

the falcon

Pottsgrove High School
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newsbriefs

National effort underway to curb teen pregnancy

(HSNG) Washington — Teen pregnancy rates are declining, a new federal study shows.

According to the Department of Health and Human Services, 37 states experienced a sustained decline in teen birth rates from 1991-94, and 10 of those states—such as Wisconsin and Washington—had a decline of more than 10 percent.

Overall, from 1991 to 1995, the teen birth rate in America dropped by 8 percent, federal statistics show.

That mirrors findings released last October by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which reported that the birth rate for unmarried women of all ages dropped by 4 percent in 1994, the first decline since 1976. The teen-age birth rate decreased by about 3 percent from 1994 to 1995, the fourth consecutive yearly decline.

Still, President Clinton said that the teen birth rate is still "intolerably high" in America. Each year, 200,000 girls younger than 18 have children, many from unwanted pregnancies.

Clinton says his administration will launch a national strategy to curb teen pregnancy, adding that of all the social woes facing this country, "none stands in our way of achieving our goals for America more than the epidemic of teen pregnancy."

Teachers get chance to experience Antarctica

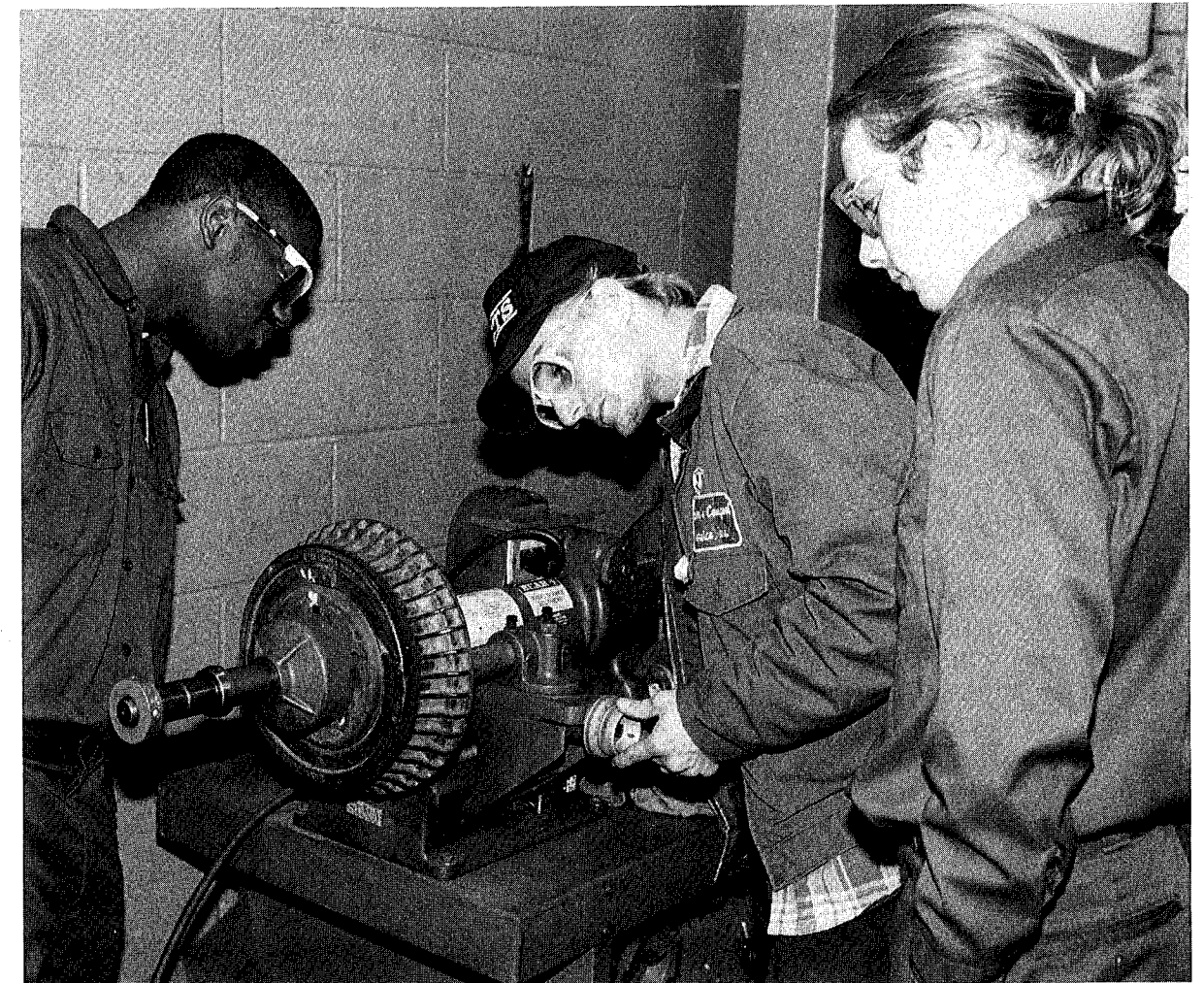
(HSNG) — Carole Bennett wanted to see penguins.

A longtime chemistry teacher at Gaither High School in Tampa, FL, Bennett is one of six U.S. teachers who have teamed up with scientists from various institutions for an adventurous research expedition to Antarctica.

The teachers were drawn from educators involved in a National Science Foundation-funded program designed to help teachers improve their knowledge in the sciences, mathematics and technology. Lessons learned in the field are used to enhance school curricula.

