




November Students-of-the-Month were announced recently. Kris Nelson, junior/senior winner, and Rachel Davis, freshman winner, were congratulated by Ms. Stewart at the junior/senior parking space.

The staff of "The Purple Clarion" feels that more student input is needed in the paper. A suggestion box has been placed on the wall outside the Publications room. We encourage students to submit any writing as well as suggestions for improvement of the Clarion.


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THE PURPLE CLARION

HARRISBURG HIGH SCHOOL
HARRISBURG, IL
FOR THE STUDENTS BY THE STUDENTS

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ISAC names Illinois State Scholars; 13 HHS seniors named

by Angie Stallings

Thirteen HHS seniors have been designated as Illinois State Scholars. The Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) recently announced the Illinois State Scholars for the 1993-94 academic year.

Students honored as State Scholars receive letters of notification from the ISAC and a Certificate of Merit, and have the opportunity to compete for scholarships as a result.

To be eligible for the Illinois State Scholar program, students must take the ACT or SAT during the junior year and rank in the upper half of the class after six semesters. ISAC names qualifying students Scholars based on a "score" comprised of two-thirds test and one-third class rank.

About 10% of Illinois' high school seniors are honored as Illinois State Scholars. HHS' 13 Scholars make up almost 10% of the class of 140.



(bottom to top, left to right)Melissa Butler, Amit Mehta, Marc Popetz, Matthew Bramlet, Jeremy Halford, Angie Stallings, Andi Glass, Diana Grisham, Matt Eisenhower, Mark Lucas, Travis DeNeal, Toby Lyon, and Ashley Gott were named Illinois State Scholars.

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- *Our reactions to "The Radical"
- *Reviews: "A Christmas Carol"; the latest Stephen King novel; "Dracula"
- *Christmas special: materialism; gift ideas
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- *Updates on boys' basketball, girls' basketball, and wrestling

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Radical brings out opposing ideals

Clarion should be forum for high school expression

by Angie Stallings

Quite a controversy arose along with the recent discovery of "The Radical," an -oooooh-underground newspaper at HHS. The paper was found in the D Building by coaches over the Nov. 21-22 weekend. Apparently, the coaches, a handful of informed teachers, and our principal and assistant principal felt that the paper was irresponsible and inappropriate and therefore attempted to prevent the paper from falling into student hands. Their attempt to keep the paper a secret failed, however, as several students found copies of "The Radical" floating around on the Monday following the weekend. Nevertheless, the informed faculty members seized the extra copies and still tried to keep the whole affair "hush-hush," which, once again failed because word travelled fast through the student body.

I would like to pose a question to the HHS administration: WHAT IS SO WRONG WITH THIS PAPER? Aside from the spelling and grammatical errors and the occasional profane word, which has no place in

journalism, I see nothing wrong or controversial about "The Radical." HHS' administrative staff, on the other hand, finds alleged threats in the paper, such as the "King Jeremy the Wicked" reference which accompanies the Pearl Jam review. In the video, it is assumed that some frustrated kid comes to school and blows away a few teachers and students with a few gunshots. GET REAL! They also believe that the "editorial" about a *Daily Register* Letter to the Editor written by two HHS students (children of Harrisburg teachers) was an anti-teacher blow that might be a catalyst in stirring up more bitter feelings about the HEA strike. Perhaps, but I think the students have long forgotten the teacher strike.

For those of you who did not, for whatever reason (confiscation?), read "The Radical," you didn't miss much. Nevertheless, I find it refreshing that the student(s) responsible for "The Radical" have views that need to be expressed. However, I feel that students should use "The Purple Clarion" as a forum to express themselves. As co-editor, I welcome any student input to our paper and assure students that their writing, as long as it is in good taste and is of good quality, will appear as submitted.

Underground joke brings out uproarious laughter

by Jeremy Halford

Rumors abound in the hallowed halls of H.H.S. over what was actually in the underground newspaper and who wrote it. The people responsible for this should be ashamed to broadcast articles which a slug couldn't find worthwhile to read. Besides being handy for a pooper-scooper for my more intelligent animal friends, there is no use whatsoever for even attempting to call such trash a paper at all.

