

# PERS Speaks Out

The student newspaper for the Project Education Residential School in Galena, Alaska

Issue 1, volume 4

Wednesday, Sept 22, 2004



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## New checkout rules bothering students

By JANICE ARKELL  
and MAY HENRY  
PERS reporters

PERS staff have made two new rules about students getting checked out.

Students are only allowed to have six people on their checkout list and people can only check stu-

dents of the same sex. The same-sex rule doesn't matter if they are your brother, cousin, grandpa, or uncle. All of the students interviewed are against the changes.

"This rule is a bunch of [garbage] because we shouldn't be limited to be checked out by community," said Lena Hensley, a

junior. "We'd only be able to build relationships with those people and we want to get to know everybody within the community. They [PERS staff] are just trying to make it more strict on us. They think we're irresponsible."

Principal Harry White said that the rules haven't really changed. "They just didn't follow the rules last year."

The six-person checkout limit was actually started years ago, he said.

Mr. White pointed out that students can change the names on the checkout list at any time.

"Let's follow the rules, and if they don't work, we can change them," he said. "And if they do work, let's live with it."

"If they [students] don't like the rule, give me an idea about changing the rule."

The reason for the changes is student safety and that fewer people on the checkout list is "more manageable," said Gwenn

## Student government election is Friday

Voting for student government is Friday.

Here are the rules for voting in the student government election:

1. All students will vote for co-presidents and secretary/ treasurer
2. Each class will vote for their own class representative - freshman, sophomore, junior, and senior,
3. Each hall in the dorms must vote for their own hall representatives

Voting will be done after the morning assembly.

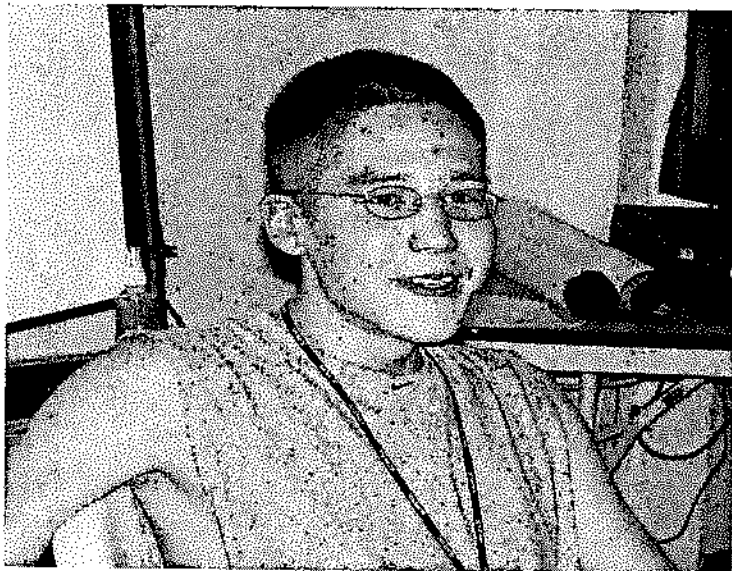
Ballots will be passed in each class adviser's room for the co-presidents and secretary/ treasurer along with their class representatives.

Voting for hall representatives will take place sometime on Friday night. The dorm staff will take the ballots to the administrator.

The votes will be counted and announced during the morning assembly on Monday, Sept. 27.

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# PERS student government



Donald "DJ" Richardson

**Donald Richardson (DJ)**

Age: 16  
Grade: Senior  
Home town: Anvik

**1. What is your previous experience in school and sports?**

DJ said he served on the hall council last year.

**2. What changes would you like to make?**

DJ said he would like to add vacuums to the boys floor, change the rule so students can have their own TVs in their rooms, and other things he couldn't remember off the top of his head. "I've always been dedicated to my work," said DJ.

**3. What privileges would you like to add?**

DJ said his position on privileges is "confidential."

**4. What rules do you want changed?**

DJ said he'd like many rules changed, but gave no specifics.

