



Century III leaders named

by Kristi Thompson



Paul Morris and Heather L. Tyler were chosen Century III Leaders

Paul Morris, son of Dwain and Donna Morris, has been selected as Pocahontas High School's Century III leader. First runner-up in the competition is Heather L. Tyler, daughter of David and Jan Tyler.

The Century III Leaders Program is sponsored primarily by the Shell Oil Company. The program is designed to recognize strong leadership abilities in students across the nation.

A five-member panel of judges evaluated the applications for the contest on the basis of leadership experience, school and community involvement, academic achievement, and the student's score on a current events test. Additionally, the students were judged on a two page essay focusing on a significant problem facing America's third century.

In recognition of their achievements as school winner and runner-up, Paul and Heather will be provided with scholarships to attend the Presidential Classroom in Washington, D. C. An added bonus is that they will be attending the seminar during the Inauguration of President-elect Bill Clinton. "I am thrilled beyond words to be going to Washington during Inauguration."

said Tyler.

As the school winner, Paul advanced to the state Century III competition. Ten state finalists were selected, and Paul was chosen as one of them. Of these ten, two will be named state winners and will be awarded an all expense-paid trip to Colonial Williamsburg and a \$1000 scholarship. The third and fourth place winners will receive \$500 scholarships, and the remaining six finalists will be given \$100 awards.

BRAD shelter offers Yuletide opportunity

by Melissa Hall

BRAD needs your help!

The Black River Area Development shelter, which has been in Randolph County since 1988, is not well known by the public. But the shelter is a godsend to homeless families.

The BRAD shelter has housed up to 30 homeless persons at one time. Last year a total of 164 persons lived in the BRAD shelter. That number has increased this year.

BRAD received only 40% funding from the government this year. A myriad of civic organizations in Randolph County have contributed significantly to the shelter. Private donations are welcome.

Because many of the residents of the shelter are abused wives with children, they left home with no possessions. How can PHS students and faculty help? Just bring anything you would need if your house burned down: small appliances, bedding, furniture, canned food—anything except clothing.

Clubs and individuals looking for a place to spread Christmas cheer are encouraged to donate to the BRAD shelter this year.



Shannon Haynes is 1993 HOBY winner

by Brady Morris

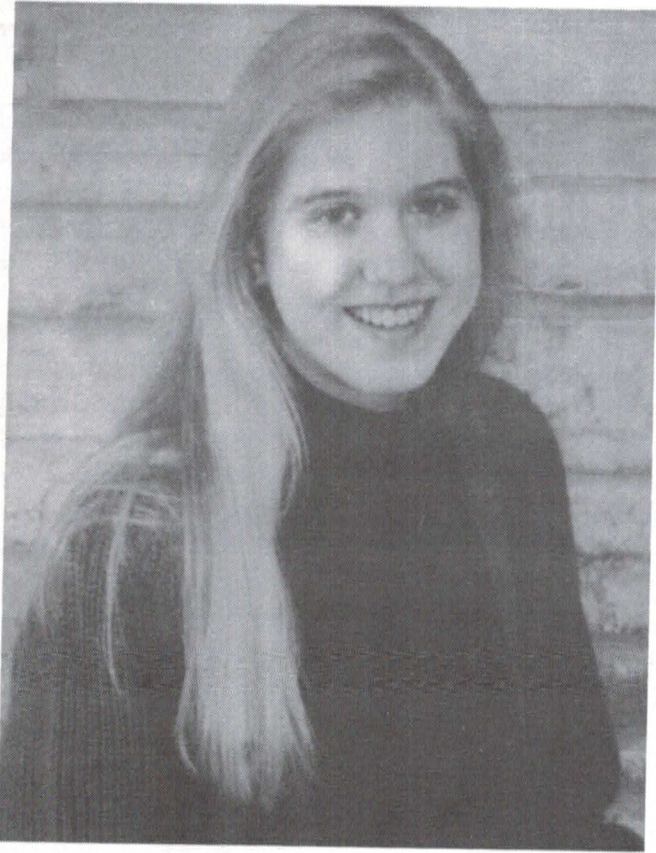
Shannon Haynes will represent PHS at the 1993 Hugh O'Brian Convention held in Little Rock. The Hugh O'Brian award is given to those who exemplify leadership in their everyday lives.

