

December Calendar

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|--|---|
| 3 — DAT testing (auditorium and all IT's) 7:30-11:00 am | 14 — ACT testing (auditorium) |
| 4 — DAT testing, Dr. Reitman "Outliving the Teen Years" (TTC) 7:30-9:00 pm | 17 — AFS meeting (TTA) 7:00-9:15 pm |
| Football Banquet (commons) 7:00 | Choir Christmas Program (auditorium 7/commons) 4:30-9:30 |
| 7 — District and Regional band tryouts (Westfield) | 19 — Band Christmas Concert and Booster Meeting (and/TTC) 7:00 pm |
| 11 — Senior Spaghetti Supper (commons) 7:00 | 20 — Early Release for Christmas Holidays 1:30! |

Cougar Connection

Cypress Creek High School

9815 Grant Road

Houston, TX 77070

Volume 9 Issue 2

November 85

Parking lot fills up the spaces

Students left out in the cold

by Laurie Nimberger
Editor

"We have a lot of juniors and seniors who drive and not enough parking places," vice principal Evelyn Wilson said.

The problems this year may have just begun. Due to numbered amount of spaces, some students are left with no place to park. This problem is apparent when the varsity swimmers, who arrive after first period, seem to get stuck with the leftovers, whatever they happen to be for that day.

The amount of stickers sold has no limit and it varies. If someone has to trade a car and get a new sticker, the old one is void. If a student does not have one, this is a cause for a parking violation. Other violations include parking in reserved/visitors spaces, teacher spaces and parking in fire lanes. Floyd Miller is hired by the district to enforce these rules and to keep general order of the lot.

"We have few problems with violations," Wilson said. She

warns students after their third violation, at which she is permitted to tow the car. If the problem does not cease by their fifth violation, the car is most likely to be towed.

Many students feel part of the problem is trying to leave the lot after school. Wilson stressed that the exit is a two lane entrance/exit and that students should not try and make it a two-lane exit. An enlarged parking lot would seem to be a solution for most of this.

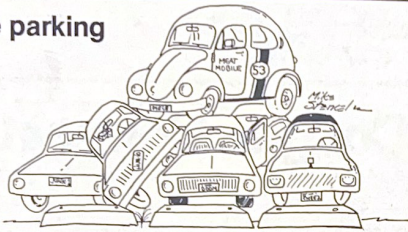
"Unfortunately, we have no hope of an enlarged lot at this time," Wilson said. Many of the students who were parking across from the school in the dirt will be left out unless they are a junior, senior or sophomore who is in a VOE class. This is the result of someone buying that land and asking that no students park on it.

"Carpooling is a good solution and will help. We do furnish transportation — the big yellow taxi! It's really not that bad," Wilson said.



Band members use all of their strength to push a car away so that practice can begin. (Photo by Matt DeMoss)

Tackling the parking problem: Is there a solution?



The parking lot situation at Creek has become nearly intolerable. There are obviously not enough spaces and if there are empty spaces, it takes forever to get to the building. In the morning the lines to enter the lot are long and this is another time-consuming procedure. Since no one is exactly rushing to get to school in the morning like they are to leave in the afternoon, this time of the day is worse. Everyone wants to leave and they want to leave quickly; one exit lane from each lot location is not sufficient. In each of these exits, people are turning both left and right and this creates yet another delay. These are the two major problems facing students now.

We feel that there could be solutions to these parking problems and they are acceptable for the majority of students. As we mentioned, the first thing that needs to be done is to enlarge the lot. There are several places around and in the school boundaries. (See diagram) Some of these areas might have to be bought but the product is well worth it. The empty lot next to the field is used by some but what is wrong with using the lot next to the tennis court or using the field. Another solution would be dealing with parking stickers. These solutions do not deal with land but hopefully, we feel

that they will add some extra parking spaces for students. The first idea is to number the amount of stickers sold. Of course, seniors would have first priority. An example would be to sell the stickers to the seniors for the first three days and then open the selling up to the juniors and some late seniors for the next three days. Another idea would be to revoke or suspend students parking stickers who have had violations or who continue to break the parking rules and regulations. This measure would help also in keeping these rules followed because everyone would fear no being able to drive their car to school.

The last example would be to promote carpooling. This could be done by reserving prime spaces for carpools. They could purchase a little card for 8.00 per carpool. They would have to promise to carpool, maybe sign an agreement, and whoever drive everyone for that day or week would keep the little card on their dashboard, so that it would be visible from the outside.

These are several solutions that we feel could help the parking situation. Maybe if permanent solutions are planned for the future, temporary ones, such as those dealing with the parking stickers, could be enforced.

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Letters to the Editor

Sympathy expressed over loss of friend

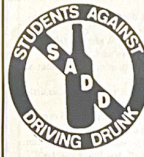
My friend Eric M. Sullins was killed in a drunk driving accident. He died at 2:00 Friday morning. He was 19. Late Friday I watched in amazement as his friends contemplated his death over a few beers. Didn't they see the point behind this whole ordeal? I knew Eric and I know he wouldn't want any of us to end up like him. I don't understand why they didn't say no. If someone asked you if you wanted to be killed you would say no, wouldn't you?

Eric was one of the most honest people I knew. He kept all of my secrets to himself. I depended on his humor and wit to keep my spirits up when things weren't quite right. About a month ago I called Eric at Sam Houston where he was attending school. I was very upset about some problems I'd been having. He and Kevin drove to my house at one in the morning to make sure I was okay. He was pillar of strength in my life. He always held me when I was upset. I wish he could hold me now.

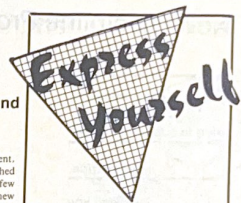
The things I remember most were the quiet, tender moments that close friends share. He often took Kevin, Paula, and myself to the park. The four of us always had the best of times. His laugh constantly kept all of us in stitches. It came from deep inside. If you knew Eric, you knew the laugh. My only regret is that last weekend I took 20 minutes to speak to him instead of 20 years.

Eric never let me or anyone else down; he was always there. I feel the loss of my friend to the depths of my soul. My heart goes out to all of Eric's family and friends. I know the feeling of your loss. May you rejoice in having known him. To those of you reading this, please don't drink and drive. 19 is much too young to die. Good-bye Eric, you meant the world to me...

—Rene LaCote
Senior



Your letter speaks for itself. We hope that reading it will make just one or two more students realize the hazards of chemical abuse. When it hits home like that, maybe a friend can be saved before it's too late. We hope that everyone will make an effort to try and help one another and we hope that the Drug Awareness Month informed students of the many hazards. Thanks for sharing your letter with us.



