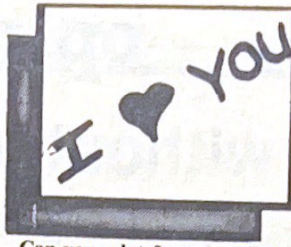
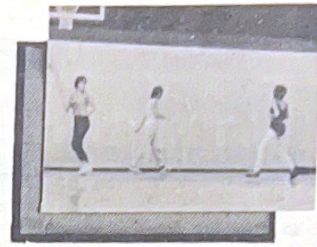




Rodeo days - see p. 9



Can you relate? - see p. 6-7



Get physical! - see p. 12

Cypress Creek High School
Houston, Texas

cougar Connection

Volume 7
Issue 5
March 1984

Computer hackers byte into crime

By Susan Mannina
Features Editor

Sitting at his Commodore 64, he anxiously types in message after message. "Ready", the computer reads. He nervously dials the number for the bulletin board and hooks up his computer to the terminal miles away. After reading the various codes, he chooses the one he has been looking for. He enters it. He has just gained access to all the grades in the CFISD administration building. He has also broken the law.

Theft of data is considered the fastest growing and least reported of all computer crimes. Many home computer owners engage in activities like this without realizing the consequences of their actions. It is possible for a person to unknowingly gain access to valuable files, grades or bank accounts merely by entering one simple code. Sound far-fetched? Maybe, but incidents like these happen all over the country. The increase and popularity of computers and telephone communications linking many of them together, make tampering with computers from miles away possible. The telephone connection needed is called a modem. This device turns electronic impulses into two frequencies that can be transmitted over a telephone line and

transfers those frequencies into impulses the computer can understand. The modem attaches to many home computers and can be used to communicate with computers in other cities and states. One such computer crime took place in Los Angeles, California. A computer consultant walked into the computer room of the Security Pacific National Bank, read a money transfer code, and proceeded to rip-off ten million dollars from this bank.

An IBM employee made several false entries into IBM computers and embezzled over \$200,000 from offices in New York and Maryland simply by using telephone connections.

A 17-year-old boy dialed into the Bell Telephone computer in Denver, Colorado and set off the alarms, as well as causing expensive equipment failures.

Another boy of the same age broke into a bulletin board (information service for computer users) in Florida from his home in Houston using a modem attached to his Apple II computer system. He gained access to numerous Sprint code numbers. If he would have used them, these codes would have enabled him to call anywhere in the United States and charge the call to so-

meone else. He did not, however, attempt this for his own personal use; he did it for the thrill and the challenge.

In fact, most of the young adults who have been caught committing these crimes seem to be breaking and entering for sport. Obviously, part of the thrill comes from making monkeys of the adults who build these systems.

A group of people in Milwaukee do exactly that: break in for sport. They call themselves "the 414s" after the city's area code. The members are between the ages of 15 and 21 years. They have broken into such places as a bank in Los Angeles, a ce-

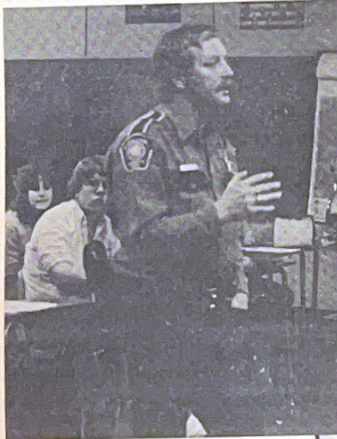
thet of government property.

A major problem with all of the computer knowledge is trespassers. Trespassers, physical or electronic, can damage other people's property accidentally. The American Banking System transfers over \$400 billion between computers each day. Should trespassers happen to break into these computers, the banking system would lose incredible amounts of money. A system has been created which prevents break-ins and thefts called Encryption. Encryption scrambles messages which prevents a person from understanding what they should not be looking at. The cost of such a

A 17-year-old boy used his Apple II computer and gained access to numerous Sprint code numbers.



Computer trespassers cause problems through both financial losses and equipment damages.



New DWI law in effect

As of January 1, 1984, a new Texas law was established in regard to DWI offenders. According to this law, first time offenders can receive 72 hours to 2 years in a county jail and be fined \$100-\$2000. Second time offenders can be kept in jail 15 days to two years and be fined \$300-\$2000. Third time offenders are charged with a felony. They can receive two years to five years in the state penitentiary and be fined \$500-\$2000. Is this new law helping to crack down on DWI offenders?

"Yes, more cases are being filed now," says Bob Stady of the felony prosecutors department of Harris County. "It's too early to tell if there's a higher conviction rate."

"Raising the drinking age to 21 would also help to cut down on DWI. A lot of people arrested are reasonably younger," Stady said.

ment company in Montreal, and have entered an unclassified computer at a nuclear weapons laboratory in Los Alamos, New Mexico. No major information was accessible to them, however. The FBI has considered bringing criminal charges against "the 414s" and other people who tamper with computers for wire fraud and

system is \$5000 per terminal. Encryption is only in the beginning stages and soon will be available to many computer users. Since computer crime is such a new occurrence, not much is known concerning the laws of such actions. With the FBI being educated in this area, maybe laws can be made and enforced to prevent future crimes.

Freedom: Living without a 'cage'

By Todd Savage
Editor

Life seems to move so fast. We never really have the chance to relax and think about what is really important to us. It is not that we are selfish, but that society as a whole dictates such a fast-paced lifestyle. I do not want to sound like a minimalist or a person espousing "shoulds" and "should not's" but to the contrary, I simply want you to think about your life.

