

# Limelight

Limestone Community High School

Bartonville, Illinois 61607

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February 24, 2005

## Real Life Research

### Mason interviews World War II veteran



Junior Sarah Mason put a different spin on her term paper for her enriched English 5,6 class, taught by Mr. Tom Veirs. She interviewed Mr. Robert McGuiggan, a World War II veteran of the U.S.S. Indianapolis.

#### By Stephanie Motsinger

You know those dreadful term papers? No one wants to write them, but they always have to. Sometimes you can actually accomplish something you didn't set out to do. Junior Sara Mason did just that. While researching and writing her paper for Mr. Tom Veirs' enriched English 5,6 class, she found a survivor of the U.S.S. Indianapolis, a World War II battleship.

Mason didn't really have an influence that caused her to pick this topic. She knew that it had taken place and found it very interesting. When she found the name of one of the ships, she decided to focus on that.

The idea of contacting a survivor came to her during

research. In the back of one of the books she was reading, Mason found a list of survivors. She then made a list of survivors from the surrounding area. Mason learned that many of the men had since passed away after calling different phone numbers and talking to the widows. Then she finally found Mr. Robert McGuiggan.

Mason was ecstatic that she had found a survivor. "I knew I would find someone," Mason said.

McGuiggan was very willing to do the interview with Mason. About ten to fifteen years ago, he traveled the United States talking to teenagers. He told Mason, "It is hard to talk about, but it is something I don't want to forget."

McGuiggan joined the crew of the U.S.S. Indianapolis when he was only eighteen years old. While on the ship, he maintained and cleaned it. According to McGuiggan, there was not much fighting.

Now in his eighties, McGuiggan described the sight of the sinking ship as "hell on earth."

During the interview, McGuiggan told Mason that "there were people going crazy, jumping overboard, and getting eaten by sharks." McGuiggan said that the experience made him more mature and also made him realize just how lucky he was to be alive.

"The interview made for a great intro," Mason said. Mason believed it really set

the mood for her paper, and it was a great starting point. "It helps the reader to realize how horrible this occurrence was," she said.

After researching and hearing McGuiggan's story, Mason herself began to realize just how tragic the incident was. It also made her see just how much she should appreciate her freedom.

She had never realized what true tragic was really like until the interview. Mason said that McGuiggan made it seem all too real rather than just another story. "It made me feel horrible," she said, but it also gave her a new great respect for the men and women that sacrifice their lives to protect our country.

## & up coming March 2005

#### March 1

Grade school registration- Cafeteria (6:00pm)  
Band/choir tours- area grade schools

#### March 3

PSAE informal meeting- Auditorium (10:30am)  
Grade school registration- Cafeteria (6:00pm)

#### March 4

End of 3rd nine weeks  
Drafting- ICC competition

#### March 5

Splash Craft Show- Gym, Snack Bar, Cafeteria (9:00am-3:00pm)  
Scholastic Bowl- Masonic State (TBA)  
Solo & Ensemble competition- ICC (TBA)

#### March 6

Co-ed volleyball tournament- Auxiliary gym (10:00am)

#### March 7

No School- Casimir Pulaski Day

#### March 8

College Information to Parents- Cafeteria (7 pm)  
Mid-Illini Concert Band Festival- East Peoria

#### March 12

Snowflake

#### March 15

French class field trip to *Cyrano de Bergerac*- Peoria

#### March 16

Early Dismissal (1:45pm)  
Parent/teacher conferences (4:00-8:00pm)

#### March 17

No School  
Parent/teacher conferences (10:00am-1:00pm)

#### March 18

No School  
Peoria County Teacher's Institute

#### March 19

Safety for Seniors- Cafeteria (7am-1pm)

#### March 21

Year 3 and 4 Mentee Meeting- Board Room (2:50 pm)

#### March 23

Honor Band Rehearsal (6:00pm)

#### March 24

Spring Sports Assembly- Gym (4th hour)

#### March 25

No school  
Spring break begins

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## Learning to accept others

### Remember Easter Seals every day

By Rachael Randle

With Easter Seals Week approaching, I got to thinking about how people treat others. For this one week, we all are able to look past the differences in somebody else and accept him for who he is. But for the life of me, I don't understand why we can't be that way all year round? Why can't we treat the strangers we meet or even our own peers the same way we treat our special ambassadors? These people are special too, and they deserve our respect.

We don't realize what we take for granted. Being able to walk is a privilege. There are so many people that don't realize what life would be like if they were stuck in a wheelchair or dependent on someone else for the rest of their lives.

Just because our lives may be easier than someone else's does not give us the right to judge others. These people are just the same as us; they are just made differently. They can also be

the nicest people, but they are never given the chance.

Some people I know are so rude; they will sit and make fun of others. These people will exclude others because they are different or because it's more difficult for them to complete the task. Everyone singles them out; then they never get the chance to show what they can really do. They could want to try to do something a little harder, but we sometimes never give them a chance. **Nothing is impossible**; it just may take a little more hard work and determination. If they want to do something badly enough, they can succeed.

I wish people could be more understanding and caring of the disabled. I was raised to accept people for who they are and not to judge them by their covers. I was also taught to realize that everyone has something good about them.

We do not have to like everyone, but that doesn't mean we have to be mean and insulting. It is a

person's personality that really matters. We are not who we are because of our forms. We're who we are because of what's inside.

It makes me sad to think that some people believe that others become immune to the torture. Let me tell you...it still hurts. They could be the nicest person in the world because they know how it feels to be hurt and they don't want to make someone else feel that pain. Why can't people just be nice and accept them as they are?

Please remember that no matter what, we are all the same deep down. We are all made from the same basic mold; we're just designed differently.