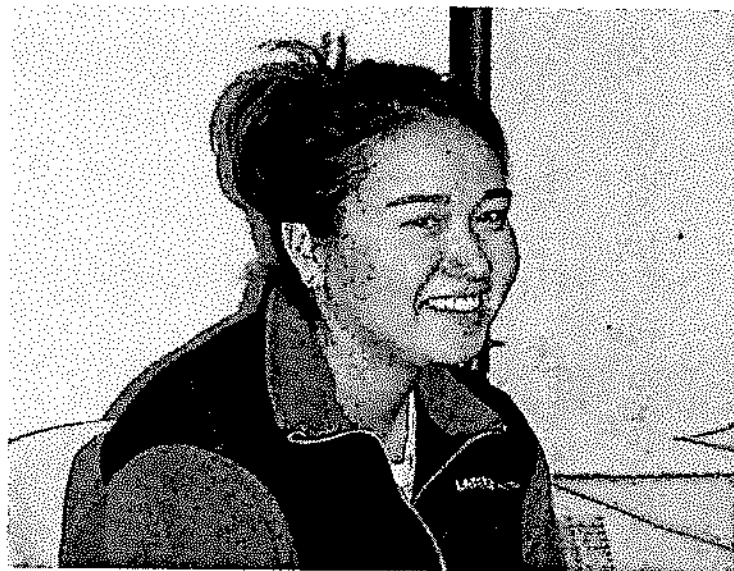
**5. How do you plan on changing check out rules?**

DJ said he'd like to "make the list unlimited."

**6. Give us an example of your hard work.**

He talked about his experience with NASA SHARP (Summer High school Apprenticeship and Research program) in which he studied electrical and computer engineering.

The interviews with the presidential candidates took place in the mass media class. Students developed the interviews and asked each candidate questions. Mass media students running for office were not allowed to ask questions to the other candidates.



Lena Hensley

**Lena Hensley**

Age: 16  
Grade: Junior  
Hometown: Kotzebue

**1. What is your previous experience in school and sports?**

Last year, Lena was the sophomore class representative. She also played the following sports: basketball, volleyball, and softball (during the summer).

**2. What privileges would you like to add?**

Lena would like to get the TV's back, change the check-out rule so the amount of people on the checkout list is unlimited, and so that it wouldn't matter if the person checking out a student was a guy or girl. She also doesn't think that we should have screens on the windows and that student government never said anything about screens on the windows last year.

**3. What rules do you want changed?**

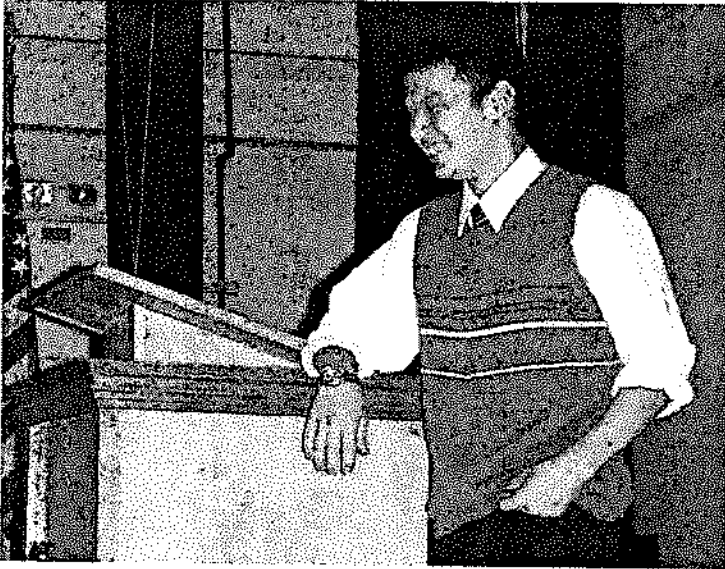
"I can't think of any right now. If elected I will be up for suggestions," Lena said, just "bring it up in the meetings."

**4. How do you plan on changing checkout rules?**

"Talk about it in the meetings. The principal is usually at the meetings," Lena said. She said she will talk about changing the rules with "Mr. Blasco and ask why it should be only six." She said she will also talk to Mr. Sarsfield and Mr. White.

Continued on  
the back page

# presidential candidates



Brandon Walker

## Brandon Walker

Age: 17

Grade: Senior

Hometown: Holy Cross

### 1. What is your previous experience in school/sports?

Brandon played sports for a while. This year, he might play basketball and wrestling.

