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the falcon

Pottsgrove High School

Pottstown, Pennsylvania

Volume Twenty-eight, Issue One

November 23, 1988

newsbriefs

Teens think they're under stress

Teenagers feel they're under a great deal of stress and report that many of their friends try to commit suicide, researchers have found after surveying more than 3,000 young people.

Almost three-fourths of the teenagers surveyed by the publishers of "Who's Who Among American High School Students," a directory of high-achieving youths, said they feel they face more serious problems than previous generations of teenagers.

In another survey, the National Association of Psychiatric Hospitals found that 27 percent of the youths questioned knew a teenager who'd tried to commit suicide.

Principals feel the heat, too

If teenagers think they've got it rough, they ought to try being a high school principal for a day.

John Gardner, former U.S. Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare and now a school management lecturer, recently compared principals' jobs to the demanding jobs of city mayors. They, too, constantly must deal with the public

Five teachers join faculty

by Jen Bleau

PHS has added five new teachers to the faculty: Miss Karen Droga, math and chemistry; Miss Brenda Wegmand, math; Miss Roxanne Murgia, physical education; Mrs. Lynne VanZandt, guidance, and Lawrence Rechtin, English.

Miss Droga received her B.A. from Yale University where she majored in math and psychology, and also had a minor in chemistry.

In college she was involved in tutoring and Upward Bound, a program to help prepare disadvantaged city students for college.

"I want to help each student challenge him- or herself, whatever that challenge may be," Ms. Droga

Miss Murgia is involved with activities in the school. She coached softball for two years and is currently the head coach for the girls' basketball team. Miss Murgia is also in charge of the ping pong tournament which is held by the Pottsgrove recreation program.

Mrs. VanZandt received her B.S. from Saint Lawrence where she majored in psychology and sociology. She spent her junior year abroad in England.

She also received her M.S. at Villanova, where she majored in counseling, and she is also qualified to teach social studies.

Mrs. VanZandt worked for six years at Gettysburg College and Colgate University in college admissions. She also was a career counselor at Villanova.

"I want students to come away feeling that I helped them," said Mrs. VanZandt, "either with a pro-

(continued on p. 4, col. 5)



"The cross pressures are tremendous as different people want different things of them and of the system," he said.

Good principals must have nerves of steel, and make sound judgments "while people are shouting" at them, Gardner told members of the National Association of Secondary School Principals.

SAT scores still in slump

The scores of the college-entrance exams taken last spring by 1.1 million high school graduates remained about the same as the past four years.

Administered by the College Board, the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) is scored on a scale of 200-to-800.

This year average verbal test scores fell two points to 428, while the math scores held steady at an average of 476.

Minority students, however, made substantial gains. On the math portion of the test, black college-bound students scored 384, seven points higher than last year.

The standardized test has been criticized for being biased against minority and female students.

Teachers could be hurting students

A startling percentage of high school biology teachers lack a basic understanding of scientific rudiments and facts, and could be intellectually harming American students, two sociology professors warned.

In a national survey of about 400 biology teachers selected at random from a list of 20,000, University of Texas at Arlington researchers Drs. Raymond Eve and Dana Dunn found that only 5 percent of those surveyed knew that science is a method of drawing a conclusion based on facts.

Almost 20 percent of the biology teachers surveyed thought dinosaurs and humans lived at the same time.

Dinosaurs in fact were extinct by the end of the Mesozoic period, long before humans walked the earth.

Teachers' knowledge gaps are being passed down to American science students. This year the International Association for the Evaluation of Education Achievement found that U.S. students knew less about biology than their high school counterparts from 13 other countries.

'Chic' high tries to raise money

Move over Halston and Calvin Klein, Beverly Hills High School students are trying to take the fashion world by storm.

Hoping to earn a cool quarter-of-a-million dollars this year for their school district, students from the posh Los Angeles suburb — using the school's name and logo — have designed a fashion line.

Their t-shirts and sweat shirts go on sale this fall.

Miss Wegmand received her B.S. from Penn State University where she majored in math.

Miss Wegmand is the new advisor for the cheerleaders.

"I thought this would be a good way to get involved with the students outside the classroom," Miss Wegmand said.

Miss Murgia received her B.S. from Lock Haven University, where she majored in health and recreation.

She has been a substitute teacher for three years (mostly for PHS), and she is a former student of PHS.

"I feel comfortable here," Miss Murgia said.



Staff additions: To fill in gaps caused by retirements and to expand the staff, PHS has hired five new teachers: Miss Roxanne Murgia, Miss Karen Droga, Lawrence Rechtin, Miss Brenda Wegmand and Mrs. Lynne VanZandt.

Art teacher plans England retirement

by Maggie Schuler

Art teacher Mrs. Nancy Rooney, who has taught at PHS for 22 years, plans to retire at the end of December.

Mrs. Rooney will be moving to a suburb of London, England, to be with her parents. Although Mrs. Rooney is originally from California, she grew up in England and is looking forward to her return there.

The trip will not be a new one to Mrs. Rooney. "In 1980, I took a sabbatical leave to go to England and I have spent my summer vacations there," Mrs. Rooney said.

PHS principal, Dr. Richard Radel, said the administration is still in the process of securing a replacement for Mrs. Rooney.

"Mrs. Rooney is a very talented individual and I am very happy for her," Dr. Radel said. "She has done a fine job teaching art and helping her students."

Mrs. Rooney will be taking with her many memories of the past 22 years she has spent at PHS. She

said she has enjoyed meeting people and encountering many students who are talented artists.

"I have mixed emotions towards Mrs. Rooney's retirement," Dr.

Radel said. "I am very happy for her and I feel she is ready to retire, but I am sad in that we will miss her as being part of the faculty here at Pottsgrove."



