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“Video cameras, cable TV and VCRs have impacted the teaching and learning of athletics, particularly basketball.”

—Mr. Ralph Werley, basketball coach

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the falcon

Pottsgrove High School
1345 Kauffman Road
Pottstown, Pennsylvania 19464
Phone: (610) 326-5105

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newsbriefs

Parental liberty given to Congress

(HSNG) Washington — In most American households and in spite of protests from teens, what Mom or Dad says, goes. And several congressmen want to keep it that way by passing a law that will ensure parents have the final say in raising their children.

To keep the government from intruding on parents' age-old rights to raise their children as they see fit, Rep. Steve Largent (R-Okla.) introduced the Parental Rights and Responsibilities Act. Its goal is to "protect the fundamental right of a parent to direct the upbringing of a child."

Supporters, such as Michael Farris of the Home School Legal Defense Association, told Congress the House bill is needed because "parental liberty is dying." They cited examples such as schools with condom distribution programs and controversial books that teach kids about "offensive" lifestyles.

The bill states that "parents face increasing intrusions into their legitimate decisions...by government agencies" and that "governments should not interfere in the decisions and actions of parents without compelling justification."

Under the act, parents would have the right to direct the education of their children, discipline them (using "reasonable" corporal punishment, if they choose) and guide them in religious training.

With the rights would come the parents' responsibility to educate their kids to read and become self-sufficient.

Critics said the bill would hinder child abuse cases by giving protection to parents and not the children. If the bill became law, though, parental rights wouldn't include the right to abuse or neglect children.

Hormone levels linked to drinking

(HSNG) Lexington, KY — While most everyone already knows that hormones trigger bodily changes in teenagers, recent research suggests that they also may influence whether teens drink alcohol and smoke cigarettes or marijuana.

University of Kentucky psychiatrists found that high school girls who drink and smoke have higher levels of the male hormone testosterone, which increases impulsivity and risk-taking behavior, than girls who don't. They also possess increased levels of the female hormone estradiol, which has been linked with breast cancer later in life as well as feelings of depression and sadness in adolescents.

High school boys who drink alcohol and smoke marijuana are likely to have high levels of testosterone, too. Boys with lots of a hair-growth hormone, though, are less likely than their peers to smoke marijuana. This hormone drains boys' energy and, researchers speculate, makes them less interested in experimentation.

It's not known, though, whether increased hormones lead to substance abuse or if it's the other way around.

The study examined 160 students at two Kentucky high schools, one rural and one urban. The students, most of whom were 16, answered a survey and revealed whether they drank or smoked during the previous year. Researchers then took blood from each student and analyzed it for hormones.

Dr. Catherine Martin, the lead researcher, said the study could help prevent substance abuse and potentially serious health problems by identifying at-risk teens early.

Teens plan to send books to Africa

(HSNG) Wakefield, MA — Six American teenagers plan to send thousands of books to South African students to help compensate, in some small way, for the decades of poverty and oppression caused by apartheid at schools there.

The group of girls, who came up with the idea as their entry in a contest to solve "real-life" world problems, plans to collect 15,000 books, textbooks, dictionaries and encyclopedias from local donors. And, because 300 of their peers voted them best entry of the Kid Speak Solution Challenge, sponsored by a Boston ice cream company, the girls got a \$3,000 grant to ship the books overseas.

Other Wakefield students will learn more about their South African counterparts by writing letters and listening to lectures by a local professor who conducts an exchange program with South African students.

"We hope to build an understanding of our cultures even though we're an ocean apart," said Emily Kumble, one of the project's designers. "Think of what we can learn from each other."

Blizzard of '96 affects school calendar

School year stretches into the summer vacation

by Kelly Krause

"Pottsgrove School District is closed."

That's what many Pottsgrovians heard over the radio as they awakened several mornings this winter, especially during the week of Jan. 8-12.

Pottsgrove students may watch television, go outside or even work on these snow days, but in the back of their minds lies the vague question: "When will we make up these snow days?"

The end of the marking period was changed, because of the snow days, to Feb. 2. Moved a second time, midterms were held Feb. 6, 7 and 8. Color Day was moved to today.

Students are now worried about when they will be getting out of school. "If we started early, why are we getting out so late?" asked sophomore Matt Holler, referring to the August start of school by Pottsgrove and echoing a question asked by many Pottsgrove students.

"Our hope (by starting on Aug. 29) was to identify early on the vacation days in the calendar," said Mr. Robert Anderson, principal at Pottsgrove High. "If we wouldn't have started then, Pottsgrove students would have gotten out June 20."

