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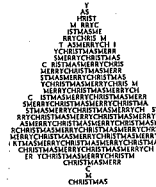
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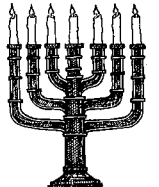


Volume Twenty-eight, Issue Two

Pottsgrove High School

# the falcon

Pottstown, Pennsylvania



December 23, 1988

## newsbriefs

### League says skinhead terror waxing

Gangs of youths that shave their heads and violently advocate white supremacy are growing in numbers, the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith recently reported.

The league, which monitors self-proclaimed hate groups, has found that teenage "skinheads" are now organized in 21 states, compared to 12 in February.

Skinhead youths have been known to attack blacks and Jews and to vandalize synagogues.

In its report, called "Young and Violent: The Growing Menace of America's Neo-Nazi Skinheads," the league noted skinheads seem to be joining forces with the Ku Klux Klan, a secret white supremacy society.

### Cities report teacher shortage

Unruly students and run-down school buildings are making it difficult for big cities to attract qualified teachers. Now a national coalition of some of the largest schools has found many districts are creatively finding solutions.

In its recent survey of 45 urban school districts, the Council of the Great City Schools found that:

## Groups give Holiday Concert

by Jeanette Lotz

The chorus, band and orchestra this afternoon will be presenting their annual Holiday Concert for the student body in the high school auditorium.

The concert follows a presentation to parents and the rest of the community in the high school auditorium Dec. 15.

"The Christmas spirit of the music brings people together," Karen Youse, piano accompanist, said.

To prepare for the concert, the Music Department started practicing in September and has worked all the way through until today's presentation.

The orchestra will start the Holiday Concert by playing "Ron-

deau," "Gloria and Alleluia," "Hymn and Finale" and "Brandenberg Sinfonia."

Soloists from the chorus will be seniors Tara Still and Ronald White and junior Heather Backentose, who will sing "Merry Christmas with Love."

"The concert is about the Christmas season, gifts and family gatherings," Tara said. "It helps you think about the Christmas spirit."

Tara and Ron will be singing "Christmas Wish."

The choraliars will be singing "Carol of the Bells," "Johnny Bring the Pine Tree In" and "Do You Hear What I Hear?"

"Both the winter and spring concerts," Mrs. Nancy Bixler, chorus director, said, "are very important. I hope the students get a lot out of them."

Members of the chorus will be singing "Christmas Day Is on Its Way," "The Christmas Waltz," "On Christmas Day" and "Sing We Noel."

Mrs. Bixler also said that the chorus did not have problems picking out songs for the concert even though members of the group come from diverse religious backgrounds.

The concert band will play three holiday tunes: "Festival of the Eternal Lights," "Bell Carol Fantasy" and "Pat-a-pan."

To end the Holiday concert, the combined band and chorus will perform "Merry Christmas/Happy New Year."

The choraliars voiced their holiday spirit at the St. Paul United Church of Christ on Glasgow and Linden Sts. in Stowe on Dec. 14 for the senior fellowship.

sonnel to teach math and science.

New York City recruits foreign language teachers from Spain, the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico.

Omaha school officials offer University of Nebraska minority students money to tutor elementary and high school students.

### Religious groups can't advertise

Student-run religious groups can't advertise in yearbooks and distribute leaflets that promote off-campus Bible study sessions, the U.S. Supreme Court recently decided by letting a lower court's ruling stand.

Claiming their freedom of speech rights had been violated, two California high school students — prohibited from advertising their off-campus noon-hour prayer group called New Life — sued the Saddleback Valley School District.

But since the group met off-campus, a California appeals court panel ruled the school could ban the religious group from "advertising on campus."

### Urban kids get to visit suburbs

Fifteen students from Wilbur Cross High School in New Haven, Conn., will get first-hand experience of what it means to grow up in the suburbs.

As part of a new cultural exchange course, of sorts, called the Urban/Suburban Connecticut Course, they'll visit Westbrook, a New Haven suburb.

The social studies course is designed to give students an understanding of local governments and people.

### Lottery tickets given for attendance

To encourage Warren Woods Tower High School students to show up for classes, the school's booster club and a local Burger King restaurant have created an "attendance lottery."

Each morning, assistant principal Carl Makel randomly selects a student's name and announces it over the school's public address system.

Provided the student attended all the previous day's classes, the student wins Burger King coupons and at least \$5 in cash.

If a selected student was truant or tardy, the cash award stays in the pot and builds at \$5-a-day until it can be awarded to a punctual student.

### Drug testing becomes prerequisite

Students here now must submit to drug testing in order to be eligible to participate in sports.

The East Chambers Consolidated School District joins two other Texas school districts that have similar policies.

# Nintendo system outsells other toys

by Maggie Schuler

"The Nintendo Action System is definitely the hottest seller of the year," said Mrs. Dee Heath of Playland toy store in the Coventry Mall.

Although Nintendo is new on the scene and selling well, Mrs. Heath said Barbie Dolls are still as popular as ever.

"Barbie dolls are still big sellers," Mrs. Heath said, "and under \$20."

Playland's price range for toys varies; the store has toys from 98

cents up to \$150.

"The smaller toys are used as stocking stuffers," said Mrs. Heath, "and are bought frequently."

Boggle Jr. and Don't Panic are two of the popular board games for Christmas.

Electronic games and toys are hot items for over \$40.

"Train sets and remote control cars are hot but over \$40," said Mrs. Heath, "along with Nintendo and other computer games."

Most board games are under \$20, along with all the action figure

sets, Mrs. Heath said, including G.I. Joe and Ghost Busters.

"Trivial Pursuit is still popular but slowly fading," Mrs. Heath said. "Nintendo is quickly taking over the top spot among popular toys."

She said the large number of games someone can play on Nintendo keeps the interest of the people who buy it.

"The many games and components available," Mrs. Heath said, "makes Nintendo the most popular this season."

## Pottsgrove graduate works as mall Santa

by Melissa Bush

Santa Claus is coming to town.

