

# Give Us A Cheer

A poll was conducted by members of the cheerleading squad bringing to light students' feelings about the cheerleaders. It has also brought up some important questions that we would like to attempt to answer through students' comments and our own.

Are cheerleaders needed? Cheerleaders help to boost the team's spirit when they are losing . . . What would we do if cheering for our team was against the law? . . . I am a J. V. football player and I'm 100 percent for the cheerleaders. Cheerleaders are needed and appreciated — comments from Bulldog ball players show this. It helps to know that the school appreciates the efforts of the team.

How should cheerleaders be chosen? Cheerleaders are chosen for their popularity, not their ability . . . There should be more black cheerleaders . . . Cheerleaders should realize what their responsibilities are when they go out for the squad . . . Spirit is not determined by the color of the cheerleader's skin. Maybe if more blacks went out for cheerleading, more would make it. Perhaps an impartial judge should select the cheerleaders, basing the final decision on ability, appearance, manner, and dedication. There must be a better way than the present system of letting the student body vote. Cheerleaders should also be made aware of what is expected of them before they agree to becoming a cheerleader.

Are our cheerleaders doing their job? I think they're doing a great job . . . Cheerleaders aren't appreciated enough . . . There are only a few cheerleaders who really care enough about the team . . . It's easy to tell the ones who care . . . Perhaps it was not noticed by the student body, but during the basketball season, all of the cheerleaders were not at all of the games. Was this because of a lack of interest or for a legitimate reason? As one student remarked, "Spirit shouldn't be forced." This is very true, but one must admit that the situation is pretty bad when spirit must be forced on a cheerleader. This undoubtedly indicates that the girl doesn't care for her team or her school. However, cheerleaders have to have someone to cheer with them, so disinterest is not to be blamed entirely on them.

What about pep rallies? Why don't we have J. V. pep rallies? . . . The lack of pep rallies shows the administration's lack of interest in the school teams . . . Students cheer for the spirit stick, not for the team . . . According to members of our basketball and football teams, pep rallies boost morale more than many people know — but only if the students supply the pep. The more students hear of our teams, the more interested they will be. As it is, almost no mention is made of sports outside of the games. Pep rallies would inform students of sports happenings, but we will have no more until we show more interest in the teams. It's a vicious cycle.

Let's don't criticize the cheerleaders until we take a good look at ourselves. In the words of one student, "Getting together is hard, but not impossible." With all the apathy that has somehow seeped into Senior High, an awful lot of getting together will have to be done before we can show we really care.

Although there are areas that could use improvement, the majority of the students approve of our cheerleaders and the work they have done. However, if the deficient areas are to be improved, we will have to give them our support and help.

# Changes Pinned Down

Change! That has been the cry of students in recent years. And until recently, any time the administration finally broke down and made a suggestion it was usually met with disinterest.

But — no longer! Instead of the usual apathy students show toward new ideas, they have shown a unique interest in the curriculum study.

Approximately forty students volunteered their time, and that in itself is a surprise, for it takes something really different to capture the interest of more than a handful of students.

However, the enthusiasm didn't stop there. Since the first meetings, more students (who had not volunteered) have come to the meetings to listen and try to offer their suggestions.

This interest is really a shock, compared to past attempts to involve students with the school — largest among those failures being the Student Council. It appears that students have finally taken their own suggestion — change — and have become involved.



Westerlund, alias "Aunt Nellie," thrown in the clink.

# Crime Does Pay For American Problems

Friday, February 25, 20 odd ASHS students were arrested for disturbing the peace. Six police cars arrived at the scene to transport the culprits to the city jail. Once there, the criminals were advised of their constitutional rights. Leader Westerlund (alias "Aunt Nellie") was handcuffed and placed in solitary confinement. Patrolman Greer fingerprinted the prisoners.

Jorge Moutous, Argentine Bandito, was nabbed for possessing a forged passport. Evidently his mother forgot to fix him up before he left home.

"Put-up-your Dukes" Furr was charged with careless driving and resisting arrest.

Trooper Leopard, expert at spotting cats who violate traffic laws, came into the second period class to discover inebriated intellects. He had the aid of the breathalyzer in his search for dipsomaniacs.

"Madwoman" Marcia Carlson, known for the formation of her class caste system, was arrested for molesting a sophomore.

"Cool Man" Calvin Ingram

aided in the escape of the prisoners by crashing his big orange school bus through the pen gates.

The baffled police force was left behind when Calvin's driving ability in his souped up machine enabled the culprits to return to Senior High in safety.

We are happy to announce that classes are still continuing as usual. But they are still:

**WANTED DEAD OR ALIVE:**  
The American Problems

# Day After Day

A class that is nothing but lecture can be very boring. Day after day students file in, sit down, and supposedly absorb an hour of words. But the truth of the matter is that most of the words go in one ear and out the other. In this type of study, student participation is at a minimum. When students are active participants in class, they learn more.

As active participants the students teach themselves. They are allowed to decide the topics and provide the materials and resource persons. And while working, students absorb knowledge, learn to organize and present interesting experiences, and learn to respect one another.

The American Problems class has this type of learning situation. In this class, the students decide what they want to study. They break up into small groups and decide on an idea for study. The class then votes on three topics, based on the possibility of materials and speakers. Each student gives an oral report or gets a speaker.

More studies of this type are needed. The upcoming curriculum changes should provide a way to include more classes like this. We should not let this opportunity for improvement pass by.



A new club is being organized in ASHS. It's a club unlike any now known, for it demands a commitment that is for life. The organization is the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. The purpose of the FCA is "to confront athletes and coaches, and through them the youth of our nation with the challenge and adventure of following Christ, participating in His Church, and serving Him through our vocations." The FCA is open to all athletes willing to make a commitment to Jesus Christ.

The FCA has doubled its membership every year since its conception in the early 1960's. Unfortunately, the Christian athlete has received little attention from the news media. One can always hear of the athlete that is busted for drugs or alcohol or the athlete whose "thing" is to rebel against all authority. Yet, one seldom hears of the athlete who after practice drives 50-100 miles to tell a group of young people about his faith in Jesus Christ.

It is my hope that we can make the people in this area aware of the life that is possible when one makes the total commitment for Jesus Christ. These are supposed to be crucial times for our society. Old and young alike are looking for the answers to our problems. Many turn to drugs or alcohol only to find both cause more problems than they solve. Many associate with Jesus Christ hoping that a church membership will take the place of a total personal commitment, but this doesn't work either. Why not turn on with Jesus Christ? Why not get high on the love of Jesus? Why not join forces with the greatest radical to ever live?

Jesus Christ was the greatest exponent of love and peace to ever live so why don't the people who profess to be for love and peace turn to him for guidance. Of course, no human can hope to equal his wisdom and understanding but we can make the total commitment. This seems to be where the shame of our society lies, we no longer have the "guts" to make the total commitment. Or do we?

—Charles Swanner

A plan for open lunch periods could follow steps similar to those of other high schools. We could, at the beginning of the school year (or whenever this might be enacted) have parents write a note of permission to the principal, thus assuming full responsibility for the students. If the student is late or does not come back after lunch he should be subject to suspension. Present modes would allow teachers to know who was sick and who was not back from lunch.