

LOGOS II

The Word of



Harpeth Hall

Volume XX, Number 2

November/December 1997

Playmakers "Steel" the Show

by Fabienne Diskin

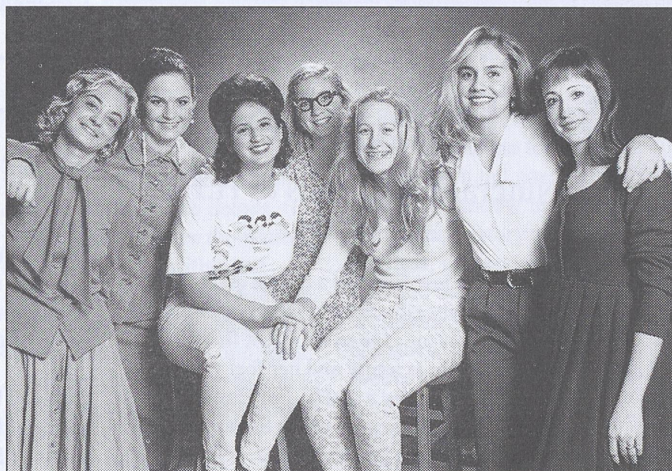
Steel Magnolias, directed by Janette Klocko, is a serio-comedy that takes place in Truvy's beauty salon in Chinquapin, a small town in northern Louisiana. The play focuses on the lives of five women who are known as Truvy's regulars. Truvy, played by Ellen Bucy, is an eccentric, lovable character who is convinced that the last romantic thing her husband did was "enclose this carport so I could support him." Truvy begins the play by hiring her new helper Annelle, played by Georgia Yowell, who is younger than Shelby but has already managed to have a "past" that causes her to be extremely nervous at any mention of marriage. Shelby, played by Allyson Foreman,

appears as a young, excited girl, naive to the wonders of marriage. As the play progresses, she gains sophistication and forms unbreakable bonds with the other characters. M'lynn, played by Kate Rose, is Shelby's overprotective mother who constantly worries about her child's health and well-being. Clairee, played by Rachel Worrell, was the first lady of Chinquapin Parish before her husband died and is part of the older generation, but still manages to stay young and smart-mouthed. Ouiser, played by Kimberly McKinney, is a cranky little old woman who has a personal love-hate relationship with Clairee and considers her most precious possession to be her hairless

dog, Rhett.

Janette Klocko said this about the play, "There is something in this play that is so appealing. Maybe it's because we *know* these women -- they are our family, our neighbors, our friends or maybe they are us. Or maybe we can relate to the bond that these women share. That is universal. These women are beautiful and delicate as the Magnolia blossom, yet they are strong and their friendships everlasting."

Hundreds of hours were dedicated to this production in building the elaborate set, in rehearsing well into night, in learning lines, in dyeing or cutting hair to fit the characters, and finally in trying to find the many props and costumes.



The product was three successful evening performances and one matinee with standing ovations on opening and closing performances. Before the six hour striking of the set, a bouquet of specially-made steel magnolias was presented to Mrs. Klocko, showing our appreciation and thanks for

all the hard work that she put into this production. The cast and crew bonded in a way that was similar to the bonding of characters in Steel Magnolias. As we all held hands in the little theater, wishing for the best in the upcoming performance, we read the quote, "That which does not kill us makes us stronger."

New Parking System In Effect

by Terri Beuerlein

Well guys, for better or for worse, the new parking system is complete. It may have been a long, arduous, and controversial endeavor, but it is complete. The run down of exactly what happened is as follows:

1. Numbers were painted on every student space.
2. Students drew numbers to obtain a parking space.
3. Switching was allowed for a short period, then the system was put into effect.

If you are wondering how this idea was proposed and accepted, it all started two years ago in Student Faculty. All year people had complained about the inefficiency of the road and parking system in place at

Harpeth Hall. The street by the middle school was congested and confusing, and the parking was annoyingly unorganized. The group devised a totally new approach to the campus, including a new entrance from Estes Rd. and a new parking lot behind the Arts and Athletics Center. This plan, however, was way too costly and labor-intensive. It could not be set into effect and the year was drawing to a close. The following year, last year, the parking situation was brought up again numerous times in Student Faculty. Many students seemed to be very unhappy with the old parking system and wanted a change. Many new proposals were offered. The most likely to be approved was basically the

system that we have now. Before the committee moved forward with the proposal, the members talked to many students about the idea. The response was an overwhelming thumbs-up. The proposal was almost complete, but the end of the year was nearing. The position of Upper School Director was in such transition that nothing could be done until Mr. Chapman was established in that role. Over the summer, nearing August, a new committee was formed to complete the task of improving the parking system. Delays from weather, shipments, and work forces pushed the finalization date on into the second quarter. Finally, all systems were "go" and the new system was put into effect.

