

CONNECTION

Cypress Creek High School

9815 Grant Road

Houston, Texas 77070

October 1988

Vd. XI No. 1



Policy stops drug use

by Drew Jenkins

As with every new school year, there are always new disciplinary policies that the student body should be aware of. This year, however, there is a significant change in the punishment of students associated with drugs and/or alcohol.

The new rule states that any student who is caught either under the influence or in possession of alcohol or illegal drugs at school or a school-related function will be sent to the Alternative Learning Center for one semester. The Alternative Learning Center is the district's school for students with severe behavioral problems. If the infraction occurs in the last six weeks of a semester, the student will attend the A.L.C. the following semester.

In an effort to make parents as well as students aware of these changes, students were asked to return a signed acknowledgement that their parent had read the new rules in the Code of Conduct handbook.

This new policy has been implemented district-wide. Compared to the previous punishment, five days out of school suspension, this is a drastic change. The school board's growing concern for students with drug and/or drinking problems has led to this new ruling. They felt that last year's punishment was too light.

Principal Joe Shelton feels that there was a drug and alcohol problem last year, but now students will think twice before attending school or a school-related function while under the influence.

"The punishment should be

severe enough so the students should realize the consequences of his or her behavior," Shelton said.

He feels that if students are going to break the rules, they should be willing to pay the price.

"The students should be responsible for their own actions," he said.

Student reaction to the new rule has been mixed.

"I think there will be fewer drunk students at school func-

tions now. There is a penalty no one will take lightly," senior Mike Pourciau.

However, some students feel that the penalty is too harsh.

As a part of the crack down on drugs and alcohol usage, there will be more locker searches as well as car searches this year. Visits from drug dogs will be unannounced and more frequent in the coming year in an effort to clean up Cy-Creek. The dogs are a trained part of the Village police.

"Drug days" end for grad

by Nikki Bel

Drugs, confusion, and unanswerable questions. This is where some people spend 75% of their lives. They live in this strange world known only to others who have experienced the effects on drugs.

Nineteen eighty-eight graduate Leslie McDowell knows this world well. She remembers much about her "drug days." Leslie kept a calendar and from February 1 until July 23 of one year, there weren't 20 days when she wasn't high.

Leslie refers to her "drug days" in stages. She began using drugs in the 7th and 8th grade in what she referred to as her "baby years." This time was full of experimentation.

Then she started her "high school years." She quit drugs during her sophomore year, but returned her junior year.

Leslie has known Assistant Principal June Copeland since

the beginning. In the 8th grade, she talked to Ms. Copeland about her experimentation. Ms. Copeland then told Leslie's mother, although Leslie had begged her not to.

"Yet after she did, my mom knew and was there for me," Leslie said. "My mom never told me I had to quit. She understood that I wasn't going to do that until I decided to. Yet she told me that she was there when I needed her."

Leslie's home life became a nightmare. Her own sisters were scared that saying the least thing would mean being beaten up. Then came the incident that changed her mind about her life.

She was driving home at night high, but it wasn't until the next morning that she remembered heading straight for a semi-truck and then slowly moving back into her own lane.

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OPINION

GUEST COLUMN



Mr. Jim Wells was a staff member at Cypress Creek for nine years, serving as an English teacher and basketball coach for two years. This summer he moved into a new job as an assistant principal at Watkins Junior High and high school health and physical education coordinator. He following comments are addressed to the faculty and student body.

Many times we are confronted with decisions that we are not expecting to make. In case you are wondering why you haven't seen me wandering the halls this year in quest of tardies, I was confronted with an unexpected decision this summer to accept a new job opportunity or remain at Cypress Creek. My decision to leave was a very difficult one, and I regret not having had the chance to say goodbye. Having been associated with Cypress Creek for nine years (almost a decade), I have seen a multi-

OFF THE WALL

Look what the school dragged in



By Tim Tran

It seems that school spirit has taken a rather bizarre twist this year. Along with the traditional spirit ribbons and pep rallies, our school has designated that a dead, stuffed cat will be the symbol of Cougar pride. You know the one I'm talking about. That unfortunate specimen of *Felis concolor* (short of cougar) near the front office that's forced to spend the rest of its sadward life glaring at the horries coming and going from behind a glass wall. To a nation that prides itself on being civilized, we don't seem to have the sensitivity to realize that any dead animal deserves the right to a decent

funeral with casket and pallbearers at hand. I know my cat (if I had one) would never forgive me if I did anything so stupid as to stuff it after it had died. Even though I'm not a very vocal animal rights activist, I still get a guilty feeling every time I walk past that boxed cat. I have a sneaky suspicion that his last image was of men in white coats with 6-foot-long hypodermic needles. But it does look like that cougar put up a fight. From its pose, I can just tell that we have a few scalpscientists going around.

