

Vol. 34, No. 19 February 5, 1976
Seaholm High School
Birmingham, Michigan 48009

The Highlander

Overleader feature
Guiana research
Book Review: Congress election

Pot studies still leave question: Are marijuana dangers real?

Pot, hash, grass, weed, maryjane. They all refer to the same thing, marijuana. With anywhere between 13 and 20 million regular users, marijuana is ingrained in our society, yet not accepted. It is a fact that even in Birmingham, marijuana is fairly common in the high schools as well as junior high schools. One smoker put it this way, "A lot more people use pot than most people think." A

A lot of kids and parents are uptight when marijuana is brought up. This fear is not due to knowledge of facts about pot, but usually rumors and opinions.

Society in this aspect is like a child in the dark, afraid of the unknown. A majority of people are still fearful of a subject that most are uninformed or misinformed about.

Due to the "evil" portrayal marijuana generally has been shown in the mass media, some are confused. Since pot is considered a drug, an illegal drug, cigarettes and alcoholic beverages are better accepted. This is true despite studies that clearly show cigarettes increase chances for cancer and emphysema. Chronic drinking causes liver problems and brain damage.

What do the studies on marijuana?

The Highlander has compiled an extensive report on marijuana. The report is based on studies at major institutions. We have made an extensive effort to bring to light conflicting evidence about the many questions that surround the issue. For now, we leave the conclusions to you. The following week, The Highlander will carry our evaluation on marijuana plus our opinion on marijuana and the law.

Does marijuana cause brain damage?
Yes—

In a 1971 study conducted by Dr. A.M.C. Campbell, X-rays of 10 chronic marijuana smokers showed evidence of cerebral atrophy. That is, a wasting away of brain tissues.

Dr. Robert Heath of the Tulane School of Medicine found "structural alteration of cells in the septal region of the brain." The study by Dr. Heath was on six monkeys exposed to large doses of marijuana smoke

for several months.

Observations by psychiatrists at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine concluded that chronic marijuana smoking "seemed to imply some form of organic change" in the brains of marijuana smokers.

damage," among marijuana users. But in March 1972, The National Commission on Marijuana and Drug Abuse revealed "no objective evidence of specific pathology of brain tissue has been documented. This contrasts sharply with the

reality based on his wants, his motivations."

Dr. Dana Farnsworth, Director of the Harvard University Health Services warns, "Our experience has been that the use of marijuana does entail considerable risk, does cause harm ... we have seen too many students who insist that it helps them even as their grades go down,

Director of Columbia College Counseling Service, Dr. Anthony Philip says that marijuana users "typically have an intolerable, chronic, low grade depression and a resentful feeling that somehow they have been cheated by life."

NO—

A portion of a 1975 research project was on the psychological

Marijuana

"... may lead to ego decomposition ranging from mild ego disturbance to psychosis"

"... creates for the user a false sense of reality"

"... does entail risk... does cause harm"

NO—

Dr. Robert C. Kolodny, associate at the Reproductive Biology Research Foundation in St. Louis, said this about Dr. Campbell's study:

"In all 10 cases reported, all 10 men had used LSD—many of them over 20 times ... 8 out of 10 had used amphetamines. One subject had a previous history of convulsions, four had significant head injuries and a number had used sedatives, barbiturates, heroin, or morphine. On the basis of these facts, speculative connection between cannabis (marijuana) use and brain damage is highly suspect."

About Dr. Heath's study, Dr. Julius Axelrod, 1970 Nobel prize winner stated ...

"...the doses he has given for the acute effect, for example, would be equivalent to smoking 100 marijuana cigarettes ... the amount he has given for the chronic effect represents smoking 30 marijuana cigarettes three times a day for a period of six months. The amounts used are so large that one wonders whether it's due to the large toxic amounts given."

A team of researchers led by Dr. Igor Grant studied 29 marijuana smokers and 29 non smoking controls in a test to reveal brain damage. No difference was found between the two groups.

In a UCLA School of Medicine three year study on over 3000 students. No evidence of brain damage due to grades or other factors was found. Said one doctor, "The dire consequences that were predicted have not materialized."

