



# The Purple Clarion

HARRISBURG HIGH SCHOOL

HARRISBURG, ILLINOIS

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## War!

## Violence breaks out in Mid-East as U.S. led forces begin air assault

The United States, as part of an international strike force, opened hostilities in the war with Iraq by launching a massive air strike against Baghdad, the Iraqi capital, several chemical weapons facilities, and other strategic targets.



Terrible he rode alone, with his Yemen sword for aid;  
Ornament it carried none, but the notches on its blade.

-An Arab War-Song

The first wave of bombing occurred on Wednesday, January 16, just hours after the U.N. deadline of January 15 had passed. Iraq was bombarded by Air Force B-52s, F-4s, F-16s, F-115, and F-117 Stealth fighters. The planes were aided by Tomahawk cruise missiles launched from battleships in the Persian Gulf. Their mission was to cut off Iraqi communications, take out chemical weapons, and blind Iraqi radar.

than 10,000 missions have been flown to date.

Presidential spokesman Marlin Fitzwater, in a 6:06pm press conference, said, "The liberation of Kuwait has begun."

On January 18, Iraq made good on Saddam Hussein's promise to attack Israel in the event of U.S. bombardment. Three SCUD missiles exploded in Tel Aviv, two in the Israeli seaport of Haifa, and three in unpopulated areas. Four more missiles were unaccounted for. Further attacks followed. Hussein's aggression towards Israel can be attributed to the fact that the rest of the Arab world, most of who help to form the U.S. led coalition against Iraq, are sworn enemies of Israel. He feels that if Israel should enter the war, the Arab coalition members would back out or switch sides rather than fight with Israel. At press time, Israel

Bombing that night continued for roughly three hours. Further attacks followed at intervals. At press time, the attacks have not stopped. More

has yet to retaliate, thus preserving the alliance. Hussein soon unleashed his SCUDs on Saudi Arabia, where U.S. forces are stationed. Most incoming missiles were intercepted by Air Force Patriot anti-missile missiles. Shipments of Patriots were also sent to Israel along with American crews to further strengthen Israeli air defense.

On the eve of the primary attacks, President Bush addressed the country, reassuring that "The attack on Iraq is proceeding as planned. This war will not be another Vietnam. Our military has full support and will not be fighting with one hand behind its back."

## Walker's Word: Hate is American way in this century

by Brent Walker

It seems that a favorite pastime for Americans these days is finding somebody to hate.

The hate tradition really got its start during World War II. People, for good reason, really, really hated Hitler. After the war, the country was lost for a few years, until it learned to hate everything red (Communist red) in the '50s.

The Red Scare was intense, and really got the hate ball rolling. People were blacklisted for suspected communist activities. Things got so bad that the Cincinnati Reds had to temporarily call themselves the "Redlegs." Communist hate lasted well into the '60s and petered out after Vietnam. A strong dislike remained, however. Oh yeah, we hated Castro too.

In the '70s we really didn't hate anybody. This may account for the fact that the '70s, for all intents and purposes, was a useless decade.

The '80s made hating an art form in America. Early in the decade, people had Ayatollah Khomeini. They had Khomeini

T-shirts, Khomeini pictures on their dart boards, and they talked really nasty about him. It was the only patriotic thing to do. After the hostage crisis, the public stopped hating him and the rest of the Iranian nation for no particular reason. They moved on to other dictators.

The mid-80s brought the infamous Moammar Kadafy, or Quaddafi, or Gaddafi, etc.. People again wore Kadafy T-shirts, put his pictures on dart boards, and of course, talked really nasty about him without really taking any action. After the U.S. bombed his country, we quit hating him too. Kadafy is still in power, but he isn't the threat to the world that he once was, as if he ever was.

The end of the '80s brought Manuel Noriega. The public got a lot of pleasure from watching the Army go in and "Kick his butt." We get our jollies from kicking little third-world butts. (Remember Grenada?)

Now we have Saddam Hussein. We have the T-shirts, dart board pictures, and the nasty language. He probably would have passed from vogue by now, had President Bush not decided to make an issue of it. We are again forced to kick butt.

