

# SOUTHWEST PIONEER

Southwest High School

VOL. XXXIV NO. 8

SOUTHWEST HIGH SCHOOL, ST. LOUIS, MO. 63139

April 23, 1971



photo by John Dengler

## Foiled Again!

Dave Jung, as Leander Longfellow, is about to come to the rescue of Purity Dean, played by Patsy Carter, in the performance of *Pure as the Driven Snow*. The villainous Mortimer Frothingham is portrayed by Mike Jackson. The last performance of this year's senior play will be tonight at 8 p.m.

## Teachers in Workshop To Explore Activism

A teacher workshop on student activism will be held Monday, May 10. The idea for the meeting is to follow up a previous two-day conference which Principal Robert M. Young, English Instructor Pat Meloy, Assistant Principal Gene Gladstone, and Counselor Jacqueline Hudson attended.

The meeting will help inform teachers as to the meaning of student activism, which will attempt to lead to a better

understanding between students and faculty members. As Mr. Young stated, "Students are more vocal today than fifteen or twenty years ago and of course there will be more activism. We have many problems today and we must be able to communicate with one another."

Guest speakers at the meeting will be Mr. Brassfield, district superintendent of Soldan and Beaumont High Schools and Mr. Bill Purdy, principal of Central High School.

Southwest students will be dismissed early to allow for the two and a half hour meeting to begin at 1:30 p.m.

## Pioneer Calendar

### April

23—Senior Play  
26—Cheerleader elections double aud

27-28—SRA Tests

29—Girls' Gymnastics Meet

30—Junior aud period 2

### May

1—GAA car wash  
—Mayfair Dance

3—Selection of Harvard Book Award Winner

4—College Day

5—Girls' All-Star Volleyball Game

7—Junior aud period 2

10—Dismissal at 1:25

13—Tax Election

—May Musical

## Seniors Trip To Capitol

52 Southwest seniors visited Washington, D.C. and Williamsburg, Virginia during Easter vacation on the annual senior trip. The seniors left on Saturday, April 3, and returned Thursday, April 8. Many schools sponsor similar programs which enable seniors to visit other parts of the country.

The trip included a visit to the White House, Arlington National Cemetery, Washington Monument, the Lincoln and Jefferson Memorials, the U.S. Department of Printing and Engraving, the Archives, the Smithsonian Institute, the Capitol, and Ford Theater.

## Midi Courses To Offer Choice

Ten-week midi courses in English 11 will be offered next September to a group of students here, Assistant Principal John Close announced recently. He also disclosed hopes for a similar experimental arrangement for some senior social studies classes but indicated that this possibility is slight because of a lack of time.

Students enrolled in the new English midi course program will choose several courses that have particular interest for them from a list of ten that have been announced. The pupils will be programmed to take three of their choices, each for a period of ten weeks. A fourth course, "Grammar and Composition," will be required of all in the program.

Instead of the normal course for English 11, a survey of American literature, the students involved in the midi courses will take four separate English-related classes for ten weeks apiece. Whereas students in the usual curriculum remain with one teacher and one group of pupils for the school year, those in the midi program may find themselves in four entirely different classroom situations during the year.

The midi idea began to take shape here last month when Mr. Close sent a questionnaire to teachers of English, asking them to propose different topics they would like to teach under such a system. Mr. Close combined those that were very similar and compiled a list of 28 course ideas.

Mr. Close presented to all English 10 classes the midi proposal in special aud sessions before the spring break, and a total of 255 of the students showed an interest in the plan by returning forms indicating which courses the students would like to take.

On the basis of these forms, the ten courses holding most students' interest were listed and offered as the choices for those entering the program. Heading the list of the most popular suggested courses is "Whodunit," described as a study of tales of mystery and intrigue, from classical to modern authors. Next most popular is "Rock and Rhyme," which will study the development of poetic form in music. Following closely on the student poll are "The Challenge of Debate" and "Edgar Allen Poe Seminar."

Fifth and sixth in popularity were "20th Century Novel" and "Pride and Prejudice,"

respectively. Also among the top ten, in order, were "Rebels and Misfits," "Creative Writing," "An Adolescent Odyssey," and "How to Choose a College." The last course mentioned would be taught by members of the Southwest Guidance Department.