Look how free you are! I am sure you have heard this many times at the patriotic assembly back in January, but it is true. We have so much that we do tend to overlook the many liberties we have been guaranteed by our constitution. It is hard to understand how free you really are unless you have had your freedom taken away. And one man at Cypress Creek knows the feeling. Coach Dimitri Oltas, who coaches soccer and track, lived in Communist Romania until he defected in 1979. He speaks to the government claims recently about his experience, and he expressed some ideas which I think everyone should hear.



Coach Dimitri Oltas

that before he only "heard about freedom."
"You start to have a desire to go," Oltas said.
However, in Romania, as in the case in most other Communist nations, the con-

ditions do give the people all of the same freedoms that we Americans enjoy. But this is primarily propaganda.
"Everything is good over there," he said, in reference to the fact that Communist governments do not allow any criticism of the government. In Romania a person can lose their job or be sent to prison for speaking against the government.
At of March 15, he will have lived in the United States for five years and may be eligible for American citizenship soon. Presently, Oltas feels that he "doesn't belong anywhere." He has does not have all American rights but feels secure as long as he is here.
It may be hard to comprehend the life without the freedoms we enjoy. We can say whatever we want. We can travel unhampered. We can live without the constant fear that someone who we think is our friend may betray us for our political beliefs. Living in a Communist country would seem to stifle a person's individuality.
"You feel like a bird in a cage," Oltas said. "Man is born to be free." And Dimitri Oltas is one man who really knows what it is like to be free.

have. He was in a high position in a university and coached the Romanian Olympic track and field team. He and his wife, who is a gymnastics coach, traveled extensively for various competitions and began to realize what it was like to be free. He said "I do not want to sound like a minimalist or a person espousing "shoulds" and "should not's" but to the contrary, I simply want you to think about your life."
"You grow in that atmosphere," Oltas said. "You think that is natural." After seeing what it was like on the outside, he decided that he and his family should have "so that for his daughters," he said. "It was very hard to decide." He knew there was freedom in America from stories he had heard but knew very little, when he came five years ago, he had no job and spoke no English.
Oltas believes people in America

firing line

What do you think of the new DWI laws?

"I think that if they can take the responsibility for drinking and driving, they can take the responsibility for being thrown in jail." **Amy Gibson—12**

"I think it's great. I just hope it will be enforced properly." **Marla Malague—12**

"I think it's good so that you don't have any more drunk drivers on the road." **Chris Ney—10**

"I think it's very good. The death rate definitely goes down because beer is harder to get when you're under age." **Bobby Kreschmer—11**

"If it keeps drinks off the roads it'll be good." **Heidi Hawk—11**

"I think it's good because people shouldn't drink and drive." **Karla Ah—12**

"I am afraid to go out with all those crates on the road. If they can enforce the rules than I think it can do some good." **Shauna Dodd, 10**

"I think they'll stop people from driving while intoxicated." **Kaysa Dorney, 10**

"I'll never get drunk and drive. I like them because they keep the drinks off the street." **Barbara Berryman—11**

"It's great. It's the only way to keep drunk drivers off the road." **Loren Kasel, 12.**



"If you do it again—no TV for a week!"

staff box

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All material contained in the Cypress Creek Cougar Connection is written entirely by high school students. Opinions expressed in columns and editorials are those of the student reporters and not necessarily those of the Cypress Creek faculty, administration, or the student body.

The Cougar Connection is a member of the Texas High School Association and the Intercollegiate League Press Conference. Proprietary advertisements should contact the Business Manager of the Connection at the number or address given below.

9611 Grant Road Houston, TX 77079 409-9900 Ext. 344

calendar

- 8-9 Choir pop show
- 8 Student council officer elections
- 16 Sadie Hawkins Dance
- 23 Cheerleader try-outs
- 23-24 Silverado Spring Show
- 28 Spring Sports Banquet
- 30-31 UIL

preview

Working students

With summer approaching, many students will be looking for the ideal job to fill their time and their wallets. Next month is a special in-depth feature, the Connection examines the importance of working, as well as its possible ill effects. Also look for important information on how you should go about getting the job you want.

Newsmakers

The choir department went to Sals and Ensemble centers on February 11. During March they will be working hard on their annual pop show, that will be presented on March 9 and 9. In April the choir will be getting ready for the UIL contest.

Art students recently participated in the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Art Contest. While ribbon winners were Kerri Berg, Adriana Fields, Todd Hoyt, Robert Price, Doreen Spritlager, and Chris Davis, 1st ribbon winners were: John Kutzmark, Shelly Rainier, Stephanie Seytgrave, Paul Larino, Patrick Planteaux, Stephen Duffin, and Kim Ferguson. Six pieces of artwork will be displayed downtown and those people received blue ribbons: Valerie Morton, Karen Foreman, Arissa Alami, Dalyn Nixon, and two from Kortney Capello. Jennine Marsh received the gold medal and his artwork will be displayed at the rodeo arena.

Recently the Company, the drama department, held auditions for the UIL one act play "Tom Jones". The cast will be as follows:
Jeff Danish-Partridge
Liz Hagaman-Deborah/Lady Bellamont
Marla Malague-Jenny Jones
Bill Lowry-Tom Jones
Mare A Wood-Highwayman/Constable
Bryan Black-Mr. Fitzpatrick/Servant
Chris Eilers-Capt. Bill/Jessie Dawling
James McGuire-Mr. Western
Susan Swagg-Honour
Dianne Black-Mrs. Whitefield/Nancy
Mark Anderson-Squire Alworthy
Calveta Colvard-Sophia Western
Kathleen Buchanan-Miss Western
Jennifer Cabe-Bridget/Mrs. Fitzpatrick
Greg Magaw-Billy.



