

the falcon

Pottsgrove High School
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newsbriefs

Volunteer work can be a grad requirement

(HSNG) Washington—John Reinhard Jr., a junior at Chapel Hill High School in North Carolina, looks forward to spending his senior year at another school. "I kinda want to get out of there," he says about his current school. "It's kind of an uncomfortable place."

Reinhard's problems began when he objected to his school's new policy that required all students to complete 50 hours of mandatory community service before they could graduate. He and his family filed a suit against the Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Board of Education in 1994. But the Supreme Court, in February, refused to prevent the school district from going ahead with its mandatory program.

Without comment, the Supreme Court rejected the Reinhard family's appeal that said such service is a violation of parents' and students' rights and tantamount to slavery.

The Court in 1993 and 1996 rejected similar challenges to mandatory public service programs adopted by school districts in Pennsylvania and New York.

Reinhard says he objected to his high school requiring students to volunteer because "volunteering is, like, a personal decision."

"I don't think you can call it volunteering if it's mandatory," he says. "I volunteer, but I'm not going to document it for some stupid graduation requirement."

Teen pregnancies decline worldwide

(HSNG) New York—Teen pregnancies are down worldwide, but the United States has by far the highest rate of any industrialized nation, reports the Alan Guttmacher Institute.

The non-profit research organization analyzed information on 44 developing and five developed countries, covering 75 percent of the world's total population.

The group found that far fewer women today are becoming mothers before age 20—most notably in Asia, North Africa, the Middle East and parts of Latin America.

Pottsgrove holds TECHNOLOGY forum

by Amy Richards

"Students will find that it will be the norm by the year 2000 to be able to walk into facilities in the district, regardless of what school they are in, and find computers and computer resources for them to use."

The Superintendent's Forum on Technology, presented by the director of technology at Pottsgrove, Mr. Toby Mochel, was held on Mar. 12 in the district office. The evening event, which was attended by both district teachers and parents, was used to make the public aware of the Pottsgrove Technology Plan and to give the public a chance to express their views.

"The world is a different place than it was two years ago," Mr. Mochel said about why the district's new technology plan is important. "Computerization has become the rule."

The plan, which was adopted by the Pottsgrove School Board in Nov. 1995, was developed as part of the Strategic Planning process.



...nancies. Fourteen percent of American girls between the ages 13 to 19 gave birth in 1996, double that of first runner-up Britain. Seventy-three percent of those American pregnancies were unplanned.

Parents great influence on teens—sometimes

(HSNG) New York—When it comes to making decisions about drinking and choosing a career, what parents think matters the most to teens, a new study shows.

Roper Starch Worldwide, a marketing and public-opinion research firm, says its findings are based on face-to-face interviews nationwide with 500 youths aged 13 to 17.

When it comes to dealing with drinking decisions, 62 percent of teens cite parents as the people who influence them most. Twenty-eight percent said friends are their main influence; 9 percent said teachers; 7 percent attributed their decisions to the influence of TV; and 4 percent cite advertising as influential.

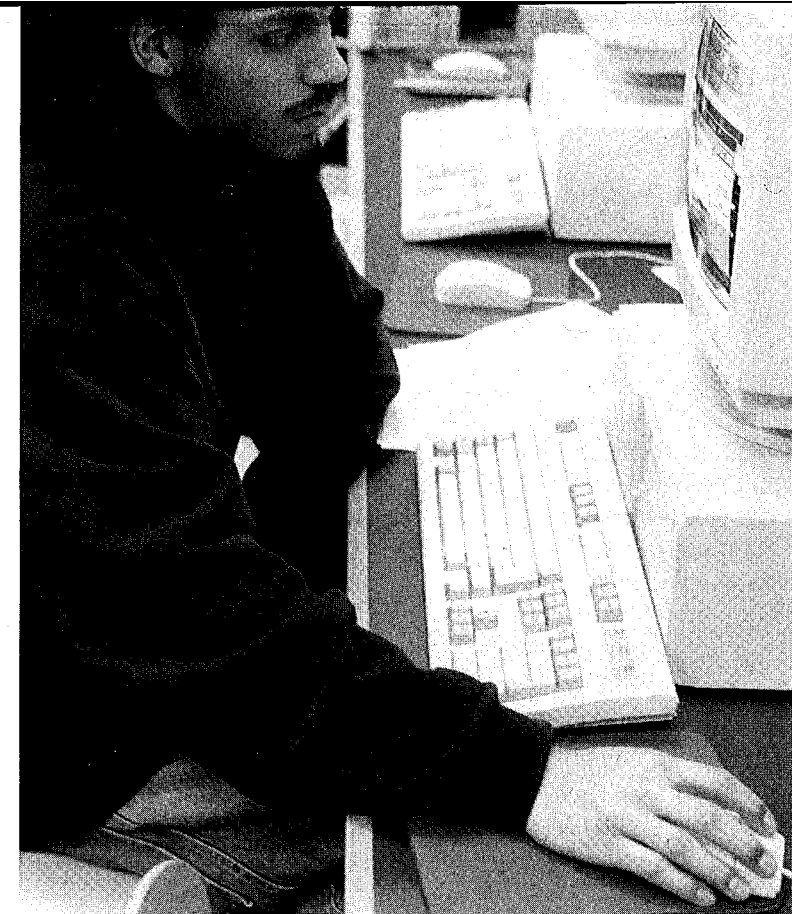
The annual Roper Youth Report, released last month, also found that parents are pulling more weight than in the past when it comes to influencing their child's drinking decisions. Last year, just 53 percent of students cited parents as a No. 1 influence, down nine points from this year's poll. This follows relatively flat numbers since 1991.

