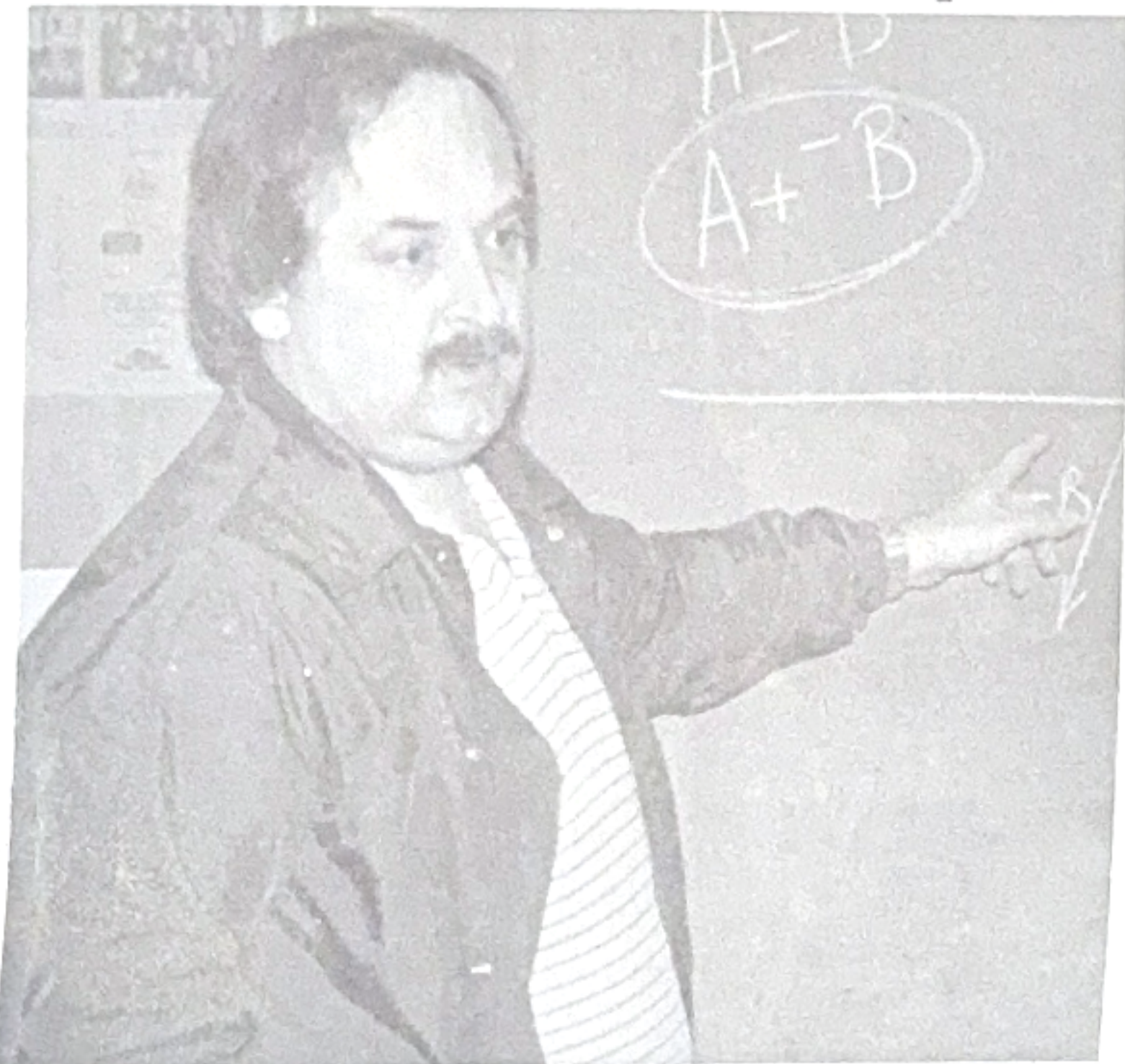


Vera voices his opinion

Math head speaks about quality of student body



Dave Vera teaches his Analytic Geometry class

By Steve McCreery

Math Department head Dave Vera believes the number of quality students at Northeast is falling.

Vera expressed his views at a Departmental Chairman meeting last semester and elaborated in an interview.

"I wouldn't be surprised if the number of students with a grade point average of 1.5 or less was somewhere between 35 and 40 percent," said Vera.

Vera also voiced his concern about students who want to go to college but will end up graduating high school with a GPA of 1.5 or less. State public universities now require a graduating GPA of at least 2.0 for first-year admission.

"Those students are just digging a hole now that they will not be able to get themselves out of later," said Vera. "They have the ability but are just not using it."

Vera blamed this on apathy and backed it up using, as an example, the senior prom situation in which almost no one turned up for its initial meeting.

A majority of the blame can come from the seven-period day which has affected students grades over the past two years, according to Vera.

He explained that, with the extra class each day, students find it difficult to find time to come in after school for help from their teachers, and many teachers (because they leave school minutes after seventh period) cannot devote their time after school to spending with their students.

Vera also placed part of the blame of the declining number of good students on students having jobs.

"I just cannot see how a student with a 30 to 40 hour work week on top of school can spend a sufficient amount of time to com-

plete his or her studies," said Vera.

"And let's face it. Most students work for one reason—to support the car and parties," he added.

"We (as teachers) cannot be responsible for the motivation of students. That motivation must come from the home," said Vera. "That is where the parents come in," he added.

"The (ability of the student) is still there, so the parents must get interested in their kids, and lines of communication must be opened up between them," said Vera.

In many cases, students just do not relate their school activities to their parents and, in many of these cases, the parents just do not care.

Administrative Assistant, Mr. Rick Misenti summed it all up at the meeting: "The bottom line is that some parents and students do not care."

News Digest

DECA prez wins second in districts

The Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA) held its district competition on January 16. District President and NEHI senior Matt Wiseman, won second place in the entrepreneurship event. Wiseman will be attending State competition in Orlando in February.

