

# THE TORCH

The Kennedy Newsmagazine/6 May 1977/Vol. 12, No. 8

## HEADLINES:

Top tenners sing of success (Cover story, page 2)  
Tying together family strains (News, page 3)  
Closing in on graduation (Feature pages 10-11)  
Summer drills build skills (Sports, pages 14-15)  
Non-Discipline threatens schools (Opinion, page 20)



**Leading Senior Scholars:  
Kennedy's Top of the Crop**

# Top ten show all-around performance

"Brains" are what one might call the top ten academically-ranked students, as identified recently at each of the three Bloomington high schools. This term conjures up stereotypes of students who carry home tons of books and who study day and night. This isn't the picture, however, that the top seniors at Jefferson, Kennedy, and Lincoln have of themselves, according to results of a **Torch** survey of attitudes of the ten top-ranked students at each school.

Kennedy's top-rated seniors strongly agreed that schoolwork does not occupy most of their time, nor has it hindered their social life. At Jefferson and Lincoln, there were mixed feelings about that topic, but about half of the respondents at each school still said that schoolwork was not all time consuming.

Nearly all the Jefferson and Lincoln top ten students held jobs during the school year, while only half of Kennedy's top seniors have had jobs. The survey shows that Kennedy's top ten were much more involved in extracurricular activities than were those at the other schools.

Kennedy's top ten were extremely active, whether males or females, in varsity sports and intramurals, as well as in publications, drama, and speech activities. More of the Lincoln top seniors were in music groups, though Kennedy's students participated in

music in just slightly lower numbers.

Even though many of the top students were very involved in extracurricular programs, at least half of the respondents agreed they did have some homework nearly every night. But, homework or not, virtually all of the top students strongly agreed that they were not in the top ten because they had "taken the easy way out" by signing up for easier classes. The students also agreed that their teachers did not put more pressure on them because they were in the top ten.

What motivates a student to become a high achiever? Most of the top seniors at each school indicated that personal pride was their main motivation. Kennedy and Lincoln students also said that competition with classmates also was a strong factor.

About half of the Jefferson and Lincoln students felt parental pressure and said they were motivated to get high grades because of scholarship hopes. Only at Lincoln did students name prestige as a motivating factor. Nearly all the students agreed that being in the top ten will benefit them in the future.

Most Jefferson and Kennedy students said they did not feel any more intelligent than fellow classmates. While Lincoln students' feelings varied on this, none felt that their friends think that they think they

are superior because of their especially high grades.

Virtually all of Kennedy's top ten seniors will attend college somewhere next year. The students, with their destinations and probable majors, are listed alphabetically below.

**Mike Bauer**, St. John's University, Collegeville. Major: pre-med. **Sue Goracke**, University of Minnesota, Morris. Major: engineering. **Tom Larson**, University of Minnesota, main campus. Major: undecided, perhaps public relations. **Vicki Mertensotto**, Notre Dame University. Major: undecided.

**Patty Meyer**, Macalester College. Major: undecided. **Ann Singer**, St. Mary's College, Winona. Major: undecided. **Phil Smith**, University of Minnesota or Drake University. Major: undecided. **Jon Sostarich**, Normandale Community College. Major: liberal arts. **Mike Varani**, University of Minnesota. Major, pre-med. **Paul Werger**, St. Olaf College. Major: English.

## On the cover:

Top senior scholars:

Row 1: Mike Varani, Patty Meyer. Row 2: Jon Sostarich, Sue Goracke. Row 3: Paul Werger, Vicki Mertensotto, Mike Bauer. Ann Singer. Row 4: Phil Smith Tom Larson.

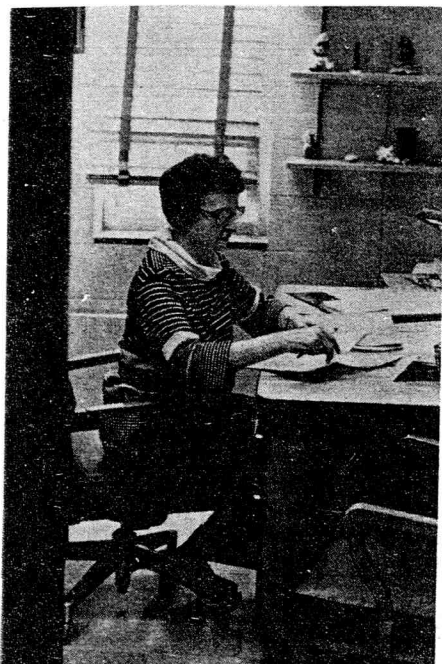


High cumulative averages put these ten sophomores on top  
Front row: Deniz Ozel, Sharilyn Sherman. Row 2: Betsy Nermoe, Joel Graf, Jay Kiriara, Mike Thorud. Row 3: Annette LeClerc, Cathy Francis, Joan Moline, George Maddison.

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Top Ten juniors rank highest with cumulative averages  
Front row: Julie Marrs, Kris Schmidt. Row 2: Dyan Flatten, Larry Schlichting, Wendy Godwin, Robin McAllister. Row 3: Beth Bauer, Elaine Larson, Craig Wiklund, Sandra Wienke.



Counselor Anna Mae Dawson  
Next year her chair will be empty, too.

## Leaving but not to be forgotten

As teachers get too old, or simply tire of school, they pack their bags and retire, usually to be forgotten by students and fellow teachers alike. Such will probably not be the case with Anna Mae Dawson, who is retiring after 41 years (25 years in Bloomington) in teaching and counseling.

Ms. Dawson will not be easily forgotten; she has accomplished too much for that. Her achievements include teaching a variety of courses (including English, speech, and history); starting the first school newspaper in Bloomington; becoming the first guidance counselor in Bloomington (using a spare cloak closet for her office); starting the Bloomington Guidance Scholarship Fund; starting the Bloomington Guidance Program; and being the secretary for and helping to start the Youth Study Commission.

Because of these accomplishments, her name has appeared in **Who's Who in American Women**.

But programs are one thing; people are

another. For Ms. Dawson, it's the students — literally thousands of students — with whom she has worked, who have given her the greatest satisfaction. She will remember them, and hopes she, in turn, will be remembered by those same students. She explained, "I love kids, although I've never had any of my own, and dealing with them has kept me feeling young."

Even so, Ms. Dawson has not confined her concern to kids. According to a fellow counselor and friend, Ann Miller: "Ms. Dawson, as the chairman of the Counseling Department, has set high standards for herself and her co-workers. She has been fair, honest, and understanding, and personally, she has been warm and sentimental."

According to Ms. Miller, there will be a going away party for Ms. Dawson on Sunday, June 5, from 2-4 p.m., at Kennedy. The party will be open to everyone, particularly to the many students she has helped during the last 41 years. --Glen Broemer

## NEWSLINES

# Rope helps untie chemical knots

Shouts from outside the building are muffled within the small room. In the center, three students and one teacher sit on chairs in a circle. Through the belt loops of each runs a thick, heavy rope which joins them together. They are sitting quietly, contemplating what has just been said and done. They are also learning to live with chemical dependency.

This particular exercise is used by the Kennedy support group to illustrate the way in which chemical dependency can affect a family. Each of the four participants assumes the role of either father, mother, or a child. One of them is chosen at random to portray a chemically dependent person. This individual then moves his chair away from the others. All the "family" members can feel the pull of the ropes as the dependent person moves.

A normal family situation is given to them, and they are asked to act it out. In most situations, a fight breaks out; this results in the dependent member moving farther apart and pulling harder on the rope. This tightening of the rope symbolizes the tension put on the ties of a family when one of its members is dependent.

Education on chemical dependency itself is the major concern of the meeting of the support group. The students were taught definitions of use, abuse, dependency, and experimentation pertaining to drugs. They were instructed about the psychology of intoxication (the need of each person to experience altered states of consciousness). They also learned of the capacity that chemicals have to change moods. An important idea, stressed throughout the sessions, was that chemical dependency is a progressive disease, and that individual continues to get worse as time goes on, until someone intervenes.

Bob Fredell, Kennedy's social worker, and Dave Wilmes, of the Storefront in Richfield, head the weekly meetings. "The program came out of the concern that a number of people have painful associations with drugs," says Mr. Fredell. "It is always necessary to get special help in order to get rid of the drug use and the hurt feelings which are a result of the usage."

"My original expectation for the support group was that it would be for those who are dependent, but are now drug free. However, there was not enough for this, so we opened it to those who are still

using but concerned about their usage, and those students who have chemically dependent parents," said Mr. Fredell.

Home problems make up a large portion of the conflicts of the students whose lives are touched by chemical dependency. Students in the support group discuss the fact that the addict or the alcoholic is often unaware of his/her problem, or is unwilling to recognize it. As a result, the individual places the blame on other family members for the conflicts he/she may be encountering. The family, in turn, feels frustrated and helpless as their pleas are often ignored.

Chemical dependency in the individual is another major topic that is discussed in the support group. The students were asked to answer questions about their drug use that involved some deep and sometimes painful thinking. They were asked, "Where am I with my use?", "Am I comfortable with it?", and "Do I think I will change my use? If so, how?"

Decisions concerning the immediate future of the group were deliberated during one of the meetings. The group has decided to continue to meet with Mr. Fredell on a regular basis, but will deal mostly with personal feelings instead of the instructional type of meetings they have previously had. Mr. Wilmes will begin a new group and take them through the five week session that have been completed by the others.

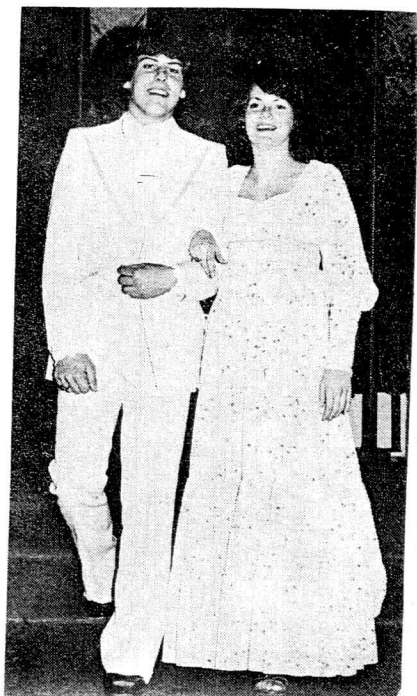
Next year, several changes will be taking place pertaining to the treatment of chemical dependency within Kennedy. There will be a chemical dependency coordinator chosen from among several faculty members. This individual will be trained by the Johnson Institute, a treatment center for the chemically dependent, and will be responsible for the intervention process, getting the students into treatment.

Another change that will take place will be the formation of a separate group for those who have already received help, and an Alateen group, which was just started recently this year.

Mr. Wilmes summed up the support group's function: "It is aimed at personally educating people about chemical dependency. But if it makes someone take a closer look at themselves, then it has also served its purpose."

--Mary Ellen Egan

# Following tradition once again



## Looks of elegance

While there are those who will argue with the old saying that "clothes make the man — or woman," there is one night during the year when clothes definitely are in the spotlight: Prom night. It's the dreamy dresses and fancy tuxedos in soft spring colors which help to make that night unusual and special.

