

SMOKE SIGNAL



Vol. 23 — No. 5

CONRAD HIGH SCHOOL, WILMINGTON, DELAWARE

April 1, 1974

Indifference zips senior prom; Commencement plans unveiled

Plans for the 1974 senior prom have been abandoned due to the extreme indifference expressed by a majority of the senior class. "It's just like everything else around here anymore. Everybody wants to have a prom, but nobody's willing to work for it," commented one senior in-the-know.

And, although thousands of other high schools throughout the nation have replaced the traditional prom with a less expensive celebration, response to alternate suggestions such as clam bakes, and various daytrips has also been negative.

Veteran teachers claim that the class of '74 will probably be the first ever to be graduated from Conrad without a prom.

According to class council members, the collection of senior

dues, which are set at \$3, would have more than secured the financial aspects of the formal affair which had been scheduled for June 4. However, there was simply not enough student participation to merit such an expenditure. So reservations for the Hotel DuPont Gold Ball Room were cancelled.

"We tried, but six people can't possibly make all the arrangements for a prom," remarked one disappointed senior. A sit-down roast beef dinner would have been included in the admission price. Following the meal, seniors and their guests would have danced to the beat of "Society's Child."

As a consolation for the lack of a prom, the senior class council elected unanimously to live this

year's graduation by "streaking for their diplomas" on June 13.

No changes have been made in the traditional itinerary until the actual issuance of diplomas. As each senior's name is called he will be expected to toss his robe skyward and proceed in cap and shoes only to receive his certificate of graduation. Hamilton Gown Co. requested that the gowns be purchased rather than rented this year in anticipation of a higher than average percentage of lost and damaged garments.

According to a council member, guest speakers have not yet been selected. She went on to say, however, that they will be briefed before the ceremony to avoid any embarrassment.

No provisions have been made for "non-streakers" and the graduation committee is asking that any senior unwilling to disrobe not participate in the exercises. The committee is also formulating a "code of behavior" for the ceremony which will be distributed to all seniors in late May. Among other points of order the pamphlet suggests that the graduates refrain from wearing platform soles and high heels for safety's sake.

The ever-profit-seeking junior class will be selling binoculars at the gate.

At press time no comments were available from the administration.

TRIVIA

Obscure talent finally recognized

"Well, here we are, ladies and gentlemen, gathered together for the first annual TRIVIA Awards Show. High school students and teachers have come from all corners of the Henry C. Conrad district to join us here at the gaily decorated Terminal Hotel, so that we might salute the unknown hero — the champion of the minor talent. I'm your announcer, Hedda Hollywood.

"Winners in each category will receive the beautiful TRIVIA award designed by the Art I class — a bronzed Girl Scout cookie. TRIVIA, by the way, stands for The Real Imaginative Very Ingenious Arts.

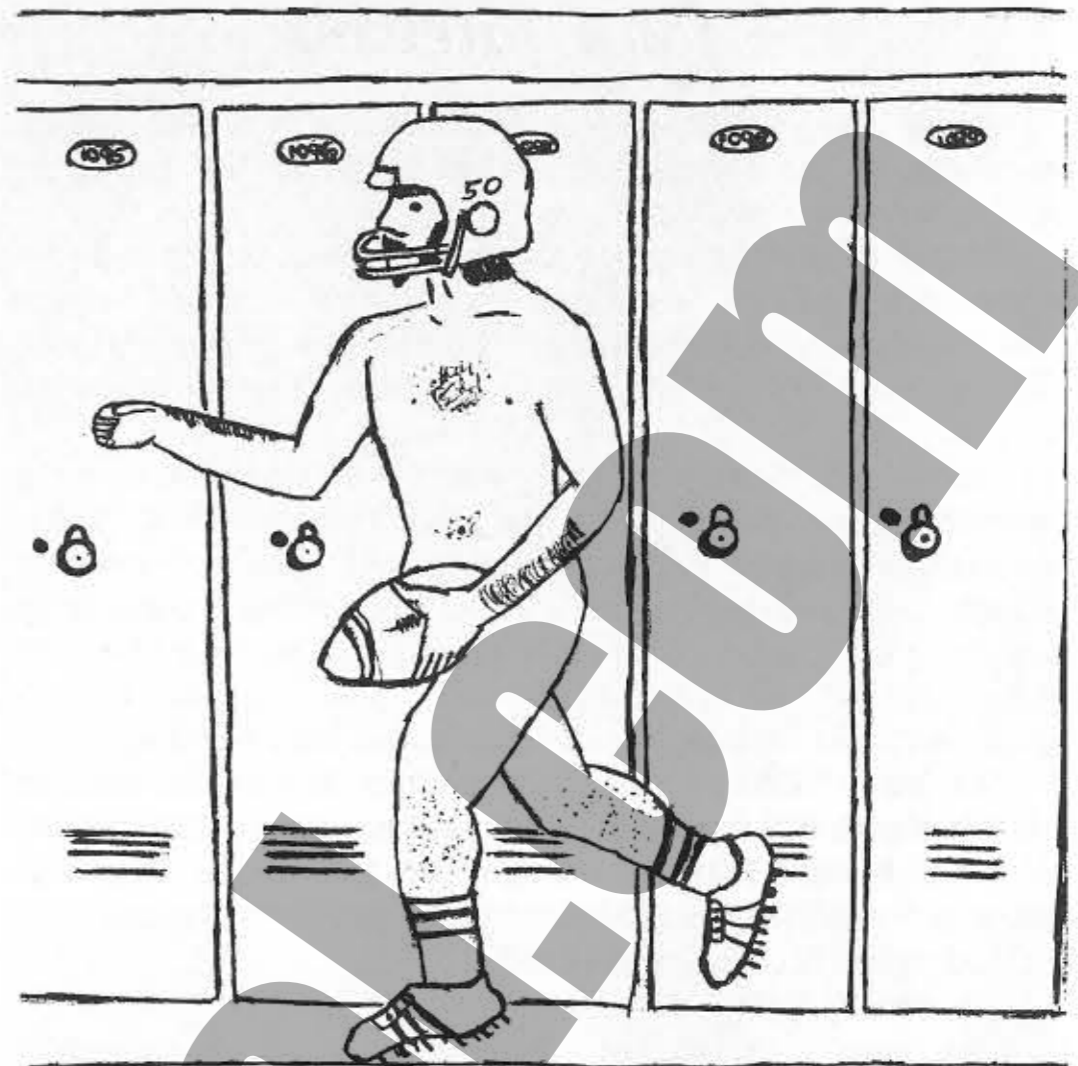
"I see Mr. David Casto giving the band the signal to strike up a song, so if someone will give me the first envelope, we'll get the show on the road.

"The Tessie Temper Tantrum Award for breath holding goes to that windy wonder, senior Jerry Rosen. Tell me Jerry, is it true that you can hold your breath for 91 seconds at a stretch? ... Jerry? ... JERRY?

