

IMS PRESS

Issue 2

Ingomar Middle School

December 1981

Jump-a-thoners show a lot of heart and stamina



Girls decorated their shirts with hearts

By Stephanie Feira

If you didn't get a chance to participate in the Jump Rope for Heart, you missed out on a lot of noise, loud music, sore muscles, and fun! Besides that, it was a good way to get out of class and collect money to prevent heart disease.

Most of the teams consisted of five or six boys or girls. However, Kathy Praznik had to be different and be the only female on an all male team. One student, Glen Hyde, was a one-man jumping team, lasting one hour and 20 minutes.

Dave Groetsch set a record for 65 consecutive arm crosses while jumping.

Even with all of those people jumping rope, two groups stood out. The first group - Brian Baker, Mike and Craig Collins, John Dockus, and Tim Genter - made their own T-shirts with their names and a drawing of a jump rope on the back.

The other group - Stacy Martin, Dana Sohngen, Sue Maas, Jill Walter, Jackie Williams, and Nan Quatchak - painted big red hearts on their T-shirts.

Then, of course, there were the teachers. Mr. Seaton barely cleared the ground as he jumped with machine pre-



Boys wore their names and a jump rope

cision. Mr. Baranowski jumped in on anyone jumping rope. Mr. Cervone went around showing everyone how it was done and Mr. Moser looked like a jumping John McEnroe with his sweat band.

Overall, it was a great turnout and everyone felt a real sense of accomplishment when it was over, celebrating the end by throwing the jump ropes high in the air.

Mr. Cervone said, "We expect to make about \$3000 when the students collect all the money that was pledged."

Top spellers chosen for Buhl

By Becky Campbell

After many rounds of spelling, three winners were singled out of the spelling bee. Michelle Mason, an 8th grader from PC, was the first person to assure herself a spot at Buhl. Then two 6th graders, Ron Costollo from 110 and John Pazin from 104, became the next two finalists.

Benny Woo from 104 will be the alternate. The finalists will go to Buhl to compete against 27 spellers on Feb. 20.



Departing staff: Mrs. LeDonne, Mrs. Faber, and Mrs. Ackerman

3 teachers leave IMS

By Lisa Fischer

Recently I had the opportunity to interview three of the teachers who are leaving: Mrs. LeDonne, who is taking a sabbatical leave and will be returning next fall; Mrs. Ackerman, who is changing careers; and Mrs. Faber, who is retiring.

Q. What are your plans for the future?

Mrs. LeDonne: I have several small trips planned. I'll visit my sister who's having her first baby. I'll also have the opportunity to visit some friends I haven't seen in years.

Mrs. Ackerman: For the past two years I have been attending Duquesne University Law School in preparation for a career as an attorney. I received a job with a law firm in Pittsburgh. I hope this will give me an opportunity to get some legal experience before I finish law school and become a practicing attorney.

Mrs. Faber: We own a farm in the Finger Lakes area of New York and we're now building a house. We planted a fruit orchard, a strawberry patch, and a large vegetable garden. I hope to enjoy gardening and perhaps do some substitute nursing.

Q. How long have you been at IMS?

Mrs. Ackerman: Since February of 1976.

Mrs. Faber: I came to Ingomar the second semester that it was open. So in January, I will finish 22½ years with North Allegheny schools. I'm going to

ALLEGHENY VALLEY BAND

Musicians set tryout record

By Matt Griffin

Our talented band showed they had what it takes! On November 19, musicians of IMS tested their musical talent against that of students in other schools by trying out for the Allegheny Valley Band; 35 tried out and 20 made it, which is an outstanding ratio.

I wondered how much practice time it might take each day to prepare for the honored Allegheny Valley Band, so I asked a few people who tried out. It takes an hour out of the day for trumpeter Bob Mason, 7th grader, who made it well up in the seating. Thirty minutes a day is the practice time for Jimmy Robertson, who plays alto clarinet and is now in the A.V. Band.

For Keith Johnston, it took 20 minutes daily. Although Keith didn't make it, he came awfully close.

Obviously, with the pressure of playing in front of a judge, you might get nervous.

How did the musicians cope with nerves? The answers weren't exactly predictable.

Bob Mason commented, "I wasn't that nervous, and I tried not to think about it until it was my turn to play."

