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“ There are very few things that you do in your day that don't have the federal government having some oversight in what you do.”

—Rick Santorum, U.S. Senator from Pennsylvania

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# the falcon

Volume 37, Issue 1

Pottsgrove High School  
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## newsbriefs

### PA Governor's schools to offer programs

Applications for the 1998 Pennsylvania Governor's Schools of Excellence are arriving in high schools across the state in October.

The Governor's Schools are five-week-long residential summer enrichment programs located on college campuses. These programs serve students with talent and high interest in the arts, agricultural and environmental sciences, health care, international studies and languages, distinct sciences and mathematics, or teaching. Tuition, room and board, and cost of program activities are free of charge to students who are selected to participate.

Alumni of the programs consistently refer to their Governor's School experiences as the overall best time in their lives to date.

To qualify for application, students must be the children of full-time Pennsylvania residents, they must be in the grade level specified by each program, they must not have previously attended one of the six Pennsylvania Governor's Schools. They may apply to no more than two Governor's Schools in a given year.

# Nothing remains the same

AND SCHOOL IS NO EXCEPTION

## ■ District decides that students will study a language

by Tammy Drager

The only thing that stays the same is change. That's true with

language teachers to teach every student a new language.

The eighth graders at the intermediate school are now taking an exploratory trimester course in Latin, French and Spanish to help them make their selection in ninth grade. This is a step in the right direction, but Pottsgrove (along with many other Pennsylvania schools) is a long

For one thing, knowing how to speak a foreign language can help someone land a job.

"[Requiring every student to learn a foreign language is] not a bad idea," Mrs. Istenes said, "but it's extremely expensive."

Another new program is the "new" new math. The Chicago Math Series was considered the new math, and then the publishing

School, they must commit to be in residence for the full five-week program.

## Study suggests teens do listen to parents

Minneapolis--Think teens only listen to their friends? Think again.

A new study suggests what Mom and Dad say and do does matter when it comes to influencing a teen's behavior. Teens with positive, strong emotional relationships with their parents or teachers are much less likely to use drugs and alcohol, become sexually active, smoke cigarettes or be violent, according to a study published in the Sept. 10 edition of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

"There's been a pretty significant myth that peer groups are important and parents are not," says Robert William Blum of the University of Minnesota and one of the study's researchers. "We've focused so tremendously on peer pressure and instituted so many things to deal with peer pressure, and what this study is saying is that family environment matters."

Parents who want to prevent risky behavior should spend time with and talk to their children, set high standards for them and send clear messages, he added.

The study, which covered 12,118 junior high and high school students, found that feeling loved, understood and paid attention to by parents helps teens avoid high-risk behaviors, regardless of whether the child is from a one-parent or two-parent household.

## Volunteering may reduce teen pregnancy

Charlottesville, Va.--A University of Virginia professor believes he's found a way to curb teen pregnancy: volunteerism.

Joseph P. Allen, an associate professor of psychology at U. Va., is lead author of a new report that suggests girls who volunteer are less likely to get pregnant.

"We know that it [volunteerism] really reduces the problem," said Allen, based on his study published in the journal *Child Development*.

The research was based on 695 male and female high school students from diverse backgrounds in 13 states. The group, which was about 85 percent female, was monitored between 1991 and 1995.

About half of the students participated in Teen Outreach, a community service program, where they visited hospitals and nursing homes and served as tutors to their peers.

In the end, researchers found that 4.2 percent of the girl volunteers became pregnant, while 9.8 percent of the girls who did not participate in Teen Outreach became pregnant.

just about everything, and school is no exception.

It may not be common knowledge, but Harrisburg is making language a required course in schools.

"According to Chapter Five," Dorothy Istenes, a Pottsgrove French and English teacher, said, talking about state education regulations, "all students must reach a certain proficiency level in a [foreign] language."

Mrs. Istenes also said Pottsgrove isn't at that level yet: for one thing, there aren't enough

way from reaching the goal the state has set.

The state must be willing to give schools more money if their plan is to be implemented satisfactorily. Hiring that many new teachers requires a significant chunk of cash.

Not that it's a terrible idea. Learning a foreign language can help students in the real world. "The world's getting smaller," said Mrs. Istenes. "Being able to speak in more than one language can help."

company gathered math teachers from around the country and took suggestions on how to improve how math was taught. Then they made a whole new series of books. That's the new, new math.

The new Chicago Math books seem to be doing fairly well. Since the school can only afford a few new math books, only the honors classes are using the new books at this point.

Several things were changed or added to the new books to create the new math course. The one (cont. p. 4, col. 3)



**Learning a foreign language:** According to Pottsgrove's strategic plan, all students will soon be taking a foreign language. Pictured are J.T. Raab, Mary Dietrich and Herbert Beekley in Elaine Richert's first period Latin class. "[Foreign languages] help you learn about foreign cultures," Beekley, a junior, said, talking about why he thinks taking a foreign language is beneficial.

