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“Some are really interested in learning, some just like to eat and some want to take an easy course.”

—Linda Cole, Foods teacher

Some real men like to cook, Page **4**

the falcon

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Pottsgrove High School
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newsbriefs

Cheating common among top high school students

Chicago--For America's brightest high school students, doing homework is apparently a breeze. If you get into a jam, copy your friend's work is the all-too-common attitude, a recently released survey found.

In fact, three in four of the brightest U.S. high school students have cheated, according to a poll of students appearing in the 1997 edition of *Who's Who Among American High School Students*. Although the poll has been conducted for 28 years, it's only been in the past four years that students were quizzed about cheating. This year, the poll included 3,210 students who reported being A or B students.

The number of teens admitting to cheating has remained fairly constant since the question first appeared on the poll, according to those who prepared the survey.

Cheating most commonly was defined as copying someone else's homework. According to the survey, cheating "didn't seem like a big deal" to students, so they had no trouble admitting it to pollsters.

Color Day

Teachers try to
keep the **excitement**
alive through careful planning.

has arrived

by Crystal Snow

Color Day is a day of fun

activities], planning how long the kids will take for their speeches, assigning teachers

dents will rotate through the Color Day bands and the activities.

Other sources have produced similar findings. For example, a State Department of Public Health survey of 12,000 students released one year ago showed 63 percent of 11th-graders and 62 percent of ninth-graders reported cheating on an exam sometime in the previous 12 months.

The *Who's Who* survey found 76 percent of teenagers admitted cheating, with 65 percent of them saying they copied another's homework. Thirty-eight percent cheated on a quiz or test.

Senate panel holds hearing on music violence

Washington--A U.S. Senate panel convened a hearing to assess the social impact of violent music lyrics on today's youth.

The panel heard testimony from, among others, Ray Kuntz of Burlington, Mont., whose 15-year-old son Richard committed suicide while listening to the music of the "shock rock" group Marilyn Manson.

Marilyn Manson sings about death and the Anti-Christ. Speaking to the Senate panel, Kuntz recalled his son showing him the Manson CD.

"I failed to recognize that my son was holding a hand grenade, and it was live, and it went off in his head," Kuntz said.

What role, if any, music plays in a teenage suicide is hotly debated. But what isn't a matter of debate is that thousands of teenagers commit suicide each year in the United States. In fact, suicide is the third leading cause of death for 15- to 24-year-olds.

"Today's teens face far more difficulties and dangers than their counterparts a generation ago," said Sen. Sam Brownback, R-Kansas. Brownback is chairman of the Government Affairs Oversight subcommittee.

Alabama judge's order sparks protest

Montgomery, Ala.--A judge's decision to bar organized prayers in Alabama schools--including athletic events and commencement exercises--has angered everyone from high school students to the state's governor.

Last fall more than 400 students at Boaz High School in Montgomery gathered to voice their support for public prayer, and about 60 students walked out of classes at Sardis High School.

The students were protesting a decision by U.S. District Judge Ira DeMent, who recently barred public schools in the state from allowing organized prayers in classrooms and at school events. The order also prohibits prayers at commencement exercises and blocks the distribution of Bibles to students.

The ruling also upset Gov. Fob James, who said he would resist the order "by every legal and political means, with every ounce of strength I possess."

and excitement for the students at P.H.S., and three teachers are in charge of keeping the excitement alive by planning and running Color Day.

Kathy Baker, Dottie Istenes and John Shantz are in charge of planning and running Color Day.

There is a lot involved in planning Color Day and keeping everything going just as it should go. This time of year becomes ultra-intense.

"Trying to work out the timetable, rotating the kids around, estimating time [for the

where to be and working with the speakers to polish their speeches [goes into planning Color Day]," said Mrs. Baker, the school disciplinarian.

The schedule this year will follow "the basic format from the year before," according to Mrs. Baker. In the morning the students will do a morning homeroom activity; then they will go to the auditorium to hear the elected Color Day speakers' speeches. After that they will go back to homeroom to vote for the winners, and, finally, the stu-

ferent because "[we] shortened the morning and lengthened the afternoon," said Mrs. Baker. They did this, she said, so that there would be more time for the afternoon activities.

The games that are played are made up mainly by Mrs. Baker and Mrs. Istenes. But, Mrs. Baker said, kids have given her ideas. Also ideas for the homeroom games come from faculty members.