The joke seems to have appeared sometime over the weekend when a person, or group of people, stole into the main part of the school, probably during a ball game, or practice and deftly deposited it in the Davenport Gym and along the halls where curious students could pick it up and attempt to read it. (I say attempt because it was such an amateur effort that most students couldn't even make out the darkened "articles", or whatever one can call them).

Various suspects have been named, bringing forth an electric air between several teachers with opposing views over who was responsible for this atrocity. A few concerned parents have talked with Mr. Collins to get an idea of the situation.

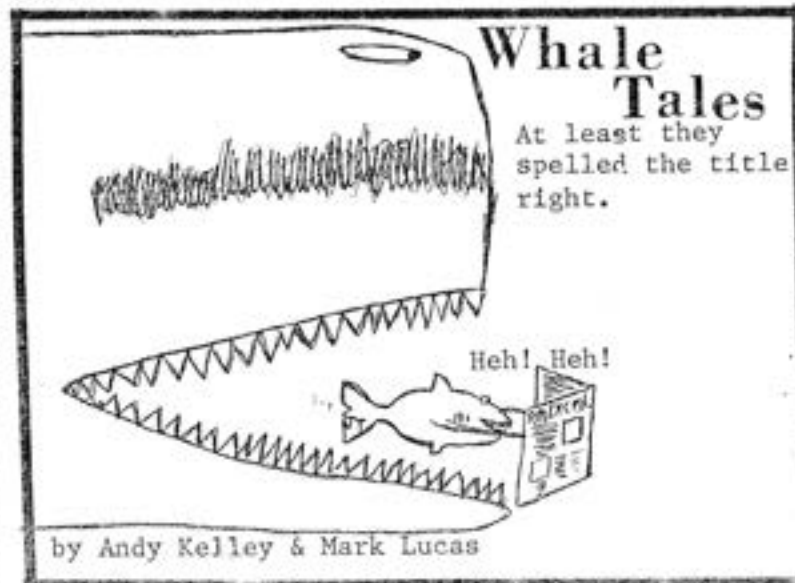
This joke presents a loose, anarchist-type philosophy which teachers and other authorities see as dangerous and capable of corrupting young minds. It brings to mind of stories from the sixties: rebellion, anti-government protests, and off-the-wall attitudes about things that don't matter to most people.

The authors apparently don't have enough intelligence to understand that you are a lost cause and, no matter how you may threaten anybody on the Clarion staff (or even fake a threat to yourself), you will never be taken as a real danger. The layout of the "paper,"

which seems to have been run off on a home printer, is inferior and appears that a person of low intelligence wrote in the comments that are strewn all over the pages in magic marker. Some articles are plagiarized and the quotes are verbatim from books.

Students shouldn't even try to defend the paper unless, of course, you yourself had something to do with it, like getting it organized and managing to have it copied for your cronies.

You do have something on us though. You did indeed manage to cause a big enough controversy to get this editorial written about your paper. This editorial is designed for the general public to which I owe my everlasting loyalty (can you say loyalty?). Still, you will always draw some crowd to your joke, so all I can say is, reverting back to infancy, WE'RE BETTER THAN YOU ARE!



Dracula bites into movie audiences

by Jeremy Hafford

Dracula hit movie theaters last month with the kind of bang that most moviemakers only dream of. This multi-million dollar blockbuster takes a totally different and more dramatic view of the story of a man possessed by the need to consume blood from those unfortunate enough to know him. Instead of being out to kill everybody, Dracula finds himself plagued by other demons.

The movie starts out during the fifteenth century where we find a young Dracula defending the honor of the Dracul, his family's legacy, by going off to fight a war against unbelievable odds. His newlywed wife, played by Winona Ryder, is left believing that her husband will never return; she commits suicide when she learns false news of her husband's demise via a Turkish arrow. Dracula returns, alive but tired, to find his beloved dead, so he turns on his personal clergy, denounces God, and makes a pact with the devil to live until he could somehow regain his wife.