Fat fifty year-old men with no real purpose seem to get the most pleasure from all of this butt kicking. "We oughtta kick their @\$\*! butts," they say. Well, we are, but now we find ourselves embroiled in a real war, not a three-day butt kicking. I don't see any soldiers talking about how they are aching to "kick some butt." I also don't see many draft age people, like high school seniors, joking about it either.

The only people who are ever ready for a war are the ones who don't have to fight it. To them it's just a really good T.V. show.

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### Fast Fact:

Grace Slick, hippie rock star of the '60s, named her child "god" with a small "g" because, as she said, "We've got to be humble."

## Pacifists don't know facts of war in Gulf

by Clint Popetz

As we begin the constant internal political struggle that coexists with every foreign policy during war time, I can't help but feeling outrage with a specific group the pacifists.

By giving the call to arms, our commander-in-chief has taken a stand in a time when most politicians are afraid of making a commitment. He gave ample warning to Saddam Hussein, made sure the world was behind him, and gave Saddam every chance for peace in accordance with U.N. guidelines for five and a half months. The deadline came, and quite justifiably, the U.S. and allied forces attacked. President Bush kept the country well informed, and gave the military total control over battle decisions in order to avoid a limited, painful conflict like Vietnam.

And as I expected, thousands took to the streets to protest the bloodshed. Democratic politicians gave tear-jerking speeches about the going exchange rate on oil and human blood and even Sean Lennon came out with a very poor remake of John

Lennon's "Give Peace a Chance."

Well, my neo-hippy friend, Bush did give peace a chance. He gave peace and economic sanctions so much time to work that even analysts originally urging to wait, finally agreed that nothing short of war would force Iraq out of Kuwait. It is also clear that President Bush is not trading lives for oil. If the U.S. was willing to fight over oil, it would have done so in 1973 when the OPEC embargo left Americans waiting in mile-long lines at the gas stations, and not now when the oil price is stable and Iraq controls such a small percentage of the world's supply. The U.S. is fighting for the principles it has always stood for and that we should still believe in: that we cannot let basic human rights be revoked by land hungry (or oil hungry) dictators.

The pacifist movement in the Vietnam era can be justified by the conditions and warped reasoning on which that war was dragged along. There was neither a clear purpose nor any possibility of success. But we have a purpose in the Middle East, and we have the means to follow through. The world must liberate Kuwait from the grasp of Saddam Hussein, just as we liberated France in the World Wars, and just as

France helped us during our liberation from Britain during the Revolutionary War. (That's right. We were once the Kuwait of the world, wanting only to hold onto our independence against a far superior Empire. Were it not for the help we recieved from another army of liberation, we could be called the 50 colonies of america, and just be more of that land the sun never sets upon.)

Like it or not, the United States cannot follow an isolationist policy in such a volatile world. With the inevitable collapse of the Soviet Union, we hold a responsibility to the smaller nations of the world. We must, through force if necessary, establish order and political stability. Perhaps our grandchildren, living in a hopefully peaceful world, will read history books about how George Bush pulled the world out of internal political conflict with his "New Order," just as we read about how Franklin Delano Roosevelt pulled the U.S. out of internal economic conflict with his "New Deal."

Editor's note: due to limited time and space, only editorials related to the war at hand were placed in this month's issue. Those that were left out will be printed in next month's Clarion.

## College costs rise

According to a recent survey, one year at college beginning this fall will cost from five to eight percent more than last year, indicating that costs aren't increasing as quickly as in previous years.

However, the news is not encouraging to everyone. Some officials fear that in oil sensitive areas in northern states, perhaps the entire nation if a recession occurs, the good news may be extremely sour.

The College Board survey found the most expensive college in the nation to be the Massachusetts Institute of Technology at an estimated cost of \$22,945 per year, including room and board, books, supplies, tuition, transportation, and other usual expenses.

Four year private institutions with fixed charges average \$13,544, increasing 8% over last year's \$12,557. All prices include tuition and fees, books, and room and board.

Fixed costs at four year public universities average \$4,970, up 5% from last year's cost of \$4,715.

In two year private institutions the average cost was up 7% from \$7,912 to \$8,484 this year. Expenses at two year

public schools averaged \$884, up 5% from \$841 last year.