Baumel Visit a Success

One of the most educationally enriching events of the fall took place during the busy first week in November, as Harpeth Hall ushered in the Carell Writers Series, hosting New York poet Judith Baume! Throughout Ms. Baume!s weeklong stay, girls from both the Middle and Upper School attended creative writing workshops and availed themselves of Ms. Baume!s expertise. Their efforts culminated in a sharing of student verse on Friday afternoon in the library. In addition to evening readings at Harpeth Hall and Vanderbilt University, Ms. Baume! read from her work at assembly and then fielded questions about the poetic craft. From the beginning of her sojourn to its end, praise for Baume! was high. As senior Devon Williamson said, "Judith Baume!s stay was both exhilarating and fulfilling, and she opened my eyes to new ways of discovering my own voice." Kudos to Diann Blakely who organized the poet's schedule and all others who made this fruitful experience possible. The generous gift from the Carell family will ensure that future girls at Harpeth Hall have the opportunity to work with a contemporary writer of note.

Club of the Month:

MATH CLUB

WHAT: A club to help students learn new concepts in math and to attend math contests while welcoming students of all math abilities.

RECENT EVENTS: SAT Math Help Days - December 1 and 2
Math Contest at Meigs Magnet School
December 4

OFFICERS: Bahar Azhdari, President
Erin Lehner, Vice-President
Nika Ferdowsi, Secretary
Katie Hill, Treasurer

QUOTE: "I'm really happy that there are all sorts of people with varying interests and math abilities taking part in Math Club." -Stacy Klein, Math Club Sponsor

H.H. in MBA's Forest

by Erika Wilkinson

The Petrified Forest, presented by MBA, is a wonderful, romantic play during which the audience can escape reality for a few hours and experience life during the 1920s. This play takes place in a small town in Arizona during the Depression. In this middle-of-nowhere town, there is a restaurant where much of the play takes place. The restaurant is owned by Gramps, played by Court Clement. His son Jason Maple (Rush Davidson) and his granddaughter Gabby Maple (Laura McAlister) help out in the restaurant. The normal days take a change when Alan Squire (David Wilson) comes to town. Alan is a struggling artist who arrives and steals Gabby's heart. But everyone's emotions are changed when a group of gangsters, led by Duke (Chris Callister), storms into town. The gang includes the member played by Jennifer Harrison and Miss Ruby, played by Cristen Mills. All the restaurant's customers and workers are held-up by the gangsters. The hostages are unlucky people including a rich couple (with Catherine Nading as the wife), and the cook (Sara Trace). During the occupation of the restaurant, many of the characters change. In the end, Gabby gets her wish to go to France and visit her mother, but she also has to pay a very big price. This play is filled with colorful characters and a wonderful plot. The Petrified Forest is tragically romantic, and this is what made MBA's performance riveting and entertaining. Congratulations to everyone who participated in this spectacular production.

On Their Toes

Mini-Nutcracker Comes to H.H.

by Molly Arvin

Sure, she has just finished a pas de deux followed by a deceptively effortless-looking variation, then she is back onto her toes for an ebullient finale. Sure, it is the second time in a row and her feet would likely feel better if run over by a truck. For Emily Cummings, who performed the role of the Sugarplum Fairy in the Mini-Nutcracker December 5-7, it is just another Saturday. "I live in my pointe shoes," she jokes.

From September to December, the world of the classical story of young Clara and the magical doll given to her by Herr Drosselmeyer became life for Emily and the cast of over fifty young dancers who take part in the Nutcracker presented by Friends of Metro Dance and Centennial Youth Ballet. For the third time, Harpeth Hall's Davis Auditorium was the site of their journey through lands of wicked mice, swirling snowflakes, and the Kingdom of Sweets.

"Our goal is to bring the arts of music and dance to children in a forum they understand," says Janet Clough, Superintendent of Cultural Arts. "We decided on an abbreviated, narrated version that was easier to follow, while keeping the splendor of the 'major' productions."

Harpeth Hall audiences had the opportunity to see their own fifth grader Mary Cooper Cummings in the Chinese dance, sophomore Molly Arvin as Marzipan, and junior Emily Cummings. Congratulations to these girls on a fantastic performance.

