

# CONNECTION

Cypress Creek High School

9815 Grant Road

Houston, Texas 77070

November 1988

Vol. XII No. 2

## Candidates avoiding issues make people avoid polls

by Tini Tran

Election Day is just around the corner. So what? Why should you care who becomes the next president of the United States? This is only high school and it's the students' prerogative to ignore taxes, elections, or anything vaguely resembling adulthood, right?

But when you consider the fact that this man has the power to make or break your future in the next four years, you realize that this guy might do more than just live in the White House.

Those of you who feel so secure that you don't care what becomes of the rest of the country need to climb out of your naive little world. This man will determine whether we will have world peace or whether World War III is on its way. He will decide whether we will have a cleaner world or whether our children will play in smog and pollution. Our president holds too much power to brush him off lightly by saying "He doesn't affect me so I don't care."

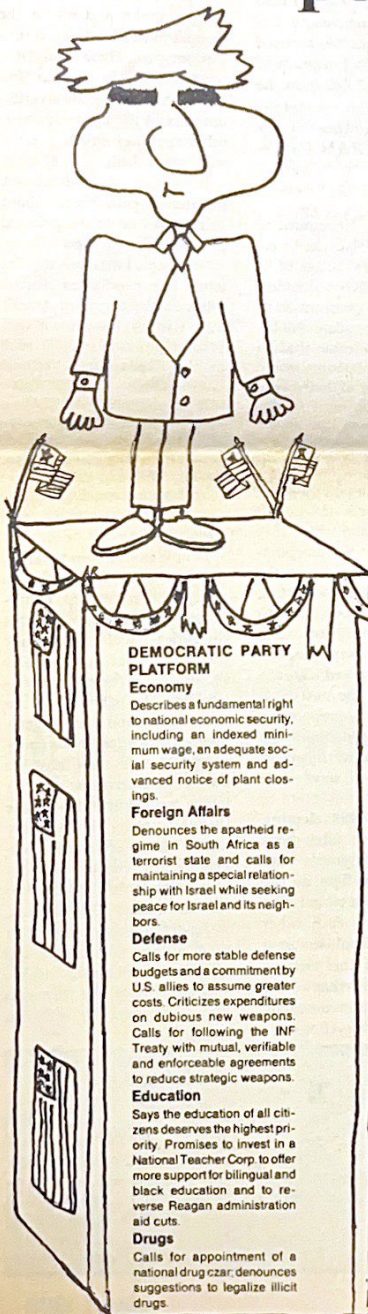
In a recent CONNECTION survey of all government and economics classes, only 20% of the senior class is eligible to vote and only two thirds of them are planning to vote in tomorrow's election. But not being old enough to vote is no excuse for not knowing the issues at the forefront of this election. In four years or so, every student will be a member of the voting population so everything you learn now is experience later.

Approximately 46% of the seniors felt that the country's economic situation was the most vital issue facing our next president. Foreign affairs gained 21% of the vote showing that some students are concerned with the United States' role in international politics. Defense and domestic affairs, which include Social Security, abortion, and gun control, were tied with 18% of the vote and the problems with the environment, i.e. acid rain, deterioration of the ozone layer, etc., garnered 12% of the vote.

With all the media hype and hoopla, it has been next to impossible to ignore the candidates themselves. Last year, there were five Democratic nominees and seven Republican nominees. As time and bitter campaigning went on, the list was narrowed down to Michael Dukakis and George Bush, one a governor from Massachusetts and the other currently vice president of this country.

It seems that every election year, the media becomes more of a participant than an impartial observer. The campaigns themselves have been reduced to perfecting the art of mudslinging while adroitly evading questions on the issues.

By tomorrow, however, the battle will be over and a winner will emerge. Whether it will be a governor with the Boston-Austin connection or a vice president who lives in Kennebunkport, Texas, we have yet to find out.



### DEMOCRATIC PARTY PLATFORM

#### Economy

Describes a fundamental right to national economic security, including an indexed minimum wage, an adequate social security system and advanced notice of plant closings.

#### Foreign Affairs

Denounces the apartheid regime in South Africa as a terrorist state and calls for maintaining a special relationship with Israel while seeking peace for Israel and its neighbors.

#### Defense

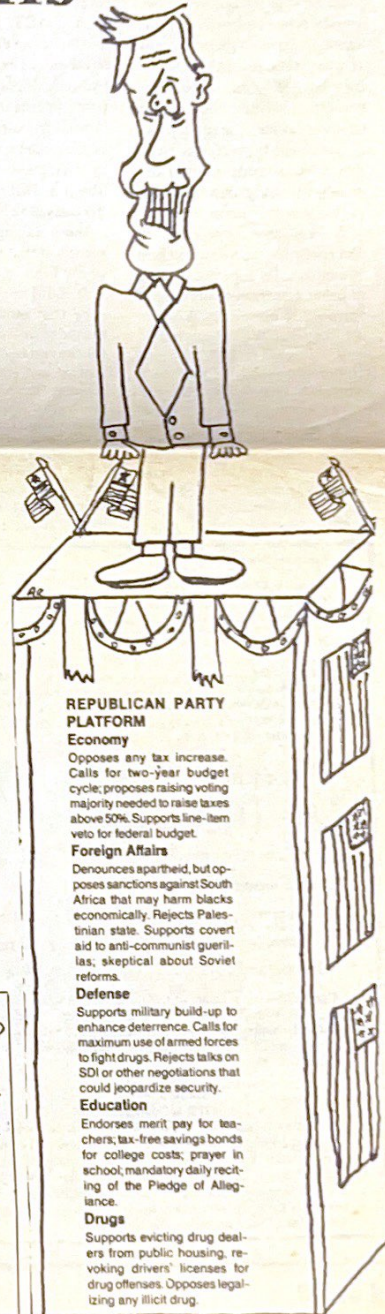
Calls for more stable defense budgets and a commitment by U.S. allies to assume greater costs. Criticizes expenditures on dubious new weapons. Calls for following the INF Treaty with mutual, verifiable and enforceable agreements to reduce strategic weapons.

#### Education

Says the education of all citizens deserves the highest priority. Promises to invest in a National Teacher Corp. to offer more support for bilingual and black education and to reverse Reagan administration aid cuts.

#### Drugs

Calls for appointment of a national drug czar; denounces suggestions to legalize illicit drugs.



