



(photos by rod stern)

Question: When is the '73 WSF Week?

- a) undecided
- b) maybe
- c) currently agreed to be held Feb. 12-16

Answer: c (hopefully)

Question: Who are the WSF princesses?

Answer:

- a) Karen Kane of Yell Squad and Annual Staff
- b) Sandy Jorgenson, President of Drill Team
- c) Peggy Rivers, "Miss Friendly" and member of Are Club
- d) Janet Nadalsky of the ASB Cabinet and Girls' League
- e) Cathy Baker, involved in Drama and House of Representatives
- f) Dinah Herron, the GSF treasurer and member of Annual Staff
- g) Bonita Kato of the Blade, the Biology Club secretary.

Question: Who will be chosen as Bellflower's WSF Queen?

Answer: ???

Bathrooms losing sight of original purpose

by mary kukiela

"Chicano Power," "White Power," "Sue-y-Randy," and "Gretchen loves Chipper" are all examples of bathroom graffiti. The scratched-up stalls minus their toilet paper, along with the dirty mirrors and clogged sinks, make the restrooms what they are. But the most unusual characteristic of Bellflower's heads is the bathroom dwellers.

They smoke, play cards, contribute to the art, and even eat lunch in the heads. And there are generally two types of these people: the group that sees the bathrooms as somewhere to go whenever they cut a class, and the others that spend all their free time in there.

The latter of the two groups occupies the bathrooms during zero period, snack and lunch. One girl, who is constantly in the restrooms, proudly explained, "The reason we come in here is because we think those people out by the lunch tables are a bunch of socs."

"She (pointing at one of her younger friends) used to come in here with her older sister. Her sister isn't here anymore, but she still comes anyway. I guess she just got used to it."

When asked why she spends her lunch in the heads, the girl answered, "I've been coming here since 10th grade. The only people that I know are the ones that come in here . . . I just don't really have any other friends."

"We always have lunch in this head, but sometimes we'll go over to the 300 wing."

In reference to the girls' restroom, across the hall from his 100 wing room, Sociology teacher Richard

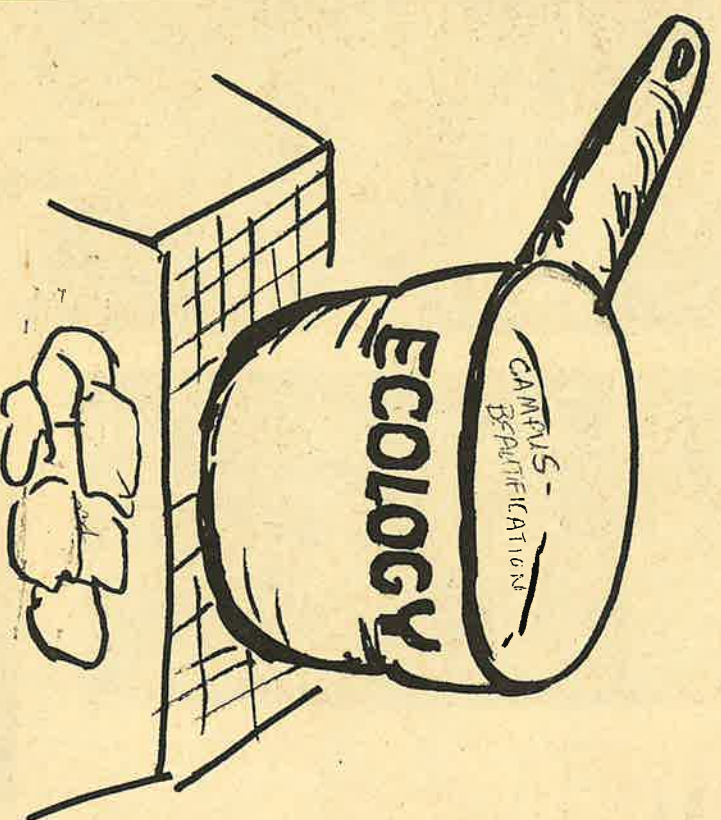
Hester said, "I see the same faces there every day. If I knew their names I could tell you exactly who hangs out in that head."

One student, when asked where she would go if she ditched a class replied, "The best place is the bathroom." As Hester puts it, "it is a darn good place to hide. The girls are the major problem only because there are no ladies capable of going around and checking, so the girls can stay in there almost indefinitely." These girls are aware of this and know "the narc won't come in unless he knocks and he has to have somebody with him. We really don't worry about him."

The boys, although they don't have as much bathroom socializing, are plagued by other problems. According to one student who frequents the bathrooms often, "Sometimes a guy will put a paper cup of water on the edge of the door, so that when you go into the head, it falls down all over you."

Another person said, "it was rumored that some guy, a student, had a key to all the boy's bathrooms. He would go around and lock all the heads but he would leave a different one open each day. This made all of us mad because every day we had to figure out which one was the unlocked one."

Although a few students have attempted to discourage this socializing by cleaning and repainting the restrooms, its success is doubtful. With all their pranks, problems, and habits, the bathroom dwellers have become an intricate part of school society and are almost considered a tradition.



Ecology: another great cause abandoned

The fire's going out.

by lee ann park
and clay doyle

Ecology was the thing that was. Following the too familiar pattern of the commie hunt craze of the 1950's, the civil rights movement of the mid-sixties and the college-based Vietnam protests in '69 an era of environmental concern has come and gone. Once again the American public has collectively taken up a benevolent cause in a wave of enthusiasm, only to discard it when they got tired of it. From the first "Earth Day" in 1970, when environmental problems first gained wide-spread public recognition, "ecology" became a household word, and "environmental control" was a major concern.

