

'Nicoban' reaffirmed: Board rejects second smoking lounge request

For the second time in a year, the Nilehi Board of Education reaffirmed its policy prohibiting student smoking on school property.

The Board's reconsideration of the smoking issue last week was prompted by pressure from citizens who had supported an earlier proposal to establish a smoking area on a trial basis at West division.

THIS TIME AROUND, only members James Gottreich and Ben Lipin favored modifying the "nicoban" policy. But by a five-to-two vote, the recommendation of Superintendent Wesley Gibbs to maintain the old policy was upheld.

Board president Shirley Garland said she would not favor an in-school smoking area because "it would be incongruous with an educational institution." When the issue came before the board last February, Mrs. Garland indicated that she often is willing "to go along with students where their rights are concerned," but she voted against it then, too.

GEORGE HANUS, the youngest member of the Board, said rather than approving a smoking lounge, "we should involve students in stopping vandalism in the washrooms."

Member Evelyn Rosenzweig said in voting to keep the no-smoking policy

that she represented "the mandate from the people" she had been given.

ANGELOS POULAKIDAS, one of three Board members who does smoke cigarettes, moved to retain the present Board position.

Gottreich, the staunchest supporter last year of a smoking lounge, repeated his earlier position on the issue. He said a lounge was needed "to protect non-smokers' rights" to be free to use school washrooms. He cited present washroom conditions as "abominable" because of students who smoke in them.

EAST'S STUDENT Senate has gone on record with the Board as favoring the establishment of an indoor smoking area, following a student survey (see story below) which indicated students were in favor of such a move.

In his recommendation to the Board, Dr. Gibbs said the problem of smoking in the washrooms "has decreased significantly" although he did admit that "the situation isn't satisfactory to all, and it may never be to some."

IN OTHER ACTION, the Board rejected by a five-to-two vote a proposal advocated by member Irwin Ginsburgh to excuse varsity athletes from physical education classes during their sport season.

Dr. Ginsburgh said the athletes al-



Mulford St. Smokers—left out in the cold.

ready fulfill the state requirement for physical activity by after-school practices and meets. He also cited other school districts in which athletes are not required to attend gym.

POULAKIDAS WAS the only other member to concur.

Fifty-six per cent of the students at East are opposed to excusing athletes, according to the survey already mentioned.

In voting against the proposal, several Board members said such a policy would make it incumbent upon the schools to excuse other students who engage in extracurricular activities from various classes as well.

IN A SURPRISE move, the Board re-

fused to hire social studies teacher Patricia Handzel on a permanent basis. In what was later called "a well-organized move," members Garland, Lipin, Hanus, and Rosenzweig voted against the administration's recommendation to extend Mrs. Handzel a contract.

Mrs. Handzel was designated to replace Dave Jupp, when his original replacement declined the job offer extended to him.

Mrs. Handzel's husband is a teacher at West division.

THE BOARD DID manage to hire a new assistant superintendent, however.

Dr. Anthony Gregorc, 34 years old and the father of two children, became the Board's choice to fill the vacancy left by the retirement of Dr. George Gillyuly.

The selection of Dr. Gregorc culminated a long and tiring search headed by Dr. Gibbs and personnel director Ray Tyler.

SEVERAL EAST division administrators had been considered rather highly for the post, according to sources close to the Board.

Board president Garland was the only member to vote against the appointment of Dr. Gregorc.

THE BOARD IS scheduled to meet again this Monday at 8 p.m. at the Administration Building, 7700 Gross Point Road, Skokie.

Second activity fair set for February 13

The School Spirit Committee of Niles East will sponsor the Second Annual All School Activities Fair next Wednesday. The fair, named the "Spirit of '74", will begin during the communication period and run through the fifth period.

THE SPIRIT COMMITTEE is holding the fair to promote greater understanding of the many extra-curricular activities offered to Easthi students. The sponsors feel that if the activities are publicized, the result of the exposure will be increased participation on the part of the student body.

Each activity represented will set up a booth offering demonstrations, explanations, displays, and various contests.

Washington trip to essay winner

A trip to Washington, D.C. will be awarded as first prize to the winner in an essay contest, open to all Nilehi students, sponsored by Niles Township Democratic Committeeman Calvin Suter.

Topic of the essay is: "How the Signers of the Declaration of Independence would view modern political parties." Entries of 500 words or less should be mailed to "Essay Contest" Niles Township Regular Democratic Or-

ganization, 4654 Oakton, Skokie 60076.

ENTRIES MUST be submitted by March 1.

Second prize is a set of World Book encyclopedias with third prize a World Book encyclopedia dictionary.

JUDGES FOR THE essay contest include Robert Feder, editorial director of the Nilehite, and Al Bernstein, reporter for a local newspaper, the Skokie Life.

Students 'happy' survey reveals

Seventy per cent of the students at Niles East are "happy" here, according to a recent survey conducted by Student Senate.

BUT WHEN ASKED if they thought "most students are happy here," only 34 per cent said yes.

The poll, which involved 148 students (or about seven per cent of the school population), consisted of a 25-question form administered to eight fifth-period classes on December 13. Almost equal numbers of freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors participated and the sample group included 79 males and 69 females.

Results of the survey were presented to the Nilehi Board of Education at its meeting last week. Board president Shirley Garland praised the work of the Senate committee that conducted the survey and she urged students at North and West divisions to consider similar

projects to determine student attitudes and opinions.

THE SURVEY ALSO was presented to East administrators last week by Senate president Robert Feder and committee member Scott Jacobson, who is also editor of the Nilehite. The administrators indicated their approval for the manner in which the survey was conducted and pledged their support to work to "improve the problem areas" at East stemming from the conclusions of the poll.

The poll and subsequent reaction to it was the subject of a "Focus" feature in the Lerner Newspapers' January 31 Skokie Life.

In reacting to the poll, Superintendent Wesley Gibbs reportedly said, "... the fact is that (the Senate) did such a good job on this survey that it shows the good calibre of students we have here."



(Photo by Michael Fryer)

Easthi senior Eliot Osherman placed the highest bid for Dr. Colver's office at last month's Senior Cabinet Silent Auction. For his \$10 bid, Eliot was able to use the principal's office and secretary for one hour. He immediately phoned Supt. Gibbs to secure an extra day off from school.

Feedback

Gibbs administration disregards students

Left speechless

Dear Editor:

I was quite disappointed at the unresponsiveness of Superintendent Wesley Gibbs when he appeared at Student Senate's question-and-answer session on January 22. His remarks during that two-hour meeting only confirmed the thoughts I have had on the board of education's philosophy these past few years.

The board (particularly since the fall teachers' strike), acting as a separate entity, refuses to alter its policies despite what a majority of students and teachers may think.

