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“I think we should be able to do mounts more than a half-a-person high – it makes things look better.”

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“It’s hard to find someone to fill the position because it’s an everyday situation. . . .”

—Vice Principal Gary Reed

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“It’s the belief and attitude that we can win that goes a long way. We had a group of gentlemen. . . .”

—Coach Joe Tornetta

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Pottsgrove High School

Pottstown, Pennsylvania

the falcon

Volume Twenty-eight, Issue Four

March 3, 1989

newsbriefs

Students illegally attend schools

Police are following and apprehending urban high school students who illegally attend schools in the suburbs.

The students are trying to go to schools where gang violence isn’t a problem and teaching instruction is better.

If they pay tuition, students can attend schools outside their own districts.

However, many aren’t and it’s costing suburban schools a lot of money.

Teens smoking, favoring drug tests

In its annual survey of college freshmen, the American Council on Education and the University of California at Los Angeles’s Higher Education Research Institute found that more teenagers are smoking, labeling their political views as conservative, and favoring drug and AIDS tests.

After surveying 308,007 freshmen, researchers said a 22-year decline in teen smoking was reversed. In 1987, 8.9 percent of the teens surveyed said they smoked frequently.

School to present musical

by Jen Bleau

PHS will be presenting the musical *Oliver* on March 10 and 11.

“I picked this play,” said Todd Kelly, a teacher here at PHS and the director for *Oliver*, “because it is a very interesting play: full of humor, violence and tragedy.”

This play is much more difficult and much more advanced than plays PHS has had in past years, according to Mr. Kelly.

“I think that it’s one of Pottsgrove’s better plays,” said Stacy Robinson, who has the role of Nancy and was also in the productions of *Once Upon A Mattress*, *The Fabulous Fable Factory*, and *Play On*.

Oliver calls for a greater variety of action, which means that this

“It’s a lot bigger of an undertaking,” Jeff Pennington, who plays Fagin and was also in *Once Upon A Mattress* and *Play On*. “There is more song and dance and a much bigger cast.”

Oliver also requires its actors to be able to speak with an English accent, which has created some

“The role required someone younger, and she is very excellent. . . .”

problems for some of the members of the cast.

“It’s difficult with the accents,” Anna said, “especially in the songs.”

boy,” said Tammy Smoll, who plays Dodger and was also in the cast of *Play On* and *The Fabulous Fable Factory* and was a student director for *Once Upon A Mattress*. “I have the accent — no problem.”

Angel Wary, a fifth grader, has the role of Oliver.

“It’s not really the dominant role,” Mr. Kelly said, explaining that casting someone from elementary school did not create any problems with any other members of the cast. “The role required someone younger, and she is very excellent in the role.”

Some of the other leads in *Oliver* include Dave Nieman, Mr. Bumble; Heather Backenstose, Widow Corney; John Romanoski, Bill Sikes.

“The accents are hard and the character I play is pretty difficult,”

But last year, 10.1 percent claimed to puff regularly.

A record 21.8 percent said their political views are "far right," compared to 19.6 the prior year.

Nearly 75 percent felt that acquired immune deficiency syndrome can be controlled through mandatory testing, and that employers should be permitted to test for drug abuse.

'Underground' paper distribution okay

Student journalists can produce their own "underground" newspapers and distribute them on school property without first getting their principal's permission, a judge has said.

In her ruling, Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals Judge Mary Schroeder said Lindbergh High School students were suspended unjustly for distributing "Bad Astra," a non-school sponsored newspaper on school grounds.

The recent decision comes at a time when the Student Press Law Center (SPLC), a Washington, D.C., scholastic press freedom watch group, reported a rise in school newspaper censorship complaints.

SPLC Director Mark Goodman said this school year his office has received 246 requests for help, a 22 percent increase since 1987.

The increase, said Goodman, is due to last year's U.S. Supreme Court ruling giving principals power to censor scholastic papers.

Teachers seek parental involvement

Many teachers are happy that since 1980 their salaries have risen — in some cases, by as much as 60 percent — but they're sad about the lack of parental involvement in schools.

More than 22,000 teachers were surveyed by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

Teachers also expressed dismay at how many students come to school abused and undernourished.

Students to help census bureau

The federal government wants high school students to help it count citizens.

Soon the U.S. Census Bureau will mail counting kits to all school districts.

The kits explain how students can help alert their communities to the 1990 Census, the government's next 10-year survey of American citizens.

play requires a fairly large cast.

"There is so much action," said Anna Bauer, a sophomore portraying Mrs. Sowerberry. "There is always something going on."

"The number of roles per boy and girl are very well balanced out in this play, and the play contains very broad characters," Mr. Kelly said, giving reasons why he picked *Oliver* for this year's musical.

"It's a different type of character than I've played before," Stacy said. "It was very difficult in the beginning to learn the English accent."