Memberships of ecology oriented organizations, such as Sierra Club and Friends of the Earth, swelled to enormous proportions during the height of the movement.

But now, in the aftermath, the clubs are back to only a handful of active members.

Not confined to state-wide organizations, the effects of the epidemic of concern were apparent locally as well. Campus Beautification became one of the most active clubs on campus, as did the Ecology Committee, a direct off-shoot of the movement.

The extent of their projects and activity was so great that it enabled BHS to win the Gerritos Jr. College Beautification award in 1969, '70 and '71.

However, these clubs have also recently felt the recession of interest. Membership is so low that undertaking projects is nearly impossible.

Although the momentary environmental concern did bring important problems to public and political attention, just as solutions began to materialize, the public lost interest.

So, the ecology issue joins the ranks of civil rights, integration and all the other unsolved problems which once held the public's undivided attention.

Quarter plan sinks

Just like the Titanic which was the unsinkable ship, the quarter system at BHS, supposedly the answer to attendance and scheduling problems, has failed.

It's major purpose, to greatly increase attendance, never materialized. True, attendance was meagerly increased by 1% during the first quarter, but only to taper off to pre-quarter system quotas.

Another proposed advantage of the quarter system was to provide a greater variety of course offerings. However, with a limited number of teachers, most of the subjects are nothing more than slight variations of traditional english and social studies classes.

And because the course offering remain the same from quarter to quarter, students have found themselves forced into quarter classes that they don't want simply because they had already taken all the classes they were interested in. This may possibly explain the resultant drop in attendance, after the first quarter.

Several social studies teachers have also complained that the quarter system is more of a hindrance than a help to their program.

They explained that one quarter was often not enough time to thoroughly present certain subjects. In addition, many social science teachers feel there is a lack of continuity caused by the quarterly change of subjects. For example, a student may take "Modern World" one quarter only to replace it by "Ancient Civilizations" the next.

On the other hand, English teachers have found the quarter system perfectly suited to their needs and subject matter.

In order to eliminate the problems caused by the quarter system, yet retain its advantages, a compromise plan must be instituted.

Following a format used by most colleges, quarter classes should be retained, but only when they are suited to the subject matter. And, only quarter classes should receive permanent quarter grades, and 2½ credits.

Otherwise, semester and year classes, would go back to the previous system of permanent semester grades with quarter grades acting only as indicators. This incorporates the best of both systems providing a much more flexible plan, which

letters

Assemblies; activities hit by students

To the Editor,
The pep assemblies are so boring that less and less people are attending them. Not only are they boring but they are so short that once you get in there it's time to leave. Surely something can be done to liven things up a little, or maybe organize them better so that more skits or routines can be done.
Faye Vlieger

To the Editor:

I'm complaining on some activities in the school. Between my friends and I we bought five spook-pops and only one of them was sent. Then we payed for the balloons that were supposed to be sent up and we haven't heard a thing since we payed for them. It's not the money that counts but I feel that

things like this discourage participation in school activities. I know things can't be perfect but they should be improved upon.

Name Witheld

To the Editor:

I have a complaint about the closing of the library during lunch. They open it occasionally, but only for 19 or 15 minutes at the end of lunch.

Before, the library was open to all students so that they could locate

books for recreation, information on job opportunities, and materials to aid their studies.

For most students, lunch period is the only time that they can use the library because of after school sports, jobs, etc. and these students cannot accomplish anything in the short time it is open.

Besides, the library is to help the student, and how can it be a help when it is closed?

Donald Dalphin

(Do you have a complaint, opinion or suggestion? Do you want to make yourself heard? Then write a letter to the BLADE. Letters should be brief and must be signed. All letters are subject to condensation. Submit letters to room 512.)

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Violence threatens HS students

by bill cummings

*"proper placement
of students
is important. . ."*

"122 teachers,

512 students

attacked.. "

A student is stabbed in an L.A. school for his jacket. One is shot trying to rob a fellow student in Compton. At John Glenn a junior is stabbed when he tries to help a student that is being attacked. All fatal, all in L.A. county, and all within the past two months.

Campus violence is now becoming the rule rather than the exception in the Los Angeles and other local school districts. Since September there has been a recorded total of 122 teachers, 512 students and 49 peace officers attacked, in addition to 299 cases of weapon seizure.

In the midst of all this, the school boards are trying to curb violence by finding the reason for such actions. The opinion of many school boards is that dropouts and students with less than full school days are to blame. They return to the school for lack of a better place to go with their idle time.

As a temporary solution, the closing of campus and adding extra security people is one way the Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District, which includes Glenn, Downey, Excelsior and Norwalk is approaching this problem. Mr. Clint Brown on the school board said, "We are putting more people on campus to enforce the loitering laws now in effect, but we aren't certain as to the cause."

This however is not the standard opinion. One California state official blamed the schools, saying that the schools did not keep the students

interest and that they didn't offer enough classes to hold the student's interest. Yet he did not believe that these schools need more funds to do what he thinks is necessary.

However, BHS seems to be immune to the terrors of student violence. Could it be that our closed campus and Somerset are in some way responsible for the lack of any crime like that at other schools? Or is it just that the conditions at other schools are not present here?

"I think it's the combination of kids that determines the outside influence", commented BHS Principal George Prince. "The kids here are happy. In other words, they are here to do a job without others influencing them."

But he added that "the proper placement of students is important. Somerset is a help in separating students from an explosive situation, but an explosion among students could happen any time."

When asked if students attitude had anything to do with it, he replied that "The attitude among the students, their "Buc Pride" has a lot to do with the lack of violence here. Also our staff and administration are on the watch for any friction that could become a hazardous situation."