Outdoor Program in the Works

by Laura McAlister

After the announcement Mr. Chapman made about the Outdoor Program during assembly, there were many students who had questions about this new idea. I was able to talk with Mr. Chapman about such issues and found answers to the posed questions and concerns of some of the students.

This year is the year of basic planning for the Outdoor Program. At the moment, Mr. Chapman is looking through applications that fifteen interested students have turned in. These students will form the research committee for the club. This committee of students, along with Mr. Chapman, will be in charge of buying equipment, discussing any changes that need to be made in the insurance policy, and planning the kinds of trips that will be taken. Mr. Chapman has started similar programs at other schools and will help get the club off the ground. After this year, another teacher will be involved in each individual year's organization.

The variety of trips that will be taken will

increase as the club is given time to grow and will offer a range of physical difficulties. Short hiking outings that allow for map and compass work will be offered to provide a gentler pace. Overnight caving and rock-climbing trips will offer a more physically strenuous activity. In the future, longer vacations will be added during the summer and winter breaks. The summer trip would be something along the lines of a canoeing trip and the winter trip might be cross-country skiing in Canada. Eventually, upper school students could become proficient enough to chaperone a small middle school trip.

Most of the ideas stem from what Mr. Chapman has found to work in his past experience. More concrete information will be available after the research team has been formed and has begun planning, but until then, the Outdoor Program looks to be a fun addition to the Harpeth Hall community.

Baile del Invierno es caliente!

por Martha Grace Orman

El evento de Baile del Invierno es muy importante para Harpeth Hall. El baile es muy formal y a mi me gusta mucho. El baile del invierno es, claro, en el invierno, el 20 diciembre. A las chicas les gusta pedir las citas con los chicos. Probablemente, la chica pide al chico que es un amigo.

Unas chicas quieren pedir a un chico porque a ella le gusta el. La situación es muy interesante porque

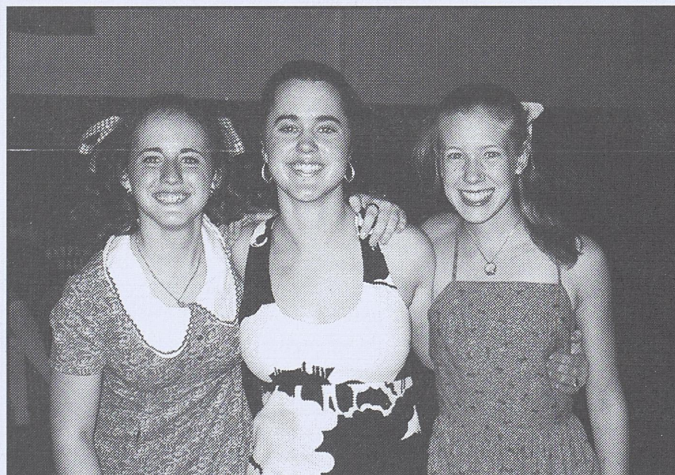
un chico posiblemente quiere ser solo amigos. Pero es posible que a un chico le guste a la chica. ¡Magnifico!

Todas las personas llevan la ropa elegante y bailan y tienen una hora de película. Tal vez, las personas tienen hambre. Entonces, ellos comen en un restaurante elegante. Las chicas pagan la cuenta. Después de la cena, todas las personas dicen adiós, y dicen gracias para la hora divertida. ¡Ay, el baile del invierno es el baile de maravilla!

Aliens Invade Morrison Gym

by Katie Kaminski

On November 1, seniors and freshmen alike (or unidentifiable) filled the gym to enjoy the Student Council's annual Halloween Dance. The ever popular Black Widow band returned this year and had everyone out on the dance floor doing their famous "electric slide" twice. The best entertainment, however, was the variety of creative costumes. Among the favorites were the alien invaders, the Spice Girls, the cheerleader on steroids, and the international...um...women. As several seniors claim, the Halloween Dance is one of the most anticipated and exciting dances of the year.



Sinclair Kelly, Emy Noel, and Katie Kaminski gear up for the Halloween Dance.

The Uniform Manifesto

by Elizabeth McClellan

Each morning at 5:15 a.m., I spring smiling from my bed and prepare for school. Thirty minutes later, clad in my layered and neat uniform, I'm ready to face the layer of ice on my windshield, but for one essential item -- my leather bomber jacket. This jacket is no status symbol, no J. Crew must-wear. It was my father's until two winters ago, and he wore it as I wear it now -- out of necessity. Therefore, it is battered, the leather has rough spots and tears, blended in a variety of shades from ill weather. Nonetheless, it has a style all its own, and I love it. Unfortunately, due to the new uniform crackdown, my much-beloved leather jacket, a respected senior citizen of the clothing world, is Public Enemy #1.