"[The big question in the (cont. p. 6, col. 1)]



Intense school spirit: How do you explain Color Day to someone who does not go to Pottsgrove? Ask the Class of '99, who along with the freshmen and sophomores will be trying to stop the seniors from taking home the honors.



the falcon

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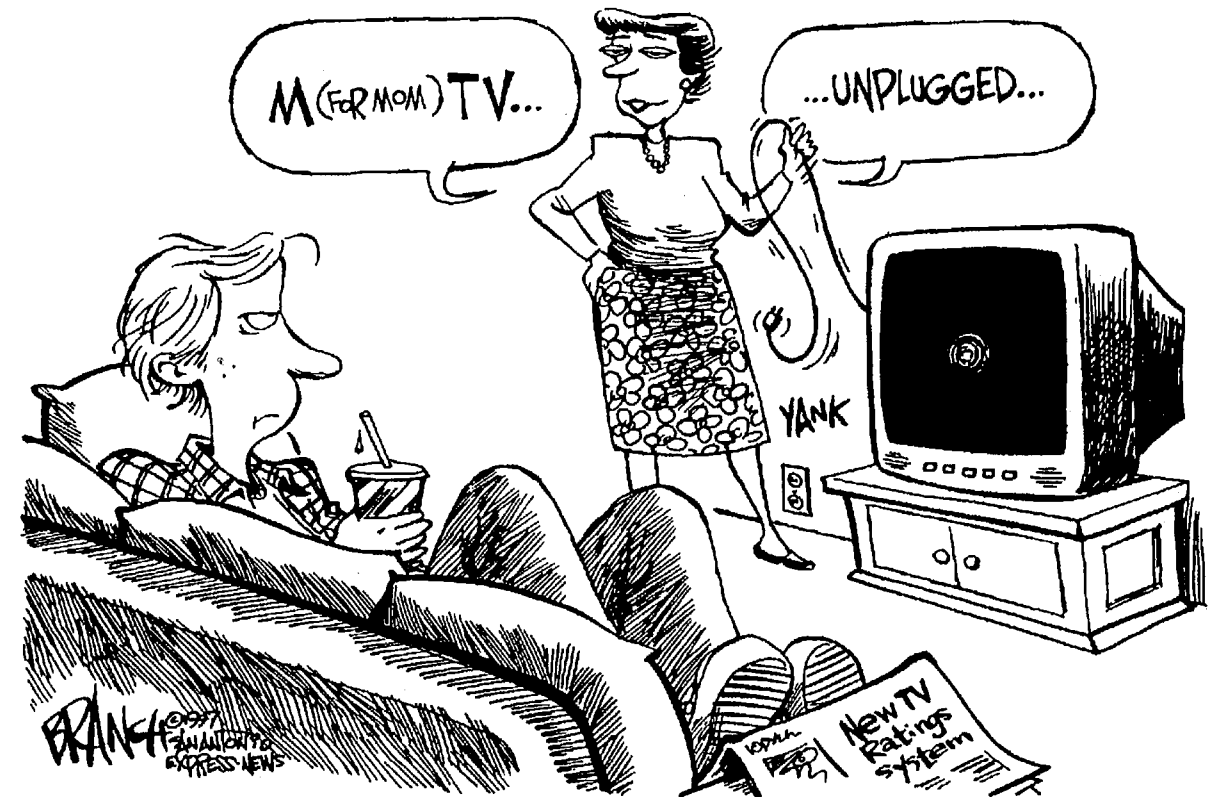
Students here are unique

One of the things that Pottsgrove students hear over and over again is how good an audience they are and how good they are to work with. Pottsgrove students traditionally have been cooperative. They hear all of these positive things said about them from guests that speak at assemblies, from the administration, even from the yearbook photographers who come here to photograph the sports teams and the clubs.

Sometimes it is cultural shock for outsiders who are used to working with urban schools. These people come here expecting the worst--after all, listen to some of the things which are said about today's students. Then we surprise them by being just the opposite of what they expect.

For most students though, most of this praise goes in one ear and out the other. Students at Pottsgrove haven't seen firsthand how students at other schools act.

They don't have to though. Students at Pottsgrove can see the result of their good behavior today, Color Day. No other school had a day like this, due to the fact that having



School board opts to build new school

■ District plans building to meet growing enrollment

by Chiffon Jackson:

Four years ago Pottsgrove School District officials thought the school district needed a new intermediate school in order to

on Hanover Street, will cost \$29 million. But after the estimates were in, taxpayers began to be interested. The majority of the residents in attendance at the Dec. 16-17 meeting were against building the new school. Actually, two thirds of the approximately 125 residents there.

Resident Donna Liebert, for

upon.

The first, the original, was the plan that had been developed over a four-year period that would include construction of the new school and renovations to the intermediate school so that it can be used as an elementary school.

The second was a proposal by resident William Wendal. He suggested a renovation and a

Color Day is a risk. Color Day exists as a Pottsgrove tradition because the students here want it and they work for it.

A risk? Yes, a risk. Getting about 950 students as hyper as possible, letting them paint themselves and then having them compete with rival classes is just asking for trouble. However, Pottsgrove continues the tradition again this year because the faculty here knows that Pottsgrove's students will try to keep things within reasonable bounds.