Mrs. Rooney to retire after 22 years of teaching: "I am sad in that we will miss her as being part of the faculty here at Pottsgrove," said Dr. Richard Radel, about the announced plans of art teacher Mrs. Nancy Rooney.



the falcon

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Strong leadership

In past years it has seemed as though Student Government elections were nothing more than popularity contests. During the campaigns the candidates would propose ideas for the betterment of the school. But, after being elected and inducted, all these ideas were simply forgotten.

The Student Government officers of this school year seem very determined to live up to the expectations of the student body and to try to put in effect some of those ideas that they proposed last spring.

Jeff Pennington (president) and Dave Neiman (vice president) have already been hard at work thinking of ways to reach some of the goals that they have set for themselves.

One of the biggest ideas that they have come up with is that of trying to get lights for the football field. This will take quite a bit of money and be a very time consuming project, but both Jeff and Dave are determined to see this project come through.

The lights for the football field is not the only project that Student Government hopes to accomplish this year. They also would like to have a "shorts campaign," sell new and a wider range of products in the school store, as well as the bonfire planned for tonight.

The Student Government of the 1988-89 school year has a strong group of officers, not to mention devoted representatives

HSNG

THOMAS:



SPOT THE
ROLE
MODEL:



‘They weren’t motivated’

President pushes shorts policy

by Tara Mizic

"Last year's Student Government officers had no desire to do anything," said Jeff Pennington, president of the 1988-89 Pottsgrove Student Government. "They weren't motivated."

However, Jeff thinks Student Government has turned around.

Jeff met with the Falcon staff on October 20 to discuss Student Government's plans for the upcoming year. He said that he and the other officers have many things they would like to get accomplished.

“We can’t just settle for ‘no,’” Jeff said. “If we are turned down, we will start a petition to be signed by both students and parents.”

Student Government would also like to get lights for the football field. The cost of the lights would be \$55,000. The officers plan to attend a school budget meeting to request the lights. Also, they plan to contact the athletic director at Owen J. Roberts High School to learn more about how the lights could be acquired. Donations and fundraisers would be needed to raise the money.

Another project, the painting of

store is showing a profit for the first time in a few years. A source of wood was obtained for the Thanksgiving bonfire planned for tonight and a message board was placed in the cafeteria to keep all students abreast of school activities.

According to Jeff, Student Government is working well together. Dave helps out with the message board, Secretary Ann Warlow contributes opinions and does the organization's typing, and Treasurer Jim Toth manages the school store and the money.

"I want to set a standard for future Student Governments," Jeff

and an active student body. The Student Government a successful organization.

Reasons to quit

Currently more than 54 million people in the United States alone are smokers.

Lung cancer is the chief disease acquired by cigarette smoking. Twenty-five percent of all cancer deaths in the U.S. are due to lung cancer from smoking. Smoking increases the user's blood pressure. A person who smokes has a 5 percent increase in the risk of dying from chronic bronchitis and emphysema. There is also twice the risk over nonsmokers of having a heart and/or coronary disease.

Smoking is also associated with tragedies such as fires. In the past decade alone, 138,000 fires have been caused by lit cigarettes. Many of the fires were caused by people smoking in bed. The person forgot about the lit cigarette and fell asleep.

A smoking habit can be broken. It's not easy to give up smoking, but it isn't impossible either. However, there are more than enough reasons to quit.

editorial policy

The *Falcon*, a student newspaper designed to inform the Pottsgrove community and provide an educational experience for its staff members, announces its editorial policy:

1) The editorial staff of *Falcon* refuses to print libelous or obscene materials and reserves the right to edit objectionable material from articles and letters.

2) Unsigned editorials published on this page are the opinion of the editorial staff.

3) Editorials appearing elsewhere in the newspaper or in an "Opinion" column are the opinion of the named writer.

4) All letters addressed to the editor must be signed by the writer in order for them to be considered for publication. Upon request the staff will omit the writer's name when the letter is published.

5) *Falcon* reserves the right to edit and delete material from letters to make them grammatically correct or meet space limitations.

At the top of the list, the officers would like to see a "shorts policy" started at Pottsgrove which would permit students to wear shorts to school. Their slogan is "physical comfort enhances scholastic performance."

Jeff and Vice President David Neiman will approach Dr. Richard Radel, PHS principal, on the issue.

the senior lounge, was tackled by Tammy Smoll, Adrianna Shadlow, Gina Rossi, Donna and Dana Overholtzer and Jeff. A survey was conducted last spring in which the entire Senior Class voted for which 15 music groups were to be painted on the walls.

Student Government is working on other projects, too. The school

said. "I could see other students' reactions and it inspired me to run. I made up my mind to get things done."

Jeff also said that he urges anyone who has any suggestions to contact him or one of the other representatives. Also, everyone is invited to attend the meetings held during floating period.

On the big screen:

Movie explores problems of rape victim

by Carolyn Cooper

The Accused, an intense drama directed by Jonathan Kaplan, brings to the screen the injustices that were done to a rape victim. It shows that the "accused" may end up being, in a rape, the victim.

Kelly McGillis portrays Kathryn Murphy, the lawyer. Sarah Tobias, played by Jodie Foster, is the rape victim. Both actresses are outstanding at their parts. The cold way that Murphy treats Tobias when they first meet indicates a large gap in their social behavior. The way they dissolve the gap and come to understand one another makes for an interesting side-story.

The story starts after the rape. The way the rape is presented

through flashbacks provides for some suspense in the movie. The story of the rape is fully revealed, however, at the trial at the end of the movie.

A sad, but true point is brought up in this movie. With a predominantly male court system, the rape victim is assumed to have "asked for it" unless it can be proved otherwise.

