

Silver Star

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New principal assumes position at Shaw High

by Alice Myrick

After sixteen years, a new era in administration begins at Shaw High School. Effective August 1, 1994, Eddie Obleton became only the second individual to serve as principal of the north Columbus school. He replaces Gordon Stallings, who accepted a position as assistant superintendent for curriculum for the Muscogee County School District.

No stranger to Shaw High School, Obleton served previously at Shaw in several capacities. For six years Obleton chaired the vocational department before becoming assist-

ant principal in charge of discipline and later assuming the position of assistant principal of student services. He served as assistant principal at Carver High School for one year before serving a two-year stint as principal at Marshall Middle School.

A 1978 graduate of University of Georgia, Obleton received his M. Ed. from Georgia State. He received his Ed. S. from Georgia State in 1988. The new principal is currently working on his Ph. D. at Auburn University.

Encouraging students and staff to take more pride in keeping the school clean and pro-

jecting a positive image to visitors is a key concern of Obleton. Asked if he felt it would be a challenge to establish his presence at Shaw after Gordon Stallings' sixteen-year tenure, he discarded the notion with ease. "I don't want Shaw to be known as my school or any one particular person's but as OUR school," he said. Obleton readily admits, however, that he is sure a lot of Stallings' style would show in his policies since the former principal served as his mentor for thirteen years.

Some immediate changes in Obleton's young tenure are obvious. While Stallings sel-

dom felt the need for police officers in the school, the new administrator's view is one of acceptance. "I don't mind police officers in school as long as they act as role models. I feel police get a bad rap. If they're here, maybe students will see them as being helpful, although I don't think that an officer would be needed on a day-to-day situation."

Obleton enjoys an active life away from school. He works avidly in his church, is a member of the Columbus Boys' Choir, and is a member of the Army Reserves. Married, he and his wife have three children.



Eddie Obleton, a former Shaw High School instructor and department head, becomes only the second principal in the school's 17 year history.

New teachers bring diverse backgrounds to Shaw

by Cecilee Witbeck

With wide ranges of teaching experiences and varied educational backgrounds, seven new instructors have been added to the Shaw faculty for the 1994-1995 school year.

The math department has undergone the most personnel changes. A 1988 graduate of Shaw, Rick Stone returns to teach Algebra I, Algebra II, and Math II. He will also

serve as an assistant coach in football and baseball. Stone attended Columbus College for two years before graduating from the University of Georgia in 1993. He enjoys golf, camping, and hiking.

Also, new to the math department is Edward Robinson. Robinson previously had tenures at Hardaway High School and Harris County Junior High. His duties will include teaching Algebra I and Math II. He received

his B.S. in education from Columbus College. In his spare time he enjoys music.

With five years experience, Ines Lopez joins the math department. Lopez served on faculties at Spencer, Carver, and Columbus High as well as Hanau Middle School in Germany. She will teach Math I, Algebra I, and analysis. She also plans to be involved with the math team.

Previously serving as substitutes in the Mus-

cogee County School District, Kelly Brock and Lydia Davidson join the Shaw High School Vocational Department. Davidson, who enjoys travel, rollerblading and gardening, will teach business law, keyboarding, and business management. She received her B.S. in business administration from Columbus College.

With a B.S. in business education from Oklahoma State University, Kelly Brock will teach accounting, computer

technology and keyboarding. The extracurricular activities which she will help sponsor are FBLA and dance team.

With 28 1/2 years teaching experience at Hardaway and Columbus High Schools, Lynda Henry makes her way to Shaw, where she will assume the responsibility of computer lab manager. She attended West Virginia University and Smith College before graduating from Marshall University.

Henry enjoys reading, playing bridge, and collecting picture frames and T-shirts.

Carrie Mayher is the newest addition to the science department. A native of Florida, Mayher enjoys skiing, sailing and swimming as well as hiking, reading, and tennis. She attended Auburn University and graduated with degrees in biology and Spanish. Her responsibilities will include teaching biology and chemistry.

Overcrowding: Too many bodies, too little space

by Karla Ogan

As Shaw High School faculty and administration attempt to satisfy overcrowded conditions, 1,372 students battle cramped hallways, diminished classroom space, and a shortage of books and desks.

Opened in the fall of 1978, Shaw was equipped for 1250 students. The present enrollment of 1372 is up

100 students from last year's enrollment. Columbus and Jordan High Schools were the only other Muscogee County School District schools to post increases.

