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Homecoming festivities ran round the clock the week of Oct. 18-23 and are pictured clockwise (beginning above). Queen Becky smiles out at alumni and students after her half-time coronation. Meanwhile, Kim Kekich entertains the new Buccaneer Mascot with a yell, or perhaps vice-versa. Rolling right along is the Roadrunner, Cross Country's entry, followed by Princess Debbie Heida and escort Jerry Pabbruwe gobbling their fair share of pie during the traditional Pie-Eating Contest. And then, Mike Gerstwar grunts and strains while winning the Tug-of-War for the seniors.

(photos by Steve La Voy)



'Reflections of Happiness' 1971 Queen: Becky's dream come true

Smiling radiantly, five excited, nervous and giggling princesses shivered on the cold football field as Jack Easum, ASB President tallized each with the prized crown which finally found its resting place on the head of the 1971 Homecoming Queen---Becky Alt.

Becky's electrifying moment took place Saturday night during half-time of the Bucs vs. Paramount game, culminating a week of contests and hopeful prayers of "let it be me." "I just really couldn't believe it!" exclaimed Becky. "I was about to turn and see who Jack would crown when he put it on MY head. After that I was just going around in circles. It was UNBELIEVABLE!" Beverly was crying even harder than I was. She was so happy. Becky continued. "It would have been as much an honor and a compliment to me if Barbara or Beverly had gotten it. A lot of people thought that

because the three of us were competing against each other, that it would split us up. But it didn't, it brought us closer together as a family."

After being hugged, kissed and congratulated by her court and her escort Ed Eynon, Queen Becky ascended the steps to her throne as a blaze of rockets zoomed through the sky bursting into sparkling colors. Then she and her court were led off the field to a host of clicking cameras and flashing lights.

Reflecting back upon the events of the week, Becky (sec. of activities) remarked, "A lot of hard work went into Homecoming Week and it really showed. I thought it was one of the best we've ever had. There was so much to do, I could hardly keep up with it."

Beginning Monday of Homecoming week (re-named spirit week) posters, crepe paper and stuffed dummies hung from the ceilings of the 100, 200, 300 and 400 buildings. Each building

was assigned to a class; the 100 building was given to the seniors; the 200 to the juniors; the 300 to the sophomores, and the 400 to the freshmen.

To add to the spirit of the opening day, the traditional tug-of-war between the classes was held during an extended snack, with the seniors girls and guys teaming-up to take the honors.

Tuesday brought gooey whipped cream washed faces with the annual pie-eating contest sponsored by the Sophomore class.

"I thought it was really going to be fun eating that pie, but...Ah...it was too much. Both Eddie and I felt sick afterwards," Becky stated.

Debbie Heida and Jerry Pabbruwe were covered with pie, and I thought they might win, but Ron and I just kept eating and we finished first. added Beverly.

While pizza and coke filled the stomachs of students at the Hootenanny, their ears were filled with

music from the Gut Bucket, Bruce Michaels, and The Messengers quartet.

Thursday at the assembly, the princesses were introduced to the student body and skits were performed to show some of their personality traits. After the assembly voting was held in the third period classes, and it was then that Becky's fate was decided.

At last, Saturday night began with the parade of dignitaries, floats, princesses with the band and drill team (with their alumni). The theme surrounding the making of the floats was "Reflections of Happiness." and the sophomores claimed the sweepstakes prize with their "Peanuts" characters.

Then as the crowd held its breath, the princesses tightly gripped the hands of their escorts, the crown was passed from head to head until at last those fatal words sounded over the loud speaker... "the 1971 Homecoming Queen is..."

BLADE view

Administration told to stop censorship

A recent revision of the State Education Code, to go into effect in mid-January, instructs local school districts to "encourage students to express opinions, to take stands, to support causes," and basically to employ their right of free expression on campus.

The old section prohibited the distribution of material which was classified as "propaganda," or "partisan."

Under the new code, students may distribute any publication which is not obscene or libelous, and does not incite students to unlawful acts or advocate racial, ethnic or religious prejudice.