A new Santa Claus, Pottsgrove graduate Chad Antonio, is listening to the wishes of young and old alike at Coventry Mall.

"I play Santa during the daytime," he said. "An older man comes at night."

According to Chad, Santa has to be able to deal with kids. Chad has previously worked as a camp counselor.

"I'm going to real estate school and I have a break," he said. "I like kids, so I decided I wanted to be Santa."

According to Chad, he put in an application at the mall and was called in after one man was fired.

"I wanted to do something really fun during my break," Chad said, "nothing like construction or being a waiter."

"The most unusual Christmas wish is when people ask for a real reindeer," Chad said.



**Listening to wishes:** Chad Antonio said he took the daytime job as Santa Claus at Coventry Mall because he "wanted to do something really fun."

## the falcon



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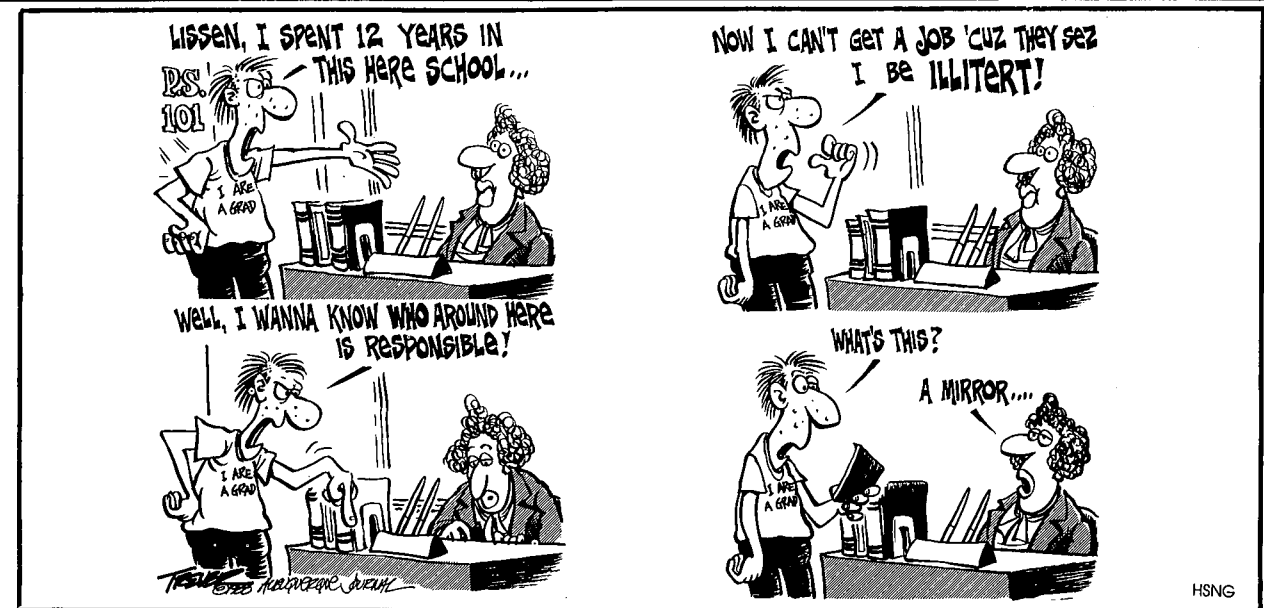
## Allegiance can't be forced

During the recent presidential campaign, the issue of which candidate was the most loyal to his country called attention to the saying of the Pledge of Allegiance every morning in school. Many people feel that the pledge to the flag is very important and should be a ritual followed each morning in the classroom. However, there are also others who believe that having children say the pledge everyday (or at all) is a form of forced patriotism.

George Bush forced Michael Dukakis to take a stand on the issue. Dukakis vetoed a 1977 Massachusetts bill which would have made it mandatory for students to say the pledge in that state every morning. It sounded as though, if Mr. Bush could have his way, saying the Pledge of Allegiance would be mandatory in all schools. This, however, is unconstitutional and also would force patriotism on people.

For one thing, there are certain religious groups which, as a matter of belief, cannot take a secular oath. In addition, a distinct quality about being an American is that no one in this country is ever "forced" to pledge his allegiance or loyalty to anything. That is something which only happens in countries living under oppression.

The current practice of everyone rising and standing every morning during the Pledge of Allegiance in homeroom is enough



## Consumer report:

# Banks, credit unions offer various ways to save

by Jen Bleau

When most students think of saving money, they think of banks and passbook savings accounts. However, there are alternatives, and many of them can earn students higher rates of interest on their savings.

"The difference between a credit union compared to a bank," Mrs. Anne Barndt, vice president of operations at the Tri County Area Federal Credit Union, said, "is that a credit union is owned solely by its members. A bank is more like a business."

Credit unions offer savings accounts, but they also offer ways to earn a higher rate of interest on money than what a savings account provides.

chased in increments of \$25. This is then put into the credit union for one year (if taken out early there will be a penalty charge).

The junior certificates earn interest at 5.375 percent compared to the savings account's 5 percent rate.

There is also a money market account offered at the Credit Union. In a money market account, which earns 5.75 percent, there must always be a minimum balance of \$1,000. If the account would fall below \$1,000 at anytime during the month, then the entire account will earn 4 percent for that particular month.

In a money market account there can be only three withdrawals per month. There is a minimum of \$250

the individual a check for the total amount of money that has been accumulated throughout the year.

Banks also offer their customers alternatives to the passbook savings account, in addition to possibly offering different rates on their accounts. Continental Bank, for instance, offers 5.65 percent interest on its savings accounts, which is higher than Tri County's rate of 5 percent.

A certificate of deposit (CD) is another investment opportunity offered by banks. To open a CD at Continental, there has to be at least a minimum of \$1,000 deposited.

The interest earned depends on how much and how long the money will be in the CD.

