

The C l a r i o n

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Vegas

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*The Diary Of
Anne Frank*

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Chris Bevis pins his West Frankfort foe in the team regional championship. The Redbirds edged the 'Dogs by one point.

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Did Someone Say Money?

The white Ford Bronco cruised down the interstate with a police escort which the President can not match. It was a scene millions tuned in to. But it did not stop there. It has been over six long months since the Juice ran loose and there probably has not been a solitary day his name was not mentioned in at least one newspaper or T.V. broadcast. Even the judge presiding over the case has become a household name. It has come to point that we just do not care what happens to the man known simply as O.J. I recently saw a cartoon of a man shopping for a new T.V. The salesman told the shopper about the new top of the line model. As soon as there is a hint of the name "O.J.", it switched channels to reruns of Gilligans Island and sent a nasty letter to the President of the T.V. station.

As we all know, it is not uncommon for people to take this laissez-faire attitude. "Is the decision going to affect me? No, then why worry about it?" We do not care about the baseball strike. How many people would rather see no baseball than a thwart to the game by dressing two-bit no-names up in major league uniforms and pretending it is the same ol' American past time? Who cares?

But there is a solution. There is something that every per-

son, whether young or old, can care about, money. Money is on everybody's minds. Whether it is needed to pay bills or to go out and to have fun on the weekends, everyone wants more. The President recently, in an attempt to gain popularity among the young voters, made a proposal to raise the minimum wage as much as a dollar over a three year period. Since most people still in high school make minimum wage this is a topic young people should care about. It would mean more spending money on the weekend, more money to go shopping with and all this for the same amount of work. But the down side of all this is the higher wages would mean less money for the companies. Therefore they would either have to cut employment or raise prices.

For those young people that do not already have a job it could be even tougher to find one. And after all the idea of this is to allow people to make more money. But wait I have a suggestion. A minimum wage system based on need, qualification, and merit. For instance have a base salary the same as today but separate additions for different people.

Let's take an example. The base salary is \$4.25. Additions of .50 could be tacked for single parents or people with disabilities. It would allow people

with more things to pay for such as a child or medical bills to receive a higher wage as a minimum.

Whether there is any sort of minimum wage increase is yet to be seen but it appears that President Clinton has taken one step towards regaining the support of the young voters that put him in the White House in '92 and take him out in '96.

The Clarion

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The Clarion is the student newspaper of Harrisburg High School, 333 West College Street, Harrisburg, IL 62956. The Clarion staff recognizes itself as an open forum and welcomes a free exchange of ideas from students, school personnel, and the community.

Editorials represent the opinions of The Clarion staff and/or the Editor-in-Chief. Editorials do not necessarily reflect school administration opinion.

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VEGAS EVOLVES

Las Vegas, Nevada has been generally known in the past for its casino gambling and adult entertainment. In the past, a person under the age of 21 was not likely to have as much of a good time. However times are changing and they are opening many places where children can have fun.

In the last two years, Las Vegas has built six new hotels. In the upcoming two years, seven more hotels will be built. Las Vegas will also be extending the airport to bring in more tourists. The town brings in thousands of people each day, whether they stay one night or one week. The numbers continue to rise as more parents bring their children with them.

One of the most recently built is MGM Grand, which is the largest hotel in the world. This hotel has a little something for everyone, especially for people under 21. Inside there is a large replica of

Emerald City with mechanical scenes from the characters of Oz. A magic lightshow is performed inside the castle. There are nice restaurants as well as fast food places, such as McDonalds. There is a casino for adults and an arcade for kids. There are theaters that have hosted many entertainers like Boyz II Men, Sheena Easton and The Four Tops.

Along with many other things, the hotel has a theme park. The park is structured similar to a miniature Disney World. Instead of "Disney characters", they have Hollywood cartoon characters roaming around, such as Betty Boop and Popeye. There are rides and little shops throughout the park. At the opening of each day they start out with singers who come out to sing the National Anthem and good

morning to everyone waiting. Throughout the day people put on musical numbers in different places.

Treasure Island is a fairly new addition to Las Vegas. Outside of the hotel there is a show where two pirate ships actually battle it out until one sinks the other. It goes off every hour and a half where there are cannons, fire from burning ships, and pirates thrown into the waters from the ongoing war. Another hotel, Luxor, is in the shape of a huge pyramid with a giant sphinx sitting in front. There is a boat ride inside explaining some facts of Egypt. The attraction level holds a simulator ride, a 3-D theater, and a seven story theater with an action packed movie of their view of the future.

There are too many exciting hotels to describe. The sight of it all is a wonder in itself. Las Vegas continues to grow and bring a family setting to the bright lights of the city.

