

# Smoke Signal



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## School board recognizes crowded eating conditions: Students to have new student center

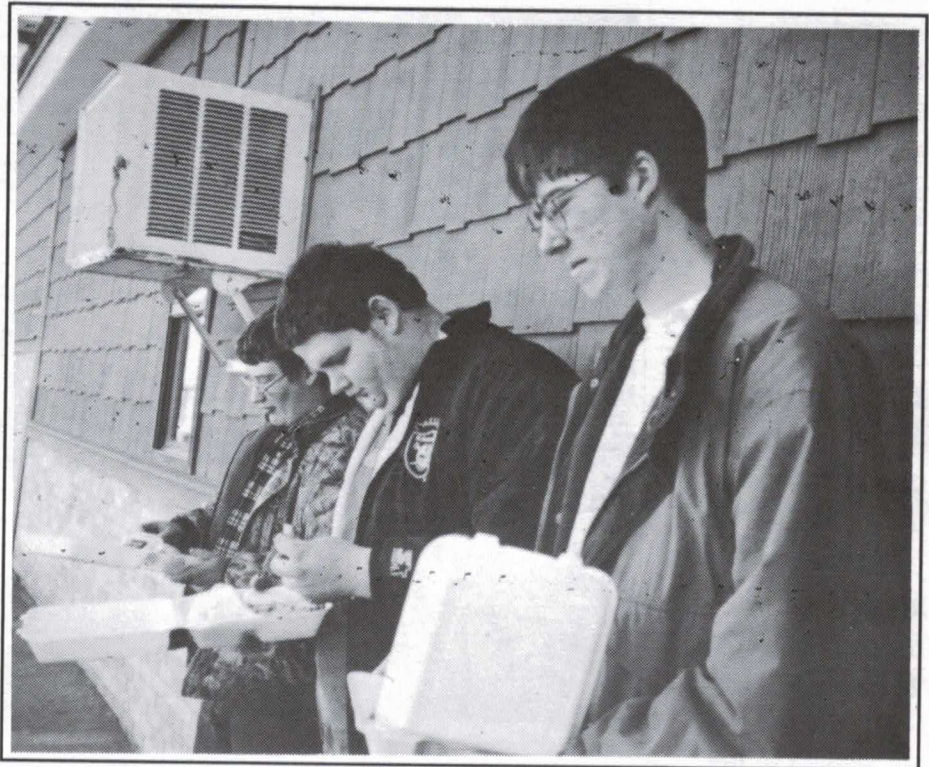
by JASON  
WHITEHORN

You walk into the student center to eat lunch and find out that there are no chairs left, so you head for the cafeteria and find that the lunch line is long. That is what it is like currently, but all that will change once a new student center is built.

Currently the due date for the new student center is undecided,

but it is hoped that construction will begin around May, and the new student center will be completed before the end of basket ball session next school year. The student center is estimated to cost the school \$250,000 and will be approximately 40 feet by 90 feet long. It will contain 3,800 square feet, and will also be used as a lobby for basket ball games. It will be located between the gym and the cafeteria.

Once a start date is decided upon, the old



*Jeremy Tribble, Scotty Goodman, and Shawn Crawford (L to R) choose to eat a carryout lunch outside instead of in the crowded cafeteria or student center..*

overhead electrical lines must be removed and placed under ground, and a court yard must be built before construction of the building can begin.

Once the student center is completed, students will be consulted to see what kinds of items they would like to see inside it. Currently the student opinion is that they would like the it to be bigger than the old one.

The current student center will not go to waste; it will be used to house more class rooms.



# The PHS Cheerleaders Rank Number 5 On National Level Competition at WCA

by CINDY RICE

The PHS cheerleaders cheered their way to number five in the nation in a national level competition Dec. 30 in Nashville, TN. This competition is one of many that the World Cheerleader Association holds.

There they ranked 11 in the top 21 cheerleading squads in the preliminary rounds of the competition Dec. 29.

"It was an awesome rush!" senior cheerleader Terri Steimel said.

The cheerleaders stayed at the Opryland Hotel, where the competition was held.

Kay McCord and Linda DeShaw sponsor the cheerleaders. Mrs. McCord arranges competitions. "I was really pleased. We had never gotten in the top ten," McCord said.

"I'm just really proud of how hard the girls worked."

The cheerleaders entered the competition by sending in a video of their routines to the NLC. They were the only ones from Arkansas who were

accepted.

