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“ [The new community service program is] not going to save every youth, but it may make the ones on the fringe ... think about what they are doing. ”

—John D. Durkin, district justice

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# the falcon

Pottsgrove High School  
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## newsbriefs

### Eighteen-year-olds must register

North Chicago, IL—If you're about to turn 18 or are already 18, the best way to stay on Uncle Sam's good side is to register with Selective Service. It's a federal law to register within 30 days of your 18th birthday. You also need to register to be eligible for certain benefits, such as federal student aid, job training, and most federal employment. Failure to register is a felony punishable by a fine up to \$250,000 and/or up to five years in prison.

You can avoid the risk of prosecution and loss of benefits by registering at any local post office or on the Internet, <http://www.sss.gov>. There may also be a Selective Service register at your school, so you can ask at the principal's office.

Selective Service accepts late registration before age 26, but the longer you wait, the longer you're breaking the law.

After you register, you will receive an acknowledgment of

## Persistence helps seniors

### Parental encouragement may also play a role in students' achievements in the climb to the top

### ■ Honor students discuss incentives and study habits

by Crystal Snow

Too many tests, too little sleep. What does it take to be

salutatorian of the senior class, when asked if she is pressured by her parents to do homework or to do well in school. "If I want to get where I'm planning to go, I know I need to get my work done."

"My parents have always encouraged me to keep working hard," said Lorelei Hollenbach,

depends on how much homework I am assigned. Usually, I don't spend more than an hour studying for a test, unless it is really difficult material."

Does hard work pay off? Yes, because then a student can pick almost any college she wants if she has the grades to back up her choice.

your registration from Selective Service within 90 days. It will have your Selective Service Number on it, so keep it in a safe place where you can find it when you need it. If you lose your acknowledgment, you can contact the Registration Information Office at (888) 655-1825, toll-free.

Over 13 million men age 18 through 25 are currently registered with Selective Service. Remember, registration was reinstated in 1980. Selective Service has been registering 18-year old-men for 18 years. So, if you turn 18 in 1998, it's your turn.

### End of affirmative action evident in CA

Berkeley, CA—The elimination of affirmative action continues to take its toll on minority enrollment, University of California officials say. The numbers show the result of the first freshmen class in two decades picked without any preference for race, ethnicity or gender.

African Americans accepted by UC Berkeley—the most competitive of any UC campus—have declined in number by 66 percent, and the number admitted to UCLA plunged 43 percent. Declines among Latinos were somewhat smaller but still substantial — 53 percent at Berkeley and 33 percent at UCLA.

Those figures complete a picture that began taking shape last month when other UC campuses released their admission statistics, most of which showed large declines in black and Latino admissions. The new figures mean that fewer than 200 African Americans were among more than 8,000 students admitted to Berkeley — the lowest number of blacks since 1981. At both campuses, freshman Latinos and blacks will be at their lowest levels in more than a decade.

Supporters of race-blind admissions said the numbers proved UC's old system was biased in favor of minorities while supporters of affirmative action expressed sorrow, anger or a resolve to restore diversity on college campuses.

"I can tell you that Personally, I am very disappointed that our entering class will not better represent the impressive diversity that distinguishes this state," said UC Chancellor Robert Berdahi, who took over as Chancellor last July.

the top student in your class? Some students will tell you time management, dedication, hard work and persistence.

For some students good grades seem to come easily. For others, good grades come only through hard work, and, sometimes, parents have to put pressure on their kids to perform.

"None anymore. I don't need a threat of punishment or the promise of a reward to give me an incentive," said Peggy Mycek,

valedictorian of the senior class. "They know the value of an education and want me to make the most of it."

While some students seem to work hard to earn the grades, others don't seem to have to do much work at all. What do Hollenbach, Mycek, Christy Lion, Andy Dietrich and Ian Faber, the top five students of the senior class, have to do to get their grades?

Talking about how many hours she puts in, Hollenbach said, "It

Hollenbach plans to attend Ursinus College and major in biology and take pre-med classes.

When asked how it feels to be among the top students in her class, Mycek said, "No different. I don't compare myself to the rest of the class that way. I'm just glad I had the opportunity to go to a school like Penn."

"It is a terrific accomplishment [being the top in the class]," Hollenbach said. She is the top student in a class of 199 students.