Jimmy Robertson replied, "I wasn't nervous because Mr. Wujcik tested me."

Keith Johnston said, "I was nervous but I coped by thinking about how good I would feel if I make it."

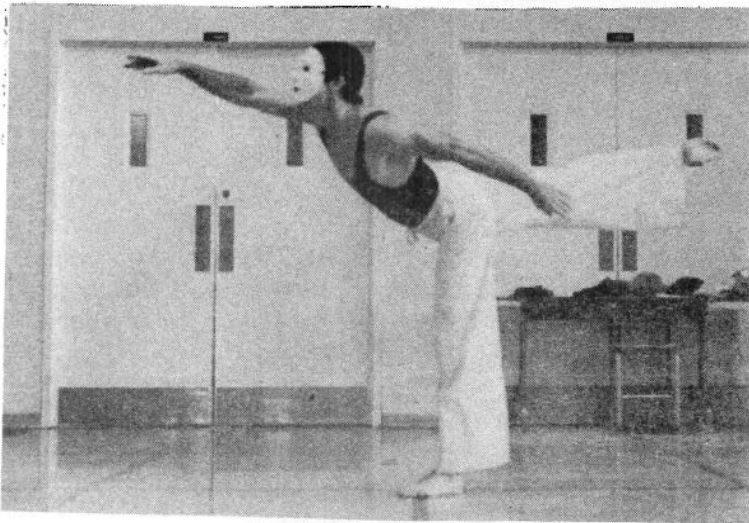
Ken Moore said, "I was nervous because I was trying out on two instruments, trumpet and tuba. I coped by sitting in the corner and making sure I knew my music."

miss all the wonderful staff and students, but I'm looking forward to my retirement.

Q. How do you feel about leaving?

Mrs. LeDonne: I'm really excited; I feel like you kids do as the summer vacation approaches. I do have to admit though, there's lots I will miss at IMS.

I'm sure everyone wishes these teachers the best of luck!



Mark Thompson

Talented mime teaches trade

By Lisa Dockus

Mark Thompson, a performer from the Pittsburgh Public Theater, brought the abstract movements and actions of mime to an assembly on Nov. 25.

Mark first became interested in the world of mime when he was with an athletic association. He saw a man performing mime and decided that pantomime was what he wanted to do. He has been performing since he was 12 years old.

Mark says pantomime requires a lot of practice. He said, "I have to work out between two to four hours a day and rehearse when I have a show."

Watching him perform, the audience had to realize what a strenuous form of exercise mime is. It's part story, part exercise, part acting - and mostly, work.

New Year wishes come true

By Holly Gumbeski

Seems like the appropriate time of year to do a little wishing. You don't have to throw any money into a well so I wish:

- Romances at IMS lasted longer so our gossip column wouldn't be dated before it's printed
- Teachers would tell us about pop quizzes the day before
- Buses would break down more often in the morning than in the afternoon
- The French teacher would speak English
- Mr. Wilson would tell us more about his history than the world's
- The weather wasn't always the worst when you're waiting for the bus
- Your mind didn't go blank right before a 100 point test
- The principal would pick warmer days for fire drills
- Teachers wouldn't screech chalk against the chalkboard

Special thanks to our volunteer typists: Mrs. Rubino, Mrs. Helm, and Mrs. Stewart.

Sponsor: Mrs. Neff

Layout of this issue: Tim Potocki, Beth Morris, Carlen Grinager.

Thanks go to Mr. Baranowski for developing our film.

Thanksgiving CAN help others

By Melissa Manesiotis

When you think of a school dance you think of music, friends, and good times. Bet you never think of needy families?

At least not until our Thanksgiving dance.

The dance just happened to occur the same time our canned food drive did. So students were given an option to pay for their dance tickets in can goods or pay the one dollar ticket price.

Over a thousand cans were collected and were divided up among needy families in our district.



Bringing in cans for 109, the homeroom which collected 284 cans: Jason Sabo, Lori Love, Tom Carter, and Tim Deily

EDITOR *at large*

Think before lighting up

By Cathleen Horner

Magazines, newspapers, billboards and posters all seem to depict smoking as being the sophisticated habit, sweeping America. Most people don't realize that smoking four-inch, mini-explosive smoke bombs is becoming a problem, but it is, and teenagers are influenced by advertising and peer pressure to smoke.