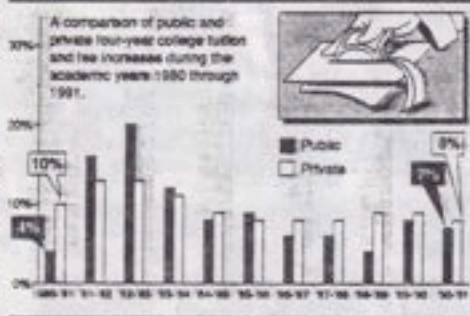
Former U.S. Secretary of Education Lauro F. Cavazo responded to the survey by asking that parents save money and look for sources of financial aid to counteract the inflation.

Actually, though, the inflation of college costs has lessened from the double-digit rates in the early 1980's. The rate seems to have settled into a 5 to 9% range over the last six years, although specialists warn that a recession could change this pattern.

At a price tag of \$20,000+, the prospect of a college education is frightening, but a recent Associated Press survey found that even kindergarten can cost up to \$10,380 a year if you attend the Dalton School in New York.

After considering the rising college costs, senior Elizabeth Stafford said, "I think I need a scholarship." She is in fact applying for financial aid, as are most college-bound seniors.

Annual Tuition and Fee Increases



## Cottom wins DAR good citizen award

Christi Cottom has been named the recipient of this year's NSDAR good citizenship award. The award is locally sponsored by the Daughters of the American Revolution, Michael Hillegas chapter.

Following tradition, the teachers each nominated one student. Christi, Melinda Ewert and Julie Slightom received the most nominations. Their names were placed on a ballot and the senior class then voted Christi the winner.

The award is presented to a senior from every participating high school in the nation. Criteria for the award include the student's qualities of leadership, dependability, and patriotism in the school, home, and community.

There are state and national winners based on a personal profile questionnaire and an essay contest.

Christi will be recognized and presented a medal on Honors Night in the spring.

## State-wide ILLINET network aids senior term paper research

ILLINET is a new word in the senior vocabulary this year.

ILLINET, a computer-based network dedicated to increasing and enhancing access to the wealth of materials in Illinois libraries, is linked up to major colleges and universities in Illinois.

Nearly 2,500 libraries across Illinois are members of ILLINET, including more than 600 public libraries, 170 academic libraries, 1000 school libraries, and 600 special libraries.

ILLINET is being used by Seniors to get information

on topics for their research papers. To use the computer network, students enter possible subjects or titles of materials they need into the computer.

When a subject is entered into the computer, a list of various titles of books is printed out. These books can then be ordered from the appropriate library and will arrive here within two weeks.

When asked what she thought about ILLINET, senior Roni King said, "I think ILLINET is a good program because it really helps you get information

that our library does not have."

Mrs. Hafford said that all of the students in A.P. and Track I Senior English classes have used ILLINET and that all of the students found the information that they needed.

ILLINET is not a new program, but it has only been operational here for about a month, according to Mrs. Cline. It may be used by all students and teachers for class projects only, due to the long distance phone calls to the appropriate libraries that will be paid for by the unit district.

## Ill. State Scholars recognized for '91

Fourteen HHS seniors have been named Illinois State Scholars.

They are: Christi Cottom, Clay Crawford, Melinda Ewert, Chad Hill, Sunny Mattingly, Curtis McClusky, Tina McIlrath, Matt Miller, David Molinarolo, Susan Osterkamp, Meg Overstreet, Shannon Rider, Elizabeth Stafford, and Brent Walker.

Qualifications for becoming a state scholar are as follows: student must be U.S. citizen, have Illinois residency, be scheduled to graduate from high school by 9/1/91, rank in the top

half of the class, and be of good moral character.

In order to enter the competition for State Scholar, a student must take the ACT and/or SAT exams between September 1 and January 30 during his or her junior year. Scholars are chosen on the basis of a combination of test scores and class rank.

The local winners will be recognized and given a certificate at the honors ceremony in the spring.

## 1991 yearbooks are still available...

December 18, the designated sale date for the 1991 Keystone, was successful. To date 284 yearbooks have been sold.

The Keystone staff will continue to take orders until Spring Break. Anyone wishing to purchase a yearbook should bring \$20 to the Publications room between 8:00 and 8:15. Checks should be made payable to Harrisburg High School.