Pride

Dedication, sweat, and tears
That is what is in my life this year.
Hard work and determination
Is what keeps me from elimination.
I am a wrestler

I watch everything I eat
And run many miles a day
Just so I can have a chance to beat
That guy at my next meet.
I am a wrestler

I step up on the scale
And give a little gasp
For the official reads the scale
I am under weight at last.
I am a wrestler

I strut onto the mat
With the rest of the team around
Then I see the kid
I am going to pin to the ground.
I am a wrestler

The ref calls my weight class
I shake my opponents hand
Then I am off like a flash
Another victory is at hand.
I am a wrestler

"Takedown" the ref calls
As I throw the kid to his back
He has no chance at all
For the win is mine at last.
I am a wrestler

Letter To The Editor Policy

The Clarion welcomes and encourages letters to the editor from students, faculty, and the community. These letters must be of good quality and taste and have the complete signature of the author. *The Clarion* reserves all rights to accept, reject and/or edit letters as long as the general idea is not modified.

Ban The Books and Let God Alphabetize Them

On the liberal left side of the literary movement involving the banning of books that contribute to the delinquency of minors or the advocacy of drug abuse, the proper stance is to oppose such as proposition. The other side of the argument is contrived of PTA mothers who will stand up and preach of the demons that produced the *The Cat in the Hat*, or *The Pokey Little Puppy*. Choosing the skeptical side of both banning censorship, and hog-tying the small town NAZIS hiding behind family values, one might arrive on the yellow dotted line of political patriotism supporting their innermost beliefs of binding arbitration by ridiculing two birds with one stone of existential neutrality. In other words it is much more fun to take no side in this drama other than the side of pure cynicism for the entire universe. No solution will come from this, but the self-satisfac-

tion of ignoring the first amendment and biblical morality is a freedom which is hard to come by. Where as the two black and white issues are whether such books are in fact responsible for the decline of western civilization is a debate which has yet to see a winning side, but has not been a modest show and tell of heated discussion or fiery emotions. If one was to decide for oneself that one wants to get on another one's nerves, one would naturally choose the proper mold for oneself. All of the detailed facts are engraved in the same stones that have existed for 4.7 billion years, and until the earth along with every molded citizen gets their rightful due, none of these facts will change. The only conclusion to this paradox is to sit back and stoke up the fire enough to watch people get angry. True it is not the fine upstanding image of model young citizens which the president and the newly remodeled Congress know and love, but I

must ask if it is better to put on false faces of kindheartedness or to show our true heathen selves. The Bible says not to "lie" but it does not say, "don't come up with a list of five books that should be banned for the sole purpose of ridiculing the bleeding hearts along with the backwoods conservatives." That brings me to my first example.

The Bible is not taught in schools but often times there are some victory bound youngsters who tend to sneak one or two in once in awhile. With tales of demons and damnation the Bible could cause many young naive devil worshippers to be merely skimming through it, come to one of these stories, and be sucked into the Christian faith without their parents knowledge. If these adult figures knew what brainwashing was being inflicted on their precious darlings, all Hell would break loose. This would also infringe on the faculty's contract with Old Scratch since he is entitled to the souls of every leap year's freshman class, if just a few bad apples found salvation.

The preamble to the Constitution starts with "We the people...blah blah blah something something". I find this discriminatory to third world countries who's government is controlled solely by green eyed males with pelican shaped birthmarks on either their left shoulder or the middle toe on the left foot. Since those are born only on every other year of Halley's Comet it is torture for them to see how everyone is treated as humans in America.

Roget's College something book. Oh what is that called? I'll look it up in this book of synonyms! Is it a dictionary? Encyclopedia? Atlas? Almanac? I can't find it in this book of synonyms so it should be banned due to people like me.

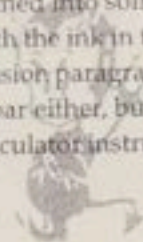
Instruction manuals for scientific calculators are usually written in three different languages. They are French, Spanish, and computer mumbo jumbo code language. I have yet to be fluent in any of these languages and many like myself are forced to kidnap a ten

year old hacker who can add and subtract for us. These books should not be allowed if only to end the right brain humiliation received from these overly gifted hoods. What is the world coming to when electronics are designed and controlled by madmen disguised as sixth graders? Slowly the 1984 society is becoming a reality. Hey that is another good one.