Maybe we are ahead of others in the prevention of unrest. Maybe our actions will be followed at schools that are in need of a solution. Or it could just be that, through a series of circumstances, we were somehow bypassed by this wave of terror.

*"it's the
combination
of students..."*

*"our staff and
administration are
on the watch. . ."*

'Discover Red China' week? name's only part of problem

Discover Your Amer . . . Huh? Oh, OK. Lend a hand . . . what? Discover Your Hand Week? No? Then it's Lend an America We . . . not that either huh?

Well in any case, there's only about two months before it'll again be time for that week of apple pie and mother, of the Star Spangled Banner, red, white and blue, frog jumping, Old Glory . . . the American Dream.

The week of fun and flag waving breaking the doldrum of spring classes was so well received by the student body when it was introduced last year that its regular return was assured.

not unanimous, it appears a new name and revised theme for the week will have to be found.

This shouldn't be too hard though, even for the House. With a little imagination a horde of worthy topics suitable for enveloping five normally dull days can be developed.

A first thought, with the current emphasis on fairplay and presenting both sides, is a "Fun for Commies" week, featuring a hall decorating contest with red paint and paper mache hammers and sickles. The winners would receive an all expenses paid trip to Siberia.

Or, more in line with President Nixon's president-setting trip, A "Discover Red China" week complete with a Mao Tse Tung look-alike contest might be appropriate.

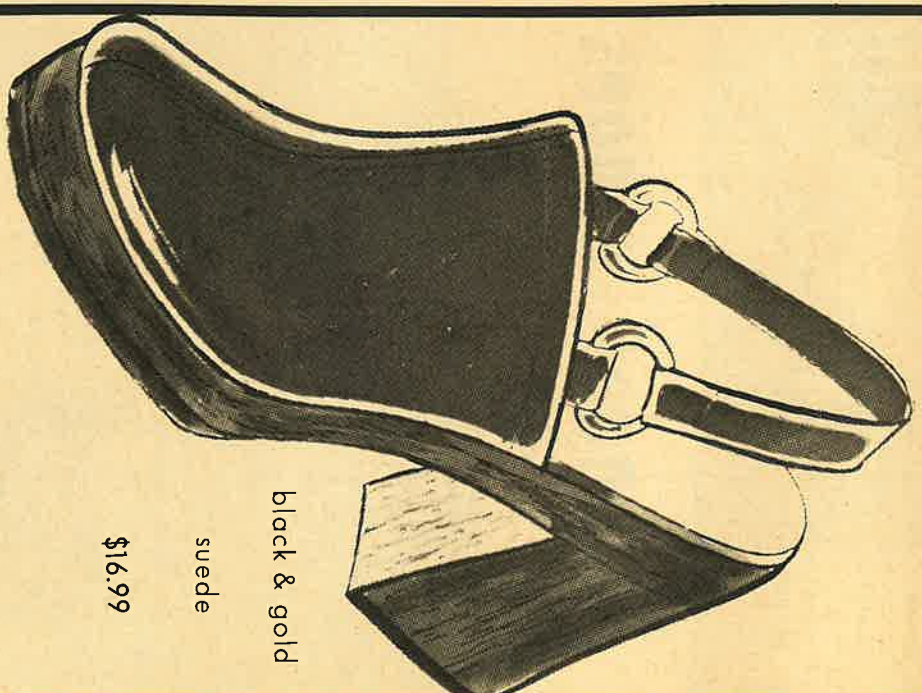
But perhaps it would be possible to retain an American theme by approaching a different angle of the USA than before

A current topic would be a "Peace is at Hand" or "Now You See It, Now You Don't" week with sleight of hand demonstrations and an all school liars contest among the events.

There's really no reason to be too upset if Uncle Sam can't come back this year because, as shown, there are plenty of fun replacement topics.

And of course, the House will undoubtedly have ideas of its

clay doyle



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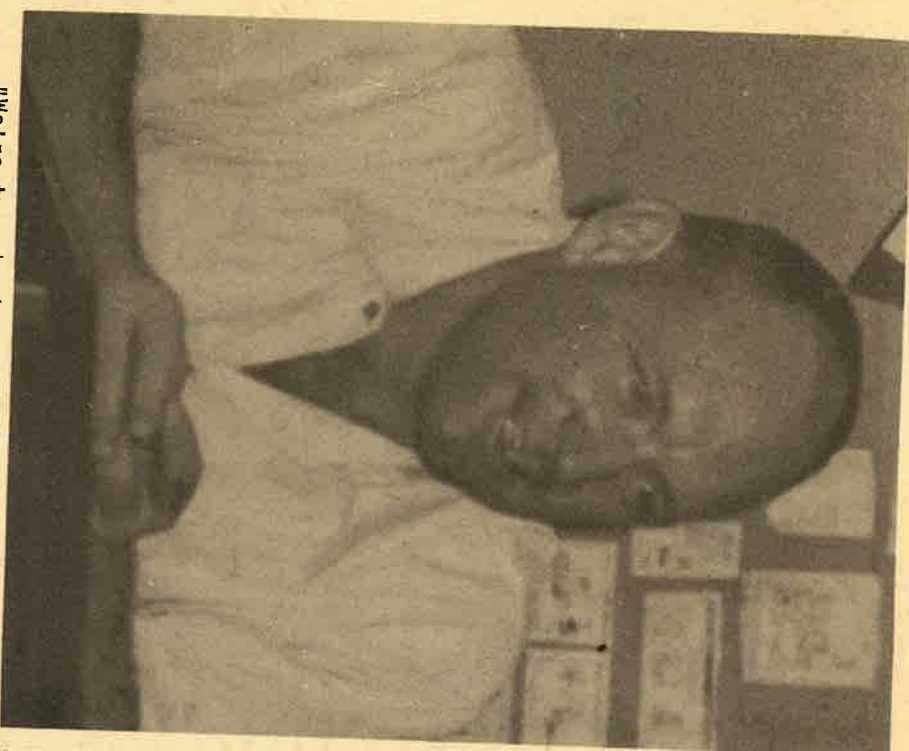
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"We're two chapters ahead, and destroying everything in our paths," is a familiar bellow throughout Joe Bott's math classes.