Only yearbooks that have been paid for will be ordered. The staff will not order extras, and encourage you to order yours as soon as possible.

## Kaplan leaves after six years of service

Mrs. Esther Kaplan, English/French teacher, is moving. She will be going to Springfield, where her husband was transferred. Her resignation took effect at the end of the semester.

Mrs. Kaplan has worked at HHS for six years, with one prior year at Malan. This year she has taught French I, II, and III, all three tracks of English I, and Senior English.

"She is a good teacher," said junior Cheryl Brown, "and she'll do well wherever she goes."

In Springfield, Mrs. Kaplan may teach at the prison, or she may continue her writing endeavors. It all depends on how well her current murder mystery novel fares.

Senior Clay Crawford, who went on the French Club trip to France last year, said, "We all had a great time on the trip. Mrs. Kaplan was always open to suggestions. While other groups were walking single file through their day's schedule, having to always be at a certain place at a certain time, she gave us



time to wander around and explore a little."

Mrs. Kaplan's husband served as superintendent of the Illinois Youth Center until he was promoted within the Department of Corrections. This led to the move to Springfield.

Mrs. Kaplan's French I students gave her an honorary going-away party, to send her off in style. She says that she will look back on her years with favor. "We lived here seven years, and Dan grew up here. You can't forget all that too fast."

As of press time, a replacement has not yet been named, so her students, especially the French students, are anxious about the future. They know that they probably won't get another teacher like Mrs. Kaplan.

## Slightom makes All State honors choir

Senior Julie Slightom will be attending the IMEA All State festival in Peoria from Jan. 31 to Feb. 2.

She was accepted to the choir by audition, in which she competed with 25,000 other members.

## Ewert rewarded for 27 years service to Voice of Democracy

After spending 27 years promoting the annual Voice of Democracy contest, Mrs. Sue Ewert was recognized as teacher of the year for the 15th district.

She attended a banquet sponsored by the VFW Jan. 12 in Anna. Ewert received a plaque in recognition of her award.

Along with other teachers in the district, Ewert wrote a letter about the Voice of Democracy contest explaining its importance, as part of the competition for teacher of the year. Ewert has had four district winners over the years, one of whom also placed state.



Ewert has always regarded the contest highly. "It's a good program because it places emphasis on patriotism and challenges students to show more concern for their country," she commented.

# Students have mixed reactions to the war in the Persian Gulf

Students here have responded to the American and allied forces' invasion of Iraq with overwhelming support for Operation Desert Storm, as over 90% of students surveyed agreed with President Bush's actions.

The students' initial reactions to the outbreak of war were mixed. Nearly

half of the students were "glad" that the U.S. was finally taking action in the Gulf. However, other students had different feelings. Senior Julie Slightom said she was "scared" upon the outbreak of war, while Kim Collins was "saddened" by the event. Other students felt that the use of force was expected. After the initial

shock, many students such as Cheryl Brown simply "cried."

The survey was taken of 45 students from all grade levels. The respondents were split between males and females.

None of the students believed that Saddam Hussein would have withdrawn from Kuwait through the use of economic sanctions alone. Most felt it would take force "to go in and kick some butt," according to Shawn Street, to get Iraqi troops out of Kuwait.

Students made projections on how long the war with Iraq would last, with most estimating close to two weeks. Others, such as Jay Herring, felt that it would take "almost a month or more." Most all believed the war wouldn't last long.

Several other students expressed a desire to be in the conflict. Senior Chad Lasseter would like to "go in and assassinate Saddam."

### Fast Facts:

People in China don't eat cheese

Aztec Indians used a small breed of a hairless dog to keep their feet warm

Napolean was afraid of cats

**MARINES**

**Pride.**  
 You'll find it in a few good men.  
 There's one thing you notice about this man the minute your eyes meet his. He's not just any kind of man, he's one of a kind. From the determined look in his eye to the perfect cut of that dress blue uniform, he possesses an unusual quality that says he is something special. That quality is pride and you'll find it in every Marine.  
 Take a good look at this man. If you think you see yourself in him and are looking for more information, call 1-800-MARINES. Who knows, you too may have what it takes to wear that dress blue uniform.  
**Marines**  
 The Few. The Proud. The Marines.