Only a limited number of pupils can be enrolled in the short classes. Although Mr. Close said the number of students could be no greater than 150, he added that space is still open for a few.

Mr. Close explained that not all ten of the courses proposed will actually be offered in

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## Scholars in Championship

The day of decision has almost arrived for the Southwest Scholar Quiz Team. The final match of the '70-'71 school year will take place tomorrow.

The SW team finished the fall semester as champions and, therefore, have won the right to battle the spring winner, Brentwood, for the final championship.

The deciding match for the spring semester took place last Saturday, with Brentwood victorious over Festus. SW's scholars will now step on stage with Brentwood for the last game of the year.

According to Miss Lucy Funk, counselor and team coach, the team has an excellent chance of winning. Captain David Jung explained their success thus far: "The reason that our team has won so far is because of the balance that exists between the members. The other teams usually have just one 'star' or outstanding player that the rest of the team depends on. Our team doesn't depend on one person, so we probably have a better chance of winning."

The contest is now station-sponsored by KMOX-TV. The broadcast will begin at 5 p.m.

## Japanese Educator Observes SW

Mr. Yukio Kajiya, of the State Department of Education, Hokkaido, Japan, has been visiting SW for one of his two-week stays at high schools across the United States to compare and observe our educational system for the purpose of improving Japanese schools. He feels that, "Your school problems of today will be our school problems of tomorrow."

The Japanese school system parallels that of St. Louis County schools. Both use the 6-3-3 system — six years of elementary schooling and three years apiece for both the junior and senior high schooling. Secondary schools are supported by the state plus a small enrollment fee of \$24, whereas the elementary schools are supported by the town in which they are located.

Curricula offered compare favorably with that in the United States and in some cases surpass our standards. For example, math students in Japan are, on the average, one and one-half years ahead of ours. Physical education is a vital part of their curriculum and some

gym facilities are superior to ours.

"Our period of schooling is more reasonable than yours," explains Mr. Kajiya. "The school year begins in April and ends in March with breaks for summer, winter, and spring vacations. Just before vacation, report cards are issued."

When asked why Japan has so few educational problems, Mr. Kajiya said, "Japanese teachers and students are more formal and more attentive to their work

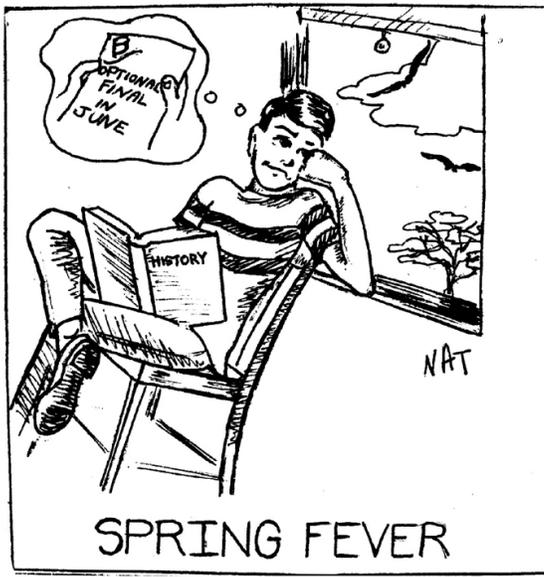
than here. Outside the classroom teachers and students are more informal in their relationships." One problem that is prevalent in our schools which Japanese schools have alleviated is that of poor attendance. It is too difficult for a student in Japan to cut classes because he must wear a uniform, mothers do not work, all licensed drivers are over eighteen, and high school is not compulsory. In fact, entrance examinations are required.

There are hardly any dropouts; students would rather stay in high school four or even five years to complete this educational privilege. There are no drug or racial problems either. Minor infractions of school rules are handled by the advisor; major infractions, such as smoking, are handled by the vice principal and principal. Smoking infractions result in temporary suspension.

When asked how St. Louis public high schools compare with others across the country, Mr. Kajiya replied, "Your schools are more conservative than those in California and New York."



"Your school problems of today will be our school problems of tomorrow."