Tobias is not exactly an ideal witness. She had a fight with her boyfriend and went to a bar drunk the night of the rape. After flirting with some of the men there, she is held to a pinball machine while she is repeatedly raped. A crowd cheered her attackers on.

Murphy sold Tobias short by settling for a reduced charge for the

three men who raped her. Then, after gaining a little understanding of Tobias, Murphy begins to change and decides to try to prosecute the crowd that cheered the rape on.

An important point is made when this second trial is won. A prosecuting lawyer should go to trial whether or not the lawyer thinks the outcome will make him look good.

Many lessons can be learned from this movie. It says that battles should also be fought for those people who come from that zone below middle class and for the non-ideal witnesses — even the victims of rape. This movie also for the first time deals with the responsibilities of people who watch others being victimized.

Faculty stages slapstick search for fortune in diamonds

by Holly Lynch

Directed by Earl Boehmer and assisted by Mrs. Linda Cole, the faculty presented *Exit the Body* on November 4 and 5.

Mr. Boehmer chose *Exit the Body* because "it would be something students and parents would enjoy watching. It has good character parts and has much humor."

Although the production did not

play to a packed house either night, it raised money which will be used for the Faculty Scholarship Fund. The scholarship is given to deserving seniors, Mr. Boehmer said.

Faculty productions began about 14 years ago. This was the seventh production. The last one was MASH, five years ago.

Exit the Body is set in a summer rental home in New England. The

who was killed. Somewhere in the house is a fortune in diamonds.

A group of people rent the house and try to find the diamonds. They enter into a slapstick search situation.

The cast included Mrs. Mae Hanna, Mrs. Gail Miller, Todd Kelly, Mrs. Margaret Gerhart, Mrs. Barbara Eschbach, Charles Yohn, Jean Schlegel, Charles Parrish and Mr. Boehmer.

Astronaut addresses conference

by Shawnn Shafer

Approximately 150 Montgomery County teachers attended the Science Club mini-conference on Thursday, October 20, at Pottsgrove High School.

Presenters came from across the United States to share their knowl-

edge of science interests to teachers and future scientists.

Clyde Dry, biology teacher, helped secure Captain Andrew Allen, a NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) astronaut, as a guest speaker for the event. Captain Allen and his parents were guests at the conference and the dinner which fol-

lowed.

"Ever since I was a little tyke, I wanted to fly airplanes," Captain Allen said. "My career stems from that dream."

Captain Allen was selected as an astronaut candidate by NASA in June 1987. Currently there are 90 astronauts; 13 of them are women.

"The hardest part in my training is keeping up with all of the work and studying that is required," Captain Allen said.

Captain Allen was a member of a Navy ROTC unit. He was a test pilot under instruction when he was selected to the astronaut program.

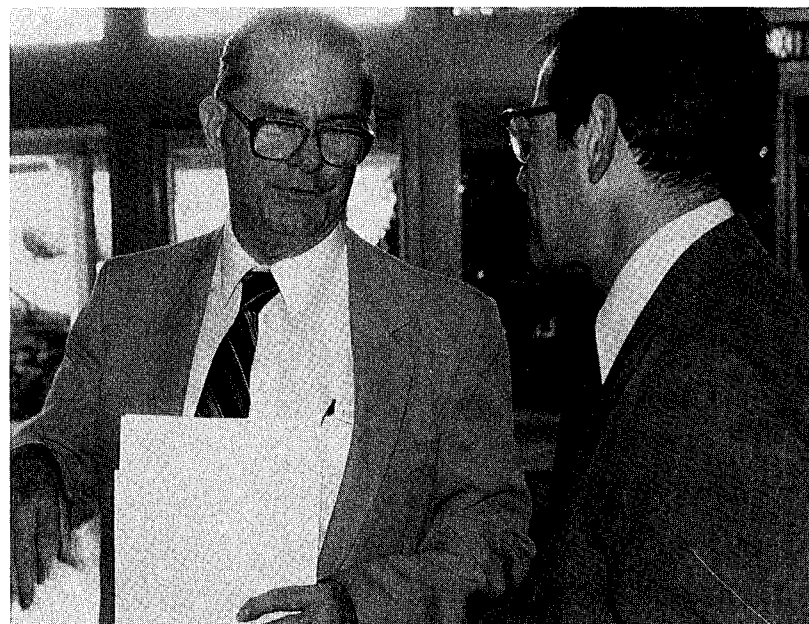
"I do not have a set schedule," Captain Allen said.

An astronaut will be assigned to a crew one year before his mission. The astronaut will train for the year that he has to wait to make the flight. The next mission is set for November 23.

"The duties of an astronaut are to try to become an expert in the portion of the shuttle with the systems he plans to work with," Captain Allen said.

"I only have one shot to try and land the shuttle," Captain Allen said. "If I don't make it, too bad."

Captain Allen was born and raised in Philadelphia. Presently he is stationed at the Johnson Space Center in Texas.

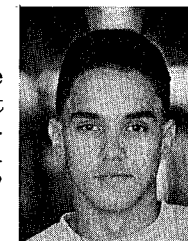


Hosting conference: PHS biology teacher Clyde Dry organized the recent Montgomery County science teachers' mini-conference held here, which featured astronaut Captain Andrew Allen.

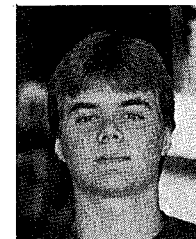
'Falcon' asks...

Do you think that there is an effective way to get people to wear seatbelts?

Danny Ortiz, junior: "I think that if more people got stopped and fined for not wearing their seatbelts it would influence them and decrease the number of highway deaths and injuries."