However, vacation days were

added to the school calendar which were not in last year's calendar in September and November, giving students a fall vacation and extending the Thanksgiving vacation. Now most of Pottsgrove's vacation days planned for the spring have been omitted from the calendar so that students go to school the minimum 180 days required by law. Some of the removed vacation days which have been omitted are Feb. 16 (Winter Ball date) and 19, April 4 and 8, and days normally slated as summer vacation days in June.

"It really doesn't bother me that we have to make them (the snow days) up along the year," said Miss Jennifer Vitelli, a Spanish teacher at Pottsgrove. "It's better than making them up all summer."

Sophomore Lorelei Hollenbach had different feelings. "I hate it because I don't want to be stuck in school all summer. What fun is that?" she said.

"To tell you the truth, I really don't care," said senior Guy Carter. "We had fun on the days we missed, and it didn't take away from our year."

Seniors who were slated to start college early, however, may have concerns. For one thing, they are not going to get much of a break from the last day of their classes here and the start of their college classes.

"If a student has to go to college early, the proper arrangements will be made," said Mr. Anderson. "They can take their finals earlier and be off to college in time."

As for those who need summer

jobs, the late closing of the school year should not affect them.

"I feel that if students really want a summer job, they would have preplanned to get one as early as March," said Mr. Anderson. "No planning, no job."

The school closings and delays have an effect on the graduating seniors. "Seniors will graduate on a date that will later be announced," said Mr. Anderson.

Snow not only affects the school year, but social lives as well.

"I worked on a history paper that was due Monday (Jan. 8)," said sophomore Shannon Shulby. "Thank God we had a blizzard because I didn't get it done until Thursday night (Jan. 11)."

"I was stranded in Charlotte (North Carolina) with my best friend," said Mrs. Bambi Eschbach, math teacher at Pottsgrove, "and had the most stress-free vacation anyone could ever plan."


Most Pottsgrove students, like senior Carter and freshman Beth Weikel, just "watched television" when they couldn't come to school.

Some funny stories were also produced from all the snow. "My cat was stuck under a car," said sophomore Sarah Maslayak. "Since it was there for three days without any food, it came out pretty psychotic."


"I was trying to walk through the snowdrifts," said sophomore Jen Ullman, "but I got stuck because the snow was up to my chest. My mom came outside with the camcorder and, instead of helping me out, she started videotaping me."



Winter weather: After one snow storm and then the Blizzard of '96, students like eleventh graders Sarah Spaide and Patricia Stall found themselves shut in for a few days. When school was canceled due to the weather, Spaide said that she went skiing with friends, finished her book report, crashed her new car into a snow bank and watched too many talk shows.



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Editor-in-chiefMelissa Moyer
News editorAmy Richards
ReportersGuy Carter, Crystal Ehlinger, Jennifer Houck,
Kelly Krause, Megan LaRosse, Katherine McCormick,
Jen Ullman, Kelly Yearger
Business managerLaura Mull
Business adviserMrs. Barbara Eschbach
Copy/layout adviserCharles E. Parrish

Smokers hurt others

Smoke creeps out of a restroom and, no, it's not a hair-greased-down or teased-up year in the 50's. Students smoke in school and it's the 90's.

The no-smoking ban should be strictly enforced. Teenagers in school should be concentrating on their studies, not on how much they need a cigarette. Those caught smoking in school should be hit with a harsher punishment than a Saturday suspension.

First of all, they're endangering, as everyone knows, the lives of others. Secondhand smoke affects innocent people. Non-smokers breathing in this harsh secondhand smoke could be as bad off as the smokers themselves. Secondhand smoke damages the lung's tissues, making people more susceptible to lung cancer and disease.

It's frequently peer pressure that makes teens smoke, or even, as the latest studies show, advertising; or, maybe teens are trying to live up to some kind of image. However, no one should be smoking in school.

A self-help counseling service is offered by the school nurse at Pottsgrove. However, this does not seem to be helping the recurring problem of smoking in school.

The no-smoking ban is just the thing that needs to be strictly enforced in today's schools. At least people would know they could be safe from cigarette smoke in school.

Teams want fans

At a typical Pottsgrove sports event, there are a few parents, siblings and friends of the players. Where is everyone?

Pottsgrove needs more support for its sports teams. A lot of people do attend football and basketball games. However, students also work on other teams, such as field hockey, soccer and tennis, and they also want fan support.

