

Crisis in education:

Declining SATs spark education debate

By Todd Savage
Editor

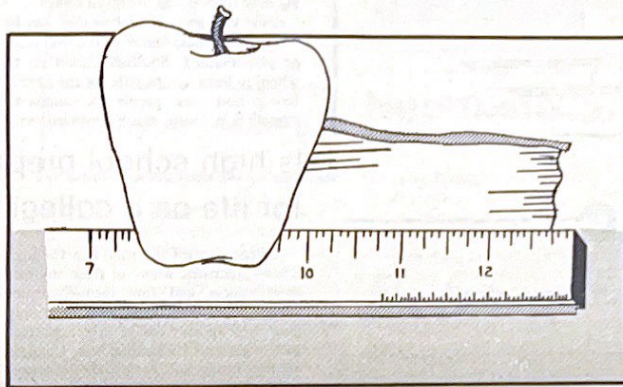
"The other system failed," said State Rep. Barry Connelly (R-District 126), addressing the need for upgrading the quality of education that American students received during the '60s and '70s. Efforts are now being made to correct the problems plaguing the nation's schools, which cannot come soon enough to prevent further damage.

First of two parts

Lower test scores and increased competition in the marketplace from Japan and West Germany have awakened the United States to a problem from the past that has urgent implications for the next generation. Today's high school students have a pivotal role to play in the future of America and must be well-educated in order to fulfill their responsibility successfully. As long as American high schools graduate functional illiterates, America will continue lagging behind the other technological nations of the world. It would then be unnecessary to hold concerns about nuclear war because American schools would destroy the heart of American system without 'help' from America's opponents. Education has become a sensitive issue in Texas in the past few months as legislators consider ways to improve the system across the state.

The push to upgrade education began to gather force as the average SAT scores dropped to the lowest level in almost two decades. In 1963 the average scores were 502 in math and 478 in verbal. It was at that point that scores began to spiral downward. Now they stand at 468 in math and 425 in verbal. Texas students do considerably poorer with an average of 412 in verbal and 415 in math. Rep. Connelly feels it is unfair to compare Texas to other states. He cited the fact that Texas covers a huge area and contains many different types of people who live in inner-city, suburban and rural settings. "Texas is very diverse," Connelly said.

Another indication that the quality of education is on the decline is a comparison of students from countries with which we compete for trade. Countries such as the Soviet Union, East Germany, France and Japan average 240 school days a year, 25 percent more time than is required for American students. Students in these countries spend six to eight hours in the classroom on the five-and-a-half or six days they attend school weekly. Academic instruction time in every subject exceeds that of the United States at all grade levels. Science is the area in which the U.S. needs improvement the most. Most experts agree that a national engineering shortage is developing and that we are currently short by ten percent. The Soviet Union is graduating 300,000 new engineers a year, most of whom work in defense-related



jobs. The United States graduated one-fifth that number last year. The Japanese produce two-and-a-half times more engineers than American schools produce on a per capita basis. This is evidenced by the invasion of Japanese electronic equipment and automobiles that has produced sharp declines in the profits of American companies. If this trend is to be stopped, improvements in math and science must be made.

The reaction to these statistics is similar to the emotion that swept the nation in 1958 when the Soviet Union surprised the United States by launching Sputnik, the first satellite to orbit the earth. At that time millions of dollars were poured into math

and science programs through the National Education Act. Curriculum schedules were revised and teachers received extra pay for their skills. This attitude wore off as America entered the 60s.

"That was an era of permissiveness," Connelly said. "It was an era of self." During this time, known as the 'Me Generation', people did not seem to care whether America was educating its youth on the same level as the rest of the world. Students also contributed to this attitude.

"Those (leaders) who students should have been looking up to were falling flat on their face," Connelly said. The assassinations of leaders and resignations of presidents and vice-presidents had a big impact on young people. He believes self-

image was very poor during this time, and that a 'laissez-faire' attitude created many discouraged and disillusioned people. In contrast, the '50s were the Eisenhower years when authority and the military were respected. It was a calm, steady time.

Connelly believes we have reached the same point again in the '80s. With recent uses of force in Lebanon and Grenada, the military is once again gaining admiration. Authority is also becoming respected again. "You like to be told," Connelly remarked. "You like authority and the military."

Another reason for the decline in education standards, according to Connelly, was a result of the draft in 1963. In order to avoid being drafted into the armed forces, a

person either had to be married and have a child, or be a teacher. Connelly believes this lowered the standards in the teaching field. He concedes that many qualified people entered the teaching field at that time, but others used teaching to escape the war and were not as concerned about educating the country's young people.

