



Ginger Abney



Nyla McCabe



Hilary Thomas



Heather Winters

THE PURPLE CLARION

HARRISBURG HIGH SCHOOL

HARRISBURG, IL

FOR THE STUDENTS BY THE STUDENTS

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Homecoming postponed

by Ashley Gott

Due to the recent teachers' strike the annual Homecoming, which had been set for Sept. 26, was moved to Oct. 16.

Many decisions had to be made so student council president Chris Moore opted to have a parade and bonfire on Thursday October 15, followed by Friday's football game, and then the dance itself on Saturday. This proposal was voted on by the Student Council and unanimously approved. This year's Homecoming theme is "Save the Best for Last." The Homecoming Court was picked in just a few days instead of the normal week-long process.

This year's Homecoming Queen candidates are Ginger Abney, Nyla McCabe, Hilary Thomas, and Heather Winters. The junior attendant is Stephanie Rister, the sophomore, Mandy Patton, and the freshman Jade Sperling.

The four candidates for Mr. Bulldog are Amit Mehta, Chris Moore, Jamie Satterfield, and Matt Wilson.

Commenting on the short time of planning the entire Homecoming, president Chris Moore "Me, along with Nyla, Heather, and

Ashley have been eating, sleeping, and breathing Homecoming. It's been rough with it all happening so quick, but I am sure it will be worth it."

The Homecoming decorations committee chairperson Heather Winters has had only two days to choose the decorations and turn in her order. She said, "We are definitely pressed for time this year in arranging Homecoming. I'll definitely be impressed if everything does go over well, considering the amount of time we had."

The Harrisburg football team, with only several practices and no game experience under their belts, will find it hard to compete at the level that West Frankfort is at after playing for six weeks.

Jamie Satterfield commented, "Playing our Homecoming game the first time back will be tough since they are ready for us. I think the team will overcome the first game jitters and be ready to play. I'm just glad that I get to have a Homecoming game my senior year."

Homecoming week will go as follows: On Thurs. October 15, the parade will be at 5:00 and the bonfire at 7:00, the game will be on Friday at 7:30, and the dance will be Saturday from 8-12:00.

Strike against the students

For over five weeks there was a running debate over which side was right and which side was hurt worse, the Harrisburg Education Association or the Board of Education. The way the settlement read, it would appear that the teacher negotiating team was right. Yet the teachers maintained that they had been terribly hurt by the strike. However, if a few facts are studied from an objective viewpoint, it will appear that a third side was hurt far more than the original two sides. This side is the students.

In the beginning of the strike, the main disagreement was over the removal of contract language by the board. Actually, it would seem the H.E.A. used this as a crowbar to pry open a door to further disagreements, mainly concerning insurance money and pay raises.

During the middle of the strike many people turned their loyalty over to the board who didn't press their advantage and still hardly budged.

"The strike became more a matter of personal animosity rather than an effort at negotiation," commented senior Mike King. The board soon lost support when they denied Congressman Glenn Poshard's offer to be a binding arbitrator. This was understandable from the board's point of view because

Poshard favored a 180-day school year, and the board was determined to dock some of the days from the school year. It was really a case where Poshard's good intentions undermined everything the board had stood for. The public, always ready to side with a victor, quickly supported the teachers again. The board's stand against the teachers crumbled, and a settlement was soon reached.

Unfortunately, the agreement the board finally made could have been made at the beginning of the strike. In the end, the board and the teachers were equally at fault since the strike seemed a total waste of time. The side most hurt by the strike was the students.

Athletes hoping for sports scholarships could not play their sport, and by the time that the strike was settled, few games, meets, or matches were left. Students in A.P. classes had less time to study before the A.P. tests in May. Those days that the students lost can never be made up. A permanent loss. An abyss in our lives. The entire ordeal was indeed a strike against the students.

This year's seven member Editorial Board failed to reach a unanimous vote as to which side, the HEA or the Board, was in the wrong. Every member of the panel, however, agreed that it was a relief to be back in school.



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Seniors Heather Winters, Jaye Walker, and Nyla McCabe wait outside of Central Office for news of a settlement between the board and the H.E.A. Over fifty parents and students adamantly waited outside until 2:00 A.M. before the settlement was reached.

HHS students end vacation, HEA ends strike--FINALLY

by Diana Grisham

After missing 27 days of classes, 6 varsity football games, 12 golf meets, 9 volleyball games, and 10 cross country meets, teachers and students began classes on Monday, September 28.

Following a late-night negotiation session between the Harrisburg Education Association and the Unit 3 School Board, mediated by U.S. Representative Glenn Poshard, the 2,300 plus students and the 147-member HEA returned to the classroom to commence fall classes.

The teacher strike, the longest in Harrisburg's history, began a couple of days before school was originally slated to open, and ended 27 school days later.

While the seven member school board and HEA haggled over vacancy and transfer language, salaries, insurance, and farther into the strike, dock days, the school age children in Harrisburg were forced to observe a lengthy extension of summer vacation.

"We want to go to school and get an education," stated sophomore Angie Trammell during the prolonged strike. "It's our constitutional right."