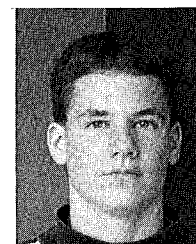
Jay McCullough, junior: "I do not think that there really is a way to encourage people to wear seatbelts unless someone very close to them has died while not wearing one."



Jen Mack, sophomore: "I think that assemblies with proof of what could happen if you did not wear your seatbelt help, and also lots of reminders from family and friends."



Matt Schantz, junior: "I think that another assembly like the one we had would make a difference. I think people react differently when a real true-to-life story is presented in front of you."



Students wax creative when it comes to excuses

by Carolyn Cooper

Some of the most creative thinking that students ever do is in-

Davidheiser said that she had no idea what that had to do with completing the assignment.

Many times students will go to a

er. "It's in my book. I forgot my book at home," said a student.

Some excuses are reworded from time to time to provide originality.

Driver ed. provides unique experiences

by Maggie Schuler

"In the last six years I could write a large book on funny

seatbelt more as a result of teaching this class."

Wearing seatbelts is one of the things Mr. Burkert said he

volved in coming up with an excuse for not having homework.

A very original excuse was given to Todd Kelly, English teacher. A student said to him: "I can't give it today. My paper is in California." With further explanation, this excuse turned out to be true. The student had been on vacation in California.

Mrs. Yvonne Davidheiser, German teacher, was given a confusing excuse. "We didn't have any water, so I went to my grandmother's to take a shower," a student said. Mrs.

teacher with an excuse that will maybe give the student the opportunity to turn the homework in

"My dog ate it."

later. One such excuse was given to Mrs. Bronwyn Baltusavich, English teacher. "I left it in my locker. Can I give it to you later?" a student said.

A similar kind of excuse has been given to Ralph Werley, math teach-

er. Fatsy Ivanatom, social studies teacher, was told: "You didn't tell us it was due today." In a different manner, Mrs. Baltusavich was given: "You told us it was due tomorrow."

Students sometimes put as little effort into making excuses as they do trying to complete the assignment. Clyde Dry, biology teacher, was told: "I just didn't do it." Mrs. Gail Miller, English teacher, was told: "My dog ate it."

The simplest excuse of them all is a response worth a thousand excuses: the blank stare.

Arlan Burkert, PHS driver education teacher, said about his experiences on the road with students.

He originally taught geography and government before deciding that he needed something "new and different." Mr. Burkert said that driver ed. has turned out to be exactly that.

Mr. Burkert also said that teaching this subject has made him a better driver. "I rarely go over the speed limit," he said, "and I do find myself using my

often. "The biggest misconception high school students have is that they don't feel anything bad will happen to them," he said.

After six years of dealing with both male and female drivers, Mr. Burkert said that he does not notice much difference between the two. "I have encountered good and bad in both," he said. "I have noticed that sometimes boys tend to feel overconfident and may drive somewhat faster than girls do."

'It's not easy because the words are different'

Exchange students clear cultural hurdles

by Melissa Bush

Pottsgrove High School is hosting two exchange students who are spending a year in the United States.

Georgina Gonzalez is from Celaya Guanajuato, Mexico, and Katharina Polley is from Calmbach, Germany, which is a town between Stuttgart and Karlsruhe.

According to both exchange students, American schools and foreign schools differ in many ways.

"Here the students change classes," Georgina said. "In Mexico, the students stay in one room and the teachers change."

Katharina said she enjoys the many activities Pottsgrove has to offer.

"In Germany, we don't have many clubs," she said. "Sometimes we have games (sports) after school but not every weekend. We have no cheerleaders."

Before coming to the United States, Georgina and Katharina had to acquire some knowledge of

the English language.

"It's not easy because the words are different," Katharina said.

Georgina went to a Catholic school in Mexico called Lic. Manuel Concha or "Marista." She has already graduated. Georgina is not certain about her plans for the future.

"I want to learn English and different customs and families," she said. "I want to be a good representative of my country."

In Mexico, teenagers listen to American music as well as other types.

"I like romantic music and some dance music," Georgina said.

Katharina said that in Germany they listen to all kinds of music.

"We hear German, Italian and American music," she said. "There is no specific type of American music we listen to."

Katharina is living with the Robert LaSota family, 1415 North Valley Road. Her trip was sponsored by the EF Foundation. She says that there are many places to visit in Germany.

"Most Americans go to Berlin and Munich," Katharina said. "But you can see so much in Germany although the weather is not always good."

Georgina is living with the Dr. Richard Whittaker family. On November 28 or 29 she will move in with the Theodore Meeker family. Her trip is sponsored by Rotary Club.

If an American would visit Georgina in Mexico, she said she would show him or her places like Oaxaca, Acapulco (because of the beaches), Mazatlan, Ixtapa, San Miguel de Allende and Guanajuato.

"We would also go to Mexico City," she said, "although it is like Philadelphia. There are too many people."

One big difference that Katharina noticed between Pottsgrove and her school is course selection.

"For our last two years, we elect two main courses that we have more than others," she said. "Also, we have no study halls."

(cont. on p. 4, col. 5)



Exchange students: Georgina Gonzalez from Celaya Guanajuato, Mexico, and Katharina Polley from Calmbach, Germany, are being given the opportunity to improve their English while studying at Pottsgrove during the 1988-89 school year. "I want to learn English and different customs and families," Georgina said. "I want to be a good representative of my country."

Schools, businesses hold career fair for students

by Shawnn Shafer

Representatives from 89 schools and 30 businesses had displays set up at Gilbertsville Fire Company on October 11 and 12 for a career fair sponsored by the TriCounty Chamber of Commerce.

"The best way to make a career fair like this work is to take time out of class and prompt the students," Ms. Terri Bollman, a representative from Juniata College, said. "By having a discussion or an assembly before coming to the career fair, students will know the purpose and can ask the representatives questions."