Jones leaves NEHI

NEHI says goodbye to Mr. John Jones. Jones has retired after teaching Marketing and Distribution for the last twenty years at NEHI. He also was a chapter coordinator for the Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA).

NEHI in SR&R

The Student Right and Responsibilities (SR&R) committee met January 7. Discussion included the second annual project graduation. Their goal is to have fifty percent participation among NEHI seniors. Also discussed was the April 18, Make-up day for hurricane Elena. Also beginning this summer ten students from each of the area high schools will attend a leadership conference. To help prepare for this schools will offer a course in leadership. The committee also took a stand against having senior breakfast in the campus cafeteria and next year's full-day exam scheduled.

Graffiti strikes NEHI



Custodians paint over hill buildings as a result of graffiti.

Fraze elected educator of the year

By Lana Chiariello

Mr. Henry Frazee, a physics, space, technology and engineering teacher at Northeast, was recently nominated by NEHI's faculty and elected one of the ten Pinellas "Educators of the Year." This makes him an eligible candidate for the county's "Teacher of the Year" award.

Fraze is one of five finalists. If Fraze wins, he will represent Pinellas in the state competition.

"Mr. Frazee is a strong teacher and we are proud of his accomplishments as an educator, community leader and member of

our science department. We wish him continued success in his pursuit of the "Teacher of the Year" award," said Mr. Jim Wright, head of Northeast's Science department.

Fraze teaches physics to tenth, eleventh, and twelfth grade students. This is not the profession he chose in the beginning of his career. He attended the University of Florida and Penn State where he obtained a master's degree in chemistry and a bachelor's in physics. Originally, he was studying to be a chemical engineer until he realized that working with people is far more enlightening than working with machines.

"It seemed like the Lord wanted me to be a teacher. Everywhere I turned the door was opened in that direction," said Fraze.

After completing his education, he came back to Northeast to enhance others' education. He started as a Chemistry I and II teacher, but had to switch after eight years because fumes from the labs affected his nasal passages. Thus, he switched to teaching physics and has been doing so for the past seventeen years.

Fraze has a certain way with his students. He uses his own special techniques to teach such

as "first hand experience." One technique he uses in his physics classes is the "little red wagon race." This race is used to promote student enthusiasm in physics and to teach the theories of acceleration and velocity. In his space, technology and engineering classes, he permits his students to launch a rocket.

"If gimmicks work to make students realize, why not use them?" questioned Fraze.

Fraze feels that each student is different, and with each one, you must use a different approach. He also likes to let his students know exactly where they stand in the classroom and in the grade book by giving them a weekly report.

Fraze, it seems, has been at Northeast since the beginning of time. In 1954, NEHI's first year, Fraze attended the school. He played in the first Northeast band, and even helped pick the school colors. Fraze met his future wife in the band, and after he finished college, he came back to marry her and join Northeast's faculty.

"Believe it or not, some of my students have come back to teach. For example, I taught Denise Hart, the registrar here. It has been fun watching NEHI grow throughout the years," Fraze said.

Teen nightlife restricted by few legal alternatives

By Maria Gregg

Everyone is always excited when Friday finally comes and the weekend is here. Now it's time to make plans and the big questions are "What are we going to do?" and "Where are we going to go?" As usual, the answers are pretty much the same. Spend the evening avoiding adults and doing everything they told us not to do.

There is rarely any doubt in the minds of most students about what parents do not want us to do because here comes the lecture. Every weekend on the way out of the door Mom and Dad inform us

that our curfew is midnight and say "Don't be late and I better not find out that you were drinking at some wild party." Now we enter the period of cross-examination and this is a real problem. The dilemma lies in the simple fact that you do not really want to tell your parents the truth about where you are going or you simply just do not know what the night holds for you.

Well, on the average, parents are only capable of coming up with what they do not want us to do instead of coming up with a few alternatives.

Now we ask the question "What is there for the teenage population to do on a typical weekend in St. Pete?"

Teenagers can always hit the local hangout, the McDonalds parking lot, but how long will that last? The reality is until the little men in blue come along reaching out with the long arm of the law. Teenagers can be seen migrating to their cars in some form of hysteria to take the scenic tour of St. Pete.

This is the beginning of the typical weekend pattern for some

of the local teenagers as they hit the streets of St. Pete trying to find something to do.

That something that most teenagers are going to find to do is, on many occasions, unconventional from the parents frame of reference and will probably continue to be the case because there are no alternatives offered to the teenage crowd.

The majority of the high schools do not have weekend dances except on special occasions and the St. Pete City Council has made no nighttime recrea-

tional areas for anyone under the age of 65.

It seems to be a fact that St. Pete is definitely an area geared for the older crowd.

Now, let's be honest. What did the older crowd do when they were teenagers? Finding out the answer to that probably would not be all that difficult, due to the simple fact that they were young once too, and those things they did are always what they tell us not to do.

Teens deserve more than part time responsibility

By Kim Stuart

How many teenagers do you think were asked to stay home this past New Year's Eve? There were quite a few. Parents would like us to "stay away from the crazies on the road." Wait a minute! Small children stay in bed, teens are asked to stay home, and adults go out and party, right? Okay, if teens are home, then who are the "crazies" we are avoiding? It seems that they must be the adults of the world. How ironic.