Many interscholastic games are held after school, a time when students have jobs, homework or other sports practices. Away games are tough to attend when students don't have a method of transportation—another reason why some sports do not receive much support. Some people don't attend because they just don't care.

Sports like soccer and hockey could be held at night during the week so more people would be able to attend. Notices or announcements should attract spectators to the games.

No matter what though, students out for sports like golf, hockey, tennis, cross country and soccer feel that their sports matter too and want fan support. If the support stops, will the students who go out for the teams feel cheated?

Be different

C'mon, be different—like everybody else.

A lot of people can't make up their minds whether they want to fit in or stand out; however, the two extremes seem to go hand in hand. In order to be popular, a student must find the perfect blend of going along with the crowd and being an individual.

But it's an all-or-nothing game. A student can't be half individual, half carbon copy. Being yourself is not about choosing the convenient times to conform with everyone else in the gang.

While students desperately look for their own identities, they often give in to the easiest solution—and get lost in the shuffle. But the simplest solution may not be the best thing for the individual. Just because one person makes a certain choice doesn't mean it's the right choice for the next guy—or for anyone.

If more students stood up for their own individuality instead of taking the easiest way out by caving into peer pressure, there would be fewer carbon copies running around.

Besides, it's a lot more daring to be different.



Athletes have gotten faster, stronger

Equipment, diets have impacted on today's athletes

by Melissa Moyer

Are athletes today taller, swifter, stronger than 20 years ago? "That's a definite yes," said girls' track coach Charles Yohn, talking about track records. "Just look at the times."

Mr. Yohn, a coach for 17 years, attributes the improvement in athletics to a number of things, including advanced equipment, diet and training techniques. All-weather tracks and special shoes for individual sports have contributed to the record-breaking times and distances over the last 20 years. He said that the diets of concerned athletes are better today, although diets of kids in general are worse.

An important development for track athletes has been the concept of warming up. Mr. Yohn said that athletes aren't injured as often now, due in part to the amount of stretching done by today's athletes. Twenty years ago athletes didn't stretch before their workouts, according to Mr. Yohn.

Mr. Yohn gave another example of how athletes have evolved: "We used to high jump into sawdust."

Boys' basketball coach Ralph Werley said that an important development has been that athletes now have access to film, so they are able to watch what they do well or poorly on tape.

"Video cameras, cable TV and VCRs have impacted the teaching and learning of athletics, particularly basketball," said Mr. Werley, who has coached for 21 years.

However, not all changes in athletics have been improvements. Mr. Yohn said that a major change has been the specialization of today's athletes. More and more kids are focusing their energy on one sport—and then training for this sport year-round. Mr. Yohn discourages this because he said that concentrating too much on a single sport often becomes dull and causes athletes to lose interest and energy.

Football coach Rick Pennypacker, a coach for almost 20 years, also said that there are more kids specializing in sports. He himself played three sports in high school—football, basketball and baseball.

"It (specializing in a sport) doesn't make them any better," said Coach Pennypacker.

He said that, in the past, kids rarely lifted weights and trained for football year-round.

Mr. Werley said that the decrease in three-sport athletes doesn't cut down on stars, but on the number of role players in sports.

"If kids played more sports, all coaches would be happier," said Mr. Werley.

Mr. Werley said that the media also has an effect on athletics.

"I think there is (more pressure) because of increased TV and media coverage of the game," said Mr. Werley. "There's pressure to do your best when your play is scrutinized."

"There are benefits to being publicized, but you have to be able to uphold your end of the bargain," said Mr. Pennypacker.

Another pressure in athletics is the possibility of scholarship money.

"There's more pressure on athletes in general because of the amount of press and the scholarship money," said Mr. Yohn. "Some pressure makes (athletes) exceed what they are able to do."

Mr. Pennypacker and Mr. Werley said that priorities have also changed, and both cars and jobs have hurt athletes.

"Unfortunately, a lot of monetary demands are placed on youngsters these days that were not so prevalent (20 years ago)," said Mr. Werley. "Most students work somewhere at a part-time job."

Mr. Werley said that athletes who hold down jobs are often drained between school, sports and work.

"Kids were left to be 20 years ago, knowing they're going to work the rest of their lives," said Mr. Werley. "They grow up too fast (today), thinking about things that 20 years ago weren't so commonplace."

However, Mr. Pennypacker said

On the big screen: 'Father of the Bride, II' may be better than its progenitor

by Katie McCormick

It isn't very often that a sequel is as successful as the original movie. Take, for instance, the huge success of *Home Alone*. It is one of the biggest box office money makers, yet its followup has not achieved as much success. In the case of the movie *Father of the Bride, Part II*, the sequel is equal if not better than the progenitor.