The book 1984 by George Orwell is a fine book and should be read by everyone before they get out of high school. It portrays a very startling message that perhaps has given a warning of what could happen if our government becomes too paranoid. Due to this brilliant masterpiece this lifestyle has been avoided thus far. People's actions are not being watched in their homes and everywhere they go. There is still some privacy which people can hold as a valuable advantage. The book was written in 1948 and the title was derived by changing around 48 to 84. Therefore to renew this book's shelf life, the 19 needs to be changed to 9184. This book

doesn't need to be banned it just needs something to make people care enough to read it. Hopefully the world will be in a shape as described by Orwell by the year 9184 or else we will have to get some other code for making this book true.

Along with these five atrocious literary works there is one more I can think of that falls somewhere between the quality of the Bible and the calculator instruction manual. The paragraph in this article about Roget's Thesaurus was not clever, and was necessary only to make the fifth book in this sardonic collection of ill humor. If I was only to mention four books that urk me (don't you get a little tingle every time you read the word urk?) then it would appear to be a (gasp) slacker. THERE IS NO PLACE FOR A (gasp) SLACKER AT HARRISBURG HIGH SCHOOL! Unfortunately the entire paragraph was hanging onto the less than funny idea of looking up a synonym for thesaurus, but it never really blossomed into something that was worth the ink in the printer. This conclusion paragraph is not really up to par either, but it is still above the calculator instruction manual.



Drug Use Among Teens On The Rise

It's Not Just Jane's Addiction Anymore...

In the last month the University of Michigan and the federal government released the results of its annual survey of high school drug use. Believe it or not 30.7 percent of seniors say they have smoked marijuana in 1994 in comparison to 26 percent in 1993. There has also been an increase in the number of high school students that have used LSD and other hallucinogens. Overall, 45.6 percent of seniors say they have tried illegal drugs.

What these godless lawbreakers(maybe some of our very own seniors) need to understand is that the war on drugs is still in effect and is still claiming casualties. About 30 percent of the 1 million inmates in federal and state prisons in the United States are serving time for drug-law violations. In some states people are locked up for countless years on a simple possession charge. The prison population has tripled in the last 15 years,

overcrowding our prisons with dopeheads and dead-heads so there is not any room for baby killers, grandma killers, Hannibal Lecters, Willie Hortons. This is what the war on drugs has done for America and in the excess of Republican triumph it doesn't look hopeful that the insanity dubbed the war on drugs will end anytime soon.

What America desperately needs to realize is that a completely drug-free society is impossible, and this is exactly what this great nation's teenagers are proving to us more and more every year. America also needs to take a more common sense approach to the drug problem. We need to understand that these seniors who are out there getting high aren't long-haired, rock-loving, hippies. They're not low-life, granny killing, street urchins. They're not car stealing, lunch-money taking, school-skipping, punks. Well, some of them are but, a lot of

them are honor students, valedictorians, members of the national honors society, track stars, football stars, basketball stars, rich kids, white kids, normal kids. Drug use is not just for the poor and the black it affects everyone.

Drugs can't be stopped. The best that can be done is to temporarily disrupt major drug cartels. What happens is what is called push down pop up. If you try to stop a Mexican marijuana connection then you soon have a connection in South America. If you push down on one major drug cartel it resurfaces or pops up somewhere else.

Does any of this come as a surprise? I hope not. America has been hiding from the truth for too long, and this is the reason so many people have been locked up for practically victimless crimes.

Logically, America should look elsewhere for a solution to the drug problem. What better place than Europe, where they use common sense policies to deal with drugs. They are using what is generally called harm reduction, and it is

based on the idea that a society without drugs is impossible (something America has yet to realize) and, it is ridiculous to try. Harm reduction means leaving casual drug-users alone (like most high school seniors) and allowing them to smoke cannabis products at their own leisure. Almost twenty years ago the Dutch government tried this harm reduction policy. The marijuana smokers were left alone and allowed to smoke their marijuana in designated areas. Marijuana can be bought and smoked at coffee shops across the country. So basically, one can sit around in "coffee shops" across the country smoke marijuana and have a good time without hurting anyone.

What has happened? Cannabis consumption has increased, but is still below the levels in the U.S. Surely the loving parents in Europe care about their children as much as American parents? Of course, but they don't see marijuana as an evil weed that destroys families

and turns honor students into depraved killers. It is simply a recreational activity and most parents see it as a phase.

Another approach suggested by former Surgeon General Joycelyn Elders was the legalization of drugs. What this will do is basically eliminate the drug market for the pushers and drug kingpins allowing the government to legally sell and produce drugs and also collect taxes from them, but it will also put a lot of people out of work. The people who will lose jobs are the people who's existence thrives on the illegal drug market like, Willie the pusher, Pookie the crack dealer, and Eduardo Rodriguez the cocaine king pin. So, instead of some low-life lunatic stabbing a 90 year old woman in the throat for some crack he can just go down to seven eleven and buy a couple rocks. He can do what ever he wants with his crack as long as he paid for it.

