



*Season's
Greetings*

by Robyn Gay
Staff Writer

Crowded Stores, long check-out lines, and high prices fill the air during Christmas shopping. What is considered a normally enjoyable task becomes unbearable chore. While special settings are created to fill you with the season spirit, the friendly gesture of buying gifts often make a customer lose that spirit.

In a search for unique Christmas gifts, a small and definitely unusual shopping area was found. "Shopping the Curve" found between the 1300 and 1400 blocks of Westheimer, provides an entertaining alternative to holiday shopping.

First on the list of unique gifts are edible earrings. At \$3.50 these feature gum drops, tootsie rolls, gummi bears and bazooka gum that dangle from the ears. Also, for \$15.00 are the original "Lites" earrings add a glow to any face. Little electronic flashing red hearts and stars adorn lucky ears.

Second on the list are large movie and poster prints on hard poster board. At \$16.00, James Dean, David Bowie, and many others can be found. Also smaller movie stills and color prints are sold for \$2 and \$4.00. All prints can be found at "The Dragon and the Rat". Marilyn Monroe, Humphrey Bogart, Shirley Temple and Dorothy of Oz all at 1½ feet in stand up form can be purchased at "Creative Stained Glass" for \$6.00. For \$11.00, 2½ feet standups of Clark Gable and Charlie Chaplin are also available.

For a more daring person, neon make-up can be purchased at both "Tiz Avenue" and "Nothing Sacred". By Cabaret, neon make up, hairstreaks and fingernail polish comes in orange, yellow and green outshine even the brightest clothes. The price range is from about \$1.00 to \$2.50.

continued on page 4

Cougar Connection

From:

Mastering Adolescence: Making stress our friend

By Bob Schneider
School Psychologist

Last month we tried to develop a picture of what stress is and where it comes from. This month I'd like to offer suggestions on how to deal with stress. In order to help with our journey, I'll be talking about four types of stress and how to deal with them. The first is Type A: Anger or Stress. These stressors we can expect will occur and we can do something about it.

For all Type A situations, there is a useful formula that can reduce the stress:

1. Identify the type of stress.
2. Explore your options.
3. Take action.

Most teenagers I work with can identify the kind of stress situation they are facing, but sometimes they need help in exploring options. We often have many more options than we realize. (1) Request assistance — we travel on spacially earth together and there are those ready to help. (2) Prioritize your work — decide what really needs to be done and divide it up into:

1. Urgent
2. Semi-urgent
3. Important but not vital
4. Not particularly important or not needed

(3) Take the same course at a less demanding level — it is o.k. to go from K-level to L-level. You are important because you belong to the family of man. You need not earn your occasions. You've already got it. Enjoy it.

(4) Try to change your view of situations. Look at school work as a challenge, not an imposition. What is the worst possible outcome if you don't get that A or B in Chemistry, Physics, History or English. Remember: You have choices. You have options. Use them.

Our second type of stress is Type B: Unpleasant or Stress. These can't be predicted or avoided. The theologian Reinhold Niebuhr has a wonderful saying to help deal with Type B stress.

God grant me the serenity
To accept the things I cannot change
The courage to change the things I can,
And the wisdom to know the difference.

Keep in mind your ability to cope changes with age, your health, and your frame of mind. As you grow older you will have more control over your environment and over your own emotions. Allow yourself to be a manager. Keeping fit is vital for dealing with stress. This includes eating correctly (stay off those sweeties), maintaining regular exercise, allowing adequate time for sleeping and relaxation, and avoiding the abuse of drink and drugs. Finally, with Type B stress, our perceptions of life are the best protection. There are things beyond our will and control. This does not mean we are weak, only that we are human. The third stress type is Type C: Work Stress. This usually refers to work we have to perform. There are several important work habits to help with this stress.

- (1) Do first the thing you wish to do last. Then when you get to the other tasks they may seem like a reward. This habit teaches the assigning of priorities to the various things you

have to do. This habit takes effort in the beginning, but once acquired, brings many rewards later in life.