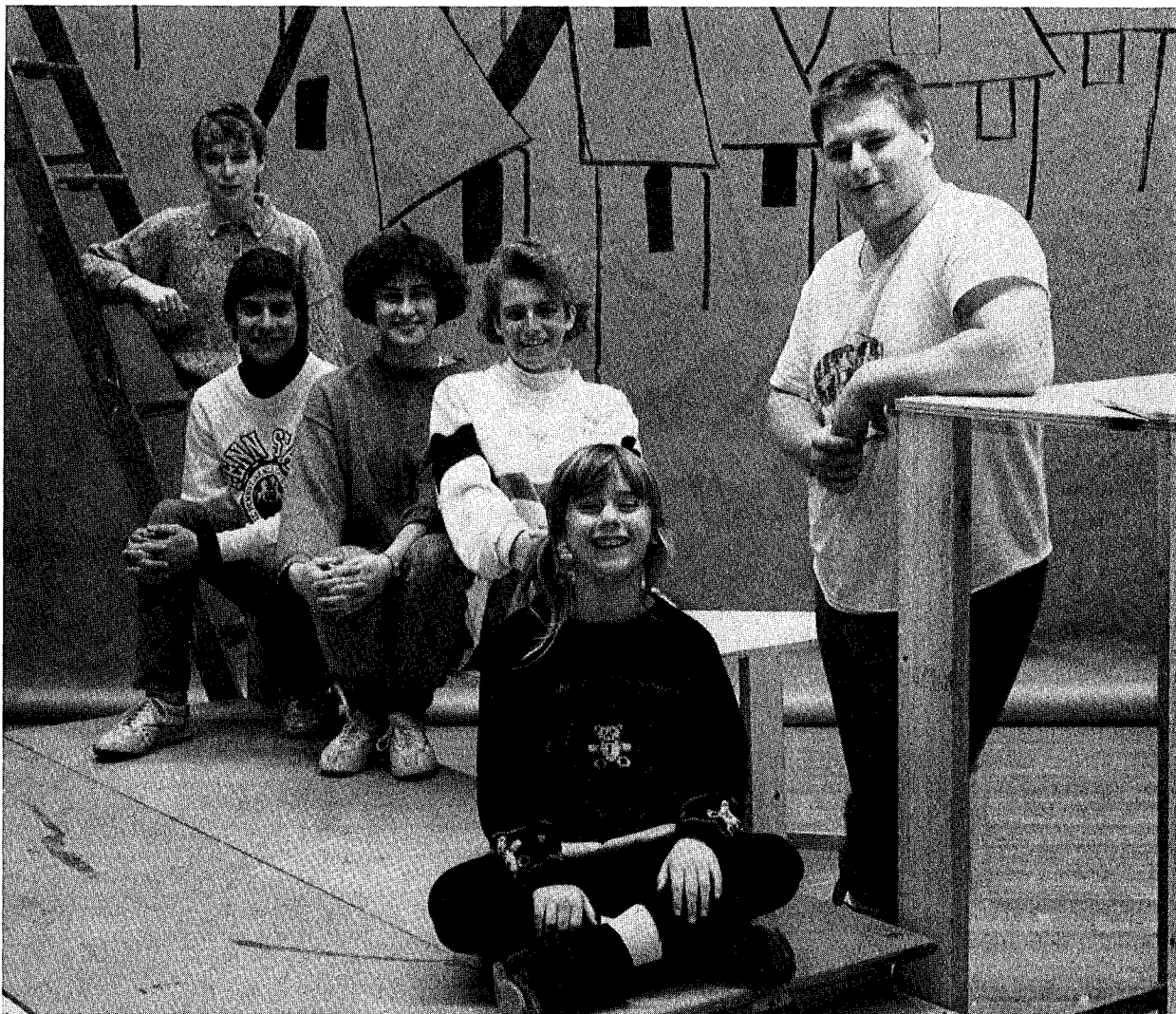
But for other members of the cast, the task of the English accent comes much more easily than that of trying to play a member of the opposite sex.

"The hardest part is acting like a

John, who will be performing in his first play here at PHS, said. "I used to think plays were pointless, but I'm getting into it and really enjoying it."

There are about 35 people helping out backstage for the play. This includes the orchestra, stage crew, costume people and the student directors, who are Melissa Bush

(Cont. page 4, Col. 3)



Starring roles: The cast of "Oliver" includes Cindi Reber as Bette, Jim Weller as Mr. Sowerberry, Anna Bauer as Mrs. Sowerberry, Tammy Smoll as Dodger, Angel Wary as Oliver and John Romanoski as Bill Sikes. "Oliver" will be performed in the Pottsgrove auditorium on March 10-11.

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Jobs are justified

Every year there is someone in the community who questions whether students should be holding down jobs while they are going to school. Some people feel that jobs take away from the time that students could put into such things as school related extracurricular activities like sports and clubs and also homework.

Expenses grow each year students spend in high school. And a lot of students, rather than spending all of their money on "entertainment," are putting the money they earn from a job to more useful causes.

Expenses through the freshman and sophomore years include class trips and school pictures.

Expenses in the junior year include much more. In the first month alone, students must pay for their class trip, school pictures and, if they want one, a class ring. Payments for PSAT's and SAT's also have to be made, and money is also needed for special class and club trips as well as car insurance, if the student owns one. And all the while, students are supposed to be saving for college.

Senior year expenses include payments for the prom, the class trip to Florida, SAT's for those who wish to raise their score, college entrance fees, senior pictures and all the other expenses



Trying to curb cheerleading injuries:

Prohibition gets mixed reception

by Colleen Mayk

"We have a group of great cheerleaders," Dr. Richard Radel, principal of PHS, said. "My fear is that one of them will hurt herself, possibly for life, and I'm not willing to let that happen."