A major issue these days in Texas is over teachers' pay raises. Teachers in Texas are among the lowest paid in the country. Because of this, many are leaving for private industry where they will be more fairly rewarded for their knowledge. H. Ross Perot, the Dallas computer billionaire and chairman of Governor White's Select Committee on Public Education, believes teachers are professionals and should be paid as such. He also believes they are "not properly recognized by the parents and community."

"Teachers have got to get more money," Connelly said. He believes that more people must be encouraged to get into the system who are devoted to it and will make it a career. Connelly said teachers in his district "are paid well above what the other districts are paid." He thinks teachers in Texas need an increase in their base salary but teachers in this area "are fortunate to be in a more affluent district."

The previously mentioned businessman Ross Perot has much to do with the direction of education in Texas. He and the committee have traveled across Texas evaluating schools and are expected to make their recommendations in February before the political primaries. In the meantime, Perot has attracted much attention from the media and caused a furor with his proposals, which always seem to get exaggerated and misinterpreted.

"He is good at getting attention and is a master negotiator," Connelly said. He pointed out that Perot makes outrageous demands and instead receives smaller concessions. Issues of particular concern for Perot have been merit pay and performance testing for teachers and the time students spend in school. Perot has caused the most excitement with his criticism of extra-curricular activities. Many people are misinformed and believe he wants to do away with them, but this is not the case. Perot recommends "putting them back in perspective." Students are often so involved with afterschool activities that they do not have time to do their homework. These activities do provide an outlet for students to express themselves but should not overshadow the core subjects. Perot is concerned that students are missing school too often for sports and academic field trips.

"I would generally agree with most everything he says," Connelly said. "I don't think it is his intention to do away with athletics." Connelly believes the committee's recommendations will have a "tremendous impact" on Texas schools.

"As a father, as well as a state representative, my concern is of the quality of education that children are receiving that would make them qualified to compete in the market and lead us in the future," Connelly said.

It appears that Texas is moving in that direction. An error made 20 years ago must be corrected. And a carefully formulated solution has to be decided upon. It is of great importance because it will determine the quality of students that graduate in the next century. Although Cypress Creek and the CFISD are of a much higher caliber than the average American school, improvements can and will be made. Changes will be felt next year, but only the class of 1987 will be able to fully witness the new course that education will take in Texas.

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Perot evaluates importance of activities



firing line

Do you believe in the death penalty?

"I feel that we should not have a death penalty. Who are we to take someone's life? By killing somebody, you are making yourself equal to God. Let the person who did something wrong have life in prison and suffer through what he has done." **Dobbe Stefanakis, 11.**

"If they don't, the people who kill others go to jail and within 10 years they will probably be out." **Joseph Nematollah, 12.**

"No, because the Bible says thou shalt not kill." **Kathy Verbois, 10.**

"Yes, because we can't kill killers go without being heavily punished. Pretty soon everyone will be killing and they know they can get away with it." **Jeff Shinnick, 9.**

"Yes, even though it will deter other criminals, but because they are so degraded that they do not even consider getting caught. They have proved that they are not fit to be a part of our society and should be terminated." **Trey Turner, 9.**

"Yes, we have to pay taxes to keep them in jail." **Clara Guerra, 12.**

"Yes, I believe in an eye for an eye. They deserve it." **Becky David, 12.**

"Yes, we should kill somebody if they kill someone else, so they won't kill again." **John Turner, 10.**

staff box

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All material contained in the *Cougar Connection* is written entirely by high school students. Opinions expressed in columns and editorials are those of the student reporters and not the student body.

The *Cougar Connection* is a member of the Texas High School Association and the International League Press Conference. Photo credits and addresses are those of the Business Manager of the *Connection* at the number or address given below.

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"I know! Education isn't exactly what it's cracked up to be these days. Everyone's complaining that kids aren't learning in school. There's been a lot of controversy about the quality of education, and schools are getting a lot of pressure from the chairman of a special committee of education, H. Ross Perot. He wants to do away with pep rallies and extracurricular activities that take away from students learning. But if you think about it, will students start learning once these things are taken away? Some kids go to school so they can be with their friends, dance on the drill team or play football. Students should go to school to learn and prepare for the future. But at least these people are coming to school, kids who aren't involved with anything don't want to learn and have more reason to drop out. Activities like Student Council and football help students to work with their peers and communicate better with one another. Learning from books is not the only way someone can be successful in life. Clubs help foster the cooperation needed to help a person in their future career. Employers not only look at grades, but also how well a person works with other people. Getting rid of extracurricular activities is not going to make students learn. If anything, it will make school more monotonous for them. Instead of taking things away from the students, more thought should be given to work to make the time we have in class more valuable for everyone."