"I would mostly suggest savings



If students and teachers want to pledge the flag, they can. If they want to just stand quietly while others pledge allegiance to the flag, they should have that option. After all, this is the country with "liberty and justice for all."

## Kids do good things

Teenagers frequently get a lot of bad press. There are a lot of bad things going on out there, and because of the nature of newspapers, the bad news seems to get the most attention.

However, teenagers are also doing a lot of good things, not only to further themselves but also to help the community. Three clubs, Spanish Club, Key Club and SADD (Students Against Drunk Driving), for instance, are all service clubs which are involved in helping others.

"It is important to reach out to people who are a little less fortunate than ourselves," John Romanoski, Spanish Club adviser, said.

Spanish Club sends money to Save the Children to fulfill some of a foster child's needs.

"We do it primarily as a gesture of concern and love," Mr. Romanoski said. "Felix (Spanish Club's foster child) receives cards from the richest and most powerful country of the world."

Key Club started off the Christmas season with a collection of toys for tots the week of Dec. 5.

"It teaches the kids leadership, commitment and gives them experience to work in the community with old and special people," Mrs. Mae Hanna, Key Club adviser, said. Also, they represent the school and are the greatest public relations group for PHS."

Feeding the needy at Trinity Church and helping the people to and from church services at the Leader Home are two projects that are done once a month by the Key Club members.

Projects that SADD is going to be working on for the Christmas season include afternoon and morning announcements, red ribbons as a reminder to not drink and drive over the holiday season along with pamphlets about drinking and driving and a Driving Under the Influence slogan contest.

"If it encourages just a few students to be safer drivers, it is worth the time," Mrs. Toothaker said.

Of course, students are doing a lot of other things to help others, but the important thing is that though a few students may generate some bad press from time to time a lot of students are generating a lot of good news.

One alternative is a junior certificate, which can be obtained at the Tri County Area Federal Credit Union. A \$25 certificate is the minimum that can be purchased, and certificates can only be pur-

for each withdrawal.

The Credit Union also has a Christmas Club which allows people to put aside a certain amount of money each week. At the end of October, the Credit Union will send

accounts to younger kids," Miss Melissa Dell of customer service at the Continental Bank said. "But if you have the money to put into a CD, that would give you the most return on your money."

## No big increase seen as teachers assign detention

by Holly Lynch

"Letting teachers assign detentions gives them more authority in the classroom," Gary Reed, PHS vice principal, said.

Teachers were given the authority to assign detention at the beginning of second quarter. "This way students aren't penalized by being taken out of class for minor infractions Mr. Reed said. "If a more severe infraction is committed, then the student is referred to the office."

For most minor infractions, teachers assign one night of detention. Minor infractions include lateness to class, not completing homework, chewing gum and excessive talking. If the teacher thinks that a student's behavior is more severe, then the student is given a referral and sent to the office. There Mr. Reed may assign more than one night's detention.

"Many students worried that the teachers could not handle the situation judiciously," Mr. Reed said,

"but only a few have questioned it."

Mr. Reed said that he wouldn't know if the number of detentions had increased until the end of the year. "There have not been as many as I had anticipated," he said.

Overall, Mr. Reed believes that letting teachers assign detention is working out very well. "The number of complaints from students has been minimal," Mr. Reed said, "and it lets me pursue other tasks."

### On the big screen:

## Bill Murray gets unscrooged by Dickens ghosts

by Carolyn Cooper

Frank Cross in the movie **Scrooged** is haunted by the same ghosts that visited Ebenezer Scrooge in Charles Dickens' **A Christmas Carol**.

Portrayed by Bill Murray, Cross is a TV network president who has not yet caught onto the Christmas spirit. His idea of a Christmas special on TV is one which is advertised as being so good that people will be scared to death to miss it.

Cross fires an employee on Christmas Eve and gives his poor secretary a towel instead of the usual \$200 bonus. The secretary

is the equivalent to Bob Cratchit, and her son, who cannot speak, is comparable to Tiny Tim.

Cross, when visited by the ghosts of Christmas Past and Present, is scared into calling Claire Phillips (played by Karen Allen), who is an old flame. The rekindled love between Cross and Phillips sparks the movie's ending.

The ghost of Christmas Present is played by Carol Kane, of **Taxi** fame. Whenever Cross does something wrong or insults someone, Christmas Present gets physical with him, to the delight of theater audiences.

The ghost of Christmas Future shows Cross his own funeral. The thought of dying is enough to scare Cross into the Christmas spirit. In fact, the first thing he does when the ghost fades away is to rehire the employee he had fired and to double his old salary.

Cross was truly saved from himself. The end of the movie is uplifting. Cross goes on to live television and tells people the true meaning of Christmas.

**Scrooged** is a light comedy and an entertaining seasonal film. Cross brings across a very special Christmas message.

**Dates can turn violent****Victims may be too ashamed to report attack**

by Tab Mizic

"Many people are too ashamed and embarrassed to report (their rape)," Miss Cynthia Gilhool, executive director of Victim Services Center, said.

"Date rape" is becoming a common phrase. "The reason it is called date rape is that the male expects some type of goods and services in exchange for what is spent on the date," Sgt. Ray Bechtel, Lower Pottsgrove morals investigator and "kiddie crimes" officer, said.

Rape is defined by law as sexual intercourse, by force or threat of force, with another person, without the consent of that person. The general rule for rape is that the accused's past sexual conduct, reputation and opinion evidence shall not be allowed in prosecutions except if there is evidence of the victim's past sexual conduct with the defendant which she consented to.

"One out of eight people will be physically assaulted while on a date," Miss Roxanne Murgia, PHS gym and health teacher, said.

For a person who is raped while

on a date, it is more likely that she will suffer more emotionally than physically.

"A sense of terrible fear and violation of your person tend to lead people to blame themselves," Miss Gilhool said. "Anger at the assailant for taking over a period of your life and not having control, as well as shame and guilt lead people

**"...They don't want anyone to find out about it."**

to lose confidence in selecting a future companion."