How is it possible that in a democratic society a desk has more rights than an animal? I mean we have rules protecting school property, but obviously, that cougar had no say in his untimely demise. Being put on a pedestal (or in a glass box) isn't so bad, but being ogled by frightened freshmen is just too much. If I were that cat, I would definitely consider using the school for all a side worth. Maybe on The People's or Animab's, same thing, Court. I'm sure we can all take pride in the fact that the cat is a beautiful example of what a mascot should be, but if we don't watch out, in a decade or so, we'll probably have hundreds of fur-falling oil. *Cougars Pride* is one thing, but I don't know about Bald Cougar Pride...

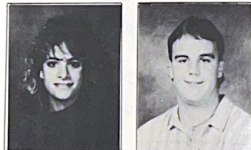
second opinion

QUOTE ME...

What percent of Student Council decisions do you feel is actually made by the Student Council?

Do you have a question, complaint, or gripe? Do you wish to voice your opinion? Do you want your opinion published? Then the new Letters to the Editor feature, **SECOND OPINION**, is for you. Place all letters to the Editor in the mailbox at the switchboard. Please include your name on the letters, although this piece of information can be withheld at your request. We cannot print anonymous letters. We will read all letters and answer those that we can. All opinions will be considered for publications.

This is the space for the students and faculty of Cypress Creek High School to fill. We are here to voice your questions, opinions and complaints. Please contribute.



"We (Student Council) propose the ideas, but the final decision comes from Mrs. Schaff or other administrators."

"85 percent. We always have meetings and we always vote on things."

Shannon Marks, junior

NEWS

Expanded Cypresswood Rd. provokes controversial opinions

By Alex Ruskell

Extending 2.2 miles to the Ravensaw Country Club to the Cypress Forest subdivision, the new \$1.5 million dollar

new traffic problems, noise, and pollution; but those that live in Norchester and Cypress Forest will be affected the most. The six families that live on

residents of Cypress Forest and Norchester that the section of Cypresswood passing through Robin Road would not be completed until Cypress Creek was bridged and a road built to Jones Road. Then new commissioner Mrs. Elizabeth Ghrist was appointed to Precinct #3 and Eckel's promises were re-

land on either side of a public roadway for a certain distance and when most of the subdivisions in the Cypress Creek area were built this law was not taken into account. Meaning that the homes on Robin Road mostly lie on public land and are susceptible to county develop-

Enrollment expansion adds more "fish"

By Kevin Dowling

If it seems like the freshman class is a bit larger this year, it's because Cypress Creek's school boundaries have expanded. During the summer, the Cypress-Fair District adjusted its school boundaries to avoid overcrowding at Jersey Village, which could have reached 2,700 students within the next few years. As a result, around 60 students from the Harvest Bend area, the majority of them freshmen, were taken from the Jersey Village enrollment list and put into Cypress Creek.

In addition, Langham Creek received about 40 extra students, also freshmen, to its enrollment. Only freshmen were added because sophomores, juniors, and seniors had adjusted to the school and were reluctant to leave friends behind.

These changes were recommended by District Superintendent Donald Thornton. The school board then made out the new school lines, basing their decision on projected enrollment figures.

Cypress Creek was not seriously affected by the new addition to its enrollment, since it has a capacity of 2,700 students. The only adjustments that needed to be made were hiring a few additional teachers last spring, and the addition of two buses, taken from Jersey Village. Dr. William Penze, administrative assistant in charge of research and planning, said that the school board has not received any complaints from parents of the additional students, since the Cypress-Fairbanks district supplies equal education in all of their schools. Dr. Penze said that this new change is the only major one planned for the next couple of years, though six new elementary schools and two new junior high schools are being planned within the next five years, and perhaps a new high school sometime after that period.

"We've moved here because it was a secluded neighborhood. Now we will have a major thoroughfare in our front yard," Robin Road resident Mrs. Glenda Nielson said.

Cypresswood Drive becomes the major artery from Huntswick to school for Cypress Creek students. This convenient access road has been met with positive response from most of the student body, but it will adversely affect the lives of some of our students.