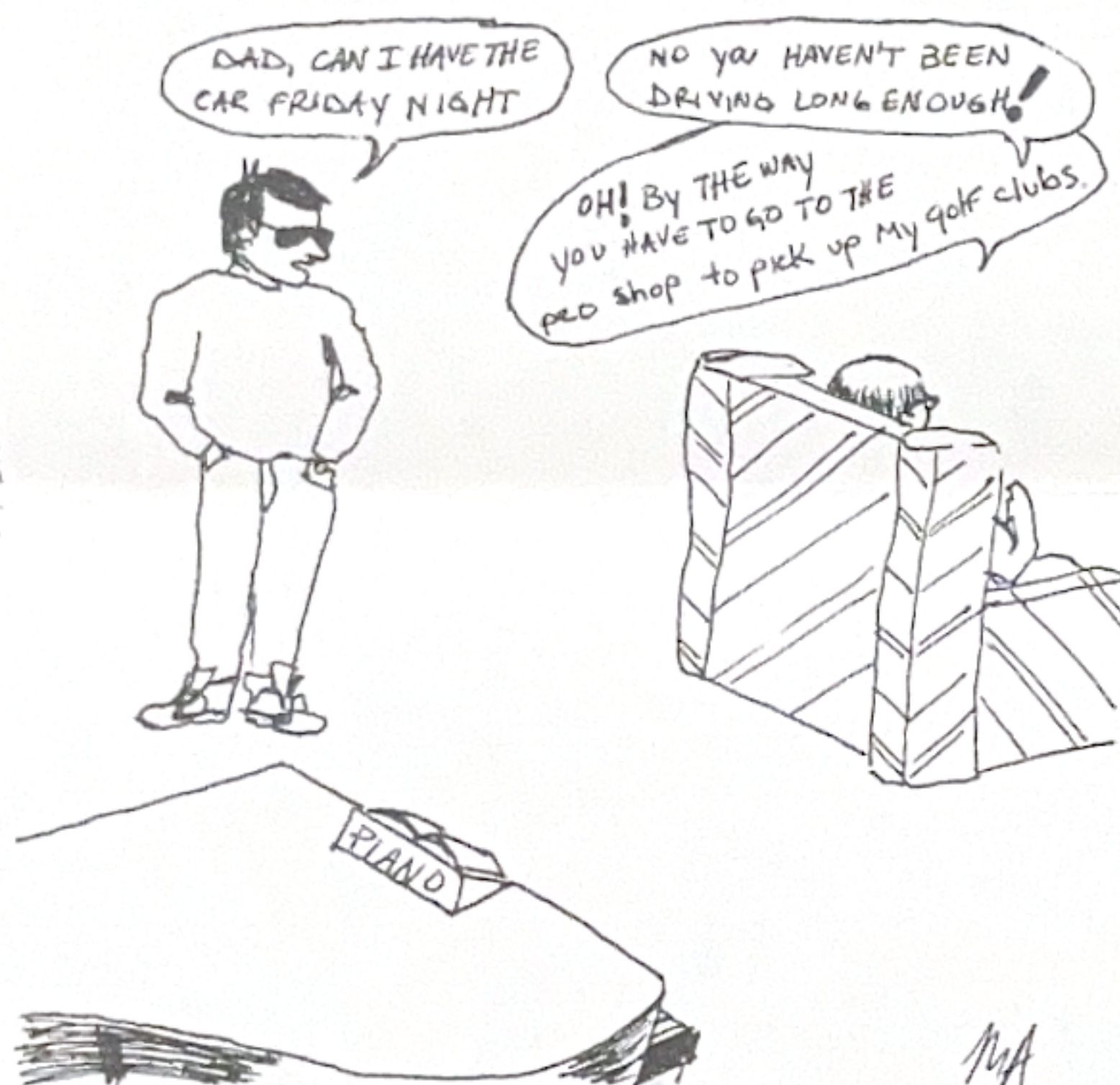
"Adults" are always telling teenagers what and how to do things. They often treat us as though we have no intelligence and responsibility, yet they rarely set a good example for us. It seems that the only time that they feel that we should have responsibility is when they want us to do something for them. I wonder why?

"Billy," remarked his father, "I don't ever want to hear of your smoking at school or anywhere else again, do you hear?" Then Billy's father snuffs out his cigarette and stomps off to bed.

Gary's parents don't want him to drink, but often when they come home late, drunk, Gary must park the car and get them to bed.

Teenagers are much more responsible than adults will accept. For example, what is SADD? Students Against Driving Drunk...STUDENTS!!! And did you look at the deaths in the papers the day after New Year's? Mostly adults.

And recent studies show that in the last



10 years, teen usage of drugs, alcohol, and cigarettes has been steadily declining. However, adult usage is up!

Jesus Christ said, "ye who be without sin cast the first stone." And teens who see good examples follow them. Adults should concentrate on improving themselves before preaching to their kids.

It's the same everywhere. The drinking age has been raised so young people can't legally drink. But if they do, how do they get it? Easy, an adult who doesn't care sells it to them. Who's fault is that then?

Teens show their responsibility in many ways. SADD is one of them, the lowering number of teen pregnancies is another, and so is the lower usage of drugs, alcohol, and cigarettes among teens.

In school, students are members of service clubs that help the community. How many of our parents are members of clubs that help our community?

How many parents participate in food and blood drives, cleaning the Easter Seals building, and visiting nursing homes and hospitals?

Teenagers aren't so bad, but adults don't give us a chance. We deserve an opportunity and it's about time that we began to campaign for it. We've been stuck in a cliché by people who consider themselves more mature. Most of them won't admit that what they tell us not to do, even in moderation, they do in utter excess!

Extra exam time not necessary

By Michelle Bench

I was shocked to find that our exam days had more time added to them. Isn't it enough that we have to go to school seven hours a day, five days a week? If each exam takes only an hour to an hour and a half to complete, then why

do we need two and half hours?

One way that the day could be shortened would be to eliminate unused time. The thirty minutes we were 'allowed' for administrative tasks could have been eliminated, resulting in the

cut of one full hour from each day.

People need to stop worrying about the amount of hours each school day consists of and start worrying about the content of that day. For example, maybe we

could utilize the extra time for more useful purposes instead of last minute cramming for or dreading the next exam. Although there is no clear cut definition for "useful purposes", many students would gladly give

up their extra hour of cramming for an extra hour of sleep.

Let's look on the bright side; at least the extra time will give us more time to worry about whether or not we will pass our next exam.



Denise Brown; grade 9: "I think it has helped save lives because people are realizing how un-cool it is to drive drunk. They don't want to be hit by a drunk driver anymore than someone else wants to be hit by them if they're driving drunk."