Catching their fortunes in the winds, students in district elementary schools participate in the APV and balloon race.

The National Honor Society is preparing to announce new members soon. Induction ceremonies will be held Thursday, March 16.

Japanese exchange student Maniko Kawai participated in competition for the state orchestra February 14 in Ft. Worth and made third chair violin in the state philharmonic orchestra. Senior Vanessa Bickner made third chair trumpet in the symphonic orchestra.

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Pherie Cardin Bill Bliss

Library receives computer to assist student research

By Susan Manning
Features Editor

The library has obtained a new computer to assist in the research of the students. This new aid is called Dialog which is an on-line information retrieval system. The school's terminal connects with the main computer in California for a small fee. The library does receive an educational discount and the student pays nothing for the use of the machine. Dialog has access to about 100 different databases and indexes different information from over 335 various magazines.

Dialog is rather simple to use. The computer works in plain English. The user simply enters the desired topic and the computer reaches that topic and finally produces a printout of numerous bibliography. Practically all the student is required to do is

fill out a search strategy worksheet which is then used to begin a search. The system "does not take the place of manual search," explained Mrs. Bliss. It merely assists in speeding up the research process. The students need the Dialog recently for extra help on their research papers.

"I found Dialog extremely helpful in researching my subject," explained Michael Cox, senior. "It provided a lot of information I probably would not have found otherwise." The library trained several teachers to use Dialog in order to make it accessible for more people.

CFSD is one of the first districts to have Dialog. So far, one computer is installed in each CFSD high school for Dialog purposes. Next year, tentative plans anticipate broadening Dialog's use to the junior high schools and possibly other districts, as well.

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Kids with kids: teen pregnancy

By Alice Wauke
Staff Writer

In everyone's life, there are certain decisions a person must make. Before making a serious choice, the consequences must be seriously considered and the alternatives carefully weighed. As young adults, teenagers are constantly faced with growing challenges and increasing responsibilities. One of the most important choices a teen can make involves sexual relationships and the severe consequences of pregnancy.

In 1982, a total of 3752 children were born to mothers 18 years and younger in Houston. Over half of those children were illegitimate births. However, there are facilities in our city that aid teenage mothers and their children, regardless of their legitimacy. Homes such as the Dopkins Falls Home, Catholic Charities, Homes of St. Mark, and Covenant House (better known as Under 21) are specially equipped to help new mothers. However, if a girl suspects she is pregnant, there are many places she can turn.

Planned Parenthood and Women's Pavilion are organizations set up to counsel, advise and reassure people of all ages about the responsibilities of parenthood. If a girl thinks she's pregnant, she may feel that she needs outside help. Any medical clinic can test women for pregnancy. In 1982, 1948 people visited Planned Parenthood for contraceptive examinations and pregnancy tests. If the test results are positive, that is when a teen really begins to need help.

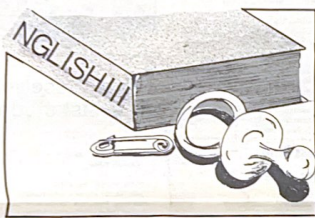
As soon as the pregnancy is confirmed, the teenage mother must make a choice that will affect the rest of her life. The alternatives to a problem pregnancy are marriage, single parenthood, adoption, or abortion. Any one of these choices is a difficult one.

A girl may want to continue her pregnancy and marry the father of the child.

However, both the mother and the father should determine if their relationship is suited for marriage. They must talk openly about their relationship and the consequences of marriage. A second alternative would be single parenthood. This is accepted more in society today than it was in the past. A teen may want to live at home with her parents and raise the child herself, with or without help from the father. If this decision is impossible because of lack of money or other reasons, a teen may opt up

first 24 weeks of the pregnancy. The earlier the abortion is done, the less risk is involved for the mother. Most importantly, a mother must do what she feels is right for herself and her unborn baby when considering these alternatives.

What can be done to prevent the trauma of teenage pregnancy? Plenty can be done right now. The best way to avoid pregnancy is restraint. Without restraint, decisions involving contraceptives are necessary.



Older but better?

By Tom Grishbach
Staff Writer

"Old age is where it's at!" wrote one student in a survey taken by the Cougar Connection on old age. The survey was given to 90 of Mrs. Hudspeth and Mrs. Hayward's sociology classes. The questioning was based on age and the feelings that these teenagers had about different age groups.

The first question dealt with how he or she felt about growing old. Although 41 percent of the students answered negatively, 49 percent felt that 40 years of age and up was the most intelligent age group.

"By the age of fifty," wrote one student, "I hope to have worldly intelligence." "The best education is gained from experience, that by 50, I hope to multitudes older than I am today," added another student.

Which is the most beautiful age group? According to these 90 students people from the age of 20 to 40 are the most beautiful. Only three said age 40 and up and 25 percent said age 20 and under.

Students have many goals they want to reach by 50. "By the age of 50, I hope to have accomplished my goals and dreams of life as well as have helped others accomplish their dreams," said one student.

Most students wrote that they want to be well-off by the age of 50. They also want to be married, have a family, maybe some grandchildren, and a good sense of self-worth.

"Not only is quantity of life important, but quality is just as important," said Mrs. Hudspeth. She says that when the sociology classes have discussed old age, most of the students attitudes are negative because the feel afraid of getting closer to death.

"Aging is a beautiful time of life," added Mrs. Hudspeth. "Keep healthy, exercise, and be active."

