

A survey

In this election year, prayer in public schools has become a much discussed controversy. To determine Creekers' opinions, the following poll was taken:

Do you attend church regularly?

Yes — 45% No — 55%

What religion are you?

Protestant 57% Catholic 30% Agnostic 12% Jewish 1%

Do you believe students should have a moment of silence at the beginning of the day in order to pray silently or meditate as they wish?

Yes — 53% No — 47%

"Yes, because as a Christian it gives you a quiet time with God. We live in such a hurried world that it's nice to take the time to share with our Lord."

"No, because school is an institution of learning, not worship. People can practice freedom of religion, but not while violating the separation of church and state."

Do you believe a prayer should be read aloud each day?

Yes — 11% No — 89%

"We sometimes have a word for the day, why not a prayer for the day?"

"No, because freedom of religion can also mean freedom from religion."

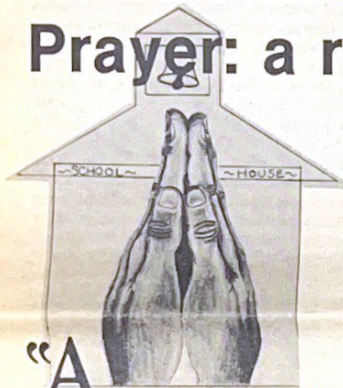


Cypress Creek High School
Houston, Texas

cougar Connection

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Prayer: a religious or political issue?



As long as there are math, science, English and history tests, students will pray in school." Rep. Charlie Rose, D-N.C. Much talk around Washington has centered on God and His presence in the classroom. Surprisingly, talk hasn't come from clergymen, but from politicians. It seems God has ceased being a religious issue and has instead become a political topic.

"Loose talk" is how Senator Charles Mathias, R-MD., described the controversy surrounding the issue. About 80 percent of the American people have come to the conclusion that prayer should be allowed in

public schools. Many others feel it is a discrimination against the student's freedom of religion. A proposed constitutional amendment has inflamed the feud between these two factions:

"Nothing in this constitution shall be construed to prohibit individual or group prayer in public schools or other public institutions. No person shall be required by the United States or any state to participate in prayer. Neither the United States nor any state shall compose the words of any prayer to be said in public schools."

The Cy Creek student body seems as divided on this issue as national leaders. Responses to a *Connection* survey were varied.

"You're at school to get an education, not to pray" was a common theme, while others believed "it gave other students who don't have the opportunity to go to church a chance to talk to God."

Even local clergymen are at odds with national religious figures such as Rev. Jerry Falwell, leader of the Moral Majority. Rabbi Sharff of the Jewish Community North doesn't believe in organized prayer.

"We think students should be able to pray as they wish. Students are free to pray privately whenever they wish during the school day," he explained. Rabbi Sharff supports the doctrine of separation, believing "school is an institute for education."

Rev. B.T. Williamson, associate pastor at Lakewood Methodist Church, is another opponent of the proposed constitutional amendment, although he doesn't believe prayer in school violates the separation of church and state.

Many states have tried having prayer in schools. One such state is Louisiana, which provided a time for students to pray. An individual volunteer was welcome to come up and say a prayer and anyone who objected to this was allowed to leave the room. A California high school tried to open a school assembly with a prayer. In both instances a federal court upheld the doctrine of separation of church and state, denying the students the opportunity to pray.

There are many ways a school can provide prayer to students without intimidating others. A teacher can ask a student to volunteer at the start of school to say a prayer of the students choice, or a school

official can ask for a different volunteer each day to say a prayer over the public address system. An optional student assembly can be conducted or a school can make room available for students to pray before or after school. Finally, a school can set a few minutes in the day to be used for silent prayer. Twelve states have implemented a "moment of silence". In 1971 New York State passed a law that allows, but does not require, a "brief period of silent meditation" at the beginning of the school day.

Again students have adamant opinions about these different methods of prayer in school.

"Each person should be permitted to pray when they choose. Public schools should not assume the same role as a church, it violates the individual's rights," a student commented.

Others believe that a moment of silent prayer would give the students "the chance to start the day off talking to God."

In contrast, one student said, "If a person is that serious about silent prayer, they would already be doing it without a law okaying it."

Students are even more outspoken about hearing a prayer before the day begins.

"Prayer doesn't suit all of our beliefs," one student said.

One student asked, "Why can't people pray before school and leave their God at home, so it won't interfere with my education?"

One girl believes organized prayer would be "fake and formal. If you pray to yourself it means something to you. Prayer shouldn't just be a habit."

Some people see prayer as a unification. "I think it would bring us closer together."