Father of the Bride, Part II basically picks up where the parent movie ended. It begins with Steve Martin introducing a recap of events that have taken place in his life just recently. His daughter and son-in-law, filled with marital bliss, announce that they are expecting a child. This throws Martin's character into a loop because he feels he is too young to be a grandfather. He basically goes through a mid-life crisis while trying to make himself feel younger.

After going through the crisis, he is then thrown into a bigger loop: his own wife is pregnant. The rest of the movie basically deals with the trials and tribulations of mother and daughter's pregnancies and Martin's character finally coming to terms with his situation and accepting it.

Martin does a fine job of being extremely funny one moment and dead serious the next. He makes the character quite believable and convincing. The scenes between Diane Keaton, his wife in the movie, and Martin are realistic as well. Martin Short also appears to reprise his role as Franc, the multi-occasion planner who is an ultimate scene stealer.

Overall, I recommend this picture. It is a light, carefree comedy that doesn't tackle heavy, depressing topics. It is a movie any person could enjoy.

Students use the Net to stay in touch

Computers cut mail, research time for students

by Jen Houck

The newest and most popular way of communication today is through the InterNet. By using the Net, people all over the world can communicate through their computers by way of telephone wires.

The most popular function of the net is E-mail, which stands for "electronic mailbox." This allows a person to leave a letter for another as if that person was actually putting it directly into the mailbox.

"I have talked to people all over the world," said Russell McCollum, a PHS senior. "I've talked to people

in places like Scotland, England, Saudi Arabia and all across the U.S.—places that I wouldn't normally be able to talk to."

"I use the Net to use E-mail and to just cruise the Net," said Adam Iatesta, a junior. "I've also used it for reports."

There are several adults that use the Net, also. PHS Principal Robert Anderson said that he uses it frequently.

"I use the Net to do research. I'm currently working on my doctorate," he said. "I just recently looked into the Washington State Library by using the Net."

Another teacher that uses the InterNet is Mr. David Pugh, who teaches business education.

"By using the Net, I was able to get information about the new Disney Lodge," Pugh said.

There are several other reasons

that people go on the Internet besides research. It is possible to look up just about anything: college scholarships, magazines, news articles, ways to meet people and purchase items.

"They have MTV and Disney on-line," said Iatesta about what's available on the InterNet. "There are also radio stations," said Iatesta.

What is the cost to use the InterNet? It can be pretty expensive.

"I pay a certain amount each month and then I get a certain amount of hours free. If you go over that time, then you have to pay more," said senior Stacey Mayberry. "Sometimes you don't realize just how long you are on it."

Though the cost of having the service can be expensive, to many it is very worthwhile.

"The InterNet is a whole other world, just be sure not to get lost," said Iatesta.

Students have their own ideas about homework

by Sarah Maslayak

When it comes to homework, students sometimes feel as swamped as a hippo in quicksand.

Students have many responsibilities, including sports practices, jobs and club meetings. After these, they only have so much time to complete all the homework assigned to them each day.

Some teachers feel that students should be spending at least three hours a night completing homework. Students, however, feel

that the three minutes before a class spent hurriedly scribbling down a friend's answers is adequate enough.

Sometimes, though, the system fails and, armed and ready, students have to cruise into class with an excuse for not doing homework.

"I forgot my book in my locker" is senior Matt Freese's favorite excuse.

"I lost it" is freshman Jared Miller's favorite excuse. "I try not to use anything too fancy," Miller said, talking about how he handles the situation when he does not get

his homework done, "or else the teacher won't believe it."

Students would not even have to worry about having good excuses if they would only do their homework. But when talking about why they do not complete this task, most students say, "I never feel like doing it." Some of them would much rather spend their time in front of the refrigerator or the television.

"I'm too busy to do homework," said Mike Burke, a senior.

Sports, team, club work and social lives take up valuable study time. Teachers, however, want the work done and on time.

"When I use an excuse," said Freese, "teachers just tell me to hand the work in later or receive a zero."

Junior studies to be an auctioneer

by Guy Carter

Amy Grimley, a junior here at Pottsgrove, has a job many students would not consider a field of choice: she works as an apprentice auctioneer.

Amy works for two companies: Joseph P. Smalley, Inc. and Gail Grimley, Inc.