On January 18, PHS placed a

we have enough spotters and we use mats."

The basketball cheerleaders met with Dr. Radel on January 26 after the new rules were passed.

"The cheerleaders had really done their homework and made

from nine out of the ten schools (in the PAC-10) banned the same dangerous routines as PHS, both home and away. The remaining school, Perk Valley, and other visiting schools will have to honor the ban when at PHS.

"PHS cheerleaders went to summer camp where they were taught

that go with being a senior.

It can safely be said that students have a purpose for after school jobs, and the money isn't just being spent on the latest "must haves." Parents cannot always take on the responsibility of their child's school expenses. As well as helping their parents out, a student through a job learns responsibility: one that can provide, it can be said, a greater sense of responsibility than from an after school activity.

Shining on Color Day

So many negative things are said about students and schools that a lot of the positive things that they are doing go overlooked. Color Day is a unique day to Pottsgrove and a lot of the positive characteristics of the student body are demonstrated on that day.

The morning activities, the student speeches and the guest's speech, do a lot to remind students about all of the positive influences that they have here at Pottsgrove. It also forces students to think about the importance of their families and friends.

One visitor of Pottsgrove on Color Day said that of all the schools in the Philadelphia area that he visits, this is the only school which would dare to allow its students to have a day like Color Day. He was commenting on the entertainment in the auditorium after the Color Day winners are named and the competitions in the gym during the afternoon.

Comments like that say much more about Pottsgrove than what faculty or students could attempt to say about themselves. The majority of students here know how to have a fun time and they also know where to draw the line.

Color Day allows students to scream and yell for the members of their class who are competing to make their class the number one class in the school, and this is seen by the whole school as a positive happening.

Although the whole school works to make Color Day a success, two teachers take the responsibility of seeing that it is a success: English teacher Mrs. Bronwyn Baltusavich, who coordinates the morning program and teacher assignments, and physical education teacher Joe Tornetta, who coordinates the activities in the gym.

Color Day also shows a form of positive leadership from each class. Everyone wants to win and works to attain that goal and, most importantly, everyone realizes that Color Day is an important day in Pottsgrove's tradition and works to preserve it.

prohibition on mounts: cheerleaders' feet may no longer be in a mount higher than another cheerleader's waist. Any gymnastic maneuver, such as back or forward flips without the hands on the floor are also prohibited.

The prohibition has not received a favorable reception, however, from all the cheerleaders.

"I think we should be able to do mounts more than a half-a-person high - it makes things look better," Jen Mock, a wrestling cheerleader, said. "We can handle it as long as

I think the decision made on new cheerleading rules is not fair."

quite a presentation advancing many points to support their position in desiring to retain higher mounts," Dr. Radel said. "I promised them I would reconsider my prohibition and meet with them again."

On January 30, representatives

how to do mounts properly under the supervision of professional cheerleaders," Melissa Bush, a football-basketball cheerleader, said. "At camp, we were taught the correct way to spot."

"I think the decision made on new cheerleading rules is not fair," Jodi Widger, a football-basketball cheerleader, said. "We worked hard to get where we are now, and they, the school, took all our self-confidence, achievements and talent away from us."

On the big screen:

Movie focuses on 60's war on prejudice

by Carolyn Cooper

In 1964, the Civil War was long over, but black Americans still had the war of prejudice to fight. The Academy Award candidate *Mississippi Burning* is a serious drama about the war of prejudice.

Gene Hackman and William Dafoe present a realistic picture of two FBI agents who go to a little town in Mississippi to investigate three missing civil rights leaders.

The Ku Klux Klan (KKK), a group pushing for a so-called "pure" white Anglo-Saxon race, is burning churches and schoolhouses in the town. They have infiltrated the town so that no one is willing to talk to the agents.

Hackman, nominated for best male actor, did a wonderful job as a defeated agent trying to help black Americans who are too scared to talk. Being also from Mississippi, the agent understands the prejudiced society he has to deal with.

The agent portrayed by Hackman feels defeated after a court scene where a white man was found guilty of a racial crime and had his sentence suspended.

However, a small victory is won at the end of the film, and the defeated agent is uplifted, feeling he has done something for civil rights.

Hackman is seen as a real caring person in this film, especially in a relationship with the battered wife of a Klan policeman.

Record reviews:

Three albums offer unique sounds

by Tab Mizic

Three groups with new albums are providing unique sounds over the airwaves.

Edie Brickell and New Bohemians' folk-type sound with a Sixties style and an Eighties upbeat have proved that their first album, *Shooting Rubberbands at the Stars*, is indeed one worth listening to.

From the mellowing tunes of "What I Am" to the inspirational "Little Miss S.," this new band is one worth listening to.

Siouxie and the Banshees, dance-type music in a futuristic beat, has definitely put Peepshow at the top

of club hits. This is Siouxie's fifth album, and by far their best.

From the poetic verses of "The Last Beat of My Heart" to the danceable beat of "Peek-A-Boo," Siouxie and the Banshees have definitely made a mark on the music industry.

R.E.M.'s folk-type ways and relaxing style have proved yet again that they can do it. Green, their most recent album, R.E.M. are yet again popping up all over. With the hits "Stand" and "Orange Crush," they have dominated the screens of MTV and radio stations all over. R.E.M. have done it yet again.