Most of the smoking population is attracted by the colorful ads published in many newspapers and magazines--each and everyone showing a handsome prince charming, an executive, or a debonair female showing off his/her style and class. But by smoking?

Do we really believe that smoking will bring us a step up in the world? Or gain us social acceptance?

In any case, smoking has become a craze and though it has been pictured as being sophisticated, glamorous, and debonair, in true life, the greasy-haired, wrinkled face derelict won't become a macho man, an outdoor man, or Mr. Popularity by smoking.

To many questions there is no sure answer, but many controversial topics related to smoking have been discussed in school. Mrs. Fusina's class seems to have made some conclusions on the subject of marijuana, one of the harmful smoking-related drugs.

The following is one of the responses students in Mrs. Fusina's 6th grade classes wrote after reading some of the latest findings about marijuana.

MARIJUANA - NOT A MAGIC GRASS

By Tom Carter

I think marijuana is a destructive killer and not a so called "magic grass". Why do people smoke marijuana? Is it because of peer pressure or because it's illegal? Neither one is a good excuse for using marijuana. Peer pressure is the reason most kids get started on marijuana.



Marijuana is an expensive habit that is harmful to your health in many ways. Your heart is overworked trying to supply oxygen, lungs develop sores, judgment is blurred and many other physical and psychological effects occur.

It's best not to start using any drugs at all. In this way you will not have to worry about side effects or being tempted to try harder drugs or becoming addicted.

Just because someone else uses marijuana is no reason to try it. A smart person will be able to say no.

Xmas names confusing

By Holly Gumbesk

Anybody named Holly should be born around Christmas, right? Well, the answer in my case is no! If I had a dollar for every person who asked me if I was born on Christmas, I'd be rich! To tell you the truth, I was born in the hottest part of summer.

I decided to interview other students born near Christmas. First, I thought of Hope Leinger, but her reply was, "Actually I was born in July." Then I checked whether or not any teachers had Christmas names. I did find one, Joy Zick, but once more her answer was, "I was born in June."

Maybe I should have checked with people named April, June, etc. Perhaps they were born near Christmas. We have a similar problem. I think our moms got our names confused!

Journalist encounters unidentified student

By Jim Hayes

Caution: Read this article at your own risk. It has been written by one of our slightly deranged reporters and it may blow up your mind if you're not on the same wave length.

I rolled over in bed, pressed "play" on my recorder, and tried to awaken to the music of the "Dead," as I got myself psyched up for going to school.

Later, as I walked down the school second floor hallway on my way to my history class, I was confronted with: "Hey man, spare a quarter?" I looked up to see an obviously in-the-know panhandler-type student. I realized then that the Christmas season had begun.

"What's it for?" replied this obviously out-of-the-know journalist.

"Christmas."

"Well, I bloody well figured that when I saw you wearing that Santa Claus hat. Where's the money going? What's your cause?"

"Me, of course. You think I'm from UNICEF, or sumthin'?"

"Well, a, no, but uh, where's your Christmas spirit, you should be panhandling for needy children and the like, not for yourself. Where's your traditional help-the-others attitude?"

"Left that at Diablo Canyon--- "

"You were protesting the plant?"

"Oh no! I was beating up protesters. Just slam 'em in the bus and kick another one. But as I was saying before I was interrupted by this radical unamerican commie. It just ain't safe these days with all these commies runnin' loose; if it wasn't for Senator Joe, I'd be sayin' what I shouldn't and commies like you would know my plans."

"Like what?"

"Some B-1's and a few MX's, you know mild stuff like that. I'm presenting this plan to the school board so we can take over more districts. Eventually, we'll get downtown and then we'll hit West Virginia. Pretty good plan, huh? If it really works, I present it to Ron, and if he don't like it I'll sell it to Mexico."

He bothered me so much, I had to shoot him with a radioactive spitball.



Christmas is friendship

By Carlen Grinager

Christmas means different things to different people. For me, it means being with friends; I especially think of ones I haven't seen for a while. My special memory of last Christmas was not of a certain gift I received or gave. It was just a simple phone call I made.

This phone call was to Lauren McCain. Lauren is a special friend of mine who lived in Pittsburgh three years ago. I met her through swimming, and we became best friends. She has medium-length, light-brown hair that matches her shining brown eyes.