Is high school preparing its graduates for life on a college campus?

College is often the next step for high school graduates. Many of these students enter college and find themselves unprepared to meet the demands. It is only then that students realize how important their high school education was. Changes are now being made to upgrade the education high school students are receiving. "It depends on what you take in college in relation to what you take in high school," says Phil McDevitt, a 1983 graduate of Cypress Creek High School. For example, if you plan to be majoring in any type of engineering, seniors should plan to take courses in drafting, calculus, and physics. Business majors should have a solid math, English and science background. "Don't bother taking business courses in high school," says Mike Wagner, another '83 graduate. "Students can't expect teachers to prepare them. They have to prepare themselves. Start forming study habits now," says McDevitt. "Be prepared. College isn't all parading."

Student suggests change in dress code

Dear Editor,
The other day at lunch I was told by one of the assistant principals that my walking shorts were against the dress code. Now I must say that there was nothing obscene, revealing or rude about those shorts which completely covered my legs to the knees. I was sent to the office where I saw a girl wearing the shortest mini skirt I have seen. But the woman's sent to the office, she was an assistant working there. This is unfair! I suggest we change the dress code!
Dear Student (Name withheld by request)
According to the student handbook, shorts of any kind are a violation of the dress code. However, I spoke with Mr. Wells about your

problem, and he said that students may wear shorts if they are of an appropriate length, which is just above the knees. He said that the ruling regarding miniskirts and shorts is completely "subjective." Mrs. Wilson's rule of thumb is that your hand must not extend past the hem of your shorts or skirt when your hand is at your side. Many different styles exist, and each must be considered individually. Mr. Wells says that the problem with allowing students to wear shorts is that they essentially take advantage of the situation. If you want to wear shorts, I suggest you check with one of the principals first for approval. Thanks,
Todd Savage
Editor

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Education
In the next issue of the *Cougar Connection*, part 2 of the education series. What effects is the present education controversy having on CFSIS? The *Connection* talks to Mr. Shelton, Mrs. Kahak, Mr. Labay and Dr. Sarah Jerome to find out.

Cheating

post... Do you know the answer to, why students cheat? In the December issue the *Cougar Connection* attempts to find out.

Newsmakers

In the past two Forensic tournaments the Cypress Creek debaters have placed very high in overall competition. At the recent tournament the Cougars finished fifth overall with Steve Spiers named top speaker. In the San Antonio Churchill tournament the squad finished fourth overall.

What does a one at U.L.L. contest mean? "It means that you have done a superb job," said Mr. John Stabara, head band director of the Cypress Creek Marching Band. The band recently went to class 5-A band competition at the A&I stadium and received straight ones from three judges. "This band is the best band we have ever had. They performed very well under adverse conditions," said John Stabara. At A&I, November 5, the band was scheduled to play at 4:45 p.m., but was delayed until about 5:30, because of poor weather conditions. Then the directors decided to go on with the contest in the rain.

"The wind was so strong my hair nearly flew off," said senior Pat Bates. "It was also raining, but we still did it." At Blinn College the band placed third out of four in class 5A bands. The judges of Blinn cheer class 5A bands. The Cougars and U.L.L. were very complimentary of the band's performance and discipline.

Christmas carols and Christmas cheer come on strong this year with choir. They will be having two Christmas concerts, one here December 12, another the 15th at

Blinn. The groups will present concerts at hotels, company buildings, and clubs throughout the month of December.

Also coming up is a trip to Florida for a contest at Disney World. To raise money, the choir members are selling cups at the end of November, as well as pizzas.

"All the hard work is not over yet. The top four people in region will learn more music and try out for area. The Top six from area try out for All-State," explains Robert Tupper.

Policy explained

Did something that appeared in the *Cougar Connection* make you mad? Or did you have a question that you needed answered? Well, we want to help you. We encourage you to write us a letter and explain how you feel. We have limited space, but will try to print as many letters as possible. All letters must be accompanied by an identifiable name; however, names can be withheld upon request. Letters can be submitted to Miss Hoover in the journalism room (B214) or to any *Connection* staff member. We want to hear from you!



Although this is only Monica Neumann's first year to be drum major, she has led the Cypress Creek marching band in two contests. Photo by Gretchen Spitzer.

