State Highlights 4/26/1944

Western State High School

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Mellinger Wins Presidency in Reelection

Ryan, Fisher Also Elected

In an unprecedented re-election Wednesday, April 26, Glen Mellinger was elected President of the Student Council. Bill Ryan is the new vice-president and Pat Fisher is the secretary for next year. In the first election no candidate had a majority vote in any office and thus a re-vote was taken during the homeroom hour on Wednesday. 318 votes were cast in the second election.

The candidates and their managers appeared before the student body in assembly Tuesday morning, April 26, to state their platforms.

Glen Mellinger's campaign was managed by Dunlap Clark. Next year's president, who is a junior, is a monitor and has been an active member of the Student Council. He has been in the band for his three years at State High and has been in several plays and in two operettas.

Bill Ryan, managed by Bob Anderson, is the Sophomore president, a monitor, a former member of the Student Council, and an active participant in sports, including track, football and basketball.

The Student Council Secretary for next year, Pat Fisher, is secretary of the monitor homeroom and was also homeroom secretary in her freshman year. She is active on junior class committees. Pat has been a member of band for three years and has been active in Masquers and in the Choir. Her campaign manager was Bill De Koning.

Orators Win Three Places

In the district forensic contest of the Michigan High School Forensic Association Monday afternoon, Mary Dawson won the Dramatic Declamation. Don Griffith placed first in the Extemporaneous Speaking; and Paul Harrington took top honors in the Oratorical Declamation. State High won three out of the four divisions, and these three winners will compete in the regionals in Battle Creek in May.

Assembly Plans Announced

Several changes have been made in the assembly schedule for the next few weeks. On May 2 the Band, under the direction of Mr. Leonard Wiener, will give the program. Special features will be a vibraharp solo by Kay Hudson, and the Drum Majorettes will do some of their baton twirling.

The Sophomores will present their assembly on May 9.

Win State Finals

By virtue of their victory in the Championship Debate of the Michigan High School Forensic Association, State High's debaters came to the close of their season on Friday, April 21, with the highest honors possible. The State Championship was the prize received by the affirmative team, Don Griffith and Bill Shumaker at the Rackham Lecture Hall, University of Michigan, in their defeat of Hazel Park.

The debate, sponsored by the Detroit Free Press, was held in Ann Arbor in connection with the Schoolmasters' Convention there. The Hazel Park team was composed of Archie Carmichael and Noral McNeeley and the decision was 2 to 1 in favor of State High. The judges were Professor G. E. Denamore, Department of Speech, and Professor Carl Brandt, Department of English, both of the University of Michigan, and Dr. Franklin Knowler of the University of Iowa.

The entire debate team has had a very successful year, winning every tournament in which they were entered. The negative team, which won the semi-finals included Bil Gilbert and Paula Harrington, and the second affirmative and negative teams were Dick Barnes, Bob Heath, Mary Dawson, and Jeanne Matthy.

This is the first year at State High for the debating coach Mr. George E. Mills, who very successfully coached the team.

The debaters received gold watches from the Detroit Free Press for their victory. The school is presenting watches to the negative team.

Jeep Set As Goal

After the Bond Boogie, the school's war stamp sales fell off to absolutely nothing. A new and most needed drive is now being pushed along to get State High back in the firing line.

It has just come straight from the committee that the school is aiming toward buying a $1,000 "jeep," and if sales go along well, may make it two or three. The first thing that the students are asked to do is to buy at least one ten cent stamp every Friday in homeroom. If this is not possible, students are urged to buy stamps during the week, giving their homeroom number in order that that homeroom may receive credit.

Bil Gilbert, Jim Powell, and Carolyn Mitchell are in charge of the stamps which are being sold in the homerooms and in the halls.

The outcome of the sales on Friday, April 14, found 208A ahead with $18.85 and 2A second with $12.40. Following were 13A with $3.40, 209A with $1.70, 15A with 60c, 210A with 50c.