In that session with Gibbs, every conceivable question was asked: from students who were charged with defecating improperly, to obscenities, to a substitute teacher who was released against the will of her students.

The first of the two main debates that occurred during the discussion was about the board's abridging our freedom of expression by prohibiting the use of oral and written obscenities. Gibbs pointed out that the school has the responsibility to protect us from religious preachings, advertising, and obscenities.

During that discussion, one student reported that two obscene words appear in a book that is required reading in an English course here (and that book isn't even available in the library). Students argued that this is a double standard. But Gibbs said no, "all of your textbooks are screened for their literary content before you read them!"

Does this "professionally approved" form of obscenity have more merit than students' use of such words??? Gibbs left us speechless.

The next main point we discussed was

concerning teacher supervision of hallways and cafeterias. I really didn't feel like debating personal philosophy when Gibbs stated that he considers a part of teachers' duties to act as supervisors. My only question was whether the board can make decisions and hold to them even if a clear majority of students and teachers are against such policies.

His reply was: yes the board does have the power to assert its will over students and teachers . . . that this board is doing that right now . . . and that he agrees with them.

Clearly, our schools are being run by administrators who totally disregard the philosophies of students and teachers.

I'm not talking about reducing the number of supervisors. This type of "responsiveness" should not fool us. If the board really did care, they would see that supervision only increases the friction between students and teachers, while it helps decrease the quality of education in the long run.

If we allow ourselves to be run over by such blatant disregard of our wishes, then we deserve anything and everything Gibbs' administration has been giving us.

Allen Samelson '75

On 'Reflections'

Dear Editor:

Just recently the Niles East Theater Department presented "Reflections," the annual variety show completely written and directed by students.

Nearly 300 students in cast, crew, and band devoted a great deal of their time for seven weeks to put on the show. They worked full days, over winter vacations, and as opening night approached,

they often stayed until seven on school nights.

The show proved to be quite fine and entertaining. The audiences were large, and fully enjoyed themselves. However, a very small percentage of the audience consisted of teachers. For various reasons, the teachers of Niles East did not have the time or the inclination to see what their students worked so hard on—what was important to them. Even the offer of free tickets was not tempting enough. Could these be the same teachers who complain about the apathy, lack of school spirit, and general unproductiveness of their students?

I might add that two of my teachers from grammar school attended the production, but to the best of my knowledge, not one of the teachers I've had in my past four years in high school was there.

Robin Bezark '74

Asst. Director of Reflections

Dear Editor:

On Saturday, January 19, my husband and I attended your student run musical revue. I can't remember the last time I have had such an entertaining evening. It was a wonderful sight to see such talent, hard work, and enthusiasm.

As part of the 1962 and 1963 Redskin's Revues at Niles West, it is comforting to realize that our high schools have moved ahead. I am referring to the student's total responsibility of producing, directing, and publicizing the show. The outcome of last weekend's performance speaks for itself. Bravo!!!

Mrs. Nancy Turry

Dear Editor:

I am writing to congratulate the people who made "Yesterday and Today" a big success. I feel that these individu-

als deserve a lot of credit for making the show as enjoyable as it really was.

I believe that the idea of having the Stage Band in back was very good. Not only could the singers be heard, but their voices could be heard clearly when sitting way up on top.

Though I won't be here next year, I hope that this new idea (and the others which I haven't mentioned) is carried out for all future performances of "Reflections."

With new ideas coming up every year, I'm sure this is just the beginning of something fantastic.

Dotty Rutkowski '74

Heavy matters

Dear Editor:

I am writing this to express my fury toward what Mr. Proffit of the Drama department has written.

He has stated that there is no need for "fat people" on stage. He also said that there are not many parts available for them. This may be true, but there are kinder ways of saying such things. (Being fat doesn't seem to have hurt such people as Cass Elliot or Sebastian Cabot!)

I do not feel that a person's physique should stunt their talent, for many of these "fat people" are better qualified than the thin ones.

I am sure that these "outcasts" (and I say outcasts because that is the feeling I receive from his little note) know that they are overweight, and if their weight problem is really bothering them, they'll do something about it.

I am a little disappointed that someone so highly looked up to could say such a thing.

Judi Sharlot '76

Guest editorial

BGA bus probe: malicious attack

by Robert Gara
District 219 Business Manager

I appreciate your offer to have me provide the guest editorial for this issue of the Nilehite. When I was in high school, a few years before the "American Graffiti" age, there was no such thing as "guest editorials" in the school newspaper. There was however, a prevailing condition known as the "McCarthy Era." During this period many innocent persons were falsely accused, lost their jobs, and were blacklisted from further employment in their field as a result of "do-gooder" individuals or groups, some political, who sometimes failed to support their malicious charges with evidence that could stand up under investigation.

TODAY, AS A RESULT of Watergate and questionable practices by some politicians, a similar climate prevails. Many people are eager to believe their public officials are taking illegal actions. The BGA (Better Government Association) and an investigative reporter from Channel 7, Larry Buchman, have now rushed into District 219 to exploit this attitude. In the future I am sure I shall refer to this condition as the BGA-Buchman Era (or error).

Specifically, in a letter sent to the president of our Board of Education and to newspeople (which appears in the box to the right) the BGA has made false statements, some of which they knew in advance to be false and others which they were told were false but which they failed to properly investigate further before issuing their statement.

As a result of this malicious attack, I personally believe great damage has been done to the reputation of present and past Board Members.

IN THEIR LETTER, the BGA quotes Leo Athas, the current legal adviser to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, whose opinion is law unless proved wrong in court, as saying that "School bus service is not the type of contract which is excepted from bidding"

and that "only those contracts which require a high degree of professional skill are free of bidding requirements." They further quote that "exception has been construed to include only lawyers, doctors, architects, and engineers."

Mr. Athas has since stated that the BGA did not quote him correctly and that he is aware of other exceptions that would apply including those involving school bus contracts. We are confident that a written opinion he will be issuing shortly will affirm his oral statement to us.

We also provide the BGA with a written legal opinion from the State Superintendent's Office that would apply to all districts and which said, "it is not necessary that a school district take bids in regard to this matter (bus contracts)."

THUS, ALTHOUGH they had these opinions, they chose to indicate the opposite.

With regard to the BGA's statement that "of 29 high school districts in this county which contract for such service, 27 follow bidding requirements," I offer the following:

We conducted our own survey and found that four districts own their own busses, five others negotiated this year's contract, and one has already negotiated next year's. Eight others relied on commercial transit systems on a non-bid basis to bus their regular students.

OF THE REMAINING 11 who did bid, four could not obtain more than one bidder to meet their full specifications, hardly a competitive situation.