Administrators are busily trying to adjust student-teacher ratios. State law requires no more than a 35-to-1 ratio in high school classes although most schools attempt to stay far below the guideline.

A variety of explanations have been offered for the increase in the student population. Michael Regnier, social studies department head, attributes the growth to northern expansion. "With the Maple Ridge subdivision, and the other five new subdivisions off Warm Springs Road, the student body couldn't help but grow," he said. County officials add that as students with-

draw from area magnet programs, they return to their assigned school.

Overcrowding has created its share of problems. Science department head Janice Terry sights a need for space in science labs. "Science is a class where you have to have fire and water to do labs but when there are seventy students in one classroom there is no way everyone can participate." Tom Wingo,

social studies instructor, has spent more time adjusting student schedules than teaching.

Cliff Moulton, assistant principal, has found the size of the freshman class has steadily increased over the past three years. "When Shaw was built in the 70's, it was built to maximize the space available. There were

no teachers' lounges or extra spaces built, therefore, there is no space to move classes into. We just have to grin and bear it and make the most of the year."



Alice Myrick

One moment, please

20 - 2 - 1050 Brief period of quiet reflection authorized; nature of period.

(a) In each public school classroom, the teacher in charge shall, at the opening of school upon every school day, conduct a brief period of quiet reflection for not more than 60 seconds with the participation of all the pupils therein assembled.

(b) The moment of quiet reflection authorized by subsection (a) of the code section is not intended to be and shall not be conducted as a religious service or exercise but shall be considered as an opportunity for a moment of silent reflection on the anticipated activities of the day.

Effective the first day of the 1994 school year, Georgia school teachers were expected to begin their school day with a moment of silence. Sounds simple. It wasn't. In Gwinnett County, social studies teacher Brian Bown took exception. Questioning the rule's constitutionality, Bown refused to adhere to the moment of silence rule. He declared the new regulation violated the separation of church and state. According to him, it took away a minute he could be teaching. He was suspended with pay for refusing to comply with the new law. Claiming that they had fired him and violated his rights Bown sued the school district. Although the United States district judge, Frank Hall, failed to order his reinstatement, he did allow Bown's federal suit contending that the law was unconstitutional. Bown has been marked as anti-religion, but he is quick to clarify, "I'm not an atheist. I have a very, very strong religious background."

Because the law lacks specifics, teachers across the state have allowed a great deal of latitude in the student's use of the minute. Some students use the moment in prayer, some use the time as last minute preparation for tests, and others secure a few seconds of needed sleep. Some critics have suggested the moment will encourage yoga or Scientology.

Yet, twenty years ago people in public schools didn't seem to have all these problems. Most schools began with a devotional, a prayer, and the pledge of allegiance. It was a time when right was right, and wrong was wrong. There were no gray areas. People knew what values were without having to be taught them. Police, metal detectors, and book bag bans were nonexistent.

Then we worried about peoples' rights and threw everything out the door, including prayer. A look at the progress of student values over the last decade suggests we did the right thing, huh?

Students at Shaw and throughout Georgia have now been observing the moment of silence for roughly a month. The sixty seconds of peace and quiet has not harmed anyone, and it may just have helped students in the long run.



A message from the principal

WELCOME, and welcome back RAIDERS!!!

I hope that your summer was both restful and enjoyable. But the school season has arrived, therefore, it's time for all Shaw Raiders to add a year of successful education to their resume. This year will be filled with opportunities to participate in extra-curricular activities that can make the difference in the rest of your life. Prospective employers, colleges, and universities may even use your high school resume as a decisive element in decisions they will make for your life. Well-rounded students look good all-around.

Please remember that the staff and faculty of Shaw High School have been trained and are dedicated to provide you with the best educational opportunity possible. We solicit your support of our efforts by being prompt in all respects and attentive in class. Complete all assignments and respect yourself and others.

This year, working as a team, we can say to Columbus, Georgia, America, and the world that Shaw High School is second to none. Always remember that each of us has our own position to play on this #1 RAIDER TEAM.

Thank you for a great school opening. I look forward to working with all of you.

**Eddie Obleton
Principal**

Woodstock revisited

by Brian Silverstein

In August of 1969, a musical festival was organized by a small group of men and women in their twenties to help deal with the horrors of the Vietnam War. Its intent was simple-to celebrate peace, to promote love, and to enjoy an endless cascade of music. It was named simply Woodstock in honor of its original site in Woodstock, New York. After much protest, the festival was moved to a farm in Bethel, New York, a small piece of land owned by Max Yasgur.

