

The Parker Weekly

Volume LXXXII, Number 6

Their's No Fighting Here, This is the War Room!

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1991

News Briefs

Cotton Married

Principle John Cotton was married to Ms. Tami Pleasanton over the thanksgiving recess. The couple exchanged vows on November 23rd, in Palm Beach, Florida.

Soviet Journalist Speaks to Parker

Ada Baskina, a Soviet Journalist and sociologist, came to speak to the student body on December 6. She spoke of the differences in culture between the Soviet Union and United States, then opened the floor for questions.

Students Work to Improve Library

Several Parker students recently initiated a Library improvement campaign. The plan to improve the appearance of our library by installing mosaics in the four carols. Any donations of tile grout and/or broken tile should be presented to G.K. Darby (11) or David Wan (12).

Advisory Gets Books for Wright Elementary

Ms. Berger's advisory is holding a book drive to supply the Richard Wright Elementary school, located on the west side, with books for their presently empty library. Any new or used book donations should be dropped off in the math conference room (205).

Our Town Selected in State Wide Festival

This year's fall play, "Our Town," written by Thornton Wilder and directed by Tom Howe, the new Drama Department head, has been chosen as one of six plays to participate in a state wide festival of high school plays. The cast will depart to Normal, Illinois on January 9, and return on the 11th.

Phaedrus Expected Before Christmas

The first issue of Phaedrus, the student literary magazine, will be out before Christmas vacation. Copies can be picked up in the high school graderooms.

Vespers to be Held on December 18

On Thursday 18, the music department will hold vespers, the traditional holiday festival of music. The performances will begin at 7:30 in the auditorium including students in grades 6-12

Parker Graffiti Problem Grows

There has been a disturbing rise in the amount of Graffiti writing around the school. According to Dan Frank, head of the upper school, no one has been apprehended for the offences, but measures are being taken to stop the vandalism.

Egyptian Museum Planned

On January 31, the 11th annual Fourth Grade Egyptian Museum will be held in the Fourth Grade classroom. All parents, siblings, big brothers and sister, and students, grades 1-5, are invited to attend. Mrs. Feiertag and Mrs. Goldman anticipated the museum will be the best one yet.

STUDENTS EXPERIENCE TRIAL FIRST HAND

By MEGAN NAKANO

Parker students learned a valuable lesson about America's judicial system November 23 when Northwestern Law School students conducted annual mock-trials in lieu of final exams. The Judges were lawyers, the lawyers were law students, the witnesses were actors and the jury was composed of Chicago area high school students bribed with free McDonald's and five dollars. Approximately four students from Parker School, myself included, attended.

In my jury were nine students from Whitney Young, one from Loyola and

two from Parker. Seventeen courtrooms in the Daley Center were trying the same case, a defamation suit for punitive and compensatory damages. We arrived at the Daley Center at 9:00 am, and were divided into twelve groups. The actual trials lasted from 10:00am to 2:30, with an hour break for lunch.

"Even though it was exciting to be a part of a jury in an actual courtroom," remarked Elsa Wenzel, "I couldn't help nodding off every now and then. The lights were so bright and the case was plodding along. Sometimes I lost consciousness during important parts of the

trial."

Before the jury deliberated the judge instructed the jurors on the law, on how to nominate a chairperson and how to leave sympathy out of our final decision. Then we were locked into the "juror's room" forever or until we came to a unanimous decision.

In my particular group, a scene followed. One girl nominated herself and without objection was our self-elected chairperson. We took a preliminary vote and the result was ten to two in favor of the plaintiff. After an hour of arguing, we revoted, nine to three in favor of the

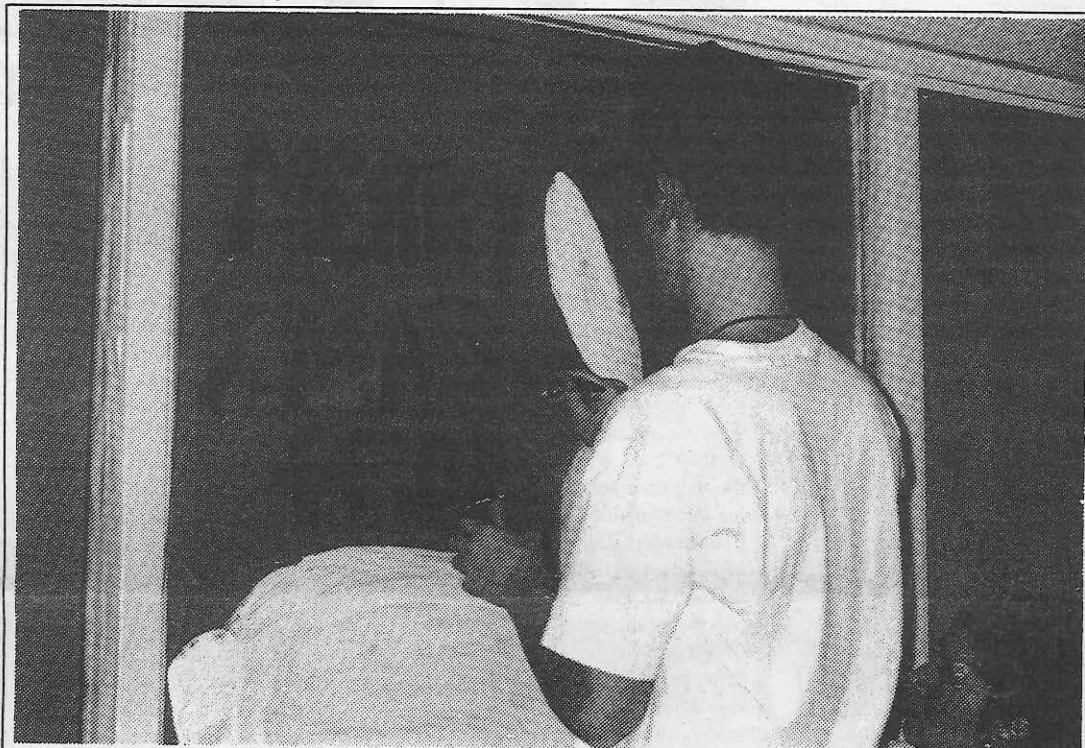
defendant.