Planned Parenthood sends a representative to our school each year to educate Health, Sociology, and other students on teenage sex and the consequences. If a student has any questions or problems, he or she can always turn to the counselors, teachers or the nurse for help. Teenage pregnancy isn't going to go away by ignoring it; it's something with which we must learn to cope.

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features

When parents double as teachers

By Tom Grishbach
Staff Writer

"I get called Coach Labarbera's little daughter," Tina Labarbera said. She doesn't mind having her father working at Cypress Creek now, but when she was a freshman it bothered her. She feels that having her father teaching here has helped her to keep out of trouble.

"When I got into sixth grade, I hated it because it was the first year I was in high school and I could not go to parties," said Tina. She added, "I kept saying to myself, 'My dad will find out if I do something like that, and I didn't do some of the things my friends did.'"

"Favoritism by my mother? If anything it would work against me," senior Steven Spiva said. "She would make sure that the old one could make the complaint that the did nothing to favor me." Steven's mother teaches chemistry at Cypress Creek and he has been one of her students for two years.

"I don't really feel singled out or accept the fact that she is my mom," he said. He has no discipline problems at school, but said, "Sometimes Mrs. Pybble threatens to tell my mother on me."

Mrs. Edith Gibson, former secretary to the vice principal at Cypress Creek, and son Steve feel that their relationship at

school and at home are relatively the same. "He's never in the office, so I don't deal with him as a student," said Mrs. Gibson. Steven said he is not embarrassed that his mother worked at the Creek and added, "Most people I know, know my mother."

Counselor Donna Shreake and son Jimmy are also both at Cypress Creek. Mrs. Shreake allows her son to be independent as a student and said that he is quite self-sufficient.

"He has to meet the consequences of his own actions. It wouldn't be fair for him to receive special privileges and he doesn't expect to get special privileges," said Mrs. Shreake.

Jimmy doesn't talk to his mother at

school. "I don't pay much attention to her. I just ignore her when I see her in the halls," he said.

Mrs. Joan Kemmer, also a counselor, is here with son Steven. She has had two sons here almost the whole time she has worked here but does not feel that has affected her job.

"It's a bigger deal to her than it is to me," Steven said. He thinks his mother feels more pressured than he does.

Steven said the only thing he gets bothered with is when he gets his report card and his friends kid him about how he got his grades.

Start to prepare for college

By Angie Hoster
Staff Writer

Freshmen, sophomores, and juniors! It's time to start thinking about college. There are many requirements for acceptance. Counselors say it is not too early to start preparing.

Many universities don't just look at SAT, ACT, and grade average for entrance. Many are also interested in out-of-school activities and in-school activities. Such things as how you answer questions, where you live, religion, and activities can mean plenty to college acceptance.

There are several ways of knowing that the right college. First, look for the university that specializes in your important talent and offers a good curriculum in that area. Second, take a tour of different college cam-

pus and start looking at which one interests you the most. Also look into housing requirements. Many universities require early deposits for dormitories and require freshmen to live on campus. Other universities conduct a lottery system. A lottery system is a computer search where people are picked randomly for a room in the dormitories. Finally, get ready for college early. Start now by planning your high school schedule.

The library has several sources available to students for information concerning colleges. Topics such as admissions, college admissions, majors, and career choices can be researched through brochures. To help you decide on a college, the COGNITION Occupational Informational Network (COIN) in the library is a good source. COIN is a file containing microfilm on the topics mentioned earlier. Courses that Cypress Creek offers for certain careers is available through the file.

"To help you decide on your college, COIN is a good information bank. It tells you what colleges are best for the careers you have in mind. Then for each career choice it will have the courses that Cypress Creek has available. COIN also gives requirements for college application," said Freshman counselor, Mrs. Betty Wornack.

"The best time to take the SAT and ACT is during the sophomore year or the beginning of the Junior year. You can take the SAT and ACT as many times as you wish, but we recommend that the freshmen not take it. We also would like to encourage the students to come to the counselors for help on college preparation." Mrs. Betty Wornack concluded.

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Reading, Writing

By Kimberly Kahak
Staff Writer

The question of expectations, understanding what a loved one needs determines whether a relationship will be successful. A survey of 200 students uncovered what Creokers expect from friends.

The most common type of relationship preferred is one of friendship. The responses were varied. Freshmen preferred a loving relationship. Sophomores, junior girls and seniors would rather remain friends. Junior boys were flexible; either relationship was fine with them.

"I would hope my lover would be my friend, and I think students would agree," said Dr. Bob Schindler, Cypress-Fairbanks I.S.D. psychologist. All said: in agreed that friendship is a more lasting relationship.



MARTHA
+ ME

"I think everyone has a strong need to be accepted, to lose themselves into someone."

Dr. Bob Schindler

"There are less expectations in a friendship and consequently less strain on the relationship. Most friendships last for years, whereas love flares up and dies out," explains Dr. Schindler.

Dating ages prompted a variety of replies; fifteen was the most common. Freshmen usually considered fourteen the best age. Sophomore girls answered fifteen, sophomore boys fourteen. Junior and senior girls said fifteen and boys said sixteen. There seemed to be a correlation between the ages of the students and the age they felt one should begin dating. One male student wrote that he believed girls were not old enough to date until the age sixteen, but boys should begin at fourteen.



"I expect a commitment; one where we respect each other and aren't pressured by our friends to do things we don't want to do."

"I think dating should begin at sixteen, but the students will say fifteen," says senior counselor Mr. Jackson. "It depends on your maturity, experience, level of responsibility and how well the situation can be monitored," advises Dr. Schindler.

