

SIMMONS

*Plus
a whole lot*

MORE

1994

ACCOLADE



Ms. Lays,
You are the best
LS teacher ever! Keep
up the good work!

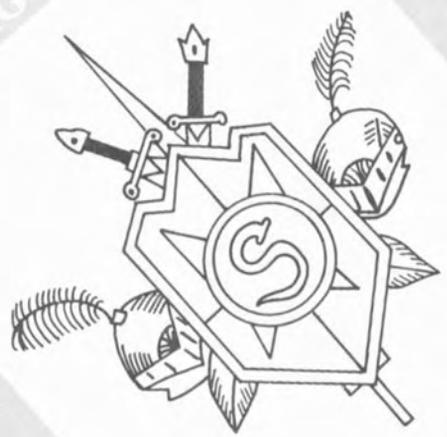
#1 favorite
student,
Michelle



Haye



SIMMONS
KNIGHTS





Simmons Middle School
6450 W. 95th Street
Oak Lawn, Illinois 60453
(708) 599 - 8450



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The Whole Story

This year brought so much to our lives. The events that had occurred inside and outside of school, and also in the world around us, surely added a whole lot more to our lives, not to mention to a wonderful school year. Additions to Simmons were many and very welcomed.

The '93-'94 school year was a blessed year. Two new computer labs full of top of the line Macs were undoubtedly everyone's favorite addition. Much remodeling occurred, the majority of classrooms got new furniture and some a fresh coat of paint. There were nine new faculty faces and personalities to get to know. Their new teaching styles increased the already bountiful sum of knowledge. So much good had happened, so much change. Each day, as students walked down the halls and looked around themselves, they saw the difference. We were all impressed.

The ACCOLADE Staff didn't miss a second of the school year. They took every step of the year carefully, not missing an event or important occasion. Photographing, writing, and rewriting everything to ensure that this year not be forgotten.

The over four hundred Knights, teachers and students alike, spent their time teaching, learning, laughing, and occasionally crying. The '94 ACCOLADE let's us know that we weren't only "Simmons," but "Plus a Whole Lot More."

- Holly Lisitza

Clockwise: Cheri Murray and Jenny Nielsen blend into the familiar surroundings of Simmons while Cory Adams, Karina Luviano and Renee Pehanich added to our alma mater with their new and pleasant smiles.



People

Power



Above : Kathy Karp, Denise Hamilton, Michelle Montoya, and Kathy Hurley celebrate winning a prize in the S.S.T raffle. Below : On a Monday afternoon, Bill Savickas can't wait to leave bleacher time in order to get a slice of Pizza Hut pizza.





Left : Not wasting a moment, Teri Wozniak and Katie Bazian quickly exchange their books from morning to afternoon classes. Above: Saad Shaar and Mahir Judeh could nearly qualify for twin set number 5 this year. Below: Taking a break from cutting a rug at the year's first dance are Kristin Franek, Julie Braun, Kim Capretz, Kristy Hazzard, Michelle Roti and Anne Pasquarella.





Dr. Johnson
Superintendent



Mr. Freehauf
Principal



Mr. Honkisz
Vice Principal

Above: Mrs. Sypniewski tries out a program for our new Macs. Right: Preparing a lab experiment, Mrs. Fleming empties a bag of ice cubes to lower water temperature. Far Right: Mr. Bibzak searches through his files for the perfect Christmas concert music.

Additional Effort

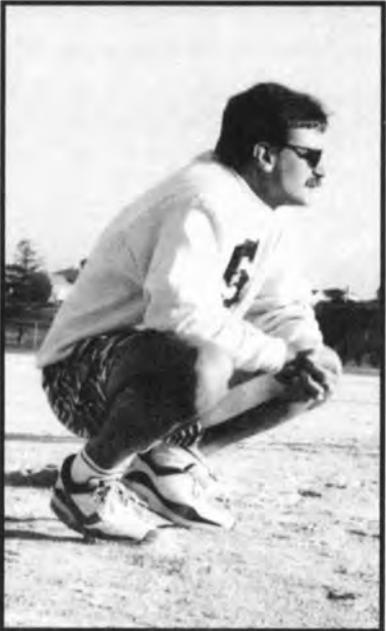
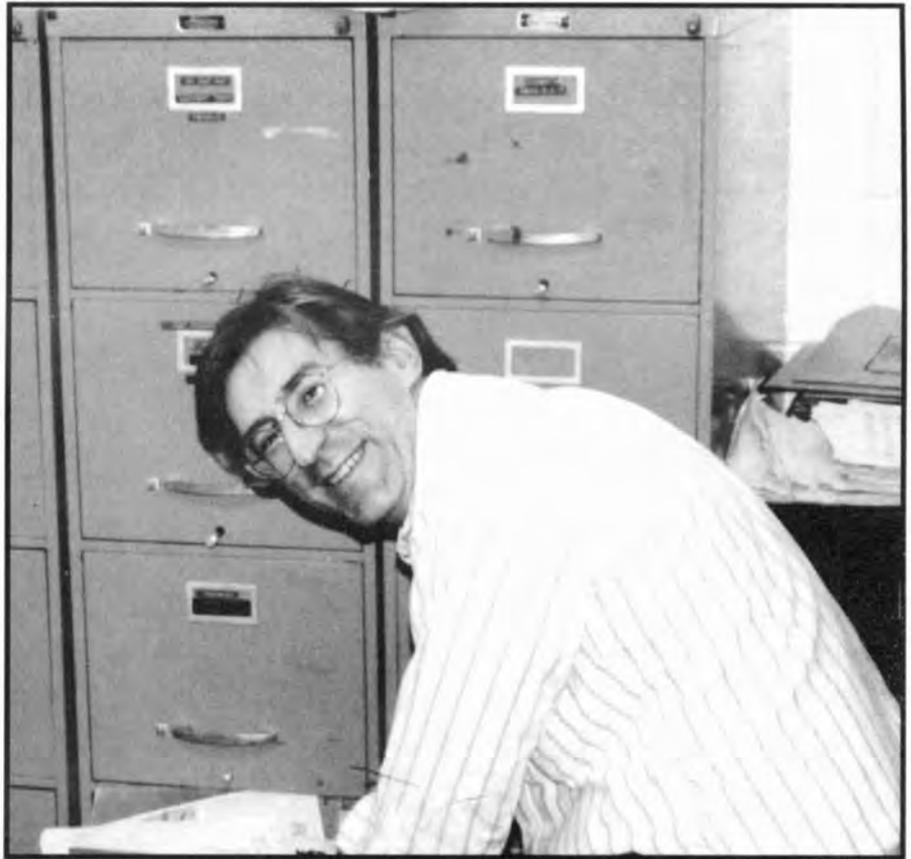
"I'd like to go back in five years to see how things change."

Mrs. O'Laughlin was very lucky in that she was invited to visit China with a group of reading teachers to learn how schools were there.

While Mrs. O'Laughlin was touring Shanghai, Beiging, and Hongzou she was able to indulge in such Chinese delicacies as octopus, eel, sea cucumber, duck feet, and what seemed like fields of rice.

Mrs. O'Laughlin found the schools in China very simple, not much more than a desk and chair for each student, but she said that they were very interesting. She brought the Chinese students books that the Green Team students had written and in return brought many interesting gifts back to them.





Simmons' Special Pair

From time to time a teacher would get married while we were one of their students but in 1993 at Simmons we were lucky to have two of our teachers getting married. What made this even more exciting is that these two teachers were getting married to each other.

Mr. McGreal and Miss O'Malley wanted a winter wedding during the holiday season and the date they chose was December 31, New Year's Eve. It was a beautiful wedding and when they returned it took us a while to get used to calling the former Miss O'Malley Mrs. McGreal.

"Working together was awkward at first but we're starting to like it."



Above: Anticipating a line drive, Mr. Crawford watches as one of his Lady Knights steps up to bat.



Mrs. Bailey - Nurse

Mrs. Boyd - Social Studies, 8th
Grade Level Coordinator, Knights of
the Month

Mrs. Colavecchi - Teacher's Aide

Mrs. Fleming - Science, Social Studies, Science
Department Chair, SST Club

Mr. Gath - Language Arts, Reading, Quest

Mrs. Gregory - Physical Education, Cross Country,
Rainbow Team Leader, Score Keeper, Student
Council, Track

Mrs. Huffman - Social Worker, Just Say No,
International Club

Miss Kramp - Language Arts, Math, Accolade, Score
Keeper, SST Club, Spelling Team

Mrs. Lackey - LRC Aide

Mrs. McGreal - Speech Pathologist, 7th Girls
Volleyball

Mr. McGreal - Language Arts, Reading, Boys
Volleyball

Mrs. McLaughlin - Language Arts, Math,
Cheerleading

Mrs. O'Laughlin - Reading, Science, Reading
Department Chair, SST Club

Mrs. O'Sullivan - Special Education

Mrs. Panozzo - Social Work Intern

Mrs. Pursley - Language Arts, Special Education,
Blue Team Leader, Quest

Mr. Rein - Social Studies, 7th Grade Level
Coordinator

Mrs. Rosenow - Language Arts, Science,
Declamation, SST Club

Ms. Stevens - Special Education

Mrs. Sypniewski - Computer Science, Social Studies,
Computer Club

Mrs. Tsoukatos - Teacher's Aide





Mr. Crawford - Health, Spanish, 8th Boys Basketball, 7th Girls Basketball, Softball

Mrs. Cronin - Home Economics

Mrs. Dorrance - Reading, Chapter 1

Mr. Hamick - Language Arts, Special Education

Mr. Himmelman - Science, Social Studies

Mr. Hnat - Head Custodian

Mr. Larson - Language Arts, Reading, Language Arts Department Chair, Yellow Team Leader

Mrs. Layo - LRC Director, Computer Club, Gifted

Mr. Locascio - Language Arts, Math, District News Letter

Mrs. Meeks - Special Education, Drama

Mrs. Melling - TPI Teacher

Mr. O'Donnell - Computer Science, Social Studies, Computer Club, NJHS, Project Success

Mr. Pauly - Physical Education, Athletic Director, 8th Girls Basketball, Track

Mrs. Petersen - Math, Reading, Green Team Leader, Math Department Chair, NJHS, Score Keeper

Mrs. Phelan - Home Economics

Mrs. Schnieder - Teacher's Aide

Mr. Schutt - Art, Social Studies, Drama, Mural Painting

Mrs. Skonicki - LRC Computer Aide

Mrs. Wagner - Secretary

Mrs. Wantiez - Special Education

Mrs. Zivich - Secretary

T
H
E

8th Grade Dedication

Our time has passed so quickly;
Countless hours have gone by.
I'm going to miss these days,
All the same, I wonder why.

Because of the laughter we shared,
As we walked from class to class,
We'll never forget things learned,
I wish these days could last.

I seek reasons to stay forever,
But in truth I find only one:
I'll never forget friends I've made,
Time flies while you're having fun.

But we must leave this all behind,
It's time for us to move on.
Let's hold our heads high,
And walk out together.
Our days as children are over.

-Katie Truty

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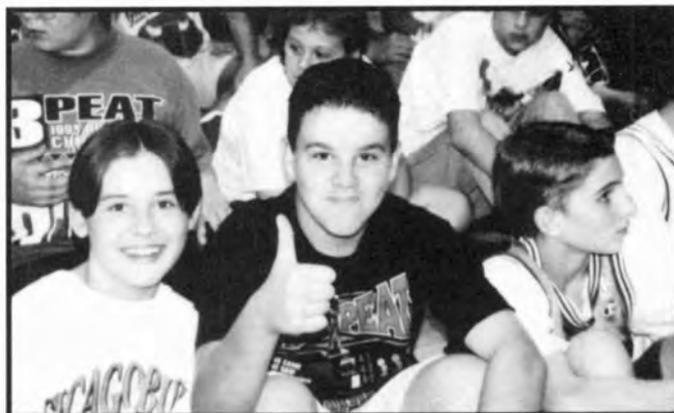


Jamie Reiter helps prepare the decorations for Mrs. Cronin's good-bye party.





Sherry Gibson, Nichole Gorman, Jill Logan, Nicki Magri, Jenny Nielson and Laura Tuminello squish together to pose for a picture at the Halloween Dance.



Greg Labuda and Brian Williams show that the Paxson assembly is "thumbs up!"



Above: Amy Simenas checks her grade in Mrs. O'Laughlin's science class.
Center: Raul Calvilo and Michelle Donnahue proudly don a huge pair of Levi's at the Field Museum.



Rami Abed



Dave Abrahamsen



Cory Adams



Dave Albert



Lauren Allie



Tara Bainbridge



Nicole Baird



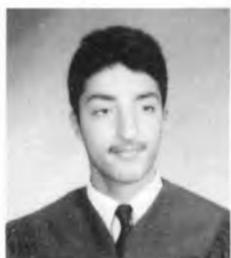
Tony Baldea



Dan Balich



Maria Barbarasa



Jamal Bawadi



Katie Bazian



Peter Benes



Nicole Biesiada



Eric Biesterfeld



Eric Biesterfeld records the types of birds he discovered in a Field Museum display for science class.



