



OUR DHS Cheerleaders captured the second-place trophy last Saturday at Midland, Michigan. From left to right, the girls are Karen Backensto, Willa Pressman, Kathy Jason, Baiba Stepe, Cathy Barnett, Lynne Rupe, Cathy Ward, and Leslee Hartman, all seniors, along with junior Michelle Magon.

The Observer

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Volunteers Befriend Children; Give Love and Encouragement

"Everyone hates me!" the young girl cried to herself.

Having a very bad home background, the child had learned to hate adults, for adults constantly were cruel to her. Consequently, she would fight and kick her teachers because they "hated" her.

The social worker at this girl's school heard of the trouble and assigned her to a volunteer at DHS.

The volunteer worked with the girl, helped her academically, and more important, treated her like a human being. The child was always good while with the volunteer. Eventually she learned that no one hated her, and that she could receive love.

This is just one child's story of the help received through the volunteer services of Miss Johanna Bielicki's Volunteers. Although the organization is only four years old in Dearborn High, many children have been helped both academically and emotionally. Through the drill and training of concerned volunteer "friends", children with learning handicaps can be helped.

Two programs are provided for the children. One group program is for volunteers who can leave school at three o'clock. Once a week they are bussed to neighboring schools to help the children. Individual volunteers go directly into the child's home any time they can find to tutor the child.

Although Miss Bielicki, the school psychologist, trains the volunteers on methods of teaching and drilling the child, the helper is left on his own to dream up other techniques.

Volunteer chooses whatever type of

child he would like to work with. Perhaps there is a fat little girl who other children make fun of. A boy whose parents work, may need someone to bestow a little attention on him. There are all types of children who need help in some area.

Those interested in becoming volunteer, he or she may confer with Miss Bielicki on Wednesdays and Fridays in conference room 7.

Boy volunteers, especially, are needed for this work. There are so many young boys who need a friend-- a big brother.



Photo by Bill Gardner

SPELLING can become a handicap if a DHS volunteer, tutor, and friend, is not by your side. From left to right are Helen Rossi, sixth grader, Marcia Brandenburg, DHS senior, Luanne Jenner, sixth grader, and Miriam Baetz, DHS senior. Although teaching is the ambition, friendship has been the volunteers' goal, as the smiles and giggles often portray.

Girl Helps Addicts Return to Normal Life

To most people summer means no school, a time to relax and take life easy in the sun. For Jean DeLawrence, 11B, and five other young people who worked in a clinic for drug users in New York's East side, summer meant much more.

As a member of a church group, Jean volunteered her services to help drug addicts get back on the road to normal lives. She also gained valuable insight on how drugs affect people's minds and bodies.

"Most of the addicts were really messed up," Jean explained. "Some of the people were hysterical and many didn't know why they were in the condition they were in."

"The withdrawal was the worst part. I didn't enjoy what I saw. Some of the kids got sick."

The people who voluntarily came to

the clinic varied from heroin addicts and hippies on LSD, to seemingly normal kids who had started experimenting with drugs and were having trouble. Their ages ranged from 14 to 30 years.

The clinic, as Jean put it, "was in the skummiest part of town. It's the kind of place where nobody goes out at night."

According to Jean, there are clinics all over New York and all around the country. They also need volunteer help.

Working and observing in a clinic also lets one see first hand the plight of a drug user. From her experience

Jean says, "After seeing those people. I know I'll never take drugs."



The Great Pumpkin has struck again! Oct. 31, on his annual trip to the good children of the world, the Great Pumpkin carried a very special treat for Assistant Principal Thomas McLennan and his wife, Sandra. Eight pounds and 12 ounces of little boy, David Thomas, became the newest member of the McLennan clan.

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. McLennan and thank you, Great Pumpkin!

Boyerne Highlands To Be Host; First Of Two Senior Trips

Skiers get your equipment ready. The first of the two senior trips is planned for the semester break. In January, the seniors will take a ski trip to Boyne Highlands.

A tentative plan is as follows. On Friday, Jan. 24, the required number of busses will carry the weekend vacationers to a relatively nearby ski resort during the day to provide for more daylight hours for skiing, then

arrive at Boyne late Friday night. There is no limit to the number of seniors who may go!

Saturday will be spent skiing or if one doesn't ski, just passing the time until the evening, when the busses will take the alive, awake, and uninjured to the Ponytail, a teenage nightclub.

After skiing, all available daylight hours on Sunday, Jan. 26, the busses will start back to Dearborn High.

The senior council, who planned the trip, feels that prices are quite low and reasonable. A fee of \$8.69 will be charged for all transportation. Lodging and three meals, two breakfasts and one dinner, will cost approximately \$17.

