

for zone

children playing with frog at homewood
library

874

Photographer

Neg. No.

COLOR**PHOTOGRAPHIC WORK ORDER****INTER-OFFICE**

Birmingham News

Photographic Department

(THIS SIDE TO BE FILLED OUT BY PERSON REQUESTING SERVICE)

Date of Assign. 2/9 Tues. Time 11:15/11:30 No. of Photos selection
 Column News () Photos Used on: 2/17 Time or Edition Neighborhoods
 Layout News () Day or Date 2/17 Edition Neighborhoods
 To work with Lon Beaupre Authorized Signature Va. Martin

Meet Assignment () City Room () Dept. Charged editorial
 SUBJECT Children's play with frog on display at Homewood Library in conjunction with Mark Twain literary festival next month. February is Photography month, at the Children's department

ADDRESS

Homewood Public Library, Children's Services

REMARKS

Oxmoor Road, Homewood

Contact: June Lacasak
 877-8666

CHRISTOPHER SWEET
 Jackie - Staro

R. K. B. JUSTUS
 (Emir. Shirt)

ELIZABETH JUSTUS
 Karl + Ellen

June Zeeck;
 Lacowski

~~elizabeth justus, parents karl andxxxxxx~~

(girl)

collen

k.b. justus, parents karl and collen

(Enviior. Stirt)

***** christopher sweatt, parents
jackie and steve.

SOUTH NEIGHBORHOODS

An expanded report for south Birmingham, Homewood, Mountain Brook, Cahaba Heights and Irondale

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1993

S

Homewood to expand drug testing

More city employees will be subject to extended policy starting next month

By Roni Bea Kayne
News staff writer

Wayne Hallmark agrees with the slogan on the side of some BFI Waste Systems garbage trucks: "Drugs are Garbage."

Hallmark, a garbage truck driver for the city of Homewood, said he favors drug testing to help sweep the city of employee drug problems.

He is one of the city employees subject to drug testing under an expanded policy set to go into effect next month.

The police and fire departments started drug and alcohol testing a year ago, and the mayor wanted to expand the drug-testing policy to all city employees in "safety sensitive" jobs, such as lifeguards and those who drive city vehicles.

Mayor Jim Atkinson last week sent city department heads a letter notifying them of the expanded policy.

"I'm against drugs," Hallmark said. "I think a person who takes drugs could endanger any employees, residents and anyone else."

He said he believes many of his co-workers feel the same way, though, "There's always a few who are going to object to it."

Help kicking habits

The city's drug-testing policy is modeled after the one adopted by the Police Department last March. But since that time, the city has established an employee assistance program to help those who test positive for drugs.

Firefighters say lack of treatment was one of the main problems with their policy, which Fire Chief John Bresnan said required disciplinary action against violators but did not try to eliminate the drug problem.

Three firefighters have tested positive for drugs; one tested positive twice, Bresnan said.

On the first offense, the firefighters were suspended for 15 days. On the second offense, the firefighter was suspended for 30 days, Bresnan said. He said the punishment might have been more severe if the employee assistance program, established in September, had been available when the first offense occurred.

Despite the cases, Bresnan said he does not believe

drugs are a big problem in the Fire Department.

"I don't view it as a threat. We have taken appropriate action," he said. The drug-testing policy has helped identify those who have drug problems and discouraged drug use, he said.

No police officers have tested positive for drugs, police administrators said.

Bresnan said he is glad the policy is being expanded to other city employees. People who operate city vehicles and abuse drugs are a risk to the city even if they are not responding to emergencies like police officers and firefighters do, he said.

Privacy Issue

Some firefighters also have complained that the policy is an invasion of privacy.

The policy states that its intention is not to invade employees' private lives, but that "involvement with drugs and alcohol off the job can adversely affect performance and employee safety and efficiency on the job."

See Testing, Page 85

RAMSAY HIGH SCHOOL UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA/BIRMINGHAM

High school seniors, college freshmen swapping letters

By Tara Hulén
News staff writer

High school seniors and college freshmen may differ by only a few months in age, but they can live in vastly different cultures.

Exploring differences between the campus culture of freshmen at the University of Alabama at Birmingham and high school culture of seniors at Ramsay Alternative High School is one of the goals of a recently started "letters across cultures" project.