### 2. What privileges would you like to add?

Brandon would like students to have the freedom to leave an activity whenever he or she wants. He also said he would consider anything else that needs to be changed.

### 3. What rules do you want changed?

Brandon mentioned that the rule about staying at mandatory activities needs to be changed.

### 4. How do you plan on changing the checkout rules?

Brandon would go to Mr. White and his group and try to reason with them so the students and staff would be satisfied. He thinks that students should have anyone on their checkout list and that checkout shouldn't be limited by males and females.

### 5. Give us an example of your hard work.

"That clock right over there," Brandon said, pointing to an object he made last year in cultural arts. "Take pride in what you're doing and get it done. Make it look good."

Continued on  
the back page



Tiffany Woods

## Tiffany Woods

Age: 16

Grade: 11

Hometown: Anchorage

### 1. Previous student experience, including sports.

Tiffany was in hall council, the president of the culture club, in the sign language club, the magazine club, and was secretary/treasurer since the eighth grade in student government.

### 2. What privileges would you like to add?

"I think that if you're not on level 3, you should be able to walk off base. If you want anything changed, I'll try my best," Tiffany said.

### 3. What rules do you want changed?

Tiffany thinks that only having six people on the checkout list is "crazy." She also said that it was not right to have no television until a student is on level three. If you're a good student, you can have your TV, she said. She wants to change the rules so you can do all of your hours of community service on base. Tiffany also wants to have the high school students from the city school to be able to visit the PERS students on base during activities and such. A male or female should be able to checkout any student of whatever gender; the age restriction should be lowered from 21 years of age to 18, because a person who is 18 is considered an adult.

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the back page

# Last year's student gov't 'avoided major changes'

By DOROTHY WALKER  
PERS reporter

Last year's student government "avoided major changes" at PERS, said Dean O'Dell, last year's government advisor. Mr. O'Dell was a social studies teacher at PERS last year.

The PERS student government of 2003-2004 wanted to combine the dorm and school governments, and then chose to wait until this year to see if it would be needed. They also earned money last year but the school administration combined student government accounts, he said.

"Someone needs to find out how much money you have, and how the accounts are going to be kept this

year," said Mr. O'Dell in an e-mail sent in response to questions from a reporter.

Some of the actions taken by the student government:

- Installed MSN into the level-three computer room in the Residential Hall.
- Tried to change the "zero tolerance" rule.
- Changed the diplomas from it reading "Galena City School" to "Project Education Residential School."
- Put together pep rallies.
- Said the morning assembly announcements.
- Combined with the hall council. With the hall council, stu-

dent government discussed dorm and school issues.

- Student government also took part in the Valentine's tournament concession stand.

Old goals that were never accomplished were a student-designed mural in the school. They had approval for it, but did not have enough interest to get it made, designed, and painted. Student government had a PERS t-shirt or sweatshirt design competition in mind that never got put together.

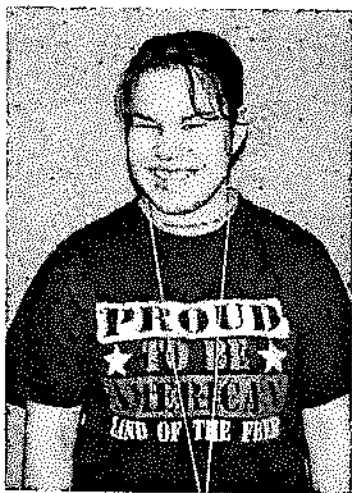
"A copy of our student government constitution can be found on the PERS website, use it to help you get organized, and amend it if you decide to combine governments," Mr. O'Dell said.

## Statements by secretary/treasurer candidates

**Sarah Reagin**

Age: 16  
Grade: 10  
Hometown: Fairbanks  
Position running for:  
Secretary/ Treasurer

"I think that I should be elected because rules and privileges need to be changed. Like the rule on the checkout list. If we can't make the list unlimited, we should come up with a compromise, like maybe twenty people. At the end of last year we tried to get a pop machine in the dorms working. We may not get a pop, it may have to be juice. School got out before we



Sarah Reagin

could get it working. If I get elected, I will get work done. Work with me and we can get things done. Vote for me!"