We move forward to the late 1890's with Jonathon Harker, played by Keanu Reeves, finding out that he is to be sent to Transylvania to help the Count Dracula with his business affairs. On his arrival, he is greeted by a demonic-looking carriage driver who takes him to Dracula's abode, which has a large ring of blue fox fire outside the gate. Jonathan is welcomed inside by an old count, one of his truer forms, and has the pleasure of becoming his captive. (He is held by three vampiresses who drain him of enough blood so that when he escapes he has to stay at a convent until his strength is regained).

Meanwhile, Mina, Jonathan's fiance who is also played by Winona, has spent her days taking care of her friend Lucy who has been bitten by the animal-form of the newly arrived Count. The count's young form is spending his time trying to win back Winona while Anthony Hopkins, a somewhat insane Dr. Vanhausing, is trying to keep Lucy alive and, at the same time, discover the truth about Dracula. Lucy dies and is then beheaded and left with a stake in her heart after she turned into her undead vampire form.

Mina and Jonathan are then married in the Transylvanian convent and travel back to London where Hopkins tells of the things which transpired by simply muttering, over dinner, "Well, she (Lucy) wasn't feeling very good so we drove a stake through her heart and cut off her head. Now she's alright." They then discover that Dracula is in London after Mina and using just about all of his forms (including vapor and a demonic, ten foot

tail bat), to make her become one of him.

The movie's conclusion is introduced by a cross-Europe chase to catch Dracula before he can get back to his castle. However, he has already left his mark in a "love scene" where Mina succumbs to Dracula, drinks of his blood, and becomes a vampire herself. The movie ends with an impaled, dead Dracula, being held by Mina in the same place where he denounced God.

The photography is ingeniously conceived, including several scenes of Dracula's eyes watching Jonathan on the train to his castle. Whoever the casting director was, he deserves to be given an Oscar, as does the movie which, when the time comes, will probably be nominated for several itself. You really need to see Dracula to appreciate it in its entirety.

FROM BRIAN'S BOOKSHELF

Dolores Claiborne a disappointment

by Brian DeNeal

If you've visited a bookstore lately you have no doubt noticed Stephen King's latest novel Dolores Claiborne. The story opens with the police questioning Dolores on the death of her employer Vera Donovan. Dolores insists that she did not kill Vera and begins her 300 page deposition in which she tells everything she has wanted to get off her chest. It won't ruin the book if I say she tells how she kills her husband for that is mentioned on the third page. She spends much of the book talking about her relationship with the eccentric Vera for whom she was housekeeper. King has effectively captured the mood and behavior of Maine islanders in the imaginary Little Tall Island, but it's too bad the book was so drawn out. I regrettably say that I was disappointed.

Dolores Claiborne could have made an excellent short story, and it's obvious that pains were taken to get the story into novel form. Just from looking at the cover one can tell that it is more rectangular than most hardbacks. The height is the same, but it is more slender than the norm. One might say, "That's original. A new book shape." But the margins, too, are much wider. These can be overlooked, but worst of all, the book seems cushioned. King takes too long to say too little. Even at only 305 pages the book is too long.

Dolores Claiborne is sort of a sequel to Stephen King's previous novel Gerald's Game, which, in my opinion ranks near the top of his best books. Both involve an eclipse during which terrible things happen. A smell of stale copper somehow works its way into each of these books.

The last 100 pages were excellent. If only the first 200 were of equal quality, I would emphatically recommend it.

A Christmas Carol marks many firsts in high school drama

by Jeremy Hafford and Diana Grisham

Israel Horowitz's adaptation of Dickens' A Christmas Carol rolled on to the stage at Malan Junior High a total of four times as thespians, ranking from kindergarteners to seniors, presented the first dramatic performance of this year.

