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CYPRESS CREEK SENIOR HIGH COUGAR CONNECTION

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When 101's morning disc jockey Blake Laurence talks, people listen

By Alice Wolfe

What is it like to lead the glamorous life of a DJ? According to Blake Laurence of 101 KLOL, it's not as glamorous as it seems. Though it may seem that a DJ just plays albums, talks over the air, and speaks on the telephone, a DJ has many more important responsibilities.

Blake Laurence grew up in a small town in Colorado where his first job at the age of sixteen was in a radio station. "I was always fascinated by the radio when I was growing up, and I always wanted to know what it was like on the other side of it," he recalls, leaving his 5:10 a.m. frame back-in-his-



any way. "You just can't go to school to learn how to be a disc jockey," he explained. However, he did say that school helped him learn to communicate which is an essential talent to DJs.

"You just can't go to school to learn how to be a disc jockey," explained Laurence.

As the music director at KLOL, Blake Laurence has many off-the-air responsibilities. He must keep the records in good shape and listen to a lot of new music. He acts as a liaison between the record com-

panies and the station. This includes listening to promotional people explain a new song while pointing out things to consider. Also, commercials are an important factor on the radio because a total of nine minutes

"The pay isn't as great as some people think it is."

of airtime is given to commercials each hour. These minutes are broken up into units, and the units may be either 30 seconds or 60 second long.

Though there is much work involved, being a DJ is still a fun and rewarding career interest. "As for disadvantages, the pay isn't as great as some people think it is,"

Blake revealed. He went on to explain that to achieve higher positions, one must move from station to station. However, this can be an advantage if one enjoys traveling. If the interesting things show that a DJ is no longer popular, the station may fire him right away. Yet in a DJ's career, the good qualities more than compensate for the bad ones. If one is interested in the broadcasting field, DJ-ing may be the career for him.

"I was fascinated by the radio when I was growing up, and I always wanted to know what it was like on the other side of it."

squeaky desk chair and crossing his feet on the desk. With his dark eyes fixed on me, he went on to explain that he worked in a number of radio stations across the country. From his first job in Colorado, he moved all over the country to places such as Tennessee, Pittsburgh, Chicago, Miami and is now residing in Houston. Our city has the tenth largest radio market in the country, making it a growing market for those in the radio industry.

When questioned about his academic requirements for radio, Blake replied that he did not feel that college had helped him in



Photo by Eric McNamara

Congratulations, Creekers! You have finished your research papers! See related story page 2.



Can't get a date? Sophs search for the perfect match

Hey, it's that time again! "Oh no!" the student body groans. Yes, once again, the various clubs and organizations of CCH are busily selling fund raising items. But instead of the usual car washes, candy sales, and memo-board assaults, the sophomore class officers have a more original fund raiser: a computer dating service.

During the first week of February, all students were given questionnaires in homeroom. The students were to read the questions and choose from the multiple-choice answers. Contained on the list were such questions as, "What do you consider

"I'm gonna pay my two dollars and get the results just to see whose name is on the list."

the most important characteristic of a friend?" and "What would you like to do learn on a date?" A lot of students consulted each other when choosing their

answers. After all the answer sheets were filled out, Student Council members collected them.

The questionnaires were sent to the B&L Computer Match Company in Boise, Idaho. When the results return in March, students will be able to purchase their list of potential dates for \$2. On each list are ten members of the opposite sex which the computer has matched the student with. Even if a person doesn't buy his results, his name will be on other people's lists. Who knows? The date of your dreams may appear on your list.



"No policy is perfect" Is the lettering system really equitable?

to both boys and girls, but have been expanded in order to open as a reward for participation in various extracurricular activities.



Todd Savage

I have letters, better like letters, a word that means to open up the front. Without the distinctive initials on the left breast, it is just an ordinary jacket, but when the two letters representing Cypress Creek High School are added, it takes on an entirely new form: the letter jacket. To some it may only be an all-inclusive device to which no key warmers but to others it represents dedication, hard work, and persistence, which make up for a lot of others when combined. The variety letter has come a long way from the days when it was a proudly displayed emblem for the parent. Letters now are not just awarded

to both boys and girls, but have been expanded in order to open as a reward for participation in various extracurricular activities.

Each individual sport or activity has its own unique set of requirements which must be met in order for a student to earn a letter. "They are required to stand out throughout the district," Julia Kalla, student principal, explained. She was in charge of creating the nomination guidelines several years ago, before coming to Cypress Creek. The guidelines were determined by the superintendant, the deputy superintendant, the three high school principals, and the music and athletic coordinators four years ago. Mr. John Scarsola, Cypress Parkbank, Independent School District

"They are supposed to be standard throughout the district."