**Daniella Vasquez**

Age: 16  
Grade: 11  
Hometown: Whale Pass,  
Prince of Wales Island  
Position running for:  
Secretary/ Treasurer

"Rock the vote. Vote for me. I will work to accomplish solutions to issues that truly irritate you, such as only six people on your checkout list, a limited variety of activities, and the mandatory activity time. A wise man once said, 'Cheese is good, but if you don't like it, that's okay too.'"



Daniella Vasquez

If you fart without cease for 6 years and 9 months, enough gas is produced to create the energy of an atomic bomb.

A message from Mr. Apfelbeck

We're going to try something new with this issue of *PERS Speaks Out*. For the first time, we're going to try to have an editorial page where students can publish their own opinions about the issues they care about.

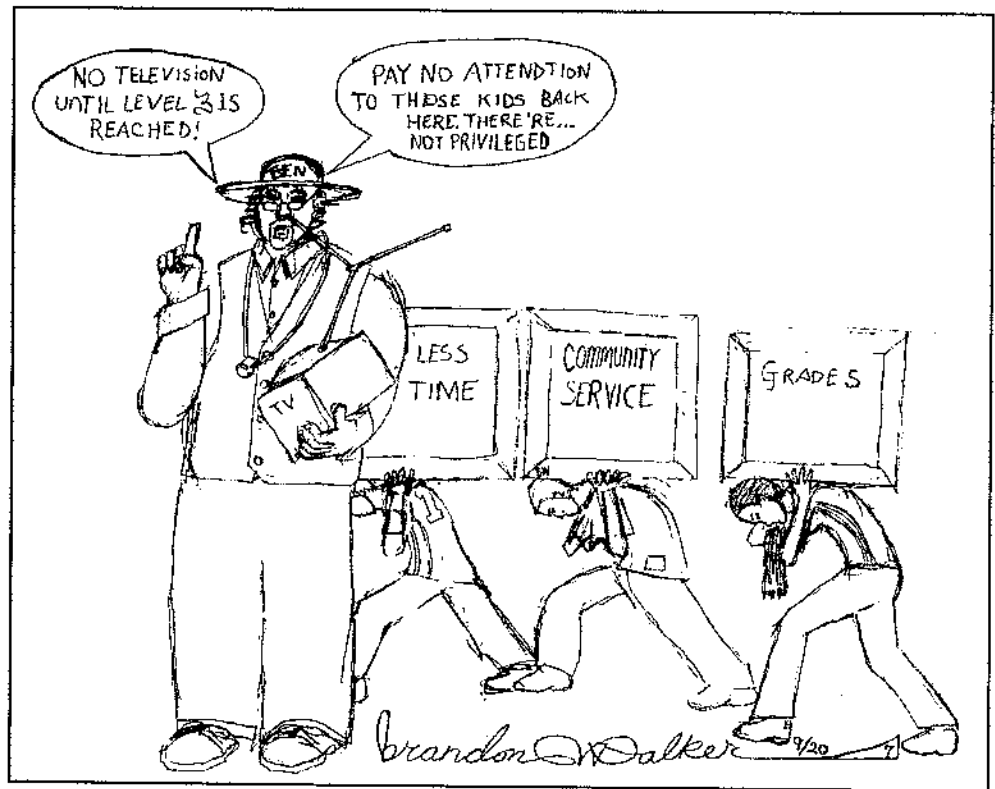
Anyone who would like to respond to an article in this newspaper, or write about any issue of concern, is invited to do so. All we ask is that you keep the conversation polite, write clearly and briefly, and include your name on anything you submit. The mass media class has set up a box in the office for letters.

I'm really proud of the students in this class. They have already done great work, and we still have an entire school year ahead of us.

Mr. A

# PERS Speaks Out

Student opinion



## Mr. Sarsfield welcomed to PERS

By TIFFANY WOODS  
PERS reporter

Jason L. Sarsfield, 27, arrived in Galena on August 9 to teach social studies at PERS.

Mr. Sarsfield said he was looking for the experience of a lifetime and thought Galena would be the perfect place. Mr. Sarsfield has taught for four years in Bad Axe, Michigan - one year of middle school geography and three years of high school psychology. He was born and raised in Michigan.