Contact your local Marine recruiter, Sergeant Clark, at 529-2344

## Mr. Hays was right on chances of wreck

by Cheryl Brown

When I was a sophomore in Driver's Ed, I never believed all those things Mr. Hays said. When he told the class you will have a wreck before you get out of high school, I thought he was talking to everyone but me. Oh, how I was wrong!

On December 30th, I had a wreck. "Wow! I was wrong. Mr. Hays was right," was the first thing that went through my mind when I landed in a ditch on the Carrier Mills Blacktop.

I was on my way to take my best friend home. She lives in Ledford, so we decided to take the scenic route to her house. Well, we went out on Rt. 13 and turned off onto the Carrier Mills Blacktop.

About a half of a mile down the road, there was a

tree limb in the road. I moved over to avoid it, and that's when I hit a patch of ice. I lost control of my vehicle. The one thing I remember from Driver's Ed probably saved my life. I remembered not to put on my brakes. The next thing I knew, Shannon and I and my little blue car were in a ditch. We later realized we had hit a culvert.

But the point I am trying to make is this. Mr. Hays was right. He was right! He told us not to slam on the brakes or the car could flip. The officer at the scene of the accident said if I had put on my brakes, I could have been dead.

So the next time you are sitting in Driver's Ed class, and you think that Mr. Hays is talking to everyone but you, think again.



## Try-outs for Grease musical held at HHS

Students that auditioned for the spring musical "Grease" are indeed ready to begin practices to shoo-bop and boogie to some very popular 50's music. Their practices will begin soon for the March 21st and 22nd production.

Thespians had to sing a piece of music of their choice on January 29th for auditions. A cast list of seventeen persons was posted the following morning. However, all who auditioned will add importance to the musical: singing and dancing.

The musical, written by Jim Jacobs and Warren Casey, has spurred great amounts of interest among the student body because of the movie released in the 1970's. However, Director Sue Ewert commented that there were several differences between the movie and the stage show. "I think the stage show is better because it has more continuity of plot."

## Matchmaker game to be run by Clarion

by Cheryl Brown

A few of the Publication's staff have decided to play Matchmaker for HHS students.

Matchmaker is a software service designed by Fortress Software. In this issue you will find a questionnaire provided by Fortress. Each interested student should fill it out and return it to Cheryl

Brown, Dian Grisham, or Mrs. Clemmons.

Fortress will process your questionnaire with those of the other interested students and then send back a personalized result sheet, in a sealed envelope for privacy, which can be purchased from the Clarion Staff for \$1.50. Everyone is encouraged to participate.



# Local youth center takes precautions to ensure area's safety

by Tina McIlrath

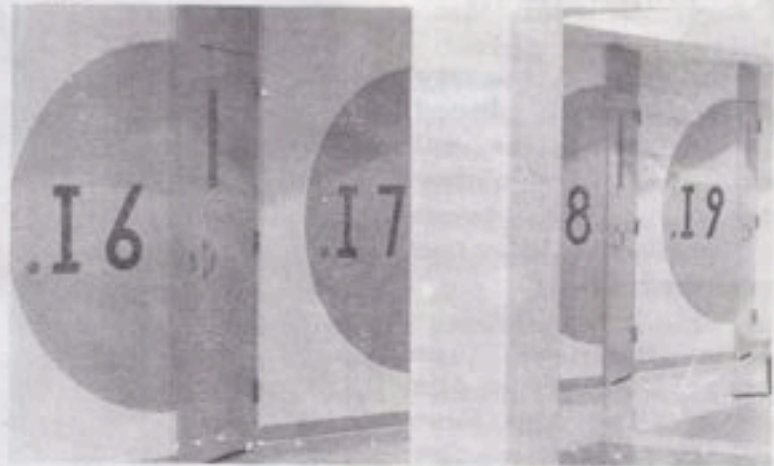
In 1982, when the Bowen Center for retarded children was closed as mental health institution and re-opened as a juvenile correction center, the community was concerned about its safety.

After a few prison escapes, some people were downright scared. Now, however, superintendent of the youth center Monte Field can remark, "It's been a long time since we've had (any more) escapes."