"You have to go through a series of steps to become an auctioneer," said Amy. "First off, you have to pass a two-hour test in Harrisburg. Then you have to pay a \$50 fee for your license; finally you

have to have 36 auctions to become a full auctioneer." Currently, Amy has 10 auctions under her belt.

Amy has been an apprentice for nine months.

"I started working for the late Mr. Thompson as a runner, when my mom was an apprentice," said Amy. "I have been working since I was 10 years old."

Amy has been skilled in all areas of auctioneering, including clerking, computing, writing and running. Amy plans to go to college and study theater, and after she "makes it big," she plans to do celebrity auctions.

Athletes today are faster, better equipped

(Cont. from pg 2, Col. 5)

that his coaching techniques have remained the same. He said that "kids haven't changed, but expectations have changed."

"I have realized that football is not the number one priority in every kid's life," said Pennypacker.

Mr. Werley said that basketball players are more athletic than basketball players were 20 years ago, but less disciplined than those of the past.

"Skills are much more developed now, but you can count on fundamentals being mastered by players," said Mr. Werley. "(Athletes) can dunk or shoot much

longer shots now than their predecessors, but fewer players can hit a high percentage of their free throws or execute a proper bounce pass."

Mr. Werley said that, in general, there is less interest now in wanting to be role players or just be part of a team. Some players quit if they won't be a standout. He said that the commitment is not what it was.

Mr. Pennypacker said that, as an athlete in high school, he never used alcohol because he was an athlete. But priorities and attitudes have changed.

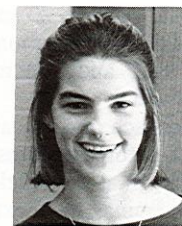
Mr. Werley said that the level of respect for opponents and coaches has totally changed—and not for the better. In addition, there's been a change in dedication.

People don't stick with stuff," said Mr. Werley. "Times are different. 1976 and 1996 are as different as night and day...athletically and in our society."

Falcon asks...

Should snow days be built into the school calendar, or should days be added on to the school year when days are missed due to snow?

Jaime Epright, junior: "They should be built into the school year."



Jennifer Sheller, sophomore: "There should be snow days because the seniors are looking forward to graduation, and then it gets pushed back."

Nicole Gratti, freshman: "The snow days should be built into the school year."



Matt Slaymaker, senior: "I think that they should be built into the calendar because our summer is shortened, and I don't want to stay any longer than I have to."

Mr. Ralph Werley, math teacher: "I prefer that we add the days at the end of the year, but that graduation be set before school ever starts so that it doesn't move."



Jackie Pinchok, senior: "I think they should be built into the calendar. It would eliminate a lot of the problems that we have making up the snow days at the end of the year."

Sophomores have rough time choosing Winter Ball Court

by Kelly Krause

The Sophomore Class is sponsoring the Winter Ball, to be held Feb. 16, 1996, and the class had a rough time deciding who would be on the court.

A sophomore executive council meeting was held Tuesday, Dec. 12, about electing the Winter Ball Court. One change in the decision for candidates is that there is now a set of requirements each person has to live up to.

"You have to be in at least three activities, can't be failing any classes and you have to have above a C average in citizenship," said sophomore Sarah Maslayak. "A lot of people who would be chosen aren't good representatives of the Sophomore Class."

Sophomore executive council member Natalie Scherer had different feelings.

"I just didn't think it would be fair for students that have a majority of A's and B's and have maybe one C in citizenship," she said. "We then discussed this at the meeting and decided certain exceptions could be made."

Sophomore Class President Karen Ward also thought that the criteria was "good." "I agree with it," she said.

The requirements for the candidacy were changed because it was all thought of as a popularity contest. "It is (a popularity contest), but it shouldn't be," said Kelly Yeager,

a sophomore. "The Winter Ball Court should consist of people who deserve to be chosen, not just the 'popular' people."

"If you look at past Winter Ball Courts, it seems that just the popular people won," Rebecca Royer said.

"You've got to make it more than a popularity contest," Maslayak said.

"You have to draw the line somewhere," Lion said.

At the executive council meeting, cries of "revote" were heard when the final restrictions were read.

"Maybe the people who were upset at the meeting are the people who don't meet the criteria and want to be on the court," Yeager said.

"It's a tough position to be in," said Ward about being on executive council, "but you have to realize you can't please everyone."

Riding the bus has a few good points

by Shannon Shulby

Most students groan when the topic of how one gets to school is brought up. This is because the most common method of transportation is the school bus.