School considers eight-period day

by Tara Mizic

"It is one method of opening up the elective program," Dr. Richard Radel, PHS principal, said, referring to the proposed plans to change the school day to eight periods.

A committee has been discussing the possible benefits of switching the schedule from seven to eight periods. The committee is made up of Todd Kelly, Miss Elizabeth Mays, John Meko, Joseph Tornetta, James Regensburg, Mrs. Bambi Eshbach, Dr. Radel and chairman Bruce Hoffman.

Dr. Radel feels that an eight-period day would "give students a greater opportunity to choose elective subjects" and would "broaden

their education."

When graduation requirements are met, many students do not have time to take elective courses. The long-range plan committee, composed mainly of parents, feels that kids should be taking more courses.

"If done, I feel that, hopefully, it will enable more flexibility in the schedule so that students have more opportunities to take electives," Mr. Tornetta said.

The committee, which has met seven times, is looking at the schedules of schools who have an eight-period day. If adopted, the change would shorten the length of a period, but it would not affect the length of a school day.

"We're seeing why other schools

use an eight-period schedule," Dr. Radel said. "Then we would tailor it to best serve Pottsgrove."

If the plan is passed, it would not go into effect until 1991.

"In the past, college prep students had less room for electives because of academic requirements," Mr. Regensburg explained. "General and business students, however, could take electives after their requirements had been met."

Mr. Regensburg also said that when graduation requirements were raised business and general students had to replace electives with required subjects.

"An eight-period day could help restore lost flexibility and preserve elective subjects," he said.

Vice principal sits in after monitor resigns

by Colleen Mayk

After six years of being the detention monitor, Patsy Milantoni, a world cultures teacher at PHS, resigned.

PHS has advertised the position to the faculty, but no one has so far applied for the position. Gary Reed, PHS vice principal, is presently supervising detention.

"It's hard to find someone to fill the position because it's an everyday situation requiring students to follow certain rules and regulations," Mr. Reed said. "Mr. Milantoni did an excellent job, but I understand why he's looking to do other things."

must work on school related materials for the 45 minutes.

"One thing to remember is that rules are written, but how people interpret them is different," Mr. Reed said. "Mr. Milantoni and I might have been a little different, but basically the same things occur."

Detention will be carried over this year the same way it was last year. Approximately 22 letters were sent out June 20 for detention

carry-overs.

"We came up with a new plan for suspension," Mr. Reed said. "For short-term suspensions we are going to make students attend school on Saturday from 8:00 to 12:00, where they must do school work the four hours."

The concept was approved at the September school board meeting and the guidelines written up and discussed in October at the board meeting.

Students need to learn how to study

by Holly Lynch

really did not put enough time into it.

Falcon asks ...

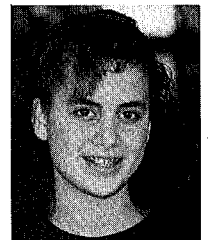
Should the student body be informed if someone who goes to school at Pottsgrove has AIDS?

Kristin Yocom, senior: "No, because people have a right to their privacy. They're not putting the student body in any danger, so they don't need to know."



Wendy Yost, freshman: "I think they should be told about the kid who has AIDS because you have to be here with them."

Tara Rinehart, freshman: "It wouldn't hurt to tell them, but they shouldn't be mean to the person."



Andi Gnoza, sophomore: "I think that the students have a right to know, but I think that the school should teach more information on AIDS so that the students understand better."

Smoking policy to impact on teachers

by Shawnn Shafer

"The new smoking policy will not affect the students as much

teachers' policy will take effect immediately or be a phased-in process.

"The proposed ban does not

has not changed. It is still held from 2:45 to 3:30 in room 001. Students

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selor at PHS, believes that "every student should learn how to study."

"Many students memorize facts," Mr. Ondo said, "which is good sometimes, but it really depends on the teacher and the information."

How students study can have a big influence on their grades. Although some students have to spend hours memorizing facts to do well in school, other students are able to retain facts by just paying attention in class.

Tracie Rheel, a junior who made distinguished honors doesn't need to study if she pays attention in class. "I don't have very good study habits," Tracie said, "because I always wait until the last minute."

Mr. Ondo thinks that one common mistake students make when they study is that they think that they're ready for a test when they

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too much pressure on themselves to do well and then they forget what they learned."

Chris Engle, a sophomore, said that she studies on the phone. The amount of time she studies depends on the subject. "Some subjects I never study for," Chris said. "Others I could study for two hours." She also thinks that her study habits could have improved.

Mr. Ondo believes that the best method of studying is the one that helps the individual to learn best. Also, he said taking good notes and understanding concepts is important if a student wants to do well in school.

Three teachers moonlight at wide range of jobs in area

by Maggie Schuler

For three of the teachers at PHS, the seven and a half hours they put in here is just a part of their work schedule.

Mark Shuster, communications teacher; Miss Elizabeth Mays, English teacher; and Lawrence Rechtin, English teacher, all hold

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Kenneth Saylor, Pottsgrove's director of administrative services, said.

The Pottsgrove School Board will support the smoking ban which will "prohibit tobacco use or possession by pupils (teachers and visitors) in school buildings, on school buses, and on school property owned by, leased by, or under control of the Pottsgrove School District."