(2) Plan the work to be done each day and set specific goals (Yes, study skills is important!) Good planning saves vast amounts of time in actual execution. In order to get through those research projects, sit downs and develop a game plan. It's worth the time. The same thing with goals. If you haven't set goals for your future and will be educational, social, financial, spiritual, etc., then you are at a ship set adrift without direction. I know it's popular to live for the day and the moment but your days and moments will be vastly enriched if you prepare for the journey.

(3) Take pride in your work. Pride comes not from the prestige associated with a particular job but rather from the knowledge that we have done the very best we know how. Our last type of stress is Type D: What If It All About Stress. We cannot foresee the pain and pleasure which will enter our lives, but we know no one will spend the immensity of life. We struggle with questions concerning our significance and place in the world. These can be amusing and overwhelming questions. The only way I know of coping with these uncertainties is faith and an abiding trust in God. I hope you can find a way which satisfies your search.

Driving with the dips



by Jane Thurston
Managing Editor

Prepare yourself for a maddening experience. When you are in the driver's seat of a car, everyone else on the road (near roads) is either stupid, lost, insane, or spaced-out — somewhere in the twilight zone. You are the only one who actually knows how to control a car. It does not matter where you travel, the infamous "other driver" will make your journey frustrating and unpleasant.

First, something all teenage drivers should know, parents make the absolute worst passengers. It does not matter how slowly you drive or how sharp you make turns. The average parent will sit in cramp positions, yell, and cling to the dash board until the "death ride" ends. Don't suffer in silence. There is a solution for the backseat driver (friend or foe) who persists in making comments similar to "we'd never get there alone," or "are you sure you passed driver's education?" Stop the car and make him or her walk to wherever they so foolishly thought you would transport them.

Now, back to the car-crazed drivers who have an enormous power of tempting your temper.

The stupid: Most likely your favorite type of driver. They never signal and have brake lights which have been smashed or just don't work. These drivers also find a need to occupy three spaces when parking their car, which oftentimes looks like it came in a box that read "assembly required."

The fast: These are the drivers who slow down or stop at green lights so they can read street signs. They are also known for proceeding at twenty miles per hour, in the passing lane, obviously mistaking it for a school zone.

The insane: This driver usually owns a pickup truck. With a car stereo that can be heard blocks away, they rev their engines, and spit tobacco out the window onto the hood of what used to be your class car. They also pass you so swiftly — say seventy or eighty miles per hour — the wind gust enough to throw you and your car to China.

Just but not least...

The spaced — somewhere in the twilight zone. Ah, guess who forget to turn their blinker off? Yep, the same driver who can't for any reason, make a decision at a fast food restaurant's drive thru intercom. Best of all, they simply forget to proceed when a six-minute stoplight changes from pretty red to pretty green.

Oh well, happy motoring.

Staff Box

Editor-in-Chief: Kimberly Kishik
Managing Editor: Jane Thurston
Copy Editor: Denise Gerard
Design Editor: Kaysa Fennema
News Editor: Angie Howarth
Photo Editor: Mike Henderson
Sports Editor: Ross Johnson
Ad Manager: K.C. Cardale
Staff Writers: Roley Gay, Chelsea Covell, Greg Pettit, Michele Millington, David Morale, Laurie Nienberg, Kevin Shirmann, Lisa Tebb, Arisa Adams, Javier Kimball, Jon Rosenquist
Photographers: Ad Staff
Artist: Ross Vukob
Contributing Artist: David Metzoff
Advisor: Kathy Hoover

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 International League Press Conference. Prospective advertisers should contact the Business Manager of the Connection at the number or address given below.

9815 Grant Road Houston, TX 77078 409-990-Ext. 344

Calendar

December

20 Early release — 1:30
21-4 Christmas Holidays

January

7 Classes resume
17 End of first semester
18 Inservice day
26 SAT testing here



Christmas time brings out the child in all of us. Mr. Joe Shelton, principal, enjoys bicycles.

Salinas electrifies students

by Kevin Shirmann
Staff Writer

John Salinas, a representative from Houston Lighting and Power (HLAP) spoke to science students about electricity, and the energy situation in the world today, and how electricity is transferred.

"A lot is involved before the electricity leaves the outlet," Salinas said.