"I like to mountain bike, camp, kayak, read, hunt, fish, and travel," he said.

Mr. Sarsfield is a triplet, with an identical twin brother and sister, all of whom were born in West Branch, Michigan. He also has another sister,

35, and brother, 36.

Mr. Sarsfield attended Northern Michigan University and majored in social sciences education and has a minor in psychology. He also lived in Iowa for a summer during college.

"I have been to Florida, Colorado, the Middle East, and the Caribbean," said Mr. Sarsfield. He has plans to go to England, Ireland, and the Netherlands for Christmas.

This is his fourth year teaching, with one year spent teaching middle school geography and the other three years spent teaching high school psychology.

He is looking forward to his teaching here at PERS.

"I plan on making my classroom successful by involving students in everything that occurs and overall I

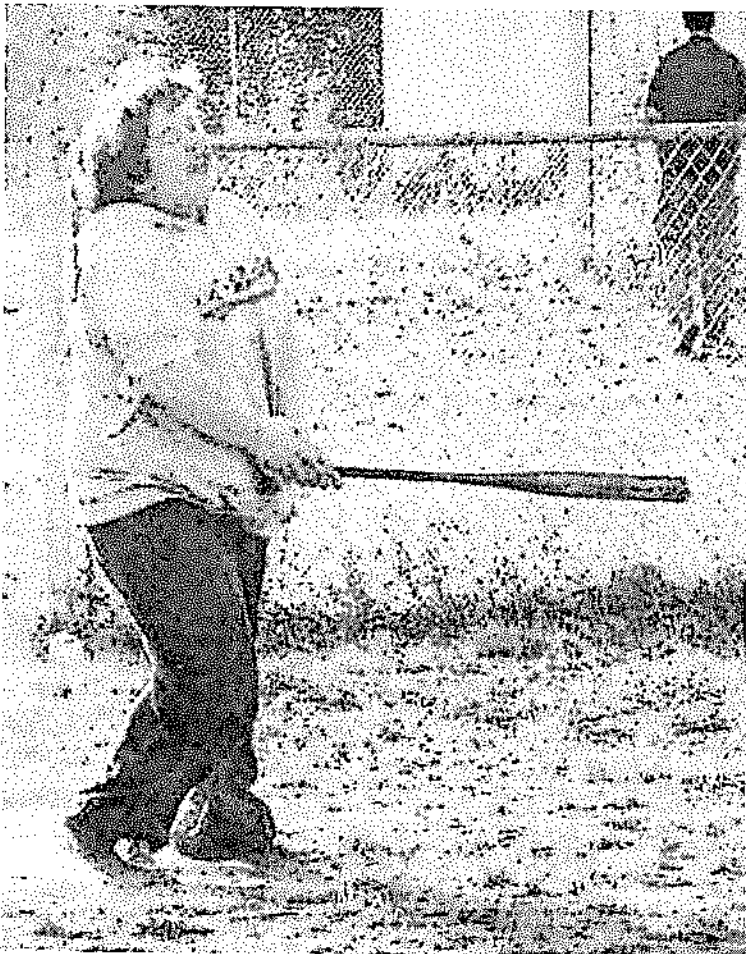
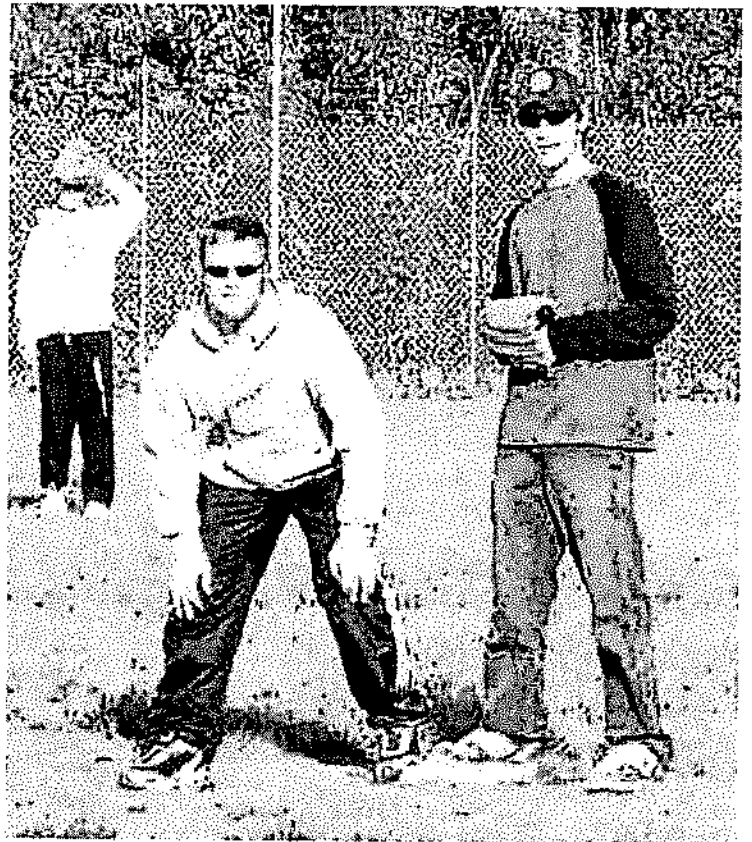
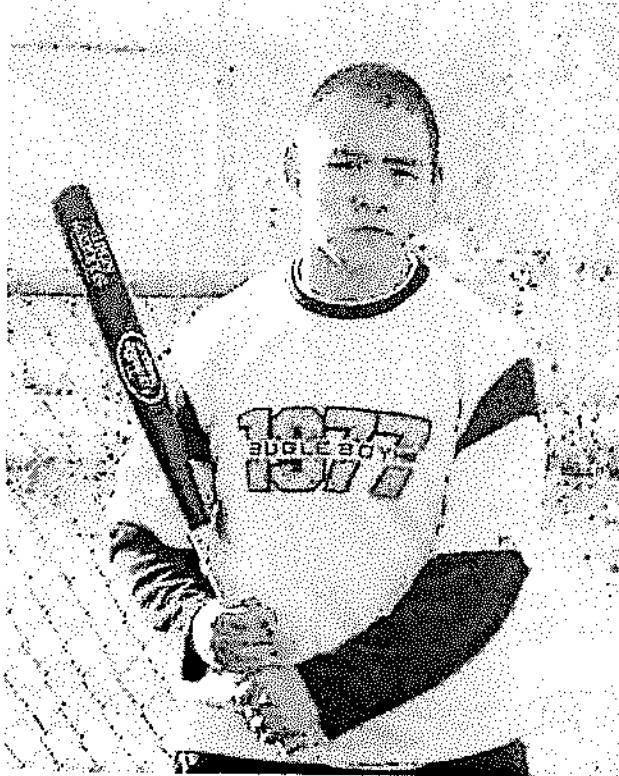


