

The Charger

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OCTOBER 2001

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Students react to new schedules

By Steve G.,
News Editor

Students and teachers have a few things to say about the new schedule. Most students said the same thing.

Rob V., seventh grade, said, "There's no problem with the schedule, it's not that different. I think it's good to see different teachers on different days. But the long classes are bad."

Rob's classmate, Mike N. added, "It's ok. It's hard to say. If you learn information on Tuesday, you may forget it if the test or quiz is on Friday. It's good that you don't always see the classes you hate."

Paul P., also in seventh grade, commented, "I don't like it. Sometimes you'll forget what class you go to. It's good because it gives you more time to do homework in class. It's bad because it seems like the day will never end."

Seventh grader, Trisha H. said, "I don't mind the schedule. It's good for when the homework is due, but I like to have the information fresh in my mind."

Mr. Larsen, seventh grade science teacher, admitted that he was still getting used to the new schedule. "Some things are good," he said. "I like having students for a longer period of time because we get more done in science."

"Some things are hard," Mr. Larsen further explained, "such as keeping track of who owes what and when. It lets me go deeper in depth in teaching. If the kids get bored I'll try to break the lesson up."

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The twenties roar into Peacock

By Lyndsey M., Features Editor



Photo by Carl L.

Eighth grader, Natalina C., prepares decorations in Miss Olson's elective class for the annual Senior Citizens Luncheon.

The annual Senior Citizens Luncheon is on its way. Miss Olson's eighth grade elective class will prepare the food, Mr. Travis's eighth grade elective class will provide the entertainment, and Mrs. Dengler's sixth grade classes will contribute appropriate artwork.

The luncheon has just about everything. Every year it has a theme. In the years past it was Russian, Mexican and Hawaiian. This year's theme is the Roaring Twenties.

The Encore team picked and started planning this theme over the summer. The theme dictates what kind of food to serve, what play to perform and what kind of artwork to make.

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All this and more!

Peacock begins a television news program

By Carly L.

Have you ever wondered what it is like to be a news anchor? Or have you wanted to work in a camera crew? Well, here is your chance.

Many students have used the broadcasting studio for class projects and reports. In the broadcasting studio you can work with cameras, lights, be on the tech panel, be director, or even be in front of the camera.

Dr. Nickisch is planning on allowing one advisory day for practice. If you need extra practice, you can make an appointment with Mrs. Bernahl for practice before and after school.

"The reason for this program is to share

what you have learned in school and communicate news from each department as well as special events at Peacock, and anything else that would be of interest to the students here," explained Mrs. Bernahl.

The show will start out as a once a week show.

Once there is more equipment, the broadcasts will gradually be increased to five days a week.

Mrs. Bernahl also explained that if you

would like to put on a skit or a show of your own, you can sign up through Computer Club.

She added that she hoped to see each department contribute to the show. She would love to see students try their talents and expand their horizons.

But for now, the main plan is to get the show on a good strong footing. If you would like to join, see Mrs. Bernahl in the media center.

Mrs. Bernahl also said that if you would like to put on a skit or a show of your own, you can sign up through Computer Club.

An Italian feast prepared for annual luncheon

Continued from page 1

This year's play, *Bugsy Malone*, was chosen because it is set in the Roaring Twenties, it is easy to do and has enough parts for everyone in the class. Everyone in the class who wanted a part and tried out got at least one named character part.

If they don't want a part and are in the class they can be in the chorus. But everyone in the class will be a part of the play.

The eighth grade play also travels to different schools. There are five performances including the Senior Citizens Luncheon. Two are at Benson and Franzen and the others are at Peacock.

Because the play travels so much the scenes and props have to be portable. They can't be taller or wider than eight feet. That's why the plays props and scenes can't be as big as the ones in the spring musical.

What is a luncheon without food? All the food for the luncheon is chosen and prepared by the students in Miss Olson's class. They decide what to serve by how nutritious the food is and how easy it is to prepare.

It also has to taste good, which they test in the class. Italian food will be served, including stuffed shells, meatballs, garlic bread, salad and a desert.

Since the students will be preparing the

food for about one hundred and twenty people, there are a few things they need to worry about. When they prepare the food they use proper sanitation practices such as hand washing and cooking food to the proper temperature. They wouldn't want anyone to get sick.

The students in the class will also do things other than cook. Some students will be sewing the costumes to be worn by the waiters and waitresses.

Other students will be making decorations, invitations and the programs. They each get to pick what they want to do, but you can only pick one or two responsibilities. Each one is fun, according to Miss Olson's students.

Of course, they need artwork to change the hallway to a roaring twenties nightclub. The students in sixth grade are making

flowers in the style of Georgia O'Keeffe (1887-1946), who developed her own unique style during the 1920s.

Mrs. Dengler will also help the students in Miss Olson's class make decorations.

It takes a lot of work to produce the luncheon, both from the students and the teachers, but they are optimistic that all their hardwork will pay off.



Eighth grader, Mike R. works on sets for the fall musical, *Bugsy Malone*, to be performed at the luncheon.

Photo by Carly L.

Talent Show scheduled for January

By Rachael R.

An ambitious talent show sponsored by the district music programs is planned for this winter. Mr. Travis, the choir director, explained that they wanted to use the show to raise money for the spring musical and to purchase needed band instruments.

They are planning to charge admission. There may also be a participation fee. A bake sale will probably be part of the festivities as well.

There will be either five or seven judges judging the Talent Show. The Talent Show is tentatively scheduled for Friday, January 25, 2002. There will be about twenty to twenty-five acts, and yes, teachers are allowed to try out also.

Liz I. is the choir student president. She will be organizing and auditioning the acts for the talent show. She will be assisted by the eighth grade representative, Elysia Besenhoffer, the seventh grade representative, Anna Nelson, and the sixth grade representative, Julie Nelson.

Eighth grader Lauren S. said that she will audition for the talent show along with some other classmates. They plan on doing the best that they can do.

Editorial & Opinion

Terrorism will only beat us if we let it

By Mike K., Copy Editor

This is America in 2001. We have come so far with our technology, science, and medicine. Most importantly, we have made gigantic steps in the area of race relations.

It saddens me to see our nation take even larger steps backwards by persecuting anyone who wears a turban or a beard. Many of these people aren't even Muslims.

The religion of Islam is a fine religion that promotes peace and understanding. The monsters who committed the terrorist attacks twisted the teachings of Islam to fit what they wanted to accomplish.

As several Muslim leaders have said, the terrorists who did this do not represent Islam or the people who follow it.

The monsters who committed the terrorist attacks twisted the teachings of Islam to fit what they wanted to accomplish.

Aren't we just helping the terrorists accomplish their mission of killing Americans?

These are almost the same circumstances in which the Nazi oppression of the Jews started. We must stop this before it gets to that and start acting calmly and sensibly.