The uniform system was a necessary evil that I accepted when I came to Harpeth Hall, and it remains so. There are mornings when I look longingly on my polyurethane pants (impractical as they may sound, they insulate like no other), my angora sweater, and

my combat boots, but I have never even gone so far as to wear my P.E. sweats to school. Having operated under the assumption for three-and-a-half years that I was playing by the rules, I was horrified to discover that I had been wrong. I walked into school at 7:15 Monday morning, when the wind-chill factor was 17 degrees, wrapped in my jacket and a woolen hat and scarf, my hands jammed into my pockets. Before I had reached my locker, another student informed me that there was a uniform assembly for 10:30 and I had better get into uniform fast; as I had planned to do anyway, I removed my hat and scarf, when she proceeded to flame me for not removing my jacket. Confused, I removed it and sat through my first three classes in varying states of discomfort: second and third periods for me are in Wallace Wing, where the heat rarely works and the large windows scream for cold air to come right on in. At assembly, I was informed that the only acceptable outerwear was the Harpeth Hall athletic jacket or fleece,

and that any other coats must be removed upon entering the building. My leather jacket, I now understand, is not part of the new way.

I do not participate in Harpeth Hall athletics, and a fleece similar to the regulation item sells for \$15 at Target. The monogrammed one in the bookstore costs more than three times that. With the extra cash I would pay for an acceptable fleece, I could go to a pawn shop and buy another leather jacket. This, I feel, is a waste of money, as I already own a serviceable jacket and have no real need to buy a fleece that I will only wear for a few months. My other option is to drop my monolithic backpack and remove my jacket the instant I set foot in the building, a place where the ambient temperature is hardly more than that of the outside. At 7:00, my arrival time, the heater has barely begun to work; for the bulk of my classes, the rooms are freezing. In truth, I find a prohibition on jackets counterproductive: one of the reasons cited for having a uniform school

is the added focus on learning when clothes are out of the picture, but I can assure you from personal experience that a class where the students are literally shivering is not an effective class. Because some teachers allow us to wear our non-Harpeth-Hall jackets in class, a "guilt trip" of major proportions has been placed on both faculty and students; there has been more lip service paid to violations of honor and integrity, supposedly committed by non-uniform students, within the past week than I have heard in all my time at Harpeth Hall, even when our community was faced by issues much more serious than jackets or hemlines. In my personal opinion, this is hypocrisy of the rankest kind; a stringent attention to details of protocol that ignores the much deeper problems within our school does not sit well with me. As I do not make the decisions about what is priority and what is not, I will leave it up to you to decide for yourself if my point is valid.

The issues of importance aside, I wish to point

out that there is a recent precedent at Harpeth Hall for changing the uniform when it proves to have a structural problem. The saddle oxford, a staple of the Harpeth Hall uniform for years, was put aside in 1995 because it and the penny loafer offer no traction in wet or icy conditions and are orthopedically unsound to boot. Having had a nasty fall myself due to slick paths navigated in oxfords, resulting in a broken shoulder, I rejoiced when "mostly white" sneakers were added to the uniform. The jacket issue is not that extreme, but I believe the need for reevaluation is there. I invite any and all of the faculty who disagree with me to put on an oxford shirt and attempt to sit next to a window in the American History room, coatless, an experience I have had and do not cherish. In the meantime, I will comply with the rules; I will carry my leather jacket lovingly in my arms to each and every class. You will see me holding it, and you will know.

Who made Hitler the Easter Bunny?

by Kelly Jackson

It took lots of people to make Hitler's vision a violent reality -- it took people like Propaganda Minister Goebbels and several million people like you and me. Did you ever stop and wonder how you are being manipulated? Simple things, like the camera angle on a news show or a subtle psychosexual manipulation -- do you look at the world in a critical manner? It's not as easy as it sounds -- if it was, how would Hitler have succeeded?

