



Takes first place: Senior Kim Koch won first place in the state Key Club Oratorical Contest in Hershey on March 18-20. Kim will now represent Pennsylvania and compete at the national convention in Anaheim, California, this summer.

Senior earns berth at July convention

by Colleen Mayk

Because of her efforts at the state Key Club convention, a Pottsgrove senior will be traveling to California in July for international competition.

,
... A good friend
of mine got
in an accident
which was
related to
drinking
,

Kim Koch, whose speech won first place at the state convention in Hershey in March will have to again make her five minute speech during the California convention July 10-

13.

"I had to present the speech on Saturday, March 19, at Hershey Lodge and Convention Center," Kim said.

State officials and members from Pennsylvania Key Clubs were present, in addition to some parents. "I'd say there were about 1,000 people there," Kim said.

Speeches could be no longer than five minutes in length. If a speech ran over the allotted time, the speaker was disqualified.

"I enjoy public speaking, and when Mrs. (Mae) Hanna told me the topic, I got really excited," Kim said. The topic was friendship.

"I had my speech all written out, and then a good friend of mine got in an accident which was related to drinking and driving," Kim said. "I wanted to share it with friends and other Key Club members."

newsbriefs

Teens' purchasing power waxes

The moniker may be new, but teenage spending power is a marketplace regular.

Each year school kids with income purchasing power - or SKIPPIES, as they're now being called - spend an estimated \$65 to \$70 billion dollars.

But in 1987, teenagers spent a record \$78 billion, according to a recent survey conducted by Teenage Research Unlimited (TRU), a marketing research company.

TRU attributes the increase to teenagers spending more family money for items such as laundry detergent, food and toothpaste.

Protection given to the handicapped

Before school administrators can expel emotionally

the falcon

Vol. 27, Number 6 Pottsgrove High School, Pottstown, PA 19464 April 29, 1988

Classes host prom at Stokesay

by Shawnn Shafer

The Junior-Senior Prom will be hosted tonight at Stokesay Castle,

tainment. Mark Price, otherwise known as "Skippy" on Family Ties, will be the comedian.

"I think having one comedian

senior, and Bill Sweeny. Last year's prom queen, Rita Albanese, will also be there.

"Nell Montague, parents' chair-

handicapped and disruptive students from classes, they must follow existing review procedures, U.S. Supreme Court justices decided recently.

California school officials wanted the authority to automatically suspend disruptive handicapped students who pose a physical threat to other students.

But the justices — in a 6-2 ruling — said without a suspension review the rights of the nation's 400,000 emotionally handicapped students to attend public school would be violated.

Students rip off Garfield toys

Apparently, the latest fad among L.A. high school students is to break into automobiles and steal a p-r-r-r-rectly inexpensive novelty item: \$15, six-inch, stuffed Garfield toys.

Taft High School Dean of Students Dennis Creed said seven or eight vehicles have been vandalized since December.

For the past five months, Los Angeles detectives have received about 10 Garfield theft calls each month.

Money needed to halt migration

National teachers' unions have contended for years that to stop the steady migration out of the classroom schools need to pay teachers more money.

It's too early to know if teachers are staying put, but at least salaries are inching upward.

The American Federation of Teachers, which represents more than 400,000 school teachers, recently announced that the average salary for all teachers was \$28,000 this year, more than 6 percent higher than in 1986-87.

Experts don't understand low scores

The Educational Testing Service, a company that uses U.S. Department of Education money to test American students' reading, writing and math skills, says it can't figure out why 9- and 17-year-old students' reading test scores fell precipitously in 1985.

"We have, it's embarrassing to say, a real mystery here," said Archie E. Lapointe, executive director for the National Assessment of Educational Progress, which administers the tests for ETS.

ETS has come up with a number of explanations, including a new color of ink to nervous test-takers, and plans to retest a select group of students.

The theme is "Why Can't This Night Go On Forever," and there will be about 500 people in attendance.

"A disc jockey, large screen projection system and one entertainer at 2 a.m. instead of having two entertainers at 8 p.m. and 12 a.m. are features that are different from last year's prom," Ralph Werley, Junior Class adviser, said.

Radio City and Network, two rockbands, will be part of the enter-

tainment, "is better than having two comedians who are not well known."

At 11:20 p.m., the prom queen will be announced. Members of the court and their escorts include Tina Cimino, senior, and Kyle Keeler, senior; Karen Gillespie, senior, and Augie Tarmin, senior; Tracy Hummel, senior, and Brian Hill; Sue Mabry, senior, and Ron Seltsmann; Cathy McDevitt, senior, and Michael Jenschke, and Lisa Ranieri,

parents' committee so there would be good attendance at the meetings," Mr. Werley said. "The committee was also there to give support for any endeavors that we may have encountered."

The prom costs \$16,500. The Junior Class, through various sales campaigns, has \$17,000 in its treasury.

There will be an early dismissal today at 11:45 so students can get ready for the prom.

'Building needs to be upgraded'

Board considers renovating high school

by Bobbi Fortmuller

The school board is presently considering renovations and a possible expansion to the high school.

"We saw more of a need for renovations than for expansion. The building needs to be upgraded," Dr. Alvin Coleman, Pottsgrove School District superintendent, said.

A few of the things being looked into for renovation are windows, doors, the surface of the tennis courts, lockers and handicapped facilities. Also, there are plans to upgrade the auditorium, including the stage and the upholstery of the seats.

The school was opened in 1958. Renovations were done and a new wing added in 1967. There has been no work done on the building for the past 21 years, except some repairs made to the roof.

"Plans for expansion would include bigger science rooms, a bigger library, more room for the guidance offices and the administration offices," Dr. Richard Radel, PHS principal, said.