Malan teacher C.J. Harbison added several new twists to high school drama in this, his first production on the high school level. Four performances were given instead of the usual two. A fog machine and new lighting equipment enhanced the overall mood of the play and added technical merit. Extensive sound effects and masterful make up and costuming contributed to the value of the play as well.

First of all, the play featured several special effects that seemed to bring about a professional air including an actual recording of Big Ben being blasted through the superior sound system each time the time was important. Also, the purchase of a new, rather sophisticated fog machine helped to create the actuality of a foggy London street as well as a presentation of newly arrived specters. Also, lights specially made to produce lightning were used whenever Marley raised his voice, or a solemn point was trying to be made. The resonance of the delayed thunder added to the already sober effect as well.

Record numbers appeared to view the performances. They witnessed the artistic representation of London on a backdrop, created under the direction of Mrs. Allen and her art students. The crowd felt closer to the cast, who singing in pairs, marched down the aisles holding candles in the otherwise dark auditorium to begin the second half of the play.

The cast of almost fifty students did an outstanding job of making London come to life. The smaller actors, far from being a nuisance, gave a new energy to the play. Sophomore Jenny Hankins was assigned a elementary student to watch over, and discovered that "the younger actors really behaved well. They had so much enthusiasm, it helped everyone get into the performance."

Teachers Mr. Harbison, Mrs. Gingrich, Mrs. Brinkley, Mr. Reeves, Mrs. Hart, Mrs. Mitchell, Mr. Yahne and countless others made

the production what it was, namely "one of the best performances Harrisburg has seen," according to director Harbison.

There was also a bit of a twist in the translation of the play. Several songs were played and sung by the company to add an effect of Christmas-time or a mournful feeling. Mr. Reeves talents were truly used in the play as can be seen since he was the only musician in the "pit".

The costumes are integral to the play. Mrs. Gingrich and her crew created over thirty separate costumes to authenticate the English scene and Mrs. Brinkley created numerous props. Mrs. Allen and her team of art students contributed to the sets.

The play program revealed that the play was a family affair. The cast list contained four DeNeals, two Garnetts, and two Williams. The family members did not always share the same last name. Freshman Michael Ward enjoyed having an older cousin involved. "I was lucky to have an older relative in the play. It was easy to bum rides off of her," he joked, referring to senior Diana Grisham.

Seniors Mark Lucas and Travis DeNeal, in the lead roles, attributed their success to the large support cast working with them. "It was definitely a group effort," commented Travis DeNeal in his dwindling voice, strained by the emotional performances.

Because of the devotion of the cast and the excellent performances, the cast received a trip to the Fox Theatre in St. Louis to see professionals perform A Christmas Carol.

The cast leaves some new traditions to future productions. One of the more important is a cast picture, to be taken directly following the last performance and placed in the back of Malan's auditorium as a reminder of the great achievement of the students involved.



Freshman Nicole Nelson and junior Maggie Williams smile, awaiting the performance.

Christmas season brings frustrations along with gifts

by Sarah Drone

It seems that the Christmas season begins earlier every year. The decorations seemed to go up around Halloween this year, and as adults groan over the Christmas season coming, the younger generation's minds turn to the dilemma they face every year—what to get family and friends.

For some, this is not a problem. Gift ideas may come early to them, or maybe they just automatically know what to get. However, not everyone is so fortunate. Others rush around, guessing at what to get, and snag those last few presents on Christmas Eve. It's not a pretty sight.

For those last-minute shoppers out there, here are some tips.

1) Make a list! Unless you have a photographic memory, there's no way you can remember all those gifts. As you get them, cross them off one by one.

2) When in doubt, go for the obvious. Your best friend likes to read. Your best friend likes Stephen King. Any connection there?

3) Take those little hints. If a friend has been seen eyeing Bryan Adams' latest CD, take the hint and get it.

4) Don't get your best friend something that you want. Enough said.

5) When in doubt, get gift ideas.

If these hints don't help, nothing will. Happy shopping, and have a great Christmas!