Q: What do you feel is the parking problem?

"I feel the problem is that too many people drive to school and their needs to be other means of exiting the parking lot," senior Laura Peck said.

"I think that there's not enough spaces and the ones they do have are too far from the school. When they made the school, they didn't leave any extra space to put new parking spaces," junior Kevin Irwin said.

"If a person is 16 years old and has passed their driving test, they obviously have the right to drive. The mud place was the only place they (sophomores who are 16) could park. They should be allowed to park in the parking lot now," sophomore Kari Lites said.



Did you read something in the Cougar Connection that you disagreed with? Do you want to voice your personal opinion on the subject? Your opinion counts and we'd like to hear from you! If you ever feel the need to express yourself or question something you read, letters are encouraged and responded to. Only letters with an identifiable name (however, names can be withheld upon request) will be accepted. Please send all letters to Miss Hoover in the Journalism Department (B214) or to any staff member. WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!!

New Discipline Procedures Spark Debate

Q: "The purpose of going to school is to get an education. How can you learn better if you have one hair color or two?"

—sophomore David Evans

by Jamie Wilson

Contributing Writer

In school, different students excel in different things. Some in academics, some in athletics, and others, in the arts.

The Code of Conduct states one of the objectives of the instructional program is to give students an opportunity to "learn to get along with other people." But the school continues to object to those who dress differently.

It also seems that certain groups are favored. Cheerleaders and Silverados wear their uniforms to school on certain days, even though they do not comply with the dress code.

Other students are not allowed to wear such short skirts, or even walking shorts that are much longer and less revealing.

Many students think it is unfair for the Silverados and cheerleaders to wear their uniforms when others are so restricted in their dress.

"Those (uniforms) are teeny-tiny things (new wavers or punk). They lean over and the whole class sees their bloomers. We wear more clothes than anyone else; we layer them," freshman Angie McDonald said.

There will be a change in this situation next year. "From now on, in the spring, the uniform of the Silverados and cheerleaders will be approved by the school board before it is purchased," assistant principal Evelyn Wilson said.

Although this decision may help in everyone being treated equally, there is still a lack of acceptance for those who dress differently at our school.

"Part of the reason I am so discouraged with our school is because I can't look the way I want and get an education without being harassed," sophomore David Evans said.

Many students are treated differently, just because of how they look.

"People that we've known since the fifth and sixth grades treat us like they don't even know us anymore, and I think that's very unfair," Gery Bush, who attended Cy Creek earlier this year, said.

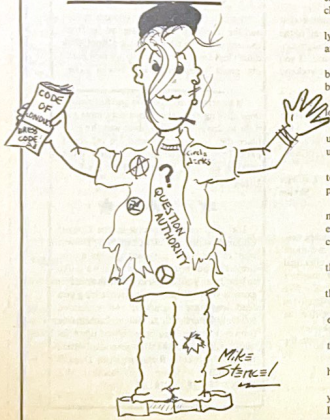
It is questionable if the administration should have the authority to control how people dress. Students should have the right to express their beliefs and personalities through the way they dress.

"It's not for attention. We're making a statement because we're not the same as everyone else, and you don't have to be the same as everyone else. We want everyone to realize that there is more than conforming," McDonald said.

Just because someone is different, it doesn't necessarily mean they're wrong. "All teenagers are looking for an identity. When you tell them they're wrong, that's harmful," David Evans said.

His mother agrees that the school needs to allow for freedom of expression. "They want you to be a clone. I think it's sad there's so little tolerance for being different," Winnie Evans said.

Not only are the rules a violation of a person's right to express himself, the dress code also has little to do with education itself. "The purpose of going to school is to get an education. How can you learn better if you have one color of hair instead of two?" David Evans said.



Mrs. Wilson tried to explain the school's need for a dress code. "Part of the educational process is to prepare students for a working world, and in preparation for the working world, part of that is dress and grooming," Wilson said.

But not all students need to prepare for an office job that will require them to wear a suit or dress. Some are interested in careers such as acting.

Many of the students that dress differently are in Drama. Last year, Doug Schamerhorn went to the Houston High School for Performing and Visual Arts. There, students can wear shorts and basically dress and look how they want. At the beginning of the year Schamerhorn's hair was black and blond. The administration told him to dye it all one color, so he dyed it, as he describes, "washed-out red."

He received Discipline Management Class for punishment although the administration had never specified what color he should dye his hair.

Many students feel that the dress code is not specific enough. "They write the rules so vaguely that they can distinguish them any way they want to," senior Mike Heath said.

The Code of Conduct states hair should not "be styled in a way that is distracting and/or designed to be conspicuous."

The code does not state what their definition of distracting is. Several students have gotten in trouble for off-colored or two-toned hair. This is unfair because other teachers and students dye, frost, or highlight their hair.

"I think all the teachers that frost their hair should be in in-school suspension too. I think if they're gray, they just have to go gray," junior Paula Chambers said.

Also, the Code of Conduct states that the policies were developed with the input of parents, teachers, counselors, administrators, and members of the Board of Education.

It does not mention students having any input into the policies. In a survey, 61% of the 31 teachers surveyed did not feel students are distracted by punk haircuts or new wave clothes during class.

"I think they (students) are more used to it than we are. You see it on MTV, you see it in the malls," history teacher Linda Allala said. 96% of the 68 students surveyed are not distracted by punk haircuts and new wave clothes during class. It is the students that are going to school to learn. If we are not distracted by it, there should be no regulations against it.

In closing, it should be said that people must learn to accept the faults and differences of others.

"I think people should learn to live together and look at more than the outside," Schamerhorn said.

A: "Part of the Educational process is to prepare students for a working world...part of that is dress and grooming."

—Assistant principal, Mrs. Evelyn Wilson

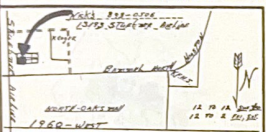


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A minute with Pat

Patrick Hays
Staff Writer

The other day I was innocently driving down the road. The sky was clear, the temperature was cool, I had the windows down, and I had not a worry in the world. As I was rolling on, I noticed a car pull into my lane from an offstreet. OK — no problem. I was behind the car for approximately one mile until...well, until it...the horror, realized itself. This car wanted to turn right into a convenience store. The only thing the driver did was put his brakes on and turn. Well, not the same story with Pat. I had to slam on my brakes, come to a screeching skid stop, and wait for this buckethead to turn. A signal, you say? Heaven forbid anyone using their signal when making a traffic move. This also happens at stoplights. People either turn without signaling, (after sitting there looking dumb without a signal), or they signal at the last second as if to say, "Oh yeah, I'm turnin'." Why don't people realize that those little yellow and red lights are *not* for decoration and SIGNAL. Please, I beg you, SIGNAL!!! Perhaps all motorists should be equipped with automatic saws for the cutting of the "non-signaler's" car. I believe that this would cut down on the number of people who don't signal.