Now that the idea has been presented to the school board, the school board must apply to the

State Department of Education to make the improvements. The board must also sell bonds to raise money to pay for the proposed work.

"The school board interviewed three architects who presented their ideas to the board. A Mr. Barry Brobst was then chosen for the job," Dr. Radel said. Mr. Brobst of the Architectural Studio in Allentown is the architect who did the

work at Spring-Ford High School.

Mr. Brobst will take a look at the building and consider the needs assessment made up by the school board. He will then make plans that will be presented to the school board.

So far the amount of money needed for the renovations is not known. The work may take two or three years to complete.



Studies being conducted: The school board is presently considering several plans to renovate the high school — work which should take two to three years to complete.



the falcon

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Facing the problems

With the presidential campaign well under way and with elections set for November, it is important to see what issues the candidates will choose to form their platforms.

One way to differentiate between leaders is to determine whether their policies are made to satisfy people here and now or whether their policies are insightful and intended to help people a few years down the road. One of the reasons why so much credit is given to the founding fathers of this country is because their policies were insightful and because some of their decisions were made not only to appease people then, but to prevent problems for posterity.

What America has lacked for the last few decades is insightful leadership which anticipates problems and institutes measures now to prevent these problems from ever happening. For instance, because the present administration wasn't able to set a stable policy from budget control or clean air standards, future generations will have to pay the price. Not only will the generation of students going through school now have to bear the burden of the reckless spending of the present government but it will also have to deal with the ecological problems created by past generations, such as the growing concern over the depletion of ozone in the atmosphere.



'In 1492, Columbus sailed the ocean blue'

Gaps seen in teens' cultural literacy

by Tab Mizic

A federally funded program was developed in 1986 to find out if students approaching their high school graduation were "culturally illiterate."

The program, run by the National Assessment of Educational Progress, (NAEP), an independent government agency set up to periodically measure students' academic progress, tested students' cultural literacy.

Nearly 8,000 high school juniors

In increasing numbers, educators are finding, students are culturally illiterate; that is, they don't know the basics.

"As a world cultures teacher," Daniel Greulich, tenth grade teacher, said, "I myself find it is (a problem). I think it is very prevalent. Teachers assume they learned it (material) in elementary school."

Concerning why students are not interested in learning more about their cultures, Ralph Murgia, a

that it and other generations to follow are at risk of being gravely handicapped by that ignorance upon entry into adulthood, citizenship and parenthood."

Ravitch and Finn published their book in 1987; it is an analysis of 7,812 students' answers to questions written by the National Assessment of Educational Progress.

The reason for the prevalence of cultural illiteracy is unknown. The student as well as the teacher have been faulted.

"I'd never say it is 100 percent

Newspaper and magazine articles during the last two months have paid a lot of attention to the fact that current ozone depletion, caused by the use of certain gases in aerosol cans and refrigerators, is effectively irreversible. The forecast is that for every 1 percent loss of ozone from the atmosphere there will be tens of thousands of skin cancers every year. Right now it is projected that in the next 30 years there will be a 1 to 4 percent loss of ozone from the atmosphere. The loss of the ozone layer in the atmosphere will permit larger amounts of ultraviolet light to strike the earth's surface and damage the genetic material in cells — of both plants and animals.

For years people have been warned about the effects of sunbathing on their skin. The depletion of ozone in the atmosphere will take the problem a few steps further. One group has reported that the depletion of ozone in the atmosphere will mean the destruction of certain animals and plants.

How serious is the problem? The Du Pont Company has already pledged to phase out its production of chemicals that erode the life-protecting ozone layer in the high atmosphere. Du Pont is the world's largest producer of the chemicals, with sales of \$600 million; however, Du Pont has set no specific timetable. It said a reasonable goal would be to cut output by the year 2000. However, Du Pont is not the only company which produces these chemicals and America is not the only nation which produces these chemicals.

Some people feel that Du Pont is not doing this because of a concern for the atmosphere. It is doing it for economic reasons. Even larger than the amount of money it may make on the sales of these chemicals will be the lawsuits it may face one day from victims of skin cancer.

Because past leaders have not been insightful, generations of people will have to suffer. Now, though, is the time to start picking leaders who are brave enough to solve tomorrow's problems through effective policies today.

During the course of the school year, the staff of *The Falcon* has tried to deal with the issues that concern the Pottsgrove student body. The last edition of the newspaper is presently being planned; however, it is not too late to get your ideas into print. If there is anything you feel we have missed this year, contact the editor.

some of the basic simple facts from their years in school. The test results were shocking.

Findings from the test show that (1) 31.9 percent of the students didn't know that Columbus landed in the New World prior to 1750 and (2) nearly 40 percent didn't know that World War I was fought in this century.

PHS teachers also think that there is a problem with students not being able to retain basic information which they have learned through their years in the school.

High school teachers assume that basic historical and geographic facts have been taught to their students in the lower grades and that the students know the information. High school teachers do not review the information but, rather, see their jobs as providing students with new information — information which can only be thoroughly understood if the students know the basics.

It is a lot harder to convey information to a student ...

;

senior world cultures teacher, said, "We seem to be confined to our own little spheres of interest. We're more concerned with our own individuality."

Several authors agree with Mr. Murgia's assessment.

"We do not assert that our 17-year-olds are stupid, that they are apathetic, or that they are short on savvy, creativity and energy. "We do not contend that the 'younger generation is going to the dogs,'" said authors Diane Ravitch and Chester Finn. "We merely conclude that it is ignorant of important things that it should know. And

anyone's fault. It takes cooperation from everyone," said Mr. Greulich.

Reasons for cultural illiteracy vary from fault finding with the educational system to even to what time of day subjects are taught.