"Considering the number of information sources out there, it is notable that parents are gaining more rather than less influence over these decisions," said Joan Chiamonte, Roper vice president, who directed the study.

While the survey suggests that when it comes to life's major issues, teens take their cues from parents, it is also found that when it comes to lesser issues, other factors play a significant role.

For example, in picking a career path, teens say parents are their chief role models (49 percent), followed by teachers (22 percent), friends (14 percent), television (7 percent) and advertising (4 percent).

But when it comes to choosing clothing, teens are more influenced by friends (57 percent) and television (23 percent) than by parents (20 percent).



Using the technology: "I wanted to gain business skills on a computer," Jon Reid, a junior, said, talking about why he took Lotus 1, 2, 3, a computer course offered through the Pottsgrove Business Department. "I'm thinking about taking Microsoft Word next year."

considered achievable and desirable within the next three years (the plan ends in the year 2000).

The first goal states that the Pottsgrove School District will be interconnected by a wide area network (WAN) which will allow users to access resources in the network and also to share data. The plan will make computers (located in the school libraries) available to students on a daily basis.

"Students would find that it would be the norm by the year 2000," Mr. Mochel said about the second goal, "to be able to walk into facilities in the district, regardless of what school they are in, and find computers and computer resources for them to use."

The third goal in the plan is that all teachers will use computers as both management and instructional tools. Over the remaining years of the plan, the district will offer a grant program where teachers can become eligible to obtain a computer for their classrooms. Fifty-five teachers received computers last year and about 35 more teachers will receive them this year.

Not all teachers, however, are happy with the district's plan.

"I think that we should split the money between the five (cont. p. 4, col. 1)

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“ In the past if you smoked a little marijuana and had long hair, you were [considered] a rebel. Today that’s nothing. ”

—Dave Moore, a junior



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Students need computers

Pottsgrove showcased its five-year technology plan to district teachers and residents on Mar. 12.

The Superintendent's Forum on Technology—which was not attended by the superintendent—was presented by Mr. Toby Mochel, the director of technology at Pottsgrove. With the aid of his laptop computer, an overhead projector and an LCD (liquid crystal display) to project what was on his computer screen to an overhead screen, Mr. Mochel made his presentation. It was basically a demonstration of how Pottsgrove's administration has already seen the light of technology and has gotten it for themselves, while students and teachers at all five of the Pottsgrove schools haven't.

The Pottsgrove Technology Plan, which was part of the strategic planning process, has set goals for the district to accomplish—the plan is in its second year. One of these goals is to provide each teacher in the district with a computer. The money for these computers will come from a grant program where teachers



People rebel for a variety of reasons

■ People know right from wrong but still rebel

by Devin L. Mercer

Has rebelling changed over generations? Has it become a bigger threat to society, or will it pass just like another phase in growing up?

"People rebel to assert their individuality," said Ms. Patricia Carroll, an English teacher at PHS, talking about why she thought people rebel.

Gaining freedom, gaining attention, having fun and having an

and anything that has to do with authority.

"People know what's right from wrong," said Dave Moore, a junior at PHS, talking about whether people know if they are rebelling or not.

Senior Jason Tattershall said that he thinks that people know that they are acting rebellious because they want attention.

However, some people may not know that they are rebelling because if students are acting or dressing differently from the norm, then they might be doing that because the way they dress makes them feel comfortable. They might not even know that they are rebelling.

"In the next if you smoked a

Mr. Steven Seier, a history teacher at PHS, said that in the past rebelling took the form of temporary changes (style of clothes, jewelry, etc.); today many forms of rebellion have lasting impacts on the individual (body piercing, tattoos, etc.).

“[It was] bad because it was not a proper way to go about things,” Mrs. Rosemary Hoffman, a mathematics teacher at PHS, said, talking about her feelings concerning rebelling when she was a teenager. Mrs. Hoffman said that when she was in school the students had a sit-in in the cafeteria over a problem with the school food.

"I don't think they are more rebellious, but I do think that some

a computer and its software. After two years, one third of Pottsgrove teachers are equipped with computers and software; however, the funding for the plan over the next three years has not been set in stone.

Pottsgrove's administrators were the first to receive the new technology, with computers for them and for their secretaries. Now the teachers are getting computers—one for each teacher. Plans for computers for the students and new courses in the curriculum to teach computer applications to students are not even mentioned in the "district's plan."