The National Institute on Mental Health in 1972 revealed "a serious possibility of brain

well established brain damage of chronic alcoholism."

Does the marijuana user suffer psychological damage?

"Connection between use and brain damage is highly suspect"

"... does not constitute a major threat to public health"

"No reliable evidence exists indicating genetic defects in man"

Yes—

A five year survey on 38 persons, ages 13 to 24, who smoked marijuana twice a week showed "serious psychological effects, sometimes complicated by neurologic signs and symptoms." The survey, coordinated by two Philadelphia psychiatrists, concluded that "...moderate to heavy use of marijuana in adolescents and young people ... may lead to ego decomposition ranging from mild ego disturbance to psychosis." They also warned that habitual use during adolescence, "will likely deprive him of the ability to adequately resolve his internal conflicts."

"Diminished capacity, an unwillingness to carry out complex long term plans, endure frustration, concentrate for long periods, or successfully master new material," are possible traits of marijuana users. This, according to two researchers working through a grant by the National Institute of Mental Health.

The Pentagon's Drug Abuse Control Committee says "(marijuana) tends to lessen inhibition and creates for the user a false

effects of marijuana on the user. 30 longtime pot smokers spent 94 days locked in a laboratory smoking approximately five marijuana cigarettes a day. Dr. Sidney Cohen led the research. According to him, the subject showed no loss of motivation whatsoever during the study. He also believes the drug enhances the cultural or personal reasons that some individuals already have for dropping out. A four year UCLA study turned up no differences in grades between users and non-users. On the basis of these studies, Dr. Cohen believes that

The Highlander is a weekly publication published by the students of the Ernest W. Seaholm High School, 2436 West Lincoln, Birmingham, Mich. 48009. Subscription price: \$3 per year; \$2 per semester; 15¢ per single copy. Application to mail at second-class postage rates is pending at Birmingham, Mich.

Vol. 35, No. 19 Feb. 5, 1976
Thomas C. Hammel, Publisher

Michael Kendro, Editor

marijuana reinforces a desire to withdraw from the world in youngsters who are already passive in nature.

The March 1972 National Commission on Marijuana and Drug Abuse Report had this to say ...

"... the vast majority of marijuana users-experimenters and intermittent users-is that they are essentially indistinguishable from their non-marijuana using peers by any fundamental criterion other than marijuana use."

"Its use at the present level does not constitute a major threat to public health."

"In sum, the weight of the evidence is that marijuana does not cause violent or aggressive behavior."

Does marijuana cause genetic defects?

Yes—
Dr. Morton Stenchever of Utah College of Medicine reported a somewhat elevated proportion of damaged chromosomes in the lymphocytes of 49 marijuana smokers, including some that smoked it twice a week or less.

Dr. Akira Morishima told a U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Internal Security that he compared 956 smokers with 954 non-smokers. Over 30 percent of the lymphocytes from smokers contained fewer than 31 chromosomes instead of 46 as compared to 10 percent of the non-smokers. Dr. Morishima stated, "It seems logical to anticipate potential danger in genetic mutation and birth defects."

A Columbia University study concluded that marijuana leads to infertility. Sperm count though returned to normal after "prolonged withdrawal" from pot.

In Dr. Cohen's tests at UCLA, they have come close to confirming that marijuana lowers the level of the male sex hormone, testosterone. This could reduce the male sex drive or delay puberty in males. This finding though, has not been proven.

Research in Kentucky suggests that THC (a marijuana ingredient) is a powerful psychedelic. Studies have revealed that THC can destroy and deform the offspring of laboratory animals. Due to this, the possibility of chromosomal damage in humans cannot be ignored.

At the Harvard Medical School Drug Abuse Research Center, Dr. Jack Mendelson studied the effects of marijuana on testosterone. Under carefully controlled conditions on 27

male smokers, it was concluded that "high dosage marijuana intake was not associated with suppression of testosterone levels."

The National Commission of Marijuana and Drug Abuse suggests, "Although a number of studies have been performed, at present no reliable evidence exists indicating that marijuana causes genetic defects in man."