Friendships with members of the opposite sex may seem difficult to maintain, but students say they don't have trouble. Freshman girls and senior boys had the highest level of difficulty. Ironically, freshman boys find it easiest to be friends with girls. All other students have closer relationships with the same sex.

Choosing the right person to date can also be quite difficult. Sophomore males were the only students who said they were influenced by their friends.

MISS
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What's the
message?
H/L?

and Relationships

"I don't know how much teenagers are willing to admit, but everyone is influenced. When I was a teenager I was definitely. My parents' opinion was important. As I got older, people had less impact on my choices," recalls Dr. Schindler. Students surveyed replied that their friends had more impact on their choices than their parents.

Commitments were usually expected by freshmen, sophomores, juniors and senior girls. Only senior males would rather not make a commitment.

"Some people want a firm commitment in high school. I think everyone has a strong need to be accepted, to lose themselves into

someone," Dr. Schindler said. All students surveyed, except freshmen and sophomore boys, would choose freedom above a relationship if forced.

"It depends on the relationship. Teenagers will choose freedom," said Dr. Schindler.

How do students feel about entering into an involved relationship with their close friends of the opposite sex?

"I wouldn't want to because it might jeopardize the friendship we have," said one sophomore girl.

"It's o.k. as long as we realize our limitations," said a junior male.

"It can be very rewarding because if he or she is already a close friend, chances are you know enough about them to tell if it might be worthwhile," replied a junior girl.

What type of commitment do students want? Do students want a commitment?

"Yes, I expect a commitment: one where we respect each other and aren't pressured by our friends to do things we don't want to," says a sophomore girl.

"I want someone to feel secure with, otherwise the 'trust' aspect is difficult," one male junior said.

"If he wants to go out with other girls that's fine. It's his choice. I don't expect any guy that I date to commit himself to only me, that's sort of unfair and selfish," said one sophomore girl.

"Yes, I expect a commitment. One where we don't see other people because, if they were dating others at the same time they were seeing me how do you know that they wouldn't start liking someone else more than you?" said a sophomore girl.

"I expect a commitment, because if you have no commitment, then you really have no relationship," a sophomore girl said.

"We don't need to make a verbal commitment, because we feel an emotional commitment. I expect the commitment I arouse in his heart," expresses a senior girl.

"No, I don't want a commitment. At my age I think we should date a variety of people. I am too young at the moment to commit myself to someone," says a junior girl.

What is most important to the student was their friends. This is what was expected of them.

"I expect them to be my friend always, not just when they feel like it. I expect them to answer my call when I need them." — sophomore boy.

"Not much, friends do not mean that much anymore. It's hard to find someone you can expect things from. Everyone is out for themselves now days," a senior girl says.

"Time shared and close thoughts to make you get to know them, just being truthful, to help everything last, that's what friendship is—something that lasts," a junior girl says.

"I expect my friend to be loyal, kind, considerate and trustworthy. I'll be there when my friends need me, but I can't and don't expect them to be there for me. That's just the way life works," mourns a senior girl.

"I don't want a commitment at my age. I think we should date a variety of students. I am too young...to commit myself to someone."

Tolerance and 'brotherly love' needed in sibling rivalry

An Observation
By Debbie Stefanidakis

Could you honestly call your brother or sister one of your good friends? Teenagers attitudes toward sibling relationships is one of tolerance. They have finally realized that their childish arguments don't do any good and only waste their breath. Most fighting is caused because of petty things: wearing the other's clothes and working around the house. No one wants to do more than their share.

Remember the old saying: "You always hurt the ones you love." Sisters and brothers often take out their problems on each other. They yell at each other because there is no one else to yell at. A school friend or even your best friend would have a problem with you yelling at them for no reason. Your brothers and sisters forgive and forget because you do the same for them.

Another problem that occurs within a relationship is opposite personalities. "It's hard trying to build a friendship with a sibling you don't have anything in

common with," said a Cy Creek junior. This problem also takes place when there's a big age difference involved. Older brothers and sisters often have a hard time watching siblings grow up. Many people surveyed definitely felt a parental responsibility. The younger don't understand why they don't have the same privilege. Older brothers and sisters frequently disagree with this. They feel that their younger siblings are allowed to do things earlier in life.

Senior Lori Kissel said "My sister went to concerts along at 14 when I had to wait until 16." The younger do experience things earlier. They are actually trying to mimic their older brothers and sisters. Setting an example for the younger siblings also cause complaints. Parents sometimes forget that their children are two different people with different limits. They might expect the same success from the younger as they received from the older. The parents are sometimes disappointed if equal or better success cannot be achieved. This may cause a resentment toward the older brother or sister. According to the people surveyed competition between siblings arises in order to establish an individual identity.

Vanessa Wallace devotes her time to roller skating

By Angie Huester
Staff Writer

While most Cypress Creek students are out with friends Friday nights, freshman Vanessa Wallace is working to become a professional roller skater. Walla devotes three hours a day, which makes skating a very important part of her life.

"Skating is very important to me. I want to skate for the fun it brings and the competition," Wallace explains.

Wallace began her commitment to skating in the fifth grade, when she took lessons at Champion Roller Rink. With her coach Carrie Hubner, Wallace has practiced skating for three-and-a-half years. She has won a gold medal for dance at regional and has also won various trophies at many Texas meets. Attempting to keep up with school and skating lessons becomes a problem for Wallace.

"I practice three hours a day. I hardly have time for homework," Wallace says. Homework and school is not the only

sacrifice Wallace makes. She rarely finds time for a social life.