But in the midst of strenuous field research, Bennett was hoping that maybe—just maybe—she'd catch a glimpse of the flipperlike

Pottsgrovians are making a difference



No such luck.
"I am disappointed at not having seen penguins, but I guess it isn't going to happen," Bennett said. "Because the ice warmed up too soon, day trips to Cape Evans where Scott's real hut is or to Cape Royds where huge numbers of penguins have been cancelled. This is because crevasses appear. It is better to be safe than sorry."

In lieu of that, the teachers are climbing rugged cliffs to collect specimens and studying the colorful formations of an arid region known as the Dry Valleys. They left for McMurdo Station at the end of December and will remain in Antarctica for most of January.

Girl Scouts ID seven top issues facing girls

(HSNG) New York — Violence is one of the top issues affecting girls between the ages of 5 and 17 in this nation, according to a study by the Girl Scouts of the U.S.A.

Based on the organization's membership of more than 2.5 million girls and its 800,000 volunteers, the Girl Scouts identified seven issues that impact the well-being of girls.

In addition to violence in our society, the other six issues were economic opportunity, changing family dynamics, gender inequity, substance abuse, technology, and societal expectations.

Elinor Ferdon, Girl Scout National President, cited several studies as the basis for its list of seven issues facing young females.

"Violence has also taken a toll on girls in the United States with the Justice Department reporting that one half of all females raped in 1992 were younger than 18 years old," she said.

According to "Child Maltreatment 1994: Reports from the States to the National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect," more than one million children were victims of substantiated child abuse and neglect in 1994—an increase of 27 percent since 1990. In addition, the National Clearinghouse on Child Abuse and Neglect reported that 1,111 children died as a result of abuse in 1994 and 5,400 children were killed during the five-year period of 1990 to 1994.

Broadening students' experiences: Chris Jackson, John Brehm and Chris Diehl take classes in Auto Tech at the vo-tech school. The school is currently trying to involve its students in community-service programs to meet school and state requirements.

Vo-tech students donate service to the community

by Marcia Gdowik

Besides teaching the students at the Western Montgomery County Vocational-Technical School specific skills in their different areas of study, the school teaches the students how they can share their talents and, thus, give something back to their community.

"We do not stress technical and academic skills—we are a lot of community, too," Mrs. Bonita Barron, the vo-tech school director, said.

At the school, the vo-tech students coordinate a number of activities for the community, including a pre-school.

"We have a pre-school where the students make up their own lesson plans and teach," Mrs. Barron said, talking about the

extra effort the vo-tech students have put into their training.

Before the students graduate from the vo-tech school, they must complete a community service requirement. The hours of the ser-

"It really seems to help everyone in class get along better when we're helping others."

vice are required by the state, not just by the school.

However, there are many benefits to the program which, for one thing, helps the students to contribute to and to stay in touch with their communities.

"We re-covered library books in the hope that they would get more use," senior Rose Vaughn said, talking about what she and other students did in VICA as a community project.

Junior Rebecca Reinert said that students from her class volunteer for a day care program for the Salvation Army. "We watch kids on Thursdays, if we get picked to go," she said.

Cosmetology student Marina Zeccardi said that students from her class went to a nursing home in November as a project to help the community. "For Mothers Day we are having moms come in, and we are doing two services for free for them," she also said. She also said that cosmetology students help other groups in the community.

Students at vo-tech also have (cont. p. 4, col. 1)

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“ [Academics and athletics] go hand in hand for me. Sports help me to relieve stress from the school day, and school work is just necessary to do for the future. ”

—Erin Greene, senior

Athletes feel pressure to succeed, Page

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the falcon

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Save summer vacation

Students all over the world each year look forward to summer vacation. Having a two-and-a-half-month break has been a part of the schooling process since anyone can remember, but it may actually be coming to an end if school boards and administrators have their way.

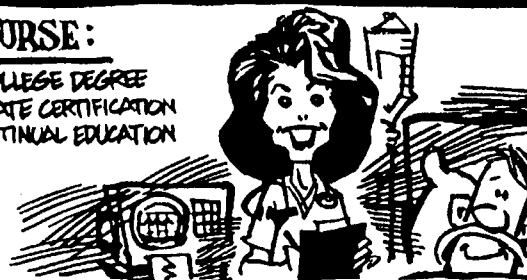
Historically, summer vacation was not always a fun-in-the-summer-break-from-school deal. There was actually a practical reason for summer break—it kept children home to help their parents on farms during the time of the year when they were needed most. However, as times changed and society moved from being an agricultural-based society to one of manufacturing and service, school administrators started talking about summer break, saying that there was no need for the break, at least during the summer months.

For the past two years, Pottsgrove, along with several other area districts started school in late August, before the Labor Day holiday. Students returned to school for three days in August and

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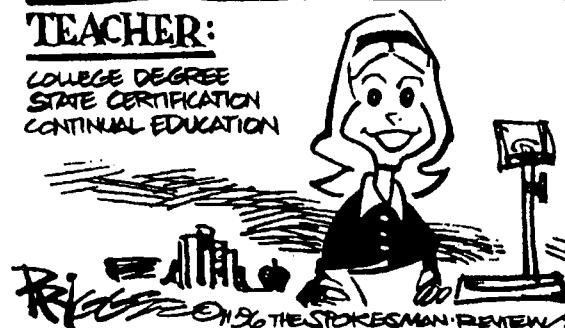
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Athletes feel pressure to succeed

■ Studies show involved students show dedication

by Amy Richards

Today's athletes have long since shed the stereotype of "dumb jocks" that was placed on their shoulders some 30 years ago.