'The Rock' more than teacher-- many faceted personality revealed

by nick cirilcione

As the story goes, two fellow hunters cornered a three-point buck in a tiny canyon and one single-handedly landed a boulder between the antlers, stunning the deer. After that, the same man walked over and rung its neck.

The man is Joe Bott, a 16-year math teacher at BHS. Obviously, he enjoys the outdoors where he acquired his bull-like stature and rock-solid muscles prompting the nick-names "The Rock" and "Sugar Bear."

Reared on a farm in Utah, where he initiated the ominous brute strength, noticeable on sight, Bott modestly stated, "I used to take a 100 pound ball of hay in each arm and throw them on a truck." He exploited this abundance of power in high school and college years when he played football and baseball, did the 50-yard swim in 19.8 seconds and became a successful boxer. Perhaps as a result of his athletic background, Bott is a winning coach with nine Bee basketball and four Var-

sity tennis championships. He's also coached a high school football team to a second place finish in Utah statewide competition.

Setting aside his coaching talents when the bell rings, he's behind his desk and ready for math.

"Mr. Bott is more than willing to give his help to students who ask for it," says Mr. Jim Modlin, Head of the Math Dept. Even a math class can be an experience to remember with Bott when he gets overexcited about math and starts bellowing "Slap a tangent on it . . . Factor, cancel and annihilate . . . We're two chapters ahead and destroying everything in our path..."

Other than teaching, coaching and hunting, Bott who has his master's degree in math loves to play around with math and physics projects. He is now finishing a physics project titled "Energy doesn't Matter."

Bott also spends much time with his family. "I've got seven kids, one of each kind," he commented. "I love children and never took biology," chuckled the proud father.

Students driving instructors to premature gray

by jackie weinberg

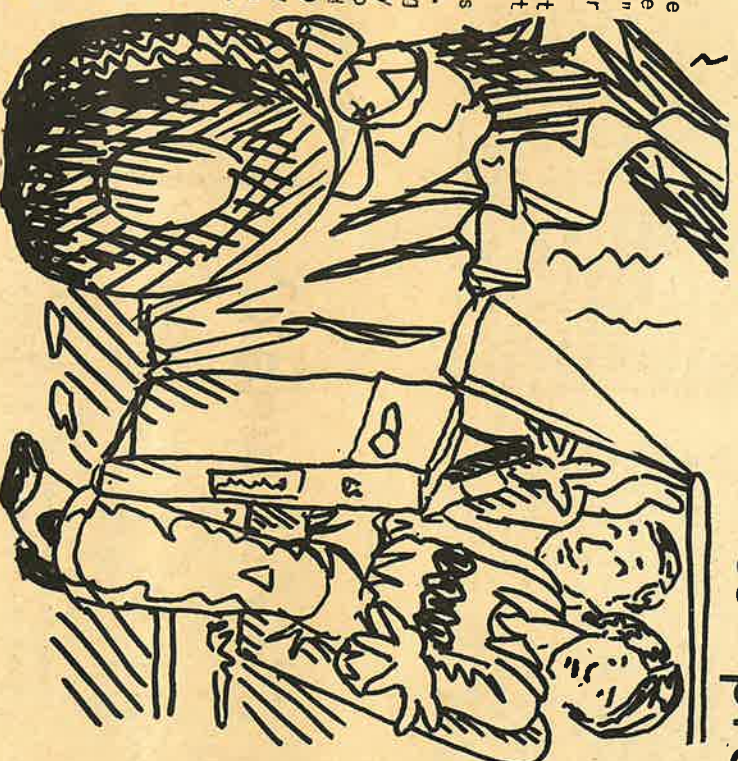
"Student drivers may not always be hazardous to your health but they make you a little grayer a lot faster," chuckles seven year driving teacher Larry Boyle.

Of course, if you've ever sat next to a nervous new driver, you need not wonder why.

Instructor James Fouquette relates that student drivers are unpredictable. "One girl of mine was driving along at a good rate of speed when suddenly she slammed on the brakes. Seeing no apparent reason for the stop, I asked very casually, 'WHAT IN THE HECK DID YOU DO THAT FOR???' And she timidly replied, 'It says WAIT HERE.' Which would have been fine and dandy except-- THE LIGHT WAS GREEN!"

The new masters of the road are always trying but seldom succeeding. Of course, it's not that easy learning to be an experienced, safe driver in six short hours.

Tom Mitchell, science teacher, ex-driving instructor had a student who was constantly forgetting to put on her blinker when making a right turn.



"But I said whoa!"

After an endless number of reminders, Mr. Mitchell would say no more. Instead, at the next right turn he leaped from the car, waved frantically to the motorists behind and shouted, "Hey, this lady is going to make a right turn!"

Can you imagine the panic in trying to keep a weaving car steady at freeway speeds your first day out? Who, in their right mind would have the guts to take their eyes off the road and turn to check a blind spot?

The crowning blow to shatter confidence and ego is to see out of the corner of your eye, your driving partner cringing in fear, covering eyes and stifling a scream on one of your near misses.