Melissa Bolek



Sarah Bourbon



Jamie Bousman



Mike Burton



Leanne Bylina



Raul Calvillo



Chris Amato



Melissa Bauman



Jenny Bloniarz



Steve Brodnick



Michael Campos



Dan McLernon jokes around with his friends before the start of a team activity.

Additional Effort

Rita Murphy took great pride in her Irish decent and showed it by participating in Irish dancing. Rita had been dancing since she was eight years old. She had participated in 36 competitions the most exciting of which was held in Limerick, Ireland where her mother grew up.

Rita wore a costume made of green velvet with elaborate white embroidery that was finished off by a beautiful purple satin cape. To make her dance wear complete she had both hard and soft dance shoes. Soft shoes were worn for jumping and hard shoes were worn when the dance required the dancer to do a lot of stomping.

"I want to be a professional Irish dance teacher."





Jim Carpenter



Lauren Cetera



Joe Chavosky



Mark Chlebek



Mike Cingrani



Adam Clardy



Jeff Clemens



Sara Colby



Scott Cole



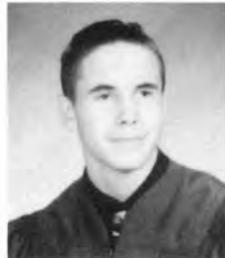
Michelle Conklin



Brian Crothers



Jason Dasch



Brian Davis



Matt Davis



Damien Diest



Maurice Desegovia



Jason Doguim



Melanie Donnahue



Michelle Donnahue



Dan Downey



Sherri Dugdale



Jeanine Dyckman



Jeannie Fernandez



Mike Fiedler



Michele Fierro





Brian Cizas



Tom Creech



Stacey Demonbreun



Adam Downs



Melanie Fitzgibbons



Above: Jason Kolk shows a Social Studies project involving the face painting of Native American Indians. Below: Michelle "Cheller" Marynowski excited about going on a Blue Team field trip.

Not Enough Time

"Why were we always rushing?" This question was asked by many Simmons students. Our lives were constantly rushed, we only had three minutes between periods. Christy Ward said, "This is not enough time. By the time you get to your locker and make sure you have everything your three minutes are up."

Getting dressed for gym was always a challenge. In five minute flat we had to transform ourselves from student to athlete. The transformation back to student was also tricky another five minutes to peel off your sweaty clothing and get back on your school clothes.

For those of us who were involved in after school activities things really got hectic. Most clubs required you to stay an extra two to three hours after school. The athletes had the same but could also expect not to get home until 7:00 pm if it was a game day. Trying to do homework after these long exhausting days was hard work. Abby Pitcher said, "It's not easy trying to study for a test or read a chapter after a nine hour school day."

-Eric Biesterfeld & Tracy Spatola





Jason Flynn



Carrie Fox



Brian Gajos



Nellie Gamboa



Tacho Gamino



Sherri Gibson



Joe Girten



Nichole Gorman



Effie Gravanis



Jim Green



Jehad Haleem



Heather Hall



Nichole Hanson



Mahmoud Hassan



Sandy Hebein



Michelle Conklin applauds the introduction of John Paxson.



Corinne Herman



Mohammad Hezayin



Nick Hnat



Mike Hoglund



Ken Huizenga



Joshua Hullett





Mike Georgopoulos



Tanya Griffin



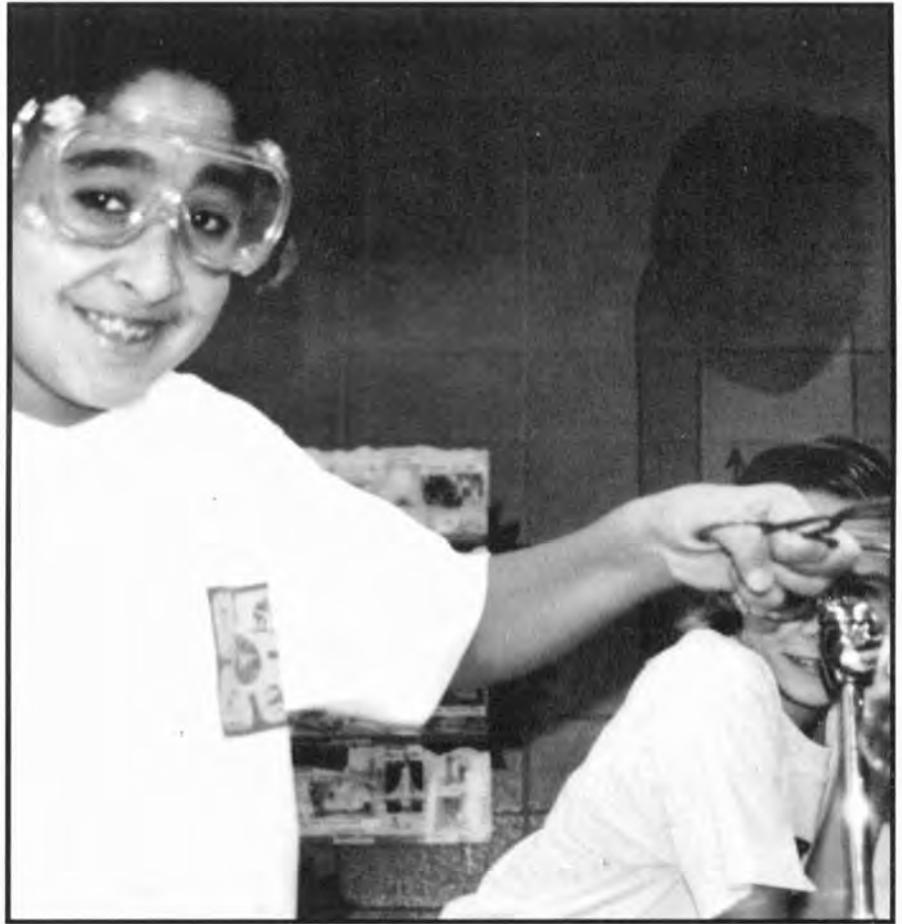
Mike Hejna



Kristi Hoaglund



Dwayne Hutson



Khaled Mohamed shows off what he accomplished at an SST Club meeting.

Additional Effort

Dan Balich started doing Tae Kwon Do when he was seven years old. He wanted to be in Tae Kwon Do and his parents really encouraged him to join. Dan, his father, and his brother all practiced the martial art together. Dan said that he wanted to be better coordinated and learn self-defense.

He liked this sport because it was fun and he was able to spar. He practiced twice a week for two hours straight. When he was 10 years old, he entered a tournament as a red and black belt, and he won third place. As an eighth grader Dan was on his way to achieving his third degree black belt.

"My greatest accomplishment was my second degree black belt."





Bill Janovjak



Nick Jelcic



Tom Jodelka



Misty Johnson



Mahir Joudeh



Stephen Kareka



Jerry Kenealy



Jim Kenealy



Katie Klimek



Mike Knudsen



Rachel Kolar



Jason Kolk



Marv Koplin



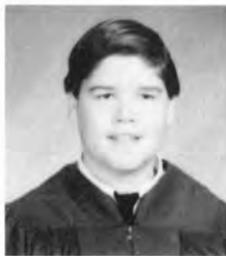
Mark Krawczykowski



Greg Labuda



Nick Lazo



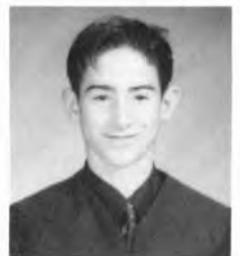
Matt Leipart



Erin Lejeck



Jeannette-Lemrise



Pat Leone



Tim Lewis



Holly Lisitza



Brian Locke



Jillian Logan

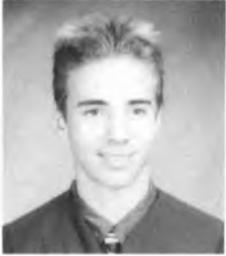


Bridget Lorenz





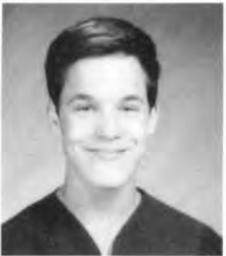
Anwaar Judeh



Brad Koeppen



Steve Lain



Mike Lepka



Karina Luviano



Above: Kristy Hazzard and Tracy Mentgen try to keep warm during the last softball game of the season.
Below: Stan Siczka enjoys a plate of pasta during lunch.





Nicole Magri



Bill Malley



Lori Marrello



Michelle Marynowski



Angelo Mascheroni



Damien McCarron



Kristen McHugh



Dave McLaughlin



Pat McLoughlin



Shawn McLaughlin



Becky McNaughton



Ryan Melling



Christina Mensching



Tracy Mentgen



Amanda Metz



Danielle Milazzo



Mary Ann Miranda



Khaled Mohamed



Breanne Murphy



Rita Murphy



Todd Murphy



Mike Cingrani slightly distracted during a Jamie Escalante video in Mrs. Petersen's math class.

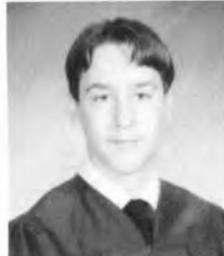




Phil Maslan



Dan McLernon



Art Mickow



Dan Muelhausen



Cheri Murray



Angie Roy and Liz Rojas cheer on the students during the student-faculty basketball game.

Additional Effort

Not only at school was Chris Mensching an athlete, but she has also found great success in swimming. Chris was a member of the United States Junior Olympics Swim Team. She qualified for the team in the backstroke event. When she wasn't swimming for the U.S. of A. she swam at many local competitions.

"I plan on swimming my whole life."

It was no wonder Chris qualified for the team, she had been swimming since she was nine months old. Chris practiced one to two days a week. All of Chris's hard work certainly paid off; by eighth grade she had already won eighteen medals. Chris said that she really loves swimming and thinks it's a lot of fun but also hard work.





Mohamed Nassar



Mandy Neese



Josue Nejera



Melanie Neumann



Jenny Nielsen



Jill O'Dell



Tony Palumbo



Mary Pasquarella



Pamela Patton



Jamie Petrick



Abby Pitcher



Barbara Podkanski



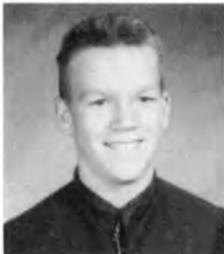
Steve Pohancek



Amber Pooman



Katie Powell



Dan Prorok



Mike Queenan



Yazan Rabah



Mohannad Ramah



Tony Raspante



Meghan Reidy



Jamie Reiter



Rhonda Rekart



Nick Richter



Elizabeth Rojas

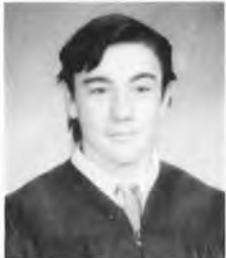




Gerry Novick



Jason Pirtle



Mike Prepelica



Jenny Rau



Mike Romac



Above: Rami Abed helps decorate the LRC for Mrs. Cronin's going away party. Below: Pete Benes does a life size chalk drawing of one of Columbus's ships for S.S. class.

Strange Surroundings

When you thought of a school area, what came to your mind? A quiet neighborhood with many small children and a few elderly couples, right? Maybe even a drug store or an ice cream shop? Now, do you ever remember thinking, "What a strange spot for a school," when you first saw Simmons? Simmons was in a very unusual spot for a school. But most of the students enjoyed it. Across the street from the school was Chicago Ridge Mall, to the delight of the students and the mall's store owners. Next to the school Margie's Bridal Shop, Billy Boy's Restaurant and Dunkin' Donuts. The school seemed to be in a perfect location for the students. Relatively close to the school was Centennial Pool and the Pavilion.

Directly behind the school was a fire station. Sometimes during classes, you could look out of a window and see the officers practicing their drills or smell the smoke from the practice building.

All in all, Simmons was in a strange location for a public middle school. However, the surrounding community did not seem to mind the children or the business these students brought to them.

-Katie Truty





Michelle Roti



Angie Roy



Juliet Ryan



Carol Sabaj



Jose Salas



Bill Savickas



John Schumacher



Jessica Sempek



Saad Shaar



Chuck Shalaby



Stan Siczka



Mark Sietsma



Amy Simenas



Teresa Skupien



Josh Smok



Melanie and Michelle Donnahue are one of the four sets of identical twins at Simmons this year.



Tracy Spatola



Kari Spengler



Geno Stabila



Betty Stegmann



Kathy Stell



Jenny Stepek





Jason Samhan



Michelle Shaughnessy



Tahnee Spatafore



Shannon Starke



Cheryl Sullivan



Very happy that he won the impromptu speech contest in Language Arts class, Mike Wimmer can't keep from grinning.

Additional Effort

Joe Wierdak was involved in a not so typical sport, hockey. Joe had been playing hockey for seven years by the time he was in eighth grade for the Saint Jude Knights. His team had won three state championships, and individually, Joe had won four MVP's playing right wing.

