchase goods for the Northfield Township Food Pantry. (photos by Sara Kamm)

CANNED RESULTS	
Freshmen:	10,211
Sophomores:	12,557
Juniors:	12,577
Seniors:	18,022
Total:	53,367

Note: Totals are rounded for accuracy, but the final number of cans does not change.  
Source: Jim Shellard

## Students build new dreams with their own hands

Habitat for Humanity's numerous volunteers construct cost-efficient housing while developing lasting relationships.

by Christopher Kim  
News Editor

After several years of attempts and speculation, Habitat for Humanity (HFH) has finally established itself as a new and unique service club at GBS.

The effort to bring HFH to South began early last year with the help of Tina Wu, a 1995 GBS graduate and current sponsor Christine Memler.

The organization itself was founded in 1976 by Linda and Millard Fuller. The primary goal of HFH is to eliminate poverty housing across the world while bringing together a wide variety of people to not only build the new homes but also to develop new relationships.

HFH works through volunteer labor and a series of tax-deductible donations of both materials and money. As a nonprofit organization,

quickly HFH is expanding internationally.

GBS students recently raised close to \$2,000 through their fundraising event entitled Trash-a-Thon. Students asked for pledges while agreeing to pick up trash all across the Glenview area.

"The primary intent of the Trash-a-Thon was to raise money for the Evanston project. The community not only helped by donating directly to HFH, but they also donated for a cleaner community in the process," Memler said.

The club hopes to break ground on the Evanston Project in March 1997 and finish in August. Phil Roden, a retired teacher from Evanston Township High School, is in charge of the project. He has already helped construct two homes in the Evanston area.

Future events include a HFH kickoff party scheduled for February. According to Memler, the

event's goal is to get the students more aware and excited about the project.

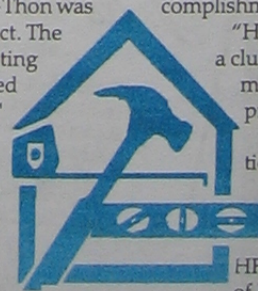
During Christmas Around the World, HFH will have an informational booth for students interested in learning more about the work and accomplishments surrounding the organization.

"HFH is open to anyone. We don't have a club that is mutually exclusive...any help, money or time [students] can give is appreciated," Memler added.

Memler hopes to provide more national projects for students interested in getting involved.

Stats released by the USA Today reported that by the year 2000, HFH will be the world's largest builder of homes.

"We're an ever-changing club that is carrying on with what Tina established and are trying to build on that for the future," said Memler.



### HOW TO HELP

- Get donations from family, friends and businesses to help with the building of the new house. Make checks payable to Habitat for Humanity - Evanston Project and bring them to the Christine Memler in the Business Education Office.

- Look for information about upcoming Habitat for Humanity and events and meetings at Christmas Around the World. In addition, purchase Habitat T-shirts which will benefit the Evanston Project scheduled to break ground next March.

- For more information, contact Habitat for Humanity by phone at 847/ 864-5907 or fax 847/ 864-5911. Or, write to Evanston Project of Uptown: Habitat for Humanity, P.O. Box 289, Evanston, Ill 60204.



Oracle  
TIME  
capsule

Editor's Note: This issue, we will feature events that took place during the festive month of December during 1974 to 1976. Back by popular demand are some difficult time trivia questions. Enjoy and Happy Holidays!

## 1974

- Foreign Language teacher Shirley Novack was voted co-winner of the cutest baby contest sponsored by the Future Teachers of America Club - December
- Noted astrologer Irene Hughes visited - Dec. 9
- Student tutors hold holiday party at Onward House - Dec. 17
- Winter dance takes place with theme "Silver Bells" - Dec. 19

## 1975

- National Honor Society initiates 27 GBS Students - December
- GBS Sociology students wed in auditorium - Dec. 10
- South holds a Hunger Assembly to promote canned food drive donations - Dec. 12
- Band travels to Miami, Fla. and performs in Orange Bowl Parade - Dec. 31

## 1976

- Twenty-one South students were named Illinois State Scholars - December
- Ninety-six GBS students participate in annual Kirk Center Holiday party - Dec. 7
- Seventh annual Elizabethan banquet presented by the music and dance departments - Dec. 9 to 11
- Holiday Week concludes with sock hop - Dec. 17

TIME  
TRIVIA

- 1) What year did current Oracle adviser Ted Heiser join the Glenbrook South staff?
- 2) What was the theme of the 1977 holiday concert held on Dec. 18?
- 3) What was the theme of the 1977 Variety Show?
- 4) What was the name of the play Doug Kornelly chose for the 1976 winter play?

Answers

- 1) 1976
- 2) "Let it Snow, Let it Snow, Let it Snow"
- 3) "Magic To Do"
- 4) "Star-Spangled Hot Dogs"

Source: Oracles from 1974 to 1978

## GBS Report Card:

Students' test scores surpass other schools

by Stephen Hong  
Staff Reporter



As the end of the semester approaches and students begin to receive their first semester report cards, Glenbrook South also received its 1996 School Report Card, ranking it once again as one of the more prestigious suburban schools.

The Illinois Goal Assessment Program (IGAP) testing was administered last year to Glenbrook South sophomores and juniors. This test was a measure of the fundamental reading, math, science, social studies and writing abilities of students.

Similar to last year, students far exceeded the state average with extremely high scores in all categories. In each of the five IGAP testing subjects over 85% of GBS students met or exceeded the goals

mandated by the state.

In comparison to a number of other high schools situated in the Chicago metropolitan area, GBS placed third in reading behind New Trier High School and GBN, ninth in math, fourth in writing, and sixth in both science and so-

played a remarkable, phenomenal performance by the students of GBS," said David Smith, principal of GBS.

According to Smith, this year's scores reflected another consistent and worthy performance.

the years, 1992 to 1996, last year's students achieved IGAP scores that were the second highest ever in recorded GBS history.

"One must look at the data longitudinally and observe that the scores are very consistent year to year," said Smith.

During the 1996 school year, there was an abundance of other academic high points. Thirteen GBS students were named National Merit Semifinalists. Of the 614 Advanced Placement exams taken in May 1996, 81% of the grades qualified for college credit.

The average ACT (American College Testing Program) scores exceeded the state average in each of the four testing subjects. The composite ACT score of 23.8 placed GBS in the 96th percentile nationwide. In addition, graduating seniors averaged 26.5 credits upon high school completion.

"GBS definitely deserves an A [for their accomplishments]," stated Smith.

## • A QUICK LOOK AT GBS ACHIEVEMENTS, SCORES •

- Over 85% of GBS IGAP scores exceeded the goals mandated by the state
- GBS is one of the top nine public schools in the metropolitan area
- From 1992 to 1996 the IGAP scores were the second highest recorded scores
- During the 1996 school year 13 GBS students were named National Merit Semifinalists
- 81% of students taking AP tests qualified for college credit
- The composite ACT score of 23.8 placed GBS in the 96th percentile nationwide
- Graduating seniors averaged 26.5 credits upon high school completion

Christine McNamee

cial studies. Overall, there was a decline in test scores in contrast to last year.

GBS students also established themselves as one of the top nine public high schools within the Chicago metropolitan area.

"The IGAP scores of 1995 dis-

The apparent decline in reading scores was due to the fact that the testing administration changed the reading scoring format. However, the administrators failed to adjust the scores in relation to previous year's scores.

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Bracelets  
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Watches  
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Hats, Gloves, Booties  
Police Jackets  
Army Wear  
T-Shirts  
Jeans -  
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Sweaters

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December 13, 1996

"America's diversity has made it a land of many different religions. It is a melting pot of people who believe in a universal spirit."  
-Kanishka Mapa, '99

## SPECIAL REPORT: SPIRITUAL AMERICA

"Religion gave me my moral base, but its influence on me has [declined] as I've grown older."  
-Justin Vragel, '98

# Students suggest deterioration in religious values

by Christopher Kim  
News Editor

"One nation under G-d, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

The year was 1630 when John Winthrop and his fellow Puritans entered upon the shores of the United States. They saw themselves as the chosen people to prosper and build "a New Jerusalem...a city upon the hill," a place they called the Promised Land.

This nation has been tagged by some scholars as being the most religious of the Western democracies. The religious tapestry of America today displays a country that is as religious as it has always been. The Oracle poll completed during the last weeks of November (see sidebar) found that 95 percent of the student body believe in a G-d or a universal spirit. Similarly, a national poll performed by the US News and World Report (USNWR) in 1994 found that 93 percent of Americans believed in a heavenly superior.

In addition, recent studies have shown that American's voluntary contributions to synagogues, churches, and other areas

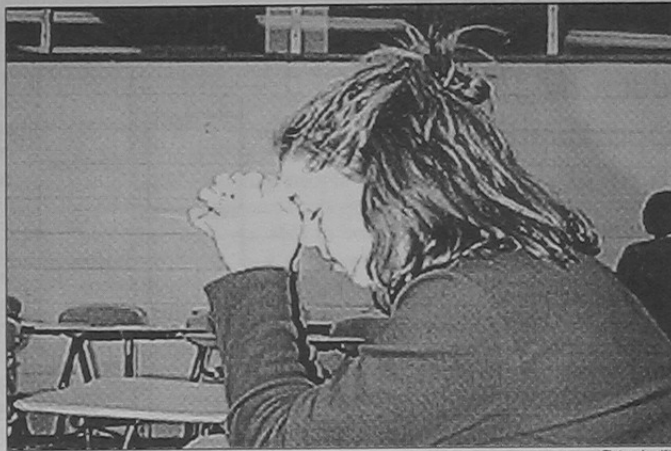
of worship add up to an amount of \$38 billion annually. This total actually exceeds the gross national product of most other countries. From South Central Los Angeles to the Gothic cathedral near the White House in Virginia, there are more churches per capita in the US than in any other nation on Earth—approximately one out of every 900 Americans.

Yet according to USNWR, as many Americans pause this holiday season for a moment of reflection, the optimism of the past seems to have exposed the doors to a more dire and unstable time. A time when America is plagued with increasing juvenile crime rates, broken families and deteriorating religious values.

In fact, the Oracle poll discovered that 80 percent of the student body believed that religious values were losing their impact on social life.

"Religion gave me my moral base, but its influence on me has [declined] as I've grown older," said junior Justin Vragel.

Regardless of whether Americans are more religious today than several decades ago, the person-



The Oracle poll found that 44 percent of the students wanted a moment of silence implemented into the school day. Junior Anna Pistorio takes time to reflect on the day's events.

ality and perception of their religious character is significantly different. The Oracle poll suggested that only 15 percent of GBS students were "very involved" in their church duties.

"We are becoming less theologically and institutionally grounded and more inclined toward making up our own faiths as we go along," said Princeton University sociologist Robert Wuthnow.

Still, national studies, including the USNWR, exhibit the fact that over 60 percent of Americans seek individual and family-related assistance from their religious institutions. The Oracle survey indicated that 60 percent believe that

they were led or guided by G-d in making decisions in their lives.

"This is a nation of biblical illiterates. The stark truth is, most Americans don't know what they believe and why," said pollster George Gallup Jr.

Yet regardless if Americans are distressed by what they see as a rampant moral decline, they are of no mind to coerce the country into involving the religious institutions into the educational system. In accordance, the poll found that 87 percent of GBS students agreed to the statement that the church and school must remain divided.

"...There is a universal being [affecting] our lives everyday," said freshman Allison English.

**95%**  
of GBS believe  
in G-d or a  
universal spirit

Oracle Survey

**87%**  
of GBS believe  
church and  
state must  
remain  
separate

Oracle Survey

## Opposing Viewpoints

# Prayer: Debates over this controversial issue continue in public schools

by Christine McNamara  
Assistant News Editor

Mandating school prayer has been an issue that has recently been brought back to centerstage.

Ironically, it's clear that GBS students don't support it. A recent Oracle poll found that no one wanted school prayer mandated at GBS.

There are others, however, that believe prayer in public schools would be beneficial.

An alternative proposal suggested by supporters was to institute a moment of silence. The Oracle poll found that 44 percent of the student body supported a moment of silence.

Opponents argue that many students will not be able to sit through a moment of silence, es-

pecially younger kids who have short attention spans.

In addition, opponents also claim that many interruptions will take place during a moment of silence such as late-arriving students, interruptions from other teachers and messages for students.

The variation of religions also poses another problem. For some religions, a special place is needed for prayer. In these cases, school is not the place for such an action.

Supporters, though, still argue that prayer in schools will reestablish moral values which will have an overall positive effect on the nation.

"Maybe it will turn some of our values around. We've lost our way," said Marion Berry, former mayor of the District of Columbia.