However, the student driving program is without question a definite success. Insurance companies allow discounts in premiums to students who go through this instructor-killing course. To date we know of none who suffered any heart attacks or ulcers, but the gray hair and nail biting are universal symptoms.

movie review

'Sounder' echoes yesterday's reality

by bonita kato

To someone who is expecting a lavish melodramatic portrayal of prejudice in the South, "Sounder" is a surprisingly simple and touching movie.

The Twentieth Century--Fox film is set in Louisiana during the lean years of the 1930's, and centers around a black sharecropper, Nathan Lee Morgan, and his family.

The earthiness of their lives is vividly depicted and felt throughout the film, opening with a frenzied raccoon hunt led by Nathan's dog Sounder.

From the rustic shack they live in, to the sweat-stained overalls and the six miles that David Lee has to walk to school, there exists a brief glimpse of a real yesterday that few of us remember.

However, the ever present poverty and prejudice oppression is definitely overshadowed by the genuinely sensitive relationship which bind the family and the film together.

This emotional intensity is accomplished through superb acting. Cecily Tyson as Rebecca, Paul Winfield as

Nathan and Kevin Hook as David present admirable and believable performances.

Winfield as Nathan, emits a character with strength and pride, who possesses the love and admiration of his family, especially his impressionable son David.

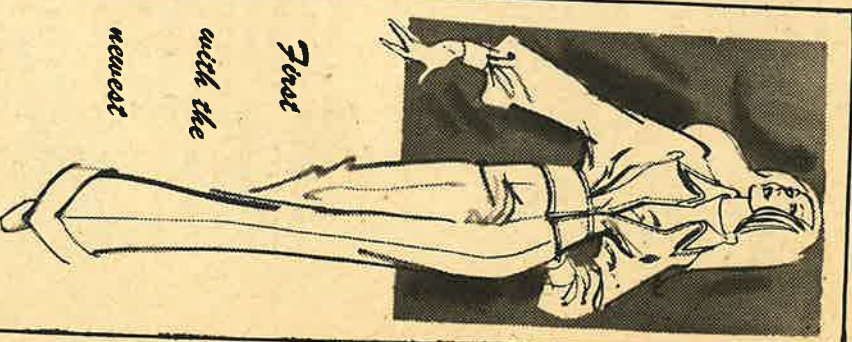
Complementing Winfield's performance is Miss Tyson's portrayal of Rebecca, a woman of courage and determination.

Often they speak without saying a word--through a gesture or a glance.

One such memorable scene occurred as Nathan is being taken to jail, for robbing a meathouse. Nothing is said, but the emotions and thoughts are there in the faces of Miss Tyson and Winfield.

Because of this focus on the family, the rest of the characters seem plastic and unreal. Perhaps this is intentional, in order to emphasize the reality of the love and understanding between father and son, husband and wife, and mother and children.

Based on the Newberry award winning novel by William H. Armstrong, "Sounder" was directed by Martin Rit and produced by Bob Radnitz.



Four

with the

newest



Downtown Bellflower
Norwalk Square

Kids play, paint, fill tummy without mummy



A school without lessons? The idea's not as odd as it may seem, because that's exactly what happens each Tuesday and Thursday at BHS between 9:30 and 11:15 a.m.

The "school" is a playschool taught by Mrs. Jane Martin's vocational nursery school aide students. Nursery school work experience is required of student "teachers" before they may enter the playschool, which is funded by a 50¢ donation from the children's parents.

"Children learn through play," says one student, "and here they can draw, paint or just play without Mommy worrying."



Eades, 'Bega' become the little big men of SGVL

by Fred Budig

Seniors Steve Eades, 6'14", and Robert "Bega" Wofford, 6'11", wouldn't be considered big men on most basketball teams. But, after the loss of center Kipp Archambault for the semester, the two are considered the keys to Bellflower's bid for a repeat of last season's SGVL basketball crown.

Prior to the 1972-73 season, the Buccaneers planned to defend their title with a high scoring, fast break offense. However the absence of Archambault, and his 20 point-per-game scoring average, has forced Bellflower into a ball control offense with more emphasis on the talents of Eades and Wofford.

"The loss of Kipp really hurt our chances for a repeat as champions," admits coach Jim Greenfield. "It puts a lot more pressure on Steve and Bob."

Neither Eades or Wofford has the height or weight of 6'5" Archambault, and this has been Bellflower's weakness, with the team's average height reaching only six feet.

"Steve and Bob have to take up the slack for Kipp because they're the biggest men we've got," explains Greenfield. "They've got to get a lot more done; rebounding and scoring."

Both Eades (who has averaged nine points and ten rebounds a game) and Wofford (averaging nine points and five caroms) concur with Greenfield, realizing that Bellflower needs strong efforts from both of them to be victorious against the larger teams of the league.

"The whole team's at a disadvantage with their shortness and it hurts us, pointwise and on the boards," says Eades. Wofford agrees, "It's up to us to compensate for our lack of a real big man."

Eades believes that Bellflower's two league losses to Paramount and Downey can be traced in part to the play of both himself and Wofford.

"Although basketball is a team sport, I think those two losses were due to the fact that Bega and I didn't have really good games," says Eades, summing up a belief shared by Wofford and Greenfield.

"We've got to play well to stay in the games," states Wofford. Greenfield follows the theory, adding, "It seems like most of our wins this season have occurred when these two have had good efforts."

So, it appears that Bellflower's 'big' men and ball control offense will be keys to the Buccaneer's season until the semester--and perhaps longer, according to Greenfield.

"We're going to have to keep playing our slow down offense rather than fast breaking, until we're sure that Kipp's back... and in shape to play."



Senior Bob Wofford awaits rebound during a free throw in the Bellflower-Lynwood game.
(photos by cesar baldemor)



Averaging nine points a game, Steve Eades jumps for a basket in last weeks game against Lynwood.