**At the head of the Class of 1998:** Seniors Peggy Mycek, salutatorian, and Lorelei Hollenbach, valedictorian, will lead their classmates through the graduation exercises June 10.

**the falcon**

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## Opposition breeds strength

No one cares. This appears to be the general feeling of Pottsgrove students when it comes to student government. In the recent election for student government officers, only one candidate ran for each office. Sarah Weaver ran for president, Ashley Clemmons for vice-president, Vicki Vitacco for treasurer, and Kerri Leh for secretary.

Students have few excuses for not running. One reason, however, that students are giving for why they did not run concerns the misinformation that circulated before the election about eligibility. The rumor mill churned out the misinformation to likely candidates that a year of student government experience was necessary as a qualification for running for office. If anyone had checked with Addison Davidson, advisor to student government, he or she would have found out that the rumor was dead wrong.

There were other reasons, however, why students did not run for office; one of the most popular was the old standby:

## Rumors and apathy weaken student government

### ■ There has to be opposition to keep democracy healthy

by Mai Hoang

This year the student government officers were easily determined. This is because only one person ran for each office.

Some people, like sophomore Jim Pettia, think this isn't very democratic.

"I am very angry that only one [person] ran. [I think] that is just wrong. It is not democratic," he said.

Although this year's election didn't seem very democratic,

process—each candidate still had to meet the requirements and post a policy statement.

Why the lack of candidates this year? There was a rumor about an amendment in the school constitution that states that all candidates for office must have a year of experience. According to Addison Davidson, student government advisor, that is just a rumor. It was discussed in various student government meetings, but it never went beyond that point.

This means that any freshman, sophomore and junior can run for office as long as he or she has a C average in scholastic and citizenship grades. If that's the case, why weren't there more candi-

didate in an event that doesn't make a difference anyway," Pettia said. They [student government] make insignificant changes that do not affect us [the student body]. Having salad for lunch doesn't make much of a difference."

Mr. Davidson says that only the student body can decide who runs or doesn't. If students don't run, then they can't be forced to do so. And even if there is a lack of opponents, the elections will go through the democratic process.

The student body also chose student government representatives from each grade. Unfortunately, there aren't enough interested people there



especially for a student body that complains that government doesn't do anything.

The force that keeps the American government strong is the struggle between two or more opposing parties. If one representative in Harrisburg or congressman in Washington doesn't do his job, someone steps up and takes that job from him. What motivation has Pottsgrove given its student government? It really doesn't matter if the officers do nothing because no one cares enough to run to oppose those in power.

## Still polluting the air

The faint smell of smoke. This is what most people at Pottsgrove find on their clothing when they leave the lavatories. Despite warnings on the doors and the threat of a fine if caught, students continue to light up in the lavatories. This is irritating to those students who don't smoke.

Some of the smokers have gotten it into their heads that the toilet seat is a good place to extinguish their cigarette butts, despite the fact that there is eight gallons of water six inches away. As a result, the toilet seats in the guys' bathrooms look like the surface of the moon.

Several times during the year signs have been posted on the doors to the lavatories warning students against smoking. Apparently these didn't have much effect on this who feel that smoking is important part of their self-images because clouds of smoke still float out from under the doors of the stalls.

In an ideal world, smokers would wait until they leave school to light up. This, however, is not an ideal world. It would be nice, however, if smokers had the common courtesy to not pollute the air in the bathrooms for those students who still respect their lungs.

Smoking in school should not even be an issue today. Everyone from the President of the United States to small children knows that smoking is bad for your health. Studies show that secondhand smoke is bad too. Students who smoke in school should be fined, and there is no excuse when they are not.

It is time to get tough on students who smoke in school and end the problem once and for all.

because there were no choices and no opposition to the people who ran, the student government went through the democratic

To Pettia, people just don't want to give up free time.

"I feel that people do not want to give up their free time to par-

democracy and a good student government, they must find students who will run for the positions who want to do the job.

### On the music scene:

## Megadeth's new album remains true to group's background

by Devin L. Mercer

Music in the heavy metal world has seen a decrease in talent throughout the second half of the 90s, but one band seems to be trying to keep their music alive—Megadeth, a group which has always remained true to their musical background.

