



**Editor: Matt Headley**

**Co-Editor: Dave Franklin**

# Apr / May 1996 Newsletter



## Editor's Note:

Since I will be graduating, next month will be my very last issue. I am proud to announce that Chris Field will be your new newsletter editor, and right now it looks like Brad Hopkins may be your next co-editor. To ease the transition a little bit, Chris will be the co-editor of next month's newsletter. **IF YOU HAVE ANY LAST COMMENTS FOR THE NEWSLETTER UNDER MY DIRECTION, WRITE THEM UP ON THE NOTEMAIL FORMS ON THE BACK TABLE!**

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# April Fools!

**Did you ever do any April Fool's Jokes? If Not, Here are a few Ideas.**

**Chad Headley - Go into a weight - loss center with a bunch of pizza boxes.**

**Dan Biad - Go to a high paying pizza place, order 20 pizzas and say it's for a party, then say to the waitress I'll get my money from your car and keep driving.**

**Pastor Mark - I called Dana from the church - all serious - and told her Pastor Jordan was leaving the church - and she totally believed me! She flipped out and hung up on me! ( "good one Pastor Mark" )**

**David Cook - Someone ran into my leg on March 31st and hurt it real bad and was apologizing extensively and felt real guilty. I then came into school the next day wearing a cast and told them I would never walk right again. I got'em.**

**Cassie - I put a rubber band around the little sprayer on the kitchen sink and got everyone in my family wet.**

**Stephanie Wilson - I got a fake discipline sheet from my communications teacher, and wrote that the school found me smoking in the bathroom and gave it to my dad. He freaked out, but before he grounded me, I told him it was a joke!**

**Jill Jordan - Sorry, everyone does April Fools jokes to me!!**

**Ivy - Hi! Bye!**

**Karla - NO!**

**Melissa - I'm not that mean!**

**Christine - I think this is gay. Thank You.**

**Laura - This is really queer.**

**Robin - No, but I hit my head last night and now I have a bump.**

*Editor's Note: Such Loving Support From the Youth Group!*





# What's Up



By

**Matt Headley**

**Sunday, May 19 - Movie Night**

After the church service Sunday night stick around for a while to watch a video. But before that, I'm going to see if I can show what I've added and how I've improved the year-in-review video I made for the Christmas party. Because I ran out of time, ( I stayed up all night the night before the party to edit it ) I didn't have time to end the video the way I would have liked to. Come and see the added event and new, hilarious ending! Stay to watch the comedy video that Pastor Mark will bring!



F r i d a y , J u n e 7

**Graduation Banquet**

Well, this is it. The end. I've gotta go, Robin's gotta go, Mark's gotta go, Rick's gotta go, Dave's gotta go, ( There's a lot of seniors this year, isn't there! ) Brian's gotta go, the other Dave's gotta go, Patty's gotta go, and Hacksaw ( Dan ) has to go. We have no choice in the matter.

This year's annual Graduation Banquet has a theme of "This is the time to remember". Not necessarily the Billy Joel song, but just remembering your youth group experiences. We will be going to some hotel, and believe it or not, we will be staying over and going to Great Adventure the next day. The cost for the weekend will depend on your plans.

- The banquet itself costs \$25.
- If you're staying overnight at the hotel it will be an extra \$10.
- Great Adventure costs \$21 if you buy one of Pastor Mark's tickets. If you don't, and he runs out of tickets, the cost will be \$25 at the gate.

So far, plans for the banquet include the usual Sr. testimonies, a mini-message given by one of our youth group members, and other entertainment. Pastor Mark is going to conduct and read a new "Most Likely To..." survey, and hopefully, there will be a few surprises.

I'm planning 2 short videos. One will be like the one I did last year, depending if the seniors who owe me pictures deliver them to me. ( Dave Cook is convinced his parents don't love him. They cannot find any pictures of him! ) The second video is a surprise.



S a t u r d a y , J u n e 8

**Great Adventure**

I don't need to write anything to encourage you to come to this event. Plus you already know all the details. BUT...

The Big Question Remains : "Will Matt get to go on Batman this year?" The first year I went I was scared and refused to go on. Last year different circumstances kept me from trying Batman for the first time, even though I promised everyone I would. ( I wrote about it in the newsletter, remember? ) Is the third time the charm? The guys who write the history books with their lap - tops on hand are patiently waiting. I'm starting to feel butterflies in my stomach again...



# What's Happening by Jill Jordan

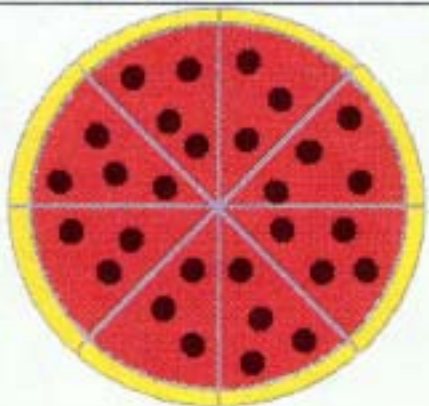
## DESTINATION UNKNOWN



We went ice skating for Destination Unknown. It was very painful. Everybody fell down and got cold. There was an icecleaner and we all wanted



him to fall off his ice cleaning truck. He needs a seatbelt. Courtney lost half a tooth and 2 minutes later she lost the other half of her tooth! We had fun!