Normally a cheerleading squad would have to attend the WCA summer camps in order to get bids to try for WCA completions. The PHS squad could not attend these camps because they are too far away. The closest WCA camps are located in Missouri and Tennessee.

Their next competition was the AAA Division of the Northeast Arkansas Regional Cheerleading Competition at Jonesboro Jan. 27, where they won 1st place.

"We were so excited about winning 1st place. Now, we will go on to compete at the state competition level, which will be held in Conway in February," senior Casey Smith said.

Three spotters went with the cheerleaders to Nashville: Joseph Baltz, Travis Haley, and Randy Anis.



*The cheerleaders are proud of their trophy. Left to right, front row: Terri Steimel, Tammy DeShaw, Casey Smith; second row: Jessica Holt, Ashley Cook, Courtney Parrish, Kristen Phillips, Jamie Fort; third row: Nekayeh Pennington, Jessica Tucker, Ashley Flagg, Autumn Cole, Lydia Wingo, Nicole Romine*

**Coming SOON!!!**  
Spring break March 15-19



# Rockin' Redskins rock their way to the top

by DIANE BLACKWELL

The explosive talent of the Rockin' Redskin Dance Team has earned recognition this year.

The Rockin' Redskins placed second in AA State Competition held on November 13 in Arkadelphia. They competed against teams from all over Arkansas.

Dance sponsor Ivy Pfeffer credits strong leadership and hard work for the team's success.

"To have a good squad, everyone must play a part. We are lucky to have good leaders with seniors Virginia Castleman, Jacquelyn Wells and LeighAnn Wells. Also, we have several underclassmen who work hard with choreography and teaching. Each member at one time or another must be a teacher, a learner, and a coach," Pfeffer said.

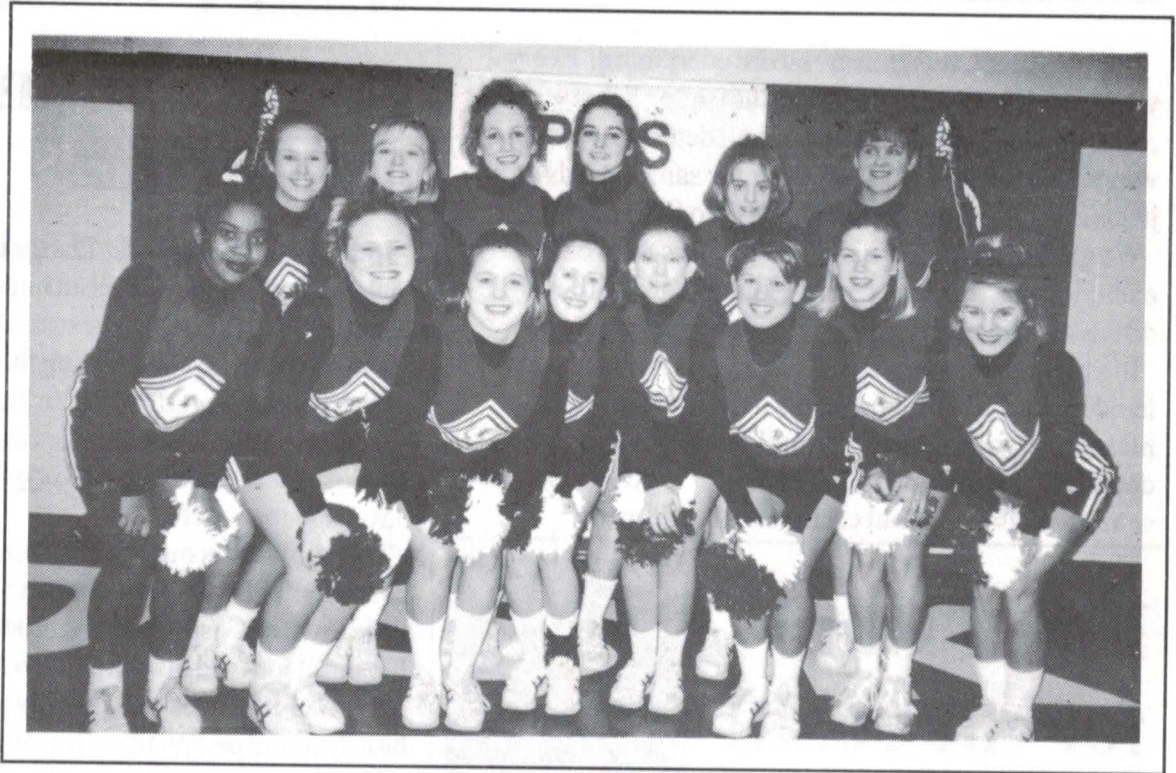
The competition in Arkadelphia took place at Henderson State University and was sponsored by the Arkansas Dance Team Association. To be eligible for competition on the state level, a team must first place in the top three at regionals.