Ski tickets at the slope near Detroit will be about \$5, \$7.50 per day at Boyne. Ski equipment can be rented in Dearborn for approximately \$10. This is cheaper than renting the equipment at Boyne. The total is approximately \$55.69.

By using money from the Senior Class funds, the senior council hopes to subsidize the cost. However, the exact amount is not known yet.

Extra money is not necessary. It is up to the individual to decide if he needs it. Of course, there will be chaperons.

For those interested: hope for a crisp weekend with lots of snow, and a fun and safe time.

Dance To Toast Big "D" Fortune

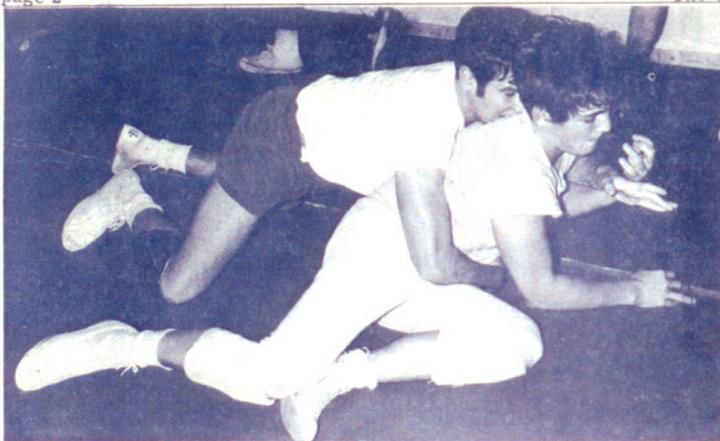
The DHS Redwood Room will host victory dance tonight sponsored by the Cheerleading Squads in honor of the Griddler's and Harrier's undefeated season. Spirit and good sportsmanship helped add the finishing touch to an undefeated season. All DHS students are invited.

As well as being hostesses for the celebration, the cheerleaders will be serving refreshments brought from home.

Tyndall Blue will begin the entertainment at 8:30 p. m. and continue until 11:30 p. m.

Proceeds from the dance will go to the Bonnie Keilman Memorial Fund. The Fund helps to send cheerleaders to a cheerleading camp and supports girls' athletics.

Admission will be \$1, or 75 cents with an activity pass. Identification will be required.



STRUGGLING manfully are from l. to r., Eric Foster and Gary Pufford, juniors, exhibiting the effort the wrestling team is putting in for the coming season.

First Annual Dearborn Debate Tourney To Be Held Tomorrow

Tomorrow Dearborn High will host its first state wide debate tourney. More than 16 schools, from as far away as Kalamazoo Central, have registered to compete.

The tournament will consist of three rounds of debating in both the varsity and novice divisions. Trophies will be awarded to the first, second, and third place teams in

Because accepted practice prohibits the host school from participating each division and to the top speakers. In the varsity division, Dearborn will enter only in the novice division.

The topic for this year is whether or not the United States should establish compulsory service for all citizens.

Junior Red Cross Collects Food; Prepares Baskets for Thanksgiving

Cookies, candy, and canned foods will be part of the Thanksgiving surprise for some 25 Dearborn families as the Junior Red Cross gets its Thanksgiving project underway.

Students are urged to sign up for food contributions for the Thanksgiving baskets in their homerooms.

The typical basket will contain those items along with a turkey purchased by J.R.C. funds. Also enclosed, a cheery "Happy Thanks-

'Little' White Lies

Excuses Vary As Kids Skip Class

If you're planning on skipping school and are trying to think of a new excuse, don't bother. The attendance office has heard them all. Calls come in every day from people who claim they are, "Johnny's mother, and he has a bad cold", but it doesn't take much of an ear to tell a boy's voice from that of a woman's.

Some phony calls apparently do manage to slip by the ever-ready ears of the attendance office secretaries, as Mr. McLennan found two boys leaving for one doctor's appointment and neither one knew the doctor's name.

Students explaining why they didn't make it to school have used such excuses as, "I was picked up while innocently walking to school and then driven miles away before they let me out of the car," or "I went down to the river to think." One girl skipped school to cut a friend's hair, but she couldn't think of her friend's last name.

Lapse of memory is a common ailment among people who skip with friends, whose last names seem to have always "slipped my mind", to keep a friend out of trouble.

Not all excuses the attendance of-

fice receives are phony. Some are quite real. Every day after lunch at least one person slithers into the office red-faced, covered with chocolate milk or pumpkin pie and asks to go home to change his clothes.