Along with the seeming disappearance of constitutional rights, students watched the fall sports schedules disintegrate and wither away.

Senior Andy Kelley commented in emotion close to disgust, that "after the agreement was reached, our golf season was decimated to a mere three matches, and our eligibility as a team for regionals was gone with the wind."

When the school board and teachers remained at a standstill into the fourth week of the strike, the planned Homecoming game was cast away into oblivion.

Because of the depletion of football season, the newspaper and yearbook staff feared they would be unable to raise funds with a regular football program.

While most students remained in Harrisburg, a few eager would-be students transferred. A total of 18 high school students left the school district to pursue a higher education elsewhere.

"I wanted to go to school in Harrisburg, but this is my last year and I have college to think about," reasoned past Harrisburg student turned Carrier Mills senior Christi Hull.

Another consequence of the teacher strike resulted in the reassignment of student

teachers to different school districts, and the failure to begin classes prompted one foreign exchange student to return to her home country.

Mr. Hezlep, the new director of bands at this school, was forced to change his agenda from perfecting a corps style marching presentation for football season to putting together a Homecoming show and marching demonstration in the parade.

"Our main goal now is school spirit," Mr. Hezlep announced to his band students when a new date for Homecoming was announced.

Students seemed relieved to be back in the usual routine of having school, if not thrilled with the prospect of school in mid-June.

Seniors face the most difficulties in a late dismissal for summer vacation, and a later graduation. Students in advanced placement classes had another dilemma.

"It really is a discouraging fact that our class will not have the same amount of learning for the Advanced Placement tests that other high school students will have since the test date remains the same for every school," commented senior Travis DeNeal, a member of three advanced placement classes.

What's left of vacations:

At a glance you can see when you will be in school this year and when you still—despite the strike—have a day off.

All state legal holidays remain, due to state law, so we're out on

Columbus Day- Oct. 12

Veterans Day- Nov. 11

Martin Luther King Day- Jan. 18

Lincoln's Birthday- Feb. 12

Casimir Pulaski Day- Mar. 1

Good Friday- Apr. 9

Memorial Day- May 3

Thanksgiving Break remains the same(out on Thurs. and Fri.) but Christmas vacation doesn't start until Dec. 24. We're back on Jan. 2.

Teachers will have their institute days on Saturdays, so those half days of freedom are gone. And yes, hunters, you lost deer day.

This school year will end June 23, unless old man winter is unkind. Snow days could extend our year to June 30.

Snellman allowed to wait out teacher strike and attend HHS

by Angie Stallings

Because of the delay of the beginning of the school year due to the HEA strike, EF, a student exchange service, sent Italian exchange student Lara Lambertini back to her home country. However, AFS, another exchange organization, allowed Finnish student Lauri Snellman to remain in the U.S. to attend HHS.

Lauri, 17, hailing from Helsinki, Finland, has been living with Ernie and Jolene Fowler of Rudement. He will reside with the couple until he must return to Finland in mid-July

All education is free (in Finland), so it's hard to get in to (higher levels) such as a university.

...exchange student Lauri Snellman

next year.

According to Lauri, there are some key differences between the Finnish and American school systems. Finnish students graduate from "comprehensive secondary school," or high school, at the age when most U.S. students are attending junior high school. After completing the secondary school program, students in Finland attend three years of "gymnasium," which is comparable to a U.S. junior college. Many students then transfer to a university for four to five years. Men are required to serve eight to twelve months in the

Miss Wirch, now Mrs. Peters, begins English teaching career

by Erin Kielhorn

Many of you know we have a new English teacher. Her name is Lavon Peters. She was recently married on October 2, 1992. She is twenty-three years old. Her new husband, Donald Peters, is twenty-four.

Mrs. Peters teaches track one freshman English and track two and three sophomore English.

Mrs. Peters moved here from Alton, Ill. She attended college at Southern Illinois University in Edwardsville. In 1991 she received her bachelor's degree in English, and she received her master's in secondary education in 1992.

Her interests are riding bikes, camping, and canoeing. She has two dogs that she adores. One of them is a five-year-old cocker spaniel named Aspen. The other one is a one-

year-old German shepherd named Natasha.

Lauri has completed one year of gymnasium and plans on finishing the final two years upon his return to Finland. He would like to attend a university, but he notes that there is a possibility he may not get to do so.



Lauri Snellman was relieved the teacher strike didn't ruin his plans.

"All education is free [in Finland], so it's hard to get in to [higher levels] such as a university," he said.

Aside from his northeastern European accent, Lauri doesn't stand out much from the typical American teenager. He has studied the English language for over seven years and is able to carry on more-than-basic conversations. Lauri has joined Photography Club and plans to try out for the basketball team.



Miss Wirch became Mrs. Peters Oct. 2, year-old German shepherd named Natasha.

"I am looking forward to working at Harrisburg High School and getting to know all of you a little better," says Mrs. Peters. She hopes to have a good school year.

Harriers injured by strike

by Carly Will

Yet another sport in the H.H.S. curriculum has been hurt. The cross-country team has suffered its losses as well. Coach Ingram said that the team has had to forfeit 10 games this season. However, they were able to re-schedule 4 of the meets.

