

EDUCATION

Role Models Who is your super hero?

In the comic book world, Wonder Woman and Superman are objects of admiration. Their ability to fight evil with super-human strength allows them to save the world on a regular basis. These super heroes sport original, stylish costumes, which sometimes actually help them in their never-ending battles against arch villains and give them characteristics of being cool. Many young people aspire to be like Wonder Woman and Superman. Unfortunately, super heroes are fictional characters. These comic book heroes are real in the sense that they serve as role models for young children. Role models and mentors are important because they show a path that

models, they can also be anybody. I've given much consideration to the role models and mentors who have significantly contributed to my life. Growing up without much desire to do anything but ice skate, my first memorable mentor is the coach — Bonnie — who pushed me to advance my abilities as a figure skater. She took me under her wing, pushing me to skate more hours, pursue more challenging skills and



By Vicki Isacowitz
ON THE CHALKBOARD

He coached me through the difficulties writers often encounter (finding a workable topic, etc.) by offering never-ending help and advice to strengthen my skills. His belief in my capabilities contributed to my desire to teach writing. While I'm not a Pulitzer Prize winner, this professor made me the writer I am today. "Make it happen" are the words that constantly

and friends also play their part in providing a framework of how I want to live my life. Family members, specifically my father, contributed his entrepreneurial knowledge. His experiences in business serve as a model for how to conduct a successful venture. Friends are role models by demonstrating behavior and methods of living that I wish to emulate. The bottom line is, I would not be where I am today without role models and mentors. There are students who lack inspirational, positive people in their surroundings. Directing kids toward these characteristics promotes an increased awareness in their potential to succeed.

Although I was never Olympic material, this woman created a focus, giving me an identity that I carried through my teenage years.

leads to potential success and achievement. Role models and mentors are not the same thing. A role model is usually someone a person aspires to be, someone who exhibits admirable qualities. Role models can be anyone — a famous person or a close family member and friend. Mentors are those who are usually within immediate contact of the person who looks up to them. They actively take the responsibility of providing knowledge and skills. Similar to role

step out of my comfort zone into the world of competition. Although I was never Olympic material, this woman created a focus, giving me an identity that I carried through my teenage years. Going off to college presented its own challenges, one being the necessity of producing quality writing. My favorite and most respected English professor, Toby Fulwiler, convinced me that I had the potential to be a good writer.

resound in my mind. This wisdom offered by another favorite professor and adviser, John Clarke, is what inspired me to teach, initiated my desire to start a school and enabled me to open a learning center with my business partner, Katie Smith. I will forever respect and admire his positive attitude and consistent belief in my pedagogical skills. It's really not that ironic that the majority of my role models and mentors are former coaches, writers and teachers. Of course, family

Having someone to look up to makes it easier to battle the challenges of growing up and going to school. — Vicki Isacowitz is a secondary English teacher who has been educating students since 1996. She is co-founder of Clever Minds Educational Services, providing tutoring for students in grades K-12. Call 582-1707 or e-mail vicki@cleverminds.org.

BRIEFLY

High school bands ready for concert

The Annual Winter Concert is scheduled for Tuesday, Dec. 12, at 6:30 p.m. This combined concert of the high school and middle school music departments is always a delight. The repertoire will be varied from the choirs to the jazz bands to the concert bands to the wind ensemble. A fundraising dinner is planned for 5:30 p.m. Please come support these great music programs and have a merry time hearing festive music.

North Tahoe High School would like to recognize the students who attended the Region V Honor Band at Chico State University in Chico, Calif. on Nov. 19-20. NTHS band department's expansive participation makes this honor band possible. They sounded great and had a wonderful weekend in Chico.

Mary Anne Mills: Oboe
Marla Nelson: Flute/Piccolo
Cassidy Iverson: Flute/Alto Flute
Amy Miescke: Clarinet
Kari Raymer: Clarinet
Hannah Ewing: Clarinet
Ali Bravo Bass: Clarinet
Heidi Strahl: Contra Bass Clarinet
Rachel Ferensowicz: Bassoon
Whatt Honse: Alto Sax
Kelsey Hyche: Alto Sax
Emily Ash: Tenor Sax
Kim Moore: Bari Sax
Derek Ganong: Trumpet
Derek Brown: Trumpet
Tucker Heintz: Trumpet
Troy Melin: Trumpet
Randy Davis: Trumpet
Eric Gustafson: Trumpet
Kendra Madding: French Horn
Heather McNair: French Horn
Meline Bennett: French Horn
Kelsey Hudson: French Horn
Morgan Paulson: French Horn
Colin Lewis: Trombone
Michael Adams: Trombone
Danielle Vallance: Trombone
TJ Buswell: Bass Trombone
Robert Ramm: Bass Trombone
Cameron Scott: Baritone BC
Winston Krauss: Baritone BC
Patrick Lynch: Tuba
Cody Brouwers: String Bass
Meghan Caulkett: Mallets/Harp
Chris Hansen: Snare/Percussion

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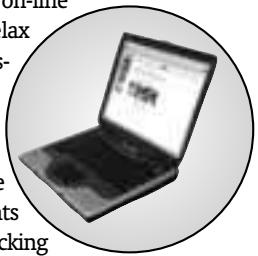
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