On Christmas day, after three tries, I finally got through to Chicago and to her house. The phone rang as I tried to wait patiently for someone to answer.

Lauren answered the phone, "Hello, McCain's house, Lauren speaking."

"Hello, Lauren, guess who this is?"

"This couldn't be Carlen, could it?"

"Yes, it is!" I said happily, "How are you?"

We went on and on, asking questions and answering them, trying desperately to catch up on everything in such a short amount of time we had to talk.

After I hung up, I felt very pleased and wished this moment would never end.

Shelley Newlin, the right person for vice-president



Shelley Newlin, vice-president

By Laura Remsen

Shelley Newlin, our student council vice-president, is a special person with a super personality. Shelley has many responsibilities. She said, "Some of my responsibilities are to take over when the president isn't here, to get a lot of participation in campaigns and school spirit activities, and to help the other officers and to be in charge of certain activities like the executive committee."

Shelley has many goals this year. She said, "One of my most important goals is to get a lot of school spirit. Another is to get more students involved in student council. Shelley added, "The thing I like about my job is that I get to meet different people from other schools and get to work with other kids my age."

Shelley ran for vice-president because she thought it would be a good experience and a lot of fun.

Just because Shelley is vice-president doesn't mean she doesn't have time to do other things. Shelley plays on the school basketball team, she plays golf and a little bit of tennis, but most of the time she just goes out with her friends.

Shelley, being such a friendly, outgoing person, has the right personality for the job.

With each issue you will get better acquainted with one of your student council officers.

Santa goes on strike

By Cheryl Bowdre and Robert O'Connor

NEWS FLASH: Santa and his elves have all gone on strike! Repeat: Santa and his elves have all gone on strike! The decision was announced today at 2:30 p.m. when Mr. Claus held a press conference at the North Pole.

"I want less pressure, more cookies, more holiday spirit, less noise, and better job conditions," Santa announced with tears in his eyes.

Would Santa really go on strike! Or is someone forcing this on him? The police have checked on everyone who had a grudge against Santa. The magician who once owned Frosty the Snowman's hat said, "I'm clean! I don't know anything about this caper!"

"I don't get any respect," Mr. Claus added. "Everyone's been taking me for granted. No one cares about giving anymore. Why, last year I only got two glasses of milk and four chocolate chip cookies!"

Rumor has it that the Grinch has bought out Santa's shop which includes his reindeer, elves, and all of his equipment. The estimated figure was \$100,000,000.01. The Grinch is demanding 30 cookies from each family in exchange for one small present.

When asked about what she thinks, Mrs. Claus replies, "My husband and elves get

no respect. It's a wonder they didn't quit sooner."

Is it possible?! No Christmas this year. Well, you have heard it straight from Santa Claus. He's fed up and he's not going to take it anymore.

Various emergency procedures are being considered. One little girl was seen trying to organize a "We Love You, Santa" rally. Let's hope it's not too late.

Perhaps we all need to spend more time thanking the "Santas" in our own lives. MERRY CHRISTMAS, EVERYONE!

English class meets in TLR

By Tim Potocki

The eighth graders assigned to Mr. Tatone for English looked puzzled as they tried to read their schedules on the first day of school. One mystified student called out, "I'm supposed to have English in TLR! Where in the world is that?!"

TLR turned out to be the Teachers' Lunch Room, a small area located at the front of the cafeteria and close to where the cafeteria ladies prepare lunch.

Do the students assigned to Mr. Tatone's first three classes like meeting in the TLR? Let's find out.

Lesley Rodemoyer: Yes, I like English in the TLR because it is closer to the door to go to the portables. It's not any different than any other classroom except we have an excellent English teacher, Mr. Tatone.

Stacy Martin: English in the TLR is different, but I don't mind it because it is a change from the rest of my classes.

Carlen Grinager: No. The classroom is small. We also have to smell the food cooking in the cafeteria.

Tom Pellegrino: Yes, because it's better than just a regular old classroom because it's quite comfortable and you can smell the cooking in the cafeteria.