**the falcon**

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## Stay away from alcohol

The danger of driving under the influence of alcohol is an important subject all teenagers should be informed about.

The facts about alcohol are simple. The legal amount of alcohol for people of the age of 21 or older is .1 percent. For people under the age of 18, the legal limit is .02 percent. It takes the liver one hour to break down one ounce of alcohol, whether it is from beer, whiskey or wine.

The memories and senses of a person who drinks are affected by alcohol. The more a person drinks, the slower the person's reactions become and the more dangerous he or she is if behind the wheel of a car on the road.

Students should know what to do if they or their driver is too intoxicated to drive. Teens should make an agreement with their parents, stating that the parents will pick them up at anytime, anywhere, no questions asked.

The simplest way to avoid the issue altogether is to not drink in the first place and not to travel with someone who drinks.



## Grade inflation becomes an issue

### ■ SAT scores go down while more A's are given out

by Mai Hoang

Is getting an A just a walk in the park or is it a long run? Many schools are finding that it is the former, in that in recent years there has been an increase of students with A averages.

According to the College Board, in 1987, 28 percent of students were getting A aver-

of the information sticks with me and I don't have to study very hard. But in some classes (Intro. to College Chemistry/AP Calculus), I couldn't get an A no matter how hard I tried."

Both Drager and Maslayak feel that there is no grade inflation at Pottsgrove. Drager feels that the curriculum is just getting easier though. Maslayak feels that if one studies hard for a test, he or she should earn an A.

Teachers here in Pottsgrove also feel that grade inflation isn't an issue. Kyra Ebert, a ninth and tenth grade English teacher, counts such things as partici-

she has taken the prep class for it.

Ms. Diana Holoka, a guidance counselor at Pottsgrove, thinks that grade inflation isn't an issue at Pottsgrove. She feels that it's the exact opposite.

"It's harder to earn an A here at Pottsgrove because of our tougher grading system," Ms. Holoka said.

The grading system here at Pottsgrove is different from other schools. While a 90 passes for an A at other schools, Pottsgrove students must work a little harder to earn a 93 for that A.

## Give skaters a park

In a world that encourages athletic participation and promotes athletes, some people are getting a bum rap. Skateboarders and rollerbladers have been banned from practicing in many public places.

Skateboarders and rollerbladers, in particular, are notorious for pulverizing pavement like curbs and concrete walls and damaging tennis courts. Their metal trucks scrape along railings and sidewalks, making them an eyesore. Vehicular traffic in the streets and parking lots must keep an eye out to avoid a run-in with a youth on wheels.

Skaters deserve a place to have their fun. Sports such as basketball, soccer and tennis all have fields or paved courts on which teenagers can practice and play. Skateboarders and rollerbladers should have designated places where they can do the same.

The community, according to officials, is hesitant to install a place for skaters because of possible lawsuits due to the risky nature of the sport. Perhaps a waiver could be written up for skaters and parents to sign to eliminate the lawsuits that could come from skating injuries. However, in all fairness, anyone could get injured from practicing any sport.

The township's time would be better spent trying to find a place for teenagers to skate, rather than telling them where they cannot.

## editorial policy

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

- 1) The editorial staff of *Falcon* refuses to print libelous or obscene material and reserves the right to edit objectionable material from articles and letters.
- 2) Unsigned editorials published on this page are the opinion of the editorial staff.
- 3) Editorials appearing elsewhere in the newspaper or in an "Opinion" column are the opinion of the named writer.
- 4) All letters addressed to the editor must be signed by the writer in order for them to be considered for publication. Upon request the staff will omit the writer's name when the letter is published.
- 5) *Falcon* reserves the right to edit and delete material from letters to make them grammatically correct or meet space limitations.

ages. The number has increased to 37 percent in 1997. However, the bad news is that SAT scores have decreased. Verbal scores have decreased 13 points and math scores have decreased 1 point during that period.

The increase in A averages and decrease in SAT scores raise the issue of grade inflation.

Is there grade inflation at Pottsgrove? The general opinion, by students and teachers, is no. However, some people feel that it is easy to get an A.

Tammy Drager, a sophomore who was ranked first in the Freshman Class last year, feels she does not have to work to get an A. "It's very easy to get an A," she said.

Others, such as senior Sarah Maslayak, feel that it depends on the difficulty of the class that a student takes.

"It depends on the class, but generally it's pretty easy [to get an A]," Maslayak said. "As long as I pay attention in class, most

of the time I get an A." Ms. Holoka also said that there hasn't been a trend of getting A averages. In 1997, only 15 percent of the overall student population had A averages. Also there isn't a trend within any of the grade levels. 19 percent of the seniors had A averages, 16 percent of the juniors had A averages, 11 percent of the sophomores had A averages and 16 percent of the freshman class had A averages.