"Ken Wilson with a 76 second record, how does it feel to be the new breath holding champion?"

"While we're waiting for a progress report on Jerry's condition, we might as well move on to the next category: the Pledge of Allegiance Speed Division. Competitors include Chris Haislett (who says the speech so fast that you can't hear him), Mr. Hilton Cohen, and Homerom 107. And the winner is ... Gail McGinnes with a speed record of 3.4 seconds. Gail, how do you manage to speak so fast but still enunciate so well?"

"Well I just keep practicing every



A football player breezes by en route to the library. (Sketch by Sherry Craft)

Football team at long last chalks up winning 'streak'

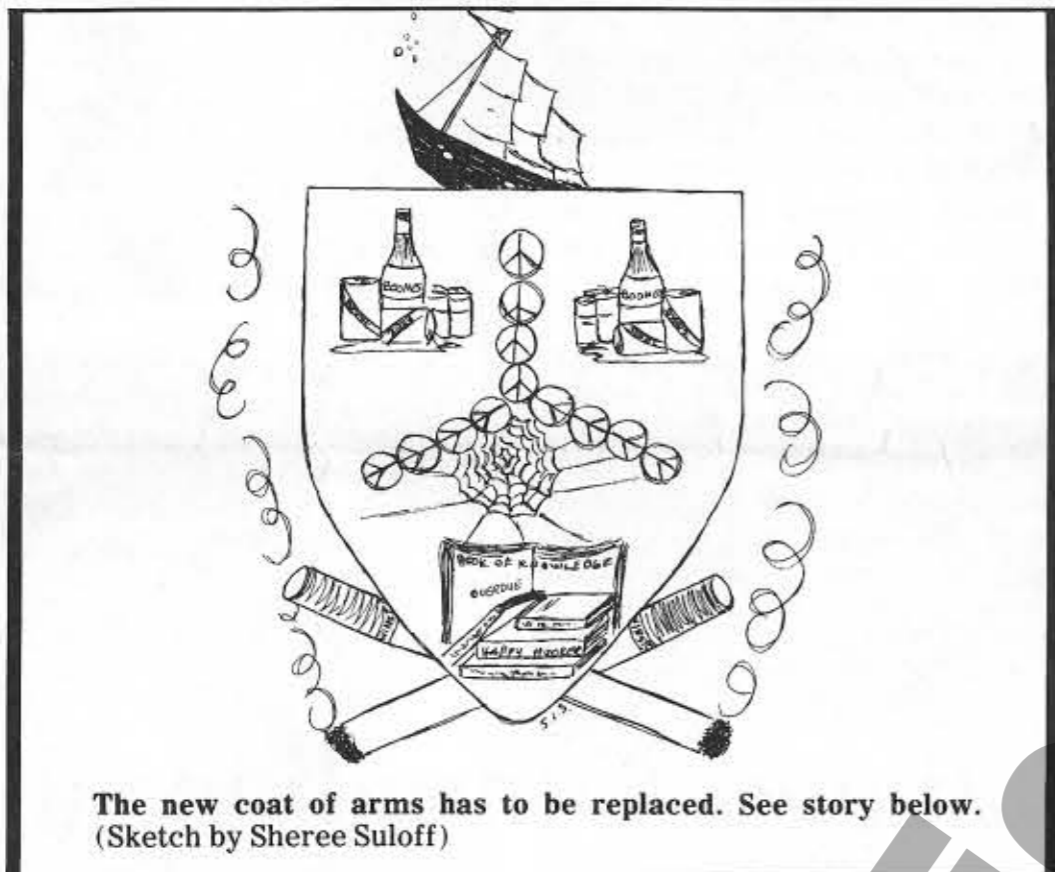
Since Saint Patrick's Day, the pitter-patter of tiny cheeks has echoed throughout the sacred halls of Conrad.

The varsity football team, always anxious to set a trend, kicked off the recent streaking epidemic when they donned helmets and cleats and bounded madly down the main hall and into the library. Their dash was temporarily interrupted by librarian Miriam Swayze as she called from the card catalog without looking up, "You can't come in here without a pass!!"

When the surprise raid had ended, the only cheeks that were red were the librarian's.

A variation on the recent rash of streaking is "full-mooning." Keeping your pants on isn't the name of the game.

The underground has it on good references that some of the gymnasts do their horsing around once they leave the gym. After shining a few moons on a bus trip, the crusading Conradians were apprehended by a teacher. Needless to say, the only moon that shone after that was the one in the sky.



The new coat of arms has to be replaced. See story below. (Sketch by Sheree Suloff)

Ruined rings recalled by Rooked Student Store sells smokes soon

Due to two oversights by the U. R. Rooked Ring Company, all 1975 class rings are being recalled.

The school crest found on the left side of the ring had been replaced by mistake by a more modern coat of arms. (See picture.)

Appalled by the company's error, class sponsor Ted Torrence said, "We can't have anyone think that the Redskins smoke, drink, or never return their library books."

It was also found through trial and error that one out of ten students who lick their class rings will contract botulism. The black paint on the rings was extracted from mushrooms. Presently Wayne "Scoop" Luoma is in the hospital running through a gamut of tests for food (ring?) poisoning. It is suspected however that what really upset his stomach was the purple fruit cocktail that he ate for lunch.

Cigarettes will go on sale, starting today, in the student store as a follow-up to February's addition of candy and gum. At 35 cents per pack for students, the cigarettes are expected to out-sell even the athletic tube socks, previously the top seller. Teachers will be charged the current retail 50 cents per pack.

The store is able to offer students this discount because it is school operated and therefore pays no federal taxes on those sold to students.

Cigarettes will not be sold individually.

"I'll never get on that plane," swore junior David Verchick as he cuddled his teddy bear. "I believe Madame Dark Eyes when she says that the plane will be kidnapped to Australia by a giant kangaroo."

Half of the band agrees with David and refused to go through the "Angle's Rhombus" on Teenie Weenie Airline's Flight 219 to Jamaica. The flight, which was scheduled for May 8, was supposedly destined for destruction.

Luckily for the musicians, a concerned sophomore discovered this bizarre plot before take-off one day in the cafeteria as she was reading her bread pudding (tea leaves were not available).

"It's coming to me now," she said as she gazed under a floating piece of crust. "We will fly along, when SUDDENLY a green polka-dotted kangaroo will grab the plane, tuck the jet in its pouch and bound over to Australia. Over 100 Redskins will be injured when the kangaroo crashes into the Great Barrier Reef."

Ninety of the 170 students slated for the trip are having second doubts about the trip.

"I'm not afraid of anything," boasted junior David Verchick, "at least not as long as I'm not going."

nightuntilgetitright."
"Uh... yeah."

