

Senior Year

The topic Our value

The object A high school yearbook—specifically, the senior pictures and the individual list of seniors' activities during their high school years; like this:

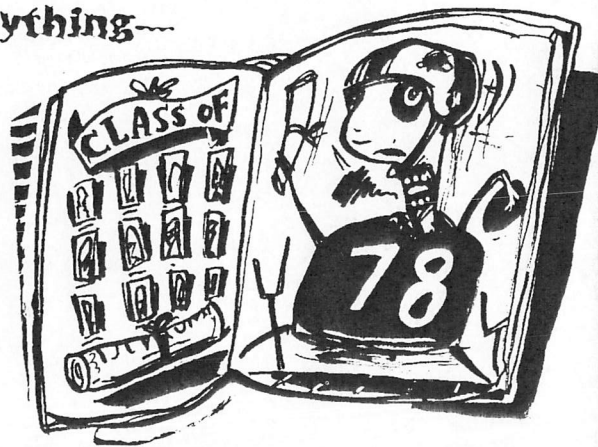
French club, 10, 11, 12; soccer, 11, 12; student government, 10

If seniors' pictures and their lists of activities are in separate sections, cut and paste a sample page together. For extra effect try enlarging one or two of the senior pictures into overhead transparencies or PowerPoint slides.

The lesson When you flip through this yearbook and see pictures of graduating seniors and their activities, you can quickly see that some were involved in almost everything—

and others in almost nothing. And it's human nature to assume that the winners

were the ones with the long list, and the losers were the ones with one-item lists like "Perfect attendance, 11."



But what is it that *really* makes our lives valuable? The Bible reminds us that no honor or activity is worth anything compared to the privilege of having a relationship with Christ and serving him.

The Word Philippians 3:3-9

Discussion starters

1. What kind of activities give (or would give) you prestige and recognition on your campus?
2. If it were possible to design the perfect senior profile, what would it be?
3. Think of the list St. Paul wrote for himself in Philippians 3:5-6 as his senior yearbook activity list: "Circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for legalistic righteousness, faultless"—but none of it ranked in importance, he concluded, with "the surpassing worth of knowing Christ and being found in him." What about you? How do you know if you're putting too much emphasis on what makes it into yearbooks and scores with college scouts and college admissions counselors, and too little on the kind of stuff that counts in the kingdom of God? Or is it even as a matter of emphasis, or is it all or nothing?

Life changers

1. Are there any goals or activities in your life that you're counting on to build what Paul calls "confidence in the flesh"?
2. Imagine that upon graduation from this life to the next, **you get your photo and list of activities in your Life Yearbook. What would people say were your priorities based on your "activities list"? What would you want listed under your photo?**
3. What are you doing *now* to reflect your priorities? Do you need to shift your activities to reflect your priorities better?