According to records in the Guidance Department, the number of honor graduates has increased year after year. Not only that, but the SAT scores have increased 76 points in the verbal section from 449 in 1990 to 525 in 1997. The math scores have also increased 5 points from 517 in 1990 to 522 in 1997.

Last year's SAT scores were also above the national average of 505 in the verbal score and 511 in the math score. Maslayak's SAT scores were also above national averages as well as state averages. However, she has taken the SAT's before, and

Ms. Holoka also said that there hasn't been a trend of getting A averages. In 1997, only 15 percent of the overall student population had A averages. Also there isn't a trend within any of the grade levels. 19 percent of the seniors had A averages, 16 percent of the juniors had A averages, 11 percent of the sophomores had A averages and 16 percent of the freshman class had A averages.

As for students being tied for any rank, that rarely happens in the spots that count, such as the first or second position in a class. It has happened in the lower ranks. However, in the top 10, there isn't a problem.

Pottsgrove High School appears not to have any sort of grade inflation. The number of honor graduates has increased, but SAT scores have also increased. Pottsgrove students can be assured that getting their A is a well-earned reward, not just a gift from a teacher.

## On the music scene:

## Motley Crue, Cheap Trick stage a return to the rock scene

by Devin L. Mercer

Who would have ever thought that Motley Crue, or Cheap Trick for that matter, would return to the rock scene? Well, both bands returned to the Philadelphia area on Oct. 24, where they found success and admiration from their fellow musicians and fans.

Cheap Trick is returning to the concert scene after a not-so-effective try in the early 90's, but their latest album spawned a

recent radio-favorite hit, "Say Goodbye."

Guitarist Rick Neilson, who is known for playing a variety of guitars, opened the show with great enthusiasm, which was well received by the crowd. Cheap Trick opened the show with their classic hit "I Want You to Want Me." However, even though they are a good band, the audience was saving their energy for the main event.

Vince Neil, Nikki Sixx, Tommy Lee and Mick Mars, otherwise known as Motley Crue,

hit the stage, kicking their show off with "I Gotta Find Myself," which shifts vocals between Neil and Sixx. The crowd went wild once the Crue boys played the classic "Girls, Girls, Girls," but the intensity did not stop there. Crue then proceeded to play the hits "Dr. Feelgood," "Primal Scream," "Live Wire" and "Don't Go Away Mad (Just Go Away)."

Motley Crue not only played the classic songs that they are known for, but they also played a few songs off of the new album *Generation Swine*.

## Cast rehearses 'Mother Goose, Inc.'

### ■ Children's show to bring fairy tale characters to life

by Caitlyn Hallman

Anyone who happens to see pigs, bears and dwarfs wandering the halls of the school should not be alarmed. It's just time for the biannual children's musical.

The children's musicals differ greatly from the larger musicals the school puts on every other year. The children's show is always silly, crazy and lots of fun. The last children's production, *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*, broke the record for attendance of a night performance of a children's show and the cast this year hopes to beat that record.

This year's production, *Mother Goose, Inc.*, wraps around

the competition between Mother Goose (Pam Reitnauer), who runs the world's largest fairy tale company, and the Grimm Brothers (Jeff Beattie and Glenn Davey), who own the second largest fairy tale company in the world. Mother Goose goes on vacation and leaves Simple Simon (Christy Lion) in charge. Then, when the two rival companies' characters are booked on the same television program, chaos ensues on the set.

A first public performance of the show will be on Dec. 4 at the high school, but for the cast the performance is not the most rewarding part of the experience.

"The best part of being in the play was meeting new people," said Jen Donovan, a senior who plays Mama Bear in the show. Megan Zeigler, a sophomore and one of the dwarfs, agreed that bonding with her fellow cast members was the best part. "I like

hanging out with everyone," she said. "Rehearsals are fun."

Another thing that makes the children's musical special is that the cast gets to take the show on the road. Performances will be given at all of the elementary schools in the district.

Having a traveling show presents unique problems for the cast members. The actors will have to adjust their stage blocking for each school, depending on the performance space available at that facility. Another problem facing the performers is cramped backstage quarters.

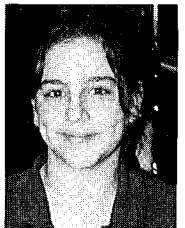
"I don't know how much I'll like everyone after having to be so close backstage," Donovan said.

However, the cast seems ready for any challenge that they might face, and most cast members will agree that working on the show has been a great experience.

## 'Falcon' asks...

Do you think it's easy to get an A average at Pottsgrove?

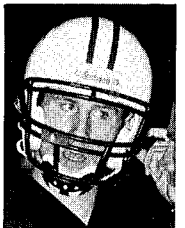
**Rachel Reed**, senior: "No, it's not, because of classes like phys. ed. which bring down your average."



**Mr. Thomas Bannister**, social studies teacher: "You have to do what's required of you. When you have five classes, sometimes that's not too easy."