Popular looks this year for girls are the "Gunnexax" (otherwise known as a gunny sack) and sundress-type dresses. Ribbons, ruffles, and lace add the needed detail for these simple-styled dresses.

Spring Prom fashions for girls don't need to break one's pocketbook, as dress prices range anywhere from \$30-\$70.

Accessory items should be especially popular this year. Delicate chains, plastic jewelry, and fabric flowers (worn as hair clips or earrings) will complement outfits.

For the boys, popular Prom Looks lean toward light colored tuxedos or suits which readily coordinate with the soft colors of the girls' fashions. Suit costs may range from \$75 to \$200, but for \$18 to \$35 boys can rent their tuxedos.

Lending a traditional aspect to the fashions, and adding to the cost of the Prom evening, are corsages and boutonnieres. It will cost the boys about \$7.50 to \$10 for corsages, while girls will spend about \$2.50 for boutonnieres.

Prom isn't just dancing. It's an entire event and experience that includes dressing in formal fashions that help to make the evening especially elegant. --Terry O'Shaughnessy

Prom as it is traditionally observed begins with endless hours of preparation. For the guy the day begins with a little elbow grease on dad's best car, until it gleams brilliantly, while the girl is at home washing and setting her hair until it too gleams brilliantly. The guy spends the remainder of his day polishing shoes, picking up flowers, confirming dinner reservations, and conning dad out of a little extra spending money. The girl, on the other hand, is busy manicuring her nails, pressing her dress, applying make-up, curling her eyelashes, and doing just about anything to keep her mind off how nervous she is, and will be when she hears that doorbell ring.

Tradition is carried on; the Tri-School Prom will be held for the seventh consecutive year at the Great Hall in the Radisson South Hotel, next Friday, May 13, from 9 p.m. to midnight. The band performing at the dance will be Perception, a new group known for its wide range of music.

"We think of Bloomington as our neighbors, and we like to keep them coming back," said Tom Langlais, director of catering at the Radisson South. "We really enjoy having the Bloomington students back each year; it's always our nicest prom," he said.

In the manner of past proms a theme will be an important aspect of this year's dance. "Ageless and Evergreen" has been chosen as this year's theme. But deciding a theme was not the most important decision to be made by prom organizers from the three Bloomington high schools.

Early in the school year a committee was chosen and the three high schools were assigned separate duties. Kennedy was in charge of publicity, Lincoln was appointed to hire the band and rent the hall, and Jefferson was assigned clean-up duties. Also, each school is providing one liaison officer and six chaperones.

"We've had excellent cooperation from all the people involved with prom," said Steve O'Brien, dean of student services. "John Sulack and Julie Blakestad, did a fantastic job of designing and setting up production work for our classroom posters that will be distributed to the three high schools, and our Art Department has agreed to design a banner for the stage at the Radisson South," he said.

Though inflation has changed costs and expenses, tradition has continued in dance and picture prices. Ticket costs remain at \$7 per couple, and Scherling-Pletsch will be preserving that memorable moment, as they did last year, with pictures for \$4 per couple.

--Tammy Fetter



### Prom fashions will make the night special.

**Top left:** Senior **Wayne Jagow** wears a "Yellow Newport" tuxedo with coordinating yellow trimmed ruffled shirt and matching bow tie. The outfit rents for \$30. Wayne escorts his date, senior **Liz Swanson**, who is wearing a printed white and yellow flowered "Gunnexax"-styled dress (\$60).

**Center left:** A white sundress-type formal (\$42) helps give junior **Joan Swanson** an extra measure of poise. Green and pink printed satin trim accents the dress, while white bangle bracelets, necklace, and earrings add finishing touches to this elegant look. The jewelry set sells for \$8.

**Center right:** Senior **Tom Boe** models the "Green Adventurer" tuxedo, worn with a white ruffled shirt and green bow tie. This outfit rents for \$28.

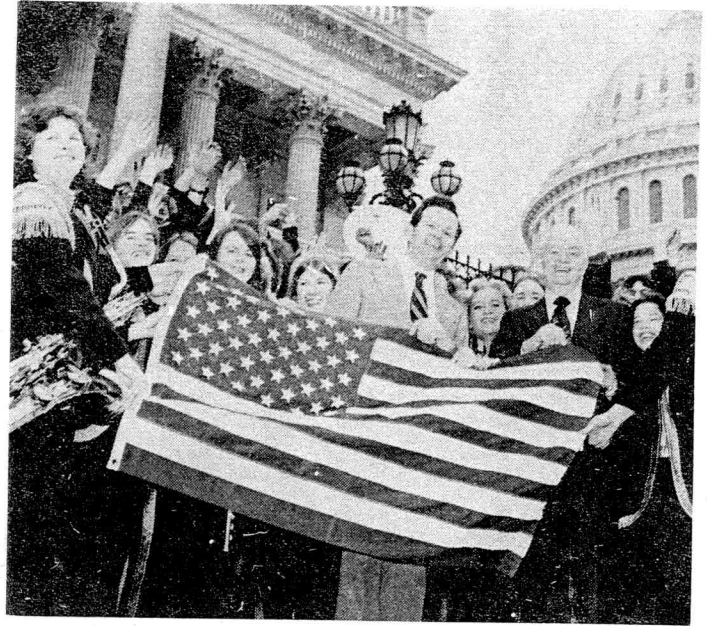
**Lower right:** Senior **Lois Nelson** relaxes with junior **Jim Steinmetz**. Lois is wearing a peach colored formal with a lace highlights (\$32). A fabric flower (\$4) adds a finishing touch to her outfit. Jim wears the "Sand" tuxedo with an ivory colored ruffled shirt and matching bow tie (rental price: \$30).

The girls' Prom fashions and accessories were provided by Braun's at Southdale. Boys' tuxedos were provided by Skeffington's Formal Wear, Edina.





Newly-selected cheerleaders move into 1977-78 positions  
**Front Row:** C. Hadley. **Row 2:** J. Lerud, G. Carlson, C. Carsberg, A. Beckstrom. **Row 3:** C. Casey, J. Gustafson, L. Holm, S. Jensen, T. Frazier. **Row 4:** J. Meister, D. VanPelt, S. Mooney, S. Franz, W. Anderson.



Band finds capitol success in Washington, D.C., spring trip  
 Minnesota Rep. Bill Frenzel and Sen. Hubert Humphrey present a commemorative flag flown over the nation's capitol to the Kennedy band after the band played on the capitol steps.

## ONCE AROUND THE SCHOOL

### Dates to remember:

- May 7--State-Region music contest
- May 9-13--Walk-through registration
- May 9--Honor Society initiation
- May 13--Field trip day
- May 14--Track-O-Rama at Bloomington Stadium
- May 18--Students recognition and awards day
- May 19--Spring Concert for vocal groups and orchestra, 7:30 p.m., in the auditorium.
- May 19-20--Spring art show
- May 23--Field trip day
- May 24--Final field trip day
- May 26--Spring band concert, 7:30 p.m., in the auditorium.
- May 27--Yearbook distribution
- May 30--Memorial Day--no school
- June 3--Last day of school for seniors

June 5--Baccalaureate, 7:30 p.m., in the auditorium.

June 8--Graduation rehearsal at the Met Sports Center at 10 a.m.

June 8--Graduation ceremonies, 7:30 p.m., at the Met Sports Center.

June 8--Senior Class Party, 10 p.m., at Kennedy

June 9--Full day of school for sophomores and juniors.

June 10--Early dismissal--last day of school day for underclassmen.

### Selling the judges ...

Top honors were awarded to Linda Walsh, sophomore, in the Junior Achievement Contest held on March 23. After advancing from first round competition, Linda entered the final round

of competition where she gave a sales presentation to a panel of professional judges from the Sales and Marketing Executives Club of Minneapolis. Linda is also Vice President of Sales for Jagles, a JA company sponsored by Pillsbury.

### Back to Baccalaureate

Kennedy's annual Baccalaureate, a religious non-denominational church service, will take place on June 5 at 7:30 p.m., in the Kennedy auditorium. Again this year it will be sponsored by the Association of Bloomington Clergy. **The Rev. Paul Werger** of St. Luke's Lutheran Church, will be guest speaker.

### Stars are born...

District Vocal Music Contest took place at Lincoln High School on April 16. Seventeen Kennedy students were awarded superior ratings. Solo winners were **Terry Andrada, Robin Bosacker, Bill Bradley, Lisa Carlson, Scott Cotey, Mary Ellen Egan, Karli Gilbertson, Tracy Hardin, Pam Hofer, Scott Huffman, Mary Larson, Mary Lehman, Lisa Lundeen, Debbie Maxvold, Rick Olson, Carolyn Seorum, and Kari Spaude.** The duets which placed were sung by Bill and Lisa Carlson, and Karli and Lisa Lundeen. They will all compete in the State Contest tomorrow at Eisenhower High School.

### We got your number...

Students that are planning on working this summer should have a legible Social Security card, as all employers are required to report wages showing Social Security numbers. Students are advised to carry a card and leave a spare at home. Students who don't have a card may either phone 378-1151 or apply at the Social Security office at 1811 Chicago Av., Minneapolis. It takes approximately 6 to 8 weeks from date of application to get a new card.

## PACESETTERS



**Craig Wiklund**, junior, has been selected by the faculty to participate in the American Legion's Boys' State. Craig will be at St. Olaf College for the one week program. He should gain a better understanding of the government system as he helps to set up and run a mock government.



**Jodi Gustafson**, junior, will be participating in the Girls' State program at St. Catherine's College during the week of June 5-11. Jodi will help run a miniature government and will become better acquainted with the democratic system.

**Mike Varani**, senior, has received the Rose Rees Award. This award is given annually by the Minneapolis chapter of the National Council of Jewish Women to high school seniors who have shown interest in world affairs. He will be honored at a luncheon at the Normandy Motor Inn next Monday.



**Jean Haukom**, senior, is one of five high school students from the south suburban area to be honored by the Women's Auxiliary of Fairview Community Hospitals for her work in the Fairview Southdale Junior Volunteer Program. Jean will share in a \$3,000 award with the four other winners.



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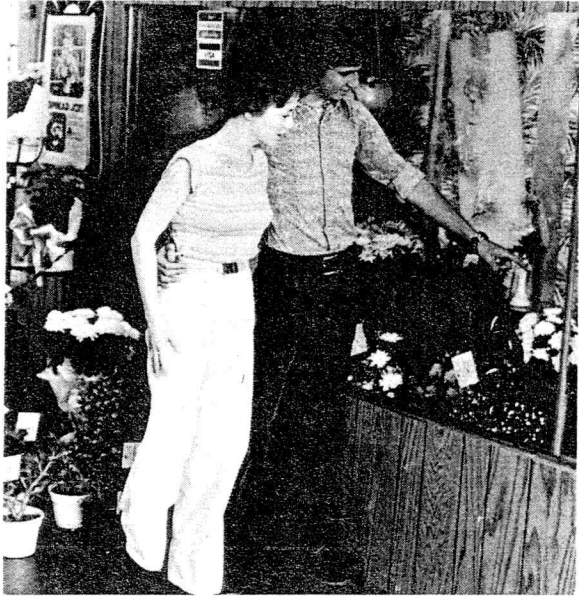
How about YOU?  
What are you doing with your future?

