

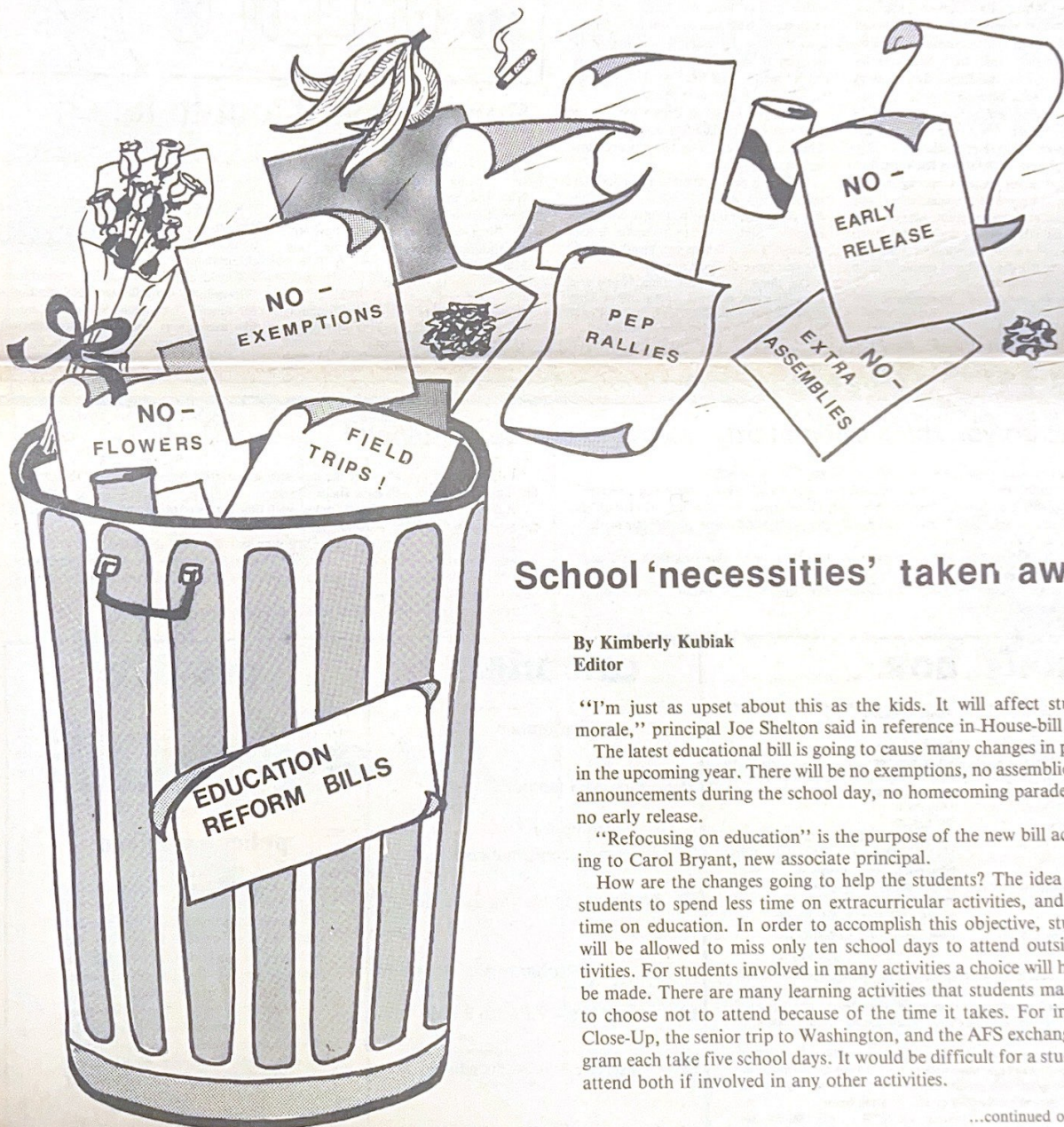
For scoop on legislation changes see page 6

Cypress Creek High School  
Houston, Texas

# cougar Connection

Volume 8  
Issue 1  
September 1984  
Cougar Connection

## Education sparks controversy



### School 'necessities' taken away

By Kimberly Kubiak  
Editor

"I'm just as upset about this as the kids. It will affect student morale," principal Joe Shelton said in reference in-House-bill 72.