The Spring Dance on May 19 will be part of the drive. The homeroom which does the most toward the goal will be honored at that time. The dance is to resemble the Student Party and admission will be by War Stamps. June Albertson is in charge of arrangements for the dance which is to be held at Walwood hall.

CALENDAR
April 27—Visitation Day.
May 2—Band Assembly.
May 9—Sophomore Assembly.
May 12-13—Spring Play.
We Must Begin at Home

"Democracy is an outdated form of doing nothing... The soft and weak democracies of the West will be an easy mark for the superior German race."

Nazi propaganda? Yes, but if we re-examine our newspapers for the months before Pearl Harbor, we find such words as these: "Wishful thinking will not win the war... Complicity must be eliminated," almost proving that Dr. Goebbels and his boys were right in their accusations against democracy.

Everyone during those days of blind trust was talking about avoiding complicity. Our government sponsored an extensive propaganda campaign to stamp it out. And all the time England fought our war alone. We knew in those days who was fighting for death at the first sign of challenge and which they themselves claim to have inaugurated.

Why do governments, and especially democracies, refuse to state their beliefs concerning right and wrong and then defend them? Because any government to long exist must express the will of the people. The place where definite purpose and conviction is lacking, then, is not in government but in the individual personalities that make a nation.

Much is to be said in the realm of psychology about the nature and development of personality, but even the rankest of amateurs among us can observe the lack of definite feeling and conviction among his fellow men.

This is especially true in politics. People vote for a candidate because he belongs to the party and for no other reason. This is the brand of democracy that destroys itself; it is the type of thinking that destroyed what little democracy was left to Germany after the last war. Political parties, as such, are, of course, worthwhile only as long as they each have definite convictions on one side of the fence or the other. Although they must comply with the wishes of the majority, they should also stick to their principles—win, lose, or draw in any election.

If we are to have any success in the world of the future, we must rid ourselves of fence-perching opportunists along with all the other doubtful and shady characters we are planning to dispose of. We must begin now to express our convictions; and to do that, we must begin in the little simple matters of personal faith and personal politics. We must never again make the mistake we made during the dark days when England stood alone; we must begin at home, now, to build a world of definite, democratic, and Christian living for all peoples.

—Bill Shumaker.
STATE HIGHLIGHTS

Weather Delays Tennis Tryouts

By JIM KNAUSS

Prospects for the racketeers of the Cubs look more than promising for the 1944 season. Bob Espie, Harold Upton, Dick Barnes, George Wa- ber, the numbers 1, 2, 3, and 4 men respectively, are returning from last year. In addition to these, several new players are out, by name Bill Perrin, Jim Stephenson, Bob Palmatier, Bud Gross, Henry Berry. Harry Parker is expected to try out later. This looks like a good start for a very profitable season.

So far the weather has not been particularly good for tennis matches; however, a few of the try-outs have been played off. In the first try-outs Dick Barnes defeated George Waber, and also out Bill Perrin. Bob Palmatier beat Bud Gross and then in turn was defeated by Jim Stephenson. Dick Barnes and Harold Upton seemed in especially good shape during these first sets.

No positions for this year’s team have been definitely determined yet; however, the final try-offs will be held this week. The first meet scheduled is Benton Harbor, to be played here on May 2, so here’s hoping for a happy ending and good luck!

**TELENS SCHEDULE**

May 2 — Benton Harbor, here

May 5-6 — Dowagiac tournament, there

May 10 — Dowagiac, there

May 15 — Allegan, there

May 18 — Elkhart, here

May 20 — Dowagiac, here

May 23 — Benton Harbor, there

May 24 — Allegan, here

May 30 — Howe Military Academy, there (tentative)

June 3 — Elkhart, there

Date unsettled — Howe, there (tentative)

**Baseball Practice Gets Underway**

By BOB KISTLER

The State High baseball team is a whole chorus of veterans this year. First base is efficiently handled by tall, dark and handsome Bill Perrin. Next comes Ritsema, an able second baseman. Little Burns is our flashy shortstop with slug Parker as center fielder. Chase, Patterson, Peterson, and Miller make up the pitching staff. Miller, a freshman, shows promise to the team. Dick Husted and freshman Gordy White are fighting it out for catcher and it looks like a draw.