In the world today, people are looking for new ways to convert energy sources into electricity.

"For over 20 years, HLAP depended upon natural gas for this purpose. Because natural gas got cheaper to use instead of more expensive, people's electricity bills were actually getting smaller. But in the early '70s, the natural gas supply started decreasing. For example, if someone lit a cigarette lighter and held the gas open, the gas supply would run out," Salinas said.

Salinas said this to demonstrate that gas would not last forever, therefore, HLAP needed to find new sources of energy. Also,

'Don't get married!' health students experience real life

by Michele Millington
Staff Writer

Don't get married and definitely don't have kids," another student said. The excitement of having a baby soon wore off.

"Having a baby was fun at first, then it was a pain," senior Samantha Blackwell said.

As well as being parents, students were also spouses. Each one had a husband or wife and they were faced with real problems.

They had to choose a profession, maintain a budget, write checks, raise a child and handle various other problems Mrs. Pasche would give them.

To complete the project, one couple actually got married in a make-believe ceremony.

Robin Serafini and Randy Lee were married with Bruce D'Arcy serving as best man and Renae Stierforfer as the maid-of-honor. Consider Larry Jackson officiated at the ceremony.

The wedding was held in the auditorium and lasted about 15 minutes. Everyone in advanced health participated and held jobs such as photographer, working in the nursery, handling the music or serving at the reception.

This is often a misinterpreted class, according to Pasche. It is not a child development class but a class to teach students the very valuable lesson of how to handle the responsibilities and commitments of marriage before an adult.

The students had to make and take care of their "children" for one week.

They're hard to keep up with. I was always walking off without him and I would sprint through the halls to get him," senior Bobby Krutcher said.

Unfortunately, one baby was kidnapped when the father was not looking and he received the above ransom note. If it had not been for the brave rescue from a fellow student, the father would have received a zero since the baby's care was a major task.

"The 'children' were made out of four sacks and decorated to look like a little person."

"Eyes need to be used," Mrs. Pasche, advanced health teacher, said. "And they should be used to handle the responsibilities of marriage before an adult."

Fish on way to good prom

The freshman class made \$6,492.90 selling candy and fruit in plastic containers through the study skills classes.

The sales were a success, according to Mr. White, a study skills teacher. With a goal of 5,000 dollars the freshman class surpassed their goal by making \$6,492.90 in profit.

In all, they sold 3,344 containers and a total of \$17,797.45. The incentives and were several money rewards and a statewide drawing for a Ford Mustang LX.

"Many students took part in the sales because of the rewards," White said.

In his opinion, the incentives definitely helped promote successful sales.

Top salesman, Lesley Cahn, sold approximately 2,000 dollars in goods.

Most students don't mind the sales because of the rewards.

"I didn't mind selling the products because of the incentives given," Laurie Langham said.

The money made is used for the senior prom and other class expenses.

Exciting
Class Ring Headquarters!

Custom Cougar Jewelry

at:
the GOLD FACTORY
"Your Personal Jewelry Store"

11902 Jones Road
713/890-0497

444-4468

Family Tree Gifts

Gifts & Decorative Accessories
5211-Z FM 1960 W
Champions Village III

C · H · R · I · S · T · M · A · S

All the best!

GIFTS

continued from page 1

Gumby, gumbly, gumbly galore: clocks, tee-shirts, keychains and stuffed gumby-ys are available. A large gumby with a white clock face sells for \$32, while the keychain sells for \$3. With beanbag feet, the stuffed gumby comes in 1 foot, 2 feet and three feet sizes for \$12, \$23, and \$50 respectively. All gumby items may be purchased at "Sheer Insanity".

Time telling mechanisms will never get the same after sighting the \$35 black or grey square clock with neon orange arms at "Nothing Sacred". Quite unusual, too, is the record clock that has two guitars as the arms. For \$30 the clock can be found at "Sheer Insanity". On a smaller scale, a digital watch with a large, overlapping textured leather band purchased at "Nothing Sacred". For \$25, the watch comes in black, bright blue and red.