Miss coordinator, said the guidelines set prior to the time were determined 15 years ago and were "much easier." Mr. Don Thurston, deputy superintendant, said, "I'm getting more from earlier because it was harder before."

There are very specific policies written up in the areas of band, chess, drill team, journalism, debate and drama, but none for the sports program in the district. "They're been left up to judgement of the coach," Mr. Thurston said. When asked if he felt the lettering system is equitable for all activities, he said, "The overall thing about being a letter is that it should not be considered the same as the traditional system when only athletes were given letters." He said the amount of effort required in each activity needs to be viewed separately. "We spend a lot of time reviewing the policies and tried to obtain objectivity, which is not always possible." If students feel the requirements are too strict, they should first speak with their sponsor. "Anything can be changed," Mr. Thurston explained. "We're open to help. No policy

is perfect."

"Lettering meant more effort because it was harder before,"

reminded in the number of letter letters to sports. To create their own equitable system, an individual should be approved to receive the guidelines for every sport and activity. While it may not be possible to compare these obviously uncomparable



area, guidelines can be drawn up which could provide a challenge for students involved in extracurricular activities—students that really make a student earn his letter and not one that "give" a student his letter.



Photo by Catherine Isler
It may be worth \$26 but takes years to earn.
Principal: Diana Lewis and her letters.

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Taking a closer look at the district's lettering policy

Chart compiled by Connection staff

Sport/activity	Requirements	Comment	No. of letter earners-1982
Football	1. One year of participation 2. Workout attendance	If you make the varsity team, you get a letter. Coach: Harlow	active team
Baseball	1. Meet the required number of innings 2. Workout attendance	You must play a certain amount of innings to insure a letter but receiving a varsity letter goes more on the coaches' opinion. Coach: LaBarbera	active team
Track	1. Place in the district track meet or score 81 or more points during the season 2. Be a member in good standing of the varsity team at the district track meet. 3. Workout attendance	You can make varsity but not get a letter. Coach: Harlow	18
Basketball	1. Remain eligible and carry the season 2. Act as a sportsmanlike player and be a good citizen 3. Workout attendance	Making the varsity team is a school of this size "good" in itself. They have to go through 15 games waiting and come to all six workouts during the year. If they fail to do obligations, they deserve a letter. Coach: Frazer	active team
Swimming	1. Earn required number of points during workout attendance, participation in meets, and improving times 2. Have given each athlete a list of requirements for lettering at the start of the season	I try to make everything very objective and put a challenge in front of each of our athletes. Coach: Welch	18 not necessarily team
Girls' sports	1. Be in a certain number of district meets which are different for each sport	There are standards they the athletes have to uphold. We'll drop back a letter for unsportsmanlike conduct or failing grades. Coach: Ottaviano	NA
Band	1. Two consecutive years of participation (volunteer year not included) 2. Two thousand hours of drill team participation (student year not included)	I think the requirements demand more than most. Mr. Sackler	18
Drill team	1. Two thousand hours of drill team participation (student year not included) 2. Undergraduate that became eligible for a letter by achieving a position of drill officer	I really think if someone has enough devotion to stay on the drill team for two consecutive years, she deserves a letter. Mrs. Mahaffey	NA
Drama	1. Write roles in drama class 2. Participate in role dramatic productions 3. Play a minimum of five other speaking roles 4. Participate in UIL plays for two years 5. Earn 100 Theatrics points 6. Have an overall "C" average and get two 100's in a semester	It is very difficult to earn and any student who does is proud of his achievement. Ms. Miller	NA
Debate	1. Three years in debate class 2. Participate in either UIL, TFA, or NFA class for two years 3. Have an overall "C" average 4. Demonstrate good conduct and citizenship	I think the letter system should be equitable for all organizations. Ms. King	3
Journalism	1. Complete two years and be eligible to start year of journalism 2. Participate in four days of which attendance workshops are given 3. Recommendation of advisor and at least five recommendations of peers 4. Have an overall "C" average and an "A" or "B" average in journalism classes 5. Demonstrate such effort, health, dedication, and a substantial amount of out-of-class work 6. Participate individually in schoolwide journalism competition during each academic year	The points of interest in journalism tends to be the same and at many other performance standards have been this year. Ms. Bizer	none (the one over last)
Student council (Proposed)	1. Two year membership one year as a representative and one on the executive board (chairperson in office) 2. Must be a native 3. Participate in F.A.S.C. activities for two years 4. Maintain an overall "C" average and not less than an "D" in conduct	They (student council members) work as hard as anyone else—they deserve one! Ms. Schaff	None