Possession or use of tobacco is also prohibited on school sponsored trips. Upon passing the policy, the student policy will take effect immediately. A decision will be made on whether the

"but the state law requires some type of policy to be passed."

The state recently passed a law prohibiting smoking on school grounds. Visitors will also have to abide by the law when it is passed.

"Student Government had a definite impact on the smoking ban," Mr. Saylor said. "Representative Reber supported the law and had Pottsgrove's Student Government supporting him."

The penalties for a student who is caught smoking will remain the same as stated in the student discipline policy.

second jobs in the area during the school year.

Mr. Rechtin bartends at Benigan's Restaurant in King of Prussia on the weekends while Miss Mays has worked at Hess's Department Store in Plymouth Meeting for the past five years. Mr. Shuster councils boys at a minimum security reform school after he puts in a day at PHS.

Although Miss Mays said she finds herself with little free time, her job at Hess's proves to be "a bit therapeutic."

Change of pace

"It's a nice change of pace," Miss Mays said, "after a long school day."

Mr. Rechtin says holding two jobs is financially satisfying as well as fun.

"Bartending is very social," he said, "and I enjoy talking to different people."

Mr. Shuster said that being able to share ideas from one job to the other is a personal benefit.

"I am always learning new ideas," Mr. Shuster said. "I apply them to

both of my teaching jobs."

Mr. Shuster said his job is definitely a challenge that does not always have positive results.

"I try to get the kids to think of a goal in life," Mr. Shuster said, "but I think my efforts go unappreciated; they don't respect authority."

All three teachers do agree that they prefer teaching at PHS to their other jobs.

"It's not such a difficult attempt here," Mr. Shuster said. "The kids don't give up."

Teaching first

Miss Mays doesn't think of her job at Hess's as a "career job" and feels she definitely gives more of herself to teaching.

"It's what I want to do most," she said.

Mr. Rechtin agrees, saying he prefers teaching much more and plans to quit bartending within the next year.

"I can mix drinks with my eyes closed," Mr. Rechtin said, "but teaching gives me a challenge as well as personal satisfaction."

Students see advantages in having jobs

by Carolyn Cooper

A recent study has found that fewer than one teenager in every ten who holds a job during the school year contributes a fair amount of his paycheck to support the family.

"Working is now a middle-class phenomenon motivated not by economic need but by luxurious tastes," Ellen Greenberger, co-author of *When Teenagers Work*, said.

PHS students work to pay for a car, save money for college and for clothes or for spending money. Working teenagers are getting used to a lifestyle that they may not be able to support once they break away from the parents' income.

Pottsgrovians need to weigh the value of working against the benefits of participating in other activities.

ties.

Students are being taught that the secret to happiness is to have money. But there are other ways to find happiness. The school has set up many activities and sports which are hurting because not enough students participate in them.

Holding a job while attending school leaves little time to get involved in such activities. As teenagers, PHS students need time to find out what their interests are.

Researchers have found that working increases copying other students' homework, cheating,

skipping school and buying alcohol and marijuana.

When a classroom full of teenagers work, the quality of education can go down. Teachers would tend to lower standards if they looked out at a crowd of tired students. Working students sometimes take less challenging courses or get lower grades.

There are some benefits of working, but students must take a second look at the sacrifices being made to hold a job. Teenagers have an entire lifetime ahead of them for holding down a job.

Sophomore plans to study abroad

by Jeanette Lotz

Jennifer Wagner, a sophomore, will be spending her junior year abroad.

"I feel that your junior year is one of the hardest because of the tension with getting your grades up for college," Jen said. "I think that going abroad will be one of the most valuable experiences I will ever encounter."

Jen will be an exchange student through the Pottstown Rotary Club. She had to go through a series of interviews in order to be an exchange student. First, she attended a meeting with the Rotary Club and had an informal interview. Then Jen went on to district interviews at Lehigh University with 80 other students. These interviews took approximately two hours, and 25 people were selected.

"I was very nervous at Districts," Jen said. "I went through three interviews: a formal one with the Rotary men, an informal one with the women and then one with ROTEX (Recent Students Return from Abroad)."

Jen's stay in Australia is not yet official because living arrangements have not yet been set.

Maslayak wins O'Brien Award

by Colleen Mayk

Sophomore Maggie Maslayak has been chosen as the Hugh O'Brien Award winner. She will travel to King of Prussia for further competition.

"I hope it makes me a better leader and I hope to have a lot of fun when I'm down at King of Prussia," Maggie said.

Maggie will travel March 16-19 to the Holiday Inn in King of Prussia. While there, she will attend many seminars and listen to guest speakers.

"The speakers are from the business world and they talk about their careers and how their careers affect society and are

affected by it," said Melissa Bush, last year's Hugh O'Brien winner. "They also project what they think will be trends in the business world."

The Hugh O'Brien Award is an award given for leadership. It also gives the winner a scholarship for a weekend of seminars.

"I got an application in English class where I had to answer three essays on my background and about why I think I would be good for the award," Maggie said.

One out of all the students at the King of Prussia conference will be chosen to go on to another level of competition. This year it will be in Baltimore.

Changes occur in industrial technology

by Dawn Kulp

Changes are taking place at PHS in industrial technology.