One teacher thinks an organized prayer would be a waste. "Students are too rude to listen respectfully," she said.

Although Ronald Reagan failed to drum up enough support to pass this amendment, the controversy doesn't appear to be dead. Reagan, calling again on his supporters in the Moral Majority and conservative right, has promised to make this amendment a major election issue.

One student who opposes prayer in public schools took this issue to its extreme, "What if I worshipped my God by sacrificing goats? Would you want me to bring a goat to school and drink its blood?"

By Kimberly Kubiak and Angie Hostetler
Staff Writers

A clergyman speaks out



Father Alberto Maullon

With the controversy surrounding prayer in schools being such a verbal issue in this election year, Father Alberto Maullon of Prince of Peace Catholic Community had the following comments:

"I believe in the separation of church and state. There are things that are for the good of the world, some may not agree, but I believe in freedom for people to choose their God and this will effect their sense of God.

"What is the purpose of organized prayer? It's an individual thing, a personal relationship with God. I cannot force it on others, it does not solve anything. I believe prayer is in the total life of a person, it cannot be done in a moment, it cannot be forced.

New tardy policy provokes questions

By Todd Savage
Editor

Just when you thought it was safe to go back to school... a new policy. The latest flap is over the new tardy policy, which went into effect a little over a month ago. As all students should know, four tardies in the same class result in a day of detention while five get a person home suspension. And, of course, the relationship is purely a direct one, with suspensions increasing as tardies accumulate throughout the semester.

As bluntly as it can be put, this is another policy probably designed with good intentions in mind but that has somehow been transformed into another "punish the innocent majority" rule. It is obvious that some students are habitually late to class by more than a few minutes each day. It is understandable that these people deserve detention or suspension. But what about the majority of tardy students who occasionally arrive less than a minute after the bell rings?

It is possible to be "legally tardy," or if such an expression exists, when one has to travel the length of the school and is delayed for even a moment or is not dismissed by a teacher on time, or goes to

the restroom, if such an inconvenience can be permitted during school time. Like the equally "popular" exemption policy, tardies are also inexcusable. It may be surprising for students to learn, unless they have already experienced the shock previously, that a pick hall pass does not excuse tardiness. If it is necessary for a student to stay after class several minutes past regulation class time, he will have to take a tardy. Occasions do arise such as this and innocent students are punished.

Four tardies in a single class may seem unlikely for a responsible student but spread out over an entire semester, it is certainly a risky possibility. Even more baffling is the ironic punishment for excessive tardies. Although the tardy policy is set up to encourage punctuality, it can work against itself when a student is punished by being assigned home suspension. The tardy policy works to ensure prompt attendance yet the punishment forces a student to miss class. It just does not make sense.

But wait, there is a bit of good news for the eternal straggler. If a student has accumulated three or four tardies in a particular class and finds that he is going to be tardy again, he can simply not attend that class and be counted absent. It is safer to risk an absence than go to class and face

possible suspension for being a few seconds late. This is yet another contradiction of a quick-fix policy that surely must create boards of paper work and make "officials" who are another detriment to tardiness already built into the system. Why punish someone twice for the same crime? That sure seems to be the theme to this policy.

A more realistic policy would be to award a student's accumulated tardies to be erased each six weeks, as has been the case in the past — and is the current policy at the other two high schools in CIFSD. Three tardies in a given class also adds up to an absence, which is another detriment to tardiness already built into the system. Why punish someone twice for the same crime? That sure seems to be the theme to this policy.

Seniors criticize policies

Dear Seniors,

Recently the administration implemented its new tardy policy. This policy is short, concise, and very effective. If, in any one class, a student accumulates more than five tardies, he is given an absence suspension.

The policy is very strict, and should prove to be very effective. But why stop there? Why not expect students for excessive tardies, or why not just about tardy students on sight? That would certainly deter tardies. The point is that suspension was not intended to be used as punishment for violations as minimal as tardies when it was created. Suspension is intended for disruptions of school such as fighting, and alcohol and drugs on campus. Do tardies.

Besides this, certain times prevent themselves when a student cannot help but be tardy to a class (e.g., after early all Physics 1K and Chemistry 1K tests almost the entire class remains for at least three to four minutes after the bell has rung). After only a very few of these instances arise, you are suspended. You had also better hope that you do not want all of these.

In addition to the tardy policy, the administration is also beginning to vigorously enforce the dress code. The only problem is that dress codes are illegal. This was upheld in the Supreme Court case of *Tinker vs. Des Moines School District* in 1969. In addition, many specific areas of this dress code explicitly discriminate in silly ways. For example, "Boys cannot wear sandals because the hair on their big toes could prove to be a distraction." Also boys must wear socks with shoes. Girls do not have to comply with either of these rules.