By this time everyone was feeling frustrated and claustrophobic and wanted to leave. The chairperson's boyfriend was paranoid that his car was going to be towed and was willing to vote whichever way he had to to put money in his parking meter. One young man was so anxious to get home that he offered to divide his big paycheck between the three people who were keeping us from a unanimous decision in favor of the defendant. A girl who was pro-defendant threatened to dump her pro-plaintiff boyfriend unless he changed his evil ways. Another girl crawled under the table in a fit of frustration, while the pro-defendant's ringleader was threatened to be locked in the bathroom by the pro-plaintiffs. The chairman decided to submit the majority vote regardless of the fact that we were instructed to come to a unanimous decision.

All of a sudden in a petulant frenzy, the chairperson's boyfriend pressed the button to indicate that we had come to a decision. When the door was unlocked that we were a hung jury, and ran out to put money in the parking meter.

"I was impressed by the amount of influence any single individual can have over a jury. We had three girls in our group that forced us to proclaim a hung jury by violently disagreeing with everyone and refusing to partake in civil debate," said Justin Hall.

The judge asked us to return and come to a decision but we refused. Then we were each called on to evaluate the individual lawyers for their benefit. We commented on our experience and our impressions of the democratic judicial system in America. Most of the jurors fell asleep and had a hard time remembering what occurred in the trial.



On December 8, the tenth grade continued the long standing tradition of painting windows around the school at the tenth grade decorating party. The students and their parents each painted a window, bringing the holiday cheer to the halls of Parker.

STUDENT RESCUES WINDOW WASHER

By JUDAH RODGON

On November 19 Parker junior, Tony Frenzel, pulled one window washer in through his window, and calmed another after their scaffolds had collapsed in a rainstorm. After going home sick from school with the flu, Frenzel remembers hearing screaming from outside. When he looked out the window of his building, at 415 W Aldine, he saw two men hanging from 911 which "took twenty minutes to do." Then he pulled one man in who was close to his window, but the other was two floors down, out of reach.

Instead Frenzel attempted to calm the man through talk. "I was so focused on trying to relax him, that I couldn't freak out," said Frenzel. The fire department came, but their ladder could not reach the man. Eventually he man was able to break a window and save himself. According to Frenzel, the washers were not using a normal scaffold, but small wooden seats which are obviously unsafe.

Frenzel received a small thanks from the fire department for his participation, which was less than he expected. "I felt great being able to help them," said Frenzel, but "I also felt selfish because I was worrying about ruining the our new carpets while pulling him in."

The thing about the situation that everyone else just stood around watching. "My janitor was standing on the street smoking a cigarette, when he should have been helping me," said Frenzel. Interestingly, both window washers quit after this incident. Frenzel also wonders "what if I hadn't gone home early that day?"

SEMINAR ON AIDS HELD AT PARKER

By ELSA WENZEL

Shocked by statistics and concerned for students, Parker's Parent Voices Committee took action to spread AIDS awareness in the community. They brought experts to educate youth and adults about the growing epidemic.

Parker parent Dr. Robert Murphy led an AIDS Morning Exercise December 2. He reminded middle and high schoolers to practice safe sex and to avoid high-risk behavior. Then he opened a question-answer session with two guests, healthy-looking men who had the HIV virus. They clarified that they hadn't yet developed AIDS thanks to drugs like AZT. Murmurs of surprise spread through the audience when it learned that these men still dated women. Having HIV made them more careful about relationships but did not end their social lives.

The Parent Voices Committee sponsored a more formal panel presentation for Parker parents. Eight doctors, AIDS researchers, and educators gave new statistics on teen sexuality. Their numbers say that 53% of females and 60% of males over 15 years old are sexually active. Supposedly 44% of middle school boys and 18% of middle school girls are sexually active. The amount of adolescents with HIV is expected to rise 100% in the next year and a half.