Color Day is a day for students to relax after days of taking mid-terms. It is a day when students can paint their faces and let down their hair. It is one of the things that makes Pottsgrove the school that it is. It is one of those things which makes Pottsgrove unique and special.

Students need teacher-coaches

After two seasons of coaching Pottsgrove's girls' soccer team, John Noxel resigned as head coach. Noxel resigned because his work schedule did not allow him to make practice before 4 p.m. It wouldn't be worth the girls' time nor the coach's time to hold practice for only an hour each day. As a result, the girls' soccer team went looking for a new head coach. None of the teachers at Pottsgrove High School have ever coached or played soccer, so, therefore, no teachers applied for the job.

Early in the summer the position was filled by Mike Brendlinger. Mr. Brendlinger is also the assistant coach of the girls' basketball team.

There are other examples of community members stepping in to take a coaching job that could be manned by a teacher. Cindy Cerminaro, a parent, for example, coaches the cheerleaders at Pottsgrove. Community members coach the boys' varsity and JV soccer teams and the wrestling team.

A prerequisite for hiring teachers at Pottsgrove should be that they have some type of coaching or playing experience. Then teachers could take over if an emergency pops up and a team needs a coach to take over.

But, more importantly, Pottsgrove should hire teachers who can coach because the teachers are here, day in and day out. They have more contact with the members of the teams. They know the members of the teams. They last in the coaching positions longer--they see it as part of their teaching job.

Pottsgrove students need the consistency of coaches who are faculty members.

dent population at that level. It seemed like a good idea until community members saw the raise in their taxes. In December, a special school board meeting took place at the intermediate school to discuss how the taxpayers felt about the project.

On Wednesday, Dec. 17, at 1:30 a.m., the school board made the final decision. By a 7-2 vote, the school board voted to build a new middle school.

"It was the final vote. We are building the school. It's a done deal," said school board member Frederick Stein.

The school, which will be built on the old Hollenbach Farm

No matter what we do it will still cost us millions."

instance, believes "an expensive building with pricey walls and floors does not produce a better educated child."

Another resident commented that "no matter what we do it will still cost us millions so we might as well bite the bullet. There is no shame in voting to build a state-of-the-art facility that allows our kids to function in the 21st century."

This debate boiled down until two options were agreed

addition to the current middle school and construction of a new elementary school at a site on Pleasantview Road which the district already owns.

The total cost of his proposal would cost somewhere between \$15.7 million and \$23.2 million, according to a rough estimate by Paul Felder, who works for the Allentown-based Architect's Studio, which designed the new school building. (The first option will cost \$34 million.)

When it came down to making a decision on which option to follow, the vote had to be based on what the school board thought was best for the children.

Don't look for the 'new new' or the new math here

by Janet Marquardt

There is no "new-new" math, and there is no "new" math, at least not at Pottsgrove.

The Chicago Math Series is the edition of math books being used at Pottsgrove, but they do not present a "new" math. A revised edition of the Chicago Math Series is new; however, it is not a "new-new" math.

In the 91-92 school year, Pottsgrove began using the Chicago Math Series for transition math, Algebra I and geometry. In the '92-'93 school year, Pottsgrove began using the Chicago Math Series for Algebra II. The Chicago Math Series teaches students math by applying it to real life.

One of the benefits of the

Chicago Math Series is that it helps students to improve their reading skills. However, students must first read the sections before answering the questions.

"[Students] are better prepared for the large amount of reading required in college," said math teacher Barbara Eschbach.

Another benefit of the Chicago Math Series is that the books are easy enough for the students to understand. Students are able to grasp the concepts without needing a teacher to explain things first, even though a further explanation from the teacher may be needed.

Pottsgrove recently ordered the revised edition of the Chicago Math Series. Pottsgrove needed new books for geometry and Algebra II, but

only the honors classes have the new books because there is not enough money to order new books for all of the classes.

"It has answers in the back of the book for all of the odd questions except the 'Covering the Reading' questions," said sophomore Tammy Drager, talking about the revised edition of the Chicago Math Series. "It has more examples in the lessons; it has projects at the end of each chapter and in-class activities."

Another new thing at Pottsgrove is an algebra course called Algebra I, Part A. It is a two-year course for students who earned a *D* or low *C* in transition math or an *A* or *B* in eighth grade general math. Before this course was offered, these students would have had to take transition math a second time.

Publications earn Keystones

■ Yearbook nabs for the sixth time All-State Award

by Kelly Krause

While each of Pottsgrove's three publications in 1997 again earned a Keystone Award from the Pennsylvania School Press Association, for the sixth time in the past seven years, Pottsgrove's yearbook, *Pottsgrovian*, earned the distinguished title of being named an All-State publication.

The All-State designation traditionally just goes to five or six publications state-wide in each of the three areas: literary magazines, newspapers and yearbooks.