Easter Seals week is my favorite time of year. It is a time when our school comes together and does something wonderful for someone else. I just hope that after all the kids leave and the posters come down, my peers can remember that spirit and treat every day and everybody as if it were still Easter Seals week.

### From the editors' desk...with Megan Wendland

We all constantly worry about the stupidest things... the things that aren't going to mean anything in a few days, in a few weeks, in few years. We spend so much time stressing over things that we think will be the end of us, but in reality, the only thing that can be the end of us is us giving up.

We chase these crazy dreams that probably won't come true and that aren't going to make us happy, but we think that if we don't have the one thing that we're dreaming about, our life won't be complete. So, we spend countless hours of our days contemplating hair styles, outfits, and significant others.

We search so long and hard for things that we think will make us so happy to have. When we get those things, we're either disappointed that they're not

what we wanted, or we screw things up and let them go. Either way, we've fought long and hard for these things, just to lose them, break our own hearts, and begin the redundant cycle all over again.

We concentrate so hard on the things that we want, but are we really looking at the things that we need? So many of us agonize because we don't have certain things in our lives, when we should be genuinely happy for what we do have.

We should cherish the things that have been given to us because, all too often, there are people in this world that aren't handed anything. There are people who work their entire lives and never have the luxuries that we enjoy.

We have the right to be unhappy, but it seems as though we are unhappy all of

the time. We need to learn that smiling is the best way to turn an upsetting situation into a great opportunity. More than anything, we need to learn that although we want something, it isn't always what is best for us.

What is meant to be will happen. Life happens for a reason, and our lives only lead us down a path that is going to help us live out our dreams. We just have to remember to stay on that path.

Everyone needs to remember one thing: Sometimes what we want isn't always what we get, but in the end, what we get is so much better than what we wanted. Sure, waiting for that end to get here might be hard, but it's the life that we live until we get there that makes everything worth it.

## Opinion Poll

Who is your favorite United States President, and why?

"Roosevelt because he carried the country through WWII and made the right decisions."

-Sophomore Alex Turner



"Washington because he was our first President."

-Junior Danielle Pettett



"Bill Clinton because he knew how to take care of the country."

- Junior Holly Reardon



"Ronald Reagan because I thought he accomplished a lot."

-Junior Chad Hohenbery



### Limelight



The **Limelight** is the student newspaper of Limestone Community High School. It is published monthly by journalism and media methods students. The **Limelight** is a member of the Quill and Scroll, National Scholastic Press Association, and Illinois High School Scholastic Press Association. Students are responsible for the content of the **Limelight**. Views represented do not necessarily represent, in part or in whole, those of the Limestone Community High School administration or faculty. Editorial policy is determined by the Editorial Board of the **Limelight**, and views expressed in editorials are those of the majority of the editorial board. Columns that carry bylines are the opinion of the author and do not necessarily represent that of the **Limelight**. The paper is distributed free to students and staff. Subscriptions are available by mail anywhere in the US for \$5 per school year. Address: Limestone Community High School, S. Airport Rd., Bartonville, IL 61607. Telephone: (309) 697-6271. Reach us on the Internet at: <http://limestone.k12.il.us>. Email: [limelight@limestone.k12.il.us](mailto:limelight@limestone.k12.il.us). Printed by P & P Press, Peoria, IL.

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## Key Club participates in Spastic Paralysis project

By Hailey Adams

Pucker up! The Key Club is raising money for Spastic Paralysis. Spastic Paralysis is a condition that affects the central nervous system. It occurs when there is damage to nerves, the brain, or the spinal cord. This damage can lead to little or no control over the muscles.

The Spastic Paralysis project was chosen by the Key Club Governor, senior Tiffany Jarbo, as this year's Governor's Project. Advisor Mrs. Kathy Burke said, "I think it is one of the finest projects that Kiwanis puts on."

The Key Club has had many fund raisers to help raise money for Spastic Paralysis so that they can reach their goal of \$3,000. If they reach \$1,000, the Kiwanis president, Mr. Skip Light, will kiss a pig. If they reach \$2,000, advisors Burke and Mrs. Amy George will get pied in the face. If the goal of \$3,000 is reached, Superintendent Bill Beach will have to also kiss a pig.

"Spastic Paralysis means a lot to me because my aunt has Multiple Sclerosis. I think that everyone knows or has known someone who has one of these conditions,"

explained senior Angie Bomhold, Key Club President.

Thus far, Key Club has raised approximately \$1,134. One fundraiser Key Club has put on this year is Bad Movie Night, which plays movies like *Frankenstein*. They also have popcorn and play board games.

They recently had a program called "Spike for Paralysis," which was a volleyball game against the Key Club. They sold baked goods to help raise money for the project.

.....  
**"Spastic Paralysis means a lot to me because my aunt has Multiple Sclerosis and I think that everyone knows or has known someone who has one of these conditions."**

**-Angie Bomhold, senior**  
 .....

Other fundraisers Key Club has sponsored are the Coffeehouse, pies in the officers' faces, and a Kiwanis Bowl-a-thon. The Key Club is now selling flower pens for Valentine's Day.

## Limestone kicks off Easter Seals events

*"No one stands taller than when they stoop to help a child."*



Superintendent Bill Beach addresses the student body at the Easter Seals Opening Assembly in the gym at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, February 17. Beach told the students that "No one stands taller than when they stoop to help a child."

By Hailey Adams

The 2004-2005 Student Council kicked off Easter Seals week on Thursday, February 17 with an opening assembly at 10:00 a.m. in the main gym.