For some good ideas about your career, see Mike Nelson, your local Navy recruiter, at 9304 Lyndale Av. S., or give him a call at 884-8447. He has all kinds of suggestions for helping you to find a future for yourself.

# NAVY



# Congratulations Class of '77



Seniors Jack Allen and Mary Schafer decide upon flowers for Prom.

## Prom May 13

Don't forget to order your corsages and boutonnieres early for better selection!

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**Join the people  
who've joined the  
Army.**



Anticipating a fun but busy year next year, Portland and Oak Grove freshmen admit to being scared — and excited — to break away from the junior high routine and become a part of Kennedy's community.

When freshmen at Portland and Oak Grove Junior High Schools were questioned in small groups about their expectations about senior high life, the majority said that they expect to get lost in the crowd of people going from class to class, or while they are looking for that little-known pool on the fourth floor.

Most freshmen expect more freedom when they come to Kennedy, especially with open lunch. "It will be great to go where you want," said a Portland ninth grader. "We need a break away from the school area." Leaving school at lunch time won't offer next year's sophomores their only breaks. Most expect to be cutting class more than they did in junior high.

Freshmen seem rather realistic about what to expect in terms of homework. Those with older brothers and sisters who have attended Kennedy have seen the homework brought home by them, and they say they are not looking forward to it. They worry the most about the sophomore social studies courses, Industrial Revolutions and Topical Survey, for they feel the classes will give them the most homework and the most difficult grading system.

New to Oak Grove freshmen coming to Kennedy will be standard letter grades. At Oak Grove they have had written progress reports, but no A's, B's, or C's. Along with grades, they will have to adjust from a modular scheduled program to a traditional six-hour day. Many Oak Grove freshmen said they are looking forward to the six-hour day for they feel it will make the school day seem shorter.

**KENNEDY:**

Once they were frightened and introverted, but with the first year of senior high behind them, Kennedy sophomores are now calm, cool, and collected. Realizing that they have survived the rumors of the fourth floor pool, bullying upperclassmen, and unachievable grades, they sink back in their chairs with a sigh of relief.

What the sophomores expected and what they actually experienced at Kennedy weren't necessarily the same. Since they were once again the youngest in the school, they expected to be constantly teased by upperclassmen and teachers. Instead, for the majority of the students, their squirrelness had escaped them, and the teachers treated them as adults.

Since the sophomores weren't used to a day consisting of six straight hours, they were preparing themselves for a long year. They expected to be confined to an assigned seat in each classroom, but their intuitions proved wrong. Their teachers kept them quite busy with little time for restless boredom. Consequently, they felt that the days seemed shorter with the six-hour day.

One student simply stated, "We expected a lot of Kennedy, and got a little bit of everything." They were dreading the "Big School" and getting lost in it. One sophomore reminisced about the first day of school, explaining, "Looking back to that first fateful day, I'll never forget walking around in the circle, for what seemed like forever, searching for my room."

"I noticed that the numbers beside the doors were diminishing, rather than increasing," she continued. "To top it off, my older sister, who graduated from Kennedy, told me never to turn around in the circle, just to keep walking. If I should have to go the other way, she informed me, my secret identity as a naive sophomore would be widely known."

Once the sophomores found their correct rooms,

Relatively few Oak Grove freshmen will be coming to Kennedy next year because of a change in boundary lines. As a result, those Oak Grove students who do come here will have to make many new friends. This shouldn't be a problem for most, however, as they say that they already know people from Portland. "It should be a rowdy time with both junior highs getting together," said one Oak Grove ninth grader.

Athletes coming from Portland and Oak Grove are aware of the fact that participation in sports will become a lot more competitive. Many freshmen who were star players in junior high may find themselves starting on teams other than varsity, or they may even be warming benches. This fact could be a discouragement to some of the athletes. One freshmen commented, "I don't plan on going out for sports next year because of the stiff competition."

Freshmen at both junior highs realize that one of their most difficult adjustments to high school will come when they have to carry the title of "sophomore." They know they will be the object of upperclass jokes during the year, and they're not too young or inexperienced to realize that being juniors will be a better fate.

--Dana Michel

What freshmen expect to find in '78

What sophomores discovered in '77

Amazing the freshmen



# Beyond the obvious

Everybody sees them at some time or another ... they are special moments of happiness, isolation, or curiosity. Photographers took the assignment to find those special moments in places other than the obvious as they looked through their camera lenses to discover this variety of moods.

Top Left: Photographer Dave Knutsen captures the exuberance of a spring smile on the face of sophomore Kari Austin in this informal portrait.

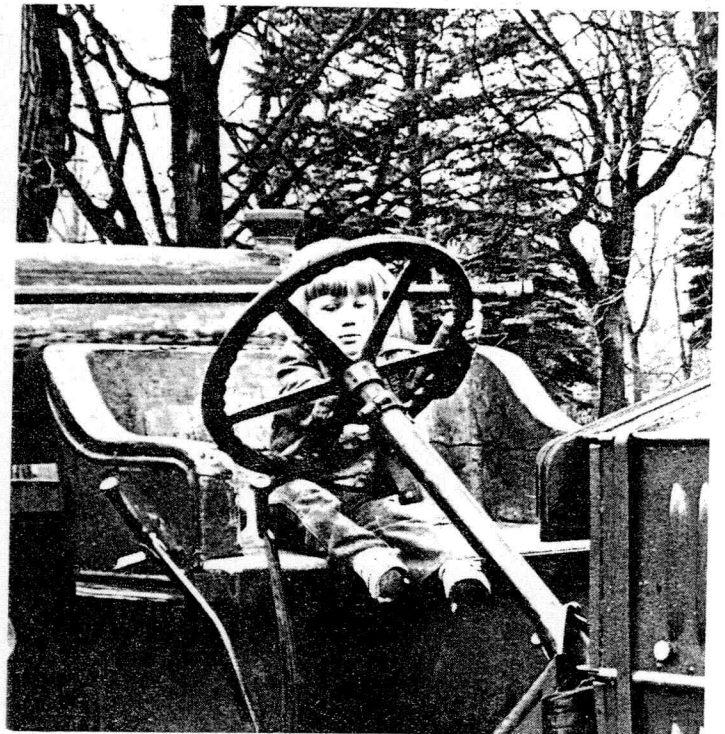
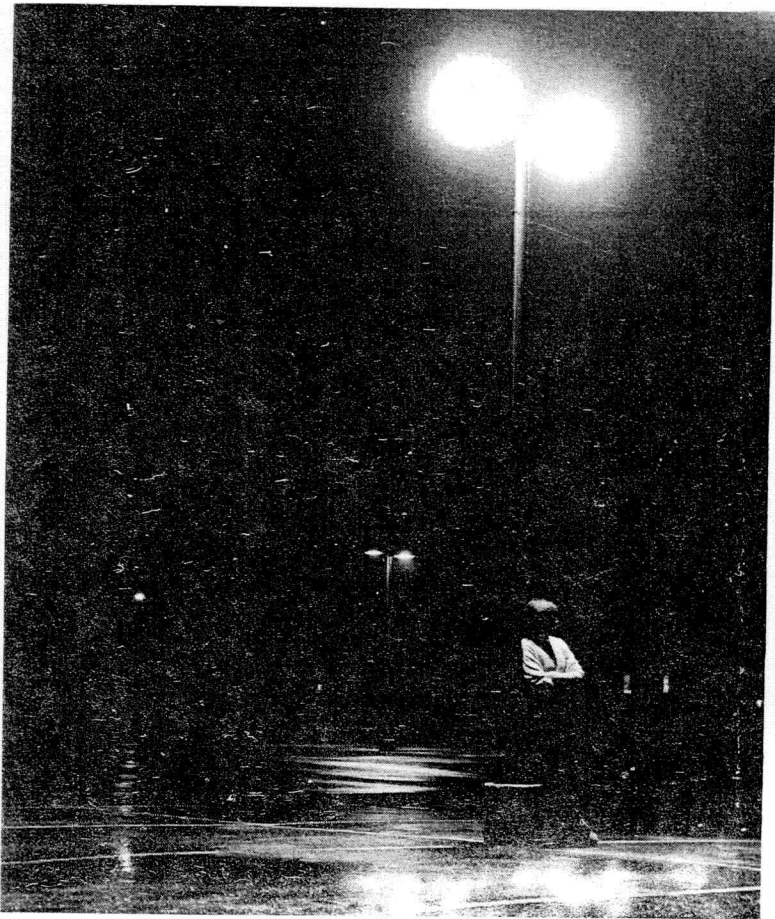
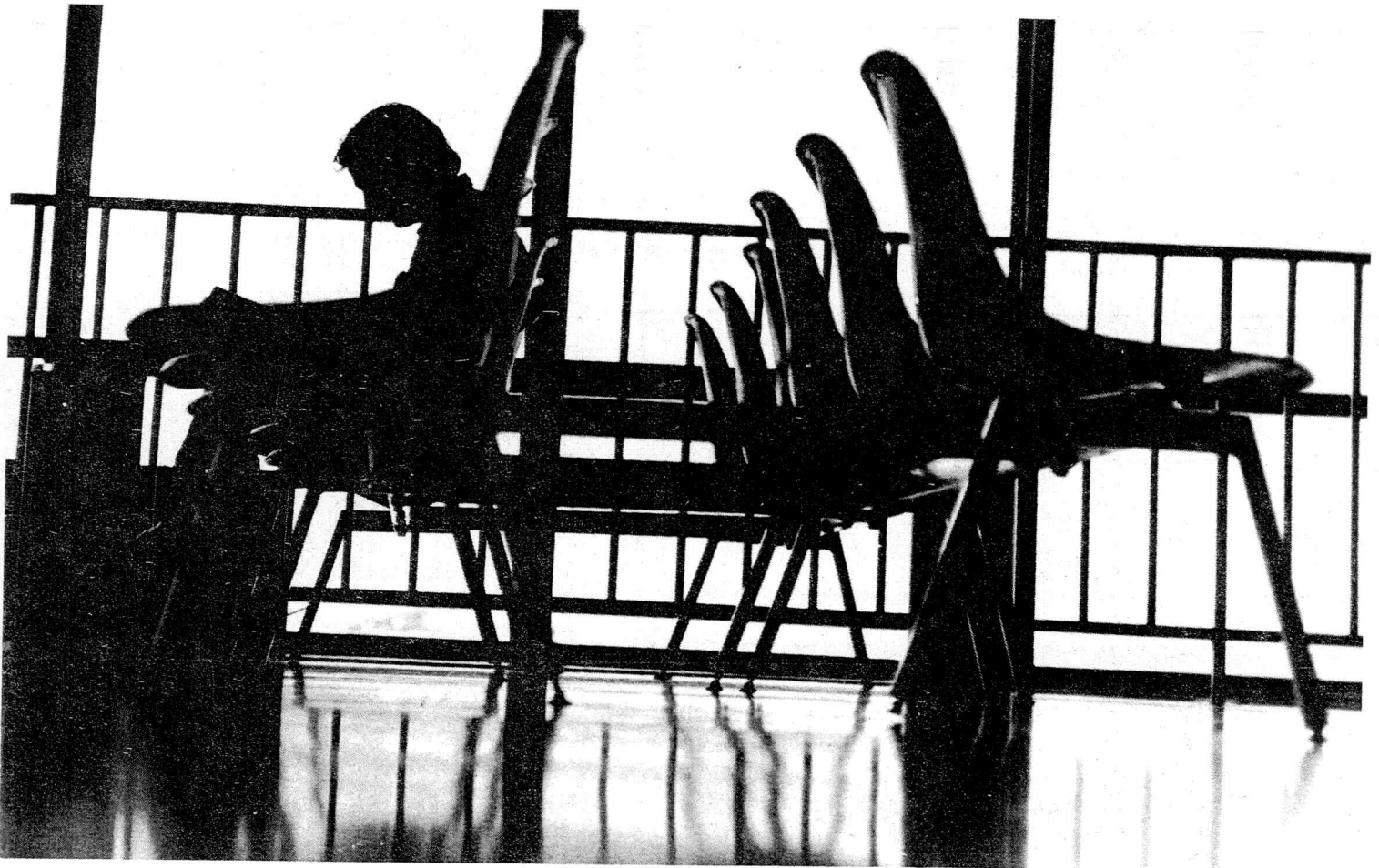
Top right: The loneliness of a single traveler at the Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport becomes the object of this silhouette study by Profiles Editors John Tabone and Tom Barry.