We should take all the anger and hate we are showing as Americans and focus it on the terrorists. As President Bush said, this is a war on terrorism and not on Muslims.

There have been cases of hate crimes where Muslims have been shot and killed. Aren't we just helping the terrorists accomplish their mission of killing Americans?

If we continue to do that, no matter how many bombs we drop, no matter how many terrorists we kill, they have accomplished their mission of sending America into a tailspin of hate and

anger.

We can't let them do that. We have to show them that we can and will beat them.

New schedules change teachers' plans

Continued from page 1

"As far as my opinion on it," concluded Mr. Larsen, "you should ask me at Christmas, once I'm used to it."

Seventh grade language arts teacher Mr. Poremba said that on the whole, he thought he liked the new schedule. He has had to plan differently because of it. He would, however, like to see some students every day.

Mr. Behrendt, sixth grade math teacher, commented that he was not sure what he thought of the new schedule. "I like seeing students for a longer period of time," he

explained. "A bad thing about the new schedule might be the lack of daily practice. I try to keep students doing things such as group activities or standing up activities so that they don't get bored."

Spanish teacher, Ms. Portincanso, commented, "I like the new schedule and I like spending more time with the kids. I like being able to cover more ground. The good thing about the schedule is the amount of time is longer and I am able to do more audio, visual and verbal activities. There is also more time to do

CONGRATULATIONS

**Band Students!
We now have
170 students in band -
the largest enrollment ever!**

Mr. Loest and Mr. Wis

research."

"The bad thing about the change," added Ms. Portincanso, "is that the students lose interest in the subject. In case of boredom we sing, play games and change the class a little."

Light shines from beneath the rubble

By Carl L., Entertainment Editor

Life has changed. Terrorist attacks against our country have shaken the people of this great nation and brought their patriotic souls to the forefront.

America always seemed a land of security and comfort. We have now been placed on alert. This will help us in the time to come.

The attack on the towers, which came down that dark Tuesday, was meant to harm us both physically and emotionally, and it almost succeeded.

Although the terrorists took away many lives out of spite, they failed to destroy the American spirit, the patriotic sense of brotherhood within all of us.

This spirit has united most of us in a way that will disappoint the people who did this to our great country. We are not in crisis over the terrorist act; we are on the alert.

Government agents are tracking down the culprits of this terrible crime.

As of now, the leading offender is



By Trisha H.

Osama bin Laden, and if any government funded that man, they will discover the true power of American pride in the form

of an explosion.

Though these events have saddened and angered us, we must not allow this search for a responsible party to become a witch-hunt. We must not prosecute every single man, woman and child from Afghanistan.

You cannot judge a whole nation from the acts of a few men bent on destruction.

Terrorist attacks will only affect the source of American freedom, the heart, if we give into fear.

As we live our lives we must not live in fear, but in pride. Stand proud to be an American, a citizen of this wonderful nation.

Has Junior become presidential?

By Paul P., Op-Ed Editor

Yes, George W. Bush actually won the presidential campaign. Decreased environmental laws, a disastrous tax cut, and terrorist attacks highlighted Dubya's first half year in the oval office.

At the beginning of the year, California lost much of its power supply. The solution? Drill federally protected land in Alaska for oil! Now most of the undisturbed Alaskan forest will be destroyed.

Dubya thought he could win the heart of America by giving a big tax cut.

Democrats criticized the idea because they said it would deplete the national budget surplus. George dismissed the idea

and carried out the plan. Once everyone got their tax cut, the national budget surplus promptly disappeared.

But in the last two weeks, George W. Bush has become more of a president than

anyone ever thought he would be. He has delivered several powerful speeches in the face of danger and has scared the Middle East into complying with his extreme demands.

Dubya may shape up after all.

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The Charger

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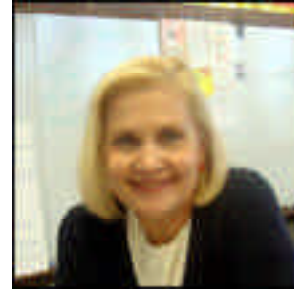
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Write the editorial board in the music room with questions, comments and complaints. Correspondence must be signed.

Does the terrorist attack on the United States mean war?

By Alyson D. and Alicia N.

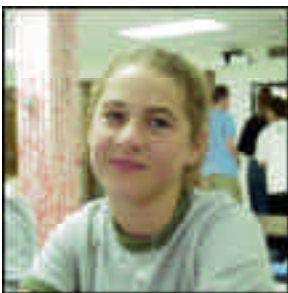
As you all know, there was a terrorist attack in New York City on the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center. It has changed America forever. The main suspect is Arab militant, Osama bin Laden. The U.S. is trying to hunt him down, but aside from that, the question on everyone's mind is, are we going to war? If so, with whom?



I think the United States has to respond and respond quickly. I really don't think that war is what is going to happen. I

think it's going to be a different kind of war where we go after the terrorists, and not an entire country. I think it will take a long time. I think that President Bush is taking it slowly and handling it the right way.

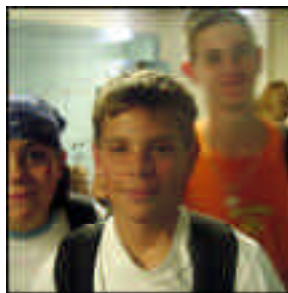
- Mrs. Laughlin



I really don't think we should go to war. We don't have an exact enemy. We don't even know exactly who did this or

what group. It wasn't even a whole country that did this. It was one person.

- Karina D.



I don't think we should go to war either. We don't know exactly who did it. It is not a country that attacked us

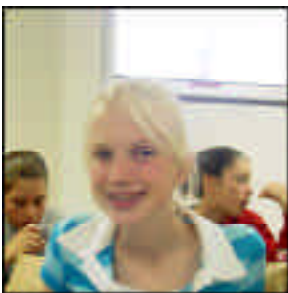
but a terrorist.

- Matt V.



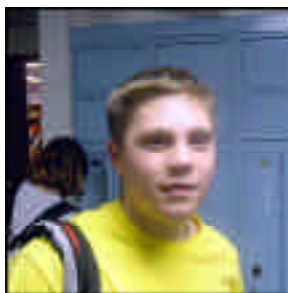
We definitely have to go to war with Afghanistan. They are losers. We hate them and they hate us.

- Joey P.



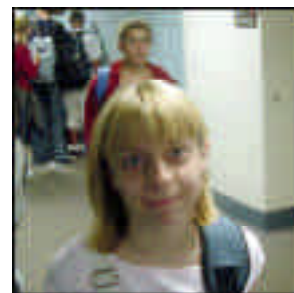
Yeah, I think we should go to war. They killed so many Americans that the terrorists deserved to be bombed.