The student body met the Easter Seals ambassadors, the families of the ambassadors, various Easter Seals staff, and Mayor Marcia Markwalder and Police Chief Brian Fengel.

Rachel, the sister of Jacob, was the keynote speaker for the assembly, and she

explained how Easter Seals helps the children and their families.

Money raising efforts began at the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Teeter-Totter-A-Thon at Northwoods Mall on Sunday, February 14. The twenty-four student council members, led by council advisors Leanne Bonifas and Lisa Bentley, teeter-tottered for five hours nonstop to raise money for Easter Seals.

Each student was sponsored by two businesses, and all the

money raised went directly to Easter Seals. They set up a projector and a Power Point presentation to inform shoppers of what they were doing and to provide advertisement for sponsors. All together they raised just over \$2,000. Freshman Samantha Peters said, "It was a lot of fun, and we raised a lot of money for a worthwhile cause."

During Easter Seals week, the student council, with the help of the student body, raises money in many different ways.

## News Notes

### Students of the month recognized

#### Academic Student of the Month

Senior William Zilch was named February's Academic Student of the Month based on his academic achievements.

For his effort in the classroom, Zilch will be awarded a savings bond, and his picture will appear in the *Limestone Independent News*.

### Key Club hosts chili supper for Spastic Paralysis project

The Key Club hosted a chili supper on Friday, February 11 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

The Key Club raised approximately \$800 and \$107 from the bake sale. All proceeds will support Spastic Paralysis, the project of the senior Tiffany Jarbo, Lieutenant Governor.

Following the chili supper, the boys' basketball team hosted the Canton Little Giants.

### Scholarship Deadline

The deadline for registering for scholarships through the guidance office is Friday, February 25, 2005.

Make sure to get your applications in on time!

### Couples picked for wedding simulation

Mrs. Karol Gibb and Mrs. Jamie Kocher announced their engaged couples for the 2005 Wedding Simulation to take place on Wednesday, March 23 in the LCHS Library. Couples were Courtney Jackson and Ryne Dougherty, Julie Phan and Aaron Ogle, and Abby Segal and Josh Ozuna. Congratulations to all of the simulated engaged couples.

### Key Club elects officers for 2005-06

It's time to meet the Key Club staff for 2005-2006. After some long hard weeks of campaigning, these new officers are ready for another long, hard year full of tough work and Key Club fun. Those elected are:

**President:** Danielle Wood; **Vice President:** Dana Blase; **Secretary:** Melissa Deever; **Statistical Secretary:** Melissa Sholl; **Treasurer:** Debra Kay Ogden; **Senior Class Representative:** Sausha Payne; **Junior Class Representative:** Jared Schneider; **Sophomore Class Representative:** Amber Rasbury.

### Co-ed volleyball game planned for March 6

Attention all students and faculty interested in a little volleyball action. The LCHS Volleyball team is hosting the 2nd Annual Co-ed Volleyball Tournament. The tournament will be held on Sunday, March 6 starting at 1:00 p.m. The defending champions, "The Faculty Team," are looking for some real competition this year, so get a team together and have some fun. For sign-up and rules please see Miss Abby Pollentier.

### LCHS Key Club collects pop tabs for McDonald House

The LCHS Key Club will be collecting pop tabs throughout the rest of the school year. All of the collected pop tabs will go towards raising funds for the Ronald McDonald house.

The Key Club has placed containers for collecting bottles and cans throughout the school.

So for now on...Remember to toss the cans, but keep the tabs.

### AP Exam information

Any student interested in taking an AP exam in one of their AP classes should sign up and get the bulletin in the office. The bulletin contains important information about the exam. The cost of the exam is \$82, and the deadline to register is March 22.

### STP sells carnations

This year for Valentines Day, the Student Prevention Team sold flowers to raise money for Easter Seals. The flowers were one dollar each. Each color of flower had a different meaning. Red was for love, purple was for friendship, yellow meant I'm sorry, and pink meant secret admirer. These flowers were a great way to express your feelings this Valentines day, while helping out a good cause at the same time. They showed someone you were thinking of them this February!

### Preview Night held

On February 15, 2005, Limestone welcomed the Class of 2009 at the annual preview night. The jazz band and show choir provided entertainment for the evening. Speeches were

presented by the administration. Various clubs and sports presented their activities to the incoming class. Their class registration will be March 1 and 3, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

### Vice Versa Celebration

Vice Versa will take place on February 26. It's the one dance where girls do the asking while boys get to sit back and relax. It lasts from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. Tickets were on sale for \$10 each and went on sale the week before the dance. If your date does not go to this school, their name and school name will be needed in order for them to be present. The theme for this years Vice Versa is Salsa, La Noche Hermosa, so you should take out the sombreros and have a blast!

### Alpha Park "E-Branch"

Would you like to read a library book while sitting at your computer or using your PDA? Alpha Park Library now has e-book access from their homepage. Just go to [www.alphapark.org](http://www.alphapark.org), and click on the "E-Branch" link to check it out. If you have any questions, the Alpha Park Library staff will be glad to help.

# SCHOOL V.S. HOLLYWOOD

COMPARING SCHOOL ACTIVITIES IN MOVIES TO THOSE IN EVERYDAY LIFE



**TITANS**

**By Megan Wendland**

With the growing trend of movies portraying sports, especially high school sports, I decided to investigate how people in the "real world" felt that athletes and coaches are portrayed in movies. Over the past few years, Hollywood has brought about movies from several different decades depicting stories from high school football teams, basketball teams, cheerleading, and even the marching band's drum line.

Everyone remembers watching as Coach Herman Boone took over as head coach at T.C. Williams High School and made the team realize that they could accomplish anything regardless of the way their leader looks in *Remember the Titans*.