Bands and solo artists, among whose ranks were Jimi Hendrix, Crosby, Stills, and Nash, Bob Dylan, and The Who poured out legendary performances. It was a time of celebration as more than 400,000 people crowded into that little farm in New York. The phrase "sex, drugs, and rock n' roll" became synonymous with a generation who demanded freedom in all avenues. Almost a half million people just camped, ate, and listened to music. They enjoyed themselves immensely. Most importantly, they did it without violence. Tickets were eight dollars a day, but anybody with a good set of wire cutters instantly had free admission. As Crosby, Stills, and Nash finished their set, ending the three day long show, the goal of Woodstock seemed to have been realized: each person carried away a sense of love, togetherness, and community. It has never been dupli-

cated. It has never been attempted...until recently.

In mid-August, 1994, corporate sponsors attempted to stage a modern mega-concert under the same name. It was their vision to recapture the enthusiasm and "karma" of the greatest concert of all time. Original Woodstock performers Crosby, Stills, and Nash and Bob Dylan joined commercial acts such as Metallica, Salt n' Pepa, Red Hot Chili Peppers, and Aerosmith to stage one of the biggest concerts in decades. Green Day, Candlebox, Collective Soul, and other non-mainstream bands also joined the bill and easily and quickly enlisted a following. The event was labeled "Woodstock '94-Three More Days of Peace and Music."

In reality, however, the name was only a mask to entice young people across the country to a commercial monstrosity from which promoters hoped to make millions. At first glance, observers might think that Woodstock '94 upheld the Woodstock tradition well. A closer glance proves otherwise. Security guards lined the fields, occasionally escorting fans out and initiating cases of violence themselves. Promoters turned the Woodstock name from a celebration of peace and music to a corporate fun house. The peace-minded, headstrong hippies of the 60's had become the self-centered yuppies of the 90's. Making money was the theme, although it was hidden carefully under a disguise calculated by art-

cont. to p. 4

**Silver Star
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Lady Raiders share region lead

by Andrea Matthews

Varsity softball coach Debbie Ball begins the 1994 season with high expectations.

"Our goal is to take one game at a time," said Ball when asked to appraise her squad, "but this team has the potential to win the Region 3-AAA title and take the Raiders back to the state tournament."

Six starters return from last year's 19 and 8 team, one that made the second round of the state AAA play-offs. Erin Beatty returns at left field as does Mandy Grant, left center field; Chrissy Mallory, second base; Aimee Donohoe, pitcher; Kellie Smith, shortstop; and Reagan Griffin, first base. Other returning players include Kelly Dale, Kerrie Smith, Laura Hovey, April Copeland, Jamie Arwood, Julie Longstreet, Shana Anderson, Christy Corozolla, Katie Brown, and Naomi Fluellen.

Ball believes the team's strongest asset is its defense. Returning to the mound, Aimee Donohoe leads all Lady Raiders in fielding average. Shana Anderson adds to the defensive strength.

Hitting is the only team weakness. "The girls are having trouble hitting the ball to the right place at the right time," revealed their coach. "They are strong hitters; they simply need to focus their energy." Donohoe, Beatty, Kerrie Smith, and Anderson have respectable averages.

Failing to make the finals in the season opening Jordan Invitational Tournament, the Lady Raiders' season began with disappointment. Recording three consecutive wins after an initial tournament 13-12 loss to East Coweta, the team was eliminated by LaGrange's Troup County High School in a consolation final's game by the score of 4-3.

The Lady Raiders bounced back with con-

secutive victories over Hardaway, Jordan, Kendrick, Columbus, and Spencer High Schools. The squad is currently tied with Jordan for the 3-AAA lead with identical 5-1 records. Debbie Ball knows there is still a long season ahead. "Jordan is tough," she said. "We won the first meeting, but they won the second. We can't have a let down against other teams."

Long an excellent feeder program, the junior varsity team currently sports a 5-1 record. First year coach Lisa Frander likes the excitement of her team. "We are going to have a productive season. There are lots of freshmen, and they are strong hitters. They seem to be very enthusiastic. They just need to focus their enthusiasm on becoming more skilled," she said.

The region tournament will be played October 3-5



Backed by Kellie Smith, Aimee Donohoe takes a ground ball against Jordan. The lady Raiders and the Red Jackets are tied for the region lead.