Virginia Castleman is a team captain.

"It felt great placing second in State Competition, and I think it is a good building block for next year. The juniors and sophomores are extremely talented, and the competition was a good experience for them," Castleman said.

Throughout the school year, the Rockin' Redskins

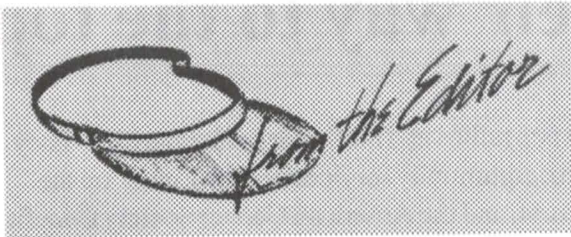
perform in pep rallies and half-time performances. They also perform community services such as Puttin' on the Hits, Starburst, and the American Cancer Society Benefit.



Front row from Left Latonya Simpson, Rachel Wise, Typhany Hall, Valerie Patterson, Laura Conrey, Melanie Thrasher, Calista Christensen, Jacquelyn Wells; back row Virginia Castleman, Jillian Baltz, Leigh Ann Wells, Elizabeth Raglin, Jennifer Dalton, and Angie Banker.







by STEPHANIE DeCLERK

In high school, image seems to be everything. Everywhere we look, everyone looks the same. What we wear, how we look, and what we drive all determine whether we are "in" or "out." We all wear the same brands of jeans and the same shoes in an effort to fit in.

We gather in cliques of people like ourselves and exclude everyone else. If some students are a little bit different, they automatically get branded as "rejects."

It's hard to get to know how someone really is deep inside because everyone seems to be so busy trying to please everyone else. If we would just look a little bit deeper than what's on the outside, we could all discover some great things about each other on the inside.

## Fire!! Run for the road!



by JASON LIEBHABER

A fire consumed most of Pocahontas High School last month, leaving only charred remains of the main building. Several students were hospitalized for various injuries. The fire erupted on the same afternoon as a scheduled fire drill, and when the fire alarm sounded, many students believed that it was only a regular fire drill. Most students slowly meandered outside and wandered onto the street. Some classes did not bother to go outside at all. A fire engine arrived on the scene minutes later, but could not immediately put out the fire because of the crowds. Soon ambulances rushed to the school prepared to assist the injured. Local officials have identified the cause of the blaze as an unexplained electrical shortage in the bathroom, but the reporter interviewed a PHS fire marshall for his account of what happened:

## "...Mr. Gaunt wasn't really a man at all."



by JASON WHITEHORN

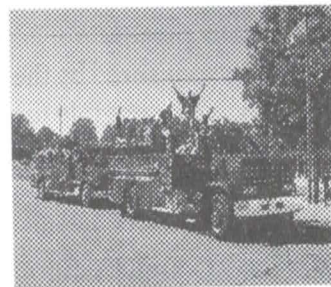
Stephen King's *Needful Things* is cleverly written, making almost every detail an important part of the conclusion of the book. For example, when Ace leaves his car in a garage, he has a feeling that he will never see it again. This feel foreshadows an important event.

While reading this book, one can't help but think about all those great deals he has ever gotten, and if he might have paid too much.

The book starts out at a very normal steady pace, but near the end it speeds up. In just a few days, the sleepy little town of Castle Rock is turned upside down by a Mr. Leland Gaunt and his store called Needful Things.

Mr. Gaunt, who isn't "... really a man at all," appears to be a different person to each customer, depending on what the customer wants to see. This and other clues hint at who Mr. Gaunt really is.

Fire Marshall: "I saw a certain curly-haired business teacher run out of the business building with seventeen industrial-sized hair dryers and hide them in her car."



Reporter: "Do you believe the fire was started by an electrical overload in the business building?"

Fire Marshall: "Yes."

Reporter: "But wasn't the

fire started in the main building? The business building wasn't touched!"

Fire Marshall: "HMMMMMM?"



# Advanced Placement enriches classes

by TERRY TYLER

Walking into a classroom at the beginning of the year is not usually that mysterious, but for certain juniors and seniors this year, two classes began giving students an educational edge.