The convention is a weekend event in which sophomores from all over Arkansas come together and discuss the major topics that are plaguing our country and world. Those attending also have the opportunity to question high profile political, social, and economic figures. The sophomores are also given a special tour of the state capitol building.

Shannon's first reaction when she learned she had been chosen was one of excitement and shock.

"I wasn't expecting it because I didn't know how many other applicants there were, and I didn't think mine was very good," explained Shannon.

Shannon is the daughter of Johnnie and Phyllis Haynes.



Shannon Haynes will represent PHS at the 1993 HOBY Convention.

Clinton's Presidency brings expectations

by Rodney Harris

On November 3rd Bill Clinton was elected to the presidency, becoming the first president from Arkansas. Opinions differ about what a Clinton presidency will do for Arkansas.

Gayle Burns has definite ideas. "Hopefully some of the state's problems, such as Department of Human Services, that were obscured during the presidential campaign will be addressed and solved because of continued media attention," said Burns.

Some students envision great changes in Arkansas because of Clinton, such as a growth in population, or more federal funding for the state.

Alex Baltz feels that "we will receive more recognition now that an Arkansan is in the White House."

Some students feel that if nothing else, Clinton's victory will improve the image of the state. Other students do not feel that Clinton will have wide ranging effects on the state. History will be the deciding factor.

SIMPLE TIMES

by Amy James

With just one trip to my great-grandparents house I realize how times have changed.

Their house is a time machine full of facts.

I think times past were simpler, and every trip makes me believe they were happier.

Just walking into that old house gives me a feeling of calmness.

The musty smell, the garden, the flowers, and the food sets my mind to ease.

It is unusual to watch the love and happiness two people have with only life's necessities.

They don't own a vcr.

They don't even own a microwave.

I'm sure they could, but they don't need them like we do.

Then, I go back to the fast paced world of my generation.

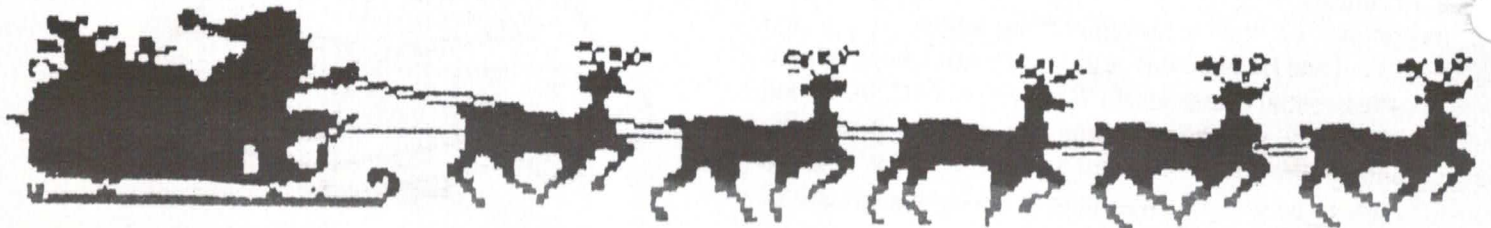
As I am frantically searching for the remote control my dad hands me a birthday card.

It is from my great-grandparents.

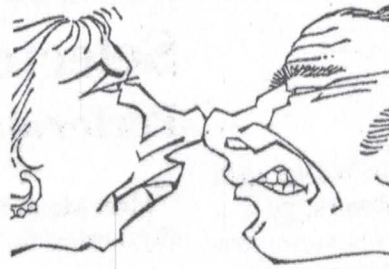
Enclosed in the card is a single dollar bill.

For some reason I feel the need to walk to the television and turn it on myself.

After all, who needs a remote control?



Opposing



Viewpoints

Pro-Choice

by Heather L. Tyler

Our nation was founded on freedom; that includes the right to choose.

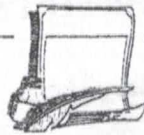
Even if it is made illegal, abortion will not stop. Scared teenage girls will resort to either trying to perform the abortion themselves, or to having a second-hand doctor without a license take care of them in some back street alley. The end result is that the mother will die along with the baby.

The same people who are opposed to abortion are also opposed to handing out condoms in school. If more attention was paid to sex education, including birth control, then perhaps the teen pregnancy rate would drop. The sole fact that abortion is illegal will not restrain students from having sex; it will only be a source of government interference in the personal lives of U.S. citizens.

By abortion being legal, individuals are forced to make an ethical choice. Whatever choice they make becomes their responsibility. Since when do we decide the fate of other people's lives?