Then, there was Coach Gary Gaines in *Friday Night Lights* who taught the Permian Panther football team that perfection lies within knowing that you have done your best, not within accomplishing the best. Coach Ken Carter showed his team that what happens in the classroom is far more important than what could ever happen on the court in *Coach Carter*.

As we watched all of these coaches and teams tackle hardship and disappointment, we always knew there would be a "happy" outcome to the story because how can we not see a "happy ending?"

Is this really the way it is, though? Do teams really practice, build themselves up, and win with the highest of honors? It would be nice if it always happened that way, but in reality, teams pour their hearts out on the court or field, but only one can be the best, only one can have the sweet victory that is so often won by the heroes in our favorite films.

I went to Mr. Clint LaFary, coach of Limestone's cross

country team, and asked him how he felt sports portrayed the "real life" grind that athletes suffer. He pointed out that athletes, on average, practice every day. They put themselves out there every day to take that chance at possibly becoming the best.

LaFary said, "Kids practice 10-12 hours a week, and the movies don't show that. They see the game but not all of the work they put into their practices. Movies have a tendency to glorify the outcomes of an athletic event. They don't show the everyday grind that they suffer."

In movies, it's difficult not to, but they often glorify one athlete because he is the lead character. In "real life," it takes the entire team to win a game or competition. For instance, in *Friday Night Lights*, the star player was injured during the first game of the season. Their football team was recognized for this one player who couldn't play anymore. The movie kind of made it seem like the team couldn't make it without him, but teams can make it without key players. They just have to work a little bit harder. It happens all of the time in high school. Someone is sick or injured, and sure the team is down, but they battle back because even though that one person isn't playing, they are still a team.

Since the basketball cheerleaders at Limestone have been receiving recognition for their great accomplishments lately, I asked junior Sarah Mason how she felt movies about cheerleaders, such as *Bring It On*, portray their hard work.

Mason said, "The competition environment is very much similar to the movie. The excitement, abundant use of hairspray, and extreme nervousness featured in the movies are very accurate portrayals of a

*Compare and contrast: What are the differences between the football team from Remember the Titans and our very own Limestone Rockets? What kind of a spin do movies put on the activities that consume our everyday lives?*



**ROCKETS**

Just because they are athletes doesn't mean they're perfect or get everything they want."

Mason did say that she believes *Friday Night Lights* accurately portrayed the hardworking seriousness of athletes who love the game. In some movies, they show the pressure that is put on the teams.

I wondered if athletes thought that the movies made them look bad. How do they feel after they watch a movie that has been demeaning to the spirit of high school sports or their teams?

Mason said, "Some movies can be demeaning, and they often portray athletes as being stupid, meatheaded, or stuck-up. This is NOT TRUE! Plenty of athletes are intelligent, in the top of their class, and friendly. Other movies show athletes as being the serious, dedicated individuals that they really are."

Movies, as a rule, have a huge effect on society. When there's nothing to do on a Friday night, you can find plenty of people

watching the newest film at a local theater. Mason said that the affect it has on society is dependent upon the movie. She said, "They affect people negatively by making some kids feel that they need to play sports to be "cool" and popular. They can also make kids feel that they need to win every time they play. However, they effect people positively by showing kids that it is a good idea to stay active and healthy. It can give kids something to strive for to reach their goals and dreams."

Overall, I discovered that sports movies can have both positive and adverse effects on society. They can greatly change the way that people view high school sports. High school athletes deserve all of the recognition they get, and they should never be demeaned by a movie made in Hollywood, sometimes by people that have never even played sports. Hollywood is just doing its job, but the "real" athletes have to continue to do their jobs in making their high schools proud.

## TAGLINES FROM YOUR FAVORITE FLICKS

"Forget what you think you know."

-Ali

"It begins on the street. It ends here."

-Coach Carter

"Hope comes alive on Friday nights."

-Friday Night Lights

"History is written by the winners."

-Remember the Titans

"Halftime is game time."

-Drumline

"May the best moves win."

-Bring it On

"Two men chasing dreams of glory."

-Chariots of Fire

# GOING THE DISTANCE FOR LIMESTONE

*Student's father rides bicycle across United States to raise money for the band program*

**By Casey Verkler**

As I walked into the band room, I noticed the missing tiles along the wall and the dusty shelving units, which held an array of instruments. I could not help but notice the chipped paint along the walls and broken tiles on the floor.

One Bartonville man is stepping up in hopes of bringing a positive change to the band program. Tod Hetzel, father of sophomore Danielle Hetzel, has plans to ride his bicycle across the entire United States in order to receive pledges that will be donated to the Limestone band. Hetzel will begin his journey on April 24 in Irvine, California. He will ride his bicycle across the United States before ending his journey on May 26 in Boston, Massachusetts. His entire trip will last a total of 32 days and will consist of 3,445 miles. "It's not a daunting task," Hetzel states. "I just have to keep motivated."

When Hetzel's daughter, Danielle, came to Limestone and entered the band program, he realized that virtually nothing had

.....  
**"It's not a daunting task. I just have to stay motivated."**  
 .....

changed since he was a student here. It was at that point that he started searching for ideas to refurbish the band program. As the current Limestone band treasurer and a former Limestone band student, Hetzel relates to the program and sees its flaws and weaknesses. "My mother played in the Limestone band in 1954, I played in the Limestone band, and my daughter, Danielle, currently plays in the Limestone band. Three generations of my family have been through the band program at Limestone. It's now time to make a change."

.....  
**"Three generations of my family have been through the band program at Limestone. It's now time to make a change."**  
 .....