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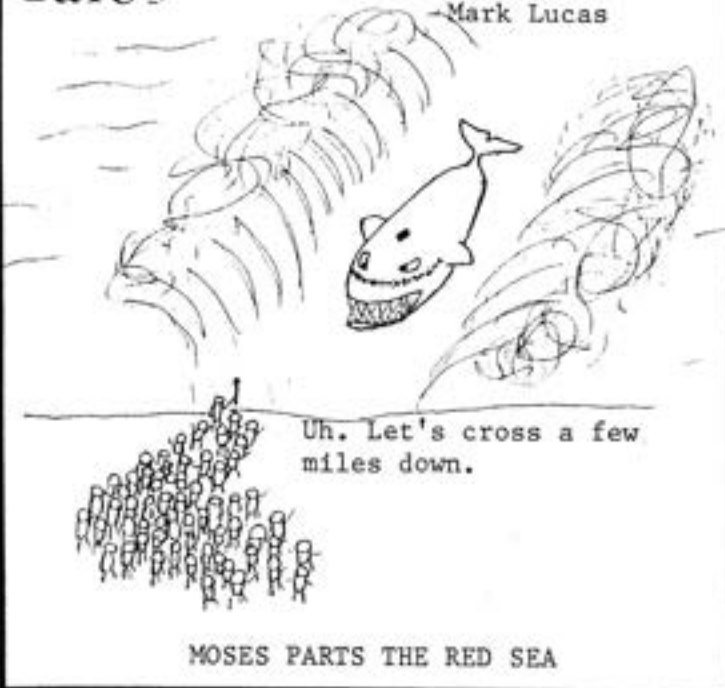
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TYPISTS: Diana Grisham, Jeremy Hafford, Andy Kelley, and Angie Stallings

Whale Tales

BY
Andy Kelley
&
Mark Lucas



Materialism crushes Christmas spirit

by Mike King

Christmas time is here again, ushered in by bustling stores, hurried shoppers, and an array of advertisements. Santa Claus has promised to bring all the good little boys and girls the gifts that they've asked for. So, moms and dads everywhere have to rush out to get that new bike, doll, or video game.

Through all this bustle, no one has time to stop and reflect the true meaning of Christmas. Stars, angels, even the babe Christ has been materialized by the money-hungry companies looking to make a fast buck. Christ taught that giving is better than receiving. But giving should come from yourself, not your wallet.

There are lots of people out there who never celebrate Christmas with extravagant gifts and beautiful Christmas trees. They celebrate the love of Christ and his mercy. They know the true meaning of Christmas: they look beyond the expensive gifts and jolly, old man dressed in red.

Christmas is about giving of yourself. Ignore the advertisement. Look into the heart of Christmas spirit and follow your heart. Merry Christmas to all.

Humble first minority on board

by Steff Padgett

New member Brenda Humble became the first minority on the Board of Education since it was established.

Humble was appointed to the board to fill Dennis Wilson's position after his resignation. Wilson resigned to protest the new contract which followed the 27-day teachers' strike. Humble's first meeting was Nov. 17. "I had a great welcome. I couldn't have asked for anything better," she said.

Humble, a graduate of Southeastern Illinois College, works as a supervisor at the Social Security office.

She has always been interested in the children and the community and is happy to have the chance to be a part of the Board of Education. "I would like to make a positive contribution to our schools and try to update the education facilities to better educate the students," says Humble.

As the first minority on the board, Humble has mixed feelings. "I think my being the first minority is tragic, because there have always been minorities in the system and they have always needed to be represented," she commented.

But Brenda Humble will not be lingering on the subject of race. She believes education is important for all students and she will try to be fair to everyone.

Humble has a daughter, Natalie, an H.H.S. graduate, who now lives in Springfield.



Board member Brenda Humble looks forward to her new role in Unit 3's education.



Allied Med officers Nyla McCabe, Heather Winters, and Alayna Martin plan AIDS week.

AIDS week in the planning stage

by Sarah Henshaw

Allied Med Club could make a difference about some people's thoughts of AIDS. President of the club, Alayna Martin, and other officers are in the process of putting a program together about AIDS.

