



THE P.A.R.K.

PROGRESS

Donald W. Reynolds Facility

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A jubilant Brandon Smith calls the Hogs while attending a Razorback game with a busload of P.A.R.K. students.

Photo by David Price

P.A.R.K. Students Have Bud Walton Experience!

The
Fayetteville Trip
(Arkansas Razorbacks
vs. LSU Tigers)

By Lauren Gilmore, P.A.R.K. Student

I attended a trip on February 12, 2005 with P.A.R.K. The itinerary for the trip was a 3 to 4 hour drive to Fayetteville to see the Arkansas Razorbacks play the LSU Tigers! We were scheduled to leave P.A.R.K. at 9:15 A.M. and return at 8:30 P.M. We left on time in two vans.

The drivers were Mr. Matheny and Mr. Price. I chose to ride on Mr. Matheny's van because all of my friends were riding on that van, and we had more fun than I expected. I thought we would just listen to music and go to sleep, but I was wrong. Darria Johnson, Brian Banks, Brandon Smith, Ronald and Donald Howard, and I watched movies, listened to music, cracked jokes, sung songs and ate the whole way to Fayetteville!

Arriving there at 1:00 P.M., I was so excited because we were through driving and because I had never been to Fayetteville, especially to see a basketball game. We parked just a little ways away from the stadium, considering the cost of parking. When we started walking to the stadium I was amazed. The Razorback basketball sta-

dium was humongous! It was the biggest stadium I have ever been to, EVER!

The people in Fayetteville are pretty friendly, and they love the Razorbacks. Outside the stadium, as you approach it, you see people standing around with their fingers up in the air. I didn't know what that meant. Mr. Matheny explained that the number of fingers they hold up shows how many tickets they need to get in the game.

The inside of the stadium was amazing. What was so amazing about it was they had all of the accomplishments of the past Razorbacks, men and women, blended in on the walls. Our seats were good; we were in the "Coach Stan Heath" section. Coach Heath donated the tickets to P.A.R.K. as his charity of choice. Calling the Hogs was incredible! The game and the fans were great. I had a very good time, and hope I can go there again. The final score was Hogs "65", Tigers "62". WOOOO PIG SOOIEEE RAZORBACKS!!!!

Thank you P.A.R.K.!!



I started to write an article about how tough December was on myself, as well as other friends. December is a time of joy, of giving and of great food (I like food). This past December was more of a challenge, overcoming an emotional roller coaster.

He was called Mr. Davis. Jerry W. Davis was his given name. You just didn't mind calling him Mister, because he had earned it the old fashion way, hard work. Mr. Davis at 21 years old became the youngest store manager at that time. Those years of hard work landed him into the CEO, President, and Chairman of the Board position of Affiliated Foods Southwest, where he used his power for a positive change for the community. The Affiliated Foods Southwest Charity Classic would become a dependable source for many non-profit organizations. P.A.R.K. became

one of the charities with the opportunity to share in the Goodwill of Mr. Davis and Affiliated Foods Southwest. There are those who just go through life not making a difference and there are those who leave a legacy. Mr. Jerry W. Davis, along with all those who work so hard at Affiliated Foods Southwest, this year in charitable giving associated with the Classic has given over \$3.5 million to local non-profit organizations.

Jerry W. Davis was a serious businessman as well as a prankster. He could put your name into the latest e-mail or mention it at a banquet while speaking; you would become the latest joke. Mr. Davis was an advocate for equality. One day he heard something about sickle cell anemia and how it affected the African American population and decided he wanted to do something about it. There was a time when he was buying a piece of land to develop in Hot Springs when a certain man told him that he didn't want any blacks living in that area. Mr. Davis replied to the man, "I have a good friend named Keith Jackson who played professional football and he's black, and I'm going to sell him the first lot." I was glad that Mr. Jerry W. Davis called me friend and that he left a legacy.

