

American Express

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January 31, 1986

Invest In A Close-Up Experience

by Laura Templeton

On February 2-8, 1986, Mrs. Weissenborn, an American Studies teacher, will be taking students of the Close-Up club to Washington D.C. so that they will be able to experience how the U.S. government works first-hand.

Close-Up is a new club to American. It gives an opportunity for high school students and teachers to experience government in action. Students engage in frank discussions with senators and representatives, White House and executive branch officials, lobbyists, reporters,

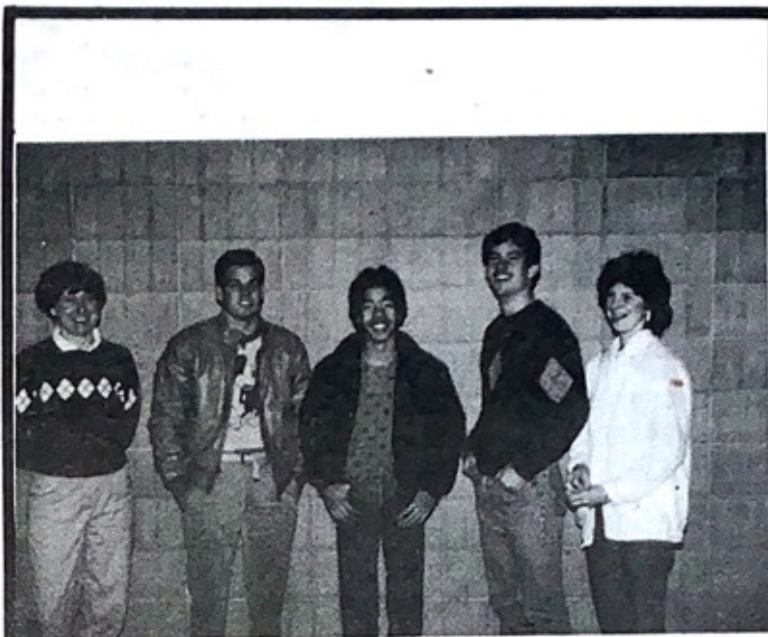
and other newsmakers. They will also observe congressional and Supreme Court meetings to better understand the political process.

The juniors and seniors attending the trip to Washington this year are Jennifer Aldridge, Brian Balingit, Craig Hintzman, Kathy Kaufman, Melissa Magyar, Robert Mallon, Kathleen Mueller, Gina Pierceall, Monica Serresseque, Steve Simmons, and Jeff Thomas.

The students day begins at 6:30 a.m., they will eat breakfast at 7:30 and will be out on their scheduled tours or meetings by 8:30. A bed check will be at 11:30 each night.

The AHS students will be sharing rooms with kids from Alabama and New Orleans. They will be assigned into groups of twelve to fifteen people. Each group has an advisor who will instruct the students on how to prepare questions for certain people they want to approach. Also, the advisor will give them information about the issues that will be discussed later on in the day.

All students are welcome to join the club and a meeting is planned for Wednesday, February 12, at lunchtime for all new members.



Pictured above: Left to Right: Mrs. Weissenborn, Steve Simmons, Brian Balingit, Jeff Thomas and Monica Serresseque.

TEACHER AIMS FOR STARS

Compiled by Nina Galang

On January 28 at 11:38 a.m., the space shuttle Challenger had exploded just 75 seconds after lift off from Cape Canaveral, Florida. On board were seven astronauts along with school teacher, Christa McAuliffe of Concord New Hampshire. All were killed in the tragedy.

Christa McAuliffe was the first civilian to ever voyage on a space shuttle. She was chosen out of the 11,000 teachers who'd applied to NASA to be the first educator in orbit. One of the judges on the selection committee made this statement about McAuliffe, "She's a very

intelligent lady and I feel she'd be an appropriate representative for teachers." Ms. McAuliffe stated in an article in the daily review, "I want students to see and understand the special perspective of space and relate it to them"

McAuliffe's students were watching

the lift off from Cape Canaveral along with 2 1/2 million other children throughout the nation. She was suppose to relay three lessons from space back to millions of pupils.

Students watched in horror on school room televisions and immediate responses centered

among confusion and shock. The responses from school administrators voiced the same types of reactions as one another. Principal Paul Shebesta of Story School in Milwaukee said, "I think this hits us much harder since she was one of

see Tragedy, pg. 8....

CASH FOR CANADA

by Michelle Hirschman

Members of the American High School marching band, flag team, concert band and jazz ensemble are currently involved in a fund raising project to finance a trip to Expo 86, in Canada, during the week of May 10, 1986.

Band Director, Mr. Rich Levin, was informed in the early part of the 85-86 school year that the Bands at A.H.S. had been chosen to perform at Expo 86. According to Mr. Levin, approximately \$20,000 is needed to fund the trip. Levin stated "Realistically I feel we will raise about \$15,000 if we work really hard." Currently, the music/band students have raised \$5,000 through pizza sales, car washes, missetoe and bake sales. The band members agreed to pay the costs of the trip if their goals aren't met.