Science Fiction

# Buck Rodgers Era Updated

The long forgotten field of science fiction finally seems to be gaining the attention due it; but even now, to some people, SF is little green men from Mars in flying saucers, or a two-headed monster right out of Buck Rogers chasing a thinly-clad female under a green sky. Largely, this is not the case. The last Martian I ran across was in a satire on the automobile. As for multiple-headed creatures, the average reader can encounter them in Greek mythology.

By Becky Bierman  
Editorial Writer

Within SF there are wide variances in purpose and technique. Much of modern SF is intensely relevant. Concerned with the problems of today's world, a science fiction author may be discussing ecology or population control while telling about survival on a worldship or colonization of the distant reaches of space. Of course, on the other hand, there are a large number of stories written purely for enjoyment, but this is true in any form of literature. In terms of technique, the authors have developed several distinct types of SF.

Brunner shows the influence of Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World*, a book which has been long considered a leader in the modern trends of some of SF.

remain his *Stranger in a Strange Land*, which won science fiction's Hugo Award in 1965. The novel, whose underlying symbolism is the effect of the return of Christ on modern society several years in the future, is exceptionally well-written, and while the symbolism can be ignored or misconstrued, it is impossible to read without affecting the reader.

Space opera, such as Andre Norton's *Moon of Three Rings*, is characterized by exotic worlds often in other star systems or galaxies, spaceships (or as in the case of the television series *Star Trek*, starships), strange peoples, and Free Traders, a group analogous to the traveling merchant princes of the Middle Ages on Earth. So many authors have used the Free Traders in various stories that they seem to have developed definite characteristics, including black and silver uniforms, habits that seem to run through much of SF.

Often one author will work primarily in a single form, such as Andre Norton in space opera/fantasy or John D. MacDonald in extrapolative fiction, but there are many who cross boundaries and explore hybrid possibilities. Science fiction's well-known Robert A. Heinlein has done so on numerous occasions, one of his more notable results being *The Moon Is A Harsh Mistress*, which by some people could be considered extrapolative space opera. Heinlein's *Glory Road* combined excellent description, powerful plot and careful allegory to create a novel of precision and mammoth proportions that is fascinating reading. Undoubtedly, however, Heinlein's best known work will

Space opera has of late been making a small debut in the world of television. Such shows as *Star Trek* (which won several Hugos in its short life), *Lost in Space*, and *Land of the Giants* were at first well received but later cancelled because of budgetary limitations and a seemingly inevitable plague of bad scripts. Apparently, even the staff scriptwriters have not learned there is more to SF than meets the eye.

A spreading flood of science fiction is being published, some of it being read by the hard core of staunch SF fans across the country and around the world, but even more of it is reaching the previously unaware and unaffected part of society. Science fiction is taking many shapes and is creeping unidentified into the hands and minds of millions of unsuspecting people. Who knows what the result may be judging from the diversity of types, the range of ideas and the variances in style. You may have read an SF story and not even known it.



## Gift Should Be Useful

This year, as every year, the graduating class will give the school a gift. The purpose of this gift is to show the appreciation the graduating seniors have for Southwest, and it is to be used and enjoyed by all students. Past gifts included the trophy case, the gigantic letters "SW" on the football field, the longhorn banner which is hung on the stands at all the football games, and the SW insignia on the floor of the new boys' gym. As can be seen for this list, these gifts are all decorative gifts, adding to the appearance of the school. Might it not be time to get away from this type of gift, and give something more practical and beneficial to the school as a whole?

The Senior Gift Committee this year has the chance to really give something worthwhile to SW. Perhaps money could be given toward the purchase of some new desks, equipment, or new books to replace some shabby ones which are in present use. If the Senior Class finds itself short of funds, perhaps the seniors over 18 years of age could donate blood to a blood drive, an idea that has been successful at other high schools. Another possibility is to have the seniors thoroughly clean, or perhaps paint, a section of the school.

It is true that this type of gift will not be remembered as being specifically donated by a certain class, but it is more important that a gift be chosen with the benefit of all the students in mind, rather than how easily the graduating class's name can be applied to it.

## Back May 13 Tax Raise

Thursday, May 13, the St. Louis Board of Education will appeal to voters to approve a 37-cent increase on the present tax for the city's public schools in a special election. The Board of Education feels that the increase is necessary in order to support a proposed \$87,390,000 budget.

