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Sam Alderfer and Brad Ross race in the Elasticrun, just one of the main events at this year's Good Dog's Day

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There's Nothing to be Scared of--Or is There

Today's world is being flooded by violence and crime. It has even come to the point where public high schools have resorted to using metal detectors to prevent students from bringing weapons to school. In many parts of the country, people have been shot in public schools. Not only guns but other weapons such as knives have sent scares to the nation's students and faculty. But not all schools have these problems.

At Harrisburg High there is a different type of violence plaguing the students and teachers. I am sure we have all been sitting in class or walking down the hall and heard a whistling noise. Instead of hearing gunshots in our hallways, HHS has a more unique case, the disfunctional radiators.

Every person who walks into the hallowed halls of HHS is in danger of being burnt or even scalded by the spraying radiators. There have been numerous cases of the heating system malfunctioning. There have been times when radiators break and scalding water sprays in to the air for entire class periods at a time.

One such instance took place when senior Chris Watson tried to stop a radiator from leaking. Watson was in Mr. Butler's U.S. History class when a radiator began to spout water endangering his fellow classmates. Watson thought quickly and decided the only thing to do was to try and tighten a screw that was loose. The next thing he knew, the screw had popped off and steam was spraying in his face. "I'm just thankful that the steam didn't permanently scar my skin. It messed up my vision for a little while and I had a nice little Clark Kent curl in my hair," commented Watson on his experience.

This is just one of many tragic tales involving the heating system. At some points the system is hot enough to make people sweat. At other times one can not even tell it is on. "It is an antiquated heating system. I believe it is essentially the same heating system that was put in this building in 1902," added faculty member C.J. Harbison. (He noted that the difference between the system then and now is that coal used to be used and now we use gas.) Other faculty members also expressed concerns.

Harrisburg IL. may seem

secluded from the problems of violence, homelessness, and guns. But this is not to say that Harrisburg and HHS do not have their own problems. Until this recurring plague of broken radiators is taken care of, it is apparent that the student body and faculty will live in fright.

The Clarion

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The Clarion is the student newspaper of Harrisburg High School, 333 West College Street, Harrisburg, IL 62946. *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.

Dear Editor,

All through my life, I've observed the way people treat mentally retarded people and special education students. Most of the time, people treat them terribly, make fun of them, and come up with "retard" jokes. This bothers me because I have a mentally retarded sister. Do you know how it feels to hear people make fun of her or other people like her? It hurts and I get frustrated about it. But it hurt most when I observed in class one day, a teacher making fun of them. That was rude, unprofessional, and should have been kept outside the classroom. I wish that people would realize that mentally retarded people are human beings and have feelings just like you and me. If just one person would change their attitude, it would make a great difference.

Respectfully,

Jennifer Wetzel

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.

Getting The Radio/TV Blues

After a long hard day of school, a select number of students have the privilege to go to their fifth and sixth hour Radio/TV classes. This is a good class to learn about the field of broadcasting from the instructor, Kim Leberman. There are a few problems, though. There are too many students and not enough equipment to get some real hands on experience. Also, most of the equipment is out of date, and some of it needs to be repaired.

The equipment in the building is pretty good stuff, but it is out-dated. The class uses three-quarter inch equipment, which is starting to show wear and tear. Although this type of equipment is rarely used, it is still capable of making good quality video.

Some of the equipment used needs to be serviced. The cameras need to be registered, and the replacement of a source machine for an editing system is needed.

This class has changed

over the years. The size of the class has increased dramatically, and it is starting to become hard to control. Mrs. Leberman has enough time to teach the basic skills, but with so many students in the classroom, there is not much time to do any actual produc-

ing. Mrs. Leberman has had some comments about this situation.

"This class used to be a two hour class with more than twenty students each year. Now it's two-one hour classes. But I still have large classes and with the nature of the class, being somewhat hands on, it is hard to teach a large number in a short period of time with not enough equipment to go around."