### REPUBLICAN PARTY PLATFORM

#### Economy

Opposes any tax increase. Calls for two-year budget cycle; proposes raising voting majority needed to raise taxes above 50%. Supports line-item veto for federal budget.

#### Foreign Affairs

Denounces apartheid, but opposes sanctions against South Africa that may harm blacks economically. Rejects Palestinian state. Supports covert aid to anti-communist guerrillas; skeptical about Soviet reforms.

#### Defense

Supports military build-up to enhance deterrence. Calls for maximum use of armed forces to fight drugs. Rejects talks on SDI or other negotiations that could jeopardize security.

#### Education

Endorses merit pay for teachers; tax-free savings bonds for college costs; prayer in school; mandatory daily reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### Drugs

Supports evicting drug dealers from public housing; revoking drivers' licenses for drug offenses. Opposes legalizing any illicit drug.

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# OPINION

## OFF THE WALL

by Alex Russek

I had heard the stories of anguish, heartbreak, and frequent nervous breakdowns from friends who had survived it. Nervously, I ignored them. Instead of preparing for this beast, I enjoyed safe and wholesome summer activities, with nary a thought about the upcoming School Year from Hades. Suddenly, like a horde of rabid and poetry-soothed groundhogs, my junior year was upon me.

After a scant six weeks of it, I'm ready to run away and join the circus. By looking around at other members of my class, I can see I'm not alone. Why are we like this? What's going on? Is it just gas? Those who are freshmen or sophomores can't appreciate this feeling, so this doesn't apply to you. (Go read the Sports Page or something). Seniors, on the other hand, sympathize and are usually just happy to be done with it. When they require you are a junior they either go into hysterics or look at you with great pity.

informative ASSVAB. (At least we got out of a few class periods for it.) I think, according to the test, I'm qualified to pump gas or become a gun show host.

A third possibility could be THE CLASS. Since I am currently taking it, I don't want to mention it by name for fear of biasing my teacher against me. Anyway, you know what I'm talking about. (If you don't, you don't need to be reading this anyway). Here are a few hints:

1. It's real hard.
  2. You read a lot of books written by dead people with emotional problems.
  3. It's really hard.
  4. It's a language.
  5. It's really, really hard.
- That should clear things up. A fourth possibility could be that we have already spent two years in high school and things are getting old. Seniors talking about how sorry they are that you have to spend another year here doesn't help things. Well, what can you do?
- Whatever the reason, Seniors has his/a year early. Watching my high school classmates pass by in the hall with that "look" (like they're having their tons rubbed on by large waterfalls), I've come to a conclusion of sorts. We are stuck here, we might as well try to enjoy it. (Or foul ourselves into thinking we enjoy it, whatever the case may be). Take a walk on the bright side of life. Don't worry, be happy.
- Unfortunately, this hasn't helped anything. I'm going to continue working on my Human Cannonball Act.

## GUEST COLUMN



**Editor's Note - Government/Economics teacher Ms. Linda Croto has been teaching at Cy-Creek for 10 years. She received her B.S. from the University of Vermont, her M.Ed. from the University of Houston, and she is currently working on her Ph.D. at Texas A&M University.**

years to be so prepared and rehearsal. When the president has to make a decision, he doesn't have time to do a run-through first. These candidates need to be seen in a debate-type setup where the questions and/or topics are not so preordained, otherwise they might just as well cancel them.

It is often difficult to get individuals enthusiastic about being involved in the political process. This is especially so when people fail to see how the issues the candidates discuss relate to the everyday American. History has shown that broader points of interest, such as the Korean and Vietnam conflicts, have brought voters out in larger numbers. Voter turnout during the 1970's and 1980's has been at least 5% lower than the percentages seen in the 1950's and 1960's. This is a rather sad conclusion when you consider how much more educated the voter of today is.

People in this country enjoy the rights and privileges that go along with citizenship. Unfortunately, we sometimes forget the duties that accompany this status. Our position here should be a give and take relationship. The balance between what we give and what we get is necessary in order for this country to operate smoothly. We owe it to ourselves, and to our fellow countrymen, to indicate through voting, the path we would like to see our government follow during the next four years. If we choose not to take advantage of this option, we leave no right to complain or point a finger towards the acts of others who represent us. We had our chance. We let it pass us by. We must live with that decision.

## New attendance policy keeps students in class

by Drew Jenkins

In an effort to cut down on students skipping classes, Cy-Creek has introduced a new attendance policy. This new policy emphasizes contact with the parents of all absent students.

"Mr. Shelton's goal is to make sure we make contact with as many parents as possible," attendance secretary, Mrs. Mayvel Grimbaling said.

If no parental contact is made, students will be referred to the Assistant Principal's office. Only illness, doctor's appointments, funerals, hazardous weather or road conditions or any other unusual cause acceptable to the school board will be counted as an excused absence.

There is a new policy regarding unexcused absences as well. Students will receive only 75% of their total points, or a drop of one letter grade for their make-up work from an unexcused absence. That includes tests too.

This is an appropriate punishment for students who skip class, but it is not fair to some students because there are reasons for being absent other than the ones mentioned above. One such reason would be college visits for seniors. Their grades are penalized for an absence which is prearranged and extremely important in the college selection process.

Although the new policy may be keeping more students in class, the change has caused some confusion among the teachers and students alike.

## Smokeout dispels glamorous image

by Danny Nevers

It's amazing what kids learn these days. They're looking for a glamorous image, searching desperately for anything that will make them seem older and more mature. And they learn it all from older kids and adults. What they haven't learned, though, is that cigarettes are nothing but a pack of lies.

The American Cancer Society hopes to change that, however, by making the graduating class of 2000 the first Smoke-Free Class of America, and the time for action is now.

Children learn from observation and lifestyles are established early in life. Research shows that knowledge, attitudes, and health habits of today's young people will affect their chances of developing cancer in the future. Research also proves that positive health behaviors adding in cancer prevention can also influence other health problems too.

The Smokeout is designed to be a good-natured effort to encourage smokers to kick the habit for 24 hours. The national goal for this year is for at least one out of every five smokers to quit smoking from midnight to midnight. An understanding of the dangers of smoking will help in teaching children to never light up at all.

Each year the Smokeout is an all-time participation record of 19.1 million smokers who tried to quit for one day. Of those, 5.8 million succeeded in going the full 24 hours without a cigarette, and 1.7 million still hadn't lit up one to four days later.