Phil Collins, "Take on Me" by A-ha, "Dancin' In The Dark" by Bruce Springsteen, and "And She Was" by Talking Heads.

These disco mixes are made so that they are more "danceable" in the clubs. So why don't they keep them in the clubs? These songs are mainly played over 93Q and 104KRBE. I can usually stand 104, but 93? The same station that talks 47 minutes out of an hour with 10 minutes of Michael Pollack commercials and 1 song? No thanks. This station also has only 5 records: Money for Nothing, Take On Me, Oh Sheila, Fortress Around Your Heart, and Lovin' Every Minute of It.

The next time you hear a disco mix, grab a beverage, kick back, and relax, because you're gonna be there awhile. Some of these mixes seem perpetual. These people better watch out, they may ruin the spirit of radio. Why can't they just let a song be released and let it stand? Pretty soon, we'll probably hear the disco mix before we hear the actual song...And it will probably be on 93Q.



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Musically speaking . . .

Album Reviews

by Patrick Hays Staff Writer

INXS: Listen Like Thieves

Michael Hutchence: vocals; Andrew Farriss: keyboards, guitar; Kirk Pengilly: guitar, saxophone, vocal; Tim Farriss: guitar, synthesizers; Jon Farriss: drums; Garry Gary Beers: bass

What You Need; Listen Like Thieves; Shine Like It Does; Good and Bad Times; This Time; and six others.

Performance: Hot
Recording: Fine

Throughout their career, INXS has taken their compilation of instruments (including multi-percussion and saxophones) and come up with a unique, rich sound. "Listen Like Thieves" is one of their best albums to date. They remain consistent with their sound and come up with some very pleasing rhythms and melodies. Garry Gary Beers does a job worthy of notation on bass. He gets a nice, funky sound from his bass that adds a good touch to the sound of INXS. A compliment of nice guitar goes to the band for slick use of a whammy on "Same Direction." The album has one instrumental entitled "Three Sinners." A most enjoyable album.

STARSHIP: Knee Deep in the Hoopla

Donny Baldwin: drums, electronic drums, vocals; Grace Slick: vocals; Mickey Thomas: vocals; Craig Chaquico: guitars; Pete Sears: bass guitar, synthesized bass

Rock Myself to Sleep; We Built This City; Tomorrow Doesn't Matter Tonight; Before I Go; Private Room; Love Raids; and three others

Performance: Poor
Recording: Adequate

Bring on the No-Doz, bring on the coffee, bring on something that will keep you awake while you listen to this album. Not only is it boring, it's downright bad. It was truly a chore to listen to it. There are some good sounds on the album, mind you, but they are minute compared to the rest of the album. For instance, Pete Sears gets some nice bass sounds, and Donny Baldwin's electric drums sound very good at times, but this album is a pile of dung in the barnyard of life. Enough said.

TALKING HEADS: Little Creatures

David Byrne: guitar, vocals; Chris Frantz: drums; Jerry Harrison: keyboards, guitar, background vocals; Tina Weymouth: bass, background vocals

And She Was; Give Me Back My Name; Creatures of Love; The Lady Don't Mind; Perfect World; Stay Up Late; and three others.

Performance: Syncopated Fun
Recording: Good Mix

I can easily envision the Talking Heads doing something crazy like standing naked in Times Square or riding big wheels through a shopping mall. They are good musicians, and they have fun. "Little Creatures" generates some new experiences for them and the finished product is a good, funny album. Byrne's characteristic boingy voice is consistent throughout, joined by some prime jumbles, riffs, and claps from Weymouth, Frantz, and Harrison. Steve Scale, one of the 12 additional musicians on this album, incorporates some very nice percussion on "Television Man." A splendid vocal award goes to the band for the beginning of "Road to Nowhere" where they achieve a superb harmony. Frantz also plays a military drumbeat on this cut. A must for all Heads fans.

ZZ TOP: Afterburner

Billy Gibbons: guitar, vocals; Dusty Hill: bass, vocals; Frank Beard: drums

Sleeping Bag; Stages; Woke Up With Wood; Rough Boy; Can't Stop Rockin'; Planet of Women; and four others.

Performance: Same as it ever was
Recording: Good

With the release of "Eliminator," ZZ Top changed their sound to a fuller guitar and more straightforward 4/4 drum patterns. "Afterburner" walks the same exact line. If you closed your eyes and listened, you probably couldn't tell the two apart. They even

have the same car on the front. The only change of pace is a ballad entitled "Rough Boy" and the guys do make good use of keyboards on "I Got the Message." ZZ Top is better than this. As for this album, well, they just simply missed.

RUSH: Power Windows

Geddy Lee: bass, synthesizers, vocals; Alex Lifeson: electric and acoustic guitars; Neil Peart: drums, electronic percussion

The Big Money; Grand Designs; Manhattan Project; Marathon; Territories; Middletown Dreams; Emotion Detector; Mystic Rhythms

Performance: C'est magnifique
Recording: Excellent

Once in a while, there comes along an album which people can sit down and listen to, mainly musicians, and learn from. Well, here it is. "Power Windows" could be used as a learning device for musicians from sea to shining sea. Geddy Lee throws in bass lines that will make your eyeballs fall out. These lines are not just solos, some are melodies. He also continues his use of keyboards with new sounds and rhythms. Neil Peart, as always, shows his talent throughout the album by throwing in an assortment of high-hats, splashes, bells, and assorted percussion in rhythms and fills. He continued the use of electronic drums, not overdoing it, but spicing things up a bit by inserting them in the right place, with the right sound. His lyrics continue with the concepts of nuclear power and dominant machinery in our society, as well as new concepts of human endurance and the evils of money. Alex Lifeson, yes, "Mr. Underated," gives us a very good performance with his rhythms and solos touched up with an occasional whammy to add some flavor.

It has been said that Rush is the best band in music today, and that may very well be true. The reason being that this band simply does what no other band does.

A view from the corner "...May your dentist never say oops."

by Greg Pettit
Staff Writer

You know, it would seem that after years of conferences, appointments, and check-ups, a person would get used to the dentist. Not I. Just the name alone sends echoes of drilling through my mind. Also, with the addition of words such as power-surge and epilepsy, the dentist seems to be more fitted for a job in a splatter movie.