Neumann leads band with style

By Alice Wilbur Staff Writer
Junior Monica Neumann is lead drum major and senior Susan Simon is assistant drum major for the 1983-84 Cougar marching band. The drum majors lead the band during their performance on the field. "I think the (Neumanns) are very responsible and very mature," head band director John Stabara said. The drum majors stand out last spring in front of a panel of area band directors who acted as judges. Neumann related that the first turned to direct from 1st Hill. Last year's band drum major, after she was chosen, Neumann attended East Texas State University drum major camp in the summer to learn more.

Although it does not really show, Neumann does get nervous on the field. "Well, up until the start of the first song, but then it's okay," she said. Being in the spotlight all the time in both the band and more things about being a drum major, according to Neumann. "I enjoy being a leader, and that serves as a personal satisfaction. But you're under immense pressure being in front of an audience and in front of peers in the band, as well as the band directors." With all that directing, do her arms ever get tired? "Hell!" she replied. "Well, not so much anymore, but in fast songs like 'La Bamba' I feel like I'm gonna take off from the ladder." Since she's currently ranked extremely high in her class, how does Neumann find time to keep up her grades and still practice directing? "It's tough, but somebody's gotta do it," she replied with a shy grin. "They're two of my highest priorities, so I see that I do well on both and give it my all." For her short term goals, she would "like to remain in the top five of my class, keep my first chair seat in Symphonic Band, and get accepted to Rice."

Neumann is currently looking into both Rice and UT for her college education. "I want to major in music, but not major in it. If I go to a school with a band, I want to be in it," she said.

After college she wants to either be a "rich and worldly person" or go into some type of business administration to help the country. But for now, she is content directing the band on the field.

"Being head drum major is a great experience, especially with the band as good and as fun as the one we have this year."

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Jackson 'good sport' Counselor puckers up

By Tom Grisham Staff Writer

The Cypress Creek-Katy pep rally through the student body to their feet, watching as the animal was carried out. The crowd hushed waiting for the announcement: "Who would like the most-liked animal?" Would it be Mrs. Oona, director of the Silverdale Coach Practice, the varsity basketball coach? Or possibly another unsuspecting teacher?



The name was announced, the crowd cheered, and he slowly walked toward the pig, shaking his head. "He's a real good sport," said one student.

on level with him," senior Brad Abrams said. "Yes, what may seem hard to realize about Mr. Jackson and the rest of the school faculty, is that they all have private lives away from school. Jackson enjoys doing macramé and fishing (his foil art work) in his spare time. Some of his favorite sports are volleyball and bicycling. Jackson was born and raised in Roundbay, Texas, which is about 50 miles south of Waco. He was involved in literature and debate clubs when he was in high school. "I liked the fact that it was a small school and you were close to everyone," said Jackson. He lived in Roundbay until he was eighteen and went on to attend college at Prairie View A and M and received a Bachelor's degree of Science in biology and English. Soon after he went to Texas Southern and received a Masters in counseling and guidance.

Jackson has traveled all over the United States, but has never gone out of the continental U.S. He also has lived in Texas all of his life. Jackson has seen great changes in Texas school systems and crime. "School systems have grown and there has been an enormous growth of crime in Houston," he said. He also added, "We never thought of locking our doors in Roundbay." He has seen changes in the Cypress Creek student body, which has been growing larger. He has seen the changes made to accommodate this growth. Jackson loves shrimp and any other seafood, except oysters. Hey, Mr. Jackson, do you still like pork?



Lewis has great news in Sports

By Alice Walker Staff Writer

After a period of nearly a year since their last album, Henry Lewis and the News has finally released their new album, Sports in their third album, preceded by *Hay Lewis* and the *News and Peculiar This*. In their latest LP, this six-man band combines a few new twists with their traditional sound. This band has a certain distinguishable, easily recognizable sound. Through their use of harmonica, guitar, certain backup chords and saxophone, one can probably recognize a song by this band. On the newly released album, however, these traits are slightly changed.

The Sports album uses more horns, more backup vocals and slightly less harmonica. Also, it seems that the News is really getting into the "So doo-wop sound", such as those in "Bad is Bad" and "If This is It". These songs are well done, for they have a "So sound" with an "80's" twist. Popular songs from this album include "Heart and Soul" and "I Want a New Drug", both of which are very good. The last song on the second side is a well-done version of Hank Williams' "Honky Tonk Blues" with John McVie on the pedal steel guitar. In comparison to the other two albums, Henry Lewis and the News just seem to get better and better. This is due to subtle changes in their music style. This album is very good and well worth waiting for.