Recently, in a 10-year longitudinal survey, which was administered by the National Association

“Practices give me a break from schoolwork, and then when I get home I’m too tired to do anything but my homework.”

Because these students have a balance of both academics and athletics, more opportunities are available to them which may not have been if they only excelled at one.

“[Athletes] know that if they don’t

hockey and basketball, and she was chosen as the Channel 69 Academic All-Star.

"[Academics and athletics] go hand in hand for me," Greene said. "Sports help me to relieve stress from the school day, and school work is just necessary to do for the future."

Glennon, who is first in his class, was honored last December at the PAC-10 football coaches dinner, where he received the David Freed Memorial Scholarship. He was chosen

Then students came back to school for three weeks and then went home for a three-day fall weekend break. Also in the fall, there were teacher in-service days and parent-teacher conference days, in addition to Thanksgiving Vacation—all are days when students stayed home from school.

Through it all, there seems to be no clear reason why school has to begin before Labor Day weekend, and there is no clear reason why students are being given so many fall vacation days. True, society is no longer moved by farming, but if not all districts are on the same schedule, as in the case in this area of the state, then there are some disadvantages to starting school in August.

For one thing, it does not make much sense to cool down the buildings for three days in August and then turn the air conditioning off for four days, and then go through the whole process again as currently happens for the "Labor Day Vacation." Also, if not all schools follow the same schedule, then those schools which do not have school have to pay for the busing of students who do have school—like the parochial schools. Even the vo-tech school does not start school before Labor Day.

Then there is the idea that students do not have long attention spans anymore. Well, the way the school system is presently run, in the future not only will students have short attention spans but they will expect a vacation every two or three weeks (the way schools are programming them)—which is not the way the industrial segment of society works.

Perhaps by stretching out the school year, school districts may be trying to get students used to a longer school year (the number of days that students have to attend school has remained the same). However, there has not been any sweeping public movement to lengthen the school year.

Until there is a movement to lengthen the school year, why continue to begin school in August and why give students so many vacations? Economically, it would have to save taxpayers money if Pottsgrove went back to the old system—at least until every district in the area decided to follow the same school calendar. It would also save taxpayers money if the school district does not run empty buses to other schools, like St. Pius, when Pottsgrove students are home on a vacation which no one else is taking. Also, ending the traditional summer break where it has ended for 95 percent of this century would please those families who plan summer activities together—and it would allow students to return to school more refreshed and ready to learn.

of Secondary School Principals, it was discovered that students who participated in athletics have the highest grades, according to PHS principal Robert Anderson.

On the local level, seven out of the top 12 seniors at PHS participate in athletics.

"Students who are involved in athletics are more structured and dedicated," Mr. Anderson said about why these scholar athletes are considered role models by their peers. "They use their time [more wisely], study better and they don't have as much time to get into trouble."

In today's society there are basically three kinds of students: the academic type, the athletes and those who excel at both. The students who excel at both actually find it easier to keep up with their schoolwork while in season.

"I find it easier to concentrate on my schoolwork when I play sports," junior Lorelei Hollenbach, who participates in softball and field hockey and is ranked first in her class.

have good grades then they won't be able to play..."

For instance, seniors Whitaker Powell and Jim Cerminaro both were given the chance this year to look at higher level colleges because of their academic and athletic balance.

Powell was recruited by the University of Connecticut, Harvard University and Davidson College because of his outstanding soccer skills combined with his excellent academic standings.

Two other seniors—Erin Greene and Dan Glennon—were recognized earlier this year for their hard work and dedication towards their school work and their sport.

Greene—second in her class—was named to the PAC-10 All-Academic Team for both field

because of his commitment and dedication to his school, family and community.

"Dan was one of the kids able to place academics in the proper perspective," football head coach Rick Pennypacker said about Glennon. "The traits that made him good at athletics were the same that made him good in the classroom."

With hundreds of students participating in sports throughout the school year, it is surprising just how few kids are actually ineligible.

During the entire fall and winter seasons at PHS, there were a total of 5 kids that were ineligible to participate because of their grades.

"Kids have constant pressure on them by their coaches to perform well," Mr. Pennypacker said about the small number of ineligible students. "They know that if they don't have good grades then they won't be able to play, so they keep their grades up."

Area DJs share insights and advice about radio

by Devin L. Mercer

Nine years ago the lives of Mike Browne and Dave Stein were very different: Browne was working at Reading-based radio station Y-102, while Stein was employed at WPAZ in Pottstown.

Their time for stardom came in 1988 when they landed their own radio show entitled "The Mike and Dave Show," after first auditioning and then by an actual interview.

"I couldn't get another job," Stein, who is also the news director at Y-102, said talking about

why he became a DJ.

"It's a job and it stinks," Browne, who is also the music programmer, said when asked if there is ever a time where he dislikes his job. "You have to get up every morning at 6 a.m., but it is fun."

Nine years is a long time—which means a lot of memories. Browne and Stein have had their share of good times, and some which they would like to forget.