In conclusion, we are seniors who need to be proud to attend this school. However, with the recent developments by the administration, we are now counting the days until graduation. Here are five reasons:

Loren Stillbarger
Mike Spencer
Andrew Hong

Dear Seniors,

Thank you for your interest in two administrative policies, both of which represent views taken by many students. I agree with many of your points, but I believe the drawbacks of the tardy policy have been exhausted in a news story and an editorial, which can be found in this paper. Hopefully, these two articles will answer most of your questions.

As far as the dress code goes, I am not learned in the exact rights of students regarding this subject. CIFSD Deputy Superintendent Don Thornton, however, is very knowledgeable in that area. According to Thornton, freedom of dress is "not a constitutionally protected right." Using the case of *Tinker vs. Des Moines School District* to support freedom of dress is "an incorrect interpretation." That case deals with students' freedom of speech, specifically the wearing of black armbands by high school students during the late 1960s as a protest to American involvement in Vietnam.

"The constitutionality of the dress code has never been heard before the Supreme Court," Thornton said. However, the New Orleans Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals has ruled on the issue and decided that school boards should be left with the power to decide whatever type of dress code they desire.

As much as I see your point, a dress code is necessary to keep a school running smoothly. It may seem strict but prevents people from taking advantage of a situation.

Thank you,
Todd Savage

firing line

What do you think of the new tardy policy?

- "It's unfair. They're comparing it to schools like Klein, but they have ten minutes in between classes." **Craig Jones, 11.**
- "If people are going to be late for class, they're just going to go ahead and skip rather than be tardy." **Shel Biabata, 12.**
- "I think it's dumb, because they're doing it because the other schools are so strict." **Kim Meek, 9.**
- "I think the administration needs to make up its mind and quit coming up with these insane success policies that will change the problem of tardies overnight. All they're doing is penalizing students further." **Pat Bates, 12.**
- "I think it's stupid because they started it so late at Cy-Creek. They should have started it at the beginning of the year." **Cory Greenway, 11.**
- "I think they're expecting too much out of us because suspension is defeating the purpose of going to school." **Kathy Harmon, 12.**
- "It gets you too much trouble." **Shelli Henz, 10.**
- "I think they should have more between classes for students to get around." **Ken Cabelier, 11.**
- "I don't think that you should be suspended for the fifth tardy." **Karen O'Brien, 10.**

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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.

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calendar

- April**
- 18 Student council officer elections
- 20-23 Easter holidays
- May**
- 2 Spring sports banquet
- 5 SAT-Cypress Creek
- 11-12 Musical-Magic Man
- 15 Awards Night
- 17 Spring Band concert
- 18 Senior Prom

preview

Beach review

The weather is getting hotter and students are crowding the beaches of Galveston. Although it may not be Ft. Lauderdale, you can have a bit of fun if you know the right place. The *Connection* takes the pleasure to publish a complete guide of where to go and what to do at the beach in the next issue.

Senior tribute

With another school year almost over, another class of students is ready to be sent off into the world. They will be leaving *Cypress Creek Forever*, but they leave many memories behind. Look for a special tribute to the Class of '84 in a special end-of-the-year *Cougar Connection*.

'Strange phenomenon' seen in parking lot

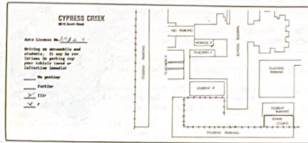
By Todd Savage
Editor

Lack of parking spaces is not a new problem but has intensified tremendously in recent months. As the swimming, who work out first period arrive at school at around 8:30 will testify, available parking spots are scarce these days.

"There have been more juniors and seniors requesting parking permits," assistant principal Jack Sheridan said. He works with the campus security office to see that the parking lot is used correctly. Sheridan does not know the reason why the parking lot has grown more crowded except that drivers eligible for permits are finally applying for them. Some days the lot is completely filled while on others, many spaces are vacant. Sheridan described this situation as a "strange phenomenon."

He does not think very many motorists are driving to school illegally. "We have

only found just a few sophomores driving," he said. According to Sheridan, most are parking across the road on Grant. Students are often dismayed by this situation, and as a result, park in reserved and restricted areas. On the first offense, a student is issued a written warning notice and asked to report to the assistant principal's office. Depending upon the severity of the violation, a student is either given an oral warning or detention. Sheridan reports that only about "one out of five students who give a warning comes to the office." The second offense usually means detention and still another infraction results in the unannounced towing of the violator's vehicle.