When meeting with the band, Hetzel stressed to the room full of musicians that this is their chance to be the generation that changes things for the future. He wants them to keep this program going by revamping it and leaving a legacy in place.

After speaking to the band members, he asked what they would like to see done to the program. Ideas ranging from new uniforms (which are nearly 20 years old) to a new trailer to haul equipment rang from the mouths of the eager students.

.....  
**"I'm willing to give up some of the extra things we do. I'm willing to make that sacrifice."**  
 .....

However, overall the main change that they would like to see in place is more organization. It was unanimous. The students voiced their discontent regarding the organization and tidiness of the band room. Bowing shelves lined the wall, some cabinets even without doors. The place looked rough.

.....  
**"This is your opportunity to be the generation that changes things for the future."**  
 .....

Hetzel's family will also be affected by this ride. Hetzel will be using all of his allotted vacation time, and the family will have to cut back on many of the "extra" things. Sophomore Danielle Hetzel states, "I'm willing to give up some of the extra things we do. I'm willing to make that sacrifice. My family and I are really proud of him [her dad], and I'm glad that he is doing this for the band. We really need it. We will be traveling east to see him complete his journey on May 26."

.....  
**"Every little bit helps."**  
 .....

Hetzel is hoping to raise \$100,000 to give to the band. Hetzel has written to many area businesses, explaining his purpose. He is accepting any donations, big and small. "Every little bit helps," he stated when he spoke to the band, encouraging them to set out to find sponsors.

If anyone is interested in sponsoring Hetzel in his trip across the United States, please contact sophomore Danielle Hetzel or send a request to the *Limelight* for more information.

## \*Facts\*



- Hetzel will dip his back bicycle wheel in the Pacific Ocean.
- Upon completion of his journey, he will dip his front wheel in the Atlantic Ocean.
- Hetzel will ride an average of 110 miles per day.
- Hetzel will ride through a total of 13 states during his journey.



## DISTANCE

IRVINE, CALIFORNIA  
 TO  
 BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS  
 TOTAL:

3445 MILES

## 40 years and counting....

*In February of 1965:*

\*LCHS holds faculty variety show, "Channel 65", in the auditorium. It was built around a television format.

\*Freshmen, sophomore, and junior registration went underway for the fall season.

\*Limestone students watched in amazement at the demonstration of micro-waves shown to them by Mr. Lyman of Bell Telephone Company on February 16. Mr. Lyman had four students from the audience come onstage. He ran electricity through their bodies. All the students held hands; the two girls in the middle held on to a telephone while the boys on the outside held electrical conductors in their hands. The current went through their bodies and was enough to amplify Mr. Lyman's voice when he spoke into the receiver!

\*District speech contest was held at Richwoods High School on February 13.

\*LCHS Heart Fund workers, led by Mr. Richard Ingram and Mr. Andy Trotter, collected over \$400.

## Career Corner

### Featuring band director Derek Richards

**By Kayla Carlson**

What did you want to be when you grew up? Did you want to be a doctor or a firefighter? A policeman or a teacher? When LCHS band director Derek Richards was young, he decided that he wanted to do something with music.

Although Richards was interested in music as a profession, he wasn't sure in what capacity. It wasn't until his senior year of high school that he decided he wanted to be a teacher. Influences from private instructors to local and famous band directors helped him make that decision.

To become a music teacher, Richards had to take music classes in addition to educational methods classes. In college, he had to take four semesters of Music Theory and Ear Training, four semesters of Class Piano, courses in music history, instrument pedagogy classes, and conducting and rehearsing methodology.

He also had to take classes on writing and arranging music and was required to enroll in private lessons and take master classes on his main instrument, the saxophone.

**"Teaching is what I'm passionate about, and getting my students excited about playing and improving is probably the most fun and interesting part of the job."**

**-Mr. Derek Richards**

He also had to learn to play different instruments, and when he wasn't in class, he was performing in different ensembles. His final requirement was to give a senior recital before he could

graduate. "I really had no life in college! Every moment was either spent in class, studying, practicing, or performing. There wasn't much room for anything else!" explained Richards.

Now in his fourth year teaching at Limestone, he says that picking the right music is probably the most important, but difficult, part of the job. "It is very difficult to pick the right music that will complement the group playing it and challenge them at the same time," Richards stated.

**"I love my students. They are the reason I get up every morning."**

**-Mr. Derek Richards**

The long days during marching band can also be very hard. After teaching all day, Richards also has afternoon and evening practices to supervise. He also is responsible for planning and practicing for the various band concerts.

Richards said that even though there are stressful times, it is a very fun job. He loves to spend time with his students and enjoys giving them new challenges. His favorite part is when he gets to hear the finished product at a concert or at a contest.

"Teaching is what I'm passionate about, and getting my students excited about playing and improving is probably the most fun and interesting part of the job," explained Richards.

Even though this is Richards's last semester, he has had a wonderful experience teaching at LCHS. "I love my students. They are the reason I get up every morning. I'm going to miss them. I've just reached a time in my life where it is time for me to move forward in life."

# Redmon spends holiday vacation in Switzerland

**By Mallory Fawcett**

Have you ever been to Switzerland? Senior Stephanie Redmon can now say yes after she stayed with her aunt, who lives there, over the winter break.

Redmon left Peoria on Friday, December 17, 2004, and returned to Peoria on Sunday, January 2, 2005. Redmon traveled by herself on the seven and a half hours trip from Chicago to Zurich. The ten and a half hours trip home left her feeling jet lagged.

The round trip, costing \$827.00, was a graduation present.

While Redmon was in Switzerland, she got to visit with a foreign exchange student, Louianne Jungo, who visited her aunt three years ago.