"I have 12 years of memories," Browne said, when asked about his favorite memory to date.

"The Frankenstein Show," Stein said, talking about a memory

that he would like to forget. "I spent more time babysitting [referring to his former co-host while Browne was away] than paying attention to the show."

The two agreed that the most famous person that they have met or interviewed was President Bill Clinton.

Usually when a person works at a radio station, one would figure that they always loved music. However, Stein was not very interested in music while he was growing up, but he learned to like it. He said that his "all-star band" would include Billy Joel on key-
(cont. p. 3, col. 2)

'The Sound of Music' is alive at PHS

■ Students present three shows of popular musical

by Crystal Ehlinger

Last night was opening night of the high school's production of *The Sound of Music*.

Tonight, as well as tomorrow evening, the production will also be put on at 8 p.m. in the Radel Auditorium. The tickets cost \$6 for adults, \$5 for students and senior citizens, and \$3 for children 12 and under.

"We don't make a profit—we try to break even," PHS English teacher Todd Kelly, the director of the musical, said about ticket prices. "We try to make it economical, make back the expenses of the show."

The plot is an adaptation of the Broadway version. According to Mr. Kelly, the musical version is not like the movie because it has more songs and some characters' parts have been broadened.

Patricia Still, the lead singer in *Oklahoma!*, once again is the lead singer (Maria). She will be sharing the stage with lead male vocalist Kyle Dorkoskie (Captain George von Trapp), Pamela Reitenauer (Mother Abbess), Michael Bleyer (Max Detweiler), Jenna Peiffer (Elsa Schraeder) and 40 additional students who are equally important, filling in the parts of nuns, Nazis and the von Trapp children.

Daniel Young (Kurt) from Ringing Rocks.

Mr. Kelly said no parts were taken away from the high school students by the elementary school children; it would have been difficult to fill in the part of a 6-year-old with a 16-year-old.

"Working with the younger kids has been challenging," Mr. Kelly said. "Harmony-wise, [there is a] six-part harmony with the nuns, [which is] also more challenging."

"[PHS students] will be pleasantly surprised by the quality and the ability of their classmates."

Musicals create a bigger challenge than plays because the singers must be able to coordinate their songs with a pit orchestra.

"The interpretation and timing from when [the singers] are on the stage with the orchestra are

two difficult tasks," Mr. Darrell Weyman, who directs the orchestra, said about the musical. "Another difficult area is the entrance of the orchestra with the dialogue—timing within the show."

Mrs. Nancy Bixler, who fills in the piano parts for the orchestra, is also an important person who helped prepare the production. Because she is also the PHS choral director, Mrs. Bixler helps the singers learn their parts and offers her best advice to them.

"I teach [the singers] the music before they go with the orchestra," Mrs. Bixler said. "I have special rehearsals just for the singers."

A lot of time, money and energy has been put into the musical by teachers, students and parents.

"Everybody's doing a lot of work, a tremendous amount of time [has been put into] getting everything together," Still said.

"[PHS students] will be pleasantly surprised by the quality and the ability of their classmates," Mr. Kelly said about the production.

Area DJs talk about their jobs

(cont. from p. 2)
boards, Bruce Springsteen on the vocal end, Paul McCartney pounding out the big bass notes, Atmur Lepert on guitar and Zamphir, master of the conga.

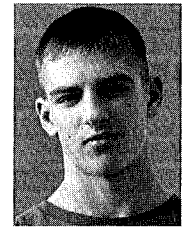
and I found a wife."

"Never give up," Browne said, talking about the advice he would give to a potential DJ, while Stein replied, "Get a real job."

'Falcon' asks...

What is your idea of a cheap date?

Dan Glennon, senior: "The arcade and a candybar."



Ryan Oxenford, senior: "Using your McDonald's coupons and going home for a glass of water."



Casey Schaeffer, senior: "When a guy says that he is going to pay and then he tells you he forgot his wallet."



Tiffany Marsteller, senior: "Going shopping at the dollar store and being allowed to buy only a few things."



Mary Sloss, senior: "Going to the movies and having to pay for my own ticket."



Four parts of the musical required the acting talents of elementary school children. Forty-three students from Lower, Ringing Rocks and West tried out for the parts. The parts of the children are being played by 6-year-old Rebecca Schiel (Gretl) from Lower, 8-year-old Caitlin Baro (Marta) from West, 9-year-old Leah Jennings (Brigitta) from Ringing Rocks and 10-year-old

"I listened to 70's rock," Browne said, talking about the music he has enjoyed the most in his past. "I even listened to some disco."

"I started a career in the radio business, but I got a lot more [out of it]," Stein said, talking about how being a DJ has changed his life. "I was able to start several successful businesses in Reading

Browne and Stein can be heard weekdays 6 a.m. to 10 a.m. on 102.5 FM, and can be seen via Stein's new book *The Top 102 7:20 Lists & Other Morning Show Stuff*.



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Body piercing: A trend or just an expression of individuality

by La Toya Johnson

While some students are into ears with a string of pierced earrings, others are into piercing more creative parts of their bodies.

"I pierced my tongue because I thought it was a great way to express myself," freshman Nicole Spicer said. "My parents didn't care, but they weren't part of my decision; and it doesn't bother

them at all."

"I pierced myself to show that I don't want to follow everyone's rules," sophomore Michelle Karwejna said about the piercing in her bottom lip.