First of all, administrators have had computers for years—why did they need new ones? Why didn't the administration give the money to the five schools so that the students can have new computers to broaden their horizons and prepare them for a life in the real world? Pottsgrove students are going to lag behind students in other school districts because Pottsgrove took care of its administration first. Students in Spring-Ford schools, for instance, are taught keyboarding on computers in fifth grade. At Pottsgrove, students are taught keyboarding in ninth grade.

The technology committee also wants each and every teacher to have a computer, whether they apply for a grant or not, by the year 2000. The committee sees the computers as being used "as both management and instructional tools." They are. But students are not going to learn computer applications by watching someone else use them.

to rebel. Some people are rebelling against the government and laws, while others are rebelling against prevailing trends, school, parents

little marijuana and had long hair, you were [considered] a rebel," said Moore, talking about his thoughts on how rebelling has changed. "Today that's nothing."

of today's rebellion is more dangerous than that of the past," said Ms. Carroll, talking about her thoughts about today's young adults.

State legislature takes action against smoking, huffing

by Crystal Ehlinger

Although Pennsylvania's main focus has been centered around creating a new smoking law to prevent teens from lighting up, the state legislature is also honing in on the issue of "huffing."

As Spring-Ford students and some Pottsgrove students may remember, in the spring of 1995, a Spring-Ford student died after inhaling butane—candles sitting nearby ignited the gas and killed him.

The number of deaths related to "huffing" incidents has risen, causing the PA State Legislature to take some action. The result: a bill

has been passed that claims that the sale of butane products to minors will be charged as a summary offense—the fines will range between \$250 and \$500. Included in the list of butane products not to be sold to minors are cigarette lighters and camping gas.

Pottsgrove is well aware of another new law set out by Pennsylvania authorities: the new ban on smoking in school, anywhere on school grounds or on school buses.

The fines for this new rule may not be as hefty as the "huffing" citations, but with additional court costs the total cost of getting caught with cigarettes will reach over \$100.

The school board has given administrators the right to write non-traffic citations for students possessing tobacco products and/or using them (cigarettes or smokeless tobacco).

"This policy is not in response to a major concern but in response to a new regulation that is in place," Dr. Joseph Bender, Pottsgrove's assistant superintendent, told a *Mercury* staff writer. "Smoking is not a serious problem for us, but that's not to say there aren't students who smoke."

Pottsgrove is not the only school to be affected by this ruling. Pottstown is also making revisions to its tobacco policy. Pottstown students have a favorite hangout where they congregate to smoke, which is something Pottsgrove cannot relate to.

Pottsgrove student smokers are also subject to suspension if caught using tobacco products or possessing them.

Dr. Bender has assured parents that because the school board has passed a new smoking policy parents and students will be made well aware of it. The policy will also be added to the school's handbook.

"Our policy is more generic in terms of visitors," Mr. Bender said. "But we do let people know about it. For example, at our football games we make announcements twice during the contest that smoking is prohibited on school grounds."

The boys from Boston, Aerosmith, have returned with one of their best albums yet

by Devin L. Mercer

It has been 27 years since Steven Tyler (vocals), Joe Perry (lead guitar), Brad Whitford (rhythm guitar), Tom Hamilton (bass) and Joe Kramer (drums)—otherwise known as Aerosmith—debuted with the self-titled album *Aerosmith*.

Well, the boys from Boston have returned with one of their best albums yet. *Nine Lives* was released to an eager group of fans, who have waited four years since the band's last studio effort—*Get a Grip*—on March 19.

The first single off of the album is titled "Falling in Love (Is So Hard on the Knees)." It has the traditional Aerosmith sound, consisting of hard vocals, gritty guitars and horns (to round it off). Perry and Whitford are solid throughout the song, while Hamilton and Kramer hold down the bottom end.

The title track's ("Nine Lives") opening riff is accompanied by a high-pitched cat's meow, followed by Tyler's equally high-pitched voice. The song is about falling in love time after time for the same stupid reasons. Adding to the song's appeal is Perry's soloing in the song, which says that things

only get better with age. "Nine Lives" is a fast-paced tune that will grab one's attention in a heartbeat.

A weird addition to the album is "Taste of India," which opens with music from India, but once the band kicks in, it sounds pretty good. There isn't a very promising solo in this song, which would really help it out because it is hard to understand the meaning behind the song.

If anyone is an Aerosmith fan from the late 80's, then the song "Full Circle" is for them. It has a sound reminiscent to what was found on *Pump* and *Permanent Vacation*—the kind of song that

you would sing while sitting around with some friends. It has an up-beat feeling to it.

Guitarist Perry has a slightly new sound thanks to Gibson Guitar Company, which has released the "Joe Perry Signature Les Paul." His signature guitar has a push/pull pot for mid-boost/feedback control, an exclusive custom-wound lead pickup, a hand-stained Translucent BlackBurst finish and a price of about \$2,500.

Nine Lives is produced by Kevin Shirley and is a must for any true Aerosmith fan (or any newcomer who wants to break into the group).

Counselors help pick the right college

■ Students begin college search in guidance office

by Crystal Ehlinger

Students go to the guidance office with various problems: fights with their boyfriend or girlfriend, problems at home, schedule changes and help with their grades. However, one large portion of the guidance counselors' jobs are to help seniors in their search for the right college and to help them earn scholarships and financial aid.