This much-needed reform in the Education Code will undoubtedly play a large role in improving our present educational system.

Education is not merely learning one's multiplication tables but includes, or at least should include, in-depth exposure to a wide variety of ideas and philosophies.

The recent State Board of Education decision is an attempt to do away with the suppression of free expression presently practiced by administrators.

Unfortunately, even with the new State Board's ruling, there is little doubt that administrators will attempt to place some controls on the dissemination of printed material at Bellflower High School.

Dr. Townley admits he would not allow printed material to be distributed on campus "if it was directly trying to confuse and convert a student's thought."

By adopting policies such as this, the administration is defeating the purpose behind the new Education Code.

If freedom of expression is to succeed at Bellflower High, our administrators are going to have to set their personal opinions aside while interpreting the law.

Administrative "misinterpretation" of the law is a major obstacle standing in the way of free expression on high school campuses.

Apparently administrators fail to realize that the youth of today are far better prepared to face the outside world and it's assortment of propaganda than many adults.

Even if administrators reject this point, they must realize that if students are protected from outside influences during their education (which should provide time for critically and objectively evaluating various philosophies) they will be easy prey.

There is little doubt that after the new law takes effect in mid-January, administrators will be forced to loosen their grip over student's rights.

But until that time administrators will be left to freely label as illegal, the distribution of any publication they choose.

To help put the new law into effect more gradually, a committee should be formed from administrators, parents and students to provide guidelines to follow while waiting for the new law to go into practice.

A committee consisting of Dr. Townley, vice-principals Merv Smith, John Killen, Rogers Lindley, four students and four parents should begin meeting immediately to determine the policy regarding the distribution of printed material on campus during the time leading up to the enactment of the new law.

This committee should set up a policy which would no longer infringe on both the constitutional and educational rights of the students attending Bellflower High.

A more liberal policy toward the distribution of literature on campus would not create chaos but instead would serve to improve the quality of education and prepare Bellflower students better for the outside world.

Student right of free expression

Townley views new code

by Scott Rozelle

During the past several weeks at BHS, a small scale war has raged between a group of students, who have attempted to publish and distribute an underground newspaper (the Motivator), and the administrators, along with certain student leaders. At the last confrontation, the administration confiscated over 700 copies, saying that the material was propaganda. However, a recent ruling by the California State Board of Education seems to make the Motivator and other materials similar to it perfectly legal to hand out on campus.

To carry out this order, the state board said that "there should be no prior censorship or requirements of approval of the contents of wording of the printing materials related to student expression on campus."

Since official word has yet to be received, the precise intent and interpretation of the decision is not known. This has caused confusion among many people about the school, as they have applied the preliminary report to meet their needs.

In an attempt to clarify the matter, a question and answer period was held with Dr. Arthur Townley principal. During the interview Dr. Townley related his own opinion, philosophy and views concerning the State Board's decision and how it will affect students at BHS. The following is a portion of the actual interview.

Question: What are your feelings about the board's decision?

Answer: First of all, before we can accept the decision, it must come through the proper channels and besides the California state law says that a bill takes 90 days to take effect. There are also many unanswered questions in my mind.

Q. What are some of those unanswered questions?

A. For one, I don't even know what section of the education code was changed. For another, I really can't tell if the bill

makes it wide open for anything to be handed out, or will there be some restrictions?

Q. When the law does go into effect, will you be in favor of it and do you think that students have the right to distribute papers, such as the Motivator?

A. My real concern is not really with the right or lack of right to pass out memos, circulars or materials, such as the Motivator. My main concern is to see if we can have channels through the school that deal with problems that will make a better school.

Q. What about leaflets and other material that don't deal with school matters, such as subversive party literature?

A. No! That is the very reason we have the state education code. It is to protect students from unauthorized literature.

Q. If outside literature does get on campus because of the board's decision, will this create a conflict with the school's job to build a student's mental and moral character, as described in the education code?

A. If the preliminary report is true and factual, then I feel it would conflict with the school's duty.

Q. Would you allow any Nazi, Communist or revolutionary propaganda on campus, even if it does meet the board's regulations?