The tax proposal requires only a simple majority for passage. If it is passed the present levy will increase to \$3.06 for each \$100 of assessed property valuation. St. Louis schools have not had a tax increase for two years.

The increase in the budget will be used basically for restoration: reincluding essential services, programs, and positions that were eliminated last year. Plans for improved maintenance services will also be included if the increase is passed.

Although students cannot vote, we urge you to talk to your parents, relatives, and friends who do vote to convince them that their vote is needed and that it will help maintain quality education. This proposal will be an excellent chance for St. Louisians to show their concern for the future by passing this tax proposal for improvements now.

## PIONEER Extends Thanks

Thanks to Student Council for the money the group donated to PIONEER last month. The representatives voted to give the paper enough money to cover the cost of producing one issue. PIONEER regretted that the grant was needed. Not enough students subscribed this semester to meet the costs of printing.

## Midi Courses

Continued From Page One

September. He noted that the several classes that received the most votes will be formed first and said that one teacher might have three or four ten-week sessions of the most popular course.

All midi-courses in English will be scheduled into a single period of the day in order to facilitate switching at the end of each ten weeks. Mr. Close suggested that from four to six teachers might be used for the midi program. Assignments have not been made as yet, according to the assistant principal. All instructors in the experimental system will hold a special interest in the courses they are to teach. Teachers of English were given an opportunity to "sign up" for whatever topics interested them.

This year's juniors were to have the plan for social studies midi courses explained to them at an aud session this week. Mr. Close is doubtful about scheduling such a program for a group of seniors next year, as this would involve changing many student schedules. An extension from the data processing center would be necessary, the administrator said.

The principle of self-motivated interest on the part of both student and instructor is a major basis of the midi course idea.

Because many of the topics have not been taught here before, many of the classes will

require the purchase of paperback books by the individual student.

In the aud sessions for sophomore English classes to introduce the idea, Mr. Close explained the theory behind switching from a survey course presently offered to the specialized classes. He said that English in the past was designed to give a common background for civilization through the reading of certain "classics" of

literature. Now, however, the amount of material available for reading is much too great to expect every pupil in the country to read the same works.

Mr. Close foresees that years from now most courses will be given in the midi type format. He said that they could allow a student in math, for example, to skip a ten week course he felt confident in already, and would thus enable him to take fewer unnecessary classes.

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## Concert Gives Honor

The third annual Band-Choir Concert, April 14, was dedicated to music instructor Mr. Libero Monachesi, who will retire in June. Mr. Monachesi was guest conductor for Clifton Williams, "Henderson Festival." Principal Robert M. Young presented Mr. Monachesi with a plaque honoring his 34 years at Southwest, while Miss L. Meyer, vocal music teacher, presented his wife with a bouquet of roses.

The musical part of the program included choral and instrumental arrangements from the Renaissance period, as well as modern selections from "Sweet Charity" and "Fiddler on the Roof." Concert choir was conducted by Miss L. Meyer. Concert and stage bands were under the direction of Mr. Robert Nordman.

This same musical program was presented to about 2000 city elementary school children in Southwest's aud, April 13, 14.

## Bruenger Joins Symphony

Senior David Bruenger, auditioning last spring, was chosen third chair trombone with the St. Louis Youth Symphony, a group of selected outstanding musicians. Dave is also playing second chair trombone in the St. Louis Philharmonic. At Southwest he is a member of Concert Band and Stage Band.

## Mayfair Organized for May 1

The annual Student Council Mayfair will be held next Saturday. SC members voted to have a carnival theme. All advisories and club organizations were asked to sponsor a booth to help make the dance a success. A nine-piece band, the Midwest Rock Ensemble, will be featured in the new girls' gym and booths will be set up in the new boys' gym. Tickets will be sold in advisory and during lunch periods by SC members. Tickets will not be sold at the door.

## Book Candidates Chosen

The five candidates chosen for the Harvard Book Award are juniors John Baltzer, Gary Erhart, Tom Espinola, Steve Rakel, and Richard Shanks. The winner will be selected May 3.

