



Inside...

**Thespians
prepare
panda play
Page 3...**



**Body
piercing
makes
students
stand out
Page 4...**



**Bad
book
sinks
hip
Page 2**

Olivia Wise named Miss Redskin

by TERRY TYLER

Worried with thoughts of which slacks to wear, what necklace to wear, or whether or not to wear those socks with that outfit, the contestants in the Miss Redskin Pageant anxiously waited for the start of the pageant.

When the pageant was over, senior Olivia Wise was crowned Miss Redskin 1999. The Future Homemakers of America sponsored the pageant March 6.

Each contestant had to undergo a brief interview with the judges, answering questions about their clubs, their future plans, and their favorite movies.

Wise was surprised that she won, because she was in it only for the fun, yet she is happy.

"I feel privileged to represent the school. Since this is my senior year, this is one of the last memories I can make," Wise said.

She also saw the pageant as a way of being with her sister Rachel, who was also in it.



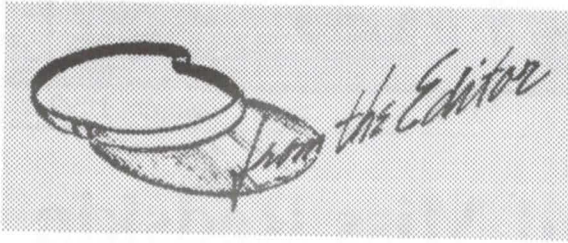
Winners of the Miss Redskin pageant are (L to R) Miss Redskin Oliva Wise, first runner-up Virginia Castleman, second runner-up Brynne Scott, best interview Nekayeh Pennington, Miss Congeniality Rachel Wise.

Selecting Miss Redskin was not an easy decision for the judges. Nancy Moody, FHA advisor, said that the judges asked how she could have them to make such a hard choice. Suzanne Chester, moderator of the pageant, said that she was glad that she was not a judge, because the competition was so immense.

First runner-up to Miss Redskin was senior Virginia Castleman. Second runner-up was sophomore Brynne Scott. The winner of the interview competition was Junior Class representative Nekayeh Pennington. All the contestants voted Rachel Wise as Miss Congeniality.

Each club, sport, or organization selected a representative for the pageant.

See Miss page 6



Test scheduling needs work

by STEPHANIE DeCLERK

It would be really great if schools could find a way to schedule work so it is not all due at the same time. It seems like every time you have a test in one class, you have a couple of tests in other classes the same day and a paper due. It's really easy to get burned out in school when so many things are piled on at once. I feel like I would learn a lot more in each subject if the work schedules were a little more balanced.

“School Mascots” or “A Dialogue on Egalitarianism”

by JASON LIEBHABER



It is, perhaps, that you, Readers, have not ever been up against overwhelming odds, nor have you ever had to hold firm when your convictions came under attack. Just recently I have witnessed and have been a minor participant in a David and Goliath struggle in which two noble heroines, who shall be called Emma and Catherine, fought bravely against the forces of hateful constancy, who shall be called Jessy, John, and Charles. Their fight was over the rights of Native Americans and the defamatory mascot of the school. Though the conversation began as a simple expression of concern for the lawsuits against professional teams that have Indian mascots, it quickly

See **School** page 6

The Little Boat That Could?

by JASON WHITEHORN



20,000 Leagues Under the Sea is the biggest waste of time. The boat that they are in, the *Nautilus*, has “high tech” equipment that became obsolete in the 1920’s. Not once in this book do they go anywhere near 20,000 leagues under the sea.

Why did Jules Verne even call it *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*? Why not *The Little Boat That Could*? This book also makes use of some extremely odd wording, like saying “Said I” instead of “I said.” Captain Nemo, the captain of the *Nautilus*, for some reason abandons his life on land to go live life under the sea.

I wish I had never heard of Captain Nemo or his *Nautilus* or the book *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*.

Smoke Signal Staff

The *Smoke Signal* is a member of the Arkansas Scholastic Press Association

Editor-in-Chief: Stephanie DeClerk

Layout Editor: Terry Tyler

Sports Editor: Jason Whitehorn
Kyle Johnson
Diane Blackwell
Jason Liebhaver
Cindy Rice

Photographer: Sarah Kiefer

Advisor: Janet Crabbe

Thespians work on spring productions

by JASON WHITEHORN

The Thespians are currently involved in two plays: Revenge of the Space Pandas and Aria Da Capo.

Aria Da Capo is a play about man's inhumanity to man. Aria Da Capo will be performed April 8th for State Thespian Convention in Morrilton. The Thespians hope to match last year's win of a first-place trophy for a one-act play.