Seniors, as well as juniors who are getting a jump ahead in the college search, already know the hassles and stress that can go into filling out application after application and dishing out money for college application fees.

"The college search begins for many juniors in the fall with the PSAT's [Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Tests]," said Mrs.

Kathleen Githens, a guidance counselor, about when to actually begin looking for the right school in the next level of education. "It continues into the spring when many juniors take the SAT's for the first time."

College applications are not the only paperwork to be filled out and mailed with transcripts from the guidance office; scholarship forms from Pottstown businesses and various colleges, along with government forms (such as FAFSA—the Federal Government's financial aid form), are often picked up in the guidance office by students hoping to get money to help pay their college expenses.

"Anyone can begin a college search in the guidance office using college catalogues, reference books, the Guidance Information System (GIS) or Peterson's Guide to colleges," Mrs. Githens said.

The guidance office is equipped with computers to aid in the college search. The GIS pro-

gram is a computerized database, according to Mrs. Githens, that provides an abundance of information about two-year and four-year colleges and universities across America.

The computers in the guidance counselors' offices are also capable of providing students with specific college information. They have a smaller version of GIS that focuses primarily on colleges dealing with the majors of business, computers, health and teaching.

One more area of the college search is also very important in helping students choose the college of their dreams—a campus visit.

"College visitations are highly recommended for prospective college students," Mrs. Githens said. "[They] can take place during the summer between the junior and senior years, or during the school year. Three visits are allowed as excused absences with the proper paperwork available through the guidance office."

Hale-Bopp can be seen for only one more month

by Crystal Ehlinger

Any star gazer has noticed over the past month a newcomer to the northwestern sky—the Hale-Bopp Comet.

According to Mr. Ralph Werley, a PHS math teacher who has kept his students up-to-date on

close to the earth as Halley's gets, you'd see Hale-Bopp in the daytime," Mr. Werley said about the comet's brightness. "Like [people see the] sun and moon."

Although not very many people can recall seeing Halley's Comet, the majority of citizens in New England can bring up the memory of last year's comet,

[what they have experienced] when Halley's Comet returns."

Hale-Bopp is visible in the northwestern sky from sunset until 10 p.m. The year of its estimated return is around 4400. For those people who haven't caught a glimpse of the comet, now is the time: Hale-Bopp is going to say goodbye to Pennsylvania in May.

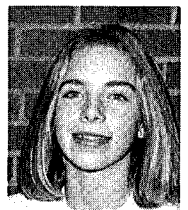
'Falcon' asks...

What would you say if a teacher or your mother got a tattoo?

Nick Lozorak, sophomore: "What were you thinking?"



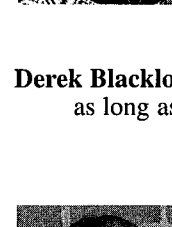
Jenna Peiffer, senior: "If my mom got a tattoo, I would go along and get one too."



Leah Weitzenkorn, freshman: "If any teachers got a tattoo, I'd be surprised, and my mom is already getting one—I don't even know what to think."



Pam Luey, senior: "If my teacher got a tattoo, it would be cool because it shows that they are in touch with the younger generation."



Derek Blacklock, sophomore: "That's cool as long as it is a cool tattoo."



discovered in 1995 by two astronomers—Alan Hale and Thomas Bopp—hence the comet's name.

The earth is 93,000,000 miles away from the sun. Relate this distance and the brightness of the sun to the distance between the earth and Hale-Bopp—122,000,000 miles.

"If it [Hale-Bopp] were as

as a distance of 9,000,000 miles away from the earth.

Mr. Werley encourages his own children to keep a journal of the comet so they can share it with their grandchildren. "Blake, Dane and Trey each have responded to the event in words and drawings," Mr. Werley said. "We [Mr. Werley and his wife] hope they will someday share with their grandchildren

"We see stars, planets, meteorites and the sun and the moon nightly in our sky," Mr. Werley said, "to look heavenward and see a comet is to open one's eyes for what also lies above us."



want to picture my mom with a tattoo. That is just sick!"

Student guitarists name a variety of influences on their styles

by Devin L. Mercer

The acoustic guitar debuted in 1586 A.D., while the electric guitar is closing in on its 100-year birthday, and they both have had the same influence on the world as they do on some students at PHS.

"Girls," Troy Vogt, a senior who has been playing the guitar for three years, said, talking about why he started to play the instrument. Vogt has a 12-string Washburn acoustic and a 6-string Fender acoustic, with a 6-string hallow electric Rhapsody rounding off his collection.

Senior Tyrone Mobley, who has played the bass guitar for two

and a half years, was influenced to play the instrument at a very young age by his cousin. Mobley shops for his equipment at George's Music and at Zapf's Music because, he said, "I get good deals."

Both Vogt and Mobley agree that Jimi Hendrix is the greatest guitar player who ever lived.