Moral issues seem to play a major role in the debate about abortion. If abortion is made illegal, that doesn't mean that all women are morally, ethically, and spiritually devout; it simply means that they don't have the choice not to be.

One last point to keep in mind: Pro-choice does not necessarily mean Pro-abortion.



Dear PHS, Thanks looks like a small word for all the great things that you all gave to us. PHS always makes us feel like at home. We found great friends, and the best memories.

Being so far away from home is never easy, especially so with a different language. But you all made that easier for us. We learned what is the true significance of friendship.

This is not a good-bye—is just a see you as soon as possible. With all our gratefulness, we are never going to forget about you all.

Love always,
Catalina Michelsen
Maria Munoz

Editor's Note: Catalina and Maria returned to Colombia over the Thanksgiving Holiday.

Pro-Life

by Amy James

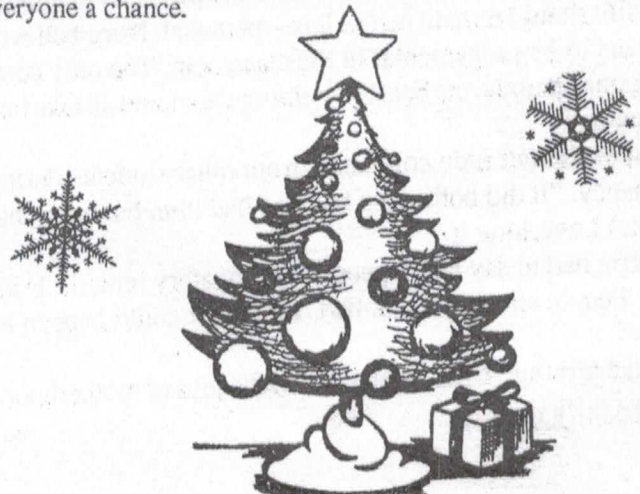
Abortion is a word that is carefully used. Simply mentioning the word sparks a debate on which opinions are deeply felt. People on both sides of the issue, pro-life and pro-choice, have well-thought-out explanations for their beliefs, and many people just don't know what they believe. I never had that problem.

The day I learned the definition of abortion, I was working in my church nursery. I was surrounded by tiny infants and had one in my arms. The sermon was coming through the intercom, and it just happened to be about abortion. I was horrified. Many people have fears about our government controlling their bodies, but at that moment, my only fear was what our government could have allowed to happen just a few months earlier to the precious lives surrounding me.

Another argument for those believing in abortion is whether or not the unborn is actually a life. Webster's dictionary states, "Life is a property of plants and animals to take in food, get energy from it, and grow." By this accepted definition, the unborn is a life.

"Democracy without morality is impossible." Because of this, it is time to stop worrying about what could happen in the future and take a look at what is happening right now. Millions of innocent lives are being taken. They're being taken before they even have the chance to reach the potential instilled in every life. They're being taken simply for the sake of convenience. They're being taken because someone thinks they have the right to choose who lives or dies.

I find it frightening that something of this nature is legal and accepted in our great nation—the nation that supposedly gives everyone a chance.



Students and Mothers: A difficult combination

by Heather L. Tyler

As young people, we tend to take life as it happens. We get up in the morning, eat breakfast, go to school, do homework, go to a ballgame, or do whatever we feel like doing with whomever that night. But have you ever stopped to think about what it would be like if you didn't have the freedom simply to be a kid? If you take a look around, you will see friends, classmates who have, in a way, given up their life as a child. This is not to say that those lives are now lost or meaningless; on the contrary, these people's lives are now more precious because of the fact that they have given a part of their life to a new human being.

Tonya Hannaford, a junior at PHS, has been a mother for almost two years. Tonya's worst difficulty in playing the dual role as both student mother is working around homework. "Fitting in schoolwork is the hardest. If he's eating, I do homework. If he's sleeping, I do homework," explains Tonya. She says that her grades have remained about the same over the years and adds that her mom helps out with Eric, her son, whenever she gets really bogged down with extra work.

Jerrie Haynes, a senior, agrees that school can be the hardest thing to deal with when one has a child. "When I'm doing homework, Aaron wants to play or wants me to hold him," remarks Jerrie as she shushes his squeals in order to hear me talk. Even going to school can sometimes be difficult, Jerrie explains. "If I get up and Aaron's sick, I'm just hoping he doesn't get worse."