Lower right: Profiles Photo Editor Tom Cherrey chose a multi-image technique to show the beauty of a spring evening as enjoyed by a lone bicyclist.

Lower center: It's Saturday night and there's nothing happening for senior Mark Goodman in this night exposure taken by Tom Cherrey.

Lower right: Photographer Dave Bloomquist finds that a boy's fascination with driving machines begins at an early age. That interest no doubt will grow far beyond the retired fire engine stage.





KENNEDY HIGH SCHOOL RESOURCE CENTER  
BLOOMINGTON, MINNESOTA 55420

I'm finally breaking the ties. It has been a good three years. I can't forget the pepfests, working for good grades, or Friday night games. Now graduation is getting closer and closer. With it comes a sense of accomplishment shared by my family and friends on my Graduation night. I'm saddened by the thought of graduating, but I realize that this isn't really an end, but rather a beginning.



Senior Susan Goracke

Page 12/6 May 1977

## FEATURE

# Pausing before

(Editor's note: Seniors will be walking through the Met Sports Center in their caps and gowns in just 33 days. Reporter Terri Bowen, a member of the Class of 1977, offers this recounting of senior feelings as June 8 approaches.)

Well, seniors, this is it. In just a few weeks we will be graduating. The work and fun of the past 12 years will be over just as quickly as it all began. It's the recent years, the three years we've been together at Kennedy, that we will remember the most.

As sophomores our year was spent contributing support and spirit to Kennedy. We were waiting for our junior year when we could take a more active part in school activities. As juniors we no longer had to "look up" to the seniors; we were their friends, and we were looking toward the same goal: graduation.

Now that time is here. We've been measured for caps and gowns, have filled out diploma information, and have gotten announcements ready for our relatives. Suddenly it strikes us that, indeed, we are leaving the place that has occupied most of our time for so long.

One thing that we are leaving behind is a

staff that really cares are sincerely interested in helping us in our future. We are leaving the teachers, our friends — the teachers who we can joke with, and learn from.

We are also leaving behind the traditions, though we'll take part in them in the form of memories. The Friday night games, concerts, dances, and organizations have added much to the years.

What will hurt the most are the old friendships. We'll miss our friends from school, but we'll have new interests, and events will come along.

Many things have changed in the three years that we have been at Kennedy. Our nation is celebrating its Bicentennial, a new president has been elected, and there has been a lot of talk about Equal Rights Amendment. It's an important national event that has led to interesting

## For most, school will

While next year's plans for juniors and sophomores have been predetermined for them, seniors are faced with very important decisions. Will further schooling predominate over immediate employment? Will marriage outrank the military?

To find out what Kennedy's 1977 graduates have planned for their upcoming year, **The Torch** conducted a survey of the nearly 600 seniors, and received a 70 percent response. Perhaps it is most significant to note that only seven percent of the soon-to-be graduates are still undecided about their future. The vast majority of the respondents (69 percent) will go on with further schooling of some sort.

By far the most popular type of school is the four-year college (chosen by 30 percent), with Vo-Tech programs being the first choice of another 17 percent of the respondents. The next most popular choice of schooling was the two-year community college, picked by 15 percent of the seniors.

Only six percent of the respondents have chosen to attend other vocationally-oriented schools. Five percent will be entering some type of technical school (cosmetology school, computer school, or medical training school). Only one percent of the seniors indicated that they plan to attend some kind of business school other than the Vo-Tech school.

Other options include working at a full-time job for 17 percent of the seniors, and going into some branch of the military for another five percent. In addition, 10 percent of the respondents said they will work full-time while attending some sort of school.

Miscellaneous options noted by two percent of the respondents include working part-time, attending a bible school, and going to a tennis camp. Only six percent said they are planning to be married during the next year.

Would-be graduates are nearly evenly split on the question of leaving home, as 52 percent said they will stay close to home next year, while 48 percent plan to travel out of state.

Nancy Gallagher, senior, said it was beneficial for her to start planning early because, "I was able to select the college I felt was best suited for me, which I probably couldn't have done if I had waited until the last minute." Also, according to senior Sherry

# FOCUS

## Saying good-bye

Most staff members in our future and are in any way possible. We are those who have become those others we can confide in from.

behind good times, of them with us in

Times like Friday nights, parties, dates, recreation activities all the experiences of most of

most will be the loss of that which we'll still see our different activities, which pull us apart.

happened during the years of 1977 has been that has celebrated its President has been been a battle over the ment. Many other world affairs have discussions in

Contemporary Issues and Modern Problems.

Unfortunately, nothing touches us more deeply than a tragedy that hits so close to home. Our class has been touched four times — more times than any other class at Kennedy — by death. Four of our fellow students have died in the past three years. No one needs to be reminded of this. The deaths are sorrowful memories we always will carry with us.

The final serious event that the Kennedy graduating Class of 1977 will experience together will be the ceremony at the Metropolitan Sports Center. When we receive our diplomas, the 12 years of searching and finding will come to a close, but only briefly, until we move on and build our futures.

Gratefully, most of us will accept the last chance of laughing together when we attend the all-night party after the ceremony. We will share six more hours of good times before we say a final good-bye to Kennedy Senior High School.

## continue after June 8

Martin, planning for full-time employment next year instead of college will give her a chance to gain experience she might not have if she continued schooling.

"Planning for the future is not easy. It's a difficult thing to do. Kids need more help than the counselors and teachers are offering them right now," said Counselor Elwood Lindberg.

## Seniors end year in style

*GRADUATION NIGHT: June 8. Consider the options:*

*Plan 1:* Graduates can quickly change after the graduation ceremony, and hop into cars for a 30-or-so minute drive out to a dark muddy field where entertainment is limited to music from a car radio and activity consists of passing around a six-pack of beer.

*Plan 2:* Graduates can quickly change after the graduation ceremony and hop into cars for the three-or-so minute drive to Kennedy High School to spacious rooms which have been spectacularly decorated and lighted. There, graduates will chow down all night on a full-course meal (chocolate mousse for dessert) and all-they-can-eat-for-free tacos, fresh fruit, and pop. Entertainment will include live band music and dancing, foosball, miniature golf, a live DJ from KSTP, and more ...

As was the case for the first time last year, seniors are being given the choice. They can repeat Plan 1 for the umpteenth time this year, or they can opt for a real change and try the Senior Graduation Party being sponsored by senior parents.

For the price of an \$18 ticket, seniors will have a whole night (and whole early morning) full of entertainment, including those mentioned above in Plan 2, as well as Las Vegas type gambling games, air hockey, volleyball, and ping-pong. Two graphologists, a caricaturist, and two guitarists will also be performing in various areas. Prizes such as albums, stuffed animals, and radios will be given away during the night.

Tickets for the party are on sale every day in the main foyer, and they must be purchased in advance. Over 100 senior parents have been devoting their time, energy, and creative talents to the party since the group first met Nov. 6. Their goal, of course, is to make sure that graduates have an alternative to Plan 1 on June 8.

I'm finally breaking the ties — FINALLY! I can't wait to get out into the real world. And what a great start I'm going to have! With \$100 from my parents, and my relatives — boy, I never thought there would be an advantage to having 12 aunts and uncles. I'm going to have one big endless summer.



Senior Todd Thorsgaard

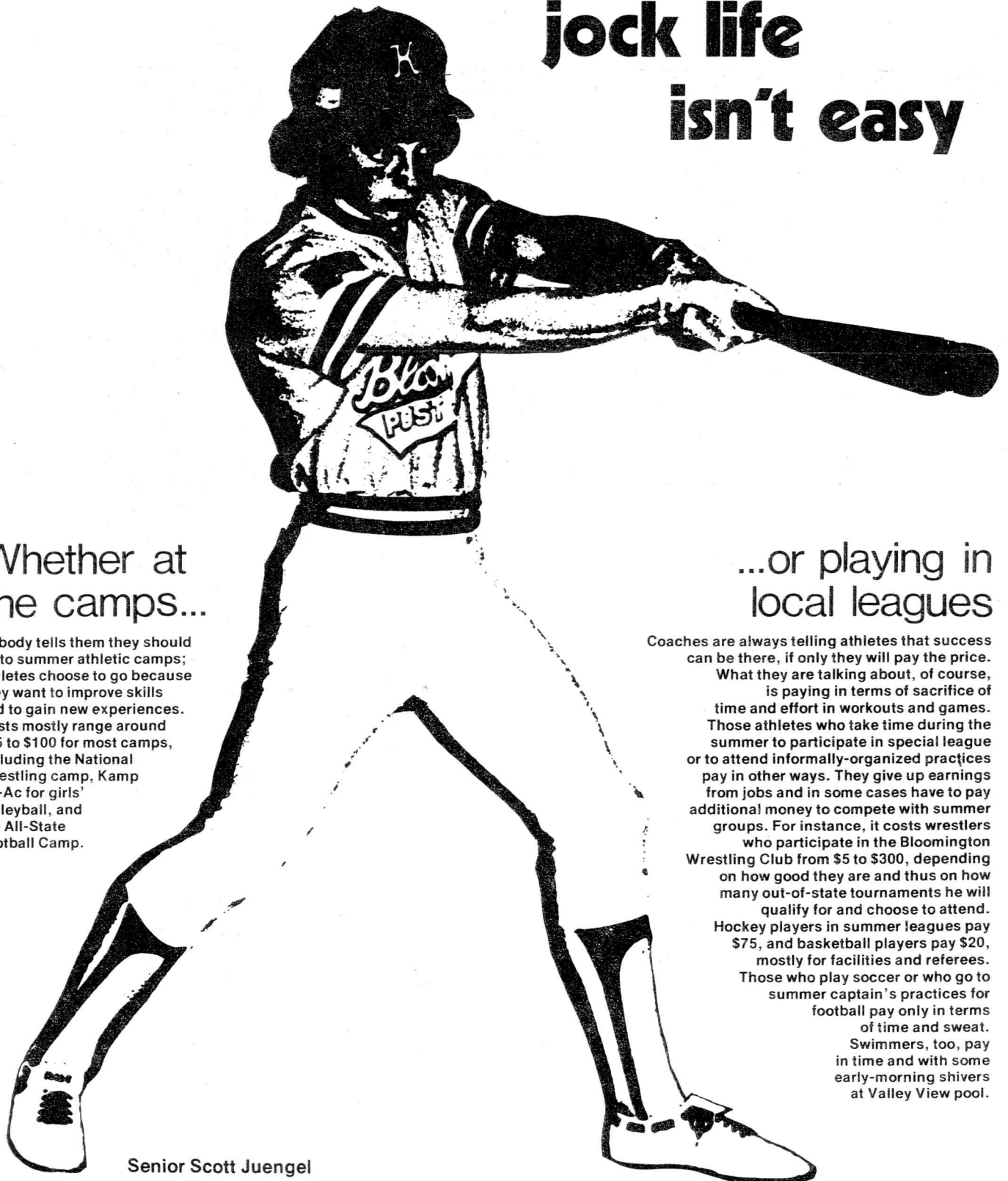
# Summertime and the jock life isn't easy