Remember, for your own health and for the health of children, join in the Great American Smokeout. Because children don't just learn in school. They learn from watching you.

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Remember, for your own health and for the health of children, join in the Great American Smokeout. Because children don't just learn in school. They learn from watching you.

## The Creek closes early leaving students locked out

by Alex Russek

Wandering the halls for kicks after school is no longer an option for Cy-Creek students. Because of increased vandalism and excess noise caused by these wandering vagabonds, the halls are now closed at 3:30 and anyone found in these halls will be summarily yoused.

"No student should be in the building unapproved by," Principal Mr. Joe Shelton said. "They should be wandering the halls) stop up the commodes and sinks, rip off the towel dispensers, and one year even set a trash can on fire. They also disturb the after school tutorials. We are calling this school year Great Expectations and would like to see the students spend more time on task in their tutorials without being interrupted."

Though closing the halls at 3:30 is being done with the students' best interests in mind, this policy is being met with criticism from most of the students.

"It stinks! I do a lot of after school activities and sometimes I don't have a chance to get my books until after 3:30. The policy is a real inconvenience," junior Jeff Ulloa said.

"When I stay after for Academic Decathlon and Choir, I can't go from one class to the other without being hassled," senior Carolyn Wood said.

"At least it could be extended to 4:00 so we would have more time to go to extra-curricular activities and still come back and get books from our locker," junior Karla Sepulveda said.

She later brought this criticism up at the student advisory meeting to see if the times could be changed.

Many students also feel that the way they are being treated needs improvement. They complain of being escorted around the building by a custodian or principal as if they were only planning mischief and being made to feel as if they were vandals.

An announcement after school on Thursday, October 6 pretty much sums up the whole thing: "We are not to remain in school. Find a place to be."

"At least it could be extended to 4:00 so we would have more time to go to extra-curricular activities and still come back and get books from our locker," junior Karla Sepulveda said.

### A FEW QUIT TIPS

Hide all ashtrays, matches, etc. Lay in a supply of sugarless gum, carrot sticks, etc. Drink lots of liquids, but pass up coffee & alcohol. Tell everyone you're quitting for the day. When the urge to smoke hits, take a deep breath, hold it for 10 seconds, & release it slowly. Exercise to relieve the tension. Try the "buddy system," and ask a friend to quit too.

### Pack of Lies.

AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY

## Club Beat

- NOVEMBER
- 8 - Business Club TTT, 1:30 p.m.
  - 8 - Coogs for Chae TTC, 6:50 a.m.
  - 9 - Sea Soons TTB, 7:00-8:30 p.m.
  - 9 - NRS TTC, 2:45-1:15 p.m.
  - 11 - Coogs for Chae TTC, 7:00 a.m.
  - 15 - AFS TTC, 7:30 p.m.
  - 15 - Coogs for Chae TTC, 6:50 a.m.
  - 15 - TBA TTC, 2:45-3:30 p.m.
  - 15 - Coogs for Chae TTC, 7:00 a.m.
  - 19 - Model UN University of S, Thomas, 8:30 p.m.
  - 22 - Coogs for Chae TTC, 6:50 a.m.
  - 22 - Soons TTB, 7:00-8:30 p.m.
  - 29 - Coogs for Chae TTC, 6:50 a.m.

## calendar

- NOVEMBER
- 11 - Speech Tournament Karpwood, 2:30 p.m.
  - 12 - Region Orchestra auditions Cy-Fair High School
  - 13 - Cy-Fair Swim Relays Campbell, 2:00 p.m.
  - 14 - 2nd Six Weeks Exam
  - 15 - Choir Dinner Theatre Commons, 2:30-6:00 p.m.
  - 20 - Early Release
  - 24 - Thanksgiving Holiday
  - 30 - St. order days and gown Football banquet, 7:30 p.m.

# NEWS

## Cy-Creek vs. Europe: How does our school compare?

by Donna Davis

After being in a school where you stay in the same classroom all day, and the teachers come to you, Seniors Konstante Helbig and Susanne Daminger believe that Cypress Creek is very different. Konstante is from Germany and Susanne is from Austria.

Some of the differences include the class schedule. They have 10 subjects to take which change from day to day. The variety of the week helps keep interests up.

"One thing we really like here is you can choose the subjects you want," Susanne said.

Even though they get to choose the subjects, they miss the variety.

"Here nothing changes at all. We think that's kind of boring." There's a different type of scheduling going on. In Austria students attend elementary school for four years, and then they can choose between a lower or a higher level school.

With a lower level school they attend it for four years and then have a year to prepare for work without graduation. In higher level schools, called Gymnasiums, the students go for eight years with graduation.

"Our graduations are different than yours. We have tests, like an exam and it's not that easy to pass them," said Susanne.

"After a type of school with graduation, you can go to a university. You can choose between different types which last different lengths."

In Germany the system is very similar. The students begin in "grundschule" which lasts four years and is like elementary school.

"Then you can choose between Hauptschule, Realschule, and Gymnasium. Haupt and Realschule are only six years long and are easier than Gymnasium. Gymnasium is the highest level and lasts nine years long. In your last year of Gymnasium you have an Abitur which is a huge exam and is very important because the grade you get decides about what you can



Seniors Susanne Daminger and Konstante Helbig are being interviewed by a reporter.

study in college," Konstante said.

Another viewpoint of foreign schools comes from World History teacher Cynthia Lench who attended high school in Japan in the 70's. She said the workload is heavier and the grading scale harder than in the states.

"They are taught culture to get ahead. They understand the world far selfish reasons," she said.

There are vast differences in the European systems of education and the American ones. American students are able to change their futures more often and have more variety in their choices. On the other hand, European students learn a more well-rounded knowledge of the world. Their work is harder and longer than ours, and one test grade could determine the rest of your life.

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## Drama performs musical

by Juli Komer

Singing secretaries? Well, not real secretaries but Cy-Creek drama students.

The Cypress Creek drama department is writing, directing and performing a musical for the Texas Educational Secretaries Association banquet. The T.E.S.A. is holding their annual state convention on Saturday, November 5 at the Adams-Mark Hotel, Cy-Fair I.S.D. is hosting the convention and chose the Cy-Creek drama department as the highlight entertainment for the evening. Throughout the past nine years Cy-Creek has participated in various drama-related functions

benefiting the district. For this reason they were chosen to perform at the banquet.