Defending champs

JV cagers start drive towards SGVL crown

by Darwin Harris and Fred Budig

With performances reminiscent of last year's undefeated team, Bellflower's JV basketball squad has regrouped after two early-season losses to start a winning streak aimed at successfully defending their San Gabriel Valley League crown.

As of last Wednesday, the team's drive had resulted in a modest three consecutive victories (as compared to last season's mark of 10-0) for a circuit slate of 3-2.

"In those first two games, our principal weakness was in our ball handling," explained coach Lynn McCarroll, noting that the Bucs averaged a generous 17 turnovers per game.

"But recently we've really improved, and if we can continue to cut down on our turnovers, we're sure to have a successful season."

Another reason for the Bucs new found success is improved defense. Bellflower has been employing a tough man-to-man style, which when coupled with strong rebounding, has enabled to make a game out of every one they've played.

Although McCarroll stresses a team game, there are definitely individual stars on the squad.

Roberto Clemente--a great man on and off the baseball diamond will be remembered by millions not only for his uncanny hitting ability and dazzling catches but also for the way he died--helping others.

Clemente, truly underrated, finally began receiving the acclaim he deserved from the baseball world when he led his Pittsburgh Pirates to a 1971 World Series win over the Baltimore Orioles.

The last hit of Clemente's career, number 3,000, put him in a group of only 10 players ever to reach that pinnacle.

In accumulating these hits, Number 21 bagged three batting crowns, had over 200 hits in a season several times and finished his career with a lifetime batting average of over

—craig willmore—

Roberto Clemente--one of the greats!

Clemente's greatness as a man was not fully recognized until his death which occurred last month during a mission of mercy for the people of Nicaragua. He also had participated in many programs to aid the poverty-stricken children of his native Puerto Rico.

Clemente, known as 'The Great One' in baseball was also the great one as a man.

* * *

"I don't like to single anybody out, but I'm especially pleased with the play of Steve Hendrickson and the rebounding of our center, Gary Patton," he said.

Hendrickson, who is clicking on better than 50% of his shots, is the squad's leading scorer and rebounder with Patton second in both categories.

Both have been important against the zone defenses that are commonly used by the Buccaneer's opponents.

"Most teams we've faced do play some form of zone," admitted McCarroll, "so we try to get the ball inside. You have to go inside to win."

But more than any individual performances, McCarroll credits the turnaround to the development of consistency in the Bucs play and a never-say-die attitude.

Both were best displayed in a recent contest with Paramount.

"We were down by five throughout the entire game but the guys never gave up and finally pulled it out at the buzzer," related McCarroll. "As it is now, if we can keep our momentum and consistency going, we've got a good shot at the title."

pre-season and are fighting to stay at .500 in league. Archambault will return after nine league contests and finish the 14 game SGVL schedule.

During the summer, Warren represented the Bucs toughest competition, stopping them twice in four meetings.

Archambault's presence will be a welcome sight for fans, coach and Buc players alike. Along with his sorely needed height and rebounding come 23 and 20 point scoring averages from Wilson and Cerritos varsity summer leagues.

The Bears appear to be the biggest threat to the SGVL title

while Excelsior has already scored an upset league win over Warren.

Without Archambault, chances of beating Warren are slim but if the Bucs can stay above .500 before his return they still have a shot at the championship.

The key to the season probably depends on Bellflower staying close to the leaders prior to Archambault's return.

* * *

Bellflower dominance of the SGVL in basketball in recent years could be coming to an end. Last year, except for their second place Gee team, Buccaneers captured all SGVL titles. This season presents a different picture. Although none of the teams are out of contention, the Varsity and J.V. squads are struggling to keep winning records while the lower

dave wielenga

Hair might make difference after all

It's been said before and it'll undoubtedly be said again: Long hair on athletes does not affect their performances.

However, if the results of the latest three major title tiffs are any indication, that statement might be incorrect. Long hair could even be considered an advantage.

Last October the Oakland A's became the world champions of baseball, despite being garnished with everything from mutt-onchop sideburns to handlebar moustaches to goatees. When they pulled off a startling World Series upset of the clean-cut Cincinnati Reds.

In this year's Rose Bowl USC fielded a team that would appear more at home cavorting about a Big Sur commune than decked out in football apparel.

However, the Trojans gave Woody Hayes' well-regimented Ohio State Buckeyes a battering they'll not forget and emerged with the national championship by way of a unanimous poll of both wire services.

Finally, 11 days ago the Miami Dolphins, the second-youngest team ever to play in the Super Bowl, thoroughly embarrassed the Washington Redskins, members of the NFL's "old regime."

When confronted with the issue of haircuts, the athletic department has always hidden behind the argument that short hair contributes to "esprit de corps." Translated, this is supposed to mean that a team will be unified if they have some common sacrifice.

Does it really matter if the Oakland A's, USC Trojans or Miami Dolphins have "esprit de corps?" THEY WIN!

Come to think of it, that's something that Bellflower's teams haven't done too much of this year.

After a slow start in SGVL competition, Bellflower's sophomore basketball squad has come around quite well and with Friday's win over arch-rival Excelsior, the Bucs found themselves with a circuit record of 3-3.

Like all of Bellflower's cage teams this season, the sophs are not blessed with outstanding height and coach Joe Bott has been forced to pencil in a lineup featuring three guards: Dave Ewart, Gary Ficocillio and Kelly Bruton.

Bruton has easily been the most offensive-minded of the trio, carrying a scoring average of over 15 points per game. However, Ewart has made his presence known with stellar defensive work and a good number of assists.

Doug Rogers and Pete O'Brien are the "big men" in the lineup and have accepted most of the rebounding responsibility.