"Victims feel hesitant to go out. They'll avoid public contact because they don't want anyone to find out about it," Miss Murgia said. "They won't report it because family, friends and acquaintances will find out about it."

Date rape victims tend to be more cautious, more fearful. "It's natural to have it on your mind," Miss Gilhool said.

Eighty percent of all date rape

victims are by someone they've dated before," Miss Murgia said. "They've lost all their trust and it will make them think twice about a second relationship."

The first thing a person should do when any form of rape occurs is call the police.

"The victim tends to be afraid to report it. They think the policeman will blame her," Sgt. Bechtel said. "They are highly trained in morals crime. They understand the embarrassment."

The person should not change her clothing or bathe. This is so that hair and fluids can be collected for evidence. The person should also tell her parents, according to Sgt. Bechtel.

The victim may also opt for the emergency room of a nearby hospital, where they will do a rape examination and call the police for the victim.

Miss Gilhool also suggests that the victim call a counselor. A good source would be WAR (Women Against Rape) at 277-5200.

**Pottsgrovians make some unusual Christmas wishes**

by Melissa Bush

'Tis the season to be jolly. Christmas is a time for giving, but it is also a time for receiving. Some Pottsgrove students have some unusual Christmas wishes for things that they hope to receive:

**Sona Rewari, junior:** "Move to Phoenix, Arizona."

**John Romanoski, junior:** "Free clothes from Pottstown Orthopedic Center. I want to be like the Whittakers."

**Adrianna Shadlow, senior:** "To graduate, and for Mr. Davidson to stop calling me 'Adrianna-"

**Dave Angelo, senior:** "A new nose for Tony."

**Julie Madaras, sophomore:** "Money."

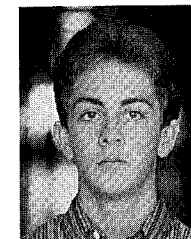
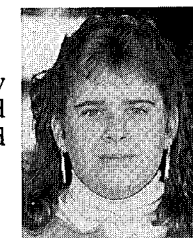
**Kelly Vevasis, sophomore:** "Clothes."

**Tony Brennan, senior:** "Jim Toth with a red ribbon and Dave Angelo."

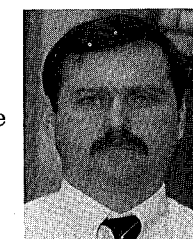
**'Falcon' asks...**

What was the best gift you ever received and why?

**Tracie Rheel, junior:** "When I got my room redecorated because I had waited for years to switch rooms and have it decorated like I wanted."



**Mike Tucci, freshman:** "My first baseball card because it got me started in collecting baseball cards."



**Robert Devlin, teacher:** "A microwave oven. I hate to cook!"



**Stacy Bergman, senior:** "Our puppy because I've been asking for one for years and have finally gotten it."

**Living with looking like someone else**

While for some people it may be just a dream to look like someone else, for several Pottsgrove twins it's a fact of life.

While the Dunns said that they both like to play field hockey, seniors Debbie and Dotty Strunk said that they shared a lot of com-

**Jake Egolf**, freshman: "Matt Hare to come back to Pottsgrove."  
**Christine Goffice**, junior: "My dad to come back and visit Jen and Stacy Dunn."  
**Adrienne Houck**, junior: "A great senior year and to graduate."  
**Mark Ingham**, senior: "World peace."  
**Dawn Keller**, senior: "A new car."  
**Tracy Koneski**, junior: "A fun vacation from school and a better year for 1989."

**June Tommessen**, sophomore: "Computer games."  
**Chuck Valentine**, sophomore: "Anarchy."  
**Jen Wagner**, sophomore: "A trip to Australia."  
**Wendy Yost**, freshman: "A stereo system."  
**Tom Zadoyko**, sophomore: "Skis."  
**Lisa Dunlap**, junior: "Gold jewelry."  
**Samantha Venzke**, junior: "A stereo."

**Emanuela Palumbo**, senior: "A ticket out of Pottstown."  
**Kristen Masleh**, sophomore: "Clothes."  
**Barb Mitchell**, sophomore: "A car."  
**Ann Warlow**, senior: "A car that runs."  
**Nicole Arnold**, junior: "Free car insurance."  
**Joey Biskey**, freshman: "A car."  
**Becky Kulp**, freshman: "Peter Zezel to come back to Philly."

grade on April 10's day, Mike Lavery said, indicating how much he looks like his brother Brett.

Jen and Stacey Dunn said that some people also mistake their voices on the phone. "We've already switched places over the phone," Jen said.

Two tenth graders who are hard to tell apart are Mark and Mike Hessler. "We've never wished that we weren't twins," Mark

"We like to play tennis, go horseback riding and go shopping together," Debbie said.

"You're never bored because you always have someone to talk to," Dottie said.

Twins usually find that they have to spend a lot of time together. "Our room gets crowded and it's hard to keep neat," Brett Lavery said. Brett also said that he shares the same friends with his brother.

## *It hinges on more than the flip of a coin*

# *Superintendent decides when to cancel school*

by Tara Mizic

In the wee hours of winter mornings, when snow is piling up outside, and Pottsgrove students are still asleep, important decisions are being made.

Dr. Alvin Coleman, superintendent of Pottsgrove School District, awakes at 4:30 on mornings when inclement weather is expected. He looks out of the windows of his home in Stowe, turns on the radio to listen to numerous weather reports, and checks the thermometers located around his house.

If Dr. Coleman feels he has any doubts on whether or not to conduct school that day, he begins to consult the opinions of others. He first telephones Charles Dickinson, the bus contractor, to discuss the condition of the roads.

"If we feel that we cannot transport the students safely, I call off school," Dr. Coleman said. "The roads may be too unsafe or the wind chill factor may be extremely low. Each situation is different."

Before a decision is made, Dr. Coleman continues his consensus. He contacts the superintendents of area schools such as Pottstown, Owen J. Roberts, Spring-Ford, Boyertown and Upper Perk. He must take into consideration that if two of the three schools that participate in the vo-tech program close, the vo-tech school also closes.