What did Joe like about hockey? "Traveling!" he said. And no wonder, Joe and his team had gone to Denver, Detroit, New Jersey, Toronto, and Vancouver, Canada. Joe also liked the quickness of hockey and especially the violence.

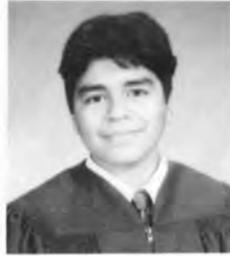
Joe hoped to receive a scholarship to college thanks to hockey. After college, Joe hoped to play in the NHL.

"Hockey takes a lot of dedication."





Numayr Sweis



Fabian Tenorio



Larry Townsend



Amanda Treccia



Ken Tregoing



Laura Tuminello



Kathy Urbanczyk



Erica Vietoris



Tony Volpe



Christy Ward



Margert Webb



Joe Wierdak



Brian Williams



Mike Wimmer



Edwina Witkowski



Diana Wroblewski



Majdi Yasin



Rachel Zebio



Nily Zegar



Alicja Zubek





Lisa Sweet



Katie Truty



Jason Watts



Teri Wozniak



Christina Zwirkowski



Above: Mary Ann Miranda looks up when she hears the click of the camera just in time to give a magnificent smile. Below: Wearing the latest in laboratory safety goggles is Betty Stegmann.

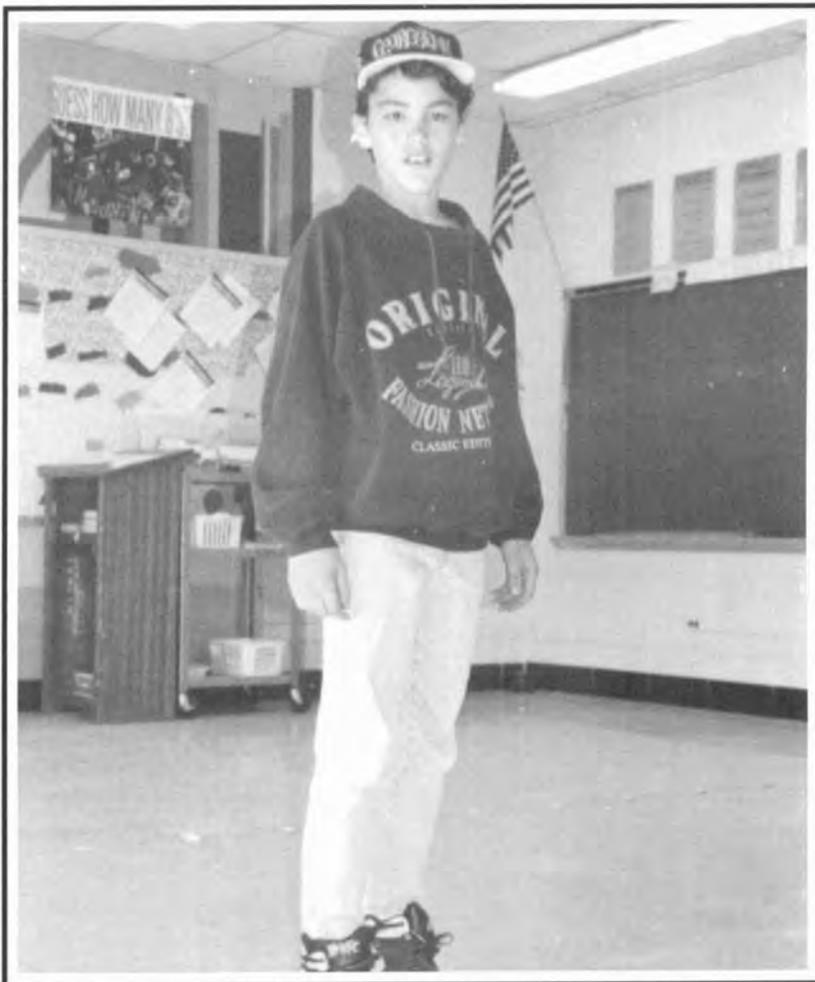


Seventh Grade Additions



Above: Trying to break his all time speed and accuracy record on "Type" is Bart Frankowicz. Right: Bundling up before going into 1994's record breaking temperatures is Deanna Bartlett . Below: During a still life drawing activity , Melissa Piwowar and Nancy Houston draw images of their favorite food products.





How did it feel to come to a totally new school?

"I was sort of scared, but then my friends were there with me."

-Dennis Witas

"I felt very nervous. I was afraid that I wouldn't fit in."

-Kathy Karp

"I felt really cool. I also felt welcomed at Simmons."

-Nancy Houston

What was the first thing you noticed about Simmons?

"The paintings and art on the walls. Also, how big it was."

-Eric Zoller

"It was definitely larger than my old school."

-Brian Backstrom

"Changing classes for every subject."

-Jennifer Fierro

How do you think Simmons is better than your other school?

"You're not stuck with the same teachers all day and Simmons has more activities."

-Nicole Olivares

"There are more kids to get to know and we get to wear gym suits."

-Marwan Matarieh

"The work here seems a little easier, and the teachers are nicer."

-Adam Ramirez

Above: Standing in a life size coordinate graph on point (2-3) is Eric Wiatr. Below: Christin Achter, Natalie Block and Alayna Liytynski enjoy their first middle school dance.



Above: Michelle Matuszewski waits patiently to enter the LRC, on the right side of the yellow line, of course. Far Right: In too much of a hurry to notice the comotion behind him, Harry Kolk jostles the crowd.



Additional Effort

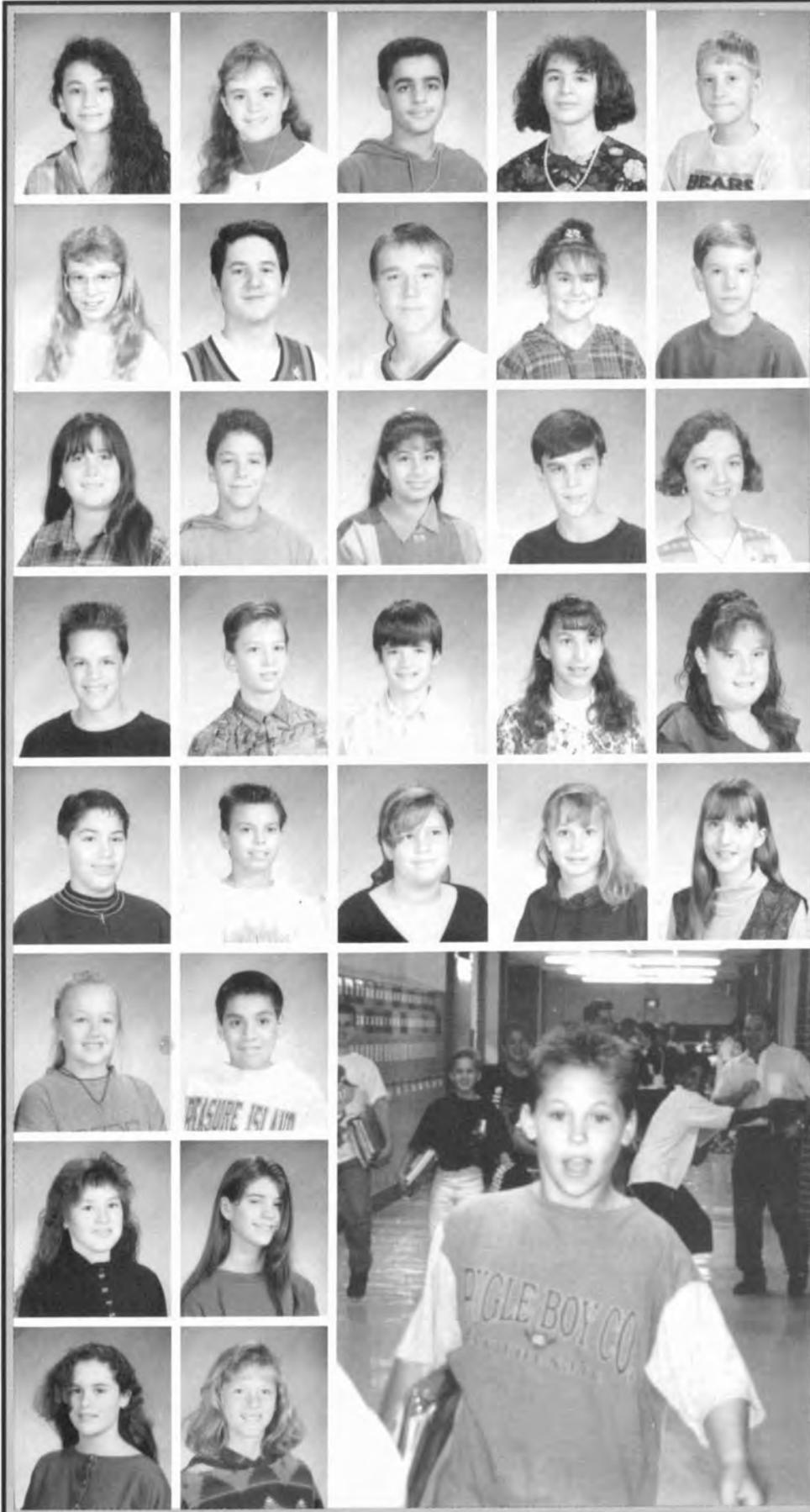
"I really like to dance. It's a lot of fun and hard work."



Jennifer Braun, an artistic athlete, toe danced. Toe dancing is an advanced level of ballet and required Jennifer to wear ballet shoes with small wooden blocks in the toes. Toe dancing required tremendous strength and flexibility as well as grace.

Though Jennifer had no real ballet idol that inspired her, she began taking classes at the Bridgeview Park District because she enjoyed watching ballet. The class met once a week and she practiced one to two days for an hour at home. Jennifer planned to continue dancing even when she got older. Jennifer performed annually in a recital in which she had the opportunity to wear beautiful sequined costumes.





Hayat Abu-el-kheir
 Christin Achter
 Duygu Akinci
 Kristin Algarin
 Mohamed Askar
 Amanda Ault
 Brian Backstrom

Jim Baker
 Jon Baker
 Tracy Ball
 Frank Bansley
 Tom Barbush
 Amanda Bark
 Andy Barnes

Joe Barr
 Mike Barr
 Deanna Bartlett
 John Becker
 Jenna Beituni
 Eric Bennett
 Corrine Berndt

Julie Bertalmio
 Christopher Beyer
 Patrick Bills
 Jason Bjork
 Mike Blaha
 Natalie Block
 Evelyn Boehm

Jeff Boll
 Jim Boozer
 Mike Bowman
 Ken Braasch
 Amanda Braatz
 Jennifer Braun
 Julia Braun

Joe Brodnick
 Don Brown
 Joni Bulow
 Mike Campos

Kim Capretz
 Kevin Carey
 Heather Casale
 Lauren Caster

Art Cedar
 Amy Childress
 Melissa Daley
 Tracy Dengler

Reading Wall of Fame

Did you ever notice the wall across from the office with all those nicely framed photos covering the bland brick? When asked many students replied, "Yeah, I've noticed but what is all that stuff?" It was the Reading Wall of Fame.

Though the idea to have the Reading Wall of Fame came from a former faculty member, Mrs. Laura Petersen, it was still going strong in 1994. Mr. Freehauf said, "I think it is a really neat project because celebrities that our students look up to are encouraging reading." The celebrities took the time to sign products and write back to the student who requested a photo of them reading. Well known Chicago Blackhawk goalie, Ed Belfour held an honored position on the wall. It was no surprise that world renowned thrill and chill author Stephen King returned the request and a few of the brave Knights took to reading his novels. The most popular person on the wall, however was internationally famed Chicago

Bull, Michael Jordan. He insightfully stated, "No brain, no gain!"

Not all frames on the Reading Wall of fame held photos of sports or television celebrities though, some were held a more local spotlight. Oak Lawn Mayor Kolb, Oak Lawn Fire Chief McCastland, former School Board President Zakes, Governor Edgar, and Simmons' principal Mr. Freehauf also joined in the crusade to promote reading.

It was the goal of Mr. Freehauf and Simmons' faculty members to turn the Reading Wall of Fame into the Reading Hall of Fame. There were hopes of attaining President Clinton and General Schwartzkoff's photos. Why not return to Simmons and see how it all turned out? Maybe your picture will appear.

-Tom Jodelka

Below: On her last Science definition, Rana Othman happily finishes her homework before the bell rings. Far Right: During a PEP rally, Nick Redelsperger helps liven up the gym with an explosive tune on his clarinet.