To spark some magic, a magic wand with stuffed teddy bears, clown or jesters on the top and streamers all over the place, will do the job. For \$18 the wand can be found at the "Dragon and the Rat". At "Nothing Sacred" another type of wand can be found. A liquid filled wand.

Finally, what every female has been waiting for can be found at "Facts!" for a mere \$15. The "1985 Annual Man Day Calendar" spiral leaves her with a good feeling daily.

With all these unusual gifts, it would not be difficult to find something for even the most unique person. Perhaps, if none of these gifts seem appealing, just "Shopping the Curve" is an experience in itself. The people are unusual, the stores are different, and even the atmosphere is different from that of any shopping mall. So, don't be surprised if you walk into "La Avenue" and you see what you thought to be a stuffed cat suddenly move.



M · O · V · I · E · S

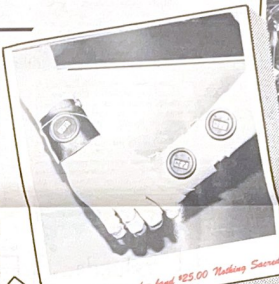
This Christmas season will be highlighted with two new feature films aimed at teens.

On December 14, John Carpenter's "Starman" opens. Jeff Bridges (Against All Odds) stars as an alien who comes to earth in a clone form. He returns as the deceased husband of an attractive widow, played by Karen Allen, last seen as Marian Ravenswood in "Raiders of the Lost Ark." They surprisingly fall in love after being chased across the country by government officials.

"Mick & Maude," a romantic comedy, opens on December 21. Dudley Moore (It's Arthur) stars as a man who has a girlfriend and a wife who become pregnant at the same time. His wife, played by Ann Reinking, is a successful lawyer who never seems to have time for him or for the child he wants to have. His girlfriend, Amy Irving, (Honeyuckle Kovel) is sweet and vulnerable.



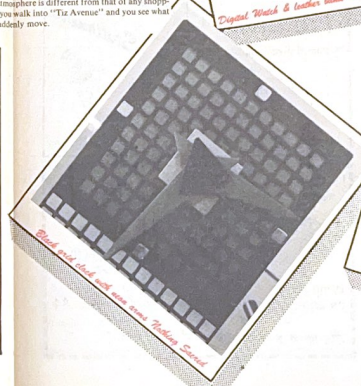
Stuffed Gumby \$18.00 Sheer Insanity



Digital Watch & leather band \$25.00 Nothing Sacred



Tick Clock \$99.00 Nothing Sacred



Black and leather keyboard cover \$25.00 Nothing Sacred



To: Santa

She wears little round glasses, a red and white outfit trimmed with fur, and carries a white mitt to warm her hands. You probably won't hear her say "Ho! Ho! Ho!," but wherever she speaks, her Texas accent is warm, and yes, even jolly. Ms. Claus has come to the 160 area every Christmas for the past four years. Each year she puts on her outfit and visits hospitals, nursing homes, schools, festivals, and even the Chamber of Commerce.

The rest of the year Mrs. Jenny Stanfield is a receptionist at Dave Summers Realtors, but at Christmastime she becomes Ms. Claus. Stanfield began her role as Santa's spouse when fellow employees were planning a Christmas party and needed a Ms. Claus. She decided to do it and make a costume for the occasion.

Since then, she has been joining Santa, Mr. Armas Mack, at the staff party every year and has sat with him while lines of children wait to speak to Santa.

"The kids all want to know what he eats, what his favorite TV show is, and when he sleeps," Stanfield said. She tells them that he eats hot dogs, loves orange M&M's, and takes a nap one time a week. They often ask her how she got a Texas accent, to which she says that she met Santa one Christmas in Texas and married him and moved to the North Pole.

As well as going to schools and nursing homes, Stanfield has spent time at hospitals. Last year she went to visit the Sunshine Kids, a group of children with incurable cancer, at M.D. Anderson Hospital. Stanfield said she was laudily prepared for the words she knew she would hear from many of the children: "Make me well."

"It really breaks your heart," Stanfield said, "but they were treated like kings and queens that day."

By: Lisa Joth



Cross country team member Vrecka runs to victory. Even though the cross country team has wrapped up their season, as usual it was victorious.

Girls golf State-bound?