Arrangements were made during the week of January 13 and the band is confirmed to perform twice on the same day as amateur entertainment.

by Nina Galang

In recent weeks, there has been an increase of fighting on the campus. According to the 10th grade Vice principal, Rob Vares, "most of the fights have been caused by the students from other schools coming in to our campus."

There are different consequences of fighting on campus. The severity of the fighting determines the punishment. The assistant principals of each grade level are the ones who take the responsibility for issuing disciplinary actions. Depending on the grade the students are

Students Punch It Out

in, they are referred to their asst. principal.

Mr. Vares had stated "first you must ascertain all the facts in order to determine if it was an actual fight." In his definition an actual physical violence, punching shoving, etc. If this is then established, the result is usually a 3-5 day suspension for the first offender this meaning their first fight. Mr. Vares also stated that he and the administration aren't tolerant of students who have fights more than once. They try to take serious measures discouraging students from fight-

ing.

When asked if outside people were factors in the more recent fights he stated that there have been a few students who have been involved in fights with outside people. These people if caught, are turned over to the police.

One AHS student involved in a fight with a person not going to this school said, "I do not think I should be punished for having to defend myself, especially if I didn't start it and if the person I fought didn't go to this school then they have nothing to lose."

Rebuttal: A Soldier's Point of View

This is a rebuttal to the editorial "Be All You Can Be?" by Lisa Sturges, from the November 22, 1985 issue.

Dear Miss Sturges,

I found your editorial about enlisting in the armed services very one-sided and misleading.

To begin with, the main purpose of the armed services is not to fight wars, but to defend our country by whatever means necessary.

It is true, we are trained to use weapons that cause "death and destruction," these weapons are needed to defend our country and way of life against enemies that are trained to use those same weapons.

As you mentioned, the military provides educational training in hundreds of vocational fields. You failed to mention training opportunities in many professional fields (such as medi-

cal doctors, Military Police etc.). And you didn't say anything about the Army College fund and the new G.I. Bill where you can receive more than \$25,000 for college after you get out of the Army.

Many jobs in the Army will not send you "out to the front lines," that is the job of the infantry and the airborne troops. There are many people willing to

go to the "front lines," and they have enlisted for those jobs.

Others, trained to perform specific support skills, will be behind the lines or far from battle as support (nurses, teachers, legal clerks etc.).

When there is a war there will be a draft and the draftees (yes you, the eighteen year old male!) will fill the infantry ranks and

go to the front lines.

Your editorial was anti-war, but you are pointing your finger at the wrong people! Being anti-military will not solve the present world dilemma, no one in the Armed Services wants to go to battle.

So, when your recruiter comes to you, think about the specific marketable skill that you wish to be trained for and the thousands of dollars

you can receive for college through the new G.I. bill and the Army college fund. Listen to what they have to say, they don't want to trick you or lie to you.

I have found my life in the military very enjoyable and educational.

So give your recruiter a listen!

Sincerely,
Private Mark Howard

SORROW FOR SEVEN

By Matt Hoffman

When I first heard the news of Tuesday's tragedy in space, my initial feelings were ones of remorse for those seven brave astronauts. I was depressed by the thought that they would never return and be able to look back on their accomplishments with pride and satisfaction. They would never again see their families and friends. They were gone forever. I felt very sad.

As the hours passed my thought began to focus on the broader effects of this disaster. I realized the dead were not the only victims. I thought of the spouses who had been stripped of their loved ones. Eleven children would have to grow up without the care of one parent. The pride and excitement of parents, friends and students had so suddenly turned to grief and despair.

They would spend their remaining years asking why and what if, questions no one could answer.

I also pondered the short and long term effects this disaster would have on the school children, who watched the take-off as participants in the new educational program designed to familiarize them with space. Would they now become a generation afraid of space exploration?

I realized that each American is himself a victim. He feels as though he has lost a friend, someone who had the courage and dedication to risk his own life for everyone's good. His pride has been wounded by the failure. He questions the legitimacy of the space program, a program which has represented the ideals of America.

I also considered NASA, the organization that has made our

space program the best in the world. Historically it has proven than any other. How guilty or responsible will its members feel? Will there be a backlash? Will America lose confidence, cut funds, or discontinue the program?

There have been so many victims. Let us grieve now, but look to the future. I hope we will realize our obligation to continue the space program. I believe the astronauts and Mrs. McAuliffe proved its merit when they were willing to risk their lives for it. If it is possible, I would like to gradually dismiss failure from my mind, and focus instead on the previous achievements of our space program. America was built by expanding our frontiers. We mustn't stop, because exploration has become as much a part of our country as the freedom we cherish.

American Express

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SMALL TOWN TEXAS, WHAT A LIFE.

By Harold Smith
Guest Writer

The social life in small schools in Texas and Oklahoma during the fifties revolved around the athletic teams. Attending the Friday night game was as automatic as church on Sunday for both students and townspeople. If the local high school team was a winner, the entire town took pride in "their team" and traveled to every game. Sometimes, those distances could be two hundred miles each way, but this was an important social event not to be missed. And if the team began to lose a number of games

the entire citizenry became depressed. At times, they made it very hard on the athletes. Of course, you must realize that there was little else to occupy the thoughts and energy of the local townfolk. Sports (particularly football) became the focus of most conversations. Athletes on losing teams would stay away from the local hangouts in order to avoid having to discuss "what when wrong last night." My favorite critics were the ex-athletes who always knew how you should have done it. After about five of these characters, you began to wonder how long you would have to serve for an ax murder.