Recently, Rogers has been making an attempt to balance his efforts as evidenced by his 24 point, 21 rebound performance in the Bucs 68-45 conquest of Lynwood.

The squad battled Warren last night and faces La Mirada tomorrow.



Excelsior 'sweatbox' stifles Bucs

by scott rozelle

Bellflower's cagers went to Excelsior last Friday desperately in need of a win to stay alive in the hotly contested SGVL title race.

However on the way they ran into three insurmountable factors; 1) a tiny, noisy, sweat-box of a gym; 2) a pilot squad which man-for-man outweighed them by 10-15 pounds; 3) Excelsior's big sharpshooting forward Bo Larson, who pumped in 20 points and supplied most of his team's fire power in the first half.

These three elements, along with a torrid third quarter burst, enabled the Pilots to down the Bucs, 70-59 and shove Bellflower two games in back of the three league leaders, Warren, Downey and Excelsior.

Of his team's performance, varsity coach Jim Greenfield said, "All around we played one of our better games of the year. It was just that one spurt during the first segment of the second half when we had three or four consecutive turnovers that killed us."

"Anyway," he continued, "with our lack of height we can't afford to get behind by very many points."

Therefore with a 3-3 record (as of last Friday) the Bucs enter the second round of competition, where every game now becomes a must win.

'Blitz team' leads wrestlers surge

by scott rozelle

Wrestling in a style that could almost be typed out as a script, the BHS matmen fell behind early in the match, then came storming back with a blitz of 21 consecutive points capped with a clutch 2-0 decision win by Joe Zenzola that enabled the Bucs to squeak out a 29-29 tie at Excelsior last Thursday.

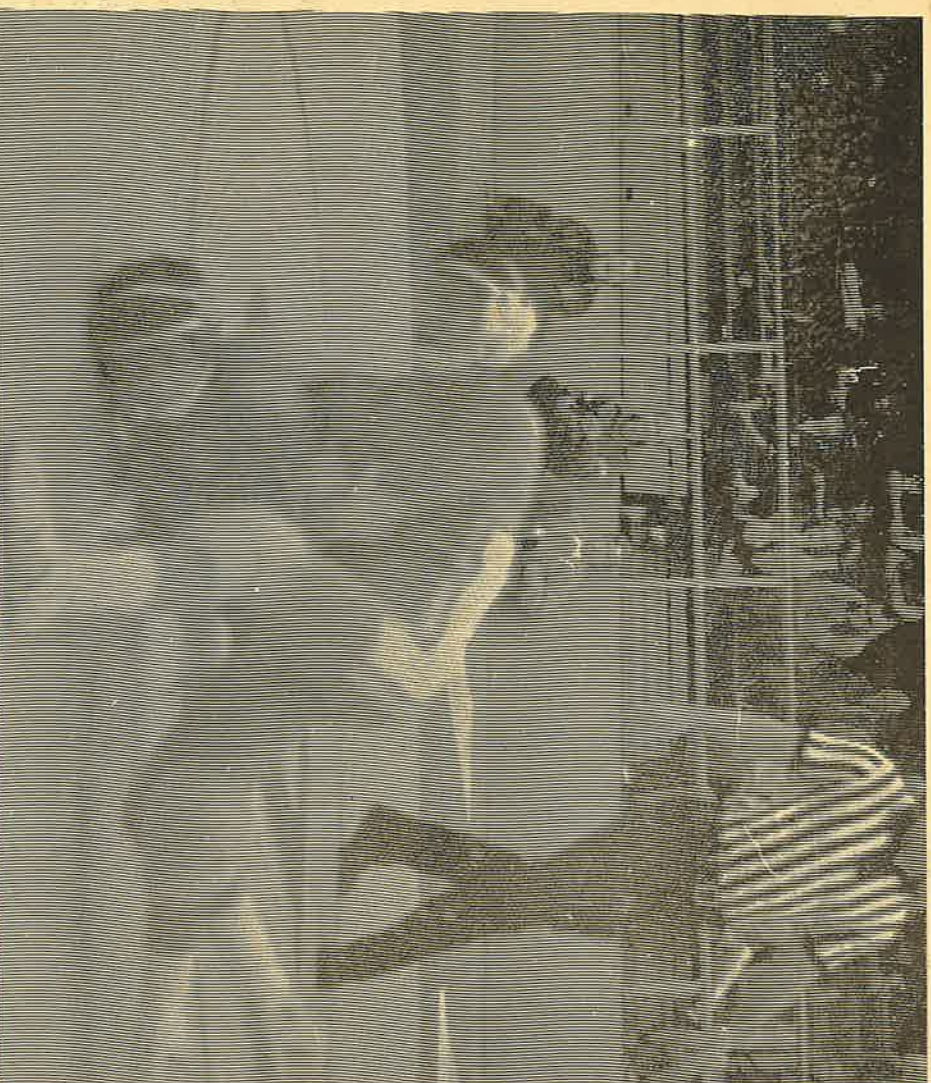
"Zenzola really came through for us," related the first year varsity coach, Arnie Koch, "and it's even more amazing when you deep in mind the fact that he gave away nearly 13 pounds to a kid who is not at all a bad wrestler."

However, Koch cautioned, "It makes more that one man to win a wrestling match, and despite the fact that there were a couple bad spots last week, several of the kids had top-rate performances."

Included on Koch's commendation list has to be the 'blitz team' which must be given credit for much of the Bucs' success this year. Members of last week's 'blitz squad' are Scott Bethurum, Gary White, Aaron Moore, and of course, Zenzola, (the first two winning on pins, Moore getting a forfeit and finally Zenzola's decision.)