The complete legalization of drugs seems a bit drastic at this time, but it is something that should not

be ignored. Personally, I am for some sort of harm reduction policy toward casual drug users and softer hard drug policies, but I really would like to know where you, the readers, stand on this issue so I'll be conducting an "unofficial poll" where you can send in any questions or comments on anything I've discussed in this article. You can drop off your comments in Mr. Harbison's computer room, and they will be collected and be printed in The Clarion at a later date. Signing your name is required but can be withheld upon request. It is an open format where all views are welcome. I encourage you to speak up and express all opinions. This is a chance to be heard so take advantage.

In closing I would like for you to be aware that drug use among teenagers is on the rise and the legalization of drugs and harm reduction policies don't seem quite as absurd as they might have in the 80's, and someday we might see them happen. We might even use some common sense and stop locking up the harmless and start seeing what we can do about the war on drugs.

1995 TRACK PREVIEW: Running Over the Competition

The Bulldog track team this year has real potential. From last year's class "A" 6th place team, the dogs lost four seniors out of the fifteen people who went to State, and only two out of the four seniors placed in an event at the State meet. This means that last year's underclassmen were shouldering the load, but not any more. One thing is in the back of everyone's mind: a State championship. This would be the first State championship for the Harrisburg High School track team since 1916.

This year's team returns all members of the 6th place 1600 relay team. Kyle Lands, Corey Fearheiley, Paul Marler, and Robert Neal turned in one of the top three times in the State at 3:23.7, and since they are all returning for one more year, look for that time to improve drastically. Lands and Marler should have their times at or near 50.0 while Fearheiley and Neal have a great shot at breaking 50.0. This presents another goal; 49.2, the school record held by Chad Lakatos in the 400m dash. Actually, all four people mentioned have legitimate shots of breaking the record.

Last year's 400m and 800m relay teams consisted of Robert Neal, Damon Lampley, Josh Gidcumb, and Jason Nyberg. The 400m team placed 3rd while the 800m team placed 2nd. Out of this team only one senior was lost. However, the absence of Nyberg does not overshadow the impressive times placed last year and the fact that the rest of the team is returning for one more year. The 400m team set a school record last year with a time of 43.1. Look for the 800 relay team to improve even more and perhaps bring home a first place at the State meet. First, though, a competent replacement must be found. There are several candidates being considered to run the relays, but it is too early to make a decision of this much importance.

Another relay team went to State last year. The 3200 relay has three members returning from the team that ran at State. Allen Langford (2:05), Shain Crank (2:05), and Kevin Byron (2:08) all ran well throughout last year's season, only to have a sub-par showing at the state meet. Losing senior Will Jackson opens up a spot for sophomore J.W. Stanfield, a smoking sensation. Look for this team to improve on last year's PR of 8:23.

Aside from the relays, there are several people who should go to the State meet as individuals. Neal is one of these. The top scorer of last year's team ran the 300 int. hurdles at state and probably should have placed higher than 8th. Coach Tony Holler once stated that Neal might not run the relays so he would be able to score more points at the State meet. Neal was on the Honor Roll, a list of the top 12 in each event published in The Southern Illinoisan, in the 100 dash, 200 dash, 400 dash, 110H, 300H, shotput, discus, and was a member of the 400 relay, 800 relay, and 1600 relay. This was quite an accomplishment for a sophomore.

Damon Lampley was the second leading scorer on last year's team. Lampley had the best high jump in the state at 6'11.5", only to jump less than his ability has shown at State. However, he seems to be a man on a mission to win that elusive state title in the high jump. Lampley surprised some people with his outstanding 6th place finish in the 100 dash and was only a tenth of a second off first place. His PR of 10.8 will most likely improve along with his placing at the state meet this year.

Another individual runner who has been working overtime is Corey Fearheiley. He ran the 800 run at State and should have placed, but a line judge called his place wrong. Still, Corey ran his PR of 1:58.5, and should return to the State meet and place higher this year. Also, Corey has another goal in mind: the school record in the 800 run. Although the 1:53.7 record set by Mark Bittle seems a long way off from Corey's 1:58.5, he has become one year stronger and grown into an amazing work ethic that would kill most normal human beings.

There are other individuals who did not qualify for the State meet last year, but should this year. Paul Marler's PR in the long jump is 20'11", which should get longer with next year's season. Kyle Lands' best in the 400 dash is 51.5, although he swears he ran a 48.5 last summer. The 51.5 would have qualified him for State, had he ran the 400 dash instead of the 1600 relay. Kyle will probably run faster this year if he does not sleep through the entire season. Also, Josh Gidcumb is being considered to run the 200 dash. His best is 23.5. If he goes to State in this event, he needs to be sure not to miss his heat playing video games with Boone Cohlmeier and Elmo Finney, which almost happened last year. Brad Ross is also being looked upon to go to State in the triple jump. His best is 39'3". Brad is another guy who needs to quit the video games while preparing to run.