- Stephanie J.



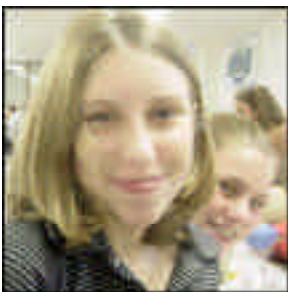
Yes, I also think we should go to war with Afghanistan. We need to find out who is responsible and punish them.

- Mike K.



I think we should settle what we need to settle. There are so many terrorists, I don't think we could handle them all.

- Nicole H.



If it was terrorists that did this then the government didn't have anything to do with it. I don't think we should

go to war. The terrorists should be punished not the government.

- Lyndsey M.



I think we should not go to war with anyone because we don't know who it is. Also, when we find out who it is,

killing them just stoops us down to their level.

- Abby Z.



It is uncalled for to go to war with anyone. But if we did, it would have to be Afghanistan.

- Brandon C.

Eighth grader competes in many tournaments

By Megan L.

My sister, Brittney L., is in the eighth grade. She participates in softball, soccer, diving, tae kwon do, and dance. Wow, that is a lot of stuff.

She spends nine hours altogether. She started softball when she was seven, diving when she was eleven, tae kwon do since she was six, soccer when she was ten and dance when she was a little girl.

She does all of these activities because they are fun, exciting, and challenging. Brittney participates in softball tournaments, soccer games, tae kwon do tournaments, diving compositions, and dance recitals.

She has won tae kwon do trophies, diving ribbons, dance flowers, soccer medals, and softball medals and ribbons.

Brittney describes her practices as sometimes "rough and tough," but also sometimes fun and exciting. She said that she thought competitions were often nerve wrecking, but also cool.

How does Brittney keep up in all her sports and activities? It beats me!



Photo by Megan L.

Eighth grader Brittney L. prepares for a dive.

The Book Nook



Two Princesses enchants readers

By Emily W.

Have you ever said you'll read just one more chapter but end up reading four? Well, I did when I read *The Two Princesses of Bamarre* by Gail Carson Levine, the author of *Ella Enchanted*.

This book is a fairy tale like *Ella Enchanted*, but very different. In *The Two Princesses*, Princess Addie goes on a quest to find a cure for her sister Meryl, who has a deadly disease.

Meryl had always wanted to go on a quest, but Addie was always shy and cowardly and never wanted to.

On her quest, she meets many interesting characters. She battles an ogre, falls in love with a sorcerer, and encounters a dragon.

In my favorite part, Addie uses a magic tablecloth to kill monsters. The plot is full of twists and surprises.

I really enjoyed this book and had a lot



<http://www.amazon.com>

of fun reading it. The ending surprised me, but it didn't change my opinion of the book.

The Two Princesses of Bamarre is one of the best books I have read all year. If you liked *Ella Enchanted*, you'll love this book.

My Secret War

By Joanna M.

My Secret War: The WW2 Diary Of Madeline Beck is an interesting and great book.

Read about Maddie and her

friends and what they did to help the army during the fight with Japan.

With little money and food Maddie tries not to feel too bad when she finds out that her father is badly hurt. As the colonel of the K3F Club, however, Maddie has her hands full. Being worried is not something that she has time for.

From 1941-1942, Maddie helped kids to cope with the tragedy and helped soldiers in many ways.

So, if you want to know what happened to Maddie then read *My Secret War*. Believe me, you will simply love it.



<http://images.amazon.com>

The Miniature Gargoyle

By Rachel W.

Its wings fluttered with panic,
Its screech pierced the night air.

The nightmarish creature flew overhead and into a tree,
The thing's huge ears picked up the sound of my footsteps before I even touched the ancient Elm.

I crept toward it, keeping low and as quiet as I possibly could.
I saw its nose quiver with the scent of my flesh, and it took off once more.

My fascination took over my fear, as I took chase of the little monster,
My feet flew over the decaying leaves of early fall, and my breath shone in the glow of the moon.

Running, as fast as could go, darting through the mossy trees,
Running, following the silhouette of something rumored to be evil.

I saw it stop, right by a lonesome tree in a cleared area of the forest.
I saw it feed on some over-ripened apples, and clean itself.

Tip-toe, tip-toe, up to the almost barren clearing,
Tip-toe, tip-toe, up to the winged screeching thing.

I looked it in the eye, and tried not to let it see me,
I was too late and...

The bat flew away.

On Thanksgiving night
When the stars are bright
Halloween is candy time for girls and boys
Some kids even get toys

Get your favorite scary costume on
Don't cheat people and go to their house twice for a con

Candy is eaten and tasting delicious
Some kids have too much and get mischievous.

You can have tons of fun in the season, Autumn!



© 1997, Amber Stoesser

Autumn

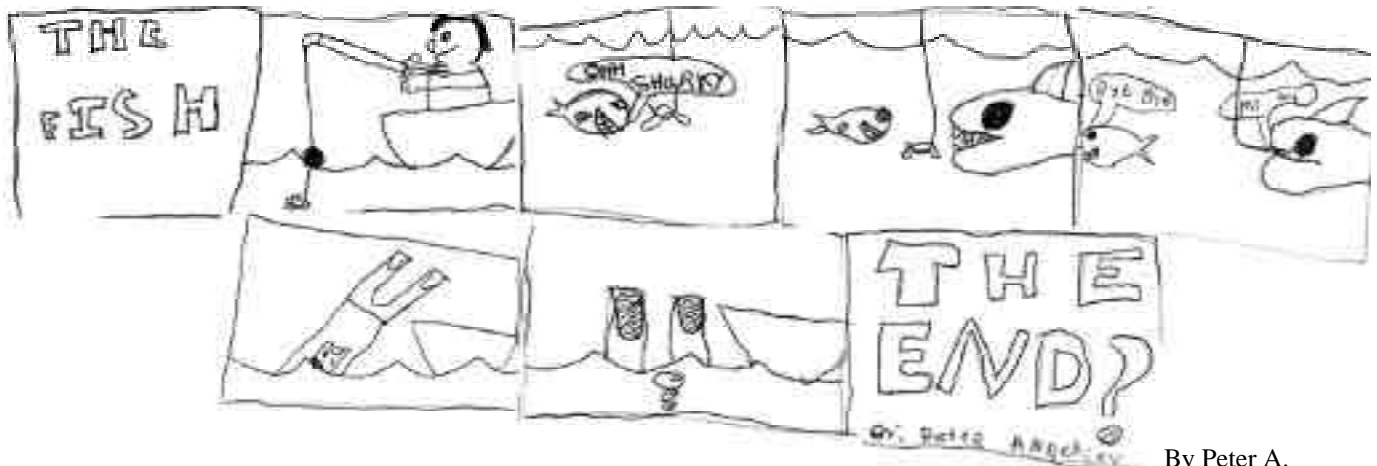
By Jackie S.