"Now a treat for the audience. The winner of the nose twitching eyebrow-raising contest. LuAnn Firth, will display her talents on this very stage. Are you ready, LuAnn?" (Twitch, twitch)
"Wonderful. Tell me, what are you going to do now?"
"I'm entered in a twitch-off with Senator Sam Ervin and Bugs Bunny, Hedda."

(Intermission)

"123 girls and 1 boy were interviewed and after the results were tabulated, we found that teacher Ed Malin ran away with the 'Handsome Devil' competition. And here comes that cuddly cutie pie of the chemistry classroom now to accept his TRIVIA.

"Mr. Malin, tell your fans, how can you manage to stay so adorable after three sophomore biology classes?"

"It's all in the smile, Hedda."
"Don't you just want to pinch his cheeks, ladies and gentlemen?"

"For bravery above and beyond the call of duty, the academy wishes to present Marsha Stabnau with a TRIVIA in remembrance of the time she single-tonguedly licked 25 envelopes, letters, and return addresses. The brave soul still had enough energy left to trudge out to the mailbox.

"Where did you get the strength, Marsha?"

"Mshflphelg"
"I would never have guessed. I hope they pry your mouth open soon."

"To protect the final cumulative grades of the following, we ask the nominees not to stand when we call their categories.

"The nominees are: the band students who imitate Mr. Casto directing field drills; the senior who does 'Mr. Patterson getting mad'; and the senior who has perfected 'Mr. Strobel's sex lecture.' And the winner is ... 'The sex lecture.' How does it feel to be a winner, 'Miss X'?"

"Hey, Hey, HEY!"
"Sure."

"Well, it's time to adjourn now to the beautiful dining room of the Greyhound Bus Terminal. We hope

(Continued on Page 3)



A surprised Miss April and her bashful escort pose for the photographer. Her only comment was, "I'm so happy I was chosen."

A fond farewell

After this special April Fool's issue we, the senior members of the Smoke Signal bid adieu to the rigors of putting out the paper.

Munchie and the rest of us wish to leave to our capable successors a pile of new make-up pages, a bunch of broken plastic rulers, and a chewed eraser. Hopefully they will provide our poor printer with fewer problems than we managed to make.

Room 219 is strewn with our other mementos: cold cheeseburgers, hot Cokes, and the "picture box." The hysterical laughter of one overworked sponsor, monkey sounds, and the chorus of two of the editors constantly humming the CanCan resounded throughout many a make-up night. One of our faithful, however, preferred to sit in a corner on those long nights and hold hands with her feet.

We leave Sherry Craft sadly behind. It was fun making mistakes with her during her first year as sponsor. The junior class will have to take out enough time to keep her laughing. We also send a long distance thank you to the man who started us off, Mr. Raymond Cashel.

Oh well, it's time to pack up the old typewriter and go off into the sunset (or rather darkness — make-up night just ended and it's 10:30 p.m.!).

Good Luck!

Players need students' support

Is winning everything in sports? If your answer is 'no' then answer this. Why do the wrestling matches draw screaming crowds, but basketball games, only a few die-hard fans?

The American culture dictates that winning isn't everything, but most Americans think otherwise.

Many people are heard complaining about losing teams, but if they bothered to come out and cheer they might just give the team the psychological support it so desperately needs.

Imagine the plight of the players on the day of the game, when they are both physically and mentally prepared to win. They come out of the dressing room only to find a few spectators, many of whom are more than likely just trying to get out of the house.

But let that team enjoy a successful season and the throngs will crowd in and cheer for their "great" team. To put it bluntly, fans are fickle.

In every level of sports competition a winner draws more and more fans, while a loser is the object of jokes, and receives a substantial lack of support. Winning really isn't everything, so why not support a team regardless of its record?

Change for exchange program

Student exchanges have traditionally been a student activity characteristic of high school life. The two-day program, whereby school districts arrange visitation rights for qualified and interested participants, has many times proven its effectiveness in relating to our students and similarities and differences of neighboring districts, namely the composition of the school day itself.

However successful in the past, the results of the small taste of student exchange programs that Conradians have indulged in this year has been quite the opposite.

Detention, suspension, and the necessity to be sent "home" have become brands concerning this project which has always burst with potential advantages.

To help renovate and restore faith on the student exchange, sponsors of the program should endeavor to express to exchange students the importance of discipline, responsibility, and good conduct. Adequate preparation and long-term planning would prove enormously beneficial. Both parties involved could acquire a better understanding of the purpose of the project, and would become aware of their duties and expectations. These improvements of basic exchange construction will give the program a much better futuristic foundation and will strengthen the now slim possibility of more exchanges.

The student exchange could once again be an enjoyable experience and rare learning process. The students of Conrad can, if they're willing to work, have the opportunity to meet people in other schools in their natural surroundings and to represent a deeply respected school in Delaware.

Happy April Fool's Day!

The staff of the Smoke Signal wishes to remind students that all material on the front page is printed in jest. We also extend our appreciation to the teachers and students mentioned in the articles for their cooperation in the preparation of this special issue.

Red tape becomes vicious circle

Dear Sir,

You must forgive me for approaching the situation in such an impersonal manner, but under the circumstances I couldn't think of any other way. First I must relate my story:

It was the day after my trigonometry test and I was excused from class because I'd done so well on my test. My instructor, I won't mention his name, told me I could study independently for the period either in the library or study hall. Knowing the welcome I would receive in the library, I decided it would be in my best interest to reside in study hall.

I walked post-haste to study, found a seat and proceeded to busy myself. The study hall teacher approached and asked my name and where I had come from.

"Your name is not on my roster so I cannot account for your presence. So keep yourself out of trouble; go where you belong."

Rejected and disillusioned, I packed up and proceeded to the library. I deeply regret it. The squeak of the door to knowledge perked the flaming head of the librarian who wasted no time in questioning me as to where I had come from, why I had no pass, and how I expected to get in without one.

"I'm sorry, the period has started and I show no favoritism. Go to the

office and request a pass to enter the library."

After predicted results, I headed for the office. I was always friendly with the principal, I wasn't a trouble-maker, I thought for sure he would understand and give me my desperately needed permission to "Fort Knox".

"He's not in now," said the secretary, "but the assistant principal is free and I'm sure he'll see you."

"Thank you."

I stepped inside his office door and before I could utter a syllable:

"Aren't you supposed to be in class?" he groaned in a deep ragged tone of voice.

"Yes, sir, but I didn't go because."

"You didn't go? Is this your first offense?"

"Sir?"

"I'll let things ride this time, but I can't have kids roaming the halls all day. If I see you in the halls again it will mean instant suspension."

He left the room. My head was still spinning. Desperately I left the helpful office personnel and proceeded to hide myself until the period brought itself to a close. I wish I'd flunked that test. It would have been worth it.

