

# Board Terminates Miss Kass Contract

FEBRUARY 25, 1969 is a day to remember this year. It began the controversial Kass case. Miss Kass, Niles West Social Studies teacher, was notified February 25 that she would not be reappointed as a teacher for the 1969-70 school year.

Niles teachers are hired under one of two contracts. New teachers are on a probationary contract; if the school chooses to rehire them

after two or three years, teachers receive a tenure contract.

A PROBATIONARY teacher, by contract, can be dismissed without cause being shown or a hearing being given. A tenure teacher, by state law, cannot be dismissed unless a law is broken or a severe charge is proven.

Miss Kass is a probationary teacher. On deciding not to rehire

Miss Kass, the board stated its reasons as follows:

1. Your lax attitude toward the disciplining of your students when they violate school rules, or when they are unprepared for class lessons.
2. Your failure to conform to the curriculum guide, and poor lesson preparation for the proper teaching of your assigned responsibilities in United States History.
3. Your failure to cooperate with the administration and department chairman, and failure to follow directives of supervisors. Examples of these failings are to be found in (a) your continuing association with the Poli-

tical Forum Club after you had been relieved as club sponsor; (b) your use of a "take home" final examination contrary to school rules; (c) your allowing a large number of students to carry an "incomplete" grade, contrary to school regulations; (d) your involvement with Mrs. Shute, Coordinator of Adult Education, concerning your teaching of a tennis class, wherein you failed to follow Mrs. Shute's directions, and your most unprofessional demeanor toward Mrs. Shute; and (e) your use of school mimeograph facilities without authorization to reproduce an article from the Saturday Review for students and other teachers. Your lack of good judgment in connection with your teaching assignment and other school related matters. Examples of this lack of judgment include: (a) assignment to students on how to go about the overthrow of the U.S. government or Niles West administration; (b) assignment to students on how to stage a walkout; (c) approval of the article, "Voices of the John" for publication in the West Free Press; (d) reading assignment to students of article, "Student as a Nigger;" (e) leaving the meeting of the Political Forum Club where movie of Columbia revolt was being shown—as co-sponsor of the club you were responsible for the group in the absence of the other co-sponsor.

purely academic reasons. The Niles Township Student Coalition in conjunction with the Faculty Committee to Defend Roberta Kass defends her on the basis of her teaching excellence. They believe, as follows, that she was fired for political reasons:

We support Roberta Kass because we are convinced that the primary and underlying motivation for the Board's action against her is political. After having read the official correspondence between this teacher, her Department Chairman, her Divisional Administrators, and the Board, it is difficult to conclude otherwise.

Here is presented the case of a young, enthusiastic, and intelligent teacher who has attempted to be relevant by dealing openly and honestly with controversial contemporary issues which confront us all; a teacher who was able to engage students in a dialogue which dealt with the realities of life in this country in this year.

And here, too, is presented the classic reaction of an Administration unprepared to deal effectively with controversy and change.

We support Roberta Kass because we are convinced that her dismissal will serve as tacit warning to all incoming teachers to avoid controversy: Her dismissal will, in effect, curb the kind of questioning dissent which typifies the best in teaching.

We support Roberta Kass because someone must speak out in defense of a free, open, and unorthodox examination of ideas and issues that may be currently unpopular or beyond the limits of "curriculum."

It distresses us that so few of her fellow teachers have come to her support, and in answer to those who might say that we have acted too hastily—or without "full knowledge" of the case—we say simply: We must act upon what we know. If we are mistaken, we have made an honorable mistake.