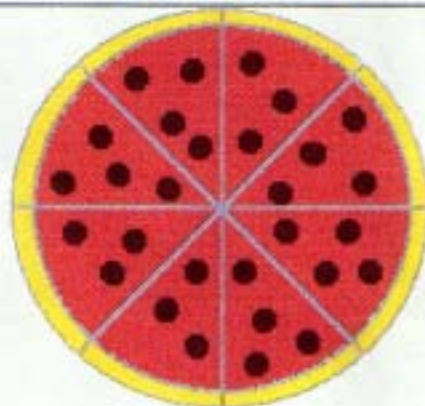


PIZZA  
NIGHT

AT

PIZZA

HUT



We went to Pizza Hut & we all ate pizza!  
It was a cute time of eating!

## Babysitting Night



People brought their kids to the church and we babysat their kids while they had fun!



Camp Calvary...  
What A Gas!



# G - Boro CBC Youth Group Invades Camp Calvary!

Dan's  
2x4!



Matt Headley A Hero?  
Adam String Accident Prone?  
Having Gas Is Cool?

**More  
Memories  
Below!**



Poor, Poor Adam!

Kiss it and make it feel better?

- Paintball! - Pete Field
- Being the most terrified and horrified I have ever been in my life (very scared)
- Adam String spinning around and landing in the creek. And the Sr. High guys' skit about gas... and Ivy was my most favorite thing at Spring Retreat! - M.A.E.
- Editor's Note: By the way, that last statement on Mark's card looks kinda like Ivy's, doesn't it Ivy?*
- I sprained my ankle. Guess Who!
- Jesse and Guy testing their ninja skills on Pastor Walberg's paintball table!!
- I taught my cabin to blow, not suck! I taught them how to sign "As The Deer" and we all did sign language all weekend. Me and Jen had a hard time getting around trees and our bodies got implanted into them. A huge frog attacked all of us, too. (Don't eat the feathers on the chicken!) - Jill Jordan
- Editor's Note: You distract her, I'll call the authorities.*
- My best memory of camp is when some of the Sr. High guys and I wondered what Camp Calvary really did when we weren't there. I wondered if they use the bull, Venture Valley, or the land trolley? They probably do.
- I remember trying to kill Jesse Aquino and Matt Purzycki because they were calling me a gorilla. Those two are the worst guys of the youth group. Then I remember looking up at the comet. That thing was so, so, beautiful because there was no light poisoning. I also remember that big fight I had with Matt Purzycki. By the way, Matt, I'm still going to kill you. This time I won't almost fall into the stream You Loser!!! - Laura Boswell
- Spring Retreat Memory- Matt Headley saving my life in paintball by shooting Adam Purzycki - Ivy
- Editor's Note: You were behind me, Ivy?*
- My reminder of spring retreat was being the first person to go to the nurse, Mr. Schneider, because Pastor Mark creamed me in the nose. Also, Jr. High guys beat the Sr. High guys in paintball. Also, the Sr. High guys raiding our cabin. - Matt Eichmann
- Everyone had Gas, And that's about it.



*Editor's Note: If you were wondering where all the blank Notemail messages got to, ask Jill and Ivy. Jill had 8 messages, Ivy had 5!*

**Jill's messages to...**

- 2 Ivy/Heidi - Bulls stink. As the Deer is our theme song!
- 2 Dave - I'll buy you a gord tree for a graduation present.
- 2 Matt P. - Yea! Kentucky is # 1
- 2 Courtney - MOO MOO Pack your lunch, we're leaving in 5 minutes.
- 2 Mark - Call me if you're not coming to church!
- 2 Guy - Penny Hardaway is the best & Larry Johnson stinks, & is a loser.
- 2 Nana Lineface - Yo Lineface! Remember, hit, don't turn! You stink, but I like you anyway!  
- Don't hit the ducky! I'll teach you how to use turn signals!!

**Ivy's messages to...**

- 2 Jilly - Don't hit the Ducky! Magic are losers! Love ya!
- 2 Mark - I love you!
- 2 Matt H. - You saved my Life!
- 2 David - Thanks for the clapper! I wish it was a Longsuffering one!
- 2 Nana - Hi Lineface! It's not a cat it is a Lion!

**To Jill From Dave:** Pull my fist back.      **To Ivy From Dave:** Destination Colorado!      **To Dana From Stephanie:** Word Homie!      **To Everybody From Robin:** HI!

**To Cassie From Steph:**  
Look perturbed! Discombobulated! Is your father a baker? Never try to catch snowflakes in a cup of hot chocolate cause you'll never get to see what they look like!

**To Brian (cheese) From Laura Stafford:**  
Remember that time at camp when you were eating a cheesesteak and the cheese was hard and crusty? What did that remind you of? Oh, by the way, my mom finally got the mud out of my backpack!