The National Commission on Marijuana and Drug Abuse found that "although a number of studies have been performed, at present no reliable evidence exists indicating that marijuana causes genetic defects in man."

The Institute for Medical Research in New Jersey reports no chromosome damage in tests on 24 regular users of marijuana.

Research at the Universities of Mississippi, New York and West Indies fail to turn up any signs of genetic abnormalities in their studies.

Generally accepted views on marijuana—

Marijuana does not lower resistance to disease. Nahas study at UCLA, "There is no clinical or epidemiologic evidence to suggest that chronic marijuana users might be more prone to the development of cancerous or infectious processes ... it would appear that chronic marijuana smoking does not produce a gross cellular immune defect that can be detected by skin testing."

Marijuana does not lead to harder drugs. The Commission concludes, "Marijuana per se does not dictate whether other drugs will be used; nor does it determine the rate of progression, if and when it occurs, or which drug might be used ... the fact should be emphasized that the overwhelming majority of users do not progress to other drugs."

Marijuana smoke can cause lung damage. As in all types of cigarettes, excessive smoking will cause damage to the lungs. There is no evidence though, that marijuana smoke is any more or less dangerous than common tobacco smoke. Damage to the lungs relates to how much smoke is inhaled, not which type of smoke.

Quote of the Week—
(our continuing series on the meaning of life)

Certainly the game is rigged. Don't let that stop you; if you don't bet, you can't win.

*Mike
Kendro*

Voyage the Aband

Valentines Day. The day we all await. Each year about this time, past romances bloom again, new ones spring up and everyone is happy.

But are they? Is Valentines Day really known for its international "Love thy neighbor policy? Or, does it serve only to keep the post office and Hallmark cards out of debt? In view of past performances, it must be the latter. Each year the gluttons of the world hoof it down to the local candy store with wallets bulging, only to come out later laden with boxes of chocolate. With the problem of acne in mind, perhaps it is the Clearasil folks that are stimulating this chocolate buying.

Whatever the cause of this yearly disaster, it is imperative that we do screw up this event in our sacred Bicentennial. In response to this demand, we at the Highlander offer the following suggestions to enlighten the 14.

1. Take your girl to the Roller Derby.
2. Go see a romantic movie, like "Naked Came the Stranger."
3. Take your girl to the Top of the Flame for dinner and dancing, then take her to an "inexpensive" motel on Woodward, where you can watch TV.
4. If she is a sophomore, teach her to read all those Valentines she received.
5. And finally for the ultimate act of love, give her a ... subscription to the Highlander.

Thomas H. Leathley

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School Affairs

Cheerleaders

get recognition

Not much recognition has been shown to this years squad of cheerleaders.

With the three squads totaling 26 girls, it was hoped that school spirit and support would increase. Senior, junior and sophomore girls make up Varsity I, II and J.V. squads. There is now a complete sophomore squad that cheers for junior varsity football and

basketball. Seven girls make up this squad: Capt. Rochelle Lutton, Co-capt. Doni Hodde, Michelle Charlier, Mariann Kassabeen, Sue Steele, Sue Saccaro and Carolyn Doling. They also went to camp this summer winning "excellent" and "superior" ribbons.

Varsity I consists of ten girls who cheer for varsity football and basketball. Captain Sally Chamberlain, co-capt. Sue McCready, Leslie Weissler, Tracy McDermott, Jane Mahler, Karen Johnson, Cassia Clark, Patty Leung, Sally Braun and Kathy Duncan. While attending camp this summer, they placed third out of forty-some other schools overall, and received first for a pep-assembly skit.

Varsity II cheers for varsity soccer, swimming and wrestling. They are extra busy trying to plan for their many games each week. This squad is made up of eight girls: Co-captains Beth Kelly and Linda Eick, Leslie Eavonson, Wendy Lecklider, Molly Swart, Karen Lucas, Julie Mason and Gail Feiten.

At the beginning of this school year, Marcia Cambier was chosen to be the new sponsor for the cheerleading squads. She as well as the cheerleaders, have contributed a lot of time and effort into making their squads tops and increasing student support. Decorating and stuffing lockers, making posters, pep-assemblies, creating new cheers, mounts and pom-pom routines are only among the few activities the cheerleaders are involved in.