Chuck Diehl
 Luke Dorotiss
 Melissa Dronski
 Anna Dzielski
 Gabriella Eberhardt
 Sam Echavarria
 Lindsay Edquist

Jason Egan
 Feras El-Ramahi
 Crystal Elliott
 Tim Ellis
 Veronica Espinosa
 Jenny Fierro
 Gary Fitzpatrick

Justin Foley
 Kristen Franek
 Christopher Frankenfield
 Bart Frankowicz
 Sinead Gallen
 Salima Garcia
 Kate Gaskin

Nicole Geitner
 Jason Gibson
 Laura Girten
 Beth Gowen
 Dan Greco
 Robert Groos
 Anna Gunka

Mike Hadac
 Faud Hamideh
 Denise Hamilton
 Paul Hardison
 Gianna Hardt
 Ameir Hassan
 Kristy Hazzard

Lisa Hershey
 Richard Hnat
 Brian Hogland
 Natasha Horstman

Nancy Houston
 Kathy Hurley
 Katy Ingalls
 Jenny Jaral

Jenny Johnson
 Jason Jutton
 Matt Jutton
 Dave Kackert



Above: What did Don Brown learn from this lab? Mass is NOT weight!!! Far Right: Nicole Geitner gives a preview of her wizard costume before starting a skit she had to perform in reading class.



Additional Effort

"I think it is great to work with horses. They are beautiful animals."



Amanda Kutsulis was a horse back rider. She began riding when she was 7 years old. This early start proved quite successful for Amanda seeing that she had 98 ribbons and 18 trophies by the time she was in 7th grade. Over the five years Amanda had been riding, she gained experience on both English and Western saddles.

Amanda's favorite horse was named Roany. He was a strawberry Roan and Amanda's favorite horse because she won her first 1st place ribbon on him.

Amanda spent her summers working at Nova Stables. There Amanda was able to break horses, a very difficult task that took about two months.



Melissa Kakos
 Kathy Karp
 Julie Katula
 Carrie Kilroy
 Esequiel King
 Brian Klien
 Stephen Klinger

Harry Kolk
 Bill Korab
 Jason Kotlarz
 Aaron Kriekel
 Nina Kucharski
 Jenny Kummer
 Amanda Kutsulis

Maxwell Lablaiks
 Jeremy Lang
 Leon Lareaux
 Aimee Lind
 Alayna Litynski
 Amber Logan
 Francisco Luna

Jason Luviano
 Steve Marshall
 Kelly Martin
 Marwan Matarieh
 Brian Mateja
 Michele Matuszewski
 Jeremy Mayer

Chris McCarthy
 Jeff McGovern
 Frank McNaughton
 Melissa Melker
 Craig Mitchell
 Jason Mitchell
 Shannon Mitchell

Michelle Montoya
 Matt Moyzis
 Joe Mroz
 Amber Nettle

Cindy Nix
 Nicole Olivares
 Rana Othman
 Amy Ott

Evan Ott
 Mike Parisi
 Anne Pasquarella
 Amanda Patula

“Mac Attack!”

The 1993-1994 school year brought Simmons brand new Macintosh LC II computers. Mrs. Layo, Mr. O'Donnell, Mrs. Skonicki, and Mrs. Sypniewski were excited to teach the seventh and eighth grade students to work the new computers and the programs that went along with them.

Mr. O'Donnell and Mrs. Sypniewski were thrilled to have new computers in the lab for the students. Why? First, all the students are able to have a color screen so there was no more arguing about the screens. Also, the hard drive is less confusing to save information on rather than having to switch floppy disks every couple of minutes.

The new Macs were also easier to use, especially for first time computer users. The mouse is one of the reasons that the computers were so easy to use. The mouse was a small device used to access information from the computer rather than using the keyboard. “I love the mouse!” said Erica Victoris, an eighth grade computer student. Also,

the Macs had grammar and spelling checkers that helped you locate errors and give suggestions on how to fix them. We also had laser printers; they were awesome. Papers printed much darker and without the perforation tears on all four sides.

There was also four new CD ROMS, three in the LRC computer lab, and one in the classroom computer lab. Everyone in the school, teachers and students alike, loved the CD's we had. They were unlike anything we had ever seen before. The Grolliiers Encyclopedia was probably the coolest; hearing JFK or the first astronauts giving a speech was just incredible. Many students enjoyed using the computers so much that they came during bleacher time.

We certainly had the best technology money could buy.

-Jessica Sempek

Below: Eric Bennett enthusiastically shows his support for the boy's volleyball team. Far Right: There's no doubt that Lauren Caster is having a great, PACE day.





Renee Pehanich
Brian Perveneckis
Joe Petrick
Alesha Petrousek
Melissa Piwowar
Bernadette Polak
Scott Polomik



Donna Prokop
Nina Quillin
Mislim Ramadani
Adam Ramirez
Nick Redelsperger
Esther Remchek
Melissa Ribich



Mark Rieck
Tabitha Romines
Brian Ross
Karen Rossow
Jason Rowsey
Jason Ruesch
Tony Russo



Patricia Seminetta
Mahmoud Sheikh
Marcia Sokoloski
John Stifter
Sarah Terrell
Jeff Thomas
Jenny Trotta



Melissa Urquijo
Dana Vasilakos
Tony Vereecke
Jerry Wantroba
Lauren Ward
Michelle Wasik
Kerry Weber



Eric Wiatr
Catherine Wilczek
Dennis Witas
Dennis Wood



Trisha Wood
Charlotte Woodward
Connie Wozek
Anna Zagata



Eric Zalas
Russell Zalas
Tom Zegar
Eric Zoller

The Total Score

Team Simmons

Sports played a big role at Simmons. They were one more way that we could be involved in school. It didn't matter if we were athlete, coach, or spectator sports enabled us to express our enthusiasm for the Knights. We competed against 9 other schools in the SWIC conference but none brought us closer together than competing with McGugan, the "other" school in Oak Lawn.

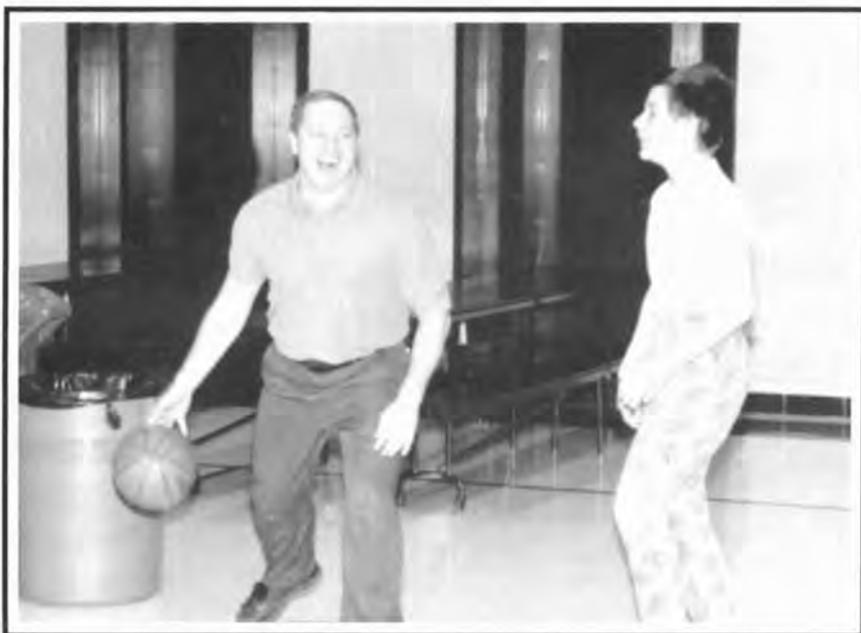
Being chosen a member of any team at Simmons was always exciting. Though the Knights could be seen striving to be their personal best, commitment and teamwork were the necessary components of all Knights teams. Michelle Shaughnessy was rather insightful when she said, "There is no I in team," while the 8th grade girls basketball team presented Mr. Freehauf with their 2nd all-conference championship banner.

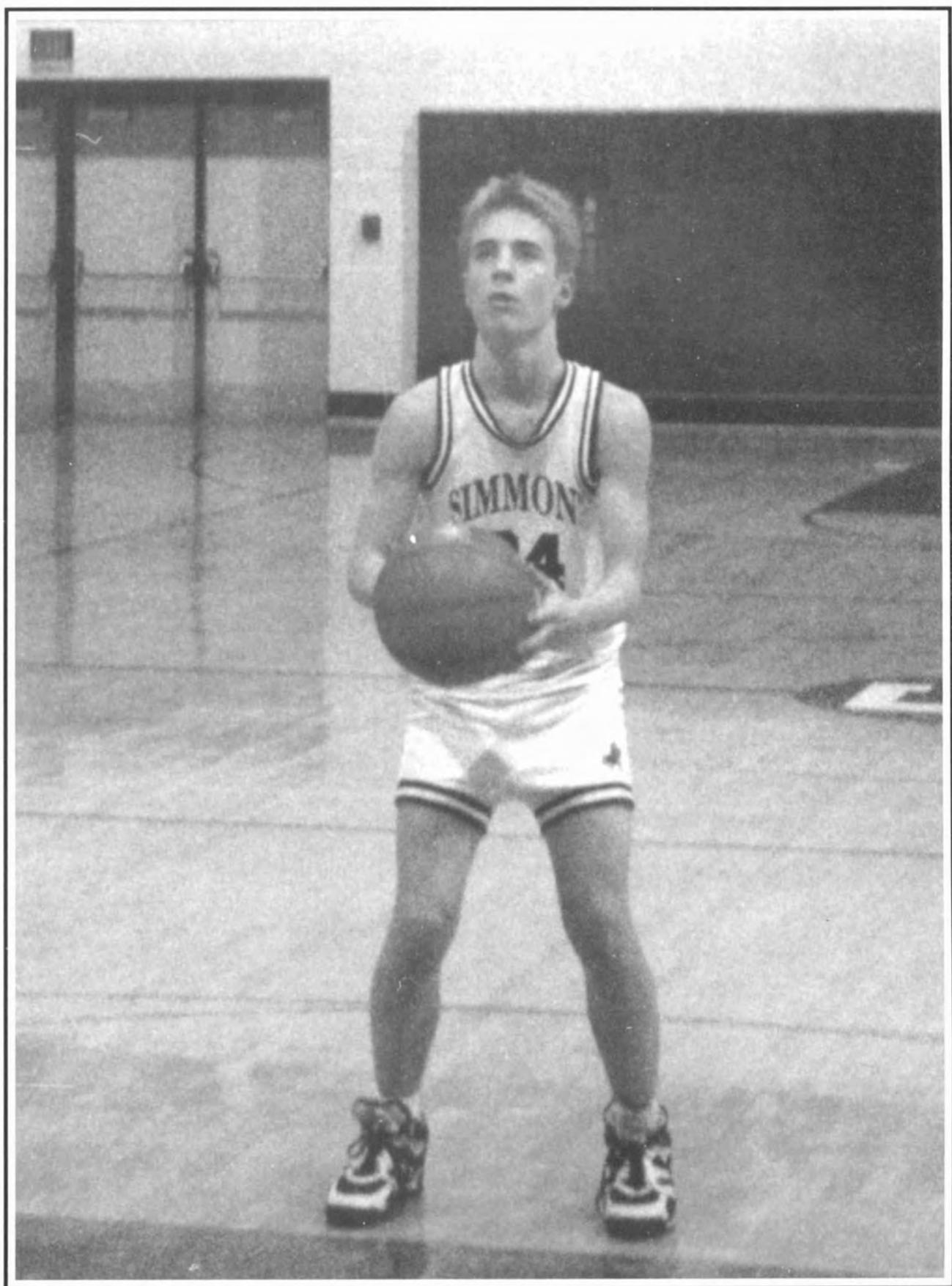
Anyone who took part in sports at Simmons knew all the qualities it took to function as a team and enable us to have — The Total Score!

-Becky McNaughton



Left: Statistician Evelyn Boehm keeps all the records straight for the Lady Knights Softball Team. Above: The cheerleaders mount up during a half time performance. Below: Relaxing after a long day of teaching the classics, Mr. Gath shoots a few hoops. Right: Brad Koeppen, with sheer determination, gears up to score one more point for the Knights against the newly formed Prairie View team.





Best Season Ever

Coming into the 1993-94 season the coaching staff didn't know what to expect from their new team. The staff didn't know how good the seventh grade girls were or if the eighth graders still had their touch from last year.

The hard work and dedication finally paid off. The Lady Knights softball team had an awesome 1993-94 season. They tried their hardest and worked together as a team. They took second place in the conference and placed third at the SWIC conference tournament.

Coach Crawford said, "This year we had a great defense and a wonderful offense, but our hitting could have been better." Throughout the year the team pulled together with enthusiasm and the willingness to win, pulling several games out in the last innings. Mr. Marynowski is a good example of how parents contribute their time to Simmons. He helped the girls with batting practice, fielding, and supported the girls through their good and bad times. Some of the

girls on the team had some fantastic opinions about their softball season. Kristy Hazzard, a seventh grader said, "Mr. Crawford was an excellent coach; he helped me improve my skills." Jennifer Rau, an eighth grader said, "The defense was excellent this season."

1993 was a really great season for the Lady Knights Softball Team; they came in second in the SWIC conference. In fact, it was the best season ever in Simmons' softball history.

-Eric Biesterfeld

Below: Anticipating a line drive, Michelle Shaughnessy is ready to pounce on the ball.



Above: Abby Pitcher warms up before approaching the plate in hopes of getting on base.