Finally, there are others not receiving attention last year, but will be integral parts in the quest for a State championship. Senior Doug Williams will be relied on to run well in the hurdling events, 300H- 42.6. Senior Jason Rister will be pole vaulting again this year, PV-11'. Junior Jake King will do the 400m dash this year. Juniors Aaron Moore, Freddie Bardo, and Mike Beal will give the 800m run a try. Seniors Kevin Byron and Shain Crank will run the 1600m run (both at 4:51) while sophomore J.W. Stanfield may be looked upon to run both the 1600m run (5:18) and the 3200m run this year (11:00). Sophomore Jeremy May will run most sprints this year, which may include some of the relays. Sophomore Kendall Duncan claims he ran the 100m dash in 11.0 in 8th grade. If he can still match that time, this would be another top-notch runner added to the list. A lot of other athletes, mainly underclassmen, will be looked upon to fill certain spots on the team this year. Others will be needed to plug up any holes created by unforeseen injuries or other bad happenings.

The 1995 boy's track team should once again place at this year's State track meet. However, a State championship would not be too far fetched considering all the talent and depth on the team. The first meet is the SIU Indoor meet on March 11th. This meet will showcase some of the best talent in the area along with the always strong Paducah-Tilghman and East St. Louis teams. Come out and support your Bulldogs.

The Diary of Anne Frank Comes To Harrisburg

The Harrisburg High School Thespian Troupe 16 will soon present *The Diary of Anne Frank* on March 9, 10, and 11. The cast has been

acter. I am used to playing nieve characters but this time I get to be a little on the

can cause several problems. Everyone is forced to stay in the attic at all times. They can not even go down stairs on Sundays or after business hours. It is the simple things that they all miss the most. Anne misses the radio. She misses being free and able to roam. The rest just want to get out. Mr. Dussel is allergic to Peter's cat. Anne has feelings for Peter. Anne and her mother do not have much of a relationship. Many more problems occur in the two years they live together.

If you get a chance you should attend the play. It is very moving. Just do not forget your kleenex.



The cast of *Anne Frank* during practice. (Photo by C.J. Harbison)

working very hard to get into their characters. They spend four days of the week practicing. Others spend five hours working on the set. *The Diary of Anne Frank* is different from the plays in the past. It is not only a very serious play, but it portrays real events. The play is very touching. Jenny Hankins enjoys the character that she portrays. "I love my char-

eccentric side."

The play is based on the diary entries of Anne Frank, a young girl whose family was forced to hide in an attic during the Holocaust. Her family along with the Van Daans and Mr. Dussel went into hiding to keep from being captured and sent to concentration camps. Having eight people and a cat all stuck in an attic

The Cast Includes:

Anne Frank: Michelle Nelson
Mr. Frank: Preston Sweat
Miep: Sarah Moore
Mrs. Van Daan: Jenny Hankins
Mr. Van Daan: Brad Ross
Peter Van Daan: Brian Casteel
Mrs. Frank: Delana Boatright
Margot Frank: Nicole Nelson
Mr. Kraler: Rick Bradley
Mr. Dussel: Danny Hutchinson

Excitement Captivates HHS

As the students returned from their extended week-end after semester exams, some still suffering from their week-end activities, they knew had a fun day ahead of them. Good Dog's Day was finally here again. This year's Good Dog's Day had a facelift, not having Ms. Stewart behind the microphone, not having a high authority of our school totally humiliated, and not having the ever famous cake walk.

It was announced that a company from Chicago was coming down to set up some crazy games for the student body to try. These games included a bungee cord run, a velcro wall, and a velcro maze. Let us not forget the opening competition, Mr. Collins' hoop shoot. This was going to be a dramatic change from past G.D.D.s.

As students packed into Davenport Gym, they were amazed at what was set up. One student commented that the Fly Trap Velcro Wall reminded them of the big bubble man you jump in at the fair. To kick off the festivities senior Colby Keener was going to demonstrate his awesome dunking power, but it was not to happen. He commented on his miss, "I was too concerned with thinking about shattering the glass and I lost my concentration."