They stressed that many Parents got an "AIDS Prevention Guidebook" along with the Parker handbook's AIDS policy. They were urged to communicate with their children.

School Finances Examined

By MICHAEL FEIERTAG

While talking with students, parents and faculty, it has become apparent that very few members of the Parker community know why it costs so much to run a private school. There are no simple answers to this question, rather a combination of many expenses add up to the need for nine thousand plus a year tuition.

Of a total budget of slightly less than eight million dollars a year, 4.1 million goes directly to teacher's salaries and benefits. That accounts for 51% of your tuition. This percentage is rising because the cost of medical insurance is rising considerably faster than inflation. In the 1991-92 school year, Parker will spend more than a quarter of a million on health care.

Another portion of Parker's budget that has increased over the last decade is the administration. This includes the salaries of all people who work in the development office, the admissions office, the business office, and the administration. This accounts for 15% of the years budget. Principal John Cotton attributes this increase to the fact that the business office spends a quarter of their time just collecting information for, and filling out government forms, which only took five percent of their time ten years ago. In the seventies, not for profit organizations like Parker were only required to fill out forms for income tax, and social security. Now the business office is responsible for reporting to the IRS, state government, the social security department, and nearly every other conceivable government institution in existence. The ironic bit is that after Parker reports to all these agencies, they do not pay a dime in taxes. A waste of

time, true, but what do you expect from the Bush administration? But salaries account for only 75% of the year's administration's budget. The other 25% are small expenses that didn't fit anywhere else, phone bills, bad debts.

Maintaining the Parker facilities requires three quarters of a million dollars a year. One quarter of a million of that goes to pay the salaries of the maintenance personnel, 95,000 goes to cleaning, 83,000 goes to electrical, and 60,000 goes to gas. Above that 100,000 goes to incidentals, and another 100,000 goes to paying for major repairs i.e. rebuilding the ventilation system.

This amount changes each year, depending on what is scheduled for improvement, and what is left over at the end of the year. Cotton gave the example of a new roof. It is clear that at some point soon, the main building would be needing a new roof. So if, for example, at the end of this fiscal year, some money is left over, it would make sense to replace the roof. In the 1989-90 school year, the budget for these expenses was 450,000, four and a half times what it is this year.

The last major expense is the financial aid program. 22% of Parker's students collect some amount of financial aid. The administration keeps as much confidentiality as possible with financial aid. The reason given for this is that they do not wish to separate students who pay full tuition from those who do not. In Parker, as Mr. Cotton points out, there are no lines drawn between the people who are able to pay full tuition and those who are not.

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FEATURES

The Parker Weekly

Serial

Entropy

By G.K. DARBY

Kiemlich, Kindle, and Abril were driving (on a long stretch of highway out in the country). And, yes, they were soaked to the bone with thousands of gallons of water. Everything was silent. The black rubber wheels caressed the cement pavement as the car glided along the quiet interstate. Everything was still. And as they looked out of the steamed windows, the comforting darkness of night covered and dripped across the countryside. Far off in the distance, they could see the glowing lights of the city reflect upon the night sky. Abril lazily lifted her pale wet hand, and pointed at the floating glow off in the distance. She thought back to when she used to spend summers at her Uncle Shmitzel's cottage. Uncle Smitzel frequently would bring young Abril out into the night air

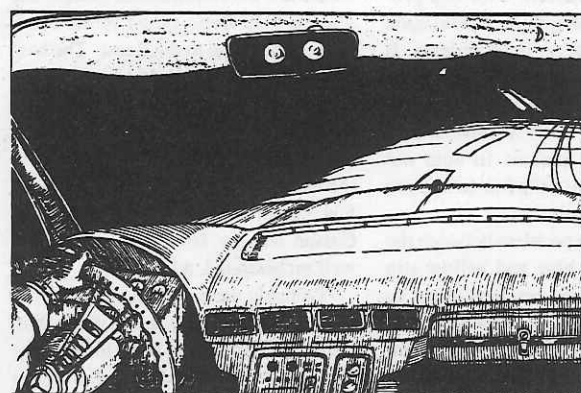
let you know that the car had headlights. Kindle strained his eyes, yet he could not see the person driving the car. The Beetle cabin was dark except for a tiny yellow light emitted from the speedometer, which reflected upon the driver's hands. The hands were tight, clenched around the steering wheel. They seemed to be the hands of a middle-aged man.

"No, not a chance," said Abril sinking back into her damp seat.

Kiemlich looked out ahead admiring the night sky.

Slowly, the silence of the conversation was broken by the sound of what seemed to Kindle to be little birds pecking on the top of the car roof.

"Hail?," Kiemlich asked over the disturbing rumblings. Peck, peck, peck.



and point, with his shaking hand, at the glowing light from the city. "Ah yeas," he would say in his twinkled Surinian accent, "the Northern Lights." He would nod, and a smile would come across his face. Frequently Shmitzel would stop his car on night drives to admire The Lights. It didn't matter if they were coming from the east, west, south, or north. Some members of the family believed that Shmitzel was slightly insane, and that was probably true, but he could always find the Northern Lights.