SOFTBALL Front Row: Aimee Lind, Teri Wozniak, Melanie Donnahue, Michelle Donnahue Second Row: Michelle Maynowski, Kristy Hazzard, Abby Pitcher, Mary Pasquarella Third Row: Coach Crawford, Tracy Mentgen, Kim Capretz, Michelle Shaughnessy, Jennifer Rau, Danielle Millazo



Center: Mary Pasquerella comes into the dug out after the third strike was swung.

Below: Lending his time, Mr. Marynowski assists in coaching the girls softball team.




“At first it was wierd to have my dad as a coach, but towards the end everyone liked him and thought he was cool.”

Michelle Marynowski



CROSS COUNTRY Front Row: Chris Amato, Max Lablaiks, Craig Mitchell, Joe Petrick, Ken Braasch, Frank McNaughton, Jason Bjork, Jeremy Lang, Nancy Houston, Becky McNaughton, Pete Benes, Bill Korab Second Row: Mike Fielder, Dave Abrahamsen, Bob Groos, Betty Stegmann, Edwina Witkowski, Tracy Dengler, Kristen Franek, Jeannette Lemrise, Lori Marrello, Tahnee Spatafore, Alice Zubek, Gianna Hardt, Anne Pasquerella, Melissa Piwowar, Cathy Wilezek, Jenny Johnson, Tabitha Romines Third Row: Coach Gregory, Brian Ross, Saad Shaar, Nick Jelcic, Breanne Murphy, Chris Menching, Diana Wroblewski Fourth Row: Leah LaFemina, Rachel Kolar, Brad Koeppen



Unbeatable Knights

“Unbeatable Knights!” That’s an understatement! Two consecutive seasons undefeated! Awesome!

The team was basically the same both years. They lost a few teammates to injuries so they added a new player, Tahnee Spatafore. Tahnee said, “I’m really glad I made the team; I was proud to be a member. Mr. Pauly was a great help; he really believed in us.” It was to be expected that such a great team would merit individual best honors too. Michelle Shaughnessy was awarded first team all conference and MVP both years and Cheryl Sullivan was awarded first team all conference in the ‘94 season.

The team was truly great, but Lady

Knights weren’t complete without their coaches. During the ‘93 season, Coach Crawford led the girls to victory and in ‘94 they had Coach Pauly to lend his expertise. Mandy Neese said, “Both coaches really pushed us hard. They taught us how to tune out the crowd and not dwell on past mistakes.”

At the end of the ‘94 season the gymnasium wall had two new additions. A conference banner for both the 7th and 8th grade Lady Knight teams. As the second banner was being raised upon the wall Teresa Skupien said, “It was awesome to know that I helped put that banner up there and people will always see and remember that we did that.”

-Holly Lisitza & Melanie Neumann



Center: Michelle Shaughnessy and Rachel Kolar listen intently to Mr. Pauly’s strategy to win the game. Left: Waiting patiently to be subbed are Amy Ott, Natalie Block, and Gianna Hardt.

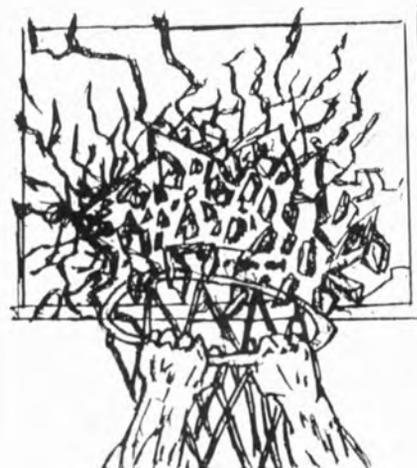


7th GRADE GIRLS BASKETBALL Front Row: Michelle Matuszewski, Kristy Hazzard, Kathy Wilczek, Natalie Block, Melissa Piwowar, Tracy Dengler, Kim Capretz, Jenny Jaral, Gianna Hardt Second Row: Coach Crawford, Amy Ott Third Row: Leah LaFemina, Kristin Franek, Melissa Urquijo, Slam Dunker: Anne Pasquarella



“A great season!” This team had everything: size, speed, aggressiveness, and most of all, great heart!”

Mr. Pauly



8th GRADE GIRLS BASKETBALL Front Row: Jeanette Lemrise, Chris Mensching Second Row: Michelle Shaughnessy, Rachel Kolar, Breanne Murphy, Teresa Skupien, Jamie Bousman Third Row: Laura Tuminello, Michelle Marynowski, Cheryl Sullivan, Danielle Milazzo, Diana Wroblewski, Mandy Neese, Tahnee Spatafore, Coach Pauly



Stacking Up

Those girls did not dribble, pass, or shoot the basketball but they sure did keep the game moving. Those girls were dedicated, athletic, and enthusiastic. They were the cheerleaders.

Our cheerleaders were spunky to say the least and seeing that cheerleading was so strenuous they had to practice a lot. Every Monday and Wednesday the cheerleaders could be seen trying out new cheers, practicing their gymnastics, or trying to build sky high human pyramids. They were even on call for extra practices called by their coach, Mrs. McLaughlin. Often the cheerleaders were in danger of injuries such as sprains, bruises, or breaks during practice and games while doing those daring stunts. Not just anyone could be the base of a pyramid. Girls stacked two high could weigh near one hundred pounds. Now that's strength! That's an athlete. Alice Zubek said, "It's not easy being on the bottom. There is a lot of pressure and weight on you so you

really have to be strong and rigid." And being on top was quite a feat too, having the grace to hold your balance took flexibility and hard concentration.

Unlike the basketball players, cheerleaders didn't get a half time; they cheered during it and they didn't get time outs, they helped liven them up! Our cheerleaders had to have ever-lasting stamina and energy. They really did a great job!

-Jennifer Braun & Jessica Sempek



Left: Prior to net set up for practice Jeremy Lang gets a few bumps in. Above: Lori Marello and Kristen McHugh cue up the Knights's victory cry. Center: Barb Podkanski and Alice Zubek practice a cheer prior to the start of the PACE Day game.



BOYS VOLLEYBALL. Front Row: Manager - Holly Lisitza, Ken Braash, Mike Knudsen, Jason Bjork, Adam Ramirez, Chris Beyer, Jeremy Lang Second Row: Khaled Mohammed, Bob Groos, Brad Koeppen, Mike Cingrani, Mike Prepelica, Jason Kolk Third Row: Matt Moyzis, Bart Frankowitz, Dave Abrahamsen, Pat McLoughlin, Craig Mitchell Fourth Row: Coach McGreal, Eric Zalas, Tony Baldea, Dan Balich, Matt Leipart, Russ Zalas, Todd Murphy



Below: Leading the pack, Michelle Wasik is cheering on the Knights in a tense game against the Patriots.



“Some people may not have even tried to make the volleyball team if they weren’t so tall but it made me a better player because my height gives me confidence and doesn’t hurt my skills.

Craig Mitchell



CHEERLEADERS Front Row: Nicole Olivares Second Row: Lori Marrelo, Kristen McHugh Third Row: Lauren Ward, Bard Podkanski, Alice Zubek, Stacey Demonbreun, Corinne Herman, Fouth Row: Coach McLaughlin, Michelle Wasik Corrine Berndt, Heather Casale



More Than Just A Game

Bump! Set! Spike! You may have thought of volleyball as just a game you played at a picnic or on the beach in the summer, but as a matter of fact, volleyball at Simmons was a very competitive sport.

Volleyball was invented by William C. Morgan in 1895. He was a physical director at the Y.M.C.A. in Holyoke, Massachusetts. His object was to create a game that wasn't too strenuous for older men and women. Over the years Mr. Morgan's original idea changed dramatically. Volleyball has become more strenuous than ever. Even the relaxed form of beach volleyball has turned into a major summer sporting event with the best competitors usually coming out of California. They did get more practice time than we Midwesterners. Burr!

You may have thought this sport was competitive here, but in Asia and Europe volleyball competitions were particularly intense. Just like soccer, volleyball was still trying to make its impact on American society.

More than sixty people tried out for

both the boys and the girls volleyball teams. Twelve people made each of the three teams. Volleyball had always been seen as a girls sport. Boys volleyball didn't even enter the SWIC conference until 1987. But the view of this sport was changing. When asked why boys played volleyball, Ken Braasch answered, "Because it's fun." Getting on the team was no piece of cake. shuttle runs, relays and suicides were used to see who had what it took. Julie Braun said, "Mrs. McGreal used these to see how hard you tried, not how fast you ran. Anne Pasquarella said, "Making the team was scary at first, but the girls made me feel like part of the team."

Volleyball was a game of teamwork, determination, and spirit. Manager Nancy Houston stated, "We are a really good team." I bet William Morgan never thought his invention of volleyball would turn into such a craze, not only for the Knights, but for everyone.

-Melissa Fogarty



Above: Taking a breather during a time out, Breanne Murphy regains her strength.



8th GRADE GIRLS VOLLEYBALL First Row: Chris Mensching Second Row: Anwaar Judeh, Rachel Kolar Third Row: Cheryl Sullivan, Mary Pasquarella Fourth Row: Nicole Biesiada, Jamie Bousman Fifth Row: Mary Ann Miranda, Danielle Milazzo Sixth Row: Breanne Murphy, Michelle Shaughnessy



Center: Anne Pasquerella and Leah LaFemina get psyched for the game against Tinley. Below: Rachel Kolar practices her serve so she can ace the competition.

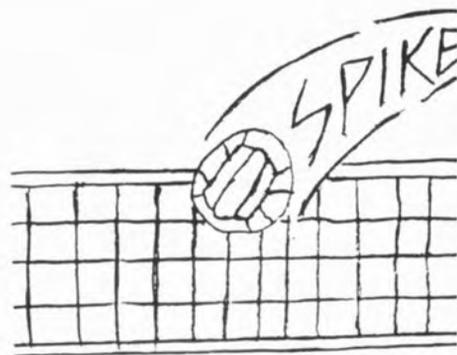


“Working with Mr. McGreal really helped to improve my skills especially my serve, but even with the extra help, there is always room for improvement.”

Jamie Bousman



7th GRADE GIRLS VOLLEYBALL First Row: Kristin Franek, Kim Capretz, Alayna Litynski, Amber Nettle, Julie Braun, Manager Nancy Houston, Melissa Piwowar Second Row: Jenny Jaral, Tracy Dengler, Kristy Hazzard, Gianna Hardt, Anne Pasquarella, Leah LaFemina



An Extra Year

In 1994, two sixth graders from Lieb gave a little extra help to the 7th grade boys basketball team. The two 6th grade students, Dan Tyzenhaus and Ryan Skendzal, were added to the roster. Being on the team in 6th grade was an honor and a bonus. It showed that these young men had the skill to be on the team. They also got to know the coaches and their attitudes. These two boys learned how to handle the loud, but beneficial, yells from the sideline. An extra season gave the players experience and an advantage and certainly helped their performance as 7th graders.

6th grade team members aren't new to Simmons. The '93 season included Chris Beyer, Ken Braasch, Bob Groos, and Jason Bjork from the ranks of the K-6 buildings. The extra experience gave them an edge over other potential Knight team members. This year, they all were included on the team. Having an extra year of experience, they were able to help other teammates deal with the pressures they went through the previous year. Earning an early entry to the team gives these future students an idea

and image of the two years ahead as Simmons Knights. They might not be as scared, if they're treated right by their teammates. Dan Tyzenhaus said, "They play around a little, but it never gets serious." Still these players get a little nervous and scared. No matter how cool they are, most people get some butterflies. Of course, Dan and Ryan's desire to practice and play in games overrides their anxieties. Through victory and defeat, the future Knights got a taste of Simmons basketball.

-Mark Krawczykowski



Above: Coach Crawford has time to gather his thoughts before the start of the game. Left: Eric Zalas tries for a three pointer to help tighten up the score.



7th GRADE BOYS BASKETBALL Front Row: Brian Ross, Bart Frankowicz, Chris Beyer, Jason Bjork, Bob Groos, Eric Zalas Second Row: Russ Zalas, Ken Braasch, Dave Kackert, Adam Ramirez, Mike Hadac, Jim Boozer



Center: Jason Bjork wards off the opponent to get close enough to sink the ball. Below: Prior to the start of the game, Brian Williams practices his shooting skill.



“We like playing basketball together because sometimes we can confuse the other teams when we are both on the court.”

Eric & Russ Zalas



8th GRADE BOYS BASKETBALL Front Row: Coach Crawford, Tacho Gamino, Brad Koeppen, Tony Volpe, Mike Cingrani, Jason Samhan Second Row: Mahir Joudeh, Saad Shaar, Nick Jelcic, Brian Williams, Dan Balich, Tony Baldea



Perfect Practice

During the 1993 Track season the Simmons Knights did quite well despite some of their training facilities. Shot puts, hurdles, batons, and high jump crash pads weren't the problem but the long jump pit was in desperate need of repair. Better yet, a brand new pit, runway, and jump board would help to solve the problem.