I strolled down the second floor hall in search of an empty classroom where possibly I could take refuge for twenty minutes or so. I

heard footsteps in the adjoining hall so I started running. There seemed to be no place left to go except to my car in the parking lot. I knew it was illegal, but what could I do?

I was running towards my last hope when I tripped over a speed trap and fell flat on my face. I was so shaken that I hardly noticed the pain in the arm I had broken as a result of the mishap. I made it to my car and, disgusted and lost and unwanted, I returned home.

I haven't appeared in person because I am now serving a 3-day suspension for leaving school property during hours. I only wanted to inform you that I am a victim of a "slight" flaw in the system. I don't feel I have the need to explain any more than I already have.

I appreciate the time of which ever member of the office staff is reading my correspondence. I only hope to call attention to an incident that has overseen the system, and to prevent my colleagues from falling into the same hole.

Thank you for your time, though late received.

Regretfully,
Iwas Innocent

P.S. A check amounting to the sum of \$26.53 is enclosed to pay the bill I've been sent for school materials I left, and therefore lost, in the parking lot.

Letters to the editor

Injustice fatigues Conradians

Dear loyal (?) Conradians:

For three years I've been the stupidest fool on two feet. I've been a follower for three years; I've done everything everybody said, wore what everyone did, and only associated with the "in" crowd. All I can say is "I'm sorry." I'm sorry for ruining my high school years.

The old saying "Be a leader" doesn't apply when you're talking about a bunch of scared, silly babies who think they're cool if they can cut everyone down who doesn't necessarily look good in platforms, or who doesn't use four letter words.

This letter is not a put down of Conrad... just all the jerks who try to boss everyone down.

I just hope the sophomore and junior class of this year realize this before they make the mistake the class of '74 did.

An individualistic 12th grader

Dear Editor:

It was second period on Friday and everyone seemed anxious to get home. The noise started getting louder and louder. The librarian screamed for everyone to "shut up" but although the noise went down, there was still mumbling.

There I was, sitting on one of those cushioned seats surrounded by about three or four of my friends, just minding my own business, when I dropped my pen. I bent down to pick it up, and as I did so the librarian accused me of talking and then attacked me with words for that reason. Now I ask you, what can you say to your pen while picking it up? "Nice weather we're having, isn't it?" "Did you go see

the tennis match yesterday?" You must be weird if you talk to your pen, although I know some "weirdos" who do it.

Getting back to the story, the librarian kicked me out and told me not to come into the library again. After this incident, I wouldn't be surprised if you found me talking to my Bic Fine Point.

Steve Bair

Dear Editor:

Recently Conrad has been plagued with suspensions. Some students got suspended because they were breaking the rules, but others almost got suspended just because they happened to come to school the day there was only one administrator.

Unfortunately, the running of the school was put on the shoulders of this one administrator. Many situations indicated the administrator couldn't handle the responsibilities and, therefore, went berserk suspending approximately 30 students in about four hours.

What can be done about this occurrence that may happen again? How come this never happened before when there was only one administrator in the school building? Can it be that this administrator isn't qualified for this position? Well, who am I to say? A nearly-suspended senior

Dear Editor:

The athletic department at Conrad is a pit of quicksand with all the Conrad athletes in it. It is disgusting.

So far this year, Conrad has lost some of its top notch coaching material, one of which was Mr. Ed Baker, probably the best wrestling coach in the state. He left his job because of a salary dispute.

My question now is to the board who unabashedly insist that Conrad sports are not diminishing into a mere blob of nothing. Conrad next year will lose two soccer coaches for the same identical reasons as Baker was lost. Something must be done, but what? This is another point in which the referendum would have helped. The lack of funds is evident, so the taxes will have to be raised. Conrad already has very low taxes.

This is where it lies on the shoulder of the parents of the District. It will be one or the other, sports or money, but any way you look at it, it is partly our decision.

A worried sophomore

SMOKE SIGNAL

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Calendar countdown continuing

As old man winter is packing his equipment away for another year, Redskins are just beginning to unpack their trunks of tricks. Preliminary observations show Redskins to be sharper than ever. Touches of originality applied to age-old foul-play are working. You're well insured, but . . .

Entering a classroom and seeing a substitute always makes one feel elated and immediately starts the brain to thinking of a way to skip class. Junior Scott Martin pondered the situation for only a few minutes before he found the key to his freedom.

"I'm a hall monitor," Scott told an unknowing substitute. Then he substantiated his claim by flashing

a Blue Cross card in his face before he ran out the door.

It takes two to jitterbug

Mrs. Harry Davies gave birth to a baby boy, March 8. Principal Earl Smith, when hearing of this, put an announcement over the P.A. which read, "Congratulations to Mr. Davies, having a healthy baby boy — a job well done!" No involvement of his wife was mentioned.

Two years too late

Senior Debbie Barbour was seen wrestling in the main hall with boyfriend Lou Geanopolus when Mr. Louis Ott stumbled across the match. His only comment was, "Miss Barbour, if you wanted to become a wrestler you should have begun as a sophomore instead of waiting so long."

A penny here, a penny there

After reading an article in the Evening Journal about the Marshallton area's "slum status," Miss Mildred Morrison said she would take the article down to the tax office and ask that her taxes be lowered to that of a slum district.

Did you look in the card catalog?

Miss Miriam Swayze was so curious about a name on a pass, Derek Sanderson, that she called the name several times, but no one answered. If she is still looking, then it's evident that the librarian isn't a hockey fan. Surely if she were, she would realize that the colorful, well-liked Sanderson makes his home on the ice rink of the Boston Bruins' hockey team.

Phantom Frosty

After Mr. Alvin Lewis couldn't attract Mr. Hugh Patterson with a badly placed snowball, some physics students took a break from their comet plotting to attempt a bombardment of the teacher. After a snowball was carefully placed on the top of an ajar door, the seniors wouldn't let anyone in or out until Mr. Patterson had crossed the doorway. Unfortunately, amid all the giggles, the pranksters failed to notice a meandering student who opened the door for Mr. Patterson. As a result the students were deprived the laugh, while the teacher only managed to get snowflakes on his loafers.

The Exorcist

Evil captures horrified audience

by Karen Ventura

Sitting comfortably in the velvet-cushioned seat of the Stage Door Cinema in Philadelphia with the latest copy of "National Lampoon" open across my lap, I waited for the 1:45 show of "The Exorcist" to begin. While deciding whether or not to get up and leave before it was too late, the lights grew dim and the curtain opened. All I could do at that time was take a deep breath, clutch the armrests of my seat and wait for the inevitable.

The first scene of the film opened in Northern Iraq where an elderly priest witnessed the finding of an old relic amulet of the head of the demon Pazuzu. Recognizing his once acquainted enemy, he faced the fact that he would soon encounter the nefarious demon.