# Words Of Wisdom

## **Quotes By Vance Havner, Evangelist**

- *At the rate America is decaying morally, we shall have to change our national symbol from an eagle to a culture.*
- *We must not only believe God, we must believe we believe God. Like the silly habit of going back to see if you really did lock that door, an unsettled state of spiritual indecision is developed by doubting souls. They never "close the gate" behind them, they are forever reconsidering their decisions. They are never sure of their conversion or their consecration.*
- *More Bibles are bought and fewer read than any other book.*
- *If you see a Bible that is falling apart, it probably belongs to someone who isn't!*
- *The greatest choice any man makes is to let God choose for him.*
- *Christians are not citizens of earth trying to get to heaven but citizens of heaven making their way through this world.*
- *Our Lord worked with people as they were, and He was patient - not tolerant of sin, but compassionate.*
- *The answer to criminality is not recreation, education, or legislation; it is Jesus Christ. If any man be in Christ he is a new creature ( 2 Corinthians 5:17).*
- *Some people do not have much trouble with the devil. They are so worthless he doesn't waste time on them.*
- *A little boy who had been begging his father for favors all day came once more into his daddy's office. "What do you want this time?" asked the weary parent. "I don't want anything," was the astonishing reply, "I just want to be with you." If our Heavenly Father could be surprised He certainly would be, I am sure, if for once we prayed for no specific needs in particular but only sought His Presence and fellowship.*
- *God is on the lookout for candidates with hearts perfect toward Him. He is not a talent scout looking for somebody strong enough or good enough. He is looking for someone with a heart set on pleasing Him and an eye single to His glory. He will do the rest.*
- *As a little boy I enjoyed watching my mother make bread or cake. When she assembled the ingredients, they did not look too appetizing. Who wants to eat flour or baking powder? But when she had mixed everything in proper proportions and put them in the oven we awaited the outcome with joy. Sometimes the happenings in our lives are not enjoyable when they come separately one by one. But when God has completed the recipe and put it through the baking, we have "Romans 8:28 cake" and the taste is good, even though some of the ingredients at one time made us weep.*
- *We do not usually learn that Christ is all we need until we reach that place where He is all we have!*







# What's Your EXCUSE?



I decided to take a shower instead.  
- Chad Headless

Our hot water heater exploded...  
and ruined my bathing suit!  
- Matt H

I decided, why start now?  
- Ivy

## I Was About To Walk The Dog When...

He died  
- Dan Biad

Agent Moulder and Agent Scully  
came and asked me if I've seen any  
aliens around. I told them I haven't,  
and they took off. Just then, a UFO  
came down, and abducted the dog!  
- Matt H

I realized my dog was as fat as a hippo  
and I was suddenly squished as flat  
as one of those manhole covers  
- Chad Headless



## I Can't Eat My Vegetables Because...

They're starting to move by themselves  
- Matt H.

My vegetables ate each other  
- Chad Headley

I'm not allowed  
- Ivy

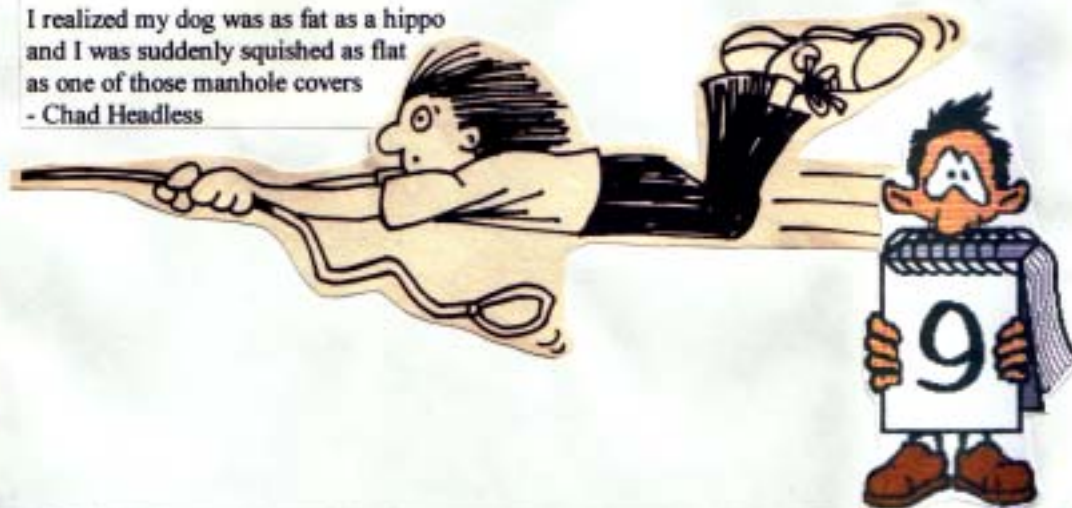


## I Forgot My Dentist Appointment Because...

I found out he was gay.  
- (Although he didn't write it,  
I know it was) Matt Purzycki

I found out that the dentist's patient  
who wrote that his dentist is gay is  
actually gay himself!  
- Matt H

He turned into a Nazi and he  
was abducted by aliens and forced into  
a weight loss program.  
- Chad Headley





**I Didn't Mow  
The Lawn Because...**

The cowboy took my lunch meat  
Hohn! Hohn!  
- Guy Ikpah

I moved to Death Valley last month  
- Matt H

My brother did it instead  
- Chad Headless

**I Started To Dust  
The Living Room But...**

My house burnt down and I died!!  
- Jill J.