"Maybe it will turn some of our values around. We've lost our way."

Marion Berry

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## NEWS

• AT • A • GLANCE •

SC announces  
winter dance

A winter dance will be taking place early next year. Student Council has set the event for Saturday, Jan. 11, which is the weekend after winter break.

"The dance will have a New Years theme and although the dance will begin at 8:00 and end at 11:00, we will have our own countdown," said Assistant Principal of Student Activities, James Shellard.

According to Shellard, the dress code is "quarter" formal meaning a shirt with a collar and no jeans.

The cost for the tickets will be \$5 if purchased prior to the dance and \$6 at the door. Tickets for this event will be sold in the SAO.

V-Show prepares to  
celebrate diversity

Once again, it is time to get ready for Variety Show which will take place from Feb. 20-23 of 1997. The theme has been chosen as "Common Threads" in celebration of diversity. A wide selection of music has been already explored and the set is scheduled to be constructed right after the holiday break.

"We are looking forward to celebrate common diversity," Variety Show director Stevie Marks said. Auditions were held on Dec. 2-3 for the comedy troupe. Dec. 9 for singers and dancers and Jan. 7 for variety show bands and Jan. 11 for individual variety acts.

Oracle receives  
national award

Oracle recently placed fourth in Best of Show competition. The contest was held at the Journalism Education Association/National Scholastic Press Association National Convention held at Chicago Nov. 14-17.

In the Newspaper 13-16 page division, Oracle placed behind papers from Mountlake Terrace and Wash., Mesa, Ariz. and University High of Chicago.

Lions Township of LaGrange placed sixth in the same division. This is the first time Oracle has placed in this prestigious national competition.

"Because we have never placed in this competition before, I was a bit surprised at how well we did, but I feel the award is well-deserved," said adviser Ted Heiser.

"I was very proud of our staff because the award not only gives the paper recognition, but it also shows our hard effort and long hours of dedication and precision," Editor-in-Chief Scott Isen said.

Briefs contributed by  
Temi Chung and  
Kelly O' Bryan

## The future of GBS

## Newly proposed schedule to redefine courses at South

Administration

emphasizes more advantages and additional opportunities with 16 mod design

by Esther Lim  
Staff Reporter

After five years of hard work by administrators and teachers from both Glenbrook Schools, a tentative 16-mod schedule will be submitted to the board of education in efforts to change the current schedule for the upcoming year (1997-98).

However, this schedule is not yet definite for there are certain issues that are yet to be resolved. The questions concerning scheduling, teacher contracts and bus schedules are some of the issues that need to be answered in order for this new schedule to go into effect.

With this new schedule, only 16 mods will be present in a day, with each mod equaling 25 minutes, with only two types of classes: regular or blocked. The regular classes will be 50 minutes long, with a five minute passing period, while the blocked classes will be 100 minutes long, with a ten minute passing period.

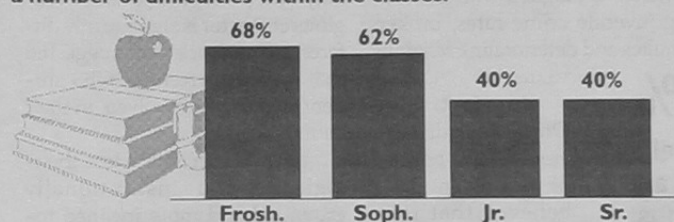
## A Tentative Sketch

The Glenbrook High Schools  
16 Mod Schedule

BLOCK PERIODS	MODS	STANDARD PERIODS	LUNCH PERIODS
	1		
	2		
	3		
	4		
	5		
	6		
	7		
	8		
	9		
	10		
	11		
	12		
	13		
	14		
	15		
	16		

## GBS Scheduling Success Rates

Current scheduling success rates with the 28-mod design has seen a number of difficulties within the classes.



Sources: Teacher's Advisory Forum meeting from Nov. 20, Scheduling Report from Oct. 21.

Because of these longer classes, the blocked courses will be completed within one semester, allowing the student to take a different blocked class in the next. This will allow the student to take

the maximum number of classes in a year, while balancing the work load between the two semesters. Despite the many changes within this new schedule, open lunch will remain, with each student's lunch

being 50 minutes long.

Teachers and administrators hope that with this new schedule the work load for both the teachers and the students will decrease, while the learning experience continues to increase. This new schedule would decrease the workload of the teacher, by decreasing the total number of students a teacher would have per semester.

The administration also hopes that with the longer class periods, more material can be covered, while involving different methods and activities of teaching, such as in-class discussions and videos. "We hope that engaging in these different activities will help the students to learn better," stated Pam Taccona, Associate Principal for Administrative Services.

However, not many classes will be blocked, but classes like English, history of world civilization, and US History seem likely to be 100 minutes long.

English teacher John Allen said, "If the new hybrid schedule is implemented exactly according to all the precepts articulated in the scheduling committee's final proposal to the board of education, the new schedule would provide significant opportunities to improve the ways teachers teach and [the ways] students learn in our English classes."

The finalization of this new schedule will be decided upon by the beginning of the new year.



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December 13, 1996

## Editorial

# Spirit behind canned food drive is lost to competitions and perks

The entire purpose of the canned food drive is to feed the hungry. It seems, however, that this charitable event has been replaced with motivation from school competitions and extra credit from teachers.

Well, South did it again. Every year we have a big canned food drive to benefit those that are less fortunate. The Student Council sets the goal higher and higher each year and this holiday season, like the rest in the school's history, that goal was surpassed.

Every Student Council member could be seen around school begging for spare change to go into the collection and they worked tirelessly campaigning for more donations from teachers and local companies.

But the canned food drive, as usual, had an underlying current. It looked like for a little bit there, the goal was not going to be reached. The number of cans during the first week was abnormally low and everyone was worrying if the shelter would get the cans that were promised to it.

It seemed like people were holding their cans and money for the last minute so they could win the various competitions and that's fine. The cans were still turned in and the hungry were still fed. But this event wasn't meant to be about competing between classes or GBN. The only fight we should be involved in is the one with hunger.

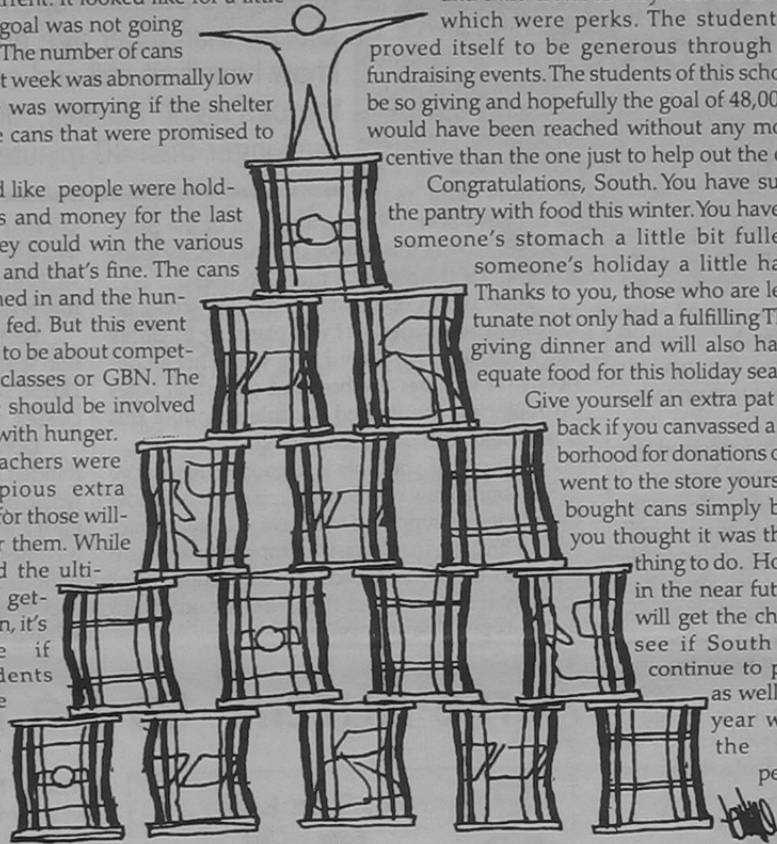
Some teachers were offering copious extra credit points for those willing to pay for them. While that achieved the ultimate goal of getting the cans in, it's questionable if those students would have been so free with their money if their grades weren't at stake.

We should wonder if most people would be willing to give money to charity even if it wouldn't boost their grade and we should wonder if it's right to be offering extra credit at all for feeding the hungry. Donations should have been given with no intention of getting something in return. However, realistically speaking, people sometimes need an extra push to achieve their goal. In this case, not only were students able to boost their grades by donating money, but they were also able to help the hungry.

Let's hope that South saw the competitions and extra credit as they were meant to be, which were perks. The student body proved itself to be generous through other fundraising events. The students of this school can be so giving and hopefully the goal of 48,000 cans would have been reached without any more incentive than the one just to help out the others.

Congratulations, South. You have supplied the pantry with food this winter. You have made someone's stomach a little bit fuller and someone's holiday a little happier. Thanks to you, those who are less fortunate not only had a fulfilling Thanksgiving dinner and will also have adequate food for this holiday season.

Give yourself an extra pat on the back if you canvassed a neighborhood for donations or if you went to the store yourself and bought cans simply because you thought it was the right thing to do. Hopefully in the near future, we will get the chance to see if South would continue to perform as well as this year without the added perks.



TOGETHER... WE DID!!!

## Letters to the Editor

# Student comments on senior gift article

When I picked up the November 8, 1996 issue of the Oracle, I found it very interesting that there had been a cover story done on the senior gift petition. From what was reported in the story, it would appear that the reporter didn't interview any of the seniors who initiated the petition. It seems that to really give the whole story regarding the petition, the reporter should have spoken with a senior who started the petition in order to find out the reasons why the petition was circulated in the first place. The story was very biased and seemed like it belonged more on the editorial page than the news page of the Oracle. I would like to present the ideas behind the petition so that people can hear what the petition is really about.

It seemed like a joke that the students were presenting the school with something so unnecessary as a state of the art concession stand. I see how lucky we are to be getting the education we are getting and to have all the activities that we have, and at the same time I feel selfish.

The idea of the petition was an attempt to try to get our school and administration to open our collective eyes and stop taking for granted the money we have. It was an attempt to offer an alternative suggestion for how we can take action as a class. What is the senior gift really? Isn't it giving ourselves a gift and calling it a senior gift?

The whole idea of the senior gift being called a "gift" is a joke itself. I've never been to a meeting where the seniors decide what the gift is but I wouldn't doubt that Mr. Smith has a big say in what he would like the class board to give the school. In the article, Mr. Smith was quoted as saying, "There is a tradition at GBS of giving something back to the school" and Mr. Shellard said, "the gift is used as a thank you to South. In an effort for students to show their appreciation for the education they received at GBS." Now when I look at these two comments, I immediately think of how the past gifts have shown a class' appreciation of the school. As students, we don't have anything that we really owe the school. The school is just a building that the community pays for through taxes.

We do owe something to the teachers who have affected our lives in a positive way while we were here. When I think of how I could repay my teachers or show them appreciation, it wouldn't be by purchasing stadium lights. I would like it to be in a way in which they can see that something they did made me a better person. I can take what I have learned from them and share it with others. This is not something that can be shown through a new school sign or any other material thing.

Mr. Smith also says that the "senior gift could benefit others in a charitable way, while still assisting the future students and faculty at South." I wish he could have given an example to explain this statement. The only people I've seen benefiting from the past gifts are those that are involved with sports at GBS.

I urge the senior class board to question tradition because only through questioning are flaws found and positive changes made. Look at senior gift and see what it really represents and will represent years from now.

*Nora Gallagher*

Nora Gallagher, '97

# Mother applauds anti-drug efforts

The 1996-1997 Grad Nite committee applauds the efforts of the Student to Student organization during Red Ribbon Week at Glenbrook South. Congratulations!

Jaine Moretti  
Publicity Chairperson

## THE GLENBROOK SOUTH ORACLE

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Sophomore April Williamson sells candy cane messages during lunch. The cards are 50 cents and will be distributed next week.

## Candy canes end up to be a sticky situation

We have all had to deal with the question of whether or not we should be buying candy canes for everyone. Do you buy them for everyone you know, or are you a little more selective and hope that no one unexpected sends you a candy cane? Whatever your decision, this might end up to be a potentially 'sticky' situation.