After a time I realized there was nothing horribly sickening or even scary about the first half hour or so of the film. I sat patiently anticipating some sudden ugliness; but instead the scene turned to a tranquil city in Washington, D.C., where sweet little Regan MacNeil resided with her mother, Chris, an actress, who existed practically for the sole purpose of raising the twelve-year-old girl.

In seeing the angelic face of the child, I could not believe she could ever become possessed and perform the acts of perversion depicted in the book.

My doubts were soon proven wrong. The first implication of the presence of a demon were the rhythmic rat-likeappings on the roof. Chris ordered Karl, a servant, to set

Theater roles challenging says Conradian teacher

by John Filipkowski

"I like to dig into the character, explore the character," commented Mrs. Eleanor Dill when asked why she became involved in acting.

"There's a challenge in understanding the needs and motivations of people about whom the dramatist speaks."

Recently the senior English teacher participated in the play, "Arsenic and Old Lace," in which two sweet little old ladies who, feeling for the plight of elderly gentlemen without families, poison them and bury them in their cellar. Obviously, the ladies need "help," as does their brother who believes he is Teddy Roosevelt. Mrs. Dill played the leading role, sister Martha, a naive and sweet, but nutty old lady.

The play was performed during a two week period, March 12, 15, and 16 the first week, with March 19, 21, 22, and 23 the closing dates for the show. Breck's Mill was the location of the performance.

Besides "Arsenic and Old Lace," Mrs. Dill has been involved in other numerous plays. She held leading roles in: "Medea"; "The Lion in Winter," and "Angel Street."

In "The Lion in Winter," Mrs. Dill played the part of a queen, wife of Henry II, while in "Angel Street" she played the role of a woman, slowly driven to the brink of insanity by a husband seeking her wealth.

Mrs. Dill held the supporting role in several plays. Some of these plays were: "Butterflies Are Free," "Anniversary Waltz," "The Importance of Being Earnest," and "The Night of January Sixteenth."

In "Butterflies Are Free," she played the witty mother of a blind

boy, while in "Anniversary Waltz," she acted as a sentimental and slightly inebriate gay divorcee.

Mrs. Dill likes the theater for several reasons. First, it gives her a chance to study and develop a character; it's a challenge. Second, she finds people in community theaters very interesting. Finally, she finds much enjoyment in it.

Belonging to several community theaters including the Wilmington Drama League, Chapel Street Players, and Arena Stages, Mrs. Dill usually has rehearsals three nights a week.



Mrs. Eleanor Dill pauses to correct a term paper. (Photo by Shirley Barry)

What starts as dull, dreary day becomes disastrous for George

by Art Lindholm

George Washington Jr. awakened on another dull day to go to school. He got dressed and read the constitution as the family did every morning. George said to himself that it was so nice to be guaranteed the freedom of speech and the right to peaceably assemble.

George made-off to school quickly; neither sleet, nor snow, nor roadblocks of trains were to stop George from reaching his destination. George knew being late for school was a dreadful offense.

When George arrived he quickly went to his locker and got his books. While in homeroom he became quiet as the words of wisdom were spoken from the unseen god. The daily homeroom ritual was over after the uttering of "with liberty and justice for all." George began to wonder.

He set off for his first class of the day. Sitting in his seat listening to a lecture his mind wandered off to the past. He remembered at the beginning of the year how the class was told this was not to be a lecture class. The bell rang and the teacher kept lecturing.

George, then trudged up the stairs, all the way across the building, and then up the second floor. He feared being late, for he

didn't want to see the slavemaster.

His next class was upstairs. George's friends were in this class and he hadn't seen them since Friday. As George walked in, Abe Lincoln and Tom Jefferson began to converse with him. The teacher soon became infuriated; the bell had rung and they didn't stop immediately and run-jump into their seats.

"You can talk to them in study hall or at lunch," the teacher screamed.

George thought about this, but didn't say anything.

George then went to first lunch. Abe had second and Tom third; so they won't get together then. Besides, George had to fight to get in line before the food ran out.

After this "commotion," George went to study hall, put on his ball and chain and registered, before sitting down. He had been told to say only his name, class rank, and grade and to remain silent. But George had a test the following period and needed to ask a friend a question about it. His friend heard George's whisper too late. He looked up and saw that George had received the usual punishment, — shot — with no questions asked.



Senior Irene Janvier beams in anticipation when thinking of European trip. See page 6.

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TRIVIAS go out

(Continued from Page 1)

you've enjoyed this year's ceremony, and we hope to see you next year when the second annual TRIVIA Awards ceremony will be held on the corner of Seventh and Tatnall at 11:30 p.m. (Just knock once, two times and swing a dead chicken over your head if you want in.)

traps to rid them of their rodent friends, but to no avail.

Each new scene focused on Regan's bedroom. Her bed began to shake at night and her furniture was mysteriously out of place by morning. The room took on a morbid, stenchy smell and a chilling atmosphere.

During each of the climactic scenes, I felt myself sink lower and lower into my seat peering out at the screen between my fingers at the larger than life ugliness that confronted me.

At this point in the film, Chris, on the verge of a nervous breakdown went to seek a local priest for help, hoping that exorcism as a last resort, would free her child from the clutch of the mocking demon. Having problems with his faith, Father Karras was a weak-willed victim to the being in Regan's bed. He tried to break down Karras reminding him of his mother's death and how he could have prevented it.

Following scenes showed hardly recognizable Regan, tied to a padded bed with a gashed face and slime oozing from her mouth. Green vomit covered her body and her foul smell gagged Karras, who continued to talk to the being, getting practically nowhere despite his desperate efforts to question the demon.

Only when the knowledgeable priest from Iraq was called to help, could the demon be exorcised. Then, the two priests began a long, grueling process of chanting to drive the evil spirit from Regan, who continued to shout obscenities

and vomit in their faces. After the exorcism, there was some joy and some grief, and Regan could recall nothing of her horrid confrontation with the demon, Pazuzu.

A little shaky, yet quite relieved, I regained my composure and began to make my way to the exit as I recalled what I had read about the film in its making. The set of the MacNeil home mysteriously burned down on a Sunday morning around two o'clock when no one was near the area. The actor playing the role of Chris's director, who was murdered in the movie, died a few weeks after the filming was completed.

Whether these mishaps were at all connected with demons is unknown, but seeing this film may change one's views and beliefs in the supernatural and its strange capability to arouse the bit of gullibility in everybody.



Rivals meet on the track with Clark the victor

It was a sunny Wednesday afternoon. The tension had been mounting for hours. It was billed as the "Race of the Century," between a young Conrad track star, and an "over the hill," history teacher and-track coach.

Fifteen minutes prior to "post time" a solitary figure, senior Paul Clark, appeared and confidently strided onto the track to begin a warmup lap. After completing his warmups he stated that although the fifty yard dash was not his race he consented.