Kiemlich slowly and methodically turned the wheel of the car. "Hey, that little Beetle has been sticking with us for quite a time now... he's been behind us ever since we got on the highway."

Kindle turned around and looked at the small car behind them.

"I was thinking," thought Kiemlich, "it might be the man from the cafe."

"No," said Abril. "Couldn't've possibly followed us through that water."

Kindle stared out of the back window intently. The lights of the Beetle were dim. They were only bright enough to

golf balls. Peck, peck, peck. Little dents formed in the roof. Kindle rubbed his hands over the small indentations. Kiemlich panicked, for it was a relatively new car. He fought with the wheel, madly dodging through lanes.

"Hey, watch what you're doing," said Abril.

"It's a relatively new car!"
Now as big as softballs, the hail was knocking, crashing, smashing against the shell of the car.

Kiemlich's eyes bulged from their sockets, dashing from side to side looking for shelter. Sweat beaded from his forehead. He leaned hard against the steering wheel, craning his neck upward.

Kindle dug his ears, eyes, and hands into the upholstery. His hands shook and beaded sweat.

"Culm," Abril yelled as she closed her eyes.

Kiemlich tugged at the wheel and gave it a great turn, sending the car flying across the highway into a ditch. (to be continued)

The Home Work Expert

By JOSH KOPPEL

In the summer of 1991, Parker's Harriet Cholden and clinical psychiatrist John Friedman wrote an article entitled "Whose Homework is it Anyway?" Since it was first printed, the article has received high praise, and the Chicago Tribune hailed Cholden as a homework expert. Harriet Cholden took time off from her 5th grade teaching to speak to the Weekly about being a homework expert.

I know that you wrote an article on the subject of homework, dealing with 'the homework expert'. What are your plans? Do you see yourself publishing a book?

We are thinking about putting it into a book. We started out writing an article entitled "whose homework is it anyway?," and it became very popular and people wanted to reproduce it. It has appeared all over the country in a variety of parent journals. From that came an offer to do a video tape. We have been on channel seven with Linda

Yuu, and we are going to be on channel five. Obviously we were in the Tribune. We have been talking about doing a book, although it is very much in the talking stages.

What exactly is a homework expert: and how did the title "Whose homework is it anyway?" come about?

The problem in today's school life for younger people is that there is a lot of media attention given to school issues, and the media keeps telling parents to become more involved with their children's education. Parents are misinterpreting that and they are actually doing the child's homework. The idea is that the parent ought to be interested in what the child is doing, occasionally helping on assignments but not to day in and day out doing the child's work for him. If that happens the child may be needing a tutor, be in the wrong school, or the teacher may not be presenting the assignments in an efficient and clear way. If the parent

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Inside the Beginnings of a Pep Band Revolution

By NATHANIEL TREISTER

The winds are growing stronger, the temperature is dropping, and the days keep getting shorter. There is a strange sound in the air, and though the benches in the large gym will be kept warm all season by a certain drummer, the Pep Band is going to heat up the fans. When basketball season approaches, the Pep Band musicians are magically roused from their cocoons and begin breathing.

Under the strict supervision of John Franz, who enthusiastically remarks, "Hey man, we're hip", the Pep Band began practicing a month or two ago, rehearsing some old classics and preparing for some new hits. Some of the greatly anticipated new numbers will include "Johnny's Blues" and "Fast Break", two jazzy tunes, as well as a powerful and emotional compilation of Huey Lewis and the News' greatest hits, and a most-talked-about version of "Day-O," which is a percussionist spotlight.

For all of the true Pepheads at Parkers, there are some important rumors circulating about the Band. Firstly, two eighth graders may be joining the Pep Band this year in case some of the veterans aren't able to make it to a game, and everything is being done to make them feel welcome. Also, with the two star guitarists heading off to college next year, Greg Feldman, currently playing the saxophone, has said that he is putting down his horn next season and plugging in his Strat.

The most important news is that it has been heard from a reputable source

A Computer Geek's Dream

By JUSTIN HALL

Where else in the world can you find the latest update on Frank Zappa's prostate cancer and read about problems of modern bisexual females? Recently I have had the opportunity to tour some of Northwestern University's Vax computer network. This network, called the Internet and connected to Bitnet and Telnet, is connected by the phone lines to all major universities in the country and most small colleges. Mail, programs, text files, news, stories, poems, whatever, they are all carried from college to college by students talking to one another. And as is the atmosphere at most educational institutions, it is all free and open to all. I can read any news group I want to, write to people, post a message and get a file relating to any one single event. Any problem, any idea, any organization, anything is in these news groups. There are groups for Celtic, Arabic, and Nordic culture. There is a group for pagans, for bisexuals, musicians, animators, poets, narcs, Deadheads, ZappaHeads, computer geeks, speed freaks.