New additions of the super-maze wire, extra security measures, and improvements in fencing, have made the Illinois Youth Center in Harrisburg the second most secure in the state. This facility has added employment opportunities to our area.

According to Field, the center has focused heavily on improving both the physical and internal security. The staff have taken measures to insure more closely that the teenagers are observed at all times and that all their movements are escorted.

Field explained that the center runs systems checks regularly to look for flaws and how the employees and equipment are working. "One of our staff might drive around the center



For security measures, inmates are locked up in these cells every night.

to see how an employee reacts, or we might fake an escape in order to check our employee and equipment effectiveness."

The center's two internal investigators are responsible for checking out possible escapes and finding weaknesses in the security systems. They also investigate reported problems among the teenagers that could possibly lead to violence. The two employees are extensively trained in their areas as are all employees of the center.

Everyone of the employees is required to have 120 hours of documented training before employment, and around 40 hours after that. The youth center has hired approximately 186 correctional employees and 35 technology staff members.

Field stressed that the facility is audited once a year by the state department and must comply 100% with all regulations. "If one of our employees missed an hour of training, then all of the employees would have to make up for that lost hour."

With added measures, the youth center in Harrisburg has been rated as having higher security than in the past. The center ranks below only the maximum security in Joliet. Because of its high-medium security, "Harrisburg receives some of the teenagers convicted of more serious crimes," commented Field. The center receives both felons and juvenile delinquents.

The Youth Center receives felons and delinquents from age 14-20. With the responsibility of housing serious offenders, the facility has to constantly improve its security measures.

## Dogs take sixth in Holiday Tournament

The Bulldog varsity basketball team placed sixth in the annual Eldorado Holiday Tournament. The team was unranked in the sixteen-team field.

The Dogs had to face fifth-seeded Century in the first round. For the first time all year, the entire team played well together. The final result was a 96-84 victory.

The Dogs advanced to the second round and faced the fourth-seeded Eldorado Eagles. The Dogs held an 18 point halftime advantage and a 10 point advantage after three quarters. However the Dogs ran out of gas and were defeated 75-70.

The dogs then played an early morning game against Vienna for the right to advance to the fifth place game. The Dogs started off slow but finished strong en route to a 80-73 victory. The team then had to come back and play six hours later against McLeansboro. The fatigue factor played a big part in the game as the Dogs were defeated 70-52.

Bulldog senior Brandon Shelton, who scored 71 points in the four games, was named to the all-tournament team.



Senior Brandon Shelton prepares to shoot while several Eldorado defenders close in.

## Dogs ousted from Carmi Invitational

The Bulldog varsity basketball team twice blew big leads as they were ousted from the Carmi Invitational. The Dogs led by as much as 12 points against Mt. Carmel before losing 88-77 in the first round game. The Dogs held an 11 point halftime lead against Grayville before falling 91-82 in overtime.

Brandon Shelton was the "big gun" for Harrisburg in the Mt. Carmel game. He came off the bench to score 32 points while only playing three quarters. The Dogs held an 8 point lead after the first quarter, but were outscored 30-15

in the second period. The team never recovered as they suffered the defeat.

The Dogs blew several leads against Grayville. The team trailed late but forced an overtime period when Chad Lakatos made a lay-up with only one second remaining. However, the team fell apart in overtime and eventually lost by nine points.

Chad Lakatos led the Bulldogs in scoring against Grayville as he poured in 24 points. Brandon Shelton and Joe Smith each added 16 while Brian Banks and Chris Lucas chipped in 14 and 10 respectively

# SPORTS



Senior Amy Cavender dribbles around a Carbondale defender.

## Lady Dogs improve

In their first game back after Christmas break, the Lady Bulldogs basketball team lost a close 46-47 game to West Frankfort on January 3. This balanced their overall record at 6-6 and dropped their conference record to 3-4.

Since the West Frankfort game, the team has defeated Herrin, Marion, and Eldorado before losing a tough game to Centralia. To date, their overall record stands at 9-7, while their conference record is 5-5.

Varsity coach Chuck Ingram said, "We seemed to have started out slow this year. All the games have been close. The kids have been working very hard, and we're showing a lot of improvement."