This leaves seven out of the original 29 who may have actually had a competitive bid situation. Even then, one would have to review the bid results to see if a truly competitive situation actually existed.

The Channel 7 television presentation in which I was allowed to appear for 38 seconds was even more distorted. Besides repeating the false BGA claims,

they made it appear that state officials were denying that opinions allowing for exemption had ever been written.

What has happened when we have tried to interest other contractors in competing with Maierhofer? In 1939, 24 other bus companies were solicited by this District in an attempt to generate competition. Only one other company offered to provide bussing for the whole district and that was at a price which was \$175,810 higher than Maierhofer's "lowest offer" of \$470,000. At that point, the district activated a plan to provide its own bussing if necessary to force Maierhofer to lower his price further.

AFTER WE HAD received bus chassis bids, Maierhofer management realized they were going to lose our business (and thus maybe their's) and offered to negotiate a lower price. The final negotiated settlement at \$420,000 saved taxpayers \$50,000.

Documents regarding this saving have been given to the States Attorney's Office and copies are on file at the school Business Office.

Since that time, negotiated increases with Maierhofer have been far less than cost of living increases and, no other bus contractor has indicated to us that they would be willing to make the required investment it would take to compete.

SUPPOSE WE HAD not made the efforts we did, including a complete study of costs and alternate solutions to problem; we would encounter by operating our own busses and instead, had merely accepted Maierhofer's first offer, which we could have put in the form of a legal bid by running an ad in a local newspaper and opening the offer at a specific time. The result would have been an award of contract to Maierhofer at \$470,000 or more. A number of school districts do run the legal ads, and the result often is that only one contractor responds.

Thus, an unchecked monopolistic situa-

The following is the text of a letter from the Better Government Assn. dated January 9, 1974, informing the Nilehite Board of Education that its bus contracting practices have been examined by the BGA:

The Better Government Association has recently completed a survey of bidding practices by Cook County High School districts for school bus service. Niles Township High School appears to be in violation of a state statute requiring that bid procedures be followed when contracting for such service. Of 29 high school districts in this county which contract for such service, 27 follow bidding requirements set forth in Illinois Revised Statutes chapter 122 section 10-20.21.

School bus service is not the type of contract which is excepted from bidding under that statute, according to Leo Athas, legal counsel to Dr. Michael Bakalis. Only those contracts which require a high degree of professional skill are free of bidding requirements. That exception has been construed to include only lawyers, doctors, architects, and engineers.

We respectfully suggest that you examine your current procedures in light of the indicated state law.

tion is allowed to exist whereby the one bus contractor sets his own price and is protected by law. We have prevented this condition from happening in our District by:

1. Obtaining legal opinions from the State Superintendent's such as the following that clearly allow for negotiation, "Awards which 'by their nature are not adapted to award by competitive bidding' are those bids which due to the uniqueness of their nature would not enable a selective sample of bids to be taken. For instance, bussing contracts are generally not susceptible to bidding."
2. Negotiating with our bus contractor from a position of strength. If price and/or service become unreasonable, this district will provide its own bussing service. We have the capital, the space, the ability, and the willingness to do so.

IT SEEMS TO ME that the only people who can benefit by the BGA's vendetta to award bus contracts by bid are the bus contractors who are operating in monopoly situations.

Nilehi

The Voice of the Niles East Students

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The best things...

Many aspects of life here contribute to making Niles East a good school for its students. The following is a list we've compiled of what we believe are the ten best things about East:

(1) **The drama and music departments.** The talent displayed at student-run productions such as last month's "Reflections" is consistently of the highest caliber.

(2) **The principal.** Without doubt, Dr. Arthur Colver does a magnificent job as East's top administrator. He is fair, patient, and reasonable. No wonder he has won the respect of students and staff—he works hard at his task of seeing that things run smoothly here.

(3) **Publications.** The two major school-sponsored student journalism enterprises here—the yearbook and the newspaper—rank among the most professional high school products anywhere.

(4) **Student government.** Student Senate has created for the school a mechanism to get things done for students, while projecting an image to the community of mature judgment and superior accomplishments.

(5) **Early graduation.** The options now available to students who wish to receive their diplomas in fewer than eight semesters are great.

(6) **Open campus.** Though perhaps not as many things are available for students to do on their free time as was originally planned, this program has proved to be totally successful.

(7) **Student Appeals Board.** The judicial arm of student government, the s.a.b. recently has rendered decisions which will have far-reaching effects on students' rights in school.

(8) **Staff.** The number of faculty members with advanced professional degrees and doctorates is impressive.

(9) **Mulford Street.** The massive beautification program on Mulford has transformed an ugly mud pit for juvenile delinquents into an attractive and comfortable area for students to relax and light up their Kools.

(10) **The Rock of Skokie.** The music being piped into the lounge and cafeteria is a great idea. Eventually, the idea is that this will blossom into a full-fledged radio station.

...and the worst ones

All good things are accompanied by some bad ones, too. To balance the list above, we've also compiled what we feel are the ten worst things about East:

(1) **Idea vacuum.** Although nothing specifically hinders freedom of expression here, it is distressing that so little political expression is voiced by students. Just a few years ago, students were actively involved in the peace movement, politics, and environment. Today, despite the phenomena of Watergate, energy, and governmental interference with civil liberties, little exchange of ideas in such areas exists.

(2) **Grades.** Students are still getting the shaft while administrators and the school board try to make up their minds as to just what rank, honors points, pass/fail, grade points averages, and report cards mean.

(3) **Rules.** As long as students continue to be suspended under non-uniform rules of behavior, their enforcement, and a system which arbitrarily punishes some but not others, we will be distressed.

(4) **Intolerance.** Attitudes of discrimination, bigotry, and hatred are alive and well among too many students here.

(5) **Apathy.** With the plethora of things to get involved with here, too many students take no interest at all in any sort of extracurricular activity.

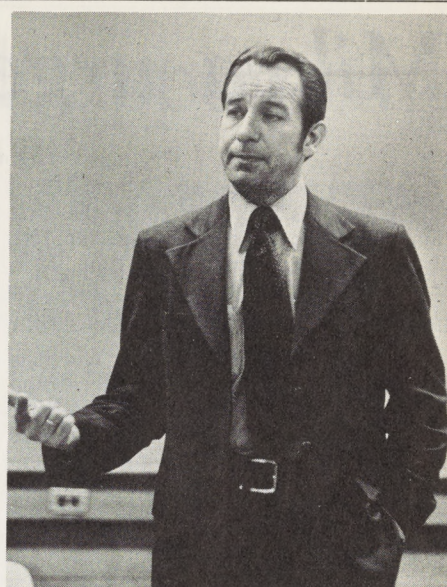
(6) **Dead Free Press.** After a sputtering resurrection, the **New Free Press** has evaporated again. In a school district with as many creative students as Nilehi, there should be a demand for a quality underground newspaper—and there should be a supply.