These "doctors" seem able to create a unique kind of pain. It's the kind of pain you can't really feel. The only way you know what is going on in your mouth is through your ears and your imagination. That's not good. On the other hand, you may be lucky enough to get a dentist who wears glasses, then you can see through the reflections exactly where the blood is coming from.

The average trip to the drill-wielder obviously begins in the waiting room, where the smell alone is enough to turn one's stomach inside out. The smell is an unusual combination of a new car, formaldehyde, and some very old Lysol. It gives the feeling of being too clean. (Do they have something to hide?) Then an assistant will come to take you away down the hall to the room on the right. They put you in a chair you could easily fall asleep in, if only you could get your stomach back to normal.

After various and assorted prickings, prodings, and pluckings comes a very bizarre event: the x-ray. The assistant is careful to place cardboard in your mouth exactly where it will hurt the most. Next she places a lead apron over your chest to protect you from radiation while pointing the lens of the machine two inches from your face. Now she'll run from the room to turn it on from a safe distance while your head is being bombarded by rays still mysteriously dubbed "x".

Later, in comes the man for which you are here. It's strange, he almost always seems happy. I always wonder, what unusual incident or bizarre punishment in his past made him want to be a dentist? Didn't he, too, as a child dread to be a dentist? Or is he so warped that he enjoyed being helpless while another man had three fingers and a high-speed drill in his mouth? Maybe he hated it as much as I

and has decided to take his revenge on the rest of the world! I shouldn't think of these things.

My favorite fantasy at this point is to scream hideously at the top of my lungs. I imagine the people still inhaling in the waiting room exchanging fevered glances while their heart tries to escape.

A slight chuckle comes to my lips even though they haven't touched each other in the past seven minutes. I try to swallow but instead nearly have my lungs pulled out by a suction tube. Man, I hate those things.

My last check-up came out okay, but as I left the room the unmistakable "bui" hung in the air. It had to happen. I turned to him and asked for it straight. I got it. My wisdom teeth had to come out. The immediate shock of having to spend another visit with the man who could do absolutely anything to my mouth without my knowing it was hard to take. It was only eased with the reassuring knowledge of laughing gas.

These experiences are probably familiar, but if not, let them be a warning to you. Keep your teeth clean and may your dentist never say "oops".



The man behind the image: Shelton

The fate of the school is in Principal Joe Shelton's hands.

He has innumerable responsibilities, and must execute each of them perfectly. Three thousand pairs of eyes are on him at all times.

A native Houstonian, Shelton is married with two children. Before becoming Principal, he served as an Associate Principal at Cy-Fair, as Assistant Principal at Channelview and Sheldon, and a teacher and coach of the Houston Independent School District. He has been at Creek for five years.

"I'd put our student body up against any in the state," Shelton said.

On the flipside of that comment, he can't understand why students vandalize our school and leave trash and trays in the cafeteria.

Mr. Shelton's opinions have a great amount of influence in the school's government classes. He has resigned himself to the pass/fail law, though.

"Since the rules are more stringent we will have problems," Shelton said.

The Senior Government classes have recently finished a mock senate meeting in which they attempted to come up with some solutions to these "stringent" rules. Shelton feels that the students had a lot of good points, but he does not believe that the bills

will get any further than the school.

"The district is too tied to state rules," he said.

Another district-wide rule is the introduction of one drug awareness program per week for a month. This drug awareness month was designed to make students think before having any willful contact with drugs.

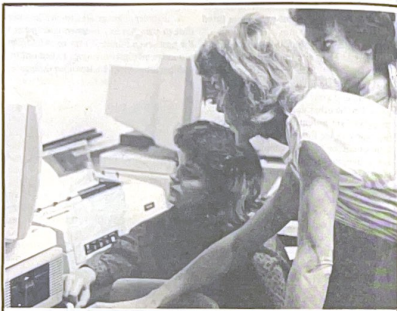
"You should be able to stand up to any

peer group or other influence," Mr. Shelton said.

Of all the responsibilities Shelton has, he most enjoys the constant interaction with the students.

"I like to see the students mature into young adults," Shelton said.

Michelle Pike



F Y I

The National Art Honor Society (NAHS) completed its first project for this year by holding an art book sale during both lunch

and after school on November 4.

People from Texas Art assisted in the sale by displaying books and answering questions for interested students.

The money raised by this sale is to aid in club activities.

"The National Art Honor Society promotes interest in art around school," Mrs. Grover, the sponsor said.

Earlier in the year, twenty people attended the first meeting and elected officers.

Joy Kloesel was elected to the position of

president, Reed Vosquij was elected vice-president, Kelli Johnson is the new secretary, and Valerie Morton was elected treasurer.

During this meeting the new members were welcomed by a party.

The NAHS is in its third year at Cy-Creek, and the club participates in many activities like contests and district exhibitions.

One of the projects the society has done is the large mural in the hallway outside the principal's office.

The NAHS promotes, "good fellowship between art students," Mrs. Grover said.

—Jeni Hall

A step in the right direction for business students

Tuesday, November 12 D.E.C.A. (Distributive Education Clubs of America) will hold its first Mini Contest of the year. It will be held at Tomball High School and it will include students in D.E.C.A. "The contests will test students over their knowledge with selling, communication, math, human relationships, and service knowledge skills," said Mr. Kirk, the D.E.C.A. teacher. There is only one other Mini Contest this year before moving on to the Area and State Con-

tests.

This year's officers for D.E.C.A. are President — Elise Adam, Vice Presidents — Daniel Burke, Cheryl Robinson, and Tomas Colorado, Secretary — Heather Furth, Treasurer — Ly Yu, Sergeant at Arms — Enrique Saavedra, and Reporter — Shelli Hess. Senior Vicki Baggerly said that D.E.C.A. helps teach students a "Sense of Responsibility."

"D.E.C.A. is not only an educational

program gearing students in the right direction, it is also a fun way to get on-the-job experience.

The students are not only graded in school, but also on the performance they show at work. What better way to learn skills that will help you in the future and receive three credits while doing it?

This program is strictly for juniors and seniors, so you freshmen and sophomores start thinking about getting in D.E.C.A.

—Jenny Fisher

Members of Model UN begin researching topics

Model United Nations have adopted Great Britain and Kenya as their countries this year.

Mrs. Linda Chancellor is the sponsor again this year. Ms. Fulmer and Ms. Jean Mierochin are helping also.

"Model U.N. is a role-playing experience in which students across the greater Houston area each represent a country and simulate the United Nations. The students debate problems of importance to the world," Mrs. Chancellor said.

"The students are so dedicated, and there are so many of them," Chancellor said.

"We are two months ahead of schedule. We started early this year. Membership is up from past years, hopefully there won't be many drop outs," Hazel Blair said.

