

Seniors pick own pockets for cash

SIMON KIRSCH

Staff Writer

Parking permit, \$60. Yearbook, \$50. Cap and gown (basic set), \$46. Spending more than \$1,000 just to live life as a senior... priceless?

Life as a senior is expensive. There's money (\$45) for the Associated Student Body sticker on your ID card, there's money (\$300) for sports and activities and there's money (\$90-150) for books and/or supplies for classes. Seniors not only have to deal with those fees, but there's added expenses of graduation costs, parking privileges, college applications, SAT fees, senior photos and prom. With all this spending, it can be difficult to scrounge up the money for day-to-day expenses.

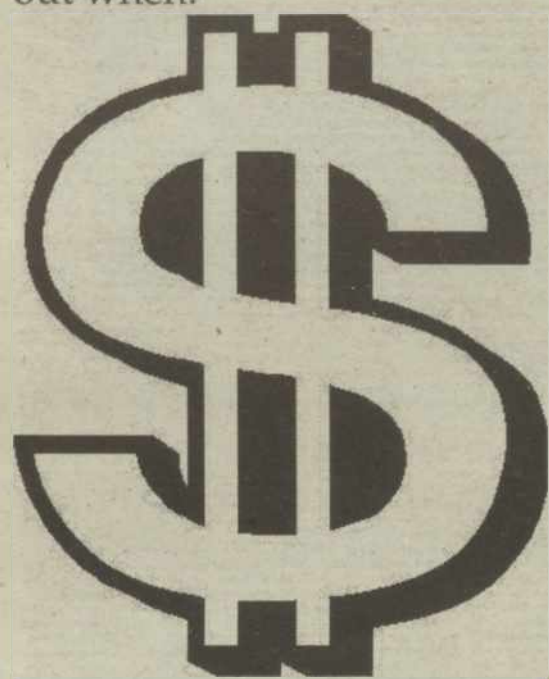
Then there's college... college applications can run close to \$60 dollars each, and with the added cost of college visits, auditions or interviews, the totals to get into college can be hundreds of dollars.

"There are ways for kids to save for college," Julie Swanson, career center secretary, said. "But with many fees being compulsory the best way to save money is applying for scholarships. Then [students] don't have to

save as much."

The SAT Reasoning test runs \$40 with extra fees to send scores to more than four colleges. This is mandatory for most colleges, so there is no saving on these costs.

According to Swanson, there are ways to do interviews locally, which saves on travel costs. "Many colleges do local visits. Contact admissions to find out when."



Seniors have to buy caps and gowns to wear to graduation, and pay fees for the senior grad party. Then there's all the memorabilia. Some of the companies seem to feed on the population of seniors or more specifically, their money. If you can slap the words "senior" or "2007" on it, they have and are trying to sell it to seniors. It is amazing how many consumer goods were being

marketed: flip-flops, senior sweats, senior hats, senior wristbands and, let us not forget my personal favorite, the class ring.

These little chunks of metal sell anywhere from \$80 to well over \$200. With minute inscriptions and personal symbols engraved on them, who wouldn't want to shell out all that cash?

Then there are the caps and gowns at \$46. I can't help but shudder as I look over that innocent little pamphlet. This didn't come with a special tassel or anything like that. I didn't even bother looking at that other stuff because after I saw how much just the basics were, there was a little voice in the back of my mind that said, "These guys are trying to screw us! Run while you can!"

Unfortunately, after serious thought and soul-searching, I've come to the conclusion that there is little to nothing we can do about all these things. As seniors, we're on the fast track to that harsh and bitter place where we will have to pay the taxes. So why not enjoy our simple youth while it's still here? Embrace that parking spot, appreciate that yearbook and walk proudly down that aisle in that \$46 dollar cap and gown.

Fundraising criteria needs to be established

KELSEY SCHRADER

Page Editor

Cancer is something we are all aware of. It's an icky, horrible disease that can happen to anyone. We've studied it in health class and donated

money for its research. But some of us forget that cancer isn't age specific. One of the biggest threats to us is our uncanny ability to justify tanning in spite of the health risks and statistics that prove tanning beds are risky.

Because tanning poses health risks, parents complained when the Softball Team began selling tanning packages to raise money. Eventually the fundraiser was canceled. Jamie LeVeque, softball coach, isn't worried that the concerns surrounding the cancellation will affect the team's reputation or budget. According to LeVeque, the

softball team will continue its tradition of raising money with a plant sale.

Inappropriate fundraising is a problem that definitely could happen in the future. According to Sue Bradley,

should have been caught in the first place even though it might have been an effective way to raise money. I don't think anyone is to blame here, but thinking things through, checking with an

administrator, and being prepared to change your plans should be procedure in fundraiser brainstorming in the future.

The Softball Team was going to use this "cancer box" as a way to raise money. Some would argue that using tanning as a fundraiser is no worse than selling cookies or chocolate because they can lead to obesity. There are known cures for obesity,

though, for example, exercise, a change in diet, or in extreme cases, liposuction or Gastric Bypass surgery. Other than radiation and chemotherapy, melanoma is a potentially fatal disease.