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Sports

The new trainer: Shedding his Cowboy colors for a job at the Creek

Todd Savage

Unless you have suffered from some kind of injury while involved in athletics at Cypress Creek this year, then you probably do not know Coach Tom Ford. You may have seen him though. As he stood on the sideline during the final varsity football game protected against the night air in a royal blue satin jacket, you may have mistaken him for a player who was sitting out due to some type of health complication. Well, Coach Ford is Cypress Creek's new athletic trainer, and it is precisely his job to get these ducked athletes back onto the field. At 24, Ford has already been a trainer on the college and professional level and hopes to draw upon these experiences to help the Cypress Creek sports program. Because he is a new face at Cy-Creek and has a youthful appearance, he often has problems when he ventures out from the field house or his biology classroom. Ford explained, "Teachers ask me for my pass in the hall when I don't wear my tie."

Originally from New Hampshire, Ford has traveled a long road to Houston. Upon completing high school, he attended Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana where he majored in physical education and health with a minor in athletic training. After graduation he decided to continue his education and received his master's degree from the University of Arizona, which, according to Ford, is one of only several universities offering degrees in sports medicine. He worked as a student trainer throughout his college years and later at a high school in Tucson, Arizona. "I put over 2000 hours when I was working for my bachelor's degree," Ford said. He had to attend classes and study as well as work with athletes.

After he finished up his Masters, Ford wrote letters to all 28 professional football



Photo by Gretchen Spitzer

"The care and prevention of athletic injuries before, during and after injury." is Trainer Tom Ford's job at Cypress Creek. Ford was formerly employed by the Dallas Cowboy pro-football team as an assistant trainer.

teams to see if there was an opening for a trainer. The New York Jets and the Dallas Cowboys were the only teams to respond to his inquiry. The Jets needed someone for the fall if one of their previous trainers did not return, while the Cowboys were full for the fall. However, Dallas needed someone to work in the summer as an assistant athletic trainer. He really did not want a summer job, but the Cowboy head trainer kept calling him and finally persuaded Ford to take the position.

"Before I got the job, Dallas wasn't my favorite team," Ford said. Now his opinion has changed. "They are top people all the way up," he explained. "You can talk to Tom Landry and Tony Dorsett like anybody else." Ford and the head trainer, with two assistant athletic trainers were responsible for about 90 to 100 athletes during the camp this past summer in Thousand Oaks, California. "It was a lot of fun out there," Ford said.

After camp ended he came to Houston

and eventually landed the job he has now as athletic trainer at Cypress Creek. "The first time I came to Cy-Creek for my job interview," Ford related, "I didn't realize how Creek the pro players were until I saw the (Cy-Creek) varsity team." He added that he likes the attitude of the school and the way sports are supported here.

His job as trainer is "the care and prevention of athletic injuries before, during, and after injury." To deter injury before a game, he makes sure the football players eat properly and apply tape where needed to prevent sprains and other injuries. He also recommends to the coach what weights should be used to help strengthen an athlete and finds new drills to condition athletes. When a player becomes injured, he treats him on the field for a sprain, strain, or sometimes even a fracture. He will try to treat the injury, but if it is too serious, the athlete will be referred to a doctor. After such an injury, he uses a variety of rehabilitation devices which include whirlpool treatments, Galvanic stimulation, and "a lot of ice." This will get rid of pain and remove the fluid from the affected area that is causing the swelling. This speeds up the circulatory system and enables the athlete to begin weights and agility drills and ultimately enter the injury prevention state again.

Next year, Ford would like to start up a sports medicine program in the form of a class or a club so interested students can gain experience on the field and in the classroom. In the future he also feels that the athletes of Cypress Creek will be better serviced when the new training room is built. He described the benefits he can provide now as "almost included to boys" and hopes to turn this trend around. He also wishes to emphasize that his services are not just exclusive to football players but to all Cypress Creek athletes.

SOFTBALL!

Girls—Fast Pitch—Competitive

The N.W. ANGELS Girls fast-pitch softball team, 18 & under, will hold tryouts for their MAJOR competitive team February 27, 1983.



The 1983 Schedule will include four MAJOR tournaments locally, as well as trips to North Texas, Oklahoma, and Baton Rouge. All travel and lodging expenses are provided, and there are no registration or sign up fees.

The ANGELS are hopeful of completing their new field on Grant Road, just West of Cy-Creek High School, very shortly.

For Details: Call in the evening
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