## Whether at the camps...

Nobody tells them they should go to summer athletic camps; athletes choose to go because they want to improve skills and to gain new experiences. Costs mostly range around \$75 to \$100 for most camps, including the National Wrestling camp, Kamp Ko-Ac for girls' Volleyball, and the All-State Football Camp.

## ...or playing in local leagues

Coaches are always telling athletes that success can be there, if only they will pay the price. What they are talking about, of course, is paying in terms of sacrifice of time and effort in workouts and games. Those athletes who take time during the summer to participate in special league or to attend informally-organized practices pay in other ways. They give up earnings from jobs and in some cases have to pay additional money to compete with summer groups. For instance, it costs wrestlers who participate in the Bloomington Wrestling Club from \$5 to \$300, depending on how good they are and thus on how many out-of-state tournaments he will qualify for and choose to attend. Hockey players in summer leagues pay \$75, and basketball players pay \$20, mostly for facilities and referees. Those who play soccer or who go to summer captain's practices for football pay only in terms of time and sweat. Swimmers, too, pay in time and with some early-morning shivers at Valley View pool.



Senior Scott Juengel

# Athletes take no summer break

Summertime for most students means a break from school and a chance to earn some money. For the school athlete, however, summers are filled with cries of "Score!", "Pass!", and "Ball four!"

School athletes are many times year-round athletes since it usually takes more to be a good player than just going out for a particular sport during its season. In order to improve on ability many athletes use the summer months to sharpen up skills, learn new techniques, and have a good time. Many leagues have been set up to aid athletes in their summertime quest for improvement of their athletic performance.

In some cases these off-season leagues last longer than the regular season. "Our AAU wrestling season lasts from mid-March through August," said junior Craig Wiklund.

Gymnasts, whose regular season lasts about two months, can work out all summer long at the Teen Center.

Most of the time, however, the summer season is of relative short duration, lasting only a month and a half for baseball, hockey and basketball.

Being involved in a summer sports league can produce many good results.

"I liked playing summer hockey because I met new people whom we played against during the season," said senior Brad Carlson.

Senior Craig Larson said that he plays summer baseball because it's fun to compete.

Besides meeting new friends and having fun, there is also a serious reason for participating during the summer. That, according to senior Kurt Schuster, is to gain

playing experience.

Even though there are many good things which benefit the summer athlete, there are some negative qualities to consider.

"I felt pressured by the coaches to go to captain's practice in football," said senior Todd Thorsgaard. "Attendance was taken every day and the coach sees this list," he said. Captain's practice takes up most of August for football players. This, in reality, cuts their summer vacation short.

Coaches take varying viewpoints on the idea of summer participation. "I don't tell the kids that they must play summer basketball," said Coach Steve Strommen, "but I watch some of the games and they know that I'm there."

Baseball Coach Buster Radebach said that a baseball player should play during the summer, but it is not mandatory. "It's going to be more difficult to make the team if a player does not play during the summer," he said.

"I absolutely do not put any pressure on kids to play summer hockey," said Coach Jerry Peterson. "If they want to play, it's up to them," he said. "I want them to do whatever they want."

Another factor to consider when weighing the bad aspects of summer participation in sports is the time involved. Most participants put in from five hours per week in basketball's Normandale League to up to 12 or more hours for AAU swimmers. These hours can be misleading because they do not include time spent getting to and from practices and games.

Topping the list of hangups for summer involvement is cost. To participate in the Varsity Classic Hockey League it costs an

athlete an initial fee of \$75, plus traveling and equipment expenses of about \$40. If a wrestler wishes to be involved with the AAU program, it can cost \$300 or more for traveling and accommodations expenses, since some of the tournaments are out-of-state.

For some sports it is not so much the cost to enter but the loss of summertime earning power that becomes a burden. Thorsgaard said that he could have earned an additional \$400 if he hadn't gone to captain's practices.

Many athletes did not hold down a regular job during the summer because of the conflict between working and participating in sports.

"If I did not play summer soccer, I feel that I could have earned \$1000 or more at a regular job," said senior Mike Mizuhata.

If an athlete is involved in a sport in which there is no league, it is up to that individual to put in the time it takes to develop his/her skills on his/her own during the vacation months.

For a cross country runner, summer is a series of three agonizing months during which a dedicated runner will attempt to gain entrance into the coveted "1000 mile club." A runner must run a minimum of 1000 miles during the summer to be a member. Last year, Bob Jacobson ran his way into the club, surpassing the 1000 mile mark.

It appears that Kennedy athletes are year-round athletes. Evidently, many of them realize that sacrifices are going to have to be made during the summer in order to maintain the tradition established by Kennedy athletes.

--Mike Bauer

# Camps prove beneficial for athletes

For most people, summer vacation signifies a break from school activities; however, a small minority of the school's athletes find themselves enriching their abilities by spending a week's worth of time at summer athletic camps.

As a rule, the athletes that choose to go seem to be the more dedicated ones. They must be, for they pay approximately \$100 for a week. Coaches of athletes who go to camps say that they did not put pressure on them to go. They say the athletes make their own decisions.

Although most people who have gone to athletic camps have had a complaint or two, they all agree that the camps were worthwhile because of the knowledge and abilities they acquired.

One person who really appreciated the visit to a camp was junior Rick Bergien. Bergien was picked by Coach Steve Strommen to go to Camp Chirho as a counselor. Bergien's job at the camp was to help coach the young boys at the camp.

There were six coaches from around the state there, and each coach brought one of his players as a counselor. After supper, the

counselors would play against the coaches. "I really learned a lot playing against such talent as Kevin McHale and Flip Saunders from the University," said Bergien.

Craig Wiklund, who spent a week at the 1976 National Camp in Dekalb, Ill., said he learned more about wrestling during his stay than most people learn in half a season. Wiklund's camp was also the Olympic Training camp for the wrestlers who were trying to qualify for the Olympic team. "I really learned a lot of stuff. It was a lot of hard work, but it really paid off during the season," he said. The camp's cost is \$250, but Wiklund's wrestling club covered all but a \$100 of the expense. Wiklund felt that the only bad thing about the week was the absence of other activities besides wrestling, lifting weights, and running.

Wiklund wasn't the only participant who was slightly disappointed in the lack of leisure time. All-Conference lineman Jim Makela said he was slightly misled by information contained in the letter sent to him describing the Ail-State Football Camp. "The brochure said they stressed the

necessity of being in shape, not that they were going to make us be in shape," he said.

The price for a week at the camp was \$100. Although there were many facilities listed in the brochure, Makela said that there was not enough leisure time to enjoy them. The most popular people in the camp were those who brought a fan, for the sleeping facility was a 95-degree gymnasium.

One of the things all the participants seemed to agree on was the fact that the food was good. The service they received gave them a brief reminiscence of school cafeteria eating.

The girl participants from Kennedy also enjoyed the food that was furnished to them. Wendy and Stacy Godwin, Vicki Mertensotto, Deb and Barb Linton, Laura Wolf, and Laura Hill all went to Camp Ko-Ac in Paynesville, hoping to improve their volleyball skills. All of the girls said that the trip was beneficial, although some said they felt they could have been allowed some extra time for other activities.

-Dave Roberman

# Expectations high for veteran ball club

## Tenth-ranked Eagle nine finds past records hard to equal

Few high school baseball teams can boast of having an infield consisting entirely of players with previous varsity and State Tournament experience. Even fewer teams can boast of rating as one of the ten best baseball squads in Minnesota (as ranked by the **Minneapolis Tribune**). But the Kennedy Eagle's squad can claim both distinctions, and that is quite an accomplishment.

Naturally, accomplishment carries with it responsibility, but Kennedy has an added responsibility that few teams must deal with. This year's team must face the reality that it has the ability to become the third Kennedy baseball team in three consecutive years to enter into the State Tournament. Junior Kent Hrbek emphasizes this point: "Every team wants to stay in the same path as previously successful ball clubs."

To stay in the path of previously successful teams has brought pressure upon the Eagles. "Sure we feel pressured," said Senior Scott Juengel. "Our coaches expect a lot out of us," he said.

Coaches Buster Radebach and Steve Strommen feel they can demand much from the team. "From a senior-dominated, veteran ball club comes maturity; with maturity comes mentally-sound ball play," said Coach Radebach.

"We feel we have a winning edge over other teams because we are a veteran team," said Kurt Schuster, senior.

However, mentally-sound ball play can not come from good infield and outfield play alone. "Our pitchers must do well for the team to do well this year," said Schuster.

The secret to this year's pitching success as Coach Radebach sees it, is to "keep the baseball down," he said. Hoping to accomplish this task are two returning, varsity-experienced pitchers — Craig Larson and Tom Larson. "Craig is our best percentage pitcher," said Coach Radebach, "while Tom is known for his good control."

Nevertheless, mentally-sound ball play cannot come from good pitching alone. "The name of the game is hitting the ball and scoring runs," said Coach Radebach.

He believes that for the team to do well this year, it must have good hitting from seniors Juengel and Marty Peterson, junior Joe Scanlon, leading RBI man Schuster, and leading hitter, Hrbek.

Although team batting is important, there is another characteristic that will be important to develop for the team's success. "We aren't as big as the teams of the past two years, but we're faster ... and should do better because of our speed," said senior Paul Kelly.

In addition to the physical bulk and speed which compare to last year's team, there is another characteristic which Coach

Radebach worries will carry over from last year.