Four area schools bussed juniors and seniors to the fair over the two-day period. The fair was open to the public in the evenings. There were four free seminars: Financial Aid, How to Choose a School, How to

Write a Resume and How to Prepare for a Job Interview.

"The purpose of the career fair is to acquaint the students in the area with all of the educational opportunities that the TriCounty area has to offer them," Ed Levandowski, director of admissions at the Pennsylvania Business Institute (formerly the Lansdale School of Business), said.

A year and a half ago, Michael Ondo, guidance counselor at PHS, contacted Mrs. Dale Mahle, who was in charge of running the career fair at the TriCounty Chamber of Commerce and asked the Chamber to take part in the career fair. A committee of 10 business people and 10 educators was formed. Burton Brenner, school director at votech, sent flyers to over 300 schools in the United States inviting them to the career fair.

Enrollment gains drive district to renovate

by Carolyn Cooper

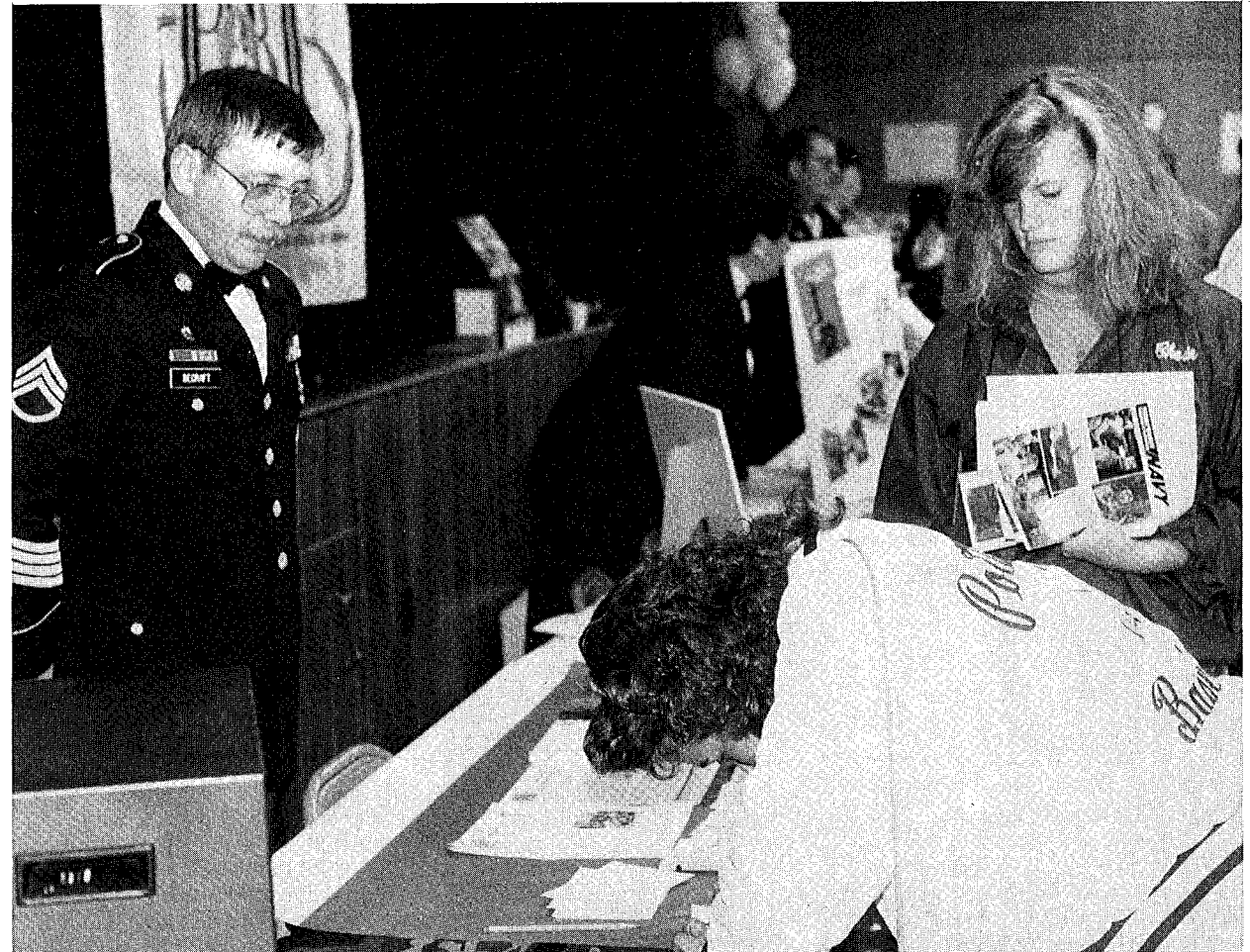
Enrollment increases in the Pottsgrove School District have brought about plans for renovation to the schools, according to Dr. Alvin Coleman, superintendent.

The Department of Education in Harrisburg estimated that this year the district would have 2,732 students enrolled. In five years the

school. I'm hoping we can accommodate the building within our own schools."

Dr. Coleman said that the birthrate in the area is up and that there is an increase in housing in the area. "Four Twenty-Two is bringing more homes into the area," he said.

Lower Pottsgrove has many housing developments under con-



Planning their futures: Pottsgrove students like Cherie Lloyd got an opportunity on October 11 and 12 to talk to representatives of 89 colleges and 30 businesses, in addition to representatives of the armed forces, about their futures.

Three counselors available for students

by Holly Lynch

For the first time this year three full-time guidance counselors will service the PHS student body.

270 students. "This lowers the student-to-counselor ratio," Mr. Ondo said, "and helps us to better serve the students."

