

# DEDICATION



Each year, the Final Banquet is a time when the entire camp, leaders and campers, as well as the staff, gather together for one last time. We share memories, perhaps get an autograph or two, and say many thank you's, recognizing the numerous people who work throughout the summer to keep camp running smoothly.

The Last Whistle dedication, however, is more than a simple thank you. It serves as an opportunity to not only recognize a person who was instrumental in the camp's operation this summer, but someone who has contributed over a substantial period of time. I think it appropriate that we refer to this honor as a dedication because that is just the quality we look for in choosing the recipient each year. The person we honor tonight certainly fulfills this criteria, having given their time and energy over a number of years in an area absolutely essential to camp.

I regret to say that this dedication is not going to be full of ambiguous description, designed to leave you, the audience, mentally guessing the identity of that person to which I am referring. No, I am quite sure that it will quickly become very obvious to you all. After all, this person directly affects each of our lives more than any other single individual at camp (and no, it is not Willie). The great majority of us rely on this person to feed us and nourish us. In this sense, most of us are physically dependent on this person. As far as I know, there is no one else in camp who can make such a claim.

Providing food for the entire camp -- roughly 550 people per meal -- is an enormous task, especially considering the incredibly broad range of tastes and appetites throughout camp. This person has been a member of the Dudley community for eighteen years, and over these years has continually updated and modified what I like to call, the "food program," to suit the ever-changing needs and desires of the campers, leaders and staff. The food is now not only healthier, but (at least in my opinion) tastes better as well. For example, how many of you remember when a typical morning meal consisted of "wake-up" juice, Lucky Death, and heartbreak of psoriasis buns. I realize that there are a few disgruntled Cubs who are still bitter about being unable to get their daily sugar fix through morning cereal, but that's what the sugar on the table is for. Another significant change made through a decision by this person is the vegetarian option during each meal at which meat is main course. I realize that soup is a somewhat limited option, but nevertheless, it is an important step in the right direction. It is also worth noting that amidst all the changes, this person has preserved certain dining hall institutions, such as toe-jammers and Monday morning doughnuts.



I realize that at this moment many people are probably thinking of a time when the entrée wasn't your favorite, or when the kitchen ran out of chicken scabs before you had had your fill. This brings me to my next point. Keeping in mind that it is impossible to please all the people all the time and the fact that nobody is perfect, this person does the job as well as it can be done and at the same time is more than patient enough with those of us who are vocal with our complaints and criticism. This patience was probably acquired by working with children even when not at Dudley, for this person has essentially the same responsibility at the public school where she works during the off-season.

More than anything else, it is this patience and her genuine concern for the mouths she feeds which makes me very proud to dedicate the 1993 *Last Whistle* to camper #13306, Yvonne Sears.