The list, Koch points out, should also be augmented by the fine performances of Dave Soto, Bob Hauser and Dave Alves, who all came up with decisions earlier in the match.

Koch then summed up the team's position as he saw it, "We're now 1-0-1 and if we can get by both Lynwood and Paramount (the Bucs played Lynwood last Tuesday and are pitted against Paramount tonight), I feel that we have a real good shot at repeating as SGVL champions."



Junior matman Rich Okimoto downs early-season opponent during match in Bellflower gymnasium. Okimoto has been one reason for the Bucs surprisingly good showing so far this year. The wrestlers take on Paramount tonight at home.

Seniors escape early in mid-term exodus

by leonn park

It's about that time of year when seniors can be seen carefully counting the days until that final ceremony which will culminate 12 long years of required education.

And, graduation isn't far off. As a matter of fact, many seniors can count the day on the fingers of one hand.

With the end of the first semester, next Wednesday, nearly 70 seniors will have completed all requirements and their high school education, and, in turn, will graduate five months ahead of schedule.

This soaring number, more than double the number of mid-term grads last year, is due entirely to the reduced requirement for graduation, according to Principal George Prince.

"I think that's the only explanation for the increased number of students graduating early," Prince continued simply, "especially since seniors this year can complete their required government in one semester."

"And too, since the English requirements have been reduced from four years to only three, and there is only a 200 unit requirement, it's simple to graduate at mid-term."

Obviously, many students are taking advantage of the ease of early graduation to get a "head start" on their future plans.

"This is going to give me a great beginning on my college education," explained one graduating senior. "Now I can get all of my general education requirements out of the way."

"I think that Cerritos has more to offer me towards my future than Bellflower High ever had," said another. "And, now that I have a chance to get out of high school and into college--it's the only sensible thing to do."

However, many of the mid-term grads don't plan to continue their formal education; at least not right away.

"I'm just plain sick of school," commented an early graduate. "I know I can get a full time job and I don't feel I'm getting anything out of school right now, so I just plan to get out and work. I can always go back to college next fall."

But, another felt that, "This school doesn't have anything to offer me, and neither does any other school. I just want to get out and go to work."

However, Prince isn't as optimistic about their futures as the students seem to be.

"Graduating in January isn't always what's best for the students. A 17-year-old that is thrown out onto the job market, or even into the older competition at college isn't going to have an easy time."

"It really disturbs me that so many students feel there is nothing of value to them here," continued the administrator. "After all, a high school education doesn't end with a diploma."

And, Prince admitted that the administration is considering recommending the possibility of increasing graduation requirements to the School Board.

"I think this would be the only feasible way to lower the number of mid-term graduates," he explained.

"We are exploring the possibility of having a required fine arts class, and maybe a homemaking class which would be required for all girls and an industrial arts course for boys. Of course, if we ever did implement any plan like this we would have to start it with a freshman class," elaborated Prince.

But this isn't the only change that is in the works due to the increased number of early graduations. ASB President Scott Rozelle says the Cabinet is considering adding a clause to the constitutional by-laws prohibiting student officers from graduating early.

This, Scott explains, was initiated when four senior class officers announced their intentions to graduate at the semester.

Future hazy for smoking area

by matt bonazzola

In spite of recent student interest in the condition of BHS restrooms, there still exists an almost ever-present haze of cigarette smoke.

This problem with the restrooms could be considerably improved and possibly eliminated by the addition of a designated smoking area on campus. Such an area would erase the need for students to leave campus, fear suspension, or pollute restrooms in order to perform a socially accepted habit.

So, the question of "Would you try having a smoking area if you had the authority?" was posed to BHS Vice-Principal Rogers Lindley.

"Yes, I guess I would," replied Lindley, after visible consideration and some discussion.

However, such a smoking area, or any use or possession of tobacco by a student on campus is illegal, according to the California Educational Code, which states: "Smoking or having tobacco on school premises constitutes good cause for suspension or expulsion of a pupil..."

Nevertheless, this law is being knowingly disregarded by at least one high school in southern California, where students can smoke anywhere on campus except in restrooms and class.

The principal of this school, who asked that he and his school remain unnamed, related that kids were going to smoke anyway you looked at it, and

added that suspension was often ineffective in dealing with smokers.

Moreover, after visiting three high schools in Orange County, it was obvious that other high schools also hedged the Educational Code by being rather lenient in their enforcement of it.

An example was typified in an interview with a vice-principal of an Orange County high school. He said he knew where most of the students smoked, and so when lunch time came, he would usually wait a while before going out there. That way, he said, smokers could get in a cigarette or two before he would get out there.

So, in view of the present dissatisfaction with the high school anti-smoking law, it seems that definite consideration should be given to a statewide change.

One such change is in the making, according to Roger Moore, Student Liason to the State Board of Education.

"The bill isn't finished," said Moore, "but the main idea is to leave the decision of allowing smoking in high schools up to the individual districts."

Such a bill reflects recent trends in education resulting in individual school districts acting on certain measures according to their own specific needs. This trend, coupled with the inconsistent enforcement of the current ordinance prohibiting smoking, presents logical reasons for a justifiable change in the present anti-smoking law.

"Smoking or having tobacco on school premises constitutes good cause for the suspension or expulsion of a pupil."

--Educational

"If they want to smoke they're going to, regardless of the rules."

"It's kind of ridiculous to bust a kid for smoking."

"The main idea is to leave the decision of allowing smoking in high schools to the individual districts."

by cheryl baker

Another powder puff--

A challenge has been submitted to Gahr High School which if accepted will permit the senior girls of Bellflower

powder puff history, and they set the record for the highest score in the game, 30 points. No one has scored on our mighty defense since past two years. That is why