Since the body piercing trend has rapidly picked up, Ms. Jean San Telgo, piercing stylist at Body Art by Jo in Norristown, doesn't think that it will go out of style for many years down the road.

"When I first started body

piercing two years ago, I thought that it would never catch on," Ms. San Telgo said about the trend. "Every now and then I think about the fact, what if piercing really did go out of style? How I would react, I truly don't know."

From the many piercings that Ms. San Telgo has performed, she said that they rarely get infected; and, if it does, the person just needs to give the piercing time to heal.

"Most kids get pierced to show individuality, but others get pierced because they think it's cool and because one of their friends has it done," Ms. San Telgo said. "I think it's cool. I have 12 piercings of my own: two in my nose, two in my belly button, three in my tongue, two in my right eyebrow and one in my lip."

This trend could be seen by some as a form of addiction. After one unusual piercing some people just can't seem to stop from doing it again.

"I want to pierce my eyebrow, my lip and my tongue again," Spicer said.

"I want to pierce the other side of my lip," Karwejna said.

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Seniors' PSAT scores give them a shot at scholarship money

Finalists await April notification of list of winners

by Amy Richards

Many students don't realize just how important their PSAT scores are; but seniors Erica Novak, Joy Coronel and Tom Albright are among the students nationwide who realize the importance of the scores. Through the

National Merit Scholarship they each have the chance of winning a \$2,000 scholarship.

The PSAT test not only prepares students for their SATs, but it is also the National Merit Scholarship Qualifying test (NMQT). After the tests are scored, they are examined and the top 15,000 students with the highest scores across the country are named semi-finalists. From there, the field is narrowed down to 14,000 finalists.

"To be a finalist, we had to fill out an application and write an

essay on what we accomplished and our SAT scores were reviewed," Novak said about the next step in the competition.

Novak, Coronel and Albright, whose PSAT scores ranged from 1450 to 1470, were all chosen as finalists.

"At first, I didn't think I'd make it very far in the competition," Coronel said, "but being chosen as a finalist makes me very happy."

After the finalists were chosen, a list was made and was sent to certain colleges and corpora-

tions which take part in the competition.

"Certain colleges that accept the opinion of the National Merit Committee give out scholarships," Novak, who plans to attend St. Joseph's University next year, said. "Corporations who want to sponsor the students also give out scholarships."

Only half of the finalists will receive scholarship money, and by April, Novak, Coronel and Albright will know whether or not they have received a \$2,000 scholarship.

Students at vo-tech donate services to the community

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

brought in children's books and clothing to donate to various organizations. In addition, organizations like HOSA decorated pumpkins at Halloween to take to the

residents at Frederick Mennonite Nursing Home, and at Christmas they volunteered for the Salvation Army. HOSA is planning to hold a blood drive at the beginning of April.

"HOSA has done a lot of community service this year," senior Dawn Morello said. "It really seems to help everyone in the class get along better when we're helping others."

To meet the academic criteria, the vo-tech students must also take their standard classes; and, whatever credits they didn't take at their home school, they must take at vo-tech.

The vo-tech school attempts to meet the academic, vocational, community and social needs of students and tries to meet them all under one roof.

Sophomore Miller takes educational trip to Penang, Malaysia

by Megan Murphy

Imagine spending 20 hours on a plane or 17 hours on a train. This is what sophomore Lyndsay Miller had to endure last summer during a month-long vacation with her grandparents, when they visited places like Hong Kong, Thailand and Malaysia for educational purposes.

Chinese. A month of very hot and humid weather added to the tension.

However, Miller found Penang, Malaysia very relaxing and to be her "favorite place of interest."

"I got to go parasailing and jet skiing a lot," Miller said about her experience.

Miller also spent several days in a real rain forest which was a

n't pay me enough money to eat half of the things they eat," Miller said.

Miller saw a lot of people who were very poor and didn't have all of the conveniences that we have—this made her realize how good her life is here in Pottstown.

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trip, because of the language differences, was communicating with people—something we couldn't overcome," Miller said, who described her experience as nerve-racking.

Sometimes they didn't even know where they were going because the maps were written in

that she will probably never forget.

Miller's trip to these places really taught her a lot about different people and cultures. She had the chance to experience some different styles of food; however, she stuck to the Americanized places such as McDonalds. "They could-