Autumn is a very beautiful season
When the leaves fall without reason

Colors are all around
Something has come over the town
They get ready for Halloween and Thanksgiving

Costumes are worn for scaring

The turkeys are carved and ham sliced
Some people like the turkey stuffed and the ham diced



By Peter A.

The Cheesecake Factory

It's much better than just ladyfingers

By Jamie L.

Last Saturday afternoon September 15, 2001, my assignment to review a restaurant took me to the Woodfield Mall.

That's where I found a very upscale restaurant called the Cheesecake Factory. It is located next to Marshall Fields and JC Penney's.

My nana and I arrived at 1:30 p.m., and were given a pager to notify us when our table would be ready. We were finally seated at ten after two.

Our server, Cassandra, came to our table immediately and asked if we would like to order drinks. We each ordered a coke. When our drinks arrived our server answered all of our questions about the menu.

I decided to have Pad Tai Noodles, which is rice noodles, tossed in a delicious sauce with tarimind, green onions, garlic,

chilies, tofu, egg, and crushed peanuts topped with shrimp or chicken. It was one of the most delicious meals I have ever had.

The Cheesecake Factory's atmosphere was very nice. We felt as if we were sitting in a tropical forest.

Of course, after our lunch we ordered desserts, and I had a slice of their famous cheesecake. It had a really good crumb

shell at the bottom of the cheesecake. It reminded me of ladyfingers, which are cookies covered with coffee, but this was much better.

Everyone raves about the Cheesecake Factory and take it from me it was great! If you like great atmosphere, great food, and great service, try it for yourself.



<http://www.thecheesecakefactory.com/images/logo.gif>

Parente's features good Italian food and music

By Raya P.

Parente's Restaurant is located at 6711 W. 26th street in Berwyn, Illinois. It has a very cozy family atmosphere.

Restaurant owner, my uncle Anthony Parente, welcomes all ages for a home cooked meal and promises there is something on the menu for everyone. Parente's features Tony's special salad and homemade soups.

Tony's special salad, which is delicious, is made to feed however many people there are in the party for a cost of \$3.00 if you order with a dinner. The soup is complimentary.

The soups are the following: minestrone (served everyday) chicken pastina (Sunday), cream of potato with bacon (Monday) chicken dumpling (Tuesday), cream of mushroom (Wednesday), beef barley (Friday) and Hamburger (Saturday). Ahh, delicious!

Mars 2112 is a virtual reality ride

By Cassandra D.

On Saturday, September 22, my mom, my friend, her mom and I went to Mars 2112 at Woodfield Mall in Schaumburg. It was really cool!

First, you take a virtual reality ride to the restaurant. Then they seat you at a table. The ceiling looked like outer space, and there were green lasers shooting across the sky. There was also a laser show to watch. The lights were cool, too.

I ordered Big Joe's Burger, my friend ordered Polar Pizza, my mom ordered a Rueben Sandwich, and my friend's mom ordered the Quasar Quesadilla and the Caesar Salad. The food was delicious, and they gave very large portions.

I can't wait to go there again! Here is my rating on a scale of 1-5.

Food-5	Value for money-5
Atmosphere-5	Kid friendliness-4
Service-5	Overall experience-5
Cleanliness-5	



See **Italian food**
Page 10

By Acaisha B.

Have a safe & fun Halloween!



From your friends at
Itasca McDonald's
1000 Irving Park Road
& 1301 E. Irving Park Road

Go Chargers!!



It all starts at McDonald's!

* There are more than 28,000 McDonald's restaurants around the world; 13,000 in the United States; 470 in Chicagoland and Northwest Indiana.

* McDonald's founder Ray Kroc believed in "giving something back to the community." Through Ronald McDonald House Charities of Chicagoland and North-

west Indiana, over \$7.7 million has been given to 378 local organizations that serve children.

* More than a third of McDonald's independent owner/operators and more than half of McDonald's Corporation executives began their careers in a McDonald's restaurant.

Rinôçérôse has mellow power

By Paul P.,
Op-Ed Editor

Rinôçérôse's debut CD, *Installation Sonore* blends a delicious combination of electronic euro-jazz.

Rinôçérôse has seven members, four guitars, one flute, one percussion set and one programmer. They can dish up a smooth-yet-bouncy rhythm coupled with a thumping bass and the out of place sounding flute and bongos.

One thing that is eerily missing from Rinôçérôse is vocals. There is no singing on this album at all. That isn't a bad thing

But halfway through the album, the shiny trance turns into semi-repetitive electro-mush.

though, since it is rather like elevator music. It gets you calm and in a trance. But halfway through the album, the shiny trance turns into semi-repetitive electro-mush.

While metal heads and squeaky dance-freaks may not appreciate Rinôçérôse's mellow trance power, others might.



<http://images.amazon.com>

Italian food for the whole family

Continued from page 9

The dinner menu has numerous pasta and meat entrées. Fish lovers can enjoy salmon, cod, shrimp, lobster, and white fish.

For dessert a terrific recommendation would be their homemade *teramisu* or Italian ice.

Parente's accommodates small parties. My family and I went to a party there in August. The menu: soup and salad, dinner rolls, coffee or pop, *vesuvio* chicken and potatoes, sausage and green peppers, *misticelli* beef.

The average cost per person was \$12.00 plus tax and gratuity. Adults enjoy relaxing at dinner while listening to Italian

music with a good bottle of wine.

The kids can escape for a while and play a trivia quiz game that can be played with two at a time while sipping on a kiddie cocktail.

On a scale of one to five, five being the best, I give Parente's:

- Food: five
- Atmosphere: five
- Service: five
- Cleanliness: five
- Value of money: four
- Kid Friendliness: four

Overall Experience: five
Give Parente's a try or visit the menu in detail at <http://www.ristorante.net/parente>
Tell the owner that Raya sent you.



Photo by Raya Parante

New artists try to make it big

By Emma H.

Willa Ford and Ashley Ballard are two new artists trying to make their big break in the music business.

Willa Ford has already had one of her songs, "I Wanna Be Bad," played on the radio.

Another one of her singles is "Ooh Ooh." You can find both these songs and more on her CD, *Willa Was There*.

Ford is an ambitious twenty year old from Florida who is ready to make her mark in the world.

Ashley Ballard also has had one of her songs on the radio, "Hottie."

Her new CD is *Get In The Booth*. On it you can find "Hottie," "Hypnotized," "Forever My Heart," "Second Thoughts," and many more songs.



<http://images.amazon.com>

Ballard is sixteen, and has sung professionally for three years.

Both Ford and Ballard are talented singers and songwriters. They have a pop-rock sound, and they are great to dance to.