For Jamae Brown, schoolwork isn't the number one thing that comes to mind when asked about difficulties. "Not getting enough sleep," is the first answer that pops out of her mouth, along with, "Not being able to do some things. I'd like to go places." (How easily we can take for granted the freedoms we have while we're still young and uncommitted.) But she also admits that, "Schoolwork is hard--trying to do homework and watch Kyle at the same time."

All three girls think that the school system is providing adequate services to student mothers, and for the most part, feel that one's personal life should remain just as it is—personal. None believed our teachers to be judgemental in the classroom. The only complaint is a small, subtle one but is something we should all take into consideration.

Tonya spoke about rude comments from other students during her pregnancy. "It did bother me before I had him, but now (that I have Eric) I overlook it."

What Jerrie had to say about people's derogatory remarks is all too true. "People shouldn't talk bad, I mean, it could happen to them, too."

These three girls agree that even with all the joys of motherhood, life is more difficult now.

"Meet Me in St. Louis" Selected as spring musical Performance is earlier in the year

"Meet Me in St. Louis" has been chosen as the school/community musical for 1993, according to Jon Crabbe, drama teacher and director of the play.

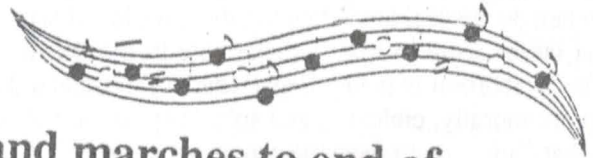
Because of the numerous activities of late spring, the musical will be in March instead of May to accommodate cast as well as audiences.

Auditions for the musical will be immediately after the Christmas holidays—the week of January 4-8. Lots of teenagers, as well as adults, are needed for this production.

"Meet Me in St. Louis" is a nostalgic musical about the adventures of a typical American family just before the World's Fair in St. Louis around the turn of the century. It was written by Sally Benson, with music and lyrics by Hugh Martin and Ralph Blane.

Crabbe is eager to get the production underway. "This musical has everything—warmth, humor, and great songs," Crabbe said.

Lots of teenagers, as well as adults, are needed for this production.