If Dr. Coleman is still unsure, he may call the police stations within the school district.

"There is no formula," Dr. Coleman said. "It's just a matter of using your own judgment."

When the weather is really bad and the schools must close, Dr. Coleman begins to notify the administration, teachers, parents and students.

"I must make a decision by 6:00 a.m.," Dr. Coleman said. "The first call I make is to WPAZ by using a special code that is given to me. Then I call Mr. (Ken) Saylor, our business manager, and Mr. (Richard) Frank, the principal at the vo-tech school."

Finally, each of the five principals is notified. Each prin-

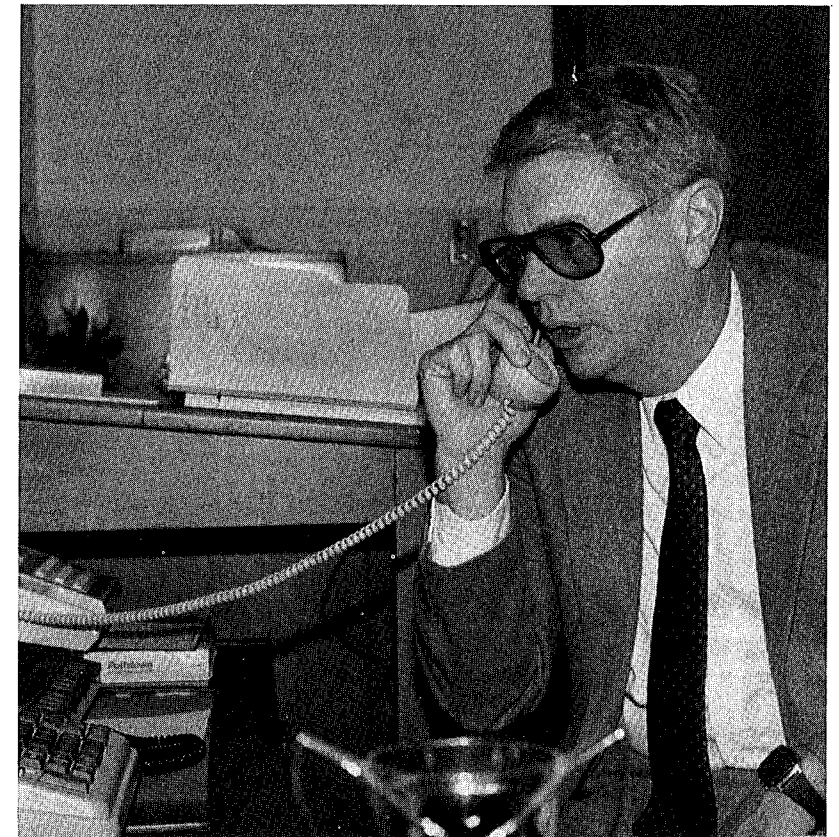
cipal begins his phone chain by calling three or four teachers, who call three or four other teachers, etc. This saves time and enables everyone to be notified as soon as possible.

Every once in a while, a mistake is made. There have even been times when classes have been conducted and the weather got worse. In this case, Dr. Coleman calls for an early dismissal.

"Parents should make arrangements for children to have somewhere to go in case an early dismissal is needed," Dr. Coleman said.

On the other hand, there have been situations where school has been called off when it could have been open. Sometimes weather reports predict bad snow storms which would make school impossible. Even if the snow hasn't started, school may be cancelled as a precaution. The storm may change direction and never hit the area.

"Weather is a difficult thing to predict," said Dr. Coleman. "No one is perfect. Everyone makes mistakes."



**Calling off school:** The final decision concerning whether or not to call off school because of weather rests on the shoulders of Superintendent of Schools Dr. Alvin Coleman, who over the years has worked out a system of checks to determine when it is wise to cancel classes.



*One priority is teacher's classroom contribution*

## School looks for best when hiring

by Melissa Bush

"We look for the best possible teacher for Pottsgrove students," Dr. Richard Radel, PHS principal, said, concerning how new teachers are picked to be hired. "We look for someone who has done well in school and was on the dean's list in college."

The first thing Dr. Radel does when hiring new teachers is to advertise at colleges and universities. He also advertises in newspapers as far as Easton, Allentown, Bethlehem and Reading.

Last year PHS received over 100 applications for retired teacher Joseph Dori's English position, according to Dr. Radel. Pottsgrove also received over 65 applications for math positions and over 45 applications for guidance positions.

Dr. Radel then reads through all the applications and picks the top applicants.

### Priority

"The first priority I look for is what the teacher can contribute in the classroom," he said. "The second priority is what the teacher can do for the school, such as athletics, publications or drama."

After Dr. Radel interviews the top applicants, he refers them to Gary Reed, PHS vice principal, and to the department chairman for interviews. Then they all meet to discuss and decide on the best applicant.

"Then Dr. Coleman (Pottsgrove's superintendent) and the school board must approve," Dr. Radel said. "Once approved, the person is employed."

### Balance

According to Dr. Radel, Pottsgrove tries to keep a balance between male and female teachers. He also looks for younger teachers.

"I look for the best, but I have to have a perspective for the entire faculty," he said. "Many of our teachers are getting older, so I do look for younger people. Many of the teachers I hired this year are young."

"I think we're blessed at Pottsgrove," Dr. Radel said, "to have such high quality teachers. We have a good mix."



**Applicants screened:** Dr. Richard Radel said that the first priority he has when screening applications for teaching positions is whether or not the teacher can make a real contribution in the classroom. "The second priority is what the teacher can do for the

## Program tries to keep kids drug-free

by Jeanette Lotz

Mrs. Temah Copelovitch, president of the Pottsgrove Activities for Youth (PAY) program, has some high expectations for the program.

"The reason for the program," Mrs. Copelovitch said, "is to try to provide fun things for children and teenagers to do in a drug- and alcohol-free environment."