Most people think of riding the bus as a torturous experience, but not everyone feels that way. "I like riding the bus because I like being with my friends," said sophomore Kiley Sharpe about her daily experience on the bus.

Riding the bus can be similar to watching a talk show at times.

"When I ride the bus, I get to hear all the latest gossip," said sophomore Kelly Krause.

Students with cars are usually at an advantage because they don't have to worry about time as much as people who depend on the bus for transportation.

"I drive to school because I have my own car," said junior Kelly Thomas talking about how she gets to school. "It's better because I can leave whenever I want."

Many students who don't drive look to their parents for a ride for the same reason.

"My mom brings me to school in the morning so I can get up later," said Heather Riker, a sophomore.

Riding the bus and driving are not the only two ways to get to school. There are several other alternatives such as rollerblading or riding the ever-so-famous bicycle.

There are certain advantages to each of the ways students can get to school. If a student does not take the bus, he can leave the house whenever he wants. He doesn't have to worry about waiting at the bus stop and has extra time in the morning.

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Math teacher makes national presentations to other teachers

■ Conferences have impacted on teacher's skills

by Amy Richards

PHS geometry teacher Mrs. Barbara Eschbach last April was offered the chance to become a better teacher.

After presenting a one-and-a-half-hour workshop at the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) conference in Boston, Mrs. Eschbach returned home not realizing the impact she had made.

In the audience at the conference was a representative for the Institute for Educational Development. Soon after, he contacted Mrs. Eschbach and offered her a job

traveling and giving seminars. She accepted and since then has been working harder than ever.

"While preparing to do these seminars, I have purchased lots of materials and done a lot of reading," said Mrs. Eschbach. "I have tried different things with my classes that I now do with my seminar."

Mrs. Eschbach made presentations to teachers in Cleveland, OH, and Chicago, IL, on Nov. 20 and 21. She also made presentations in Greensboro, NC, and Richmond, VA, on Jan. 8 and 9.

Mrs. Eschbach arrives at the city the night before her presentation and checks in at her hotel. She presents her seminar the next day from 8:30 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. and then travels to the next city or returns home. Basically, all she sees of each city is the hotel and the airport.

The seminar is entitled


"Strengthening Your Geometry Program: Ideas, Strategies and Hands-On Activities," which is intended for use in grades 7-12.

"The ideas I share are mostly cost-free activities that (the teachers) can go home with and immediately use in their classroom," said Mrs. Eschbach about how the seminar benefits other teachers.

Mrs. Eschbach had to write a handbook, which she distributes to everyone who attends her presentation, before giving her first seminar, which includes "practical, classroom proven geometry activities, project ideas, model materials and timesaving classroom tips," according to a brochure that advertises her seminar.

"Presenting seminars has impacted my teaching 100 percent. I am constantly reevaluating the activities I've always used and try-

ing new ones," said Mrs. Eschbach, who also attends conferences herself. "It has rejuvenated my love for teaching."



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Controversy continues over whether or not to install traffic light

by Crystal Ehlinger

There has been a controversy over the idea of installing a traffic light at the intersection of Route 100 and State Road. This intersection has been the scene of a number of accidents, some of them fatal.

On Monday, Jan. 22, there was an Upper Pottsgrove township meeting concerning the light issue. The township's board members voted to mail a formal document to Pennsylvania's Department of Transportation (PennDOT), voicing their concern about the dangerous intersection.

Debbi Borger, a senior who took the light matter into her own hands, said, "I was surprised at the support given by the community."

Borger was offered free flyers and given donations toward supplies from complete strangers, who support the idea of installing a traffic light.

Before the light can be erected, PennDOT must survey the area and clock the number of cars that pass through the intersection. If that number exceeds the requirements, permission will be given.

The only barrier that would put

a hindrance on the much-needed light is the cost, which is approximately \$50,000.

To help defray the cost, Mr. Peter Manfredi, owner of the Stowe Ski Shop, which is located at the intersection, offered \$10,000 to the township.

"Our trucks cross the intersection all summer long," said Mr. Manfredi, giving his reason for the donation.

The rest of the funds will be raised by the community through various fundraisers and benefits.

An outpouring of support from the community has been shown by the 522 names signed on a Saturday-morning petition. The Mercury ran "Light of Life" coupons for people to sign and send in showing that they are in favor of the idea. So far 1200 coupons have been returned to the Mercury.

"Considering the fact that a lot of accidents have already hap-

pened, a light is a good idea," said Tim Murray, a senior who lives about 200 feet from the intersection. "It'll also save time trying to cross the intersection."