Robin Road in Cypress Forest, where Cypresswood will be extended through to Norchester, will lose most of their yards, parts of their houses will have to be moved or removed, and all of them will have to build high fences to screen off the new road.

All four areas (Cypress Forest, Prestonwood, Champions, and Norchester) will have to contend with new traffic problems, noise, and pollution...

Project Coordinator John McShan. Because of the law of eminent domain, these residents are powerless. Eminent domain means that the county controls

McShan stated that the railroad is responsible for railroad crossings and not the county, so gates may not be up for some time. Until then, motorists are on their own.

Drama department commits murder in "The Hollow"

By Alex Ruskell

A weekend house party, a dead boy, a famous film star, and a missing revolver. All of this adds up to murder in the Drama department's first production of the year, Agatha Christie's *The Hollow*. Set in the English countryside, the play brings together an unlikely cast of characters for a holiday at Lord Henry Angkattel's house, the Hollow. One of the house guests is killed and everyone has a motive for the

crime. The cast for the production includes: Henrietta Angkattel Susan Kinross Sir Henry Angkattel Jeff Ulton Lady Angkattel Jessica Hayes Milge Harvey Melia Hughes Gudgion David Dingledy Edward Angkattel Shane Auppa

Dora Jennifer Wiggins Gerda Crutson Elizabeth Cobb John Crutson, M.D. Peter Haverger Veronica Craye Ashleigh Caldwell Inspector Colquhoun, C.I.D. Jerry Mercado Detective Sgt. Penny Matt Beardon Showtimes are October 13, 14, and 17 at 7:30 p.m. and tickets will cost \$3.00. Highly recommended.



Cast set to murder actor Bob Ross and light director James Paul Penze under on pre-play preparations. Photo by Kevin Erasmus.

NEWS

Annexation threat brings tax hike

by Kathy O'Meara

Due to the proposed annexation of Willowbrook Mall by Houston Mayor Kathy Whitmire, 1960 area residents who choose to patronize the mall may soon face higher sales taxes if the city decides to proceed with the annexation. Whitmire's proposal this last summer included the mall in an

annexation. If Mayor Whitmire is successful in making Willowbrook Mall a part of Houston, patrons will face a 1% increase in the amount of sales tax they pay. "The city can expect to gain approximately \$100,000 each month," Peggy Purser, Chief of Research in the city's Planning and Development Department said.

"The city can expect to gain approximately \$100,000 each month," Peggy Purser, Chief of Research in the city's Planning and Development Department said.

annexation which would take in Houston Lighting & Power's Wharton plant, municipal utility districts 6, 23, 159, and 133, as well as a small segment of Champions Forest Drive. However, the proposal did not come as a surprise to many residents who have been expecting it since the city attempted to annex the area several times in the last ten years. "I believe it is inevitable," said senior Michelle Prime. "The city wasn't interested in us when we (the 1960 area) just started out, but now it is treating us as if we're a long lost relative. I feel it will try as hard as possible to get the proposal

Despite this increase the effect of the sales tax is not expected to have a dramatic effect on the number of people who continue to shop at the stores. "I would continue to shop at Willowbrook, but probably not as much," senior Beth Wedner said. Foley's store manager, Randy McKay agreed that the number of customers would most likely remain the same. "I don't anticipate any changes should the annexation occur. The people in this area shop at other stores within the city limits and continue to patronize them despite the fact that they

are paying a higher sales tax when they do," he said. Yet the higher sales tax remains only one of the issues residents are dealing with. "What concerns me most is the fact that the city limits are getting closer," U.S. History teacher Mike Arisco said. "I moved a few years ago to escape the city, and chose Cypress because you can have the benefits of the city and the country here without many of the problems associated with them. Annexing Willowbrook is the first step to annexing the rest of the 1960 area."

Plans by the city indicate that this is true. "Proposals for annexation must be made only in January of every even numbered year. So in about two years if this one goes through, in 1990 there will probably be another proposal to annex other 1960 areas, and this process should continue until most of the area is taken in by the city in about ten years," Purser said. However, many of the residents feel that the main issue at stake is neither the increased sales tax, nor the fact that the city limits are getting closer, but the belief that annexing the mall would be taxation without representation. Because Mayor Whitmire is not proposing annexation of other 1960 areas, local residents who make up most of the mall's shoppers cannot vote for or against her in the next election. "I'm against the proposed annexation because taxes can be expected to go up, and the

city can be expected to take in areas through growth, but taxation without representation should never occur. It's not right that we don't have a choice in voting for or against the person who decides to take our money," Michelle Prime said. Ms. Purser stated that other areas were not included in the proposal because there is a law which would prevent annexing an almost all white area without annexing an area of minorities at the same time to ensure a fair representation of all races within the city government. She did not explain why the city did not consider annexing a minority area in order to annex the surrounding residential areas of the mall.