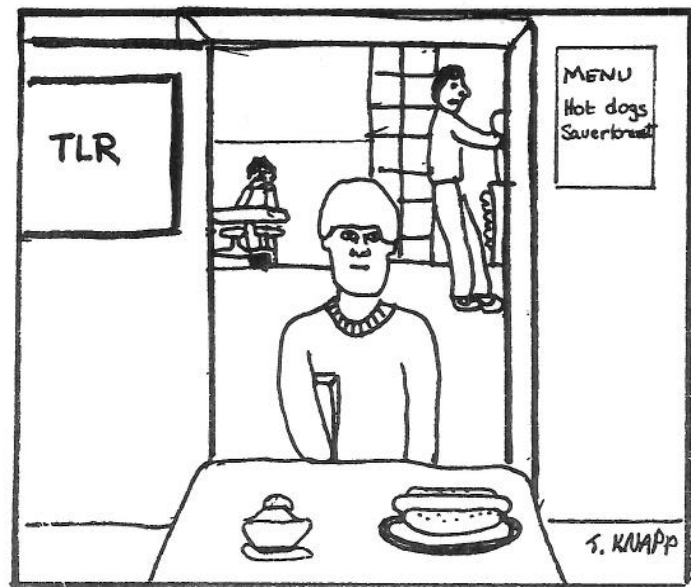
Amy Martz: I don't like it because the ladies make too much noise.

Mike Paluselli: No, because the lunch workers are always talking and running their machines and it drives you nuts.

Beth Shupe: Yes, I like English in the TLR because I have never been in the TLR before. It's really no different than having class anywhere else, except it's cold in there.

Then I asked Mr. Tatone the same question. Here's his reaction:

"Teaching in the TLR is certainly a new experience for me. As a traveling teacher, it's nice to have my very own room! It's also the first time I've been teaching in a room with an all-glass wall; it seems to make the room larger. My students have the advantage of knowing what's for lunch before anyone else, and it's great when the room is filled with



the sweet aroma of freshly baked goods. Then again, we're not crazy about sitting there when we know they're having hot dogs and sauerkraut for lunch."

The teachers' lunch room looks like a small classroom with tables, a teacher's desk, and chalkboards. One advantage to being in this class is that the class size is small; no more than 24 students can fit into the room.

THE GOSSIP GALLERY ●●●●●●●●

By Laurie Phelan

So far this year, a few hundred romances have blossomed, but we can only write about a few of them. In 6th grade, a lot has been happening. AE likes JK and he likes her too. As for going together, JS is going with JH. LS is going with DD. TC likes TK; JW doesn't know who he likes. PB broke up with JS but that's the breaks.

In the 7th grade, GH likes TF, KS likes DN, AS and GR are going great. LS and JB broke up so JB is going with AS, a 6th grader. JK and MC were really made for each other. MK and LS both like KC but KC likes KK. However, KK is going with a ninth grader. Complicated, huh?

In 8th grade, JM is going with RL, TH with MM, and LG with CF. MB likes KW.

Since the last issue, KM and BS broke up. So if while reading this article, you found your one and only unavailable, wait a week or so, anything can happen!

007 Cracks pencil case

By Mandy Cooper

I, Sherlock Student, was walking to the portables when suddenly Jill Walter ran out of PA towards me. She had noticed that I was wearing my Charlie Chan detective badge. "Someone stole my pencil case with all my pens in it!" she cried.

"Tell me exactly what happened," I said.

"Well, I set my binder in Mrs. Neff's room while I went to my locker. When I came back, someone was leafing through my binder. She was wearing a pair of brown knickers and a green sweater. I couldn't see her face because her back was turned to me. When I yelled, she jumped out the window. I can't go to English class without a pen! Mrs. Neff will kill me! She's a fanatic about students having a pen."

"Did you notice anything else?" I asked.

"No."

"We should go back to PA and tell Mrs. Neff exactly what happened before she ZAPS us for being late for English."

We briskly walked to English. As soon as Jill and I took two steps into the room, our teacher demanded to know why we were ten minutes late for class.

"Someone stole my pencil case!"

Jill explained. "She was wearing brown knickers and a green monogrammed sweater."

Mrs. Neff, eyes squinting and teeth bared for the attack, told us to sit down. Another student gave Jill a pen to borrow for the remainder of the period. When the bell rang to go to our next class, I caught up with Jill before she left and said, "I think you should return the pen and while you are at it, tell Mrs. Neff the truth."