Four students were chosen from each class to participate

in the hoop shoot. Freshman Cameron Banks, sophomore Patrick Horstmann, junior Chris Bevis, and senior Harold Goodyear were all chosen to participate. They were all hoping for the big half court shot to get the \$50 grand prize. The freshman and sophomore had difficulty making the layup, but finally put one in for a free Big Mac. Then our very own Chris Bevis came through delivering a layup, a free throw, then a remarkable three pointer. With just enough time left on the clock for one last shot, he missed the "Big One." He did however earn \$10 and a \$5 gift certificate from the Bar BQ Barn for his efforts. Last, Harold Goodyear took the stage, suffering from the

same phobia as the first two contestants and earned a free Big Mac.

Then the attention was drawn to the games. Students from each class were chosen to demonstrate the games. All eyes seemed to be on the Elastarun when Marty Nicholes and C.R. Rath strapped the harness on. The two monsters battled their way down the runway to see who would place their marker farthest. After literally moving the whole game and tying twice Rath bullied his way ahead of Nicholes. After all demonstrations were complete all the students had the opportunity to try the games.

Over all this year's G.D.D. turned out to be a success. The student body really seemed to enjoy it. Hopefully future days will be able to compare to this one.



Sophomore Brooke Ziegler is stuck on the Fly Trap (Photo by Michelle Nelson)

Simpson Trial Finally Begins

Ex-Football Star Faces Life Imprisonment

LOS ANGELES, California- On June 12th, 1994, the bodies of Nicole Brown and Ronald Goldman were found outside Brown's home at 875 S. Bundy Street in Los Angeles. Both were found murdered by slashing knife cuts to the throat. Within hours Brown's ex-husband Orenthal James Simpson had returned to L.A. from Chicago for questioning by the Los Angeles Police. As soon as Simpson arrived at his home on Rockingham Avenue in Los Angeles, he was handcuffed. Simpson was later released, but within five days he had become the lead suspect in the double murder case.

Simpson's famous attempt to flee the L.A.P.D. with his friend Al Cowlings, still shown at least once a day on CNN, came just hours after he was named as the only suspect, and was wanted by the Los Angeles Police for murder. Simpson was arrested late on June 17, 1994 at his home, and since then his face has been on every TV channel from CBS to ESPN.

After months of hearings in front of Judges Kathleen Kennedy Powell and Lance Ito, the Simpson trial officially began on January 23. Opening statements lasted for six days, as Prosecutor Marcia Clark and her team, began arguments with Simpson's team, led by Johnnie Cochran and Robert Shapiro.

Two 911 calls made by Nicole Brown Simpson in 1989 and 1993 were played for the jury, and the two police dispatchers who were

on duty when the calls came in were the first of the prosecution's witnesses. Simpson's friend Ronald Shipp was brought to the stand on 2 February. He told jurors that after Nicole's death, Simpson told him that he had dreamed of killing his wife. Cochran attempted to discredit Shipp by bringing up his alcohol problem, Shipp admitted to getting drunk at O.J.'s wedding to Nicole, and to showing up for work at the L.A.P.D. with alcohol on his breath.



Right: O.J. Simpson At His Trial

Do We Really Need A Purpose?

Have any of you ever been in a position in which you were able to choose, within certain bounds set by a higher power, the topic of, say, a report, or perhaps an article for the school newspaper, and had severe problems trying to come up with a topic? That situation is faced by me and the other members who put out the beloved school paper about every two weeks. Currently, yours truly has no topic to speak of and is just rambling at the computer about nothing of any importance whatsoever.

One of the blessings of not having a topic is that I can sit here and come up with everything right off the top of my head, much like I am doing now. I have no idea what I am going to write next, or for that matter, what I am writing about now. I have no guidelines to go by, no statistics to look up, no names I have to spell correctly, and no dates to get correct. But the greatest blessing of all is that I have no research to do, and that

is the most liberating thing.

Fortunately, because I am the lazy individual that I am, I do not have to go through the *Chicago Tribune* to find a story about some misanthrope who butchered his wife and children and is now sitting on death row while taxpayers have to pay to keep the freak alive. I have been saved from all work and am free to write whatever I want, granted, of course, that it falls inside the previously mentioned guidelines. But, of course, as long as I don't write something graphic or offensive or go off into my own little world...I'll be fine.

The concept of not having a topic is ideally set for those of us who are too lazy to tie our own shoes and comb our own hair. If the thought of doing actual homework, or any schoolwork at all, just completely makes you nauseous, just do like I have done today and do nothing until you are absolutely forced to.

Doing papers like this one, completely off the

cuff and not prepared for in any way, is the easiest way to get a grade in a class and impress your parents and peers with your ability to fake your way through a very important grade. The complete and utter satisfaction of doing absolutely nothing except spending twenty minutes in front of a computer and getting a half-decent grade for it is the greatest feeling next to being so wired from the five cups of coffee between eight and ten in the P.M. that you lie in bed for hours completely awake. The only other comparable feeling is the tremendous caffeine headache the next day.