The old long jump pit was in terrible condition and this was a continuing problem for the Simmons Knights Track Team. One of the main problems with the pit was the runway leading up to the long jump pit. The runway was made of gravel and made the jumpers cautious of slipping or injuring themselves. Brad Koeppen remarked, "We were always very careful not to fall. No one wanted to rip up their legs."

At all the meets that the Knights attended, they would encounter asphalt runways, a surface they had no experience practicing on. Though this may have seemed like a minor technicality, it really hurt the Knights in competition. Tahnee Spatafore claimed, "We weren't used to running on asphalt so

we didn't know how to adjust our techniques at the meets."

Despite the long jump concerns, the Knights did very well at the 1993 SWIC conference meet. The boys placed third overall and the girls placed second. There were great hopes for an even better '94 season. As Mr. Pauly was frequently heard saying, "Practice does not make perfect, but perfect practice makes perfect." With the new long jump runway, we were well on our way to being perfect.

-Jessica Sempek

Left: Chris Mensching shows off her starting line form which enabled her to set a new school record in the 400 meter dash. Below: Forced to practice inside on a rainy day, Tom Creech revs up his shot.



1993 GIRLS TRACK TEAM Front Row: Kathy Urbanczyk, Alice Zubek, Jeannette Lemrise, Cheryl Sullivan, Mary Pasquarella, Tahnee Spatafore, Amy Simenas Second Row: Mandy Neese, Breanne Murphy, Stacey Demonbreun, Rachel Kolar, Michelle Roti, Coach Gregory Third Row: Coach Crawford, Chris Mensching, Michelle Shaughnessy, Danielle Milazzo, Kristin McHugh, Teresa Skupien, Coach Pauly



Center: Members of the first place SWIC Conference 4 x 100 meter relay team are Michelle Shaughnessy, Stacey Demonbreun, Jeanette Lemrise, and Chris Mensching

Below: Danielle Milazzo is one of the graceful yet powerful Simmons shotputters.

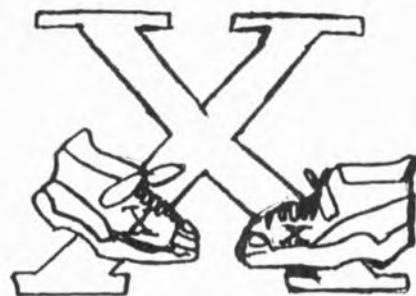


“I like to win! It feels awesome! I also think it’s a great experience to be able to help out my teammates when we run relay races.”

Saad Shaar



1993 BOYS TRACK TEAM Front Row: Tony Palumbo, Chris Amato, Dan Meulhausen, Tom Creech, Dave Abrahamsen, Pat McLoughlin Second Row: Mike Georgopoulos, Yazan Rabah, Brad Koeppen, Nick Jelcic, Jason Kolk, Coach Gregory Third Row: Coach Crawford, Mohammed Ramaha, Saad Shaar, Dan Balich, Jose Salas, Coach Pauly



Extra
Extra

Curricular
Curricular

Activities
Activities

Extra Effort

There was always a lot going on at Simmons, a lot to get involved in. We did all these things in our "free" time. Giving up an extra half hour of sleep to an early morning meeting or staying after school for two hours was never uncommon. But these activities provided us with experiences that we wouldn't normally get in the classroom; they gave us opportunities to express our unique and diverse talents.

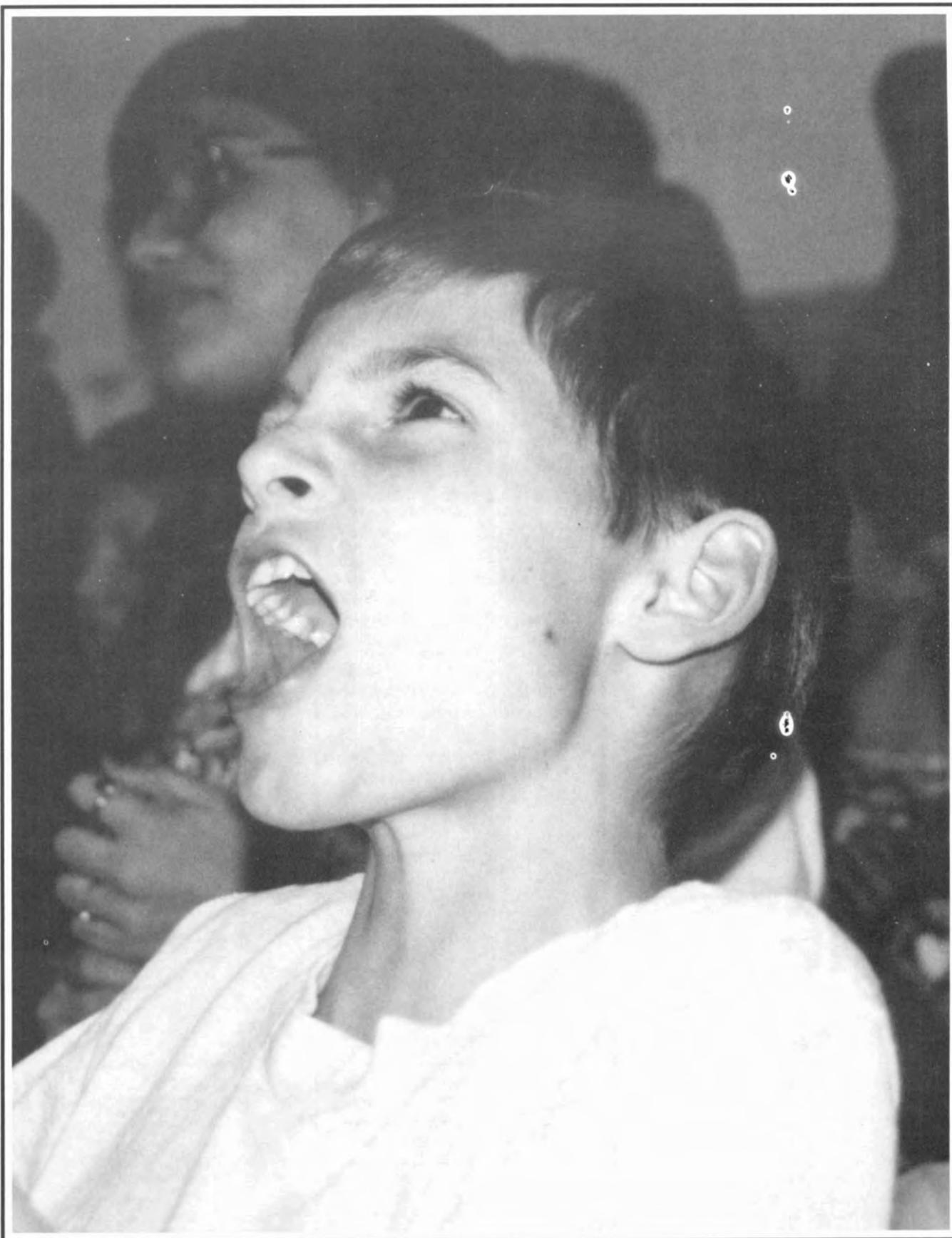
Drama and Declamation catered to the actors in some. Student Council and Just Say No were popular with those who wanted to help improve student leadership, the journalists at Simmons geared themselves toward Quest and Accolade, whereas the more scientifically minded students joined computer club and the new Simmons Science & Technology Club.

Whatever your preference, Simmons had it and we Knights were more than willing to put forth the extra effort needed to be a member of an —Extra Curricular Activity.

-Sandy Hebein



Above: "YYYYMCA", cries Mary Pasquarella to an ever popular '80's tune at the reward dance. Right: Blue Team's Balloon Drop activity really has Mike Knudsen cheering on his team of critical thinkers.



Concert Band



Front Row: Cory Berndt, Rachel Kolar, Jeannette Lemrise, Amanda Ault, Melanie Neumann, Jeanine Dyckman, Katie Truty, Melanie Fitzgibbons, Jenny Trotta, Michelle Matuzewski, Bill Korab Second Row: Katie Powell, Edwina Witkowski, Cathy Wilczek, Karen Rossow, Mary Pasquarella, Christina Zwirkowski, Bridgette Lorenz, Amanda Kutsulis, Jason Rowsey, Josh Smok, Dennis Witas, Kevin Carey, Melissa Kakos, Third Row: Anne Pasquarella, Anna Gunka, Nick Redelsperger, Jessica Koca, Craig Mitchell, Jeremy Mayer, Pete Benes, Fabian Tenorio, Jeremy Lang, Nick Jelcic, Marv Koplun, Eric Biesterfeld, Pat McLoughlin Fourth Row: Jessica Sempek, Bill Janovjak, Tom Jodelka, Ken Huizenga, Not pictured: Scott Cole, Brian Gajos

Drama Club



Front Row: Nicole Biesiada, Pete Benes, Katie Truty, Mrs. Meeks, Kelly Martin, Mandy Patula, Ken Huizenga Second Row: Mr. Schutt, Joshua Smok, Amanda Braatz, Patty Seminetta, Kathy Karp, Nicole Olivares, Julie Braun, Anna Gunka, Jessica Sempek, Nancy Houston, Amanda Metz, Mrs. O'Sullivan Third Row: Katie Bazian, Chris Frankenfield, Brian Backstrom, Amber Poorman, Jenny Stepek, Lauren Cetera, Betty Stegmann, Karen Rossow, Donna Prokop, Katie Powell Fourth Row: Melanie Fitzgibbons, Amanda Ault, Christina Zwirkowski, Melissa Kakos, Joni Bulow, Crystal Elliot, Anwaar Judeh, Melanie Neumann, Becky McNaughton, Melissa Bauman, Dennis Witas Fifth Row: Bernadette Polak, Kathy Hurley, Evelyn Boehm, Sara Colby, Teri Wozniak, Abby Pitcher, Nichole Hanson, Amanda Kutsulis, Amber Hummel, Kate Gaskin, Mohamed Askar, Eric Zoller, Nick Redelsperger



Peppin' It Up Peppin' It Up

Simmons' band was like many of the popular bands of 1994. Metallica, Riality, and Nirvana were bands on the road and so was the Simmons Concert Band. Every year the Concert Band, under the direction of Mr. Bibzak, packed up its fine tuned instruments on an extremely comfortable yellow school bus and headed out for the districts four elementary buildings.

At each school, Columbus Manor, Dearborn Heights, Harnew, and Lieb, a concert was given that filled the room with music and got everyone in the spirit of things. The concerts usually lasted about a half hour. The band was a welcomed sight at all the schools. The children really got into the music. They were even encouraged to sing along if they knew the words. Most children reply with thunderous voices that rival

the sound of the band. Alto saxophone player Pat McLoughlin said, "I like going to the elementary schools because I miss out on school and I like eating lunch at the mall. It's funny how the kids look when the band plays." After the concert the band must pack up and be on the road to the next school within ten to fifteen minutes.

Some of you may have seen the band's performance at many of our PEP rallies. Ken Huizenga said, "I like to see the students dancing in the in the bleachers." Bill Janovjak added, "I think it is a lot of fun to play for the pep rallies. I just wish the band could play the whole song, not just half of it." The band's performance, although very short, usually helps liven things up. The song that is always played is called, "Band Room Riff." This song is usually followed by some other quick paced song. In '94 the song happened to be "Barbara Ann" by the Beach Boys. This just went to show that wherever they were, the Simmons band really helped to pep things up.

-Tom Jodelka

Center: Anna Gunka performs a cheer during the play "Scoops" while Pete Benes, the shop owner, looks on. Left: Waiting in the wings for their cue is Abby Pitcher, Rachel Zebio, and Nichole Hanson. Below: Bill Korab, the only male flute player at Simmons, plays a difficult Scottish folk song.



Chorus



Front Row: Michelle Montoya, Becky McNaughton, Amanda Ault, Cindy Nix, Tina Zwirkowski, Melissa Fogarty, Second Row: Betty Stegmann, Julie Braun, Michele Matuszewski, Cory Berndt, Lindsay Edquist, Mary Pasquarella, Amy Simenas, Third Row: Karen Rossow, Melissa Bauman, Julie Katula, Amy Ott, Katie Klimek, Jeanine Dyckman, Jennifer Rau, Leanne Bylina

Project Success



Front Row: Eric Biesterfeld, Jeff Clemens, Mike Burton, Bill Janovjak, Joshua Smok, Ken Huzizenga, Scott Cole Second Row: Mr. O'Donnell, Katie Klimek, Brigitte Lorenz, Lauren Cetera, Jenny Stepek, Betty Stegmann, Aniana Metz, Jeremy Mayer Third Row: Jessica Sempek, Sara Colby, Mary Pasquarella, Erica Victoris, Marv Koplín, Dan Downey





Survival of the Fittest

Project Success was sponsored by Mr. O'Donnell, who had helped the students improve their academics both in school and at home by teaching them ways to study better while they were having fun at the same time. Unfortunately, Mrs. Cronin, a Project Success sponsor for four years, wasn't there long enough to help us improve some of these abilities. She went on to be an assistant principal at Southbrook School in River Grove. Mr. O'Donnell said, "I felt sad to see her go because we have worked together here for so many years. But I was still happy because she went on to a better, more challenging job as an assistant principal, and I am really proud of her." Bill Janovjak said, "I will really miss her. I met her when I was in seventh grade, and she was really nice. I was looking

forward to having her as a teacher in eighth grade."