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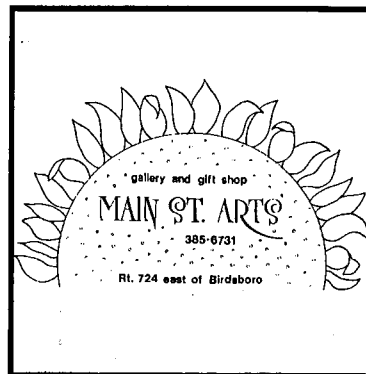
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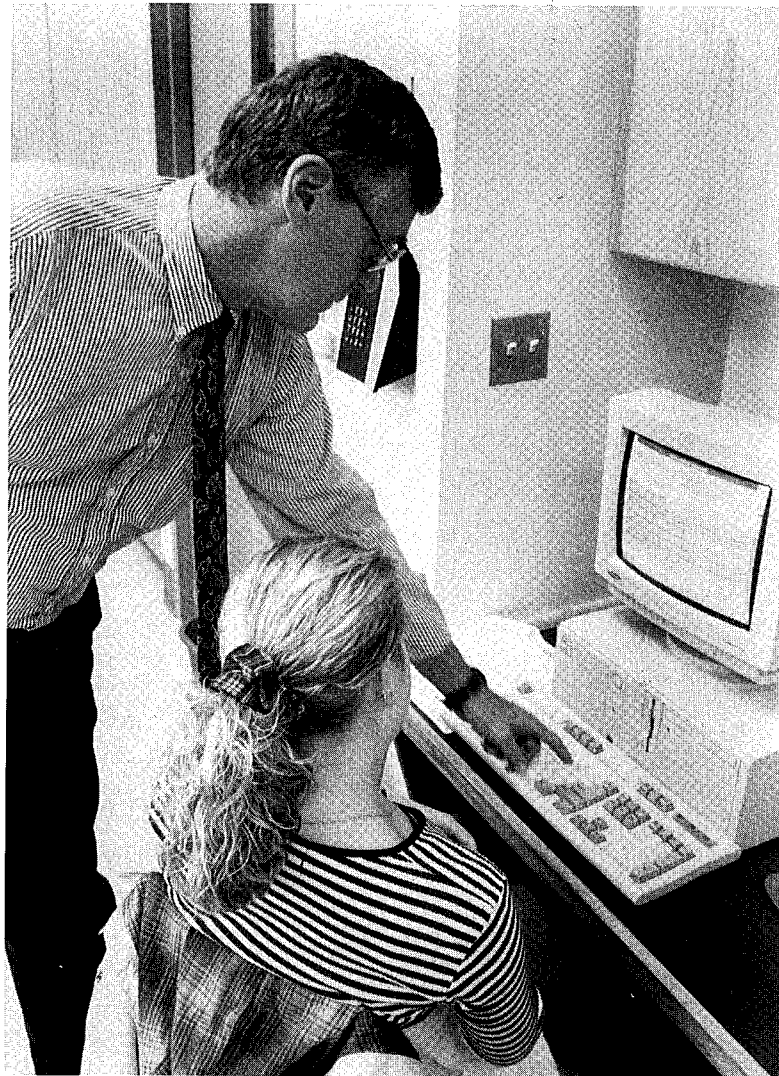
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Finishing a teaching career: "He is a really good teacher who is nice and who has a good sense of humor," Junior Peggy Haupt said about Mr. David Johnston, who plans to retire from teaching at the end of the school year.

Business teacher to retire

■ Mr. Johnston plans to retire 33-year career

by Crystal Ehlinger

As Mr. David Johnston stepped off of the campus of Bloomsburg University, he didn't know what doors of opportunity would be open to him.

Thirty-three years ago, when he left Bloomsburg, Mr. Johnston chose to enter into the teaching world at Pottsgrove High School, and at the time he did not know what to expect or how long his job here would last. Now Mr. Johnston is saying goodbye to a life-time of teaching.

"As it stands now, this year will be my last," Mr. Johnston said in early February.

Over the years Mr. Johnston has taught all the business courses here, with the exception of short-hand.

Junior Peggy Haupt is a student in Mr. Johnston's Introduction to Business, Lotus 1-2-3 and Word Perfect classes.

"He is a really good teacher who is nice and who has a good sense of humor," Haupt said.

With all the school districts in the area to choose from, Mr. Johnston chose Pottsgrove because of one reason.

"Jessie H. Rosenberry," Mr. Johnston said. "She was the principal who hired me. I was very impressed by the way she conducted the school."

"I have had an enjoyable tenure at PHS," he said, reflecting on his 33 years here. "If I had to single out [one accomplishment], it would be getting a grant from

the state for the first computer lab in the high school."

Senior Lilly Cheng finds Accounting I to be an easy course, thanks to Mr. Johnston's teaching capabilities.

"Because he's been here for so long," Cheng said, talking about why she feels Mr. Johnston does a good job teaching the course. "He cooperates with you and is easy-going."

Mr. Johnston said his future is going to be one of fishing, relaxing and supporting the on-going activities here at Pottsgrove.

"There are many things I will miss, and I plan on returning to activities," Mr. Johnston said.

"I think he is one of the best teachers [at PHS]," Haupt said. "He is one of my favorite ones."

After three decades of teaching, Mr. Johnston said he will miss the every-day hustle and bustle in the classroom.

Ehlinger travels west to dig up some very old bones

by Crystal Ehlinger

When there are two extra weeks of summer vacation, what excitement could you possibly find? Let's travel to the Western part of the United States and see...

The summer before my freshman year my grandmother and I

flew out to Rolette, North Dakota, to visit my great-uncle and his family.

While there my uncle, grandmother and I went fishing, shopping, sight-seeing, did some more shopping and dug up fossils and dinosaur bones.

It was a six-hour drive from my uncle's house in North Dakota to Montana and the Missouri

truck he would need some help. That's where I come into the story.

It was a five-mile hike to the location. We had to climb a rocky slope and carefully walk along the crest of the hill. Going up wasn't too bad, but going down was.

We were carrying canvas bags; my uncle also had a large backpack. By the time we picked up all the pieces, the bags weighed

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Breaks. There wasn't very much scenery along the highway, mostly sand, crops and herds of cattle, but the sunsets over the desert were extraordinary.

Before my visit, my uncle had discovered some fossils and took a few pieces to a friend of his. They discovered he had unearthed some dinosaur bones. In order for him to carry all the pieces back to his

between 10 and 20 pounds.