Todd Allman; grade 11: "No, because a lot of people are still being killed by drunk drivers, people still don't listen or care."



Larry Barber; grade 9: "Yes, I do think it has made many people think twice before driving drunk. I also think it encourages people not to get drunk."



Julie Ward; grade 9: "Yes, because people are starting to think more about it now, they have these places they can call for a ride home, and I think that is great, and there's more people fighting now."

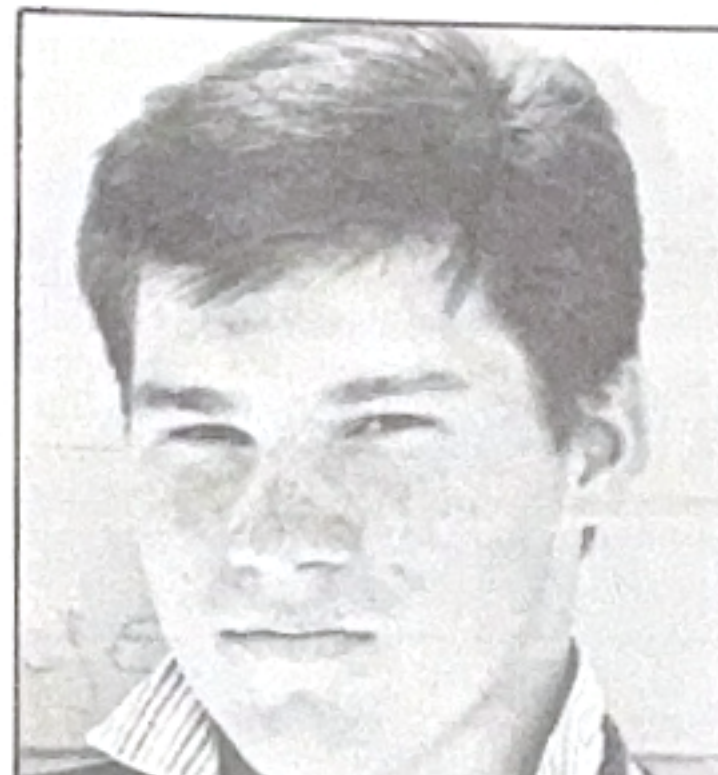
Viking Views

By Lana Chiariello



Question:
Do you feel the publicity against driving drunk has helped save lives?

Photos by Stephanie Chiariello



David Nilsen; grade 10: "I feel if all the publicity and enforcement against drunk driving has just saved one life then it has done its job, but I do believe laws against drunk driving could be more harsh."



Coach Dudley (Faculty): "I think the publicity has helped considerably, however, we have a long way to go! The public knew that the problem has existed for some time, but they had no idea how bad it really is."



Daryl Ellett; grade 11: "Yes, I think the publicity has helped save lives. I was pulled over New Year's Eve night twice one for speeding and one was a road block. I think the police helped a lot over the holidays by patrolling more and enforcing the DWI laws."



Tracy Garland; grade 10: "No, not really. I know a lot of people, in fact all of my friends always drink and drive. The laws make no difference at all. I also knew people who have died in drinking accidents."



Billie Smith; grade 12: "Yes, I feel that the publicity and enforcement against drunk driving has helped, more people that were drinking and driving are beginning to realize that everyone is granted life and because of someone else's carelessness their life should not be taken away."



David Cobb; grade 11: "Yes, I think that all the talk about what happened to other drivers, driving drunk and then getting in accidents has scared enough people, to stop and think about driving after going to a party and getting blasted."



Elanda Cobarris; grade 9: "Not really, because a lot of the drunken drivers get away. The drunk drivers are sometimes let free out of jail and they are put on probation and that's all. Then they drink until then go out and hurt someone else again."

Editorial Policy

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Editorials in the Nor'easter do not represent the opinions of the administration at Northeast High School, but are the opinions of the Nor'easter editorial board.

Students are strongly encouraged to express their views in the Nor'easter by submitting letters to the editor, Steve McCreery, in room 30-1. They should include the signature and grade of the writer. The Nor'easter reserves the right to edit letters for clarity, taste and length.

Nor'easter

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Heather McKay: a credit to her class

By Rebecca Sage

Academic excellence is a goal for some and a reality for class Valedictorian, Heather McKay.

"I believe setting personal goals and striving to achieve them is the key to success," said McKay. She is also president of National Honor Society. "Being president is a challenge but that's one of the things I enjoy most. I think that without a challenge, life gets boring."

McKay's schedule proves her thirst for knowledge. A full load of AP and honors courses keep her on her toes. McKay enjoys writing the most and puts it on the top of her academic list. Her interest proved rewarding when she won the Pride Award for Excellence in Writing last semester. McKay's superiority in Social Studies also won her the Pride Award for this subject.

McKay's academic interests do not stop at the classroom, however. Afterschool, she manages to fit tutoring into her busy day. McKay said "It's rewarding to see someone else benefit from your help."

Such activities as NHS president, Spanish Honor Society president, Rojans, Student Government senator, and such honors as Valedictorian and Hall

of Fame member may sound like a lot for one person to handle but McKay still finds time to have fun.