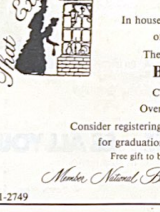
New Genesis okay

By Alice Walker Staff Writer

A new album has hit the stores from a band that has changed members frequently and recorded several albums over a period of years. Genesis, presently consisting of Tony Banks, Mike Rutherford and Phil Collins, has released a new album entitled *Squid*. Over the years, Genesis has retained a certain sound in spite of its members constantly switching. The main element of this sound is the moving keyboard lines in every album. The latest one is no exception; Tony Banks does a fantastic job during songs like "Just a Job to Do" and "Hilgal Alien", which is a great song featuring Phil Collins singing in a Mexican accent to a Jamaican-style rhythm. All three of the musicians exhibit their musical talents in "Home by the Sea", which extends into an instrumental called "Second Home by the Sea". Some other good songs from this album which are broadcast over the radio include "Mama", "Just a Job to Do", and "It's Gonna Get Better". Overall, the entire album is excellent, and definitely worth listening to.

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Teens face dating dilemma

By Angie Hostetter Staff Writer

Back in the 50's and 60's most dates consisted of parties, sporting events, hiking, and meeting everybody at the local "Hop." Today, we have fun going somewhere pleasant and fancy like Benetton's or B.J.'s or if the pocketbook is light, we try McDonald's or Burger King. Other leisure activities are going to the shopping mall or maybe a movie.

"I enjoy browsing around the mall, eating dinner, then seeing a good movie," says Nicole Hilde. There is also another aspect that has changed with the times. In the 50's and 60's

only the boys asked the girls for a date. Today, girls do quite a bit of the asking themselves. Sometimes the question arises who should pay if the girl asks for the date. "I think guys should pay. They have always paid for everything. They are gentlemen if they pay," said Cigi Doss. "If I asked a guy for a date, I would pay half. Maybe he could pay for the movie and I could pay for dinner," said Jennifer Smith.

Most of the girls felt they should pay half or not pay at all. They gave different replies. They thought the girl should pay. Even though it's hard for the girls to ask guys on dates, sometimes it becomes equal as hard for the guys. The fear of being re-

jected is hard to handle. "When I go about getting a date, I ask her jokingly. So if she says no, it can be left as a joke. Also I might ask her with plenty of excuses for not being able to go on a date. Ladies are known for their terrific excuses for not being able to go on a date. Some of the most famous ones are 'I have a headache,' 'I feel a cold coming on,' 'I can't move Dallas tonight. Sue Ellen is going to find out about J.R.'s new affair,' or maybe 'I have to do my nails and wash my hair.'"

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Capital punishment: Does it stop crime?

By Angie Hostetter Staff Writer

Some countries are also becoming more liberal in commencing death sentences to long prison terms. The argument against the death penalty is that if the criminal is killed, society is doing no better by killing them. Some common responses to the death penalty include sophomore Anne Maloney, who believes "the executioner or the person who issues the execution stops to the murderer's level."

Another sophomore, Laura Peck, has a response favoring the death penalty. "Yes, I favor it. To punish people. To kill others who kill others on purpose." "Yes, I favor it. Try to imagine what sort of justice you would desire for someone who raped, tortured and killed your 10-year-old daughter, as an example," says

Screaming seniors propose bills

Government classes hold in-class Congress

with the Democrats against the Republicans. Special rules were set aside that explained how to address the Speaker, how to ask questions, and the basics of how legislative sessions might be held. Bills written by these students, were submitted to small committees that passed them, changed them or threw them out. The rules Committee approved those bills that were ratified by smaller committees, then sent them to the Congress. Finally, Congress would debate and vote on those bills, deciding if they should be passed into law.

The bills proposed by the seniors involved school issues ranging from facilities to student appearance. Most of the bills considered death with open lunch for seniors. Andrea Kaskolop's bill stated, "The seniors are the oldest class in this school, and they should be treated that way." Some other bills changed the dress code, gave students dress-up days, proposed a senior

ship day, changed the prom grading and attendance policy, and proposed building an indoor swimming pool for the whole district.

"I liked standing up, going through the procedures, and acting out the parts as a Congressman in a real Congress," said senior Sue Jackson. "It gets people actively involved, who normally may not participate." The students appear to be getting things done and enjoy themselves. "The grades are pretty good," said Mr. Hermsdorf, "Most of the students do well on the participation grade."

This is not the government classes last project. They are planning to do a Presidential Press Conference with some of the class acting as reporters and others as the President's advisers. After that, the class will be having an economic fair, in which each student will devise their own product and an ad campaign.

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Basketball Preview

Lady Cougars bring experience to new season

By Jane Thatcher
Sports Editor

With six returning seniors the Cypress Creek girls basketball team, last year's district champions, are in good form to repeat as title holders this year.