Mind manipulation sounds scary. Mind manipulation is as simple as believing most doctors use Crest toothpaste. Do you believe that? Would you have believed it when the media showed doctors smoking their favorite cigarettes? Would you have believed it if a doctor said there was a sub-species living in your neighborhood? It is all very subtle. It's all very slick. If media is indeed a "battle of the eyes," open your eyes, ears, and minds, and guard your heart and soul, because what starts with the eyes begins to bombard deeper senses if you're not cautious. Perhaps the most

frightening example of this was a speaker at a Holocaust Symposium, who was a member of the Hitler youth. He talked about the gentle manner with which he was massaged into fascism. He was a little boy, who, by the end of the war, was pledged, even after Hitler's death, to his doctrine and the "Nazi Bible" Mien Kampf.

On October 28, at the Tennessee Commission on Holocaust Education's Symposium: "Nazi Propaganda: Creating a Climate for Genocide," I learned about critical viewing -- I learned how to protect myself. There are three major parts to being a critical viewer: thinking, reading, and gaining substance. Thinking-- sounds easy enough, but about what? Think about writers, think about bias, don't be jaded, be smart! How many media sources do you use? How many different stations? Do you read the paper? Do you read magazines? Do it all -- take it all in. Trusting one media source is like unconditionally trusting one person's opinion. Finally, look for substance. Ask yourself -- what is fact and what is fluff? You know what's what.

Well-Intended Assembly Falls Short

by Frances Lewis

On Tuesday, November 4, the Harpeth Hall Upper School had a guest speaker. Michael Thompson, a nationally known psychologist who also held more successful sessions for parents and teachers, spoke at two assemblies directed towards students. The first of these assemblies was for juniors and seniors and the second was for freshmen and sophomores, but both focused on our responsibilities and how parents and teachers are trying to teach them to us. During the assembly time that he wasn't speaking, students got together with their advisory groups to rank what traits a responsible person had. After a large amount of bickering and a massive social hour to some, the sophomores and freshmen came to about a billion different conclusions. The purpose of the assembly was an admirable one but the progress it made to increasing our understanding of being a responsible teen was not widely felt.

After some more classes, it was time for the second assembly where we met

again to do whatever our grade didn't do before. If it was the time when you got to actually listen to Dr. Thompson, as it was for the freshmen and sophomores, you had the chance to head down to the auditorium and sit in the junior and senior seats -- a treat for us. We started out with a very pleasant atmosphere. He sat on the stage and spoke to us without a microphone. He told us a little bit of what he told our parents to keep us up to date with how best to parent. It was, of course, authoritative parenting which requires a high level of responsibility for the child. He then proceeded to ask us to tell examples of times when communication was bad or good between us and our parents. It was a good starter but after a few people spoke it headed downhill, with most students only talking about the bad times. Instead of stopping us and helping us understand the problem and giving us tips on how to communicate better with our parents, he let us go with hardly a word giving the parents' side. The only thing I learned from the last forty-five minutes

of his hour-long assembly was that there are other people out there who have parents that say, "I do trust you; I just don't trust the people around you." Either he forgot how much time he had or it was simply a poor job of planning on his part. Even though those two assemblies were made with good intentions, they were both seemingly pointless and rather uninteresting.

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Cover photo courtesy of Peter Goodwin

Sparkle-y Sarah Despite Commercial Appeal, McLachlan Shines on

by Laura Dillon and Kristina Treanor

It was a dark and cold night. People convened on the streets surrounding the Ryman; you could tell immediately that something special was going on. We filed into the halls of the majestic auditorium. After passing the country music paraphernalia, we observed her face plastered everywhere. Were we here for her music or to buy her merchandise?

[L] Why would anyone sell a postcard with a picture of themselves on it?

[K] I don't know.

[L] Do you think it's a self portrait?

[K] Probably.

The disgruntled usher-lady shoved us in our seats. A few minutes later, after the lights dimmed and an appalling opening band started, the same charming woman yelled at us for being in the wrong pew. We resettled and, tapping our feet anxiously, waited.

[L] I'm so sick of that song "Building a Mystery." I sure hope she doesn't open with it.

[K] It's amazing how much power she holds over the audience. All she has to do is change the lighting to get a rise out of them.

[L] This is the first time I've been to a show in Nashville where someone hasn't yelled out,

[K] Yeah, it'll be okay if she sings it in the middle, but I think I'll cry if it's her first song.

Finally the opening band decided we had been blessed with their presence for long enough. The lights blacked out, and the crowd went wild. Tears were shed as the opening notes of "Building a Mystery" filled the air: most of the crowd was overwhelmed by the presence of Sarah McLachlan; Kristina was overwhelmed by irony.

The performer redeemed herself shortly thereafter by playing some of our favorite songs off her earlier albums. As the show progressed, the staging became more intricate. When blue lights twinkled between the fifth or sixth song, the crowd went wild yet again.