"There are times when I want to go out on a Friday night, but I'll have to practice. I hardly spend time at home watching TV or spending time with my parents. Even at school I don't have as many friends because I don't have time after school to spend talking to them," Wallace explains.

Even with the sacrifices Wallace makes, she still is very devoted to her work.

"I'm working for Nationals right now and it requires extensive work," she says. This year the nationals are being held in Ft. Worth, Texas, around late July and early August. Wallace expects to make finals in four style (dance) and make third place in pairs. Wallace's advice for young skaters is to try your best and be very devoted.

"Skating is a lot of work and practice. If you are not ready to devote all your time to it, don't get involved in it," Wallace concludes.



While most Cypress Creek students are out with friends, freshman Vanessa Wallace is devoting her spare time to roller skating.

Star sophomore shines in stage spotlights

By Kimberly Kahlak
Staff Writer

"She gives new meaning to the word 'perky,'" say Colleen Collard's close friends. Although an active member in drama and Student Council, Collard's enthusiasm is directed towards acting. Only a sophomore, Collard has accomplished a great deal.

She performed in "M*A*S*H," "L'il Abner," had the leading parts in "The Diviners" (Jennie Mac), and has recently been cast as the lead in the upcoming UIL one-act play "Tom Jones". Collard is one of only four underclassmen in Theopians, an honorary drama club. Not only is she a member, but she is, as a secretary, the youngest Theopian officer ever at Cy Creek. Collard has earned numerous awards over the past few years, including a second place in mime, first place in improvisation, a gold medal in dance and best newcomer at Cy Creek.

Best newcomer is probably the most important to Collard. "It made me feel accepted. The older people in drama were the ones to vote for best newcomer, and I felt that because they elected me, I wasn't inferior," she explains.

Collard is not only active in drama at Cy Creek. She has also performed with Playhouse 1960 and was chosen to work with the Veracite Theatre of Texas. In order to participate in the latter group Collard and almost all other drama students at Cypress Creek auditioned. Only four students in Houston were chosen, and two of them were from Cy Creek. "It (The Veracite Theatre) makes you more aware of details. We studied many aspects of drama you don't learn about in school, for instance, we learned how simply crinkling our

eyes can change your expression. This has made me more aware of the small details in my life," Collard said.

Since before she began school Collard has been interested in acting. "Carol Burnett was a great influence on me. As I grew I enjoyed her comedy more, then in preschool I got a part in a play," she remembered.

Drama has also influenced her personality and goals. "When I was younger I wanted a family and a small dog, like everyone else, but now I want to go out on the town. I've become more self-oriented. Like college — everyone seems sure of it, but I'm not sure it's what I want. I'd rather be a famous actress than a doctor or nurse. I still want to go ahead and get my M.D. though, in case I don't become famous," she says.

"Acting has made me self-indulgent. I feel more relaxed around people, strangers, but I'm still shy around other guys. I don't really care what other people think of me."

So, Collard has plans to be famous and even has begun planning how to attain her goal. "I'll have a cousin in Los Angeles whose father-in-law is the president of MGM's television division who I hope can help me. I plan to just try, try again."

It may not seem realistic, but that is no way affects Collard's confidence. "In another six weeks I may want to be a star-actress. Really frightens me. I would rather have someone let me and make me feel good than face reality," she admits.

Collard has accomplished a great deal in the past year and a half, and will go on to prove herself not only to have a "sparkling personality" as James McGuire said, but also what an invaluable asset to Cypress Creek she is.



Collard Collard shines in the stage spotlight. Collard was the first sophomore to receive a lead when she was awarded the role of Jennie Mac in the full production of "The Diviners."

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By Tom Grimbach
Staff Writer

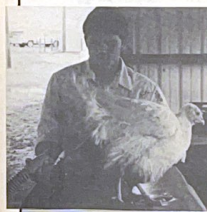
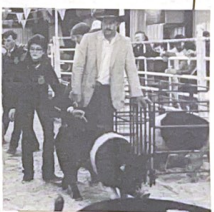
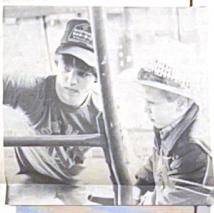
Cypress Creek is back on the road to the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. This is the time of year that all of the hard work and time spent by agriculture students pays off. In the past years, students from Cypress Creek have had success at the livestock show in everything from hollers to steers. This year the FFA students are going back looking for greater success.

"The kids try to sell their projects to at least break even," Doug Hirsch, one of the ag teachers, said. They spend their time and money on keeping their animals clean, feeding them, and keeping them in a well-kept area.

"The exhibition of livestock projects is the highlight of the year for the students," he added. This year's chapter President is Danny Leibman, who entered a weaver into the show, received Grand Champion award and sold the animal for \$4,900.00. The Vice-President, Paul Shollar raised chickens; Tammy Kosow, Treasurer, raised a lamb and some chickens; Brenda Lankovsk, Historian, raised chickens; and the Secretary, Donna Demmy, raised a hog.

Raising a Grand Champion is no easy task. The animal must be nearly perfect and the handler must take pride and poise in his presentation. The animals are categorized by weights. Then three animals are selected to be judged for either Grand or Reserve Champion.

Grand Champion winners were: Mike Conner, who sold his lamb for \$2,500; Chris Rhea, who sold his hog for \$2,300; Bryan Felchak's broiler went for \$1,000; Mike A. Smith's fryer went for \$950; and Derek Spitzer sold his turkey for \$950. Those with Reserve Champion were: Joel Delane's steer, which sold for \$2,600; Karen Wolski's hog had a Reserve Champion lamb sold for \$1,000; Steve Hughes got \$1,000 for his hog; Lance Mack's fryer went for \$525; and Guy Caskey sold his turkey for \$400.