According to law, the mayor says yes, the hearings will occur the week of October 10 and 17. The council will then begin ordinance, which specify building codes, services that the city must provide, and how it plans to ensure that there will not be a problem in making the adjust-



ments. The city will provide among other things, fire and police protection, inspection of food establishments, and a stricter building code.

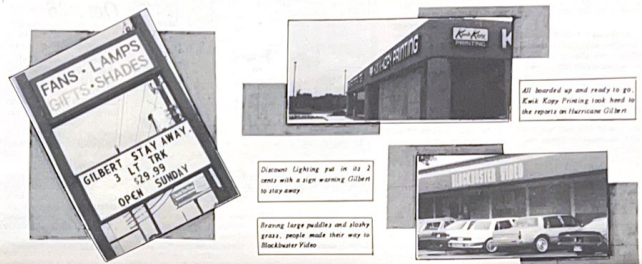
"I moved here a few years ago to escape the city, and chose Cypress because you can have the benefits of the city and the country here without many of the problems associated with them," U.S. History teacher Mike Arisco said.

will first make an official proposition to the city council on the 28 of September. She then must ask for permission to hold public hearings; if the council

FEATURES

Hurricane Gilbert: disaster that wasn't

Photo essay by Susan Stevens and Juli Komar



Discarded lighting put in its 2 spots with a sign warning Gilbert to stay away

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Club Beat

Oct. 4	Cougars for Christ 2:30 p.m.	Oct. 13	Model UN 2:35 p.m.
Oct. 5	Mu Alpha Theta 2:45-3:15 p.m.	Oct. 18	Cougars for Christ 6:50 a.m.
Oct. 6	Model UN 2:35 p.m.	Oct. 20	Model UN 2:35 p.m.
Oct. 11	Cougars for Christ 6:50 a.m.	Oct. 25	Cougars for Christ 6:50 a.m.
Oct. 12	NHS 2:45-3:15 p.m.	Oct. 27	Model UN 2:35 p.m.

calendar

Oct. 1	All-Star Retreat 8:00 am-12:00 pm	Oct. 6	Sophomore Parent Orientation 7:30 p.m.	Oct. 15	PSAT Testing
Oct. 17	1989 Yearbook Sale	Oct. 7	End of 1st Six Weeks Program 7:00-9:00 p.m.	Oct. 22	Homecoming Dance 8:00-12:00 p.m.
Oct. 4	Drug Awareness 7:00-9:00 p.m.	Oct. 11	College Night 6:00-10:00 p.m.	Oct. 29	Dance 9:00-12:00 p.m.
Oct. 5	Outliving Teen Years 7:30-9:30 p.m.	Oct. 13, 14, 17	Play "The Hollow" 7:30 p.m.		

FEATURES

Seniors setting high standards

By Jennifer Brooks

At first glance, the class of '89 seems to be just like any other senior class. Their concerns include grades, SAT scores and friends. This year however, the seniors are also concerned with the people they go to school with every day.

In the world of finding only the best, this may sound a little strange. This strangeness, though, is certainly a change for the better, according to senior English teacher Mrs. Louise B. Walker. "The Class of '89 pertained and protested everything," Mrs. Walker said.

The Class of '89 believed very much in the tradition of special privileges for seniors. This year's seniors, on the other

hand, do not feel they, or any seniors, deserve special treatment. "As seniors, I feel that we owe the school, not the other way around," senior Laura Warren said.

Seniors through the years have built up reputations as leaders of the school, but not necessarily through the choice of a senior's advice due to thinly veiled threats. Nothing outrageous has happened because of this type of damage to seniors, but it certainly is not pleasant for the freshmen.

"We do make fun of the fish, but we're not mean or anything like that. We remember what it was like to be freshmen," senior



Beth Weidner said of this year's graduating class. The idea of being nicer to freshmen seems to be a common theme among the seniors, as Mrs. Walker observed. "My seniors have more concern for the underclassmen," she said.