She also had the opportunity to go snowboarding. "Learning how to snowboard

was very fun, but hard. If you don't fall on your butt at least 15-20 times, then you're in good shape," Redmon explained. She was also told that if you learn how to ski first, it is a lot harder to learn how to snowboard.

Redmon saw many of Switzerland's tourist attractions, including Berne, its capitol; the Chateau de Gruyere; and, of course, the city of Zurich, where she was staying. She spent about 375 francs, which is equivalent to roughly \$300-\$350 in the United States. Part of that money was used to buy 12 pounds of chocolate and 5 pounds of cheese.

According to Redmon, she didn't have too many problems with customs until she returned to the United States. She said, "I didn't have any security problems coming into the country (Switzerland), but when I

came back to the U.S. I had to go through agriculture because I brought back some food."

Redmon became familiar with the language and traditions. Redmon explained that "mainly German and French were spoken, and most of the words I learned aren't appropriate to share." She also recognized the differences in holiday traditions. In Switzerland, "Santa comes on December 6 but only leaves candy, and the "baby-Jesus" leaves gifts on December 24, which are opened at midnight."

Redman had a great time. "I also made a lot of friends over there. I have at least 8-10 e-mails from them everyday asking when I'm coming back."

Redmon will be returning for another visit to Switzerland in July.

## Rhetorical rockets end season at sectionals

**By Ian Henderson**

The Limestone High School speech team finished its 2004-2005 season on February 12, 2005.

Unfortunately, the team didn't have anyone qualify for the State Speech Finals this year. That does not mean, however, that the Rhetorical Rockets did not have a great year.

The speech team itself had a great start. It was the first time in anyone's memory that coaches Mr. Zack Binder, Mr. Rob Fitch, and Mrs. Jeri Look had to turn some students away due to the large number of people who tried out. "We were interested in the commitment level (of those who tried out)," said Fitch.

The majority of team members were first-year competitors (rookies), including many freshmen, making the team one of its youngest. Still the team kicked into gear, showing that despite their lack of experience, they were still a team not to be taken lightly. They looked more like a teenage version of the *Apprentice*, and their appearance said it as well. Even the most inexperienced team members looked like well-oiled veterans (varsity members), as every member wore a suit on tournament days. "When we look like we take competition seriously, it sends a message to our judges and our competition," said Look.

Although the team did struggle early in the season, their hard work paid off on January 12, 2005, at the Mid-Illini Conference in Canton. For the second consecutive year, Limestone captured the conference championship and once again almost tripled the second place score with a total of 104 points to Metamora's 36 points.

After Mid-Illini, the next big tournament was the IHSA Regional at Pekin High School on February 5, where competitors had to place fourth or better to advance to the sectional tournament.

Limestone competitors walked away with a total of 56 points for a second place finish, advancing in eleven out of thirteen events. Three members won Individual Events Regional titles, leading the team to its highest regional finish in years.

The team was then off to the sectional tournament in Heyworth, IL, where they would go up against their toughest competition yet. They faced off against the best from Lincoln, Heyworth, and several schools from the Bloomington-Normal area. Despite the Rockets' best efforts, a couple tough breaks and even tougher competition kept the team from being able to advance further.

Two team members, senior Sahra Campen and sophomore Kelly Kookan, came within just one point of breaking into the tournament finals.

Look said, "We were disappointed with Sectional results, but we told the kids anything can happen at Sectionals. Unfortunately, it didn't happen for us. Overall, it was a great season. Winning the conference is a yearly goal."

So what can we expect from the speech team next year? Speech team captain, junior Colleen Swanson, joked, "Complete domination," but then more seriously said, "More experience."

It's obvious that if a team so young can show this much talent already, we know that only greater things can come with time, more experience, and dedication.

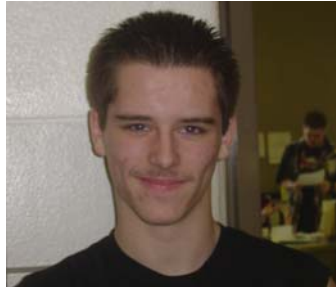
### Rhetorical Rockets Regional Results

**Shayanna Jacobs**- 1<sup>st</sup> Humorous Interpretation;  
**Sahra Campen**- 1<sup>st</sup> Radio;  
**Brandon Chandler & Emily Ayres**- 1<sup>st</sup> Dramatic Duet Acting;  
**Crystal Loyd**- 2<sup>nd</sup> Oratory;  
**Kyle Hovey**- 2<sup>nd</sup> Extemporaneous Speaking;  
**Shayanna Jacobs & Wes Urish**- 3<sup>rd</sup> Humorous Duet;  
**Kelly Kookan**- 3<sup>rd</sup> Dramatic Interpretation;  
**Holly Bauer**- 3<sup>rd</sup> Special Occasion Speaking;  
**Jessica Jenks**- 3<sup>rd</sup> Oratorical Declamation;  
**Jessica Bamber**- 3<sup>rd</sup> Verse;  
**Colleen Swanson**- 3<sup>rd</sup> Prose & 5<sup>th</sup> Impromptu Speaking;  
**Jake Caudill**- 6<sup>th</sup> Original Comedy

# Writer's Block



**Tyler Mathews,  
LCHS sophomore**



Meet Tyler Mathews, an LCHS sophomore. Born on June 5, 1988, Mathews has led a pretty typical life for someone his age. His obsessions include cars and video games, and his hobbies are lifting weights and writing.

For the last few years, Mathews has spent a lot of time writing. "One of my good friends got me into it," he said. "I read some of her work, and I thought it looked pretty hard. But when I tried it, I found out that it was actually kind of easy."