Football team looks to playoffs

by Tommy Peavy

After a season opening 7-0 loss to defending Alabama state 6-A champion Central of Phenix City, the Raiders dominated South Atlanta 34-8 at Lakewood Stadium and edged Monroe High School 3-0 in a defensive struggle.

Head Coach Charles Flowers is optimistic about his squad and the season. "We know we made some mistakes in our opener, but each player still has a good attitude, and we are still very competitive," he said. Inexperience is a problem. Only two seniors start on the defensive unit, while four start for the offense.

Defensively the Raiders have been dominating, giving up only two touchdowns in the first three games. One came as the result of a fumble by the offense on the five; another came against the second team defense. The defensive unit has been led by Dante Harrow with 12

tackles and four assists followed by Matt Hudson with 10 tackles. Harrow has eight tackles for losses. Carlos Pollard has led a stingy secondary. Derick Andrews and Devin Johnson have also played well. Flowers is proud of the attitude of his defensive squad. "We have a no name defense with no superstars," he said. "They just like to get in there and hit."

Defensive starters include Harrow and Andrews, ends; Andre Arnold and Johnson, tackles; Larry Feggins and Adam Preston, outside linebackers; Kanata Pitts and Matt Hudson, inside linebackers; and Steven Enfinger, Tomarak Roberson, and Carlos Pollard, secondary.

Offensively the Raiders have been inconsistent. In two of their first three games, they have been shut out of the end zone. Seniors Pete Thomas and Jerome Brown have both struggled. Their only successes came against South Atlanta, a school

of AA classification. In that game Thomas rushed for 119 yards while Brown ran for 60 and passed for a touchdown. Surprising, sophomores Andretti Lewis and Brian Faniel have been instrumental in the Raiders' offensive surges. Thomas leads the team in rushing with 199 yards on 50 carries for a 3.9 average. Faniel has gained 114 yards on 25 carries for a 4.5 average, and

C-C runs over competition

by Brian Silverstein

Trying to regain the dominance they enjoyed in area running during the 80's, the Raider and Lady Raider cross-country teams are looking forward to the 1994-1995 season.

The girls' team should challenge for the region 3-AAA championship. Many area coaches believe they are capable of a strong showing in the state AAA meet. Returning lettermen include Lori McElvey, Tracey Sims, Laura Bridges, Adrienne Bailey, Crystal Bridges, and Alexa Johnson. Talented sophomore Regina Tate is making her first appearance on the squad. Other members of the team include Amanda Strout, Jordan Holmes, Lindsey Griffith, Delecia Butts, Bonny Chancey, Miranda Hardee, Brock Taylor, and Leigh Ann Taylor.

Head coach Mike Ste-

phens is optimistic about the season. "We will rely on the senior leadership of Adrienne Bailey and the strength of our young, yet strong underclassmen," he said.

The Lady Raiders display their potential against area running powers early in the season. The team easily outdistanced Smith's Station, Pacelli, and LaGrange. Pacelli, a state class A power, could get no closer than 31 points to the Lady Raiders.

The men's team must improve if it hopes to challenge defending champion Columbus for the 3-AAA crown. Four sophomores are among the Raiders' top five. "Our boys' team is improving quickly," Stephens said evaluating his squad, "but someone needs to emerge as a leader who can motivate through his actions."

cont. to p. 4



Jerome Brown, Shaw High quarterback, throws for first down.

Impressions of a journey

by Eric Fowler

As a young man of 17, my memories are full of movies and books that reflect the Japanese culture. I have seen ninjas fight in mortal combat, Shoguns dominate people and land, and Zeroes menace the skies during World War II. They are images of a culture which seemed to cherish power and domination. It took a journey to the Islands to dispell those myths.

As part of a recent student exchange, I found a group of people profoundly different from their stereotypes. It was a country that closed its doors to the outside world for years so that it could develop and strengthen its own culture. It is a country that drives bravely into the future while keeping a grasp on the past.

It is a country filled with a myriad of images. The following will be long lasting.

On Respect for others:

Kindergarteners and first graders wear small yellow caps. When crossing the street, all

the youngster must do is raise his or her hand before stepping into the street. Eight lanes of traffic would stop for one child. If a child is injured, the motorist goes to jail until he receives the parents' forgiveness. Needless to say, forgiveness does not come cheap.