In the program, 40 of Ramsay English teacher Elaine Hill's advanced placement and honors students are writing 20 of UAB English professor Elaine Whitaker's students. They will swap letters via computer once the program's equipment arrives and will exchange written letters until then.

"The purpose of this is to help students improve their writing, so they have a voice (individual, personalized style) and they know it's OK to be real," Mrs. Hill said. Computer literacy and cultural awareness are other goals, she said.

The letters swap is a joint project between UAB and Birmingham schools and is one of seven projects in the Cooperative Program to Improve Teaching and Curriculum Materials.

Students were given a test before the letter exchange began to gauge their opinions on how high school and college differ and their opinions on different races and ethnic groups. They will be given a comparison test after the program is finished.

Culture isn't limited to racial, ethnic or religious differences, Ms. Whitaker said, every different setting has a different culture and calls for different behavior.

For example, she said, the corporate culture is different from a high school or campus culture, and each business has its own culture.

Not only can the high school students learn about college life from the UAB students, but the UAB students can learn something from the Ramsay students, Mrs. Hill said.

"I think they can give them a dif-

ferent perspective about high school. Being inner-city children, they're more liberal and outspoken," she said.

The letters from UAB will be critiqued in the Ramsay English classes. Mrs. Hill said the advanced students can be tough critics.

Verbal sparring

Many Ramsay students said they were disappointed in the first letters they received from UAB students, but most said they understood the college students probably were apprehensive because they were the first to write.

"They think we know nothing about college," said Ramsay senior Berdell Patton, 18. Miss Patton said she would have preferred reading more personal details than common sense advice about studying hard.

Julia Featheringill, 17, said she thought the UAB students were talking down to the high school students.

"I told him (her pen pal) I pretty much knew everything I need to know about college because most of my friends are in college," Miss Featheringill said.

John Irons, 18, said he wrote his pen pal back and told him the letter sounded like it was written to a kid.

Ms. Whitaker, who had read the Ramsay students' replies but hadn't passed them on to her UAB class, said she noticed "verbal sparring" going on between the college students, who feel just a bit superior, and the high school students, who are a bit defensive.

She said that probably was natural and should pass. "I hope they just become good friends," she said.

Similarities

Not all the high school students' reviews of the first exchange were terrible.

Students use false names on their letters, and Miss Patton said that despite the lack of personal details, she guessed she and her pen pal had similar taste in music because her pen pal's name was Shai, one of Miss Patton's favorite musical groups.

See Swap, Page 85



NEWS STAFF PHOTO/HAYWOOD PARAVICINI

K.B. Justus, left, and sister Elizabeth, children of Mr. and Mrs. Karl Justus, touch frog at Homewood library.

HOMWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY

Froguary month leaps with Twain for children

By Roni Bea Kayne
News staff writer

Homewood Public Library is really hopping this month.

Frogs have been leaping into the stories, displays, programs and hearts of children during Froguary month at the library.

The special events are leading up to the library's literary festival March 1 and 2 honoring humorist Mark Twain. The frog theme comes from Twain's short story, "The Notorious Jumping Frog of Calaveras County."

In the library's children's department you can find stuffed frogs, ceramic frogs, rocking frogs, wooden frogs, musical frogs, funny frogs, puppet frogs, paper frogs, imported frogs and brown, orange and blue frogs.

All month, children can try to guess the name of the library's live bullfrog, participate in special story times about frogs and toads, view entries in last month's Mark Twain art and writing contests for Homewood students, and sign up for a frog-jumping contest, frog-eating — gummy frogs, that is — and other activities set for Frog Day, Feb. 27.

Introducing Twain

Library Director Lucretia Somers said the purpose of the frog programs is to involve children in the literary festival and encourage them to read about Mark Twain.

"Little children won't get to be involved in the symposium itself," which is to be at night, from 6 p.m. to 9:15 p.m. March 1 and 2 at the library.

The literary festival includes exhibits and discussions of Twain's work by local English professors and writers. Louis Budd, a Duke University English professor known as one of the country's foremost Twain scholars, will be the keynote speaker.