The female athletes didn't have it any better. At one school I attended, the girl's basketball team won one game in three years. Their athletic reputation became a source of much amusement for local jocks, particularly male jocks who figured the girl's place was in Home Ec. or typing. A new coach was hired, the school dropped basketball, took up volleyball (the coach had been on a good college team) and won the state championship during seven of the next ten years. Of course, now that the team became the pride of the townfolk (the football team was in decline) and the girls had to put up with the

same stuff the football players had taken previously.

Other social events were few and far between. We occasionally had dances, at which the boys stood around against the wall and some of the girls danced together. The primary dance was the two-step, whatever the heck that was. Myself, I didn't dance. Baptist. But, I did stand against the wall.

Night life centered around the athletic events and local drive in hamburger joints. Actually, there was just one in Plains. So, if you were looking for anyone in particular, they would be there. Draggin' main was another expensive pastime. Putting fif-

ty to one-hundred miles on dad's car wasn't unusual on Saturday night, and we wouldn't even leave Plains. Just up and down the main street, meeting the same half-dozen people in their cars, waving each time we met, dimming headlights, and finally giving up all of that fun and going home. What a life....



TEENAGE WASTE LAND DOES THIS APPLY TO AHS?

By Scott Horton

During a recent interview, Mr. Tranchina talked about the progression of high school drug use that he has seen throughout his career as an administrator.

Starting with the early 60's the use of drugs in school was rare. Students were just getting into the drug scene. By 1968 Mr. Tranchina was dealing with 3-5 serious drug cases a week. Stu-

dents were using a variety of very different drugs ranging

from reds, purple hearts, and whites to coke or acid. During the late 60's and early 70's drug use was becoming very popular. It was the "in group" or the "popular people" who did the drugs.

In 1975, students were becoming wiser about the hazards of drug use. Consequently it became less common to hear about drug use by students. Most

of the people who were using hard drugs before 1975 turned toward

marijuana. By 1979 only 5-10% of the drug users were using serious drugs. His main concern now is students that feel they can drive drunk.

When asked about marijuana, Mr. Tranchina stated "I don't think that marijuana should be legal because there is a certain percent of the population for which legalization would result in addiction. When asked about his feelings towards

lowering the drinking age from 21 down to 18 he responded by saying

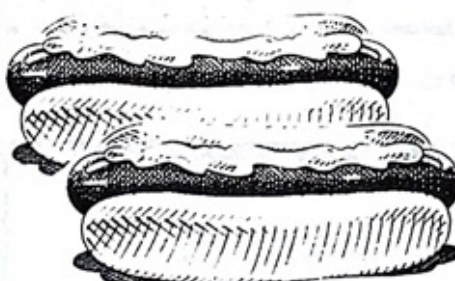
"If you can drink, if you can vote, and if you can join the military, I think it needs some heavy rethinking." Mr. Tranchina feels that, even though we have drugs going around the school, he is against using a nark to control them. "I feel it teaches in a negative way by punishing the good as well as the bad."

Students at AHS have their own opinion about drugs. Many students don't care about other students

who are on a drug as long as they are just buzzing. They start to get annoyed though, when their fellow students get totally wasted, but most students have it under control. Most students who attend their classes stoned do it because they are bored with them. "I think going to class with a buzz is ok because it helps me get through boring classes like English, but I don't think the hard drugs such as Angel Dust should be played with. They're too dangerous!" Other student's don't mind the use of drugs as long as they are used after school. One student's opinion on this is "It's cool, but it could wait till after school". Mrs. King feels that she can't teach someone if that person is only physically there but not mentally. "There is no way you can teach a student that is mentally not there". Maybe if the teachers would make learning more interesting less students would get stoned.

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THE MAINTAINENCE MAN

By Cindy Pargett

A master of five languages, a circus performer, and a bodyguard for the Shah of Iran? Who is this man? Do we know him? Yes. As a matter of fact, most of us probably see him once or twice a day. He's the newest member to American's maintenance staff. Just seeing him walking around in his faded jeans, tennis shoes, and a cap, you would never know what an interesting and varied past one of our maintenance men has had.

His name is Hossein M. Zanganeh. He has mastered the languages of the five countries he has lived in. Hossein has mastered English, Armenian, Iranian, Indian, and Kurdistan, although he lived most of his life in the Kurdistan mountains in Iran.

A person so interesting, is well-worth our knowing about. Hossein has been a maintenance man at American for two years. Aside from this, he was a bodyguard for the Shah of Iran, a tight rope artist in the Chinese National Circus, and did various things like substitute teaching and working on his black-belt.