The student must pay the towing fee, which usually averages about \$45, in order to reclaim his automobile. However, Sheridan said, "the last thing we want to do is tow someone's car."

When a legal space cannot be found, he advises students to "see the officer on duty or speak to an assistant principal so they won't be penalized."

Next year he hopes to eliminate much of the problem with "stricter enforcement of rules and regulations." Only a few students have had their parking rights suspended this year.

"With one officer on duty, it is difficult to pick out the students not in compliance," Sheridan said. He believes the type of student who would have his parking privilege revoked would probably still park at school illegally.

Sheridan was happy to report that even with many parking problems, "more than 90 percent are complying to the parking rules and regulations."

musicians

The Cy Creek choir, drama and band departments have gotten together to produce the annual musical *Monte Men* will be performed on May 11 and 12 in the auditorium. Congratulations to the cast: Harold Hill, Bill Lowery, Martin Paroo, Dee Queen, Marcellor, Washburn, Jim Lane, Tommy Dyles, Chris Gilbert, Charlie Cooper, Jeff Danah, Mayor Shinn, Robert Tappier, Mrs. Paroo, Jill Creeg, Amyrilly, Michelle Donahue, Winny Paroo, David Miller, Eudine Mackel and Shinn Kimberly Kabak. Zoeeta Shinn, Meg Rehauer, Grace Shinn, Hope Donahue, Alma Hix, Colleen Colvard, Maud Tonlop, Carla Fraga, Eitel, Ginger McKinley, Mrs. Squire, Abbie Thompson, and Constance Locke, Mac Cridge.

Aladdin restaurant closed for the event from 9:12 PM. The DE members go to competition of May 28.

On March 30-31, Cypress Creek held the district 15-1A UIL Literary meet. Cy Creek has eleven students qualified for the regional meet to be held in Mesquite, Texas April 13-14.

In debate, the team of Leslie Haugh and Robert Dehose placed first with the team of Steven Spear and David McDowell placing fourth.

Karen Telchow placed first in informative speaking.

Jennifer Cable placed second in poetry.

In feature writing, Todd Savage placed first.

Clare Rosenhaus placed third in headline writing.

In calculator, Keith Wright placed second, and Saule Bousard placed fourth in shorthand.

The Literary Magazine will be on sale in May for students. The name has been changed from Spirit to *Griffith*. Right now the editors are working hard trying to get all kinds of different work into the magazine.

DECA members held their annual employee-employer benefit on April 4.

Tale of three tardy policies

Offenders punished differently at CIFSD high schools

By Todd Savage
Editor

With a new, much talked about tardy policy in effect because, according to the new policy, "Cypress Creek seems to be somewhat out of step" with the other two schools, the *Connection* has surveyed the three high schools and found that disciplinary does still exist.

All three schools count three tardies as an absence but that is about the only similarity to be found among an otherwise divided view toward the problem of tardies.

Jersey Village, in comparison to Cy-Fair and Cy Creek, appears to have the most lenient policy. Jersey Village's Associate Principal Alton Meek said that they strive for an "ongoing communication between the teacher, parent and student" when a tardy problem arises. After the fourth violation in the same class, the student is sent to the assistant principal's office where he may receive up to two days of detention. If the student continues to be tardy, he receives additional days of detention. According to Meek, no student has ever been suspended for tardies.

"We still have problems with

tardiness," he said. Meek reports that as many as 40 students have been assigned detention on a single day with the majority there for tardy violations.

Compared to Jersey Village's rather "lenient" policy, Cy-Fair's seems very strict. At Cy-Fair, four tardies in the same class results in loss of exemption from the semester exams. One day of suspension is the punishment for five tardies, and three days for seven tardies. Associate Principal Sheril Fay found suspension to be "much more effective than detention."

The major difference between the policies of Jersey Village and Cy-Fair and that of Cy Creek is low tardies are accumulated. At both the other schools, tardies only add up each six weeks period. They do not accumulate during the entire semester, as is in the case of Creek.

However, Associate Principal Judy Kabla said that "cases are judged individually." When a student accumulates enough tardies to warrant detention or suspension, he is not automatically punished. Consideration is given to what a student has prior to the class he is tardy to and his past disciplinary record.

"I suspect that the only people who have been suspended are people with histories of tardiness," said Kabla, who is also the twelfth grade principal and has only suspended one student since the new policy went into effect.

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New teen club finds success

By Angie Hester Staff Writer

"Okay all you Motley Crew fans, here's some Motley Crew for you," wails Dapper Dave (David Morales), as the stark room with a wide screen TV in the corner (you've seen your MTV) heats up. The setting? Saturday night at one of the hot new teen clubs in Houston.