This program is going to be similar to Red Ribbon Week. There will be one week that will be used for AIDS week.

Ribbons will be distributed to the faculty and students to wear. These ribbons will have some kind of AIDS saying on them. Every morning when announcements air, there will be some kind of quote about AIDS and how it affects you.

During this week the club also would like to have a seminar. During the seminar a guest speaker will speak on AIDS, how AIDS affects you, how you can get the disease and how you can cope with it.

Alayna Martin feels that "There are a lot of people out in the world that think AIDS will never affect them. Hopefully during this week, we want to bring everyone's attention to the awareness of AIDS and how it can affect you."

Clubs schedule, hold Christmas activities

by Mark Lucas and Mike King

With the school year in full swing, and Christmas rapidly approaching, the school is bustling with club activities and fund raisers. With the annual Christmas Carnival on the horizon, clubs are sure to be busy with their original ideas to raise money. But, what is happening now, and what are some clubs planning? Here is a look at what the clubs have done, are doing, and will do in the future.

Act IV presented the classic Christmas tale, "A Christmas Carol" on Dec. 5, 6, and 7, at Malan Jr. High. Mr. Harbison, the new sponsor of Act IV, is the new high school play director. He is currently planning on holding tryouts for Barefoot in the Park, by Neil Simon, on Jan. 5.

Forensics, sponsored by Mrs. Ewert, is planning a booth for the Christmas Carnival. This year, students can pay a quarter to have either the kissing bandit do their dirty work or have poetry read to a friend.

Chess club attended a tournament at Murray, Ky. on Dec. 5. The team, consisting of Ida Chambers, Andy Kelley, Lance Kerley, Mike King, and Brad Ross took sixth place. Individually, Mike King took first in the unrated division and Brad Ross had a strong day, winning three of his five games.

Ecology club is once again placing paper recycling boxes in all the classrooms. So, remember to recycle your paper. The club is responsible for the environmental factoids on the daily announcements.

FBLA sold posters earlier this year to raise money for their treasury and for their annual spring trip to the FBLA convention in Springfield.

Most clubs are sure to have some sort of booth planned for the Christmas carnival. So, if you really want to keep up with what the clubs are up to, you should enjoy it immensely. The carnival is scheduled for 12:45-1:30 on Dec. 23.

Chopin resurrected by pianist

by Matt Businaro

Classical pianist Robert Guralink brought Chopin to life when he performed at S.I.C. on Nov. 23. He impersonated the composer dressed in period costume.

Guralink performed Chopin on this night, but also impersonates Liszt and Brahms. Guralink started his career as a concert pianist, but after becoming a recording artist he set about to bridge the gulf that separated him and his audience and cause a much more enjoyable performance, he began dressing like the composer he was portraying and speaking brief monologues to give the audience the feeling that they were back in the composer's lifetime.

Among the most brilliant pieces of Chopin's that Guralink played were Grand Polonaise Brillante, Etude in E Minor, and Ballade in A Flat Minor. It is because of Guralink's great ability that he has been called "the music ambassador of his country."

Guralink's performance was the second in the current cultural arts series sponsored by S.I.C.

Inside Matt's Hat

Freshmen give opinions of Clinton

by Matt Businaro

With the Presidential Inauguration at the end of next month, we have an opportunity to think about the changing of the guard. Since this is a freshman column, let's see what some freshmen think of our President elect.

Monica Stephens: "I like Bill Clinton. I feel he can only help the country because it's in such bad shape that he can't hurt it any."

Shaun Caldwell: "I like him pretty well. I like his educational plan."

Brian Casteel: "He's going to ruin my (comedy) routine. Its all based on Bush."

Joe Horstmann: "I think Perot could have cleared the deficit faster than Clinton, but I believe Clinton will do the job during his four years in office."

Mandi Ferrell: "I see his views, but I wish he was against abortion."



Junior cager Ben Trees goes into the air with his opponent from rival Eldorado.