For four years Hossein was a bodyguard, which he started doing about 1973. He said the Shah was a very beautiful person and knew him personally. He's even gone hunting with him. When asked how he did it, he replied that he was never scared; it was his choice to do it. Hossein became a bodyguard because not only was the pay good, but there were super opportunities to see and experience things. When they traveled

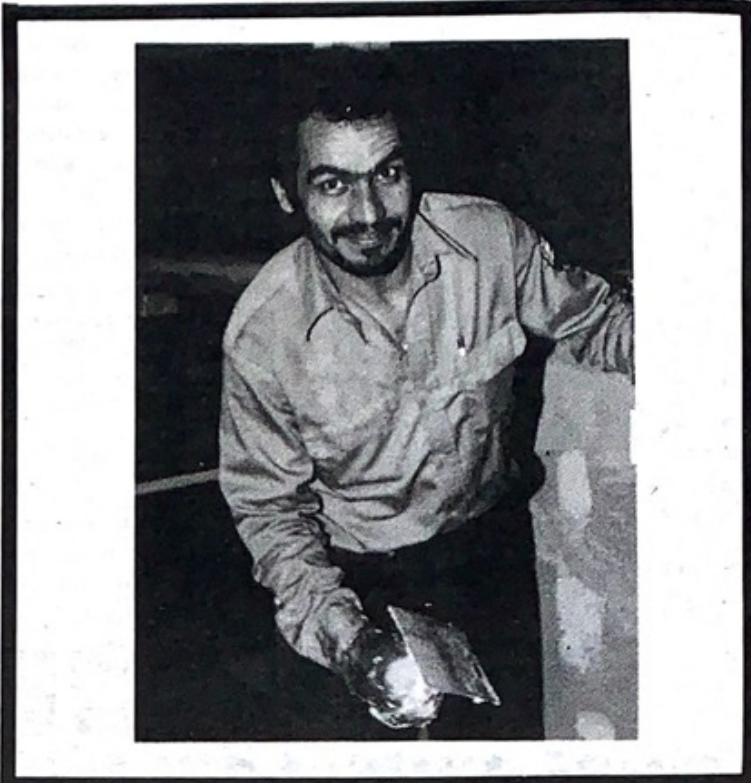
somewhere, it was all in luxury. He stayed with top officials from all over, and met Henry Kissinger this way.

After the Shah died Hossein became a wanted man in Iran. The only way to escape that was to join a circus. He did this because circuses travel all-over the world, so he joined the Chinese National Circus. He was a tight-rope artist for seven and a half years. During this time he studied martial arts and is now a black-belt. As far as traveling, his expectations were right, he went almost all over the world.

As for now, Hossein prefers being referred to as a "Maintenance Man", instead of janitor. He's very excited right now because he just got his citizenship about two months ago. He has

high hopes of working with the government soon and already he's received 42 recommendations, including one from Mr. Tranchina. Hossein says the main reason he's working at

the school is because he loves kids and was once a substitute teacher. He's also anxious for his 18 year old brother to come out here for a visit in the summer.



DREAM BECOMES A HOLIDAY

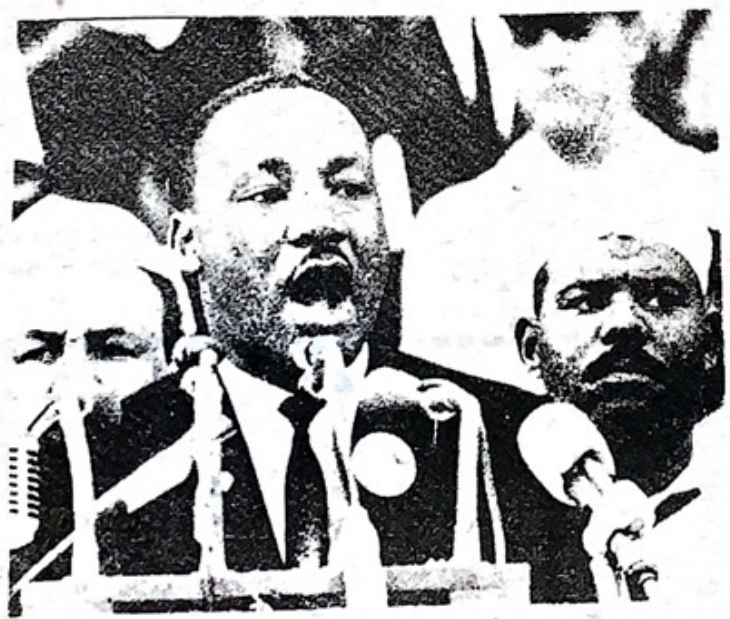
By Chrissy Darrow

Martin Luther King, Jr. was born January 15, 1929 in Atlanta, Georgia. He was assassinated April 4, 1968 in Memphis, Tennessee by James Earl Ray. Dr. King spent his adult life working for justice and freedom for all Americans. To promote social change through nonviolence he founded the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

According to Cedric Hendricks, legislative assistant for Representative John Conyers (D-MI), bills were introduced for years in the House of Representatives to get the

King holiday sanctioned. On November 2, 1983, President Reagan signed the bill making the third Monday in January the official date to celebrate the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Although the birthday was not fully commemorated until this January 20th.

This years celebration in honor of Martin Luther King included the unveiling of a statue in Atlanta, Georgia, a Bust dedication in the rotunda of our Nation's Capital, and essays written by school students commemorating his life



A DAY FOR LOVERS!