Many teen clubs, which are aimed at kids between ages of 13-19, have tried to find success in Houston.

One of the recent openings, located on FM 1960 across from North Oaks is a club called Recess. The club aims for an adult look, and most of the club has opened quickly. Recess has a staff of ten, including two DJs—Creek Junior David Morales and Kites Hayes's Blake Davidson.

According to Morales the night spot has made a "good profit". Business was best the first weekend, even without any formal advertising. The oversized crowds have packed the club on the following weekends as well.

The only problem Recess has had is the crowds. There are times when it gets too crowded, and customers will wait outside for an hour. Also another problem has been the conflict with the age.

"I know there are some high schoolers that won't come because there are too many younger kids. We are trying to change this by having Fridays a Junior high night. These Saturdays only senior high school age kids are allowed in," Morales said.



The hot new club Recess gives teens a place to party on weekends in a safe environment. Photo by Mike Hester

"We have also thought about having women come in on reduced prices," Morales explained.

"Also, there has been a rumor going around that parents are allowed in. This is not true. Parents are allowed to come in on "off hours" to check out the club. We want Recess to be a kind of gateway for teens, so they can come and enjoy themselves, and forget their problems," Morales said.

"We have done twice as better than we thought we would," explains the owner of Recess, Bill Jones.

Dapper Dave rocks town with cable and radio

an hour TV show called Sights and Sounds, a video music show. Many times I'm the one who decides which videos go on the show. Right now, I'm producing a new show which is based on night clubbers," Morales says.

"The next job that Morales came in contact with was a DJ at the hot new teen club, Recess. Morales has "hit" at Recess. He finds an opportunity to mix with the people of the area. He feels, as being DJ, it is his responsibility to make sure that everyone has a good time.

"My first achievement was working at KKKG. At first I was in the club coordinator. Then one day when one of the DJs was out, I took his place. After that I took over the job permanently," Morales says.

Morales started working at KBBB in July of '82 and was working Saturday mornings from 10 to 2. Then he left in February of '83 and went to explore other fields.

After KKKG, Morales landed a job at Channel 10 in Houston. Morales is a news producer and program coordinator. After five months he was already producing a show of his own.

"With a few of my producers, we created

favorite song.

Despite all Morales' activities, he still finds time for socializing.

"I find plenty of time for a social life. I make sure that I don't work too hard. I find about 70% of my friends are adult, but I've met more of them at work. I'm also very particular in the kind of friends I choose. I'm not the type of person that would be out and down around to find a party," Morales explains.

"Most of Morales' weekends consist of working at Recess. If not working, he'll go to a movie or spend time with his parents. Finally, on Sunday he decides to take a break and relax. Though Morales tries not to overwork himself, there are times when he has to tell himself to stop.

"My grades haven't been affected. My father may disagree, but I'm not falling any classes," Morales explains.

Morales hardly has time to get involved in school activities, but he is on the Student Court. Also, laughingly, he admits that lunch is his favorite class. Many of his friends have pressed him into running for Senior Class President, but he hasn't made his decision. Morales' future plans are to go to the University of Texas and land a job in journalism, TV, a record executive, or something related to the broadcasting field (possibly a rock star Morales job).

"I don't want to be a common person. I don't want to grow up, get married, have two kids, a car and dog. I want to be different," he says.

Morales finds his philosophy of life is "you can do anything, but you can't do nothing." He is a strong believer in individual rights and that everybody is equal. He believes that you should live life to the fullest because there are never enough hours in a day.



Rock stars, interviews, videos, and DJs are part of Dapper Dave (David Morales) adult life. Much like Robert Louis Stevenson's classic character, Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, Morales lives two different lives—one of frantic energy and another, more peaceful existence.

Morales has many achievements consisting of radio, TV and producing.

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"With a few of my producers, we created

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Help Wanted! Students look for a part time job



At work in Willowbrook Mall, senior Shawn Payton said, "Work isn't bad after school, but it is when I have to stay up until 11:00 p.m."

By Tom Greenback Staff Writer

"Money, get back... I'm all right Jack keep your hands off my stack," says Pick Floyd. The song, "Money," tells how people love it, but can't seem to hold on to it. Do you have this problem?

Some job counselors believe that teens do not have enough appreciation for money and its spending power, and say that young teens need parental guidance to help them learn management and responsibility.

The Distributive Education Club of America, DECA, is a class in the vocational wing of Cypress Creek. It is one of many DECA school programs in the Houston area. The class teaches students money handling and working in the real world. They base their job planning on looking for good vocations and the democratic philosophies of the United States.