Give blood help another Blood Drive Oct. 28

Attention supporters! Cypress Creek's annual Fall Blood Drive is close at hand. The date is set for October the 28th, 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. 17 year olds can give blood with their parents permission and 18 year olds can just give blood. You must weigh at least 110 pounds and be sure and eat a good breakfast that morning.

This year's goal is 100 units. So, sign up in your English class. Blood will be given in Health Occupations, room H11.

If you are not able to give this time, be aware of the next drive in February. Remember, give blood and "Give of Yourself"

FEATURES

Stice works with seniors

by Tini Tran

The picture of his two daughters and his wife line the top shelf of the bookcase in his office. Although now senior assistant principal Bill Stice is clearly a family man, he is also a man who has dedicated his life to education.

Stice, a native Texan, has taught in the Cypress Fairbanks ISD, Spring Branch ISD, and Conroe ISD. However, between 1979 and 1984, he worked overseas as an assistant principal for an oil company's school in Saudi Arabia.

"The students were somewhat typical, but in Saudi Arabia, the students were there as guests of the country and would be shipped home at their father's expense if any problems were to occur," Stice said.

Starting out as an industrial arts teacher and working his way up to the administrative level, Stice has gained over a decade of experience.

"While I was at Sam Houston, a friend of mine, who was a student teacher at the time, invited me to come and help him teach for a day. I fell in love with it [teaching] and got a Masters in Education," Stice said.

Although Stice has just started at Cy-Creek, he already has some plans to make the school run a little smoother. He intends to implement a computerized system for attendance as well as keep a computerized



Senior John Francis and Mark Gillette talk with Mr. Stice at lunch. Photo by Jason Francisco

Challengers striving toward Olympic gold

by Elvise Flint

To bring home some gold medals would be a dream come true for the five Houston Challengers that were selected to compete in the Seoul Paralympic Games. The Challengers were trained by sophomore English teacher Bruce Marshall. Marshall's athletes have been participating in Olympic sports since 1981.

Marshall has been coaching the Houston Challengers in cycling, team handball, and futsal for one year. He also volunteers in track and field.

"I coach the athletes because it makes me appreciate what God has given me, and I get a lot of personal satisfaction from their triumphs," Marshall said. He will not be traveling to Seoul because he has only been working with them for a year. Marshall has had prior experience with Olympic training before working with the five Houston Challengers.

"I became involved years ago with Special Olympics in Michigan and worked summer and winter games," Marshall said.

The Paralympics will take place October 15-24. This is the first time the disabled international competition will be held at the same site as the regular Olympics.

Marshall is optimistic about the Challengers' chances of success. They practice weekly in different areas of the city.

"Three of the five athletes are rated number one in the United States in some of their events," he said.

If Marshall remains in Houston, he will continue to train athletes for the next Paralympics. At that time, he will have had enough experience to know whether the athletes may get

Germans teach English

by Gretchen Hall

They traveled here from Germany to teach American students the English language. This may sound quite unusual to some. Of the 11 German now teaching in our district, Ms. Ulrik Gressner and Ms. Claudia Syling were recently added to the Cypress Creek English department.

Ms. Syling, who teaches sophomore English, moved to Houston from Heidelberg, Germany where she attended college at the University of Heidelberg. There she received a Masters degree in German, English and geography. She has been teaching English for six years and was motivated to learn English from listening to English music like the Beatles and Rolling Stones. "I wanted to understand what the songs were saying," she said.

Ms. Gressner, who has also been teaching English for six years and is currently teaching freshman English at Cy-Creek, moved here from Bonn, Germany. There she studied at



Junior Janet Dodd and Jenny Frank talk with Ms. Gressner after soccer practice. Photo by Jason Francisco

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"Drug days" con't

"It was weird. I couldn't read. It was like watching a 3-D movie of a truck heading for you," she said.

It was on that morning that she finally woke up and took a good look at herself.

"I found that I didn't want to be in the same place five years from now," she said.

Leslie's experiences are to be a part of the school-sponsored Drug Awareness Program.

The program is to enlighten the parents, inform the students, and help prevent student activity with drugs," Ms. Copeland said.

The Drug Awareness Program will be held October 4 at 7:30 p.m. Both Leslie and her mother Olga will give a presentation to students and parents.

"I don't want to preach, but take care of yourself. You are your own greatest asset," she said.