Valentine's Day, February 14, is traditionally a time for lovers and good friends. Cards, candy, and gifts are exchanged as a display of affection and friendship.

This custom evolved over a period of hundreds of years, possibly beginning with the ancient Roman festival of the Lupercalia. During this festival, barren women who desired children were whipped lightly by priests during the celebration. Supposedly, the striking would remove the "sterile curse" and make the women fertile and productive.

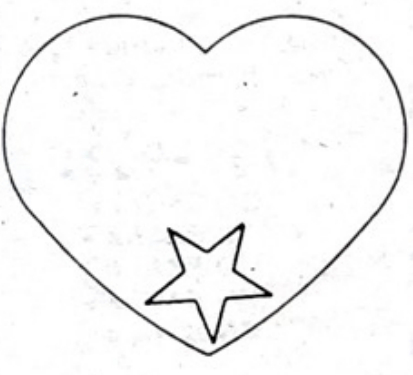
English women of the eighteenth century fastened bay leaves to the center and each of the four corners of their pillows on Valentine's Day. This practice would hopefully cause them to dream about their future husbands.

In another English custom, eligible females would write the name of desirable males on small pieces of paper, enclose them in balls of clay and toss in water. Eventually, the paper and clay would separate allowing the notes to float to the top. The first piece of paper to surface was the girl's true love.

Although several men named Valentine were supposedly credited with sainthood, a popular story about one is that he was put in jail by the Roman Emperor Claudius for helping the Christians. While in confinement, this particular Valentine restored the sight of the jailer's daughter. This act infuriated Claudius; he therefore ordered his men to severely beat and then cut off Valentine's head on February 14, 269 A.D.

Another, perhaps more believable story, is that a man named Valentine loved the daughter of the jailer and wrote notes to her signing them "From your Valentine."

Many think the idea of sending valentines originated from this tale. The practice of writing romantic messages and giving gifts to dear friends eventually became popular. Consequently, each year on February 14, millions of valentines, both handwritten and commercially printed, are exchanged by friends in all parts of the world.



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PREMARITAL SEX A QUESTION OF MORALITY

by Staff Writer

In the last few years, teens as well as adults have been questioned about their sexuality and their morality. Parents are concerned about the morality of their children and they question the active sex life of their teens. The question then may be "should teenagers and unmarried adults have premarital sex?" Should parents question the sexual activity of their children, or should young people decide for themselves?

The answer is yes, to both questions. While parents do have a legal "hold" on their children until the age of 18, they also have a moral bond to them. Naturally, they express their opinions and their dealt with accordingly.

The individual has a right to freedom of body and soul. The question of premarital sex is to be answered by the individual. What I can't understand is, why are parents

and society questioning teens actions as being morally right or wrong? Society seems to think because unwed couples and teenagers are sexually active they are committing some kind of great sin. It seems to me parents who are questioning their children's sexuality are like the kettle calling the pot black. Some parents seem to forget that they are from the generation that started "free sex." The "sexual revolution" began with them. The "sexual revolution" in the 1960's has spread to the 1980's. The truth of the matter is there's nothing morally wrong with sex unless you're participating unwillingly or going against your values.

According to the recent studies of the Social issues resource series

an estimated 62% of society (66% males, 58% female) think premarital sex is okay. Don't get me wrong, I'm not saying go out and do it, because that decision is based on personal values. What I am saying is, why is society making such a big fuss about it? If it was okay for our parents, then what makes this generation any different? The 80's have their own style of kids with their own mark on society and parents should be willing to accept what we accept as morally right as they would have liked their parents to do for them. The point is teens and unmarried adults should be able to choose what is best for themselves. No-one should decide on another individual's sexuality.

Pictured at right, student illustration by Dez Dale

TRIPPIN' ON THE TRAILS

By Michelle Hirschman

On January 14 and 15, the annual ski trip, supervised by Mrs. Crane was held for American High students. The ski trip enabled students to ski at Boreal Ridge for a day which provided fun and entertainment in the snow.

Sign-ups were held the week prior to the ski trip where students could pick which day they would like to go. The prices of the trip varied catering to each student's needs. Thirty dollars paid for the bus ride to and from Boreal Ridge and a single lift ticket. Forty dollars paid for the bus ride, a lift ticket and ski and boot rental. Fifty dollars paid for

everything and a ski lesson for the beginners.

On January 14, two busses left American's back parking lot at five in the morning. After a four hour bus ride, students arrived at Boreal at nine that morning. Mrs. Crane took care of the ski rental, lift tickets, ski lessons and made sure all students got on their way. Several ski lifts were opened including the beginner slope for those students who were first timers. Skiers experienced icy snow and fair weather until 2:00 p.m. where it then proceeded to get colder and windier. As the day went by, the snow began to fall forcing skiers to retire early due to poor

conditions. The bus left Boreal at 4:30 p.m. returning the sore and tired students to American at nine that evening.

The second day of the ski trip brought skiers to the slopes where they experienced new fresh snow. It snowed almost the entire day making the weather slightly colder than the day before.

This year's ski trip proved to be as successful as those held in the past. For those students who couldn't attend this year's trip, another one will follow soon so be sure to attend and have a fun and exciting day in the snow.