Upon entry to the average classroom at the beginning of the year, students generally know what to expect from the comments of upperclassmen. However, no one here had ever taken Advanced Placement United States History and AB Calculus.

In the 1985, PHS attempted to implement two AP programs (AP Biology and AP English). AP Biology ran for only two years, and AP English never got underway due to a scheduling problem.

Students may not know what Advanced Placement (AP) classes are. Jessica Holt explains.

She said that her AP History class requires more writing and longer hours of study.

"It's a challenge even to the best of students," Holt said.

"My AP History class involves more in depth study of history and the culture and theology that influenced it," Junior Lauren Rapert said.

Students in AP History are given the opportunity to read and analyze documents.

Compared to average American history class, it is "a much more scholarly look at history," Derek Clements, AP History teacher, said.

Roger Eveland also teaches AP History.

The course offers "fewer tests, more material, and more discussion on a higher level," Eveland said.

Twenty-nine students make up two separate history classes. The lower student/teacher ratio improves learning conditions.

In Eveland's classroom, the students sit at large tables instead of cramped desks.

"It is a less class-like environment... it is more suited for learning," Elise Throgmorton, a pupil of Eveland, said.

It is not all writing and reading and learning, however. Different students receive different things from the class.

"The challenge of learning, five point weighted A's, and the chance to cut out of a later history class" is what appeals to Throgmorton the most.

The calculus class is entitled AB Calculus. Kevin Howard said the reason he took AB Calculus was to

keep from becoming bored.

One bonus for Advanced Placement classes is the weighted A's. This means that beginning with D's each letter becomes worth one more grade point. For example, A's are worth five points, B's are worth four points, C's are worth three points, and D's are worth two points. Many students see this as a means to raise their grades.

University of Arkansas, Arkansas State University, and William's Baptist College accept weighted grade point averages to be considered for scholarships. The students achieving a greater than four point average generally stand out.

An AP test final will be given in May. The test determines whether students will receive college credit. Most colleges award students with a score of three to five with college credit. AP students may take the test for a fee of \$75.00.

"The test is graded by a board of teachers developed to read and evaluate the test. The grades mean the difference in college credit or not," Holt said.

Although all of these pressures are on them, each one has learned his or her lesson.

Philip Jansen discovered that classes such as AB Calculus require self-motivation.

Perhaps Kristi Tweedy made the most rewarding discovery.

"My grades get better the more I study. They're hard to earn," Tweedy said.

The students' efforts make them proud.

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## Clubs, Continued from Page 7

family they adopted. They also took toys to the children and adults in the family on Dec. 15.

The Student Council decided to do a coat drive to help the needy people. The FFA also did an annual project for the holidays. The Pocahontas Fire Department asked the FFA to help put up the Christmas light display in East Pocahontas. People could drive through and see the lights.

"We are proud to provide the display to our community, and the members very much enjoy working with the firemen," James Ashcraft, FFA sponsor, said.



# Waterloo: Stable industry employs 800 in Pocahontas

by TERRY TYLER

Work-force Education in Arkansas is designed to prepare students to function in the work world. With this in mind, the *Smoke Signal* is making an effort to inform students about career opportunities in Pocahontas by featuring a series of articles about industries and businesses.

Digging in the mass of junk known as his storage building, Joe attempts to find his screwdriver. It is a hard thing trying to find one tool out of a thousand, but what can be done to remedy this problem?

Waterloo Industries has the answer. In fact, Waterloo has had the answer for Pocahontas for twenty-six years now.

Waterloo produces a large array of tool storage items ranging from roller cabinets to trolleys, to portable chests and workbenches.

These products are sold to companies such as Sears, Lowe's, and Grainger.

Chuck Couch, personnel manager at Waterloo, said that the process by which the boxes are made is called metal fabrication.

The employees are set up on a chain of assembly lines. The employees are expected to be as productive as possible on these lines.

Students need to "prepare themselves in management disciplines, computer literacy, and proficiency in blueprint reading" to become an employee, Couch said.

Future employees must have a high school diploma or GED.

If a student is interested in applying for one of the eight-hundred jobs, Couch offers a description of the company.

"We're a stable industry. We're a growth industry," Couch said.

With a "stable" "growth" industry, people like Joe will not have to rummage anymore.

## Clubs help others in Christmas season

by LEROY POORE

Students join clubs to learn new things and to have fun. One of the most important things they learn is community service. Clubs at PHS did projects over the holidays to help others.

Future Business Leaders of America voted to hold a food drive. It is a tradition for them to collect food and deliver it to someone who needs it. The FBLA donated the food to the Black River Area of Development. BRAD distributed the food to needy families over the holidays.