Hueytown Librarian Mary Roberts, referred to by library patrons as the "Frog Lady," and Jean Burnett, a retired English teacher from Shades Valley Resource Learning Center, contributed to Homewood's display of frogs.

They both have been collecting frogs for about 20 years, through their travels and as gifts from friends.

Mrs. Roberts said she has been fascinated

See Twain, Page 85

AROUND YOUR CORNER

PEOPLE . . .

Crestwood's Julie Hyde on Huntingdon dean's list

Julie Hyde of Crestwood has been named to the dean's list for the recent term at Huntingdon College.

The daughter of Janice and Larry Hyde earned all A's for the term. She is a member of Kappa Delta Epsilon Honorary Professional Education Fraternity.

Cook and Sheffield attend D.C. leadership meeting

Amy Cook of Irondale and Dorothy Sheffield of Homewood recently attended the National Young Leaders Conference in Washington, D.C.

Miss Cook, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Brian Judd, and Miss Sheffield, daughter of Kathryn Sheffield of Homewood and Paul Sheffield of Memphis were selected based on the academic achievement, leadership and citizenship.

The theme of the conference was "The Leaders of Tomorrow Meeting the Leaders of Today." Throughout the six-day conference, students met with key leaders and newsmakers from the three branches of government, the media and the diplomatic corps. They participated in the Mock Congress on Gun Control, during which they assumed the roles of U.S. representatives by debating, lobbying and voting on proposed handgun legislation.

Miss Cook is a student at Shades Valley High School and Miss Sheffield is a student at Homewood High School.

EVENTS . . .

Homewood

Homewood Public Library activities include the film *Mark Twain and Me* Monday at 7 p.m.

MEETINGS . . .

Thursday, Feb. 18

Cahaba Valley Sertoma Club meets for breakfast at 7:30 a.m. at Shoney's in Hoover on U.S. 31.

Pi Beta Phi Alumnae Club Luncheon Club meets at 10:30 a.m. at the home of Cathy Head, 3432 Polo Downs, Hoover. Jean Curry of Mountain Brook will present a program on mature movie actresses.

Birmingham South Sales Club meets at 11:30 a.m. at the Red Mountain Inn, off Valley Avenue. For information, call David Dick at 942-6532.

Oxmoor Rotary Club meets at 12:15 p.m. at Holiday Inn-Oxmoor Road.

See Meetings, Page 45

Readers are welcome to submit items about community activities, events and individual honors and achievements. Typed or printed items should be received one week before an upcoming event (include time and location) or immediately following an award presentation.

Send items to Around Your Corner, The Birmingham News, P.O. Box 2553, Birmingham, 35202. Please include your name and telephone number. For more information, call 325-2140.

JUST A CHAT

. . . with Stephen D. Johnson

Occupation: Manager, Highland Booksmith, Highland Avenue.

Age: 31.

Residence: Glen Iris neighborhood.



If I didn't have this job, I'd want to: Have a job that allows me time to write. I'd probably still be in the book business.

The last thing I really messed up on was: Not putting up my little girl's shoes before the dog ate them.

My favorite TV show is: *Mystery Science Theater 3000*.

My favorite movies are: *Dawn of the Dead* and *Bring Me the Head of Alfredo Garcia*.

My favorite musician is: Jethro Tull.

My favorite junk food is: Anything Mexican.

The book I read most recently was: *Aside from the one I've just written, Blood of the King, Dead in the West*, by Joe Lansdale.

My favorite writer is: Phillip K. Dick, a science fiction writer.

My idea of a great evening is: A quiet evening at home with a good book or a good movie.

The best advice my parents ever gave me was: Stay in school.

My first job was: Bus boy in Baton Rouge.

The last thing I got punished for in school was: Cutting class.

I really hate it when: People don't observe parking lot etiquette at the grocery store — when you're waiting for a space and someone zips in.

It would take an act of Congress to get me to: Enjoy housework.

My hero is: My dad.

Tara Hulén

INSIDE

Social: Crestline's Kinzeys celebrate golden anniversary; other happenings 25

In Your Schools: News from All Saints Episcopal, Jewish Day, Cahaba Heights, Creative Montessori, Edgewood, Mountain Brook Junior High, Our Lady of Sorrows, Shades Cahaba 35