'Lady' needs crew members

Are you a victim of knocky knees, trembling hands and a shaky voice when it comes to play tryouts?

Do you still have a great yearning deep down inside to become a part of this years spring musical "My Fair Lady" (and a vital one at that)?

Well now there's a cure for all that because this years musical is in desperate need of talented eager people ready to be a part of the many crews that are a major part of any play that is the size and magnitude of "My Fair Lady."

Many people are still needed to man the crews which range from publicity, properties and programs to the costumes construction and costumes for each set. Any ambitious person willing to put forth time, energy and hard work is greatly welcome and should see Mr. Taylor in room B003.

—Laura Wallace

School Affairs

Congress elects new officials

The Student Congress election for the second semester of the 1976 school year was held last Friday. The new Student Congress officers are Greg Bunch, president; Barb McFarlane, vice-president; Kathy McGinnis, corresponding secretary; Delores Kerr, recording secretary; Shari Streit, Treasurer; Kevin Appleton and Joy Haenlein, Grievance Board; and Andrea Fischer, Dan Doctoroff and Tom Maentz, the Joint Policy Board.

Defeated candidates for the various offices were Ken Bosley, Vicky Seyforth, Stephen Kelly, Tom Proctor in addition were George Quinn, Vikki Appleton and Keith Jarrin.

Their first meeting was held yesterday during second hours. Any students who wanted to be class representatives were able to sign up on Mrs. Schlains door, deadline was last Monday.

Congratulations to all new Student Congress officers for this next semester.

Local teacher to plan dances

I'm really excited about working on "My Fair Lady" this year. The faculty staff and all the kids are so co-operative and enthusiastic, it's just a pleasure to work with them!" So states Ms. Francis Borgo this years dance choreographer for My Fair Lady. Ms. Borgo, a dance instructor along with her sister Virginia, at the Borgo Sisters School of Dance in Royal Oak, has been studying dance ever since she can remember, and has coreographed many other plays in her time. "I've done many plays, but I believe that the kids at Seaholm are just fantastic. They are always willing to co-operate and work.

Aside from working on school plays Ms. Borgo has many other

responsibilities, including a gymnastics class each day, and states that if it weren't for Virginia, who is so helpful in taking over some classes, she wouldn't be able to work on the play at all.

This year she is substituting as choreographer for Mr. Dave Frezza who also works at her school, and who choreographed the spring musical last year at Seaholm. Mr. Frezza was unable to work on this years musical because of his studies at Wayne State University. When asked if she foresaw any difficulties with the dancing this year she replied, "I doubt it, besides the ample amount of talent many of the steps are pretty basic."

This years musical hosts an array of talented dancers including: Cockney Men's Dancing and Singing Chorus: Fax Bahr, Brad Allen, Jack Barbay, Steve Bottum, Brad Case, John Crabb, Dan Doctoroff, John Hardenbrook, Howard Folk, Marty Karabees, Rick Marlatt, Tim Pastor, Phil Siegel, Jim Walbridge and Gar Webb.

Cockney Women's Dancing and Singing Chorus: Sharon Dilworth, Carol Dupke, Chris Duris, Sue Guess, Kim Hooker, Clover Keyes, Jan Lewitt, Mary O'Donnell; Peggy O'Donnell, Laura McLean, Pauline Obey, Julie Powanda, Sue Rexford, Robin Samet and Jennifer Thorsby.

Ascot Men's Dancing and Singing Chorus: John Cleary, Terry Nefcy, Rick Plumb, Randy Shinaberry and Scott Wilkinson.

Ascot Women's Dancing and Singing Chorus: Kim Birrell, Heidi Bramson, Judy Johnson, Laura Reid, and Debbie Streibig.

Women's Ballroom Dancing: Mary Jane Gohde, Elaine Moran, Alison Paige, Sue Peterson, Francie Porter and Holly Snyder.

Men's Ballroom Dancing: Tom Hakemian.

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keep informed on these and other exciting events.