The Future Homemakers of America conducted a toy drive for the ABC Preschool.

"Every Wednesday, four students from my child development class go over to the ABC Preschool and work with the children there. It seemed natural to want to give presents to children you are already somewhat acquainted with and close to," Nancy Moody, FHA sponsor, said.

The FHA wanted to target a group that doesn't get a lot of attention from other schools and civic clubs during the holidays. The members who went to deliver the presents wanted this to be their service project because they said it was fabulous to see the looks of surprise and happiness on the faces of the kids.

Each child received a gift and Christmas ornament wrapped by the FHA members. They tried to get the same present for all the girls and boys so that different toys would not be a problem. FHA hosted a lunch for all who participated in donating toys. The lunch was "Homemade."

The Girls Ensemble performed Christmas carols for "Getting in the Mood" at M.D. Williams School on Sunday, Nov. 22. The concert was the annual fundraiser for the Arkansas Children's Hospital and hosted by the Randolph Co. Circle of Friends.

The Spanish Club took food for Christmas dinner to a

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# Skins have state playoffs in mind!!!

by KYLE JOHNSON

The PHS girls and boys basketball teams are in full gear this season. The girls with a 17-4 record are well prepared for a new AAA conference, and play is tough. The boys team is full of talent with the return of seniors Justin Hagood and Matt Walls. Juniors returning are Ryan Rodgers, Michael Burnette, and Chris Blackwell. Fresh talent comes to the team with sophomores Jason Clark, Joey Baltz, Nathan and Justin Camp, Justin Dorman, and Ben Adkins.

The girls team returns to play strong, but injuries are keeping Lisa Jones on the bench for the rest of the season.

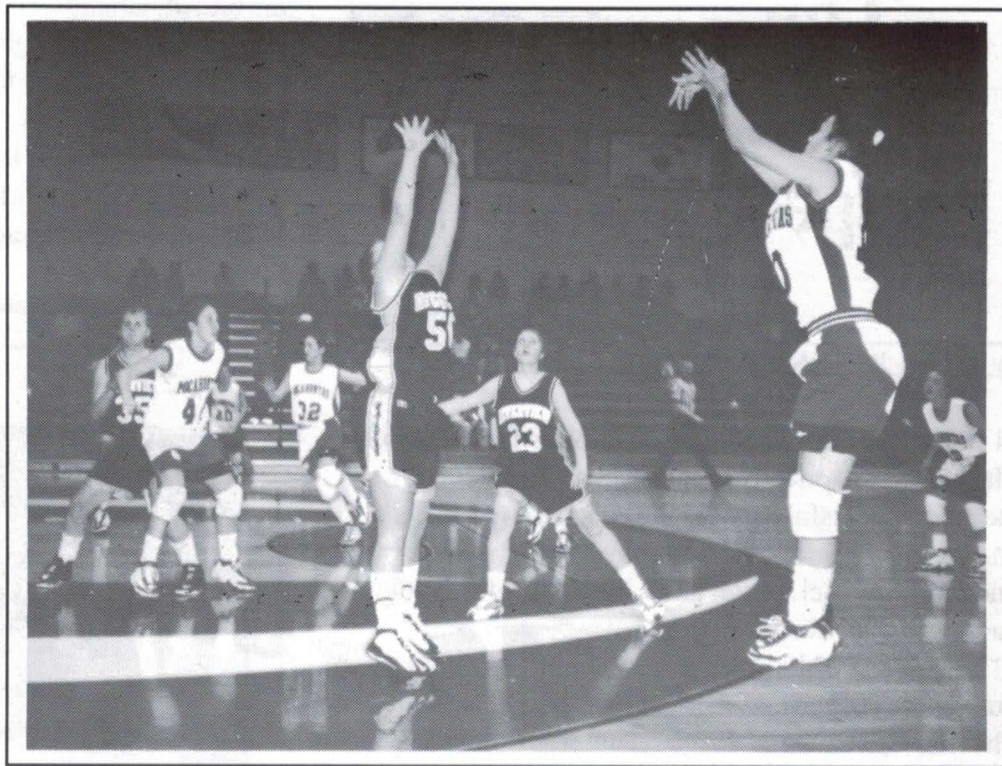
"Lisa Jones went out with a torn ACL in her knee, which hurt us a lot," Regina Wallis said about injuries plaguing the team.

"Your senior season is really important because this season is where your memories are made, and since it is your senior year you want to play your best," Wallis said.