Tim Allen invited himself into my house  
with a rigged 120 horse-powered  
diesel-engined snowblower, and told  
me he had a better way of doing things!  
- Matt H

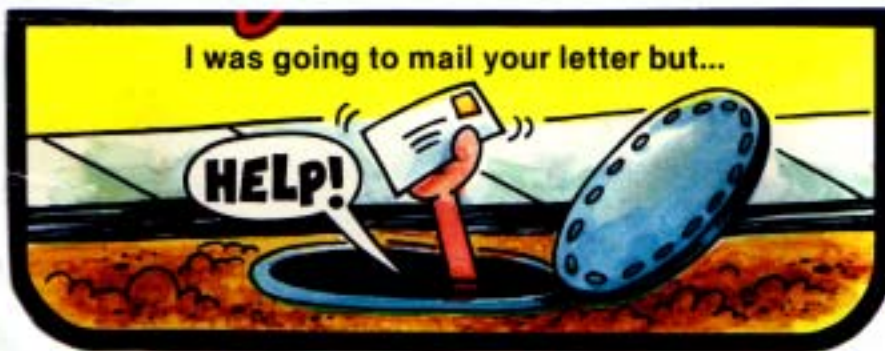
I had gas  
- Chad Headley

**I Forgot To Turn The Water  
Off In The Sink Because...**

I wanted to see how full the sink got  
before it overflowed  
- Chris Field

I wanted to experiment and see if that  
little hole on the wall of the sink actually  
kept it from overflowing!  
- Matt H

I never turned it on  
- Chad Headley



**I Was Going  
To Get Out Of Bed But...**

When I was getting dressed, something  
pulled my clothes off and then the covers  
grabbed me and pulled me back into my bed.  
- Adam Purzycki

I sleep on the floor  
- Dan Biad

I realized it was Monday morning so I hit  
the snooze alarm, and when that didn't go  
off and I overslept, I got so mad that I had  
a heart attack and died. Maybe I should  
have bought a new alarm clock after the  
first 27 times it didn't work!  
- Matt H

I forgot to write it  
- Chris Field

I decided to fax it to your  
work instead  
- Matt H

I decided not to because the  
post office worker had a  
semi-automatic in his hands.  
- Chad Headley

I hated you and decided not to.  
- (No Name)

**I Was Only Going To  
Watch TV For An Hour But...**

I decided to watch as long as I wanted to  
because I felt like it and I don't care  
- Chad Headless

I decided to try to figure out  
Chad's excuses instead  
- Matt H

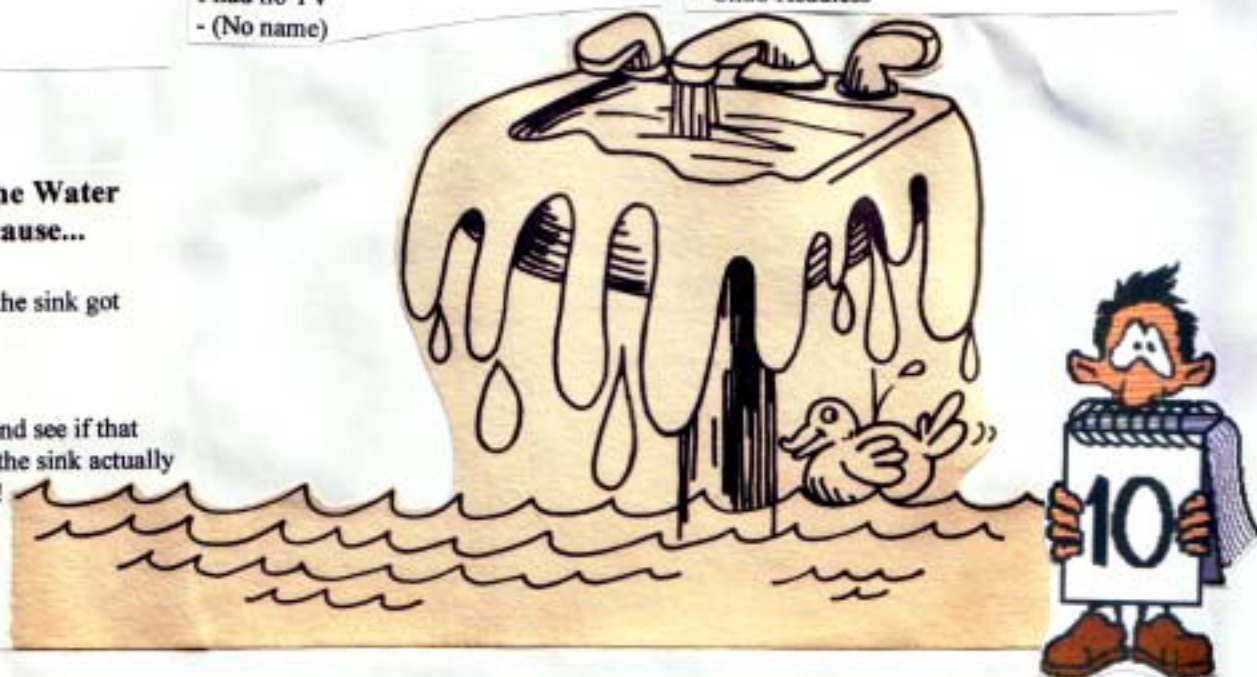
I had no TV  
- (No name)

**I Was Going To Study  
For The Test But...**

I brought home the wrong book  
- (Chris Field)

I realized I didn't watch the "Where There's  
An Ill, There's An F" Video hosted by the  
guy from Tree's Company Yet  
- Matt H