Formed in the early 80's by guitarist Dave Mustaine, who had formerly had been the lead guitarist in Metallica, and bassist Dave Ellefson, the band made its major-label debut with the album *Killing is my Business...And Business is Good*, followed by the albums *So Far*, *So Good*, *So*

*What?*, *Peace Sells But, Who's Buying*, *Rust in Peace* and *Countdown to Extinction* and *Youthanasia*.

The band's latest effort, *Cryptic Writings*, continues the tradition that Megadeth has become known for—dark and creepy lyrics backed by powerful guitar riffs. Mustaine's guitar playing has improved 200 percent since his days in Metallica; however, not only is his playing fundamental but that of guitarist Marty Friedman's is also an asset to the group.

The first track off of the album, "Almost Honest," which is one of the best songs that the band has

ever recorded, has received more air-play than any other song Megadeth has released. The solo in the song is also one of the best that Friedman has played. The latest single from the album, "Use the Man," gives the listener the sense that Mustaine wrote it about himself because the lyrics reflect the effects of the use of drugs on a man while others watch him.

Overall, *Cryptic Writings* is going to be known as one of the best albums that Megadeth released, but for now the band will be touring with this summer's *OzzFest* headlining with one of Megadeth's biggest influences: Ozzy Osbourne.

### Opinion:

## 'South Park' may be morally bankrupt but teens find it funny

by Mike Ryan and Kam Kobeissi

One of the many dilemmas facing parents today is whether or not to allow their kids to watch *South Park*; they are concerned about the impact the show has on children. But is this concern well-founded?

This television program, which features four third-graders in a fictitious Colorado town called

South Park, has become a topic for hot debate lately, over whether or not it has a negative impact on children.

Parents point to the show's violent, overtly sexual and sacrilegious content, calling it "morally bankrupt," according to Bruce Hoffman, a social studies teacher here at Pottsgrove.

But does the show really affect the behavior of children? Forty

out of 45 students in a random poll here at Pottsgrove High School find *South Park* amusing; whereas, only five consider it distasteful.

"Some of it isn't appropriate for young kids, but it doesn't do much to us because we're already like that," says junior Rob Ritschard.

Senior Jim Loshnowsky agrees. (cont. p. 4, col. 1)



## Justice holds youths liable for actions

### ■ Offenders placed in area community service programs

by Mark Holloway

Mandatory community service? John D. Durkin, the District Justice for Lower Pottsgrove, and the majority of Pottstown, thinks it is a good idea. He is heading a new program to make kids responsible for their actions.

His community service program applies to anyone under the age of 18, or an 18-year-old who is still in school who has been accused of no more than a status or summary offense. Most importantly, the defendant must plead guilty, to be eligible for the community service.

Justice Durkin, who previously worked as a detective sergeant for Pottstown, participated in a similar program, which he considered to be successful. Justice Durkin has also spent a great deal of time with youth through P.A.L. (Police Athletics League). He wants to give kids the benefit of the doubt.

When considering his options,

Justice Durkin felt that the program was "the only means that we could see to make the youth responsible for his actions." Previously offenders' parents were fined for the offense. He feels that the program will affect youth because "by putting him out . . . in the community, it adds

"It's not going to save every youth, but it may make the ones on the fringe...think about what they are doing."

a little embarrassment, [since] he has to do [the community service] in front of his peers."

Since all of the Pottsgrove schools, excluding West Pottsgrove, fall into Justice Durkin's jurisdiction, he plans to involve the schools. However, the program is still in its infantile stages, and he has yet to build definitive links with the schools. He has yet to talk with Pottsgrove school officials. Including the schools will give Justice Durkin

support and make the program more effective. He is currently managing the program single-handedly, using a large database on his computer to keep track of all the offenders.

Including the schools will give Justice Durkin more options for punishments. An example of punishment includes washing the Lower Pottsgrove police cars. Justice Durkin, however, has created other punishments, including requiring students to write 500-word essays and to work to raise their grades. The punishments are determined according to a number of factors. An offender's home life, the severity of the problem and other circumstances are taken into consideration.

"It gives the youth another opportunity to have someone outside," said Durkin, stressing the strong points of the program, "tell them they are doing wrong." The program also gives the youth a chance to find out what is going wrong in their lives that is creating the problem. "It's not going to save every youth," Durkin said, "but it may make the ones on the fringe. . . think about what they are doing."