Both girls say that they want to be famous. They are probably going to be. So check out Willa Ford and Ashley Ballard on their CDs in stores now.

The Others is chilling

By Susie S.

The Others is a great suspense movie! There could be more scares in this movie, but the ones that are there really give you the chills.

Grace, Nicole Kidman, lives on an isolated island off the coast of England during the last days of World War II. Her home is a beautiful Victorian mansion where she lives with her two children, Anne and Nicolas.

The story really comes to life when three people come to their home answering Grace's request for new servants. After these people arrive many mysterious things start to occur, and it is as though Grace's cozy, safe home has become a haunted house.

When Grace notices her daughter Anne talking to an imaginary friend she claims to be real, and when her son Nicolas becomes scared to the bone by other people's voices, and when she hears sounds that no animal can make, she starts to believe in the supernatural and a world of the dead.

Grace frantically starts looking for clues about who these mysterious people are, why they have come, and what they could possibly want.

The surprising ending makes the movie even more chilling.

Overall Rating (on a scale from 1-4): 3

Genre (type of movie):

Thriller Rating: PG-13

Surf on over



By Heather N.

You've probably heard of bigchalk.com. I'm reporting about it because it is a good web site for kids or students.

It is also good for homework, class reports, or almost any school activities. It is great for all categories including the news, the tragedy in New York tragedy and homework.

Please try Bigchalk.com!

TREE-GUYS



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The Princess Diaries

A multimedia review

The book

By Nikki H.

Mia Thermopolis was a normal girl, until she found out that she was a princess. Now a movie, *The Princess Diaries* is a book about a teenage girl's life.

Mia starts out as a pretty normal girl, aside from that fact that she seems to be invisible to people. When her father gets cancer, however, her whole life is turned upside-down.

Mia's grandma begins giving her princess lessons everyday and her life is far from normal. Now she has to question everything and everyone who tries to get close to her, for fear that it is all for fame.

If you want to find out all the twists and turns in Mia Thermopolis's life, then you should read *The Princess Diaries* by Meg Cabot.

The movie

By Rena W.

The movie started and the crowd was thrilled with excitement. The theater was filled with people. Only the first couple of rows weren't full.

The Princess Diaries was a funny movie for all ages. It's good, but a little boring.

In the beginning, the princess was unpopular and she had frizzy hair. When she became a princess,

however, everyone liked her. Then, every boy tried to be her boyfriend.

Well, she wanted to become princess and she did. She and her grandmother the queen went to Shanopia (sha-no-pi-a) with her cat Fat Louie to live in a huge mansion.

The princess's best friend and her friend's brother, whom the princess liked before she was a princess, visited her every summer and they lived happily ever after.

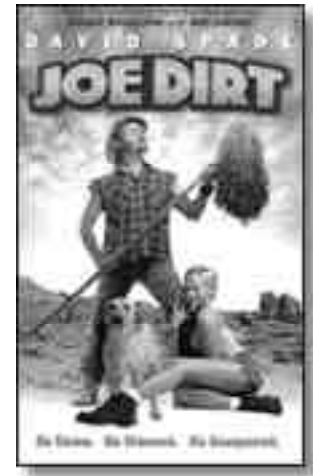
THE PRINCESS DIARIES

Did Joe Dirt bite the dust?

By Andy K.

Joe Dirt (David Spade), a janitor at a radio station, is brought on to a talk show to talk about his life. His story began when he was eight years old; while visiting the Grand Canyon, his cruel parents left him behind to fend for himself in the wilderness.

While searching for his parents, he met new people and went through many different jobs, working as everything from an oil plumper to a nalligator trainer.



One person he met was Brandi, a girl who lived in the small town of Silver Town. Joe fell in love with her, but he felt that he had to resume his search for his long lost parents.

Joe didn't find his parents and settled into a job as a janitor. After his radio interview the nation was willing to help Joe find his parents.

Will Joe find his parents or will Joe give up and go back to Silver Town and live with Brandi?

I thought Joe Dirt was an o.k. movie, but this is a movie I would recommend renting before ever buying it.

Rating: PG-13

Genre: Comedy

Overall Rating: 3



MTV Video Awards rocked

A review

By Lara P.

The lights dimmed and the crowd became silent as the 2001 Video Music Awards began on September 7. The show was hosted by former television star, Jamie Fox, who did a spectacular job.

One of the first performances was Alicia Keys' "Fallin." This song also won an award for Best Video New Artist.

Other awards were Best Hip-Hop Video, "Ms. Jackson," by Outkast; Best Rap Video, "Ride With Me," by Nelly; and Best R&B Video, "Survivor," by Destiny's Child.

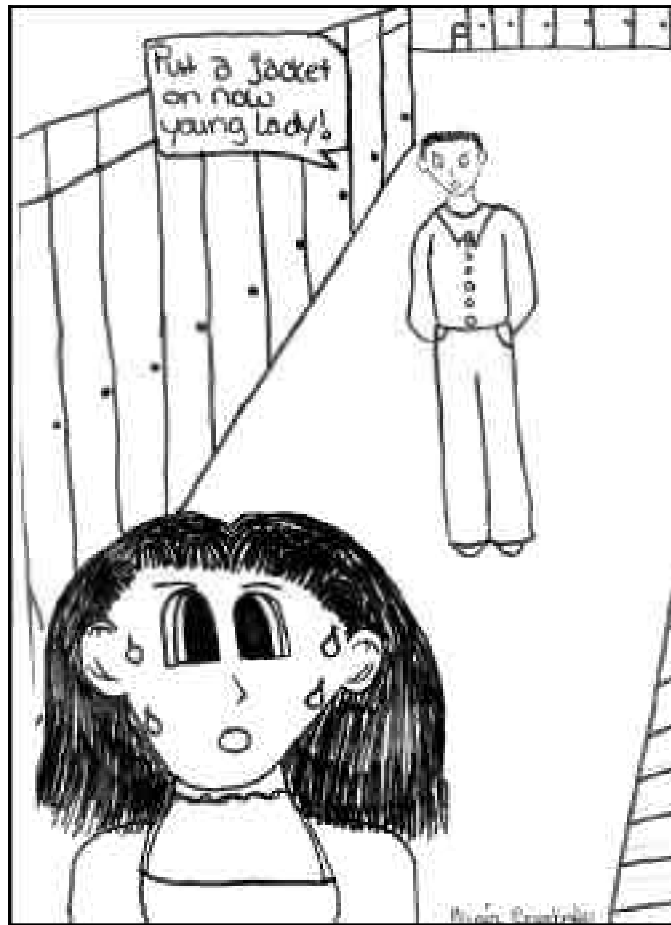
At approximately the halfway point of the show, *N*SYNC joined the true King of Pop, Michael Jackson, in performing the Best Dance Video of the year, "Pop." Michael Jackson proved that he has what it takes to retain his title.

