

ENGLISH

"To be or not to be. That is the question!"

Hamlet

By William Shakespeare

"We do not ride upon the railroad, it rides upon us."

Walden

Henry David Thoreau

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times . . ."

A Tale of Two Cities

Charles Dickens

Students Exposed to Culture Through "Y.O.T.A."

During the 1989-1990 school year, the Sycamore School District hosted "The Year of the Author," which was a program that brought authors to speak to students at the district schools. The authors who visited the high school included Paula Danziger, Milton Meltzer, Walter Williams, Herb Martin, Gordan Gorman, and William Sleator.

The program was funded from many different sources: The Montgomery Woman's Club, which was one of the largest contributors, gave \$11,000. Money also came from the district, school staffs, parent organizations, book sales, and businesses. Raising money started in February of 1988 and continued through April of 1990.

The idea for "Y.O.T.A." began because for years the district has wanted to bring authors to the schools, and it just grew from there. One of the head coordinators, Pat Diebel, explained it as, "... an idea that got out of control."

The main purposes of the program were to encourage more reading and creative writing, and it would be an exciting experience for students

to hear an author. The writers were chosen by some of the teachers, who sent in a "wish list" of different authors who they would like to see and hear. The speakers then were picked on their abilities, interest, and cost.

Herb Martin, a poet who lectured at the high school, had many reasons for speaking. Martin wanted students to like poetry and to gain from it. He also wanted students to approach poetry in a way that they could enjoy it and not be fearful of it.

Overall, Diebel said "Y.O.T.A." was very successful and they received a much more positive response than what was originally expected.

Junior Molly Traxler commented on why she liked the idea, "I enjoyed learning about the authors themselves and getting a better understanding of their work."

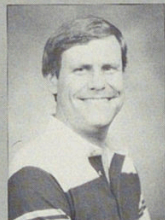
Diebel said that Sycamore probably would not continue with a full program like the 1989-90 year, but still is interested in bringing some authors to the schools, and for future years there has been a fund established to cover the costs of such a program.

By Julie Noiman

A "Year of the Author" speaker Walter Williams came on November 15 and 16 and discussed journalism to an intent crowd.



Sara Alley



Pat Ballinger



Shirley Bohmer



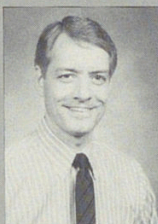
Jim Cafferky



Helen Davis



Dept. Head
Wanda
Simmons



Tom
Graler



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