

Down the Hall

We asked some of the incoming freshmen,

"What do you think high school will be like?"

"I guess it will be great; somewhere new, new teachers, and you get to meet new people."

--Justin Prewitt



"A lot of time spent getting lost, trying to find your way around and making a good impression, because you'll be so tense trying to do the right thing."

--James Leger



"I think it will be, really cool, because we can finally get away from all the middle school kids and meet new people."

--Jessica Holbrook



"I think high school will be very fun and interesting. A lot more people to meet and a lot more classes."

--Sarah Parsons



"I think it will be awesome, because I know most of the people up here and we get to get away from middle school."

--Allie Mink



NEWS FLASH: Project Graduation was designed to...

BY CASSIE SMITH

For the past thirteen years, parents have been giving their all to provide for us a Project Graduation. It is to be a night of fun, games, friends, and free stuff. However, the real purpose of Project Graduation is to keep us alive graduation night.

Sadly, only 34% of one hundred seniors surveyed knew the true purpose of Project Graduation.

According to June Stevens, a former RCHS economics teacher who retired in 1997, safety was in mind when the Kentucky State police began to encourage the establishment of a project graduation or project prom. These programs were designed to keep teens from involving themselves in dangerous recreations, such as drinking and driving, on nights when "partying" is expected most.

Mrs. Stevens felt there was a definite need for a project graduation in Rockcastle County. She got the ball rolling by gathering interested students and taking them to conferences in Louisville, as well as meetings with other organizations who already had the program up and running in their own community.

"I feel like it was a wholesome way to celebrate graduation without students endangering themselves or others," said Mrs. Stevens.

In the beginning, this program was completely dependent on the participation of parents and the community. There was less money,

A recent survey showed only 34% of seniors know the purpose behind Project Graduation.

but Mrs. Stevens said the program was just as successful as it is now.

"We had 75-100% participation from the start."

Even though this program is successful at getting seniors to attend, many do not know why they are being encouraged to be there.

Senior Jay Anderson was one of only four seniors that said they were attending Project Graduation to stay safe.

"I don't want to end up over a cliff graduation night."

In contrast to that small number, a huge 47% admitted they were going in hopes to receive some free goodies.

The little knowledge known of Project Graduation and the predominate reason for attending make me question the communication between the projects organizers and the senior class. Everyone seems to know that there will be free stuff, but not many people know the important facts about project graduation.

"I think students are so busy it's hard to pull them together and let

them know that this is taking place for them to have a drug-free party," said the school secretary, Mrs. Sondra Mullins, who participated in the organization of at least three Project Graduations.

So, what is the most important fact about Project Graduation? According to former assistant chairperson of the Project Graduation committee, Ms. Darlene Bowers, it is "the importance of safety first on a drug free evening of fun and games for very deserving seniors."

Though I have repeated the purpose of Project Graduation several times throughout this article, please allow me to reiterate:

PROJECT GRADUATION WAS DESIGNED TO SAVE YOUR LIFE! It is not to give you a VCR, or feed you for a night.

Seniors, I think it is extremely important and actually respectful to acknowledge the reason for Project Graduation. Be aware of how hard your parents and your community have worked for your benefit.

Wait-- you can do more than that. Go to Project Graduation. Stay sober graduation night.

Hopefully enough seniors are reading to spread the word. Every senior needs to know why we have a Project Graduation.

The best prize you might receive at Project Graduation is towels for your dorm room, but the greatest gift will be to your community and family: the knowledge that you are safe and sound on graduation night.

A great year full of memories

BY CLAUDIA VEJRAZKA

At the end of each school year, especially the seniors of that year have the tendency to reflect on what the last year(s) have been like and what they expect from the future. I, too, have to go from this school at the end of the semester, and so over the last couple of weeks I did my own reflections of what had happened during the last year.

When I first came here, I was kind of scared that I would have problems fitting in. After all, the US is not Germany, and despite all the similarities, there are still some differences, and it took me a while, to get used to the new surroundings.

Being able to find new friends was another thing I was worried about, but this was the part of the

whole experience that made the least problems. Today, I'm at a point I would have never thought I could be. I'm torn between the desire of going home to see my family and my friends there, and the wish of staying here with all my new friends. I don't have very much choice on that part, because of the way the educational system is set up in Germany, but there is something I would really like to do before I leave!

All the time since I have been here, everybody always tried to make me feel at home. I was welcomed with a great deal of hospitality wherever I went, whether it was in my new family, at church, or here at the school. I

want to thank all the people I have met over the course of the year, and became friends with. If I wanted to account for everything anybody has done for me during the last year, it would surely take up the whole paper. If any of you have ever thought that I have been unthankful on some occasions, I really apologize for it. I ensure, I have never forgotten anything anybody has done for me.

I will always treasure this school year here in the States as an enjoyable and unforgettable part of my life. For any of you who get the chance of being an exchange student somewhere, I can only say-- do it, you don't get a chance like that again.