The musical, Five to Nine, went through many stages before final preparation took place. Drama teacher Ms. Marilyn Miller requested that each cast member write one idea pertaining to the duties of a secretary or aide. The cast members then got into several groups to combine their ideas. Along with Ms. Miller, English teacher Ms. Beth Nance is assisting with choreography scenes of the musical.

"It'll be great because of the talent involved," Ms. Miller said.

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# FEATURES

## P.E.L.E. pre-schoolers invade the H-wing hall

by Elaine Fine

Three and four-year-olds walking the halls, a playground, stepping stools in the bathrooms, and cartoon characters on the wall are all part of the Pre-Elementary Laboratory Education Program (P.E.L.E.) that began on October 18. The program was originated by home economics teacher Mrs. Marlene Lobberich. Mrs. Lobberich has been suggesting the program for two years and approval was finally announced last April.

P.E.L.E. is an elective course offered to juniors and seniors. It provides students who wish to go into the education field with information necessary to teach and provide care for young children.

"I'm taking the course because I like children and that's what I want to do," senior Julie Arnold said. "Child Care will

be my major in college," she added.

Students have been decorating the room and working on lesson plans since school started. Classes began at 7:45 a.m. and finish at 11:45 a.m. Children who live in the district, or whose parents work in the district may take part in the program. At the present time there are 18 children involved, and the maximum number allowed is 20. There are 35 students enrolled with a maximum of 40 students permitted. Two groups of students work with the children in 2-hour blocks of class time.

Students will be teaching the children and writing lesson plans for all the units they do. "I've always wanted to work with children," senior Kim Dean said. "I like to see them happy. Teaching them will be a good experience," she said.

Some of the units to be taught

are safety, insects, pets, family, ocean, food and nutrition, transportation, and many more. The only charge will be for personal supplies such as fingerprints. Mrs. Lobberich expects the charges to be approximately \$7.50 per month.

New additions are being made to benefit the children. An awning has been attached outside the P.E.L.E. room to protect the children from the weather when they get out of the cars. Stepping stools were placed in the bathroom across the hall from room, located on the vocational hall. Also, a playground has been built by the front parking lot. Industrial technology classes designed and drew up plans for toys, and industrial art classes constructed the toys.

P.E.L.E. is a pilot program offered at Cy-Creek. If it is successful here, other schools in the district could add the course into their schedules.



Senior Shonda Hartman teaches a child finger-plays, one of many activities in the P.E.L.E. program.

## SIRE gallops off toward better, brighter future

by Jennifer Brooks

Sitting tall in the saddle, she is a picture of confidence and skill. She and her mount perfectly execute a 20-meter circle and her teacher smiles and congratulates her. The whole scene is reminiscent of a typical "horse crazy" girl, until it is time for her to dismount. A cumbersome mounting block, resembling miniature stairs, is pushed into the arena and placed next to the horse. The girl is helped down, she takes her crutches and leaves the arena.

To junior Erica Hamilton though, the fact that she must leave the arena on crutches makes no difference to her. The only thing on her mind are how well she rode, and when she will be getting her own horse.

"Some day I'll get my own horse, but not for a while," Erica said.

Erica is able to ride once a week every Thursday at Oak-hollow Equestrian Park on Grant Road because she participates in a program called SIRE. SIRE is an acronym of Self-Improvement through Riding Education, a program for those with not only physical handicaps, but also those with mental and behavioral problems.

The basis for the SIRE program is hippotherapy, which is Greek for horse therapy. The steady movement of the horse massages the rider's legs which loosens the muscles and can improve mobility.

SIRE does not only improve the participant's health, but also his or her self-confidence. Many people with severe, or even minor, handicaps feel that they are less of a person because they are different from others.

"SIRE" gives them an oppor-

tunity to participate in an activity in which their handicap are not a hindrance," a volunteer said.

Erica feels she has gained much from the SIRE program. "Independence mainly, and of course, knowledge of how to ride," she said.

Erica has been riding for six years now, and she hopes to start competing soon. What is Erica's favorite part of SIRE, besides the horses? "The people," she said. "They're just real special people."

As expressed by Erica, the volunteers are a very important part of the SIRE program. The volunteers are invaluable, yet few in number. SIRE is always ready to accept volunteers, and no experience is necessary. For more information on the SIRE program, call Cindy Lindh at 251-0580.

# FEATURES

## For a very confusing situation, apply within

by Danny Nevrs

I, considering myself to be reasonably intelligent, took on the task of applying to colleges very lightly-heartedly. That was probably my biggest mistake. I thought I was prepared enough to handle it, but, as I discovered, college applications require much more effort than what they might look like they would upon first glance.

I started out in good enough shape. I had possibilities of schools in my mind. I was aiming at slightly above average universities with good specialized departments. It's not like I was looking at Ivy League schools, where a lot of thought and time can be expected in filling out applications. Surely I could handle it.

So I began. Blank one, last name, first name, middle initial. Blank two, present address, permanent address, if different. No problem. Fill in a few blanks, sign and date it at the

bottom, pop it in the mailbox, and the set for college, right? Wrong.

### In the beginning...

My first mistake was in not paying enough attention to the deciding factors in choosing a college. Things like size, location, cost, admission requirements, type (public or private), curriculum, honors programs, extra-curricular activities, and facilities all had to be considered. Well, maybe I had considered cost and location, but those factors alone do not qualify a school as appropriate for a student's needs. I decided that looking into schools with well established departments in my intended field of study would be a good starting point. Time must also be allowed for completing recommendations, essays, autobiographies, or other special information that schools may require.



### A blur of tests

Many colleges also require achievement tests in addition to the SAT or ACT. As did the school to which I had applied. Usually these tests will cover English and math areas, but some schools may even want additional tests in foreign language or other courses. As I discovered, information for these tests can be found in the counselor's office. In other words, more forms. It was upset that no one had told me this, but when I asked my counselor

about it, I was told that I should have referred to my handy Student-Parent Guide to College that I was given in my junior year. Yeah, next time I'll remember that.