Deciding on a career is a major decision in a young person's life.

hopes to help students become "fully functioning individuals in society." She would also like to create a good mental health picture in each student.

"The best part to being a coun-

"...We have constantly been involved in renovation and addition."

Department estimates an additional 227 students, and in 10 years an additional 583 students more than in the 1988-1989 school year.

"If we are lucky," Dr. Coleman said, "we may be able to accommodate the increase. If we are not lucky, we'll have to build a new



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Brooke Estates, Maple Glenn Village and Rosedale Estates will bring 227 families.

Dr. Coleman said that the bulk of students are coming at the wrong places. He said that Pottsgrove does not have room in the elementary schools to handle the increased class size.

Changes will be made to accommodate the increase of enrollment. Ringing Rocks Elementary School will be added to and renovated by early 1990. For the intermediate school, a new access computer will be put in the foyer, as well as an elevator for the handicapped this summer. Space will be changed to include four new classrooms.

An architect will do a study of the high school. Also, more space is needed for elementary students, and a new school may be built.

Dr. Coleman said that the school board is cautious about building a new school. "We have a fear of overbuilding," he said.

"Since I have been superintendent," Dr. Coleman said, "we have constantly been involved in renovation and addition. I prefer growth rather than decline."

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Quality Cut Fresh Meats

for the intermediate and high schools for the past seven years, will now be working full-time here at PHS. Mrs. Diane Rupp, guidance counselor for the past three years, will remain in her position but also assume the role of department head while Mrs. Lynne VanZandt is the new addition to the staff.

With three counselors, students have been divided up alphabetically, giving each counselor about

students choose a career by giving them the tools to help make a decision and making them aware of career choices, but they leave the final decision up to the individual.

"We let the students know what is available and help them learn about themselves," Mrs. VanZandt said, "but we leave the final decision up to the student."

Guidance counselors sometimes set goals for what they hope to accomplish. Mrs. Rupp said she

the students," Mr. Ondo said.
Mrs. Rupp and Mr. Ondo agreed that they enjoyed the variety of work, and Mrs. Rupp added that she enjoys the challenges and the fact that no two days are alike. Mrs. VanZandt summed it all up by saying that the thing she enjoys most is the students.

Students cope with differences

(cont. from p. 3, col. 3)

Georgina noticed that parties in America end early.

"When parties are ending here, they're just starting in Mexico," she said.

Both Georgina and Katharina are looking forward to a great year.

"It is difficult to change customs," Georgina said. "The more I think about home, the more I miss it."

"I hope to learn English very well," Katharina said. "I hope I can do activities and have fun this year."

Additions made to teaching staff

(cont. from p. 1, col. 5)

blem, finding themselves or directing them towards their future."

Mr. Rechtin received his B.A. at Bellarmine College, where he majored in English and business. He received his teaching certificate at West Chester.

Last year Mr. Rechtin taught at North East Catholic High School but was released when there was an enrollment decline.

"One of my major goals that I hope to achieve while teaching at Pottsgrove is to be the best teacher that I possibly can be," Mr. Rechtin said, "by educating the students and giving them the tools that they need to be able to continue their education."

School considers new suspension plan

by Jen Bleau

Out-of-school suspension is looked upon as a "vacation to many of the students and parents," Gary Reed, PHS vice principal, said. Therefore, Pottsgrove has plans underway to experiment with, when school board permission is granted, in-school suspension. It will be held on Saturdays from 8-12 a.m.

"I don't know any kid that would want to get up on a Saturday and come into school for four hours to do homework," Mr. Reed said.

One of the biggest reasons for this change was so that the students will not be punished academically.

"Students lose time out of class when they are suspended," Mr.

Reed said, "and most of the time they don't usually make up the work. I want kids in school as much as possible."

Mr. Reed said he studied in-school suspensions from top to bottom and having the students in school on Saturdays works out the best way economically. Also, there is not enough room during the school day to have a room devoted to those who receive in-school suspension.

The in-school suspension "is not an option," Mr. Reed said.

If the student who is assigned the in-school suspension does not show up, it will result in a long-term suspension as well as additional Saturdays. If the student still continues after this to skip the Saturdays, it could result to expulsion.

"Saturday is a lesser of two evils," Mr. Reed said.

In-school suspension, however, will not replace long term suspensions or detention.

"If this idea doesn't work, we'll just have to regroup and try something else," Mr. Reed said.

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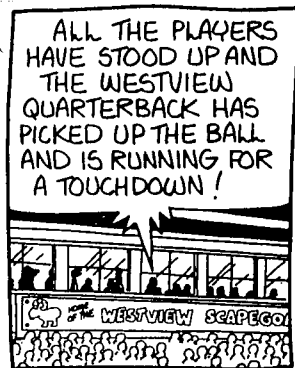
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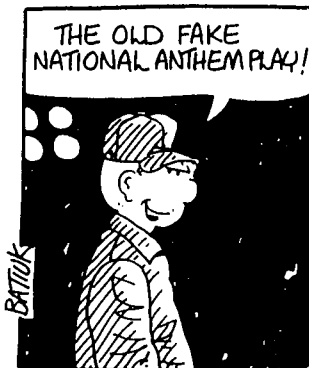
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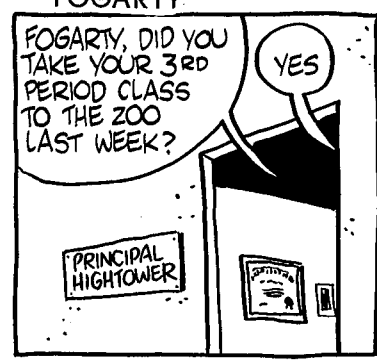
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BY TOM BATIUK