Band marches to end of successful season

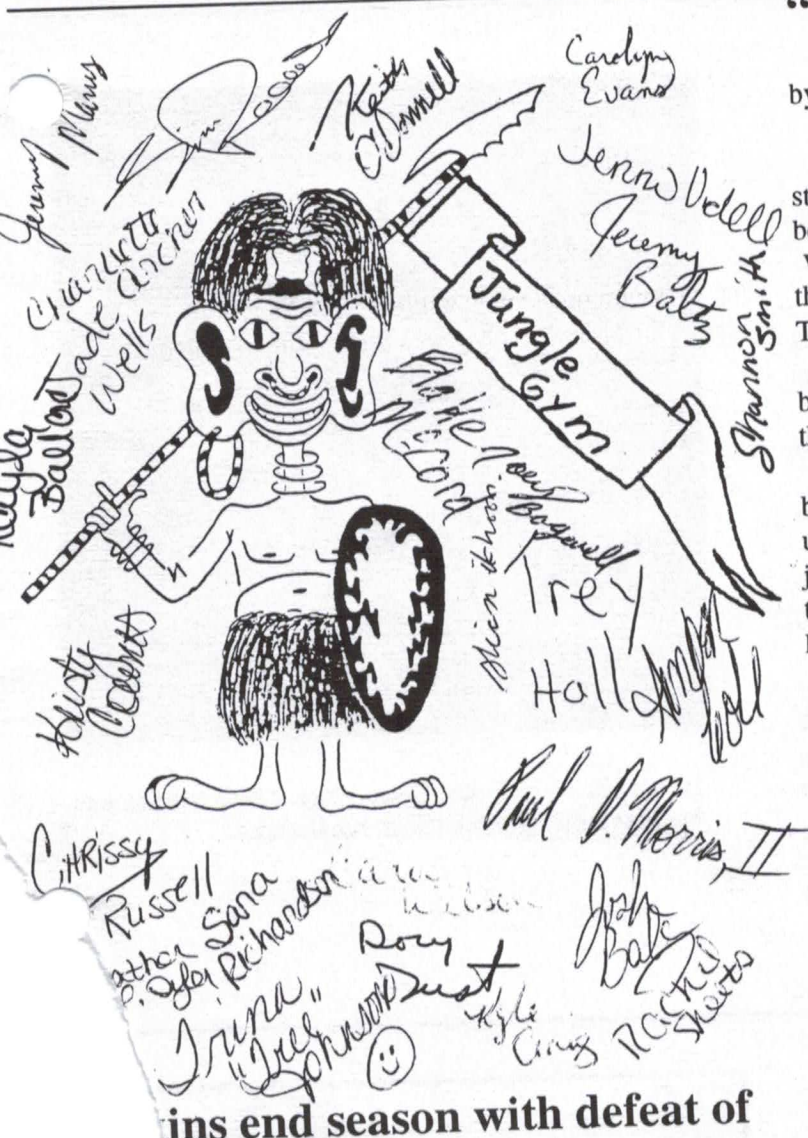
by Rodney Harris

"This was the first time in the history of PHS that the band has received a 1st division at region contest," said director Howard Dunn when asked how his band did this year. Dunn attributes part of the success at contest to the help of assistant director John Dulaney, who was hired this year.

This season the band competed in three marching contests. The first was Ridecrest- McDonalds, where the entire band received a 1st division, the flags were given a 1st division, and the percussion was named best in class. In the region contest at Greene County Tech, the band, the drum major, and the flags received a first division. On Oct. 31 the band competed at the ASU contest. Out of the six schools in their class, they were named 3rd in class. They received an excellent rating and the drum major received a superior rating.

"The jungle" grows wild

by Shannon Crisp



Last year during the 1991-92 basketball season, a group of students who attended every home game and several away games became known as "the jungle."

When asked about the jungle, Blake McCord said, "It intimidates the opposing teams. Our home record from last year shows it." This is true—last year the senior boys did not lose a game at home.

This group adds to the atmosphere of the already exciting basketball games. They jungle keeps chants going as they stand on their feet throughout the entire game.

This group of students has brought a different attitude to the basketball seasons at PHS. Several adults and students who usually wouldn't attend a basketball have come just to see the jungle. Because of the jungle, the gymnasium is always full, and the Redskins always have a huge crowd supporting them at every home game.

Senior Paul Morris gives advice for the jungle: "Rule #1: No mercy!"

Members of the jungle surely know what this means, but everyone else will have to find out as the basketball season continues.

Basketball is on Redskins' mind

by Eric Prater

Basketball season is in the air as the senior high boys look to compete for the conference crown.

Last season the Redskins shared the conference with Rivercrest, but this year the team looks to go solo.

The Redskins are coming back with a lot of experience as coach Rick Hagood looks to compete state-wide with this group.

The 'Skins lost a disappointing season opener but bounced back with two conference wins, making the team 2-1 as of November 23.

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ins end season with defeat of nd

The football Redskins ended their season with a shutout over conference rival Highland. The 'Skins ousted the Rebels 27-0 as they ended their conference play at 6-2.

"We were pumped up for it," Senior Joey Young said of the Highland game.

The Redskins just missed the state playoffs by one conference loss. The 'Skins lost heartbreakers to Corning and Rivercrest, who both went on to the playoffs.

Although the team lacked the number of seniors, they didn't lack any leadership. The seniors led a group of talented underclassmen that took up some slack.

Leading the team in tackles was Jody Sifford, who ranked 1st in the state with 122 unassisted tackles and was 2nd overall with 204.

Paul Morris was 9th in the state in passing with 1,058 yards, completing 40% of them.

Junior Casey Chester led the team in receiving as he caught 22 passes for 480 yards, three of which were for touchdowns.

The 'Skins ended up 8-3 and look to improve in the next season.

Prater

Smoke Signal story prompts changes on campus

by Chrissy Russell

While most students took no notice of some recent changes around PHS, others found these changes a great help in everyday life.

Over the past few months the administrators of Pocahontas schools, particularly superintendent Marc VanCamp, have been working diligently to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

In regard to an article in the September issue of the Smoke Signal discussing the problems handicapped students faced at PHS, VanCamp directed many changes.

Students will notice that some new ramps are in place, repairs have been made existing ramps, and the old teachers' lounge is now being facilitated with a handicap accessible restroom. Plans are in progress to make some buildings accessible, as well as to provide protection from the weather when handicapped students must use the ramps on the exterior of the building. Many more changes for PHS are still on the drawing table and will be put into place as soon as possible.



Earnie Massey and Glen Obarts place a ramp to make the business building accessible to handicapped.

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