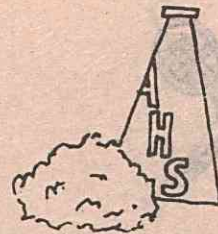




Features



TEEN PREGNANCY

By ANGELA COOK

Teen pregnancy is a growing problem in our nation today. Every year the number of teen-age mothers drastically increases. This problem exists everywhere, even in our own school. Two students who have both had a baby while in high school were interviewed. They were asked questions dealing with the feelings, thoughts, and problems of becoming pregnant in high school.

Their feelings about getting pregnant were both very similar. Fear, anger, and regret filled their minds. One of the two students thought she wouldn't get pregnant the first time and the other one said she didn't worry about getting pregnant at all, but unfortunately, they both were surprised when they received the news of their pregnancy. One of the most difficult things that had to be done in the beginning was to break the news to their parents, and to the father of the baby. After the initial shock of the news, both girls parents supported them through their decisions and later through their pregnancy. In one of the cases the father of the baby was definitely not delighted with the thought of being a father. He got furious when he heard the news, but after a court settlement, he now helps out with expenses and takes care of the little girl on weekends.

After the parents and father-to-be were told and accepted the decisions of the two girls, the long hard road began. For months these two girls came to school when morning sickness didn't keep them at home, they did homework, carried books, and climbed up and down stairs all day. They had to put up with constant stares from classmates and teachers. After what had seemed years to these two girls, it was finally time to have their long awaited baby. With the thought of delivering a baby came hospital bills, doctor fees, and expenses for food, clothing, diapers, and other necessities for the baby. These items added up to a large sum of money and being a full time student doesn't pay much. Luckily, one of the girls received money from the father of the baby. He paid for everything and still sends money to support his daughter. The mother of the other girl paid for the hospital bills and the rest.

After the the baby was born and the mother recovered for several weeks, she decided to return to school, start going out with friends and dating, but one major problem existed: What to do with an infant during these times. One girl allowed her mother to adopt her child and raise the baby as her own. The other girl sends her child to daycare each day before school and on weekends she stays with her baby.

The two student-moms agreed that it definitely is not a good idea to get pregnant in high school, and both have stated that they will not be pregnant again until it is planned for.



Babies are cute and cuddly, but full of responsibility.

The Games Women Play

By SAMY LAMP

The modern women of today. Loved by most men and, in the same token despised for the frustration they create. Yes, I know men can't be critical because we're guilty of the same insensitive crime. Men probably even instituted the deceitful games lovers play. But how often do you hear of Sarah doing this or Jane that? It's always Tom lied about this and Dick stood her up. So, let's turn the tables and take a look at the games women play.

Love, fun, and games, and what do you have? America's own modern-day Dracula. Most common is the drain put on a man's wallet. It starts out with a candy bar, drink, or even a ride home. Next, you're taking her out to dinner. Big numbers attract her eyes and she orders enough for a cow. But, of course, she only manages to get through her salad and is too full to eat anymore. And to add to the drainage, she's calling you the next day wanting to go to the movies. Your treat. But you can't totally blame the woman, the

common male seems to have a thing for spending money on a special person who ends up dating some jerk from another school. Sound familiar?

Oh! And don't you enjoy having a girl flirting and spending time with you, creating that special relationship? Sure, you sucker. I bet she has a boyfriend at another school, college, or in the armed forces. Yeah! Forgot about HIM, huh? You should REMEMBER him. His name is thrown in your face everytime you try to show her how much you care for her. But you still say you're losing the game she's playing with you.

But then again you have those who want to have their cake and eat it, too. These rare women have that boyfriend at another school or away in the armed forces but also have an affair with another guy. She tells one how much she loves him but parties with another. She is hiding her affair with that young man, which causes frustration. And parents wonder why teenagers use drugs and alcohol.



Stress personified.

Stressed Out?

By VALERIE HAYNES

As we near the end of another school year and teachers keep piling on the homework, even though we all have a bad case of "spring fever", we may sometimes feel the pressures building up. When this stress buildup becomes too hard to handle, how do you "let it all out"? Some ASHS students had some helpful hints on how to relieve the stress we let build up over time.

Some Albemarle students release their stress through their lungs. For example, when Jenny Hatley gets "stressed out" she just "yells real loud". Kerry Hefner "screams like Sam Kinison". Marie Miller needs a more dramatic atmosphere in which to do her screaming, so she gets in her car, rolls down the windows, and cranks up the radio. Jimmy Hays too, turns to music, specifically Rush's 2112 album. When he needs some quality tension time he goes to his room, cranks up 2112, then goes out and kills someone. But if a stereo is not available "I eat". O.K., Jimmy.

Several other ASH students like to eat. That's not that strange, but what they eat is. For instance, Greg Eudy's hormones must go completely wild when under stress because he "takes a drink and o.d.'s on Pamprin". Now, that's interesting. Jim Hartsell, on the other hand, says he likes to "eat X-lax". I bet Jim relieves himself of a lot more than stress. Jenny Treadway also turns to drugs for stress relief by "taking two aspirins". Jenny declined to tell us who she called in the morning. Other students tend to turn their minds to more relaxing thoughts when under stress. For instance, Jon Harwood says he likes to "think of home, think of England". Gee, Jon, I wondered where that accent came from. Felicia Harrell likes to clear her mind by "letting Calgon take me away". David Campbell turns his thoughts to other things by "looking at pictures of nude women". Elizabeth Boyle likes to expand her intellect by "watching Oprah Winfrey". Lastly, the exercise buffs channel their stress into physical activity. Kelly Blagg likes to run, David Owens goes to play golf, and Stephanie Beard exercises her oral muscles by talking on the phone.

So when you get stressed out and need some relief, try some of these methods, but please consult your physician first. Many of these tips may be hazardous to your health.



Stress. How do you relieve it?

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