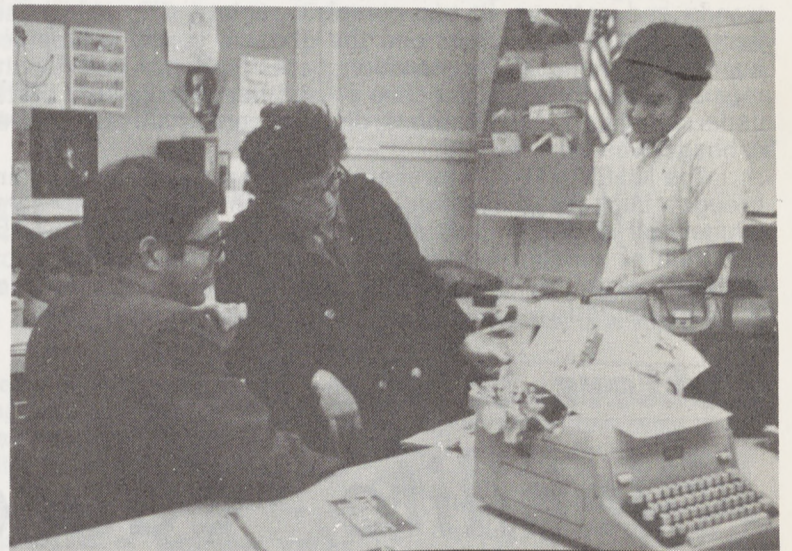
John Palm  
Judith Pildes

On receiving the above letter, Miss Kass decided to petition for an open hearing. A board hearing would allow Miss Kass to "formally" state her case.

HER GRIEVANCE was brought to the union. The union will present the grievance to the school board on March 24. If no board member objects, an open hearing will then be set up.

The community holds a split reaction to the Kass case. The board spent one and a half hours studying Miss Kass' case. They state that they will not rehire her for

Until the grievance hearing takes place, clearly all the facts cannot be known.



JIM FRIEDMAN, President of the Niles Township Federation of Teachers, Miss Roberta Kass, social studies teacher at West, and Mike Milin, '69, a member of the Student Coalition, discuss the Board of Education's recent decision not to rehire Miss Kass next year.

## Special Editorial

### Choir Trip 'Canning' Probed

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19, a special music assembly was held informing the school about Concert Choir's recent invitation to perform in Miami, Florida. The assembly stressed that East students and faculty are expected to donate much of the \$4,000 needed for this trip. The NILEHILITE strongly believes that choir's project is unfair, unnecessary, and wasteful.

Several other organizations in the school would also like to attend special out-of-town events. For example, Golden Galleon Guild attended the Columbia Scholastic Press Assn.'s annual journalism convention in New York City last week. This convention offers instructive seminars with nationally known authorities in journalism, in addition to providing exposure to the nation for those publications. Furthermore, past experience has shown that attendance at this convention often improves the publication's rating. However,

because the school board refused to pay for any part of this trip, the group was forced to assume full individual payment without asking for any outside contributions, unlike the choir.

THE PURPOSE of choir's concert, furthermore, is to add recognition to Niles East as a number one school in the nation and to promote school spirit. However, the NILEHILITE feels that donating money for this "cause" does not represent school spirit. We also feel that it is unfair to ask students to support the choir financially, especially for an event that ultimately will result only in personal satisfaction for those directly involved.

The NILEHILITE also questions the necessity for "canning." Riding the bus to Florida would be far less expensive, and if the school sincerely values the trip's importance, it would not mind allow-

ing these students the extra days needed. However, if choir must raise money for their trip, they should consider some of the alternative methods. For example, they could hold a fund-raising concert in town, sell records, or offer breakfasts before school.

But the most important argument against the project is that the money is a deplorable waste. Several choir members have commented, possibly to justify their position, "If students have extra money, why not donate it to choir." Our response is that the "astronomical" sum of money "somewhere in the vicinity of \$4,000" could be put to much better use. It seems embarrassing that less than one-tenth of this sum could be raised for the United Fund Drive earlier this year. Instead of sending spoiled suburban students to Florida for about a week, why not send two students to college for a year? Why not provide better care for the mentally deficient? Why not heat the tenements in the inner city. Why not save thousands of children in Biafra—or Chicago—from starvation? Why not?

### East Art Teachers Simon, Lerman Exhibit Paintings in Chicago Show

WORKS DONE by two Niles East art instructors, Mr. Murray Simon and Mr. Jack Lerman, have been accepted at two Chicago area art exhibitions, announced Mrs. Hazel Loew, art department chairman.

Exempla I, done by Mr. Simon, has received a \$500 prize in the Chicago and Vicinity Exhibition at the Art Institut eof Chicago. Mr. Simon briefly explained his painting, done with acrylics: "Exempla I expresses the feeling of black line on white surface. It also involves the idea of solid floating forms with cloud-like appearance."

Over 1200 works were entered in the exhibition, out of which 106 pieces were selected by a jury of three members. (Jurors are similar to judges.) Out of these 106 pieces, 23 awards were presented. The Chicago and Vicinity Show opens March 19 and 20 for the

press, and will be open to the general public on March 21 or 22.