To complete this great show, Britney Spears performed "I'm a Slave 4 U," her debut single from her soon to be released new album. This act included a jungle theme choreographed with live animals. It was one of the highlights of the show.

This truly was a memorable MTV Video Music Awards Show that millions of viewers enjoyed.

The dress code

By Elysia B.



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Charmed season finale leaves fans hanging

By Sunny B.

If you watched the Charmed season finale, you are probably as confused as I am.

A few new surprises have hit Charmed since I wrote my first article on Charmed in November 2000. Piper received a new power, the ability to blow stuff up. When freezing time, Piper slows down molecules and apparently she now can speed them up which causes things to explode.

Piper is now also married to their white-lighter, Leo Wyatt (Brian Krause from Sleepwalkers).

Finally, Phoebe's has a new love interest, a half human demon, Belthazor/ Cole Turner.

When the season ended last May, the three sister witches were caught on live t.v., vanquishing a demonic hit man.

Phoebe Halliwell had turned herself into the Demonic world in order to save her sister, Piper, from being shot by a person who thought the witches were evil.

The leader of the demonic world said

that if one of his demons, Belthazor, turned in his love, Phoebe, he would reset time and make all of the Halliwells'



http://i.cnn.net/v5/cache/1HEWB/Images/Dynamic/t2/CH-Keyart_1x1_180.jpg

troubles go away. Phoebe had just turned herself in when the season ended.

Meanwhile Prue and Piper were back

where they were a few hours before they were exposed because Tempest reset time. They were telling an innocent the whole story of what they really were. Prue felt a chill and the innocent, Prue, and Piper and were attacked by a demonic hit man. We don't know if they are dead or alive.

The two-hour season premiere that was supposed to air on September 27, 2001 was postponed until October 4 at 7:00 PM. Rumor has it that Prue dies and the season premier adds a new character, a half-sister, Paige Matthews.

The Charmed Ones mother, Patti Halliwell, died when Phoebe was eight months old, but before she died and after Phoebe was born, she divorced their mortal father and she married her white-lighter. While she was alive and married to him, she had a baby, who turns out to be their half-sister.

Well, if you watched last night's premiere, then all of your questions should have been answered.

Battle for Dune is awesome

By Pat L.

Emperor Battle for Dune is an awesome game for PC gamers who like a challenge. This game came out several months ago. The game is based on the movie, *Dune*. The game picks up where the movie plot ended.

There are three armies you can choose from: the noble Atreides, the evil Harkonnen, or the secretive Ordos.

The Atreides reap the benefits of an extremely loyal and well-trained infantry.

The Harkonnen units are extremely tough, well armored, and are used to harsh punishment.

The Ordos have invested in advance regeneration technology for their units.

You can align with any of the five powerful subgroups, including the stealth-minded Fremens, the merciless Sarduar, or the powerful Tleilazu.

As you play, you can explore the four landscapes, which are the lush prairies, industrial wasteland, frozen tundra, and the

harsh desert of Dune.

There are only two special infantry units available in the Atreides, Harkonnen, and the Ordos army. In the Atreides army, the sniper has the longest range of all the units in the game. The kindjal infantry carries two weapons, a small handgun, and a long tripod-mounted mortar cannon used to take out any heavy armored unit.

In the Harkonnen army, the trooper unit carries a missile launcher that can take out tanks and air units. Also in the Harkonnen, the flame-thrower infantry unit has a short-range flamethrower.

The Ordos chemical trooper unit has a short-range poison gas that works like a flamethrower. Also in the Ordos, the mortar infantry unit has a long-range anti-infantry mortar.

The graphics are really good with the shadows of units and cliffs on the ground. You can change the view wherever you want.

The sound is o.k., but it definitely could be better. The cheat codes are not out yet but they will be soon.

Overall Rating-8	Fun Factor-9
Graphics-10	S.R.P.\$50
Sound-6	Players- 8
Play Control- 7	The challenge is adjustable
Game Play-8	



Great things come in VCR sized packages

By Ryan B.

Last year, PlayStation 2 was the next big thing. The Xbox, to be released on November 15, 2001, proves that the PlayStation 2 is no longer number one!

Now, keep in mind that even though the Xbox may have only a 733MHz PIII chip, the graphics will still be better than a computer that is faster. This is because games made for computers have to work with a range of system configurations. Most games that work with a 2GHz chip will still work with a 300MHz chip, just not as well.

In contrast, games designed for a console only have to work with one configuration, and will therefore run more efficiently. With that out of the way, let's go over the other specs.

Remember, not all the specs discussed in this article will definitely be in the



Xbox.
Chip: 733MHz PIII
Memory Cards: There will be memory

cards, but with an 8Gig hard drive, they will be unnecessary
Graphics Card: NVIDIA (most likely GeForce 3)
Internet: 56k modem and Ethernet port for Broadband access (standard)
Game Medium: CDs and DVDs
DVD player: Yes (internal standard, requires DVD Movie Playback Kit)
Game Controller Ports: Controller ports can be used for steering wheels, headsets, and anything else you could ever want!
Game Controllers: 8 way directional pad, left and right analog sticks, 6 pressure sensitive buttons, duel slot for memory cards and other devices, built in rumble feature and a 9.5 foot cord.

Look for the Xbox's debut next month. There should be over eighty games ready at release.

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Simpsons game aimed at TV show fans

By Nikki A.

The Simpsons Wrestling is a hit, especially for those who love The Simpsons show.

The graphics are good. After all, it is supposed to be a cartoon. The characters really resemble the cartoons they are based on.

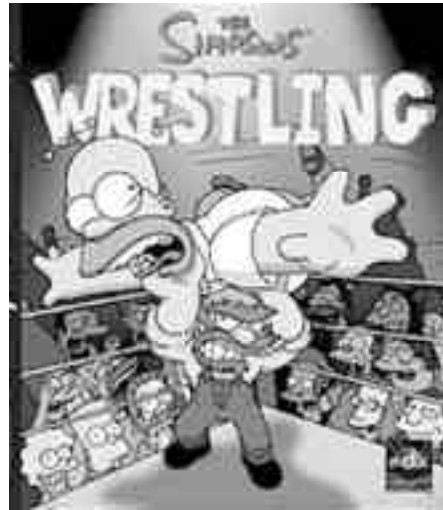
The effects are good. Before the match, the characters taunt. There are several power-ups and moves. The sound levels and effect noise are adjustable.

The Simpsons theme song plays at the beginning. The controls are pretty good, but not perfect. It can be hard or easy depending on which character you play.

This game is better when played with other people. One or two players can play. It is fun, especially when you like The Simpsons and wrestling.