While walking to and from the hill, I was gathering small pieces of petrified wood and sand balls. By the time we hiked back to the truck, my shoulders and back were aching from the heaviness of the bag—it felt like it weighed at least 30 pounds.

My uncle also took us to a small river where we broke apart large rocks and found fossils that dated back as far as six million years, if not more. Bacculites, dunbarella and fossilized worms were just a few of our discoveries.

I wanted to bring everything home that I picked up, but we had a weight restriction on our luggage for the plane ride home. We did UPS some boxes, but we had to leave about one third of our findings with my uncle.

I enjoyed this trip. We found creatures man has never laid eyes on, unearthing life that has been in stone for millions of years and made discoveries no one else has made.

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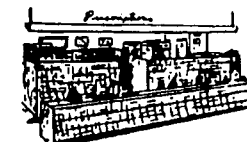
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Lady Falcons carry game to the district first round

■ Girls play hard enough to earn home court game

by Crystal Snow

Coach Jan Fritz coached his last game of the season for the Lady Falcons on Feb. 19 at home. The Lady Falcons lost an upsetting game, 69-52, to Kennett Square in a district, first-round playoff game.

"We played hard all year to get into the final four and to have a good enough record for a home game in Districts," Fritz said. "Out of 16 teams, the first eight seated teams get home games."

Going into the game, the Lady Falcons were ranked seventh and Kennett Square was ranked tenth.

"[Kennett Square played] completely better that night. We scouted them out before the game, and we didn't expect them to play so well," Coach Fritz said about how the opposite team surprised him.

Kennett Square came out strong early in the game, and the Lady Falcons could not recover. During the third quarter, the Lady Falcons were down by 20 points.

"My one concern was to get a six or eight-point run," Fritz said, "and make it a 12-point game by

the end of the third quarter, putting pressure on Kennett, making them panic and make mistakes."

The Lady Falcons may have had a better chance of winning the game if they had a healthier team. Freshman guard Katie Greene and sister Erin Greene, a senior forward and captain, were sick that week, and junior forward Kristen Lucas was injured with a broken finger.

The seniors in the last three

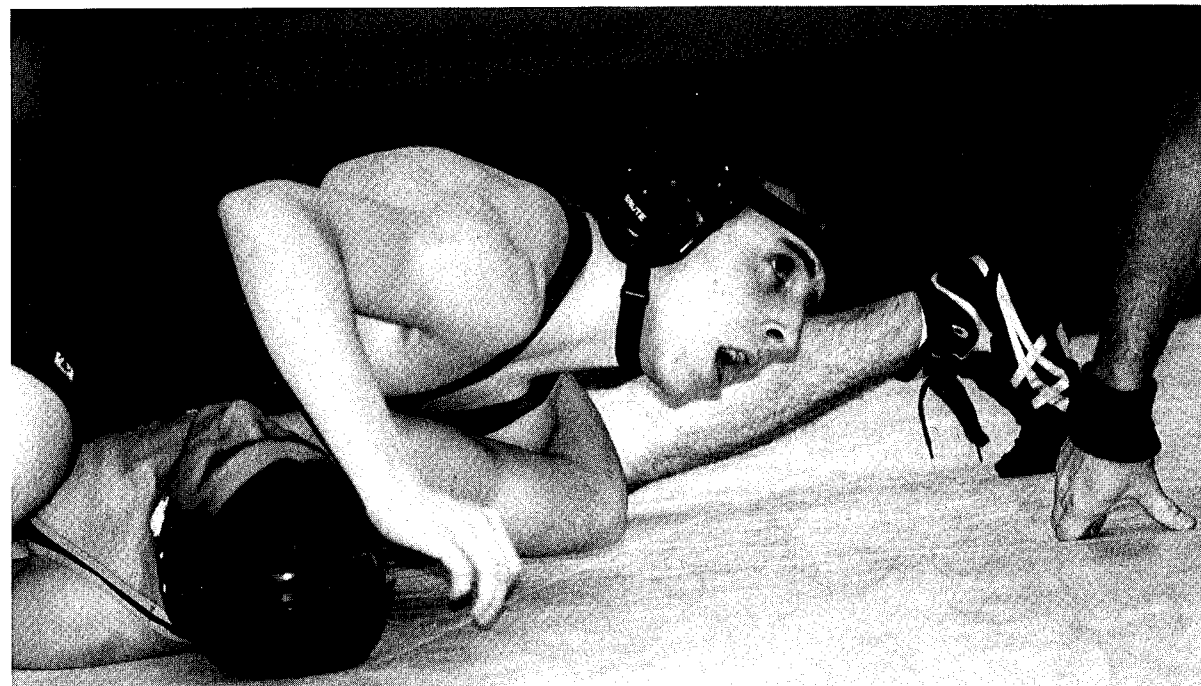
"Our kids have to learn that it is like a street fight playing these playoff games."

years had a record of 41-13.

"This is going to take a long time for me to forget," Fritz said about the end of the girls' 96-97 season. "Our kids have to learn that it is like a street fight playing these playoff games. We have to raise our level of intensity in the playoff games."

The district playoff game against Kennett Square ended the Lady Falcons' season with an upsetting loss and high hopes for a better season next year.