"[Working on] the yearbook is the type of activity where you work at both ends of the spectrum," said editor-in-chief Megan Whalen, talking about the different types of jobs and work she has had to do during her two-year experience working on *Pottsgrovian*.

"When the end of the school year comes around and students open the freshly-printed yearbooks, you realize that all the long hours were worth it," Whalen, a junior, also said.

The Keystone Award comes from a rating system set up by PSPA to help high schools make their publications as professional as possible. Keystones are given out to those publications which meet the PSPA's highest standards. Schools can also earn First or Second place ratings, plus helpful guidelines on how to improve their publications.

"The Keystone Award was the perfect payoff for all of the long hard hours put into the yearbook," said Marcia Gdowik, the 1997 editor of *Pottsgrovian*, when she learned about how the book she worked on was rated.

Pottsgrovian was evaluated on Theme/Coverage, Photography, Writing/Reporting and Layout/Graphics.

The yearbook is a year-long elective course in which creative talents, computer skills and writing abilities are stressed.

"Yearbook was a great learning experience for me," Gdowik, who is a freshman at Alvernia College majoring in nursing, said. "It taught me to be responsible and take charge of things."

In addition to the yearbook, Pottsgrove's newspaper and literary magazine have won their share of Keystone awards. Pottsgrove's newspaper *Falcon*, for instance, has won a Keystone for the past seven years in a row.

"Winning these awards is our reward for the long hours we put in," said Mark Holloway, the editor-in-chief of *Falcon*. "We don't get that much recognition, and Keystone Awards show the staff that they are producing quality work."

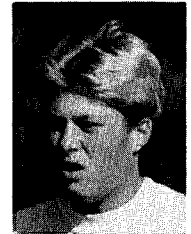
Maximi, Pottsgrove's literary magazine, has won a Keystone for the past three years. *Maximi* relies on the artwork and literature generated by students.

"When *Maximi* brings home awards," said Holloway, who is also co-editor of *Maximi*, "it's a reflection of the quality of students here at Pottsgrove."

'Falcon' asks...

"What is your favorite part of Color Day?"

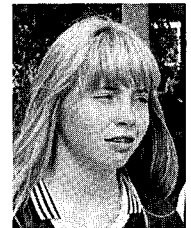
Mike Collins, junior: "[I like] competing in the events."



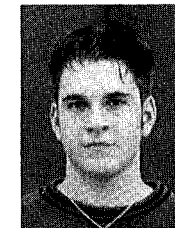
Kariyima Beckham, junior: "[My favorite part is] the competition and competing in the events."



Jennifer Hutt, freshman: "I can't wait to compete with the older kids."



Mike Wokulich, senior: "[I like] when we get to dress up in class colors and show off pride."



Christy Greulich, senior: "We are finally seniors, so we'll definitely win [the competition] this year!"



Sarah Maslayak, senior: "I like the competition because this is one of the





Yearbook earns top honors: Graduate Marcia Gdowik (the editor of the 1997 yearbook) and junior Megan Whalen, the editor of this year's book, hold the All-State certificate which the 1997 book received from the Pennsylvania School Press Association. "Yearbook was a great learning experience for me," Gdowik, who is a freshman at Alvernia College majoring in nursing, said. "It taught me to be responsible and take charge of things."

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Grant money has been keeping members of PRIDE on the go

by Caroline Levonuk

Mark Shuster sure does keep PRIDE busy with many activities.

For instance, in November PRIDE went to Arnold's Go-cart Center; later they sponsored a roller-skating party for the intermediate school which 186 students attended.

"That was the largest group of students we ever had," Mr. Shuster, the faculty sponsor of PRIDE, said. "We were really pleased with that."

Off to Delaware. Pride also went to a place called Funksate, which is a youth play center where kids of all ages can play lazer-tag, race go-carts and play arcade games.

All of PRIDE's expenses are paid for by grant money, which PRIDE received by agreeing to work with other community groups in the area.

In January Pride will plan the Winter Carnival and, of

course, the prom. For the prom, Mr. Shuster wants to get the elementary students to write letters to all the students planning to go to the prom to tell them to be safe and not to drink and drive.

"Little kids love to have big kids pay attention to them and it wouldn't hurt for the big kids to realize that these little kids are thinking about them," said Mr. Shuster. "It might make them think twice before they do something stupid."

With the prom coming up, PRIDE is also arranging an assembly called "Cruising not Boozing," which is a program sponsored by Bryn Mawr Hospital. This assembly will consist of having other students from other schools and adults who have had their lives shattered by alcohol share their experiences with the Pottsgrove Student body. Another assembly planned is the Motivational Media Assembly.