The program is to enlighten

ENTERTAINMENT

Parador plot needs work

by Kevin Dowling
Moon Over Parador •••
out of 5 stars

The situation: Parador's a fictional South American country, just lost its dictator, though the people don't know about it. To prevent chaos from erupting, Roberto, the head of the secret police (Raúl Juliá) gets, or rather forces Jack Noah (Richard Dreyfuss), an actor who once did a convincing impersonation of the dictator, to fill his shoes. Jack accepts, seeing as how he doesn't have a choice, thinking it will only be "a couple of days." What happens is that he plays the part of dictator for an entire year, facing such obstacles as fooling the people of the country and stopping a communist revolution. At first, he follows Roberto's orders well, but, as time goes on, the dictator gets a feeling of sympathy for the poor of the country, something Roberto doesn't want, and finds himself threatened by both terrorists and the secret police.



A good plot, but it just doesn't do all the things one would expect it to. Jack runs around without his disguise or using the dictator's accent half of the time, and no one seems to notice. Not even once does the whole thing come close to being exposed, and, while this is a refreshing change from spending the whole movie making close calls, "Parador" goes

continued on page 9

Record Review

by Ric Swerney
Dangerous Age
by Bad Company
••• ½ stars (out of 5 stars)

Despite a promising beginning, Bad Company's new tape *Dangerous Age* rises slightly above the average rock-n-roll tape. This is not to say the tape doesn't have its good moments, because when the three member group is good, they're really good. In fact, side one is almost worth the price of the tape. Songs like *One Night*, which is a toe-tapping, high-powered song and the guitar of Mick Ralphie mixed with the pounding vocal work of Brian Howe on *Shake It Up* opens up side one. Those two songs lead up to the band's best song, *There's No One Like You*, which is a relentless tune fueled by a heavy bass and Howe's dominant voice. After that comes a catchy tune called *Bad Man*

continued on page 9

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ENTERTAINMENT

record review cont

and then side one ends on the very weak *Dangerous Age*. Unfortunately, side two doesn't quite deliver the same type of energy that side one does. The company does put forth a good effort with *Rock of America* and drummer Simon Kirke tries very hard with *Dirty Boy*, but even the tape's one and only ballad, *Something About You*, is mediocre. That's disheartening to know because Bad Company wasted a good side one.

movie review cont

out of its way to point this out. Jack develops a relationship with the former dictator's mistress, who when she discovers he is not the real dictator, almost immediately accepts him. The movie has a few funny scenes, especially political humor, but they are only enough to make a person give a mental grin and move on. Best advice for those who haven't seen it is to wait for it to come out on video cassette or cable.

Movies help students ease into school

by Ric Swerney

The transition of going back to school is never easy. Getting up early, going to bed early, and doing homework comes as a real shock for kids used to not doing any of those things over the summer. So, to help students ease back into class, I'm going to list some movies that deal with teenagers and school. Obviously, this won't make school any easier to come to, but it might aid you in getting back into the groove. The first group of movies involve college life, and when you talk about college films, you start with the best, "Animal House." John Belushi starred in this 1978 hit about the delinquent Delta House's battle to gain respect at Faber College in 1963. The jokes are dirty, sick and right on target. Next is 1984's "Back to School" starring Rodney Dangerfield, who's so rich he goes back to college. Catch it, his son is attending the same college! Wouldn't you just love to have Rodney as your college roommate? "Revenge of the Nerds," a 1984 film that parallels "Animal House," is



Blush from "Animal House"

another story of students trying to fit in on campus. Instead of having the partying Delta's though, we have genuine geeks who are thrown out of their dorm rooms by the jocks. A good film, although its sequel, "Revenge of the Nerds II," is a flat and pointless waste. Turns our attention to high school, one film basically sums up the genre, "The Breakfast Club." What happens when kids from five very different cliques meet for a Saturday detention hall? Find out (like you don't know) in this 1985 comedy. 1984's "Sixteen Candles" is a great film as it takes a look at Molly Ringwald's forgotten sixteenth birthday. "Porky's" is the 1982 gross-out film involving a group of friends in the 1960's. "The Principal" stars

Jim Belushi as a teacher promoted to principal at a chaotic school, where the kids major in larceny and armed robbery. Similar is the plot for "Wildcats," Goldie Hawn's 1983 film about a female coach who takes over a losing high school football team. 1987's "Hoosiers," about Indiana high school basketball in 1950, is one of the best movies ever made. Finally, the best film involving high school life is 1982's "Fast Times at Ridgemont High." It's not only funny, but it's so true. Sean Penn's performance as surfer Jeff Spicoli is now legendary. Well, that's it. Some films to check out to get you back to school. Now then, don't you feel like taking an English exam?