Reggie White was my best friend in the N.F.L. Reggie had two nicknames, the Minister of Defense and Big Dog. The Big Dog was the greatest defensive lineman to ever play the game. He had what every player wants and every coach dreams of in a defensive lineman--speed, quickness and strength. He could sling a 350 pound offensive lineman like he was a lightweight, then jump over an unsuspecting running back's head, then run down the average quarterback. The Big Dog was unstoppable and will go into the N.F.L. Hall Fame the first time he's eligible in 2006.

The Minister of Defense stood up for what he believed. He would preach in the locker room, as well as on the football field. Professional sports became his pulpit and the nation became his congregation. The Minister of Defense would say "If you have the right to push your belief over on me, then I have the right to preach Jesus to you." Today he would call him Yushua, Jesus in translation. Reggie never gave up his belief in Jesus; he just wanted to call him by his Hebrew name. He also stopped using the term Christian because it had become religious. Christianity is not a religion; it's a revelation between God & man. He just wanted to be called a Believer.

Then there's Reggie White, the friend I loved as my brother. Reggie was a great mentor to many young professional athletes. It wasn't what he said, it was the way he lived his life. Reggie White's life was the biggest sermon I'd ever seen. I often disagreed with some of the things he said. But, he lived his life in a way that was pleasing to God. There were so many young men who grew up with no father in their lives or they had a father, but there was no relationship. Reggie White was a shining example of how you live your life. 1) Love God; 2) Love your wife; 3) Love your children; 4) Love your relatives; 5) Love your neighbor.

This was a December to remember. It was also a December to celebrate; a celebration of the home going of two good friends and two good men. Reggie White and Jerry Davis had two things in common: they left a legacy and they shared a birthday, December 19th.

I want to thank everyone for the cards, prayers and friendship.



May 1st - Birthday bash for Keith.
He is turning 40 on April 19th and is
having a BIG party on May 1st. Keep your



Dreams Still Come True

By Keith Jackson

8:00 a.m. at Sylvan Hills High School; an extraordinary event was about to take place. To most people it was just another athlete who had the opportunity to sign a "Letter of Intent" with the Razorbacks. The Hogs are the epitome of sports in the state of Arkansas. Yes, there are a lot of great colleges in the Natural State who play competitive sports, but every kid sets his/her sights on being a Razorback or at least signing on National Signing Day with the Hogs.

They call him "Chuck", but his name is Kevin Hubbard. Chuck's dream came true on February 2, 2005, when he signed his Letter of Intent to play for Houston Nutt's Razorbacks. Although Chuck has to go to Junior College first, he still got his opportunity to "ink the line." In a room filled with several students and many family members, Chuck put on his Hog hat with pride.

Chuck played Little League Football for the Sunset Tigers with Arkansas Razorback, Keith Jackson, Jr. Chuck was never the person with the most skill, but he possessed an important ingredient; it's called determination. The human will is a powerful thing once it sets its sight on something. It pursues it until it comes to fruition. It's amazing how a person

can want something so badly that they will themselves against all odds to make it happen.

There are many Chucks out there that have gone through turmoil and trial, and travail to achieve their goals. These individuals overcome incredible odds and stereotypes. Chuck is just one of the millions of children growing up in a low income single parent home. Chuck had a high level of determination to achieve, but it was his mentor that made it happen. Coach Charles Ripley, known as Coach Rip, has been a mentor and father figure to many young men, including yours truly. His love for the youth of today goes far past being a coach. I asked Coach Rip what he was going to do when he retired and he told me that I better get him an office ready at P.A.R.K. Coach has been a full-time volunteer for several years. His wisdom and old fashion values come in handy from time to time.

Yes, the day belonged to Chuck, but Coach Rip was the reason he made it. Coach Rip is just a man who lives to make a difference in someone's life. He's proof that if one wants to, one can transform lives. The question we must ask ourselves is do we want to make a difference in the lives of others? I Do!

Congratulations Chuck,
Go Hogs,
Keith Jackson



P.A.R.K. Does Make A Difference!!