The biggest problem with boys seems to be broken zippers and torn pants. Of course, in this case, the victim must go home and change clothes (at least a two-hour project!)

A boy came in last week, a victim of some surely mysterious activities. His entire left pantleg was soaking wet. Without an explanation he left for home to change.

It is surprising how many more students are "taken ill" on days when the nurse isn't in. The attendance office can't tell if you're really sick or not. In most cases they can only take your word for it and send you home. Even when Miss Shirley Mongiat is here, students try various techniques to get sent home. Miss Mongiat recognizes that some students boost their temperature by holding a match under the thermometer or by holding it on the heater.

Some aren't that dishonest though. Students often come down and ask if they can sleep for an hour because they were tired. A few have come down with the plea, "Can I please spend fourth hour down here? We're not doing anything in English this hour and fifth hour I have a big test in government and I could study for it fourth hour."

The winner of the "Best Excuse of the Year" award must go to a girl in Mr. George Arrick's class. Mr. Arrick called the nurse's office asking if the girl could come down--she had a broken fingernail. It took the girl all hour to trim her nail and get back to class. Skippers looking for an excuse, top that!

Students Engage In Mock Battle

Since its origin in India, chess has proved to be one of man's most effective outlets of emotion. It provides intellectual sport and a chance for competition other than physical.

Recently, a group of Dearborn students felt that a club should be started to promote this type of combat. Starting with 20 members, the club has grown with every meeting. Chess club now displays an active membership of about 35 players.

The question of why a football player plays football often goes unanswered by the players. But in chess it's a different story. As senior Dave Kissinger puts it, "With more than a billion different combinations of moves possible I never find a dull game." Or, as most players say, "It's just plain fun!"

Chess is one game where mistakes don't always hurt; sometimes they help you later. The thrill of beating your opponent can only be understood if you try it. It's a game of decision and frustration. Club members add, what better way is there to prepare for the challenging world than to play chess?



andrew wasn't a complex man. he lived in his own little poached-egg world and never hurt anyone. most people would tell you that andy was the best candlemaker in the whole kingdom, and he was happy. andrew was a gentle man, content to be alone with his thoughts, and he worked hard in his little shop.

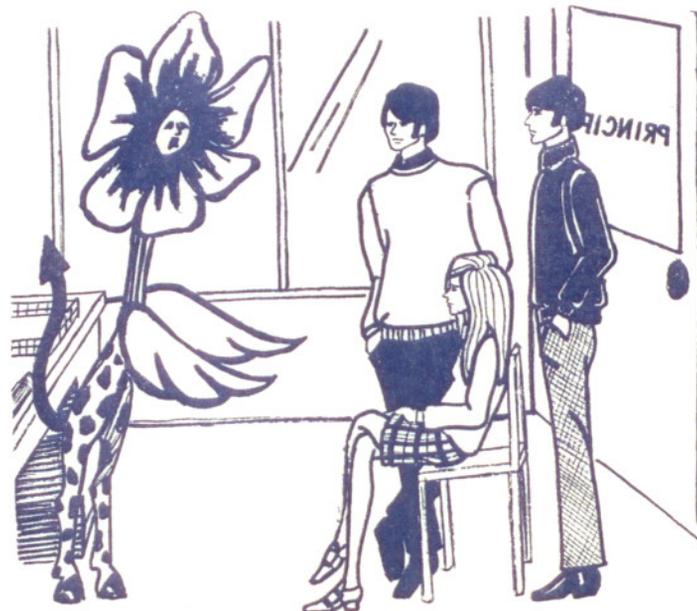
one day a knock at his door disturbed his work. It was a messenger from the government. andrew, simple gentle andy, was being called into the king's army.

he argued with all the power his emancipated spirit could muster; he was not a soldier, only a simple candlemaker. he hated no one and had no reason to kill.

andy lost, and to duty he went, taking his place in line with the other pseudo-soldiers. the fact that he was only an inauspicious speck in a sea of voluminous faces worried andy. he knew he had no desire or skill to wound, maul, terrorize or kill, but neither did the farmer to his right, or the cobbler to his left, the blacksmith in front, or the cut-purse to the rear.

but andy fought. he fought in a war far away from home and had little reason for fighting other than his duty to his country. he fought even though the dirty peasants he was freeing hated his existence and his presence.

simple, gentle, candlemaker andrew died next to the farmer; the cobbler and the blacksmith in the far-away land. . . .



"I HATED TO PULL YOU OUT OF YOUR CLASSES, BUT I HEAR YOU'VE BEEN EXPERIMENTING WITH HALLUCINATORY DRUGS."