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Color Day tradition continues

■ Today's events will follow theme of anniversary

By Amy Richards

An oldie but goodie: for the past 40 years, PHS has continued the time-honored tradition of Color Day. Some things have changed, but the expression of school spirit has remained the same.

On Color Day in 1975, the first annual parade of school organizations and activities was held, which is when each club parades around the auditorium. This was stopped several years ago, but to bring back memories of Pottsgrove's earlier years, it may return.

"We are investigating the parade of colors held in the past," said Vice Principal Joyce Wishart, who is in charge of planning Color Day.

This year's Color Day focuses on the fortieth anniversary of the school district, and the theme will be "Remembering Our Past, and Reaching to the Future."

In the morning, students will proceed to the auditorium where they will hear speeches by the candidates as well as from a former Color Day winner who will return to his alma mater. The band will

perform under the direction of Mr. Darrell Weyman.

To qualify for the Color Day award, certain conditions must be taken into consideration, according to Miss Wishart. First, the student must be active in two activities for two years and have completed the obligations for their activities. The student must also maintain an average of 77 percent or higher and have a B in citizenship in order to be eligible.

"The criteria was designed so that it would not be a popularity contest," said Miss Wishart. "The GPA was lowered so that average students who were active could be elected by their classmates."

After listening to the speeches, the classes will divide and proceed to other activities. One group will remain in the auditorium to hear the Color Day band perform. Mr. John Shantz, Mr. Sandi Turner, Mr. Frank Scaltitro and Mr. Tom Bannister will be performing the song "Low Rider" by War. There will be four other performances done by students doing numbers ranging from Hootie and the Blowfish to Phish.

"Last year there was one big group and either the drummer or guitarist changed," said Mr. Shantz, who along with Mr. Turner is in charge of the musical performances.

District plans to celebrate its fortieth anniversary

by Crystal Ehlinger

"We want to draw attention (to the schools)."

Along with Mr. Bender, 34 other members of the celebration committee have been working on the preparations of up-coming events.

Hats and t-shirts have been on sale to promote the school.

On March 22, a banquet will be held at Sunnybrook for the alumni, current teachers, students and anyone in the district who wishes to join in on the celebration. Ticket sales are being announced in the Mercury for anyone interested in attending the banquet.

"The banquet is to bring attention to the anniversary and to bring

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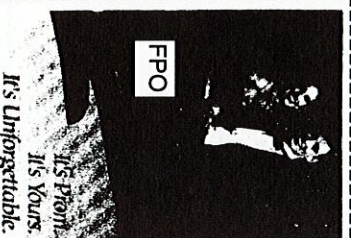
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A Pottsgrove tradition: Besides being a day out of classes, Color Day promotes school spirit and unity. "It was fun participating in a winning event, even though we lost Color Day," said sophomore Natalie Scherer, who participated in the sit-up contest last year. Also pictured are sophomore Jen Ullman and Ms. Ruth Guenther.



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Science Club members help the community

by Crystal Ehlinger

The Science Club, like the Key Club, is made up of do-gooders for the community.

For the spring the club members will be volunteering their time to pick up trash along Charlotte Street. Each year the club makes it a point to pick up trash twice in the fall and twice in the spring. Due to parking and traffic along the street, the club goes out on Sunday mornings for two to three hours.

Other than trash pick-up, the club takes various day trips. Upcoming trips include a geology

trip, a day canoe trip and a trip to a planetarium and observatory.

Science Club consists of 71 members and two advisors, Mr. Gary Christ and Mr. Robert Devlin.

"Any ideas for trips come from the students," said Mr. Christ. "We (he and Mr. Devlin) are just the advisors."

The costs of the trips are paid for by the students and from the club's account.

"Science Club doesn't run any candy sales or anything like that—they're a pain," said Mr. Christ.

The club visited Washington, D.C., on Nov. 8. The cost was \$20 to visit the different Smithsonianians.

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Preparing for district playoffs: Senior Christy Hammaker leads the girls' basketball team in scoring, with an average of 20 points per game, despite playing late-season games with a knee injury. The regular season ended on Tuesday night.

Falcons deal with team injuries

■ Basketball team grabs trophy at holiday tournament

by Jennifer Houck

The boys' basketball team has had an up and down season. A downer for the team was the injuries; players who were injured include Justin Harper, Jermaine Thaxton and Chris Patton.

"Justin Harper was a major contributor," said Mr. Ralph Werley, basketball coach and math teacher at PHS. "He hasn't played since injuring his knee on Nov. 30. He will return next year."