**Ryan Kohler**, senior: "If you do all the work and study, it is."



**Jim Loshnowsky**, senior: "If you do the work and put effort into it, it is, but the A just isn't given to you."



**Matt Krause**, freshman: "No, because you have to work hard to keep your grades up."



**Megan LaRosse**, senior: "If you work hard



## U.S. Senator addresses PHS upperclassmen

by Devin L. Mercer

United States Senator Rick Santorum addressed Pottsgrove's juniors and seniors in the Radel Auditorium on Nov. 10. Although he arrived late from Philadelphia, Senator Santorum still managed to have about 30 minutes to answer questions from the students.

Senior Stacey Levensgood and junior Anne Toth, who was feeling

pointed out that he keeps about 50 percent of his paycheck, and today's students someday will keep about 30 percent of their paychecks if the government keeps working with the same fiscal policies.

"There are very few things that you do in your day that don't have the federal government having some oversight in what you do," Senator Santorum said. He also said that a less-free society

second trimester is given drugs which open the cervix, allowing the doctor to reach in and grab the baby by its feet. Everything is delivered with the exception of the head. The head is then collapsed with special tools and pulled out.

"He is pro-life, and I'm pro-choice," Sarah Maslayak, a senior who had a question for the Senator, said, talking about what she thought of Senator Santorum's view on this form of abortion.

nervous about the event, introduced Senator Santorum to the teachers, students, Dr. Sharon Nalbene Richardson (superintendent) and Bob Shields (director of curriculum), who were present.

"I read a lot about him online. He has his own Web Page," Toth said, talking about what she thought of Senator Santorum before he visited PHS.

One issue that Senator Santorum talked about was the fact that when his grandfather was working, his grandfather was able to keep almost 80 percent of his paycheck. Senator Santorum

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will become a less-productive society.

Another important issue that was brought up was partial-birth abortions, an issue raised by senior Colleen O'Brien. Partial-birth abortion is when a mother in her

"I am totally pro-choice," Mat Lowenstein, a senior, said. Mrs. Margaret Gerhart, a social studies teacher at PHS, however, agreed with Senator Santorum, calling PBAs "murder."



day and night and do nothing but [work], it's easy. Certain classes may be harder and bring your average down, though."

# **Three Pottsgrove girls sing anthem at Advanta tennis championships**

by Devin Mercer

Pottsgrove chorus members Pamela Reitnauer, Rebecca Walter and Donna Sinnk were selected to sing the National Anthem preceding the Advanta Tennis Championship Finals on Nov. 16 at Villanova University. The tournament benefits the National

Adoption Center.

"I'm worried about not singing the best we can," Reitnauer, who plans to continue singing in college as a musical theater major, said the week before the event. "Sometimes it's perfect; sometimes it's far from it. Hopefully, we'll do well on Sunday."

The Pottsgrove girls were selected after being invited to enter a contest that included all suburban schools on Oct. 31. A panel of judges received the tapes and a decision was reached as to the winners on Nov. 3.

Six groups or individuals were selected for the event that ran from Nov. 9 through Nov. 16. The final

event was telecast by KYW and featured the Pottsgrove trio.

"I guess they liked the way we sounded on the audition tape," Walter, who also plans to continue singing through her college career, said, talking about why the three were chosen.

Walter also said that her friends support her and her interest in singing. "My family also supports me," she said.

Sinnk, who said before the tournament that she was afraid of "choking up in front of all of those

people, said that the thing which has helped her the most to perfect her singing skills is "practice."

According to Nancy Bixler, the PHS chorus and singing director, the trio sang at two football games this fall and will sing at home basketball games.

"Of all of the trios I have had, this group was the easiest to work with," Mrs. Bixler said. "They learn quickly, were not opposed to 'practice, practice, practice,' were very serious and committed themselves to excellence."