The latest educational bill is going to cause many changes in policy in the upcoming year. There will be no exemptions, no assemblies, no announcements during the school day, no homecoming parade, and no early release.

"Refocusing on education" is the purpose of the new bill according to Carol Bryant, new associate principal.

How are the changes going to help the students? The idea is for students to spend less time on extracurricular activities, and more time on education. In order to accomplish this objective, students will be allowed to miss only ten school days to attend outside activities. For students involved in many activities a choice will have to be made. There are many learning activities that students may have to choose not to attend because of the time it takes. For instance Close-Up, the senior trip to Washington, and the AFS exchange program each take five school days. It would be difficult for a student to attend both if involved in any other activities.

...continued on page 6



### Upper classmen ride the yellow limo

By Jose Thatcher  
Managing Editor

The most important thing to remember is that there are normal people in the world. So close to a window, isolate thoughts, and slump in the seat. Try to ignore the many infamous freshmen that surround and outnumber you. If necessary slip on sunglasses that can dim the rays from their brand new, shiny hoodies that have been cruelly mutilated with Duran Duran and Michael Jackson stickers. Under any other circumstance it is possible to be calm and ready in control, except when you're an over-performant riding the school bus.

Deep sympathy should be felt for fellow junior and senior students who again, like last year and possibly the year before, rely on the bus as transportation. Maybe these tips will help the "yellow slugging" students avoid some severe humiliation that can accompany the dreaded and despised drive to and from school.

Mentioned previously, slumping in the seat is usually a good idea. Not only does this position decrease the possibility of

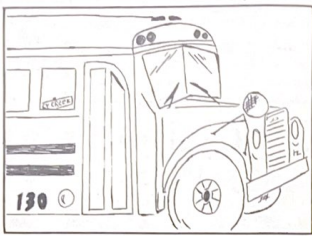
hungry roads bouncing you into the next seat, it may also prevent the bottom gett'g'gy in school notching you from their red covers below.

Secondly, do not open your window. If you begin to feel a claustrophobia attack may occur with the next bump, or the air within gets a little too moist, have the window of freshmen in front of you open their window. By doing this, it is possible for you to breathe freely again while the "fish" receive their free "wind blown" hair style (no styling mousse necessary).

While you board or depart the bus, be very aware of legs and feet blocking the aisle. There is no cover up for tripping and landing on your face.

Finally, if people approach you and start conversation with, "I saw you riding the bus yesterday," it may be time to consider a disguise. Simply try to resemble Beaver Cleaver. This will help you blend in, making you more difficult to spot.

Oh, there is one more thing, if you ever actually write, address, and stamp a letter to Santa Claus, begging for a car, you have but a scanty chance of receiving one.



### Seniors merit 'out-to-lunch'

"School's become a chore without reward," senior Suzanne Sarphin said. With the passing of new legislation, it seems that all privileges have been taken away. What one wonders is what have we, the students done to deserve this punishment?

Exemptions were something students could work towards. It was inspiration to work hard for your grades and attend school. What do students have to look

forward to now? Crowded lunches and lots of d-hall.

It seems that because seniors were at one time given the chance to earn six exemptions, they should be allowed something like that in place.

Crowded lunches, senior exemptions, Why aren't seniors allowed to leave campus for lunch? It could be something earned like exemptions once were. Students will have at least one activity to look forward to.

## firing-line

What do you think of one tardy equaling one day of d-hall?

"You're kidding, you can't be serious." -Lisa Zenson, senior

"It's unfair because many teachers hold you after class." -Tracy Schweitzer, senior

"For some, it is necessary because they took advantage of the old policy. But for others who adhere to school policies, there will be times when tardiness will be inevitable." -Staff/Staff Sherwin, senior

"When I am tardy it is not on purpose, I really have trouble making it to class." -Dora York, senior

"For that [policy] to work, we need traffic rules at the hallway intersections." -Dustin Nansen, senior

"I think that it should be for the freshmen just starting here, but not for the students that have been here." -Janice Daniel, junior

"It doesn't make sense. There's not enough time between classes and you get in trouble for running in the halls." -David Clark, sophomore