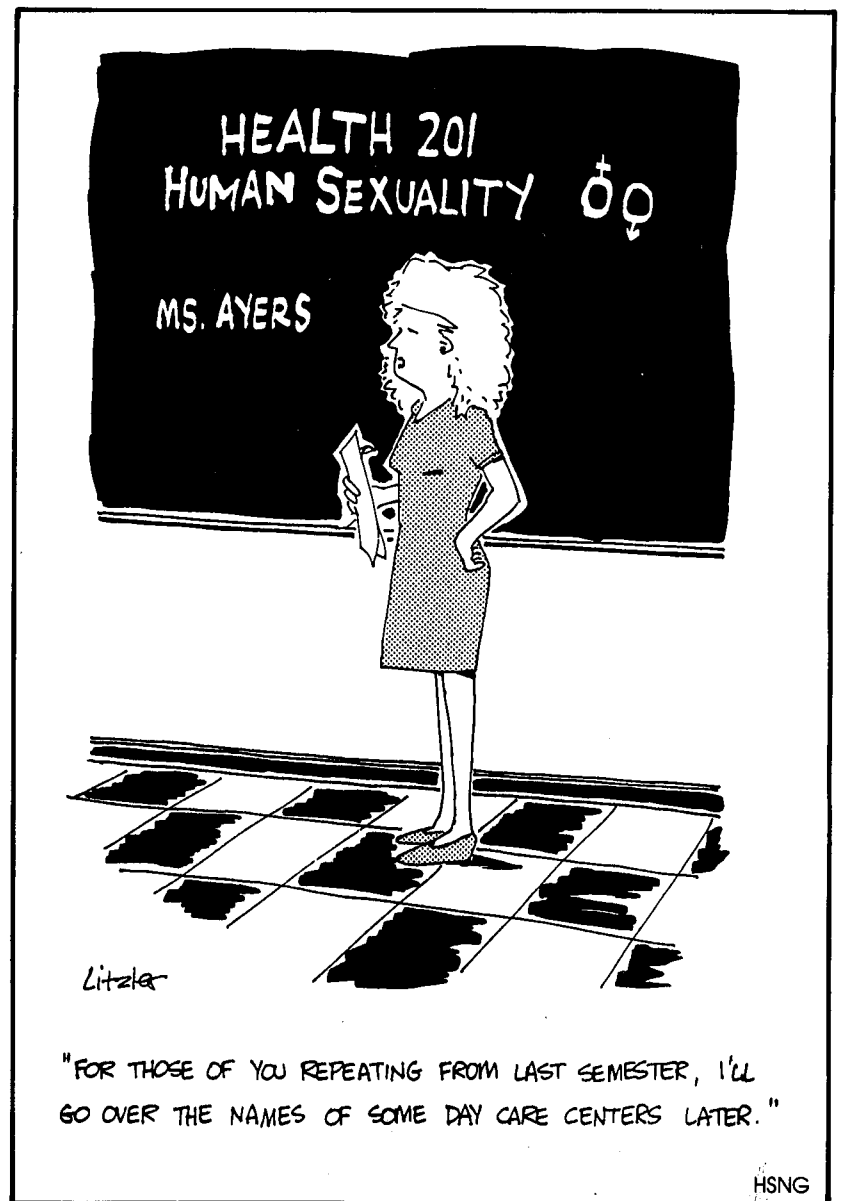
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Traditional match-up pits Pius against Pottsgrove

by Jen Bleau

The Thanksgiving Day game against St. Pius is a tradition in the Pottsgroves, and this tradition will continue here on the home field of the Falcons tomorrow at 1:30 p.m.

"It always helps to play at home," Ken Harclerode, head coach of the Falcons, said, "not as much as it does in other sports, but it is a bit of an advantage."

"We have a lot of fans behind us," Mickey Swartz, co-captain of the Falcons, said.

In preparing for this game the Falcons mainly focused on the Pius team. They did not practice any harder than usual, but they did have a longer period of time to get themselves prepared for this game.

"Right now our enthusiasm and aggressiveness are our strongest qualities," Mr. Harclerode said,

commenting on what he felt were team strengths.

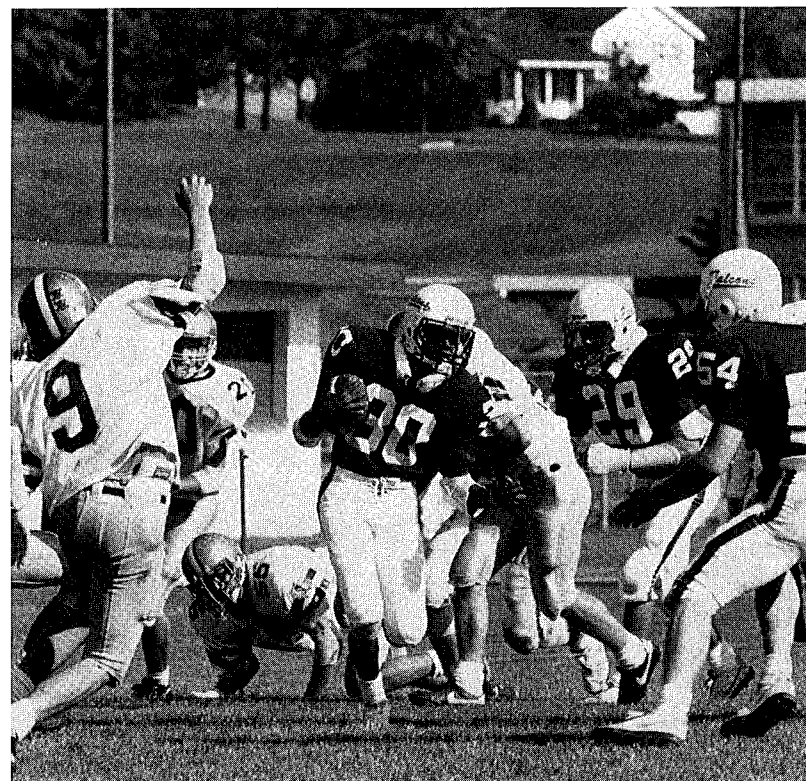
"If we win this game," Earl Rimel, co-captain of the Falcons, said, "it says that the team has tried all season and has done better than in other years."