"Along with the inability to score runs, lack of aggressiveness was our major problem last year," Coach Radebach said.

"We must keep ourselves enthused," said Schuster. "With boredom comes a loss of concentration that can make us slip-up in our plays."

Slip-ups in play can also occur for other reasons. "We're already taking our games as though we're in first place," Hrbek said.

This attitude may have evolved from the team's acceptance of its highly ranked position in the state. "State rankings are the kiss of death," said Coach Radebach.

Yet, this attitude has also brought a needed confidence to Kennedy. "Look for us at the State Tournament," said Hrbek.

## Looking to succeed

Forty girls — 3 seniors, 3 returning letter winners, and 35 other "enthusiastic, hard working girls" — make up this spring's entry in girls' track. According to Coach Lenny Volk, this year's team is loaded with more talent than has never been found in girls' track before at Kennedy.

"Much of the leadership and talent falls into the hands of seniors Terri Moore and Stacy Godwin," said Coach Volk, who shares coaching duties with Sonny Carlson, Dave Sulack, and Phil Oswald. Moore is a strong contender on Kennedy's short relay teams, according to Volk, while Godwin is chasing her own school record in the hurdles.

While leadership seems to be a strong point, there are other aspects to this team which show the girls have the potential for success.

"We all have a very positive attitude toward this year's season, and I think we will have many outstanding individual performances," said Moore. "As the season progresses, we will pull together more and score many points as a team," she said.

According to Coach Carlson, some of the team's early standouts have been sophomore Mary Perrier in the long jump (she has set a school record), sophomore Nancy Goodlund in the high jump, junior Wendy Godwin in hurdling and high jump, and junior Cathy Clark in the shot put.

"We have been very pleased with the hard work shown by the entire team," said Coach Volk. This hard work should pay off during meets. "We continually stress improvement to the athletes as we try to get them to achieve personal bests by improving on their times, heights, etc.," said Carlson.

"We've come a long way since the first day of practice, both mentally and physically," said Godwin. "The underclassmen are now blending in with the team, and we expect to be a contending team in the conference by Regions," she said.

—Mitch Pritchard

## New sports aid program variety

Finally, after a lot of talking and continuous planning, softball and synchronized swimming have been officially added to the girls' spring athletic program. "The main reason for the addition of these sports is to give the girls more variety," said girl's athletic coordinator Lynn Aaze.

Many of the Lake Conference schools have added one or both of these sports to their programs. The softball team has

almost a complete schedule, while the synchronized swimming schedule is made up of approximately half of the Lake schools.

"The budget was increased somewhat to cover the new sports. However, more money could have been used this first year," said Ms. Aaze.

Although there was a girls' softball team last year, it wasn't until this year that competition was set at the interscholastic level. The main difference between last year and this year is the change from slow to fast pitch. "The fundamentals are relatively new to the girls," said Head Coach Dale Welter. "More strategy is needed; as a result, reactions are slow."

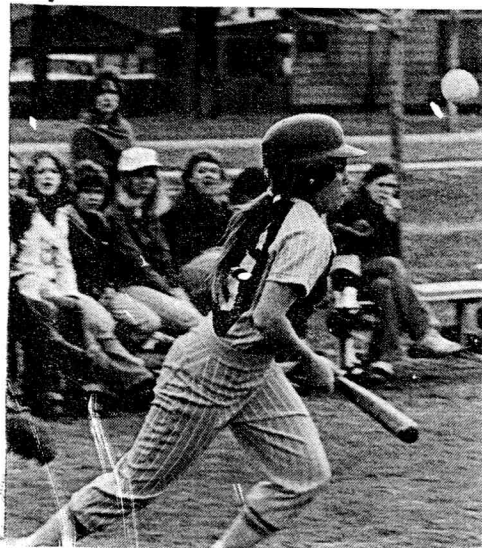
Synchronized swimming also existed once before, two years ago. However, at that time the swimming was just a club activity. "Getting acquainted with the idea of competing has been a problem," said Head Coach Judy Halvorson.

Both sports are expected to grow rapidly within the next few years as girls continue to get more and more involved with athletics.

—Debbie Linton

Robin Knudson connects with the softball

Girls lose opener to Burnsville 5-3





Setting goals is what any team must do at the beginning of the season. It is no different for this year's boys' track team. "We have to set goals for ourselves so we have something worthwhile to work for," said senior Co-Captain Blair Johnson.

With senior Tom Boe breaking the school record in the high jump early in the season and Johnson tying the school record in the 60-yard high hurdles, some of these goals may have to be set even higher.

While each individual is trying to reach personal goals, the goal of the team is the most important. That, according to senior Co-Captain John Tabone, is to win the Bloomington city title and to pose a threat to 1977 Lake Conference track powers Edina East, Wayzata, and Robbinsdale.

Although there are many outstanding individuals on Kennedy's track team, they all work well together. "There's no such thing as an individual on the team," said Boe.

Senior Mike Marty demonstrates his unique form in the long jump. --Gail Olson

## High goals met by trackmen



## Netters, golfers still looking for fan support

Fan support for sports involving individuals has left something to be desired in years past at Kennedy. This year, there is no exception with boys' tennis and golf.

Boys' tennis has had a history of few fans. "Unless we're doing well, people don't get involved in the sport," said tennis Coach Bergie Lang. "It is much easier and more enjoyable for the kids if fans would become more interested in tennis," said Lang.

Adding to the low fan support is this year's shortened season. The Title IX Amendment, equalizing boys' and girls' sports, has cut the season by a month. This means that meets must be squeezed closer together, allowing less practice time.

More practice time may not be needed since Kennedy's roster is filled with an abundance of experienced lettermen. According to Coach Lang, this is one of the most experienced tennis teams Kennedy has had.

Heading the list of returnees is senior Captain Garth Weiss. Weiss has two years of varsity tennis playing and was also captain in his junior year. He is rated eighth in the Northwest Lawn Tennis Association, which includes the five surrounding states, and twelfth in the state. "Garth has the ability to be the No. 1 player on almost any team in the conference," said Coach Lang.

Weiss's leadership did not supply the edge for Kennedy in their first two meets as they dropped both by scores of 3-2. The team's slow start has caused players to question their confidence and attitude. "It's tough to believe in yourself when you're not winning," said Coach Lang. "We have the ability," said Weiss, "but we have to keep our confidence up."

Despite a slow start the team shows the potential of being winners, according to Lang. In the first two meets six different people won their matches, showing that the team is not led by a few individuals but by a total team effort.

Kennedy's golf team has also had a lack of spectators in previous years. According to Coach Bernie Riekema, lack of knowledge about golf may be keeping spectators away. "A lot of people don't understand the game of golf," said Coach Riekema. "Also, people have to travel to see the game, unlike other sports that are played right at school."

Even though the golf team is similar to the tennis team in its lack of fan support, the two are very different. This year's golf team is lacking in experience. The team has only two seniors, Ken Korsch and Mike Kass, to lead a team consisting mainly of underclassmen. "This year is more of a building year for us," said Korsch.

A lack of experience is not the only problem facing golfers. A recommendation has been made by the Lake Conference administrators to discontinue golf. According to Coach Riekema, they feel golf is a life-time sport; therefore, people do not need to compete during high school, since they have the opportunity to play on their own. Golf also does not bring in any revenue, and it is an expensive program to run.

Coach Riekema said, "Being it is a lifetime sport, and there are only a few, golf should stay in the high school program." Korsch added that golf offers a great opportunity to play in an organized competition during high school.

Another factor affecting this year's team is the lack of an assistant coach. Jefferson and Lincoln have assistant coaches, with the money for their salaries being taken out of intramural funds. Coach Riekema believes this should not be done at Kennedy to get an assistant coach.

While it seems on the surface that the golf team has many obstacles to overcome, Coach Riekema said that he still feels the team can reach its goal, which is "to produce a winning season," a feat reached in each of the past seven years. --Vicki Mertensotto



Dan Wellumson  
Swimming



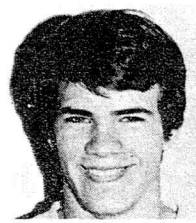
Pat Arens  
Wrestling



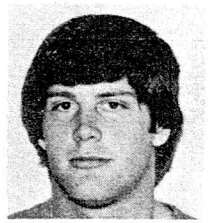
John Tabone  
Gymnastics



Bob Jacobson  
Cross country



Tom Cherrey  
Soccer



Kurt Schuster  
Football

## Boys display leadership, ability, pride...

On the road to victory or defeat there is one player in each of the boys' sports that manages to keep spirits high and the team together by using his special abilities. From each of the sports one boy has been voted as the most valuable participant by the boys' coaches and the sports writers from the **Torch** and **Profiles** in a publications poll. The following have been chosen.

**Kurt Schuster** received most valuable player honors for football. Coach Sonny Carlson said that "Kurt is a motivated player, who comes to play."

"Most improved player this year," is what **Tom Cherrey's** soccer Coach Jerry Peterson said about the varsity soccer goalie who was a "tremendously tough competitor giving 100 percent effort."

**Bob Jacobson** won in the category of cross country. Mike McKay said that Bob has a "tremendous ability to push himself beyond normal limits."

All-around man and high scorer **John Tabone** won in gymnastics. "Thirty percent of the team" and "tough mentally and physically," said Coach Duane Hoecherl about John's abilities.

**Pat Arens** was chosen in wrestling. "He did something with the skills that he had to help the underclassmen. This was very important," said Coach Dave Arens.

"A 100-percent person who takes care of everyone on the team" is

how swimmer **Dan Wellumson's** Coach Bergie Lang described him.

**Gregg Paschke** of the ski team was described by Coach Dick Anderson as "showing leadership and ability on the ski slope."

Basketball Coach Steve Strommen described basketball and baseball winner **Craig Larson** as "our captain, leader, hardest worker, and best player."

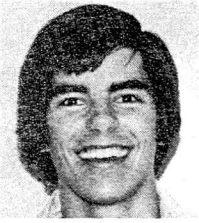
"Scott is the quickest goalie around," and he has a "perfect attitude for a goalie," Coach Peterson commented about hockey's **Scott Olson**.

**Mitch Pritchard** is described by track Coach McKay as a "super competitor with a great desire to excel."

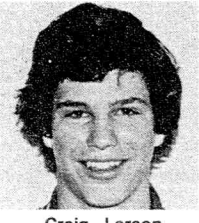
"Potentially he's the strongest tennis player Kennedy has," is Coach Lang's comments on **Garth Weiss**.

Ending the boy's athletic year is golf winner **Ken Korsch**. "He has the potential to be one of the best golfers I have," commented Coach

Bernie Riekens.