"It's about time. When the tardy bell rang last year and the halls were filled with students, something was needed." -Pam McDougal, Secretary to assistant principals

"It's stupid and dumb. The whole tardy system is dumb." -Rob Ward, sophomore

"It was better last year." -Rob Spangler, sophomore

| staff box   | calendar  | preview  |
|---|---|--|
| <b>Editor in Chief</b><br>Managing Editor<br>Copy Editor<br>Design Editor<br>News Editor<br>Photo Editor<br>Sports Editor<br>Ad Manager<br>Staff Writers<br><br><b>Photographers</b><br>Ad Staff<br>Contributing Artists<br>Advisor | <b>September</b><br><br>11 First AFS meeting 7:30 PM<br><br>17 Sign up for Freshmen representatives<br><br>27 Freshmen representatives elections<br><br><b>October</b><br><br>10 College Night 7 PM to 9 PM<br><br>12 Inservice Day — no school | <b>policy explained</b><br><br>Did something that appeared in the Cougar Connection make you mad? Or did you have a question that you needed answered? Well, we want to help you. We encourage you to write us a letter and explain how you feel. We have limited space, but will try to print as many letters as possible. All letters must be accompanied by an identifiable name, however, names can be withheld upon request. Letters can be submitted to Miss Hoover in the Journalism room (B244) or to any Connection staff member. We want to hear from you! |

### New exchange student presents different life

Today, as any other first day of school, freshmen, wander around the halls disoriented. A few of them may have even been nervous about entering the world of "high school". Just imagine, though, entering our school for the first time, as well as being from a different country.



Ruiz will have some of the same things here as she gets in Spain. Right now, popular musical talents in her country are Michael Jackson, Duran Duran, and Prince. As many things are different in our lifestyles, some things are always the same.

### New principal Job challenges Bryant

By Robyn Gray  
Staff Writer

I can do anything, if I really want to," Carol Bryant, new associate principal said. "Whatever she is doing, Bryant wants to do it well, and that includes doing the best job she can in her new position. Bryant receives a "good feeling" when working with young people and says it makes her stay young, too. She has noticed, however, that no matter how much young people change, they stay pretty much the same in older generations.

Community spirit is also very important, according to Bryant, with the administration, students, and teachers composing that community. Bryant, too, wants to "make sure everyone is happy and satisfied."

"Juggling the responsibility and demands for work with family life" create a problem for Bryant. Work never ends, and she has difficulty finding time to get away from it all. However, when she does find the time, Bryant and her husband enjoy sailing. They own a sailboat at Canyon Lake, and they go there when time permits. Also, they charter sail, which has brought them to places such as the Virgin Islands and Florida Keys.

Bryant has no red hoes, but she is "inspired by successful people." For example, the nomination of Geraldine Ferraro for vice-president excites Bryant.

Among the few things the associate principal dislikes are impatient, overcritical, prejudiced, or narrow-minded people.

Moving to Houston from San Antonio was the most drastic change in Bryant's life, but since that "overwhelming" events, her career has been a "slow progression with small changes."

Formerly of the Spring Branch school district, Bryant



"Juggling the responsibility and demands of work with family life" is Carol Bryant, new associate principal, pictured above.

district, Bryant was a grade principal for 3 years.

"The word that best describes how I feel is 'challenges,'" Bryant said. Bryant, who lives within the Cy-Fair district with her husband & two children, decided to change schools to be closer to home.

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### Campus receives face-lift



Most schools seem to go through minute changes as each year progresses. Two obvious changes have occurred on campus over the past summer vacation. The most time-consuming change is the landscaping done to the parking lot and circular driveway area.

system had been incorrectly drawn, forgetting about new additions to the school. She states she has spent an exhausting 3 months on the system alone, but assures that although the process was delayed, there will be a new sprinkler system installed on campus as soon as possible.

### Coping with romance

Walking along the beach, tanned and gorgeous is that person, Mr. Right. You spent your vacation with him, you hope your relationship will last, but can a relationship endure the realities of school life?

\* Consider his/her feelings. Is it a casual romance or is it more lasting? \* Be honest about your feelings. If it is special tell him/her. \* Try to arrange to see each other again if you can't over a vacation.