"Living in the 80's, times have changed. We are a product of 'instant society.' It is a lot harder to convey information to students because we are not entertainers. We are teachers," Mr. Greulich said.

The idea of a knowledge gap is among the reasons offered for cultural illiteracy. Addison Davidson, eleventh grade American cultures teacher, said, "We (teachers) are much older, more educated and more experienced in life."

Mr. Davidson was expressing the idea that adults, educators at any rate, do not have a problem with cultural literacy because they have had a broader educational experience. Given time, though, it is hoped students will catch up.

PHS juniors rated on cultural literacy

by Tab Mizic

In an attempt to substantiate or refute claims that today's students are culturally illiterate, *Falcon* had 52 juniors in the academic curriculum in March answer 15 literary and historical questions in their English class.

The questions and the percentage of students who could give a "fairly accurate" answer to the questions follow:

- 1) When was the Revolutionary War fought? (44 percent)
- 2) What was the Louisiana Purchase? (56 percent)
- 3) What was the Great Migration? (15 percent)
- 4) On what continent is Nepal found? (56 percent)
- 5) Of what importance was the

Magna Carta? (12 percent)

6) Who was Chaucer and what famous story did he write? (6 percent)

7) Name four plays written by William Shakespeare (52 percent)

8) Identify the Reformation (4 percent)

9) Name one novel written by Dostoevsky (6 percent)

10) Who wrote *The Great Gatsby*? (2 percent)

11) What two Republicans are currently leading in the polls? (52 percent)

12) What novel did Margaret Mitchell write? (4 percent)

13) In what state is Bill Bradley a senator? (25 percent)

14) Which is the largest state in the Union? (58 percent)

15) Puerto Rico is a territory of which country? (90 percent)

These questions were just randomly selected. However, the percentage of correct answers shows that in the area of general knowledge checked by these questions PHS juniors are weak.

This is in line with the national findings. An analysis of 7,812 students' answers to questions written by the National Assessment of Educational Progress showed that students scored an average of 54.5 percent on the historical portion of that test, a failing grade in most classrooms.

The correct answer average on the literature portion of the test also was below a passing grade. It totaled 51.8 percent.

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

Anyone could be a victim

by Tab Mizic, Tracy Koneski

At one time if a person heard the term "child abuse," his thoughts would seem to turn towards the low income, "problem" families. However, facts show that child abuse is just as likely to occur in middle class families.

"It used to be that we'd expect the 'multi-problem' or 'chronic family' to be involved in child abuse - people with alcohol and drug-related problems, or people with inadequate income or job related problems," Dean Knudsen, an expert on child abuse, said.

In 1875 the case of Mary Ellen began a new era for the rights of children. Mary Ellen was abused and neglected by her adoptive parents. Concerned neighbors took this case to the authorities. They could do nothing about it.

The concerned neighbors then went to the SPCA to try Mary Ellen as an animal. The court recognized her then as an abused "animal." Mary Ellen was taken away from her parents, who were then sent to jail. Children had finally reached a status of an animal.

Times have changed since the Mary Ellen case, but child abuse is as present as ever.

This year, Mrs. Caroline Reigner, the PHS school nurse, has seen two cases of child abuse. "The cases range from simple neglect, such as not taking the child to the doctor, to actual physical bruises. The parent sometimes uses his hand, fist or a

think. "They (the parents) could feel there's nothing wrong with physical beatings and harsh punishment. It could be just their way of teaching a child a lesson," Mrs. Reigner said. A parent may honestly believe that he is bringing up his child in a correct way.

"Parents have a right to discipline their children," Gary Reed, PHS vice principal said. "How one does that depends on the child."

Some things to look for that usually deal with child abuse are physical injuries, such as broken bones or bruises which are unexplained; a lack of alertness; chronic



drowsiness or hunger; repeated absences from school; a lack of necessary medical care; a dirty or unkempt appearance; a fear of his parents; or a fear of returning to home. Also, a bullying behavior toward weaker children, which may be modeled after his own parents' behavior is indicative of abuse.

If child abuse is suspected, then

"abuser" deal with the frustrations that can lead to child abuse.

If the case is severe, the child will be taken in temporary care. A psychologist gets involved to help the child overcome its confusion from the abuse.

If a teacher suspects child abuse, he must go, under law, to either the Guidance Office or to the principal. The administration will then talk to the child's various teachers to see if they have noticed any change in the child's behavior.

The child will then be taken to the nurse. If the case is severe, then the child will be referred to a medical doctor to determine the extent of the damages.

"We, the administration, are not experts on child abuse. We merely report suspicions of abuse. We make no judgments or accusations concerning the abuse," Mrs. Reigner said.

Along with physical abuse, there is mental abuse.

"Mental abuse is very hard to prove," Mrs. Reigner said. "We can suspect it, but we very seldom have to report cases of mental abuse."

A child may not realize while he is being abused that it is wrong. "By keeping youngsters ignorant, we're not protecting them, we're victimizing them," Mr. Knudsen said.

Family life education should be a subject at the home or even in school. If parents would open their eyes while opening those of their children, then the world might have less cases of child abuse annually.

There is a toll free number that is

'Falcon' asks...

If you could change one thing about this year's curriculum, what would it be?

Chaundra Rhoads, senior: "I would develop more courses directed toward what you want to do in college or as a profession."



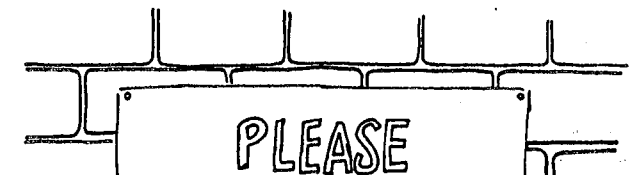
Ann Warlow, junior: "The curriculum would be more specialized, without leaving the school."