Teams have to cope with off-days



District action: Pottsgrove senior wrestler Troy Vogt made it to the district level in February at Quakertown before losing. "I was standing on the mat warming up next to some of the most top-ranked guys," Vogt said, talking about what stood out the most to him about the competition. "I was honored to be there."

Four swimmers gain berths at the state meet

by Crystal Ehlinger

PHS was represented by four outstanding swimmers at Penn State on March 13-15.

Out of the seven PHS swimmers who competed at Districts, sophomores Jeff Troyan and Courtney Kroh and seniors Nichole Card and David Marine advanced in their divisions in

makes all the arrangements for the district and state meets.

The swimmers competed at six high school qualifying meets besides Districts. Card also represents the Boyertown YMCA at numerous competitions, such as Swimfest and Penn-Del League meets.

"This year, I would have to say, has been the best ever," Card

Before the PIAA meet, Mr. Shuster had predicted Card and/or Marine would finish "in the top six in at least one, or both, of [their] events."

Kroh and Troyan swam the 100-yd. breaststroke; Kroh finished in 19th place, Troyan placed 15th. Card swam in the 50-yd. and 200-yd. freestyle events, placing 13th (50) and 10th (200). Marine swam above and beyond Mr.

by Crystal Snow

Fate could make a team's season a memorable one, but costly mistakes could also make it a season that everyone would want to forget. Whatever the case, all teams experience bad days; but how they cope with them differs from team to team.

"I would basically rebuild self-confidence," Coach John Noxel said of the Falcon girls' soccer team, which has come close to being in a slump. "I would then go back and work on the basics and fundamentals so that all the girls know they can do better."

Sometimes when a team is not at its best, the problem could be because the team cannot keep up with the other team or the other team has more experience or ability.

Sometimes when a team loses, they get lectured, but that's not Coach Noxel's style.

"I analyze the mistakes the girls made and work on that area the next day," Coach Noxel said.

Teams do many things to build team unity or rebuild unity if they experience an off-day. Some teams just forget about the loss and go on like it never happened.

"We have spaghetti dinners on Sundays at someone's house," Rebecca Royer, a wing on the Falcon field hockey team, said, talking about how her team builds unity.

The more team unity a team has the better they are liable to do during the season. Spending time together after practice and games is one way to build team unity.

"We go out to Pizza Hut after matches," Jen Stairs, a member of the girls' tennis team, said, talking about how her team builds unity.

When a team experiences a

slump, it could be because the team's ability as a whole and fundamentals are not showing through.

Fate is not the only deciding factor to whether a team wins or loses. It can depend on who wants to win more and is going to play harder to achieve goals, and who can best deal with mistakes.

Fans in the stands or on the sidelines can help athletes win

by Sarah Weaver

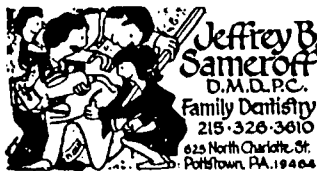
Would you consider paying \$3.00 to get into a Pottsgrove High School football game?

Last fall an average of 1,600 Falcon fans of all ages packed the home stadium to show support for their varsity football team.

On an average, 60 people attend hockey games, and about 140 turn out for boys' and girls' soccer combined, according to Student Activities Director Gary DeRenzo.

"Fan support at any game lets all athletes know that they are supported," Mr. DeRenzo said. "It might make them nervous, but it is good to have friends, family, girlfriends and boyfriends there to watch."

The press box that was opened to football games as well as soccer games further strengthened fan support. It also served as an educational purpose: having an announcer in the box helped to



state level, as well as the national level.

"I placed first in the 200 and 500-yard [freestyle]," Marine said about his placement in the district competition.

Mr. Mark Shuster, the swim team's advisor, arranges a schedule so that the swimmers can compete in order to earn qualifying times at PIAA meets, and he also

explain calls or fouls to the spectators.

"I think it helps more with football because it is already pretty well understood," senior Amy Brunner, a student announcer, said.

Believe it or not, there are more female athletes in the district, but they go largely unrecognized by fans—judging by fan turnout at female events. Brunner said fans for girls' sports are definitely lacking.

"Certain sports like field hockey and soccer are harder to get to ..., so less fans come."

"It's a wrong assumption that guys' sports are more competitive," sophomore Megan Whalen, who is active in field hockey, bas-

Marine's best events are the 200 and 500-freestyle, as well as the 100 and 200-yd. butterfly. Card's outstanding events are the 50, 100 and 200-yd. freestyle, while Kroh's is the 100-yd. breaststroke. Troyan will also be competing in the 100-yd. breaststroke.

"It's been stronger in past years," Marine said, talking about the competition.

ketball and softball, said. "Certain sports like field hockey and soccer are harder to get to because they are right after school and people have to work and stuff, so less fans come."

"High school sports are helped a lot by momentum," Mr. Tony Montes, PHS Spanish teacher and ninth grade football coach, said. "It helps athletes to perform to the best of their abilities when they know people care about their sports."

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Shuster's expectations and placed second in the 200-yd. freestyle event and sixth in the 500-yd. freestyle event.

The quartet will no longer represent Pottsgrove this season because the PIAA does not have any higher level than the state championship. In April the swimmers will be traveling to Florida, where they will be representing the YMCA at the national level.

"They all should be proud of the job they did," said Mr. Shuster. "Pottsgrove should be proud of them as student athletes and people."

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