By Laurie Nimbarger
Staff Writer

It's the perfect weather for a golfer — we and freezing. Are they inside all warm and dry? No, they are the Girls Varsity Golf team, and they're out on the course. I think our season didn't start out like it should have, but if we work harder and show a little more dedication, we'll have a better chance of going to state," returning varsity golfer, Davren Gervais said.

The team has competed in two tournaments so far, unlike previous years when they played in the spring instead of fall.

At the Dulles Tournament at Sugar Creek, the team came in 8th. Four-year returning letterman Marissa Oyanguren came in fourth overall with an 88.

The team did not place in the next tournament although Oyanguren again placed fourth with an 84.

"This year we should do well even though we are in a harder region. We can overcome this by practicing and we should win state once more," Kathy Wheeler and Michelle White, both returning lettermen, said.

The region was re-zoned this year and even better playing is needed to win state. Round Rock is now in the region and Coach Debbie Jurbas said they are the "toughest competition."

Luckily, none of this seems to affect their positive attitude.

To keep up their top-level of playing, the team will start having more organized practices, Julie said.

New bicycle club rolling toward success

The Cypress Creek Bicycle Club held its first meeting on November 8. Mr. Johnson, the sponsor of the club, was very happy with the attendance. About fifteen students came to investigate this new club for cycling.

The meeting was basically just to find who was interested in what. Most students were interested in informal racing and trips of 20 to 30 miles. Also popular were bike picnics, repair parties, camping trips, and several other group activities.

The club has three main goals, "to promote safety, share cycling information, and to just have fun," Johnson said.

Johnson is planning to put out a phone list for all the members. With the list, members will be able to call each other for company on a ride. Also, Johnson hopes to publish a newsletter to inform club members of upcoming events.

The organizer of the club was surprised that this many students shared his interest.

"I enjoy cycling, and I wanted to help get students involved. I also wanted to make them more aware of safety," Johnson said.

The club is not sure when they will get together again, but anyone interested in the club or the phone list can contact Mr. Johnson in room B209.

Landry Cowboy's problem

What's Happening to America's team?

By Ross Johnson
Sports Editor

What's happening to America's team? This season the Cowboys have faced many obstacles, injuries, quarterback controversies, and several upsets.

Dallas has struggled throughout their season. For the first time in many years, Dallas lost at home to the New York Giants. The Cowboys' level of play has varied from game to game. Some games they look like the superbowl champions and others direct reflection of the Houston Oilers.

through their division with so much raw talent on their team? They have some of the best receivers, great running backs, and a good offensive and defensive line. All of those add up to the winning combination, so how come the Cowboys aren't winning?

Coach Tom Landry, in a comment to reporters stated, "We need to put up one more touchdown and a field goal to win every game."

I think the solution to the Cowboys' problems is to find a new coach. After 25 years as the head coach of one team, his fresh ideas are limited. Coaches with longevity in the NFL usually have been the headmen for several different teams.

The team encountered a quarterback controversy, in which Gary Hogeboom won the starting position from Danny White. After six games with poor performance by Hogeboom, White regained his status as the Cowboys first-string quarterback.

The Cowboys could possibly find more optimism and backing from a more vocal coach. I think Landry's staid reign is over with and the Cowboys talent and a new coach, their Superbowl hopes should be great.



Coach Ottman is taking a break during runs at a cross country meet. Photo by Mike Henderson.

Cross-Country Captures title

By Kathy Moran
Contributing Writer

The 84-85 Cross Country team won the district title through hard work, determination, and the experienced coaching of District Coach, Mike Ottman.

"I didn't expect to win district with such a young team. Third place seemed more realistic at the beginning of the season," Ottman said.

Ottman credits "hard work and determination" with the team's success.

"Your mind has to take over your body

to be able to survive the strenuous work," sophomore Mike Cook said.

The attitude of the young team was good. "They weren't expected to win district, but they were told to try their hardest and they did," Ottman said.

"Coach Ottman is a man who strives for perfection," junior Mike Maak said.

The boys are hoping to go even further next year and feel state is attainable.

"We're looking forward to a good season next year and more support from the student body would be appreciated," junior Adrian Waller said.