The returning varsity members, Holly Evans, Louise Gilliam, Kathleen Harlow, Margarita Love, Terri Pouschak, and Debbie Zajac, help make up a very "balanced and talented" team, according to Coach Betty Maaskant.

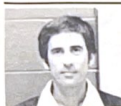
"We will be playing a much more sophisticated game this year, a running game," says Coach Maaskant about the varsity game plan.

Confidence is high among the players. "We should be district champions easily because we have a lot of experience and depth," says varsity player Terri Pouschak.

While the team is preparing for pre-season play, Coach Maaskant is looking ahead at Klein Oak and Cy-Fair as tough district competitors. "I am encouraged by the effort and hard work put out by all the girls' teams this year. There is a tradition starting at Cy-Creek for the girls basketball program," commented Coach Maaskant.



"There is a tradition starting at Cy-Creek for the girls basketball program." Coach Maaskant



Pasche's varsity seeks third title

By Brad Byrom
Staff Writer

"This season could be our toughest because we are playing the best teams and talent before district play begins," said Coach Norman Pasche on this varsity basketball season.

This year's basketball team will feature an all-senior squad that will use a tough non-district schedule to prepare for district play. Coach Pasche has led the varsity to the district title the last two years. "The biggest obstacle this team will have to overcome will be nervousness at the beginning of the season." Only one returning letterman, all-district selection Louis Garcia, will lead an inexperienced team.

"This should be one of the closest races ever in our district." Coach Pasche

The starters have not yet been named but they should be any five of those six: Chris Krueger 6'1 forward, Jan Courville 6' guard, Bobby Kloppe 6'7 post, Ray Kim 6' guard, Louis Garcia 6'3 forward or Jay Krupel 6'5 forward.

Creek, Klein, Klein Forest and Jersey Village should all be contenders, according to Pasche.

Katy and Cy-Fair should be improved from last year. Klein Oaks begins its varsity program this year with a team composed of all juniors.

Klein head coach Lloyd Long had this to say about being picked number one in district. "I feel flattered about it, but at this point, we really don't look like number one."

Klein's strongest point is its overall size with Troy Twidler at 6'5 and Neil Crabtree up front at the low post position. Klein will have Anthony Strother at 6'2 and Chris Aize at 6'4 playing the forward positions. 6' Dave Jones will play guard.

The number one state ranked team in the coaches preseason poll is Klein. Some may remember this team from last year when the Cougars took them on in the area playoffs and lost by only three points.

Preseason tournaments "are useful" as many as six of the top state-ranked teams in Texas, including a possible match against Klein.

The preseason coaches poll picked Klein as the favorite in district 155A. "This should be one of the closest races ever in our district," Coach Pasche said. Cy-

Boys Basketball 83-84 Schedule

Nov. 22	Edinbrow	H
Nov. 25	Aldine	H
Nov. 29	MacArthur	H
Dec. 6	Alief Elsik	H
Dec. 13	McCullough	A
Dec. 27	Smiley	A
Dec. 29	Humble	A
Jan. 3	Katy	A
*District Games		

Girls Basketball 83-84 Schedule

Nov. 22	Clear Creek	A
Nov. 26	Huntsville	A
Nov. 28	LaPorte	H
Dec. 5	Corcor	H
*Dec. 12	Katy	A
*Dec. 19	Klein Oak	H
*Dec. 20	Barbers Hill	A
*Jan. 3	Jersey Village	A
*Jan. 5	Klein	H
*District Games		

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UIL de-emphasizing extra activities

By Brad Byrom
Staff Writer

The University Interscholastic League's Legislative Council has taken action towards de-emphasizing extracurricular activities. The Select Committee headed by Chairman H. Ross Perez applied pressure towards upgrading academics and recommending the emphasis on all extracurricular activities. The end result is a list of recommendations that will be voted on by each of the 1157 UIL member schools.

Ken Prigdon, the Cypress Fairbanks district athletic director, believes the clause by Perez that academics are being neglected are misguided.

"Athletics in Texas are the best they could be, but he (Perez) feels that academics are not the best. I think academics are also the best," the athletic director said.

Prigdon also believes that the whole matter has been blown out of proportion. Many people feel that athletes in high school have grades given to them in order to stay in sports, but Prigdon thinks dif-

ferently. "I personally don't think any athlete is given grades in this way."

One rule that may change is that a student must maintain passing grades in at least three classes, excluding physical education, to stay in that extracurricular activity. However, in the Cy-Fair district only 2.5% are F students anyway, while nearly 30% are A students.