Varsity and JV basketball squads begin season 2-0

by Ashley Gott

For the first time in three years the Varsity basketball team has begun its season with a 2-0 record. The Bulldogs have beaten their first two opponents by an average of 24 points per contest. The Dogs are averaging 70 points a game while only giving up 46.

The Bulldogs rely on a wide-open offense. Players take their men one-on-one, causing a lot of trouble for opposing teams. Also, a hard-nosed, scrappy, hustling defense has given the Bulldogs many turnovers, which have led to easy baskets.

In the first game, the Dogs defeated Eldorado 76-50. Sophomore Dale Overstreet was Harrisburg's leading scorer with 19 points. Cory Patton, Brad Zeigler, and Ashley Gott scored 18, 12, and 10 respectively.

In the Dogs' second contest, they defeated Carrier Mills 64-42. Again Dale Overstreet was the leading scorer with 17 points. Harrisburg also placed two other players in double figures with Ashley Gott and Cory Patton both scoring 12 points.

The JV team also has a 2-0 record. The Pups barely got by Eldorado with a score of 52-51. Bryce Jerrells and Ryan Hobbs both scored 10 points. In the game against Carrier Mills, the Pups whipped the Wildcats 98-38. Jeremy Wilson led all scorers with 22 while Zack Rhein and C.R. Rath scored 15 and 12.

With a balanced scoring attack and a stingy defense, both teams are looking to make some noise in conference play.

Taking it to the mat Grappler meet early success

by Marc Popetz

Wrestling is a sport which takes time to get started well. When the grapplers come into practice from their fall sports, they usually are not in wrestling condition. It takes a good month of steady practice to be able to wrestle the entire six minute match without gassing or wearing out. Even after the wrestlers are in shape it still takes time for everyone to lose down to their wanted weightclass.

With all of these problems that the Bulldog's experienced at the start of the season, they still managed to begin with a winning record. The Bulldogs are 5-1, excluding tournaments, and have high hopes for the rest of the season.

"Part of the team like myself started the season out poorly, but as we get farther into the season, we are getting better. Our goal is to beat Carbondale by the end of the year," said senior Willie Redwine.

The wrestlers' only loss of the season was a close battle with Mt. Carmel. The Bulldogs held them to within nine points, but, due to lack of wrestlers in the needed weight class they weren't able to keep their undefeated record.

Jamie Satterfield summed up the loss by saying that since it was early in the season, the team didn't have the wrestlers set up where they wanted them to be.

The Bulldogs did participate in a tournament at Union County. Several wrestlers placed but it was still a controversial match.



Sophomore wrestler Chris Fetter shows great determination as he grapples on the floor.

Lady Dogs take third in Harrisburg tournament

by Steff Padgett

The Lady Bulldogs took third place in their annual previews tournament.

In the first game, the Ladies led Eldorado throughout the first half with a slow start. In the second half, the Ladies poured on more heat and ended up on top.

The second game was a rematch between the Lady Dogs and the Carmi Bulldogs from a heated game five years ago.

"We remember the game five years ago because it was a rough game and so many people got hurt," said senior Melissa Butler.

That game was not unlike the rematch. The game was rough and Carmi ended up on top again just like the 8th grade game from five years ago. Despite the Lady Dogs' effort, the Carmi team won, leaving Harrisburg to play for third place.

Harrisburg beat the Benton Rangerettes, pouring on determination from the start. This gave the Lady Bulldogs the third place trophy.

"We didn't play a very good game against Carmi, but we put that behind us and stomped Benton. It doesn't mean much, though, to get third when we could have had first," said senior Andi Glass.

Since the tournament, the Ladies have already played three teams in the conference.

Quiz bowlers enjoy miraculous season

by Jeremy Hafford

This year's Varsity Quiz-bowl team refuses to go under the table as a lost cause even though several hard blows have befallen them.

They have played five games and have only lost to Cartersville, the team that they barely beat in the Prom Bowl at the sectionals (both teams had had their Prom the night before) on their way to place second at the 1992 state tournament for Class A schools.