In the Frank Zappa conference alone, someone had found a study done by the U.S. Veteran's administration on the effects of smoking on prostate cancer on Korean War veterans and had posted it. There were set lists from the recent tribute to Frank at Radio City Music hall, information on where to order limited edition vinyl editions of his records, guys looking for one rare bootleg or another, anything. There were transcribed lyrics from his songs, including his rare spelling of the common household pet name "Phydeaux."

The organization EFF, Electronic Freedom Frontier, a computer rights organization, runs itself entirely off of the Vax network. My friend receives a copy of their newsletter regularly in his mailbox, free of charge and I can join their discussion of the 26th amendment anytime of the day and read bulletins

that the Pep Band may be flying out to California over Christmas break after the South American Tour to open up the Dead's New Year's Show with "Day-O". But if you can't make that one, the Pep Band will start playing in the first week of January, so come out and hear the band that never stops playing.

Just a few comments from some of the band members and dedicated Pep Heads:

"Without Pep Band, my life is a vacuum void of all meaning. My very existence hinges upon every note and chord strummed off the sweet strings of the deities Nat and Paul." - Michael "peppie" Feiertag

"Pep Band is a mind-bending emotional roller coaster free-for-all. It can be a transcendental experience when your head and your heart and your soul and your horn come together into a force so abstractly existential your very existence is given meaning. Of course, the other 9 out of 10 times it's only wonderful. - Greg "blow hard" Feldman.

"My life has been altered forever since I was accepted into the mighty walls of the little school music room. From the experience of playing with the now immortal names such as Jake Rossof and Luke Carrol to the overwhelming opportunities of playing with Rick "cookin" Sherry and "pick-'em-up and knock-'em-down" Darby, it has become an eternal memory I will cherish forever. - The percussion section (Jesse Kulp)

about the "Sixth Annual Conference on Computer Security" or the like. They have transcriptions from the conference, along with minutes and speeches from the experts.

Then there is the Anime conference, one of my personal favorites. Here one can find discussions of AKIRA, Warriors of the Winds, Robotech, Battle of the Planets, anything, from people in England, Israel, Japan, San Jose and U. Mass Amherst. Transcribed lyrics (in Japanese and English) of the songs from the movies are always around, and even discussion of the best stores in San Francisco and directions to the best stores in downtown Tokyo to buy this form of Japanese art. I once wrote a letter on the public boards and received a reply from someone in California a minute and a half later! In this conference alone, there are 34,000 subscribers (people who regularly read it) and they average 44 postings a day, so there's quite a bit of information available out there.

There are some interesting and unusual periphery news groups, as well, I once discovered a group where students were discussing their personal experiences of sex with animals and another group where students compared their favorite types of synthetic drugs.

But no matter what you find yourself reading, you find you're in good company. Reading through the news group of Cyber Punk fiction, I saw a post by famous SciFi author Bruce Sterling giving his Electronic Mail address for people to write him on one thing or another. When you begin discussing some rare translation of a novel or comic book, you may find a public reply from the man or woman who translated it. Ask a question about the phone lines, a AT&T related person may respond. Ask about a certain band, a roadie or backup musician may answer. The opinions and discourse range from the civil to the "flaming" and

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THE SLIP

By CAMERON FRIEDLANDER and TRAVIS CHANDLER

There are many colors, some bright, some dull, and some glow-in-the-dark, but a selected few can be deadly. The color blue is a wonderful color that many wear and see everyday, and yellow signifies the sun and life. But do you know that if you are in a yellow room, you are more likely to start arguing then if you are in a white room? Most people make their kitchens yellow to symbolize happiness and peace. As for blue, there are no proven facts about it, but we do know that it does not have a pacifying effect as is commonly thought.

Paper is something we use almost every day without a care. We never really think about where it comes from. We cut down an excessive amount of trees to supply us with paper. But did you know that trees are our main source of oxygen? Cutting them down is not only slowly killing us but also destroying animals and other forms of life.

Parents are another source of life supplying us with many cares. Without them, babies would never survive. If by some amazing feat, they did survive, they would grow up to be mindless blithering fools.

If you were a chemist, and you put these three components together (blue, yellow, and pink), you would not ex-

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Beauty and the Beast

By DAVID WAN and NOAH LUKEN

The film that we chose to review for this issue is *Beauty and the Beast*, a new feature by the Walt Disney Company. For the past couple of years, we have been faced with cartoons that try to imitate the "Roger Rabbit" style and personalities in the characters. Broad, excessively exaggerated movements and wild, senseless, hyper personalities have become dominant traits in new cartoons these days. Fortunately, *B+B* is a new and original piece, truly magnitudes greater than your average after-school or Saturday morning cartoons. The reason this piece is as successful as it is stems from the fact that the humor delves deeper than the traditional piano-on-the-head style that is so prevalent. In many parts, the humor happens because the characters are so unique. Jokes and gags play on both the physical and emotional aspect of the characters. In fact, we would boldly say that *B+B* is a return to the earlier films by Walt, like *Snow White* or *Cinderella*.