Jason Sarsfield in his classroom.

think the students are starting to accept me," he said.

Mr. Sarsfield likes Galena because the people are so welcoming and hopes to get to know everyone unique personality. He already plans to come back and teach next year but plans to spend time with his family in Michigan over the summer.

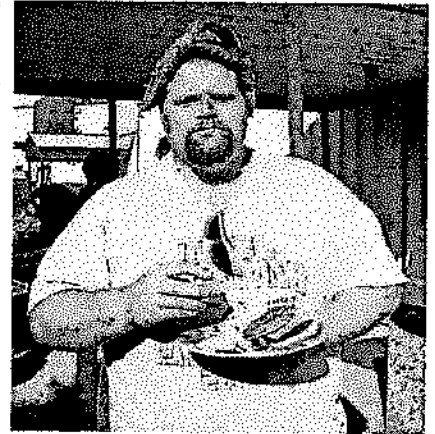
# Softball !!!



Top left: Joseph Teve getting ready to slam the ball out of the park. Top right: Matt Abel (left) and Josh Hodges wait at first base. Bottom left: Terry Bowers at the bat. Bottom middle: Automotive technology teacher Scott Miller played the outfield. Bottom right: Language arts teacher Paul Apfelbeck at the plate.

**Photo montage  
by Pina  
Sheldon and  
Devyn Walker**

# Barbecue !!!



Top left: Brad Bauer shows exactly how big his hands really are. Top right: Ben Blasco enjoys the day. Top middle: A typical barbecue feast. Bottom left: Ben Lockwood and Jen Flick liked the sunshine and the food. Bottom right, top: Groups gathered around the base to eat and enjoy themselves. Bottom right: Chef Rand serves 'em up to Joleen Jones.

# Checkout

Continued from page 1

Davies-Guy, vice-principal at PERS. The changes came from input by staff members, including teachers, dorm staff and administration, Ms. Davies-Guy said.

All the students interviewed so far have not liked the rule at all.

Senior Olivia Agnes said the change in checkout rules was hard to understand. "I don't see the point in why they made it. I can't think of any reasons," said Olivia.

Another student said the small number of people on list wasn't sufficient.

"It's stupid because what if we really needed to get checked out and they [the people on the limited check-out list] were all too busy, sick, or out of town. I mean that's not enough people," said Melinia McCarty, a sophomore.

# Many new students at PERS

By SARAH REAGIN  
PERS reporter

There are more than 40 new students this year at PERS.

They come from 30 villages from all over Alaska, including Stevens Village, Kotzebue, Nulato and Ruby.

"The school is bigger, there are more people, and they are definitely friendlier," Says Jubal Richey, age 16, from Eagle.

The students were picked the same way other PERS students were chosen, through the application process, said Mr. White, principal. The application is reviewed and decided whether that student would make a good addition to the school or not.

There is a possibility that six more students might be coming to PERS. [Note: Those additional stu-

dents have since arrived here.] Mr. White was reviewing an application right before he was being interviewed. PERS had 79 students on September 3. There were 38 boys and 40 girls.

"We tried to balance out the difference between boys and girls this year. We brought in more boys and less girls," said Mr. White. "The students are affecting the school positively. This is a great group of students."

So what are new students thinking about PERS? Well, they like it.

"The teachers are pretty cool," said Lorina Brasket, a freshman from Galena and Nulato, "and there is more time to spend with people."

The school year started off to a good start. Students like the teachers and are having fun. Everyone is making new friends and enjoying each other.

# Statements from presidential candidates

## Lena Hensley

Continued from page 2

**5. Give us an example of your hard work.**

"I am at the top of my class. I work really hard to keep my grades up. I do sports and maintain a schedule. There is usually time to attend the meetings," Lena said. The co-president could take care of things while she's gone.

**6. What separates you from the rest (of the candidates)?**

"I can do a good job and I have a lot of experience with being in the student government," Lena said. She would talk about the problems a lot in the meetings, will get things done, and thinks "the meetings should be longer." She also said, "I am very dedicated."

## Tiffany Woods

Continued from page 3

**4. How do you plan changing check out rules?**

You always have to start from the bottom, Tiffany said. I'll talk to Mr. White, Mrs. Davies-Guy and work to the top.

**5. Give us an example of your hard work:**

Tiffany said she is an honor student, she has good grades, she's been in many clubs, she has been in afterschool activities, and she has been a part of the student government for three years.

The average chocolate bar has 8 insect legs in it.

## Brandon Walker

Continued from page 3

**6. What changes would you like to make?**

Brandon wants to make everyone feel welcome to meetings.

**7. What is more important, school or sports?**

Brandon said that they are both important because they both take teamwork.





# Statements by the class representatives

## Twelfth grade candidates

**Siana Tall**

Age: 17

Hometown: Hooper Bay

“Students should elect me as a 12<sup>th</sup> grade representative because I think that I would be a good representative for my classmates and other students. I am willing to listen to their needs and make changes in the dorm and school situations.”



Siana Tall

**Joshua Hodges**

Age: 18

Hometown: Delta Junction

“I feel that I will represent the seniors most excellently throughout the year. I have a good understanding of where the stuff is coming from with the rules that we may think are unfair or unreasonable. I believe that we might be able to come to a compromise about such topics. I can't promise big change. That would be foolish. All I can promise is that the changes I help make will be aimed at affecting the



Joshua Hodges

seniors now, not changes that will happen next year that won't help us. Thanks for your interest and thanks for your vote.”