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SPORTS

Volleyball blazes along

By Renee Renfrow

Girls' varsity volleyball started off the season with a first place finish in the Danawville tournament August 26-27. They rolled over Northbrook, Arlington, Clear Lake, and Martin to win it for the fourth year in a row.

Coach Debbie Jaschne said that the toughest teams would be Klein Forest, Cy-Fair, and Jersey Village, who they will play this month, and these are just district teams.

Senior Sheila Morgan was named MVP and junior Lisa Ymen was named to the tournament team.

Coach Jaschne said that they are concentrating on one game at a time and the state championship is a long-term goal. They are taking district matches as short-term goals to achieve.

The team came up one game short of winning state last year. They finished the season 28-8, and were also Bi-district and Area Champions. At regionals they won the first game against R.L. Turner and lost the second game to Cy-Fair. Losing that second game ended their goal for state.

"I expect to win if we execute and hold out unforced errors to a minimum. I do expect them to win every match because of the potential talent of this team."

Coach Jaschne said a common team problem is giving up too many points on their mistakes and they come close to losing because of this. Another problem is keeping the momentum up because after the first game is won they

have to stay pumped up for the second one.

Coach Jaschne seems to think the team does better at home than away.

"I feel we have the home court advantage playing in our gym," she said.



Junior Lisa Ymen returns the ball to Kim Foster while junior Amy Wadell, #11, and Shannon Stearns, #12, get ready to receive. The Lady Cougs went on to win 13-10, 11-10. Photo by Jason Francisco.

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SPORTS

Coogs suffer first loss

By Stefan Goodbird

When Les Koenning and his varsity football team began the '88 campaign, they didn't expect a route over the fourth ranked Lamar. What they did expect, however, was for each player to give his maximum effort towards a Cougar victory.

"We're going to put forth a lot of effort in all the games and hope we win some," Koenning said.

His optimism turned sour as the Cougs fell short to Lamar 29-12. On paper, however, the 17-point margin is misleading

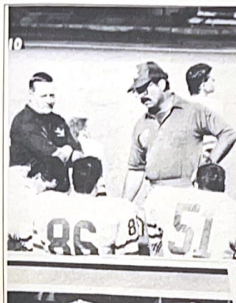
since the Cougars out-rushed (196 yards to 121 yards), out-passed (218 yards to 97 yards) and gained 25 first downs compared to Lamar's 12. Marcus Batts, of Lamar, scored the first touchdown of the 1988 high school football season when he took the opening kick-off and went 95 yards for six, before only 15 seconds could kick off. The Cougars came right back on their first drive of the new season when Kevin Love capped off a 68-yard drive with a one yard touchdown run.

SCORING

Lamar	.....	7	15	0	7	- 29
Cypress Creek	.....	0	0	6	- 12	
L-Batts 95 yd. kickoff return (Rogers kick)						
L-Manning 3 yd. run (Davin fumble recovery)						
L-Brown 62 yd. pass interception (Rogers kick)						
CC-Love 1 yd. run (run failed)						
L-Lara 15 yd. pass from Marshall (Rogers kick)						
CC-Champagne 2 yd. run (pass failed)						

STATISTICS

First downs	.....	12	25
Rushing Yards	.....	121	196
Passing Yards	.....	97	218
Passes	.....	12-52	23-113
Points, avg.	.....	3-62.6	1-9.0
Fumbles lost	.....	0	3
Penalties-Yards	.....	10-73	2-20



Coach Johnny McWilliams and coach of the week Christopher Kennedy discuss a play with seniors Dennis Alf, #85, and Russell White, #11, during the Coug 26th game with Ryan. With only 13 seconds left, the Cougars broke a stalemate with a touchdown and extra point to shut the Cougars with a 1-0 win. The Coug's record falls to 0 on 1 on district and 0 on 1 overall. Photo by Brad A. American.