Bethani Shilladay, sophomore: "I would drop biology from the curriculum."



Rhett Thomas, freshman: "I like everything I am studying this year."

Photos by Liz Yohn



Proving a child has been abused and in danger is a much harder thing to prove than most people

ben, Mrs. Reigner said. caseworker will talk with the child and with the rest of the family. If abuse is established, then city counseling is mandated to help the

open 24 hours a day. April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. If you or anyone you know is being abused, dial toll free 1-800-932-0313.

Seniors apply for government aid

by Liz Yohn

April is an important month for college bound seniors who heeded the advice of their high school guidance counselors and in January mailed in their federal financial aid applications.

In April they learned how much money the government would give them to attend their first year of college.

"The state and federal governments will help to get a student to college," Mrs. Diane Rupp, PHS

guidance counselor, said, "but the main bulk of the money will have to come from the individual."

Financial aid is all based on the information students supply the government, according to Mrs. Rupp. Students should carefully fill out the necessary forms and send them in early.

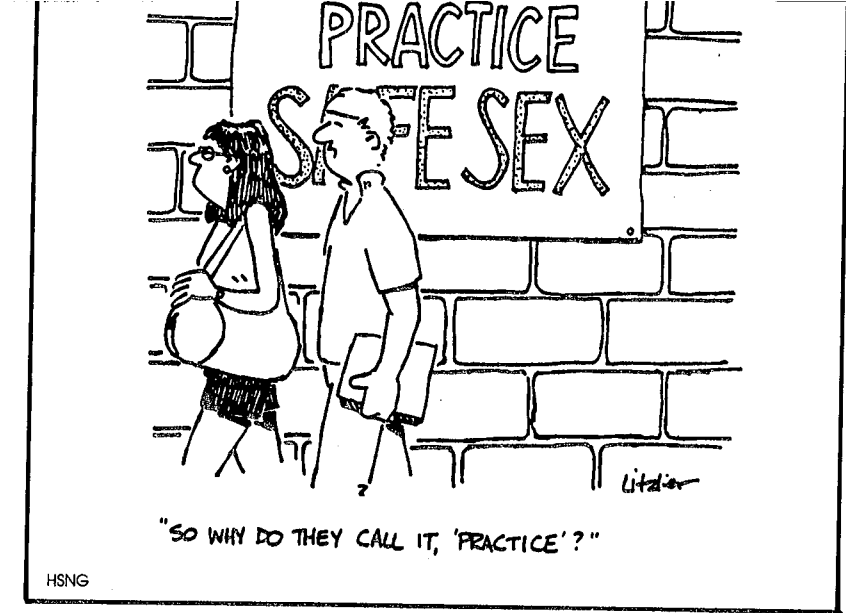
Latest estimate by the U.S. Department of Education indicate graduating seniors can expect to pay anywhere from \$4,554 to \$17,000 for their first year of college. Seniors planning to attend a state school like West Chester can expect to pay around \$4,500. Students who attend a private school, such as Ursinus, will pay around \$11,700.

"What helps a lot are the college financial aid programs and other scholarships that are offered," Mrs. Rupp said. "Most colleges have scholarship money available."

In the beginning of a student's junior year, he should begin looking at colleges and discuss with his parents how to plan to finance col-

lege, Mrs. Rupp said. He should also take into account the escalating cost of college.

Graduating seniors have the chance to apply for scholarships and awards granted by various organizations and clubs from the Pottstown area. The criteria for these awards are all different. Students who wish to apply for any of these awards can obtain an application in the Guidance Office.



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Honor Society holds assembly to induct new members

Pottsgrove's chapter of the National Honor Society inducted 19 new members on March 23 at an assembly held in the high school auditorium.

Before the new members were accepted into the society by Dr. Richard Radel, PHS principal, present members of the society presented the student body with a skit which featured the many talents which Honor Society members have.

The present officers of Honor Society are Dean Reigner, president; Shelley Tyson, vice president; Tina Cimmino, secretary; Anita McKee, treasurer. The adviser is Mrs. Diane Rupp.



New members: The Pottsgrove chapter of the National Honor Society inducted nineteen members in March. Front row: Tammy Meeker, Barb Friel, Laura Groth, Carol Green, Denise Drost and Dena Embody. Second row: Vanessa Listol, Stacey Bergman, Jen Mayk, Shawnn Shafer, Kristin Yocom and Sona Rewari. Back row: Tracie Rheel, Carrie Chisholm, Christine Goffice, Nicole Shallcross, Don Testa, Lisa Dunlap and Tom Bell.

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Vice principal sees a PHS ethic

by Liz Yohn

"I really want Pottsgrove to be the place to be, not the place to be from," Gary Reed, PHS vice principal, said.

Mr. Reed came to PHS last summer after working 12 years as vice principal at Hamburg High School, which is above Reading. He also worked in the classroom for 10 years as a social studies teacher.

Mr. Reed enjoys being an active

part of school life. He coached several sports and was an adviser for a variety of clubs.

"There is a great importance for academics to Pottsgrove students," Mr. Reed said. "I see a strong work ethic."

After witnessing Color Day, Mr. Reed feels school spirit and attitude are some of PHS's greatest assets. He feels another great asset is the dedication and openness of the teaching staff.

"The 'I don't care' attitude that

exists in some teachers," Mr. Reed said, "does not exist here."