Photographs by Mike Henderson

Swimmers uphold tradition, win district

In district competition, the swimming team once again upheld the swimming tradition that they have established at Cypress Creek. The girls captured their third district title in a row while the boys brought back the trophy for the third year. The district meet, held at Katy Taylor on February 17 and 18, was a good meet for the Cougars, who broke new records, were now held on out of a possible 20 district records. Three of Creek's four relay teams were victorious, but all four swam to record times. The top six swimmers in each event advanced to regional competition, and Creek swimmers placed in large numbers. In most events two to three Creek swimmers made it to regionals.

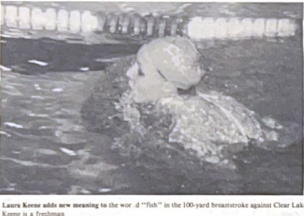
Outstanding swimmers for the boys included Jason West, who won the 200 yard individual medley and broke David Hayes' franchise in record-setting times. David Mast, placing second in the 100 butterfly and 200 free, Steve Taggart won the 500 free, and Mike Henderson was third in a good time in the 100 back. For the girls, David Springer was the 50 free, with freshman Jennifer Clark coming in third. Mary Taylor came in second in a excellent 100 by time, freshman Susanne Taylor was second place in the 100 breast, while freshman Angie Edmondson came in fourth.

The final meet of the season against Klein Oak and Katy Taylor, two upcoming teams in the 15-A, saw Cypress Creek succeeding easily. Oak and Taylor fell to the Cougar swimmers thanks to five swimmers from Suzy James in the 100 back and Mary Taylor in the 200 individual medley. Anderson and Schmitt highlighted the meet with excellent

swims in the 500 free. Tammie Thomas won the diving with a fine score. Brad Russell has also done consistently well in recent meets, winning the last two competitions. The boys and girls finish the year with identical 10-1 season marks and head into the regional meet in early March with good chances to repeat past successes.

The final meets of the season also brought success to the Cougars. On February 3 against Klein, both the boys and girls each won by 40-point margins. Last year, the Klein girls were the only team between the Creek girls and the regional championship. Excellent times were posted by the girls' 200-yard medley relay, composed of junior Suzy James, Mary Taylor, David Springer and freshman Pam Terhune and the 400-yard free relay, made up of Ann Ryan, Jackie Dodge, Terhune, and Springer. Individual swimmers of merit include Springer and Mary Taylor in the 100 butterfly and Susanne Taylor in the 100 breaststroke. For the boys, Adam Schmitt, David Sutton, and David Mast all had outstanding swims in the 200 free, 100 free and 50 free, respectively.

In a tri-meet on February 7 against both Kingwood and Cy-Fair, Creek again came out about 12:49:46 (9:09) and 12:47:45 (9:10). The Cougars were led by good performances from Mary Taylor in the 200 and 100 free and Terhune in the 500 free for the girls, and Jason West and David Mast in the 500 free and Mike Henderson in the 100 backstroke for the boys. The boys' medley relay, composed of Sutton, Schmitt, West and Steve Taggart, recorded a very respectable time.



Laura Renee adds swim meeting to the list. "I did" in the 100-yard breaststroke against Clear Lake. Lane is a freshman.

Lady Cougars finish season as champions

By Jane Thatcher
Sports Editor

Expectations were high during the 83-84 season for the Cy Creek girls basketball team. With an returning seniors the Cougars had more than enough talent and experience to become district title holders again this year. Head coach Betty Maankant knew it, the girls knew it, and that is exactly what they were: district 15-A champions once again. After a very successful season, the Cougars played the Westfield Mustangs in one of the toughest games of the year.

"It was well played by both teams; the outcome was decided by a rail of the ball," said Coach Maankant. Even though the Cougars came within two points of winning the "bedrock" title, Coach Maankant was not disappointed with her team's performance.

"We outscored the other team by ten points from the field," she explained. "Now that the season has ended, an immense question remains. What is the outlook for next year's team?"

"Very positive," said Coach Maankant.

"I have a lot of confidence in the talent and the competitiveness of the players coming. Varsity member Nancy Tobogg, who will

Little Lenior Gilliam: tall talent

By Jane Thatcher
Sports Editor

While walking through the halls at Cypress Creek, Cougar fans may not notice senior Lenior Gilliam. However, on the court she is a main attraction when in action, running the offense as a variety point guard.

"I was just interested in sports," says Gilliam who began playing basketball at Brey Junior high school. Throughout her seven-year basketball career, she felt her biggest thrill as a player was "the feeling of accomplishment" she had after starting at the variety point guard position her sophomore year. "Pressure does not bother me," says a confident Gilliam about her demanding position. On the other hand, at 5 foot 3 inches she does view her height as a disadvantage.

"I could stand being a couple of inches taller," laughed Gilliam. Teammate Marquena Love believes Gilliam's strengths are "her ball handling and her quick thinking," both of which she displays in her court performance.

"Right now I'm thinking more about the playoffs than my college career," says Gilliam about her future concerning basketball. She does plan to attend Texas A&M University and major in business.

Cougar fans can feel confident as the Lady Cougar basketball team heads into the C-FAI playoffs on February 9. Senior Holly Evans was named to the first team. Honorable mention awards went to senior Lenior Gilliam and Terri Potovich.

Gilliam's tip to hopeful players is, "Even when things seem really bad they will work themselves out and get better."

be returning next year, said with ambition in her eyes. "We are a stronger team but we'll work twice as hard."