"We are going to work long hours, but it's

worth the effort," second-year member Liesse Rickelman said.

Extensive research is being done on Kenya and Great Britain.

"Researching is hard because our library is limited," first-year member Tracey Thomas said.

"The resolution topics this year are based on problems with endangered species, government separatist groups, natural disasters, Antarctica, and South Africa's racial problems."

The first practice session is planned for Nov. 12 to help new members adjust to parliamentary procedure.

"There is a chance to take all of the awards this year," Mrs. Chancellor said.

"I hope that all the people involved learn how interdependent the world is, and how we must learn how to work with other nations. Being involved is very important," Chancellor said.

Each student does research, then is placed on one of four topics. Next, they write resolutions, then are placed on committees to vote on action for other student's resolutions.

Meetings are every Tuesday from 2:30-4:00.

Steven Mercer was voted president.

"It's not a real office, I don't have my own desk," Mercer said.

Fundraising generates money for the Houston Conference March 20-22, and a trip to nationals in New York March 25-29.

—Hazel Blair

SADD speaks out

Making our school chemical free is a big job for Miss Leslie Bluestein and all SADD members. Students Against Driving Drunk (SADD) is an after school organization sponsored by Bluestein, a freshman English teacher.

"Our real goal is public awareness," Bluestein said.

"Young people need to understand and to internalize the knowledge that driving drunk places themselves and others in extreme danger," Bluestein said.

In contrast to Bluestein's positive at-

titude, many students feel SADD has become a hypocritical organization.

"The students that belong often drive drunk," senior Sally Dare, said.

Some former members agreed with this. Overall, most students strongly disagreed with driving drunk.

"If you think you're responsible enough to drink, you should be responsible enough to know when you can't drive," Beth Commons, former member said.

A large number of students felt that SADD was not speaking out enough.

"I didn't know there was an organization," senior Karyn Dorsey said.

"It's a good idea, but it isn't promoted well, they need more meetings, announcements, and special events," Teresa Potaps said.

The positive attitudes Bluestein noticed during Drug Awareness Month were pleasing. She is hopeful that this, along with SADD, made teens realize that it can happen to them.

—Jill Maloney

Actors take audience with them in first performance of year

by Lisa Henry
Staff Writer

From the minute the first spotlight came on and the first line was spoken, the audience was spellbound. Opening night of "You Can't Take It With You" was a great success. The talent and dedication of the cast and crew was apparent in the professional quality of the entire performance. Not once was there any cause to think, "This is a high school play," not once was it necessary to make excuses or overlook details. The performance was so consistent that it is not only difficult to find anything wrong, it is hard to know what to praise first.

What makes such a flawless performance?

"The strength of the show lies in the individual character development," Drama instructor and Director Marilyn Miller said. "The actors carried the development of the characters farther than would be expected in a typical high school play."

Rather than taking away from the main points of the show, the behavior of the characters added to the realistic atmosphere of the play. The attention of the audience was focused on the speaking characters, which is crucial to a successful play. No one character "stole the show", if only because of the equal ease and charm which the parts were played.

Jennifer Cabe, as Essie Charmichael, kept the audience practically in hysterics with her ballet performance, dancing and leaping across the stage, her tongue half out and her face set in an intense expression of studied concentration. And one of the funniest moments in the play came when, upon hearing the news that her plans to have a baby were approved of by the family, she was promptly whisked up the stairs by her eager husband, played by Mark Cridge.

Greg Magyar and Meg Rohauer were equally good in their portrayal of a young couple hopelessly in love. They managed to seem sincere without being overly sappy. Both were very dedicated to their parts — in fact, during one of their marathon kisses,

one audience member was heard to say, "If this goes on any longer, it'll turn into a Big Red commercial!" Pretty convincing performance, guys!

Equal mention should be made of the other outstanding members of the cast. Mark Anderson, as grandfather Martin Vanderhoff, was a very believable picture of a man who has discovered the secret of happiness. Throughout the play, he seemed continually amused at the actions of the other characters with his detached and sardonic grin. Mrs. Sycamore, played by Colleen Colard, delivered her lines in exactly the way an animated, but slightly batty mother would say them, and typed away at her plays quite happily. Janet Hamric, playing the part of a drunk, unemployed actress, was very convincingly drunk, and held the rapt attention of the audience whenever she came on stage.

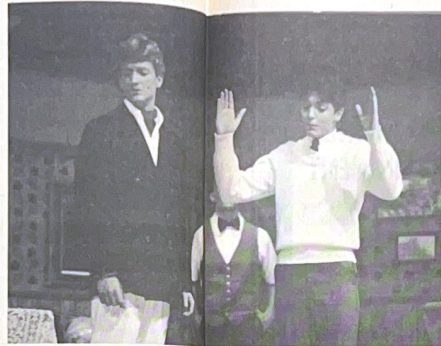
Besides the actual actors, there were many other "behind the scenes" people. "It's difficult to single out one student," said Ms. Miller, "but I can say that without Reed Voskuil, Margaret May, Joellen Jones, Rob Ward, and Jennifer Kimball, getting the set together would have been very difficult."

All in all, about 80 students worked on the set or on technical aspects of the play, and apparently a large portion of them spent their time on the hand-painted grapes that adorned the wallpaper of the Vanderhof home.

"I have nightmares about those grapes," said a Drama I student.

Everyone seemed to agree. And although the crew was not particularly enthusiastic about the painting of the grapes, they were all proud to complain about their hard work and were eager to point out exactly where on the wall the vital contribution was made.

When confronted with the obvious question of "Why didn't you just go buy some wallpaper?!", Ms. Miller admitted her part in the scheme. "Actually it was a tool to make everyone feel they had done something, that they were a part of the play. I think it created a common purpose that united the entire crew."



"The actors carried the development of the characters farther than would be expected in a typical high school play."

Drama instructor, Mrs. Marilyn Miller

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For Your Information

Library security system arrives with mixed opinions

Your palms start to sweat. There is a loud booming sound, and you realize it is your heart pounding against your chest. Just shut your eyes and take a deep breath, you're almost there. Two more steps and you're all clear. Congratulations, you've safely made it through the new library security system.

This year our library, along with the other four high school's libraries, has installed a security system to cut down on stolen books. There is only one entrance and one exit, the exit being much like walking through a metal detector at an airport. There are strips in the books that, when not properly checked out, trigger an alarm in the exit.

"The overall reaction has been good. The biggest complaint is that there is only one exit. Most seem to understand," Carolyn Holt, librarian said.

Students opinions are mixed.

"I guess it's a good thing. I didn't really know we needed it," sophomore Nici Bender said.

"It makes me feel like a convict," freshman Holly Stewart said.