PAY last year sponsored a lip sync program at the high school where students could perform and attempt to win cash prizes.

According to Mrs. Copelovitch, the lip sync program was the single most successful event ever at the high school in the past 17 years.

Proceeds from the lip sync program are being saved and are

going to be put toward a seminar to train teenagers to talk to younger kids about drugs and alcohol.

PAY includes many high school and intermediate students who help organize events.

"The program would not be successful if it were not for the students," Mrs. Copelovitch said. "Without their help we could not have accomplished much."

PAY meetings take place monthly and anybody interested may attend. Plans are going into action for another lip sync program to take place here and for programs at each elementary school.

The other officers of PAY are Vice President Ginny Hummel, Secretary Lee DiVeterano, and Treasurer Maria Boyer.

## Males score highest on SAT

by Shawnn Shafer

Nine students out of 1.7 million received 1600's on the 1985-86 SAT (Scholastic Aptitude Test) and all of them were males. Studies have shown that the average for the 1988 SAT scores have dropped for the first time in eight years, but minority students have gained ground since last year.

The scores were the highest in states where a small percentage of high school seniors took the exam. "The SAT is taken by 1.1 million college-bound students each year," the College Board has reported

Eastern Coast. In addition, the average scores have dropped from two to five points.

The number of Pottsgrove students who took the SAT exam last year dropped by about 15 people. Pottsgrove's verbal mean for the past 26 years was an average of 463 (the national mean was 427). Pottsgrove's math mean was an average of 503, exceeding the national average of 479.

"The number of test-takers has risen 13 percent since 1986 and the number of minority students went up 1 percent," President Donald Stewart of the College Board said.

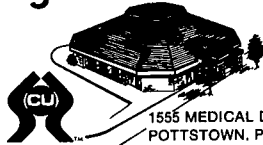
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school, such as athletics, publications or drama," he said.

## Staffs travel to state convention

by Shawnn Shafer

Members from the **Falcon** and **Pottsgrovian** staffs attended the annual PSPA (Pennsylvania School Press Association) Convention on Nov. 11 at the Holiday Inn in Harrisburg.

A variety of sessions were available to the students throughout the day.

Pennsylvania has the lowest test scores out of seven states on the

"We want to let the students keep up on the latest information in the areas of publications and meet other students who share their interests," Ronald Schafer, PHS's director of publications, said. "Also, they are able to see other yearbooks and newspapers from other schools."

Among the speakers, Tom McNichol, sports editor at the **Mercury** and Ray Fulmer, language arts supervisor for the Boyertown Area School District, presented sessions to the students in attendance.

"We hope to gain some new ideas for our feature stories and improve the content of the book," Michelle Cohen, editor-in-chief of **Pottsgrovian**, said, concerning some of the things she and members of her staff hoped to obtain from attending the convention.

Claude Lewis, a syndicated columnist, was the guest speaker.

Charles Parrish, PHS adviser to the publication staffs, held two sessions, giving tips for beginning photographers.

**Pottsgrovian** earned a PSPA Keystone rating and **Falcon** a First Place rating in the publication judging of last year's efforts.

ed last year, especially blacks, had stronger gains in their scores. The number of black test-takers has risen 39 percent in three years.

"Minority students' scores are raising because there are now federal programs that assist poor students that did not exist 20 years ago," Robert Cameron, a college board researcher, said.

Test critics feel that the SAT is biased against women both in its wording and content. College Board officials deny the bias charge and feel that the schools may be to blame for steering females into less demanding curricula.

## Club raises money to help retarded

by Dawn Kulp

So far this year Key Club has been involved in over 10 projects. Along with their annual dance at the beginning of the year, they have also collected toys for tots, had a canned goods collection and wrapped presents at Plymouth Meeting Mall, with the profits going to help Montgomery County retarded citizens.

"We are always looking for new projects," said Mrs. Mae Hanna, club adviser. "The Christmas season is always the busiest time of the year. There are so many worthwhile projects."

Key Club also participates in monthly projects such as feeding the hungry at Trinity Church and helping senior citizens to church at the Leader Home.

Although the Key Club participates in many community projects, Mrs. Hanna said that there is really very little for her to do.

"Now almost all of the projects are handled by the students themselves," she said. "I see a lot of real leadership developing."

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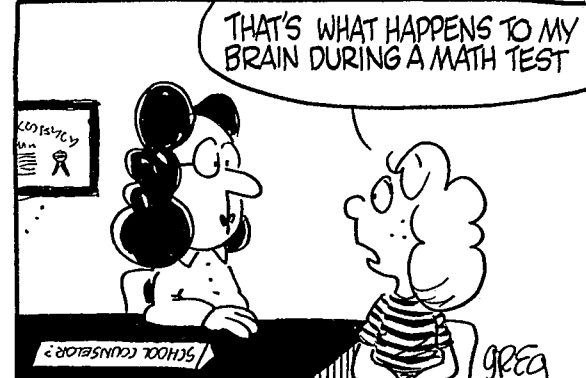
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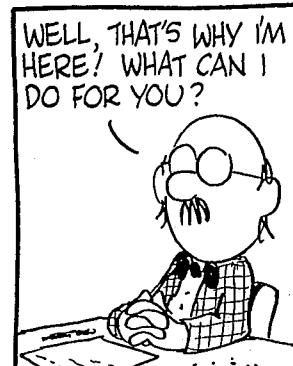
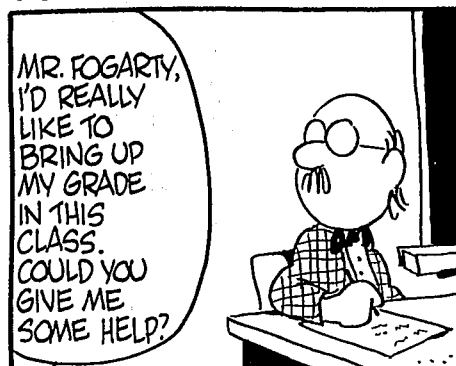
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BY GREG EVANS