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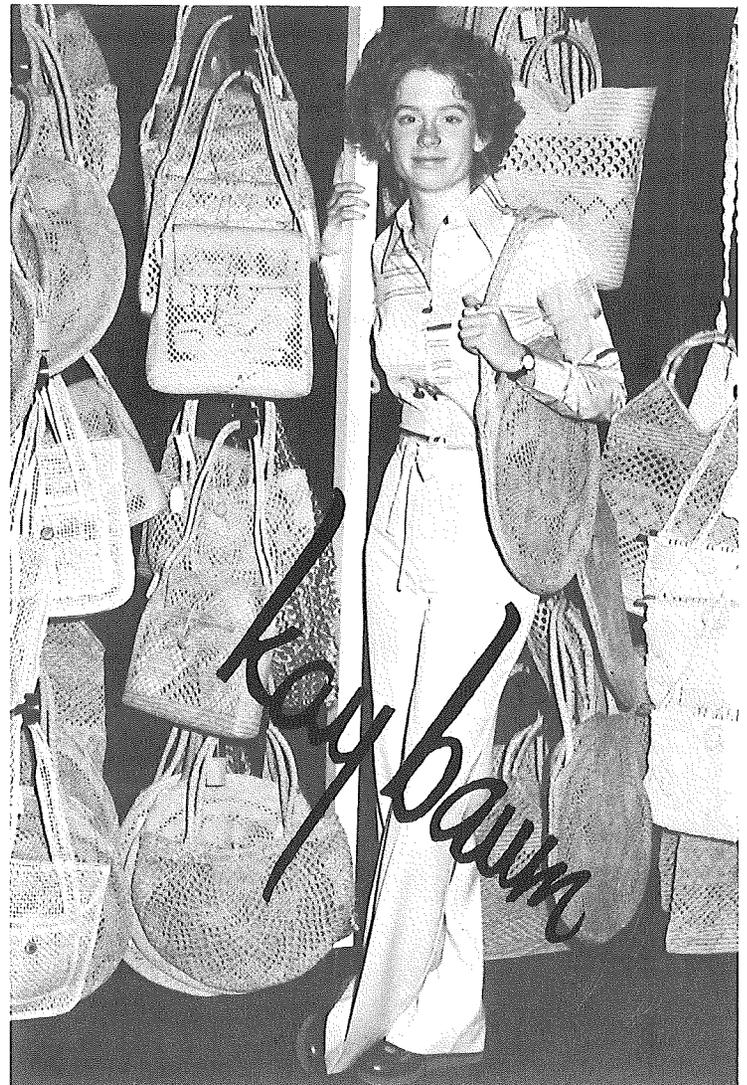
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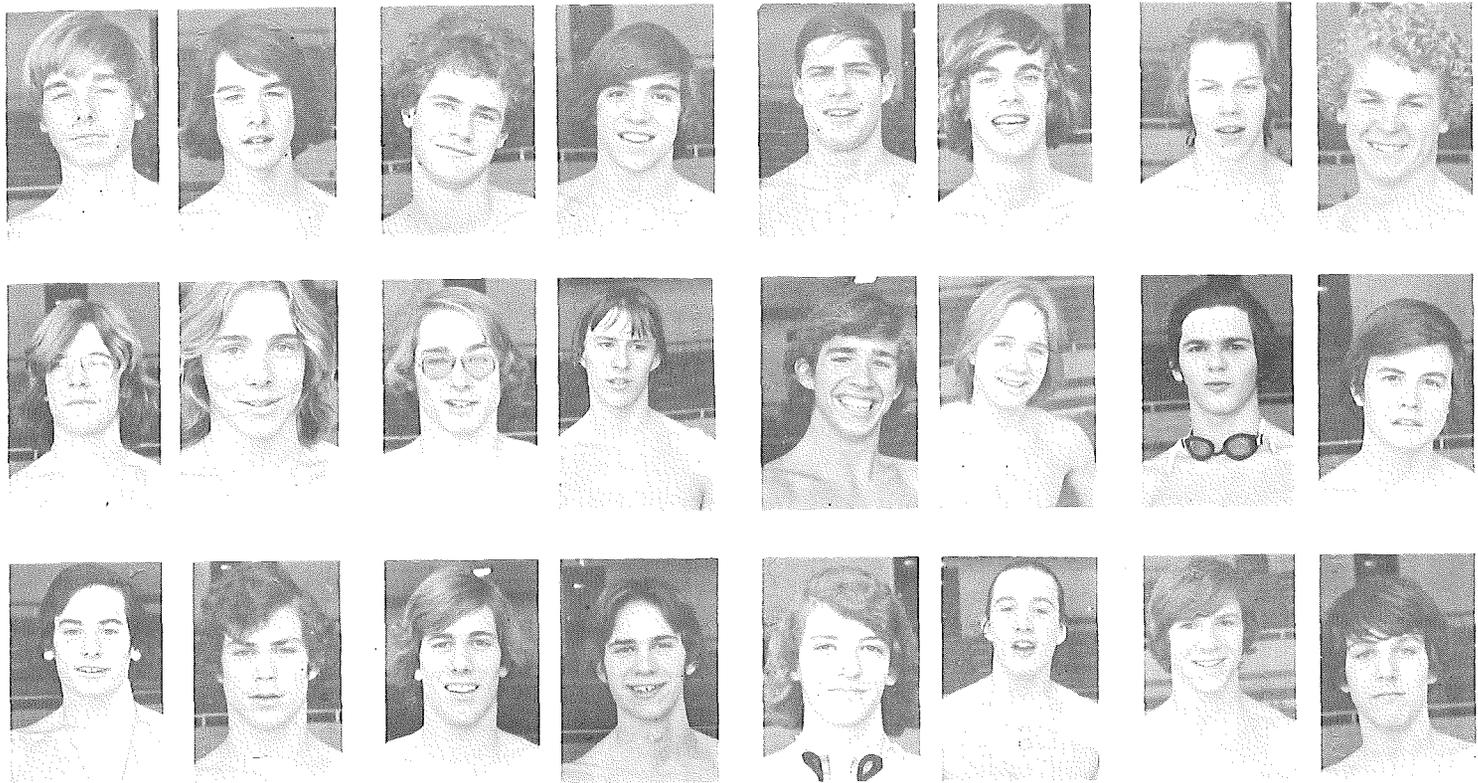
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Andover swimmers squeeze by Wolfpack; 99-73