The choices aren't huge, but there are some good alternatives. Just for hint, if you want to beat The Bumblebee Man, use the Marge character.

The challenge is unfortunately not adjustable. The price ranges from thirty to



<http://www.stationplay.com/covers/ps1/1331.jpg>

forty dollars. This is a good game to buy.

Overall Rating: 9

Graphics: 9

Sound: 9

Play control: 8

Game Play: 9

Fun Factor: 9

S.R.P.: \$30-\$40

Number of players: 1-2

Challenge: not adjustable

Mario Party 3 is best of series

By Evin S.

MP3, Mario Party 3, far excels Mario Party 1 and 2. In MP3 there are more mini games than in the first two. MP3 also has more challenges.

You need to have thinking skills and hand-eye coordination for this game. You need thinking skills to defeat other players and you need hand-eye coordination to win the mini games.



If you are wondering what mini games are, they are games you play after each turn.

There are two modes to play in MP3. One is party mode. In party mode you can play every duel and game board except Waluigi's Island and Back tracks.

In Story mode you have to get eight stamps to become the universe's greatest super star.

Here are some hints: 1-miracle star-earnings rank eight times more in duel and game boards. 2-easy coins- Roll doubles after using a mushroom for ten coins, and roll triples after using a golden mushroom for twenty coins.

For additional hints go to www.cheatcc.com.

Rating: 4 of 5 stars

Age: 6-14

<http://a536.g.akamai.net/1/536/5452/12h/66.54.6.11/bb/games/86/23/H000028623.jpg?wid=200&hei=139&cvt=jpeg>

Horoscopes

By Laura B.



Aries (March 21-April 19)- Don't get to used to your normal life because something weird is going to happen, just be ready for

anything!!!!



Taurus (April 20-May 20)- Great!!! This ones mine. Everything is wonderful and perfect and your days will be filled with great stuff!!! The

end.



Gemini (May 21-June 21)- You are about to be hit by something, don't worry though because it's not a plane, it could be good luck,

then again maybe it's the truth!!!!



Cancer (June 22-July 22)- Opportunity knocked, unfortunately you weren't home. Pay more attention next time!



Leo (July 23-August 22)- Make a wish..... Are you making a wish???? Now think really hard!!! Ok do you have it??? Well think

again, unfortunately you have to face reality!

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Time ran out for the Cubs

By Mike R.,
Sports Editor

With only four games left, the Cubs are finally out of the hunt for the wild card. The Cubs were much better than last season, but ultimately, just not good enough to beat their division rivals, Houston and St. Louis.

There were, however, several individual highlights for the season. Sammie Sosa became the first major league player to hit at least sixty homeruns in three successive seasons. He hit his sixty-first this afternoon, October 3.

Sosa also leads the league in RBI's (runs batted in) with 154.

This afternoon, Cubs ace, pitcher Jon Lieber also earned his twentieth victory of the season.

Manager Don Baylor has said that he thinks that the Cubs will build on this year's success next season. Several players agreed.



http://us.news2.yimg.com/us.yimg.com/p/ap/2001/09/29/capt.1001798767/astros_cubs_cxc105.jpg

Chicago Cubs' Sammy Sosa strikes out in the eighth inning against the Houston Astros at Wrigley Field in Chicago, Saturday, Sept. 29, 2001. (AP Photo/Frank Polich)



Virgo (August 23-September 22)-If it is Friday night and you want to go out but you have homework just forget about it and have fun for a change. On Sunday night though you'll have to crack down though.



Libra (September 23-October 23)-I'm running out of things to write down (OK predict) here!!! OK... I predict that you will... eat an apple (maybe a pretzel) within the next two years or so.



Scorpio (October 24-November 21)-This year has started out good for you. Keep it that way. Figure out the rest.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)- Ahhhhhhh..... Pinkish/orange bananas are coming our way. Run!!!! Wait. Stop.

Before you run. I guess what this wonderful and inspirational message means is that you should get to know the bananas before you squash em.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)-My Grandma says you are only young once. Then again you are only old once too! Just concentrate on having fun, but this time forget about dumb homework.



Aquarius (January 20-February 18)-Your fortune is BLANK and UNPREDICTABLE!



Pisces (February 19-March 20)-My cow says moo, my camel spits, my dog says roof, and my ant says Merry Christmas! Put em all together and what do you get?!?!? Nothing. Which is exactly what your gonna get out of this fortune. That's All Folks!!!! (so sad!)

NBA is on its way: preview and predictions

By Mari D.

Shack goes down the court with five seconds left. He shoots from the free throw line and he makes it. The Lakers win the championship. That was last year.

The Lakers won it all, and the Bulls lost it all.

The most exciting news for the new season is that Michael Jordan will be playing in the NBA. The sad part is that he won't be playing for the Chicago Bulls. Jordan led the Bulls to six championships. He will now play for the Washington Wizards.

I have a few predictions for the season. The Philadelphia 76ers will come in first

for the Atlantic division, Milwaukee will come in first for the Central division, San Antonio will come first for the Midwest, and the Lakers will win the Pacific.

The Milwaukee Bucks and L.A. Lakers will play each other for the championship and the Lakers will win again.

This will be an exciting new year because of all of the new great players entering the league. There will be a lot of exciting

highlights this season. But for Bulls fans, we can only dream.

The most exciting news for the new season is that Michael Jordan will be playing in the NBA. The sad part is that he won't be playing for the Chicago Bulls.

Itasca Hawks soccer team is on a roll

By Samantha M.

Fun was the popular word last Friday during an interview with five girls from the U-12 Itasca Hawks traveling soccer team and their coach.

About a year and half ago this team was put together by Scott M., father of sixth grader Rachel M., and Paul N., father of sixth grader Julia N. They decided to create this team because they thought it would be fun for the girls.

In the middle of the second season, the coaches hired a trainer to help the girls develop their soccer skills.

Mr. Shawn F., who has a daughter in fifth grade, also coaches the girls.

The farthest the team has ever traveled is to Sycamore, Illinois, about an hour away. This is the start of the Hawks third

season and the team looks good.

In the first game, the Hawks played Elgin, and tied this former first place team.

At the start of the season, Coaches M. and N. hold tryouts for ten and eleven year old girls. The main thing they look for are girls who are tough and are always willing to give their best effort.

Another thing they look for are those soccer players who love the game.

Peacock students Julia N., Kristen M., and Rachel M. are the midfielders and

forwards for the team. They are responsible for scoring lots of goals.

Peacock sixth graders, Megan S. and Blaise M. are the Hawks very successful defense.

The Peacock students all agreed that travel soccer is a lot of fun. In their opinion, the toughest opponents are Sycamore, Hoffman Estates, and Schaumburg.

None of them really mind traveling so far.