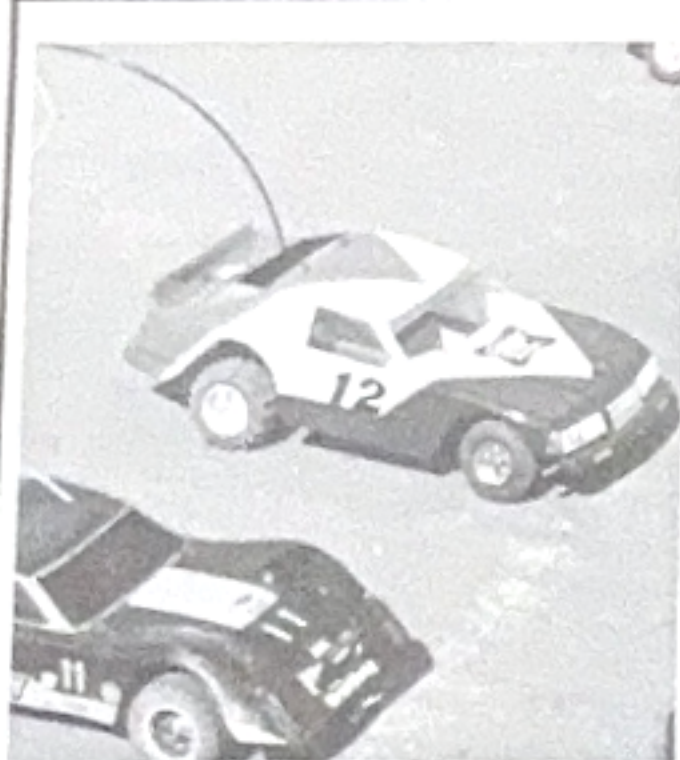
"Spending time with friends is always a priority. I've had a lot of good times this year going out or visiting my boyfriend in Gainesville. It's always great to get away from it all," said McKay.



Heather McKay is the 1986 Valedictorian.

A mini-Daytona

By Kim Stuart



Model racing car RC-10.

One day your father asks you to go to the track with him to watch the races. You throw some cokes into an igloo, grab your sunglasses and binoculars, and jump into the car. When you get to the speedway you look for the crowd. There isn't any. You look for the cars. You see none. You begin to ask if it some kind of joke when you hear a voice call, "Gentlemen! Start your engines!"

Suddenly you hear the buzzing of motors and the flag goes down. You don't see the cars until they round turn number one. The miniature Daytona has begun.

The races you have come to see are the RC-10 model races. RC-10's are remote controlled, battery operated cars that stand six or seven inches off the ground. They can go up to 100 miles per hour, and can be made to look like just about any model car you want.

"Phil's hobby shop" at 6050 Park Blvd. in Pinellas Park, sells these RC-10's separately or in complete kits containing cars, bodies, and hand held remote control radios! Each set costs anywhere from \$200 to \$500. You put the cars together yourself and paint the plastic bodies in colors you prefer.

RC-10 racing got his start in California about six years ago. In the last two years it has become very popular in Florida. It began as a sidewalk sport but now the cars are run mainly on dirt tracks.

When you see people running these little cars around one of the first things you notice is that they are having a lot of fun.

The races are action packed, and literally a miniature Daytona-like occurrence. The cars crash into each other, wreck, flip, and spin-out often. When they flip over, spotters who are standing around the tracks, run out, pick the cars up, and face them the right direction again.

NEHI chorus represented in all-state concert

By Marla Gregg

Sophomore Dan Spiegel was selected to sing at the All-State Concert at Curtis Hixon Hall in Tampa last month.

Velma Rowe, chorale director, said that one to three students were selected from individual schools statewide, with 300 of the best chorale students qualifying.

Spiegel said that a written test on music theory must be taken with a score of at least seventy

percent required before a student can move into the vocal portion.

"You had to go to several practices to learn parts and then sing for several teachers from different schools," Spiegel said, "these teachers recommended you for All-State."

"It was really fun and a good learning experience as far as sight reading," Spiegel said "the director in charge made it exciting and really got us going."

Rowe said that she was pleased that Spiegel showed such a evidence of being such a fine and talented musician.

Also, the Pinellas County Music Festival will be held February 25 at Bayfront Center. Thirty choral students will be chosen to represent Northeast in the festival.

The Choral Department is

preparing their annual Music Review "Front Row Center".

March 1, in the auditorium.

Rowe said that this year's show will include an instrumental combination to accompany the singers and several specialty acts that will be choreographed by Ron Ray, a professional dancer.

"Three performances will be given by the students," Rowe ad-

ded, "there will be a matinee performance and tickets will be sold for two dollars. There will be two night performances open to the public with tickets costing three dollars.

"The entire choral department will participate in "Front Row Center," Rowe said.

"I feel that with so many talented kids involved it will be areally exciting show," said Rowe.

NEHI's band play to continual beats

by Sharon Flaherty

The Northeast bands have been busy this year at many competitions. They all went to the FTOB (Florida Tournament of Bands). For the second year in a row, the Jazz Ensemble placed first while the Wind Ensemble placed second.

The marching band was in the Martin Luther King Day Parade on January, 20. Now, the bands are preparing for their next con-

test, FBA (Florida Bandmasters Association), which will be held on March 14 and 15.

The Winter Guard, with it's 16 members, has started off it's year on the right foot by joining the CFCGC (Central Florida Color Guard Circuit) for the first time. All of their hard work payed off at a field day there and they placed a solid third out of fourteen, behind second place by a mere 3 points. They are now hard at

work preparing for their next competition.

"Although they just started, and still need to learn the rest of the show," Mr. Fulton feels confident, "I think they are going to be competitive."

This year, the band had five people that qualified for the All State Band. Ray Shaheen, Kevin Frye, Jon Skey, Chris Skey, and Julie Joviak.

Fulton said, "I feel that Northeast has better bands than other schools in the county). However, drummajor Kevin Frye said, "I feel we have better individual players here than anywhere else in the county."

The bands are now looking forward to their up and coming events. They have Solo and

Ensemble Contest at Boca Ciega on February 14 and 15. The Winter Concert was rescheduled

to February 19. Performing at the concert will be the Jazz Ensemble, Wind Ensemble, and the Symphonic band. The next appearance for the Marching Band will be at the Festival of States Parade in the Spring.

NEHI from a Swede's view

By Lana Chiariello

Would you spend your one and only senior year in a foreign country? Leaving all of your friends from previous high school years behind. Many would consider that a difficult decision to make, one that Anne-Sofie Johnson chose.

Anne-Sofie Johnson, 17, is a foreign exchange student from Norrkoping, Sweden. She lives with a family in St. Petersburg, the Thompsons. Her parents live in Saudi Arabia with her nine year old sister, because of her father's career. She attended a boarding school near the capital of Sweden for three years and then transferred to America.