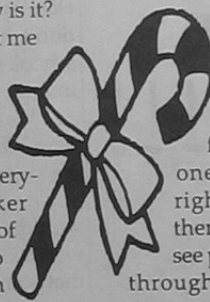


by Jina Chung  
Asst. Features Editor

The sign outside the SAO has finally arrived, the one that everyone's been waiting for: Candy Canes - 50 cents. Yes, everyone gets excited to get their special treats and messages from all of their friends. I think that candy canes are a really good idea, but there are a couple of issues that make this situation take a few turns for the worse.

In the past three years, we've received our candy canes during our 5-7 classes. Hmmm... I wonder then, how come by the time 23-25 rolls around, people are still carrying them around? Peppermint addiction? I think not. (If that is the case, you have bigger problems to deal with than most people realize.) Of course this doesn't apply to everyone, but why is it that some people find a need to carry them around like a trophy? Are we trying to show others how many people love us? Let's think about this realistically, folks; you could have sent them to yourself, for all that everyone else knows. It's not much of a statement anymore now is it?

Don't get me not discouraging cane sales. I friends little and I get my Sure, not every-their locker store most of ner, but to ing them gets old fast.



wrong, I am aging candy send my messages fair share. one can get to right away to them into a cor-see people clutch-throughout the day

Secondly, there is a lot of pressure in sending candy canes. There are the easy ones, of course: your best friends, possibly a girl/boyfriend. Well, what about after that? I think the worst feeling for myself around that time is to get a candy cane and know I forgot to send one to that person. Or how about that significant other? Then, there's those friends that you hang out with sometimes, but really just because they're a friend of a friend.

Do I just send everyone a candy cane and face my poor empty wallet during the real gift buying season? I guess I can take the time right now to apologize to anyone I know-- or possibly don't know, that I missed sending a candy cane to. If it's really that big of a deal to you, just tell me and I'll go out to the store and buy a stupid candy cane. The pressure is just becoming overwhelming.

Finally, I'm told that candy canes are a girl thing. What's up with that? Are you guys out there too macho to show your friends that you care? Or how about your friends that bothered to send you one? It's all a give and take thing. And to those guys out there that do send your friends candy canes; good for you. Oh, and if you sent one to your girlfriend after she laid down heavy hints, that doesn't count.

Well, now that I've got all that out of my system, maybe I can start to enjoy the holiday season or worry about carnations—Valentine's Day isn't for another 63 days...

## New schedule might not be so rosy



by Kelly O'Bryan  
Staff Reporter

It seems like all that Generation X does now days is complain. If it's not our parents, it's our friends, our boyfriends (or girlfriends); we complain about what we have and don't want or what we want and don't have. Of course, the ever-standing first thing that every teenager loves to hate is school. It starts too early and ends too late. Sophomores are ruining the parking system and the freshmen still can't walk in the hallways! The list goes on and on.

Has anyone ever stopped to think about how good we have it?

Think about it. We go to a great school where we are given uncountable opportunities, we're not overly stressed and we have teachers who really care. I have been thinking about all of the privileges we have at this school and I am finally ready to recognize the great job that GBS does.

There is only one problem; the low-stress, familiar environment that I was planning to glorify will most likely be altered next year. This all depends on whether the board of education votes on replacing the trusted module schedule this school year with block scheduling.

To some of you, this is a good thing. You've heard about a few new scheduling plans and how one of them is supposed to relieve your academic-related anxiety. To others, it's simply a new way to learn old things. However, there are those of us (namely, the sophomore class) that are not happy with this possible change.

Isn't it true that the average teenager's attention span is much shorter than other age groups? I know I can't sit still and concentrate through eight classes, all of which are longer than 40 minutes.

say that we don't adapt to the schedule. In fact, let's just say that we score lower on our SATs and ACTs and our grades start to drop. That's a definite possibility.

Isn't it true that the average teenager's attention span is much shorter than other age groups? I know I can't sit still and concentrate through eight classes, all of which are longer than 40 minutes.

Don't get me wrong, it's not that I'm a closed-minded person. Under any other circumstances, I would be ready and willing to try out a new schedule if it may help me in my studies. However, when it comes to my future, I'm not willing to gamble with new ideas and concepts. The new schedule may help, but it may not and I'm just not willing to take that chance.

## Ain't nuttin' to be happy 'bout



by Scott Issen  
Editor-in-Chief

Disaster, death, O.J. and bad entertainment. What do all of these things have in common? Well, they are characteristic of 1996. Yes, another year is about to end and what do we have to show for it? This year has been disappointing and one of those that will hopefully be forgotten.

Every time I turned on the news or read the paper, more bad things happened. From the re-

chance. Nothing bothers me more than people who complain and don't do anything about their feelings. Kudos to members of Channel Zero for exhibiting some new opinions. Now the Oracle has some more competition, thanks! Also, don't think you're invincible. Cars will not stop, smoking, alcohol and drugs will kill you and unprotected sex...don't get me started on that. Bad things will happen, so expect them to. Finally, seize the day. It's important to plan for the future, but don't neglect the present.

If you want to follow a strategy that will be helpful in a difficult situation, let me introduce you to Murphy's Law. This law states that "nothing is as easy as it looks, everything takes longer than you expect and if anything can go wrong it will, at the worst possible moment." If you choose to follow Murphy's teachings, events and actions will become more positive since you thought the worst. The law teaches us to have a backup plan and to always think ahead because we won't know what will really happen. An alternative vision could

### Top 5 Ways to Know if You're a Pessimist

5. Your favorite holiday tune is "Up on the Housetop With a .25-Caliber."
4. Convince your little sister that Santa isn't coming because he got a DUI (a little too much egg nog in the sleigh, heh?)
3. Instead of visions of sugar plum fairies in your head, you think of Mrs. Claus as beating the bee-gees out of those pesky elves.
2. You sit at the Hanukkah celebration and think of how fast Auntie Mae can get up if you set the table on fire.
1. Not only do you see the glass as half empty, but the glass is filled with arsenic as well.

be the propelling factor in your future happiness. My ultimate goal is to have an easy, worry free 1997. I know that it is unrealistic, but I can still hope. All I really want is to know that we will not have another '96. In order to maintain sanity and stay emotionally fit, I think we need a break. So sit down, turn off the TV, dump the newspapers and take a nap — for some reason I think we all need one. Hopefully when you wake up, things will be better!



December 13, 1996

### Flutter of holidays is almost too much

by Brian Christensen  
Opinion Editor

It happens every Thanksgiving, every Hanukkah and every Christmas. People get all dressed up in their itchy new shirts and sweaters and pile themselves in the family car. They travel miles to Grandma's through dustings of snow and fight the entire time.

Like a swarm of desperate bees who have just been released from their cramped gift boxes, every aunt, grandma and only the most annoying cousins come to greet you at the door. They ask you if you've gotten over that cold you had two weeks ago, how the car ride there was, where you're going to college, if you've found a wife yet and if you've figured out how many children you plan on having.

You brush them aside along with the snow on your coat and go to where the smell of a holiday meal is wafting through the air. You pick at the vegetable tray and the basket of snack crackers that have already been perused by the rest of the family. If you are ever left alone (a rarity), you may sneak a peek into the oven and check out what Grandma is cooking up for dinner.

With the flutter of activity that is going around in the house, you find a safe haven in the den with Grandpa and the uncles. They're all sitting there in overstuffed chairs with a beer in one hand and some hors d'oeuvres in the other. Chances are that the vast majority of people in this room are either fast asleep or will be shortly, so it's only a matter of time before you can pry the remote out of your unsuspecting uncles' fingers and watch something other than a golf tournament in Hawaii.

But that can get boring quickly. You go visit the little cousins downstairs and you pick out any one of the preteen terrors and challenge them to a game of ping-pong. You make quick work of one cousin and challenge another. Pretty soon the whole lot of little cousins starts getting sassy and you look over your options. You can either belt a couple of them over their heads or play with the dog.

This goes on for the entire day and by the end of it you are filled up to here with the relatives and filled out to there with food. Gather up your gifts, head for the nearest empty bedroom and wait for Jiminy Cricket to pay you a visit. Ah, another holiday season has past.

### PSAT tests shouldn't be changed for females

by Edie Faig  
Staff Reporter

As a high school female I've had a hard time dealing with standardized tests. Not the problems on the tests, mind you, but the problem of people wanting to change the tests for my sake. It's the unwholesome business of tests adapting to their takers instead of vice versa. For example, in late October the *Tribune* ran the following: "After years of complaints that the prestigious National Merit Scholarships shortchanges academically gifted girls, the College Board has agreed to change the qualifying test." This means that the PSAT will, in upcoming years, have a special writing section in it designed especially so girls can excel.

The degradation I feel when I'm confronted with this is immeasurable. A prestigious test decided to adapt itself for my benefit, not to mention my male counterpart's disadvantage. How demeaning to me is this? Between the lines I read a patronizing: "We're sorry you can't compete significantly enough, but don't worry, we'll help you!" I'm supposed to call this equality and liberation, right? Instead I call it outright surrender. I need no assistance to meet anyone on an academic battlefield. It is my own fault if I cannot or will not understand basic algebra. If I do not enjoy my science class, I cannot blame the school or my instructor for my unhappiness. It is my own choice to compete in any area. It is my choice to make the effort to comprehend.

Is it the duty of a test to compensate? Of course not! A test is designed to be a fair judge to various skills and topics. Outstanding is meant to be outstanding for any race or gender. Take note that the pace of the world runs by itself and is not slowed down by the normal difficulty females have with certain concepts, nor should it be.

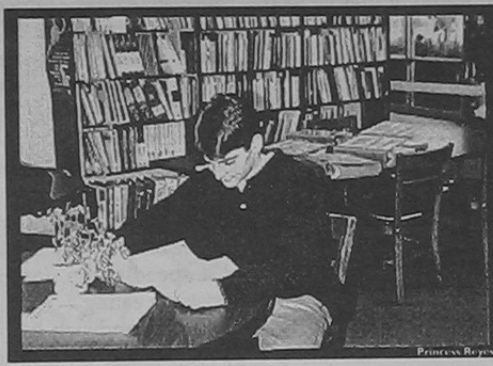
I am sick of hearing about compensations for the "female mind." Incidents have come up where math classes have been separated and girls are allowed to work in groups where boys are to learn

arithmetic individually. Some psychologists and feminists raise their horn of triumph... completely unaware, it seems, that the methods are disarming the equality my gender has fought hard for. Completely unaware that the sacrifice of quality should not be made for the preservation of an artificial equality. Tests that determine, to some level, success or failure in a subject area should not have to adjust for those who cannot meet its standards. Humanity, as we merge into full-time adulthood, will pass us at a billion light years a thought. Can the females working in groups to solve their tests ever have a fair shot at merging into successful independence after being cushioned all these years?

"Dumbing down" is a viscous cycle. Hiding a scar will not make it go away. Masking this discrepancy between the genders amidst stacks of adjusted figures and negotiated scores will not improve any one's intelligence. Altering the test is not the solution. The altering must be done within the mind of females willing to accept a challenge; the only real change in statistics can occur when everyone is willing to compete for their own sake.

I would have been content to hear that the test decided to include a writing section with the justification that the ability to write is "somewhat" important in grand ventures such as college and even life. There is no problem in adapting an outmoded dinosaur of judgment to adjust to new demands and conditions. Unfortunately, the PSAT is making its updates and is not supporting demanding change.

Maybe all is for the better. A minor increase in female college attendance, if it is any judge, seems to be a possible side effect. Also, certain organizations will have their righteous demands met and can go about their business harassing the IGAP because "how many feet in a yard?" is such a masculine question. I must reiterate that it is not the "dumbing down" of any system that will endow the average female with a sense of challenge and self-worth. Having confidence in females is what should be emphasized instead.



Senior Andy Miller looks over testing material. The main purpose of the PSAT is to prepare for the more-important SAT.

I don't need any assistance to meet anyone on an academic battlefield.

### Cheaper solutions offered for giving holiday gifts

by Princess Reyes  
Asst. Opinion Editor

Christmas, as cheesy as it sounds, is the season of giving. The holiday season is a time people look forward to in order to give and receive gifts, but giving isn't always easy when you lack cash in your wallet.

This season, I wanted to splurge on presents for all my friends. After all, I may not see half of them after June. I love to give away wrapped boxes and colorful holiday bags filled with presents that I thoughtfully picked out for my friend or relative. However, I only have a certain amount of money to live by.

It seems as if I am faced with this dilemma every year, but thank goodness my friends and relatives are thankful that I least thought of them. Last year, to show them I cared, I decided to give my pals Christmas socks, which I didn't really expect them to wear (would you like to wear red and green socks with bells jingling off of them?) I just couldn't afford to buy each of them a new

CD or the stylish purple shirt out of Contempo's window. The important thing was that they appreciated the socks (or at least they pretended to); after all, it's the thought that counts.