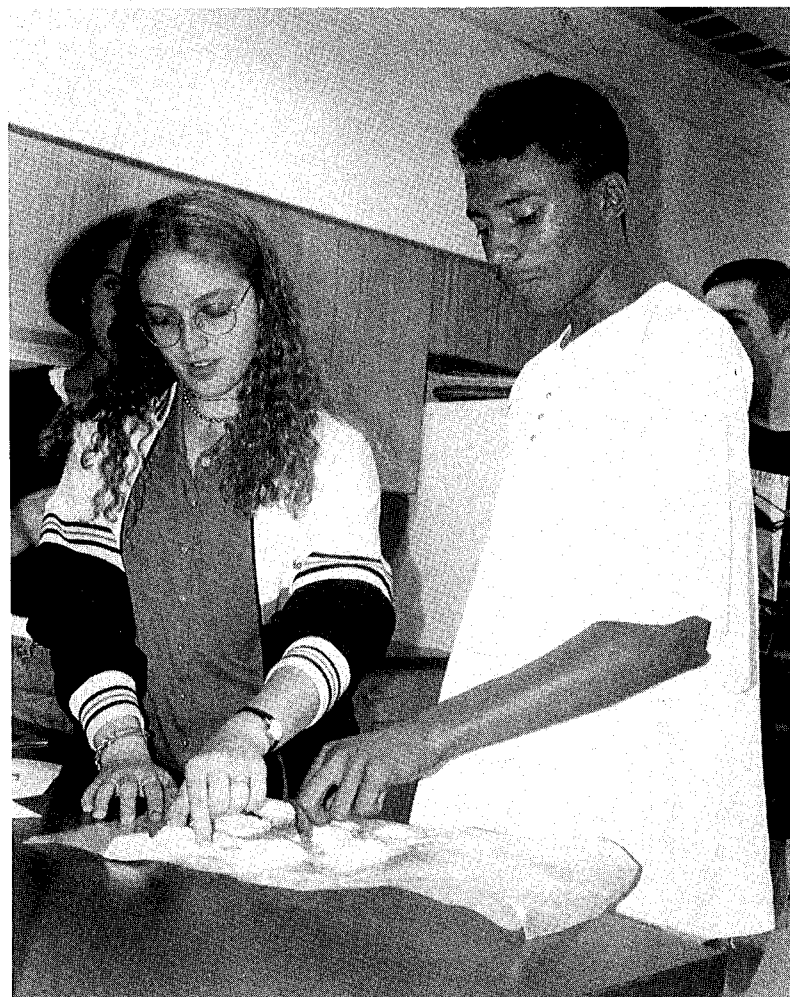
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Real men like to eat: Why do male students like Skeet Reynolds to take Foods class? Well, there are a number of reasons, and one of the main ones is that they like to eat. Some actually say that they like to cook.

Some real men like to cook

■ Some guys take Foods class so they can just eat

by Crystal Snow

Why do the guys at P.H.S. take Linda Cole's foods class? That is a question that has many answers, and one may be because they like to eat.

Let's face it, some guys take it because it is a "fluff class." According to Mrs. Cole, there are about 46 boys in her foods classes and about 30 girls.

"Some are really interested in learning, some just like to eat and some want to take an easy

course," Mrs. Cole said, talking about why boys take her class. "They [soon] find out it's not as easy as they thought."

In Mrs. Cole's opinion, when the guys cook, "they like to bake desserts. They also like pasta and Italian foods [the best]."

In the guys' opinion, they take Foods for many reasons. These reasons included--besides being a fluff class for football players and male jocks--the fact that some of them actually like to cook and the class is a way to get girls.

Do the guys actually cook in the class or do they sit around and watch the girls cook? Well, the eight guys surveyed for this article said they liked to cook

pasta and Italian food, pastries, popcorn and (the overwhelming favorite) desserts.

Some of the guys admitted that they actually cook at home. Well, what do they cook when they are at home? Eight male students who take the class said that they microwave popcorn, make soup from a can, make sandwiches...

What do their parents say about them taking Foods? Maybe you wouldn't be surprised. Some were that "they don't care," "they don't say anything," "they say do what you want," "take all the fluff classes you can" and, one even said, "good, do your own cooking from now on."

Principal sees marker in first year

by Devin L. Mercer

With the school year almost half-way over, Ms. Joyce Wishart has had some work to do to fill the shoes of former PHS principal Mr. Robert Anderson.

Ms. Wishart, who previously was vice-principal here for three years, officially assumed the position of principal on Sept. 8, when Mr. Anderson became

principal at Wissahickon High School in Ambler, PA.

"Mr. Anderson was an excellent mentor," Ms. Wishart said, talking about one of the reasons why she feels she is qualified for the job. In order to qualify to be a principal, an administrator must be certified, must go to college, and must have experience.

One problem Ms. Wishart is

dealing with this year is the transition from the use of an outside data agency to an inhouse computation of data of grades, attendance, etc. Another problem with getting the records together is collecting the seniors' data for colleges.