WHY?

ANSWER:

Jill's slip was that she said she saw someone with brown knickers and a green sweater the first time, but when she told Mrs. Neff, she said that the person that stole her pencil case was wearing brown knickers and a green monogrammed sweater. Impossible. Jill said that the person that stole it had her back turned to her.



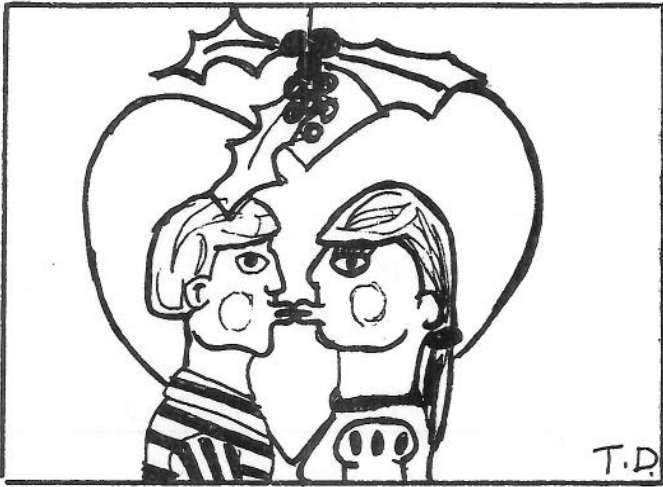
Being an 8th grader is...

By Michelle Saltman

Hey 6th and 7th graders, did you ever wonder what it was like to be an eighth grader? Well, here are some sample opinions taken from eighth grade students describing their present grade level. Being an eighth grader means:

- setting a good example for the 6th and 7th graders
- being king of the school
- being in 5th period and having your stomach growl so loud everyone can hear it because you haven't eaten lunch yet
- eating food leftover from the first two lunches
- preparing for Mr. Glaspey's merciless multiple-guess tests
- wishing you are dead until final exams are over
- being stormed with homework
- having Mr. Buffone hug you
- looking over the heads of the teachers
- getting ready for the intermediate school
- having lockers the size of shoe boxes
- making jewelry in art and having all the saw blades break
- going on trips with your friends and teachers to Niagra Falls and Washington, D.C.

Now all the 6th and 7th graders know what to look forward to in eighth grade.



Catch a cutie under mistletoe

By Sue Maas

Christmas rolls around once again, and aside from the snow and holly, mistletoe becomes really popular. A poll was taken to find who students wanted to catch under the mistletoe and why. A lot of unknown secrets came out as students blushed and answered the question to the poll.

Lisa Gross - Eric Hunkley, because I want to taste his luscious lips
 Carlen Grinager - Tim Frenz, because he's so cute!
 Sandy Neugebauer - Dave Winner, because I want to kiss him!
 Stacy Martin - Bill Yeager, why? why not??
 Jami Lombardo - Rob Donaldson, because he's cute, and I like him
 Clare Tremer - Chris Groetch, because he's like a little teddy bear
 Melissa Manesiotis - Tim Hazen, because he's a real special guy and I like him a lot
 Beth Shupe - Toby Graff, because he's a sweet guy, and I like him
 Bill Foltz - Kim Johnston, because she's cute
 Laurie McWilliams - Wade Beck, because he's nice
 Kelly Lacey - Andy Stephens, because I think he's cute
 Tom Carter - Nobody because I'm allergic to mistletoe
 Carrie Jenkins - Kevin Horan, because he's cute and I like him
 Nan Quatchak - Craig Vinsky, because I'm going with him and he's cute

Teachers get presents

By Joanne Heintz

With Christmas around the corner, everyone is thinking about presents. We asked students what they think is an appropriate gift for their teachers.

Heidi Haberstroh - Mr. Wujcik, a pair of earplugs
 Kelly Kantz - Mr. Cahalan, a case of diet pepsi
 Liz Lemmon - Mr. Glaspey, a good joke book
 Doug Shields - Miss Stone, a box of roses
 Rick Pescarino - Mr. Winter, a Rubik's cube
 Jeanne Croup - Mr. Clark, a map because he is always borrowing Mrs. Lippert's
 Michele Koiber - Mr. Glaspey, a laugh box
 Redean Sheppard - Ms. Mulheran, a paint by number paint set
 Chris Rausch - Mrs. Neff, a cat (she had a cat and recently took in two more strays)
 Wendy Muhlenkamp - Mr. Wells, some after shave lotion
 Michelle Efremenko - Mr. Meyer, an Izod sweater

Pet peeves drive ya crazy



By Debbie Monks

Have you ever dreaded a certain class because of the nerve-racking habits of the people sitting next to you?