## Girls Compete in Tryouts

Pom Pon preliminary tryouts, held Mar. 27, were judged by senior Pom Pon girls and alumnae. In addition to the seven juniors and one sophomore presently on the squad, 27 other girls tried out in the preliminaries to be eligible for finals in May. In the finals each girl will be required to perform a routine that is randomly selected and an original routine. A cross-section of SW populace will do the judging and choose the twelve Pom Pon girls for next year.

Cheerleader Club participants performed three required cheers, one original cheer, and one selected cheer for their preliminaries in April. The fifteen finalists will again compete on stage in April.

The fifteen finalists were: juniors—Sue Baylard, Diane Dendrinelis, Jo Ann James, Kris Keaton, Cathy Scully, and Debbie Wheelahan. Sophomores—Joni Alexander, Cathy Elson, Carol Russo, Sharon Schisma, Kim Stickel, Sue Streckfuss, Diane Swallow, Nancy Tomlinson, and Kathy Williams.



Photo by Dan McAnarr

Principal Robert M. Young (extreme right) presents Music Instructor Mr. Libero Monachesi (extreme left) with a plaque honoring his 34 years at Southwest at the Band-Choir Concert, April 14. Looking on are (from left) Mrs. Monachesi, Orchestra Director Mr. Robert Nordman, and Music Instructor Miss L. Meyer.

## Finale

"Maximum power and minimum effort" is a pretty attractive thought to most of us weaklings. It conjures up all sorts of images with ourselves as heroes defeating bullies, and muggers, etc. But for José Diaz, this daydream is a reality. José, a junior at Southwest, represented our school in the National High School Judo Championship in which he won third place in his weight division. Of course, this honor came about through years of practice.

José's dad encouraged him at age eight to become interested in judo, and he was promptly enrolled in the Moo-doo-kwan training school, gaining skills in the ancient Japanese sport that have enabled him to compete in 50 tournaments. Awarded the brown belt a year ago, he had worked his way up from the white, yellow, orange, and green levels of achievement.

To be a brown belt, one must have mastered certain techniques (throws, pins, landings) and be evaluated by a board of high-ranking judo instructors. Jose claims his size aided him. "You can use your weight to an advantage."

Judo itself means "the gentle way," which explains why someone who weighs 120 pounds can flip a bruiser of 220. It's a sport that involves bare feet and bowing to your opponent to show your respect for him, even though in many cases, you have never met him before and have no idea how skilled he is.

Points are totaled per participant, not on the basis of merit, but on the basis of mistakes and faulty plays. An accumulation of five points automatically disqualifies one. Fortunately, in the high school national tournament, José's total points amounted to three, placing him in the finals. "Because I had already beaten one of the guys, I was in third place. I could have moved to second or first, but it was impossible to go below third."

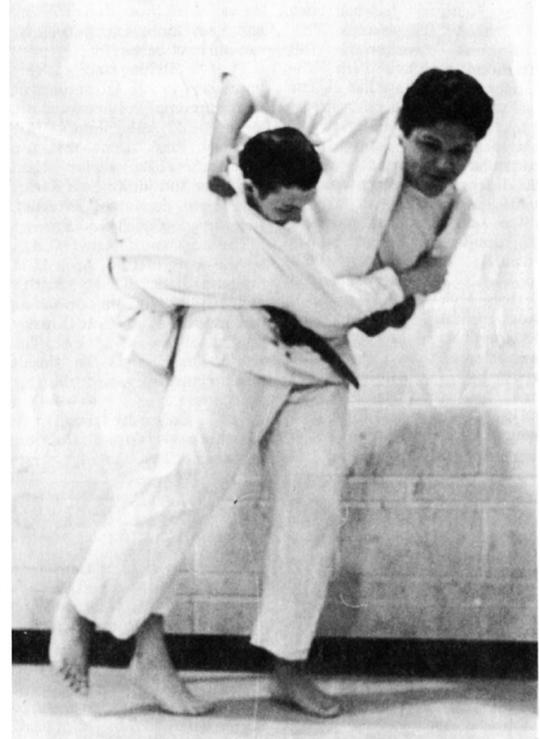


photo by Rich Hartmann

Jose Diaz demonstrates a judo hip throw using a complacent junior Ralph Break as his victim. Judo combines muscular coordination with quick reflexes.