"I enjoyed the experience of watching my teammates out on the floor," said Harper.

Both Thaxton and Patton also had injuries to part of the leg.

"The injuries have hampered us for weeks at a time," said Mr.

Werley.

The season was not all bad though. There were many surprises.

"Jim Cerninaro had not played basketball for two years," said Mr. Werley, "but he won a starting position within a week. From that we received an excellent contribution."

"The best part of the season for me was beating Pottstown," said Cerninaro.

"Also, nobody expected Mike Burke to improve as dramatically from a lack-luster junior campaign to a stellar season," said Mr. Werley.

"It was a learning experience. I tried to slow up this year," Burke said. "I practiced and developed a really good outside shot. My favorite was beating Pottstown for the first time in 10 years. I am going to miss not making the Final Four. My goal is to play in college."

Matt Slaymaker, another senior on the team, also had something positive to say about the team.

"We really played together,"

Slaymaker said. "It wasn't like I thought it would be, but we did well. We won the Christmas tournament because we played as a team."

The team won the Christmas tournament for the first time in four years against Schuylkill Valley with a score of 80-63 and Tulpehocken, 65-60.

"We had a very successful season. We were very competitive. We beat some good teams," said Mr. Werley. "We were a difficult opponent for our competitors."

There are several lessons that are taught along with basketball technique.

"We teach them dedication and teamwork," said Mr. Werley. "The team learned from competing. We point out similarities on the court that would also apply in life."

Tonight is the last game for the team before they go to Districts. The game is at home against Perkiomen Valley and will start at 6:15 p.m.

Lady Falcons get ready for post-season play

by Guy Carter

The Pottsgrove Lady Falcons ended the month of January with an impressive record of 10-2. Although they had a pretty good record, a big downer of the season was when they lost senior Jill Trout due to a serious knee injury.

"The team was there for me," said Trout. "We're all so close. We

played summer league and other pick-up games. We were well prepared for the season." Trout also said that she was really disappointed about her season but still plans to play ball in college.

The Lady Falcons surprised other teams with their teamwork, dedication and desire to win.

"I think after Jill's injury we stepped up our play a notch and played better than most expected," said senior Christy Hammaker, a guard, in late January. "Hopefully, with our hard work we will make the Final Four."

"I'm pleased that the girls did a lot better than people thought," Trout said. "People lost respect, but the team stepped up and showed those people up."

The Lady Falcons earned a berth

to Districts. With their hard work and dedication, they should have no problem making it to the semi-finals for States.

The Lady Falcons ended their regular season play Tuesday evening in an away game with Perkiomen Valley.



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by Melissa Moyer

For a while it looked as though Pottsgrove was not going to have a wrestling team. But all it took was for people to stand up and show some support. Now Pottsgrove has a new coach and is committed to the wrestling program.

Coach Jeffrey Kollar came here this year from Spring-Ford where he was the head coach at the junior high level for five years. He said that he had no reason to leave except that he wanted to have his own program. He doesn't regret his move for a second.

"(At the high school level), you can leave impressions on a kid that will last a lifetime and that's why I want to be up here," said Coach Kollar.

He also said that it's more important for his wrestlers to be good people than wrestlers.

"I don't worry about what other teams do," said Coach Kollar. "I worry about what we do."

During most of the season, the team had to forfeit only the heavy-weight class—quite an accomplishment for a team that got off to such a shaky beginning.

Coach Kollar said that he is still trying to figure out what success is. Also, he is not constantly worried about the number of members on his team as much as some other coaches.

"I don't even know what success is," said Coach Kollar. "I don't worry about the numbers too much."

However, he also said that he hopes he will gain some more wrestlers in the future.

Coach Kollar said that there's a saying about your back being up against a wall. He said that his back is "through the wall." However, he thrives on the opportunity to work with the kids here.

"I plan on dying here," said Coach Kollar. "I like the challenge that much. The cloud can't get any

darker."

Junior Troy Vogt, who wrestled at 119 lbs., spent the regular season undefeated. Also, freshman Brian Saylor, after dropping down to the 103 lb. weight class, beat one of the best wrestlers in this category. However, Coach Kollar said all the members of the team are equal in importance.

The Falcons take on Faith Christian and Perkiomen School tonight at Faith Christian.



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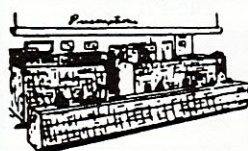
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