The members of the team all hope to see something worked out to support them, so “puleeese!” let’s have a record attendance at the games. The schedule is not yet complete but here it is with all the open dates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Opponent</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 27</td>
<td>Plainwell, there</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 5</td>
<td>Plainwell, there</td>
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<td>May 9</td>
<td>Otsego, there</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 12</td>
<td>Paw Paw, here</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 13</td>
<td>Open</td>
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<td>May 16</td>
<td>Open</td>
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<td>May 18</td>
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<td>May 23</td>
<td>Sturgis, there</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 26</td>
<td>South Haven, there</td>
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<td>June 2</td>
<td>Paw Paw, there</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 21</td>
<td>Otsego, there</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 27</td>
<td>Plainwell, there</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 28</td>
<td>Open</td>
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**S p o r t s Q u i z**

It was asked in a previous sports quiz to name games played without the use of a ball. Seeing that you got along all right on that, and since the Highlights box was overcrowded with replies, we’ll try you out again. Let’s see if you can name more than ten games played with a ball. Don’t include games like hockey which is played with something similar.

April 29 — Open

May 5 — Plainwell, there

May 9 — Otsego, there

May 12 — Paw Paw, here

May 13 — Open

May 16 — Open

May 18 — Open

May 23 — Sturgis, there

May 26 — South Haven, there

June 2 — Paw Paw, there

April 21 — Otsego, there

April 27 — Plainwell, there

April 28 — Open

**G r o f v e r t Active in 4H**

As an outstanding member of the 4H club, Paul Grofvert, senior, has gained many benefits from his work. Paul started the club work when he was twelve years old. Since that Paul Grofvert has received prizes for corn, swine, beef and judging.

The other evening I am sitting in a pool hall, which for no better name we shall call the Joint, watching a game of rotation, which is a very cut-throat game. There is much cur- ring and brandishing of the old equalizers, growing in comes two parties from State College as follows: Dave the Dude Ritsema and Corny the Brute Vander Weele, which in the future we will call Dave the Dude, and the Brute. As I am the only other guy in the Joint, I give them a great big hello as they come over to me. They invite me to have a friendly little game of pool with them and Dave, the Brute, says to me like this: "The Brute, who is always bragging about his thick board, which he says, and I quote, 'grows like corn in Iowa!' (the place of his birth), has challenged me to a fifty G bet on a backto-back two.

When we finish our game, this is the last I see of the boys for many a week. Then one evening I am again sitting in the Joint watching a game in which there is more shooting than with equalizers than with cues, when in comes two characters, who look just like the from the Head of David. They say to me as follows: "I see that you do not recognize us, and because of this allow me to introduce us. I am Dave the Dude, and this is my pal, The Brute."

They explain to me that Dave the Dude won the contest, but the Brute is still saying Dave uses hair grower. The boys are now looking for a bar- ber with the time with them to shave them.

**G r o f v e r t Active in 4H**

By BILL COX

If anyone doubts the integrity of the grammar used herein, D. a. m. o. n. Rittenberg and I will deal with all complaints.

The boys are now looking for a bar-
We Protest

There was a small announcement in the Lowlights last Thursday which asked in a polite way that more things be put into the Highlights box. Well, contributions have pepped up a little since then but not, if we may employ a quaint term which is in common use around the campus, very doggone much. And something has got to be done about it. I know you've all been very concerned over the elections—so have we. But gosh, that's no reason to let your paper go to the dogs. And that's exactly what will happen if you kids don't take an interest pretty soon.

How many times do we have to tell you that it's your paper before it finally sinks in? It is your paper and you've got to help write it. What do you think we are? A bunch of human machines capable of turning out an unlimited amount of stuff for you to read—and turning it out at any time of day or night? Kindly remember, if you will, that we have school work to do, too. We're not in this school simply for the purpose of writing your little paper, and it's a lot of work. No one can blame us for getting a little tired of pounding out stories week after week with no thanks from anyone. And don't think that's exaggeration, it is work—good hard work, and plenty of it.