(7) **Backstabbers.** Infighting and petty bickering continues among student leaders. If the handful of politically motivated students would concentrate on the important issues confronting all of us instead of protecting their egos, nothing would be impossible to achieve.

(8) **Cafeteria.** Self-explanatory.

(9) **Bus service.** Self-explanatory for anyone who rides the buses.

(10) **Library.** Perhaps the most inhospitable place at East. Enter at your own risk.



(Photos by Michael Fryer)

Superintendent Wesley F. Gibbs

If Gibbs ran for supt. would you vote for him?

by Robert Feder

If Superintendent Wesley Gibbs ever ran for political office, Mayor Daley and every other Democrat in this state would have to run for cover. For without a doubt, Dr. Gibbs would be the hottest political animal of the decade.

HE IS EVERYTHING the voters could ask for: intelligent, handsome, glib, hard-working, experienced, and friendly. In his four years as Nilehi super, he has chalked up a remarkable record: huge budget cuts, stable taxes, declining drop-out rate, community involvement in school affairs, and a streamlined staff.

The press loves him, too. He is always accessible by phone and goes out of his way to be helpful to reporters. Hardly a week goes by without his name and/or picture appearing in the local papers.

And he's got all the necessary credentials: born in Chicago, a Ph.D. from Northwestern, a member of every important professional association, and an educator-administrator in this township since 1948.

THE ONLY OTHER thing he'd need in order to be a good politico was established a few weeks ago when he came to talk to students here. That is, he handles himself in tight situations flawlessly.

For two hours straight, students engaged Dr. Gibbs in a frank, no-holds-barred firing line. And for every question, the man had a rational, logical, sensible reply. He welcomed the challenge, it seemed. "Ask me the hard ones — the questions you think I don't want to be asked," he teased.

President Nixon would have been

green with envy.

EVEN WHEN STUDENTS zeroed in on his use of a car paid for with district funds (a la San Clemente and Key Biscayne) he kept cool. "Other districts do it too," he explained.

And he talked about all sorts of noble things, like the need to "shield students from obscenities" and the need to "help young people to become self-disciplined."

He even took the fact that 47 per cent of the student body (according to a recent poll) never heard of him in good humor. "Maybe they're lucky," he quipped.

HE MAINTAINED total control over the situation from the minute the session began.

He opened with a joke. (Good politicians always open with a funny line.) Then he stood up and remained standing the whole time (thereby having the psychological advantage over the audience that was seated).

The students (at times) were spellbound. As one student later said, "I never saw anybody with such powerful eyes before. That Gibbs was so frightening — it was incredible."

SO IT IS that in District 219 we have a superintendent with all the qualities of a successful political giant. What this means considering the fact that he is not supposed to be a political figure is puzzling.

Many would argue that a superintendent should be an educator — not a politician.

But the most intriguing question is: Would Wesley Gibbs win if he ran for superintendent of District 219?

Bravo 'Reflections'

Last month's student revue, "Reflections: Yesterday and Today," removed any doubt in our minds that productions of the drama and music departments are excellent in every way.

IN FACT, AS we indicate in our lead editorial to the left, we believe their works are consistently the single most successful and positive aspects of stu-

dent life at Niles East.

Apparently, "Reflections" director Stewart Figa knew what he was talking about when he promised the audiences "an enjoyable evening of theater." Because that's just what he and Noah Gilson and the hundreds of cast and crew members associated with the show delivered.

Mikva urges students to get involved in politics

by Brian Hamer

Less than two years ago, Abner Mikva barely lost his bid to become the first Democratic Congressman from the 10th district in this century. This time, however, he feels quite confident that the victory, once denied, will finally come.

"I think that the mid-term elections are supposed to be a kind of referendum on the policies of the Administration," Mikva said, "and I think those policies have been a disaster." He added, "Congressman Young has supported those policies; I have opposed them." He believes that this will lead him to victory in November.

MIKVA NOTED THAT perhaps as much as 75 per cent of the nation voted the straight ticket in the last election. Thus, he looks confidently upon the fact that he lost by only 7,000 votes when President Nixon carried this district by more than 60,000. And this time, Mikva said, "certainly Mr. Nixon doesn't have any surviving coattails."

The former southside Congressman sees the economy as the major issue in the upcoming campaign, but also believes that ethics in government will play an important role. If elected, Mikva wants to become involved in campaign reform issues and government ethics, as he had in his previous two terms as United States Representative and ten years as State Representative, and most recently as Chairman of the State Board of Ethics. He believes that public faith in government can only be restored by demanding full disclosures of financial holdings and income by all those run-

ning for political office, and by devising a system of public financing for all Congressional and Presidential campaigns. As the situation exists now, he said politicians are actually selling parts of the government to special-interest groups. This, Mikva said, must stop.

WHEN LOOKING BACK, Mikva feels his greatest accomplishments in public life to be in the field of law reform. He is most proud of the work he has done in helping the passage of a new criminal code in Illinois, considered today one of the finest in the nation. He feels that experience will be important, if he is indeed elected, in fighting the new national criminal code that the President recently submitted to the Congress. Mikva calls it "a frightening code. He points to the fact that a competing codification of the criminal law, which he helped develop, also will be presented to the Congress.

If elected, Mikva plans to use many of the same ideas he had employed during his previous terms as Congressman to keep in contact with the community, one of which was the Student Advisory Council. This group consisted of representatives from all the high schools in his district. There, Mikva not only told of recent developments in Congress, but also listened to what the students had to say on important issues. If elected, he hopes to make himself available, as often as possible, to both community groups and individuals, and also, as he has done previously, plans to hold accountability sessions throughout the district.

MIKVA, WHO FOR the past year has not only served as the first Chairman of the State Board of Ethics, but also has been teaching at Northwestern Law School, and has himself been practicing law, looks forward to returning to Congress. He said that he always has enjoyed the legislative process where people from different areas and of different backgrounds come together and try to move the country forward. "It's a fascinating process to be part of," Mikva said, and he very much wants to become part of it this fall.

Mikva urges that high school students also become involved in the political process. He said that the only thing wrong with political parties in our country today is that there are not enough people involved. Abner Mikva is hoping that the students at East will become involved in his campaign.



Abner Mikva

Chess team satisfied with overall progress

by Norberto Kogan

A 3-3 record may not seem impressive, but the chess team is not complaining. If one reflects on the fact that in recent history Easthi's representatives in the North Shore Chess Federation haven't won more than one match a year, it is not surprising that the chess team's sponsor, John Cooper, is quite satisfied with the progress of his players.