**Brandon Walker**

Age: 17

Hometown: Holy Cross

“As a 12<sup>th</sup> grade representative: I plan to “get it good” in the neighborhood. I plan to kick butt in the morning and take names in the evening. I have never been a representative for student government, but I have represented a town. I meet the rows of knowledgeable people in the Doyon Corp. and the Tanana Chiefs Conference. I have “winged it” in the conference with speeches for 500 people, met with midnight resolutions committee, and have many hours of meetings with the school board of Iditarod Area School District (the largest district in



Brandon Walker

Alaska). That's the small history, but that is the past. I now plan to represent students directly. I plan to reach great and satisfying compromises amongst students and staff through the meetings, student input, and through the newspaper with cartoons and some articles. And no taxes... Brandon Walker.”

## Eleventh grade candidates

**Candace Kruger**

Age: 16

Hometown: Anvik

“You should elect me because I am willing to listen to the needs of my fellow students and do what it takes to make sure student voices are heard in student government.”



Candace Kruger

**Pina Sheldon**

Age: 16

Hometown: Ambler

“I have decided not to run for the office of 11<sup>th</sup> grade class representative.”

If you keep a goldfish in a dark room it will eventually turn white.

Babies are born without knee caps. They don't appear until the child reaches 2-6 years of age.

# Statements by class representatives

## Tenth grade candidates

**Terry Bower**

Age: 15

Hometown: Nulato

“You should elect me because I’m a responsible, loving and caring person. Oh, wait, no, I’m not, but you’re going to vote for me anyway, right? You want one good reason to vote for me? Look at the picture. You can’t say no to the puppy-dog eyes. Oh, yeah, I can do a lot for the 10<sup>th</sup> grade.”



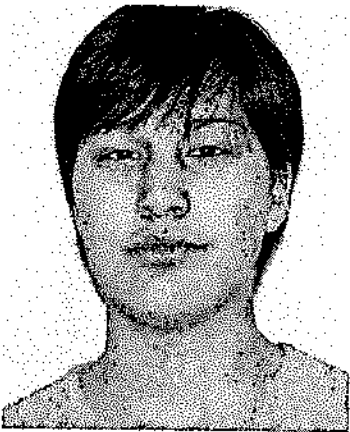
Terry Bower

**Wendy Jones**

Age: 15

Hometown: Kotzebue

“Do you have problems? Vote for me. Please. Thank you.”



Wendy Jones

## Ninth grade candidate

**Erik Grundberg “Mud”**

Age: 14

Hometown: Anvik

“I think people should vote for me because I’ll listen to you and try to be the best I can be.”



Erik Grundberg

# A girl and her tuber

By DOROTHY WALKER  
PERS reporter

I think that kohlrabi may be from outer space, the purple ones change colors during cooking and although they are not aliens, they seem to be taking over my life...no, my mind.

I am obsessed with kohlrabi because of its odd shape, tremendous colors, its delicate

features. It’s an unbelievably beautiful plant. Although it does have the scent of a sour rag when left in a refrigerator or in a small room for too long, it has a wonderful taste. It’s not nice at all when burped up; the taste of the burp is very nasty and rancid.

I never knew this, but “kohlrabi” is a German word adopted without change into our language, *kohl* meaning cabbage and *rabi* meaning turnip. This “cabbage” with a turnip-like enlargement was apparently developed in northern Europe not long after the 15<sup>th</sup> century, which developed in a cool climate. The plant is very easy to grow, unbelievably productive, but one has to make sure they don’t make a mistake and plant too much of it. Back in the day, a few years ago, when people planted long rows of it into their gardens, all at one time, they had to try and



eat it all to keep it from being wasted.

Kohlrabi is about the size of an orange; it has a peculiar shape and design on its body. It produces thin stemmed leaves that grow in all directions and droop like snot when you have a bad head cold. Its bulbous base grows aboveground. The flesh is sweet and crisp, with a flavor kind of like a radish, while the leaves and stems taste like cabbage.

I once had a dream about a humongous kohlrabi was looking down on a tiny man; he got beamed up into this kohlrabi, like a U.F.O. would beam someone up, and after I woke up, this question popped into my head, “Does my dream mean that we’re all going to be slaves for the kohlrabi tribesmen and have to thrive on breast milk?”

This is my story about kohlrabi, who are my tuberous friends.