The cross-country team ran their first meet at home with the girls gathering first place and the guys, getting their ears wet, fell to the other teams.

The second meet was the Anna invitational where the guys did finish respectably and the girls managed to acquire second place.

Several other meets remain including their own invitational which will have 20 other teams. This will allow them to qualify for the regional competition held later on in October.

Football suffers losing season

by Amit Mehta

The Bulldogs were forced to lose six games before they even snap the ball, causing the Dawgs to have a losing season for the first time since 1975. However, this time it was not due to the performance of the players, but to the elongated teacher's strike. Thus the Bulldogs are forced to forfeit six games, lose the chance for the conference championship, and completely forget about any play-off hopes. It will be only the time since 1978 that Harrisburg has not made the play-offs.

However, spirits still seem to be high in the Bulldog camp. Jamie Satterfield, the sole returning starter, plans to make the best of the last three games and hopes to catch the eyes of some college recruiters. Jason Mick replies, "I hope to just make the best out of my last season."

Unfortunately, the Dogs lost 4 to 5 potential starters because of the strike. Some moved away while another became ineligible. Two kids who came to Harrisburg for football had to move away because of the unfortunate dilemma.

Over the strike, the players had some help from former Bulldog's players such as Jeff Donbo, Blake Wilson, and Jeremy Fulkerson. Fortunately, this helped keep most of the players in shape. Participation in these practices really showed the determination of the players.

One thing is certain, it takes a whole lot to break the spirits of Al Way and his Bulldogs!

Golf ends on high note

by Andy Kelley

Most everyone in the school knows what kind of effect the strike had on most of Harrisburg's fall sports. However, the golf season seemed a mystery to most.

Throughout the regular season, the golf team forfeited its first twelve matches, many of which were triangulars (three teams), which obviously worsened the linksters record.

As the strike came to a close on September 28, the Bulldogs could participate in the match hosted by Eldorado. Yet it was a disappointing day for the Bulldogs as they lost their match by a few strokes.

The linksters also dropped a disappointing game at home while hosting Carmi and Mt. Carmel.

With only one regulation match left, the Bulldogs travelled to Carbondale on September 30. After a well-played match the Bulldogs edged the Carbondale rivalry by two strokes.

The final victory brought confidence back to the team and many of the players will be ready for next year.



During a Lady Bulldog volleyball game, senior Sharon Hicks reaches level with the net to spike the ball over.

Nicholes: congressional page

Nancy Nicholes spent this summer doing something most kids will never get to experience. Sponsored by congressman Glenn Poshard, she was a congressional page from June 7th to July 11th.

As a page, Nancy worked in the Capitol building on the House of Representatives' floor. There they had their own desk service in the back of the floor where Nancy worked Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. until Congress got out of session. "Sometimes I was on the floor to early into the morning hours. A page always had to be there as long as a congressman was there."

Against a popular belief, pages do everything from delivering messages to raising the flag on top of the Capitol, to pulling up the vote. Congressmen depend upon the pages in a major way. They are responsible for delivering things from their offices to other places. "There was a lot of pressure to do a great job there. If you mess-up a very important job, then you could be in big trouble which could be very embarrassing in front of a congressman."

All of the pages lived in a dorm that was about a block from the Capitol. On weekends they were free to roam the city. "I went all over D.C. and really loved Georgetown, which is where all of the action was." There was a curfew of 12:00 a.m., but that didn't bother Nancy. Over all Nancy loved her experience this summer. "I had the best time of my life, and I'd love to go back and do it all over again."



Senior Nancy Nicholes was sponsored by Rep. Glenn Poshard to work in the Capitol.



Steff Padget displays her award at the Universal lot with Nicole Kidman and Tom Cruise.

Padget goes "Far and Away"

The winner of a writing contest, senior Stephanie Padget spent three days in June in Los Angeles, meeting movie stars Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman.

Universal Studios in Hollywood, sponsored the "Far and Away" writing contest. The movie, *Far and Away*, starring Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman, is about the voyage of two Irish immigrants to the American West. It shows the troubles that many immigrants found once they landed in the free country. An original short story, written about an immigrant coming to America, was the basis of the contest. Padget's short story concerned a young fifteen-year-old boy leaving his homeland to join relatives in America. He writes a diary of his nineteen-day voyage on a ship along with hundreds of other immigrants. The story depicts the life and death struggle under a ship, living in close quarters where disease seems to multiply in the dark.

For her work, Stephanie received the grand fourth place prize among five national winners. The winners were flown to Los Angeles on June 18, where they were driven to the Sheridan universal to get their rooms and await the other winners' arrivals. That evening the five winners and their guests had dinner with Tom Lakeman, who explained the process of meeting the stars and the universal tour.

On the next day the winners were driven to Universal Studios where they met Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman. There was a presentation in which the winners were given their cash awards, and the press talked to the winners and the stars together. There was VIP tour of the studios and all shows after Cruise and Kidman left for business.

"It's definitely a trip that I'll never forget," boasts Stephanie.

She also received a \$750 scholarship.