The subject may be terrific, but the kids in your class can drive you up the wall. The little darlings may chomp their gum just like a cow and blow bubbles that pop so loud they knock you right out of your seat.

During a test, they suddenly develop wandering eyes and uncontrollably turn and copy your answers. Or one cold day, someone comes down with a severe case of the sniffles. Whatever happened to their kleenex? They use their shirt sleeve instead. Yuk!

After a hard day at school, you get on the bus, looking forward to your soap-operas, thinking you are leaving all of your troubles behind. Then the Mad Spit-baller gets on and the "fun" begins again.

Boys' basketball underway

By Jami Lombardo

Recently the "81-82" boys' basketball team was chosen. Both 7th and 8th grade boys were picked to be on the team. The team consists of 15 players: 8th graders: Andy Andreykovich, Tim Hazen, Scott Hennon, Bruce Duerkson, Rob Leininger, and Neil Davidson; 7th graders: Tim Frenz, Dave Groetsch, Chris Groetsch, Wade Beck, John Dockus, Dave Fleckenstein, Jeff Kunovic, John Accardi, and Kevin Loftis.

We asked some of the so called "jocks" if they could spare a minute from their practice time to answer a few questions.

PRESS: How did you get interested in playing basketball?

Scott: My dad was an All-American at Pitt. Also my family has a lot of basketball players in it.

Andy: I played with Scott in a league.

PRESS: How long have you been playing this sport?

Tim F.: Five years.

John A.: Two years

Andy: About five years.

Scott: Since I was a little hooper. (If you don't know what that means ask Scott or Tim Hazen because it's a joke between them.)

PRESS: As you play what do you think about?

Dave: How to out-run and out-score the other team. Also, I think about whether the coach likes the way I'm playing.

Scott: Scoring a lot of points.

Andy: I can't tell you that.

We also talked to the head jerk (oops, I mean) jock, Mr. Baranowski.

PRESS: How long have you been coaching?

Mr. B.: About two years.

PRESS: What goes on before a game?

Mr. B.: I tell the players what to do and what not to do and what to watch out for. I also tell them to play their best and not try to be someone they aren't.

Look for these boys to show their stuff on the court this season.

for SPORT'S sake



Another dangerous play

Faculty annihilates students

By Bryan Braumuller

The faculty again trounced the students 28-0 on Nov. 16, in the annual student-faculty football game. Apparently, all the faculty football players took on Mr. Schwoebel's role as disciplinarian, and the students were given a sound beating despite the football team's 4-1 winning record. However, there were no sore feelings, at least not emotionally, as the faculty whipped the students in a really fun game.

Last year's team, which had an identical record, was beaten with a score of 35-0. Could it be the faculty is getting old? Although the annual game has not made NBC Monday night football, it had its highlights.

Mr. Frank had an aerial attack that targeted and successfully hit four touchdown passes. Another dangerous play was the screen pass to Dr. Elsberry. The key to this play's success was the fact that no one dared tackle the superintendent of North Allegheny for fear of being flunked. Referee Buffone used his stature to hide several ineligible student receivers. Neglected in past years, middle school principal Dr. Duchi finally caught a pass.

I have come to the conclusion that until 1985 the students won't win because each year the faculty gets older they lose one touchdown. Good luck, 4th graders!

Sports Personality : 6th grader swings mean racquet



T.J. Bugel, on right, placed second at Indiana Pa. Junior Open Tournament

By Todd Miller

Right now racquetball is a quickly rising sport just like soccer and tennis. This interview is with T.J. Bugel, a sixth grader who is a rising athlete in this sport.

Q. How long have you been playing racquetball?

Todd: About a year or so. I got interested because my parents were playing.

Q. How many tournaments have you been in?

Todd: Five. I've been to Indiana, Ohio, Greensburg, and Monroeville. Tournaments are a good experience because they tell you where to build more skills.