Why? Because it is a challenge to attend school and experience life in a foreign country. She applied to be an exchange student, and the Thompsons chose her to live with them.

"It is not any different from being their daughter. I still have to clean the pool, and do the dishes, just like their own kids."

What must it be like to suddenly pick up and go to an unfamiliar country and live with people that you hardly even know. Johnson contrasts the difference of the two countries.

"In Sweden we don't choose certain subjects, we have many subjects. Everybody has to start learning English when they reach ten years of age. My subjects in Sweden were Swedish, English, French, German, History, Religious Knowledge, Psychology, Mathematics, Nature Science, Typewriting, Shorthand, P.E., Society Knowledge, Enterprise, Economic, and Administration. The subjects I am studying for three years is called a line. I am studying the economic line.

When I chose this particular line, I have to take all of the subjects in the line. There are other lines too, such as the technology line, nature science line, and social line. There are more lines, but these are the most popular."

In Sweden, they don't have the same schedule everyday. They interchange from day to day, and the times also vary. Neither do they call their school a high school, but rather a gymnasium. There are lots of things that differ in the two countries. In Sweden, they do not practice school spirit or involvement and they are allowed to go outside the school area during school.

Johnson also comments on the differences in peoples' (youths) appearances.

"Most of the youth in Sweden follow the fashion in hairstyles and clothes. People aren't as spontaneous as here in America, but they can be sometimes, of course. People in my country are



Swedish exchange student - Anne-Sofie Johnson

almost the same everywhere. It is difficult to say the difference."

In St. Petersburg, people enjoy particular things in their spare time, but in general it is the same all over.

"I enjoy shopping, doing a sport, going to movies, going to discos, bike riding and reading. Also, in Sweden we have buses always travelling from one place to another, every fifteen or thirty minutes. So I use to go to the city everyday after school."

Johnson claims there is one thing that baffles her about America. It is strange that everyone has to be taken everywhere by car. In Sweden, she could get to wherever she was going very easily by bus or bicycle.

"I am looking forward to a very exciting year at Northeast. I hope to acquire a lot of knowledge through my experience here."

Academic Bowl strives for excellence

By Kim Lippincott



Mr. Tom Cooper

The Academic Bowl is a competition in which different schools compete against others in an academic sense. This is NEHI's first year competing.

In each competition, questions about math, literature, history, and science are asked. The winner will receive a trophy and/or letter. The final competition is in March and the winner will receive a ticket for Disney's Epcot Center.

There are 14 schools competing in Pinellas County. The qualifications for the academics bowl is the same as being an athlete which includes maintaining a 1.5 grade point average.

Past competitions were held at Osceola and St. Petersburg High. Northeast won this one on January 22.

"It is very exciting and competitive," said Mr. Tom Cooper, head of NEHI's Academic Bowl.

There are ten competitors from Northeast. They are freshman Michelle Reeks; sophomore Vince Paccetta; juniors

Chris Goodpastor, Richard Etchison, Bill Rosenberg; and seniors Thuc Tu, Kim Stuart, Derek Reardon, Heather McKay, and Ted Schwantes.

"I think the Academic team is great. The people are great to work with. I really love the competition," says Reeks.

Cooper, who is an eleventh grade American Literature and comp teacher, said, "I feel that the Academic Bowl is well supported."

By this, Cooper is referring to Bob Hassie who has given each school's team a buzzer system, t-shirts, and quiz books.

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Girl's basketball

Girls varsity basketball hopes for PCC title
Girls j.v. basketball ends season with a losing record

The girls' varsity basketball team has had a winning season with a record of 14-5 and coach Marshall Gotte is "overjoyed." "Coaching this team is like a dream come true. They pull together as a team and win as a team," said coach Gotte.

"The team has high hopes to win the Pinellas County Conference, to do well in the district, and to go on to the state."

Some of the stronger players, according to Gotte, are Angela Thomas, Roberta Browns, Mary Scott, Cheryl Roberts, and Linda Rowe.

"The most important trait a player must have is speed. If you have speed, height is irrelevant," said Gotte.

Gotte expects "nothing but the best" from his team. "My expectations for the team is for each and every player to give 110 percent at all times."

The districts will take place February 20-22.

Coach Linda Rowe's goal for the J.V. team is "to try and give the girls a winning attitude." And, although they have gotten a slow start with a 3-10 record, the team still remains optimistic that they will have a good season.

According to coach Rowe, "The team consists of a lot of strong players. Some of my stronger players are Angela Borzelleri and Michelle McCoy. However, Talisha Howard and Cheryl Ford have contributed a lot to the games."

This is Linda Rowe's first year coaching. "I enjoy coaching the J.V. team. It's a new experience for me. The team and I are learning and working together," said Rowe.

Although this is a first for Rowe, her expectations of the team are high.

"I want the team not only to learn about basketball but to learn about being part of a group, and to pull together as a team."

Captain is Barbara Whitson, co-captain is Michelle McCoy.

Boys JV basketball on the right track

by Mike Adamo

The Northeast's Boys J.V. Basketball team has shot into the season with a four and five record. First year coach Jeff "Jermah" Hall said, "The team has recently gotten rid of 'deadwoods' (non-productive players)."

Although the team has had some unsuccessful games which have led to five defeats, Hall claims the team is shaping up, with the contributions of two special players.

Two players which attribute to this recovery are sophomores Pat Barber, who recently has demoted from the Varsity team to help the J.V. team, and also Adrian Adams, who holds the highest average number of points (20) scored in each game.

"These two players have done superb jobs, and we are really counting on them," said Hall.

The outlook for the team? Well, the team is "looking up."

Sports Digest

Inconsistency and poor attitude plague girl's soccer

NEHI's girls' soccer team, coached by Ed Eloschway was 4-5-1 after 10 games this season.

Last year, the team won the District Eight championship.

The highest scorer is freshman Vicki Woodard who had scored nine goals after ten matches. Kelly Kaneel, the team's goalkeeper, is excellent according to Eloschway. Sophomore Tricia Clamplitt is "the fastest member on the team."