## Involvement in three sports can lead to burnout

by Devin L. Mercer

Some students push themselves

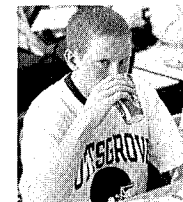
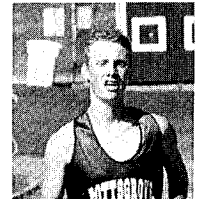
other positive points of playing three sports in one year is that a person can keep physically fit, make new friends and the possi-

DeRenzo said, talking about what he thought of those hard working students. He also said that a student must make sure that they can

## 'Falcon' asks...

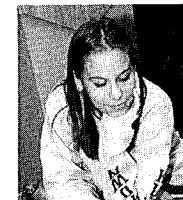
For students, how important is perfect attendance in school?

Chad Lloyd, sophomore: "It's important to not miss school consecutively, but perfect attendance isn't necessary."



Steven Reese, sophomore: "I don't think it's important at all. School's pretty boring."

Lyndsay Nolan, sophomore: "I don't think it's important. Sometimes it just can't happen—there are other things to do."



Kristen Linderman, senior: "Very important that you don't have to make up tests and work and you don't get off track."

Jason Miller, junior: "I think it is very important since that is one of the things colleges look at when deciding whether to accept a student or not."



John Meeker, freshman: "You should only be able to miss a few days because it can really affect your work."

know what day it is. However, some students involve themselves in many activities because they enjoy the fact that they will have memories to last them a lifetime.

Students who play three different sports in one year may find that they are trying to do too much. Some even experience what is commonly known as "burn-out syndrome." This can be a hassle for some athletes because they love to play sports so much that one may run into another, meaning that one team may make it to the postseason, which will then leave little time for the body to relax between seasons.

Gary DeRenzo, the athletic director at PHS, said that a student can get a wide variety of activities and that can become a good experience for most people. Some

bility of doing well in that sport. "The day of games, I personally find it very hard to concentrate," Karen Ward, a senior, said, talking about one of the mental stresses, "but it makes you more organized with your time."

Physical pressure is also a problem due to having long practices, being tired a lot and having the possibility of getting injured, which could cause problems for the next season. Mr. DeRenzo said that at this age there should not be any real physical stress because the body was not made for the stress.

"Colleges like to see a challenging schedule in your senior year," David Cerminaro, a senior, said, talking about what he believes colleges look for, "so that they can see that you are trying and [you] are not lazy." Though Cerminaro has never played three sports in one year, he feels that he can relate to them.

Both Mr. DeRenzo and Ward said that it was a great experience for them to play three sports. Ward also said that she would have lost out on a lot of memories and the chance to be a successful athlete.

"I have a lot of respect for people who play three sports," Mr.

do keep up on their grades and realize that success in one sport doesn't mean success in another.

## Good teachers help students see learning in a different light

by Janet Marquardt

Having a good teacher means experiencing learning in a whole different light.

Good teachers, students feel, understand students. They ask the students for opinions when deciding which activities the class will participate in, and they don't leave students in the dark about tests or homework assignments.

"Good teachers use humor and stories to supplement their teaching and to make things interest-

ing," said sophomore Tammy Drager, giving her definition of a good teacher.

Students do not enjoy class when the teacher monotonously lectures the class about the subject and/or when there is no opportunity for class discussion. Students also feel a particular class is a waste of time if the teacher never relates that subject to anything else. With this kind of teacher, students don't think that they are actually real people.

One of the major differences between teachers is in the way

they talk to their students. Students like teachers who talk to them on their level and don't talk to them as though they were inferiors.

Another difference is the enthusiasm in teachers. Some teachers don't really seem to care if their students are learning or not, while others make it obvious that they want their students to learn.

"They make boring material fun, and are not short-tempered and impatient," said freshman Dan Benscoter.

## Keyboarding gives students skills to handle a computerized world

by Devin L. Mercer

In today's world, computer skills are becoming a necessity to find a good occupation in the job pool, and one thing which Pottsgrove is doing to make students computer literate is to require freshmen to have at least one-half credit in keyboarding.

Dora Jean Testa, a business teacher at PHS, teaches keyboarding to freshmen, sopho-

mores, juniors and seniors. The course, according to the course selection booklet, is designed to help students "develop a mastery of the touch system of the alphanumeric keyboarding which will be utilized to develop skills for personal, collegiate and professional use."