Cougars win in state but lose in score

By Stefan Goodbird

Even though the varsity football team outgained the Baytown Sterling Rangers by 94 yards in the air and virtually accumulated an identical number of total yards gained (189 yards to 200 yards). They still fell to the highly ranked Rangers, 17 to 2. Like their first match against Lamar, the Cougars were not dominated by any means. Only in total rushing yards were they outgained (54 yards to 119 yards). Creek made five more first downs than Sterling (16 to 11), and thoroughly outpassed the Rangers, 145 yards to 81 yards.

Probably the biggest factor which caused the Cougs to go "0" and "2" were the nine sacks registered by the Sterling defense. Shad Patrick and Bobby Byrd led the Ranger defense with three sacks each.

On the opening kickoff Sterling capped off a 60 yard, 13 play drive with a 2-yard touchdown run by Adrian Green. In their first possession of the third period, Sterling quarterback, Toby Runfield, finished a 45-yard drive with a 34-yard touchdown pass to tight end, Drew Ellis. Sterling added a field goal in the third period to stretch the lead to 17 to 0.

Cy-Creek senior Luke Killian saved the Cougs from being shutout when the ball rolled out of the end zone after he blocked a potential punt by Sterling, forcing a safety and two points for Cy-Creek.

SCORING

Cypress Creek	.....	0	0	2	- 2
Baytown Sterling	.....	7	0	0	- 17
S-Green 2 yd. run (Webb kick)					
S-Ellis 34 yd. pass from Runfield (Webb kick)					
S-FG Webb 30					
CC-Safety					

STATISTICS

Cy-Crk. B. Stiel	.....	16	11
Rushing Yards	.....	54	119
Passing Yards	.....	145	81
Passes	22-110	10-41
Points, avg.	4-35.0	4-25.0
Fumbles lost	1	1
Penalties-Yards	3-15	5-45

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SPORTS

Bryan evens up 16-5A

by Stefan Godbold

When Meret Green, head coach of the varsity football team at Bryan High School, was informed last spring that his school was being transferred from the 15-5A district to the 16-5A district, he took it as good news and bad news. The good news being that the new district was more even and up for grabs and the bad news being that he and his team were unfamiliar with most of the teams in the 16-5A district.

This change is due to the realignment rule, which forced Spring and Westfield to move from 16-5A to 15-5A while Bryan joined Cypress Creek, Cypress Fairbanks, Jersey Village, Langham Creek, Klein, Klein Forest, and Klein Oak in 16-5A.

Every few years, schools are shifted from different districts in order to ultimately even up each district into eight teams.

To make up for the loss in one district, another must be given the proper number of teams to even it out. Shifting around from district to district becomes a problem.

Coach Green brings his perennial playoff team into a district that is even from top to bottom.

"I haven't seen any team (in the 16-5A district) that will go through the whole season without a loss," Green said.

Last year, Bryan made it to the playoffs, but lost in the first round to the 16-5A champion, Langham Creek. They finished the 1987 campaign with a six and four record.

This year, Coach Green is not losing much of that playoff talent. Although his starting quarterback quit two weeks before the season began, he still has 21 returning lettermen. One of those returning is senior Chris Knox.

Knox, a 6'1", 215-pound defensive end leads the Bryan defense. Although Green's team is anchored with a solid defense, their strength is the running game.

"We have a solid running game. It's probably our strongest point," Green said.

Even so, inexperience in a few major positions may cause some havoc.

"Our team still has some major question marks," Coach Green said.

Green is certainly not short on experience. He has been on the sidelines coaching Bryan for the past 16 years. His lifetime record tabulates to 123 wins, 72 losses, and five ties, which is a 76 percentage.

Coach Green believes this heavily balanced division will go down to the last week to crown a champion. He believes his team has as good a shot as any. Hopefully, it is Cy-Creek

who prevails in the end, the Coogs meet Bryan on their own turf, November 4.

Runners win meet

By Chris Ramey

The varsity boys' Cross Country team placed fourth at the McCullough Invitational on Saturday, September 10. They were led by seniors Steve Davis and Jim Fletcher, and junior Chris Swift.

The junior varsity team placed third lead by junior Shane Geary.

On Saturday, September 10, the Lady Coogs traveled to University of Houston in their first meet of the season.

The freshman team placed third overall and were led by freshmen Sandy Greigor, Bell Sangalong, April Sangalong, and Cicille Sangalong.



Sophomore Stacy Halsip placed ninth in the Klein Forest Meet, Friday Sept. 23 at Cypress Wood park. The Lady Coogs placed first overall, capturing first, second, and third places. Photo by Brandy American

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