Another problem is the fact that PHS doesn't have a permanent vice-principal yet.

Ms. Wishart said that being a teacher is different from being a principal because a teacher gets to know a student by name; whereas, a principal has so many students to deal with that it

Conference addresses students with leadership potential

by Crystal Snow

dents from other schools attend

according to LaRousse."

still interested, and now only five

The National Young Leader's Conference is an exciting program that is in its second year at PHS.

The National Young Leader's Conference is a seminar for students who show leadership potential and want to go into government and politics.

"The program runs throughout the year and around 350 stu-

representative for Pottsgrove.

The conference runs for six days and the students are housed at a college dorm in Washington, D.C. LaRosse was the first student from Pottsgrove to attend the conference.

This year to get elected for the conference a student needed LaRosse's "recommendation and the principal's signature,"

said Michael Ondo, a guidance counselor at PHS who ran the meetings with LaRosse for those students who were interested.

This year there were about 64 students who were officially interested. However, only 28 students remained interested and attended a second meeting. When the third meeting occurred, only 16 students were

ship, activities and leadership potential were the criteria on which they were selected," said LaRosse.

"I think that it will be a worthwhile learning experience," said Mark Holloway, a student who was elected to attend the conference. "I have leadership positions in several organizations and I am hoping to improve my skills in leadership and management. I am also looking forward to meeting the congressional representatives from Pennsylvania."

These students who were elected get to meet with some of today's leaders from Congress, the Executive branch, the media and the Diplomatic Corps to witness the nation's democracy in action. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for the students and a good experience to write about on college applications.

The students who were elected go behind-the-scenes and receive an insider's view of Washington and the public policy process. Any student who attends this conference has an opportunity for growth and development and new social experiences.

a change in responsibilities when she moved from vice-principal to principal.

"I'd like to help students find direction," she said. "I want to see them become successful."

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Counselors can help pick a college

by Mai Hoang

Have you ever wanted someone or something that can help you figure out what you want to do for a career or what college to go to? Do you want someone to give you advice about different things? Well, it doesn't cost much to get such advice; in fact, all you have to do is go to the guidance office.

At Pottsgrove High School there are three guidance counselors: Judy Pancino, Diane Holokou and Michael Ondo. They are here to solve many different problems, such as course selection, college/career questions and mental health problems.

For course selection, students can ask the counselors what courses to take, do schedule changes and maybe possible courses in college.

Career/College guidance starts in one way as a freshman, when Mr. Ondo goes to Mark Shuster's communication classes to do a little career guidance. Later as a junior, the road to col-

lege and career starts.

As a junior, the guidance counselors lead them to many stages. In October they take the PSAT's and then start choosing possible colleges and majors and then perhaps taking the SAT's in the spring.

That journey continues in

"Counselors see their field growing and changing - for the better."

the senior year, with students taking the SAT's a few more times and narrowing down their college of choice.

Mental health issues deal with students having problems with things such as depression. These students may refer themselves to a counselor or they may be sent by teachers or parents. The guidance counselors try to help as much as they can, but if they can't solve that problem,

they refer them to other professionals.

Becoming a guidance counselor is not easy. For one thing in order to be a guidance counselor, people need more than a bachelor's--schools want educators with a master's degree.

The guidance counselor's field is getting better. It will grow in the future. It has grown from the past, according to guidance counselor Holokou.

"When I started in Pottsgrove, there was one counselor at the intermediate school, two at the high school, plus a career counselor, and none at the elementary schools," she said. "Today we have three full-time counselors at the high school, two at the intermediate school and one at each elementary school."