Sharon Kébell, a DECA student, said, "Students need to manage their money to get the experience of meaning up." She added, "They also need to wait a job not only for the money, but for the experience."

Most teens just need pocket money, according to Larry Archer, a co-manager of Randall's grocery store. "I see some of the students coming in and working to pay off car bills or to accumulate money for college," said Archer.

It is also true that teenagers have to cope with inflation just as adults do. Teens spend most of their money on movies, clothes, and the latest fads. Prices in all of these areas are higher than in other areas. Other major costs to teens are food, recreational items, hobbies, and school supplies. The way for teens to pay for these items is to get a part time job.

Archer believes that if you work hard and understand how you are to spend yourself, getting a job and keeping it will be no problem. "You get out of a job what you put into it. It is physically demanding as a person makes it," Archer said.

The vocational counselor at Cypress Creek, Mrs. Judy Gosnell, takes information on job opportunities for students and distributes it among the different vocational departments. She looks for who would be most suitable applicant for the discovered job. After a student has been employed, she lets their teachers take supervision of the working teens.

"I try to gear the students into the jobs that don't require a certain skill," said Gosnell. It may seem that the only job not needing a certain skill is working for a fast food chain, but she thinks differently. "A lot of jobs for high school students do not really need skills," she said.

In a survey, job counselors have determined that most employment only requires minimal or no higher education. Though

thirty-six percent of employers interviewed needed their employees to perform certain jobs that require an occupational education, sixty-four percent look for basic or little educational skills.

"It is extremely helpful for teens to work during high school," said Mrs. Gosnell. Many experts agree that employers benefit by hiring teens into the work force. Teens serve as good part time workers in low paying jobs. Also, many teens recycle their pay checks back into the economy.

So now you've got a job. How do you keep it? Experts say that absenteeism is the quickest way for a teen to get fired. Costly mistakes might cost your job. Remember to follow instructions and never seem to have a lack of interest, for these are two important steps in establishing a good relationship with your employer.

Mr. Larry Archer believes that honesty is the best policy. He said, "I expect my employees to be honest with me just as I am honest with them. Dishonesty takes all trust away from a person."



Sophomore Brad Rutz acts his work scene at Foot Scene in the mall. Brad said, "I plan to work until the beginning of next school year because my time will be limited next year."

Connection has suggestions for job-seeking students

"I borrow money from mom and dad. My account at the bank is overdrawn. I have a \$129 phone bill to pay off. My clothes don't fit. Maybe I should get a job... that how?" This may be a question that many students have on their minds. Psychologists have found that and look for one but don't really try, maybe because they have never had to work before.

The Cougar Connection has put together a few easy steps to help students get a summer job.

First, always remember to dress neatly and to take personal hygiene seriously. One's outer appearance gives a strong picture of his or her inner appearance.

When talking to the interviewer keep your voice at normal talking volume and look directly at the interviewer. Also, listen to what the interviewer has to say and take notes.

Finally, don't be afraid to ask questions. Anything pertaining to the job is important. Ask about hours, pay, work procedures, work clothes, and what you will be doing on the job if you are hired.

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District tracking system offers students choice

By Susan Mazzanti
Features Editor

The Texas Select Committee on Public Education is reaching the final stages of its plans for improving education in Texas. Several new proposals have been discussed at recent meetings. The Texas Legislature passed house bill 246 which provides requirements for two different diplomas. This is referred to as tracking. The new system would offer two diploma choices to the students with varying requirements for each.

The regular diploma requires four credits of English, three credits of math, two credits of science, three credits of social science, one credit of study skills, two credits of physical education, one-half credit of health and one-and-a-half credits of electives. This is a total of 22 credits for a regular diploma. The second diploma choice is for an advanced curriculum and requires one additional credit of science, two credits of a foreign language (in high school), one credit of fine arts, one computer course and limits electives to one-and-a-half credits. Twenty-three credits as well as this varied curriculum, are required for the advanced diploma.

The tracking system will begin with the graduating class of 1986, according to Mrs. Donna Skirke, senior counselor. Next year's sophomores, juniors, and seniors will

not be affected by either the tracking system or the diploma choice. This year's eighth graders, however, will face one of the more difficult decisions of their lives: which track will they take for the remainder of their secondary education? The decision each student makes will stick with him throughout high school. Its flexibility ex-

The select committee has also approved several additional draft proposals which will be discussed this summer when the Texas Legislature meets in a special session. Among the proposals are:

- * A longer school day for students in both elementary and secondary levels. Classes falling one or more periods.
- * The same time would be given in remedial classes for the particular subject.
- * No more than 15 pupils per class in kindergarten through the fourth grade.
- * A new state law that would enable school districts to fine parents whose children cause excessive discipline problems in school. Students and their parents would be asked to sign a contract explaining a uniform code of conduct.

