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University High Highlights 2/13/1963

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Sue Callendar Named New D.A.R. Pilgrim

Each year, the Senior Class and the faculty select a senior girl to receive the Daughters of the American Revolution Good Citizenship Award. The D.A.R. Pilgrim is chosen on the basis of leadership, dependability, service, and patriotism. Honored this year is Sue Callander.

One can easily tell that Sue is well qualified for this award by the long list of activities in which she has participated, and by the many responsibilities she has been given.

During Sue's three years at U-High she has served as homeroom secretary and as vice-president, Student Council representative, general committee chairman of the Prom, corresponding secretary to our Greek foster child, president of the Senior Class and vice-president of Finettes. Sue has been a member of the Friendship Committee, Service Committee, and Social Committee. She also is a member of her church Youth Fellowship, and served as chairman of their Youth Budget Committee, and sang in the church choir.

Sue's hobbies include reading, playing the piano, sewing, and knitting. She also writes some lovely poetry. Sue plans to attend Ohio Wesleyan University in Delaware, Ohio and major in later elementary education.

Erudition to Be Recognized

On Wednesday, February 20, from 12:30 to 1:10 p.m., the Honor Society will induct new members in an assembly to be held in the gymnasium. Mr. Neil Schoenhals, the sponsor of the society, will be in charge.

It is hoped that, although every one is not able to become a member of the society, the assembly will serve to spur on all students to exert the greatest effort in their academic pursuits.

Thespians Await Opening Night

Left to right: Marcia DeKorte, Sue Sprau, Sue Strube, Sue Southon

An unusual undertaking for a high school will appear in the form of this year's school play, "The Death and Life of Larry Benson," written by Kristin Sergei. The play, which first appeared on CBS Television Studio One, is produced by Mr. Christensen and directed by Mr. Robert Murphy, aided by Daphne Szmuszkovicz, student director. The play will be held in the WMU theatre on Thursday, February 14th, and Saturday, February 16th, at 8:00 p.m. "The Death and Life of Larry Benson" has a unique plot; Larry Benson, a soldier in the Korean War, has been thought dead by his family for several years. Mrs. Benson receives a phone call one day from Larry. He says he is coming home. Larry returns home, but no one recognizes him. He strangely can recall, however, all his past experiences as a young boy, a baffling situation.

The cast consists of JESSIE BENSON, Sue Strube; SUSAN, Sue Southon; MARY ELLEN, Marcia DeKorte; REDA BENSON, Sue Sprau; GRACE WILKEY, Sue Egland; MRS. PORTER, Rosemary Stwik; WALTER PORTER, Frank Abnet; SAM BENSON, Tom Wilcox; MRS. FITCH, Karen Gunnette; NETTIE CLARK, Julie Birkhold; MELVIN CLARK; Jim Heersma; THE BOY, Joe Stulberg; and BUD MERKEL, John Manske.

Committee chairman are Ingrid Nelson, costumes; Kathy Michaud, social; Daphne Szmuszkovicz, properties; Peggy Brunner, tickets; Nancy Fox, publicity; Claire Anderson, programs; and Kris Nelson, make-up.

Tickets are now obtainable from play members.

Town Meeting Scheduled

On February 27, 'U' High's annual Town Meeting will be held. The topics for this year's meeting are to be taken from these areas: school spirit, cheating, and home rooms. All students are urged to take advantage of the opportunity that the town meeting presents to consider the topics under discussion and recommend possible action to be taken on them; there is no better way to put the democratic principles to work.
Bear Blunders

Stuart Starkweather, while performing a chemistry experiment, carefully connected his bunsen burner to what he thought was the gas pipe. However, when he tried to light it nothing happened. Probably the reason it wouldn't light was that you had hooked it up to the water pipes. Don't you agree, Stu?

Being an ardent drag racer, Jane Hotneier pulled up to a stop sign and started to drag the car beside her. However, this soon stopped when she found out who was in the car next to her. Do you think Mr. Fox will drop your history grade, Jane?