Sophomore Chris Burns, who has been playing guitar for almost two years, was inspired to play after he heard Van Halen and Guns 'N' Roses when he was in elementary school. Burns was influenced by soloists like Steve Vai, Dimebag Darrell of Pantera and Randy Rhoads. Burns' main axe is his U.S.A.-made B.C. Rich with a Floyd Rose bridge.

"In seventh grade I learned how to play [the guitar] in music class," Dave Alexander, a freshman who has been playing the guitar for three years, said, talking about why he became a guitarist.

"From there I bought a [Fender] Stratocaster and kept learning."

Chuck Berry and Eddie Van Halen are Alexander's influences when it comes to the guitar. Berry amazed Alexander with his simple riffs, but what made it hard to copy was how fast Berry played. Van Halen made his own guitars, and he has a style all his own. Alexander admires that.

Junior Dave Moore, who has played the guitar for two years, said that he thinks that the future of guitar playing will move back into the direction that the 80's were in. Moore says that guitarists want to show off a little more. Moore has been influenced by Rhoads because of his speed and technique.

"Too many guitarists can't solo and show no talent," Dan Norris, a sophomore who has been playing for over three years, said, talking about where he thinks the course of guitar-driven music is going. "I hope the music gets better."

Norris has a Stratocaster, a Peavey backstage amp and a Jackson/Charvel amp.

Junior Brad Heimbach has been playing the guitar for 11 years, and he was inspired by his uncle to play. George Lynch, Nuno Bettencourt and Kirk Hammett are Heimbach's main influences, while Lynch is his main influence. "I think he is the best guitar player," he said.

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Biology classes travel to Virginia for ecology program

■ Students get to study, analyze marine biology

by Amy Richards

The advanced biology classes traveled to Wallops Island, VA, on Mar. 26 for a three-day, pre-college program on coastal ecology. The 26 students—chaperoned by biology teacher Gary Christ and English teacher Kyra Preston—stayed at the Marine Science Consortium, which is actually located on the mainland of Virginia's eastern shore.

"To study marine biology you have to go where the marine biology is," Mr. Christ said, talking

about why his classes have traveled to Wallops Island for the past three years. "It's a hands-on experience on the unit."

On the first night of the trip, the students were given a demonstration of various oceanographic instruments, sampling devices and techniques which they would use the following day on the oceanography research cruise. Then tests on pH, salinity and dissolved oxygen were performed aboard a flat boat called a monitor on Thursday morning. Water samples, navigation and physical observations of the water were also studied. Sediments on the ocean floor were collected with a benthic grab; and an otter trawl (a net thrown off-board to catch organisms) was also done.

On Thursday afternoon the

students visited the intertidal zone on Assateague Island where they collected samples of the plants and animals that inhabit that environment.

"My favorite part of the trip was when we went to the intertidal zone," senior Jen Marquardt, who is thinking about majoring in marine biology, said. "It was fun digging in the sand for different organisms and then figuring out what they were later that night."

The students attended an organism lab Thursday night where they identified the organisms that were found on both the oceanography research cruise and in the intertidal zone—both macroorganisms and microorganisms were looked at.

On Friday the students stopped first at the sand dunes on

Wallops Island, which is owned by NASA. The students were given time to look for remnants of the various plant and animal species which dwell in the dunes. In the afternoon they returned to Wallops Island, but this time they traveled to the opposite end of the barrier island where the salt marshes were located.

"My favorite part was when we went to the salt marsh because I had a lot of fun playing in the mud," senior Karen Reber said about the experience. "I learned a lot about marine biology from this trip, and it was better than learning in the classroom because you got to see everything firsthand."

This trip acts as a building block for the classes' unit on marine biology: during the fourth marking period of the school year, students will study in more detail the information that they learned on the trip.

"This trip is a brief introduction to our unit on marine biology," Mr. Christ, who participated in the same program when he was in high school, said. "We then review what we did on the trip and add a lot of book information to it."

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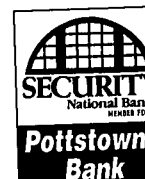
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KIEFFER'S

Local music stores compete for the CD-shoppers' business

by Devin L. Mercer

Hounded by the high prices of CD's, music fans must search around to find the best prices. Three music stores in Pottstown try to gain the respect and loyalty of the buyer.

"Prices are already set for the album by the record label from which it comes," Rod Maurer, a Sam Goody manager at the Coventry Mall, said, talking about

how the store prices the CD's they sell.

Some CD's are released as a sale item, but that is up to the record label. Others that are on a small label do not start out on sale, unless they gain a lot of airplay.

Collective Soul's new album *Disciplined Breakdown* is priced at \$17.99 at Sam Goody, but they offer it at a sale price of \$14.99. At The Wall the same album is sold at a sale price of \$15.99.

Downtown Records, which is privately owned, has the same CD for \$11.99.

"We feel our services are good enough," Mark Morton, a manager at The Wall, said. Morton believes that The Wall's lifetime guarantee plan helps them gain business, but Maurer thinks differently.

"[It does] not really [help them]," Maurer said, "because we do the same thing, but without the little blue sticker."

JEWELRY and GIFTS

(cont. from p. 1, col. 5)
schools," PHS health teacher Mrs. Kathy Baker, who attended the meeting, proposed, "and let the principal and computer leaders decide where the money should go."