MELANOMA

ARE YOU AT RISK?

Twenty-five percent of cases occur in individuals before age 40*

It is the second most common cancer in women between 20-35

The World Health Organization states, "... no person under 18 years of age should use a sunbed."

Worldwide, a total of 132,000 cases of malignant melanoma are reported each year.

Melanoma is the most serious type of skin cancer

*Melanoma.org, WHO

activities secretary, there is no person who has the position of vetoing or accepting things like fund raisers, field trips and other school-wide events. I think that the inappropriate nature of this fundraiser

STUDENTS

PEAK OUT

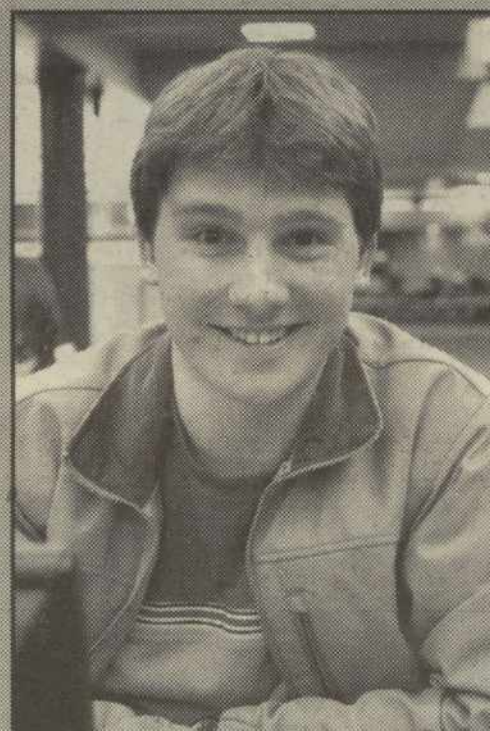
What do you think is the level of student awareness regarding global issues?

Meghan Skogg, senior



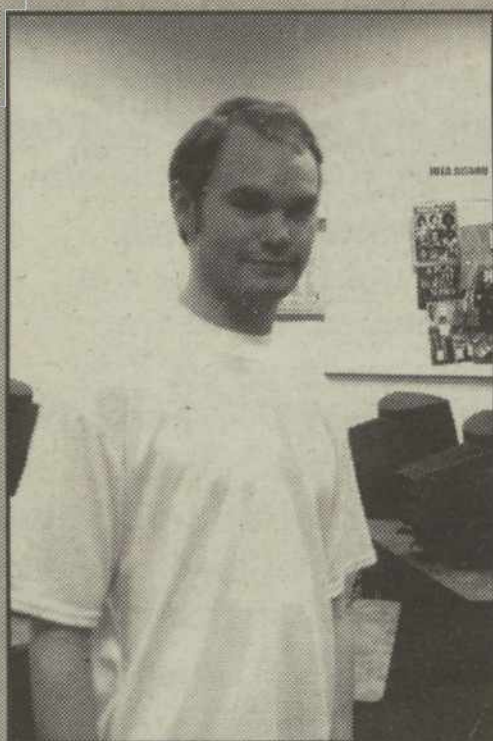
"We have a lot of classes, that aren't offered at other schools, so kids have a way to learn about global issues."

Cameron Tompkins, senior



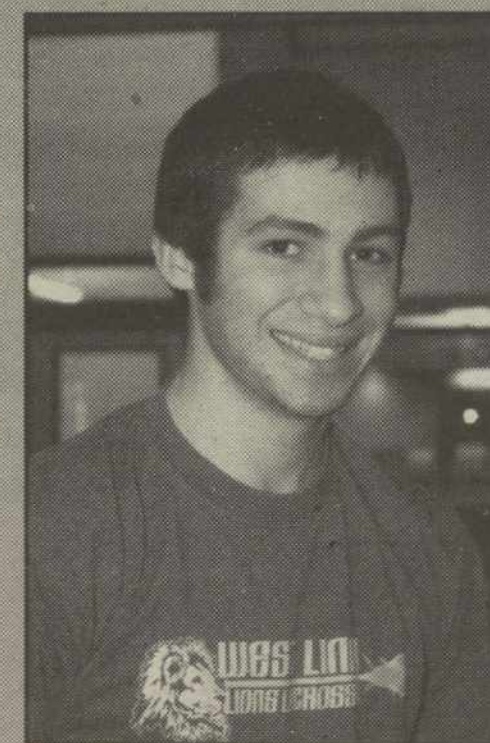
"I believe that people are aware but action is not always taken."

Marc Provencher, senior



"I'm aware of the things going on in the world like Darfur and North Korea. I listen to NPR sometimes and watch ABC World News every night"

Timothy Hainley, sophomore



"Teachers only give you one side of the issue. Then you don't get the full perspective."