FOGARTY

BY GREG EVANS



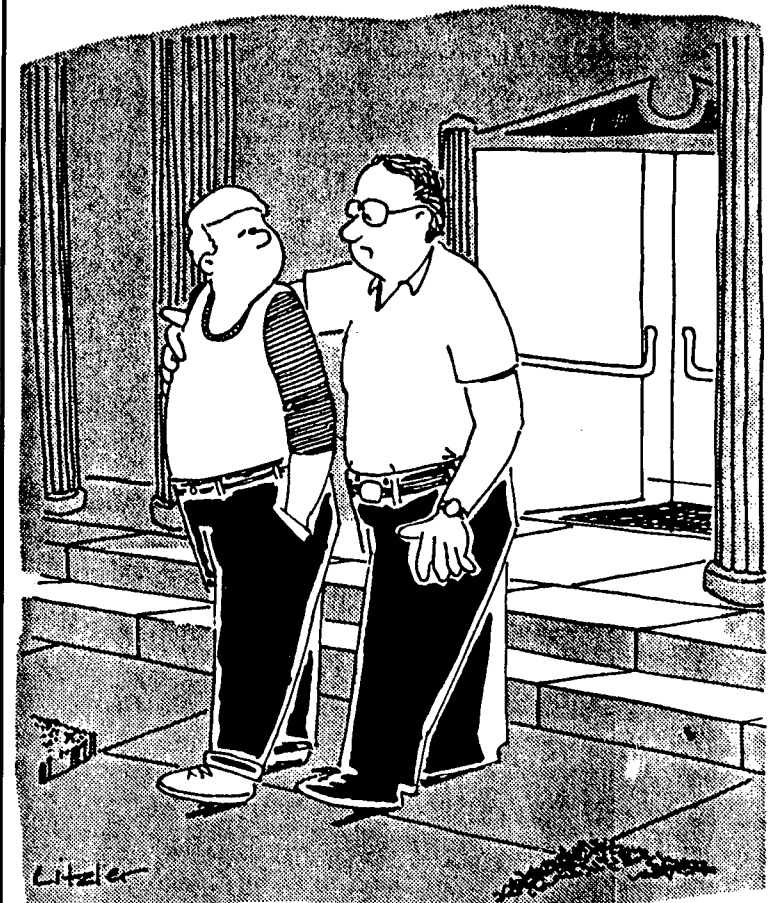
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BY TOM BATIUK



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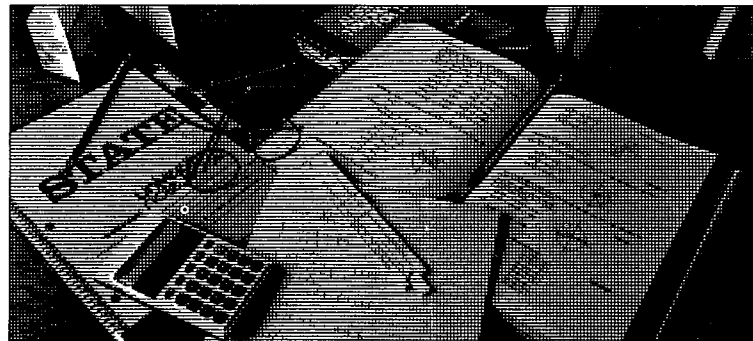
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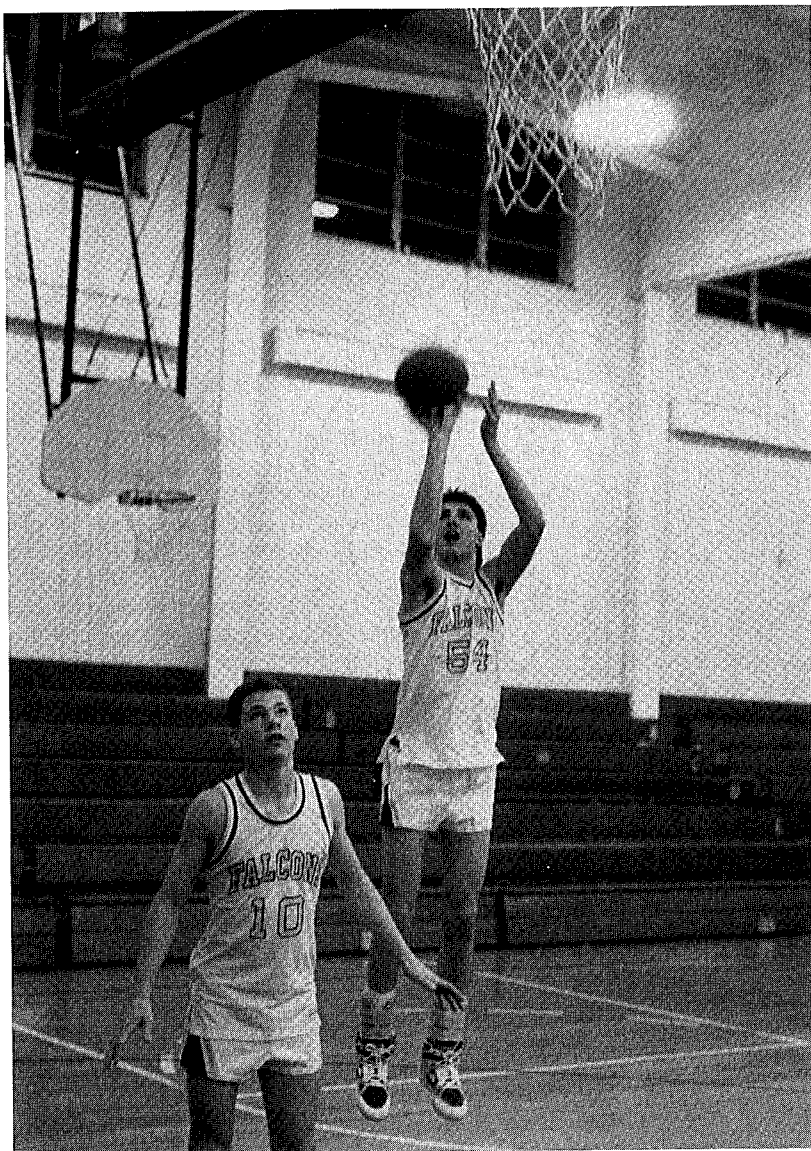
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**Playing host:** Matt Shantz, a junior playing varsity guard, and Jamie Stone, a junior playing varsity center, will be trying to lead the Falcon basketball team to a victory over Owen J. Roberts, a team which just entered the PAC-10 this year.