The Thanksgiving game is one of great importance to the senior members of the football team since it will be the last game of their high school football careers.

This game will also be Mr. Harclerode's last game, for he is retiring after 28 years of coaching the high school football team.

"When we play as a team we do very well," Mickey said. "If we want to win this game, we will have to play as a team."

If we play our game like we have been in these past couple of weeks," Earl said, "I know we can beat Pius."



Going for yards: Running back Brian Allen (30) goes for yards in a 15-8 loss to Lansdale Catholic in an early season contest.

Soccer team bounces back

by Colleen Mayk

Bouncing back after a couple of close losses, the soccer team was able to put together a winning 8-7-1 season.

"We wanted to win ten games and make district playoffs, but we didn't make them," PHS soccer coach Robert Devlin said. "I think if we would've played a little better in a couple of our games we would

was like having a Falcon cage at a soccer game."

"I hope all of my 11-12 years of playing soccer through the school's program and out of school teams that I played on pays off so that I can be accepted to play for either U.N.C. or George Mason," Danielle Borneman, senior said.

Scott Goffice made first team all PAC-10, Jeff made second team all PAC-10 and Dave Bauer made honorable mention all PAC-10.

"The high point of my season was scoring the goal against Phoenixville which sent the game into over-

Runners end season just under .500

by Holly Lynch

Coached by Gary Christ, the cross country team finished up its season with a 4-5 record.

"The high point of the season was, when we won our first meet," Jennifer Crosley, a sophomore and one of the two girls on the team, said. Rhett Thomas, also a sophomore, said that the high point of the season was when the team came in fifth at the PAC-10 championships.

"The turning point of the season was when we beat Upper Perk by one point," Jen said. Rhett thought that the team did consistently well throughout the season, considering the experience of the runners.

Both Jen and Rhett agreed that the one person who stood out on the team was Dave Beccaria. "He had the true spirit of a runner," Jen said.

To characterize the season, Jen said that it was fun, but a lot of hard work that paid off in the end. "We met all of our goals," Rhett said.

Hockey's record didn't reflect ability

by Jeanette Lotz

Field hockey coach Kathy Baker said that the Lady Falcons' record (1-9) did not reflect their ability.

"This year I did not see many people who had a killer instinct," Mrs. Baker said. "Our major problem was that we just were not being aggressive enough."

Even though the team lacked aggression they supported each other.

either way, and it put a lot of pressure on me."

The team had two sophomores who started on the front line.

"I am expecting to see Dawn Kulp and Eileen Cohen really blossom through the years," Mrs. Baker said, about the front line sophomores.

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“Next year I definitely want to make district playoffs. . .”

have had a more successful season.”

Team captains were Jeff Lotz, Scott Goffice and Danielle Borne-man.

“The high point in my season was our night game at OJR because everyone was there,” Jeff said. “It

time,” Scott said.

When beating Upper Perk on their field, it made the soccer team’s record 5-2-1.

“Losing to Phoenixville in over-time 1-0 was kind of our turning point downward,” Coach Devlin said.

The team this year consisted mostly of juniors with no more than four seniors on the field at a time. A couple of sophomores and a freshman also started.

“Next year I definitely want to make district playoffs and beat Great Valley, Phoenixville and especially Pius X, whom we didn’t beat this year,” Coach Devlin said.

Sports talk:

New sports didn’t hurt programs

by Tara Mizic

Pottsgrove has added two new fall sports programs in the past two years, and the addition of soccer and cross country have had a positive impact on the student body.

“Different sports are for different people,” said cross country coach Gary Christ. “It gives the students more opportunities to participate.”

The cross country team consisted of 14 members. There weren’t enough girls to form a separate team, so the boys and girls ran together on a 2.5 - 3.1 mile course.

The soccer team had 20 members from grades 9 through 12, both boys and girls. There is also a program at the intermediate school for grades seven through nine. The high school only has a varsity team.

“There isn’t enough interest at the high school level for a varsity and junior varsity team,” said Robert Devlin, head soccer coach.

The soccer team is awaiting the completion of two fields under construction at the high school.

The golf team finished their season at 6-2 for a second place in the PAC-10. Joseph Dori, golf coach for over 20 years, had only nine active members out for the team. With five seniors leaving, the golf team needs at least seven members to compete next year.

“We need underclassmen,” said Mr. Dori. “It’s not a physical sport. You can’t acquire instant success. You must work for it.”

Football coach Ken Harclerode feels that the football team was not affected by new sports. There were 38 members on the 1988 football team. With a great number of seniors leaving, Mr. Harclerode will try to encourage more sophomores to get involved.

“The future looks bright,” said Mr. Harclerode. “We’ll be young, but we’ll have the speed we’ve missed the past few years.”

“The one person who supported the team in everything they did was Dawn Strunk,” Mrs. Baker said. “She was always there to encourage the other players.”

The tri-captains were Jen Dunn, Stacey Dunn and Strunk.

“I think that the high point of the season was definitely the St. Pius game,” Jen Dunn said. “The way we played made us feel as though all that practice was not for nothing.”

Strunk, a senior, said that being goal keeper was a tough position.

“During games where the score was tied I wished I was not a goalie,” she said. “The game could go

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