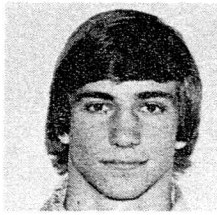
Gregg Paschke  
Skiing



Craig Larson  
basketball, baseball



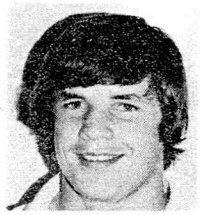
Scott Olson  
Hockey



Mitch Pritchard  
Track



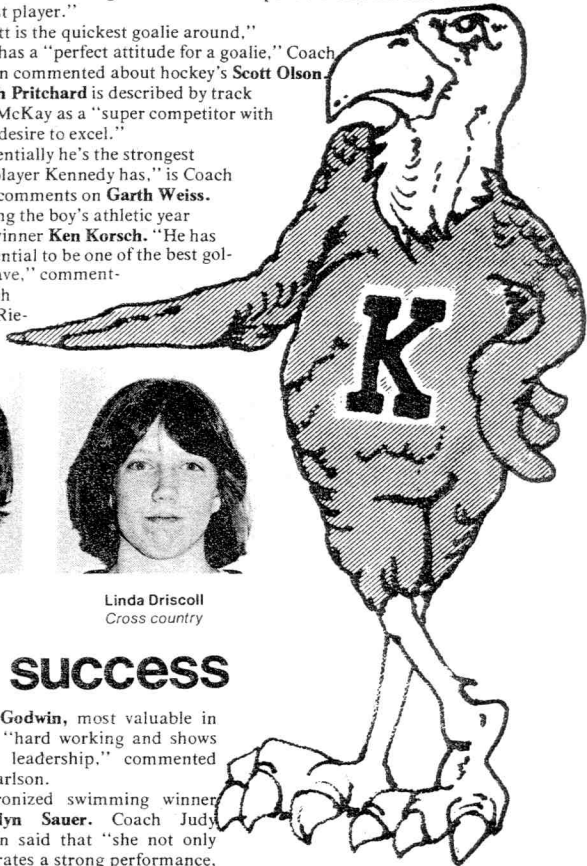
Garth Weiss  
Tennis



Ken Korsch  
Golf



Linda Driscoll  
Cross country



## ...while girls follow with success

Girl athletes must travel the same road to victory or defeat. Each girls' team also has a player that deserves recognition in each sport. The winners in the girls' division of the **Torch** poll were voted on by girl coaches and the sports writers for the **Torch** and **Profiles**.

**Linda Driscoll** received the most votes in her sport of cross country. Linda's coach, Lenny Volk, said that she is the "most consistent performer" and a "hard worker."

In the category of swimming **Jody Henseler** won. Coach Lynn Aaze said, "She's so versatile in events that she can swim well, and that in itself makes her the most valuable swimmer."

**Denise Davidson**, captain of the gymnastics team, received the most valuable player in that sport. Coach Ken Moore said, "She's valuable, but you have to understand how. She's developed all the talent she has, she's an ideal competitor, and always in the driver's seat. She made my job a lot easier."

**Julie Christensen**, the captain of the volleyball team, is described by Coach Guy Blessing as "leading the team by her examples. She didn't do a lot of talking, she just went out and did it."

"She works hard at playing up to her abilities," is Coach Dale Welter's way of describing the basketball winner, **Kathy LaBerge**. Once the season was over, LaBerge transferred to Minnetonka High School. Her picture thus could not be taken for this recognition page.

**Stacy Godwin**, most valuable in track, is "hard working and shows excellent leadership," commented Coach Carlson.

Synchronized swimming winner is **Carolyn Sauer**. Coach Judy Halvorson said that "she not only demonstrates a strong performance, but she works hard."

**Karen Anderson** "scored the most points and took the most places in girls' downhill skiing," said Coach Dick Anderson. Karen's consistency throughout the season helped bring the team to a fourth place Regional finish.

**Robin Knudson** is very experienced in softball; it is obvious she has played for many years. Robin is a fine defensive player, she is one of the team's leading pitchers, and also has tremendous hitting ability.

A member of the varsity tennis team for three years, **Terri Smith** was captain of this year's squad. She also had the best individual records of the team, competing in first doubles with junior Dana Michel.

These athletes, then, have proven that girls not only are capable of serious athletic competition, but they also are capable of being dedicated and responsible athletes.



Julie Christensen  
Volleyball



Stacy Godwin  
Track



Carolyn Sauer  
Synchronized swimming



Karen Anderson  
Skiing



Robin Knudson  
Softball



Terri Smith  
Tennis

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**Incident:** A student is wandering in the main hallway during second hour with seemingly nowhere to go. He/she is passed by two hall monitors, two teachers, and a principal. None bothers to ask the student for a pass to be out of class.

**Incident:** A teacher's car is vandalized in the school parking lot during the school day. Numerous students were out in the lot during the day, making the culprit impossible to identify. Administrators term the case virtually unsolvable.

Isolated incidents? Unfortunately not. These incidents and others of their type have become almost everyday occurrences at Kennedy. Discipline seems to be on the decline.

An uncaring attitude and a basic disrespect for laws and rules seems to be a major reason behind these incidents. Some students realize that their actions are literally without consequence, and see no reason to conform to rules that aren't enforced.

According to Principal Don Hasbrouck, these incidents occur because some students don't care and feel that they can skip classes, smoke, and vandalize property without having to answer for their actions. It seems that this attitude has developed because neither the parents, the school, nor the court system wants to take on the full responsibility for these juveniles. Mr. Hasbrouck believes that school is a place for learning. It should not become a law enforcement agency to deal with these students. He feels that enforcement should be a combined effort between the parents, the school, and the courts. He stated that the school has attempted to attain this goal by sending letters to and talking to parents of "problem" students (approximately eight percent of Kennedy's students population, as identified by administrators).

Dealing with the School Board regarding discipline of students has proved to be somewhat of a problem for Kennedy administrators. The School Board evidently feels that truancy and smoking are only minor school problems. They recognize vandalism as a major one but are uncertain about how to deal with it. According to Esther Allen, chairperson of the School Board, these problems are not the Board's first priority. She does feel, though, that the Board must work towards making school more meaningful and valuable for those "uncaring" students who turn to truancy and/or vandalism. Ms. Allen stated that the Board is searching for solutions.

Support from the courts is a major problem for the schools to deal with. At this point, the Hennepin County Courts refuse to accept any truancy or smoking cases and only a few vandalism cases reach their dockets. This leaves the school to deal with it.

## Discipline declines: Educational system suffers because of lack of control

If such problems as truancy, smoking, and vandalism are to be solved, **The Torch** feels that there must be cooperation between parents, school, the School Board, and the county court system. The school and School Board must be willing to provide alternative programs for students who are disenchanted with school and to take decisive action against those students who knowingly break the law. In turn, the school must receive backing from the parents and the courts. Hennepin County Courts must realize their responsibility to prosecute smoking, truancy, and vandalism cases which society terms crimes. The lack of effective discipline control is threatening the very process of education. A basic right of education may have to become, once again, only a privilege for a select few who prove that they want an education.

## VOICES AND VIEWS

Editorial

### Hands tied over truancy

"The buck stops here" sign has yet to be found in Bloomington schools when it comes to dealing with the problem of truancy. At all levels, teachers, administrators, and the School Board all plead that their hands are tied when trying to deal with class-skipping students.

Staff members, feeling loss of control in the classroom, point their fingers at administrators for not effectively dealing with truants. Administrators point out the rights students have, according to the Student Bill of Rights, and restraints caused by recent court decisions. Teachers and administrators also point to a lack of School Board support. The Board, in turn, claims (via Chairperson Esther Allen) that it would rather spend its energy on long-range planning involving enrollment drops.

Because of this non-support at all levels, truancy and related problems have increased and intensified. Having few consequences to fear, and knowing that little action will be taken against them, student skippers often lose respect for their teachers and administrators, and indeed for the whole concept of education.

While stricter policies and tighter controls are necessary in dealing with the symptoms of truancy, **The Torch** feels that the basic problem of students skipping--of rejecting education and showing lack of respect for educators--must be solved by other means. The best may be an alternate school program for students who fight the regular program because they cannot function well in it.

Education--rather, the rejection of education--poses serious problems for students and staff. An even-handed approach, involving control and support at all levels, coupled with dignified alternatives for turned-off students, certainly is the best solution to these problems.



The student/faculty car of the future

# PILOT LIGHT / Could it be magic, at last?

"Who are you taking to Prom?" My mom, my sister, my teachers, and just about everybody else asks me that question 20 times a day. It's pretty irritating. "You've got to ask somebody," they say. "This is your senior year. You just can't miss it. Isn't there anybody you want to ask?"

Actually, I did have someone in mind. I've sort of noticed her since seventh grade. You might even say I had a crush on her. I used to look her name up in the phone book and stare at it for hours at a time. I've matured since then, of course. Now I call her house and hang up when she answers. I really feel awkward around her, though. She just seems a little too far out of my class. She went out with a college graduate student when she was in eighth grade. But considering that this is my senior year, and I have had my eye on her for quite some time, I decided to try and get to know her and ask her to Prom.

My first move was made during the Modern Problems class that we have together. "Excuse me," I said, hiding my pencil behind my back. "Do you have a pencil I can borrow?"

"No."  
"Oh."

So much for that approach.

## Found: One soggy apology

The following is a signature found in an old yearbook discovered floating along on the Mississippi River:

"Judy - I'll apologize right now for stealing your yearbook, but it was the only way I could get to sign it, and there is so much on my mind that I want to say to you. We've known each other since first grade, and now we're ready to graduate, and through all these years our relationship has been what you might call "shaky" (although it probably leans more towards hatred). But I don't think this mutual dislike is as much because of a faulty personality on my part as it is a total misunderstanding on your part. You've never understood my intentions and feelings, Judy, so I want to explain everything and set matters straight once and for all.

"Our initial meeting occurred long ago. Remember that day in first grade when I jabbed you in the arm with that needle? You thought I did it because I was a mean and hateful person, didn't you? That's not true. I stuck the needle in your arm because I heard some kids talking about playing 'doctor,' and that's what my doctor always did to me. I'm sorry.

"For years after that you avoided any contact with me, except for the time in seventh grade when you beat the tar out of me, and the time at the ice rink when our skate blades got locked together. Not until this year, our senior year, did we really speak to each other. You are a very pretty girl, and I needed a date for the big dance,

My next attempt was made after school when everybody hangs around the foyer and acts popular. I walked towards her carrying my bulging "Kennedy Eagles" bag to show what an athletic guy I was. "Hi," I said, and dropped my jock on the floor. She broke out laughing and ran over to tell her friends. I wrapped a towel around my face and crawled under a small crack in the wall.

A while later I tried a different method. My little sister was trying to get sponsors for the Walk for Mankind, so I offered to go around the neighborhood and find some. My main target was "her" house. So what if she lived 8 miles away.

I sort of regretted going there. She kept her face buried in a *Cosmopolitan* magazine the whole time while her small-college All-American football player older brother invited me in so he could sign the sponsor sheet. I was very uncomfortable. They had this huge dog that sniffed in the most embarrassing places. I left with a pledge for 22 cents and dog hairs all over my pants. I think I heard some hysterical laughter behind the *Cosmopolitan*, too.

One more try. This time I needed the direct approach. Just as she was going into the bathroom at school I grabbed her and dragged her into a corner. "Wanna go to

so I asked you. I know you didn't want to go with me (your bigmouthed friend told me) but for some dumb reason you said "yes." What a mistake. You only made things miserable for both of us.