While placing animals in their proper habitats, Mr. Deur, in Biology, asked the class what realm the tiger lived in. Cam Carter quipped, "in Detroit!"

Mr. Engles was trying to demonstrate in physics class what materials heat up when hit with a hammer. He asked Frank Abnet to tell whether the hammer felt different when Mr. Engles touched it to Frank's cheek after striking it on two materials. He turned out the opposite of what they were supposed to, and Mr. Engles accused Frank of not having tender cheeks.

In an effort to demonstrate the braking effect the atmosphere has on a space probe returning to the earth, Mr. Nuxum held a small steel ball on a hook over a beaker of water. After dropping the ball and missing the water it seemed the only thing it proved was that the atmosphere would shatter into 500 pieces and a great amount of water would be spilled.

While discussing the danger of carbon monoxide in chemistry recently, Mr. Engles was telling his class that if they ever found it necessary to stop with a friend on a dark deserted road in an old car with the motor on, to make sure at least one of the windows is open. Is this so things will stay cool, Mr. Engles?

Mr. Chance has a fatherly attitude toward his book-keeping class, but don't you think putting diapers on Brom DeMink is going a little too far?

Mr. Murphy has the following advice for the more delicate gentleman in his classes: "The next time anybody calls you a sissy, hit him with your purse."

UNIVERSITY HIGHLIGHTS

Grades Should Be Abolished

"Our schools must be a good place for all youth, because there are no other places in our society for them. The number of students who leave school before completion is proof enough that our schools are not meeting the needs of youth. If it is a sine qua non of their development that they have no place else to go." These are statements made by E. C. Kelley, Professor of Secondary Education at Wayne State University, in his book, In Defense of Youth.

Today our educational system harbors a complicated and effective process of youth rejection. Evidence of this rejection can be seen in many places. Yet the key that could remedy the problem has been turned in very few instances. This key lies in our grading system.

All people are different mentally as well as physically. This is a fact often overlooked in student evaluation. Everyone is not expected to run equally well, but standardization and grading demand all to produce to a certain level. Only some can master the pre-planned course of study. The uniqueness of the individual is only slightly recognized. Yet change may be coming. From a conference on mental health came, "The idea is gaining ground, that high schools should proceed with each student at his own level of ability, to help him make the most of what he has."

What are the effects of student competition for grades and rank in class? The idea that a student works harder is certainly a valid argument. Yet the harmful aspect of grades seems to overshadow the good ones. Students often evaluate each other on grades alone, rather than the assets of the individual and his personality. The "A" students are regarded as smart; the "D" and "E" students are "dumb." The so-called "good pupils" may be respected; the "dumb" ones may be scorned. Constant pressure seems to cause social maladjustment. Demanding parents put constant pressure on their children. Sometimes penalties are imposed because students do not achieve to their parents' desires. The result of such habitual pressing can often be seen in the psychiatrists' offices. A student may resort to cheating to "keep up" with his classmates. To what degree does education exist when one must cheat to pass the goal, instead of working to learn? The ideal of education has somewhere been lost. The student's attitude is wrong. He is working for the grade. Learning has become secondary. If schools were not established for learning why do they exist?

The "late-achiever" demonstrates very clearly some of the faults mentioned. This is the person who has gone along for many years without seeming to develop his potentialities. Although he may have ability, it may not show up in the usual academic way. He is judged by the standard grade performance and may have trouble even getting into college because of his grades.

Under our present system the creativity of the student is hindered rather than developed. After studying for the test and doing homework a student often has no time to read or develop an outside interest that could really challenge his mind and inspire some creative thinking. On the other hand, many creative people perform poorly under the grading system. They become bored, often rebel, and many times leave school. Thomas Edison had to drop out of school because he could not keep up with the work. Albert Einstein flunked math! These men are two classic examples of failure to recognize ability under the grading system.