In midfield are juniors Karen Boyd and Kim Kaneel. Playing defense are senior Lori Bushart and sophomore Karla Hartline. In deep sweep are sophomores Paula Tortorice and Anne Pekral. Three good outside fullbacks are sophomores Kim Burgess, junior Lu Xayason, and senior Leslie Szabo.

"The main problems that they need to work on are inconsistency and poor attitude," said Eloschway. The team, is dominated by underclassmen but there is enough experience should lead to better team work."

Leslie Szabo: soccer's most improved player

Senior Leslie Szabo has played on the girls' soccer team for three consecutive years. Currently, she enjoys playing the position of right fullback because "as a defender, you are the last one to stop the op-

ponent before they get to the goal." However, she said that "If I could, I would like to play mid-field again."

Szabo likes being on NEHI's team because she strongly feels "a team spirit playing for the school and you have more time with your friends. We practice every day that we don't have a game," said Szabo.

Last year, Szabo's second season with the team, she received the Most Improved Player award. According to head coach Ed Eloschway, "Leslie is a good, solid player. She plays with her brains and she knows where to be and has a natural instinct to move and block the opponent."

Northeast wrestling continues its winning ways

The Northeast Wrestling team is in the middle of an outstanding season. With a record of 9-1, the Vikings have four matches remaining. Part of this success is due to very strong upper and lower weight classes.

Bill Fitzgerald, who represents the 98-pound weight class, has followed up his successful 10th grade year with an 8-2 record. In the state tournament last year, he placed third and this year at the Pinellas Park Invitational, Fitzgerald placed second.

Heavyweight Marc Orgera, the co-captain of this year's team, is 14-1 with a third place in the Patriot Initiative. He was first in last year's district tournament and second in the Regional tournament.

State ranked Vikings swing into action

By Linda Donelan

Northeast's baseball team will begin its 1986 season on February 24 with fourth year coach, Scott Miller. Expectations for

this year's team are high and Northeast is a major contender for the Pinellas County Conference (PCC) title.

Tryouts were January 6-15 and 22 players were selected, of which six were seniors and nine were juniors. The team practiced through January and their 30-inning fund-raising marathon game will be on February 15.

Miller, when asked about his expectations for the team, said jokingly, "To get everyone to the games on time."

He more seriously added about the 11th state-ranked Vikings, "This year will be the first year I've had guys that haven't had another high school coach. Hopefully, by now, I know how to react to them and they know how to react to each other."

The Vikings, who finished 19-11 last year, have several strong players returning this year. According to Miller, they

are seniors Matt Anderson and Sam Harris and junior Ray Busch. (Anderson and Harris both made second team all-county while Busch made first team all-county last year.)

"Hitting wise the Vikings are pretty well balanced and will be able to hit one through nine," stated Miller. Strong batters include Busch and seniors Danny Bench and Sean Goodrich.

There is a strong sense of team unity rippling through Northeast's team. The team won the winter league tournament,

attended the major league decathlon in December, and are "one big, happy family," according to third base man Busch.

Miller commented, "If we get the leadership, out of the seniors, we need to get, they should be able to solidify the unity of the club."

Shortstop Anderson said, "We are so unified on the field, we word like a well oiled machine."

NEHI has made some changes this year. Goodrich was moved from outfield to first base, Tim Kane will throw a lot of relief,

and Pete Couture will go to second base from catching. Also the knee injury suffered by Harris last year is, according to Harris, "125 percent healed."

Boastful as the team may be about winning the PCC, the competition for the Vikes include Dunedin, Countryside, Boca Ciega, and St. Pete. However, the Vikings are still confident.

Pitcher/outfielder Harris said, "On the field there is team competition which is good because it makes us produce."

Harris also added, "If everyone works hard and pushes each other on the field, we can only be beat if we beat ourselves."

The team will continue to practice hard in hopes for a PCC title. However, says assistant coach Jeff Petzoldt, "Practice doesn't make perfect, a perfect practice makes perfect."

The baseball team hopes to be able to do their own rendition of the superbowl shuffle.

Said the team, "We're not quoting looking for trouble we're just doing the PCC shuffle."

Boys' varsity on top

The NEHI boys varsity basketball team opened up its Pinellas County Conference season with a league leading record of 4-1.

The Vikes have recorded conference wins over Lakewood and Tarpon Springs early in January. In this same time period, though, they dropped to Gibbs their only P.C.C. loss of January 27th. More recently the team has shot down Sarasota and Seminole. "The team is getting better every day," said Coach Dave Redding. "Even our younger players are getting a lot of experience," added Redding.

One of the factors to the teams success is having a set lineup. Since the middle of last month, Redding has been putting the same players on the court to start with and according to Redding "It makes a big difference."

The players that have been getting the starting nod are guards Derrik Talbert and Andre Bradley. Up front, the Vikings have Derrik Golden, Robert Evans, Tracy Marrior, and Kelvin Feaster.

NEHI's record overall is 9-7 but they have a great shot at placing in one of the top three positions in the P.C.C. as they are tied up with Dixie Hollins, Clearwater, and Boca Ciega. Countryside is close behind at 3-1. "I'll really be pleased with them if they finish in the top five," commented Redding.

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Angela Thomas: star of two sports

By Michelle Bench

Angela Thomas, senior member of the softball team and captain of the basketball team, has been playing basketball for eight years. "I used to go out to the park when I was younger and bounce the ball around, then I said hey, this is a lot of fun. Then I tried out for Riviera's team and made it," said Thomas.

Thomas went on to play basketball at Northeast and received the opportunity to play on the varsity basketball team as a freshman. "It was really an unbelievable experience being a

freshman on the varsity team. I benefitted a lot from it," said Thomas.

Thomas is also a member of the Northeast softball team and although she enjoys both sports her heart remains with basketball.