I don't want to ignore the whole holiday spirit just because I don't have any money. Giving presents doesn't necessarily mean spending your savings on a shirt that may go out of fashion next season.

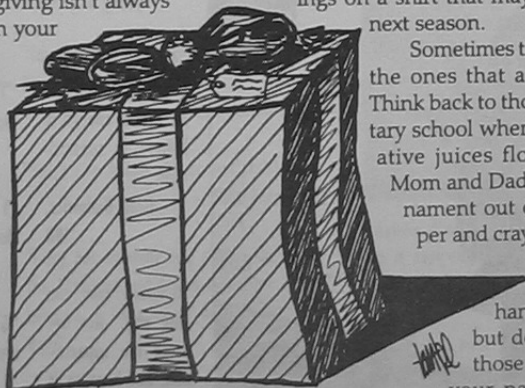
Sometimes the best presents are the ones that are made by hand. Think back to those days in elementary school when you let those creative juices flow and you made Mom and Dad that Christmas ornament out of construction paper and crayons. Sure, it ripped in half before you could even hang it up on the tree, but don't you remember those smiles plastered on your parents' faces when you handed that to them? You cannot replace that warm, fuzzy feeling inside with a present you bought by emptying your piggy bank.

I'm not saying that all presents should be creatively handmade. I admit that I am looking forward to finding a new pair of overalls under the Christmas tree this December (hint, hint.) I admit that I love shopping for presents for my close friends.

Sometimes the best presents are the ones that are made by hand. Think back to those days in elementary school when you let those creative juices flow and you made Mom and Dad that Christmas ornament out of construction paper and crayons.

I admit that I enjoy choosing the perfect Hallmark cards to give out to others. However, you should always keep homemade gifts an option. There are a lot of cool things you can make. Or why not add your own personal touch to the present? I'm sure your friend or relative would be touched that you put forth the extra effort in making them something for the holidays (even if you did spend only two minutes on it).

This holiday season, instead of deciding what CD to buy your brother, think about what homemade present you could give him to take back to college. They're a lot more personal and mean a lot more to the receiver. I know my brother would be thrilled to receive a picture frame decorated by moi to display in his dorm room instead of the new CD that he's been begging for. Wouldn't you feel the same?



### HOT

... All the seniors who will be camped out by their mailboxes this weekend waiting for Early Decision letters from college. It's either going to be a "Holly Jolly Christmas" or "Walking in a Wicked-Wonderland."

... Everyone who is participating in Battle of the Bands tonight. But this year, guys, let's keep our shirts on.

... Only one more week of school before Winter Break. Wie sagt man, "Blow-off?" (That's German.)

... Everyone who is planning to attend Christmas Around the World next Friday. Come and whack a pinata.

... People that have all of their Christmas shopping done already. Nothing else to do, huh?

... Santa's sexy little elf-helpers at the mall. Can I have my picture taken with you, please?!

### NOT

... People that came to school even though they were sick. It's called an epidemic. You started it.

... The incredible lack of school spirit displayed at the Winter Sports Assembly. How are you supposed to wash 'em in the river when you can't even clap your hands?

... New Trier for getting in *Time* magazine for smoking pot. Give yourselves a pat on the back for a job well done, or treat yourself to an extra joint today.

... OJ Simpson for saying that he never hit Nicole. Did they find another 12 people stupid enough not to get out of jury duty to believe this moron?

... Grandparents who are giving you underwear this holiday season. Return it unless it is the kind from Victoria's Secret. (Picture that for a moment.)

... Teachers that assign projects over break. We hear there is an opening for "Scrooge" in this year's holiday assembly.

... Those of you that are travelling somewhere exotic over the holidays. May you fry in the sun and peel like an orange.



# Timeless superstitions make

Rituals help GBS

## Students achieve success

by Joy Bolger  
Staff Reporter

Many teams and clubs at GBS have their own superstitions, which they believe will bring them good luck at competitions. According to senior Catherine Choi, captain of the varsity Titan Poms, the poms have a pregame ritual that they believe is necessary to do well. They all gather in a circle and shout a phrase as they lift up their arms. They also exchange big sister-little sister gifts and wear stickers on their cheeks the day of the competitions.

The boys' varsity football team also has some common rituals. According to senior Jay Cantwell, he personally taps the goal-post before warm-ups in games. Many of the players also wear the same t-shirt every time they play. The team as a whole has a pancake breakfast on gameday and a pasta party the night before.

Jeff Aaron, coach of the boys'

varsity baseball team, follows some very strong superstitions about his team doing well. According to Aaron, if they've won a game at a certain place before, they will park in the same parking space for the next game. If they won the previous game, he will have the same person give the pregame talk and give an almost identical speech to the previous one. He also fills out the line-up card the same way every time, starting with the same section first and going in a certain order.

According to junior Therese Nash, member of the varsity girls' gymnastics team, some of the girls wear the same hair rubber band to each competition and dress up the day of meets. They also have pasta parties and big sister-little sister gift exchanges.

Sports teams are not the only ones with superstitions. According to senior Susan Bae, a drum major in the band, the seniors and juniors in one of the buses on the way to competitions have a certain ritual. They play chants or songs to get themselves into the

musical mood and for self-motivation. Sophomore Linda Liang, former member of the policy debate team, said she carried a small stuffed dog with her to tournaments. Natalie Jakucyn, coach of the freshman math team, says that they always have pizza before a competition and that "people get psyched in that sense."

Famous athletes also have some peculiar superstitions. Bonnie Blair, Olympic gold-medalist speed skater, for example, insists on eating a peanut-butter and jelly sandwich before each speed skating competition. Phil Jackson, head coach of the Chicago Bulls, believes that meditation, based on a Zen Buddhist philosophy, helps his team to do well.

So whether or not you believe in superstitions, they certainly do seem to pervade the school. Aaron says, "I know that there's no basis for any of them (superstitions), but I still have them anyway."

Additional Source: Internet "Yahoo"  
http://www.cam.org/jmnyl/comb.html

It's not easy being...

Friday is the unluckiest day of the week. The term "black Friday" was coined to describe a Friday on which many things go wrong. Previous unlucky Fridays include

May 10, 1886, when there was a severe financial crisis in London, Dec. 6, 1745, the day London was invaded by the Young Pretender and on a Friday in Biblical times, Adam and Eve were said to have eaten the forbidden fruit.

It is also the day Christ was crucified and is a general day of mourning and gloom. One should never start a new job, move houses, call a doctor, turn the mattress on a bed or begin a sea voyage on a Friday.

Source: Man, Myth, and Magic

Triskaidekaphobia, the fear of the number 13, is a superstition that many people have. It is named from the Last Supper, where 13 people were present, including Jesus, who was crucified the day after. Even the Romans believed in it because it is one more than 12, a number of perfection, since there are 12 months in a year and 12 apostles. Thirteen may sur-

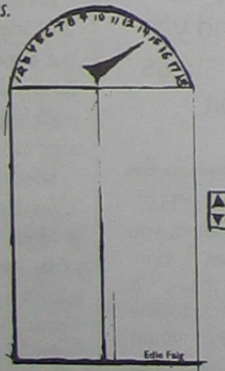
pass set limits, is consid

### FEAR OF 13

day of the month is considered to be unlucky, especially when it falls on a Friday. One should avoid any major venture on this day. People still believe in the powers associated with 13 as the 13th floor and some hotels still do not number the 13th floor.

## Superstitions of South

Recently, GBS students were surveyed about superstitions. How superstitious are we? Will we go out of our way to avoid certain situations? Is Friday the 13th really a horrible day? Find out how students really feel about superstitions.



What are some superstitions that you practice?

"I try to avoid broken mirrors and walking under ladders."  
- Allison Herron, '98

"I can't cut nails at night."

"I don't like the number 237, and on game days I do the same exact things, wear the same undershirt and eat the same meal."  
- Dustin Marchant, '98

"I eat a smiley face cookie. Actually, my whole meal is the same before every game."  
- Susie McCreery, '98

"I hold my breath when I pass a cemetery."  
- Darrell Frazier III, '00

"I never change my tighty whities."  
- Greg Bielowicz, '98

"I won't break a mirror on Friday the 13th."  
- Ankur Shah, '98

"I carry a rabbit's foot and I don't walk under ladders."  
- Prina Shah, '97

"I read my horoscope daily."  
- Jennifer Jamison, '98

"I carry a few key chains I consider lucky. I must do everything in exact order to get it all accomplished."  
- Jason Park, '97

"I have lucky charm stuff."  
- Kevin Horwitz, '98

**The situation:**  
You are in a big hurry to get to class. The shortest route to your classroom is blocked by a ladder, which you would have

to go under. The only way to avoid the ladder is by taking an alternative route taking a big circle around the school, which will cause you to waste valuable minutes and make you late to class. Would you go under the ladder or take the other route and risk being late to class?

"I'd go under the ladder because I like to walk on the wild side."  
- Susan Long, '97

"Yes, I would but I would walk backwards and close my eyes. Duh!"  
- Jenny Ha, '98

"I'd go under the ladder because I'm not stupid enough to believe in superstitions."  
- Greg Bielowicz, '98

"I would take the long way. Not because I'm superstitious, but because it would give me an excellent reason to be late to class."  
- David Mattas, '98

"I'd go under the ladder - it is just a

ladder."

- Dustin Yeurk, '97

"I would go under the ladder so I wouldn't be late to class."  
- Tanya Batti, '98

"I would go under the ladder. Everything about superstition is in your head."  
- Lauren Kellen, '98

"I'd go under the ladder because I am not superstitious, and I wouldn't want to be late to class."  
- Dan Alkhovsky, '00

"I would go under the ladder. What's going to happen?"  
- Sean O'Shea, '98

"I would definitely go under the ladder."  
- Audrey Amini, '98

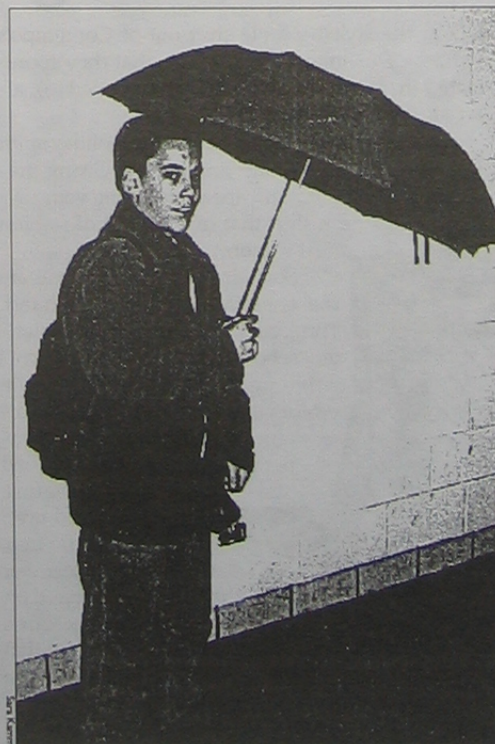
"I'll dance a jig under the ladder, fold it up, and take it with me."  
- Benjamin Cohen, '99

"I would go under the ladder because I don't think anything is wrong with that."  
- Palak Patel, '99

"Go under the ladder, why go all the way around the school?"  
- Hyun Lee, '97

"I would go under the ladder because I am not superstitious and if I didn't, I would be late to class."  
- Chia-Chi Liang, '97

"I'd take the other route, but only be-



Sophomore Jordan Sherwood opens an umbrella in the hallways of GBS. That is one of the largest feared superstitions.

cause then I'd be

"I'd definitely go foolish not to."

"More than likely for class, but if I on time, I would because I am no

"I'd knock the l shortest way."

"Yes, I will go u run."

"I would take t out of class long

"I'd go under th won't get bad lu

"I would go un am too lazy."

"I would go un just don't care!"

"I would go un I'm too lazy to the school."



# make impressions at GBS

## Fears travel through time

by Jasmine Hernandez and Madhuri Pydisetty  
Co In-Depth Editors

At some point in their life, everyone is superstitious. Through movies, books, sports and other daily activities superstitions are incorporated into the everyday lives of Americans. Some superstitions still widely held include seeing a black cat, walking under a ladder, looking into a broken mirror, and opening umbrellas. Each of these superstitions combines ancient and contemporary philosophies that are evident in different cultures.

### The Lore of the Black Cat

The black cat has always had an evil reputation probably due to the fact that it is born at the end of the blackberry season, the time of the year when Satan was thrown out of heaven into a blackberry bush and then defiled with urine and spittle. The black cat has been thought to be an incarnation of the Devil himself. One should always stroke a black cat gently across the spine and never let it be chased away, or it may take the good luck of the home with it. It has always been considered unlucky to come across or even own a black cat.

