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**Subject:** Lincoln High Newsletter - 12/9/04  
**Date:** Thursday, December 9, 2004 7:29:46 PM

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## *Lincoln High Newsletter*

*Memories of then! News of now!*

**New readers:**

**Karen (Bymers) Weinfurter (Assumption - 64) - [kwein@wctc.net](mailto:kwein@wctc.net)**

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**Editor's note:** I mentioned last week that I feed the crows in the area. Have noticed that one crow that visits our feeding station has a deformed left "foot/claw/whatever". He/she could never perch on a tree branch unless they did it with just the right "foot". Has a "limp" in the Crow community. None of the other crows seem to favor him/her nor do they reject/chase him/her out of the feeding area. Guess they accept him/her with the disability the crow has! A message we could all learn from.

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Little Johnny asks: "Daddy, how was I born?"

Ol' Dad Says: "Ah, my son, I guess one day you will need to find out anyway! Well, you see your Mom and I first got together in a chat room on AOL. Then I set up a date via e-mail with your Mom and we met at a cyber-cafe. We sneaked into a secluded room, where your mother agreed to a download from my hard drive. As soon as I was ready to upload, we discovered that neither one of us had used a firewall, and since it was too late to hit the delete button, nine months later a blessed little Popup appeared and said: "You've Got Male!"

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## Truck runs into school

By DEB CLEWORTH  
Daily Tribune Staff

Three minutes made the difference between safety and tragedy Tuesday when a crossing guard crashed a pickup truck through the front doors of Howe Elementary School.

The morning bell rang just moments before the truck plowed into the doors at 221 8th St. N. in Wisconsin Rapids.

"The timing was just wonderful," said Elaine Fisa, school secretary. "We definitely had guardian angels on our side." No one was injured, including the driver of the Ford Ranger, Linda A. Conratt, 52, of Wisconsin Rapids. The truck tore through the front glass doors, went through the vestibule, into the hall and crashed into the office wall.

Worried parents rushed to the scene, where school staff members assured them students were safe and unharmed.

Conratt has been a crossing guard at the school for 23 years, said her husband, Wisconsin Rapids Police Lt. Jeff Conratt. The incident is devastating for her, he said. "We want to reassure the kids' parents, kids and school staff that this was not intentional," Jeff Conratt said.

Linda Conratt told investigators she had been picking up orange traffic cones near Oak Street and was driving on First Street before the crash, according to a preliminary accident report.

"It was like I blacked out. The next thing I know I am in the building," she is quoted as saying.

Howe School has about 400 students in early childhood classes through grade six, and almost 70 staff members.

"Normally we have students late for school who would have been in the entryway," Fisa said. "We had none of that (Tuesday)." Fisa was away from her desk but in the school office when the crash occurred.

"All of a sudden, this crash ... you didn't actually see it ... you heard it ... and the screams," she said, referring to parents in the office who were startled when the truck hit the wall.

Shards of glass covered the hall in front of the office. Cold air filled the office from the gash made by the crash.

A pine garland was pinned between the truck hood and the crumpled office wall.

"Three minutes earlier and someone would have been hurt," said Scott Kellogg, principal. He was in his office at the time of the crash, just feet from where the truck stopped.

The fire alarms sounded in the school, but staff members told students to stay in their classrooms.

Parents, alarmed by passers-by and by a breaking-news message that flashed on Wausau television stations, rushed to the school to check on their children.

"My husband called me and said there was a truck in Howe School," said Kim Ladwig, parent of Sara, a fifth-grader.

She said her husband, Tim, had driven past the school and saw the damage.

It was the first day at Howe for Brody Kundinger, 9. His mother, Carmen, had just left the school and was alerted by her cousin, Brynn Anderson, who also was passing by the school.

Kris Ringer was watching WAOW-TV 9 and saw a message flash on the screen.

"When I heard it, I had to come right away," said Ringer, whose son, Cole, 11, is a fifth-

grader at the school.

When she got there, she was relieved to find out no one had been injured.

Police are still investigating the cause of the crash.

"We're not really sure (how it happened)," said Lt. Dick Ironside of the Wisconsin Rapids Police Department.

Ironside said vehicles have crashed into buildings before, but he didn't recall any incident of this nature while school was in session.

"Not that I can remember, not into a school, thank goodness," he said. "And we hope it never happens again."

Staff members fielded calls from concerned parents throughout the morning and assured them the students were safe. The school also sent a letter home with students Tuesday to explain the incident, and the status of the situation.

"Everyone is safe, and we're trying to get back to normal," Kellogg said.

Students leaving the library Tuesday morning to go to their classes glanced down the hall, and commented on the truck and the damage.

Fisa said Wisconsin Rapids Public Schools maintenance staff members were on site before 9 a.m. and would be working through the day to assess and repair damage.

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This past weekend my Wife and I went to see The Letterman at Lake of the torches casino in Minocqua Wi. Only one original member Jerry is still a part of the group. They can still harmonize and entertain. It was their Christmas show so they sang a lot of Christmas songs but still got into the oldies but goodies..If any of you get a chance to see them I recommend the show highly. Also had a chance to dine at papa mikes in Wisconsin Rapids and they have great lasagna.

### **Terry Stake (65)**

#### **Terry sends along this poem! Twas the Night Before Christmas Revised**

T'was the night before Christmas  
and all through the town

Not a sign of Baby Jesus  
was anywhere to be found.

The people were all busy  
with Christmas time chores

Like decorating, and baking,  
and shopping in stores

No one sang "Away in a manger,  
no crib for a bed".

Instead, they sang of Santa  
dressed-up in bright red.

Mama watched Martha Stewart,  
Papa drank beer from a tap.

As hour upon hour  
the presents they'd wrap

When what from the T.V.  
did they suddenly hear?

'Cept an ad.. which told  
of a big sale at Sears.

So away to the mall  
they all flew like a flash...

Buying things on credit..  
and others with cash!

And, as they made their way home  
From their trip to the mall,

Did they think about Jesus?  
Oh, no... not at all.

Their lives were so busy  
with their Christmas time things

No time to remember  
Christ Jesus, the King.

There were presents to wrap  
and cookies to bake.

How could they stop and remember  
who died for their sake?

To pray to the Savior...  
they had no time to stop.

Because they needed more time  
to "Shop til they dropped!"

On Wal-mart! On K-mart!  
On Target! On Penney's!

On Hallmark! On Zales!  
A quick lunch at Denny's

From the big stores downtown  
to the stores at the mall

They would dash away, dash away,  
and visit them all!

And up on the roof,  
there arose such a clatter

As grandpa hung icicle lights  
up on his brand new step ladder.

He hung lights that would flash.  
He hung lights that would twirl.

Yet, he never once prayed to Jesus...  
Light of the World.

Christ's eyes... how they twinkle!  
Christ's Spirit... how merry!

Christ's love... how enormous!  
All our burdens... He'll carry!

So instead of being busy,  
overworked, and uptight

Let's put Christ back in Christmas  
and enjoy some good nights!

Merry Christmas, my friends!