In the past, the class

has produced some good pieces of work. Last year, the class produced the freshman orientation video. Like this, most of the videos in the past have been informational tapes. A couple of years ago, some of her students went to a Def Leppard concert to tape their practices before the show. They made a super video out of the footage they shot. I asked Mrs. Leberman what she wished the department could have. She said, "I wish I had enough money for a new camera and a new editing system, but there is not much money to spend on this department at this point."

The Radio/TV classes are in a bind. If they had enough equipment for at least half the class to use, they might actually be able to get some real experience and produce good work. They do have equipment, but it is out of date. Some of the equipment also needs serviced. If they had the proper equipment, the class might not have such a bad rap.



Theater Festival Comes to U of I

On January 5, 6, and 7 the Harrisburg High School Thespians participated in the Illinois State Theater Festival. Although this was the twentieth anniversary of the festival, Harrisburg students were only participating in their second festival. Each year the theater moves back and forth from the University of Illinois to Illinois State University. U of I hosted the 1995 festival.

The opening ceremonies contained a performance of *School House Rock Live*. Theater BAM, a group from Chicago, put the program together and will soon take it to Off-Broadway. The program was made up of short programs that aired on television every Saturday until 1985. Songs included "Conjunction Junction", "I'm Just a Bill", and "Interplanet Janet". The program included a great deal of participation. Audience members sang along. Students relived their Saturday mornings from childhood through this play. For the next two days students walked around singing songs from *School House Rock Live*.

Friday was spent attending plays and workshops. Plays that were included were *Blithe Spirit*, *Godspell*, and *Our Town*. *Blithe Spirit* was about a man's deceased wife who comes back to haunt him and his new wife. The first twenty minutes of the play were slow. When the deceased wife appears, the entertainment begins. Some students attended workshops such as Story Book Theater, How to Make your Monologue Work, and many more. In the evening everyone had free time.

Some danced, some bowled, and others played pool. After the exhausting day everyone retired to their hotels.

The big Saturday attraction was the All-State performance of *Fiddler On the Roof*. The top actors were picked for the cast.

Last year's performance was *Jesus Christ Superstar*. *Fiddler On the Roof* was very impressive. Natalie Stevens stated, "I thought that *Fiddler On the Roof* was great. I was impressed to see that people our age could put on a performance of such caliber." The cast worked for months and their work paid off.

All in all the

weekend was a success. C.J. Harbison, sponsor, said this about the facilities at U of I, "I found having four theaters under one roof amazing." Students had a full weekend. They learned, were entertained, and had a little fun on the side.



Students attend the U of I Theater Festival
(Photo By C.J. Harbison)

The Best Thing To Happen Since Sliced Bread

It's a new year and a new law has come into effect. Yes, Zero Tolerance. Most everyone is very aware of what this is. It is a law from the Secretary of States office. The law proclaims any one under the age of 21 who has been suspected of drinking and results in getting pulled over is subject to the request of one of three test to discover blood alcohol level. The tests are breathalizer, blood sample, or urine sample. Any refusal can get a 6 month suspension of the drivers license as a minimum.

Interviews were conducted with 1 State Trooper, 1 Harrisburg City Officer, and 1 Miller Ambulance worker. They all said that is a common thought by teenagers that putting a penny under your tongue can satisfy the test and cause you to blow a 0.00 on the breathalizer machine. This may be true, but then you are subject to take the next two test at the request of the arresting officer. A refusal to these tests is considered

defiance. Six months of hitching a ride from mom and dad or your best bud. State Trooper, Sergeant John Barr stated that he thinks "the zero tolerance is the best thing to happen since sliced bread, because it not only covers DUI, even if only consumption its an automatic 90 day suspension." He also stated that in the 7 counties that district 19 covers no zero tolerance tickets have been written by the State of Illinois.