### Know your registrar

I learned quickly that getting to know your registrar is a very important step in the whole process of applying to college. Before, I had only thought of the registrar as someone that I knew existed, but that I had never really seen. Only now do I realize her importance in helping me apply to a college. Most colleges require that a six-semester transcript be sent along with an application. I completed my and my completed application, returned it to the registrar for mailing. "Now," I thought to myself, "I am through."

Wrong yet again.

ing me apply to a college. Most colleges require that a six-semester transcript be sent along with an application. I completed my and my completed application, returned it to the registrar for mailing. "Now," I thought to myself, "I am through."

### What fees?

After flipping through my trusty guide, double checking everything when I noticed a teacher from the University. It seem-

ed I had forgotten to pay my processing fee with my application. Processing fee, processing fee? You mean this school wants me to send them money to accept me? Sounds a little like bribery to me. Anyway, I sent off the check the next morning hoping everything would run smoothly from then on.

### Is that all?

I forgot completely about housing. I had had the application for a few weeks, and I was always telling myself that I would get it to tomorrow. Funny how things pile up that way, isn't it? I picked up my form, dreading to find out what tasks I would have to go through to complete it. Well, the school was a wonderful brochure. You know, the kind with Joe and Bob laughing in their lovely and spacious dorm room. Yeah,

right. Like I'm too stupid to realize that my parents will be paying a few thousand a year for me to live in a room slightly larger than a shoobox. I read the brochure and found I had one of three choices: an air conditioned double, a non-air conditioned double or a non-air conditioned single. Great. Since my trusty guide tells me that housing applications are filled out first, come, first served basis, I just have to get used to life without air conditioning.

The school also wants a deposit for my room. Is it my imagination, or does this seem like a lot of money for not being accepted yet?

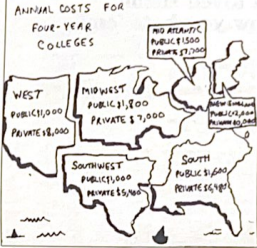
After giving my College Guide one more thorough checking, I decide that there is nothing left for me to do but wait. Of course, if scholarships or financial aid come into consideration, you're in for a tougher time than I was. But then again, that's a different story.

# FEATURES

## Financial aid: what it is and how to get it

by Gretchen Holt

The thought of paying for college is a dilemma some students may have to face. Costs have doubled since 1980, and the average price of a private college is \$12,000 a year. There is an alternative, however, and that alternative is financial aid. Currently, in the United States, 70 percent of all college students are receiving some form of financial aid, as shown by a recent survey in USA Today. This aid comes from federal and state governments, the colleges applied to, and through a wide variety of grant and scholarship programs.



The first type of financial aid is a grant, or outward gift of money to the student. A loan can also be acquired but must be paid back. Loans usually carry low interest rates. Another form of financial aid is scholarships, which are awarded to students for academic achievement, and certain unearned income benefits may be asked for verification. "You could be filling out forms for the rest of your life," senior Shelby Stonecipher said.

Anyone is eligible to apply for financial aid, but proof of need is necessary to decide if you will receive it or not. "Sometimes it's not fair to people whose parents make large amounts of money. They won't take some things into consideration," senior Taragh Brooks said.

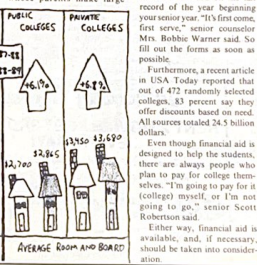
Financial aid can help cover both direct costs and costs of living. Direct costs consist of tuition and fees, and books and supplies, whereas living costs include food, housing, transportation, and personal expenses.

After the aid forms are completed, they must be returned to the counselor's office for filing no later than March and no earlier than January 1 because of income tax records. All forms must be recorded on the tax record of the year beginning your senior year. "It's first come, first served," senior counselor Mrs. Bobbie Warner said. So fill out the forms as soon as possible.

Furthermore, a recent article in USA Today reported that out of 472 randomly selected colleges, 83 percent say they offer discounts based on need. All sources totaled \$4.5 billion dollars.

Even though financial aid is designed to help the students, there are always people who plan to pay for college themselves. "I'm going to pay for it (college) myself, or I'm not going to go," senior Scott Robertson said.

Either way, financial aid is available, and, if necessary, should be taken into consideration.



## What I wish I had known before I went to college

by Trevor Taylor

As outstanding as you might have thought you were in high school, no matter what your field of "excellence," there will be anywhere from 50-5,000 people who are as qualified, if not eminently more qualified, than yourself.

Look out for rumors! No one at all costs, because no one else will.

You're only in class somewhere for 12-15 hours per week compared to 78 hours a week in high school. Find something to do in your spare time; for example, meditation, folk dancing, fencing, the Young Communist Club, or any other hobby or organization that will take your mind off the fact that your country is going to hell in a proverbial handbasket and the degree you're working for (major still undecided) won't be worth a red cent.

Introduce yourself to a steady diet of cafeteria food, at least

15-20 meals a week. This may seem a bit harsh, but the sooner you try to adapt to cafeteria food the better. If it will make you feel any better, I'm sure it won't. Cy-Creek cafeteria food is better than any campus food.

Don't get too attached to pets (including girlfriends/boyfriends). First of all, they're not allowed in the dorms, and even if they were, you couldn't afford to feed them. And secondly, if they were to escape from the dorm rooms, they would be served as dinner in the cafeteria.

What Mom and Dad don't know won't hurt them; for example, the fact that Dad already gave you forty dollars when Mom stuffs the twenty into your hand.

Learn to love women from Holland, because Dutch is the only way to go.

Don't become too complacent in your opinions, two-story house. The dorm rooms are the size of your bathroom, and you'll be showering with 50 people every morning. Practice sleeping in unusual places when trying to adjust to the cramped lifestyle; for example, standing up in your closet, in the backyard, in a straight-backed chair, in the backseat of your Mazda RX-7.

Mom's meals taste ten times better than you last remembered.

Red really does run.

Coupons are suddenly acceptable, if not stylish. It's o.k. to admit you're broke, because everyone else is too.

Above all, believe in yourself. Remember, like I said earlier, no one else will. And as my economics adviser told me, "It's not that everyone here at UT hates you, Trevor, it's just that we don't give a—"

After merely a week of solely living on cafeteria food and Big Macs, you will find yourself falling into the cafeteria syndrome. This syndrome really affects you in strange ways. You will find yourself dreaming about Mom standing in the kitchen cooking food-real food!