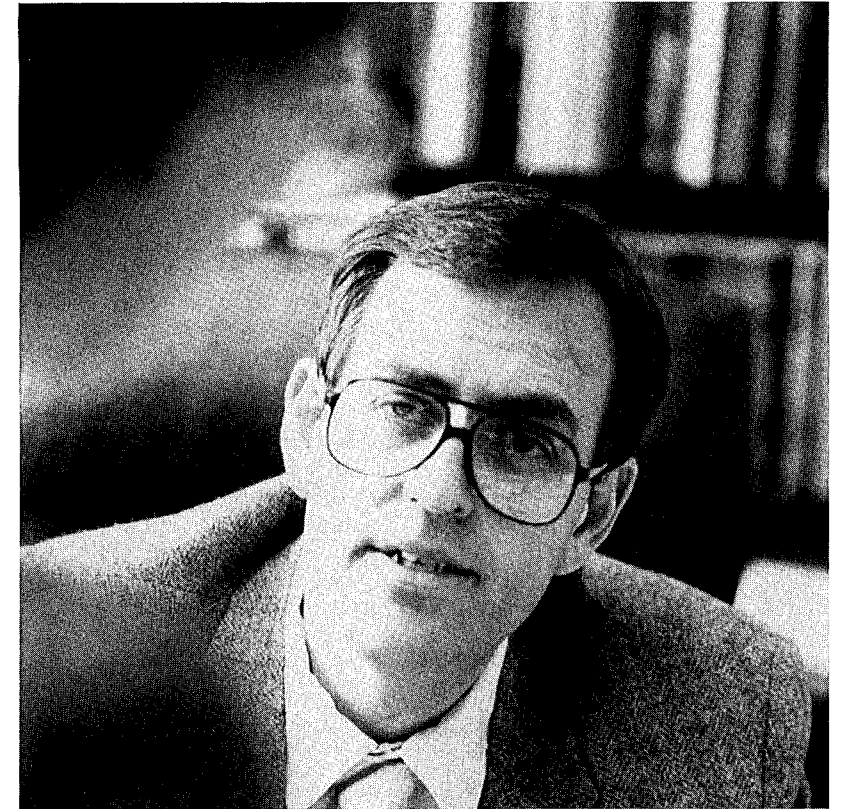
In the future Mr. Reed sees schools becoming more technologically advanced, more accountable for their students and maybe even the expansion of the school year.

"Schools are going to have to become more involved in the students' lives," Mr. Reed said. "They are going to have to provide more counseling to help kids to always be able to function at their best."

Mr. Reed said he hopes to be able to have a positive input. He also said he concerns himself with backgrounds, environments and goals so that he can provide each student with a challenge and put their skills to better use.

"I approach education with a real concern for what is best for the student," Mr. Reed said. "We are helping to mold minds."

Mr. Reed is very happy with the quality of education at PHS. He feels the seniors will realize what a good education they have had once they move out into the work force or on to college.



Vice principal nears end of first PHS year: According to Gary Reed, who began as Pottsgrove's vice principal last summer, schools are going to have to become more involved in the lives of their students. "They are going to have to provide more counseling," he said.

Role playing helps juniors realize parents' problems

by Carolyn Cooper

Many teenagers have a fantasy of what it would be like to be a successful parent, and some teens learn the hard way the problems which can go along with being a parent.

PHS's eleventh grade health classes took a trip to the Pottstown Senior Center on Monday, April 12, and Wednesday, April 14.

There students had the opportunity to view three different perspectives on parenting, including a teenage parent, a divorced parent and a senior citizen parent.

Mrs. Barbara Clayton, a health teacher, was in charge of arranging the program. She said that the Creative Health Systems of Pottstown coordinated this event.

"This program was designed," Mrs. Clayton said, "to have kids ahead of time understand some of

cussion on parenting. Mrs. Clayton said that the teenager would talk about the responsibilities of being a parent as well as how parenting affected her life.

The divorced parent talked about the problems of a two-household family. The senior citizen parent discussed how parenting has changed over the years.

"Students will have a chance to picture what kind of parents they want to be," Mrs. Clayton said about the benefits of the program.

Following segment one were listening and feedback exercises and finally role playing in family situations. The role playing was intended to show students how family members contribute or detract in a situation.

"The program was also intended," Mrs. Clayton said, "to have

School experiences maintenance staff shortage

by Carolyn Cooper

Recently one custodian and two maintenance men at Pottsgrove have left their jobs because of retirement, illness and death.

"We hope that we can get custodians," Robert Hess, head custo-

tenance, he said.

Mr. Hess said that the difference between a custodian and a maintenance person is that a custodian works at one specified school and a maintenance person works at all five schools in the district.

"If something goes wrong," Mr. Hess said, "I have to take care of

by the state police and sent to Harrisburg.

"There is a \$10 cost," Mr. Hess said. "If you are not hired within a year after the check, you will have to do it again."

He said that in addition to the experience, he talked about applicants having a general knowledge

Survey reveals students' standards

by Colleen Mayk

To help raise money for their class treasury, for the past few years the juniors have conducted a survey which is used to match each person taking the survey with 15 people of the opposite sex with similar answers - likes and dislikes.

"You can't really say if students take it seriously or not," Dr. Richard Radel, PHS principal, said about the survey and the validity of their answers. "It's questionable."

A total of 294 students took the survey this year: 126 males and 168 females. Three teachers also took it.

"After taking the survey, you could buy a printout for \$1 which

will match you up with 15 people who are compatible to you," Ralph Werley, teacher at PHS, said. "It will also give you a percent of how compatible you were."

There were 32 questions asked on the survey. These questions ranged from "Are you male or female?" to "What do you think of earrings on a male?"

When asked to complete the statement "If a couple gets pregnant. . . ." 86 students answered, "Not to marry but continue to date and have the child." Eighty-five students said they should marry and have the child.

"It's a personal choice," Mr. Werley said. "It all depends on the situation the couple is in."

Science Club schedules spring trips

by Carolyn Cooper

Members of Science Club traveled to Washington, D.C., on April 7 to visit the Smithsonian Institute.