When ask his feelings on the law, Kevin White, a Miller Ambulance Medic, claims " It is great because it is a tragedy to see young peoples lives ruined in alcohol related accidents. Hopefully this law will cause teenagers to think before drinking and driving." All of the workers for Miller have one wish. They wish they could

take each teenager, convicted of drunk driving, to an accident of a young person in which they have to scrape the ground to retrieve the child as a result of drinking. Then let them see the reaction of that person's parents when they get told that they are less one child.

The last person to make a comment is everyone's favorite city cop, John Childers. He is a city cop and a worker for Miller's Ambulance, so he gets to deal both ends of the teenage drinking. He says "Zero Tolerance is a great thing designed to reduce the alcohol related deaths in Illinois youth. I believed that the penalties involved with zero tolerance are too easy." No tickets have been issued yet by the police, but they are looking and are prepared to convict offenders. They all had one last comment, a parent's

Convicts Recieve Luck From Unknown Sources

Roosevelt Pollard, a 30 yr. old man on death row, became the luckiest man alive on Wednesday, Jan. 11. He was sentenced to die, but the Supreme Court allowed him to live for a little longer. His lawyers, for his defense, said that he suffered from schizophrenia, brain damage, and doesn't understand the death sentence.

What I can't understand is how he is still alive. He was supposed to die at 12:01 AM on Wednesday, Jan. 11. His stay of execution was issued at 12:24 in the AM. Now, why isn't that fella dead?

Pollard is convicted of killing Richard Alford, a 43 yr. old business man from Arkansas, in 1983. If he killed the guy in 1983, why wasn't he executed any earlier? How can he kill someone in 1983, get a death sentence, and still be alive in 1995?

But I'll put my personal thoughts aside for now and ask this question: when was the last time you came close to being that lucky? I can't get a break anytime, and here's a guy that gets his life saved

AFTER he's supposed to be dead! Where does he get the luck? How many 4-leaf clovers and dead rabbits did he have to collect before he pulled that one?

Unfortunately, Pollard isn't the only convict, and certainly isn't the first and won't be the last, to receive the death penalty and still be alive. It took years to kill John Wayne Gacy, Henry Lee Lucas is still kicking, and clothing distributors have discovered that Manson brings in much too big of a profit to kill off. It appears to me that instead of complaining about the amount of money spent each year to keep these people alive, they would be dead, which is what they all deserve, and no more money would be spent on them.

Isn't living on death row an oxymoron? Isn't the sole purpose of being sentenced to die and being put on death row so that whomever it is who

was convicted could die? And yet men like Manson and Lucas and, if not for a streak of luck, Dahmer would qualify, all these sick, twisted, murderous, perversions of nature are still alive! Why?

The point is that these people are alive when they should be dead. I stress alive when they should be dead. I guess there are some people in this world with just natural luck and then there are people like me, who have to buy it in the form of fake rabbits' feet and dead clovers. Maybe Mr. Pollard and Mr. Manson and Mr. Lucas can market this luck and sell it to the mainstream public for \$19.95 on one of those late night commercial programs on Lifetime. Or maybe they'll be dead before then and the public will never receive this brand of luck. Or maybe the public doesn't want this kind of luck.



Death Clock Keeps Tally On Time



A new invention is now gracing the shelves of stores all across the nation. The real name is the Timisis LifeClock, but in reality it has come to be known as the death clock. This slightly off-beat invention supposedly counts down the hours, minutes, seconds, and even tenths of a second (for those punctual corpses) left in the life span of the consumer.

The clock is very simple to program. Simply type in sex and age and the clock does the rest. In reality, it counts down the life expectancy of males or females (75 years for men, 80 years for women), so for those looking for a miracle, there is not one here. However, it does seem like a neat thing to have and would be the perfect gift for those morbid death-seekers on your shopping list.

This brainchild, invented by Chip Altholz and Barry Faldner, not only tells time but can also be programmed to count down graduations and many other



things. While it is counting down, it scrolls 164 aphorisms, or maxims, across the screen. These aphorisms include sayings like eat your vegetables or you get what you ask for. Of course, the big question remains unanswered; does an alarm go off when time expires? But the inventors are not telling. Unless the inventors change their mind and answer the

question, it will remain unanswered until someone purchases one for \$99.95 through the Sharper Image stores or through 1-800-TIMISIS, and then dies.