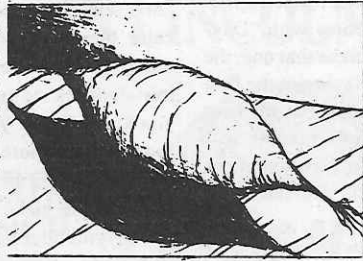
Everyone who has ever had a bedtime story read to them probably knows the plot of this film. Disney sticks pretty well to the original fairy tale, with the addition of a few crucial elements. For those of you who don't know the story, a terse yet complete rundown is as follows. Belle is the kind, caring beautiful daughter of a mad scientist. Belle winds up a prisoner in an enchanted castle because her father seeks shelter and is imprisoned by a creature so hideous his only name is "Beast." She can't bear to watch her father suffer so she offers herself in return for her father's freedom. The beast must love and be loved by a woman to break the spell he is under and turn into the human he once was, and needless to say, he doesn't have forever to do it. Within a couple of days, Belle has seen the true man beneath the Beast, and, except for one small problem, everything looks like it

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The Eternal Yam

By ERIC ROTH

Quote on the way a toddler's mind works: "I used to eat the yellow snow!" (source: an anonymous 9th grader whose first name rhymes with Pickolas and last name starts with an "M", ends with an "N", and has "arti" in the middle.) This is the holiday spirit that inspires me to compose a piece of literature about the glamorous sweet potato. A native South American root, the sweet potato is synonymous with the yam. It's only natural to find sweet potatoes on the table of a family observing any of the holidays between November and January. Often the root is mashed



into a heap of tasty, incredibly thick, slop. 1st Veggie Quote of the Month: states St. Ignatius student Brendan Kelly: "Dude, it's orange!" (obviously exercising the "less is more" arguing tactics). I'd like to affirm that observation by informing the world that no matter what substance is put on top of the sweet potato mush, it is always orange. Sometimes someone will slap some marshmallow goo on top. I don't like marshmallow goo very much. In fact I sometimes wonder what marshmallow is. I will consult Editor-in-Chief Josh Koppel as to what a marshmallow really is: "Majestic, little puffs of sugar with pig fat in them... I don't

know."

Sometimes someone will slap walnut-pecan jelly on top. I also often wonder what the difference is between walnuts and pecans. I will consult Noah Luken, celebrated nut authority: "Pecans are shaped like teardrops while walnuts are those big nuts with dimples on them." I prefer walnut/pecan jelly to marshmallow goo. Outside of the

holiday season, sweet potatoes are deprived of this preparation and seasoning, and are tossed in the microwave, skin and all. I prefer this cooking style. It often drags out the natural, rustic, earthy flavor that the Incas tasted hundreds of years ago. Once again, George Feldman, master of hairous toenails, will reflect on the vegetable of my choice: (2nd Veggie Quote of the Month) "The Incas were great believers in the civil rights of sweet potatoes. They were to be ignored, even in times of famine. Many an innocent tourist was gutted, slaughtered, hung, drawn, quartered, and insulted for commenting unfavorably about the local population of liberated sweet potatoes." So, happy holidays, enjoy all the friendly cheer and sweet potato dishes and remember... the vegetable will respond to you.

The Ups and Downs of "My Girl"

'See It'

By CLAIRE MOONEY

You must understand -- I RARELY cry at movies. I can only remember actually crying at two movies: "E.T. the Extra Terrestrial" (when I was, what, nine?!) and last year at "Dances With Wolves". I'm just not the movie-crying type. (My mother, on the other hand, cries in every movie she sees) Last weekend I found myself absolutely bawling at a half-full movie theater watching Macaulay Culkin, Anna Chlumsky, Dan Aykroyd, and Jamie Lee Curtis on the screen. I was watching the semi-new movie "My Girl" directed by Howard Zieff. I don't care if you're a person whose heart is stone cold... believe me, this movie will just melt you. Anyone who has ever had a best friend can relate to this touching story.

It's the story of two eleven-year-olds in the summer of 1972: Thomas J., played by Macaulay, and Veda played by newcomer and Chicagoan, Anna Chlumsky. Veda is a hypochondriacal tomboy whose mother died two days after Veda's birth. Her father, played by Dan Aykroyd, runs a funeral parlor in their home, and has failed to tell to tell his daughter anything about life, death, or love. Thomas J. is Veda's best friend who happens to be allergic to just about everything. Jamie Lee Curtis comes into the picture looking for a job as a makeup artist and winds up working for and falling in love with Dan Aykroyd. It's a story about everything - life, death, childhood, friendship, love, and the loss of it. I cannot say enough that everyone should see this incredibly touching movie. The only problem I saw with this quality flick was that the previews made it appear to be a comedy... it really wasn't. Some scenes were funny and there were a few cute one-liners, but on the whole, it was pretty serious. If you already didn't know, many child psychologists believe that parents should talk to their children before seeing the movie due to the pretty painful ending... most people already know what happens but I'm not going to give it away to those out-of-touch folk out there. "My Girl" is definitely worth seeing.