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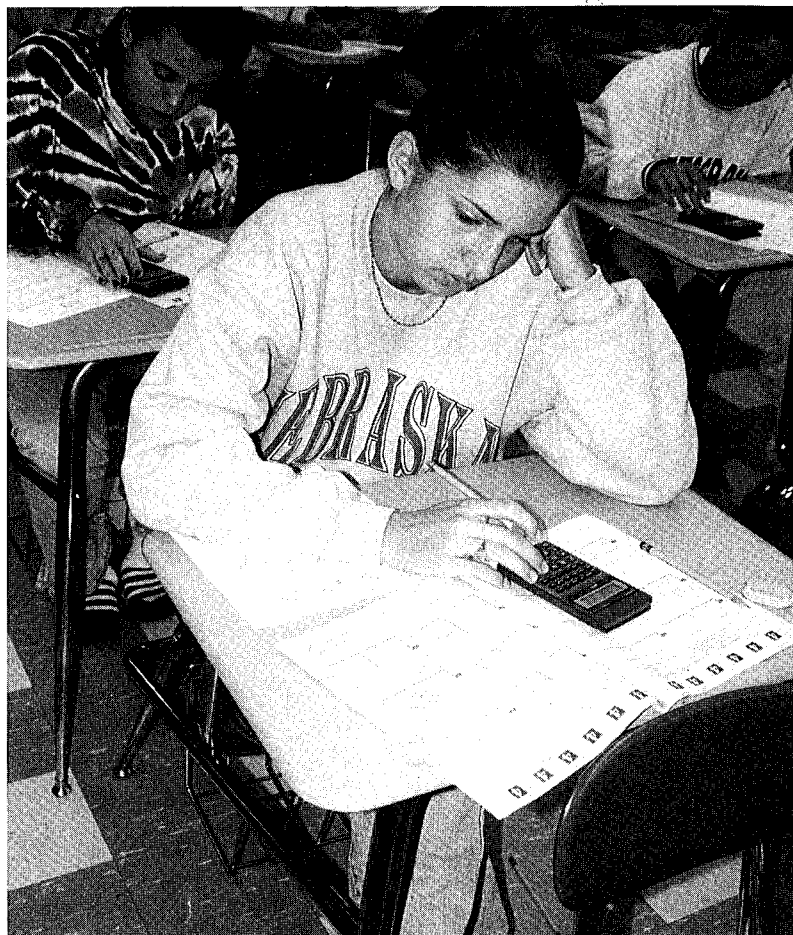
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**Audition pays off:** After submitting a tape of themselves singing, Pamela Reitnauer, Rebecca Walter and Donna Sinnk were selected to sing the National Anthem preceding the Advanta Tennis Championship Finals on Nov. 16 at Villanova University.



**Taking the test for college:** "I took the PSATs to better prepare myself for the SATs," junior Jennifer Stairs said, talking about how she prepared herself for the SAT, what some people consider a college entrance exam. Pottsgrove offers a night course to give students test-taking skills and to help them deal with the anxiety they might have toward the SAT.

## Pottsgrove offers SAT prep course

by Mark Holloway

Students from area schools are taking night classes at Pottsgrove.

They come here for the SAT preparatory courses which are offered in the fall and spring. The most recent class began Sept. 22 and ran through October. It was held after school from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., and 12 students, one of whom was from Boyertown, took the class.

Ralph Werley, a math teacher at Pottsgrove High School, and Charles Parrish, an English teacher at Pottsgrove, taught the class which attracts students from other schools because Pottsgrove is one of the few places in the area that offers SAT-taking skills. The class costs \$100, which covers the

cost of a \$15 test book and 30 hours of classroom instruction. During the six weeks that the course runs, students learn strategies for answering analogy questions, math questions and all other kinds of questions, like sentence completions, found on the SAT.

The most significant benefit of the course, according to Mr. Werley, is the confidence a student gains for taking the test. Mr. Werley feels that this confidence takes away the anxiety which comes from test-taking and allows the students to perform to their potential, if nothing else. However, 90 percent of the students who have taken the class have had their scores increase an average of 120 points. Surprisingly, Mr. Parrish and Mr. Werley did not want to teach the

class at first. "It didn't seem worthwhile," Mr. Werley said. They have both changed their minds, however, after seeing the positive results of the class.

Compared to nationally known courses, the ones offered here at Pottsgrove are much cheaper. The Princeton Review and the Caplain Education Center are some of the well-known courses that are available. However, these courses are not better simply because they are nationally known. The Princeton Review increases scores, about the same amount as Pottsgrove's, 120 to 140 points, but they charge \$500 for their course. Students taking this course only receive 20 hours of instruction, compared to Pottsgrove's 30 hours.

## School changes to meet mandates

(cont. from p1, col. 5)

difference students seem most concerned with is the answers in the back of the book.

The old books had most of the odd answers in the back, but not all of them. The new books don't answer any of the "Covering the Reading" questions, but they have all of the odd-numbered answers.

"The new books," said Janet Marquardt, a sophomore, "are much more consistent with the

answers."

The new books have "In-Class Activities" scattered throughout the chapters. Some teachers like to use these activities to help their students understand the material better, while others don't.

The new books also have suggested projects at the end of every chapter. "The projects all have to do with the material covered in the chapter," said Marquardt, "so that

you can do these projects to supplement the material."

One thing that's always new is computers. While you're reading this, your computer probably just became outdated.

The Business Department received 30 new computers three years ago and got new motherboards for them last summer. They are IBM clones with 166 megahertz of power.

Computers are an important part of the school's curriculum, according to D.J. Testa, the keyboarding teacher.

**Underclassmen meet with representatives of colleges, services at career**

by Mark Holloway

Around 350 of Pottsgrove's upperclassmen attended a career fair at the Gilbertsville Fire Hall on Oct. 7, and they had the opportunity to meet with representatives from 85 schools and consider their options after they graduate from high school.