"The purpose of the trip to Washington," Clyde Dry, Science Club adviser, said, "is to get the students acquainted with the Smithsonian."

When the students arrived at Washington, they had a choice of where they could go. The Botanical Gardens and the Zoological Gardens were two of the choices offered to students. Students could also visit some of the museums related to science.

Members of Science Club can go on a canoe trip on May 14-15. The canoe trip will be at the Pine

Barrens in New Jersey and the guide will be Walter Bein.

"He stops at places," Mr. Dry said about Mr. Bein, "and points out the different types of plant life. The trip is run by the Montgomery County Science Teachers Association."

Another trip will be offered to club members on May 20. It is the rock and fossil trip. Students will travel to different sites such as Deer Lake, while looking for Devonian fossils dating back 350,000 years.

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When asked, "What would you do if your parents didn't approve of your date?" 215 said they would openly go out with them anyway.

"I think that if you like the person enough to openly go out with them then it should be your decision and not your parents," Denette Segnere, junior class president, said, commenting on the answer given by most students in the junior and senior classes.

One hundred and fifty-eight students said that if they found out that someone they really care about smoked marijuana they would tell him/her truthfully that they did not approve.

"From looking at national surveys, I think that drug abuse among high school students has declined," Dr. Radel said, commenting on the results of this and other surveys. "I feel there is still a problem with alcohol though."

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He said that the maintenance will be filled by present custodians. Therefore, the school needs to hire new custodians. "Custodians need a general experience of housekeeping," Mr. Hess said, "a vague knowledge of plumbing and maintenance procedure and a vague experience with electricity."

Applications are being taken at the district administrative office in the high school. The process of filling vacancies has been slowed.

"We cannot hire any maintenance men or custodians," Mr. Hess said, "unless they have completed Act Thirty-four."

Act Thirty-four, he said, makes any applicant seeking a job where there are children involved pass a security check. A form is filled out

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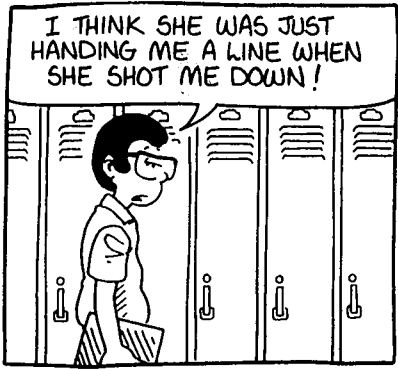
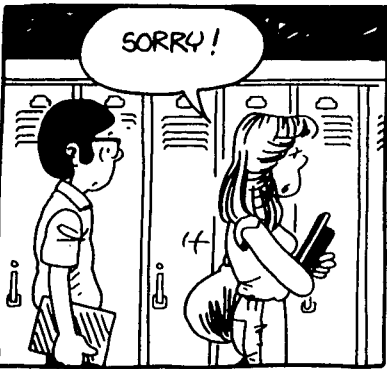
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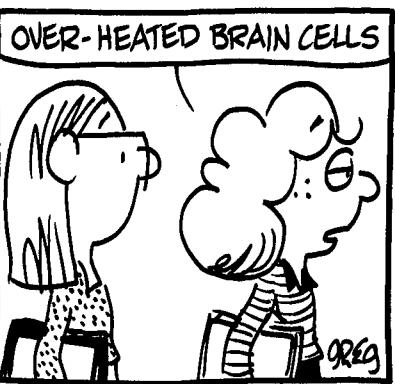
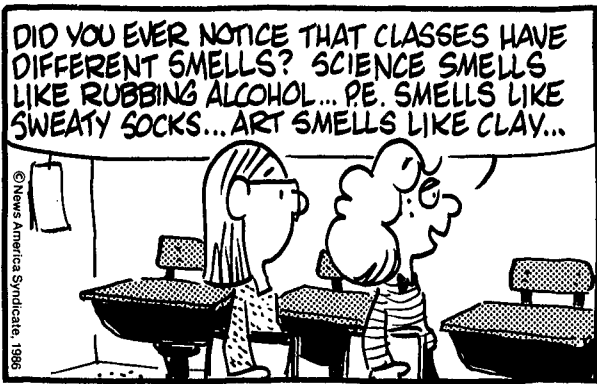
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BY TOM BATIUK

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BY GREG EVANS



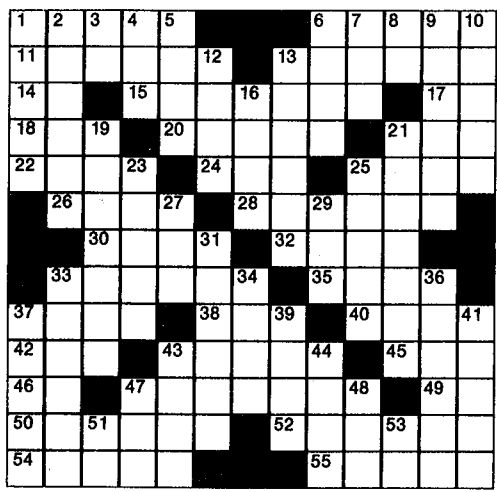
CROSS
WORD
PUZZLE

Answer page 6

- ACROSS
1 Wire nails
6 Rent
11 Feast
13 Continued story
14 Faroe Islands whirlwind
15 Corrupt
17 Note of scale
18 Away
20 Food programs
21 Ocean
22 Secluded valley
24 Vehicle
25 Imitates
26 Irritate
28 Game fish
30 Linger
32 Couple
33 Pertaining to the mind
35 Post
37 Unit of Italian currency
38 Comparative ending
40 Play leading role
42 Possessive pronoun
43 Escapes
45 Nahoor sheep
46 Saint: abbr.
47 Succeed
49 Roman gods
50 Bed canopy
52 Went by water
54 Golfer Slam-min' Sam
55 Burdens