## Workout

"I fought a black belt from Hawaii who won second place by a decision of the judges. A brown belt from Texas beat me by a decision for the first place title." Along with winning third place, José was recognized as an All American High School Judoist.

The black belt looms ahead in his future as José's next goal; however, ambition can drive him through the ten levels of the black belt category and award him with the high honor of the red belt — of which there are an

estimated three or four wearers in the whole world. He has experimented with karate, which deals with self-defense rather than sport, and was able to break boards using the familiar karate chop.

Today and tomorrow, he will compete in the Senior Nationals at Forest Park Community College. The matches are open to anyone in any age group. Only the best at Moo-doo-kwan will journey to Texas in July to fight in the Junior National Judo Championship.

## Bum Steer

# Bus Ride Becomes Combat Zone

By Barb Prica  
Feature Writer

Waiting for a bus can be a nerve-racking experience. After finding the bus stop, which isn't exactly easy, you become acquainted with some of the weird people walking the streets. I was just standing around minding my own business and waiting for a bus when I was approached by a freckle-faced, 75-pound, sweet little boy, who asked me if I would give him a piece of the same kind of purple bubble gum I was chewing.

So, I gave him a piece and he put it in his mouth and chewed it until it was nice and sticky; and then, all of a sudden, the sweet little boy turned into a juvenile delinquent. He aimed and threw the wad of gum at me. It made a successful landing in my hair.

Then, out of the clear, dirty, grayish polluted sky came the Man from Glad wearing his white ballerina tights. I tried to

look him straight in the eye but the black roots of his white bleached hair distracted my attention. He handed me one of his alligator tough baggies with the zip-lock-top and told me to use it on the kid. But I couldn't do it to this sweet child, so I knocked the kid's teeth in.

The bus finally came. I got on, paid my fare, and began looking for a seat. There were many familiar faces, for instance, Sleepy George Brackle Mouth. If I choose to sit next to him, I would be forced to listen to his snoring and watch him slowly choke on his false teeth while his mouth is opening and closing. Or, I could sit next to Captain Crunch, who has peanut brittle in every pocket he owns, and decides to munch on it and talk to me at the same time.

Ouch! Something just hit me in the back of my head. Oh yes, it's one of those kids that you

wish would play on the highway during rush hour, and he's got his new toy, Robby Robot, with him. Robby is supposed to shoot ping-pong balls out of his arms, but this little kid wants Robby to shoot iron ball bearings, which makes the game more interesting and a real knock-out.

I decided to sit next to Sticky-Fingers Sal. She's the kind of kid that will eat half of a chocolate cream-filled twinkie, and then pat you on the back with the other half.

The bus finally got to my stop and before I knew it I was standing in front of the door to my own home. I got in and saw a message from my mother on the table for me which read, "Take the bus downtown, I'll meet you there." My next step was to take the alligator tough baggie, with the zip-lock-top, that the Man from Glad gave me, and use it.

# Batmen To Meet NW Today; Early Games Show Promise

The Southwest baseball team will meet its second PHL opponent, Northwest, this afternoon at Davis Park. The batmen were to have had a game against Cleveland earlier in the week, which, according to the players, was considered particularly important due to the intense rivalry between the southside schools.

The Longhorns had posted a 4-2 non-league record before opening play against PHL opponents this week. Coach Ed Graham believes that the team shows promise but said, "The development of the team has been slower than I thought it would be." He stated that the team had good depth at all positions except at third and behind the plate. The coach concluded with optimism, "If

we can solve those two problems and gain more experience, we can only get better."

The SW pitching staff was very impressive in the six non-league contests compiling an earned run average of 3.68. Junior Bob Downey has been the top pitcher while senior Kent Kloepper and junior Sam Kerley have been consistent in relief, according to Coach Graham.

The batmen defeated C.B.C. by the score of 11-6, April 15 at Sublette Park. Timely hitting and an outstanding pitching performance from Bob Downey led to the victory. The righthander hurled the team's first complete game, allowing eight hits.