Senior Marquena Love, most valuable player in the 15-A district, jumps for the Cougars against the C-FAI Bulldogs on February 9. Senior Holly Evans was named to the first team. Honorable mention awards went to senior Lenior Gilliam and Terri Potovich.

Athletes on sidelines

By Brad Bryson
Staff Writer

One thing all high school cheerleaders have in common is they are not taken seriously as athletes.

The truth is that cheerleaders are as dedicated as any high school athlete. During football games they practice after school until 1:30 every day. Many of them were athletes in high school sports before cheerleading.

Junior varsity basketball was senior Mindi Jeter's sport. Senior Ben Corvillie played junior varsity baseball and senior Karen Alz, junior Heidi Hook and senior Susan Hix just all played volleyball. The rest of the varsity cheerleaders include seniors Jim Lane and Libby Layton, juniors Lynn Wallingford and Tina Labarbers and sophomore Kathy Scott.

Why do people get involved in cheerleading? "It's a good way to get into school and it shows you care," Jim Lane said.

The cheerleaders are very serious about cheerleading and feel this is the closest group ever. "It is obvious they are dedicated by the amount of time they put into it. Here are a few qualifications to be a cheerleader. A good memory, know the cheers, extreme dedication, be outgoing, make good grades and have excellent conduct. Physically, a cheerleader has to have a great amount of endurance. While at summer camp the cheerleaders woke up at 6:00 AM and went to bed at midnight."

"You get very little sleep, you skip meals and you have to learn to smile under pressure," is how Libby Layton described summer camp.

Obviously they spend a considerable amount of time with each other, but they remain good friends.

"We never fight, we have constructive arguments, but when everyone shares it makes us try harder," Kathy Scott said. While at camp, the group finished as first runner-up, for the award of excellence, and were voted the most spirited by all the other squads. They were also invited to the grand national finals, but could not go because of football playoffs. There are others who also make a big contribution to the building of spirit in our school. One of these is mascot, senior Marla Malagan.

"The mascot is not as much work as cheerleading, but it's a lot better," said Malagan. There are also our junior varsity cheerleaders who work just as hard as varsity, but get even less attention than varsity. "We wish we got more recognition but we have no room to complain because that's our job and that's not what we're there for," said sophomore junior varsity cheerleader Tracy Hammond.



Cheerleaders on the sideline: Libby Layton, Mindi Jeter, Karen Alz, Ben Corvillie, Jim Lane, Kathy Scott, Lynn Wallingford, Heidi Hook, mascot Marla Malagan, Susan Hix and Tina Labarbers.

Krippner and Dunbar: A tale of two pitchers

By Brad Bryson
Staff Writer

"The best offense is a good defense."

In no sport is this statement more true than in baseball, and in a baseball team formation could be considered as important as the pitcher on defense.

When Cypress Creek begins its baseball season this year, they will look to their only senior pitchers Jeff Dunbar and Curt Krippner to provide some defense. It is very likely that they will handle most of the pitching chores for the Cougars this season.

For Dunbar the future is college, probably the University of Texas, although he would rather attend North Carolina. Krippner also expects to attend UT, and he has a very realistic chance at a scholarship from UT. Dunbar, more than likely, will get scholarship offers if he plays up to his potential. To get a scholarship to UT, the defending NCAA champion, would take a little more speed than Dunbar has.

Speed, however is one of Krippner's big assets. His 85-mph fastball and his slider are his best pitches. While Krippner is a power pitcher, Dunbar relies more on the control and accuracy of his fastball and curveball.

Krippner has already interested some professional teams with his velocity. "I filled out questionnaires and forms from the Cubs, Expos, and Phillies," explains Krippner. "He was also invited to a camp for the Phillies, that was held for 20 Texas prospects."

Krippner has come from a baseball playing family. "Both of my brothers played baseball," said Krippner. "Paul played for Cy-Creek and Eric played for Cy-Fair."

Dunbar, who comes from a family with three sisters, has looked to the pros for inspiration. "I've always liked Tom Seaver because I grew up watching him." Dunbar went on to say that he also likes Dave Stieb of the Toronto Blue Jays because of the hard work he puts into baseball.

In the immediate future, Krippner just wants to play his best and earn a scholarship. Dunbar hopes to improve his record from last year's (7-4, 1.54 ERA) and keep the team in all the games.

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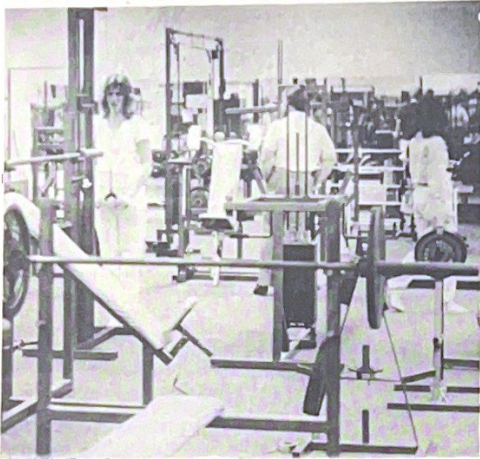
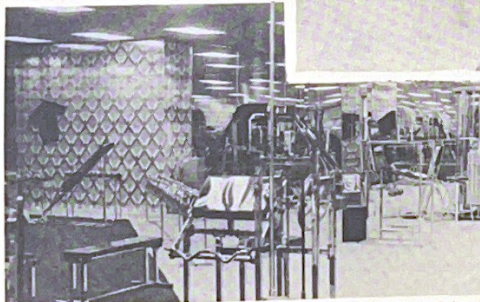


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