Since his first attempt, Mathews has written many more "works" of his own, the majority being poetry. "I'm not the best," he said. "But I have been told I write good stuff. To me, poetry seems like a good way to state my feelings or how I feel about someone. In this poem, I'm writing about how a person affects me and everyone else around her."

## Your Love

Your smile awakens my soul,  
As the sun awakens the day.  
A kiss and my life is yours,  
seems a fair price to pay.  
Your touch arouses my senses,  
as the moon arouses the night,  
hold me and you will win me forever,  
in your arms you make things all right.  
Your heart endures all emotions  
as the sky endures the stars,  
love me and we will have eternity,  
for there is no love greater than ours.

## LCHS students perform at annual talent show

**By Bailey Heller**

This year's talent show was a big success for both the performers and the attendees.

The first act to perform, Remembrance of Yesterday, made its debut at the talent show with the song "9-11", which the duo wrote themselves. Both boys, Jared Vogel and Scott O'Neal, seemed to really have a good stage presence. The song featured Vogel's melodic guitar riffs and O'Neal's ear-grabbing voice.

The next performer was Stephanie Taylor. She sang Christina Aguilera's song "Reflections," which was featured in the movie *Mulan*. I must say that I'm not much of an Aguilera fan, but Taylor did a great rendition of the piece.

Just after the first door prize, O'Neal came back onstage with just a classical guitar. He did a nice job performing "In Time" by Mark Collie. The only problem I had with the performance was that it seemed to drag on a little too long.

The next group to grace the stage was The Forbidden Ones. They performed the Gorillaz "Clint Eastwood". I thought this was fun and got the crowd pumped as well. The next performer was Kelly Kookan, who sang Counting Crows' "Colorblind." This song was very sad and moving. I thought she did a good job.

Just before intermission, the dance team did many different dances and moves that I couldn't even think about doing.

The first act after the intermission was Brandon Chandler, who sang Usher's "You got it bad". The crowd seemed to get into the song and his performance. This performance was my favorite performance of the whole night, and I'm glad he got first place.

Next up was last year's reigning champion Lisa Faulkner, accompanied by Tara Turner, Ryan Feagin, and Rafael Rodriguez. The song that she picked was "My Immortal" by Evanescence, which she also sang at last year's talent show.



**Category winner, Brandon Chandler, performs "You Got It Bad" at the annual talent show 2005.**

As this was my first talent show, I thought her performance was great, but other people in the crowd who attended the show last

year didn't seem all that impressed.

After the emcees handed out the fifth door prize, Skyler Noe, accompanied by Ryan Smith, took to the stage. She sang "The Long Road", which, impressively, was written by her. I thought it was a really great performance, and I enjoyed her strong voice.

Next up was Wes McKinney singing John Lennon's "Imagine". I thought he did really well, but the song was a little boring and didn't seem to be a crowd pleaser.

It doesn't matter what our names are because we're just doing this for the talent show was the only band to perform. This group really got into their performance, and the crowd got into it as well. This band won the miscellaneous category for the night.

Next up was Mary Fielder, who made her debut by singing "I Love Rock & Roll" by Joan Jett. The crowd recognized her talents and commended her for her efforts.

Last but not least, the LCHS basketball cheerleaders gave an outstanding performance.

Overall, the night was a success with great entertainment.

The talent show was sponsored by Miss Tara Clark and the Class of 2006. All of the money made from this event sponsors Prom 2005.

## Search for Mr. Love remains unsolved

**By Danielle Richmond**

When I say Valentine's Day, what do you think of? Flowers? Chocolate? Hugs and kisses? Or perhaps, maybe you think of the one you love more than anything in the world.

Valentine's Day is a day of peace and contentment. It is a day for everyone to celebrate togetherness as they and their loved ones share some special moments together.

But during those special memories you and your loved ones have made on Valentine's Day, have you ever wondered what the story behind this special day is? Did you ever stop to think... just who was St. Valentine, anyway?

I did. You see, I am a firm non-believer in things that "just happen." In my way of seeing things, everything happens for a reason. Also, I

hate not knowing things. I know why we celebrate Christmas. I know where Hannukah and Easter came from. I know why people wear green on March 17 and wave silly little flags on July 4, Independence Day.

So where, I asked myself, did Hallmark cards and February 14 come into the picture? Irritated at this lack of knowledge on my part, I set out to solve the mystery.

Unfortunately, this mystery proved hard to solve. After two hours of clicking through several websites and much frustration on my part, I finally printed out what I hoped to be adequate information to write this article and satisfy my curiosity.

Breathing a sigh of relief, I removed myself from my seat and went to collect my prizes. Flipping through the information I had researched,

however, I groaned. After what I felt to be an admirable amount of effort on my part, my two hours of stress had boiled down to eight bits of paper information, each disagreeing with the other.

I sat back down and gave myself a pep talk. "Okay, Danielle. Take deep breaths, girl. Just because the stupid computer is having issues doesn't mean you won't be able to figure this little mystery out. You're just gonna have to do it by yourself."

And that's just what I did. I went through my research, bit by bit, and did my best to sort it all out. And, by the end of the third hour, I had finally grasped some sensible leads towards solving the "Mystery of St. Valentine."

St. Valentine, Bishop of Terni, was said to have been martyred in Rome around 270 A.D. Little was said, or

remembered, of him or his ways, but Saint day celebrations were nonetheless placed in his honor.

Through the years, what began as a simple saint's day feast has been elaborated into a day of love and joy, chocolate and kisses, roses and Hallmark cards. The reason for this transformation may have come from the Roman holiday Lupercalia, celebrated on February 15. Lupercalia was a Roman festival that centered around the gods Jupiter and Cupid and also celebrated fertility.