I decided to fail... again.  
- Chad Headless



### I Was Just About To Polish My Shoes When...

I went to look for them, but I couldn't find them  
- Chris Field

I realized, what am I doing?  
I never polish my shoes!  
I must be going insane!  
- Matt H

I realized that black shoe polish didn't look right on white sneakers  
- Chad H

### I Was Going To Shovel The Snow But...

The sun came out and melted the snow  
- Chris F

I got hungry and ate it instead  
- Brian Duffy

I realized as soon as I did shovel the driveway, a plow would come by and really tick me off!  
- Matt H

It melted  
- Chad Headley

### I Was Going To Wash The Dog But...

It died before I got the chance to shoot it  
- Chris Field

It ran away from me, and to my astonishment, took a stroll through the carwash!  
- Matt H

I have not showered in 36 days  
Hohn! Hohn!  
- Guy Ikpah

### I Spilled The Milk Because...

The glass was too small  
- Chris F

Some idiot opened the carton from the bottom instead of the top!  
- Matt H



### I Started To Set The Table But...

The telephone rang and I forgot to finish  
- Chris Field

I realized I was in a restaurant  
- Matt H

I decided to try that "pulling the table cloth off the table without moving the dishes" trick. It didn't work.  
- Chad Headley

Guy was on it  
- I'M REALLY OBSESSED WITH GUY

### I Can't Sing In Music Class Today Because...

My toilet is full of sweet tomatoes  
Hohn! Hohn!  
- Guy Ikpah

I was paid off  
- Brian Duffy

Earlier in lunch at my table we had a cracker eating contest  
- Matt H

### I Got Wet Because...

Someone threw me a washcloth  
- Chris Field

I work at a laundromat and when we were robbed, the thief ordered me into the washer at gunpoint  
- Matt H

I joined the Polar Bear Club and went swimming  
- Chad H

Matt P. fell in the toilet  
- Matt's secret admirer





# Happy Birthday!



April 6, 1980 — Mellissa Johnson is in the eleventh grade at Baptist High School. Soccer, Softball, and Field Hockey are among her favorite activities. Her favorite teams are the Philadelphia Phillies and the Dallas Cowboys. She doesn't have any collections or hobbies. Her favorite movies are: The Lion King, First Knight, While you were sleeping, and Robin Hood Prince of Thieves. And her favorite food is manicotti.

May 20, 1979 — Ivy Schneider is in the 11th grade at Gloucester County Christian School. Her favorite activities include: field hockey (GCC's Field Hockey Team is #1) and Skiing. Her favorite teams are the Flyers, Redskins, Dodgers and Bulls. She admires Michael Jordan, Tweety, Tom Cruise, Honesty (a waitress at Friendly's), and Mark Eichmann. Her favorite foods are: mac. and cheese, pizza, cucumbers, fettuccini alfredo, cool ranch doritos, cheese popcorn, french fries, potato salad, tacos, mashed potatoes, klodike bars, pretzels, twix, skittles, reese's peices, nestle crunch, nerds, chi-chi's chips -r- salsa, McDonald's and Burger King's chicken sandwich, Wendy's Jr. Bacon Cheeseburger, 7/11's Blue Raspberry Slurpee, and **SPRITE**. What she likes best about Youth Group is Pastor Mark and Dana!!! and the activities. Ivy would also like to share her favorit sayings: "Pastor Mark, when are we going to have another youth roster" "the funny thing is..." "I am such an airhead" "Oh honestly, Jill" "Hi, I like your outfit it's cute!" "DAAAAAAVE STOP!!!!" "MAAAAARK Make him stop!!!!"





April 5th ???? — Jill Jordan attends Victory Christian School and is in the eleventh grade. Her favorite teams are the Orlando Magic, the Washington Redskins, The Dallas Cowboys, and the Atlanta Braves. A few people that she admire are: Honesty, (a waitress at Friendly's) Shaquille O'Neal, Penny Hardaway, Mickey Mouse, and Taz. Her favorite foods include: pizza with out cheese, steak, chicken, french fries, mashed

potatoes, pics, icecream, candy, waterice, broccoli with cheese, turkey, nachos with cheese, salad, reese's peanut butter sunday, corn, peanuts, barbeque ships, doritos, blizzards from Dairy Queen, coolwhip, whipcream, spam, icees at WaWa, oatmeal crem cakes, bagles, hashbrowns, bacon, potato salad, McDonald's chicken and fries, chocolate candy, cheese and salsa dip, not cooked hotdogs, cheese fries, ravioli, lazanga, gum, carmel apples, pretzels, icecream cones, peanut butter, strawberries, marshmallows, hot chocolate, ranch dressing, italian dressing, pudding, hard boiled eggs, nerds, cheese, cookies, plain chips, popcorn, cheese popcorn, and soda. Her favorite things about youth group are: Pastor Mark and Dana and the activities. Jill's parting comments are: Hi, my name is Jill and I am a girl! I don't like bread on spaghetti. Her favorite sayings are: That's cute! Hi! I'm sorry! I'm hungry! Honestly! I don't get it! You're mean! I'm telling!



April 5, 1982 — Jesse Aquino attends Monogahelia Junior High School. His favorite activities are football and wrestling. His favorite teams are Charlotte and the Detroit Lions. He collects football cards and his favorite movies/T.V. shows are: Casper, Fresh Prince, Teken, and Congo. A famous star he admires is Guy Ikpah. His favorite food is pizza and his favorite things about Youth Group is friends and fellowship.