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Victory for Cubettes!

"U" High's girls basketball team, the Cubettes, outclassed the Little Caesar's 39 to 9, for their third victory. They have lost two. The Little Caesar's are made up of eighth graders from St. Mary's and Northeastern. Scoring honors went to Diane Ketcham with eight points, while Carol Whitfield tossed in seven and Barb Percy and Sue Hamilton had six apiece.

The Cubettes had a rather cold first half, falling to score in the first quarter. By the end of the half they had rallied for eleven points. The Cubettes shot a rather cool 31% in the first half but picked up the pace the second half with a 61% shooting clip to end up with a sharp 48%. Ann and Carol Whitfield provided the board work with each grabbing six rebounds.

The Cubettes play their games on Monday nights at Central High School.

Intra-Murder Key to Action Teams Fight for First

With one game to be played before the Intra-Murder tournaments begin, Hamilton Hackers stand in the lead, followed by Harada's Hot Shots in second place and one of the pre-season favorites, Manske's Maulers sharing third with Starkweather's Sluggers. Two other pre-season favorites which have fallen off the pace are William's Wonders and Tobias' Toughies who hold fourth and fifth places respectively. High scoring honors go to Jack Masters, outclassed the Little Caesar's with a sharp 48%. Ann and Carol Whitfield shot a rather cool 31% with a 61% half with a 61%.

Students Show Interest In Taking College Classes

Presently at "U" High there are twenty-six seniors participating in college classes at Western Michigan University. These classes give them an opportunity not only to preview college, but also to further enhance their knowledge of a particular subject which they are interested in.

They seem most anxious in their pursuit of knowledge in the languages. Seventeen students are enrolled in one of four different language classes. Spanish and French are the most popular, although some of them show interest in German and Latin. Other enthusiastic scholars are engaged in the field of social studies where there are six students enrolled in either sociology or psychology classes. Although languages and social studies seem to be the most popular courses, there are several students who are enrolled in math and English classes.

The fact that so much interest is being shown in taking college classes verifies the fact that the "U" High students are eager to take some more challenging classes in their pursuit of a better understanding of the world around them.

Homecoming Anticipated

The 1963 basketball homecoming dance will take place Saturday, February 24, in the gymnasium. It will be dress up and last from 8:30 to 11:30. Tickets will be on sale a week prior to the dance and will cost $1.00 per couple.
Dear Students:
In the last few weeks before Christmas vacation these changes effecting your Student Council were made:
1. The new constitution states that committee chairmen are not allowed to vote in Student Council.
2. A motion was passed that committee reports would now be written into the agenda and not given orally unless a chairman believed it was necessary.
3. By request of the president, the committee chairmen are no longer allowed to sit with the members of the Student Council.

The result of these decisions is that there is really no need or purpose for a committee chairman to attend the Student Council meetings (although the constitution still compels them to).

I wonder whether this separation of the cabinet and Student Council is part of the essential part of the Student Council. Isn’t a strong unity between the two necessary? Our Student Council has the reputation in Michigan of being one of the most effective. I wonder if we can uphold that reputation with these new changes.

The cabinet is composed of the officers of the Student Council and the committee chairmen, all of whom are elected in the spring of the preceding year by the entire student citizenry. Always before a major part of the work of the Student Council has been performed by the committee chairmen who form working committees such as the Citizenship, Service, Pep, Social, Assembly, International, and Friendship. The cabinet itself meets as a whole every week to plan the next Student Council meeting.

The students voted for these people with the understanding that they would help carry out the work of the Student Council. Thus complaints and ideas brought to the Student Council are usually referred to one of the committees to be worked out.

At the last meeting before vacation the Student Council appointed the cabinet to decide on which record player to buy. The cabinet itself had no vote on this motion. It seems something like taxation without representation.