A. If it is directly trying to confuse and convert a student's thinking, no!

Q. Basically how is the decision going to affect the average student, if at all?

A. It really depends on the type of literature. For example, I don't think a Motivator type of article will affect anybody a great deal except possibly the leaders and active students.

Q. But if it was put in harsher tones, don't you think it would then affect the average student?

A. Yes, definitely! I think it would be an extremely harmful influence on any high school campus.

Letters to the Editor

President's tactics questioned

To the Editor:

Many students are undoubtedly already aware that when issue No. 2 of the Motivator hit the stands on Oct. 15, our ASB President, Mr. Easum, along with some of his cohorts, confiscated every copy of the Motivator they could get their hands on. I proceeded to ask Mr. Easum why he was doing this. He informed me they were illegal.

I then asked him who said they were illegal. I was told the Supreme Court. After ensuing dialogue, I asked him what gave him the right to take the law into his own hands. He replied, "Get out of here, or I'll punch you in the nose."

After questioning his aversion to intelligent discussion, he repeated his previous statement. He didn't appear to be jesting this time. Perhaps this is a good indication of the attitude of our ASB President towards his fellow students.

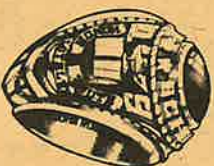
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Clay Doyle

(I question your information. The 'cohorts' you refer to seem to be non-existent. Also, Mr. Easum, as you so caustically refer to him, was correct in saying it is illegal. The only discrepancy here is the fact that this law is not enforced by the Sheriff's department unless they are requested to by the administration. It is up to the administration as to how they wish it to be handled, and Mr. Easum was probably acting on directions from the administration. Of course, all of this is changed now due to a

(It seems you've misinterpreted your role in relationship to civic and educational responsibilities. One purpose of student government is to act as an introduction to the functions of ruling bodies. Perhaps you should, first, familiarize yourself with the government organization at BHS, trying to solve some of its many problems before tackling the large and more influential and forms of government in the outside world. -Ed)

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Educational innovations

Rigid rules relaxed in nation-wide experiments

(This article is the first in a series about the educational system today. If anyone has any suggestions as to what BHS could do, or any gripes about the system, please send them to the newspaper room 512, as it will be used in an article concerning what BHS students think of their school. —Ed.)

by Jeannette Anderson
Never before has there been so much orderly chaos, experimenting, and change in our educational system.

One of the new trends in education described in the Nov. 70 PTA magazine centers curriculum around the students' desires as well as needs. At Shoreline High (Seattle) elective subject matter is chosen by a committee of students, teachers, and the principal. The courses offered range from jazz appreciation, racism and draft, to legalized abortion.

Another experiment consisted of one week being set aside and all classes cancelled while the students decided on their own courses. They had teaching experts come from the community, nearby Universities, and local businesses for instruction and leadership.

This is the direction in which education is moving—more of a concern for the student's interests, less formal and strict as far as behavior goes, and more of an experience rather than just reading or being told about it.

BHS has already taken a small step in that direction with their mini-courses. Assistant Principal Merwyn Smith hopes to start a student curriculum committee for all interested.

Flexible scheduling is another working experiment. In this situation, class lengths are varied to fit the need. Laboratory classes would then be able to finish experiments in one session and lecture courses would not have to drag so. Probably the biggest handicap to our present teaching method is the environment and structure of the classroom.

Another high school alternative portrayed by Scholastic Teacher, called SWAS (School Within A School), is centered in conservative Middletown (Conn.) High School. The headquarters is an enormous room decorated with posters, paintings and comfortable furniture to reflect the students' personalities. Every six weeks they look over such courses as "Animal Lab," "How Children Learn," or "TV production," in a rented apartment, a university, the riverbank, and in a built.

(Next: Student, Teacher, Administrator opinion on BHS's curriculum, classroom and behavioral policies.)



The 1971 Bellflower High School Band takes a breather while Mr. John Merkowsky contemplates the results of his band's fervent rehearsals prior to a Nov. 6 Liberty Parade and competition show.