'Don't See It'

By DANIELLE KLINENBERG

If you're feeling a little masochistic, and would like to experience two hours of unjustified pain, I recommend that you see "My Girl". The movie opens with adorable little Anna Chlumsky with whom the audience immediately falls in love. Just as the theater gets cozy to laugh and gurgle for two hours, we are introduced to Veda's environment. She lives in a funeral parlor, with her mortician father, Dan Aykroyd, who doesn't really acknowledge her existence, and her senile grandmother, who occasionally breaks out in song. Veda is an eleven year old hypochondriac, who is traumatized with the belief that she killed her mother, who died in childbirth. Veda has one real friend, Thomas J. (Macaulay Culkin), a darling submissive playmate with a perfect family. These two buddies develop a mild boyfriend-girlfriend relationship. Jamie Lee Curtis comes in to the picture as a beautician for the corpses, but more so to fall in love with Dan Aykroyd, for no apparent reason.

Everything that could possibly go wrong with Veda's life does. At the same time Veda gets her period, Thomas J. dies in a bizarre bee-hive experience. His funeral is the most painful scene in the film, when Veda finally breaks down in tears and screams at dead little Macaulay. She runs out of her home/funeral parlor, to find solace in her last resort, the beloved English teacher. Just after Veda tells him that she loves him and wants to move in, the teacher introduces her to his fiance. "No," screams little Veda, as she runs away once again.

At this point, I was ready to see the eleven year old commit suicide, happy to be able to leave the theater, as I had been crying for one and a half hours. The movie ends with two minutes of relief. Jamie Lee Curtis and Veda establish a mother-daughter relationship, and Veda reads a soul-bearing poem. We know that little Veda is happy when the camera shows her blue mood-ring, which had been black for the entire movie, and the Temptation's "My Girl" is finally played. If you want pain, go read Anna Karenina.

4 Questions to Glory

By ANTHONY and ALLISON AMEND

1. You're alone in a forest and you see a tree fall, yet you don't hear it. You then:

a) report the incident to the proper authorities. b) wait ten years to hype it up and write a book. c) go on Oprah.

2. You're walking down an isolated road when you notice a cyclist fall face down in a puddle. Upon further inspection you realize that this is the same person who cut in front of you in line for Debbie Gibson tickets. You know C.P.R. because you signed up for it at Morning-Ex. You:

a) heroically save the person. b) leave the jerk there. c) Go through the person's pockets and steal his nearly completed Subway(tm) Sub-Club card.

3. You're applying to college and come across the section on studying foreign languages. You say you've had experience in that language if you:

a) studied it in high school. b) studied it for seven years in religious school but don't know the alphabet, and all you know how to say is "the book is on the table". c) You listened to a bunch of tapes and can say "the handsome man has a big taco in his shoe."

4. You're sitting in history class when you realize that your teacher's zipper is as open as a Walgreens at midnight. You:

a) tell him in the middle of class. b) keep your mouth shut and stay out of trouble. c) whip out your camera and sell the negatives to Manhandlers Monthly.

Count every question answered as "A" 1 point, every "B" as 2, and every "C" as 3.

If you scored 7-11 points. You are probably a sick demented self-doubting humorless individual. Spend more time with your cats. If you don't have any cats, purchase a grey one that doesn't shed too much.

If you scored 12-16 points, You probably added wrong, go over your score again and remember to carry the 1.

If you scored 17-21 points. You have a fairly adept sense of control. Take gym more seriously; it may come in handy for college.

Mainframe

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from common typed English, German, and french to coded Japanese, Flemish, and Hebrew. Reading messages from people across the globe is nothing special either, it is not unusual to see a post from someone at the "University of Bonn, Germany" or someone who calls himself "Elf" from Japan. All the major groups and special interests are represented, and the minor ones too! From the NRA in the Guns conference to the Association for Boisenberry Jam in the Gays/Bisexuals/Lesbians/Friends conference.

My single problem with this would have to be the same problem I had with the film Akira, that is, that it is unavailable. Unavailable to a normal high school age person, like myself, who wishes to peruse and take an active role in discussion. When I called Northwestern University and asked whether or not they offered accounts to students not currently enrolled in any of their schools, their answer was a flat out no, not even for money would they let me on. I have heard though, that one may enter these conferences through the Compuserve Information Service, but few of those computer hackers that I know can afford their phone bills and clean underwear, let alone paying for Compuserve at least 10\$ an hour. So I must resort to looking through my friends account (illegal), hacking an account (illegal and difficult), or waiting for college (legal, but requires patience!). All three are frustrating options.

Yellow and Blue Papers

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pect to witness such an apocalyptic explosion. It seems that yellow and blue, in and of themselves, are not dangerous. And paper, besides the paper cut, is also relatively harmless. And parents, as long as you deal with them individually, are, for the most part, somewhat, kind of, harmless. But any parent confronted with a yellow or blue piece of paper is absolutely volcanic.