The school won't know exactly how much money is saved until the inventory at the end of the year, but it should be several thousand dollars. According to Holt, more books have been checked out, which indicates less books have been stolen.

Obviously it will make a difference, but some Creekers have their doubts.

"If a person wants something bad enough, they'll find a way," one junior said.

The alarm has sounded several times, but usually it is friends playing a joke by hiding books somewhere, according to Holt. However, there has been a case when a student did try and steal a book. He was sent to the principal and disciplined.

The new security system may cut down on convenience, especially if your next class is right across the hall from the entrance only door. But the money it saves will make it worthwhile.

—Adrienne Anderson

F Y I

Cougars for Christ reach out with love

Nominations were held for a new president and plans were made for a lock-in at the Cougars for Christ meeting on November 5.

"Lance Greene resigned as president because he didn't agree with the other officers of the club," club member Cathy Cruse said.

"I think that if that's the way Lance feels that it's probably best for the club that he left," Cruse said.

Plans were also finalized for a recent lock-in at club sponsor Mrs. Jones' house. Cruse said there would be singing, Bible Trivia and Bible study.

Cougars for Christ is a Christian organization which meets in Teaching Theatre at 6:45

Tuesday mornings. Everyone is welcome.

"It's like a nucleus of students that help reach out and help each other," vice-president Melissa Liggins said.

The goals of the group are to "reach out more people with love and concern and to help people become closer to God," Liggins said.

A typical meeting of Cougars for Christ begins with singing, then prayers, Bible reading and closing prayers.

"Cougars for Christ helps me realize I'm not the only Christian at Cy-Creek. It's definitely worth getting 15 minutes less sleep!" member Joanie Miller said.

—Alicia Varney

Students in Driver's Ed. avoid mailboxes and curbs

In contrast to past years, no one in Driver's Ed has yet had an accident. In recent years, people have hit mailboxes, numerous curbs, and several front lawns.

"Luckily, no one has hit anything yet," Mrs. Whitehead, a Driver's Ed teacher, said.

The students in the Driver's Ed classes are driving new Oldsmobiles this year, and according to Mrs. Whitehead, "the students really like driving the new cars. They think it's more fun than driving an old clunker."

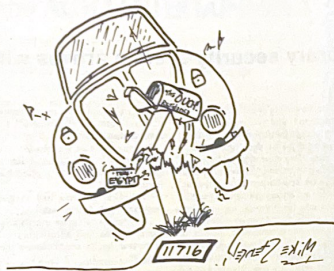
This sentiment was true for the past Driver's Ed students too, but the Driver's Ed curriculum has changed a lot since last year.

This year's program is the first year that Driver's Ed has counted half a credit towards graduation, but the requirements for passing have gone up. Last year, students had to have 32 hours of class time, three hours behind the wheel, and 12 hours in simulation. This year, the requirements are 56 hours in the classroom, four hours behind the wheel, and 12 hours in simulation.

Sophomore Randy Farman said his favorite part of Driver's Ed was the "DRIVE!" Little did he know that eventually he and the other students in Driver's Ed would be driving on FM 1960, the most dangerous roadway in Texas.

Most of the students feel it's easier to them a bit. Parents should note that these students travel on 1960 then say, Grant Road, because 1960 gives the appearance of being much wider and is easier to gauge when driving. Some kids are even bold enough to say "it's a breeze." It's notoriety doesn't bother

—Niki Flearra



Getting ready for Academic Decathlon

Last year's Academic Decathlon team placed third in the District at Regionals. The victory was due to team work, positive attitude and 100 percent effort on the student's part, former coach Miss Bluestein said.

In case you are not familiar with the competition, it is a ten event competition ranging from Geology, Biology, math, World History, Fine Arts and Music, and English Literature.

In addition, each student is rated in an extemporaneous speech, prepared speech, written composition and in-depth interview.

The selected team for this year will be announced in the middle of November. Screenings were held in the first week of November and the selected team members will be announced during the middle of the month.

Entrance onto the team is not only based on GPA. Test scores, the ability to communicate effectively and teacher recommendations are also taken into consideration.

"Academic Decathlon is a challenging competition for the academically gifted student," recent coach, Mrs. Bankus said. It is a competitive situation where they must perform under extreme pressure and fatigue.

"There is nothing better to see the pride in the students' eyes," she says. The first competition takes place in January and we are rooting for this year's team to have as much success as last year's outstanding team had.

To be considered for the team, you must be bright, well spoken, articulate, have good writing skills and memory, and an eager attitude.

—Michelle Birdsall

Discipline was a key point in last year's education reform.

For example, last year's tardy counted as one D-hall, as opposed to this year where you have three chances before a trip to D-hall. After two tardies, the teacher will call the students parents.

"To keep track of the tardies, a student signs a sheet stating that he or she understands the disciplinary action to be taken each time he or she is tardy.

"Last year's discipline program was a trial," Mr. Sheridan assistant principal, said. "Once students start slacking off, we will go back to last year's plan," he said.

According to Sheridan, the plan is working very well and students seem to be getting to class on time more than ever.

One of the problems at the beginning of the year was the dress code. With the new styles, students have begun to express their individualism more.

"The school doesn't feel like it is stereotyping the students by enforcing the code. The code has nothing to do with the ability of expression of the individual," says Sheridan.

"As long as one does not dress immodestly or immorally, it doesn't bother me," Sheridan said.

As usual, parking proved a problem for students and administration alike. "The ma-

problem is the parking permit and registration violators," Sheridan said.

As of yet, there are no plans to build a new parking lot.

The worst problem is at the end of the year with the sophomores because they are just getting their licenses and taking up spaces, says Sheridan.

Right now, there are more spaces than drivers.

Now with the closure of the "sophomore parking lot," parking could prove to be a bigger problem.

Sophomores are only allowed to park if they are on the work program.

—Shannon Stocker

English teachers work on new ideas

In an attempt to make English more interesting English teachers are working on some new and creative ideas.

To make Senior English more creative, Mrs. Guess, Senior English teacher, dressed up as the Wife of Bath from Canterbury Tales.

"It really helped me capture the spirit of the time period", one Senior English student said.

Getting prepared for the Senior year when everything really counts, (especially the SAT) juniors are working on one of the most important parts of all, vocabulary.

Sophomores just finished watching

"Places in the Heart", and are now reading the short story *His Enemy, His Friend*.

In Freshman English they are making up a trivial pursuit game for review and learning vocabulary by charades.

"This has been a pretty slow week and we need it", Mrs. Koblinger, a Senior A.P. English teacher, said. A.P. stands for Advanced Placement this class is more of a college preparation course and goes more in depth with literature and timed writings.