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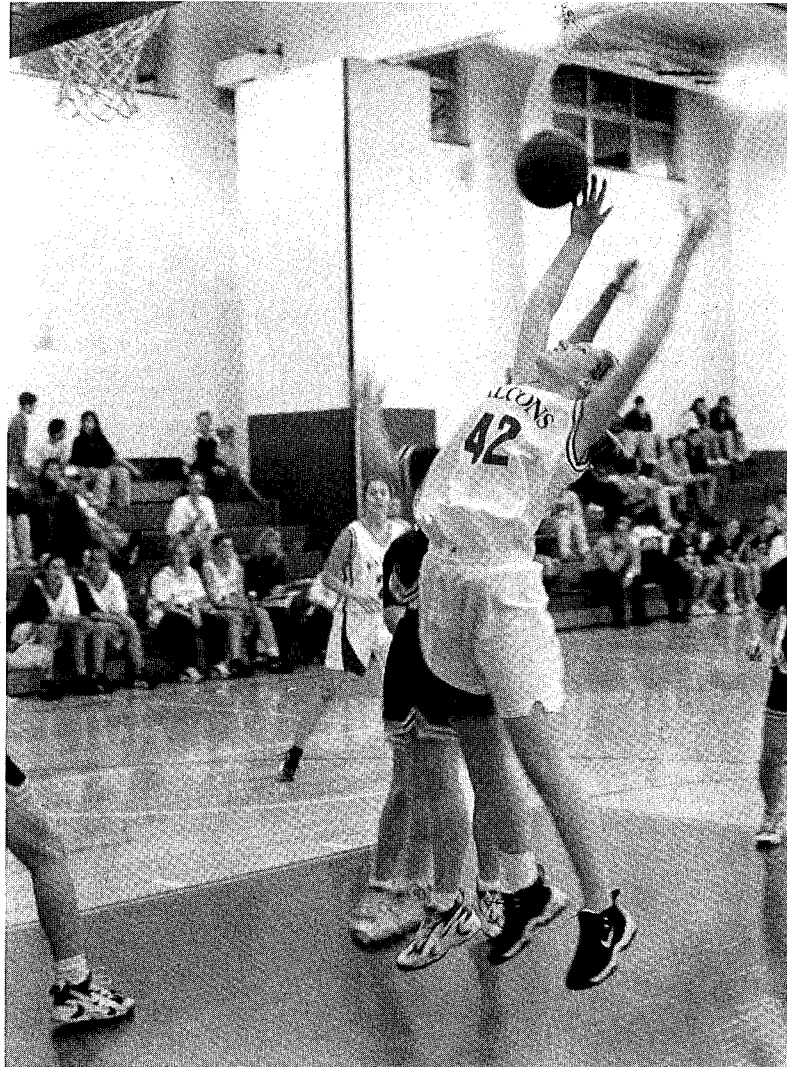


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Still in contention: The Lady Falcons have stayed near the top of the league standings all season long. "The strength of our team is our ability to work together," senior Kristen Lucas (42), a forward, said. "No matter what happens we stick together."

Girls face second Pottstown game

■ **Falcons hope to make the cut for the final four**

by Crystal Snow

For the second time this season, the Pottsgrove girls' basketball team will play Pottstown. This time, though, the Lady Falcons will travel to Pottstown on Feb. 3 for the 6:15 p.m. game.

The girls are preparing for the game as they usually do; nonetheless, this is an important game--after all, PAC-10 leader Pottstown thumped Pottsgrove when the two teams met on Jan. 6.

"We work on fundamentals, especially ball-handling. So our preparation will be pretty much the same, [but] we will spend extra time working on rebounding," said Jan Fritz, head coach

of the Lady Falcons.

The girls, who entered January in third place in the PAC-10, have been doing well this season against their competition. They have practiced and played hard, but the goal of every team in the PAC-10 is to make it to the Final Four.

"[Final Four candidate teams are] expected to be Pottstown, Lansdale Catholic and Spring-Ford, so Pius, Pottsgrove, Owen J. Roberts and Phoenixville will be in competition with them," Mr. Fritz said. "The four teams that make the Final Four will have to be consistent and get better as the season progresses."

"The girls have been playing well together. We have some things we still hope to accomplish," Mr. Fritz also said, but the girls still have a chance to make the Final Four.

"The league this year is very

difficult," Mr. Fritz said, commenting on the Final Four.

The Lady Falcons have made the Final Four many times before. They have a good chance to make the Final Four again this year if they stay consistent and practice hard.

What will help them make the Final Four again this year is that "both last year's team and this year's Lady Falcons have been cooperative, hardworking and competitive squads," Mr. Fritz said.

"The girls have a ways to go to duplicate last year's record. It's been a privilege to be coaching at Pottsgrove and working with the young ladies on our team," Mr. Fritz said.

The Lady Falcon's game against Pottstown on the third of February will be one of the deciding factors in whether or not the Falcons make the Final Four.

Wrestlers get ready for tournament

by Caitlyn Hallman

While most students are busily preparing for Color Day today, the wrestling team is concentrating on something else. They are preparing for competition at the Haverford Tournament, which begins

tomorrow at 10:00 a.m.

The tournament will give the wrestlers a break from their regularly scheduled matches.

Senior team member Andrew Gaffney pointed out that although [the team] doesn't have as many wins as last year, they are getting stronger.

Gaffney said the wrestling team is young, but it has poten-

pretty well, but not up to its fullest potential," John Irwin, a junior who wrestles on the team, said. Irwin believes that the most important thing the team can do is work harder at unity.

Irwin was interviewed early in January when the Falcon wrestlers were trailing the league in last place with a 0-3 record.

Falcons still have Great Valley slated

by Megan Whalen

While the girls' game was moved from this afternoon and played yesterday because of today being Color Day, the Falcon boys' game is still on.

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The Falcons are still slated to face-off against Great Valley in an away game scheduled to begin at 6:15 p.m.

"I think that [Great Valley] is just average," junior Phillip Washington, who plays forward, said about the Patriots. Washington said that the reason why the Falcons beat the Patriots when they played on Dec. 18 was because "we played as a team."