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SPEAKS FOR ITSELF



By Ron Martin

Of all the sports at American High School no teams success can be compared to that of the varsity girls basketball team. Over the past eight years the girls varsity basketball program has produced 4 league championships, 4 second place finishes, and 4 appearances at the North Coast Play-offs. A great deal of the success of the program can be directly attributed to head coach Art Johnson.

Johnson has coached

the girls varsity team for the past ten years and during this period he has posted a 170-55 record. The American High School girls basketball program has had its share of gifted athletes. However, there have been years when the talent was lean. In those years the dedication and talent of coach Johnson was able to maintain the consistency of the program and provide a winning record.

Johnson's technique of coaching has always been a little different than that of other league coaches. In his first year as head coach he introduced a man to man defense to

a league that had been dominated by a zone defense. His teams were also the first in the MVAL to successfully use the press. A lot of Johnson's basketball knowledge was obtained from coach Dave Garcia, whom he refers to as a "walking encyclopedia" of the sport of basketball.

Once again coach Johnson and his methods of coaching have proven to be successful. The current addition of the girls varsity basketball team is in first place with a 6-0 league record and has an overall record of 18-2.

sports shorts

BOY'S BASKETBALL

Wednesday, January 8, the American High School varsity basketball team defeated John F. Kennedy High School 59-38 in both teams league opener. Sophomore, Lance Otani scored seven of his game high 16 points in the fourth quarter to help assure an Eagle victory.

Friday, Jan. 11, the varsity basketball team lost to Irvington High School 53-41. The Eagles struggled all night connecting on only 30 percent of their shots. Shawn Trask led American with 16 points.

Wednesday, January 15, the varsity basketball team lost their second straight game to Newark Memorial 55-39. Shawn Trask scored 13 and Lance Otani chipped in with 10 for American.



Friday, January 17, the American High School varsity basketball team was beaten badly by the James Logan Colts 70-42. Mike Lusk and Lance Otani led the Eagles with 8 points a piece.

Wednesday, Jan. 22, the American High School varsity basketball team improved their record to 2-3 when they defeated Mission San Jose 57-47. Shawn Trask led the Eagles with 15 while Mike Lipps chipped in with 10.

GIRL'S BASKETBALL

On January 7, 1986, the Girls Varsity Basketball team beat Kennedy by a score of 47-27. Kim English had 10 points to help the Eagles.

On January 9, 1986, the Eagles played Irvington at home and won with a score of 61-47. Jackie Peters had 6 points while Tina Sato scored 4 and played a good defensive game to aid her team.

January 14, 1986, saw American play Newark Memorial at home. American was victorious by a score of 60-

44. Standouts include Lisa Bozzo and Kim English. They scored 16 and 19 points respectively.

On January 16, 1986, the Eagles defeated Logan in a great defensive game by a score of 47-33. Linda Kirby had a game high of 26 points. Defense was the name of the game and the Eagles played exceptionally.

On January 21, 1986, American defeated Mission San Jose at Mission with a score of 43-30. Linda Kirby and Kim English scored 12 points each for a team high in the game.

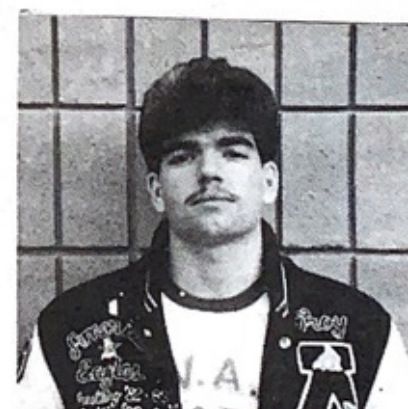
The big game of the season for the Eagles was played on January 28, 1986, at Washington against their rivals the Huskies. The Eagles defeated the Huskies by a score of 49-45. Tabatha King crashed the boards for 16 rebounds and Linda Kirby had 17 points. Lisa Bozzo made 12 points.

WRESTLING

Thursday, January 9 the American High School boys varsity wrest-

ling team opened their season with a victory over the Vikings of Irvington High by the score of 42-29 with impressive victories from senior Troy (Razors edge) Mederios and sophomore heavy-weight Deano Bunnz sealed an American victory.

On January 23, the boys wrestlers tangled with the California School for the Deaf and won by the score of 55-6. Heavyweight Deano Bunnz defeated a former all-leaguer, which uplifted the spirits of his teammates. Another victory came from junior Brad Kime which was the icing on the cake.



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Sports trivia

Emlen Tunnell, the first black coach in the NFL, became a member of the New York Giants' staff in 1965.

Gertrude Ederle was the first woman to swim across the English Channel. She swam from France to England in 14 hours and 39 minutes on August 6, 1926.

Dr. Allan Abbott rode his bicycle at an official speed of 140.5 mph in 1973.

Gerald Ford, former President of the United States, played offensive center for the University of Michigan in 1932 and 1933.

Joe Frazier was the first man to win both the Olympic gold medal and the world heavyweight championship.

By the score of 222 to 0, Georgia Tech defeated Cumberland University on October 7, 1916.