These proposals will only go into effect if the Texas Legislature passes them to law. As of now, the only bill which has passed and is being implemented is house bill 246 which calls for additional credits for graduation.

* An increase of 10 days to the school calendar. This would amount to 185 days. The Legislature will also explore a 220-day year could calendar for Texas school districts.

* A policy which would require students to maintain a grade of 70 or higher in all subjects in order to participate in extracurricular activities.

* A career ladder plan which would allow more competent teachers to earn a salary equal to that of administrators. Teachers would remain in the classroom but their salaries would increase on the basis of performance, experience, additional education and scores on competency tests.



Regular Diploma	
English	4 years
Math	3 years
Science	3 years
Social Studies	3 years
Study Skills	1 year
Physical Education	2 years (or substitute)
Health	1/2 year
Electives	6 1/2
	22 Credits

Advanced Diploma	
English	4 years
Math	3 years
Science	3 years
Social Studies	3 years
Study Skills	1 year
Physical Education	2 years (or substitute)
Health	1/2 year
Foreign Lang.	1 1/2 years (in high school)
Math	1 additional year of
Science	1 year
Foreign Lang.	1 year
Fine Arts	1 year
Computer Course	1 year
	23 Credits

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Evans, Love, and Potsavich: leaving tracks in the field

By Jane Thacher
Sports Editor



Holly Evans



Teresa Potsavich

The 83-84 track season has begun. As it progresses, three outstanding, returning seniors are pushing toward goals they hope will highlight their careers as Cy Creek Cougars. They are Holly Evans, Marquitta Love and Teresa Potsavich.

"Holly is one of the finest high jumpers in the state. She has natural ability and beautiful technique," said head track coach Tom McVay.

Holly, who has been competing in the high jump event since the seventh grade, is presently jumping 5'7" and believes that she has not peaked yet.

Evans believes her toughest competition in the district and regional meets will be herself. "I have to make myself reach my potential," she said.

In the shotput event Marquitta Love stands out with last year's district title as her trophy. Love has proven, what Coach McVay calls "incredible strength", but throwing the eight-pound ball of iron a distance of 37 feet.

"I've always had Coach McVay and Coach Oltan there to help me," said Love

Jon Courville: a statebound jumper aiming high

By Jane Thacher
Sports Editor



Marquitta Love

As a junior high student at first, they told him he was "not good enough" to compete in the high jump event. Now, as a senior, Jon Courville is the number-one ranked high jumper in Texas.

On Friday, February 20, at the Katy track meet, Courville leaped 6' 11". When he returned to the ground he was the highest jumper in Texas and the 15-5A record holder.

"I knew I could clear it, it was just a matter of doing it," commented Courville about his impressive jump.

So, Courville has reserved himself a chance at the regional meet, May 4 and 5 in Dallas, to compete in state competition, May 11 and 12 in Austin.

"What does 6' 11" Courville think about when he looks at a bar set at 6' 11", ten and a half inches taller than him? He simply tries not to.

"Only forty percent of high jumping is physical, sixty percent is mental because you can't let the bar psych you. Thinking about it puts pressure on me to do well."

Although pressure may be a powerful weakness to overcome, Courville's strengths are many. Such as height, speed, and Coach Dimitri Oltan.

"I've got a lot of credit to Oltan because he devotes a lot of his time to me, he is always there," he said.

Courville will practice on improving his form, while weight training also plays an important role in his preparation for the important upcoming meets. Weight has also proven to be a successful remedy to some back problems he suffered last year.

For Courville, Coach Oltan feels "mental pressure" will be his only disadvantage in the district, regional, and state meets. However, physically Courville is prepared to display his "maximum effort."

"The coach at Baylor said I was too short and too skinny. That motivated me because all I wanted to do was high jump," says Courville about his junior high years. So, as a determined "short and skinny" freshman Cougar, he began his high jumping career. Now, four years later it is time to keep a close eye on the statebound Jon Courville.