Right about now, I'm sure you're wondering "What in the world is this guy talking about, and why am I reading it?" Well, to tell you the truth, I don't really have a clue what I am talking about, but I'm open for suggestions. But right now suffice it to say that you have completely wasted your time reading this and should be embarrassed to admit that you read this. Thank you for your precious time (HA HA HA!!!!!!!) and I appreciate the fact that there are people out there that will truly read anything that is thrust in their face.

Guidance Office Gets Critiqued

You may be wondering why you filled out a survey regarding the Guidance Office earlier in the year. Mr. Harbison's 5th hour Speech class created these surveys as part of an assignment about group discussion and debate.

The class spent two weeks trying to come up with something that they felt needed improvement in Harrisburg High School. After narrowing down the topics, they finally came up with the Guidance Office. This discussion was reached partially due to the earlier *Clarion* article by staff writer Melissa Cook about student dissatisfaction with regards to scheduling problems.

Four major topic areas were addressed in the survey: scheduling, scholarships, testing, and college. The survey was then broken down among the classes. The freshmen and sophomores were only given questions about scheduling, while the juniors and seniors received questions about all four areas.

Senior Delana Boatright commented about the survey, "We had no idea how much work it was going to be to tally all the results when we started." The class worked for almost a month to get the results averaged and to come up with all the percentages.

Once the results were tallied, a copy of the results was given to the staff in the Guidance Office. Counselor Suzanne Aljabori felt the survey asked some very important questions: "Hopefully we can try to improve some of the areas where students expressed problems, but there are some things we just can't do anything about," she said.

Fifty three percent of all Seniors surveyed said they strongly disagree with the statement that it is easy to obtain scholarship information without having to ask. Ms. Aljabori feels that many problems in that area are due to the students. As soon as she receives any information, it is posted on the bulletin board and an announcement is made. "There is nothing more that

I know to do to get things to the students."

There were some results in favor of the Guidance office. The majority of students do feel comfortable going to the counselors for help and a majority also knew what courses they were required to take for graduation.

Students expressed strong feelings against the required tests they are forced to take. Again, there is nothing that the guidance office can do since these tests are required by the state.

Forty seven percent of juniors and seniors felt they did not receive adequate information concerning colleges and universities. Ms. Aljabori suggested that students contact her if there are any colleges that they would like to talk to. If they do that, then she would attempt to set up a visit from a representative. The University of Illinois-Chicago is planning it's first visit ever to HHS due to the interest of several students.

Junior Michelle Nelson said, "I hope that Guidance can improve due to this survey. If not, all of my statistical tabulations would have been in vain."



Looking Ahead At Baseball



America's favorite past time is just around the corner, with less than a month to go until Harrisburg's finest baseball players will begin their first day of practice on February 27.

To start things off, this year's team will have only three returning starters from last year. Along with these starters, there is a lot of talent on the roster. Coach Jay Thompson had this comment to make about the upcoming season, "We lost so many seniors last year, and this year we have almost all new people. This might be a tough adjustment." Last year, the Bulldogs were stopped in the Regional finals by the Carmi Bulldogs. This year, the team hopes to win the Regional title back and successfully

take first at State.

The 1995 baseball team already has a few things going in the right direction for them. The Dorris Heights' outfield has already been replanted with new grass,



an event that has not happened since the turn of the century. There has been more dirt added to the infield in hopes of smoothing it out. The concession stand has also had reno-

vation done to it.

The fence is next. There will be a new fence around the outfield, and it will be put up around the middle of February. It will be a chain-link fence, with green plastic filler in center field. In left and right field, the traditional advertising signs will be returned to their original location. Finally, to top all of this off, the team got new uniforms this year. They look pretty much like the old ones, but with a few changes. The team also went to fitted hats this year.

Coach Thompson had this last comment to make. "It will be an interesting year because of the new players. I am looking forward to it." The Bulldogs will first compete this spring on March 22. So all you baseball fans, come out and cheer for them on opening day.

Wrestlers Feet Did Not Fail Them

The H.H.S. Varsity grapplers traveled to Murphysboro for Conference on Saturday, January 21. The varsity squad triumphed as they became Southern Illinois River-To-River Conference champions for the second year in a row. The varsity squad finished on top with Murphysboro following 12 points behind. Other teams competing in the tournament were Herrin, West Frankfort, Benton, Pinckneyville, and Anna/Jonesboro.