Rehabilitating holding a student back a year for athletic eligibility reasons is another issue under consideration. The new UIL ruling would penalize a student by holding a year of eligibility. "I have been athletic director for 17 years. In those 17 years only two athletes have been held back and those were not for athletic purposes."

Prigdon went on to say that those two students were held back because they were very young for their grade and would have earned college at 17.

Another of the recommendations stated is failing to participate in any extracurricular activity.

Another recommendation would allow summer camps in Texas for volleyball, football and basketball.

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V-ball girls finish season bi-district champs

By Jane Thatcher
Sports Editor

Through a tough pre-season, the Cy-Creek girls volleyball team handed their way to an impressive 9-1 district record and ended up in a play-off game full of rivalry and emotion. On November 1, it was another battle between the Cougars and the Cy-Fair Bobcats. Because the Cougars had faced the Bobcats during some very competitive district play on two previous occasions, their desire to win was obviously great. However, the girls were defeated that night by the Bobcats in two, heart-breaking games of 13-15, and, 9-15.



Cougars finish last the Cougars to an impressive district record her first year as varsity coach.

"We didn't play a good game, we were too cautious and too timid," said Coach Debbie Jasche about the Cougar loss.

Although the girls did not win the district championship, their record proves they deserved, they continued on as co-champions and played Westfield on November 3. The Cougars played well and won the first game, 15-7, but lost the second game, 13-15. In the third game the girls defeated the Mustangs, 15-13, for an overall win that made the Cougars Bi-District title holders.

On November 8, the Cougars faced Roundrock in the fight for area. Although the girls played well and won the first game, 15-15, they lost the second and third games, 8-15, and, 11-15.

"She did well, she's building a program," said Holly Evans about Debbie Jasche. During her first year as the varsity volleyball coach, she has brought the Cougars well into the playoffs. When asked about the Cougars performance this season, Coach Jasche remarked modestly, "I walked into a program that was already well-established by Coach Dawson."



Celebrating in the end zone, Jeff Kinzy scores another touchdown for the junior varsity foot-

J.V. ends season undefeated in district play

By Brad Byrom
Staff Writer

Overpowering is the only way to describe how coach Nick LaBarbera's junior varsity football team rolled to the district championship.

Led by quarterback Richard Goff, fullback Todd Baxter and running backs Tony Trent and Travis Kelly, the JV never lost a district game.

Kelly and Trent alternated warty-ching from varsity to junior varsity. Bobby

Horwell and Jeff Kinzy led the team in scoring.

The opposition averaged less than 10 points a game against the tough Cougar defense. The defense was led by end Scott Lambeth, nose guard Danny McCowan and linebacker Clay Backner. Cornerback Chip Evans led the team in interception.

The only loss suffered by the Cougars was at Comets, a team without a varsity. The main competition in the district came from Cy-Fair. The Bobcats fell to the Cougars in a closely fought 13-14 win for Cy-Creek.

Water polo wraps up most successful season yet

The girls and boys water polo teams completed their seasons earlier this month at their state tournaments with both teams enjoying their most successful year ever.

In only their second year of tournament play, the girls—led by all-region players Sue Staniko and Suzanne Taylor—completed a 6-1 regular season mark and ended up 11-3 after the state tournament in San Antonio.

They captured their first region title and placed fifth in state competition. Darcy Springer and Stacy James were named Second Team All-State. The leading scorers for the season were Sue Staniko, Suzanne Taylor and Stacy James.

The boys ended the season owners of a respectable 12-1 season record and a 13-4 mark after their fourth place finish at the state tournament in Baytown. This is an impressive accomplishment, considering the

fact that they did not even qualify for the state tourney last year. The boys also won the regional tournament with First Team All-Region Steve Taggart and David Sutton and Second Team goalie Adam Schmitt leading the team. Taggart was also recognized as the most valuable player at the tournament. In competition, Taggart was again named First Team All-State. Other players recognized were Sutton, Second Team All-State, and Brad Trotter, Honorable mention. The leading scorers this year were Taggart, Sutton and Jason Watt.

The first dual meet of the swimming season in December 15, and Coach John Webb is optimistic.

"We'll have a good year," he said. "We lost some excellent people, but we have more or less established a tradition in the last four years."

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Cougars in the play-offs

By Brad Byrom
Staff Writer

The regular season for the varsity Cougar football team ended in a dramatic 13-7 victory over arch-rival Cy-Fair. The win boosted the Cougars into a first-ever playoff game against Conroe.