April 27, 1978 — Dave Cook is in the 12th grade at Gloucester County Christian School. The sports he enjoys most are golf and baseball and his favorite team is the Philadelphia Phillies. A star that he admires is Lenny Dykstra. His favorite food is pizza and his favorite thing about Youth Group is friends.



April 16, 1983 — Cassandra Marcone attends Pitman Middle School and is in the seventh grade. Her favorite sports/activities are gymnastics, cheerleading, running, and swimming. Her favorite teams are the Pitman Wildcats and the USA women's gymnastic team. Her hobbies and collections include: dolls, fish stuff, singing, hanging out with all her friends and band. Her favorite movies and T.V. programs are: Batman Forever, Pocahontas, gymnastics and cheerleading competitions. Two stars that she admires are Sanon Miller and Andrew Keigan. Her favorite food is Italian, especially pasta. The thing that she likes most about Youth Group are the activites. Her closing comment is Ball Up Pastor Mark!!! (long story)





# THE SPORTS SECTION

*With Adam String and Mark Eichmann*



B - 4 the playoffs started, Nick Van Axel and Magic Johnson were thrown out of a game ( not in the same game ) for pushing the ref. Their attitudes will probably be one of the reasons they lost the playoffs. Another reason may be that they stink. Chicago, the #1 team in the NBA, finally got their 70th win. They have set a new record in Basketball. Now that the playoffs are here, the only reason to watch the eastern conference games is to see the Pistons beat, because we all know the Bulls will be representing the east. Dennis Rodman said he was going to try his hardest not to jeopardize their championship. In the west, I think San Antonio

will play Chicago in the finals. Although I want to see David Robinson receive a championship ring, the Spurs will probably be defeated in game 5. - Adam

In other sports, the NBA playoffs have just begun. The heavily favored Bulls are playing against the Miami Heat. The Orlando Magic are up 2 - 0 over the Detroit Pistons in their best of 5 series. My pick for the Eastern Conference final ( and I may be going out on a limb with this prediction ) is the Bulls vs. Magic in the West, the Seattle Sonics are playing the Sacramento Kings. The two - time defending champion Rockets are playing the Los Angeles Lakers. The NBA playoffs are just starting, and we will have more coverage in the next newsletter. - Mark



**In Golf news, the Sixers are playing. ( Considering their win total only in the teens and they were so sorry that they couldn't even make the playoffs. ) Maybe with new President Pat Croche, the Sixers will at least have more than 20 wins. - Mark**



As we all know, Mike Tyson was accused of sexual harassment by some lady since his release from jail. The charges were



dropped, and Tyson can start training again. I'm glad, and I personally don't believe that he raped the beauty pageant girl.

- ADAM





Now that the NHL playoffs are here, all Philadelphia fans can be satisfied that the flyers have made it. The Redwings will be defeated by the Flyers in game 7 of the finals. - Adam

The NHL playoffs are entering the second round. The hometown Flyers have made it past the rough and dirty play of the Tampa Bay Lightning. The final game in the best-of-seven series was much like the first game of the series. The Flyers were victorious by a score of 6 - 1. One of the Lightning's dirtiest players, Igor Ulanov, got



exactly what he deserved from the Flyers Captain, Eric Lindros. Eric took his opportunity to tell Igor what he thought of him. Lindros hit him over and over with several right hand blows. Ulanov came away with a huge cut over his forehead and blood pouring down his face. The flyers next opponent is still undetermined. It will most likely be the Florida Panthers, but it could also be the Washington Capitols or the Montreal Canadians. - Mark

Although the Phillies aren't in last place, they're not even close to 1st place. Now with Darren Daulton out of baseball, the Phillies have had some winning streaks, but I don't see them playing in the World Series. - Adam  
Baseball season has just started, and the games don't matter as much as the other sport's playoff games, so we won't say much about them. - Mark



The NFL draft picks just recently passed, but the good thing about it was



Dallas had last pick. On Sept. 30 I'll be watching the Eagles beat Dallas. - Adam





Runaway Bulldozer Flattens 16 Cars Ah-Was Root For Santa's Team Or Else Santas Has A Snack Then Steals A TV Set Monopoly Urinating In Coffee Pot Man To Mop Public Accused It's A Car!...It's A Boat... It's Both! Eccentricity Is Key To Happiness Highway Sends 90,000 Subscriptions Hot-Coffee Bombardier Gets 60 Days In Jail For His Convention Instead Of His Way, PA. Man Robbery Attempt "Spud Gun" Arrests Nurse Go Flying All Over Capital Beltway Teen Breathes Easier Without Christmas Tree Sprig In Lung A Tree-Mendous Holiday Error Holy Cow 1995 "Worst Boss" Contest Seeks Creme De La Crumbs Bug Burns Cheerleader Courthouse Lawn Decked With Christmas Toothbrushes and many more to come!