"This year is the first year that the students will be using the computer in class," said James Regensburg, who teaches industrial technology classes.

Another change in the curriculum resulted due to the fact that one teacher has left the department. David Althouse also taught industrial technology. "The absence of Mr. Althouse has had a big effect on the course and the teachers," Mr. Regensburg said.

Mr. Regensburg has added two electronics classes to his schedule, while Kenneth Harclerode has taken over a drawing class. Due to the fact that there are now only two teachers, the number of students allowed in the course had to be lowered and an advanced electronics class had to be dropped.

One of the goals for the department is to try to use the computer more in classes and, Mr. Regensburg, said, "I would like to try and get people to realize that we are not only a graphic arts department but, more correctly, an industrial technology field and have much more to offer than graphic arts."

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School readies its cast for production of the musical 'Oliver'

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(Cont. from page 1, Col. 5)

and Darah Mitchell.

The scenery is being done through a professional plan. Mr. Kelly is building most of the scenery. Mrs. Deborah Roger and Sandi Turner's art classes are helping out with the scenery as well. Ken Harclerode's classes are working on the platforms used in the sets.



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They have a choreographer, Mrs. Kathy Hoffman, who has been teaching the cast how to do the dance routines.

"The flu has hit us pretty hard," Mr. Kelly said, in mid February. "It makes it rather difficult when only 20 out of 40 people show up for rehearsal because everyone is at home sick in bed."

Other members of the cast include Cheryl Barends, Strawberry Seller; Joseph Biskey, Bert; Carrie Chisholm, Mrs. Bedwin; Heather Clark, Old Sally; Tami Collup, first lady; Josh DeWane, Dr. Grimwig; Tom Hunsinger, night watchman; Jason Kunsch, Noah; Mary Lennon, old lady.

Also, Brett McCormick, chairman; Maureen Murphy, Rose; Cindi Reber, Bette; Matt Sikora, Charlie Bates; Marianne Stowell, Charlotte; Jen Wadsworth, milk-

maid; Jim Weller, Mr. Sowerberry; Keith Whittaker, Mr. Brownlow.

The orphans include Donna Allen, Jen Asay, Tammy Brennan, Rachel Masterson, Beth Melaugh, Rose Michaels, Jen Norris, Jen Palasch, and Jen Rambo.

The adults include Nicole Arnold, Kathy Kelsch, Carolyn Cooper, Jen Herhal, Margie Loeper, Stephanie Palasch, Emanuela Palumbo, Anne Prince, Kristen Yocom, Jack Genther, and Ron Landis.

Austin Saylor, a senior, designed posters as promotion for the play. Area papers have also been contacted. There will be a preview of the play for the PHS student body.

Also, Miss Lamb, who is the music director for the play, is working the play into her studies at the elementary schools, hoping to get the younger kids interested in coming to see the play as well.

Mr. Kelly is trying to get drama as an elective course here at PHS for sometime in the near future. He has already submitted a plan to Dr. Richard Radel, PHS principal, outlining the nature of the course.

The course would be a combination of acting exercises, along with scenes as well as studying the history of drama, according to Mr. Kelly.

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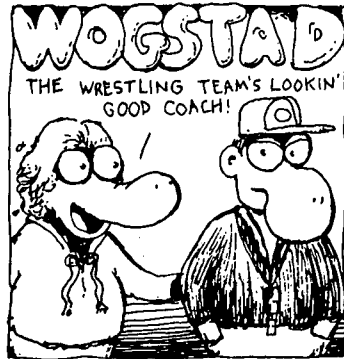
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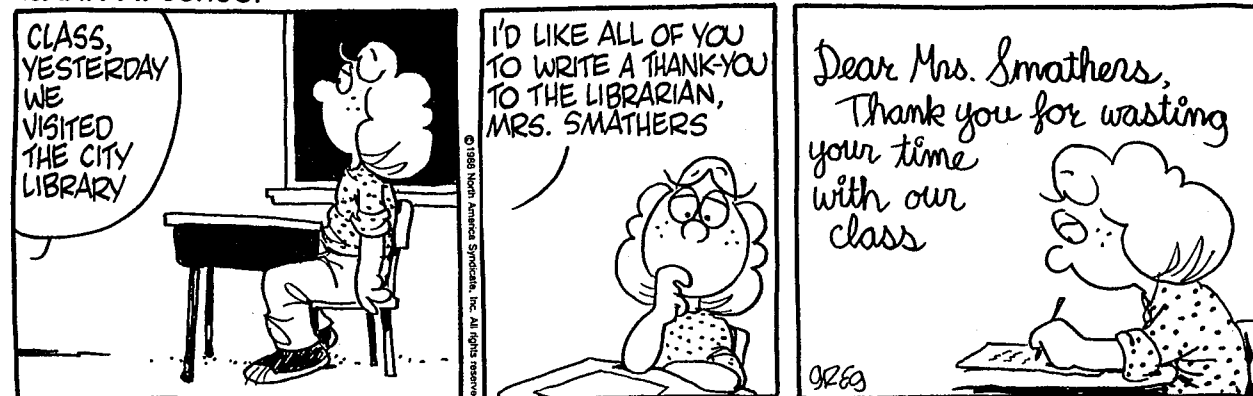
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BY GREG EVANS