Some time later his esteemed opponent, Mr. Teddy Torrence, arrived. It was he who had made the challenge. Repeatedly citing his sprinting prowess in days of old, Clark had accepted in the style of Billie Jean King, to put the hustler in his place.

Mr. Torrence was accompanied by such personalities as Dr. Gene Ziegler, starter Les Maurer, and oddsmaker, Mr. James "The God-

father" Kaut. These in turn were followed by tens of Conradians, anxious for a Clark victory, to put the Bobby-Riggs-like Torrence in his place. Minutes before the race, the more flamboyant opponent suggested to double the wager, the price of defeat was agreed upon and the stage was set.

The excitement reached its peak as the two runners took to the starting blocks. Coach Maurer raised the pistol and sent the men streaking to their destination some fifty yards down the track. In an instant the race was over and Paul emerged victorious by a full stride and a half over the aging Torrence.

Immediately following the event, Coach Torrence vowed that they would meet again saying, "This was just a preliminary, there will be another race, with even more money on it." Paul's only comment was, "He's still a hot dog."

We are now all wondering, will history repeat itself, or shall the "meek inherit the earth"?



Senior Paul Clark passes finish line ahead of spring track coach Ted Torrence at a spine-tingling race March 20. (Photo by Dave Pugh)

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Spring sports seek victory, Prospects look good for season

Spring track coaches Mr. Teddy Torrence and Mr. James Smith, are preparing the 1973-74 spring track team for up-coming meets. Approximately twenty-seven athletes are out for the team and are looking towards a promising season.

Seniors Paul Clark, sixty-yard hurdles champion of the State Winter Track meet held at the University of Delaware, and Paul Fiore show great potential for success this year. Junior Bob Smulsky, a transfer student from Sallies, is also proving to be an access to the team.

Senior Rick Shaw, and juniors John Cummings and Jimmy Manlove are leading long distance runners. Senior James Blunt will throw the shot-put again this year along with junior Pete Skrobot, also throwing the discus. Junior Rob Raker has been added to the discus team this year. Junior Jack Reine-man is the fastest on the half-mile.

The first meet is expected either the first or second week of April. The '74 schedule is still tentative.

Enthusiasm is building as the Conrad tennis team prepares for a championship season.

This year, under new coach Mr. Arthur Craig, promises to have a substantial improvement over its dismal showing, 2-9, last year. Coach Craig has said, "This is the most enthusiastic team I have ever coached."

Wayne Hanna, Craig Maurer, Jim Brown, and Wayne Manning are the returning lettermen who head the team along with other returning seniors Jim Stewart, Alan George,

Ken Wilson, and Chris Baker. Second year juniors are Bryan Lenker and Wayne Luoma. Other promising juniors are Kevin Giles and John Lane.

The Redskin Racketeers are slated to start their drive to victory April 8, against the Yellowjackets of Newark, on their home courts.

Five returning letterwomen promise to make this year's tennis season exciting. According to Coach Stranahan, the team lost many of last year's matches 2-3. This year the team plans to turn those scores around and win 3-2. Mrs. Stranahan credits last year's losses to a lack of experience, not ability. She has great enthusiasm and confidence in this year's team and hopes to lead them into many successful victories.

The 25 players are divided into three singles and two doubles teams with extra members playing in exhibition games.

This year's season starts on April 1, when the girls meet Sanford at Conrad for a scrimmage. The first official conference game will be April 2 with DeLaWarr on the Redskin courts. Conrad will be participating in 12 matches this season and one non-conference game with Tattall. At the close of the intramural matches in mid May, the girls, if successful, will be in the State Tournament beginning Saturday, May 18, 1974.

The first team consists of Lisa Alabrudzinski, Anthoula Anagnostou, Karen Faux, Heather Haden, Debbie McKeever, and Joan Powell.

Second team members are Ann Dryden, Lisa Haden, Vicki Knauer,

Stephanie Lokey, Joyce Palecaro, Barb Roberts, Mary Ellen Schaub, Sheila Soukiassian, Janice Steeley, Cathy Tartaglio, and Karen Thorn.

New members are Deb Bowers, Mary Jane Morrison, Maribeth Riofski, Sue Ruther, Sue Schoenberg, Lynn Smith, Tish Womer, and Candy Godfrey.

The team has a daily two hours of practice routines that alternates between the Conrad and the Banning Park Courts.

The 1974 Varsity Baseball team is shooting for its usual berth in the tournament. Seven returning lettermen including Barry Kelly, a veteran pitcher of two years, round out a promising team.

Coach Harry Davies said, "The guys are really working hard for a good year. This is the year to go all the way to the states."

Other returning lettermen are Mike Morrison, centerfield and outfield; Glenn Taylor, third base and pitcher; Barry Kelly, second base and pitcher; David Hayes, second base, third base, and pitcher; Joe Swarter, first base; Ron Jezyk, catcher; Paul Jones, catcher.

Mr. Wayne Von Stetten is once again coaching the junior varsity team.



Sophomore Jeff Tucker takes out time for a nap between swings. (Photo by Tom Jackson)

Volleyball tournament completed, Streakers capture number one

The Streakers, Conrad's lone senior entry in the intramural volleyball championships, captured first place and the title Thursday, March 21, by defeating the sophomore champs 11-6, and 7-4.

The twelfth grade squad, consisting of seniors Mike Morrison, Joe Sarnecky, Mike Ciuffitelli, Rick Shaw, Bill Greegs, and Billy Jones, won its fame by defeating all the junior representatives, including the eleventh year champs, as well as the tenth year adversary.

The tournament, refereed by gym teachers Paul Eyanson and Toby Craig, was planned as one loss elimination. This means that losing one set removed the team from the competition.

The preliminary rounds consisted of three game sets. The team winning two of the three games advanced to the semi-final round, while the loser played consolation games.