Mrs. Koblinger is department chairman of the English department and the head sponsor for the Senior class.

—Carrie Yardas

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Drama scores with production

"The Company" has successfully produced the 1930's comedy, "You Can't Take it with You." The play stars Colleen Collard, Mark Anderson, Meg Rohauer, Greg Magyar, and Chris George as some of the major characters.

Does play rehearsals affect grades? "I don't think it should, but it takes plenty of time after school, so it might," director Mrs. Marilyn Miller said.

The set was the first full-stage set in Creek's history. The 1930's room replica, furnished and wallpapered, required many

hours of work from the stage crew and theatre productions classes. Mrs. Miller said she was very pleased with the end result.

Mrs. Miller said before the first performance of the play, "It might be better than any other play we've put on, the students care more."

This proved to be true as opening night brought a large crowd of students, parents, and teachers. Mrs. Miller felt very optimistic after the opening performance on November 8th.

—Todd Fisk

For Your Information

NAHS takes off

In 1979, two years after Cy-Creek Senior High School opened, the National Honor Society started.

The National Honor Society is planning a canned food drive, and this year they are going to support children in Africa. Around Easter they are also going to help children in faith homes. The president of the National Honor Society is Mark Dempsey, Keith Wright is the vice president, Stacey Krueger is the treasurer and Sharon Dodd is the secretary.

The National average of students in the NHS is believed to be 10% of the juniors and seniors, while the Creek's average is 8%. This is believed to be due to the fact that students have adapted to the new rules of last year.

"Girls outnumber boys in the NHS two to one. I think this is because girls take on the

role of a leader faster than boys do," sponsor Mrs. Fritchey said.

The average National Honor Society student is "involved in almost everything," according to Mrs. Fritchey.

"This includes both school and public activities. Many of the students in the National Honor Society do volunteer work for hospitals and rest homes," she said.

—Ken Bullock

Spirit activities excite sister schools

Jersey Village had a toga and lunchbox day? Cy-Fair got to have a jello-slurping and tricycle race contest? This sounds kinda interesting, what else is going on at these schools?

Cy-Fair is a very spirited school with maroon and white days almost every Friday. The seniors had a beach day on a week end day and they all met for a Hawaii Bash in Galveston. They also have a Club of Clubs

and each of the schools' clubs makes signs for the upcoming game and points are awarded for the best signs.

"Everyone wears anything maroon and white to do with Bobcats. They just throw it all out," said Cy-Fair senior Judy Perkins.

Jersey Village has their Powder Puff football game coming up November 17 at 1:00.

"Senior Strads are going to be the Goldstuds and queer leaders and we are go-

ing to do a halftime dance to 'The Bird'," said J.V. senior Phillip Smith.

Both schools have had senior fundraisers such as magazine sales, dances and other school orientated activities. A lot of the activities are the same in all of the area schools, some are Drug Awareness Month, a new grading scale and other things that effect the daily school agenda.

Laurie Nimberger

Foreign language building on basics

The Spanish classes have been busy this month. If you talk to a person in Spanish I, they can tell you where they live, their age, the numbers from 1 to 100, they can describe people, talk about their classes, and tell time. They are learning about the Spanish speaking countries in South America, things like the capital cities, the geography, and the flags. They are doing all this as group projects. The II's are learning new vocabulary after mostly reviewing at the beginning of the year. III has just finished a sports unit and a bullfighting unit. They have learned

about Sevilla, a city in Spain. They have also learned about the Day of the Dead, a Spanish celebration that was on November 2. Along with this, they have learned about the Spanish attitude towards death.

French I has learned how to say names of places, talk about their families, and how to introduce themselves. II has learned negative responses and how to talk about their school. In III, there is no English allowed. At the beginning of the year, it was 90% French, but now it is 100%. IV and V have been completely French all year. They have

been discussing current events and giving their opinions.

German is preparing for a contest. The upper-level classes are working on a play and the lower-level is working on skits. The upper-level is also learning about Passauf, which is a German culture bowl.

Latin, so far, seems pretty easy to the I students, they say. Most of it is things people say all the time but don't realize it is Latin. I has learned the second declensions, which is the ending to words and what they mean.

For Your Information

Dirty hands one part of V.I.C.A.

V.I.C.A. Competition is coming up in January and many auto mechanics students are planning to enter. V.I.C.A. will consist of rebuilding engines and seeing who is the best.

"Auto mechanics projects are the main goal right now," Mr. Simmons, auto mechanics teacher said. Many of the students are choosing to rebuild their engines.

"After learning the basic things such as lubrication and maintenance, rebuilding engines seems a little closer to home," junior Eddy Hall said.

There are no special requirements to get into this class, but "you have to be willing to get your hands dirty," Mr. Simmons said. Girls are welcome, but none have entered yet.

Students and teachers bring in cars to

work on.

"Mr. Worthington even brought his car in," Hall said.

"Learning how to work on cars and rebuild engines is fun and good experience," Hall said.

"The goal of the class is to learn to become professional mechanics," Hall said.

—Brian Beers

New computers confuse V.O.E.

Students of Vocational Office Education (VOE) classes have been working with an "up-to-age computer system" called the Lex-orwriter. It seems to have confused almost all of Linda Denison's students.

Jane Faqua, a senior in the COOP program is knowledgeable in the field of computers, but "...sometimes it will not do any of the commands I tell it to."

The VOE program teaches a variety of of-

fice skills which will prepare people for the office environment.

"This class gives the student an opportunity to learn a skill, earn school credit, obtain a salary and be in a situation of office education," Mrs. Denison says concerning the COOP program.

What qualifications does one need to get into the VOE program? One year of typing, good attendance, good attitude, and a hard

working determination.

For juniors, there is the LAB program, which is two periods, second and third.

For seniors, there is the COOP program. This class consists of one hour, first period.

This class enables the student to brush up old skills and learn new office skills, go to work and earn a salary.

—Christine Mac Millen

Boosting Creek spirits

Booster Babes is a service organization for the Cy-Creek girls sponsored by the parents Booster Club, and run by Edith Gibson and Kit Aguren.

Booster Babes are cheerful, high-spirited girls who are willing to spend their extra time on promoting spirit for their high school sport.

"The only thing you have to do to be in Booster Babes is to sign up with Edith Gib-

son and maintain passing grades," says co-sponsor, Kit Aguren.

Booster Babes have spirit projects for every varsity sport throughout the year.

These girls also have one social event per month for members only.

The girls have to work hard to get everything done, but they have fun doing it.

"I was not in it last year, but I think I will

really enjoy it. Everyone says it is a lot of fun," Stacey Leffingwell said.