**EXTRA!!! The Times EXTRA!!!**

**WEIRD ARTICLES From The News.**



Choo! This Scam Nothing To Sneeze At In Fla., It Save Cyclist Radioactive Pool Stolen Burglar Wheelbarrow Gets 3 Out Of Ark. Jail For Toilets Student Is Top Pig Victim To Wed Hotdoggers Relish New Wienermobile Scientist: Hijinks Got Mother Pulled Over Vengeful Man Holdup Bird-Brain Ideas For Nasa Toilet Paper Crime Name Tags Optional At Phil Campbell Received 90 Days In Jail Snake Foils Car Has Last Wishes Inscribed On Her Belly Feathers

## Don't worry, the Liberty Bell isn't running for the border

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — A cursory check of the Liberty Bell on Monday found no trace of taco juice on the iron, no Burrito Supremes in the crack.

No, Taco Bell didn't buy the Liberty Bell.

In an April Fools' Day joke, the fast-food chain took out full-page ads in eight newspapers announcing that it had purchased America's symbol of freedom to help shrink the federal debt.

The bell will henceforth be called, the ads said, the Taco Liberty Bell.

By noon — the traditional time for confessions — the company came clean. The bell will remain in its home outside Independence Hall, and the Irvine, Calif., company will donate \$50,000 toward preservation and maintenance.

"We would never say we didn't need the money," said Martha E. Aikens, superintendent of Independence National Historical Park. "But the word sale never came up."

Taco Bell refused to say how much it paid for the ads.

Legally, the federal government couldn't sell the Liberty Bell even if wanted to. The city of

Philadelphia actually owns the bell (which a Taco Bell press release points out weighs the same — 2,080 pounds — as 11,093 tacos and would need 5,376 packets of hot sauce to fill it up).

The joke provided several hours of amusement — and amazement — before the truth came out.

"Get out of here!" said Arthur Davis, 37, as he visited the bell. "You can't just buy that."

Janet Friedman, a teacher from Ann Arbor, Mich., was angry about the "commercialization" of the bell. But she admitted the ad was a perfect tool for her middle-school class, which studied propaganda last week.

"I'm having enough trouble teaching my kids American history," Friedman said. "I think my sixth-graders will eat it up."

So did the White House.

"We will be doing a series of these things," press secretary Mike McCurry said. "Ford Motor Company is joining today in an effort to refurbish the Lincoln Memorial. ... It will be the Lincoln Mercury Memorial."

## Lots of lucky dogs will get to attend White Sox game

This season, the Chicago White Sox will target a potential fan group that consumes billions of dollars of products annually but has been overlooked by sports marketers: dogs.



**The Biz**  
Inside look at Sports business

By Michael Hiestand

Club marketer Rob Gallas says the idea is to allow free admission to dogs "accompanied by a human" at a day game Aug. 28. Dogs weighing more than 25 pounds will get their own seat. That's all dogs who show up. Says Gallas, "If 50,000 dogs turn out, then I will have invented something very good."

The White Sox are famous, of course, for the late-1970s Disco Night, which prompted fans to run amok and the second game of a home doubleheader to be canceled. But this season's dog day is only one of series of offbeat promotions. "Last year, the club went around in sack cloth and ashes (because of labor stoppages). We spent 1995 saying, 'We're sorry.' This year, we want to have fun."

Meaning there will be a Stupid Human Tricks game promotion, which Gallas says will include "everything from contortionists to somebody called 'The Rope Warrior.'" And a Romance Night, with a wedding at home plate and a kissing contest where "anybody who can stand a lip lock for nine innings will win a prize." And a Carnival Night, including pig races. And a Boxing Night, highlighted by ex-Partridge Family actor Danny Bonaduce in an outfield boxing match. Then there's an architectural addition: a sports bar, open only in late innings, whose glass wall borders the visitors' bullpen.

After a weak on-field performance last season, the White Sox need help. Season-ticket sales are expected to reach about 13,000, down from 18,000 two years ago. The team has only sold about 27,000 tickets for its opener.

But, still, dogs? File this in your clip 'n' save file: "They get together at dog shows all the time," Gallas says. "It's not like it's going to be a cataclysmic event."

### Red-faced thief should be easy to spot

A thief in the Danish port city of Esbjerg slipped up when he attempted to rob a butcher's shop during the night, and fell into a vat of indelible sausage dye.

Police think the clumsy crook should be easy to find because he's likely to have a bright-red face for the foreseeable future.



## AMAZINGRAZIN

(ub mayz' in grayz' in)

n. The ability to cut a piece of birthday cake with a little plastic fork on a flimsy paper plate while holding a big drink, a cute little napkin, and a cup of nuts.

# Shrine to bananas

## Yes, they do have 'pulpy, maligned fruit'

ALTADENA, Calif. (AP) — If it peels, bruises and comes in a bunch, Ken Bannister has something that looks, smells or tastes like it.

These are a few of 15,500 items you can find in his Banana Museum:

A banana phone. Banana pajamas. Banana-flavored toothpaste. Banana warmers from Germany. A banana nose. Banana Christmas lights. Banana popcorn. Bannister's prize is the "Petrified Banana," a black and shriveled specimen discovered in a friend's closet five years after disappearing. For the last 15 years, it has hung framed in the museum.

Yes, Ken Bannister has some bananas — today, and every day. He is a man with a peel, and a mission.

"I don't think it's ludicrous. I think it's entertaining," says the banana curator who prefers to be called "Bananaster."

And in fact, the Banana Museum and its sister organization, the International Banana Club, are not chiefly about fruit. They are about laughter.