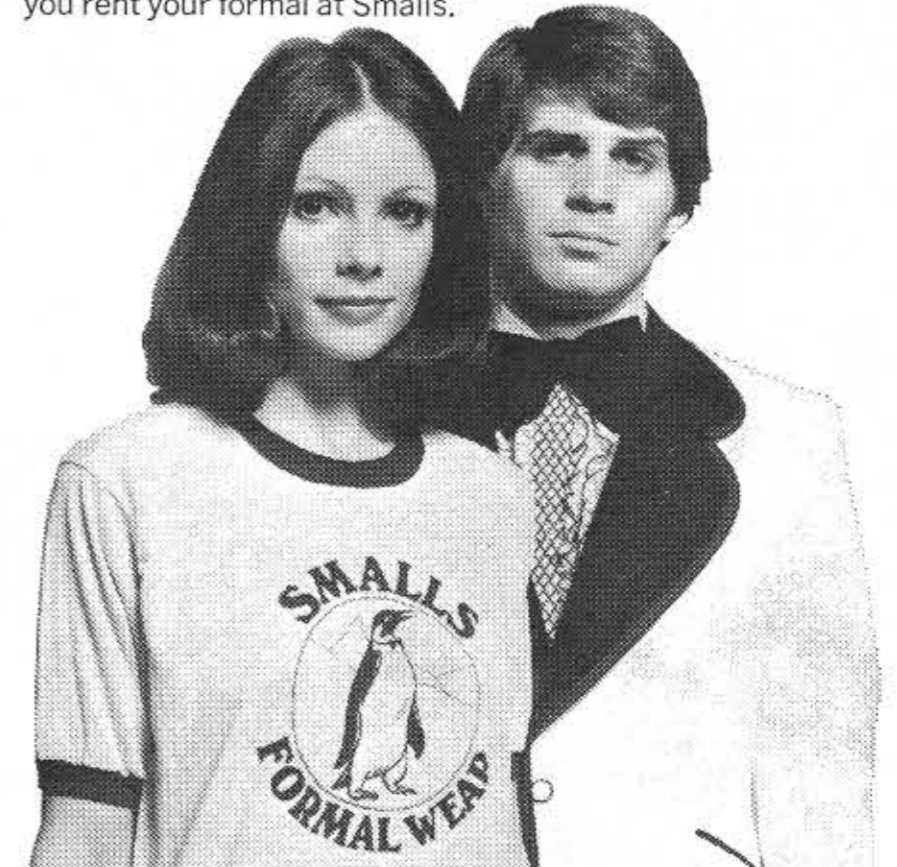
The Streakers won every set they played and lost only one game throughout the tournament.

Track coach Ted Torrence, suggested that the senior squad play the men's faculty in the gym. No date had been set for the contest at press time, however.

The seniors also accepted a challenge from the junior all-star team. The match was scheduled for Friday, March 22, but was cancelled because of the absence of four senior players.

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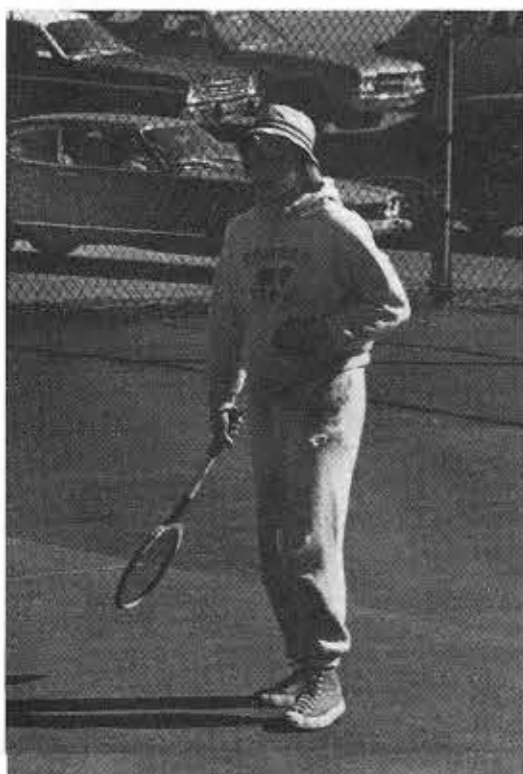
Junior Dave Stanek warms up during a pre-season baseball practice. (Staff photo)



Senior Craig Maurer falls apart before tennis match. (Photo by Tom Jackson)



Junior Carol Wertz admires Ring Dance decorations. (Photo by Tom Jackson)



Sophomore Tom Shewbrooks takes a breather. (Staff photo)



Sallies' exchange students join their senior guides for lunch. (Photo by Karen Ventura)



Dr. Isabel Miller and senior Ken Wilson discuss calculus problem after class. (Photo by Sharon Hitchens)



Senior Bob Venturena goes berserk after school. (Staff photo)



Seniors Paul Clark and Paul Fiore line up against Mr. Torrence during a practice run. (Staff photo)



Mr. Hugh Patterson corrects tests before class begins.



Junior Joe Ratasiewicz waits for play at basketball game. (Staff photo)

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News-in-brief

Students to tour Europe

Vienna is the landing field for this year's Delaware Junior Classical League's annual trip. Their evening departure from the Philadelphia terminal, April 11, will enable them to tour portions of Austria and Italy over a period of ten tightly-scheduled days.

Henry A. Schaefer, language teacher at Dickinson and trip coordinator, planned an itinerary directed to inform and interest the 180 people going. Approximately ten Conradians, students and teachers, have paid \$495.50 for their vacation fee, but the amount of spending money needed is left up to the individuals. The Marshall and Greenplate Travel Associates have arranged for the travelers to go on a total of twelve different sightseeing and touring excursions to view Salzburg, Innsbruck, Verona, Venice, Florence, Pisa, and the Alps. They will see Roman ruins, gothic edifices, the Isle of Capri, and many historical places of beauty.

English-speaking guides, public baths, and new customs promise to make an enjoyable venture for the European travelers. Although the snow days put a damper on many teachers' plans to go because of a pay discrepancy, many of the adults are willing to forfeit their make-up day's salary.

JCL TO SPONSOR STATE CONVENTION

JCL members are currently selling cookies in the Student Store between classes everyday in order to raise money for their New York trip. The club hopes to have a dance sometime in early May, also to raise money for this same purpose.

The club's state convention will be held at Conrad on May 9. Workshops

on Roman dress, food and customs will be held. There is usually entertainment, and a presidential workshop is held where members learn the duties of a club president.

REFERENDUM DEFEATED

Both the capital improvement and current expense bills of a district referendum were voted down March 16 by parents and residents, eighteen-year-olds and older.

The referendum, which called for a tax increase of thirty-five cents per \$100 assessed value was to have paid for building renovations and additions to each of the district schools, and to help offset the cost of inflation, as seen in the price of fuel and other materials in reduced supplies.

The tax increase would also have meant a salary increase to offset inflationary costs for teachers. However, negotiations with the Teachers Union were resumed March 18. The talks are to include the question of salary and a renewal of the teachers' contract, which expires in June.

In addition, a drop in the district's enrollment for the next school year is anticipated by the Board, although the exact figures are speculative until the last week in April.

'75 RINGS ARRIVE

Enthusiastic juniors received their long-anticipated class rings at the Junior Prom held March 15. The dance was semi-formal and ran from 8:00 to 12:00. Sophomore class officers were present to take tickets and serve refreshments. One hundred-thirty people attended, most in couples.



The Varsity "C" Club is sponsoring a talent and variety show April 6 at 8:15 p.m. "Penney loafers to Platforms" will feature members of the club and faculty members performing songs and imitations of the 50's, 60's, and 70's. Mr. Ed Malin, Louis Fournarakis, Mr. Craig Martin, Scott Martin, Mr. Teddy Torrence, and Conrad graduate George Fox are only a few of the coming attractions. Pre-sale tickets will be \$1.50, and tickets at the door will be \$2.00.