When you get a chance to visit your grandparents one weekend (you know, the grandparents that fix 15 different kinds of vegetables every meal, and you hate vegetables), you will find yourself eating EVERYTHING on the table, even the sweet potatoes!

Remember, you only have 10 glorious months left to enjoy your Mom's wonderful cooking. Give her a big shock - tell

her you love her cooking - even her macinal with that unique (?) sauce she serves. You will never realize how good home-cooking is until it's gone. So, appreciate it now, for the days are quickly slipping by.

Lisa McCall, member of last year's Yearbook Staff, is a freshman at Lubbock Christian University.

By David Smith

1) How to sleep in the same room with someone who snores and talks in their sleep.

2) How to learn two weeks worth of high school work in a 50 minute class. (I think I found the secret, teach yourself or fail)

3) That you can't wash whites with reds and other bright colors. (Common sense has nothing to do with it either, especially after your mom has

washed your clothes for the last eighteen years of your life.)

4) Cy-Creek didn't prepare me for college as the administration would like to think it did. (There is no way to prepare for college, it's a trial and error process.)

5) That it's easy to become self-loathing and wrapped up in worldly pursuits when the next day of your life might not even come to pass.

6) That not being able to run to your parents or close friends would make you appreciate them more and not take everything you have for granted.

7) That without God as the number one priority in your life it is easy to find yourself swimming in a sea of despair and unhappiness.

David Smith is a freshman at Abilene Christian University. He was a member of the journalism department last year.

# ENTERTAINMENT

## R&R songs: Ya loved them! You know them! Now you hate 'em!

by Ric Sweeney

Don't touch that dial! Unless, of course, it's tuned to one of the many pop, top 40 radio stations in town.

To start, a pop, top 40 radio station is one that plays the new wave, dance songs. Some of the more popular artists who sing these songs are George Michael, Tiffany, and INXS. There are also the stations that are personally responsible for running a number of good rock-overall songs.

Remember how good Bon Jovi was, or how good Whitesnake, Aerosmith, Def Leopard, or Guns-N-Roses were? How good they were, until the pop radio stations got a hold of them.

Has a day passed, since early August, that you haven't heard Def Leopard's *Four Some Super On Me*? How about these power mixes of George Michael, Guns-N-Roses, and Debbie Gibson?

93Q and Power 104 are, in their own right, good radio stations. Good, that is, as long as they play the music that built the stations, the pop, top 40 music. But every time a rock-overall group releases a pop-rock song, these stations are all over them. Every hour, on the hour, is the latest pop metal fair.

Although the FM stations may be gaining new listeners, they are also ruining the song, the music, and the group. Bon

Jovi is a prime example. Their *Slimmy When He's* album was a good album. Until, of course, we received hourly doses of their hit songs on the top 40 stations. As a result, Bon Jovi was branded a pop metal group, which isn't true. Bon Jovi produces good rock-overall music that isn't pop. It was made pop. The group made loads of money zooming up to the top 40's chart, but in the process, lost many fans.

Whitesnake's *WhiteSnake* was a hit album that rocketed to the top, after the pop stations



obtained *Here I Go Again*, their big hit song. Many of the pop listeners thought Whitesnake was a new group. They have over eight albums out though. Aerosmith's *Angel* was also a good song, but it was ruined with daily air-play on 93Q and Power 104.

I know the groups don't mind the exposure or extra money. The listeners, however, do mind, and before you know it, some good rock-overall bands will wear out their welcome because pop radio stations wore out their songs.

## Drama department's first play a successful mystery

by Kevin Dowling

The setting is the garden room of an elegant English country house. A large fireplace occupies one wall, while a sofa and two chairs take up the middle space. Near them is a small table with various bottles of liquor and empty glasses, inviting guests to take a drink. And, apart from all those, in another corner of the room is a dead body.

Such is the scene which sets things in motion in the Drama Department's first play, Agatha Christie's *The Hollow*, which got their year off to a great start.

Sir Henry Angkatell (Jeff Ulion), owner of the house, is holding a get-together of some of his relatives, most of whom do not get along. But a love triangle of sorts is brewing among three of them: Henrietta Angkatell (Susan Vinson), Sir Henry's cousin, Edward Angkatell (Shane Augga), and Dr. Jon Crow (Peter Hassinger). Crow is later shot, but not until he assigns several characters in the play, thus giving them believable motives.

The play, as a whole, was very good, and most of the faults with it were in the writing itself, and not with the performers. The on-stage chemistry was great; everyone up there projected the mood they were supposed to and, after a while, it was difficult to think of the actors as fellow students.

The more memorable characters were the eccentric Henry Angkatell himself, (Ulion).

Matt Bearden as Sergeant Penny, and Ashleigh Caldwell as the sly actress, Veronica Cray. As for the characters who fit more directly into the action, some of the better ones were Melia Hughes as Midge Harvey, Christine (Hassinger) and his wife, Gerda, played by Elizabeth Cobb, and Edward Angkatell (Augga).



Senior Jennifer Higgins prepares herself backstage for the premiere of *Drama in the Drama Department's Play 'The Hollow'*. Photo by Jason Francis.

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# ENTERTAINMENT

## Choir serves up dinner and entertainment

by Elaine Flint

Current popular hits, old favorites, and a lot of comedy will be part of the Choir Pop Show held on November 15 in the commons. All choir students will be participating in the event. Students will be selling 510 tickets which includes a drink dinner. Also, dessert and drink tickets will be sold for \$3.

"We have a lot of funny things planned for the show, and I think it will be very entertaining," choir director Ms. Margaret Mathis said.

Students voted recently to determine the officers for the 1988-89 school year. The Choral Choir officers are as follows: president, Carolyn Woolf; vice president, Julie Farrell; treasurer, Jeff Ulion; and secretary, Anne Elrod. The Concert Choir officers selected were: president, Song McCurdy; vice president, Charli Amos; and secretary/treasurer, Natasha Womack.

"Right now the officers' main duties are preparing for the

dinner theatre. Students have the main responsibility for work done for the show," Ms. Mathis said.