Gridders wind up season

By Ross Johnson
Sports Editor

The varsity gridder finished their season on a low note. The Cougars were defeated by their oldest nemesis, the Cy-Fair Bulldogs.

This game is always the most emotional for both schools. For many years this rivalry has been carried off the field, to the extent of vandalism. Finally, this has started to become extinct. This year all energy seemed to be concentrated upon the football field. The Cougar played with the pressure to defeat their rival, but also had pressure knowing that Kira was being and their play-off hopes could be rekindled.

when Todd Moore commented with Gary Greenage who out-maneuvered several defenders for the TD. With 1 minute and 40 seconds remaining, Creek fans celebrated throughout the stadium.

However, the game was to take a dramatic turn, one for the worse. Creek kicked off. Cy-Fair started on their own twenty yard line with less than a minute to play.

The game was delayed about twenty-five minutes after Creek's John Haas had been injured, and an ambulance had to take him away. Haas injury resulted in a broken leg. This almost foreshadowed the tragedy to come.

The game was tough physically, as well as mentally, on the players. At possession of the pigskin seemed back and forth between the two teams, things looked bleak for Creek toward the closing of the game.

Would Creek lose? It seemed unlikely.

Cy-Fair proceeded to rally, and passed the ball downhill. The clock was running down. With about ten seconds remaining, Creek fans sensed a victory. The snap was taken and Cy-Fair quarterback found a lone receiver in the endzone, ending Creek's playoff hopes.

Flowers by Rudel
"Flowers With That Personal Touch"
a dozen with this ad!
Roses \$10.00
exp. Jan 15
18703 FM 149 • 890-9225

Odle Hands, Inc.
• stained glass, supplies & classes
• state inspection
• needlework
13718 Schroeder 469-5485
12932 Willowchase 890-5505

American Stationers
• cards
• puzzles
• stationary
• photo albums

Bianca's Welcome to the world of International Foods & Wines
COMPLIMENTARY TASTE TESTS
• Gift baskets
• Party trays
• Complete assortment of wines, champagnes, and imported beer
• Cash discounts
• Well stocked deli
• Specialty foods
• Discriminating dessert selections
Gourmet Foods Co. & Catering of Texas
17776 FM 149 Willowbrook Court 890-3605

13239 Jones Rd. 955-5555
(Behind McDonald's)
Merry Christmas from Connections
Bring this ad in for a 20% discount on any regularly-priced item thru Dec. 31, '84
(Commission items not included)
We wish you all the Best in 1985!!

Any Occasion - Gifts - Candy Bouquets
"Sweeter Than A Rose"
1202 Jones Rd. Suite 5D 957-1920 or 955-8216 We Deliver

10% off any purchase with this coupon
THE GARROT
needlecrafts
10712 Grand Road 461-9677

890-8584
Milo's
SPORTS & TROPHIES
807
Cy-Fair Plaza
12225 Jones Rd.
Houston, Texas 77070
(Behind McDonald's)
• Team Discounts •

HICKORY SHACK BAR-B-Q
12500 JONES RD. 890-1504
(Behind Allied Express Bank)
FREE BAR-B-Q SANDWICH
With Purchase of One of Equal or Greater Value
(Dinner Only, Excludes Alcohol)
(Offer Expires December 31, 1984)
LET US SMOKE YOUR HOLIDAY TURKEY OR HAM OR CATER YOUR PARTY!

The Navy's got the high-tech training you want, if you've got what it takes.

If you've got what it takes, the Navy's Delayed Entry Program can guarantee you the kind of sophisticated training you need in today's competitive world. And you can have up to one year to do the things you want before reporting for duty.

You can take time to travel, finish school, or just plain relax. Then you'll begin some of the most sophisticated training offered anywhere. In challenging fields like computers, electronics, communications or engineering. The skills you learn can pay off for the rest of your life. The places you'll visit, you'll remember the rest of your life.

Find out more about the rewards of the Navy's Delayed Entry Program. Talk it over with your local Navy representative:

NAVY
IT'S NOT JUST A JOB.
IT'S AN ADVENTURE.