Bannister wears yellow slacks and a teal polo shirt emblazoned with a 16-inch, smiling banana. When he greets a visitor, he clutches a spent banana peel in one hand and a banana golf putter in the other.

"I think it's crazy. I love this. I get so wound up talking about it. I'm just an old-fashioned guy who believes in the need to keep people's spirits up, to exercise one's sense of humor daily."

His museum, he says, is sorely needed "in a world gone bananas."

Bannister, 56, sells photographic equipment in his other life. He is

married and a father of three and says his family fully supports his role as banana booster; the family puts away six to eight bunches a week, and during a recent interview Bannister ate three.

In the late 1970s, Bannister got a roll of 10,000 Dole banana stickers from a stevedore, and started giving them out at trade shows. In exchange, people started giving him banana stuff, and he needed a place to put it.

His Banana Museum, which opened in 1975, is a total banana experience. Yellow claptrap is strewn on tables, nailed to yellow walls and piled high on a yellow couch. It smells faintly fruity near the "Notions" section.

An aging stereo blares banana songs. "I Like Bananas Because They Have No Bones," "My Wife Left Town With a Banana" and the classic "Yes, We Have No Bananas" permanently top the charts here.

Most of the museum's visitors (admission is free) are members of the International Banana Club — the bunch that built this collection. Bannister, the club's Top Banana, awards degrees in "bananistry" based on members' contributions of banana gizmos, and on their attitudes.

For a \$25 lifetime membership fee, members get an iron-on transfer, a bumper sticker and a self-chosen nickname, preferably one that lends itself to a memorable acronym. Los Angeles resident Paula Borchardt's handle, for example, is B.A.B.E. — Banana Admirer, Banana Eater.

For a master's degree, a member needs 100 "banana merits" or BMs; 500 merits earns a "Ph.B."

"He's a real kick, this guy," says

Pat Curry, a Ph.B. known as the B.L.D. — Banana Laugh Director, so named because his high-pitched giggle has kept Bannister laughing for 15 years.

"He'll come in here and throw a banana at me," Curry says of his Pasadena fast-food restaurant, "and we'll start laughing. My laugh gets him going, he gets me going. It's kind of a mutual deal."

In extremely rare cases, members are awarded instant doctorates for extraordinary acts or contributions.

Geri Lorenzo of Tulare earned the distinction recently by collecting thousands of stickers found on bananas from around the world.

But the most spectacular act of bananistry came 11 years ago with the infamous "human banana flambe."

L.S.B. — Lee (Wadell) the Stunt Banana — earned a Ph.B. on the spot at the 1984 annual Banana Club Picnic and Games by setting himself on fire, running 50 yards and throwing Bannister a burning banana with a message inside: "I want my 500 BMs and my degree."

"That was the most outrageous and shocking stunt I'd seen to earn BMs," Bannister says. "Usually, people just send me stuff."

And so the man who says he wants his ashes sprinkled across a banana plantation slowly builds his shrine and tends his flock — 8,500 members around the world, 436 degree-holders.

Already, however, he has become a sought-after character. He extols the virtues of bananas at grocery store lectures and has appeared on several national talk shows.

In October, Bannister signed an



Associated Press Photo

Top banana Ken Bannister shows off some of the wide array of banana paraphernalia at his International Banana Museum in Altadena, Calif.

agreement with a Chatsworth company to produce a line of T-shirts, night shirts and other clothing with his patented banana logo on them. The items are due in stores soon.

Bannister reminds his audiences that the "pulpy, elongated, curvaceous, maligned fruit" is also the world's most perfect snack. "Yeah, it's made fun of and kicked around," he deadpans. "But it comes in its own wrapper, and it doesn't squirt, squeak or leak."

# Calvary COMEDY



## Pointless Fact of the Month:

140 members of the Lodi diving school in California played a Monopoly marathon in 1976 for 1,008 consecutive hours - underwater.

## Jr. High Spring Retreat Theme (Sr. High Guy's Paradise) ?

### Verse:

We stayed up late that night,  
Overcome by fright,  
They're attacking with all their might,  
We should make flight!  
They have us in their sight!  
We don't take this very light!

### Chorus:

We're Paranoid,  
We're always on the run!  
We're Paranoid,  
Maybe they've got a gun!  
We're Paranoid,  
They're having so much fun!  
We're Paranoid,  
I hope they're almost done!  
We're Paranoid!

From The Sniglets Hall of Fame

## CHOCONIVEROUS

(*chabk o niv' ur us*)

adj. The tendency when eating a chocolate Easter bunny to bite off the head first.



From The Sniglets Hall of Fame

## EASTROTURF

(*ee' strob terf*)

n. The artificial grass in Easter baskets.



## TOMIC DROP

(*tom' ik drop*)

n. "Factory testing" of a cat to assure oneself the "always lands on its feet" principle still holds true.

## BUTTBLOTTING FLUID

(*but' blot ing flu id*)

n. The mysterious blue stuff they pour onto diapers in diaper commercials to demonstrate their absorbency.

## LACTO-OSTEOKIBBLETIC

(*lak' tow os' tee ob kib bleb' tik*)

adj. The secret urge to taste Milk-Bones or dry dog food just to get an idea of what your dog has to look forward to for the rest of his life.



# WELCOME TO THE FAR SIDE