Another accomplishment of the choir was having 20 students selected for All-District Choir. The choir members competed on Saturday, October 1. The 20 students selected were Julie Bloom, Colette Carlson, Rosalind Condiff, Julie Farrell, Peter Hassinger, Julie Hemmelinc, Scott Krippel, Jeremy McCalland, Roger Nadinger, Rob Ramsey, Mark Soza, Mike Soza, Lisa Trammel, Jeff Ulion, Bridget Vinson, Tanya Walters, Mark Whittenberg, William Whittenberg, Natasha Womack and Carolyn Woolf.

"This is the best we've done here in seven years. I feel that many have the potential to go all the way to All-State Choir," Ms. Mathis said.

There are other events planned for this year's choir. Plans are already scheduled to end the year with a trip to compete in the Yellow Rose Festival in San Antonio.

## "Rattle and Hum" a big change for U2

by Kevin Dowling

One of the main problems facing musical artists today is that their music stays the same from album to album. U2, however, is an exception.

With each new album, U2 has changed just enough to avoid becoming passé. *Rattle and Hum*, their newest album, is by far the biggest change the group has made in their sound; they experiment with soul, country, and Irish music. A good deal of their songs are either done with another artist, or dedicated to one. Ironically, though, it is still the songs which they do by themselves that are the best.

There are four sides on the album, and it blends live songs with new studio-recorded material. Side one gets *Rattle and Hum* off to a great start, and is the best side of the album. Side two contains their tributes to soul and rhythm and blues songs, and is the worst on the album. Side three is their jazz



Photo by Jason Francis

side, and, while it is an improvement after side two, it still doesn't do much for the album. Side four, however, comes back with the familiar U2 sound, and is a substantial improvement over the previous two sides.

The best songs on *Rattle and Hum* are, understandably, located on sides one and four. *All I Want Is You*, the last song on the album, proves once again that U2 frequently saves their best songs for last.

Side one holds two of the other great songs, *Vari Damm's Land* and *Hank Moon 269*. Vari

*Damm's Land* is a tribute to U2's Irish background, and is the only real dedication on side one except *Hotel Skilober*, a remake of the Beatles' old song.

Only two songs from U2's previous *Joshua Tree* album are done live on this album. One of them, *I Still Haven't Found What I'm Looking For*, is almost ruined by the presence of a gospel choir singing in the background. The other song is *Bullet the Blue Sky*, which, luckily, is not changed as drastically as the latter song, except for Edge's version of Jim Hendrix's *The Star Spangled Banner*, done at the beginning.

As a whole, the album is worth buying, and it provides an interesting change for the group, though personally hope that they get back to their older sound with their next record. They have proven that they can change their music and still retain that sound which makes them stand apart from the other artists in today's musical field.

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# SPORTS

## Shankles puts Cy-Creek tennis team on Texas map

By Stefan Goulbald

Junior John Shankles has put Cy-Creek and himself on the map of high school tennis in the United States. He is ranked third by the United States Association in the 16-year-old bracket in Texas. Only Kari Luehring, from San Antonio, and Mike Flanagan, from the Dallas-Ft. Worth area, are positioned ahead of him. A confident Shankles believes he will have room for improvement.

"I feel I could be ranked higher within the next year," Shankles said.

At eight years old, he was introduced to tennis by his father. Shankles remembers

going along with his father to watch him play doubles, for the Norchester men's league.

"I thought it looked interesting and like lots of fun," Shankles said. "It was different from all the other sports."

"Back then, all of my friends and I were soccer crazy, but gradually, my love for soccer dwindled and I concentrated solely on tennis."

Being the only relative to play serious tennis, Shankles' father has been the biggest influence on his relatively short career. Shankles, not ever having a personal coach, relied on his father to take him out and practice his tennis skills. When his dad was busy he would

## Cyclists aiming for Olympic gold

By Fred Tramm

The time: 1992. The place: The Games of the 25th Olympiad in Barcelona, Spain. The event: Marathon cycling. The competitors: Kid Thompson, Robert Woodage, Carlos Elizondo, Roger Nafziger, and Blair Burton. The stakes: Olympic gold.

This is not just a pipe dream, it's a very real goal for Cy-Creek's five cyclists. This is the first year the Cy-Fair district has allowed cycling to be an official athletics class. The students have a period off-campus P.E.

"The class is geared to train us for the Olympics. We work on sprints, distance and speed," junior Roger Nafziger said.

They practice along with six other students from Jersey Village and Cy-Fair, under the coaching of Gary James, the head of the Northwest Cycling Club. Since the beginning of school, the athletes have been training two to three hours a day, six days a week, covering 250 to 400 miles.

"We ride about 50 miles a day. It gets tiring and sometimes I wonder why I do it at

all," sophomore Carlos Elizondo said.

"The athletes train for road racing as well as track racing. Cycling on the back roads near Cy-Fair and at the velodrome, a cycling stadium near Katy, twice a week becomes a grueling test to find out how much they can endure."

"I like to push myself as far as I can go. I race against others as well as myself," senior Blair Burton said.

Although cycling seems to be an individual sport, it is very much a group sport and a team effort.

"Each team has eight people and when you help someone on the team win, you win, too," Burton said.

Despite the long hours of grueling training and the times when cycling seems to much, the cyclists feel that the sport is worth their dedication.

"It's the speed and the thrill of competing. I enjoy finding out what my body can do and I like to pit myself against others," Nafziger said.

For first year cyclists sophomores Robert Woodage and Carlos Elizondo, all the hard work paid off when they won 5th and 4th place in the State-Go Sam Houston Toll Road Race.

Soon, Shankles began to beat the few players he had trouble with in the past.

"I think he has a great future ahead of him, definitely with a college somewhere," varsity tennis coach Susan Matthews said.

Shankles' personal goals include winning the doubles and hitting to myself for hours," Shankles said.

Like anyone, who has been involved in any type of athletics, he did go through periods of doubt, but with subtle encouragement from his father, he regained that competitive feeling. Although he was well above the average elementary and junior high tennis player, Shankles did find some competition.

"I was better than most Youth Tennis Association players, but there were certain players I couldn't beat," he said.

## Girls work hard staying number 1

By Renee Renfrow

According to a recent AP poll, the Cy-Creek girls tennis team is ranked number one in the state.

"It's a nice compliment but it doesn't mean a thing," Coach Debbie Jachere said. "When you start thinking you are number one, you start losing."

The team is now undefeated in district going into their last games. They are setting their sights on winning district matches and regionals. Their fight for state was cut off at regionals last year. This year they hope to charge right through regionals on to state.