Most of the students that have taken the class agree that being able to learn at their own pace is one of the best parts of the class. Most also agreed that having Mrs. Testa was a good experience because she was very helpful and nice, plus she did not give out any homework.

"The only thing I really don't like about this class is that it only lasts for one semester," Andrea

Ray, a freshman, said, talking about what she liked least about the class. "Make keyboarding a year-round class."

Mrs. Testa uses the traditional Pottsgrove grading system to score the technique, accuracy and correctness of an assignment. She also noted that the students are able to use spell checking to assure that they did not misspell any words. Mrs. Testa's classes have a "low-key" atmosphere and it all works on an individual basis.

"I like seeing the kids develop the skills that they will use in the future when finding a job," Mrs. Testa said, talking about one of her highlights she sees to being a keyboarding teacher.

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**Students study marine biology:** Seniors Pamela Reitnauer and Kristi Ludwig were among the Pottsgrove students who spent part of spring break studying marine life, like this blue crab, in Virginia. "We had fun examining the animals we caught on the boat, but playing in the mud was the best," Ludwig said.

## Biology class travels to Wallop's Island

by Caitlyn Hallman

This year's advanced biology classes got muddy! Yes, really muddy.

That is probably what most of the students will remember about their trip to Wallop's Island, Virginia. On April 8, the two advanced biology classes left for their four-day adventure, while the rest of the student body was relaxing during the spring break, these students were busy studying marine ecology at the Marine Science Consortium.

Biology teacher Gary Christ decided to take the annual trip to Wallop's Island because of the interest his students showed in marine biology. Mr. Christ felt

the only way his students would genuinely be able to study marine biology would be to visit the ocean.

On the trip, the classes studied the different ecosystems of the Mid-Atlantic barrier islands, but they did not spend all day inside a classroom. Most of the students' time was literally spent out in the field.

The students took trips to the beach, went out on a boat and waded in the bay. The students spent that time collecting organisms to study, testing water quality and watching animals in their natural habitats, to name just a few of the things they did.

The most memorable field trip during the classes' stay at Wallop's Island was the trip to the

salt marsh, where everyone got to be a kid again, including Mr. Christ, by playing in the mud.

"This year's group loved the salt marsh and the bay field trips the most," Mr. Christ said about what made the trip different from those of other years.

However, the students did not spend the whole time working. They did have plenty of free time. On their last night there, the classes held a party to celebrate and they had the time to teach trip chaperones Mr. Christ and Spanish teacher Mae Hannah a few card games.

For those students who have signed up for advanced biology next year, it's time to start getting ready for Wallop's Island. The program will probably be very similar to those of past years, so plan for the mud.

"The student evaluations for the past four years have been very positive. I'd like to better structure the organism labs, but aside from that, the program is excellent," Mr. Christ.

## Americans have to admit that pizza is part of the culture

by Caitlyn Hallman

Pizza, America's favorite food, has become part of our culture. We eat pizza while watching television, partying and hanging out.

There are many pizza parlors in the Pottstown area. From Pizza Hut to Pop-Pop's to Domino's, there are plenty of options for anyone with a pizza craving.

Although some people may say that there is no such thing as a bad pizza, most would agree that not all pizzas are equal. Some pizzas

But which pizza place makes the best pizza in the Pottstown area?

"Bravo's makes the best pizza in Pottstown," senior Nadia Ali said, placing her vote. Ali is not the only one who thought Bravo's made the best pizza. Senior Stacey Levengood also thought that Bravo's, which is located in the Wal-mart shopping center, had the best pizza.

Sophomore Heather Hiland thought that Pizza Time on Moser Road in Pottstown made the best pizza in the area. "It has enough

For those of you who wouldn't mind driving a little farther for your pizza, French teacher Dorothy Istenes suggests Pizzeria Uno in King of Prussia. Istenes said that she enjoys their pizza because it is different. They offer vegetarian pizza and pizzas with other unusual toppings.

But what constitutes a good pizza? The best pizza must meet certain qualifications. A good pizza is judged by the quality of its sauce, crust, cheese and toppings; however, all of these can be judged differently depending

while others like thick crust. Some like their pizza with lots of sauce and others like their pizza with tons of cheese. That is why many pizzerias now offer a selection of several different kinds of pizzas.