The Seaholm swim team dropped a 99-73 decision to Bloomfield Hills Andover last Saturday afternoon. The strong Andover team seemed to be a little too

much for the 'Wolf Pack' who were trying to take revenge on their 106-66 loss last year.

Winners for the wolf pack were: Lori Wettlaufer in diving; Rob Distler in the 100 freestyle

and Bill Vincent in the 100 backstroke.

This dropped the swim team's record to 3-3.

-Curt Carson

Sports

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Girls win 15-7 against Berkley

Seaholm's varsity volleyball team was victorious for the first time this season when they conquered the Berkley Bears on Jan. 26. The Maplettes started the match with a 15-7 win over the Bears. Mary O'Donnell served seven points. In the second game Berkley was able to slip and defeat the Seaholm girls 15-12, in spite of the efforts of Sandy Hague who served six points. Joanne Smeak served 7 points in the final game to lead the Maplettes to a 15-2 victory. The Maplettes have a 1-1 league record, they are 1-2 overall.

The JV squad was not able to match the varsity's win as

they were defeated in two straight games by Berkley's junior varsity team. In the opening game the Maplettes got off to a bad start with the Bears piling up a 10-2 lead. Though Seaholm was able to fight back to 11-11, they were not able to pull off the win, losing 15-12. The second game was almost identical to the first. Fran Shettle's strong serving made up the 8 point deficit and put the Maple JV's in the lead 12-11 but again Berkley managed to squeak by and win 15-12. The JV is also 1-1 in league play. The Maplettes will host Ferndale, Feb. 5, at 4:15.

-Patty Hagen

Maple machine in high gear; Jays outrun in Seaholm's thrashing

The fast-breaking Seaholm Maples stayed in contention for the SMA league title as they romped past Southfield, 86-61. The victory kept the Maple in a tie for second place with Berkley.