When you see all the smiles and spirited people just remember they are the Booster Babes.

If you want to have just as much fun and would like to be a part of something, please sign up with the Booster Babes.

—Christine Gramling

"Age of Computer" hits Business

by Melissa Brown
Staff Writer

This year there was a new arrival to the state's curriculum and to our Business Department, Business Education. Along with the new class, new computers were added, IIT EXTRAS.

"The students are learning practical applications on the computers, but the entire class is only an introduction," Mrs. Rhodes said.

According to Rhodes, the class introduces students to basic pre-business experience on computers.

"Right now it's hard to do a lot of things on our own because it's still quite new to us, but I'm looking forward to next semester when we will start writing programs," a senior said.

The students work really hard and are kept busy.

"This semester they are working on an introduction to word processing, spread sheets, and data bases; next semester, however, they will be learning basic programming and writing their own programs," Rhodes said.

This is one of the better computer courses offered if you are interested in computers and business, according to Rhodes.

For students who have a more advanced knowledge of computers, Word Processing/

Advanced Typing is a good class to take. It is like the second level of the Business Education class.

Unlike the Business Education class, Word Processing/Advanced Typing is an in-depth class that uses both the computers and the electric typewriters.

Rhodes feels that computers are really important in our society now, and their impor-

ance is increasing. "Everyone needs some course in computers because before long everyone will own one," Rhodes said.

Apparently students agree. All five of the Business Education classes are full to capacity and many students had to be turned away.

Maybe this is the "Age of the Computer".



Grading system helps math students

What effect has the new grading system had in math?

Through the last couple of years the grading system has played musical chairs. Last year it was at an impossible passing level; the Honor students even had difficulty with "A" averages. This year it has improved to a more comfortable level; even the average student is able to make an "A". To some the "grade" is just a part of life. To others it's a challenge that the new grading system has made easier to accomplish.

"English is easy; math makes me think," sophomore Charlyn Gleason said.

"It's like a new world that you wouldn't

understand unless someone taught it to you."

Although Gleason's average hasn't fallen below a "B" in math; for students like sophomore Todd Fink, the grading system keeps him ahead in math.

"I would've made a "C" this past six weeks if the grading system hadn't changed," he said.

Does this mean everyone is happy? Maybe not. "I think all high schools should be more vocational and specialized in general," senior Manuel Serpa said.

—Jonathon Walker

JV football improves over season

by Jennifer Eisenberg
Staff Writer

"I think we will come out a winning team since we are off to a good start," Pat Cassidy, Junior Varsity quick tackle, said September 26. The Coogs lived up to this as they came up with their 8 and 2 record.

There were times, however, when Coogars were unsure, but they seemed to pull ahead. "The team needs more practice together. We spend more time watching Varsity than practicing ourselves," wide receiver Chris Bewell said.

There were those times when things were not going well.

"We forgot how we achieved our 3-0 record," JV coach John Wiersema said after the Klein Oak loss.

"Starting with the first play to the last — you must play as hard as if it was the most

important play of the game," Wiersema said.

Other setbacks were the no pass/no play rule.

"Right now it will effect me because I'm not doing too well in history," Offensive Guard Carey Grant said.

Progress reports were checked and some were borderline, according to JV Coach, Nick LaBarbera. LaBarbera teaches Biology and Wiersema teaches Health.

Some fans agreed with House Bill 72, but most did not.

"I don't see why they should be penalized for so long, I mean, six weeks!" freshman Heather Henderson said.

Sophomore counselor Larry Jackson also disagreed. It is too long. One week is enough, according to Jackson.

Those affected didn't like it much either.

"No — I hate it! I'm part of it!" one sophomore student said.

These situations were setbacks but, there were good things going for the team also.

The more fan support JV got, the better they did.

Some fans went to socialize, and some went to enjoy the game.

"...to watch the excitement on the kids faces when they get to do what they want to do," history teacher Linda Allala said.

"To support the team...definitely!" Jackson said.

Creek didn't just depend on spirit alone though, it took experienced players too.

Damon Swafford made outstanding plays in the Klein Oak game, and Randy Holloway scored touchdowns in the Cy-Fair victory.

"We did it," Wiersema said after Coogs beat Cy-Fair 28 to 8.

Sports

Shorts

With the girls finishing fourth at the state tournament, the polo team ended the season on a high note.

The girls overcame Galveston ball in an overtime match to enter the finals in the tournament.

Their final games were against San Antonio teams Marshall and Alamo Heights; however, the loss of these games put them in the fourth-place position.

"After the loss of three of our best players from last year's girls team, I was not expecting such a high place in the state tournament," Coach John Webb said.

One reason the girls feel they did so well was because they went into the tournament with the attitude that each game would be a

team win or a team loss; therefore, no win or loss could be attributed to one single player.

Despite the problem of illness, "no pass-no play," and commitments to SAT tests, Webb feels the boys' team did well.

"It was really unfortunate we were unable to take all of our starters to state. I feel the boys would have placed higher with the entire team playing," Webb said.

The boys games were against Baytown Sterling and San Antonio's John Jay.

Losing both these games unfortunately disqualified the team from the rest of the tournament.

Despite the losses both teams faced, Webb is very proud of his players and the goals they achieved this season.

—Tracey Goetz

Practicing diligently, the girls soccer team, consisting of 19 varsity players, is preparing for the upcoming season.

The morale of the team right now is high.

"Crazy. The morale is great!" Coach Walling said.

The games will start Tuesday, November 19, and will continue on Tuesday and Friday nights.

The team is often seen doing foot and head drills and scrimmaging.

The continuous drills each day have proven to help the players' performance.

"The drills we do really help improve my techniques," sophomore Vanessa Prins said.

To develop the girls' skills, the workouts have become harder and more difficult.

"They are getting bad. They're unreal," Walling said.

The team's main goal this year is to defeat their biggest rival, Cy-Fair.

—Monica Laneri

Cross country goes distance in winning 3rd district crown

Senior Mike Munk, boys' cross country team captain, qualified for state at regionals recently. The cross country team won their third district title and placed fifth in the region.

Other team members contributing to the team's success are: David Metcalf-sixth in district, 41 in region; Derrick Deakins-ninth at district, 33 in region; Adrian Waller - 11 in district, 51 in region; Mark Vreeke-12 in district, 53 in region; Steve Davis-14 in

district, 73 in region; Tim Wolcott-28 at district, 47 in region.

Three-year coach Dimitri Oltean would like to "create a good tradition at Cy-Creek."

"I'd like to become among the best in the state, in two to three years," Oltean said.

The State meet was Nov. 9; Munk placed 43 out of 105 runners.

—Jennifer Clark

