



Student Senate takes first step toward change

By Brenna Merry

"Our school is so scummy," a phrase that the entire student body has heard and many have even uttered. Students are constantly complaining about the conditions here at G. Ray Bodley High School. There is an extreme lack of pride in our school and our city. However, students and staff have rarely taken any action to change this, until now.

Advisories have requested that one member

"It's your school, you should be able to make it what you want it to be." Thanks to advisory representatives, the student voice is being heard a little bit clearer.

During advisory on November second, the first "Principal's Round Table," was held. Here GRB Principal, Mr. Buchanan, took the time to meet with the Student Senate and hear directly what the concerns of the student body were. Among the issues brought forth were the fact that bathroom stalls don't lock and that

principal to talk one on one and for each one to see that the other is trying to make a change."

Some may be surprised at how similar the thoughts of the student body and the principal are. For example, when a student brought up, "PDA in the halls is just disgusting," Mr. Buchanan responded with extreme agreement, almost to the point of jumping up and down. Students are often convinced that they are "misunderstood" and that teachers can't do anything about their concerns. It is also believed that many teachers think that students don't see the problems here at the school. It is now obvious that students and teachers alike want to see changes.

Everyone is guilty of the crime of complaining, but it needs to be realized that complaining gets nothing solved. There are actions in place to try to improve the school, but the improvements you want to see can't take place if they aren't heard. Begin to talk, you will find that people are ready to listen.

"These problems have been around for quite some time now, but it was not until now that the principal has made a major effort to listen."

joins the Student Senate. This way school issues can be discussed at Senate meetings then relayed back for everyone to know. The Student Senate gives students the opportunity they deserve to make this school what they want it to be. Student Senate leader Mr. Thurlow states,

public displays of affection have reached an extreme. These problems have been around for quite some time now, but it was not until now that the principal has made a major effort to listen. Junior advisor Mrs. Ferlito noted, "I think it's a great idea for the students and prin

Advisory trip gives juniors glimpse of two local colleges

In a few weeks, juniors at G. Ray Bodley High School will have a unique opportunity to trade in a day of high school for a day of exploring and comparing college opportunities at two different local institutions. In a collaborative effort, the GRB Guidance Department and 11th grade Advisory Program have organized a full day trip for all interested juniors to Syracuse University and Onondaga Community College on Thursday, Dec. 10 from 8:30 to 4 p.m..

Admissions personnel at each institution will speak to our students about what they can do during their junior year to prepare themselves for acceptance into college, what is involved in applying to college and what each college offers its prospective candidates. Students will have guided tours of each campus, and lunch will be provided at an S.U. dining hall. There will be no cost for participating students. Information letters for parents and permission slips will be distributed through 11th grade Advisory this week.

The students will explore higher education requirements and opportunities available to them at a four-year private university and at a two-year residential community college. The goal is to provide our Junior Advisory students the opportunity to compare the offerings of two

very different local colleges and to find out how to most effectively plan the rest of their high school careers, bettering their chances of college acceptance and motivating them to higher levels of performance in their remaining high school years.

The group will visit Syracuse University where Admissions personnel have a presentation targeted at high school Juniors which informs them of what they need to be doing currently in their high school classes to best pre-

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Fulton's Krysta Woodcock, left facing the crowd, addresses students from several schools during a team-building exercise at the District 9 meeting for Future Business Leaders of America last Friday at Bryant & Stratton College. (Drew Harmon photo)

Opinion

Stop! Collaborate, and listen

By Adam Wolford

The bell rings. Its 10:30 a.m. and students at G Ray Bodley are getting out of school. Four days out of this school year this will be the case. With two "collaboration days" already occurring at GRB and the next one happening December 10th, many students at G Ray Bodley don't really understand what they are for. The purpose of the collaboration days is to allow the different areas of the school, such

right? However it is clear now that the district failed to see unintended flaws in their plan.

Don't get me wrong, I, like most high school students, welcome the half day with open arms, but one must see that these days are a waste of time. With only 16 minutes in most classes it is nearly impossible for the teachers to do much more than take attendance and settle down the classes. I feel as though coming to school to be accounted for and given a worksheet is a waste of my time. Perhaps the

bell an equal chance. Although this plan is not flawless it is more efficient than just sitting in each class for a couple of minutes accomplishing nothing.