Pizza Hut, for example, has a large variety of pizzas. There is the traditional pan pizza, the cheese lovers' pizza, the meat lovers' pizza and the new edge pizza, to name a few. Other pizza places such as Domino's and Little Italy are following Pizza Hut's example and are diversify-

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"nobody tops pop's"

are just good, while others are great.

sauce and cheese on it, Pinnard said.

Some people prefer thin crust,

ing their pizza menus. For most people Pizza Hut remains the safe place to go if you're eating out. However, if you are having a large party, you might want to consider ordering in Pizza Time pizza.

"Pizza Time has good pizza and they are cheaper than other places. You can get a lot of pizza," Ali said.

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## Teens find inconoclastic 'South Park' funny

(cont. from page 2, col. 5)

"It's funny for [kids] our age—maybe bad for young kids; they wouldn't really understand [the humor]," he said.

The majority of students polled think they are old enough to understand the humor and take it as a joke. However, Melvin Sussman, PHS's assistant principal, disagrees. "In today's society it has its place, but sometimes I'm afraid we misuse comedy ... let it go over the edge," he said.

But is there cause for concern? True, the show does present the viewer with situations that might not be appropriate for younger kids, but the show does satirically address some important issues.

"It addresses the same issues that are on the newspaper page every day; people take it too seriously," says Eugene Swann, one of Pottsgrove's gym teachers. "It's not supposed to be for kids; it's on at 10:00 at night."

The issues *South Park* deals with cover a wide range of topics, from religion to homosexuality and beyond. These topics are the

same ones that teens have to deal with every day, and the show confronts them frankly and honestly.

Still, it is possible to go too far. "It's a 1998 version of *Beavis and Butt-head*, not funny and unintelligent," says junior Jennifer Heimbach.

Students polled randomly here at the high school fear that shirts depicting scenes from the show might be banned in the not-too-distant future.

Rumors have sprung up about administrators at both the intermediate and elementary schools banning *South Park*-related clothing.

"[They] can't do this. There's this little thing called the First Amendment," says senior Jim Loshnowsky.

Sophomore Mike Griffith agrees. "There [are] a lot of people that like [the shirts], so let them wear what they want," he said.

Even opponents to *South Park* feel that the clothing shouldn't be banned. "[We shouldn't ban the clothing] unless they contain offensive language, gestures, or scenes," says Mr. Hoffman.

Thomas Bannister, another social studies teacher, says that the clothing should not be banned "as long as it doesn't depict profane and inappropriate and/or graphic scenes."

However, Mr. Sussman feels that there should be standards for school attire. "Yes, outside and educational setting, you should be able to wear whatever you want, but clothing with negative implications should be kept out of schools," he said.

It is true that some shirts depict scenes of violence, but others simply display common catch-phrases from the show.

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**Keeping a student's memory alive:** After students in Mrs. Diane Frederick's science classes wrote a newspaper for Earth Day, they bought a tree in memory of David Gresko, a junior who died this spring, with the profits. The tree was planted on the front lawn of the high school. Pictured are freshmen Andy Defobis, Jen Germano, Christina Bunsick, Lisa Draushack and Misti Coronel.

## Playing a sport can improve a student's grades

by Mark Holloway

Smart jocks? Surprisingly, evidence shows that playing sports can improve students' grades.

Since athletes who do not per-

doesn't come to class can't learn the material and can't be helped by the teacher. Pottsgrove's attendance policy regarding sports requires athletes to attend school the day before, of and after an athletic event.

said Mr. Rechlin. "These are exactly the same qualities I find in successful students."

Students have to want to succeed and have the discipline to make themselves do it. Mr.

## Pottsgrove hosts exchange students

■ School here is relaxed, easier than it is abroad

by Crystal Snow

It has been a long term tradition at Pottsgrove to host foreign exchange students and to help them explore the United States. This year there are three exchange students studying here: one exchange student came from Germany and the other two came from Spain.

These students came to study in America for a number of reasons. "The chance of meeting new people, a new language, new places to visit and a new culture [made me decide to come to the U.S.]," said Alvero Amerigo, an exchange student from Madrid, Spain.

In addition to Amerigo, Maria Ruiz comes from Malaga, Spain, and Franciska Biegler comes from Berlin, Germany.

These students come to America not just for academic reasons but also cultural ones too. "The advance of social life and how American schools work [made me decide to come here]," said Alvero.