Coach Jachere seems confident that they can make it.

"I think we have the talent to go to state but we can only look at it one game at a time," she said.

The players also seem confident about the prospect of state. "It keeps you going no matter what," senior Sheila Morgan said. "We love being number one, but we have to maintain a certain status. It's hard to get out there and practice when you're number one. I know we can do it, it's just a matter of getting there," she said.

"I think that we have the talent and capability to make it as long as we work as a team," junior Lisa Yensen said.

Cy-Creek won the Cy-Fair Varsity I.S.D. tournament which sets their tournament record to two wins out of three tournaments played. Sheila Morgan was named All-Tournament and Lisa Yensen was Most Valuable Player.

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# SPORTS

## Water Polo: Cy-Creek's unknown team

By Stefan Goulbald

Water polo is a game played in a swimming pool by two teams of seven swimmers who try to throw or push an inflated ball into the opponents goal.

As simple as it sounds, almost nobody in Cy-Creek could tell you a thing about water polo, except of course, the 40 water polo players themselves.

"The only water polo I've seen is from this year's Olympics," junior Jeff Whitney said.

The reason one has heard of water polo is simple. Nobody goes to the games. Co-captain of the only girls team, junior Amy Carlson, says that only 10 to 15 people show up to a game to cheer for Cy-Creek. The player's parents are there, it is the number of students that is sadly lacking.

"That's kind of annoying," co-captain of the girl team, junior Ann-Marie Nielsen said. "Most students are like, 'water polo, what's water polo?'"

The upperclassmen seem to be more concerned with the lack of support, than the under classmen.

"It bothers me," leading scorer for the boys varsity team, junior Jeff Kenc said. "But some of the younger players don't really care."

"We try to tell our friends and they bring their friends sometimes," Carlson said.

Since they do not receive much support, they rely on each other being hard.

"We try to support each other," Carlson said.

One could not imagine the football team having to resort to supporting themselves, but then again, football is an official U.I.L. sport. Water polo is not, because there is not enough schools who compete, according to the U.I.L. rules.

"We're lucky to get buses," Nielsen said. "Before, we had to drive in cars."

Only seven schools, Cypress Creek, North Shore, Sam Rayburn, Pasadena, Deer Park, La Marque Consolidated, and Baytown Lee have water polo teams in the Houston area. This group makes up district "B". There are three other districts in Texas.

Swimming and water polo coach, John Webb, brought water polo to Cy-Creek from Pasadena nine years ago. This year, Coach Webb has 40 players, 17 on the girls and 23 on the boys.

Since the opposing schools are located so far away, this could be an inconvenience to all the players. But the players find good out of what most would consider a burden.

"Even though it's a great inconvenience, it gives us a chance to get together as a team," junior Debbie Usimaki said.

Boys captain, senior John Hagb and Kenc are not bothered by the trips, either. But the hours are not good for studying.



Junior Amy Carlson (above) and Anna Marie Nielsen made the first all-region team in the girls water polo team reached the state championship and finished sixth. Photo by Kevin Newman.

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"Even though it's a great inconvenience, it gives us a chance to get together as a team," junior Debbie Usimaki said.

Boys captain, senior John Hagb and Kenc are not bothered by the trips, either. But the hours are not good for studying.

"We'll contribute the same and work as a team," junior Erin Kelly said.

"We'll depend on each other for pace and attitudes," sophomore Stacy Hazlip said. "One person will get everyone in a positive mood. I just help them and they help me."

Although the drive for the top is on everyone's mind, winning is not everything.

"Success does not only depend on winning, it depends on the friendship of teammates," senior Shelly Smalley said.

"Without each other's confidence, we wouldn't be as strong. I feel that everyone is a part of our success because without one, we would not be complete."

A team goal each year is to make it to the top, which means the state meet.

"As long as we keep working

"It gets pretty bad. We leave around 4:15 p.m. and don't get home until midnight," said Nielsen.

Along with the long drives, they must endure early morning practices at the Breyl pool, which begin around 6:15 for girls and 6:50 for boys.

"That gets to be a pain, but in order to accomplish certain goals, we have to," Usimaki said.

"It gives us a chance to work together, with everybody's hectic schedule after school," Carlson said.

"It gets me going in the morning," Nielsen said.

All members of the water polo team, must first be on the swim team. Playing water polo in the off-season provides an opportunity for the players to strengthen their bodies for swimming in an exciting way.

Even though we don't get supported like other Creek sports, we never lose the desire to win," Kenc said. "We have gone to regionals" with or without support. Hopefully, if we make it to the state championship, we will have the parents and the students cheering for us."

## Sangalang pacing cross country

By Renee Renfrow

Triplet's team up to make three times the success for girls' cross country. This triplet of freshman runners is April, Bell and Cecile Sangalang, who frequently finish in the top three positions.

"They have a winning attitude and are easy to coach," Coach Mary Beth Scott said. "They also have good talent and willingness to work. They challenge the others to work harder."

In cross country, each team must count the first five runners in team competition, so the top five are all very important. The fifth place finisher is as important as the fourth place finisher, because if she finishes in the last 10 or 20 she brings in the whole team down.

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A team goal each year is to make it to the top, which means the state meet.

"As long as we keep working

and improving and stay healthy, we will shoot for state," Coach Scott said.

"I feel that we have a chance to go to state. If we reach that goal, we have a lot to owe to the Sangalangs," Shelly said. "In accomplishing that goal, we must keep positive thoughts in our minds and believe in ourselves, what we are capable of doing," she said.

The Sangalangs are pivotal in the quest for state, especially in capturing the district title. Other factors in their quest for state would be weather, terrain they must run on, grades and injuries.

"I know each runner will do her part at regionals to the best of her ability and hopefully that will give us a shot at winning," Coach Scott said.

"As long as we keep working



Sophomores Robert Woodage and Carlos Elizondo were up before the State-Go Sam Houston Toll Road Race.

# FEATURES

Just for the  
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Sophomore Melissa Mercer competes for Best Halloween Costume at B-lunch. Photo by Brandy Amerman



Seniors Kristina Folger and Heather Henderson and government teacher Mrs. Judy Henderson show their Cougar spirit for Halloween. Photo by Kevin Niemann



Students entered the Halloween Costume Contest to win tickets to the Cy-Fair football game. Photo by Brandy Amerman