### The Ladder to Heaven

The ladder has always been a symbol of spiritual ascension and served as the bridge connecting heaven and earth as well as the earth and the otherworld. In ancient Egypt, there was a belief that dead kings climbed ladders to reach the sky, and in his dream, Jacob saw a ladder that angels ascended and descended. The superstition that it is unlucky to walk under a ladder is still widely held.

### The Broken Mirror

Mirrors have always been a symbol of the soul's reflection and a window to the future. A broken mirror has always been a sign of disintegration, impending disaster or even death itself. However, that has not stopped men and women from peering at their reflections. Breaking a mirror is said to bring about seven years of bad luck. It is also a common belief that the Devil will materialize if anyone looking into a mirror long enough.

Popular antidotes to this superstition includes burying the mirrors' shattered pieces in the earth and casting them into a stream flowing south to wash the curse away.

### The Royal Umbrella

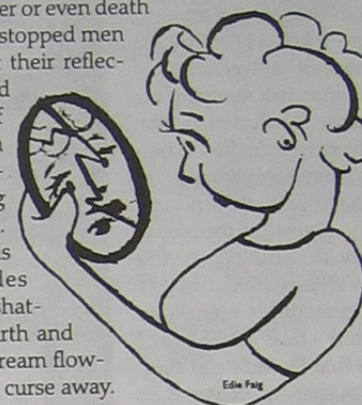
In the East, the umbrella has always been an emblem of majesty held over royalty, a symbol of the sky, and a few women in England used it in the 17th century but it was not adopted till the 18th century. A man named James Hanway, in 1778, carried an umbrella and was jeered by an angry mob. The umbrella, the modern-day protection against rain, has attracted numerous superstitions. To open an umbrella in fair weather is considered unlucky as well as opening one indoors. Giving someone an umbrella is believed to be a curse. A person should also never pick up an umbrella he or she drops. Always have someone else pick it up to avoid bad luck.

Source: Man, Myth and Magic

Triskaidekaphobia, the fear of the number 13, is a superstition that many people have. It may have originated from the Last Supper, where 13 people sat down for dinner only leading to the death and betrayal of Christ. Even the Romans believed 13 to be unlucky because it is one more than 12, a number of completeness, since there are 12 months in a year and 12 hostles. Thirteen is also the traditional number of witches in a coven. The 13th day of the month is considered to be the most ominous, especially when it falls on a Friday, the unluckiest day of the week. One should never begin a new venture on this day. People still believe in the evil powers associated with 13 as hotels leave out the 13th floor and some local authorities still do not number houses 13.

**FEAR OF 13**

pass set limits, which is considered to be dangerous and unnatural. Thirteen is also the traditional number of witches in a coven. The 13th day of the month is considered to be the most ominous, especially when it falls on a Friday, the unluckiest day of the week. One should never begin a new venture on this day. People still believe in the evil powers associated with 13 as hotels leave out the 13th floor and some local authorities still do not number houses 13.



cause then I'd be late to class."  
- Hyung Kong, '97

"I wouldn't go under the ladder, it's foolish not to."  
- Suzy Yeo, '98

"More than likely I would already be late for class, but if I had a chance at being on time, I would walk under the ladder because I am not superstitious."  
- Bryan Rahning, '98

"I'd knock the ladder over and go the shortest way."  
- Matt Boice, '99

"Yes, I will go under the ladder, but I'll run."  
- Kate Zeller, '98

"I would take the longer route to stay out of class longer."  
- Kyle Bechelli, '00

"I'd go under the ladder, who cares? I won't get bad luck."  
- Jodi Cole, '00

"I would go under the ladder because I am too lazy."  
- Anuja Thakkar, '97

"I would go under the ladder because I just don't care!"  
- Desiree Leiva, '97

"I would go under the ladder because I'm too lazy to walk all the way around the school."  
- Angela Namos, '97

"I would go under the ladder. Even though I'm superstitious, I must get to class on time."  
- Jason Park, '97

"It would depend on how late I am and how many tardies I already have."  
- Prinal Shah, '99

"I'd go under the ladder and risk my luck because I'm probably risking less. My teachers would flip out if I was late again and this excuse is not believable."  
- Jennifer Jamison, '98

**Do you take any special precautions on Friday the 13th?**

"Yes, because our family pets seem to die on Friday the 13th."  
- Katie Hoffman, '97

"Yes, I stay home and do not come out!"  
- Matt Boice, '98

"I try not to write any papers on Friday the 13th and just try to stay more aware because I have been unlucky on that day."  
- Bryan Rahning, '97

"I pray to 13 gods."  
- Dustin Marchant, '98

"No, but I feel that everything that happens on that day is significant."  
- Sharmin Jani, '98

"No, I think Friday the 13th is just another ordinary day."  
- Chia-Chi Liang, '97

"I suck my thumb for five minutes at the good luck day."  
- Jeff Smith, '99

"No, usually I don't even know it's Friday the 13th until somebody comes up to me."

"I just try to forget it's Friday the 13th because if I don't, I force bad luck on myself. I think it's just a superstition that I unfortunately believe sometimes when bad things happen on this day. In years past, several bad things have occurred on this day, but I think it just might be coincidence."  
- Kathleen Weber, '98

"I wear my lucky charm."  
- Dave Guyer, '97

"I try not to do gymnastics because one year on Friday the 13th, my foot broke."  
- Lauren Anderson, '98

"I'm just cautious of my environment."  
- Angela Namos, '97

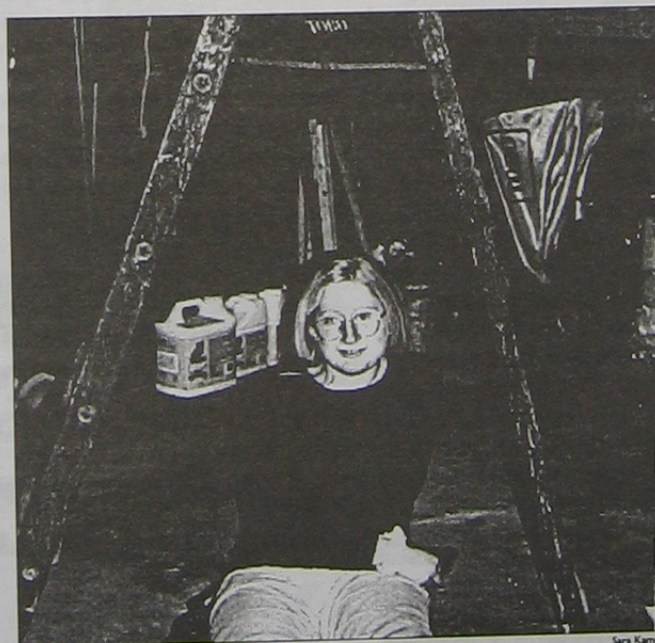
"Yes, I try to keep all the weirdos away from me! Oh and I try to check my car tires to see that one doesn't go flat again, like last time."  
- Desiree Leiva, '97

"No, I just pretend. It's fun to act scared."  
- Jodi Cole, '00

"No, I live my life as normally as I do."  
- Joe Keaney, '98

"No, those days are good days for me."  
- Anuja Thakkar, '97

"No, nothing bad has ever happened that day."  
- Dustin Yuerk, '97



Jamie Popper, a senior sits under a ladder and tempts her luck. In a survey conducted, seven out of 85 GBS students fear sitting under a ladder.

"top of each hour."  
- Benjamin Cohen, '99

"No, it is a fun day because everyone else is so worried about what will happen to them."  
- Tim Blackwelder, '98

"No, I was born on Friday the 13th. It's my

and says, "Dude! It's Friday the 13th!"  
- David Mattas, '98

"I don't shower for a whole month before it."  
- Greg Bielowicz, '98

"No, I think people are too paranoid, and if I believe nothing will happen nothing



# Students recreate Revolutionary War

## Local History class participates in weekend reenactment at the Grove

by Nicki Flocca  
Staff Reporter

History to most students at Glenbrook South can be as boring and unrealistic as flipping through the pages of a long book. History to the students in the Grove's Local History class is as real as another weekend.

Rather than just studying the facts about the Revolutionary War, these students were invited to participate in a the Revolutionary War Days reenactment, which took place at the Grove on the weekend of Nov 16. Students of the Grove class along with Grove volunteers and recruited reenactors participated that weekend. Dressed in that period's clothing, the students spent a weekend as people of the 18th century living as they would have, even taking on colonial identities.

Junior Tim Blackwelder took on the role of the local surgeon. In this role, he would perform many mock medical procedures such as bleeding. Sometimes it became difficult to determine the difference between real and pretend, where one of the reenactors, Carrie Seltzer described these



Senior Ginna Moon models her 18th century clothing while giving a tour of the Kennicott House. Local History students were required to dress up as ordinary citizens during the Revolutionary War time period.

bleedings as, "very educational, but a little too realistic."

Students also took the role of ordinary citizens during the war. Seniors Jina Chung, Jaime Hara and Aylin Talgar posed as three colonial sisters running their the

log cabin during war time. They encountered situations such as British soldiers coming to burn down their cabin and one of the sisters burning their hand on the stove and running to see the doctor. "I really love history so this was

a good chance for me to interact with so many other people with the same interest," Talgar stated.

The public was invited to be a part of the weekend. Members of the community were able to interact with the reenactors by asking

questions and taking tours. Both Saturday and Sunday were long for the students where the festival opened at 10 a.m. on both days and ended at 5 p.m.

Other opportunities for guests included tasting some of the food or even taking part in some colonial dancing. Due to lack of publicity, the turn out for the Revolutionary War Days was not considerable, however it was fun and interesting for all those who came to participate. "It was like stepping back in time, I enjoyed it and I think the public did too," Hara said. Steve Baule, who helped organize the event through the program stated that, "It went pretty well, I was especially pleased with how both the visitors and students were able to be participants."

To anyone who missed the Revolutionary War but is interested in seeing history in action, the Grove's Living History class will also reenact for the Lincoln Christmas Tea tomorrow, Saturday Dec 14 from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Grove. The public is also invited to this event. Talgar added, "Everyone should have the chance to see any of these reenactments, they're a lot of fun and you may learn something out of it too."

# GBS Dance Company steps up to future successes

*The elegance,  
the style,  
the beauty,  
the mastery and  
the grace...  
Discover the magic  
of the artistic  
Dance Company.*

by Edie Faig  
Staff Reporter

On Tuesday afternoons a small crowd trickles into the echoing Performing Arts Room. The thick navy curtains are run off to the sides and the bright green desks are pushed to the back. Bonnie Lasky is cueing her tapes in front of the mirrored wall. Students come in shorts and stocking feet... ready to begin an afternoon of first positions, toe pointing and today's feature: hand

choreography.

The Dance Company opens up a new and rare opportunity for students. The company boasts weekly instruction by professional choreographers. The petite and flexible Lasky, for example, is a dance instructor at the Children's Theater of Deerfield and choreographer at The Appletree Theater. She has worked with the dance company often and enjoys it every time, "I can teach more challenging things."

However, emphasis is placed not on previous skill level as dance

exercises are done at a pace where anyone can keep up and no one will be bored. Member Emily

Rosenbaum commented, "Dance company is a place where people can dance, just for fun... even if they're not good at it." Marks added, "It's for everyone who's had dance - and everyone who hasn't."

Dancer Jackie Mitchell laughs, "It a great experience and

a lot of fun." The Company is designed to teach and encourage the promotion of beautiful movement,

**"It's a place where  
people can dance  
just for fun."**

**Stevie Marks**

a goal it lives quite adequately up to. Watching the different dancers moving in amazing unison... the motions and planned footwork... one can imagine des-

tinies in the Variety Show, show business or maybe even Broadway. Whatever the case may be, the GBS Dance Company remains wonderfully in step.

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December 13, 1996

# Radio visits convention

## Students join pros to cover election aftermath

by Laurel Felt  
Staff Reporter

This is Glenbrook South High School beginning programming on WMWA, Glenview, Illinois. For anyone tuning into 88.5 FM, the Glenbrook's private radio station, this is the familiar announcement which the listeners are greeted with. However, the GBS radio department's latest activities have been anything but familiar. On Nov. 5, along with various professional journalists, 17 GBS students from WMWA covered the results of the recent political elections.

"It was the greatest experience," praised senior Brian Appel. "It was definitely the best Tuesday night that I've ever spent."

Along with Appel, list of attendees include: sophomore Peter Heinz, juniors Elizabeth Cascino, Tom Eddy, Charles Fogelman, Andrew Rudnik and Laura Tivers, seniors Brian Dailey, Iajaira Dominguez, Deanna Kowalski, Barbara Matthopolous, Iris Pasic, Tiffany Reed, Steve Sacks, John Wejman, Jenny Slesnick and Mandy Stein.