The subjects that the exchange students are studying are not the same subjects that they have back home. So what new subjects are

The exchange students find many differences in the school systems.

"[Classes] are easier here. In Germany we don't have multiple choice tests. They are all essay," said Biegler, talking about how classes differ here from her home school. "In Germany we are also forced more to build our own opinions. Our school system is very different; we don't have the same classes every day."

Exchange students also, in addition to school life, have to make adjustments in home life: they have to settle in with a host family. "They are nice," said Biegler, talking about what her host family is like. "My host parents are really nice. They have an adopted son, and the grandmother is living with them. They also have two dogs, two cats, two ferrets, a bunny and a snake. I really like it at their house."

The impressions left on the exchange students vary. "It's different than Germany, but I really like it here," said Biegler, talking about her impressions about America. "The people are nice. One thing that I really like about Pottsgrove is that it's not very important what people are wearing."

She also said that in Germany nobody would ever go to school in sweat pants and stuff like that. "In Germany you always have to

form well in the classroom, because of PIAA regulations, can be barred from playing, they have an incentive to do well in school. Peer pressure can also play a role in athletes' grades.

"The idea that an athlete's inability to participate due to grades will effect the whole team serves as further motivation," said Larry Rechlin, the boys' track coach.

Attendance plays a part in students' grades. A student who

According to Gary DeRenzo, the athletic director, during the 1997-98 winter sports season, 41 percent of the athletes had perfect attendance, and out of those that didn't, only five had more than four absences.

Through sports students can pick up many qualities which will help them in the classroom as well as on the playing field.

"High school athletics require self-motivation and discipline,"

DeRenzo feels that long-term goals are another valuable quality athletes pick up.

they studying here? "Biology, algebra, English, French and world history," said Alvero.

wear brand names to get accepted," she said. "I think that it's a lot better how it is here."

## There are a few things to remember about the year

by Chiffon Jackson

Today is the seniors' last day of classes, and it's finally time for the seniors to say good-bye to Pottsgrove.

As they look back over the last nine months, there are a lot of things that they will reminder of their last year. From TV programs to clothing, though their personalities change, the seniors will always consider what happened this year as something with which they will always be able to identify.

In music, many new groups came out, along with old ones. Rap continues to be a hit, along with a lot of new alternative music. Two new groups, Smashmouth and Chumbawamba, came out with chart climbing hits like "Walking in the Sun" and "Tubthumping."

"That song ["Tubthumping"] will always remind me of this year," senior Caitlyn Hallman said.

Another group that came out was Matchbox 20 with their hit single "Push." "They are really cool for a new band and the lead singer is really hot," said senior Michelle Swanson.

Two words: Spice Girls. They were out with their hits "Say You'll Be There," "Two Become One" and "Wannabe."

One movie that may stick out in a lot of people's minds is the more-popular-than-*Star Wars* hit *Titanic*. How many times can that movie be seen? The average time is two, according to a national survey by *Sassy*. Also, this movie carried the chart-topping single "My Heart Will Go On" to the number one position on radio stations across the country.

Also a very popular TV show that came up was *South Park*.

"*South Park* is really funny," senior Nichole Mast said. "Although it really doesn't make sense, but what does?"

*South Park* aired on the Comedy Channel and steadily picked up a following. It's a story of four elementary school students with not-so-typical senses of humor and not so sweet mouths.

Another TV show which picked up a huge following is *Jerry Springer*, a show watched religiously, almost more than soaps. Springer's wild shows and crazy guests are what really make the show.

"I don't know why I watch it, but it is really funny and the guests are from out of this world. Where does he pick these people from?" said senior Alisha Tucker.

## Science Club members pick up litter

by Janet Marquardt

Four times a year, twice in the fall and twice in the spring, the Pottsgrove High School Science Club helps to clean up the community by picking up trash along Route 663 from Mervine Street to Moyer Road, as part of its involvement with the Adopt-a-Highway Program.

In the fall the Science Club visits the National Zoo and the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C. Members must

do at least one of the two litter pick-ups held in fall to be able to go on this trip. In order to go on the canoe trip in the spring, members also must do at least one of the two litter pick-ups in the spring. Even if members do not go on the trips, they still must participate in at least two litter pick-ups a year.

After the club has already done their part in picking up the litter, PennDot comes to pick up the stuffed trash bags. A postcard is mailed to PennDot telling them when there will be a litter pick-up, how many trash bags there will be and where they should pick up the bags.