(photo by Steve La Voy)

Merkowsky: Man behind band

"I came from a very athletic family, and that's really how I got into music," and that's really how I got into music. It was the semi-explained career background of Bellflower High's own band director, Mr. John Merkowsky.

"You see," he went on to explain, "My father used to be a professional football player and my brother is now a coach. We lived in Pennsylvania, and back east, you do everything with the intention of getting a scholarship."

"The two things that are really big back there are sports and music. So, when my parents wouldn't let me play football, I decided to commit my life to music; teaching performing and appreciating."

However, Mr. Merkowsky was rather disappointed in not finding very many fellow music appreciators when he first came to Bellflower, last year.

"Before I came out to Bellflower I taught at a high school in Pennsylvania for a year, and to show how big music is back there, the school only had about 800 students total but we had almost 100 in the band."

"So, you can imagine what my thoughts were when they told me that Bellflower High had almost 2,000 students and I find out later that there are hardly 40 people in the band."

"But this year we have jumped to about 55 active members," Merkowsky quickly added. "I like it better out here anyway," the sideburn clad bachelor admitted, "not only the weather, but the students at Bellflower."

are really behind us now in what we're doing.

What the band is doing is creating a new image for themselves. They are fast becoming one of the best cheering sections to be found at any BHS activity.

"I guess our 'new look' all started last year," recalls Mr. Merkowsky, "During CIF basketball season we were asked by Jack Bogdanovich (then head basketball coach) to keep the fans on their feet. So, we started doing all the cheers and yells instead of just sitting there during a game."

"I feel that the band has a responsibility to the school and to the team that's why the band is staying involved with cheering. When the band does a cheer, I don't know whether the team can hear us or not, but it keeps the crowds excited."

But, keeping the fans excited isn't the only job of Mr. Merkowsky and his band. They not only enter and march in many competitions and parades but they also had a chance to perform during the recent USC-ALABAMA college game. "What better way to begin a school year?" was the comment from the proud band leader.

"November 6 is the next big competition. It will be at our stadium and it's a competition day for several schools like Glendora vying for accolades. The band and the drill team are both looking forward to this event. Our athletes have great pride for this school and themselves. And so do we."

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Gridders to meet Norwalk

by Dave Wielenga

Facing a season that promises to be one of the most grueling in Buc history, Bellflower's varsity football squad got off to an essential good start Saturday by drubbing Paramount's always-physical Pirates, 41-12.

"This has got to be one of the most well-balanced leagues I've ever seen," said head coach Clay Odell, appraising the SGVL's brutal '71 appearance. "I'm convinced that this was the toughest league in the 3-A this year. Every team is strong and appears to have a shot at the title."

Coming off a game where the majority of the excitement was derived from the frequent displays of temper rather than in the score, Bellflower's gridmen now await tomorrow's confrontation with the Norwalk Lancers, who not surprisingly lost their league opener to Pioneer.

In that game the Lancers fumbled the ball on the Pioneer 38 yard line with two minutes left in the game, resulting in their 7-6 defeat by the fifth-ranked Titans.

"Norwalk has a lot of big guys on their roster; even the running backs have good size as well as speed," stated Odell, implying that the Lancers are not to be taken lightly. "We've got a good team this year,

but we can't afford to get ahead of ourselves. The way to take the title is to play each game, one at a time, and win every one."

Certainly a dominating factor in enabling the number-one rated Bucs to chalk up their initial league win was the play of quarterback Dan Castilio who participated in all six touchdowns Saturday. Although he managed to connect on only two of nine passes, both completions went for scores. The junior sensation performed even better on the ground, running for 119 yards on 13 carries, an average of over nine yards per run. Four of the carries resulted in touchdowns as he scampered to the end zone from distances of 10, 26, 16 and 20 yards.

Always dependable, Bob Torrence continued his remarkable performances, booting five extra points and setting up two touchdowns with his running and passing. The lone PAT that Torrence failed on was his first miss of the season and broke a string of 17 consecutive successful kicks.