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### Legislation tests Cougar spirit

By Ross Johnson Staff

The beginning of a new school year brings many things. This year, the school year brings many things. This year, the school year brings many things. This year, the school year brings many things.

areas that are such an integral part of high school is unreasonable. Not only does this affect football, but all organizations. The grading scale recently elevated to higher standards is possibly the most noticeable reformation.

### Summer baseball league prepares team for new year

By Greg Pettit Staff Writer

During the summer, many students give up time for extra curricular activities. Baseball players are not excluded.

variety players in order to spot weaknesses to be worked on. Says Coach LaBarbera, "The defense and hitting were pretty good, but the pitchers need some work."

One promising newcomer is sophomore Chris Longfield, from Georgia, who is a very good hitter says LaBarbera.

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## Organizations working hard to give students memories

"Performing for the school — that's when all the practice pays off"

By Kevin Shuman  
Staff Writer

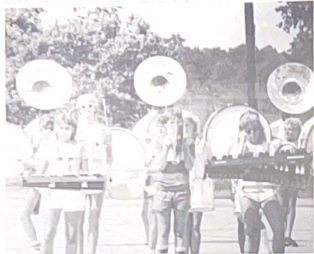
While some kids don't even think about school until that dreadful first day, many activities have started well in advance of the start of school. The drill team, the football team, the band, and the soccer team.

The football team actually started training before school was out last year. They just worked out during the athletic period. Then, after a two month break, they commenced working out on August 1. Right now they are practicing 2 hours a day, five days a week. No money is put in by the players, but the hours of hard work count enough.

Sophomore Damon Swafford joined the team because he loves the sport. Some of the benefits of working so hard are that you keep your body in good physical condition, and it makes you feel proud of yourself, commented Swafford.

Then, after a break in July, the scrimmages started up again in the latter part of the month. They practice for one and a half hours a day, Monday through Friday. Self motivation, improvement, winning, and knowing you've done the best you can are some of the things people get out of soccer.

These different organizations start practicing this early in the year to give the student body a year to remember and something to be proud of. They have done well to start just and with their early preparations, they will. They've proven that hard work and determination really pay off with self satisfaction and pride.



## "Homework, no time" Reasons students stop exercise

By Lauren Niswonger  
Staff Writer

The Silverado began practicing for this year at the spring club. The work of July 6, they practiced before going to drill team camp, which was July 13 through 20. After camp, they did not practice again until August 6. Ever since, they have been training from 8 to 9.

Quite a bit of money goes into being a Silverado. Besides paying for camp \$130, and \$30 for a total of four dance classes, most girls buy their own practice leotards, poppers, uniforms, gloves, socks, hair, hairpins and toe bars, and warm-ups.

Why would you want to spend so much money and work so hard?  
"It's fun and challenging, and I like to perform. Performing for the school—that's when all the practice pays off," said Heather Bradford said.

Another organization which started more than a month before school began was the band. The staff reported to the band hall for their first day on July 26. They've been practicing from 4 to 6 hours a day ever since. Although the majority of members started in early August, the drum majors, percussion corp, and flag corp went to camp June 10-15. Since then, the drum majors have been practicing conducting and voice exercises.

Head drum major, senior Monica Neumann started band in Junior High. She stuck with it in high school out of curiosity. She found out that it is a lot of hard work, but that it pays off and that it is very self satisfying.

It was unanimous between Senior Bill Shulley, Junior Chris Abeni, and Neumann that all of the hard work paid off at marching concert getting superior ratings.

The first week after school was out, the soccer team started having pick-up games.

many more are offered at most standard health clubs. Some clubs, such as the Willowchase Health Club, offer fitness evaluations.

"Everyone gets a personal program and testing to find out how fit they are," says Art Chavez, the Willowchase Director of Operations.

Many of the centers are eager to help and some even have special student rates. Look for a convenient location with the best facilities to fit one's needs.

If health centers are not your style, getting exercise at home is also easy. One way is to buy a workout record or video tape. Minnett believes that exercising is a "commitment to yourself," establishing and

meeting personal fitness goals.

According to a calories burned per hour chart, running burns 900 calories and bicycling burns 600 calories and they are both easy to do in the neighborhood. A half an hour of walking burns 180-200 calories besides increasing heart and lung efficiency, keeping the body fat percentage low and improving leg muscle tone.