While I agree that it is important for the teachers in each area of teaching to communicate their ideas, I think that there is a better time than during school to do it. Students, without a doubt, give up some of their afternoons working on homework every night. I do not think it is asking too much of the teachers to have this "collaboration day" after school. Furthermore perhaps these collaboration days have outdone their stay and are now unnecessary. GRB is no longer a School in Need of Improvement and therefore the days themselves may be totally obsolete. Besides, if the school really does think that the students need to be better students, taking them out of school is not the way to achieve this outcome.

While the district may see these days as completely necessary still, there are better ways to go about the scheduling of the days to maximize the learning within the three hours that students are in school. After all it is the school's responsibility to teach the students to the best of their ability and to prepare them to pass the required tests and ultimately to graduate.

"if the school really does think that the students need to be better students, taking them out of school is not the way to achieve this outcome."

as the English teachers and technology teachers, to meet and discuss issues in their area. The origin of these days is seen in a plan set forth by the district when GRB became a School in Need of Improvement. The plan allotted time for the teachers to meet and fix issues they may see. Sounds good in theory

district and the school should look at running five normal bells. I understand that they must run the four lunch bells to meet regulations, but running them all is not necessary. Maybe the school should run the four lunch bells for these days and switch the other bell for each different collaboration day in order to give each

we've got mail! theraider@fulton.cnyric.org

Congratulations to Raider football team

I would like to congratulate the Raider Football team on a successful season. They are a wonderful group of young men who worked hard and should to be proud of themselves. I would also like to acknowledge the wonderful group of parents, students, administrators, and fans that traveled to all of the games (no matter where the games were played). It was exciting and inspiring to see our team so well represented in the stands. Last Friday's loss to Whitesboro was heartbreaking but the team and fans should remember all that was accomplished this season and celebrate that success. Thanks for a wonderful fall of football gentlemen!!
Mrs. Ruzekowicz

Letters policy:

While we prefer school related issues, The Raider welcomes letters on any appropriate topic. Letter writers must sign their name and include their advisory or seminar teacher's name for verification, or they will not

be printed. Our deadline is Tuesday of each week. All letters should be given to Mr. Senecal or e-mail to: TheRaider@fulton.cnyric.org Letters received via e-mail or on a disk in microsoft word will be given top consideration.

Pillars of character:

The G. Ray Bodley Character Education Committee brings you quotes and thoughts about different character traits, including conflict resolution: What causes conflict? "Lack of conflict resolutions skills." William Kreidler Peer groups often reward violent or aggressive approaches to conflict, and there are certainly models for this kind of behavior, if only from television and video games. What other factors might affect the acquisition of conflict resolution skills?

Mimi 's

Drive-In

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What was GRB like in "the good old days?"

By Adam Wolford & Mirgan Mirabito

With the many new changes to the school, teachers who attended G. Ray Bodley High School were recently asked to reflect on their years in high school. Ms. Vehrs from the class of 2003, Ms. Matteson of the class of 1996, 1987 graduate of GRB Mrs. Ruzekowicz, Mr. Beckwith from the class of 1984, and Mr. Gillard from the class of 1973 all commented on the differences between their high school experiences and ours.

Although Ms. Vehrs only graduated six years ago she explained that the school is extremely different. When she attended GRB there was no salad/sub bar and "Sunshine for Seniors" was na idea of the future. Ms. Matteson, Mrs. Ruzekowicz, Mr. Beckwith and Mr. Gillard stated that when they were at GRB one could leave school for lunch. However, Mr. Gillard went on to say, "99.9% of students did not leave for lunch...most people ate in the school and then went outside." Also, Mrs. Ruzekowicz explained that the reason the system worked when she attended school was because, "kids were more responsible and came back to school from lunch."

As far as classes were concerned, Ms. Vehrs commented on the number of teachers who have retired since she has been at GRB. Ms. Matteson reminded us that when she attended school, there was a nine-bell schedule. Also instead of having A/B days, there were Monday/Wednesday/Friday days and Tuesday/Thursday days. Ms. Ruzekowicz and Mr. Beckwith explained that the ten-bell schedule of today was once an eight-bell schedule in which each bell was 45 minutes long.

Mrs. Ruzekowicz went on to say that classes seemed harder and more kids did their homework. "There was no 'No Child Left Behind' program and if you didn't do your homework, you faced the consequences," Mrs. Ruzekowicz stated. Also instead of the school clubs meeting after school they met every Thursday during an extended homeroom day.