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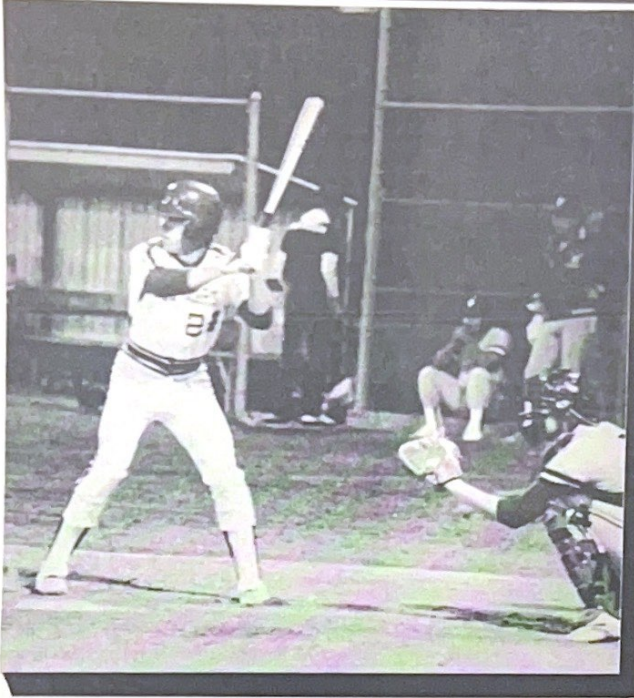
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Todd Riddle helps to boost the Coogs to a 5-3 victory over the second ranked Houston area Cy Fair Bobcats. The team continued their winning streak by defeating the Jersey Village Falcons. Photo by Gretchen Spitzer.

Young players make big hit

By Brad Byrom
Staff writer

Inexperience has become the most common weakness of Cy Creek's varsity squads this year. First the football team, then the basketball team suffered from inexperience, and now the baseball team.

However, the football and basketball teams surpassed many expectations and reached the playoffs. Coach Nick Labarbera and the rest of the baseball team hope to do the same and reach the playoffs, something which last year's highly rated team failed to do.

Making the playoffs will be no easy task when playing the likes of Cy Fair, who has been outstanding through non-district games with a 12-2 record. Klein will also be in contention for a playoff spot but there are many changes in the Bearkat team that just missed the state championship last year.

This season will be a tightly contested battle for the two playoff spots in the district with only one weak team, Klein Oak. With Cy-Fair and Klein, Jersey Village, Klein Forest and Katy should contend for a playoff spot.

An excellent pitching staff of Curt Krippner, Jeff Dunbar and John Kenyo will help the Coogs' changes in the district playoff race.

Inexperience is a problem the Coogs will

deal with as short stop Kevin Donahue, one of the few returners to the team, explained, "We are young but we are very aggressive. Our defense lacks the most and needs work, but our pitching and hitting are very good."

Second baseman Mike Briley could lead the team in hitting and he is only a sophomore. Briley is followed by Tony Trent, a junior, who has batted .367 as the designated hitter to Briley's .515 in pre-district games. On a young team leadership is important, so who is the team's leader? Coach Labarbera sums it up this way: "I am."

District Leaders

Batting Leaders

Mike Briley .438 second in district

Kevin Donahue .364 seventh

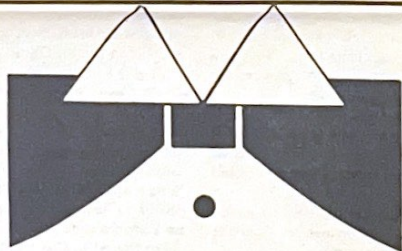
pitching Leaders

1) Curt Krippner 6-0 0.24

2) Jeff Dunbar 3-3 0.43

3) John Kenyo 2-1 0.76

Statistics from Houston Post's April 3 issue.



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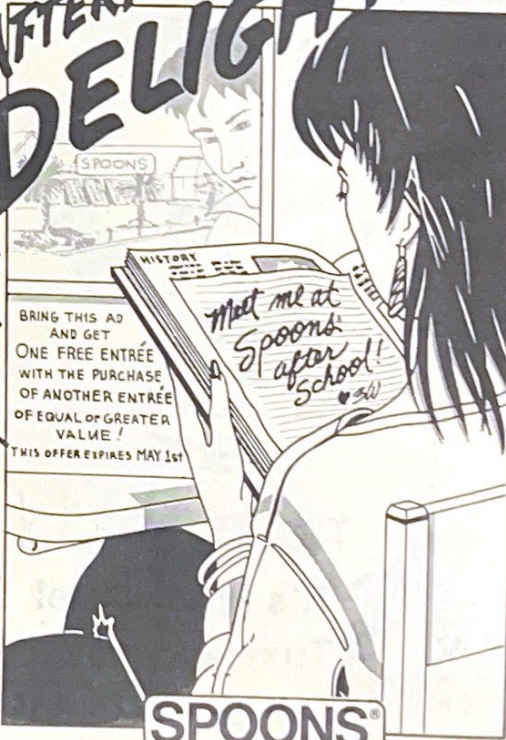
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