- silver
4 Parent: colloq.
5 Winter vehicle
6 Units of Bulgarian currency
7 Before
8 Three-toed sloth
9 Glossy fabric
10 Man's name
12 Heroic event
13 Petty ruler
16 Paper measure
19 Blossoms
21 Liquor
23 Climbing plant
25 Assumed name
27 Illuminated
29 Male sheep
31 Clothes-maker

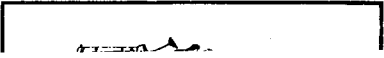
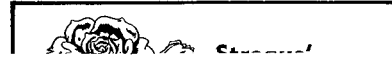
- 33 Fingerless glove
34 Dregs
36 Alit
37 Rosters
39 Corded cloth: pl.
41 Forays
43 Man's nickname
44 Fur-bearing mammal
47 School group: abbr.
48 Spanish for "river"
51 Compass point
53 Pelican state: abbr.



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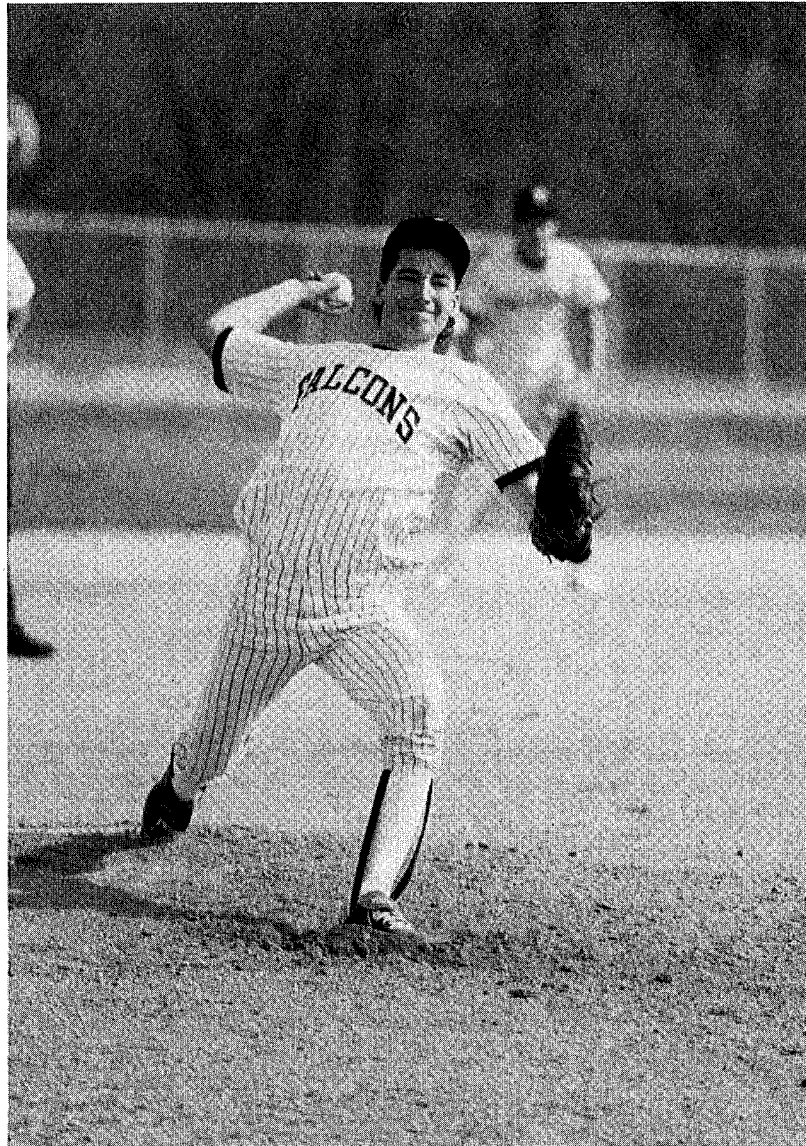
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On the mound: Tony Brennan, first man in the JV pitching rotation, threw seven strike outs against Pius X earlier in the season. The JV's next game is May 3 at home against Springfield.

Baseball team is off to a winning season

Giffi, Ali to enter league singles

by Bobbi Fortmuller

Steve Giffi and Asad Ali today will represent Pottsgrove at the league singles at Upper Perkiomen at 12:00.

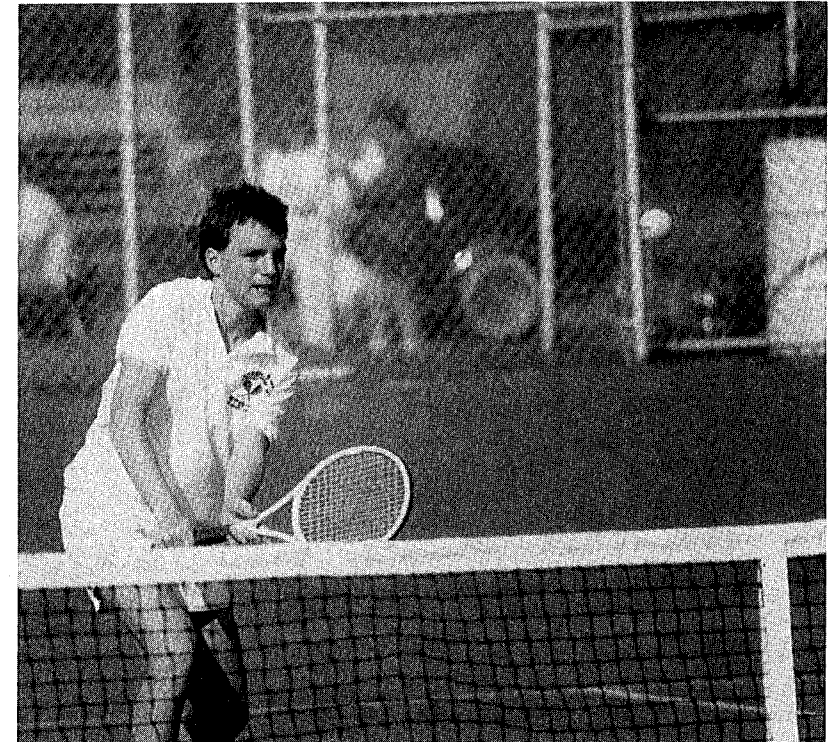
"Steve has a good chance to become league champion," James Regensburg, PHS tennis coach, said. "Last year he was third in the Districts and was the only player from Pottsgrove to go to Districts in a long time."