The fourth goal of the plan is that all users will utilize the computers to make decisions based on

collected data, and the last goal is to make the district's technology facilities open to the community for use.

"I feel that in five years we will reach our goal," Mr. Mochel said about the future of technology here at Pottsgrove. "I think we will have more and more technology for less and less of a price."



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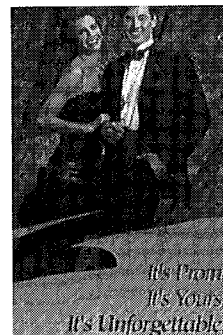
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Shopping for the right dress: "When I shop for a dress, I first shop for a style of dress. Then I try to find one in the style which I can afford—that is under \$150," said junior Alicia DePaul, pictured at last year's prom with junior Andy Maack.

Dance in a fashionable but inexpensive prom dress

by Kourtney High

While the prom is the big event of the school year, it is possible to go overboard and spend too much on a dress that you will probably only wear once.

"I bought my dress at

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Monique's Bridal Shop. The staff is friendly and very helpful," senior Amy Richards said. "But I wouldn't pay more than \$175 for a dress and alterations."

Another popular place for prom dress shopping seems to be the Reading Outlets.

"I went there thinking that I wouldn't find much," senior Pamela Luey said, "but I ended up buying my dress there."

many agree that paying an enormous amount of money for a dress is ridiculous.

"I think when you get over \$150 it is too much," senior Mandy Lawrence said. "In all likelihood, it will be a wear-it-once-and-never-again-type dress."

"Anything over \$150 is too much to pay for a dress," junior Karen Ward said. "That is why I do not like to get my dresses at

Weight can be controlled through diet

■ Losing pounds the sensible way keeps girls fit

by Mary Beth Kochel

Weight and worries about weight are two of the top concerns of most high school girls. They need to be just the right size and shape, but does the quest for the perfect figure mean that girls have to sacrifice their health?

High school girls in this day and age are exposed to the perfect little figure on TV and in magazines. Girls see the "perfect figure" in fashion magazines, movies, videos, TV programs and ads. Teen girls then feel that their figures must be like what they see because there is such a stereotype of what a teen girl should look like, according to senior Pam Luey.

Weight has become such an issue that girls will know exactly what to eat and what not to eat; they know how many calories and fat grams are in certain foods and avoid the foods that are high in calories and fat. Most people see no real harm in this. If teen girls have the will power and want to be in shape, they are on the right track.

The problems come when girls don't have healthy diets or don't eat at all. Not eating sounds like a difficult task, but when a girl doesn't like the way she looks, she may take up the challenge. Not eating as a way of losing weight has been and is a popular method

used by teen girls to lose a couple of pounds. But there is a healthier way to deal with a weight problem.

"Eat healthy and exercise on a regular basis," sophomore Kerri Leh, giving her solution to how girls can control their weights, said.

If a girl wants to control her weight and to get in shape, the right way to do it is by cutting the high fat foods out of her diet, eat lots of fruits and vegetables and exercise a couple times a week.

"I enjoy working out because it gives me something to do and makes me feel like I'm doing more than just sitting around the house," Leh said.

Sophomores plan Maryland trip

by Crystal Snow

One hundred sixty-one sophomores on April 18 traveled to Baltimore and Annapolis, Maryland, according to Mr. Thomas Bannister, the Sophomore Class advisor. The sophomores visited the Annapolis Naval Academy and either Camden Yards or the Maryland Science Center. Also, they were put on a waiting list at the Baltimore Aquarium. They had free time in the Baltimore Inner Harbor. The cost of the 1997 trip was \$40, which included the payment for transportation on Klein buses.

"I am traveling to Camden

sophomore Lindsay Miller said, talking about the places that she selected to visit on the trip. The sophomores got to choose in Baltimore between the Camden Yards and the Maryland Science Center.

"I chose the Science Center because I am not into baseball, and they had the Imax theater at the Science Center," said sophomore Sarah Weaver.

The Maryland Science Center features, among other things, a large-screen Imax theater.

The sophomores, who as freshmen could not get enough participants to have a class trip, had a hard time getting participants to go on the trip but now



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Even though the places where dresses are bought often vary,



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bridal shops because it ends up costing too much with alterations."

Most girls agree that spending more than \$150-200 on a prom dress is outrageous.

Not only are dresses expensive, but accessories and alterations can put a rather large dent in a girl's pocketbook.

"Sometimes alterations cost \$25 and depending on how expensive you want your accessories to be, that can put a damper on your finances," senior Marcia Gdowik said.

"It's crazy to spend a lot of money on a dress because I still need to get shoes, get my hair done and buy tickets because my date goes to another school," senior Allison Zeigler said. "It is cool to have a nice dress, but it is not worth going bankrupt over."

Yards and the Naval Academy,"

have enough students.

Seniors schedule week in Florida sun

by Amy Silva

The most exciting thing to happen to most seniors before graduation is the Senior Class trip to Florida. The seniors will be leaving on Tues., May 27, for four days of fun and sightseeing and will be returning home on Sat., May 31.