The death clock is a pyramid-shaped desk clock and is made out of an almost-marble substance. The hardest part was finding a computer chip that could tell time, scroll messages, and count backwards. This successful invention is sure to catch on and be even more successful after the national exposure gained in an article in People magazine last week. Faldner stated "Death is a part of life. We all face it." Well, this creation will surely help people keep track of how much time is left.

'BOBWAA'

Grappler Go for the Record

Nobody knows what the word bobwaa really means. This is the way an opposing coach pronounces the move "barbwire". This move controls the opponent the same the Bulldogs have been controlling their foes. The 1994-95 squad is just a few short victories away from setting the best record



by a Harrisburg wrestling team ever. Like years before the Bulldogs have a solid team with the 135 and 152 lb. weight classes still trying to find an owner.

The Bulldogs have a 19-2 record with the butt of the season closing in. A very fine performance has landed the H.H.S. team of the week earlier in the season in December. The team has already won their second straight

Conference title and are preparing for a chance to advance to team sectionals and state.

The grapplers are preparing for regionals which will decide if their season is over or will continue down the road. H.H.S. barely escaped the hands of Murphysboro last year at conference by 1.5 points. They then clinched the regional title a week later when they shut the door on Herrin in the championship match. The season was over after a struggle with one of the top teams in the State. The Bulldogs ended up being one of the top 16 teams in the state and will try and remain champions for conference and regional competition.

Individually, there are again a number of wrestlers who are likely to advance to the Vandalia Sectional. Chris Fetter, a 3 year letterman standout, has an undefeated record and has a very good shot at advancing to State. Seniors Cam Thai, Tim Rister, Matt Sheldon, Kyle Lands, and Brandon Pray all have a shot to go on to Vandalia. Juniors Jimmy Cirigliano, Doug Dorris, Chris Beavis, Raul Poberson, Mark Maddox, and Matt Molinarolo will all be around next year if they don't advance.

H.H.S. will travel to Carmi Saturday for the regional. Good Luck gentleman.



And Now The News... Special Edition Republicans Conquest of Congressional Official!



WASHINGTON, District of Columbia- On Wednesday January 4th, the 104th United States Congress was sworn into office, completing the most fantastic political turnaround since 1946. The Republican Party captured new Senate seats in Washington, Maine, Alabama, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Minnesota, and two Tennessee seats to take a 53-47 majority. In the House of Representatives, Republicans grabbed over forty new seats, securing a majority there for the first time since 1954.

Georgia Congressman Newt Gingrich beat out Democrat Richard Gephardt for votes in the House for speaker, not much of a surprise since no minority party has ever been represented by the speaker. Kansas Senator Bob Dole became Senate majority leader. It now remains to be seen if the Republicans' Contract With America, which would cut the government, reduce the deficit, stop defense cuts, raise the social security earnings limit, reduce middle-class taxes, place limits on welfare, and two other important points. Gingrich set the first 100 days of the congress as the time to bring all ten items to the floor for debate.

In a marathon first session, last-

ing over fourteen hours, the Republican congress rolled over Democratic opposition on twelve procedural changes in the way congress does business. Gingrich promised votes on all twelve in the first day of the 104th congress, and though it lasted until the wee hours of the morning, all twelve bills were passed. Among them were a regulation forcing all 535 senators and representatives to obey the same laws they impose on the people, slashed house committees down by one third (to twenty) while limiting the amount of subcommittees each committee can have to five. An exception to this is the Transportation and Interior committee, which can have seven subcommittees. A bill which orders a sixty percent "supermajority" to raise taxes was also passed late in the evening.

In the Senate, West Virginia Senator Robert Byrd proposed an amendment to the United States Constitution which would make it illegal to either require or prohibit a student to pray

or allow time for prayer in school.