School organized sports are great exercise and result in regularly scheduled workouts. Though homework and sleep take priority over exercise during the school year, a little exercise is better than none at all.

"An hour of exercise three times a week can get you in good shape," Chavez said.

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Along with the end of summer and the start of school, comes the welcomed beginning of the football season. This season should be a successful one for the Cougars. With the return of and impressive offense including quarterback Todd Moore, fullback Scott Woods, and wideback Todd Riddle, Cy Creek can't avoid having a winning year.

The first game will be played here against North Brook on September 7, followed by an away game against Ninety on September 11.

The first district game will be played here against Spring Branch on September 21. Klein Oak will be hosting the next district game on September 28. -GP



## Lady Coogs spike off season

"This year's volleyball team is big, strong, and working hard to get ready for the new season," Coach Jachon said.

"We should do well this year," said Jachon, "because of the good cooperation among the players and the return of seniors Tracy Kutz, Robin Serafin, and Shary Smith."

On Sept. 7 and 8 they will compete in the Katy Varsity Tournament and then compete in their first district game at Klein Oak on Sept. 11.

On the 13 the Cougs host Jersey Village and then go away to play Katy on Sept. 14. After the game against Klein on Sept. 20, the varsity team will compete in the Dickinson Varsity Tournament on the 21 and 22. The next game will be at Katy Taylor on Sept. 23 followed by an away game at Klein Forest on Sept. 27. -GP

|          |                 |       |
|----------|-----------------|-------|
| Sept. 7  | Northbrook      | Here  |
| Sept. 11 | Ninety          | There |
| Sept. 21 | Spring Branch   | Here  |
| Sept. 28 | *Klein Oak      | There |
| Oct. 1   | *Jersey Village | Here  |
| Oct. 12  | *Katy           | There |
| Oct. 20  | *Klein          | There |
| Oct. 27  | *Katy Taylor    | Here  |
| Nov. 2   | *Klein Forest   | Here  |
| Nov. 9   | *Cy Fair        | Here  |

\* District Games  
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|                 |                      |       |
|-----------------|----------------------|-------|
| Sept. 6         | Spring               | Away  |
| Sept. 7         | Katy Tournament      | Away  |
| Sept. 8         | Klein Oak            | Away  |
| Sept. 11        | Jersey Village       | There |
| Sept. 14        | Katy                 | Away  |
| Sept. 20        | Klein                | Away  |
| Sept. 21-22     | Dickinson Tournament | Home  |
| Sept. 23        | Klein Oak            | Home  |
| Sept. 27        | Cy Fair              | Away  |
| Oct. 4          | Klein Forest         | Home  |
| Oct. 5-6        | Cy Fair Tournament   | Away  |
| Oct. 9          | Jersey Village       | Away  |
| Oct. 11         | Katy                 | Home  |
| Oct. 16         | Klein                | Home  |
| Oct. 18         | Katy Taylor          | Away  |
| Oct. 21         | Klein Forest         | Home  |
| Oct. 25         | Cy Fair              | Away  |
| Oct. 29         | Play Off             | Home  |
| Oct. 30         | Play Off             | Home  |
| Nov. 1, 2, or 3 | Be-Strate Play Off   | Home  |
| Nov. 5 or 6     | Area Play Off        | Home  |
| Nov. 10         | Regional Tournament  | Home  |
| Nov. 15-16      | State Tournament     | Home  |

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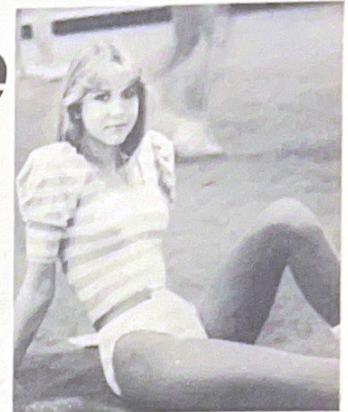
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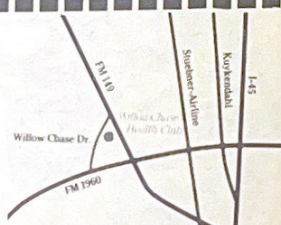


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