"I think it's going to be fun," senior Maggie McBride said about the trip. "It's the one last chance to be with all your friends before graduation."

"I can't wait to rub Mickey's ears," senior Nick Ciprero said, talking about how excited he is about the trip.

The trip will be basically the same as in previous years, except the seniors will be leaving Pottsgrove around 8 a.m. instead of in the afternoon. Arrival in Florida will be approximately

12:15, and the seniors will have the chance to visit the Kennedy Space Center, which has never been done in the past.

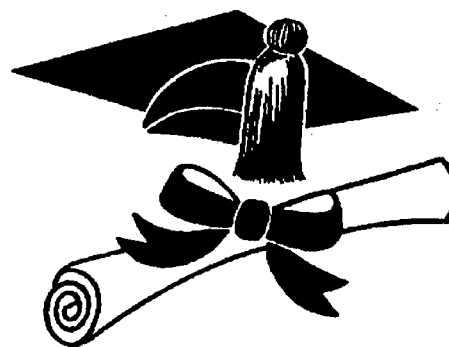
"The 100 seniors participating are all anxiously looking forward to a tremendous trip," said Senior Class advisor Ralph Werley. "The senior trip puts an exclamation point on the senior year and is a great culminating experience."

The seniors had a choice of three activities—Magic Kingdom, Epcot Center and MGM—to visit on one of the days of the five-day trip.

"We decided that Magic Kingdom would be the most fun," senior Dottie Bixler said, "so that's where we are going."

The seniors are also scheduled to visit Wet-n-Wild where they will spend the day, and then have a barbecue; Sea World for a Polynesian Luau Dinner Show and to see Shamu and fireworks.

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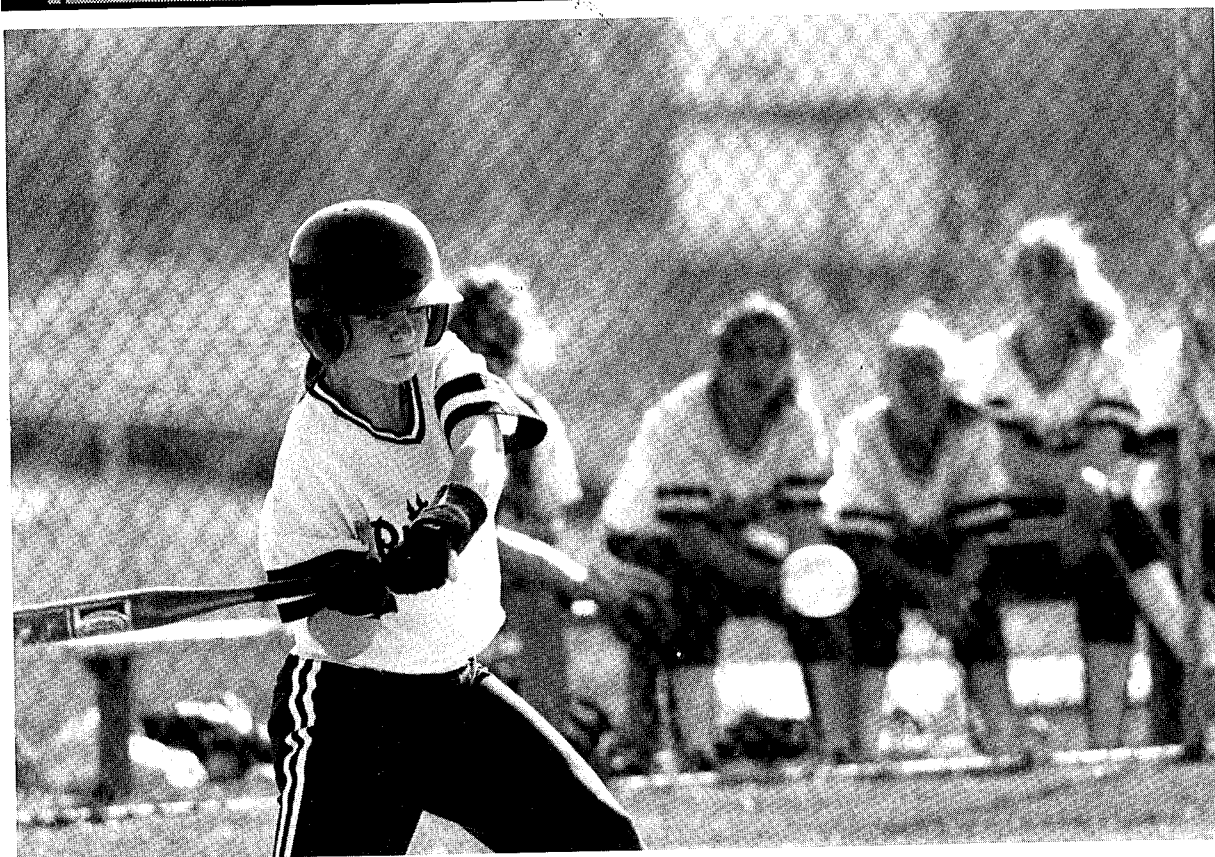
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PAC-10 contender: "We definitely could win the PAC-10 championship if we continue to play well," senior Mary Sloss, who plays right field, said. The girls' softball team's next game is scheduled against Boyertown at home at 7:30 p.m. on April 29.