Radio sponsor Dell Kennedy stated, "Because we are members of the press, we called both political headquarters and told them that we were going to do press coverage." News director, Tivers, was responsible for making all of the phone calls to organize the trip, as well as writing letters of introduction.

The students divided themselves between the Democratic and Republican camps, stationed at Chicago's Sheraton and Hyatt Regency Hotels respectively. Equipped with professional press passes, each student assumed his or her own place in the mob of reporters. "Once they [the students] were there, they were thrown into the press pool, where it's every man or woman for themselves. You have to be aggressive; you need to go and offer them yourself," Kennedy explained.

The students were instructed to "keep their eyes and ears open." Kennedy declared, "Often, the chairperson of a campaign will get



Elizabeth Cascino, Peter Heinz, Tiffany Reed, Iajaira Dominguez and Barbara Matthopolous pose with senator Carol Moseley Braun. The radio staff joined mobs of reporters to cover the results of the elections at the Democratic headquarters.

journalists from the press pool and take them to the candidate's room for photo opportunities. Sometimes they stipulate that no questions be asked, but the reporters ask questions anyway, and if you have your tape recorder running, you can get the candidate's answer."

For this election, the GBS kids brushed elbows with Paul Simon, Carol Moseley-Braun, Dick Durbin, Al Salvi, Dawn Clark Netsch, Robert Jordan and other political bigwigs. Kennedy commented, "This was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Unless they go into broadcast journalism or politics, they'll never be with so many political powers in one room again."

Heinz commented on his experience as well as his impressions, "I had a great time. It wasn't politics as usual -- the winners were saying what they were going to do for the next term and the losers were very graceful and congratulated the winners."

Appel actually witnessed the counseling of one of the evening's losers, senatorial hopeful Al Salvi, during his exclusive interview. "I was honored," expressed Appel. "I shook his hand and asked him what he thought some of the reasons were that he lost. Then, one assistant handed Salvi the telephone -- it was Jim Edgar on the line. Edgar said how sorry he was that Salvi lost and Salvi said, 'I thought we did the best we could,' and 'Thanks for campaigning for me, Governor.'"

Following this experience, many staff members of WMWA were inspired to continue radio in the future. "I really feel like I'm doing something cool," said Eddy. "It steers you in the right direction and gets you far."

On the other hand, regardless of whether the students pursue journalism or broadcasting as a career in the future, they will always have this experience to cherish and remember for the rest of their lives. Summing up the once in a life time experience, the radio staff had at the conventions best when she said, "They were there, covering the news, as the news was happening."

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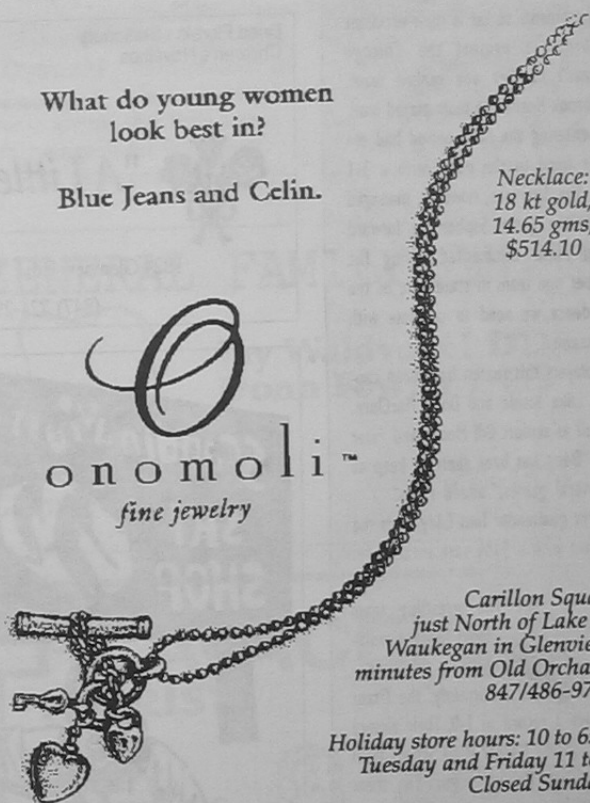


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SPORTS  
IN BRIEF

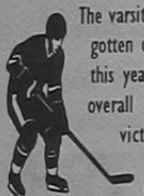
This year's varsity men's swimming and diving team looks to focus on consistency during practices, said coach

Robin Doyle. With 60 total swimmers, including 38 freshmen, the team hopes to be competitive.

Senior captains Brian Appel, Jim Ogle, and returning state-qualifier Matt Vondra lead the team. While these swimmers contribute their experience to the team, there are also two freshmen, Andrew Kittrell and Greg Tracy.

Kittrell and Tracy will make for a good "one-two punch," said Doyle. Both swimmers have had previous experience swimming competitively.

The top teams for this season will most likely be New Trier and Evanston, Doyle said. The Titans and Niles West will probably compete for third place.



The varsity hockey team has gotten off to a solid start this year, posting a 5-2-1 overall record. Important victories have come against Deerfield, Loyola Maroon,

New Trier Blue and Barrington.

Among the Titans' most impressive accomplishments so far is their excellent performance against the *Chicago Tribune's* number one ranked team, Glenbrook North. The team played hard, and entering the third period had the upper hand in the game with a 3-1 lead. The Spartans, however, managed to tie the game. Sophomore forward Adam Pinto commented, "Tying the number one team in state gave us the confidence we need to compete with top teams."

Key players this season have been captains Luke Riehle and Doug MacClure, as well as seniors Bill Moore and Peter Shin. "Doug has been there to keep us in several games," added Pinto.

Reserve goaltender Tom Eddy leads the JV team with a 91% save percentage.



The wrestling team looks forward to improving this year. Currently, the Titans

have a record of 1-0. Their victory came against Mather High School from the Chicago Public League. The meet against Mather was close, until junior Ryan Pritzlaff won his division with a pin. Coach Tim Cichowski commented, "It was a positive meet for everyone." This season the wrestling team is led by junior captains Zlatan Pasic and Pritzlaff. Coach Cichowski views this season as an opportunity for the young Titan wrestling team to gain some valuable experience. Cichowski said, "They're a great group of kids to work with. I hope that they stick with it and continue to grow and improve."

Briefs contributed by  
Adam Pinto, Andy  
MacDougall and Brad Helfand.

## Experienced captain leads young wrestlers

by Andrew Rudnik  
Co Sports Editor

In many popular sports, teams compete as one unit, the team's accomplishments overshadow those of the individual. One exception to this rule is wrestling, which is one of the primary things that attracts junior wrestling captain Zlatan Pasic to the sport.

Pasic is a captain along with junior Ryan Pritzlaff. In the 160

pound weight class, Pasic has a personal record of 2-2 this season. Last year, competing in the 152 pound class, Pasic had a 12-15 record, one of the team's best.

A factor that caused Pasic to wrestle was the individuality that is present in wrestling. According to Pasic, "I just wanted to see how it would be to depend on yourself, with no team behind you."

As a sophomore last season, Pasic was unable to pass through the regionals as a solo wrestler.

This year, Pasic feels a reasonable goal is to "go to the sectionals."

One of Pasic's primary accomplishments on the varsity squad is a sixth place finish at last year's Russ Erb Tournament.

As far as the team is concerned, Pasic shares much of the same feelings as Cichowski. He feels that the youth of the team, although it may hinder the team this season, will be advantageous in years to come. "Since we have a young team, I hope that we learn

a lot of things so that there is a better next season," said Pasic. Therefore, Pasic generally looks toward next season as being his best chances to be on a successful team.

"I like the sense of being independent, depending on yourself. If you mess up, you can't blame anyone but yourself," he added.

Pasic's record is proof that he hasn't had anybody to blame this year.

## UPCOMING GBS SPORTING EVENTS

Home	DECEMBER 13 - 19						
Away	Fri. 13	Sat. 14	Sun. 15	Mon. 16	Tues. 17	Wed. 18	Thurs. 19
	Maine East 7:30 PM	Glenbrook North 7:30 PM					Evanston 7:30 PM
	Maine East 7:30 PM				Glenbrook North 7:30 PM		
	Glenbrook North 5:30 PM	GBN Invitational 10:00 AM					Maine West 5:00 PM
		Hersey Invite 1:00 PM			Maine East 5:30 PM		Niles West Invite 6:15 PM
	Highland Park 6:00 PM	Buffalo Grove Invite 9:30 AM					New Trier 6:00 PM
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December 13, 1996

## Basketball team rebounds from tough losses

by Adam Pinto  
Staff Reporter

The men's varsity basketball team has started the season with a 2-2 record. After going 1-2 at the Fenton tournament, the team added a win with a road victory against Maine West.

This year's team is lead by senior captains Craig Mickey, Jason Sherwood and Billy Thanoukos. According to eighth-year head coach Steve Weissenstein, there will be about 10 guys who will be constantly getting playing time. Among those players are seniors Kurt Anderson, Kai Schon, Kevin Taylor and Brian Whalen, and juniors Justin Coons, Moses Joseph and Clay Hamano.

The Titans posted a 1-2 mark at the Fenton tournament with losses coming to Leydon (68-64) and Rolling Meadows (70-69). The team's only win in the tournament came against Lake Park (87-82).

Against Leydon, the Titans had a chance to win with 17 seconds remaining, but couldn't convert offensively. Anderson was named to the Fenton All-Tournament team.

The Titans boosted their record to 2-2 after beating Maine West 68-66. Mickey was the leading scorer for the Titans with 15 points. He also hit two key free throws with ten seconds remaining to give the Titans the lead. Hamano was the next leading scorer with 14 points. Hamano hit three 3-pointers in the contest. Anderson rounded out the scoring with 12 points.

Weissenstein said that the goals for the season are to "play as a team" and work harder than the other teams. Weissenstein also added that if the team accomplishes these objectives, the wins and losses will take care of themselves.

"This year's team has as much experience as we've [GBS] ever had," commented Weissenstein.

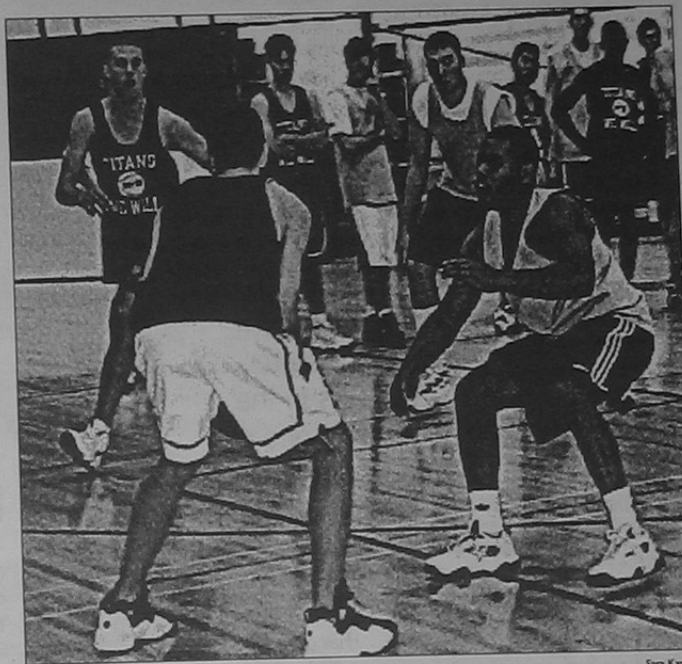
He also said that this year's team is a "balanced team."

According to Weissenstein, the top teams this season will be New Trier, Evanston, Waukegan, and us. The team is going to "get better and better every week," commented Weissenstein.

One aspect that is special about this year's team is the size that they possess. Weissenstein said that this is one of the biggest teams, with Anderson, Mickey and Whalen all over 6'4". Weissenstein is hoping that the size makes up for the lack of speed on this year's team.

The Titans will be focusing on defense and rebounding this season, said Weissenstein. A lot of the rebounding will come from power forward Whalen and center Anderson.

The team takes the court at Maine East tonight at 6:00. They also have a game against rival Glenbrook North tomorrow at GBN at 6:00 p.m.



Senior guard Kevin Taylor shows his defensive stance during a scrimmage between the varsity team and the sophomores. Taylor has played on varsity since his freshman year at South.

## Talented gymnastics team scores big in first meet

by Chris Wolf  
Staff Reporter

The GBS girls gymnastics team looks to have a great year after winning their first meet against Deerfield at varsity, JV, and freshman levels, with the Varsity squad scoring a 134.6 out of a possible 160 points. Coached by Jan Osowski, they look forward to a successful season.