In their latest battle on the chess boards, the Trojans fell before New Trier East, a group picked early in the year as one of the teams capable of dethroning national champion Evanston. Gary Pineless, playing one of his better games of the year, was the only victor for East, as Rich Bodenheimer, Scott Statland, Richard Edelson, and Norberto Kogan were defeated by the powerful New Trier squad.

PRIOR TO THE New Trier East match, the Trojans came up with the biggest upset of the season, as they soundly thrashed Highland Park 4½-½. Highland Park, a perennial state contender, arrived at the meet minus a few of their top players, due to a boycott of the match by certain members of the team. The cause of the harsh action taken by the players is as yet undetermined, but the end result was quite definitive, as the Trojans were

led to victory by Seth Gold, Rich Bodenheimer, Scott Statland, and Richard Edelson. In the controversial match, Gary Pineless drew and Greg Marmmel lost in his first outing at an exhibition board.

Without a doubt the addition of Seth Gold has aided the chess team in its quest of a better than .500 season. Seth is undefeated this year in three games, and adds consistency to the team, something which has been lacking in previous campaigns. Gary Pineless, a three-year varsity competitor, is starting to come around to expected form as was verified by his 1-0-1 record in the last two meets. Rich Bodenheimer, only a sophomore, is having a good season while gaining vital experience at high boards. Norberto Kogan has been having a poor season thus far, but feels that he is beginning to analyze his games better as of late.

IF THESE PLAYERS, along with Richard Edelson and Scott Statland, play up to their potentials, the team could easily win two of their last three contests. To fulfill this objective, East is counting on victories over sister schools North and West in upcoming matches.

Glad to be leaving East

by Corey Levens

(This essay is second in a series by Easthi's Merit Semi-finalist)

As I proceed through my final year at Niles East, I can only be thankful that high school is not five years. Not that I haven't enjoyed these last four years, but there is evident in the Niles Township school system a steady deterioration in the educational process.

As was revealed in the teacher strike earlier this year, there are three distinct classes in the school. The administration holds the position that they are working on the students' behalf, yet only one in three students knows who the superintendent of schools is. That's probably due to his close contact with the students. A few years ago they wanted to fire some forty-seven teachers due to a shortage of money. Now, all of a sudden, there is money to fix up Mulford Street (last year), buy carpeting for the student lounge, library, offices, and for remodeling the swimming pool. Our athletic programs lack space and the gym floor wasn't even varnished this year, but those are activities directly related to the students. Maybe the Administration had plans to carpet the gym floor. There's much more, but space is limited.

THE TEACHERS CONSTITUTE the second class. They also appeal to the betterment of the students and are much more truthful and honest in their statements. Aside from the associations I have had with teachers in their supervisory roles, I can think of only a few insincere teachers. However, during the strike it was evident that the teachers were also "using" the students. How could they teach if they didn't get a pay raise?

Because of run-ins with the Administration, one teacher I asked told me that the overall teacher morale is the lowest that that teacher has experienced in his (her) teaching career. What better condition is there for furthering education when the people who teach you don't even enjoy being in the classroom?

THE THIRD CLASS consists of the students. A more divided and exploited class would be hard to find. Freshmen are jealous of the upper classmen's wisdom and worldly knowledge, sophomores can hardly wait to drive, juniors long for the day when they will be seniors, and seniors look eagerly forward to college so they can get away from the freshmen.

All students complain about some facet of school, but seldom do they attempt to do anything about it, if indeed they even know what to do. It is an apathy that is chronic among our students, the same kind that allows a man like Nixon to be President.

BECAUSE OF THE constant turnover of students there is little possibility of a united effort in the students' behalf. Thus, the students watch, as the Administration and teachers squabble with each other, with the usual "who could care less?" attitude of someone who will be graduating in a year or two.

But our wonderful Administration be honored. It is they who display such ridiculous pettiness that students, long after they graduate, will use them as an example of how not to act. I only hope that they stay in office for years to come. What the hell — this is my last year.



(Photo by Scott Wexler)

Corey Levens

Ratso's — good food, music

by Ed Jacobs

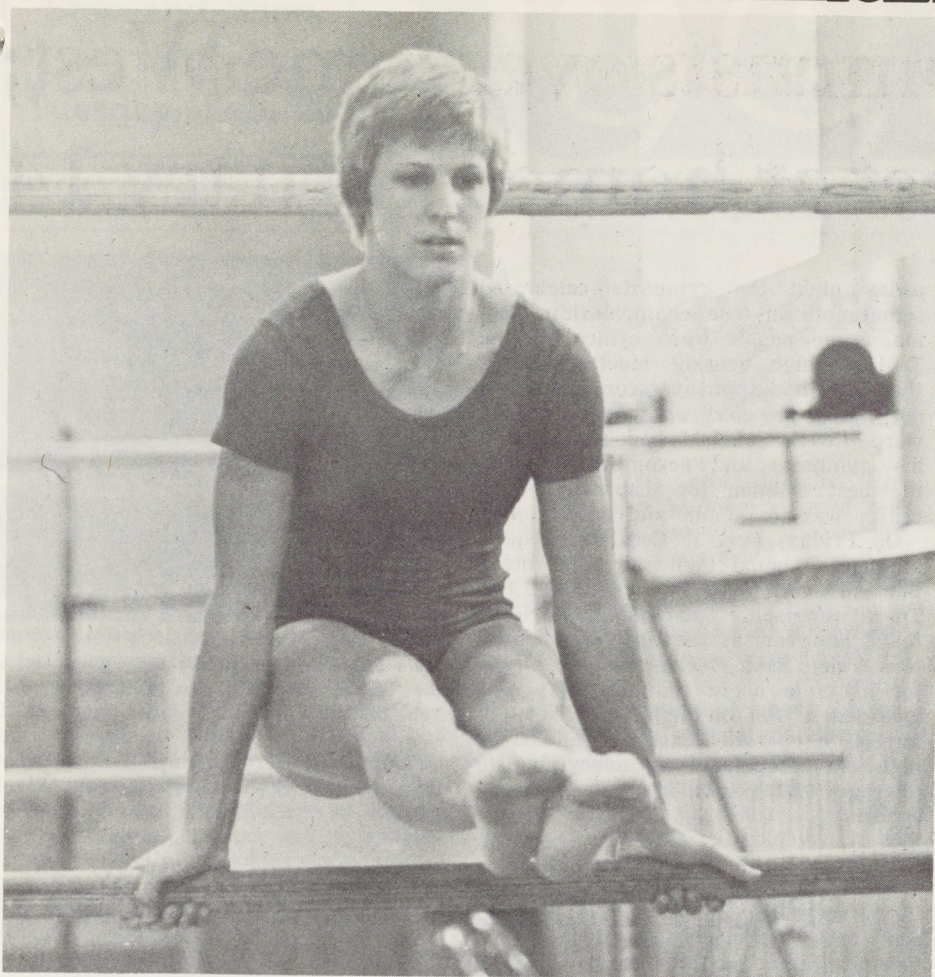
As I entered the world of Ratso's, several thoughts entered my mind. First and foremost was the thought that I was not even going to make it past the group of "guys" huddled near the doorway. My fears of this were quickly confirmed as one of the group approached and asked me, "How you doing, fella? Want to have a good time?" I quickly notified him that I was not in the least interested in his offer. After overcoming this obstacle, entering the confines of Ratso's combination restaurant and entertainment spot seemed all the more pleasant.