Schools ranging from Albright College to Wilkes University participated. Popular local schools such as East Stroudsburg and Kutztown attended the career fair as well as

schools from other states, like Old Dominion from Virginia.

College wasn't the only option available at the fair, however: representatives from the US Marines, Army and Air Force were in attendance.

"The colleges and armed services are all viable options [for Pottsgrove upperclassmen]," said Michael Ondo, a PHS guidance counselor who helped organize the fair.

The fair had different things to offer the students, depending on what grade they were in. Mr.

Ondo said the career fair awakens juniors to the reality that in a year they will have to make some decisions. These decisions require thought since they will have a big impact on the juniors' lives.

The career fair was the first time many juniors gave some serious considerations to their options for education after high school.

"It's the first exposure that they've had to schools, to representatives, to finding out if there are other schools available other than the ones whose football teams are on television," Mr. Ondo said.

"You can find information [about a college] that you can't find in a brochure," said Karen Hetrick, a junior, talking about how she had found the fair helpful.

Other students felt the information they gained was helpful. Some students wished other colleges had attended. Jen McCormick, a junior, was disappointed that Penn State did not attend, but still felt the fair was worthwhile.

"This was really a kind of wake-up call to know that eight months from now you're finished," Mr. Ondo said, talking about how the fair affects the seniors.

There have also been cases where students thought they knew where they wanted to go but found a school that better suited them at the fair.

The fair is sponsored by the Tri-County Chamber of Commerce, which organizes the event. Run for the past 10 years by the chamber's Business Education Committee, the fair is a service to the students in this area.



**Fair helps students choose a college:** Pottsgrove upperclassmen like juniors Amy Koetteritz and Courtney Kroh discussed their options with college representatives at a career fair at the Gilbertsville Fire Hall on Oct. 7. "I enjoyed going to it to look at different colleges," Koetteritz, who said that she may major in elementary education, said.

There's so much you can do with a computer," she said. "If you don't use it, you're the one who's going to end up losing, personally and professionally."

Mrs. Testa remarked that the technological advances that are being made today are "totally amazing." No school can keep up-to-date.

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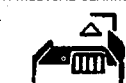
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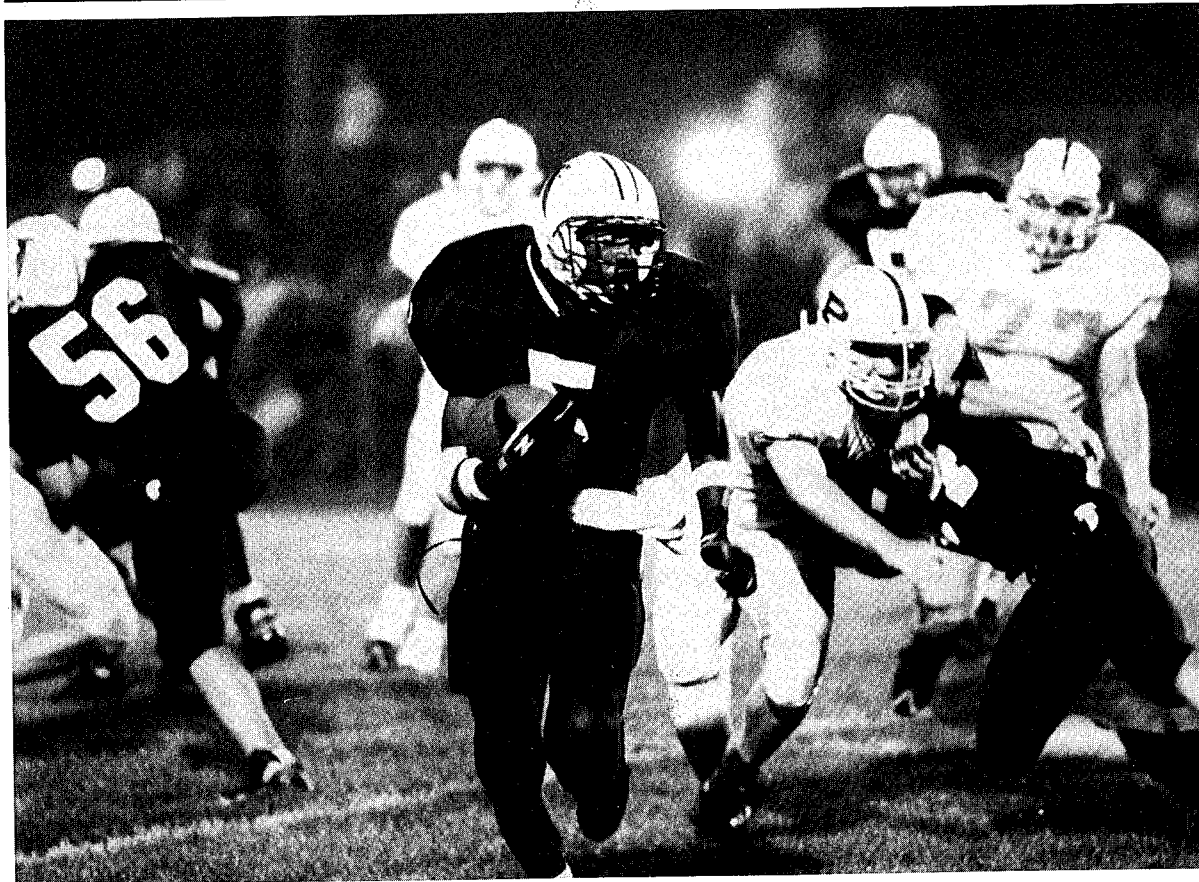
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**Leading the team:** Senior Jermaine Thaxton (5), a running back and outside linebacker, led the Falcons in rushing, scoring and tackles. "I got a lot accomplished," Thaxton, who broke the 3,000-yd. career rushing record, said. "I think I worked up to my potential."