"This team has a lot of talent

and energy," Osowski said. "We have great gymnasts and hope to improve all throughout the season."

Osowski, while acknowledging that a 134.6 out of 160 is a wonderful score, thinks that they can do better.

"This was our first meet and after this, I believe that our scores will be even higher in the future," Osowski added, "because of how we'll improve as the season goes on."

Led by top all-around performer Lauren Anderson, the

team, consisting of juniors Anderson, Jennifer Jamison and Therese Nash, sophomore Stacey Hall and freshman Kristin Kaitschuck, hopes to win their third conference championship in a row, as well as to win regionals

and qualify for sectionals, as well as to qualify as many gymnasts as possible for state.

"We have great gymnasts, and hope to improve all throughout the season."

Jan Osowski

order to ensure that they accomplish their goals for the season.

"Our most promising gym-

nast at the moment is Lauren Anderson, who came in at first place in the uneven bars, the beam and floor exercise, as well as coming in second on the vault," Osowski commented about their first meet, "So far, we are definitely on the right track to a great season."

With upcoming meets at the Hersey Candy Cane Invite, Maine East and the Niles West Invite, Osowski encourages students to come out and support the team.

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# Recruitment proves difficult for athletes

by Anand Shah  
Co Sports Editor

With the surge of interest in college sports, high school recruitment has hit new levels at South. Last issue, we discussed recruitment of football players, but scouting has a much broader scope. Girls basketball has also been a heavily recruited sport, with seniors Dana Leonard and Erin Partaker receiving a lot of interest from colleges.

Varsity basketball coach Howard Romanek realizes that recruitment is a difficult task for student athletes. "It's a very stressful process to go through. You might get calls and they might visit you in person, but that still doesn't mean you are going to get a scholarship."

Romanek also realizes that recruiting can be very risky for the student. He commented, "What's involved in recruiting always stays the same. Sometimes, the athlete has to make a quick decision. The

student has to ask himself where he is in the pecking order. Sometimes, the coach will be honest with you, but other times you might be lied to." Romanek added that he agreed with Leonard's decision to go to Northwestern, stating that, "Northwestern honors the scholarship and that's definitely something you want to ask."

Since two of his players are being recruited, Romanek is trying to make sure that his student's keep their priorities straight. "It's great if you want to play at a division one school, but you have to realize it's a year round job. I tell my players that education is definitely the top priority."

Recently, Dana Leonard and Erin Partaker discussed their recruitment experiences:

## Dana Leonard

A little more than three years ago, Dana Leonard was a freshman basketball player that was trying to make a name for herself at GBS. Leonard comes from a bas-

ketball family. Her brother, Jay, was already playing basketball at South when she arrived, and her sister, Brett, currently plays with Dana on the varsity team. Leonard met all expectations her freshman year as her heroics helped bring the state championship to South.

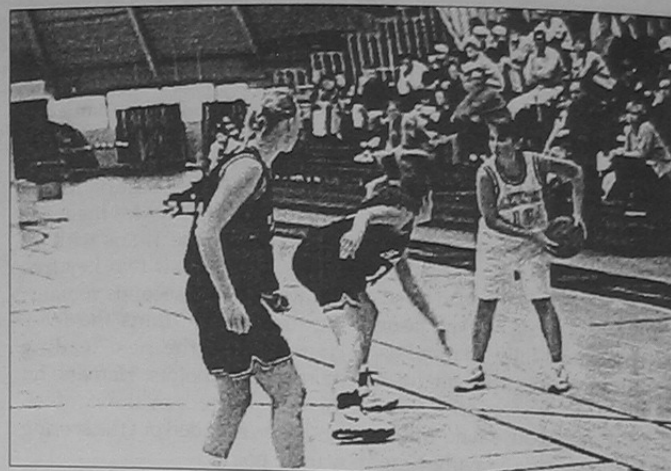
Leonard's success not only brought her recognition at South, it also opened the eyes of many college recruiters. Romanek said, "Dana's been looked at since early in her high school career." She has been contacted by many colleges, including Connecticut, Georgia, Iowa and Northwestern.

After a lot of thinking, Dana decided to attend Northwestern University, where she will play on a scholarship. Leonard said, "I chose Northwestern because it's close to home. Also, it's in the Big Ten, which is one of the best conferences. And I really liked the coaches, assistant coaches and players." Leonard got to meet the other players at a recruitment camp held by Northwestern.

Leonard explained that recruitment isn't an easy process. She said, "It's really hard to go through. There are a lot of games played. You don't know who the other teams have, so it's kind of a guessing game." Dana added that she didn't realize the importance of recruitment until her senior year.

Dana got a lot of help from her dad during the whole recruitment process. "My dad was involved in Chris Collins' (GBN) recruitment, so he knew a lot about the system." Dana is hoping that her sister Brett, a sophomore, will follow her footsteps and go to NU.

Dana is looking forward to basketball after college. With a women's professional basketball association coming, Leonard said, "I'm going pro. We're going to be making millions."



Senior Dana Leonard scans the defense in a game against Maine South. She has decided to attend Northwestern University.

## Erin Partaker

Erin Partaker, although sometimes overshadowed by her heralded teammate, has had a very successful high school career as a four year player. The respect she has earned from her teammates caused them to name her this year's team co-captain.

Partaker's great play has also brought her the attention of many colleges. Like Leonard, she has been approached by many colleges, including Loyola University, Missouri State and the University of Illinois at Chicago. "I knew I wanted to play college basketball as a freshman, but the whole process really began when I was a junior," she said.

Erin decided to attend UIC on scholarship. She based her decision on many things. "First of all, I really liked the location, because it's close to home. Also, I used to play with Sarah Peterson, and she plays there. And, the team was really friendly and I

liked the coaches. Finally, it's a great academic school."

Partaker said that her decision was definitely not based solely on basketball. "Education is a priority. I think that education is just as important as athletics."

However, Partaker has not ruled out a future in the new women's basketball association. "It all depends on how I do in college and if I improve. Also, I want to see how the league develops."

Like Leonard, Partaker agrees that recruitment is not an easy process to go through. "It's really difficult because you are deciding your future. It's especially hard with basketball, because you don't know what you are getting into. A lot of the colleges wanted to know right away and they would call you every week asking you questions."

While making her decision, Partaker got a lot of help from different people. "The basketball team offered a lot of support. Also, Dana and I talked about what was happening a lot. Mr. Romanek was real helpful and my mom helped me make a final decision."

Leonard and Partaker have led the girls' varsity team to an undefeated record of 8-0 and have moved to third in the Chicago Tribune rankings. They play Maine East tonight at 7:30.



Erin Partaker defends an inbound pass against Maine South. Partaker is going to University of Illinois-Chicago next year.

## NCAA RECRUITMENT

- No contact can be made between colleges and athletes before junior year.
- By junior year, athletes can only be contacted by mail.
- Senior year, colleges can visit with athletes, but the amount of visits are limited

Source: Howard Romanek

# Girls' basketball team earns third ranking in Tribune

With a successful start to the season and through the leadership of Dana Leonard and Erin Partaker, this year's varsity team hopes to bring the state title back to Glenbrook South.

by Andy MacDougall  
Staff Reporter

The varsity girls' basketball team has once again started the season on a high note, earning a number four ranking in the state by the Chicago Tribune. Currently the Titans are 8-0 overall and have already established themselves as one of the area's top teams by winning the recent Schaumburg tournament.

The team is currently being led by the starting group of Dana Leonard, Brett Leonard, Stacey Puccini, Erin Partaker and Susie

McCreery. Seniors Angela Cholewa and Carrie Nassello, as well as junior Diana Vardijan and sophomore Keegan Thalín have also made significant contributions throughout the early part of the season.

Among the highlights for the Titans so far has been their thrilling double overtime victory against highly ranked Maine West. "We played very well together," commented Dana Leonard, who scored a school record and career high 41 points in the game. "We're really excited about how we've been playing, but we need to continue to improve in our game," she

added. Coach Howard Romanek knows that this year's team can be one of Glenbrook South's most successful. "We just want to see how good we can be this year," he said. Romanek realizes that a lot of the team's success depends on the play of their returning starters. He stated, "Dana and Erin are leaders on and off the court."

Another big victory for the Titans came against fifth ranked Maine South, 52-51. The Titans trailed for virtually the entire game, but they came back thanks to clutch free throws by sophomore Brett Leonard.

In the Schaumburg Tourna-

ment, the Titans rolled to a 5-0 record and captured the title. "We played well at Schaumburg and now we're ready to challenge for the conference championship," mentioned Puccini. Among the teams the Titans defeated were Lake Zurich and Wheaton North, both of whom were also ranked as some of the top competition in the state. "I'm pleased we're off to a good start," added Romanek. "We've got some tough games coming up, and our goal is to be successful in those games," he said. The Titans play tonight against Maine East at home. The varsity game begins at 7:30.



December 13, 1996

## Phish blows crowd away with concert

by John Sents  
Staff Reporter

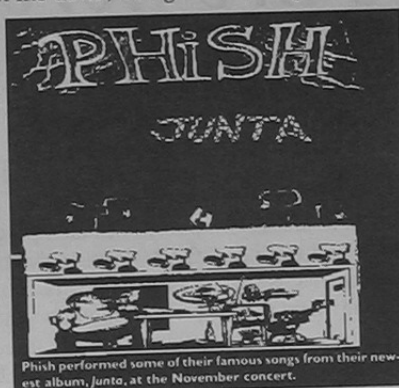
Thousands of loyal phans assembled in Champaign last month to see what many regard as one of the best live bands ever assembled. Phish, a band that has risen out of total obscurity over the last 13 years, played an outstanding show for the packed stadium at Assembly Hall. Up to this point, some followers of the band were calling this fall tour mediocre compared to Phish's usual standard. But those who had the privilege of seeing this show were completely blown away.

Due to harsh driving conditions, I got to Champaign a little bit late and missed the first 45 minutes of the early set, but I

found my seat in time to see "Reba," which is one of my personal favorite Phish songs. The boys didn't let me down, doing a

great job on this song. They closed off the first set with "Golgi Apparatus" and "Run Like an Antelope," two of their more notable songs. The highlights of the second set were "Maze," and "Simple." In all the concerts I have been to, I have never seen a song performed as well as they played

"Maze," which left me astonished. The encore was "Theme From the Bottom," a great close to a memorable night.



Phish performed some of their famous songs from their new album, *Junto*, at the November concert.

The parking lot scene at Phish shows is well known as being a huge party, but after this show there were far fewer people willing to bear the freezing weather

than I expected. There was one part of the lot where a large group of people were making tourfry, or home made food prepared in the

parking lot to make money to follow the band. There is usually a wide selection of food to choose, from grilled cheese, to vegetarian stir-fry to veggie burritos. But to my disappointment, after a couple hours security emptied the lots. Nevertheless, I couldn't complain because I had just experienced one of the best concerts in my life.

November 1996 is the 16th show of a large fall tour for the band. They will visit almost 40 venues and go through most regions of the United States, as well as parts of Canada. This spring there is a presumed European tour, and an extensive tour in the United States in Summer 1997 is expected. After what I saw in Champaign, I'll be looking forward to seeing this band again soon.

## Ransom: Thriller expected to win Oscars

By Dennis Wu  
Assistant Entertainment Editor

One of the most anticipated movies of the year is the Ron Howard film, *Ransom*. Given the *Two Thumbs Up* from Siskel & Ebert, this flick is expected to win a slew of Oscars.

Mel Gibson plays the leading role as a rich airplane tycoon whose son is kidnapped by a cop and some accomplices. They demand a ransom of two million dollars for the safe return of Gibson's son. Instead of paying the ransom, he decides to make the two million dollars a bounty on the cop's

[Gary Sinise] head.

All of the commercials for *Ransom* make it seem like an action-packed thriller, but in actuality it is more of a psychological movie than an action thriller. I went into the movie expecting high-tech stunts and special effects, but to my surprise there was really no action (except in the end, but I won't spoil that for you), just powerful performances by Gibson, Sinise, Rene Russo and Delroy Lindo. Surprisingly, Donnie Wahlberg, from *NKOTB*, also threw in a convincing performance as a kind-hearted

villain.

I enjoyed this movie immensely. Its plot is so intriguing and it draws you into the movie so well, that you begin to think, "What would I do to try to get my son back from this psycho?" It's a non-stop, tension filled picture with so many different twists in the story line that I was absorbed with the movie from start until finish.

Unlike some other movies, the casting of *Ransom* was excellent. Gibson, Russo and especially

Sinise played their roles very convincingly. The mix of music (which, by the way, is all composed and performed by *The Smashing Pumpkins'* Billy Corgan) and unique camera angles emphasize the movie's intensity.