Tennis team to enter singles competition

■ Team to close regular season with PV match

by Amy Richards

After two months of tennis practices and matches, today marks the start of the PAC-10 Singles competition. Two players—senior Whitaker Powell and sophomore Mike Collins—will be the representatives from the Falcon squad.

"My goal for this year is to get second in PAC-10 Singles," Powell said about his fourth and last season at PHS. "I would also like to win PAC-10 doubles."

Next week the guys will have a home-court advantage against rival Perkiomen Valley on Tues., April 29; this meet will mark the official end to the guys' 1997 season, with the exception of PAC-10 Doubles as well as district play.

"[Our meet with Perkiomen Valley] is what I call a swing match," Coach Scott Braunsberg said about the upcoming match. "We have a chance to win. PV has a couple of good players, but we can handle them."

PAC-10 Doubles competition begins on May 5, where two doubles teams will compete against other schools. The players for the doubles matches are chosen differ-

"The team is competitive because they don't quit. Instead, they battle back."

ently than for the singles matches: the first doubles team consists of the team's top two singles players—Powell and Collins—and for the second doubles team, there will be a play-off. Sophomore Jason Leh and senior Chris Chua, who are the third and fourth singles players, will compete against the first doubles team which consists of sophomores Jeff Troyan and Dustin Deloplaine for the spot.

Girls' track team to travel to Perkiomen Valley for last dual meet

by Amy Richards

As the spring sports season winds down, the girls' track team is looking to make a big statement, as well as a lasting one.

On Wed., April 30, the girls will travel to Perkiomen Valley for their last dual meet of the season.

"We should definitely win against Perkiomen Valley," senior captain Karen Reber said, whose

best events are the 400m, 800m, 1600m and the 4x400m relay. "They still have a lot of good distance runners, but they don't have any sprinters so we should do well."

The following week the team will try to regain their title as PAC-10 champions, which was taken away from them last year by rival Great Valley.

"[Our expectations for PAC-10s are] to win or die trying," senior thrower Amy Brunner said

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Boys' track team runs on mixture of experience in athletes

by Kim Schalata

The boys' track season is finally off and running. This team has grown in size over the past year and the returning members have improved greatly.

"This year's team is made up of quite a mixture. There are those solid seniors who are strong in their areas mixed in with inexperi-

enced freshmen who are working hard to achieve their goals," Coach Larry Rechtin said about this year's team.

The season started off with a win against Spring-Ford, and it gave the team a good outlook and the confidence they need to achieve this season. Many athletes have been working hard and are reaching their goals.

Senior Ryan Stairs, who currently holds the school record in the triple and long jump said, "I have found the triple jump to be my best event, and I hope to go to States and place in the top three."

The next meet is Wednesday, April 30, against Perk Valley.

"I expect this to be a close meet," said Coach Rechtin, talking about the upcoming meet. "Perk Valley could have become a strong team depending on who they have picked up in the last year."

"Many of the Pottsgrove boys' track members have greatly improved in their areas, giving us a solid core of athletes, strong in many events, and that gives us a good outlook on this season," Coach Rechtin said.

This year brought a larger turnout for the team than in previous years, according to Coach Charles Yohn. Many underclassmen have put in that extra effort to replace the shoes of last year's seniors.

"We're a strong team this year in a lot of different events," Brunner, who competes in the discus and triple jump, said. "This helps us against smaller teams."

"Focused," Coach Yohn said summing up his team. "So many of [the athletes] are making track the center of their lives."



Softball team takes on Lansdale...again

by Amy Richards

The Lady Falcons next Thursday, May 1, will take on Lansdale Catholic for the second time this season with a home game, after playing Boyertown in a nonleague game on Monday and Spring-Ford on Tuesday.

"In our game we're going to have to play hard and be serious," senior co-captain Courtney Quinones, who plays third base, said about the Lansdale game. "We're going to have to deal Lansdale Catholic a loss to be in

contention for the PAC-10 first place."

The team's goal for the season is to be PAC-10 champions and to make a dent in post-season play, which will begin after their season ends with their game with St. Pius on Wednesday, May 14.

"Everyone on the team is producing when we need them to," senior co-captain Jess Lanz, who is the catcher, said about the team's weaknesses. "Even if someone makes a mistake, they pick up their heads and keep on playing."

Falcon baseball team to face Spring-Ford

by Crystal Ehlinger

The PHS baseball team will be up against Spring-Ford on Tues., April 29, in an away game that starts at 3:45 p.m.

For students who would rather stay on their own turf to cheer on their team, after the Spring-Ford contest of the four remaining games, the first two will be played at home.

Senior Jim Cerminaro looks forward to the second Pottstown matchup on May 6.

"They [Pottstown] are a really poor team—we beat them 13-1," he said.

Cerminaro predicted at the beginning of the season that the team would "win more games than we lose."

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