

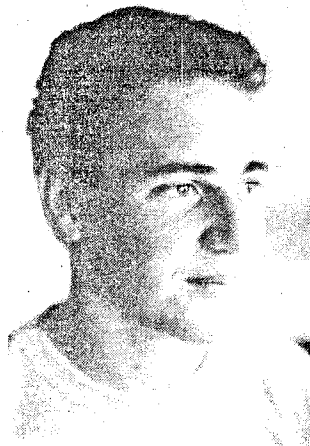
THE TWIN CITIES TIMES

Page 26, Issue 38

October 1-7, 1986

Hey, this is interesting...

by Jason Lewis



Cheerleaders

As I walked into my second period class on Friday, I was met, or should I say cornered, by three girls in cheerleader uniforms. They stood motionless, hands on hips, staring coldly at me with eyes of hate.

"Is there a problem?" I asked them, smiling.

They remained silent, staring me down even harder. At any moment, I thought, one of them would break loose and shove a pom-pom down my throat.

They finally spoke. "We read what you wrote in the *Twin Cities Times* last week," the cheerleader on the left began. I opened my mouth to speak but the one on the right cut me off with, "and we don't like it..." The one in the middle finished the sentence with a bitter, "at all!"

The timing on this collaborative sentence worked so well, I felt like I was the private audience to a special cheer. I didn't realize they spoke this way off the field. (Just a little joke, girls.)

It seems that one of them had read a piece in last week's column titled "Off-beat and unconventional" and felt it made the Redwood cheerleaders look

"stupid." She called two friends and they called two friends, and suddenly the cheerleaders had themselves extremely worked up. I suppose that's when all of this "let's kill the columnist" stuff started.

I must have really touched a sensitive subject. In my own defense, I don't believe I put the cheerleaders in a bad light. "Off-beat and unconventional" was a comment on the unusual display of Redwood spirit at school football and basketball games.

If anything, the cheerleaders should be commended for their fantastic efforts. They really work hard and they keep on smiling — even when they are less than fully appreciated. That's not easy.

So, to the Redwood cheerleaders: Give me a "Give!" Give me a "Me!" Give me a break.

Congratulations

Congratulations are in order for quite a few Redwood students...

Senior Beth Parkinson was selected Redwood's Homecoming Queen. Although she entered Redwood as a junior, Beth's accomplishments and contributions to the school were so enormous that, one year later, she was elected to the position by student vote.

Once again Redwood academics shine. We have seven semi-finalists in the National Merit Scholarship Program. They are Rene Rubin, Tracey Hessel, Julie Dvorin, Al Miller, Andrew Hart, Tom Richards, and Deborah Gross.

Other students receiving commendations through the program are Amiee Christensen, Anne Forell, Kisa Fuchs, Dena Graff, David King, Sean Reiter, Desiree Ross, Sara Schachter, Stuart Silloway, David Suther, Mike Tocchini, and Bruce Walling.

Everyone's complaining about my face

Due to popular demand, the picture accompanying this column will soon be changed.

Everyone is a critic. My grandpa calls me up from Seattle. He says, "Jason, your mother sent my your column. Change the picture. You're a better looking boy than that." I tell him, "I know I am, Grandpa." He says, "Hey, don't let it go to your head — you're not that much better

looking."

Once in a while, a schoolmate will pass me in the hall and say something like, "Hey Jase. Saw your column in *The Twin Cities Times*... get a new picture, willya?" I swear I've heard everything from "too serious" to "your nose looks too big." One girl says the picture was so "unflattering," she had doubts about using it to cover the bottom of her rabbit's cage. Ouch.