This movie definitely makes it on to my all-time favorite movies list. With its intriguing plot and marvelous acting, I give Ron Howard's *Ransom* four out of four stars, and an enthusiastic two thumbs-up. Go see *Ransom* with your friends or family in the upcoming holiday season. Be sure to stay through the credits at the end of the movie, there's something really cool!



## GBS TOP 5 HITS

1. LOUNGIN'  
LL Cool J
2. NOBODY  
Keith Sweat
3. HEAD OVER FEET  
Alanis Morissette
4. ONE and ONE  
Robert Miles
5. DON'T SPEAK  
No Doubt

### What is your favorite song on the radio?

#### I WILL REMEMBER YOU

Sarah MacLaughlin  
- Ryan Baker, '97

#### NOVACAIN

Eels  
- Russel Kaufman, '97

#### CHRONOLOG

"Wrote it myself"  
- William T. Brown, '98

#### WHAT WOULD YOU SAY

Dave Matthews Band  
- Laura Zim, '98

#### BARELY BREATHING

Duncan Sheik  
- Sarah Hagye, '98

#### SCOOBY SNACKS

Fun Lovin' Criminals  
- Jessica Carr, '98

#### KEEP THE HEADS RINGING

Ice Cube  
- George Kalant, '98

"Who has time to listen to the radio? I know I don't!"  
- Bob LeBlanc, '98

### Check out these new bands

#### Pluto and Scarce.

**Pluto**, a band originating in Vancouver, combines 1960's British rock with 1970's and 1980's new wave music. Their latest album features the group name on the cover and contains 12 great songs. Some songs that I liked were "Regenerate" and "When She Was Happy" due to their very distinct styles. I also liked "It's Over" because of its slow tempo and great lyrics. If you are not a fan of heavy alternative music, Pluto will suit your style.

#### Scarce

has been on European tours, a support spot for Hole in the spring of 1995. However, the band has since split up due to poor health of one of its members. But their saga lives on in their music. What drew me to their music was the fact that their voices are very distinct from anything I've heard in a long time. A couple of my favorites on the album, "Deadsexy," are "Honeysuckle," "Rains of Kansas" and "Days like this." They are the "slower" songs on this album, but they feature the lead singer's voice beautifully. Their music is a bit heavier than Pluto, but if you are an alternative music fan, this group is great.

reviewed by Vicky Dizik

Drugs Press Release

## Inexpensive Mid-Eastern food served fast

by Vinod Havalad  
Staff Reporter

The Pita Inn, located at 122 S. Elmhurst Road in Wheeling and 3910 Dempster in Skokie, serves excellent, healthy, Middle Eastern food. The Pita Inn is owned and operated by a Palestinian Jordanian family who claim to serve food "cooked in homemade style with only the finest quality ingredients."

The restaurant is more like a cafe and you can eat in or carry out. You place your order, and then wait for your number to be called. The menu is not very large, but you will definitely be hard-pressed to find an unsatisfactory dish. Take home menus are available in case you would like to call in your order and then pick it up. The phone number is (708) 808-7733. Several restaurant reviews are framed and hang on the wall by the register. After you sample the food, you will definitely agree with them.

According to the woman who took my order, the most popular dishes are the Vegetarian Falafel Plate (\$3.25), fried patties made from ground chick peas; and the Combination Feast (\$5.95), a combination of shish kabob (cubes of broiled beef), shawarma (Middle Eastern gyros), and kefta kabob (broiled ground beef). The Falafel,

though it may not sound very good to someone not familiar with Middle Eastern food, is excellent as well as very healthy. It is a very popular Middle Eastern dish and the Pita Inn's Falafel is some of the best that you will find around here. The combination plate was excellent as well, though definitely not

Tabouleh Salad made from cracked wheat and assorted vegetables. This is another dish that is very healthy, but you would not know this while you are eating it. The sandwiches on the menu are pretty much the same as the entrees, only smaller and cheaper. The restaurant also serves fresh

This range is definitely within a high-schooler's budget as the students from nearby Wheeling High School have found out. The sandwiches range from \$1.85 for the Pita Inn burger to \$2.85 for the Shish Kabob sandwich. Another plus of the Pita Inn is that the soft drinks are only \$.50.

The food at the Pita Inn is served quite promptly. It took about five minutes for my food to come up, but I visited the restaurant at an off time. The restaurant is self-serve, so there are no waiters or waitresses. You seat yourself and eat without interruption. The Pita Inn's service is very much like fast food, but the food is definitely much better than what you will find at your local burger joint.

The decor of the Pita Inn is fairly simple. There are tables as well as booths around the dining area. Windows and hanging plants surround the dining area, giving the restaurant a very light and airy feel that makes the meal very enjoyable.

The Pita Inn is a very good Middle Eastern restaurant. I was one of those people that may be a little apprehensive about trying this type of food. However, once I started eating, I knew that I would be coming back here. I give the Pita Inn 4.5 out of 5 forks for its excellent, not to mention healthy, Middle Eastern food.



A customer enjoys his quality meal at one of two local Pita Inns. You can get great Middle Eastern cuisine at low prices.

as healthy a choice as the Falafel.

All entrees as well as sandwiches are served with fresh pita bread. For an appetizer, Humus (large \$2.25, small \$1.25) is recommended. Another appetizer is

pastries. The Baklava (\$.85) is the most popular.

The prices at the Pita Inn are very reasonable. The entrees range from \$3.25 for the Falafel plate to \$5.95 for the Combination feast.





by Kelly O'Bryan  
Staff Reporter

*Santa Clause is coming to town! Christmas and Hanukkah are right around the corner and the feeling of giving is in the air. But what is the right gift to buy for a friend or a sibling or a parent? Don't be the one who buys their Dad a tie, their friend a book, and their brother a basketball. Give a gift that a friend would really appreciate... a gift with class. The style for Christmas of 1996 is standing out. Whether it's sporting a brand new fluorescent yellow pleated jacket or wearing that stylish Tommy Hilfiger cologne, no one wants to be left behind in what's hot.*

#### For the Best Bud...

When your best friend is a clothes lover who loves to accessorize, it may be hard to find him/her something they don't have. A helpful hint on what's in is that the popular colors of the season are fluorescent and loud. Instead of those old mini backpacks, go for a purple, glittered, plastic purse. Leather jackets seem to be making a comeback also, as well as velvet clothing. Don't buy solid colors, everyone is wearing stripes. Of course the chunky leather shoes are the key and make sure they have the heels that make the girl wearing them look six inches taller!

## Come all ye faithful... The holidays are here, time to go shopping!

#### Friend's No-No's

If a friend repeats the name of your gift ("Oh, the autobiography of Rush Limbaugh... thank you") then something is wrong. This is almost guaranteed to happen if the present you spent your hard earned money on is one of these holiday no-nos. The Michael

Jordan cologne is one gift to stay away from unless your friend has the strange urge to smell like authentic Bulls sweat! As for the loud plaid flannels, the lumberjack phase has officially ended. It's the same with the denim shirts, we're over it.

#### For the Music Lover...

If someone loves their stereo more than anything, then obviously the best gift for him/her is a CD. But there are so many and everyone has different taste. Some music you can't go wrong with is the 311 album, the "Romeo and Juliet"

soundtrack, the single "Mouth", and the "Empire Records" soundtrack. Also there are CDs that a sibling or a friend will not appreciate. The "Macarena" is the best example of a song that started out okay and ended up being one of the most hated pieces of music in the nation! "I Love You Always and Forever" is in this category as well. As for the "That Thing You Do

sweaters), Nordstrom, Abercrombie (it has quality corduroys), Contempo Casuals and GAP (surprisingly enough, GAP has ditched its monogamous preppy reputation and is actually selling clothing in colors other than tan, white, and black.).

#### Do Not Enter...



**Hey look, it's Santa Claus! The holiday season has finally arrived and now it's time to start shopping! So get your wish list and cash together and head out to the mall. Ho, Ho, Ho!**

Soundtrack," it's good as long as the person receiving it has not seen the movie, because the movie overplays the song more than the radio wears out Donna Lewis.

#### Hot Places To Be...

Just a few stores that have been keeping up with the styles, are Britches (it is the place for

giraffe deserves to be ripped off), and The Body Shop (go to Bath and Body Works, it's a lot cheaper). So now you know the classiest gifts to buy for your loved ones. Remember, you have no excuse for buying a flannel for your best friend that is totally two or three years ago. The holiday style is bright, flashy and different. So get a move on it and good luck shopping!



## Oracle Asks You

What's the best gift you've ever gotten?

- "A book of handwritten poetry."  
- Lindley Johnson, '97
- "Money to get whatever I want."  
- Therese Nash, '98
- "The coolest race track ever, with those little cars. I was 7."  
- Steve Silca, '98
- "A vest that my mom made for me."  
- Pedro Arcos, '98
- "My transformer Bigwheel from my parents."  
- Joe McFadden, '97
- "Cheese, I love cheese, and a Simpson's poster"  
- Maureen Dailey, '99

What's the worst gift you've ever gotten?

- "A hideous looking pink and green frilly sweater."  
- Karen Commons, '97
- "This doll meant to cover a spare toilet paper roll. Her legs go into the hole and her dress goes around the paper."  
- Lisa Rowe, '97
- "Korean underwear and Korean long underwear."  
- Frances Kim, '97
- "Barbie doll. I was 4 at the time so I looked like a girl."  
- Hyung Kong, '97

## Skate on State :

Bringing joy to all in Chicago during the holidays seasons

by Katherine O'Brien  
Staff Reporter

'Tis the season of giving and sharing, of spreading that holiday cheer... and of shoveling slush dustings of Chicago snow, pretending it is actually a pure, glistening, white blanket of snow. Where can one go to escape the hustle and bustle of crazed holiday shoppers and grimy Chicago slush? SEARS Winter Wonderland, nestled in the heart of Chicago, provides a holiday haven from the otherwise frantic open season in every department store. Skate on State street, between Washington and Randolph Streets, downtown, features a colorful and animated display for the young at heart. State features

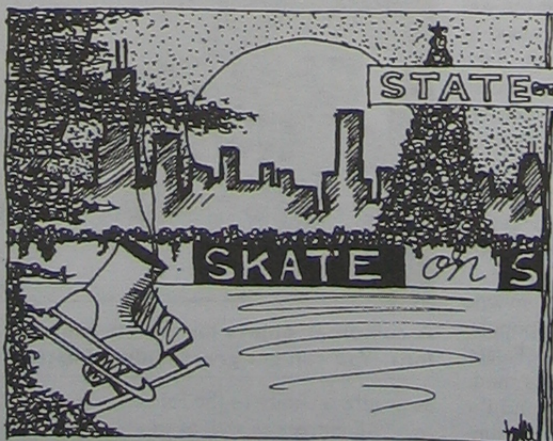
the largest Olympic-sized oval shaped rink. While skating, I felt as if I had been transported into some mystical magical winter dreamland. With the picturesque holiday decor of Marshall Field's across the street and all the trees sparkling with tiny white lights, Skate on State is a beautiful place to enjoy winter.

Skates can be rented each sessions for reasonable prices. Adult skates cost \$3.00, skate for children (12 and under) cost \$2.00. This fabulous outdoor rink is open until March 2, 1997, weather permitting of course.

Warming facilities and spectating sites are available for both the

skating sessions and the special events (viewing is FREE!).

My friend and I enjoyed the



3:30 - 5:00 p.m. session over the Thanksgiving break. We arrived at 3:30, waited in line for about 30

minutes, and by the time we reached the counter they had run out of many skate sizes (but luckily not ours!). Regulars at the rink advised arriving at least a half hour before your session begins in order to get the full skating time. Skates are only rented for one session at a time. Sometimes ID's are required, so it is a good idea to bring one's school ID or license along, as well as mittens, gloves, scarves or hats, because it is a bit chillier on ice outdoors than it is inside. The warming sheds are filled

with picnic tables where warming skaters and spectators can munch on delicious snacks (at practical prices), such as hot-dogs, cheese pizza, nachos and cheese, chips, candy and a variety of soft drinks, coffee and hot cocoa, all catered by McDonald's. (I never knew McDonald's cooked that stuff!) If you get tired of skating there is also a little train ride reminiscent of Kiddieland or local carnivals for \$1.00 through Jan. 5.

Skate on State is a wonderful escape from the mad rush of holiday shopping. For a night on the town filled with fun in the snow and on the ice, this picturesque winter scene is a must-visit for the holiday season and winter break. As the song goes... "A beautiful sight, we're happy tonight, walking in a Winter Wonderland."