Located at 2464 Lincoln, in Chicago, Ratso's offers interesting surroundings both inside and out. A mere two blocks from New Town, it gathers people from both there and the Mexican and Indian communities nearby. The Indian element was quite conspicuous; a mass rally met next door to condemn the poor treatment they were getting from the white community. With this in the back of my mind, I prepared to sit down and enjoy the fine food and drink Ratso's had to offer. The night I was there, rock music was featured. A little-known trio presented three performances to an overflowing crowd of onlookers. An extensive dinner menu is offered from 5

to 9 each evening, but I chose to forego the delicacies and concentrate on the music. Such talent as Odetta and Bonnie Koloc have performed there also, to packed houses.

BY THIS TIME I had begun to believe that things had almost reached a state of tranquility. I was wrong. At Ratso's, many wines and alcoholic beverages are served. This night there was a group of kids from several youth groups in Skokie and Morton Grove in attendance but little did the management know that the majority of these teenagers were not of legal drinking age. Things began to pick up as a few of these young people began to act a bit rowdy, and heckled the entertainers. Quietly the management asked these people to leave the premises, only to be greeted with a resounding "NO!" They seemed to be enjoying themselves greatly. At this point, several men in blue appeared on the scene and dispersed the rowdy bunch, along with the entire delegation of youth group members and advisors.

On the whole, the evening was a very interesting one in terms of excitement and fun. So if you're ever in the mood for some good music and decent food, Ratso's is the place for you. And bring friends—for self-preservation.



Sue Kozub shows form on P-Bar.

Sign up for college testing

Students wishing to register for spring, 1974, college testing should pay particular attention to the following information:

The SAT tests will be given April 6, at Niles West and Niles North. If your registration form is postmarked by February 28, the testing fee is \$6.50. The late registration closing date of March 14, increases the fee to \$10.50. The SAT school code number is 143-925.

THE ACT TEST WILL be administered April 27 at Niles East with a closing date of April 1. The testing fee is \$6.50 also. The ACT School Code number is 14-064-036 and the Niles East (Test Cen-

ter) Code number is 7481. Test center admission blanks and college code listings (C.C.L.), will be sent to students after they register to take the ACT test battery. College code listing contains complete listings of colleges, scholarship agencies, and sample test questions which is all the student needs prior to writing the examination.

Current high school juniors who wish to participate in the '74-'75 Illinois state scholar program must take the ACT test on April 28, or July 21, and enter the code number 1047 on the answer sheet.

For further information, students may check in the Resource Room 108, or call 966-3800.

Gymnastics disappointing

by Dave Mayer

Girls gymnastics, in its second season of competition, sports a 2-7 win-loss record. The Trojans dropped their first five meets in which the girls were required to throw compulsory routines.

In the optional meets Niles won 2 out of 4 meets. In a recent triangular meet against New Trier West and Maine North, East dominated the events with Sue Kozub taking four first places. Sue has attained scores of 8.2 in free-exercise and 8.4 in vaulting this year. Carol Greenspahn placed highly on the uneven bars with 6.95. Shawn Moses also placed

high in free-exercise. Against Glenbrook South, Shawn received a 7.0, her highest mark of the season.

Even though the girls have had a disappointing season thus far, Coach Marcia Burke can look forward to a more seasoned team in the next few years; most of the team members are freshmen and sophomores. Other outstanding performers expected to return next year include Shirley Rifking, Peggy Krause, and Arlene Elkins along with Greenspahn, Moses, and future olympic hopeful Kozub.

Tracksters start tomorrow

by Dave Mayer

Indoor track coaches Jim Huskey and Tom Ristow have a great deal to be optimistic about this year fronting a squad of more than 45 freshmen, sophomore, and varsity trackmen against Glenbrook North and Fremd tomorrow in their opening meet of the season.

THE MEET FAVORITES include sprinter Al Johnson who holds the sophomore record in the 50-yard dash (5.8) and Ross Pollack, a potential state contender in the shot put according to Coach Huskey. Pollack holds the varsity record of 47'10", while Johnson is striving to top Tom Christopolous' school record of 5'6.

Running in the quarter mile will be Glenn Davidson, Barry Rubin, Terry Lee, and Marc Stookal. Sal Parenti will be running the low and high hurdles all by himself this year. Parenti, a tall, confident sportster is only a sophomore, but will be competing on the varsity level. Cross Country phenom Mark Lichtenstein will double in the mile and 2-mile races. Participating in the mile also are Omar Hernandez, Marty Golub, Scherfling, and Barry Hartman running in the 2-mile. The 4 and ½ relays are expected to be strong this year in keeping with tradition; Miller, Johnson, Stookal, Lee, and Barry Rubin, David-

son, and Ron Seplow are expected by Coach Huskey to turn in outstanding performances. Mike Wolfinson will strive for an elusive 12-foot pole vault mark while Craig Wagner rounds out the squad in the high jump.

"THE UNDERCLASSMEN show much promise for the future," said Coach Huskey relating to his frosh-soph team. Distance men Ken Golub (Marty's brother), Brian May, Ron Stein, and sophomores Larry Bower, Rich Cope, and Hal Sklar have exhibited great potential and should add depth to the team in a few years.

Coach Huskey said he feels there are several state contenders on the team but did not mention who those athletes are. Huskey added that "with a lot of hard work and dedication the team should do well in its performances." Both coaches feel the large turnout this year is an indication of renewed interest.

IN PAST YEARS Huskey and Ristow have had such greats as Bob Tepp, Dave Gronski, and Tom Christopolous under their tutelage but this year, they feel, there are several athletes who could match the feats of the former stars.

Huskey included Johnson, Pollack, and Lichtenstein as being among these athletes. However, many of the team members, include varsity and sophomore record holders. Tomorrow at 9:30 the Trojans will face the Spartans in the indoor track area.