The Lady Bulldogs are now preparing for the Carbondale Invitational Tournament at the end of January. After that, regionals begin February 4.

## Bulldog grapplers have performed well

The '90-'91 season for the Varsity wrestlers is going exceedingly well as their 14-6 record shows.

Early in the season the varsity matmen lost by a small margin against Marion with a score of 34-36. Later in the season, when all of the wrestlers were much healthier and down to weight, they defeated Marion 44-12.

The other five losses that the Dogs experienced were against Lawrenceville, Caldwell County, Ky. Carbondale, Mt. Vernon, and Herrin. Harrisburg wrestled well in all of these matches, but were narrowly defeated.

Varsity heavyweight Rhett Simpson said, "We will be disappointed if we didn't place first or second in regionals. I expect at least eight wrestlers to make it to sectionals."

A high point of the grapplers' season was its shut-out of Carmi 76-0. They also earned lopsided victories against Benton, Carterville, and Pinckneyville.

The J.V. team is having a superb season as well, and have yet to be defeated. Al Way, J.V. wrestling coach, remarked, "Overall, I'm pleased, and we're progressing well. We are undefeated in dual matches,

but the real test will be the J.V. conference match." The J.V. wrestlers currently stand at 10-0.

J.V. wrestler William Redwine, on the J.V.'s chances in the conference, vividly stated, "We can take it all. First place for everyone."

Several of the J.V. wins are over schools much larger than HHS. They defeated Carbondale 72-3, Marion 39-30, and later beat Marion again 66-3. These matches show how much the J.V. has improved over the course of the season.

In the recent varsity conference meet, Harrisburg wrestlers placed fourth overall. Rhett Simpson placed first in the heavyweight division, the only Bulldog to do so.

Three wrestlers placed second in the conference: Tony Bertino (160), John Holloway (130), and Roland Rheude (103). In the 189lb. class, Erik Nelson captured third. Four Bulldog wrestlers took fourth: Marc Popetz (112), Tyler VanOrmer (135), P.J. Boone (140), and Brandon Frantz (145). Marshall Lane was expected to place high in the conference but was unable to wrestle, due to an injury.

## GRAPPLERS



Sunny Mattingly visited this castle in Scherwin, E. Germany

## *East Germany: not all that attractive*

(Excerpts from a letter from Sunny Mattingly, Foreign Correspondent)

Sunny Mattingly visited East Germany with her "family" after the Berlin Wall fell and related her experiences.

"We went to a town called Scherwin located in Mecklenburg, land owned by the Dutch. The first thing that let you know things were changing was the border. I'd always heard about all the guards with their dogs and guns, but when we went through, it was like the wall had never existed.

My friend Iris pointed out the deserted buildings and explained what they had been used for. She told me about the times she had crossed the border going through various trails, but her encounter didn't seem

real to me, because all the ruins seemed empty.

"You could see all the buildings, empty watchtowers, and barbed wire fences, but no one was there. We didn't even have to stop to enter East Germany. The journey was just like going into another state in the US, except we had to take a small detour around the buildings that were being torn down.

"There was a huge open field full of watchtowers near the border. It had been used by guards only a few months ago to spot people trying to escape and have a batter shot at them. They say that thousands of people died in those fields, but now the public can walk freely in them.

"We entered Scherwin to eat lunch. The first thing I noticed in this area was the

badly dilapidated buildings in drastic need of repairs and restoration. I then noticed the Soviet Red Army barracks.

"I learned that since East Germany was taken over by the Communist Government, it was under strict regulation. There was no money or balanced economy in the country. Most of the buildings that were destroyed in World War II were left alone. Others were put up in such a hurry with poor materials that they were beginning to crumble. No paint was available at the time, so the whole town has a gray, black, dreary appearance. a desolate feeling hovers about it.

"Seeing the Red Army barracks was very exciting. We drove by several buildings that looked alike in a large open area. These buildings housed a great number of Soviet troops. I also saw some soldiers while shopping."

## **Clarion column nabs computer criminals**

The article covering the theft of computers from HHS, which ran in last month's *Purple Clarion*, prompted one reader to come forward with information which led to the arrest of the thieves.