They think the traveling team is a little different from the regular team. The teams the Hawks play are a little bit more competitive. The action in the games is a lot faster than the regular in-house team games.

The U-12 Itasca Hawks traveling team members interviewed said that they really loved playing soccer, and they loved playing together as a team.

The main thing they look for are girls who are tough and are always willing to give their best effort.

And the crowd goes wild!

By Kaitlyn L. and Shannon P.

The Lake Park High School Lancers football team thrilled the crowd by winning both of their homecoming games on September 21st. The Sophomore team won their game 41-6 vs. the East Aurora Tomcats, while the Varsity defeated the Tomcats 45-0.

In the Sophomore game, there were some pretty amazing plays. The Lancers intercepted a number of passes, had two punts returned for touchdowns. Their defense was solid, and thie offense was dynamic.

The crowd even enjoyed the dance routine performed during half-time of the Sophomore game by the JV Lancettes.

When the game was almost over, East Aurora had a great touchdown pass, but because of a penalty, the Tomcats did not score.

We interviewed Ryan Cibulka, the Lancers starting quarterback, who graduated from Peacock in 2000. He commented that he thought he played all right, and had some good and bad plays.

Ryan also commented that he thought that his team had played really well and that they could win the conference if they kept working hard.

He added, "My best play was probably my 20 yard pass for a touchdown in the 1st quarter."

We also interviewed Peacock alumnus Matt Petralia before the Varsity game. Matt plays defensive end. He felt that his team was really doing well and had a chance to win the Upstate Eight Conference. He said that they were "gonna crush" the Tomcats. Matt's confidence proved correct as the Lancers went on to shut out the Tomcats.

Before the Varsity game, there was a dedication to the innocent victims of the tragedy of September 11th, and the many firefighters and relief workers who had risked their lives to save others.

Everyone had American flags. The band played "America The Beautiful" and the national anthem. Everyone was singing and the crowd seemed to feel the moment deeply.

Former Peacock girls compete

Continued from page 20

A member of the Oak Lawn team said, "Lake Park is a good team not only in swimming but in sportsmanship."

One coach commented, "The meet was supposed to be a triangular meet but at the last minute Addison pulled out."

Another Peacock alumna, ninth grader, Amanda Streich said, "The meet went really well, and I think we all swam our hardest."

As for the coaches, they seemed very pleased with the outcome of the meet. And to all the teachers at Peacock, the freshman swimmers said "Hi"!

Peacock Chargers charge on Medinah Middle School

By John G.

The weather for the first cross-country meet couldn't have been better. It was sunny and cool.

The Peacock girls did very well by taking first place for the team with a total of 40 points. Seventh grader Colleen M. gave an impressive showing as she took first place for the girls' team.

The sixth and seventh grade boys gave a gallant effort by taking third place for the team. Team member Alex S., seventh grade, also gave an impressive showing by taking first place.

Sixth grader Bryan H. said, "Peacock did pretty good and that the other schools were tough to beat." He is enjoying cross-country so far and is looking forward to the next meet.

The eighth grade boys also took third place as a team. Our top runners were in seventh place, John B., eighth grade, and in eighth place, Mark K., eighth grade.



Seventh grader Cross Country members Caitlyn C., Colleen M. and Ana N. show their school spirit during a meet.

Before the meet, Coach Anderson had predicted success. He was pleased with the outcome and hoped the teams would do even better next time.

A personal perspective: playing on the DuPage Bulls

By Nicole D.

They're fast, strong, and awesome! The seventh grade DuPage Bulls are a travel basketball team that Ashley Dawson and I play on. The league game on September 16, 2001 was very hard and competitive.

"We could have played a lot better.

There were some big girls and a tough team. I hope we had fun, but it was pretty brutal," said Coach Batts, manager and head coach for the team. Coach

Batts was a point guard while in college.

Yeah, it sure was. Those big girls ran right into us every time we tried to penetrate. That means trying to go up the middle of the court to the basket.

Execution, running the plays, is the point of the whole game. And of course one of the favorite things to not do is run!

The DuPage Bulls participated in a league at Trinity High School in River Forest throughout September and will continue to do so through most of October. There are fourteen teams in the league. The competition is hard.

"There are strong, tough, older, and more experienced girls in this league," explained Coach Batts. "The competition is tough. Throughout the season I think we are going to get very competitive," he said.

"This year I decided to play travel basketball instead of W.I.B.A because it would be a great learning experience," said forward Ashley Dawson.

"We practice well. We do a ton of endurance drills like ladders and suicides. We are going to go far," she said.

Those big girls ran right into us every time we tried to penetrate.

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Cross Country teams off to a good start

By Steve G.

This year's cross-country team is off to a good start after their first meet of the year.

The girl's team won the meet, and both boys' teams finished third.

The girls team is made up of all of the grades. Colleen M., seventh grade, leads the girl's team.

The sixth and seventh grade boys team is led by Alex S., seventh grade, and the eighth grade boy's team is led by John Butzen.

Practices for cross-country are after school every day until 4:00. The coaches are Ms. Krisik, Mr. Behrendt, and Mr.

Larsen.

Colleen M., after coming in first overall said, "I am tired but happy."

There are over fifty student runners this year. One of the hardest working runners, sixth grader Steve

Labarge, felt confident that he would do well, and finished fourth for our school.

Andrew K., seventh grade, who also ran well said, "I think we'll do well this year because we have a lot of talented runners."

Coach Larsen said that most of the

runners have been practicing very hard. Seventh grader, Steve G., exclaimed, "yeah."

The meet was phenomenal. Everyone ran their hardest.

About half way through the meet, Ms. Krisik thought that the meet was going

"awesomely."

Colleen Moran, after coming in first overall said, "I am tired but happy."

Ana Nelson, seventh grade, screamed "I feel great!" Alex S. replied "I'm too sore to talk to you right now."

Everyone is excited for the next meet.



Photo by staff

Eighth grade cross country runners Nick T. and Mark K. practice behind Peacock.

Lake Park girls triumphant

By Megan K.,
Advertisement Editor

On Saturday, September 22 2001, the Lake Park Swim Team swam in a meet against the Oak Lawn Swim Team at the College of DuPage.

Although some of the swimmers on both teams could not be present due to scheduling conflicts and injuries, Lake Park beat Oak Lawn 70-52.

Alyssa Jakowchuk, ninth grade, said, "The meet went well even though there were so many injuries."

Another Lake Park swimmer said, "The

team is improving tremendously. We are having a great season.

Swimming is a lot of fun, and Lake Park is a great team to be a part of."

The meet was a girls' only meet, but not only girls were there. The boys on the team were helping time and run the scores around the pool. They also helped cheer.

Alyssa Jakowchuk, ninth grade, said, "The meet went well even though there were so many injuries."

Inside

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All this and more!

See **Girls compete**
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