Darrell Goodro makes a spectacular catch en route to second quarter touchdown in Saturday's game with Paramount Bucs

won easily 41-12, but may find competition tougher in battle with Norwalk tomorrow.

(photo by Steve La Voy)



JVs execute encore; Sophs, Frosh stalled

by Scott Rozelle

Many football fans readily recall the amazing comeback of the 1970 JV squad which, after dropping its first two games, found themselves and won their remaining pre-season encounters. Then they went through league not only undefeated but also unscored upon.

Once again all eyes are turned toward Coach Steve Dunnham's 1971 JV team which will attempt to repeat last year's performance. So far they have staged an instant replay.

The JVs stumbled through their first two games (scoring a mere eight points while allowing Pacifica and Mayfair to rack up 28 and 19 points, respectively).

Then suddenly the team jelled and it went on to beat Artesia, 8-0, and Palos Verdes, 14-7, to complete the pre-season schedule. Not looking back, the JVs tuned up for today's contest against Norwalk by shutting out Paramount, 26-0.

The win puts their JV league shut-out streak at six straight and also gives Coach Dunnham a perfect lifetime league record of 11 wins, no losses. The JV offense is sparked by junior quarterback Don Kerr and sophomore tailback Barry Stone, who each scored a touchdown in the Paramount game, while the defensive leader is Gary George.

Things game not been so sweet, however, for the sophomore squad, coached by Arnold Winokur. The team has yet to win a game and shows only one tie, a 26-26

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draw against Mayfair. Their inability to win the close game is evident as three of their four defeats have been by a touchdown or less. This problem was reflected in the sophomore's league opener with Paramount last week. The two teams waged a scoreless battle through practically the entire game, but Paramount finally punched over a touchdown with 1:23 remaining and handed the Buc sophomores a 8-0 loss.

The freshmen team, like the Sophomores, has also had troubles chalking up victories. They possess a mere 1-4-0 season record, with the only bright spot being a 21-7 victory over Artesia. The team's big problem has been sustaining a drive long enough to score. For example, in their 6-0 defeat by Paramount, the freshmen put together five drives but each was ended by either a fumble or an interception.

It appears that these JV, sophomore and freshmen grid-ers must mature considerably during the balance of the season to fill the shoes of the graduating seniors from the varsity squad.

Bellflower's premier runner, Bob O'Brien and his cross country team (1-0) travel to Norwalk today.

(photo by Steve La Voy)



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GAA, XC start big

Dave Wielenga

Last year Bellflower had its finest all-around record in history, dominating the SGVL and claiming 13 of 22 league titles. Although a repeat performance would be almost too much to expect, it appears as if it will be another banner year for the Athletic Department.

This year the athletes on the "other side" of the gym are also tasting the sweetness of victory as GAA tennis and volleyball teams are off to encouraging starts.

After being battered by Mayfair in the initial confrontation of the season, the tennis team has rolled over both Glenn and Excelsior high schools. In the Oct. 14 meeting with Glenn, the racket-bearing females totally annihilated them, winning 60 of 69 games. Also successful were the varsity and JV volleyball teams as they spiked Mayfair in the opening match of the season and as visitors, served Glenn a defeat in the Oct. 14 encounter.

Bellflower was also on the winning end of Friday's cross

country meet with Paramount as both varsity and JV posted convincing victories over the Pirates.

The varsity, led by Bob O'Brien's first-place time of 10:05, took the first five places for a perfect score and a 15-41 stomping of Paramount. Adding to the satisfaction of the Jopsided win were the numerous personal bests recorded. Most notable were Steve Moran, garnering fourth place with a freshman record breaking time of 10:56 and yours truly who ran up a fifth-place time of 10:59 and chopped 39 seconds off my best time this year.

Faring almost as well was the JV squad which followed Frank Hollinsworth's winning time of 11:16 with second, third and fifth place finishes by Rick Latman, Jack Villagas and Paul Wielenga. Fifth man for the Bucs was Tom Creswell which finalized the score of the Bellflower conquest at 19-36.

The road runners travel to Norwalk this afternoon to do battle with a Lancer team that coach Dave Chapel says "could provide us with some very tough competition."

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