Mr. O'Donnell had taken the students through a year of confidence-building, how to get organized, and how to run a successful business. Running the school store was tiring for everyone, but it taught us one major point, how to be responsible. The name Project Success meant that you would do whatever it took to help make someone successful. Mr. O'Donnell helped the students achieve this goal. Most teachers said that the students who were in Project Success showed a great improvement in getting all of their homework done and raising their grades. Project Success had also helped other students who weren't in the club by sponsoring study sessions for a major test. One trip the club planned to take each year was the trip to North Pier to eat lunch. Joshua Smok said, "It is a great club to get into if you want to improve your grades or just have a great time."

Center Top: Jenny Nielson and Katie Klimek show their customers what types of candy bars the school store carries. Center Bottom: Showing her true emotions, Cindy Nix sings "That's What Friends are For."

- Eric Biesterfeld



National Junior Honor Society



Front Row: Mark Krawczykowski, Mike Knudsen, Pat McLoughlin, Dave Abrahamsen, Joe Chavosky, Mr. O'Donnell Second Row: Holly Lisitza, Michelle Marynowski, Amy Simenas, Chris Zwirkowski, Teri Wozniak, Sara Colby, Mrs. Petersen Third Row: Nicole Baird, Jessica Sempek, Jennifer Rau, Jeanine Dyckman, Laura Tuminello, Melanie Neumann, Sherri Gibson, Fourth Row: Abby Pitcher, Cheryl Sullivan, Anwaar Judeh, Jeannette Lemrise, Edwina Witkowski, Amanda Treccia, Katie Truty, Betty Stegmann, Fifth Row: Breanne Murphy, Tony Baldea, Chris Mensching, Tacho Gamino, Teresa Skupien, Kristen McHugh, Rachel Kolar, Brad Koeppen, Mike Cingrani, Not Pictured Tom Jodelka

Gifted



Front Row: Jenny Stepek, Jessica Sempek, Damien Diest, Mark Krawczykowski, Julie Braun, Marcia Sokoloski, Lauren Caster, Frank McNaughton Second Row: Michelle Shaughnessy, Lauren Ward, Leon Lareaux, Corrine Berndt, Third Row: Edwina Witkowski, Amber Poorman, Rachel Kolar, Ms. Layo, Mislim Ramadani





Teaching Teens Teaching Teens

During the 1993-94 school year the students at Simmons were caring more about each others success. Some students in the National Junior Honors Society were tutoring other students in subjects they needed help in. Mrs. Petersen and Mr. O'Donnell, the new sponsors of the club, really got this project going. Tutoring has always been a project of the National Junior Honors Society. Mrs. Petersen said, "This is an important project. We are going to make this year one of the most successful." They tried their hardest.

Mr. Petersen and Mr. O'Donnell asked the teachers of the blue and green teams for students that they thought would benefit from a little extra help from a classmate. The members of the National Juniors Honors

Society that wanted to be a tutor signed up. The officers of the club matched up the two groups of people. The students were all warned that being a tutor or tutoree would take a little extra work on their parts. The students were expected to work together for about two hours a week. They could work before school, after school, or even at certain times during the school day. Students should care about each other and that was just one way they did.

Also, this tutoring program helped alot of students. With the tutor, the students worked really hard. Most of the students grades went up from D's and F's to B's and C's. Lots of the teachers were very proud of some of students' progress. NJHS member and tutor Holly Lisitza said, "It really helped and improved some of the students grades and attitudes. This program also brought new relationships between the student and tutor." This was a great program for both student and tutor to get involved with.

- Carrie Kilroy & Melanie Neumann

Center Top: Mrs. Layo spent many hours instructing gifted students Lauren Caster, Julie Braun, and Lauren Ward on the new Grolier's CD Encyclopedia in the LRC. Center Below: Rachel Kolar works on a critical thinking assignment during a gifted class.



Student Council



Front Row: Anne Pasquarella, Mrs. Gregory, Tony Volpe, Jeremy Lang, Rachel Kolar
 Second Row: Jason Egan, Nina Quillin, Nancy Houston, Lauren Ward, Anwaar Judeh, Frank McNaughton, Stacy Demonbreun, Lori Mareello, Nick Knat, Jason Bjork
 Third Row: Gianna Hardt, Kristin Franek, Michelle Shaughnessy, Kim Capretz, Melissa Urquijo, Tabitha Romines, Tony Raspante, Dan McLernon, Tacho Gamino, Cheryl Sullivan, Teresa Skupien, Brad Koeppen,
 Fourth Row: Mike Burton, Chris Menshing, Kristen McHugh, Nick Jelcic, Tony Baldea

Just Say No Officers



Front Row: Anwaar Judeh, Nichole Hanson, Chuck Shalaby
 Second Row: Holly Lisitza, Amber Hummel, Marcia Sokoloski, Anna Dzielski, Mrs. Huffman



Leadership Leadership



You may have thought that Student Council and Just Say No had nothing in common, but in fact they were very similar. They both had one thing in common. That one thing was leadership.

Students leading students. Student Council sponsored dances, PEP assemblies, a Halloween costume contest, PACE Day, and the Valentine's flower day sale. But some of the most important work sponsored by Student Council involved a lot of cooperation from the entire student body. The Thanksgiving food drive was one way we showed our concern for others that weren't as fortunate as we were. In 1993 we donated enough food to feed five families seven meals each. And when one of our own students experi-

enced hardship we all chipped in and helped to raise nearly \$1000.00 for the family. Great work Simmons!!

Just Say No members led other kids away from drugs and violence. Just Say No also sponsored special days and dances. One of those special occasions was Red Ribbon Week, students who wore their ribbons were drug-free and were going to stay that way. The week ended with a dance. Carrie Kilroy said, "I think Just Say is educational, it teaches kids that there are better things to do other than taking drugs." Jessica Sempek said, "I like Just Say No because it teaches us to say no to drugs."

The highlight activity for Just Say No was getting John Paxson, # 5 of the 3 time world champion Chicago Bulls to come to our school. In 1991 the Just Say No club invited John Paxson to Simmons to talk to the students about the importance of saying no to drugs and finally in the fall of 1993 he arrived. Becky McNaughton said, "It was really neat seeing someone as famous as John Paxson come to Simmons."

- Melissa Fogarty

Center Top: Before John Paxson, Chicago Bull #5, spoke with the student body, he had a minute to go to the principal's office and shake hands with Mr. Freehauf. Center Bottom: What shall it be? Wonders Larry Townsend to himself. Friends, like, or love?

Below: To help the King family replace what they lost in their house fire, Student Council President Tony Volpe and Secretary Rachel Kolar present a gift certificate raised by the student body and faculty.



Simmons Science and Technology Club



Front Row: Mrs. Fleming, Amber Poorman, Joe Barr, Mike Barr, Ken Huizenga, Josh Smok, Nick Hnat, Brian Perveneckis, Katie Truty, Stan Siecka, Marion Kubicz, Second Row: Mark Krawczykowski, Becky McNaughton, Amanda Metz, Lauren Cetera, Jenny Stepek, Betty Stegmann, Holly Lisitza, Pat McLoughlin, Khaled Mohammed, Mike Knudsen, Kelly Martin, Amanda Patula Third Row: Mrs. Rosenow, Anna Gunka, Sandy Hebein, Elizabeth Rojas, Jessica Sempek, Katie Bazian, Melanie Fitzgibbons, Tim Ellis, Ricky Hnat, Nirut Chittaphraphai, Karen Rossow, Marwar Matarieh, Fourth Row: Jeff Clemens, Eric Biesterfeld, Katie Klimek, Mandy Kutsulis, Scott Cole, Cory Berndt, Bernadette Polak, Melissa Ribich, Veronica Espinosa, Julie Braun, Mrs. O'Laughlin, Miss Kramp, Fifth Row: Tom Jodelka, Shaun McLaughlin, Melanie Neumann, Katie Powell, Amy Childress, Cathy Wilczek, Gianna Hardt, Tracy Dengler, Leah LaFemina, Melissa Piwowar, Anne Pasquarella

Quest Writing Club



Front Row: Danielle Milazzo, Abby Pitcher Second Row: Pat McLoughlin, Sandy Hebein, Michelle Marynowski, Jeanine Dyckman, Holly Lisitza, Katie Powell Third Row: Becky McNaughton, Cory Berndt, Stacey Demonbreun, Tahnee Spatafore, Alice Zubek, Mark Krawczykowski, Jessica Sempek Fourth Row: Chris Mensching, Rachel Kolar, Breanne Murphy, Mr. Gath



Florida Bound Florida Bound

"The SST club is going to FLORIDA!?" "YEAH RIGHT!"

That was the reply from many students upon hearing the announcement. If you had been one of the people that went to the after school meeting of the first SST Club (Simmons Science and Technology), you found out that the announcement was indeed true. It was a costly trip, approximately \$680.00, but with numerous fund raisers and membership participation, the cost was greatly reduced. Some of the clubs many fund raisers included bake sales, dances, raffles, a toy and craft fair, tee-shirt, candy sales, and two attempts at a car wash. Both car washes had to be canceled because of poor weather. There was no point to washing cars in the rain.

The club members who chose to attend Star Quest in Tampa took off from

either Midway or O'Hare airports on March 25. With 42 SST Club members, 3 sponsors, and 2 parent chaperones going, the travel agent couldn't even book them all on one flight. They were in Florida for four days before returning home. Before departure Khaled Mohammed said, "I'm really excited about going to Florida. This is going to be the highlight of the SST club. I think it will be fun learning about space." Many others had the same response. The SST club did many different things in Florida. Mrs. Fleming, a sponsor said, "We did so much in Florida. We built and launched rockets, learned to read star maps and charts, used real telescopes, explored a substance called oobleck, and participated in a simulated space flight to Mars. We also went to Epcot Center. When we visited Kennedy Space Center, we went on a tour behind the scenes, talked with NASA personnel, and saw a simulated lift off. Basically, it was awesome!"

It was safe to say that SST club member Mike Knudson shared the same feelings as the rest of the "techies" with his enthusiastic comment, "It's was cool!"

-Tom Jodelka

Center: Crashed under the overnight reference table, Mark Krawczykowski finally fell asleep around 4:00am during the SST lock in. Far Left: On Quest's poetry day, Alice Zubek stopped by many classes to give an oral reading. Left: Holly Lisitza made a flying machine and gave it a test fling. Below: Scott Cole as seen through the reflective properties of a kalidescope's mirrors.



Accolade Staff



First Row: Katie Truty, Sandy Hebein Second Row: Becky McNaughton, Amanda Ault, Mark Krawczykowski, Melissa Fogarty, Carrie Kilroy, Miss Kramp Third Row: Holly Lisitza, Tracy Spatola, Melanie Neumann, Tom Jodelka, Eric Biesterfeld, Karen Rossow, Jessica Sempek Not Pictured: Cheri Murray, Jennifer Braun



Computer Club



Front Row: Marv Koplín Second Row: Jim Kenealy, Mr. O'Donnell Third Row: Kevin Carey, Brian Perveneckis, Aimee Lind, Mrs. Sypniewski, Ms. Layo



What's Accolade? What's Accolade?

Accolade - (ak' o-lade'') n. A ceremony used in conferring knighthood, usually a blow on the shoulder with the flat edge of a sword, to receive an honor. Synonyms: honors, laurels, tribute, reward, decoration.

During morning announcements the first week of school, Mr. Honkisz read, "The Accolade will be on sale in the Multi-Center this week for \$16.00. "What's that?" everyone wondered.

In 1992 the yearbook staff changed publishing companies which provided them with an array of products and opportunities for creativity and over the past two summers various staff members attended yearbook camps. While at these camps, the staffers noticed that all the other yearbooks they saw had an official title. Hence, the question, "Why don't we have one? Hey, let's run a contest."

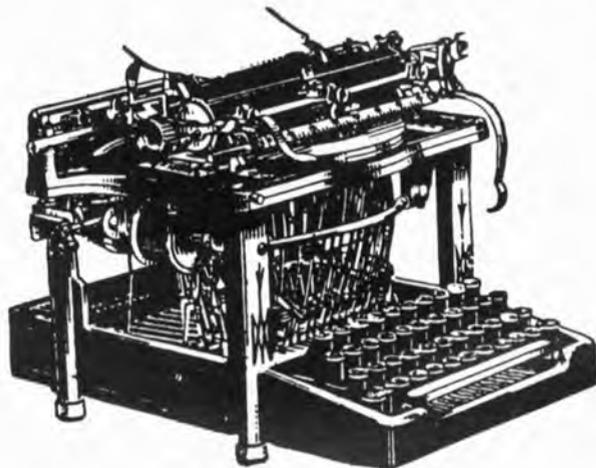
"Put your entry right in this box," directed Sandy Hebein. "If we pick yours you'll get a \$30.00 gift certificate for the mall." The day to choose the winner had finally come. As the staff sifted through the entries nothing quite captured their attention. "Alpha & Omega," too collegiate. "Over the Rainbow," too much like a theme. As a matter of fact, they were all too much like themes. The difference between themes and titles is that themes change every year, titles stay the same.