The Cougars played an outstanding regular season, never losing by more than four points. This season produced a school high of eight wins against only two setbacks. One of those losses came at the hands of the Klein Bearkats, who finished the season as district champs and ranked number eight in Houston.

District play began with a win over Katy in which quarterback Todd Moore carried the ball over from four yards out with 37

seconds left to play. Trailing by four points and the clock running out, Moore led the team 50 yards on ten plays to the four-yard line where he ran it in from there.

The action then went from 1-5 Katy to 4-1 powerhouse Klein. A great defensive performance was not enough to defeat Klein. The offense could only produce two David Krenik field goals which was not enough to offset a 7-6 loss to the Bearkats.

Klein Forest was out to spoil Homecoming night, but it was not to be. The Cougars opened up a 17-7 halftime lead. The victory gave the Cougars a 3-1 district mark and an overall 7-2 record. It also increased their homecoming record to 4-1.

Jersey Village had not won a game and were 0-6 coming in against the Cougars. They left 0-7 in a 24-0 one-sided victory for the Coogs.

Baker: Running through Cougar country

"I don't know, running just gets me," said senior Beth Baker. But actually, she has it, talent, enthusiasm and determination, all of which have made her an outstanding track and cross country athlete.

Because of her father's military career Beth was born in Landstuhl, West Germany. She also lived in San Francisco, Boston, and Oklahoma City before coming to Houston.

Beth has always been involved in sports. As a child she was a member of the Cy-Fair Fleet swim team. When she "became tired of that" she began running and continued running since the seventh grade.

Through all the trophies, medals, and ribbons she has won for various sports activities during preceding years, Beth feels this year has been her best as far as cross-country is concerned. "I really wanted to do better this year than I did," said Beth overlooking her performances during the 83-84 cross country season.

In a cross country meet it is not unusual to have up to 80 participants.



Beth Baker

October 28, during the district meet at Cypresswood Park, she placed fifteenth with a time of 13:45, while the Cy-Creek cross-country team placed fifth in district overall.

Running is not all Beth Baker does well. She is also a member of the Honor Society and the Student Council. Although she plans to attend Texas A&M University after graduating, she is undecided about her major at this time. But she's certain about one thing. "I plan to keep running all my life to keep physically fit, if nothing else," said Beth.

Klope: A promising post

Anyone who watched basketball last year can remember this familiar scene: McGuire rebounds, passes the ball out to Britton, who moves down court, ball back to McGuire and in for two.



Bobby Klope

Gary McGuire is the all-district post from Cypress Creek who received a scholarship to Rice University for his outstanding basketball talent. For the Cougars to succeed this year it will take a good replacement for Gary McGuire.

The one player with the height and ability to become a replacement for him is senior Bobby Klope. Klope is 6'7 and feels that only a lot of hard work can replace a Gary

McGuire. "No one can fill the shoes of McGuire, but I'll try."

Klope has played basketball for about six years, through little leagues, junior high and high school. "I guess I started when one day I played a game and since then I haven't been able to put the ball down," he said.

The one man Klope holds most responsible for his success is coach Nate Gordon. Coach Gordon was the basketball coach at Bleyl Junior High during the time Klope went there. "Coach Gordon taught me how to shoot and taught us how to play basketball," the post said.

Coach Gordon is the junior varsity head coach and a varsity assistant coach. Now that Bobby is a varsity player his head coach will be Norman Pasche. "Coach Pasche points out things and gives a different view," he said.

For this year Bobby hopes that this team will win district and go a long way in the playoffs. His goals for the future include college. He hopes to attend Sam Houston or Stephen F. Austin State University.

However, his immediate future is here playing basketball for Cy-Creek in the 6'6 shadow of Gary McGuire.

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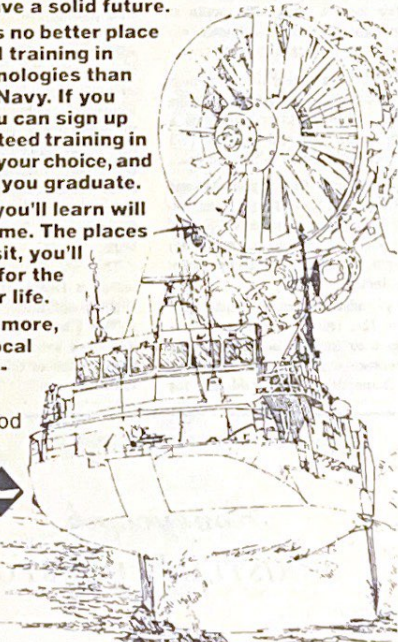
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