By Melody Sims Stanley, Development Director

Where did January, oops February go? We eagerly anticipated the arrival of kids from Christmas break and look forward to the Summer Program at full capacity. This year we have our first young man, (Marguese McFerguson) to graduate from college at Ouachita. The feeling one gets working at P.A.R.K. is of sheer joy and pride. To each of our donors who continually sustain our program, we are grateful. We are in our 10th year and are eagerly approaching the most exciting time of the year at P.A.R.K.: **GRADUATION!!**

As many of you know my husband and I have no children, but we feel blessed to play a small part in helping these youngsters become successful adults. We made a commitment two years ago to each sponsor a child through the 5-year "One Child at a Time" program. It is not much, but we feel like we can make a small difference. You see, I was one of these kids, growing up in a one parent home with a mom who was disabled and had to work two jobs to feed us. I was left alone from a very young age, because there was nothing else my mom could do. I wish there had been a P.A.R.K. for me!! P.A.R.K. is making a difference in many young lives. We are giving back to P.A.R.K. to repay the many friends that have helped me and crossed my path in life. Thank you to the program staff that works with these kids daily. You are making an impact. Thanks Keith for having the vision to make a change in these kids. Arkansas is blessed to have your commitment!!



Here, There, Everywhere

By Michael Woods, Executive Assistant

Recently, I attended a guitar and piano session of jazz and folklore at the Acoustic Café at Second Presbyterian Church here in Little Rock. Every second and fourth Fridays, volunteers at the church provide an atmosphere for Christian people to have a night out without going out. The café is positioned in the gymnasium with tables, candles, coffee, cake and pie. There is a nominal fee of eight dollars for three hours of good music from real musicians. The music is positive and tells a story, and the attendees are all adults who enjoy jazz and folklore music.

I shared my intentions of attending this musical function with a friend. Her immediate reaction was that of awe. She could not believe that people would actually go to a

church to listen to music other than gospel. In her words, "that is a church, not a club!"

I responded simply by giving this scenario and conclusion:

God is omnipresent which means that he is everywhere at the same time.

The question, at least in my mind, is this: Where can you go that God is not?

The answer is nowhere. There is absolutely nowhere one can go in which God does not exist. Then what is the issue? The issue is whether one recognizes the presence of God wherever they are.

Even at P.A.R.K., it is our inherent duty and responsibility to acknowledge the presence of God in this place. Every student in this program should understand that there is not a place that they "go to" in order to experience God. God

is here, there and everywhere. Every step we make, every breath we take, God is there. In the gym, the learning center, the game room, the cafeteria and in the park grilling hot dogs and playing football, God is there. Through the difficult times and the good times, when grades are good and when grades are not so good, at each school, when the lights are out, when we are out of the sight of other people, God yet sees us. He sees our behavior, our intentions and our hearts.

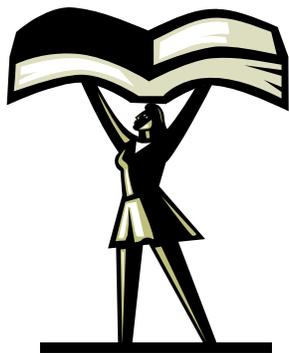
So, then, "The earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein." Psalm 24:1. It all belongs to God. Cherish God where you are, because He is already there when you get there, even at church.



P.A.R.K. Promotes Literacy

By Blenda Downs, Curriculum Coordinator

*Fazoli's and Krispy Kreme...if my parents saw me now they would scream...for joy! We're staying up all night...talking and **READING** til' morning light!!!*



That was the scene at our first book club discussion. P.A.R.K.'s nine member book club, which consists of all female students, enjoyed food, pampering and fellowship at Embassy Suites! Thanks to our book club sponsor Marsha Davis, Assistant Vice-President and Branch Manager of Twin City Bank, our girls are able to expand their personal libraries. The students were given one month to complete their book of choice entitled Using What You Got, by Karen E. Quinones Miller. This book deals with an eighteen-year-old college student and her rela-

tionships with both family and friends.

Search Institute, an independent non-profit organization whose mission is to provide leadership, knowledge, and resources to promote healthy children, youth and communities, feels strongly that promoting reading for pleasure will help to raise healthy youth. Our purpose at P.A.R.K. is to do just that. We know there's nothing like a good book and there's nothing like sharing a good book with someone else! A book club is a great way to get together with others to discuss ideas and issues. It is a great way for our students to bond and meet students that they may not have had a chance to form a relationship with yet. It's also a chance to expand their imagination and share a new experience.