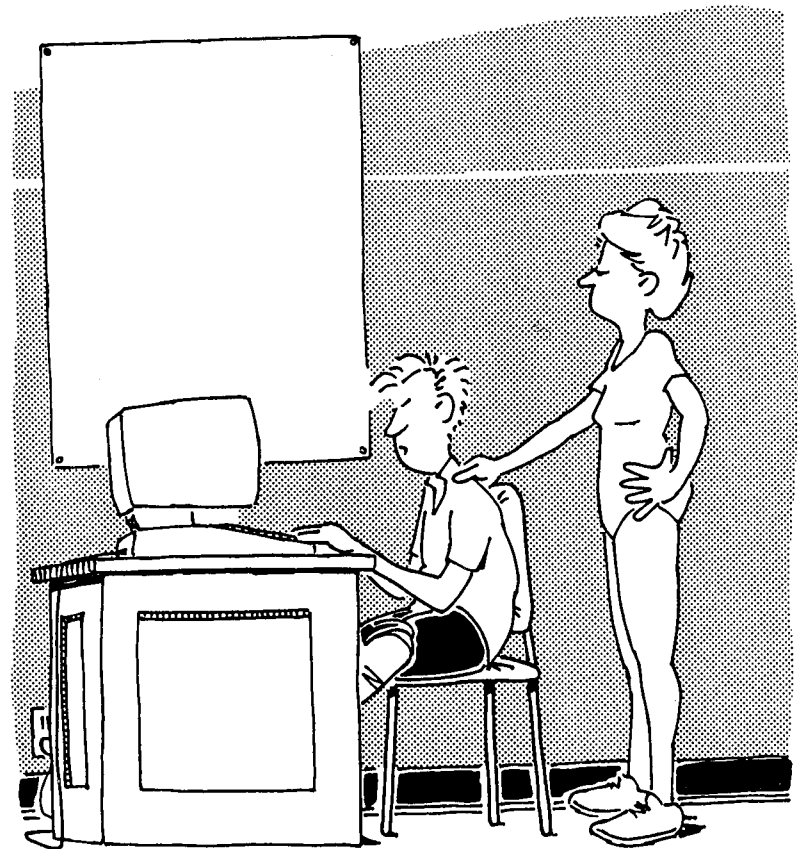


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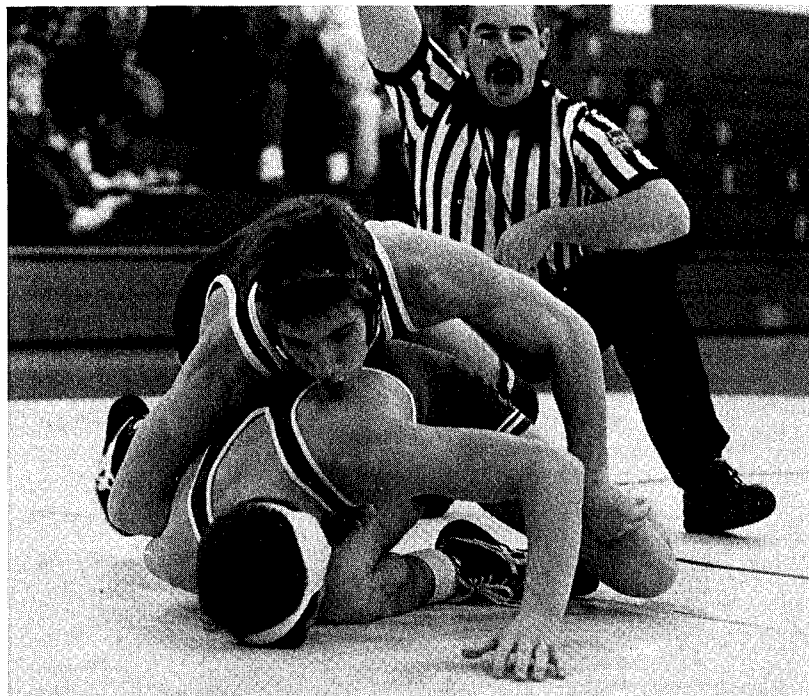


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Part of the winning team: "Brian [Kocur]... has only been wrestling for a year-and-a-half and has made great accomplishments in that time," Coach Joe Tornetta said about his 135 lb. wrestler.

Experience didn't carry Lady Falcons

by Dawn Kulp

The Lady Falcons' basketball team finished their season on February 21 in an away game against Upper Perk, bringing their final record to 6-12.

The team, which consisted of five seniors, had a lot of experience playing together, since most of the team has been playing together for three years.

"The seniors carried the team and offered a lot of support to the

"To have more girls come out for the team would be a start," added Coach Murgia. "We also need more fan support."



Team pulls together

Wrestlers have winningest record

by Colleen Mayk

The Falcon wrestling team finished its season with the best record in Pottsgrove history, 16-4.

"It's the belief and attitude that we can win that goes a long way," Joe Tornetta, PHS wrestling coach, said. "We had a group of gentlemen that worked hard before the season to better themselves for when the season came."

The Falcons had their last league match on Saturday, February 15, when they had a victory over

Phoenixville. They also traveled to Kennett High School on February 24 for a non-league match which was a win.

"Our success as a team this year, I feel, is that no matter if we were winning or losing we always pulled together in the end," Scott Ullman, a varsity wrestler, said.