Mr. Gillard reflected on the fact that the most impressive technology of the time was a chalkboard and the overhead projector. He went on to state that the report cards were brought around to teachers to write the grades on as opposed to sending them home in the mail already filled out. As for cell phones, all five teachers explained that they were not an issue.

Ms. Matteson noted that during her time here at the high school the school spirit was very similar. During the pep rallies there were two people who won Chief Red Raider and Lady

Raider, the Chief Red Raider wearing an Indian headdress. Mr. Ruzekowicz, however, stated that there was much more school spirit during her time in high school. Homecoming was a much bigger deal with a bon-fire the night before the game. Also, the homecoming parade was a lot more important as each class participated and put a float into the parade.

"In the 1980's" Mr. Beckwith explained, "Fulton had the premiere athletic complex in all of CNY." In the high school years of Mr. Gillard, girls' sports were very scarce. The main sport was football, leaving soccer with very few fans. Mr. Gillard explained football was a social event. Everyone in the community came to the games and knew how the foot-

ball team was doing. Now, "there are more options for kids as far as sports go."

Finally most of the teachers explained that more than just the school was different. The attitude of the students, as Mrs. Ruzekowicz explained, was different. "The level of respect among students was higher...they listened to teachers."

She also went on to comment on the fact that parents were just more involved in their kid's lives. There is an old saying that, "the more things change, the more they stay the same." So while many of these changes are going on both inside and outside of the school, the school and the community, while different, are still Red Raiders at heart.



The cast and crew of Quirk's Players have been hard at work preparing for next weekend's production, *Don't Tell Mother!*, a fast-paced farce that is sure to please. Showtime is 7:30 at the high school on both Friday and Saturday, Nov. 13-14. (photo courtesy of Mr. Lescarbeau)

College field trip offered to juniors (from page 1)

pare for successful college admittance and future academic success. Students will also learn about the University's policies and have the opportunity to ask questions. A tour of the campus will follow, concluding with lunch at an S.U. dining hall.

The second leg of the trip will take students across town to Onondaga Community College. Here, Admissions counselors will speak about O.C.C. policies and programs, and students will participate in guided tours of O.C.C. facilities and dorms before boarding buses back to Fulton.

All participating students will be responsible for their own rides home from GRB.

On-line survey seeks student input

Attention all students - a link to an online survey for students at G. Ray Bodley High School has been placed in the "All Users" folder. The purpose of this survey is to gather student feedback on their high school experience. The results of this survey will be used to make suggestions on ways to improve your high school.

The survey can be taken from any computer in the school. Please take time during your study halls, advisory periods or any other available time to take the survey. Thanks for your help!

Freshman advisory bowling party set

The Ninth Grade Advisory Bowling Party is scheduled for Wednesday, December 9 at Lakeview Lanes. The cost will be \$4, which includes shoes and bowling. Transportation will be provided from the high school at 2:30 p.m.; students will need a ride home from the bowling alley at 5 p.m. Food and drink may be purchased at an additional cost.

Money and permission slips are due Friday, November 20.

RaiderNet Daily

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Turnovers plague Fulton in semi-final setback

By Eric Belair

The road has come to an end for the Fulton "Road" Raiders as they were topped in the Class A Sectional semi-finals for the second consecutive season. The third seeded Whitesboro Warriors prevailed in a slugfest over the second seeded Raiders 35-20 in the contest.

This game was full of offensive production, as the two teams combined for over 700 yards of offense and eight touchdowns. The Raiders gained 310 yards rushing, led by senior full-back DJ Ingham, who rumbled for 168 yards on 26 carries. Junior quarterback Brett Williams rushed 13 times for 73 yards and completed 2 of 4 for 25 yards in the aerial attack. Finishing out the ground attack was junior running back Donald Watson who piled up 69 yards on 13 carries.

Fulton struck first on the scoreboard as the Raiders marched the opening kick-off down field and scored on an 8-yard quarterback keeper with Williams. Then Ingham ran in a two-point conversion for an 8-0 lead. Whitesboro answered Fulton's opening drive with two touchdowns of their own before the Raiders scored again as Williams ran three yards and recorded his second touchdown of the game. This made it an even, 14-14 at half-time.