Dairius Deadmon, a freshman at Parkview High School, confirms that P.A.R.K.'s book club accomplished its goal! "I had a chance to get to know the girls and the staff a little better. Also, I could relate the book to every day life. I've known lots of Tiara's (the main character) and with the help of the P.A.R.K. staff, I know I want to be better than Tiara!"

P.A.R.K. CELEBRATES BIG 10!

By Monique Palmer, Education Outreach Coordinator

With March Madness just around the corner, many people will be interested in several numbers...the sweet sixteen...the final four. But, here at P.A.R.K. our minds will be on another number...the big 10! You see, it was ten years ago that P.A.R.K. opened its doors to students. Ten years ago that one man armed with a vision, donors who believed, and a dedicated staff set out to make a difference. And this May 19, 2005, the speaker for the evening is world renowned Globetrotter, Meadowlark Lemon. We will celebrate those 10 years of unrelenting labors of love and service with our annual Graduation Ceremony. We anxiously await the opportunity to send our class of 20 seniors out into the world to join the elite ranks of an ever-increasing club: the P.A.R.K. Alumni. So, make sure you save the date for this special ceremony. We look forward to seeing you in May!

We Wish For . . .

Day of spa pampering, manicures and pedicures for 15 P.A.R.K. girls	\$1,000.00
Movie tickets, popcorn, candy, drinks to reward 15 P.A.R.K. students	\$ 250.00
Annual P.A.R.K. Christmas Party Sponsor	\$2,500.00
P.A.R.K.'s Class of 2005 Ring Sponsors	\$ 175.00
Sponsors for Student's Monthly Birthday Party	\$ 150.00
Sponsors for Keith's "40th" Birthday BASH!!	\$\$\$



Volunteering with the Receptionist

By Gayle Orr, Receptionist

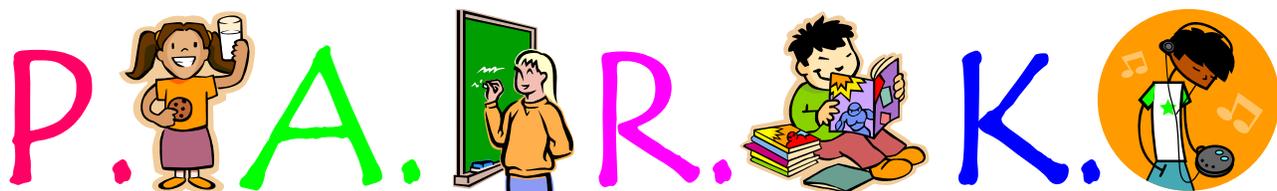
A *Volunteer* is defined as somebody who works for free. P.A.R.K. has been blessed with many volunteers. One of P.A.R.K.'s most faithful volunteers is Mrs. Gladys Barnett, who is committed to volunteering for a few hours each Thursday. Arriving with a smile and ready to work, Mrs. Barnett's first statement is, "What do you want me to do?" (after a cup of hot coffee) she begins answering the phone, making copies, helping visitors, or what ever she is asked to do. She also helps organize the dessert table for our graduation ceremony each year and continues to support all of P.A.R.K.'s events.

The Monday following the Super Pre-Game Party, Mr. Jackson called Mrs. Barnett and asked her to come and answer the phone because he wanted to

take the staff to lunch. Without hesitation she was kind enough to take time out of her regular Monday schedule and volunteer.

Thank you, Mrs. Barnett for all the times you have volunteered with me since I've been at P.A.R.K. I would like to also say thank you from the staff, and students of P.A.R.K.

If you are retired, an empty nester, or just want to use your skills and would like to volunteer with the receptionist, please give P.A.R.K. a call at 562-5223 and ask for Gayle Orr. Currently there's a need for someone on Mondays from 8:45 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. to volunteer for the receptionist.



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Habakkuk 2:2
“...Write the vision, and make it plain
upon tables, that he may run that
readeth it.”
*Thanks for making
God’s vision a reality*

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