There is quite a bit of controversy concerning the blue slip and its yellow companion. Many parents and advisors believe that a blue slip is to be sent home and dealt with properly, which usually results in a lack of freedom in an organism's (the student's) life. In fact, the yellow slip is the only one that gets sent home if the child is not doing well in class or has below a C- average. The blue slip is meant to be a warning to the student so they can act appropriately towards the problem. This is so they can learn how to deal with their own problems in college and in life. When parents interfere with this process, the student begins to depend upon the parent to fix his or her problems. It is the student's choice to tell his or her parents whether or not he/she has gotten a blue slip. The yellow slip is intended for the parents to help out when the child has failed in correcting his or her own problems.

There is also a problem between the teachers and the blue and yellow slip controversy. Some teachers seem to bypass the blue slip and go straight for the yellow slip, when the student might be oblivious to any problem whatsoever. This can result in unnecessary punishments or precautions. The student should always be able to try and fix his or her problems before the parents are involved. All and all, we feel that many a student has been victimized by the system instead of the problem.

Cholden

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has to become a total aid to the child, this creates a dependency. The child does not have the chance to feel a job well done on his own, or he doesn't have a chance to learn from his own mistakes, and he gets confused on whose homework it actually is. For example, sometimes I have corrected a child's homework and he tells me that his mother says that it is o.k. and it gets foggy as to whose job it is. This is a very common problem and it happens across the board both socio-economically and educationally. These are the issues that we are addressing. My co-author is a child psychologist, and we are a unique combination in that we are the only team where there is a psychologist and a teacher working on the subject together, at least that I know of. I think that is what has made us so popular.

I presume that you have brought some of this to your classroom; students beginning to work on their own:

I started something called a homework anxiety club this year. I made it voluntary, and it is for kids who go home worried that they will not be able to get all of their work done. We try to cope with that and do long range planning. I had ten kids volunteer to stay in and miss recess to get help with their homework anxiety. We brainstormed and worked on strategies. If you have strategies that you know will always get the homework done, then you don't have to worry about it because it is written down and you have a plan. About 90% of the kids that the group was helping in some way. It was just a Phenomena.

Homework really starts coming in the fifth grade, and I would guess that

Beauty and the Beast

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will be happy again. This small problem is Gaston, the macho hunter stud who will stop at nothing, even hunting the beast, to win Belle's heart. Inevitably, a conflict is bound to arise when these two hunks bump into each other. The winner is... well, I think you can figure that out.

The characters in the story are what makes watching it such a pleasure. From the anthropomorphic clocks and teacups to Belle and the Beast, each character has a unique personality, and their interaction among themselves is extraordinarily well shown.

The truly remarkable quality of this movie is the amazing detail and beauty of the animation. The backgrounds, usually the part of the average cartoon that is ignored, are simply so stunning that we found ourselves spending far too much time marveling at the scenery rather than concentrating on the plot. Another strength that this movie has is its use of anthropomorphic objects in the enchanted castle. Wonderfully animated, and endowed with extremely funny personalities, the candlesticks, clocks, and teacups help Belle adjust to the castle environment and to the Beast. The banquet scene where Belle has her first meal at the Castle is truly unequalled in both the choreography and the animation, and in certain places, it pays homage to the older, vintage musicals. There are a few humorous songs, sung by Belle, Gaston and the Beast, which are also well orchestrated, and written.

Probably the only true problem with Beauty and the Beast is that it is a short movie, and it seems to go by too quickly. The only other really bad thing is Gaston's sloppily drawn, idiot sidekick. He seems to have wandered away from the Roger Rabbit set onto this one, and he brings the slapstick humor with him. He exists only for Gaston to kick around, and contributes little to the story. He is an annoyance in the movie, and if he was replaced, or made to fit the movie better, the movie would benefit greatly.

In conclusion, though, the movie was a grand success. The combination of the brilliant story and animation was very successful, and made for a movie that was not only very entertaining, but has the potential to become a milestone in Disney animation. We were both truly impressed, and would give the movie a unanimous four stars.

this would be the perfect year to begin independent thinking on child's assignments:

I think that it is a big anxiety year, and the frustration rises quite a bit. This is definitely true.

Has fame and fortune changed you:
Well actually, the fortune is yet to come. Yes, all the media attention has been very exciting. I am very happy to be able to share 30 years of my experience in my profession this way. I am very happy with how my pictures turned out. I think that I looked very good. Everything I have done is based on hands on experience, not research, and it is really great to have this kind of prestige come in this part of my career. It has been a real high for me.

When did you start thinking about writing an article:

John Freidman and I were at a staffing which is where teachers and personal working with a particular child get together and talk. That's how I met him. He was treating one of my students, and he said, "Whose homework is it anyway", and I thought that would be an excellent idea for an article. We wrote the article a year ago last summer and it came out in January of 1991. Since then it has just been building up. I just got a call from cable television. My phone has been ringing all morning. As far as the homework thing, I would just like to stress my feelings and teachers. The whole thing has been great. I also feel that it is sort of in the Parker tradition.