Each chairman of a committee has about 30 members from the various classes and home rooms. No one in the Student Council represents the wants of these groups of people. A home-room president probably has only a few members of anyone one committee in his homeroom and he may not be informed of their interests. Also the interests of these few people may not coincide with the majority of people in his particular homeroom. It seems to me that a committee of 30 people have just as much right to be represented as a homeroom of 30 people.

The main objection to chairman voting is that it gave the seniors too much power. However being seniors or juniors, committee chairmen are more experienced and better informed on what would be good for all.

In the past as a rule, committee chairmen have contributed most of the ideas to Student Council, and in general they have voted wisely for the good of all.

If that is the only major objection, it seems a compromise could be made by either restricting the chairmen to matters concerning their committees or by reducing the chairman individual votes to three or four collective votes, and I believe one of these changes is necessary.

—Name Withheld

More About Grades (Continued from Page 2)

The difference between this school and others is that these students are competing with themselves, not with one another. Dr. B. F. Brown, the principal, states that, “the success of the school is evident in many ways: 1) college enrollment of those graduating is up from 40% to 70%; 2) the academic work of those students who go on to college has improved by 100%; 3) the percentage of drop-outs is now 4% as compared to the national average of 33%.” He adds: “Even more convincing is the mood of the school... Students and teachers alike are possessed by a boundless enthusiasm and an energetic desire to learn.”

Dr. Kelley feels, “A standard to hold onto is that every human being should have the opportunity to develop his own unique potentialities so that the full meaning of being human can emerge.” At Summerhill and Melbourne this ideal is being met in a happy, energetic atmosphere. Isn’t it about time that schools across the country evaluate the grading system in terms of what it is really accomplishing? If, as seems likely, they find it is not serving the purpose for which it was set up, should not a change be made?

—Fred Margolis

Voice of the Students

Band Festival at Sturgis

February 23, is the big day for many bands and orchestras all over Michigan. The District Band and Orchestra Festival is being held that day, and the ‘U’ High band will also respond to the call. The band will participate with the scores of 11 other bands at Sturgis. The selections to be played are: “March and Chorus” by Handel, “March Forth” by Moore, and the required number, “Overture in Classical Style” by Carter.

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Check-Mates

Ann sure has used a lot of Whit in the right field to trap Maris Rushcivies.

Tao has been thinking about getting a Patton on a certain Ron Gatwood.

Mary must be wise to have found such a good catch in Jerry TerBeck.

Sue has now become the Master of Noble John.

Jan Larzelere seems to be getting quite a few phone calls from West Point. How is Dave anyway, Jan?

Is there any truth to the rumor that Joe Koenig and Connie Tobias have been seen together many times lately?

Homemaker Selected

The ‘U’ High Homemaker of Tomorrow is Sharon Glendening. On December 4, 1962, 410,000 senior girls took the fifty minute determining test dealing with homemaking knowledge and attitudes. The examination consisted of one hundred multiple choice questions and an essay. The tests were scored by the Science Research Institute.

The search for the American Homemaker of Tomorrow, sponsored by General Mills, has three main purposes. The first, to enhance the dignity and prestige of the American home, second, to stimulate interest in the art of homemaking, and last, to emphasize the outstanding contributions to the home being made by high school teachers across the nation.

Sharon’s scores will be sent on to the state headquarters where they will enter competition with the scores of other school winners. The girl with the highest score will receive a $1,500 college scholarship and an educational tour of Washington, D.C. Sharon will be awarded a pin and a certificate of merit at the annual awards assembly in the spring.

Honoring . . .

Judith Larzelere for making the dean’s list at Radcliffe College.

David Murray (’62), William High tower (’60), James Albert Jr. (’61), Fred Kolloff (’59), Susan Schroeder (’59), and Richard Doyle (’58), for making the dean’s list at Kalamazoo College.

Tom Betz, who received all A’s at the University of Michigan.

Alan Mimms (’61) for being elected activities chairman of the Brian Hall Dormitory at Michigan State University.