**Thomas in second year as trainer**

## After not meeting for two years:

# Hoopsters host Wildcat squad

by Jeanette Lotz

The Falcon basketball team will host Owen J. Roberts tonight at 6:30.

O.J.R. is new to the Pioneer Athletic Conference, and the Falcons have not played them in two years. But Scott Goffice, senior and captain of the team, said that he knows quite a bit about the Wildcats.

"Last year they had a record of 3-20," Goffice said. "They are a small team with nobody over 6 feet 2 inches."

The Falcon team consists of 16 players. Varsity has two seniors and seven juniors on it.

"Last year we played a lot of underclassmen," Goffice said, "which gave them a lot of valuable experience on the court."

Goffice also said that this year any player could light up the

scoreboard.

Last year we had a very good player in Jason Bearden," Goffice said. "If we needed a basket, he could get one for us. This year it could be anyone, depending on who's hot during that particular game."

Since coaches Ralph Werley and David Burkert both have had experience playing and coaching basketball, Goffice said that during the game one of them might see something to help the team get an advantage.

## Falcons grapple at tournament

by Maggie Schuler

The Falcon wrestlers will be traveling to the mats of Upper Merion High School Saturday to compete with seven other area schools, with the JV contests beginning at 11 a.m.

"The wrestlers will get the chance to both learn and teach at this tournament," Joe Tornetta, PHS wrestling coach, said.

**"We do not have many unskilled wrestlers."**

Going up against some of the top wrestlers in the state, Coach Tornetta feels the team's experienced individuals should do very well.

"One of the strong points in this year's team," he said, "is the excellence we have in the upper weights."

Coach Tornetta thinks this tournament will be a definite learning experience for the smaller weights can develop quickly," he said, "we hope to have a successful season."

In the past years, PHS has had weak experienced teams but, according to Coach Tornetta, this isn't the case with the wrestlers.

"We do not have many unskilled wrestlers," he said, "and our numbers are definitely greater."

Coach Tornetta said that the high maturity level of this year's team is one of the strengths that will get them through the season.

"The senior members show leadership," he said, "and the overall enthusiasm of the squad is great."

Coach Tornetta said wrestling fans attending the Upper Merion

**"Defense is the key...."**

"They work together to get us well prepared for the game," Goffice said.

Goffice feels that one of the team's strong points is the fast break.

"We have two good guards and people who can run the floor well," Goffice said. "Defense is the key though. If we play a good defense, we will be a complete team that will be tough to beat."

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# Better conditioning reduces injuries

by Shawnn Shafer

Jack Thomas, PHS trainer, had seen over 200 injuries by November with 125 of them being from football.

"The number of injuries has decreased from last year because the guys are in better shape and condition," Mr. Thomas said, who is in his second year here. "The best way to prevent injuries is through conditioning by lifting weights or running."

ning."

When a student goes to the trainer for an injury, Mr. Thomas first determines if the person has to go to the hospital or see a doctor. A doctor is contacted if the injury is serious. A real bad injury warrants being contacted right away. Otherwise, Mr. Thomas waits a couple of days.

"Most of the people who had to go to the hospital had knee injuries," Mr. Thomas said. "The most common type of injury this year has been in the knees."

The qualifications necessary to obtain a career as a trainer are a bachelor of science degree in health and physical education, four years in the athletic training curriculum and a national certification.

"Football has the most injuries because it is a very physical sport with a lot of collisions," Mr. Thomas said.

This year there are two student trainers to help Mr. Thomas.

"At certain times I would like to have more trainers," Mr. Thomas said.

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# Golf team coached to winning season

by Tara Mizic

Joseph Dori, a retired PHS teacher, coached the golf team to a 6-2 record. The team finished second in the league to champion Perk Valley.

"We achieved more than we anticipated," Mr. Dori said. "We had a good season."

John Dagenhart and Todd Doering led the team as first and second seed, respectively.

"This season, we had an excellent team," Todd said. "Not only did we have a good season, but we had a lot of fun, too. In order to have a good team next year, the team needs more participation."

There were nine members of this year's team. Five players will graduate leaving the team in need of participants.

"Seven players are needed for a team," Mr. Dori said. "I have one junior and three freshmen to work with next year. We need more players. Hopefully, the spring program will generate some interest at the intermediate school level."

Although Mr. Dori no longer teaches at Pottsgrove, he still enjoys coaching.

"I like young people and I'm interested in golf," Mr. Dori said. "That's why I became a teacher. I devote my concerns and efforts to the school, students and golf."

# Tennis tally doesn't show how team played

by Dawn Kulp

A team's record doesn't always reflect on the way they played, as was so with girls' tennis team who finished their season with a 3-6 record.

"Your record doesn't always show how you played," said Ann Warlow, a senior on the team who was seeded first for the first half of the season. "You could play a great game and lose by only two points and no one would ever know by looking at your record."

With the addition of two strong tennis teams to the league, Great

Valley and Owen J. Roberts, the Lady Falcons were still fairly successful. "We didn't expect to do as well as we did," said girls' tennis coach James Regensburg.

One of the season's most memorable games was against Lansdale Catholic, whom Pottsgrove beat for the first time this year. "One of our goals every year is to beat someone we haven't beaten in the past," added Coach Regensburg.

"Our greatest strength this year was the experience we had on the team, and next year we aren't going to have it," said Coach Regensburg.

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