The varsity team, with its next scheduled contest May 2 against St. Pius, consists of Giffi, Ali, Scott Whittaker, Keith Whittaker, Kyle Keeler, Tom Bell, John Armstrong, Jamie Hanley, Tom Stultz and Rick Thompson. Giffi is the team's captain.

"This year I have a lot of boys with potential to be strong players," Mr. Regensburg said. "I have six underclassmen on the varsity team, including four sophomores and two freshmen."

So far the boys' tennis team has beaten Pottstown and Upper Perk. They lost to Phoenixville in a non-league game and also to Pius. They have also played Upper Perk twice, Perkiomen Valley, and Phoenixville again in a league game.

"The JV team is also doing very well this year. They have been winning a lot of their games so far," Mr. Regensburg said. "We have young players who are good hitters and know the game well."



A tennis hopeful: Third singles player Scott Whittaker, according to tennis coach James Regensburg, has "been playing very well." Scott will be playing May 2 in the team's next contest, Pius at home.

Track teams host Trojans

by Kim Mayberry

The track teams next compete May 2 when they host the Pottstown Trojans.

"Pottstown has one strong distance runner and one good jumper. They are in three or four events," PHS track coach Charles Yohn said.

There are 21 athletes on the girls'

put, discus and javelin," Kenneth Harclerode, boys' track coach, said.

Districts will be held at Delaware Valley College this year.

"People that are out this year have a very good chance to do well in Districts," Coach Harclerode said.

POTTSTOWN GETTY
Full Service / Towing

by Colleen Mayk

In their ninth scheduled game of the season, the Falcon baseball team will host Spring-Ford on May

PHS baseball coach said. "We did well but we made some mistakes and we're learning from them."

"We had two practice scrimages, one with Boyertown and one with the Hill School," Arlan Burkert,

PHS baseball coach said. "We did well but we made some mistakes and we're learning from them."

PHS started out their season well by beating Pius X, 7-2, upsetting Spring-Ford, defending PAC-8 champs, 3-2, and trouncing Lansdale Catholic, 12-7.

"We are looking forward to Tuesday, knowing that Spring-Ford is one of the better teams, and it gets us psyched up," Coach Burkert said. "We beat Spring-Ford once, but it's going to be tough because we're about equal offensively, defensively and in pitching."

Jason Lupold, Matt Armstrong and Tim Antush each pitched a complete winning game so far this season.

Spring-Ford has all their players back from last year except one. This team has as much potential as PHS.

"We have a lot of confidence, which is needed for a good team," Coach Burkert said. "The main element right now for us to become a championship team is consistency and to be the best that we can be."

The field hockey team played every team in the league twice this year, for a total of 14 league games (there was one non-league game), according to Mrs. Kathy Baker, field hockey coach. Next year with 10 teams in the league playing every team twice for the league title becomes unreasonable. So the field hockey team will play nine league games and four non-league games.

"I am glad to see Owen J. Roberts joining the league because they have strong ties with all the teams in the league," Ralph Werley, basketball coach, said. "I don't see one team dominating all sports, but each sport will have teams that dominate."

Boyertown has been admitted to the Pioneer Athletic Conference as an associate member, according to Mr. Murgia. It will be a member for the 1988-1989 lacrosse season. Boyertown will only be a league member for the lacrosse seasons.

Sports talk:

Teams will reshape league

by Liz Yohn

Next fall two teams will be added to the Pioneer Athletic Conference. Owen J. Roberts and Great Valley will join the present eight team league to form the PAC-10.

"The philosophy of the league is to keep the same size schools together so competition will be similar," Ralph Murgia, PHS athletic director, said. "There will be more competition within the league for the trophy and league title."

Great Valley, with a school population of around 805, and Owen J. Roberts (834) will be two of the bigger schools in the league. They have populations similar to Phoenixville (875) and Spring-Ford (842).

"Originally when the smaller schools left the ChesMont to form the new league," Mr. Murgia said, "they did not invite Owen J. and Great Valley because they did not want to destroy the ChesMont."

"Adding these two teams will affect the league greatly," Kenneth Harclerode, football coach said, "if Owen J. Roberts continues to have the athletes it has in the past."

For most sports, scheduling has become easier and there has been a cut down in non-league games by having a 10-team league. Travel time has also been cut down, which appeals to most coaches, because the two new schools are in the immediate area.

The 10-team league has caused a problem for the field hockey team.

Puzzle Answer

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team and 17 athletes on the boys' track team.

"Just because we don't have a lot of girls doesn't mean we won't do well," Mr. Yohn said.

The strongest team members for the girls are Sharon White, the school's record holder in the shot put, and Kristine Cohrac, a sprinter.

"We only have four sprinters," Mr. Yohn said. "It hurts us because they have to run more often."

The strongest team members for the boys are hurdler Burt Lang, distance runner Greg Jackson and 400 m. runner Rob Manley.

"Our weakest area is the field events and the weight events - shot

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