Deciding to take matters into their own hands, Holly Lisitza, Becky McNaughton, Miss Kramp, and along for the ride, 5th grader Morgan Lisitza, camped out in the LRC one hot summer day and began to research Medieval times. The pile of books kept growing when finally, Morgan found what she described as, "a cool word," Accolade.

Holly, yearbook editor, thought it was an excellent choice because the yearbook was always a great accomplishment but most importantly, WE'RE ALL KNIGHTS!!

- Katie Truty

Center: Tom Jodelka, in his usual enthusiastic way, says "What a great idea, I'll be more than happy to do that!" Left: While summoning groups for picture day, Melissa Fogarty pauses briefly to catch her breath. One of the yearbook staff's game photographers, Becky McNaughton, does a role reversal.



Sports Service Club



Mark Krawczykowski, Steve Pohancek, Tom Jodelka, Joe Girten, Edwina Witkowski, Eric Bies-terfeld



President's Physical Fitness Winners



Front Row : Nick Lazo, Mrs. Gregory, Mike Georgopoulos, Michelle Shaughnessy, Stacy De-monbreun, Jeannette Lemrise, Anwaar Judeh, Ken Braasch, Jeremy Lang, Kristin Achter, Mandy Neese, Melissa Piwowar, Kristin Franek, Anne Pasquarella, Tracy Dengler, Christina Zworskowski
 Second Row: Tony Volpe, Pat McLoughlin, Brad Koeppen, Breanne Murphy, Dan Balich, Diana Wroblewski, Dave Abrahamsen, Dan McLemon, Mr. Pauly
 Third Row: Cheryl Sullivan, Chris Mensching, Tom Creech, Michelle Donnahue, Amy Simenas, Jeanine Dyckman, Fourth Row: Nick Hnat, Tacho Gamino, Nick Jelcic, Melanie Donnahue, Mary Pasquarella, Alice Zubek, Dan Muelhausen, Tom Zegar, Kristen McHugh, Rachel Kolar, Natasha Horstman, Salima Garcia, Esther Remcheck, Nina Quillen, Cathy Wilezek, Veronica Espinosa, Katy Ingals, Natalie Block, Donna Prokop, Michelle Roti, Lauren Ward, Jennifer Nielson, Jamie Bousman, Melanie Fitzgibbons, Joe Petrick, Saad Shaar, Tony Russo, Russ Zalas, Bob Groos, Frank McNaughton





Admission Fees Admission Fees

"Do you have a family rate?" I have to pay to get in?" These were frequent questions the Sports Service Club members were faced with at the entry table to the gym. The students even questioned them why they had to pay to get into see their friends play basketball or volleyball. Why did Simmons charge admission to the games anyway? All we wanted to do was lend our plaudits to our fellow Knights.

Admission to the games really wasn't that much. If we produced our student id card we only had to pay 25 cents. It's not like we couldn't handle it. If we were having a bad day and forgot to bring our id we had to pay 50 cents. Yes indeed, the price was doubled but neither price was out of our allowance range. All other attendees to the games paid a dollar, not such a heavy price either. All the proceeds made from the games went right back

to the school and the school's teams. The profits helped to buy new sports equipment like volleyballs, basketballs, nets, and official scorebooks to name a few items. The fees also helped cover the cost of new uniforms for all sports teams at Simmons including the Cheerleaders. And what about the referees for the games? They didn't work for free, they were paid also. Volleyball games only required one referee but basketball games needed two; that could really add up after a thirty-six week sporting season.

There were a few lucky folks who were waived the minutive fee though. The teachers who kept the official record book for the games didn't have to pay, but why would anyone pay to go to work? And the Accolade staff photographers didn't have to pay either. No one minded letting them in for free because there was the chance that maybe we'd get our picture in the yearbook.

All in all, the fee wasn't high and the proceeds went to a great cause, top of the line training equipment and the best dressed teams in town.

-Tom Jodelka & Jessica Sempek

Center & Left: Mark Krawczykowski, Eric Biesterfeld, and Joe Girten all take a break from the rushing fans after the tip-off of the seventh grade basketball game. Tony Volpe, a President's Physical Fitness awardee, perfects his overhead press during p.e. class.



Declamation Team



Front Row: Aimee Lind, Amanda Ault, Brian Perveneckis, Betty Stegmann Second Row: Mr. Gath, Rachel Zebio, Rachel Kolar, Tony Baldea, Corinne Herman, Mrs. Rosenow

Simmons Spellers



Mr. McGreal, Mike Knudsen, Amber Hummel, Lauren Caster, Natalie Block, Anne Pasquarella, Marcia Sokoloski, Chuck Shalaby



Speechless Speechless



Writing an essay, easy! Reading it in front of the class, Yikes! Yes, It was American's most common fear right here at Simmons, public speaking. "Your afraid your friends will laugh," said Anna Dzielski. Most times students wrote papers for Language Arts, Reading, Social Studies, and even Science class, but when asked to read them aloud it was major public speaking fright. One of the Red Team Math and Language Arts teachers Mr. Locascio said, "You have to speak in front of people to get over your fear." Most kids were scared because they thought the class would laugh at them. When they spoke in front of the class it seemed like everything would go wrong, they would make complete fools out of themselves.

On all the teams, speeches and skits were favorite projects for the teachers to give to the students. Mr. Gath's reading classes had to present a short speech

relating back to their previous novel that was set in the 1960's or about the Native American tribes. Leanne Bylina stated, "Speeches are really hard but they're also a lot of fun." Of course there's always some one with a different point of view. "Speeches were the worst assignment I have done this year!" said Nick Richter. Some of the speeches required that you wear a costume and that was really hard to do too. Miss Kramp said that the first time she gave a speech in college her legs shook uncontrollably. "It was the worst." Presenting a speech was the main assignment in Mr. Himmelman's three week language arts class. The students had to present three speeches; a prop or picture speech, a president speech, and a demonstration speech.

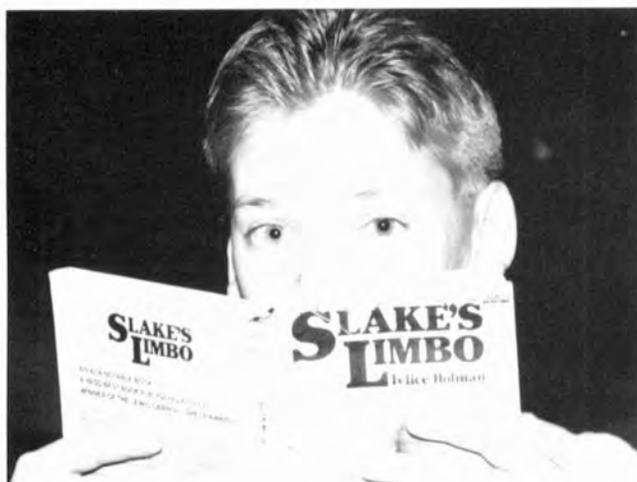
Before getting up in front of the class, the teachers always gave some advice. "Take a few deep breaths, speak slowly and fluently," and the famous, "pretend like everyone's wearing their underwear." That was easy for them to say; they didn't have to do it!

Although speech giving felt like a form of slow torture, . . . It was!!

-Amanda Ault

Center: Mrs. Rosenow coaches Rachel Kolar on her up and coming Declamation performance. Left: Theatrically talented Rachel Zebio uses her declamation skills during the Fall Drama club performance. One more time, "I before e except after c. Now let's try it again." directs Mr. McGreal.







Summing It Up!

The 1993-94 Simmons school year added up to what was seen in this "First Addition" of the Accolade. The Accolade staff worked hard to record all the events and special moments that had occurred the '93-'94 year. As we close the cover on this book we hope everyone will remember this time in their lives.

Remember the John Paxson assembly? When John Paxson himself came to Simmons to add his support and advice to the original sum of students in the district. Remember the SST club lock-in? When the people going on the Florida trip slept overnight in the LRC. Do you remember the numerous field trips, club gatherings, PEP assemblies, Pace Day, dances, and team activities? Of course you remember; how could you forget.

Every year, a new group of students came to Simmons, as the older group moved on. Every year, things like the activities, assemblies, sports, and clubs changed and will continue to change to accommodate the fast moving lives of the students who spent their days at Simmons Middle School.

Perhaps the students of the '93-'94 school year will never again have the chances and friends they had here at Simmons. They'll take with them the memories of what they did. For some students it was hard to say good-bye to their school, friends, and childhood, but they will say hello to their future. "We're sad that we're leaving our old friends, and also scared about meeting new ones," said Kathy Urbanczyk and Missi Bauman.

-Katie Truty



Clockwise: Scott Cole, Nicole Biesiada, Corinne Herman, Rita Murphy, Mike Hejna, Bernadette Polak, Alayna Litynski, Jessica Koca, and Adam Downs, sum it up with happy smiles of happy times here at Simmons.

Colophon

The dedicated Simmons Yearbook Staff created this twentieth volume of the Simmons yearbook. It was the first formal edition of the yearbook with a title -The ACCOLADE. The staff met every Thursday at 8:00am, at least monthly on Saturdays, during holidays, not to mention time spent at home.

"Simmons Plus A Whole Lot More" was printed by the Herff Jones Yearbook Company in Marceline, Missouri. Art Christopher of Judges Photography in Aurora was the official school photographer and was responsible for our portraits and group shots. He did a great job. All other photos were taken by staff members with a Minolta Maxxum Dynax 3XI camera, that was purchased for us by the Simmons PTA. The staff shot, along with photographer Art Christopher, a total of 53 rolls of 35 mm film for a grand total of 1,272 photographs to choose from.

The theme "Simmons Plus A Whole Lot More" was developed by Corinne Herman because of all the new equipment, remodeling, and faculty at Simmons in 1994. The cover was designed by Kathy Pundt of Herff Jones. The spectra colored foil "Plus" was pressed into a stiff cover in a Newport Blue Shade. The plus symbol was a silk screen over print in purple. The 7.75 by 10.5 three column format was printed on Ermine 80 pound paper. The end sheets, designed by staff member Mark Krawczykowski, were printed on violet colored paper. The first color printing to ever don a Simmons yearbook.

The book consisted of 72 pages, all black and white. Original artwork was designed by staff members Tom Jodelka and Mark Krawczykowski. The font type used in the 1994 Accolade was Times Roman Bold. Type set sizes were: division head 48 point, mainhead 30 point, subhead 18 point, body copy

10 point, and captions 8 point.

The price of the Accolade was \$16.00 and \$19.00 if a gold foil name stamp was purchased. Yearbooks were given out at the distribution party. A \$1.00 entry fee was charged to cover the cost of shipping the yearbooks. Extra yearbooks were also sold at the distribution party for \$20.00.

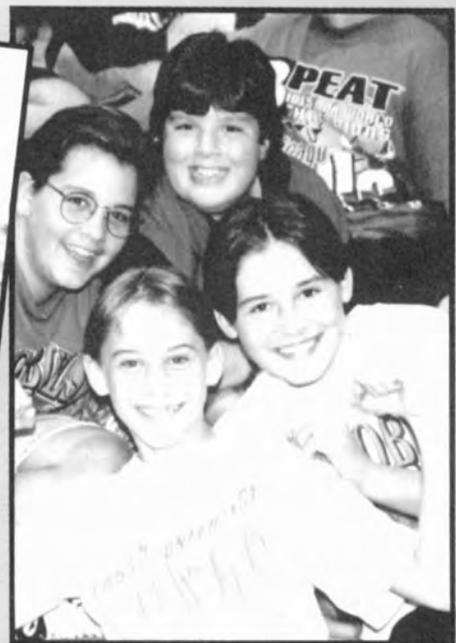
We would like to thank the Simmons PTA for purchasing our camera, Mr. Tom Truty for helping us with postage

fees, and sales representative Linda Conrath for her unending support. We would also like to thank the Simmons faculty members for their patience. A big thank you to all ACCOLADE moms and dads for getting us to all our meetings and for all your love and support. And finally, the staff members would also like to thank one very dedicated person, to whom without her there would be no yearbook, Miss Kramp.



1994 ACCOLADE STAFF

Holly Lisitza-Editor	Cheri Murray-Copy
Katie Truty-Asst. Editor	Karen Rossow-Copy
Jessica Sempek-Asst. Editor	Tracy Spatola-Copy
Mark Krawczykowski-Art & Copy	Amanda Ault-Copy
Tom Jodelka-Art & Copy	Carrie Kilroy-Copy
Eric Biesterfeld-Copy & Pics	Jennifer Braun-Copy
Becky McNaughton-Copy & Typist	Christine Kramp-Advisor
Sandy Hebien-Copy & Typist	Linda Conrath-Sales Rep
Melissa Fogarty-Copy & Typist	Art Christopher-Photographer
Melanie Neumann-Copy	





SIMMONS
KNIGHTS