H.H.S. first place wins were by: the 103 lb. top seed Christopher Fetter, the 112 lb. top seed Cam Thai, and the 145 lb. top seed Paul Roberson. Other end results were: (119) Timothy Rister 2nd, (125) Jimmy Cirigliano 3rd, (130) Douglas Dorris was bumped out in the first round after a great effort,

(135) Alfred Cort Reed 4th, (140) Matthew Sheldon 2nd, (152) Patrick Horstmann (filling in for his overweight brother) was bumped in the first round after a big mistake, (160) Kyle Lands 2nd, (171) Brandon Pray 2nd, (189) Markus Maddox 3rd, and (HWT) Matthew Molinarolo 4th.

H.H.S. once again has a solid team that has a chance to win Regionals for the second year in a row. H.H.S. will advance to team sectionals in late February if they are crowned Regional champs. The Bulldogs are expecting to send around eight or nine finishers to individual sectionals, though every grappler has a chance to advance on to Vandalia.

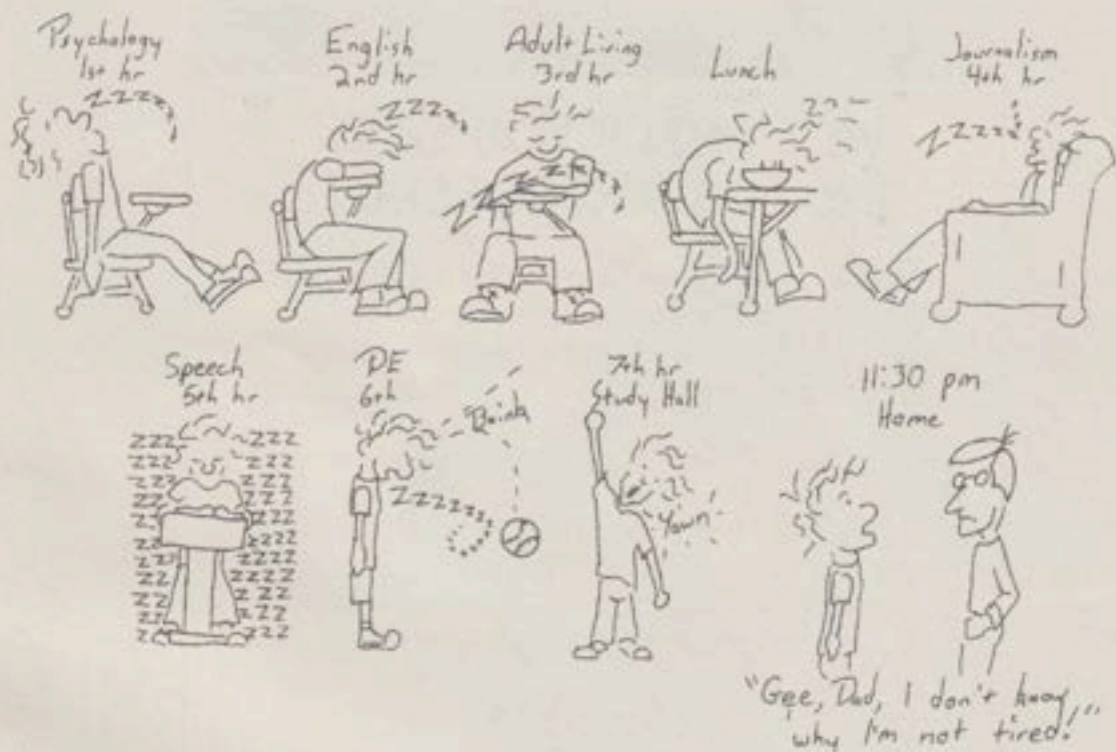
Junior, Jimmy Cirigliano (125), "As a team I think we have a really good chance to advance to sectionals and possibly

State. As far as individuals go, I think Chris Fetter, Cam Thai, Tim Rister, Paul Roberson, Matt Sheldon, and Kyle Lands also have a good chance in advancing up North."

The Carmi Regional will include teams from Carmi, Benton, West Frankfort, Fairfield, Lawrenceville, Herrin, Carterville, Anna/Jonesboro, and Red Hill. Harrisburg will be on the lookout for Lawrenceville and West Frankfort, as they are probably going to have the best competition teamwise.

The lineup for Regionals is (103) C. Fetter, (112) C. Thai, (119) T. Rister, (125) J. Cirigliano, (130) C. Bevis, (135) C. Reed, (140) M. Sheldon, (145) P. Roberson, (152) J. Horstmann, (160) K. Lands, (171) B. Pray, (189) M. Maddox, and (HWT) M. Molinarolo.

The junior varsity grapplers held their tournament on Saturday, January 28. Harrisburg finished 3rd and ended a Harrisburg tradition of winning the Conference (152) Pat Horstmann was the only H.H.S. wrestler to take 1st place honors.



By: Preston Sweat



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