## Boys' soccer team exceeds everyone's expectations

by Mark Holloway

Things looked grim. Two months before the season started,

The soccer team was far from ready to throw in the towel, however. During a non-league tournament at Daniel Boone, two weeks

scoring record.

The team even persevered through countless personal injuries. A sprained ankle, a

## Exciting season continues the Falcons' winning ways

■ Team strengths carry the Falcons to third place spot

by Crystal Snow, Rachel Martz

It was an exciting football season, but it would have been more exciting if the Falcons didn't have to play teams like Perk Valley, Pottstown and Upper Perk. However, defeating undefeated Lansdale Catholic and ending up with a PAC-10 record of 6-3 and a record of 7-3 outside of the league helped Pottsgrove maintain its record of winning seasons.

The team's losses to Upper Perk, Pottstown and Perk Valley were far-outweighed by the wins against Garden Spot, Owen J. Roberts, Phoenixville, Springfield, Pius, Great Valley and, perhaps the most exciting game of the season, Lansdale Catholic.

"[The Lansdale Catholic game] meant the most because everyone thought we were going to lose. They were undefeated and we kicked their butts," said Jermaine Thaxton, a senior on the varsity football team.

The team had several strengths this year, but two stuck out. "The team's unity and togetherness," Rick Pennypacker, the head football coach, said, talking about the traits of the team which

Pennypacker. "The Pottsgrove kids are better than any other players in the PAC-10. I mean, not as football players, but as people."

As a whole the talented Falcons had a very strong defense, one of the best in the league.

"Sometimes our defense overshadows our offense," junior Jesse Glennon said.

Overall, the team had a successful year, ending with a third place standing in the PAC-10. Also, the team had a winning season for six out of the last seven seasons.

The Falcons worked hard in practices to get to where they were on the field.

"Early in the season we had to learn that we were a team and one person would not win a game," junior Duane Duncan said.

Of course, the team accomplished what they did, also, through the guidance of the coaching staff.

"The coaches put in twice as much time as we do," senior tri-captain Christopher Patton said.

"I respect my coaches very much and work hard for them, so I don't let them down," Glennon said.

The Falcons have developed quite a crowd of followers at their games, and the support of the fans is important. However, the Falcons know that they have to stay focused on the game.

the boys' soccer team, quit with no warning. Fortunately, Glen Mest, the then JV coach, was there and stepped in and took the position. That wasn't the only problem that the team had to face though.

The team had only two seniors, Matt Renninger and Ian Faber. But, to top it off, the team's first game was against Great Valley, a team with three state championships under its belt.

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alive and started to realize its potential. The Monday after the tournament, on Sept. 15, the team beat Perkiomen Valley, one of the best teams in the PAC-10. They continued to play well and were carrying a 4-3-2 at the end of September. By the end of the season they were sixth in the league (after starting off with two losses) and had a 5-7-2 record.

Talking about the team's success, Mest said, "It's really a team effort." Mest was referring to the fact that no one superstar emerged from the team; instead, the goals were spread among eight of the players, which in Mest's opinion, had to be some kind of school

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hand, a black eye, a severed blood vessel and several cases of shin splints failed to stop the team from winning against opponents considered superior to them.

Despite more than their share of bad luck, the boys' soccer team pulled together to play as a team. In doing this, they exceeded what anyone thought they would accomplish.

# Girls' soccer team hangs on through a tough season

by Crystal Snow

"We started a little slow. In the beginning we had five games in six days--that just killed us, but since that time we have been playing very well," said Mike

"Also, the team's confidence and loyalty to each other and coaches."

Thaxton thought the team's strengths were "running the ball and defense sometimes."

Three ingredients that go into producing a good program are "total commitment to the team concept by players, commitment to work and practice and sacrifice [everything]," according to Coach

of the crowd," Glenn said. "Once the game starts I just hear my coaches and teammates."