"When I went to pick you up you didn't have to make such a fuss when I stuck the corsage pin into your flesh. I'll bet you immediately related it to that incident in first grade, but it was an accident, I swear. Then you had to go and introduce me to your parents as "Whatsisface". Thanks a lot. Concerning the dance, I certainly hope you had a nice time in the bathroom, because that's where you spent most of the night. Is a stupid toilet that much more interesting than me? People were calling you "peanut-bladder Judy" behind your back for weeks after that.

"I've been in love with you since that day I made you bleed in first grade, Judy, but you've always treated me like dirt. You thought I was a bungling idiot with no feelings, but I do have feelings, and they were terribly hurt. But now I've told you how things stand. The air has been cleared, and all past hostilities have been wiped away. I feel much better because of it. We'll be graduating very soon now, and we'll each be going in our own directions, and I hope I never see your ugly face again."

Love, "Whatsisface"

"P.S.: If you don't like what I've written in your yearbook, you can go throw it in the river for all I care."

--Chris Keprios

Prom with me?"

She looked at me and smiled. "You're kidding, right?"

"No, I'm not. Do you wanna go to Prom with me?"

She giggled, said "Jeez, you're funny," and flaunted off. Foiled again.

That night I decided to try one last time. Locking myself and the phone in the bathroom, I took a deep breath and dialed. One ring. Two rings. A voice said "Hello?"

"All right," I blurted out. "I've had it up to here with all this. I'm dead serious and I want a straight answer, so no more goofing around, ya understand? Do you want to go to Prom with me?"

The answer was "No," but it was only her little brother. She came to the phone a minute later. "Hello," she said sweetly.

"Uh ... um ... wanna go to Prom?"

"Yes."

"What?"

"Yes."

"Are you kidding?"

"No, I'd love to go."

"Oh my gosh ... I mean ... uh ... uh, great ... I'll ... I'll talk to you later. Um ... bye."

I couldn't believe it. I'd never really expect her to say "Yes." Now I have to figure out some way to dig up a 100 bucks for dinner and a corsage and a tux and ...

### From the editor:

There are important people beyond our Torch staff to whom we owe much. Our thanks goes to Mike Bonnicksen and John Sulack, Kris Hull, the office secretaries, and the ever-patient faculty.

Tom Larson, editor-in-chief

## THE TORCH

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# Question:

**Did 1976-77 turn out to be the kind of year that people hoped to have at Kennedy?**



*Marit Oyen*

Marit Oyen, senior, is Kennedy's AFS student. She is from Oslo, Norway, and is in Concert Choir and cross country skiing.

Students at Kennedy care so much about each other. This is what I like best about schools here, because in Norway the school is a place reserved for learning, not socializing.

In American schools it seems important to be involved in an extracurricular activity. For this reason I joined the girls' cross-country ski team, which was a lot of fun. I found American students to have a great sense of school spirit. However, I feel that sports play too important a role in high schools here, considering the few people who are really involved in them.

Besides being in the ski team, I was in Concert Choir. It was through this group I was able to take a trip to Hawaii, an experience that helped me really get to know people. Even though everyone I met here was nice and friendly, it was sometimes hard for me to make friends, and choir helped a lot.

Living in Bloomington was different from life in Oslo. One big difference is that not many things are available for kids to do after school other than school activities, maybe because so many high school kids have part-time jobs.

I'm looking forward to going back to Norway, but I will always treasure memories of my great year at Kennedy.



*Steve T. Strommen*

Steve Strommen, is head coach of the boys' basketball team.

What a beautiful year! Of course, from a basketball point of view, what could have been better? The basketball team had everything a coach hopes for.

Giving us the winning edge was a combination of factors that added up to success: dedicated and hard-working players, positive attitudes, teamwork, and loyal support. People love to be involved with a winner, and that helped us attract more fans this year. Just as other winning teams have benefited from a successful season, so did the basketball team of 1976-77. Fans were instrumental in our come-from-behind wins over Eisenhower and Richfield. More fans came to the games as the season progressed. As has been the case with many sports in other seasons, we have seen how winning athletic seasons are good for the whole school. Our team knows we benefited by strong fan support, and I feel the school in turn, was a far better place this year because of basketball's contribution.



*D. M. Hasbrouck*

Donald Hasbrouck has been the principal of Kennedy for seven years.

During the course of the school year there are usually areas of improvement and sometimes deterioration.

Although there have been times during the year when the losses appeared to be greater than the gains, I think there's been an overall improvement. I feel the areas of improvement that need to be worked out are an expanded girls' interscholastic program with improved quality, fewer student-teacher conflicts that would indicate better student-teacher relationships, and the reinstatement of the police liaison program. Excellent parent involvement with booster groups, senior party planning, graduation and PAC (Parent Action Committee) should all be continued. Students of various groups that went to contests and on trips represented Kennedy very well this year. Hopefully, this too will be repeated next year.

Vandalism of school, student and staff property, and the growing number of students that are truant from classes have been areas of most concern to us. Most problems are caused by the unwillingness of a number of students to accept responsibility for their actions. Students have to learn to abide by the rules which apply to them. There needs to be more parent support, and the community needs to become more aware of the problems schools face.

As principal, I felt that this year has not been completely satisfactory. However, improvement has been made, and we are already planning for next year with the hope of continued progress.



*Tom Barry*

Tom Barry, senior, is co-editor of Profiles. He also is a member of the hockey and baseball teams.

For most of the year, this was a very good year. People were willing to participate in activities, and attitudes toward school were positive and productive.

**The Torch** and **Profiles** reflect the good times and the good things that happened, and I believe the overall impression left by both publications is an accurate one: students generally were happy, involved, and relatively carefree. It wasn't hard to find people at Homecoming, athletic games, or around school who were having a good time, and our photos and copy reflect that. Very few students seemed to have serious complaints or gripes about the school or its programs, and generally the year was marked by a feeling of caring about being a Kennedy student. Sometimes tempers flared, as when **The Torch** wrote about the inequality of funding of activities, but that was the exception.

For the yearbook staff in particular it became obvious that the future will be more and more difficult to deal with financially. Fewer students each year mean fewer yearbooks that can be sold. That means a higher cost per book. Even though 90 percent of the students did buy this year's book, the price still had to go up to meet inflated printing prices. This is just one financial problem that will affect the school as enrollments continue to decline.

There are going to be other problems that are hard to deal with as well, which became more obvious at the end of the year. Class cutting and vandalism caused many headaches, and publications staffers really began to see that not all students find satisfaction in being Kennedy students. Even so, I believe that at least 90 percent of the students are happy here. That's what publications reflected, and accurately so.

# Who's who ...

## the year in review



### Larry Goodermont

Larry Goodermont, senior, is student director of Concert Choir. He has been in the JB Singers for two years and is in Orchestra.

Despite budget cuts, this has been a successful year in the Music Department. The band increased in size by 40 students. After

considering several concert invitations, Washington, D.C., was chosen for their spring trip. Through much hard work a historic tour unfolded which will not soon be forgotten.

Orchestra remained a good, flexible group. Although concerts were few, this group added color to many events such as Coronation and the Holiday Show.

When not knocking door to door, the choirs put together a top-rate Holiday Show which was televised Christmas Day on Channel 9. In April, a dream came true as 167 members of Concert Choir boarded Flight 5651 headed for a sun-filled week on Waikiki beach.

This has been a year filled with dedication, where high goals and lots of work have put our Music Department heads above the average high school. Now it is history, one that many people can be very proud of.



### Jim Ritter

Jim Ritter, senior, has been an active participant in drama. He has been involved in almost all of Kennedy's theatre productions.

A smash three-act musical in the fall and a festival of one-act plays in the spring highlighted a fantastic year for the drama

department at Kennedy. Students worked hard to make these plays a success. Speech had one of its best years ever, with 11 students going on to Regional competition. Despite some problems it was indeed a very good year.



### Mary Dwyer

Mary Dwyer, senior, is a two-year cheerleader who was co-captain of the football squad.

After turning in my uniforms in April, I realized it was the ending of my final year as a cheerleader. I did keep the best part of cheerleading, though: the memories. I'll never forget how stunned I was at Homecoming time. There's something about that time that brings everyone together.

During the year I came to realize we had a school that was certainly different from others. The first time I saw the helmeted gang of rowdies — well, I thought they were nuts. Nuts or not, they added a lot of fun and laughter to the games. There was also the band, which despite a hectic schedule did a super job of adding enthusiasm to the spirit of the crowd.

I'm really glad I had the opportunity to be in a position where I could see the sincere interest and caring people have for their school. As a cheerleader it is impossible to thank the teams coaches, band and spectators enough. The involvement and efforts of everyone here have made all of us proud to be a part of Kennedy.



### John Bloom

John Bloom, Contemporary Issues and Modern Problems teacher, is president of the Faculty Senate.

After some reflection, several things stand out in my mind concerning this past school year. The vast majority of the students seemed more open and cooperative.

Most problems that teachers had involved a small portion, but apparently a growing number, of the student body. Tardiness and absences have always been a major concern each year, and this year is no exception. Teachers used much physical and emotional energy for these two purposes. Hopefully in the future, there will be stricter attendance rules and the halls will be monitored regularly. Overall, despite these problems, I think that the year went quite well because the majority of the students seemed to have continued to have good relationships with most of their teachers, as they have in the past.



### Julie Christensen

Julie Christensen, a senior, is an eight-time letter winner. She has participated in volleyball, basketball, track, and softball.

Each year at Kennedy, girls sports have improved tremendously in their skill level and this year the girls seemed more determined than ever.

I felt the coaching staffs this year were exceptionally dedicated. When there were heart-breaking games, like coming so close to a victory or losing to certain rivals, the whole team always pulled together. Cheerleaders were forever bringing cookies after the games. We didn't get many spectators, but the more fans there were, the more exciting the games turned out to be. I think that the fulfillment that I got from participating in high school sports is something that I will always remember and cherish.

# A June evening

Some night in June, a few weeks after graduation. We left school only a few weeks ago and already everyone has gone his own way. I thought we were all going to keep in touch. There must be somebody around.

"Hi, is Bill home? ... Oh, I see ... well, tell him I called. Thank you ... goodbye."

"Hi, John. What are you doing tonight? ... Oh ... that's right. I forgot you worked there ... bye."

"Is Susie home? ... She went out with who? ... dang it ... I mean, thank you ... goodbye."

"Hi, Dave. What's going on tonight? ... Oh ... no, that's okay ... talk to you later ... bye."

"Is Steve there? ... He went up to your cabin ... alone ... all weekend ... with her? ... Wow. Goodbye."

"Hi, Janice? This is--" click.

"Hello, is Greg home? ... Oh, I'm sorry ... No, I didn't know he had to get married ... bye."

"Hi, Paul, it's me. I was wondering if you wanted to ... oh ... yeah, I understand ... What? No, I have a lot of other plans anyway ... Yeah, I'll see you around ... click "Sure."

Photo by Tom Cherrey  
Copy by Chris Keprios