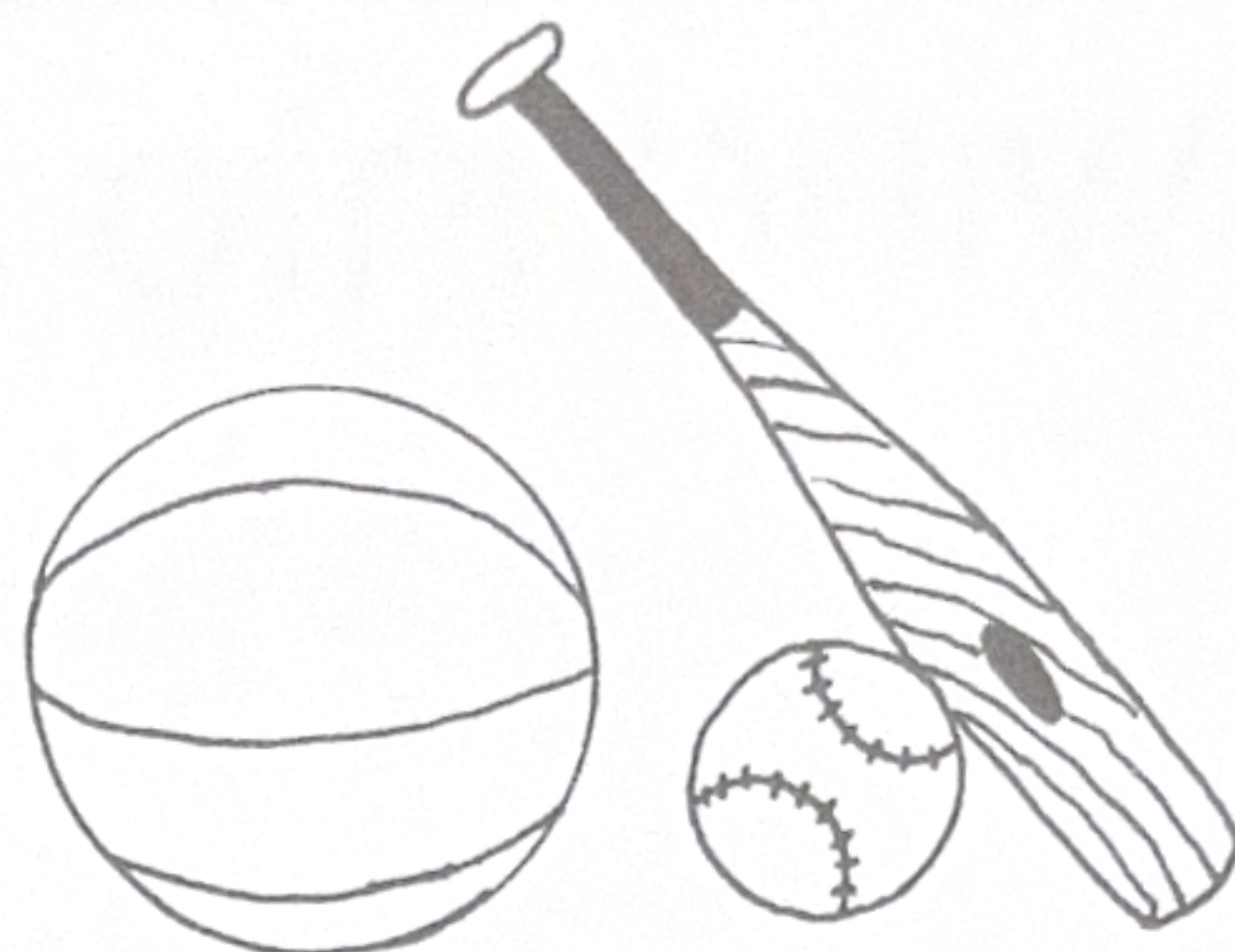
"Basketball has always been my favorite sport, you get a fantastic feeling when your out on the court. It's difficult to describe," says Thomas.

Thomas plans to attend college after graduation possibly in Santa Fe. "I plan on continuing to play basketball in college. Playing basketball has opened a lot of doors for me."

Taking a break from school and it's extracurricular activities means playing more sports. Thomas is basically a sports oriented person.

"Thomas is an excellent player, one of my stronger players. She really gives her all out on the court," said Coach Marshall Gotte.

Thomas said of this year's varsity basketball team, "This years team is superb, they are better than last year's team or the year before. We have high hopes to go to State and I think we will do it."



Profile of fighting Viking Amy Taylor

By Kim Stuart

Amy Taylor is an 18 year old senior, and also one of the driving forces behind the NEHI girls varsity soccer team. Last season the team went all the way to become the district champs.

Taylor's position is center-midfielder, a transition player who plays both offense and defense to "support and challenge," says Taylor. "I'm really a back-up player. When the forwards take the ball down the field, I'm there to challenge to other team so we have a better chance at a goal."

How did Taylor become interested in soccer? "My mom was the girl's soccer coach at a high school when we lived in New York. I was always around it, I guess. I enjoyed going out there when I was little to watch the practices."

Taylor has been playing soccer competitively for ten years, six years in middle school and four years for the Vikings. For several years she has been playing also with the St. Pete Soccer Club.

Taylor's teammates enjoy her presense and many of the newer players look up to her ability and experience.

Taylor states, "Sometimes I do get a little bossy, but they just punch me in the arm and tell me so, and everythings okay."

Taylor is also quick to praise her fellow team members. "The team and team record gets better every year. Our record is 4-6-2. We increase the number of wins every season."

She has made no plans to play soccer in

college. She intends to attend pre-med and that will leave little time for sporting activities.

When asked if soccer interfeared with her schoolwork, Taylor replied, "Actually it gets better because I know I have to budget my time. I know I have to get homework done and I do."

Taylor is in the top five percent of the senior class, was recently named a Rojan player of the week, is president of the Latin club, a member of art club, on the student council, and a member of junior achievement.

A fellow teammate of Taylor said, "Amy's great. She helps you on and off the field. She gets bossy, but that's because she cares about how the sport is played."

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