It became apparent after the Republicans' landslide election victory (no Republican incumbents lost, House seats were gained in 42 states, several states elected Republican legislatures and governors), that the people of the United States are not simply "surly" and "bitter" as *New York Times* and *Washington Post* editorials suggest, but instead are conservative, and are simply voting the way they think or have thought for years. This revelation is shaking things up at the White House, where President Clinton has proposed some very Conservative sounding proposals, instead of the liberal agenda he has followed since January 1993.

After one day, Republicans had reformed the congress, straightened out the president, and set to work on the Contract. If this seems like frantic activity, wait until debate and voting begins on the Contract With America. Do not be surprised if the C-Span network's ratings rise dramatically over the next 100 days.



"Well, you know what they say, Dad...
nice guys finish last."

By: Preston Sweat

The Ecosystem Of The School Bus

The morning sun hoists itself from the depths of a good nights sleep to bleed through a window collage of dead bugs and birds reminding little boys and girls who have slept through the relentless repetition of their alarm clocks, that it is time to go out and meet the big yellow bandwagon. The school bus (sponsored by the haves and occupied by the have-nots) completes its route by picking up frozen country pie at every mailbox along the stretch of highway linking with the crossroads that separate paradise embers of warmth in the homestead from the scorching brimstones of damnation on the littered aisle and the smoke-filled back seats with pounds of stuffing pouring out of them like fifty clowns exiting a covered go-cart. The clowns are abundant on the transportation from the "Hut Sweet Hovel" to the K through twelve day care centers located in the big city of Hurlsburg, as the mimes and circus freaks let the beast within explode from every corner of their adolescent innards.

As the free-for-all commences, the chauffer who holds everyone's safety in his hands, attempts to fall asleep every five seconds to end his own personal trauma with tragedy that will finally pit his name in the paper for the first time since he dropped out of

medical school. Every mother should feel somewhat relieved to find out that bus drivers were given an IQ test before being hired to sprout gray hairs and liquored disposition, if it was not a fact that those who failed the IQ test, the urine test (which was studied for intently), and the cough and turn your head test, were hired on the spot to keep up the traditional values of the bus company generation after generation.

Although most driver's goal is to get everyone on and off without losing any passengers or themselves into light small talk, some think it is their duty to not only be the driver but to be a best friend, a guidance counselor, and the mother no one every had (the reason is usually obvious for that). Not only do they break up fights between the country boys and the city slickers, but drivers feel the need to pull over and counsel the ruffians involved in this media influenced violence. Everyone gets a hug and a chuck on the old shoulder, and the rest of us finally get to school three hours late, but we are always warm and emotional with our peers for the rest of the day.

It is more than rusty nuts, bolts, paperclips, rubber bands, and bailing twine that holds the school bus together. All that keeps the mighty tanks from falling apart on the potholes, are the bonds cre-

ated by the driver, the irate, hyperactive, chocolate faces, and the dark, gloomy, older character, who repeatedly bangs his head on the emergency door to the rhythm of the windshield wipers. If an intelligent person was to ride a bus for the first time in their life and was able to capture the same vibrations in music, prose, or film, they would easily be compared to the greats such as Nine Inch Nails, Anton Levee, or Sam Peckinpah. The paths of inspiration flow though the half lines on the windows, the view of the silent witness camera, and the slowly evolving ooze of tobacco spit mixed with urine on the sticky floor.

Like the surt, the school bus will always arrive at one's doorstep. Even in the summer one can count on the bus to show up on time. (This is most likely due to incompetence or instinct instead of faithfulness.) Perhaps it would be better to compare it to a stray cat that keeps coming back to purr and look cute so that it can slowly suck out your breath when you fall asleep on the bare frame of a seat. In that half conscience dream you might see your entire life pass right before your eyes. On the other hand, that could just be the dark cold bus barn which you will sleep in tonight because you fell asleep and messed your stop.