Seniors returning for the girls team are Jennifer Penn, Amy Loggains, and Regina Wallis. Juniors are Stephanie DeClerk, Amy Lane, Brittany Hibbard, Bridgette Kazzee, Andrea Dean, Crystal Barz, Lisa Jones, and Brooke Busby. Sophomores coming up from junior high are Brynne Scott, Jesse Simpson, Alison Prichard, and Callie Cooper.

"The rest of the season looks good, and a conference title still is in sight!" junior guard Andrea Dean said.

As the teams gear up for district tournament, their eyes are set on the goal at hand. State playoffs!



*Bridgette Kazzee shoots a three pointer against Riverview on Friday January 22. Regina Wallis (44), Brittany Hibbard (32), and Jennifer Penn (22)*

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## NBA or college?

# The Bench Perspective



by KYLE JOHNSON

The National Basketball Association is highly popular. The players are priced high and filled with talent. One of the most successful teams in the 90's is the Chicago Bulls, and they had some of the best players around. Everybody knows of Michael Jordan and University of Central Arkansas alum Scottie Pippen.

The Chicago Bulls paid Jordan about 30 million a year, but Scottie Pippen raked in less than half of Jordan's pay. The Bulls have won the league championship every year except for 90, 94, 95. You could say they were the best team ever in the NBA. Some people watch the NBA just because of the Bulls, and this year people have been-- I guess you could say-- locked out from enjoying the sport that has been around for over a hundred years, because of the NBA lockout.

Lockout means that the players and owners can't agree on how much the league minimum is or how much the league maximum is. Michael Jordan was one of the highest paid players in sports, and he probably deserved it because he was the best player. But you know what? The Bulls never did win a championship until Scottie got there. And that is what makes him worthy of what Jordan got. So that is one reason the owners try to be fair about how much players should be able to get instead of the 100 million every three years that some get.

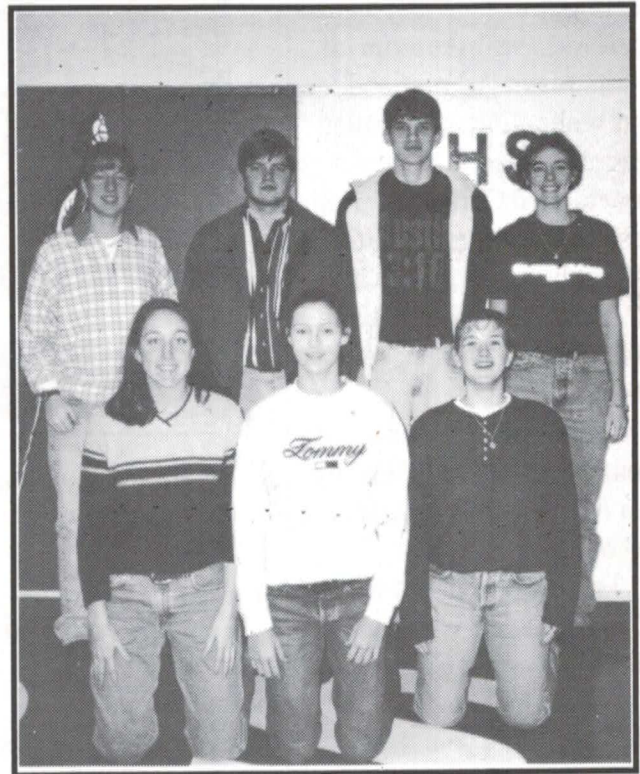
The season is already half over, and they are just now getting started. College basketball has been getting more fans because of the lockout.

"College is a lot better than the NBA because the players are not playing for money, but for the love of the game," Shaun Hatch said.

NBA players do not seem to try as hard.

"College players do play harder because most players are on scholarships, and if they do not play hard they will not get to play and might lose their scholarships. The NBA players just play for money," junior basketball player Lisa Jones said.

A lot of people don't care if the NBA season even starts, but all I know is I am going for the Hogs all the way to the final four this year. And that is the Bench Perspective.



## Players make all-tournament

The Lady Redskins placed second in the NEA tournament during Christmas break.

NEA-All tournament players include Justin Hagood, Amy Loggains, Crystal Barz, and Bridgette Kazzee.

Both boys and girls teams were runners up in the Pocahontas Federal Thanksgiving Classic. All-tournament players for the classic were Justin Hagood, Matt Walls, Amy Lane, Amy Loggains, and Regina Wallis.