



# Features

Editor: Elizabeth Murray



## BOYFRIENDS — Are They Worth The Trouble?

By ANGELA COOK

That ever so popular question I am sure all young gals have asked at one time or another which is, "Are Boyfriends Worth The Trouble?" This question I ask myself all of the time but no solution ever comes after the question.

There are two sides to guys or boyfriends and that is a good side and a bad side; there is no mediocre side.

On the good side, boyfriends come in handy when you have no date for the prom. They come in handy when you are about to starve and pass by Burger King with no money. Boyfriends come in handy when you are bored and feel like talking on the phone. Those guys come in handy during the gift-giving seasons. At Christmas time you can usually come out with a couple good items. You can get a present out of him if you hang on until your birthday. Remember Valentine's Day? This is an occasion that you can come out with roses, dinner, and candy. With all of these wonderful uses how can we live without these caring males? Well remember, I said there is a good side, which I just went over, and a bad side.

Think about all of those "I'll probably give you a call later." And the phone never rings. What about when you talk about plans for the weekend and he seems totally uninterested? What about when he splurges and takes you to Charlotte to grab a bite to eat, and he nearly chokes when you choose the Steak & Shrimp platter for \$11.95? How do we live with them?

Life without boyfriends would definitely be on the boring side but it would be peaceful. Well, if you choose to live with a boyfriend all I can say is GOOD LUCK! If you choose to live without all I can say is "I hope you have lots of money." Which ever you choose you can not totally get rid of males so try to realize guys cannot help what they are. Not everyone could be a WOMAN!



Hailey Bowers shows one of the better uses for a boyfriend.

## Mother Nature Is Dying

Spring is rapidly approaching and beautiful images of the German landscape come to mind. Germany has so many natural wonders such as the Alps and the Black Forest. Sadly, though, all of these lovely scenes of the German environment soon may only be bound as pictures in history books. Over the past few years the German people have become terrifyingly aware that their natural environment is being destroyed by pollution and a strong environmental protection movement has been launched to stop this destruction.

Last April, all ecological concerns and fears came to a climax with the explosion of the nuclear reactor at Chernobyl. What many of us only experience through the medium of television was a horrifying reality for all Europeans. Radioactivity poured out of the destroyed reactor, and one of the countries receiving the largest amount of contamination was West Germany. All dairy and farm products were contaminated by the radioactivity and therefore rendered unsafe consumption. Millions of Germans, awakened to the dangers of nuclear energy, staged massive protests and demonstrations against atomic power. News stories have filled the papers in recent weeks telling how many of the new generation of babies born after the Chernobyl disaster have been born with birth defects.

Smog is another ecological problem that has grabbed the attention of Germans this winter. In this cold weather there has been a lack of wind and air motion that has allowed smoke and other waste produced by factories to collect in the air. In West Berlin there have been several smog alarms. During these alarms the use of all private vehicles is prohibited forcing all inhabitants to use public transportation which reduces the level of pollution.

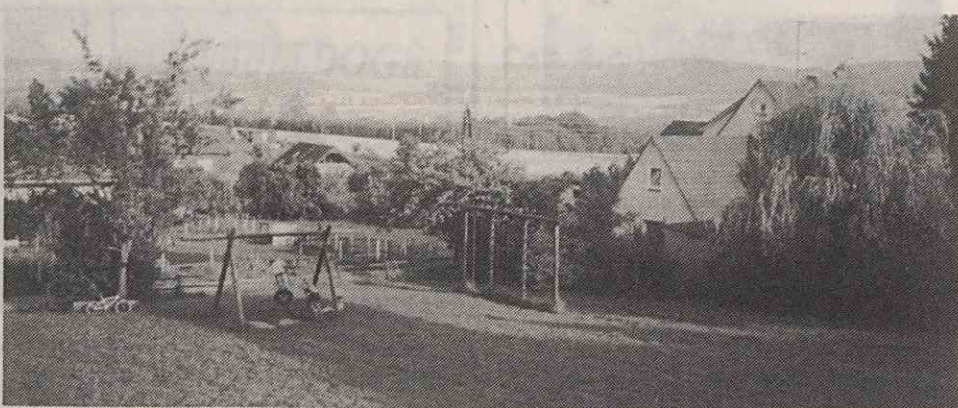
Probably the most endangered part of the German environment are the trees. Over the last few years scientists have discovered that the forests in Germany are literally dying. Industrial waste is once again the major cause of death to the trees. Unless steps are taken immediately to change this situation it is believed that as much as 60% of German forests could be dead in the year 2000.