Whitesboro scored the only touchdown of the third quarter, giving the Raiders a 21-14 deficit going into the fourth quarter. Disaster struck on the Raiders ensuing possession, when they turned the ball over. Fulton drove all the way down to the Whitesboro 11 yard line and the Warriors broke up an option pitch between Williams and Watson. This resulted in a fumble that was recovered by the Warriors which turned out to be a critical play of the game. Another critical turnover deep in Raider territory led the Whitesboro's score, turning the tide of momentum clearly in their favor after the Fulton defense had stood tall to stop them four times inside the one yard line.

Early in the fourth quarter, Fulton had a mix up on defense and gave up an 82-yard touchdown run. The Raiders fought back and had another sustaining drive down field that resulted in a touchdown. Ingham capped it off on a 2-yard dive. Whitesboro delivered the knock-out punch as they scored on another long touchdown run, 55 yards, with under five minutes remaining in the game. This gave the Warriors a 35-20 lead and left the Raiders with little hope. Senior Max Ambuske went to quarterback after Williams left with an injury. Ambuske led the Fulton offense down field to within scoring range, but the Raiders ran out

of time.

The clock had hit zero and it was over for Fulton, not just the game, but the season. The

season had come to an end at the hands of the Whitesboro Warriors in a 35-20 loss in the sectional semi-finals.



An outstanding season came to a disappointing end for the "Road" Raiders on Friday when Whitesboro pulled away in the second half for a 35-20 victory. (Taylor Harvey photo)

State meet the goal for Raider runners

As the time left in the autumn sports season runs out, both Raider cross-country teams are gearing up for sectionals. With several runners looking to go to the state meet at SUNY Plattsburg, the next couple weeks will be crucial in deciding who makes it.

Sickness has certainly seemed to hinder many of the sports teams this season, and the cross-country teams are no exception. In the last week, four of the six seniors on the team came down with some type of flu virus, taking them out of competition for several days. It certainly has been a downer the last few meets, however things are starting to turn around. Almost everyone on the team is back in action and starting to gear up for the sectional meet this weekend.

Being held at Jamesville Beach for the third year in a row, every member on the Fulton team has the course memorized from start to finish. If conditions turn out to be good, meaning the course isn't muddy and the temperature and wind stay pleasant, there is a chance to send a record number of runners to states. On the guys side, Dylan Coppola, Sam Stevens, and Noah Carroll all have legitimate shots at making it to the state meet. Among the girls Mary West, Kerri Knoop and Brittany Lamie are all closely bunched up near the top of the sectional rankings.

Making it to the state meet isn't the only concern. If any Fulton runners make it to Plattsburg there will be some Fulton pride to uphold. Local running legend, and G.R.B health teacher Mr. Dodge held the collegiate course record at SUNY Plattsburg for over 25 years. Being a relatively flat course, some fast times will be necessary to place well, and uphold the tradition of good Fulton performances.

The guys and girls races will go off at noon and 1:30 p.m. respectively. Jamesville-Dewitt is the favorite in both races, as the boys are the reigning champions. The race up front for the boys could be quite exciting between J-D's ace Bumkoth Jiak, and Fulton's own Noah Carroll. In the only head to head match up of the year, Carroll beat Jiak by 23 seconds. Due to illness with both runners, it is all a matter of who has recovered more that will determine the outcome of the race.

With a perfectly executed race Dylan Coppola can capture a top 10 spot to make it to states. On the girls side, J-D looks to win with their very own Eileen Cody taking the individual title. Kerri Knoop from Fulton looks to be the strongest girl from Fulton and will pull away from Whitesboro's Laura Szczesniak for a seventh-place finish, and a qualifying spot for states.

Only time will tell who will make it, but things are looking bright for Fulton's state meet future.

School of Thought compiled by Sarah Allee & Danielle Smith

Which winter sport are you most looking forward to?



"Hockey, because it's fun to watch and it's fast-paced."

Ryan Babcock



"Girls volleyball because it's fun to watch."

D.J. Ingham



"Wrestling. I've always loved it."

Courtney Dashnau



"Basketball, because Mikayla Kemp plays!"

Josh Perkins

Meet the reporters:

Alexis Semeraro, Senior

Alexis joined journalism to report for clubs such as Latin Club and the SADD club along with covering the girls swimming team.

She likes to swim, draw and she also loves skiing.

Something people don't know about Alexis is that she plans to attend RIT to study film and animation.



Compiled by Christina Yannock

Going someplace cool?
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"Where in the world is The Raider?"