Playing as a team is not

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something which the Falcons always do though.

"I think that since we've been losing a lot that we've been playing more as individuals, just trying to score points," shooting guard Chris Patton said.

At the end of the first full week of school in January, the Falcons had a 7-7 overall record and were 4-6 in the league--good enough to be in fifth place, with the Great Valley team, who were also 4-6 in the PAC-10.

Junior guard Chris Burke, like a lot of people, thinks that the Falcons have a lot of talent, but they just have to learn to play together and let their talent win games for them.

tial. "We are building a program at Pottsgrove that in four years will [make the team] a PAC-10 contender," Gaffney said.

The Falcons have had an unusual season in that they began it with 10 away matches. Only in the three matches which they had in the last seven days have they enjoyed wrestling in front of a home crowd.

"The team has performed

this season has been very different for the wrestling team compared to past seasons. For one thing, in practice the team has been concentrating more on technique than they have in previous seasons.

The hardest match for the wrestling team for this season was against Octorara, a team which was back-to-back district champions.

Eligibility for athletes just got easier

by Mark Holloway

Life just got easier, for student athletes anyway.

Students who play sports have academic requirements they have to meet to be eligible to play sports. However, the PIAA rules recently have changed to cut athletes some slack.

Academics play a large role in a student's eligibility. A stu-

dent must be passing at least four credits to be eligible to play sports. Until recently students had to be passing four credits for the entire school year. However, now students must only be passing for the grading quarter(s) in which they play a sport.

Gary DeRenzo, the athletics director at Pottsgrove, feels that the PIAA eligibility rules "keep all athletes in the state of Pennsylvania on a level playing field."

For those students that are ineligible, there is help. Students that are identified as academically ineligible meet with Mr. DeRenzo and are informed of their academic progress. The students' parents are notified of their child's ineligibility by letter. The Athletic Department and the student's coach then work together to find a solution to the problem.



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Student Government works to make a better school

by Caitlin Hallman

Student Government is one organization in the school which works for the benefit of all students and most Pottsgrovians don't realize how much that group does.

"I expected there to be a lot of responsibility in being president and there is," Lorelei Hollenbach, a senior and president of Student Government, said. Hollenbach, who has been active in Student Government for three years, also served as a ninth grade representative and vice president.

Student Government has come to school at 7 a.m. to hold meetings.

"We represent the school and

with the student body's opinions and suggestions," junior Kerri Leh, who is the organization's secretary, said. "We try to make the school better."

Student Government members are the behind-the-scenes workers for many activities that are held here. Every year Student Government sponsors the Homecoming events. This year those events included not only the football game but the dance that was held afterwards. Student Government also sponsors dances that are held throughout the school year.

"I think a benefit of being in Student Government is knowing that you're doing something positive for the school," Leh said.

This year the Student

Government has been extremely busy. They have been working to make changes in the cafeteria. Some of those changes include the second cash register that was added and the inclusion of bagels, fruits and salads to the menu.

"We raised money for the Mercury's holiday drive, and we raised \$700 for a new podium," Hollenbach said.

Last year the Student Government was responsible for the distribution of the Honor Cards, which provided discounts from many local businesses for honor roll students. Student Government also runs the school store, which is open in the morning before homeroom and during study halls.

Student Government is an organization for the students and is run by the students. Their meetings are open for all to attend.

"If the Student Government doesn't know what the students want, we can't help them,"

Hollenbach said. She believes that all students should interact with their representative.

If a student would like to see changes made in school, he should attend meetings or explain his concerns to a member of Student Government. Students can also run for a position in the Student Government. The elections are held in the spring.

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Color Day brings annual competition

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

faculty room every year around this time is] who's got an idea for a homeroom game," said Mrs. Baker.

Mr. Shantz is in charge of the Color Day bands. He has been working with the bands for four years. Around 30 students every year perform for the students in the Color Day bands. There are about six performing this year.

"Mr. Frank Scaltrito, Mr. Thomas Bannister, Mrs. Kyra Ebert and Mrs. Mae Hanna have

sing in the auditorium for an audition and then for various sound and time checks between November and January," Mr. Shantz said.

The bands basically play what they want and what they like. But all types, such as Rap, R&B, punk and rock, according to Mr. Shantz, are being played this year.

Color Day is fun and exciting but takes a lot of time planning and organizing.

"My biggest fear is the activity stuff [in the afternoon],

also performed before," said Mr. Shantz, a history teacher at P.H.S., who usually performs with one of the bands.

The bands practice for as many hours as they need to on their own.

"We bring them in to play or

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that the emotions will get out of control in the gym and fights will break out," said Mrs. Baker.

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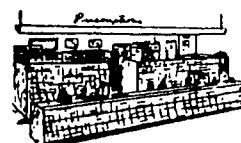
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