S.F.I. buys ambulance

by Ed Jacobs

Niles East's chapter of Students for Israel has been very active in its objectives of aiding Israel's official Red Cross services since the recent crisis of the war in Israel.

IN ITS FIRST year of existence the club was established under the faculty advisorship of Hebrew instructor Pam Strassberg and has combined efforts with the chapters at sister schools West and North in raising funds to aid Israel. Through the showing of movies, car washes, and various other fund raising projects, the Students for Israel are fast approaching their goal of purchasing an ambulance for the Israeli cause.

On January 27, along with many other youth groups working for the Israeli cause, Students for Israel's club at East was honored at a mass rally at the West auditorium.

PRESIDENT OF THE new club is Sue Glass. Meetings are announced in the bulletin and all are invited to attend.

SPRING VACATION TOUR TO FRANCE PARIS NORMANDY LOIRE VALLEY

Informational meeting
February 12, 7:30 p.m.
Phone: 537-7014



Corey Stricker hands off to Mike Wolfinson.

HOTLINE

cd
pp

282-0557



Bob Sirrott, popular disc jockey from WLS Radio, is inviting all of his listeners to become involved in the 1974 Shamrocks Against Dystrophy campaign, of which he is chairman. If you belong to a club or group that would like to participate, contact the Muscular Dystrophy office at 600 S. Michigan, Chicago, Ill. 60605 or call 427-0551.

Hundreds see spirited gymnasts overcome West; Trojans await league meet at home February 14

by Dave Mayer

The Niles East gymnastic team, the most winning of all Trojan interscholastic sports teams this year, has continued its surge of victories for a present record of 11-1. The Trojans have won their last five meets with phenomenal success, registering scores of 130 to as high as 146.27, when the Trojans defeated Niles West by less than half a point, before a capacity crowd which no one was able to estimate.

On free-exercise Niles East had three performers scoring in the 8's with Scott Harrison getting an 8.75 to equal his season high. West's only 8.0 plus free-ex performer was all-around man Bart Conner who received an 8.85 for a first place. The pommel horse team, as expected, gave the Trojans a comfortable lead, besting the Indians by four points. Mike Burke tied for first place on horse with an 8.25 followed by teammate Bill Bro with a 7.9.

On horizontal bar, one of the Indians' stronger events and the Trojans' weakest, a definite sign of hope arose for the Trojans. West had expected to trail after the first two events but the Indians had planned on regaining the lead after high bar and trampoline had been completed. The Trojans repudiated that theory. Neal Sher, the Trojans' explosive team leader, led all performers on pipe with an 8.5, well ahead of Conner.

Sher, a natural on the high bar, really got the crowd going when he struck his (above the bar) double back somersault. After the three event totals were added up it was announced that East led 69.25 to 66.70 and the audience roared. But now things were going to get close with the Indians' dynamic trampoline unit set to go.

West had a 7.85, a 7.75 and finally Tom McLean, who could be called slightly great, got an 8.95, never deviating from the center of the trampoline once during his entire routine. The fans from West went wild, thundering their applause. Things quieted down when the Trojans took their marks. Rich Irsay, who, two days prior to the meet, had fallen off the trampoline and was wearing a cast on his arm, demonstrated tremendous courage.

It would have cost East the meet if Irsay had not been able to perform, but he came through with one of his best sets to date, hitting for a 7.45. The Trojans swarmed off the bench to congratulate Irsay, and in all the excitement some people forgot there were still two performers left to compete. Harrison got a 6.9, a good performance but not enough to keep East in the running. It looked as if the Trojans might lose their lead, but Larry Lichtenstein was undaunted. With supreme confidence "Lichter" mounted the trampoline with a difficult half-in half-out somersault and performed beautifully all the way to his one and three ball out rudi dismount; good for an 8.25!

After four events the score was tallied: Niles West 91.25; Niles East 91.85. Again the crowd and the gymnasts went wild with excitement. Things got even closer after the parallel bars. Bart Conner, the defending state champ on the event, had some difficulties and only registered a 7.95. East hit perfectly, however, with Gary Siegel getting a 6.7, Barry Scher a 7.4 and Neal Sher an 8.45. Now after five events East led 114.4 to 114.05.

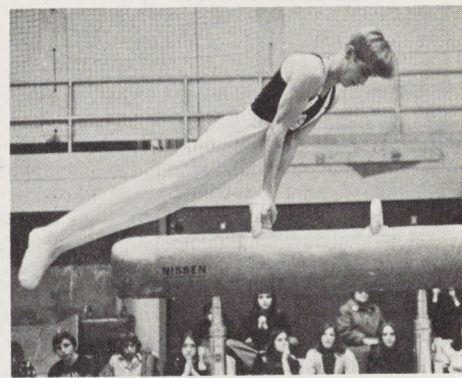
The Trojans were uncertain of their ring team. They had not scored too highly previously during the season, while West had two performers in the 8's. Coach Tom Sokalski immediately ran to find out the Indians' final score. He came back seconds later to tell his team that West had an unbelievable 145.82 points. Everyone fell silent. Siegel, who is vastly improving on the rings, gave the Trojans a 7.4. Sher hit a near perfect set and received an 8.0.

Now it was up to Steve Kozub, best known for his cocky attitude and solid performances during gymnastic meets. Everyone held his breath. Kozub mounted; straight arm shoot to hand, straight arm giant to hand; the spectators were literally biting their nails. Straight arm giant to cross, back up-rise L, hollowback. "Zub" began to get stuck on the press to a handstand. Slowly his arms began to straighten out into the handstand position. Then suddenly he bailed out, spinning the double back. As soon as he hit the ground and saluted the judge everyone was on him, hollering and screaming wildly.

Then as Sue Varon's voice came over the public address system everyone stopped. She announced the end results. Niles West with 145.82 to Niles East's 146.27. Twenty to thirty minutes of calamity followed. People were jumping on each other and shouting. No one wanted to stop. All hell broke loose. Then the Trojans' spirited team, a symbol of solidarity, went out to Hackney's with some supporters and began the weekend celebration.

The meet against Niles North the following day was anticlimatic. East blew them out of the gym and on Saturday night the gymnasts celebrated some more in true championship fashion. Some people were cynical of the Trojans' high scoring meet, claiming that East had been overscored and was not really as good as they said they were. Coach Sokalski had a talk with his gymnasts and recommended that the best solution for disproving their critics was to go out and do it again.

On Friday, Feb. 1, East didn't quite manage to equal their 146 point mark but did score over 140 points (141.68). There were some outstanding individual feats, however, as the Trojans trounced New Trier East. Burke received an 8.7 for his side horse routine. Irsay was awarded a 6.95 on high bar. Sher got an 8.45 on parallel bars and an 8.3 on high bar. Siegel hit on everything to average 6.56 points in the all-around event.