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SOCCER TEAMS LOOK TO THE FUTURE.....

By Bryan da Silva

BOYS' SOCCER

The Boy's Varsity soccer team suffered its seventh loss of the season in a carry over from last year's losing streak. Plagued by an impotent offense, the team has been outscored 30 to 2, and is hoping that the addition of Emil Agilar will spark the offense.

The poor offensive showing has worn on the defense. Goalie Dave Griffin has had an outstanding season despite the number of goals scored. With most of the game being played in their half of the field, the defense has suffered injuries to starting players Craig Hintzman



Photo by Bryan da Silva

and Mike Iapia, and has been given one red card (removal from the game) to Rodney Cornist. Alex Aguiar and Ed Maroon have also missed part of the season due to injuries.

Inexperience has also been a major fac-

tor in their losing streak. The team boasts six freshmen and only seven returning players from last year. It has been a learning year for a team which hopes to come back next year with twelve returning players and a more experienced line-up.

GIRLS' SOCCER

The American High girls varsity soccer team is experiencing a dismal 0 wins 5 losses and 3 tie season. With many new players and the fact that last year's superstars have all graduated, the 1986 girls are very inexperienced.

The defense is made up of many good returning players such as sophomore sweeper Janice Ramos, senior full-back Michele Gonsalves, senior Peggy Nully and superb junior goalie Sue Shank.

The offense, however, lacks the scoring power and lacks the ability to match past years success because of the loss of two time leading scorer Joanne Krah. Junior Kristy Tobeck is now helping to instruct the younger players in the possibility of building a hopeful team the future.

The first half of the season has been rough on the girls varsity soccer team, and hopes of winning the title are very unrealistic.

ALL-LEAGUE EAGLES

By Patty Gallegos

The end of fall sports had many outstanding athletes who left their mark and were recognized for their achievements. These few were selected to be on the honorary "All League Team" which corresponds to their sport.

The players are selected by all the coaches in the Mission Valley Athletic League. Each coach votes for whoever he or she feels best filled their position in each sport.

American High has a pretty long list of athletes from three of the fall sports that were named to this team. American should be very proud of the many fine athletes who represented our school with class.



Volleyball
Tabatha King Hitter



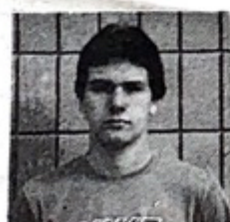
Volleyball
Jill Vigallon Setter



Volleyball
Kim English Setter



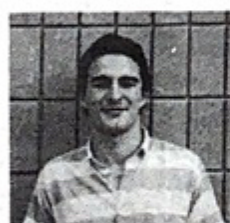
Volleyball
Lisa Bozzo Hitter



Football
Chris Gubera LB



Football
Tim Lightfoot S



Football
Al Carpaneto DB



Football
Dee Carter DB



Cross Country
Mike Tapia Runner



Football
Kevin Fuller C



Football
Tim Kam G

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competency testing

by Michelle Hirschman

On February 11 and 13, the annual competency tests will be given to all ninth graders and those students who have not yet completed or passed the tests.

Tuesday, February 11, 1986, the English competencies will be administered during 1st and 2nd period. This section includes five parts which must be passed with 75% for a passing grade. On Thursday, February 13, the Math competencies will be given. Two parts must be completed in order to pass this section of the test.

The students are allowed four hours to complete all the tests. Regular classes, however, will begin after brunch at 3rd period and run as a normal day through 6th 7th period.

The Fremont Unified School District requires that all students pass all seven tests in Reading, Writing and Math to meet minimum competency standards before high school graduation, as mandated by state law. If a student does not pass a test, it must be retaken and passed before receiving a high school diploma.

Upcoming Events

by Jenny Macias

School activities and holidays continue through the month of February.

The beginning of the month starts out with a MVAL dance that will be held on Monday February 3. The dance begins at 7:30pm and ends at 11:00pm. On Saturday February 15th there will be a Valentines dance sponsored by the PTSA. The dance will begin at 8:00 pm and end at 11:00 pm. The prices will be single with ASB \$2 and \$3 without, couples with ASB \$4 and \$5 without. Music by the mix and photos by Daniel Reynolds

will also be included.

February includes the celebration of three holidays. The birthday of President Abraham Lincoln on February 10 and the birthday of President George Washington on the 17th. On February 14

we will also be celebrating Valentines day.

Sporting events for the month of February include basketball, soccer and wrestling. Basketball games are held on Wednesday and Friday evenings for boys and Tuesday and Thursday evenings for the girls team. Soccer games are held on Wednesday's and Fridays

and the MVAL playoffs are scheduled for the 19th and 27th at Newark Memorial High school in Newark. Wrestling tournaments will be held on the 6th, 13th, 19th and NCS Championships on the 28th.

Other events planned for the month of February include competency testing on the 11th and the 13th at AHS. The Jazz festival is scheduled for the 7-8. Fund raisers include the class of '86' held during the week of Feb 4-7th and the swim club fund raiser during the week of the 18th-21st.

by Nina Galang

Jennifer Hoban, a Senior at AHS, left for Australia on January 19 to participate in a foreign/exchange program. She will be there for one year and will be attending an all girl private school starting January 29th.