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[L] This is the first time I've been to a show in Nashville where someone hasn't yelled out,

Still Alive and Rolling

by Sarah Allen

Mick Jagger may be as old as my father, but in the thirty years that he and his band, the Rolling Stones, have been playing, they haven't lost any of their fame and ability to entertain. On October 26th, in their first Nashville appearance in twenty-five years, the combined modern computer-assisted hits to produce two and one half hours of unforgettable history in the making.

"Play Free Bird!"

After much knit-picky criticism ([L] Man, the show was great, but when the blue twinkles came on, the show went over the top!), we relaxed and realized that the concert was breathtaking. In fact, it was one of the best concerts we had ever attended.

McLachlan's music transports the listener to a pool of effervescent feeling. Her songs individually don't overwhelm, but their totality leaves one drenched and quenched. She played all but one of the tracks off "Fumbling Towards Ecstasy," Kristina's personal favorite. Though we were quite apprehensive that she might cater to the "what's-hot-right-at-this-moment" masses, she proved to be true to her music (the Robert-Palmer-esque background singer only added to the package) and provided top-notch entertainment for all. She seemed to be having a good time sharing her messages about love, life, and experience. We were having a blast listening.

LIBRA: This month, you chow down vitamin C but STILL manage to come down with a cold in the middle of exam week. It may be a little distracting while you are studying. You may need to put in a little more effort to ace those exams, but it will be worth it.

SCORPIO: Car trouble or a faulty alarm may make you in late for an exam. Double check your alarm, and make sure you commit to memory your friend's pager number. Don't let getting in late get you down; you may have to rush a bit, but you'll do fine.

SAGITTARIUS: Life just isn't fair this month. You get grounded after breaking curfew once, while your sibling gets away with all kinds of undetected deeds. Your significant other breaks up with you, AND you get in a little fender-bender. It's okay, though; things will even out eventually. Next month will ROCK for you.

CAPRICORN: You're getting ready for exams and are quite nervous about them. You'll be faced with the decision of going out or studying. Though the temptation of going to "that awesome party" might be strong, you will regret going. If you stay home and study those two extra hours, you will be sure to ace all your exams. Believe the stars; it's worth it.

AQUARIUS: The eight weeks are finally at an end, and you have FINALLY brought up your grades. Though you may be outta the woods now, be wary. Just because you have brought up your grades does not mean you have enough leeway to slack off. Push yourself just a little bit harder, and it will pay off.

PISCES: A friend who's feeling really down needs your help. If there's something you know she'd like to do like go shopping or rock at the upcoming concert, offer to take her. Your enthusiasm could help pull her out of her funk. Later this year she will return the favor ten-fold.

StarScopes

by Nika Ferdowsi

VIRGO: What's a bigger mystery than that of so many teachers being pregnant at the same time? How do you manage to keep up that awesome GPA while participating in sports AND a part-time job?! Though it seems like you could handle just about anything right now, be careful. Overloading yourself too much COULD result in a nervous breakdown.

ARIES: Be careful of who you confide in this month. Even your best friend may not be able to keep all that juicy info to herself. Your parents may start to push that last nerve with their rules and regulations; just remind them of that birthday dinner you cooked last month. Aaaaah yes, guilt trips work like a charm. Remember not to over-do it, though; they might backfire if you push too hard.

TAURUS: Get ready for your parents to notice and respect the new, more responsible you. They may even surprise you with a reward (i.e. later curfew, more privileges)! Also, you are slowly (but surely) discovering a new skill you have been unaware of until now, whether it's your new-found ability to have style or to actually make good grades in science. Just go for it!

GEMINI: You receive a great deal of praise this month when a teacher discovers what a gem you are. Mid-month you act as a go-between when two friends argue. If you take sides, you may risk losing one of them. Just play it neutral until the fighting becomes so petty that everyone involved can laugh at themselves.

CANCER: You have a big ol' crush on an older sweetie who you know in your heart is out of your league. It's OK to write about it in your diary or tell your friends about this infatuation, but revealing your feelings to your crush could bring disastrous results. Let go of your perfectionistic side this month; getting a C on an exam is not the end of the world.

LEO: This month, you'll have to try extra hard to get what you're craving (better grades, a couple extra bucks). Leos HATE asking others for help, but you may have to swallow hard and take a small handout. A recent fiblet you flew past a teacher or friend may come back to haunt you this month. Be prepared to face up to it.