(Photo by Mike Stein)

Mike Burke will be among top contenders in the league championships hosted by East Feb. 14.

Tonight the Trojans will be in Deerfield for their meet against the Warriors.

North beats East by 1

by Dave Garlick

Niles East travels to Deerfield tonight and New Trier West tomorrow night in one of the toughest weekends East will face all year, or any year. The Trojans have a good 8-9 overall record, and a disappointing 2-6 league record entering the weekend action.

LAST FRIDAY NIGHT, East lost a heartbreaker to rival Niles North, 48-47. The game was a classic struggle between two evenly matched rival teams, in front of a large crowd. Both teams started action slowly, obviously playing nervously. The first points of the night did not come until 3:57 remained in the quarter, when North took a two zip lead. The first quarter ended with a low 10-7 score, with North in the lead.

The game continued to be a defensive struggle entering the fourth quarter, where East led 40-37.

THE TWO TEAMS traded the lead back and forth in the final seconds. The score was tied with :38 left, when Viking star Steve Goebel hit one of two free throws to put North in the lead at 48-47. East brought the ball up court and found North in a zone defense. The Trojans kept control and looked for the good shot. As time wound down, East still didn't have a shot, and neglected to call a timeout. Finally Kurt Kiesel

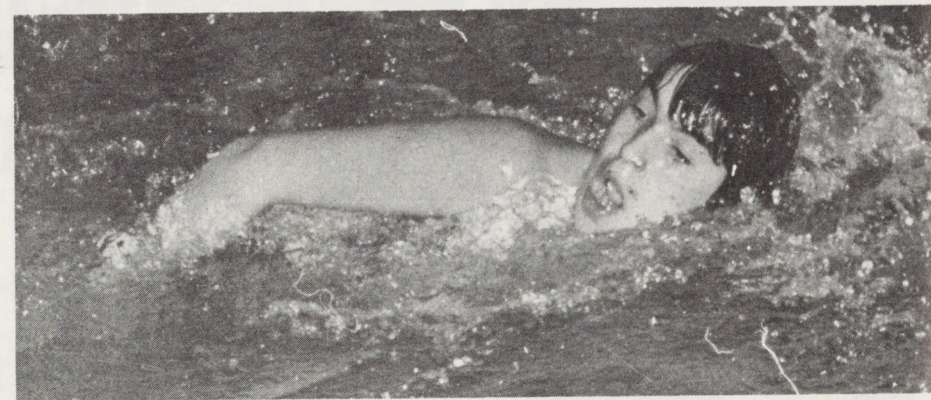
worked himself open for a shot from the corner. The ball hit the rim and spun out. Len Weinstein was underneath for the follow up attempt, but Weinstein missed two shots.

"I'll second guess myself for a while for not calling a timeout," said Cook. "If I would have, I wouldn't have done anything different on offense, and I was afraid our kids might tighten up. Still..."

THE SOPHOMORES REMAINED in second place by beating the Vikings 60-49. Coach Emil Capitani's team comes into this week's action one game out of first place.

In action earlier in the month of January, East beat Maine West 61-56. Trailing by seven points coming into the fourth quarter, the Trojans scored eight straight points to lead 56-50 with 2:00 left. The game continued to be close in the late seconds, with East in the lead. The Warriors decided to try and foul East, and they picked out Kurt Kiesel, who hadn't scored. The senior guard responded by hitting 5 straight free throws to ice the 61-56 final. That game was played on January 24.

On January 17, East traveled to Maine South to play the state ranked Hawks. East received a lesson in basketball excellence, as the Hawks laid it to the Trojans, 74-47.



(Photo by Scott Wexler)

Coach Don Larson's tankers have experienced another dismal season mainly due to lack of participants.

Swimmers without depth

by Jeff Weinstein

Lack of participation and not enough determination seem to be the major problems of the Niles East swimming team. If the Trojans had some more students involved they might be able to give a respectable showing at their meets.

FOR INSTANCE, WHEN the diving competition is held at the meets, Niles East always loses valuable points because they only have one person to compete. So before the meet is halfway over the tankers are already out of the meet.

In the last two weeks the Trojans have lost four consecutive meets, being crushed every time. First, the tankers lost to Lake Forest, then Maine South, on January 19 to East Leyden, and finally they were drowned 122-40 by Libertyville.

THE SWIMMING TEAM has a lot of talent in senior Andy Ruttenberg, who is constantly in command of his events. Junior Ed Naumes is a steady winner in the 100 and 200 yard free style, and sophomore Bob Torstenson has already broken two varsity records. The talent is present at the school, but there just aren't enough students on the team to make it a contender. In order to have a swimming contender at East, we just need more participation; Niles East could have one of the top swimming teams in the state.

The next varsity meet will be tonight at Deerfield. Maybe a little support wouldn't hurt either.

Grapplers rise After setbacks

by Ed Jacobs

In recent weeks East's grapplers experienced defeat at the hands of Maine South, Grant, Mundelein, and Maine West only to rebound in their last two meets.

AS THEY LOST four meets in succession, spirits began to dwindle, but following a hard week of drilling and practice the Trojans took apart the Indians of New Trier East. Against Niles North the Trojans had easy pickin's as the Vikings came to the meet with only six varsity wrestlers. Jeff Rock has led East this season at the 98-pound class, compiling over 20 victories against only one loss. East swept through the North meet, winning all matches but one and gaining a 54-3 final meet score.

Interesting action in past meets included a scuffle at Maine South involving Coaches Ewing and Schusteff. Both were asked to leave the meet after a misunderstanding with the referee; later the referee was notified that his services were no longer needed in the Central Suburban League.

ON THE WHOLE the wrestlers have had difficulty in attaining any sort of consistency this year but the frosh-soph teams have won consistently as they both stay near the top of league standings going into tonight's final dual meet.

Fencers plagued by size

by Scott Wexler

The Varsity Fencing squad, losing 15-3, "needs a lot of work," according to Coach Robert Keen. Sophomores Larry Labow and Scott Wexler and junior Joe Jans all lost on the "A" strip 3-0. The 3 wins were scored by the "B" strip — senior Kurt Leipold with 2 and Sophomore Jim Osness with 1. Junior Roland Huhn lost all 3 bouts.

FROSH-SOPH WON 11-7. "They did a

good job," Keen proudly said. Sophomore Sam Rest won all 3. Sophomore Lane Schultz, and freshman Alan Tish won 2 bouts each.

On the "B" strip, due to a shortage of fencers, each of the A fencers had to fence one more bout each. Rest and Tish both won. Jeff Fogel and Howard Miller also scored one victory each.

Tomorrow the team will fence Dixon High School at 9 a.m.