The day before, the Longhorns outslugged DuBourg on their field, 15-14, before

darkness ended the contest after six innings. Trailing 10-3 going into the fifth inning, the batmen erupted for eight runs to take the lead. Both teams added four runs in the sixth. Every starting player contributed at least a hit in the thrilling comeback.

The hard hitting of Hancock and potential SW runs stranded on base led to a 9-3 loss at Sublette on April 13. The Longhorns could not crack the hustling defense of Hancock, leaving 12 men on base.

The batmen lost a rescheduled game full of mistakes to S.L.U.H. by the score of 9-6 on April 10. All of the opponent's runs were unearned due to seven SW errors. However, junior John Whitaker provided some brightness with the team's first homerun.

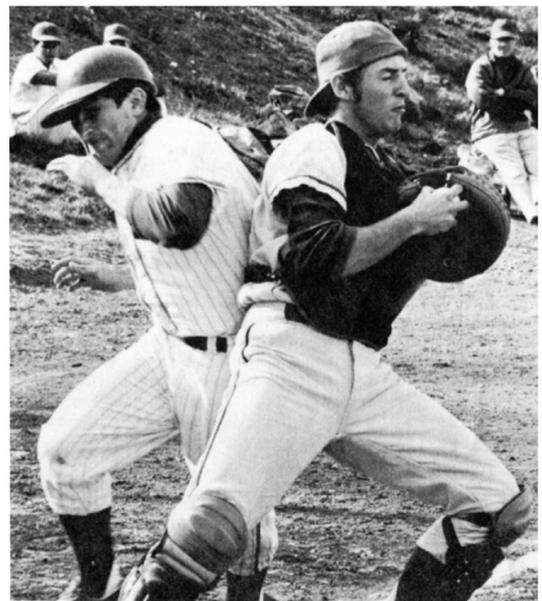


Photo by John Dengler

## Sports Schedule

### Baseball

- April 23 Northwest, Davis Park
- 24 Lafayette, home
- 27 Sumner, home
- 29 De Andres, home
- 30 Vashon, Fairgrounds, No. 1
- May 3 Vianney, there
- 4 Roosevelt, there
- 7 Soldan, home
- 11 Central, home
- 14 Beaumont, Fairgrounds No. 4
- 18 McKinley, home
- Tennis
- April 28 Augustinian, Carondelet
- 29 Roosevelt, home
- May 3 University City, there
- 4 Vashon, Fairgrounds
- 8 District Tournament
- 10 Augustinian, home
- 11 Northwest, home
- 13 Soldan, home

## Netmen Open Season

"This year's tennis team has a very competitive spirit with a great will to win," stated Tennis Coach Paul Conrad in an evaluation of Southwest's racketmen.

According to Coach Conrad, SW will face its toughest competition from Cleveland, number one in the city last season. Sumner is expected to be a strong contender also.

The prospects for the upcoming season depend mainly on the effectiveness of the first three singles — the strong point of the team. At the present time, the top three positions are up for grabs among seniors Ron Fehr and Sam Patti, and juniors John Rehling and Jeff Lueken. As of now, Fehr, Patti and Lueken hold the top three positions respectively, but challenge matches between team members may change the line up. Top men for doubles include

Rehling and junior John Baltzer, senior Larry Loveless, and sophomore Dave Fairis. The netmen can be pretty sure of a profitable season with seven returning lettermen. This quantity of experience dictates a bright outlook for the season. The team's only weakness is a slight handicap due to injuries and illnesses.

In a non-league match, April 14, SW downed a weak McKinley team, 7-0. The next match, also non-league, is scheduled for next Wednesday against Augustinian at Carondelet Park.

The racketmen have a very challenging spirit, one reason for their hoped-for success. Commenting on the coming season, Coach Conrad said, "This type of sport is individual competition, so success relies mostly on the performance of individual players."

## Crash!

Junior left-fielder Gus Mezinis is forced out in a collision at home plate during the first inning of the April 10 game against Hancock. Southwest scored twice in the inning but lost the game, 9-3.

## PHL Relays Tonight

The Southwest Cinderman are readying themselves for the League Relays tonight. The team members hope for a good showing after having finished third in the Southside Relays.