Jennifer was assisted in paying for the program by the Rotary Club. This club participates in loaning money to students for different extra curricular activities and also have their own activities that take place within the club.

Jennifer was able to go to Australia by first having to send in an application to

the Rotary Club. She was then interviewed and finally she had to present a speech on why she felt she should be able to go.

She was chosen out of 3 other students from American High to be an exchange. She was chosen to go when they found a family she could stay with while in Australia.

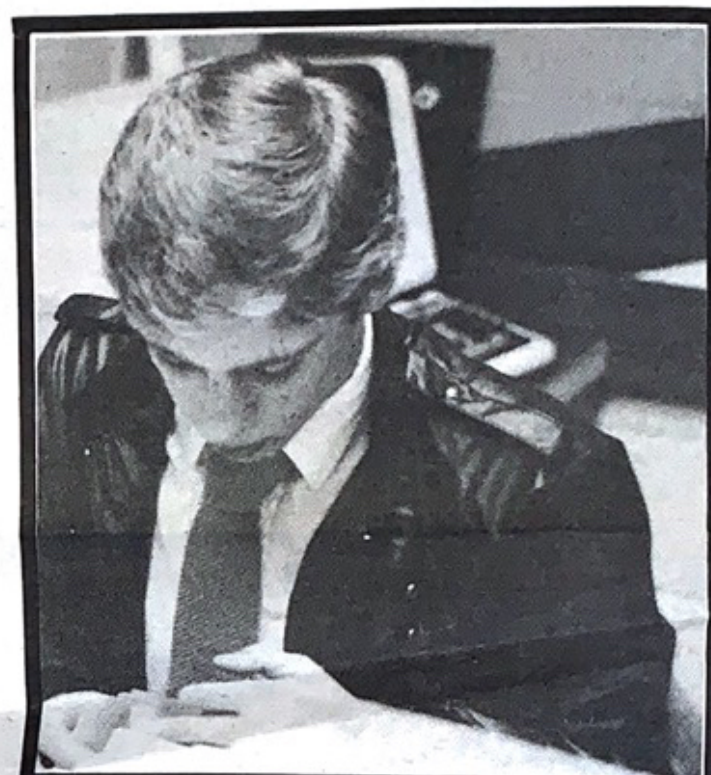
She is presently staying in the city of Manly which is just outside of Sydney, Australia. She's written one of her friends here and she says that she is enjoying her stay in Australia and is adjusting well.

One of her friends

stated, "She went for the experience of it, something I'm sure we would all like to do."

The majority of her expenses were paid for by the Rotary Club, so that she only had to pay for the cost of her insurance. This means that if she is hurt or injured in anyway, she is covered fully.

There is also a summer program offered to students in which the participant stays for three months. Additional information can be received from your counselor or through the Rotary Club in Fremont.



Pictured above: ASB President Mike DiPaola checks out the classes of his latest sweetheart.

DROPOUTS DECLINE

by Matt Hoffman

Tragedy Strikes

our own and it comes much closer to home than realized. She was one of us.

Investigation has started on the tragedy in order to determine what actually caused the explosion. From the report given by Channel 4's Today Show the shuttle was put into full throttle before the explosion erupted. Whether or not this was a factor in the explosion hasn't yet been determined.

President Reagan had made this comment to the nation, "I feel life has to go on and so does NASA. I hope this will enlighten us for the future."

According to recent studies, 10,000 students per year drop out of high school. The number of high school dropouts is reaching epidemic proportions. Principal Joe Tranchina, estimates the dropout rate at American high to be only 2-4%. Tranchina stated, "he feels the dropout rate has been declining and will continue to do so because of the lack of high paying, unskilled jobs in our society."

Educators feel that there are three major reasons why young people dropout of high school. First, many students leave due to frustration. Sometimes they become frustrated with their

lack of success (poor grades).

Secondly, they drop out because they have a job that may be paying \$4-\$6 per hour and they feel that getting a high school diploma is wasting their time. Studies show one-third of the students that dropout for this reason, will be unemployed within two years. The ones that do manage to hold a job will, on the average, earn up to 50% less money than individuals who have a high school diploma. Over half the girls who dropout do so because of pregnancy. Mr. Tranchina feels frustration has a lot to do with people dropping out. He stated that some teenag-

ers couldn't see any pay-off for their work "they can't see the light at the end of the tunnel, they are used to instant gratification."

When you take into consideration the low financial success rate of high school dropouts, it becomes clear that our schools must do something to combat this problem. Some people believe we must begin to offer a more varied curriculum. Others feel vocational school or more vocational training will give an alternative to dropping out, by offering them something which they find more interesting than biology and history. Right now our education-

al system is fairly standardized, and is directed towards the average student. Some educators argue that we must not be afraid of taking a potential dropout, and centralizing his education around his vocational interests. They feel by doing this we have at least kept this individual in school, and taught him something he can use in the marketplace. Mr. Tranchina feels that in order to address the problems of dropouts, "we have to get away from the idea that four years and six classes is for everyone, we must recognize the individual differences between students, and adapt to their needs."