While having fans helps, the team also knows that they have to work to help keep each other's spirits up too.

"In the games I try to keep the spirit up on defense by making big plays," senior tri-captain Thaxton said.

Brendlinger, head coach of the girls' soccer team, about the team, which finished the season 8-6-2.

Next year the girls' schedule will get even harder when they play in the PAC-10.

"Being in a league should be very exciting," Coach Brendlinger said. "Great Valley and Owen J. Roberts will be the favorites in the league, but we will do everything we can to compete with those two teams."

Once in the league the only new team the girls will play is

Lansdale Catholic, who currently plays in the spring.

"What makes this team special is the work ethic of the team," Coach Brendlinger said. "We have a core of players who work unbelievably hard and are just a lot of fun to be around."

Although the team will be losing some good players, the team will have many players returning who will help the team next year.

"Tricia Hyland, Lyndsay Miller, Katie Neuberger, Crystal Snow, Becky Bosch and Colleen Brown will lead our seniors next year," Coach Brendlinger said.

Four outstanding players on the team are Karen Ward, a senior who led in the number of goals scored with 10; Jackie Sassaman, a freshman, and Sarah Weaver, a junior, both tied with seven assists each; and Lisa Brown, who had 128 saves this year at goal. (Remember, defense gets no glory even when they deserve it.)



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# Girls' team breaks losing streak on new tennis courts

## Team exceeds low expectations set in preseason

by Katie Greene

Although the preseason expectations were not that high, the outcome of the girls' tennis team was impressive. For one thing, the team broke a two-year losing streak, an accomplishment which could have been influenced by the large number of experienced players on the team.

"The girls had a higher level of playing ability this year," senior Peggie Mycek, who played second singles and was named to the all-academic team, said. "There were a lot more seniors this year: eight out of the ten girls on varsity were seniors."

Practice was an essential part of the Falcons' success. Because of the newly reconstructed tennis courts, it was the first time the girls got to practice on their home courts, and that definitely made a difference.

The team had some hard practices, but they also had fun and

made friends.

"We all got along very well, and I think that it made us want to win for each other and not just for ourselves," junior Jen Stairs said.

Keeping this tennis team pumped up was not a hard job, especially with the help of their unofficial mascot, sophomore Michael Bleyer.

"We cheer each other on and do goofy stuff in school on the day of a match," Stairs said. "Senior Rachel Reed was awarded this year's spirit queen!"

The team's closeness was particularly attributed to the leadership of Coach John Shantz.

"He is understanding in that he was very lenient with our work schedules (especially mine)," Stairs said. "He adds a lot of fun, and I think he is the coolest coach in the league."

Pottsgrove hosted for the first time the PAC-10 Championships. "It was cool because we had great courts to show off," Coach Shantz said.

At first doubles, Kelly Engle and Erin Linsinbigler, who went 7-2, were named to the All-PAC-10 first team. An honorable mention went to Corrie Lloyd and Nadia Ali.

## Koetteritz stands out Cross country teams have losing seasons

by Crystal Snow

The girls' cross country team worked hard this year but ended their season with a 1-8 record, while the boys ended their season with a 0-9 record. Their records may not have been as good as in past years, but the girls and boys did the best they could against their competition.

"The season was a learning season," Larry Rehtin, the head coach, said, summing up the '97 season. "The runners learned how important summer training was and how they were going to improve individually."

One way the team can become better next year is to get

Pottsgrove's top runner.

Koetteritz is a gold medal award winner, is a three-year varsity letter recipient and a gold medal winner in Kim's Run.

Koetteritz's PAC-10 All-Conference best time on a 5,000-meter course (3.1 miles) is 20:31 minutes, which is equivalent to a 6:30-minute mile.

Koetteritz did well overall this season and is currently ranked at 14th place in the PAC-10. That place put her on the PAC-10 All-Conference Team. Only the top 15 runners in the league make the All-Conference Team.

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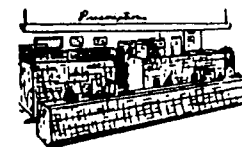
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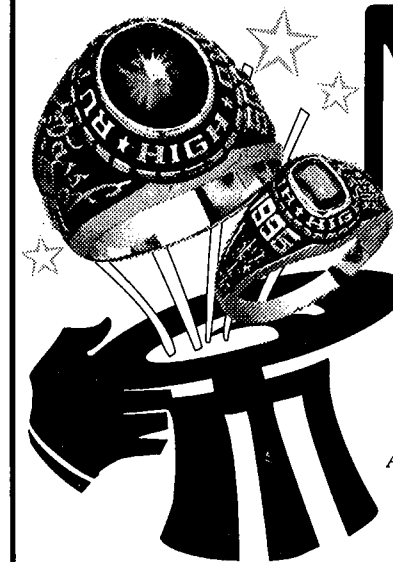
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