The destruction of nature has not gone unheeded by the German people and a gigantic ecological protection movement has come about to deal with these problems. One of the political parties represented in the German Bundestag (Congress) is a highly controversial environmental group known as the Greens. The Green Party has fought environmental problems to the forefront of German politics and the major issue in last year's national election behind the issue of East-West relations was environmental protection. Through the influence of the Green Party, all German political parties have been forced to adopt strong environmental protection policies.

The fight to save nature is not limited only to the political front. German citizens have also begun to evaluate and change their private habits. Many families are making use of recycling centers. Fewer and fewer people buy aerosol sprays. Germans have become very conservative about the amount of energy they use and are also very careful about the amount of water they use.

Environmental problems are not restricted only to the Federal Republic of Germany and maybe we Americans should take a hint from our European allies. We have the same pollution producing sources in the U.S. that are found in Germany but the destruction of our environment is not yet as noticeable because our country is so large. The air pollution danger is certainly present in America. We still have space but we may be running out of time.

Foreign Correspondent,  
Andrew Wines



In Germany, the fight against pollution has begun to protect the beautiful German landscapes.

## Nicknames

By ELIZABETH MURRAY

Even though we all call our friends and fellow students by their nicknames, often we don't know the origin behind the name. Now we will reveal a few of the most heard nicknames at Albemarle High School and attempt to make their origins understood.

Many students here at AHS may not realize the fact that there is a "Rat" in our school, otherwise known as Chris Ragsdale. This particular nickname derived from Shawn Merriman's mispronunciation of his last name.

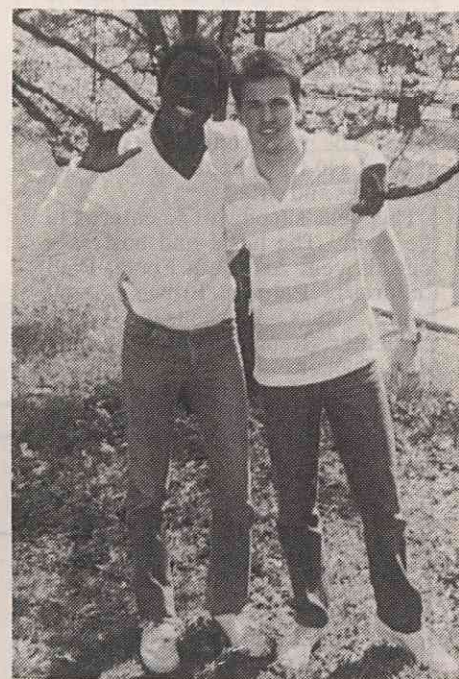
The #2 spot on the tennis team this year is filled by the shoes of a one "Ada Mar," otherwise known as Adam Lemarr. He is tagged this name by "The Bullet," Alan Cellars. His nickname exists for obvious reasons.

Saturday nights are exciting ones for our senior, Mike Snyder. He spends them sharpening his clogging abilities, and therefore has obtained the name "Wog."

One of the three Speight boys (you know the boys who live up Albemarle night life) has been tagged "Rattie" by some of the AHS students because of lack of tidying up his room.

Most nicknames aren't inherent, but we do have one at our school. "Diz," otherwise known as David Owens, received his nickname as a gift from his father for his tenth birthday.

The following nicknames and explanations just about cover some of the best at AHS. We hope you enjoyed them. Oh, when you see the biggest guy in school walking down the hall, just say, "Hey Pickle."



Shaun Merriman and his buddy "Rat."

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## Becoming A Senior

One more month until graduation, the end of school, and summer vacation. There is also only more month until the junior class inherits the coveted title SENIOR. Can it be true? Have we lasted that long? Obviously so and we've passed through so many experiences to get here too.

Starting with kindergarten and elementary school, learning cursive writing and multiplication, having long play periods, walking in single file lines everywhere, putting on PTA programs, and getting out of school at 2:30 — those things are only memories now.

Then we hit Junior High and, boy,

weren't we grown-up, changing classes and meeting new "buddies" to hang around with?

Finally, there was Senior High and the all important driver's license, chasing down a boy or girlfriend, and going to Friday night football and basketball games.

So, here we are, on the verge of our senior year, the best year of our lives. While everyone is fussing over the senior graduates, it's important to stop and think about what things will be like next year.

—Don't worry future juniors and sophomores, only a year or so until you'll be in the spotlight.