

Dear Seniors:

BY CHEYENNE CARMACK

The other day in the cafeteria I heard Alanis Morissette singing "Ironic." I hadn't heard that song in forever, and when I did, it practically catapulted me back to middle school!

But as I listened and reminisced, I realized just how much irony there is in our lives as seniors.

Yes, it is possible that we are busier and more stressed out than ever before.

Decisions weigh more heavily upon us now and we are quickly learning that we are clueless when it comes to responsibility.

Reality is sinking in. Adulthood is approaching and whether we like it or not, it will soon be here.

Scary, huh?

But you know what? In growing up and finding maturity, somewhere along the way, we have unwittingly made life simpler for ourselves. Think about it...

Illness makes a person appreciate their health, just as death calls attention to the gift of life.

All of our fear and stress exposes the small, worthless ideas and problems that we've wept over since our preteen years for exactly what they are -- absolutely nothing.

And as seniors, I believe most of us realize this fact.

Take a look inside senior homerooms. You'll find far less made-up faces and far more smiles. You'll hear less snickers and gossip, while hearing more "I love you guys..." and "What are we going to do next year?"

The tags that adorn people's clothing are less important and superficial smiles no longer win

friends. Maybe the butterflies are finally mature enough to escape from the cocoons.

Petty arguments, the tiny incidents that once seemed so important that they ended grade school friendships, are being resolved. Some of us are actually being big boys and girls and saying those dreaded words "I'm sorry" or "I was wrong."

It's actually very refreshing to see. No one is worried about impressing the upperclassmen, or being voted green, silly, or goofy. I actually have other seniors to run to lunch with now!

As we have found our own niches in this familiar place, we have also discovered security, support, and our own identities.

But it has been no easy task and one that has been our whole lives in the making. We have finally arrived, and just in time to board the bus to the future.

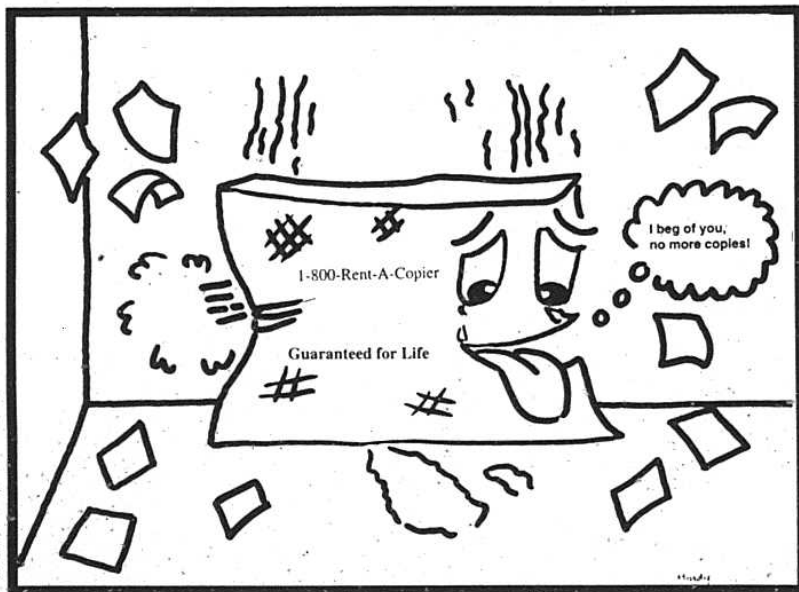
Have you seen those posters around school that say, "Thirty years from now it won't matter what kind of jeans you wore or how your hair looked. What will matter is what you learned and how you used it?"

The truth is, those things don't even matter now, and most of us realize that.

We've spent our whole existence making small things into big deals and blowing off the things that should have been important.

Suddenly the word senior falls into our laps and the view of the spectrum changes:

"Would I call that ironic? Nah... I call it growing up."



Why throw it all away

BY JOANIE MINK KING

When all the freshmen classes start, they usually have some where around 230 students.

By their senior year, this number has dropped about 22%. Some of these students transfer, but others simply drop out.

According to Guidance Counselor Dale Whitaker, most students decide to quit school during their freshman or sophomore year. This is not a smart thing to do.

If you drop out you don't get a diploma; if you don't have a diploma then you can't get a good job

that pays good money. If you can't get a good job, then it will make it hard for you to support yourself and your family.

I am a senior and I got pregnant during my sophomore year. I came back from homebound to finish school because I know that I need to get a good education.

I know that I need a good job because I need to support my little girl. I want to continue that because I want her to have nice things like I did.

Another reason I came back to

school is because who knows how long I will be able to depend on my family or how long I will be married. I know that my family will be there if I need them, but I will still need to make it on my own. No matter what I will make sure that my little girl is taken care of.

I hope that some of the students who are thinking of dropping out this year will change their minds and not do it. Believe me, it is hard to make it out in the real world without a job when you have bills to pay.

The Rocket

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It Rocks

The crazy displays of school spirit.

Snuggling up in front of a cozy fire and watching favorite reruns

Election day: No more mudslinging or debates that make grown men and women seem like petty children

Surprise morning breaks...Thank you!

November "No school days"

It Reeks

Spirited displays of affection in the halls

Sniffing the burning trees as soon as you step outside

Election day: The constant mudslinging and debates that make grown men and women act like petty children

People who always complain, despite all the things others try to do for them

November's really cool days...BRRR