On Education:

The Japanese educational standards are some of the highest in the world. School hours run from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Students must know 60,000 Kanji (Chinese characters) to enter middle school and 200,000 Kanji to enter high school.

On food:

The food is plentiful and diverse. Street vendors offer a variety of delicacies. Dried or fried squid, U-dong (a Japanese noodle), Japanese pancake, and sishimi are the norm. Kobe beef is a rare treat. The cows from which the beef is derived are hand fed with the finest grains. The animals are massaged twice a day, and beer is a substitute for water in their diets. Vending machines offer a variety

of alcoholic concoctions to the public.

On Driving:

At 18 one is "allowed" to learn to drive. The prospective motorist must take a one year driver's education course at his or her own expense. After the course is completed, the 19 year old must pay 70,000 yen (\$700.00) for a license. Driving is considered a privilege, not a necessity. Most individuals use public transit, one of the best systems in the world. Parking violations are costly and DUI offenders risk having their license revoked for life.

On Festivals:

Tradition is important to the Japanese Culture and the festival is the appropriate showcase. Grandparents, parents, and children dance to time worn yet remembered tunes, played by gangs of musicians. Small wooden booths and wagon house games and food. Silk scarves and kimonos, woven from century-old three person looms, attract.

cont. from p. 3

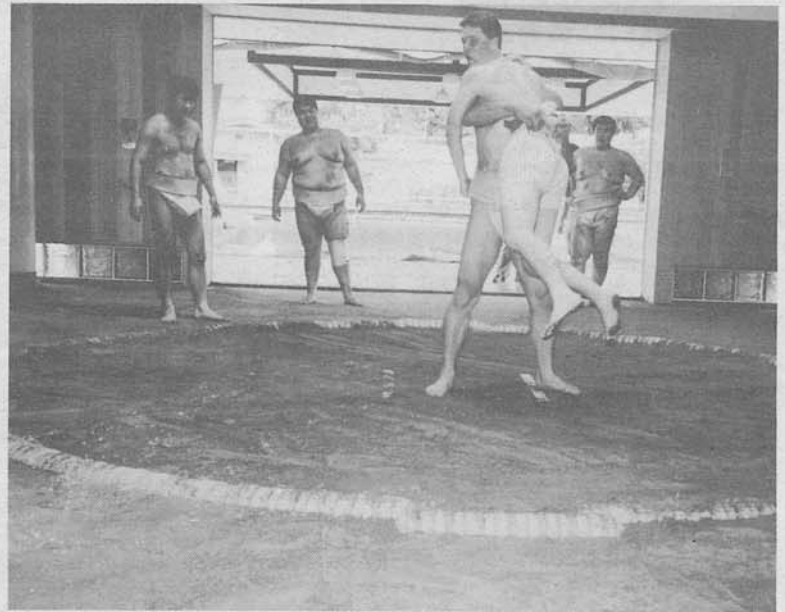
Members of the Raiders' cross-country team include Erik Witbeck, Brad Starling, Nick Dyer, Nick Bettes, Scott Haines, Wes Lambertus, Rob Wilson, Jeff Rodgers, John Pryor, Pete Shelton, Adam Lenhard, Jon Bryans, Joel Kennedy, Michael Meeks, Chris Stevens, Tommy Pierson, West Pryor, and Spencer Wright.

Stephens quickly gained some insight into his teams' chances.

In the Spencer Early-bird Invitational, the boys' team finished eighth while the girls' finished a disappointing sixth. While no boys' runner finished in the top ten, two Lady Raiders earned honors. Katherine Thurman placed sixth with a time of 23:36, and Regina Tate finished eighth with a time of 23:44.

cont. from p. 2

ful advertisers. Admission tickets alone were \$150.00. Parking fees, three days worth of food and drinks, and souvenirs drove prices to astronomical heights. The end results were quite a change from the original event in which no T-shirts were sold and breakfast was served to the crowd free of charge. Time taught us a lesson. Even the purest and the best intentions can be corrupted by money.



Top: Eric Fowler is tossed by the Sumo Dojo Master in the Kiryu Sports Complex. Middle: Shaw High School principal Eddie Obleton receives his "happy coat" from the major of Kiryu. Bottom: A temple priest recites prayers as he stands on the corner and collects offerings. Traffic maneuvers around him despite having the right of way.



The yearbook will be on sale starting October 10. For one week (Oct. 10- Oct. 14) they will be sold for \$35.00. Beginning October 17, yearbooks will be \$40.00.