The team now consists of Travis DeNeal, Jeremy Hafford, Diana Grisham, Mark Lucas, with new recruits Jesse Nelson and Rick Nease round out the top six players.

On Dec. 10, the varsity team added another victory to their record defeating Sesser-Valier 350-55. Captain Travis DeNeal led the scoring with eight correct answers. The JV fell short, losing 250-120.

Harrisburg flew past Hardin County by beating them 91 to 24. The Lady Dogs had trouble with the Lady Foxes, though, when they played them at McLeansboro. The foxes outscored the Dogs 53 to 37. The only conference game played by the dogs was at Marion against the Lady Wildcats. Harrisburg was on top at the end of the game, though, winning 41 to 40.



Senior Marnie Miller reaches over her opponent in an attempt to haul in a rebound.

"I feel we have to get our heads on straight and have a lot more determination and concentration to have the successful season we're looking for. Right now I feel we're just not playing what we are all capable of playing," said senior Marnie Miller.

Rule abiding students to receive special reward

by Heather Bean

When assistant principal Ms. Stewart announced November's Students of the Month, she made a promise to all good students.

Those with the following qualifications will be rewarded: (1) no in-school or out-of-school suspensions (2) no more than two detentions throughout the year (3) no class dismissals or discipline records (4) No unexcused absences (5) no permanent incomplete from the previous quarter (6) no detentions owed from previous years.

For the students who have met these six qualifications there will be positive consequences.

Ms. Stewart has not yet decided on the nature of the reward, but she is committed to recognizing good students as well as punishing those who break the rules. One suggestion is a party at year's end.

The adventures of Harry and Cid

by Travis DeNeal

Harry, or Harold, as he preferred to be called, was a knight straight out of Canterbury Tales. He was a true paladin. He was holy, kind, charismatic, and had gargantuan strength. He hated evil, corruption, drinking, and lawlessness of any sort. He was a paladin's paladin. Alas, he never rested from his knightly duties or noble ideas.

Cid was a lowly, young thief. He was orphaned as a child and made his living any way that he saw fit. He was small for a human, which aided him in disguise. Cid, when not plying his trade, could be found in any bar (usually upstairs with a barmaid) with a hearty mug of ale close at hand. His only love for religion was he could steal more from holy people. He was a pickpocket without equal, a habit which kept him constantly supplied with ale and women.

Fate had decreed these men to be eternal partners. Such a mismatch there never should have been.

Our story begins on a dark, rainy day. Harold, much to his dislike, was travelling to the infamous Mages Brew Tavern, to seek out the barman there, who was a key witness to the murder of a distinguished cleric. The hands of fate began to tick.

As Harold paused to relace a boot outside of the inn, he sensed some sort of evil intent around him. He turned around to see a small man with an incredibly dull dagger leap towards him. Harold jumped aside and observed the man dart into a rubbish heap of spoiled lettuce and soured wine. Harold promptly removed the thief's dagger and hoisted him up by his dirty, torn shirt. The thief spoke.

"Begging your pardon sir, but I

noticed that your boot was unlaced, and since it is my predi sposition to help people in need, I rushed to your aid!"

"Lizard's breath!" cursed the knight. "You sought to rob me with this ill-looking excuse for a dirk. I shall dispose of you in the name of good!" Harold dropped the thief.

"What, by the way, is your name, you swine of the streets?" queried the knight.

"I am known by many names," expounded the thief, "The Cutpurse of the Commoners, the Magnificent One, the Sanctuary for Others Gold..."

"Silence, you accursed swamp rot," Harold seethed; "I only want your real name!"

"Oh, it's Cid," squealed the thief as he observed Harold's mighty sword lose its sheath.

"Farewell then Cid. Or maybe Fare not-so-well. Oh well, something like that. May you smoulder in hell!" Harold's holy sword was poised to cleave Cid's head like a cantaloupe, and a rather small cantaloupe at that. As Harold's arm came down, Cid exclaimed, "Wait! I know who killed your cleric."

-to be continued next issue