Guest conductor directs chorus, "Beauty Shop Quartet" featured

This year's newly founded District Chorus gave its first performance March 28, in the Krebs' auditorium. The chorus sang under the guest conductor, Mr. John Floreen from the University of Delaware.

The entire Conrad choir under the direction of Mrs. Mary Ellen Collins, and selected students from Krebs, Oak Grove, and Richardson Park participated in the program. Songs included in the presentation were "Gloria in Excelsis", Mozart; "Cherish," Terry Kirkman; "Let

There Be Peace On Earth," Sy Miller and Jill Jackson; and selections from "Oliver" by Lionel Bart.

Also, a portion of the show was devoted to spirituals, and "The Beauty Shop Quartet" composed of seniors Susan Dusen, Karen Faux, Antoinette Palermo and sophomore Susan Lobley.

Originally conceived by Mr. Richard DiBlassio, from Krebs, the idea for a District Chorus was approved by Mr. Leon B. Elder and conveyed to Mrs. Collins, and Ms. Natalie Rampulla, from Oak Grove.

The three conductors alternated

rehearsals to prepare the nearly 120 singers for the performance. In addition to the combined rehearsals, the students rehearsed at their own individual schools.

The new District Chorus will now alternate years with the District Band. According to Mr. DiBlassio, they will try to perform for a few schools in the district, in addition to the one evening for the parents.

"We're very fortunate," commented Mr. DiBlassio, "to get Mr. Floreen to come and conduct this. He's a highly respected member of the University faculty."

Salesianum exchange program deemed a satisfying success

BY Juli Grandell

Recently 13 Conrad girls had a memorable experience when they went to Sallies on a student exchange.

It seemed to these ladies that Sallies and Conrad are completely different. The guys were more polite, opening doors and pulling out chairs for every female. Of course, females are a rare sight at Sallies. Coats and ties also looked much better than Conrad's traditional blue jeans and tee shirts.

Both schools were similar in

discipline. Priests walked around the halls during classes and yelled at students not in class.

The halls are patrolled by monitors who are usually the bigger and better looking guys in the school. Halls aren't as crowded as here and people don't gather in the senior hall like they do at Conrad.

Lunches at Sallies are always started with a prayer. When the girls were there they had subs, any type soda or milk, many different varieties of tastycakes, pretzels, corn chips, and potato chips. The cafeteria has a very relaxing at-

mosphere. The radio is playing all during the lunch periods and the bright colors of the cafeteria wake everyone up so they are able to continue to their last two classes.

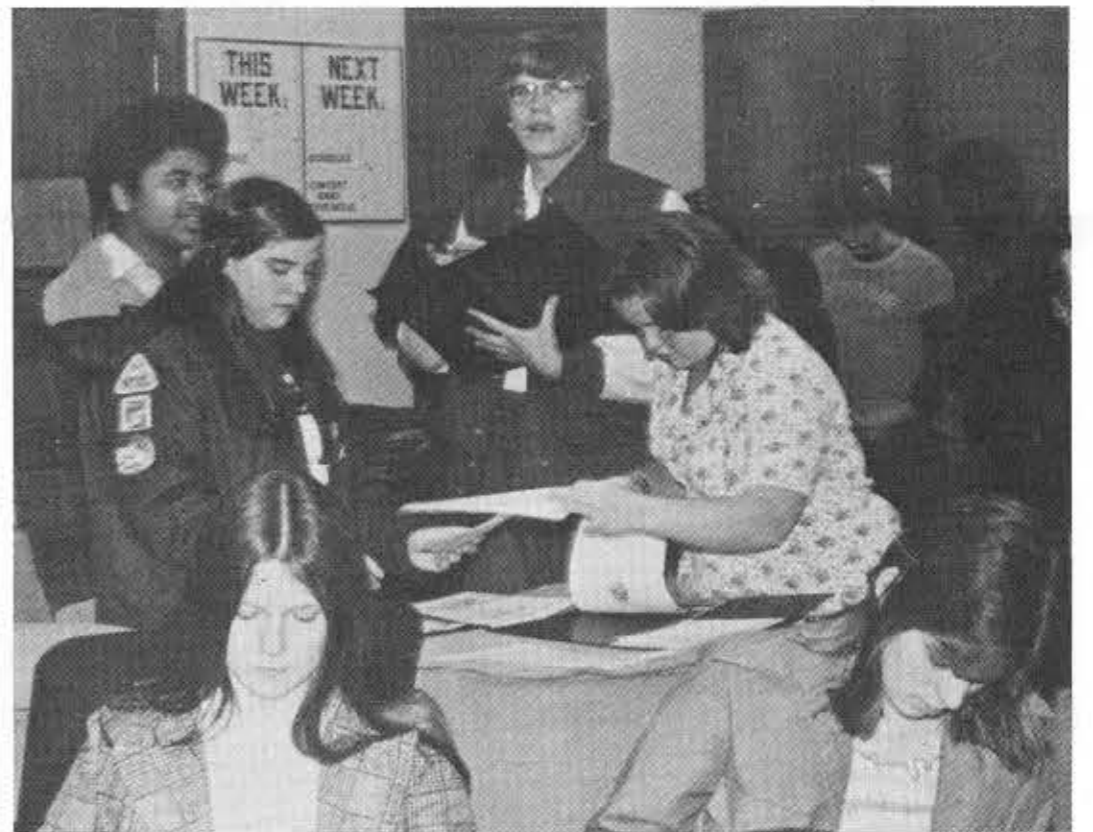
At the end of the day the girls had to fill out an evaluation on Sallies. Almost everyone agreed they would like to go to school there.

The next day, March 14, the girls' escorts from Sallies came to Conrad. Most of them said they wouldn't like to go to school at Conrad. They didn't understand why so many students were standing in the halls during class.

That day for lunch, the cafeteria ladies served meat loaf and "trimmings." Although the guys from Sallies hated the food, they were polite enough not to complain excessively.



A Redskin junior and her Salesianum friend wait for seats. (Photo by Sharon Hitchens)



The district chorus gathers together. (Photo by Sharon Hitchens)

Subject of defamation is Conrad's education

School's a drag,
Surely not my bag;
Teachers always ready to shout,
Trouble always lurking about;
Assistants always on the ball,
Chasing loafers from the hall;
When principals stand all laughing gay,
Detention — suspension are on their way;
Study halls like prisons — so free,
And pretty soon that's all they'll be;
One teacher with his "silence!" shout,
Another with an ominous "get out!"
Our parking lot is empty and bare
Of students enjoying some clean fresh air;
And if someone should venture there
Let it be known he better beware!
Now we have no heat; what can we do
Appears Nixon has to hassle us too!

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