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Operation Snowball extends registration deadline

Phil Bloom
Internet Editor

The deadline for submission of forms for this year's Operation Snowball weekend has been extended until Tuesday, February 11, adult directors Martha Arnett and Sarah Eisner announced.

Operation Snowball's annual weekend retreat will be held Friday-Sunday, February 14-16 at the Olin-Sang-Ruby Union Institute in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin.

According to its brochure, Operation Snowball is "a program where teens help each other to better understand themselves as unique individuals."

Created in the late 1970's, Operation Snowball encourages

participants to explore such topics as relationships, cultural diversity and drug addiction. These topics are discussed in large group workshops followed by smaller groups, in which students share their own opinions with others. The weekend brings to-



Snowball 2002 participants relax after a long weekend.

gether students from a variety of north shore high schools.

Because of their own experiences in Operation Snowball, many students, including Senior Jacob Chacko, volunteer to lead small groups and let others know of the event.

"I went in at the beginning and knew no one, but by the time it was over I had met everyone there. It was a life-changing event, and my views were changed in a tremendous way," said Chacko.

Chacko also mentioned changes that others have had through Operation Snowball.

"Many whom I have seen enter the program have changed their perspectives of life, have stopped smoking and have become themselves or 'snowballs,'" he

said.

Registration forms, along with a fee of \$150, may be submitted to Response Center, 9304 N. Skokie Blvd., Skokie, IL 60077. Additional forms may be obtained from Chacko or Snowball coordinator Michael Conroy.

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Sports

***The Junction Boys* shines for ESPN**

Brian Sandalow
Managing Editor

After swinging and missing with *A Season on the Brink*, which focused on Bob Knight and his 1986 Indiana Hoosiers, ESPN redeemed itself with its second foray into film making, *The Junction Boys*.

Based on Jim Dent's novel of the same name, *The Junction Boys* tells the story of Paul "Bear" Bryant's first training camp with Texas A&M in 1954. Unlike many other films about sports, this one pulls no punches.

Bryant, played by Tom Berenger, is made out to be a man who cares about only one thing: winning. Even before he takes his Aggies to Junction, his mindset is established with his ideas on recruiting. In reference to one high school senior, Bryant tells a coach to "rain money down off of his roof." That, though, is tame compared to takes place at his first A&M training camp in Junction, Texas.

After inheriting a team that went 4-5-1 in

'53, Bryant soon becomes disgusted with his new players. To remedy their lackadaisical effort, he takes them on a trip that sounds like fun to his naïve players. Their hopes of having fun, though, are dashed in their first day of camp.

A 5:30 a.m. wake-up, along with early morning sprints, full scrimmages and two-a-days seem like torture enough. Just add in the 110-degree heat, and things get dangerous. Bryant, though, is oblivious to the danger, even holding water back from the players.

Berenger carries this film. A veteran of the *Major League* trilogy, Berenger perfectly captures the Bear's frown and deep-southern accent. He also is a perfect physical match for a young Bryant, unlike Brian Dennehy was for a middle-age Bob Knight.

One of the more interesting aspects of the movie is where it was shot. In order to perfectly replicate 1954 Junction, ESPN made the movie in Australia. However, to

save money, every actor in the movie, except Berenger, is Australian. This makes for some muddled accents. Think Paul Hogan crossed with Lyndon Johnson.

Also impressive were the numerous football scenes. While all the actors were Australian, nothing they did on the field made them look like they had never seen a pigskin before. The football montages looked realistic as well, thanks to NFL Films help in re-creating '50s style football.

The film also *looked* authentic. Whereas *A Season on the Brink* looked fake, the campgrounds in *Junction Boys* gave off a vibe of a windswept, dusty, draught-victimized field.

While the film was by no-means perfect, (much of the dialogue was hollywood sports cliché) *The Junction Boys* is a well-made, engrossing film that accurately portrays the cold-hearted coach that Bear Bryant was and how much 35 boys wanted to play football.