"There wasn't just any one individual on the team," Ron Mace, also a varsity wrestler, said. "We all worked very well together as a team."

Districts will be held today and

tomorrow in New Hope. Regionals will be at William Allen High School in Allentown on March 11-12, and state championships will be held in Hershey on March 17, 18, and 19.

"I give a lot of credit to the support from our student body and faculty because it is the crowd support that gives the wrestlers the little bit extra they need," Coach Tornetta said. "Our team goals were accomplished this year and we have the nucleus for a successful and winning next year."

Coach has mixed emotions about season

by Maggie Schuler

The boys' basketball team finished their season with a 10-12 overall record, and Ralph Werley, head coach, has mixed emotions about the campaign.

Although Mr. Werley thinks his players improved as the season went on, he feels more victories should have been "the fruit of their labors."

"The guys work hard enough and deserve to see victories," Mr. Werley said, "and will in the future."

Mr. Werley, along with his players, is very optimistic about their future season and hopes to instill an attitude of togetherness that was missing in this year's team.

"The chemistry of a team is as

The upcoming team members possess the needed experience to have a better record next year.

"A strong point of next year's team," Greg Delp, a senior forward, said, "is the three returning lettermen."

Shantz, along with juniors Pat Ullman and Jamie Stone, are returning to complete their third year of varsity play.

"We are gaining an incredible amount of experience," Mr. Werley said, "and should show considerable improvement."

The young Falcon team does have two memorable games to carry them into next year. They did avenge the first half defeats of Lansdale Catholic and St. Pius X by defeating them in the second

at the buzzer," according to Mr. Werley.

"To go over to their court and come away with a win is not easy," Mr. Werley said. "That victory definitely makes the season memorable."

Along with exciting wins came close losses as well. Both away games at Spring-Ford and Great Valley were contests that Mr. Werley feels could have easily landed in the Falcons' favor with "the emergence of a single outstanding play" in the final minutes.

"Hopefully, this brilliance will be in games to come," said Mr. Werley, "and that 10-12 record just might be reversed."



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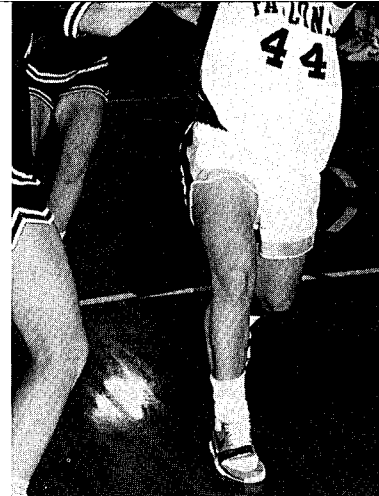
underclassmen and each other," Roxanne Murgia, coach of the girls' basketball team, said. "Pam, Dawn, Dena, and Danielle are a great group to have when you need encouragement and spirit as well as leadership."

The season did have its ups and downs.

"The highpoint of the season was when we lost to Lansdale Catholic (who was undefeated at the time) by two points," Dawn Strunk, a starting senior on the team, said. "It was our best 'team' game we had all season."

"There were also a lot of games that we should have won but lost," Coach Murgia said. "Like when we played Spring-Ford, Great Valley, and Owen J. Roberts for the second time."

One thing that would improve Pottsgrove's girls' basketball program would be to have more interest shown in it.



Controlling play: Danielle Borneman, co-captain, looks for an open team member under the basket while running offense. In the Methacton matchup, the Lady Falcons came through with a 44-38 win.

Jr. high sports teams conclude seasons

by Tara Mizic

Junior high sports concluded their seasons in mid February.

The jr. high varsity boys' basketball team finished the season with a 7-5 record. The varsity consisted of 14 boys, all in ninth grade.

Members of the team included Craig Drummond, Matt Boyer, Jerry Steinmetz, Drew Hoffman, Scott Palladino, Michael Haffey, Michael Tucci, Ryan Barlow, Sean McGlinn, Ron Landis, Gary Bowden and Justin Foster. The team was coached by David Ward and Alan Reed.

The jr. high girls' team experienced a learning year. The team consisted of eight ninth graders; Danielle Jackson, Jen Badgely, Kim Delp, Lisa DeVeterano, Becky Kulp, Maureen Murphy, Cybil Scheidt and Heather Phiel.

"I expected a learning year," Robert Devlin, the girls' head coach said. "There were no real leaders."

Mr. Devlin, assisted by Gary Christ, coached the team to a 2-5 record.

Frank Scaltrito, the jr. high wrestling coach, was assisted by Jim Frank, an ex-Pottsgrove wrestler, who was wrestling technician. The team fell short of a .500 season, as they ended at 5-6.

Ninth graders on the team included Doug Gotsch, Pat Godfrey, Deric Lynch, Chris Smith and Israel Steinmetz. Talented eighth graders were Ryan Speirs, Eric Marks, Brian Shallcross and B.J. Testa.

In the future, Mr. Scaltrito feels that "too many weight classes will be unfilled" because of the lack of numbers.

important as the ability, Mr. Werley said. "It has to be 'we' instead of 'I.'"

Matt Shantz, a junior guard for the Falcons, agrees and hopes the attitude of next year's team improves.

"We need to come together as a team," Matt said, "not play as individuals."



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