The trackmen of SW took two first places and three seconds as they battled to a third place finish in the Southside Relays, April 14. Only the Dragons of St. Mary's and the Dutchmen of Cleveland finished ahead of the Longhorns.

The Soldan Tigers clashed with the Steers, April 10, resulting in a split. The SW juniors defeated Soldan 55-44, but the seniors succumbed to the Tigers by the score of 81-22. The good points of the competition were first place

finishes in the shot put and the pole vault in the senior division, and the two-mile relay, 880 relay, mile, half-mile, 440 yard dash, 100 yard dash, and in the pole vault and high jump in the junior division.

The Cindermen met their first PHL opponent, the Sumner Bulldogs, March 31, and also split a very close decision. The Bulldog seniors squeaked past the Longhorns 93-82½ despite SW seconds in the mile and 180 low hurdles. However, the Juniors returned the favor as they defeated the Sumner juniors 24½-21. Leading the victory were first place finishes in the mile and pole vault, as well as seconds in the half-mile, high jump, and pole vault.

# Injury Increase A Growing Problem

What do Derek Cummings, Stan Nickens, Steve Valli, and Rick Winkler have in common? All are Southwest athletes and nice guys, but more importantly all are among the rapidly rising number of boys of high school age who are injured in athletic events. The problem seems to be centered around two sports — football and basketball.

As is the case at the college and professional levels, injuries in high school football show an alarming increase in both amount and severity. On the 1970 SW squad, there were half a dozen players who had undergone knee surgery at some time in their high school football careers for reasons ranging from calcium deposits to torn cartilage.

In the past season alone, Cummings damaged his knee, Winkler broke a bone in his back and dislocated an elbow, while junior lineman Dave Yancey suffered a shoulder separation that just recently required surgery. In addition, there was an avalanche of assorted minor injuries.

Head football Coach Leon Anton noted that today's players are bigger, faster, and stronger, so consequently they

hit harder than when he played. Improvement in form and technique has also contributed to the injury increase. The intensified level of instruction teaches players to tackle and block with more devastating effects.

Coach Anton also felt that even though equipment improvements have eliminated many injuries that were common during his playing days, (such as mouth and nose injuries), they also cause injuries to be of a

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more serious nature: harder helmets mean greater collision impact.

Basketball is supposedly a non-contact sport, but don't try to tell that to SW basketball Coach Warren Gower. Coach Gower saw a promising season ruined, losing his big men, 6'6" Steve Valli (knee surgery) and 6'4" Stan Nickens (ankle

surgery), due to basketball injuries. Several players also suffered severe ankle sprains, which are the most common injury in basketball.

In keeping with his mathematics background, Coach Gower produced a theory as to why the number of injuries in high school basketball is increasing. He believes that it is mainly a city problem, and stated, "I believe that the time spent in physical activity from ages 6 to 14 is very important to high school athletes. The 'play' activity of kids I grew up with produced a more agile athlete, one who was able to avoid injuries and perform certain skills naturally."

Today's city child doesn't spend as much time in physical activity, probably because of other ways to spend his time and lack of open play-space. Therefore, upon reaching high school age, he hasn't developed the agility needed to avoid injury, according to Coach Gower.

In other high school sports there seem to be no noticeable increase in the injury rate. When injuries do occur, they are often the result of a freak play or unusual circumstances.

On the athlete's side of the injury problem Rick Winkler and Derek Cummings are two good examples. Winkler seems to be a man for all seasons as far as injuries are concerned. In addition to his football ailments, Rick has undergone surgery for torn cartilage in his left knee, which was hurt playing soccer.

"I was never seriously injured in sports activities before I came to high school. Now I always seem to be in the wrong place at the wrong time," stated Rick, attempting to find a reason for his misfortune.

Derek, who had a shoulder operation for a football injury two years ago, underwent knee surgery last November. A trip to the hospital for knee surgery means from \$700-\$1,000 total medical expenses, a couple of weeks on crutches, and about eight months of therapy, which might include whirlpool treatments and exercise designed to strengthen the weakened leg muscles.

Are the benefits of athletic competition worth the pain, trouble, and expense of surgery? "Only if the operation is a success," says Derek. For some this is a big "if."