But if we had some support from the school, if we thought you wanted to help us, if you would contribute, then it would be fun—we'd enjoy it—and the paper would be immeasurably better. So look, kids, how about it? Do we get support and contributions? or don't you care? Maybe you'd just as soon not have a paper. But whom are we kidding? You've got to help write it. What do you think we are? A bunch of machines capable of turning out an unlimited amount of stuff for you to read—

Dedicated to Miss Howery—

"To flunk or not to flunk, that is the question;" "Whether 'tis best to go to recitation unprepared, "To sit by and dream while others shine ahead; "Or by dint of careful work beforehand. "To fix the lessons on a tiny card."

Happy Birthday!

April 26—Amy Lou Brown
April 27—Marilee Fonner
April 28—Madalyn Steble
April 29—Herb Potter
April 30—George Moran
May 1—Joan Reade
May 2—Eugene Ford
May 3—Jack Stiles
May 5—Betty Williams
May 7—Dick Klinep
May 8—Ted Lawrence
May 9—Jeanne Ekena
May 11—Arene Carlson
May 12—Dot Hubbell
May 15—Bob Gleason
May 16—Mary Roberts

Pause for Laughter

Bill: "You say Joe wasn't sewed up after his operation? Hopeless case?"
Don: "Oh no; he just pulled himself together and was out in a week.

Miss Spaeth: "Jim, what finally became of Columbus?"
Jim Powell (triumphantly): "He died."

"My heart is with the ocean!" cried the poet.
"You've gone me one better," said the seasick friend, as he took a firmer grasp on the rail.

Definition: We always called a spade a spade until we hit our foot with one the other day.

STUFF 'N THINGS

Who is the six foot mystery man who belongs to that ring we've seen on the chain around Bette Williams' neck?

It seems that a certain Soph girl has beaten all the Seniors in being asked to the Senior Prom—Don't know how you do it, Mab

STATE HIGHLIGHTS

Victory Is Ours

Well, kids, it was a hard fight but we won! George King's orchestra will play at the Prom and all because of a few spirited Juniors who attended two Canteen Board meetings before they persuaded the Board to release George King from his Friday night contract.

The Prom is scheduled for June 9 at Walwood Hall and through the efforts of Joan Reade, Ida Schuhardt, Pat Fisher and Glen Mellinger, the Canteen will let us have George King for that night on the following conditions: That we secure another orchestra for an overall dance at the Canteen on the night of our Prom; that State High present a half-hour floor show at the Canteen sometime in the next few weeks; and, most important of all, that State High students get behind the Canteen and support it. Up to now, very few of us have done any work for the Canteen and, actually, the board is under the impression that State High has an antagonistic attitude toward it.

To show our appreciation, let's have a record State High representation at the Canteen this Friday night and keep it up to prove to them that we want to co-operate and help in every way we can.

A Little of Everything

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Karl trying desperately to explain that face-slapping episode; cotton dresses; increased absence lists; the switch in teachers in the 10 o'clock English classes; nature-lovers trying to think of an off-campus place that's not too far away, where they can eat their lunches in peace.

CLASSIFIED ADS

WANTED—A quiet secluded place on the campus that no one else has found.

Hank and Adele.

LOST—One Election.

Seven Disappointed People.

FOUND—One camera with what seems to be a man attached. Only identifying marks: class pin bearing initials J. E. W.

WANTED—Dates—tall, short, thin, fat, good, bad, indifferent—heck, we're not choosy. Just so they're breathing.

The Gala of Old S. H.

RECIPE

2. For A Bluff

1 easy teacher
1 unprepared scholar
4 or 5 smiles
6 replies to make teacher forget his question

Mix all ingredients with unlimited amount of hot air, and stir constantly. Do not allow ingredients to cool.