The Science Club is doing a small but important part in cleaning up the community. The important thing about keeping the community clean is educating the public.

"It begins by educating our children to value the planet we live on and to be responsible for their own doings, including their trash," said science teacher Gary Christ, the club's advisor.

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## Seniors spend four days in Florida on their annual class trip

by Michelle Swanson

The seniors got back Saturday from their annual class trip to Florida: an underclassman's dream. Actually, it was not a bad deal for the seniors either.

"I'm looking forward to spending time with my friends before we leave for college," said senior Carina Weigner, talking about what part of the class trip she was

looking forward to.

In Florida the seniors were able to pick from four parks to visit: MGM Studios, Epcot, the Magic Kingdom or the new Animal Kingdom. The seniors went to Skate Reflections to hang out, skate, dance or sleep (whatever their preference was); also, they went to Wet-N-Wild Water Park, Universal Studios and SeaWorld. On their last night, they enjoyed a

luau dinner show.

There was also a lot of free time for the seniors to swim in the hotel's pool, party at Pleasure Island, shop at many of the stores and gifts shops or just veg out in their rooms.

"The location of the resort is good because it's close to many things, and it makes the free time more enjoyable," said senior class adviser Ralph Werley.

## Baseball team bounces back after early season losses

by Megan Whalen

After getting off to a slow start, the boys' baseball team certainly earned the nickname the "Comeback Kids." Winning five games straight, as of the beginning of May, is quite a way to comeback after three losses.

With 14 people on the varsity

squad, finding the right combination was a tough job for Coach Bob "Skip" Laird.

"In the beginning of the season, we had no third baseman," graduate, first baseman Alan Butler said, "but Herb Beekley stepped it up and earned a spot on the team. He has become one of the best hitters on the team."

The team had hopes of a PAC-

10 championships, and advancing far into Districts, but with the slow start, obtaining those goals seemed unrealistic.

"We expected a PAC-10 championship before the season, and we are still striving for that goal," senior Bryan Saylor said in late April.

Members of the team were in agreement as to which was the

best game of the season.

"Pottstown was definitely our best game," senior Herb Beekley said. "We were down by a bunch of runs, playing horribly, and we just came back, took a lead and won the game. This triggered a winning streak for the next couple of games."

Graduate David Cerminaro summed up the Pottstown game in two words: "Herb Beekley." Beekley's grand slam that brought the team back for the win.

"We were losing against the worst team in the league, not to mention our former legion coach," Butler said, "but we came back in the last inning."

Cerminaro said that when the team gets behind the fans can't rule them out. "That's why they call us the comeback kids," he said.

## Winning isn't the only thing for the softball team

by Erica Bumbaugh

Winning games this year was a bit of a struggle for both the JV and varsity softball teams, but then again winning isn't the only thing that makes softball fun for the girls.

"Sliding in the mud at practice is always fun," junior Katie Greene, who plays varsity, said.

Despite their losing record, there is a lot of talent on the varsity team.

"I don't know why we are losing games because we do really well at practices," Pursel said.

"We just make a lot of mental errors and have a little trouble hitting," Greene added.

Even when they are losing games, the players still make some great plays, and that takes

away from the bad feeling of losing the game.

"At my first at bat of the season, I hit a triple against Kennett Square," senior Megan Whalen said.

JV also had some trouble winning games.

"We don't really have enough experience on our team," junior Rachel Martz said.

"Getting the first two outs always seems easy, but the third out is sometimes seemingly impossible," sophomore Krista Levensgood said.

## Team closes ranks to overcome obstacles

by Megan Whalen

Small numbers and ineligibility kept the boys' tennis team to a limited, close, tight-knit team that had to work together to overcome obstacles. The ability to pull together was viewed as the team's best quality.

and William Hawthorne, both Pottsgrove graduates, also helped the program.

"The biggest satisfaction I get is seeing each and every kid improve," Mr. Hawthorne said.

"We had a young team so next year we will be a good team," senior Jason Leh said, trying to

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we stuck together through the losses and the wins," senior Jesse Kline said.

The players also felt that possibly having a few more members with more experience and having all members able to play would have helped the team's record. The new coaches, Ben Boyles

This year was the first year for exchange student Al Amerigo to play tennis.

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