The Maples wasted no time getting started, as they stormed out to a 8-0 lead before Southfield was able to get on the board. Good rebounding by center Jim Fox allowed Southfield only one shot at the basket throughout much of the game. A strong defensive performance allowed the Jay's only 16 points in the first stanza, compared to Seaholm's 24.

Seaholm got most of their points from guard's Doug Everard and Dan Bean through the first quarter; but the Maples found themselves going to the back door, and scoring on almost every possession the rest of the half. Good picks allowed Dave

Bean to get open and pour in 28 points. Fox and Smith were also getting open underneath. Seaholm's tight defense opened the door for a 49-23 half-time lead.

Southfield made a couple of adjustments on defense, but they were still outscored by 14-11 margin and were no threat to the fired-up Maple squad.

After the Seaholm starters opened up a 33 point lead, Coach Sherwood emptied the bench, and everyone, including junior Mike Prock got in on the action. When the final seconds ticked away, the Maples came out with a 86-61 win.

Captain Dave Bean led the Maple charge with 28 points, while guards Dan Bean and Doug Everard scored 10 and 15 respectively. Jim Fox and Dorne Dibble controlled the boards for Seaholm.

-Mark Swan

Books

'The Bastard' is first in series

The *Bastard* is the first volume in the American Bicentennial series written by John Jakes. Altogether there are six novels but the last two have not been published yet. Having read the first four, they are all colorfully written about the making of American history centered around generations of one particular family. Every book has real American heroes splashing across its pages.

Volume One starts in France in 1770 where the hero, Phillippe Charboneau, is the illegitimate son of an English nobleman. Following his mother's only dream, he travels to England for half of his father's wealth only to be scorned by his half-brother. Phillippe then set sail to America narrowly escaping death in England. Once in America, he renewed his life as Phillip Kent and becomes involved in the excitement and politics of pre-revolutionary days.

In reading this book and its sequels, sagas of our most famous patriots like Benjamin Franklin, Samuel Adams and Paul Revere are told; *The Bastard* gives an exhilarating account of the Boston Tea Party, Paul Revere's Ride and the Shot Heard Round the World.

John Jakes has done an outstanding job in writing *The Bastard*. It is the best so far of the American Bicentennial novels. Mr. Jakes has written over fifty books for all ages plus six other popular historical novels written under a pseudonym.

For an exciting novel of romance and historical adventure, read *The Bastard*, first volume in the American Bicentennial series. —Marianne Garrett

Community

Graduate finds unity at WMU

Western Michigan University is both large and small. As a recent graduate explained, "It seemed small enough to provide a feeling of unity and large enough to have the exciting atmosphere of a bustling college community. "Even though Western is a large university, classes are usually small, about 35 students, which allows students to get to know classmates and instructors.

The university is located Kalamazoo, only 2½ hours from Detroit, via 194. Lake Michigan is just 45 minutes from the campus and ski facilities are but 20 minutes away.

For freshman admission an applicant is usually expected to have a C plus average in solid subjects. Prospective freshmen are also required to take the A.C.T. Students who score a '3' on Advanced Placement tests are given college credit.

People

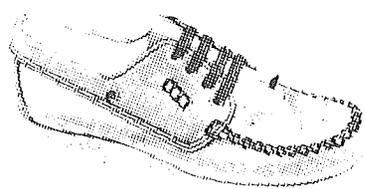
Rider captures several awards

There is no other word but "remarkable" to describe Dorothy Wood. When it comes to horse-shows and riding there are no better than she. A graduate from Seaholm this past January, Dorothy has hopes of going to Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee in September. She is

going to study Law, and is going for a history degree.

Dorothy began riding at the age of four and has been riding ever since. A horse show this past weekend qualified her for the New York and Pennsylvania horse shows. Starting April she will be riding in the April circuit, riding in shows around the Midwest until September.

There are several different classes in which Dorothy rides in, and she has won several awards. She has a total of 137 trophies, all of which are first place. She is also a five time state champion, a six time reserve state champion and two of her horses came in number 6 and 7 in the country.



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