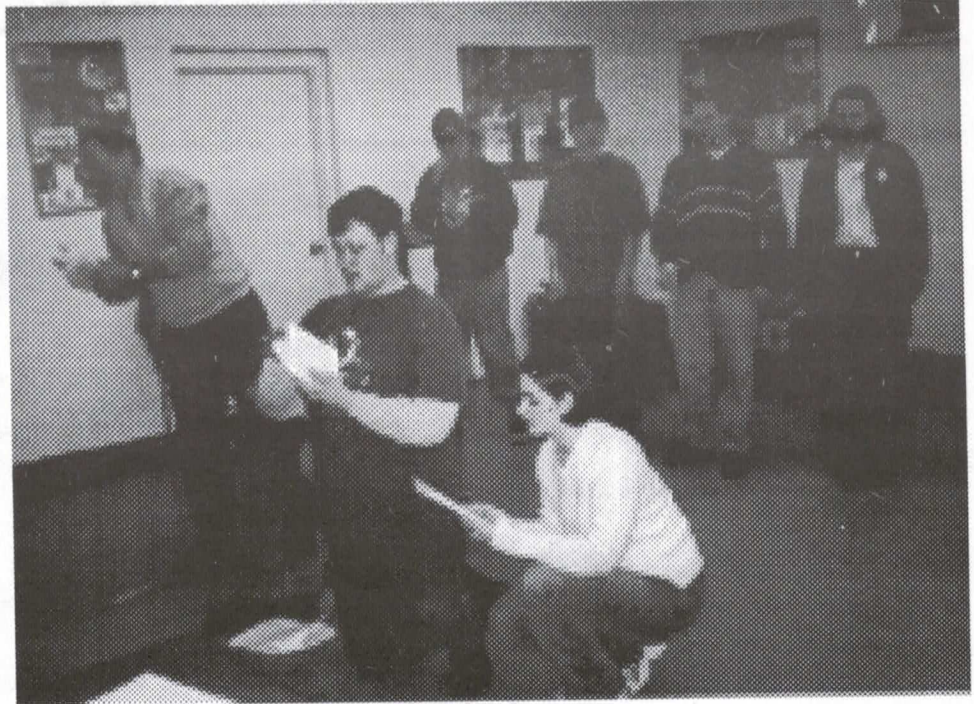
Revenge of the Space Pandas will be performed for M.D. Williams Intermediate School. The play is about three young people and a sheep named Bob, who travel to a planet populated by pandas.

"It's so stupid, it's funny," Amy Crisman said. Crisman plays the roles of a drunk panda, and a redneck panda.

June Tucker thinks being in the play is fun.

La Tonya Simpson plays the role Jill Kabirdie, a newsperson who is a totally over exaggerated alloy of Diana Davis, Connie Chung, and Barbra Walters. Simpson really enjoys being on the stage.

Costumes for Revenge of the Space Pandas will be simple. Some



Front row Left to Right: Drama Teacher Jon Crabbe, Justin Masongaile, Darren Casey, Bethany Robinson. Back Row: James Simington, Jeremy Crismon, Adam Salyards, Lydia Wingo rehearse for "Revenge of the Space Pandas."

actors will wear panda costumes that Calista Christensen describes as, "Big fat panda suits, with funny masks."

They hope their plays will inspire younger students to develop an interest in drama.

While the Thespians are devoting their time to their two plays, they are also spending time learning from

other people's plays.

The Thespians took a trip to Murry's Dinner Playhouse, in Little Rock, on February 25 to view the play She Loves Me.

"The play was a musical that gave you a first hand look of what drama is all about," Rachel Henderson said.



Joseph Baltz and Rachel Rose were selected for all-state band.



The Pocahontas team took second place in the foreign language competition of the Trivium Quadrivium Symposium. High school team members were (Front L to R) Amy Lederer, Gary Johnson (Back L to R) Laura Billeadeau, Marshall Robertson, Elizabeth Raglin.

Body piercing makes students stand out

by DIANE BLACKWELL

Body piercing is a major "fad" among many high school students. Many of the teens who have or have thought about getting piercings are influenced by their friends.

Senior Darren Casey has two piercings, one in his left eyebrow, the other in his ear. Darren's opinion of this phenomenon is "to be different and to stick out in a crowd." He got his eyebrow pierced at Primal Urge Tattoos in Conway, AR.

Senior T.K. Barnett has six piercings.

"I saw it on someone else and it looked good and I thought one would look good on me," Barnett said.

Many seniors are getting the multi-piercings.

"It's an expression to show that they like it and think it looks good," Barnett said.

"Because we've always been the experimental class-the class of slackers and individualists- it's all been in an effort to be noticed," Senior Ali Iacampo said.

Iacampo has eight piercings, all in her ears.

"I was just going to start with three, but it got to be like



(L to R) TK Barnett's pierced ears and lip, Ali Iacampo's pierced ears, and Darren Casey's pierced eyebrow make them stand out from everyone else.

a hobby," Iacampo said.

The average cost ranges from \$5 to \$80.

"It depends on what part of the body is pierced," Iacampo said.

Although piercing can be fun, it can be dangerous. Needles that are not sterile can transmit hepatitis and AIDS. None of these students, however, were afraid of getting any kind of disease from the piercing needles.

"Every place is sterile, and they have to be licensed," Casey said. "I watched them throw the needle away in a biohazard box."

"I always make sure the needles are clean that the piercing people use," Barnett said.

Ben Adkins selected to represent PHS for HOBY

by STEPHANIE DeCLERK

Ben Adkins was selected to be the PHS delegate to the Hugh O' Brian Youth Assembly to be held in April. Each year only one sophomore from each school across the state is selected to represent their schools at the assembly. The selection process is based on the demon-

stration of leadership skills, and the assembly is designed to promote the development of those skills.