After a good look at all of the information I had sorted out and placed into the outline of this paper, I couldn't help but feel disappointed. After all that work, I had been hoping for a better conclusion to my mystery. "Maybe I had missed something," I thought to myself.

So back I went, clicking away at the website, hoping to find the missing link that would explain why the scarce amount of background on St. Valentine was so little and so boring.

I found it. And what I found made me want to scream in rage and throw things. According to the Hutchison encyclopedia on e-library.com, Saint Valentine was recently omitted from the calendar of saints days as *probably nonexistent*.

Probably non-existent. *PROBABLY NONEXISTENT*. I had spent hours researching and writing a paper on a guy who WASN'T EVEN REAL. I'm perturbed.

Oh, well... I guess next time I better keep my nose in my own business. HHHMMM...I wonder...where did Hallmark cards come from anyway???

## Sport Shorts

The quick end of a long season

### By Aaron Smith

The varsity wrestling season ended with nobody advancing to sectionals. The team wrestled a hard regional with many of the wrestlers taking fourth place.

Among the wrestlers that placed fourth were seniors Joe Bailey, Luke Kerley, Joel Newby, and junior Nathan Miller.

The fresh/soph team also ended their season placing 2<sup>nd</sup> in the conference. Despite no one advancing to sectionals, the team had a good season.

### Cheerleaders head to state contest

#### By Dara Peacock

Limestone's very own basketball varsity cheerleaders are advancing to the state competition on March 12 in Springfield. They will be performing a routine cheer, dance, and tumble that's a little over two minutes long.

Varsity Captain Jenna McElfresh said, "I'm really excited. This is my last year cheering, and I'm just really excited that I get to go." Cheerleader Sarah Mason commented, "It's really an honor."

### Hockey team prepares for playoffs

#### By Ben Verkler

The varsity and jv hockey teams had a heart breaking weekend this past Sunday. The varsity team played Richwoods for second place. The game seemed to be won from the start with LCHS leading 3-1 at the end of the second period. However, Richwoods came back scoring five goals with an ending of a 5-5 tie. The JV team lost to Bloomington/Normal 4-0.

### Lady Rockets end season in Galesburg

#### By Bailey Heller

The Lady Rockets ended their season on Valentine's Day at Galesburg with 6 wins and 22 losses. The leading rebounder this season was junior Kayla Foiles with 114 offensive and defensive rebounds. Freshman Donnika Jackson scored the highest with 295 points. All together the lady rockets had 630 rebounds and scored 1,096 points. Junior Kari Wallace had the most steals with 67, and Donnika Jackson with 66. All together the Rockets had 335 steals.

## Driver, Start Your Engine... Senior finds thrills on drag strip



Photo courtesy of Katie Jones

### By Aaron Smith

While some students are busy practicing their lines for the spring musical and others are warming up their pitching arms, senior Katie Jones spends her spare time at the race tracks competing in drag races.

For the past nine years, Jones has traveled to different race tracks to compete or to watch her dad compete.

Jones' father, who has been drag racing for the past thirty years, is the person who first got her interested in racing. When the National Hot Rod Association (NHRA) started up the Junior Dragsters, Jones' father wanted to get her and her older sister involved in drag racing, so he built the two girls their own dragsters. Jones said "I grew up at the track, and I now love it and look forward to it every week."

Jones currently races in the Street class division. In this class, participants can race any car they want to race. The race track is usually 1/8 or 1/4 of a mile long, depending on where she is racing.

Besides the street class, there are four other racing classes in the NHRA. The first class is the Junior Dragsters. The drivers for this class must be between the ages of eight and seventeen. The racing times in this division range from 17.00 seconds to 7.50 seconds in the 1/8 mile.

There is also a Pro class, and the cars in this class run 6.50 seconds or slower. The Super Pro is the next class and is also the fastest class. The cars run times of 4.50 seconds to 7.50 seconds. There is also a Motorcycle class. In the Motorcycle, Pro, and Super Pro class, the driver must

wear helmets and fire proof jackets. If a car runs a time that is quicker than 6.50 seconds, the driver must wear a multi layered fire suit.

Jones and her family race at many different race tracks in Illinois and other states close by. Their local track is the Midstate Dragway in Havana, Illinois. They also race in Madison Illinois at the Gateway International Raceway and in Cordova Illinois at the Cordova Dragway. Jones and her family also race in Indiana at the Indianapolis Raceway Park at least once a year.

After graduating from Limestone, Jones plans to attend Parkland College. She will be taking classes in the Ford ASSET Program. Jones is also currently looking for a local Ford dealership to work at and to sponsor her while attending college.

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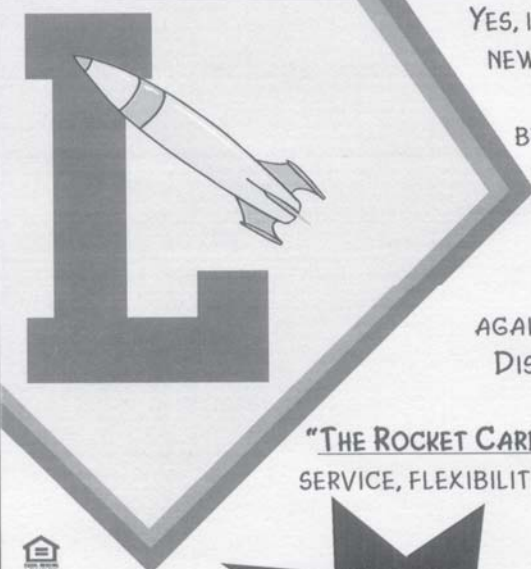


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