Q. Other than Windwood, what other clubs have you played at?

Todd: Manor Courts North, Supreme Courts, and Bob Ezor's Racquetball Club. I like Windwood because it's in our area.

Q. Who is your favorite racquetball player?

Todd: Dave Peck, a professional racquetball player who is ranked 3rd in the nation.

Q. What brand of racquet do you use?

Todd: I used a Marathon Graphite, a Magnum, and now I use a Graphite Express. I think it's a good racquet because it's light and strung tightly.

Q. Is strength needed in racquetball?

Todd: No, all you need to be a good racquetball player is a fast wrist snap and a lot of self-confidence.

If you want to see T.J. in action, go to Windwood Racquet Club on Tuesdays from 4:30 to 8 p.m.

Snow daze strikes again

By Beth Morris

If you're like me, you anxiously await the first school closing due to snow. Before going to bed at night, you check outside to see how much snow is on the ground, then compare it with the amount predicted to see if it is enough to get us out of school. You then climb into bed and dream what you would do if tomorrow is a snow day. Visions of sleeping in, sled-riding and snowball fights dance through your head.

The clock radio wakes you up, blaring with an out-of-date rock song. At once you know it's Jack Bogut on KDKA telling you it's F-R-I-D-A-Y and that school closings will be coming up in about 15 minutes, just enough time for a quick shower. If you stay in bed and wait for the list, sure enough your school won't be cancelled, and you'll be running late.

School listings come on and Jack goes through the long list of kindergartens and schools starting with letters A through L. Then he plays "Kee-no-ta-ta" while you decide if you should start to get dressed. IMS better be closed because you're now running 20 minutes late.

Jack comes back on and begins with schools starting with the letter M. The whole family is on edge as he nears Monroeville schools. The excitement mounts and he finally reads, "North Allegheny schools closed." Mom groans, knowing she has to put up with the kids, but you slump back into your bed, sigh happily, and start praying for the next snow day.

t e e n s . o n . t h e . t e a m

Wrestlers work hard, get in shape

By Joe Milcoff

If you have ever seen an Ingomar wrestling match, you probably know these wrestlers.

Wrestlers Kevin Horan, Larry Vales and Tom Fawcett were interviewed to find out what keeps them going despite sore muscles and tough Coach Frank practices.

Q. Why did you start to wrestle?

Tom: My dad was a coach.

Larry: I started to wrestle last year when Coach Frank asked me to go out for the team. He thought it would be a good change for me to try new sports.

Q. How long have you wrestled?

Kevin: About three years.

Q. What is your record?

Kevin: Last year I was 3-4.

Tom: Last year I was undefeated.

Larry: My record was 6-1.

Q. What do you do at wrestling practice?

Kevin: First, we do calastenics, then we run, a lot, and go over moves, but on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, we lift weights.

Q. What are some good side effects of wrestling?

Tom: It keeps me in shape for football.

Larry: It gets you in good condition for other sports as well.

Q. What are some bad side effects?

Tom: Always staying after school for practice.

Larry: There aren't many, but there is one I know of and that is having to work hard and practice every night.

So you see these wrestlers work really hard.

Each night they descend into the wrestling room below the school and the sweat, straining muscles, hard work, and agony begin. Wrestling is a sport which requires real stamina.



Larry Vales and Tom Fawcett practice

BMXpert discusses apparel

By Bruce Guckert

Some people, when they start to race, run to dad saying, "I need special pants, shirt and shoes, and an expensive helmet." Actually, you don't need any special clothing and can avoid spending a lot of money, especially when you aren't sure if you'll stick with this sport.

Q. What kind of clothes does someone need to start racing?

A. First, you don't need to spend a lot of money. Wear jeans, a long-sleeved shirt, elbow pads, and regular tennis shoes. You may even have an old helmet somewhere around your house. Safety is important, and you don't have to look like you are modeling racing clothes.

Q. What do people who race for a team wear?

A. I'll use myself as an example. I'm on a team sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. Scholl in West View and Warrendale. We wear Vera's pants and shirts, Van's racing shoes, and Premier helmets. Several name brand pants we use are: Bill Walter's, JT, Aero, Vera's and Max.

Next time, we'll talk about getting into racing and getting sponsored.