Ben will compete for a chance to attend the World Leadership Conference. One boy and one girl are selected from the assembly to represent Arkansas. The winners will receive an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C.

Ice Skating: Lovely sport or accident waiting to happen?

The Bench Perspective



by KYLE JOHNSON

We all know of Aksana Byul, and Tara Lapinski. They are two of the best ice skaters to date. Their grace, their elegance-- nothing could be more soothing than their skating.

In my opinion or twisted theory, did you ever think of the horror that goes on in the dressing room? Girls who lose, punching and superkicking those who won. Or what about the disgruntled old skaters who are 25 and 26 years old, who lose to these 15 and 16 year olds. Do you ever wonder why their skates are so sharp? I bet instead of the veterans congratulating the younger skaters, they come at them with their sharpened skates and start slashing.

The reason you do not hear about it, because the veterans tell them to shut up or else.

"I agree with that theory, because I would be mad too if I lost to a younger person. And I like to superkick, so it would be fun to do that," Vernon Simkins said.

And that is a weird bench prospective.

Golf schedule:

Apr. 1	Piggott	A	3:30	
Apr. 6	C.R.A.	H	3:30	
Apr. 8	I.C.C.	A	3:30	B&G
Apr. 12	Walnut Ridge	A	3:30	
Apr. 15	I.C.C.	H	3:30	B&G
	Boys' District			
May 4	Hoxie	A	3:30	G

Boys' and Girls' Basketball season comes to a close

by KYLE JOHNSON

This season has been a roller coaster for the boy and girl Redskins basketball teams. The boys started the second semester with a bang, beating some top opponents in the conference, and then losing in the first round of the district tournament in Cave City.

The girls lost only five games in the whole regular season. They lost in the first round of the district tourney, but did well enough during the regular season to get an at-large bid to regional.

The girls won in the first round of the regional tourney by defeating the Piggott Mowhawks. But they lost to Clinton, whom they had beaten only once during the regular season. Then they lost to Mt. View in the consolation game, and now are going to the state playoffs.

In the AAA state playoffs, they lost to the number one seed and the best team in the AAA conference, the Prescott Curly Wolves. The final score was 54-50, and the Lady Redskins finished the season at 21-8.

Softball Schedule:

April 1	2:15	Westside	Away
April 8	3:10	Highland	Home
April 13	3:10	Piggott	Home
April 15	2:15	Marmaduke	Away
April 20	3:10	Westside	Home
April 21	3:10	Paragould	Home
April 22	3:10	Highland	Away
April 26-30		District Tourn.	Home

Miss, Continued from Page 1

Basketball representative Brynne Scott said that although she was nervous, she still had fun.

According to Phyllis Lane, mother of Key Club representative Amy Lane, fun is the key.

"I told Amy, 'Just have fun,'" Lane said.

Apparently, every contestant took that advice. The consensus of the young ladies was that it didn't matter whether they won or lost, it was fun all the while.

The judges looked at four things to make their decision on the winners: casual wear, evening wear, interviews, and results from a panel of faculty members that rate the contestants on personality, attitude, and participation.

School, Continued from Page 2

escalated into a battle between good and evil.

"We just spent money repainting the gym. It will cost a lot of money to change mascots. There is the cost of uniforms for cheerleaders, football players, basketball players, and every other team. It really starts to add up," complained Jessie, with a concerned yet oblivious look on her face.

"Look! People are worth more than money," Emma promptly replied.

At the same time, John argued, "Using Indians as mascots is an honor. Nothing bad is meant by 'Redskins' anymore. It's not like we're calling them drunks or anything," which was followed by loud snickering from the maliciously-intentioned.

"That's terrible, using mean stereotypes. You couldn't care less about Native Americans. A position of honor--ha!" exclaimed Catherine, with moral indignation.

Afterwards, Charles, who had, during all of the discussion, made ridiculous comments pertaining to race relations which this reporter finds neither proper nor publishable, commented, "We have had our mascot for a long time. It's tradition. We shouldn't have to change."

To that, our heroines Emma and Catherine loudly protested blatant bigotry, and I, wishing to assist the far-outnumbered trumpeters of justice and equity, resounded my disdain for his remarks. The debate then digressed to name-calling, exclusively by the narrow-minded, oppressive hat mongers, and all in the room split unevenly into two groups. The conversation between these groups ceased, but their opposition to each other continued, and not a mind was changed. How did these students at PHS come in contact with their ideas? Why are they so ingrained in their minds? What can we do to convince these students to care? These puzzling questions have no known answer, and hope in their discovery is slim. The one thing that is certain, however, is that the debate will continue, and that good people will oppose.

Calendar of Events

School dismissed early...	April 1
Easter break...	April 2-5
Staff development, no school...	April 6
FBLA State Convention...	April 9-10
Prom...	April 17
ASPA State Convention...	April 23-24
FFA banquet...	April 29
Honors program...	May 13
Baccalaureate...	May 16
Graduation...	May 21