"NEW HORIZONS in Painting," sponsored by the North Shore Art League, hosts paintings from both Mr. Simon and Mr. Lerman. "Heroes" is the title of Mr. Lerman's painting, which is done in mixed media. "Heroes" is mixed media on mixed heroes," explained Mr. Lerman. "It is a commentary on our society and its treatment of heroes." Some of the heroes depicted in his painting include a football player, a general, Uncle Sam, and a computerized business man "with mechanical workings in his hat." Exempla II is Mr. Simon's entry in the New Horizons Show.

New Horizons in Painting is at the Drake Galleries of Barat College in Lake Forest, and it is open daily until March 30.

### 'Marv' Ihne To Premiere at Panic

PANIC '69 will be held from 7:30 to 11:00 tomorrow evening, March 22, in the Niles East girls' gym, according to Senior Ken Fleischer, carnival chairman.

Admission will be 25 cents for the Senior Cabinet-sponsored event. Among the highlights of the carnival will be 18 club booths, a Junior Cabinet Jamboree, and the Senior Movie. About 400-500 people are expected to make this year's Panic as successful as last year's, according to Mr. Len Winans, Senior Cabinet sponsor.

"A DAY IN THE LIFE," the Senior Movie, filmed in Lenascope and Winanvision, will explore a typical day at Niles East in a "Laugh-In" type format. Special guest stars include "Marvelous Marv" Ihne, the Niles East students, administrators, faculty members, "and the usual gang of

idiots."

Drawings for the Junior Cabinet Jamboree will be held towards the middle of the evening, about 9:30. Prizes include a portable TV and "other marvelous prizes from local merchants such as Raymond's and Carol Corr," according to Barry Hartstein, Senior Cabinet president.

Among the club booths are

Choir's dart game, "Hit Your Favorite Administrator," Technis' old-fashioned tin-type photography booth, the DJCMF's jamboree, and Sophomore Cabinet's jail, Ken Fleischered. Other booth sponsors include GAA, AFS, Chess Club, German Club, Freshman Cabinet, and Student Council. Refreshments will be on sale, and a gay time is guaranteed for all.

### Debate Team Qualifies for Finals; Travels Downstate for First Time

FOR THE FIRST time in its history, Niles East qualified its varsity debate team for the state finals to be held downstate March 28-29. Only the top five schools of 30 travel to Normal, Illinois, to participate in these finals.

Jeff Factor, '70, Stuart Leven,

'70, Joel Feldman, '70, and Norm Silber, '69, earned their berth downstate by defeating Prospect, Niles North, Forest View, Mundelein, Deerfield, and North Chicago high schools in individual competition. These wins led to a playoff round where an additional victory over Rockford has enabled the team to go downstate.

"NILES EAST is now a recognized power in Illinois debate. Consistent victories throughout the year, along with this honor and entrance in the Tournament of Champions next week, can only be to the credit of our coaches, Mr. John Palm and Mr. John Golata, and the school," Norm Silber replied.

However, Mr. Palm stated that "all the credit belongs entirely to the team. They did all the work and deserve all the rewards."



REGRESSING to childhood, Art Teachers Murray Simon and Jack Lerman play with blocks in the art room.

### Ugly Men Again Roam Troy's Halls

N-CLUB'S SECOND annual Ugly Man Contest is about to begin! The highlight of N-Club sponsored projects, its purpose is to raise funds for charitable organizations. Money raised in this year's contest will go to one of three charities: Easter Seals, Gary Steger Foundation, or the St. Cloud Indian Foundation. The recipient will be decided at a later date, according to Mr. Chuck Morrison, N-Club faculty advisor.

Last year's contest raised a total

of \$885.99, half of which was presented to the United States Summer Olympic Team, the winning class receiving the other half.

Nominees for the 1969 Ugly Man Contest are Freshman Rick Shane, Sophomore John Darmstadter, Junior Mike Deitch, and Senior Seymour Rifkind. The contest starts March 24 and ends on April 11. Large jars with nominees' pictures will be placed in the cafeteria. Contributions will serve as votes for that class' Ugly Man.

## Forum

## Need Diverse Views

The NILEHILITE has noted in recent years that, whenever students become exposed to the more liberal attitudes and ideas contained in certain "progressive" courses (American Literature and History, Political Science, Humanities, and several others), there is a short surge of liberalism among those students. This phenomenon can be attributed to the newness and appeal of the ideas taught in these courses compared to the air of traditionality prevalent in many under-class courses.

We have further noted that, most often, this wave of liberalism is temporary in its unquestioned acceptance. In a short time after their initial exposure to these ideas, most students, although still interested in them, do not as actively support them. The small group of students who are permanently changed have become so primarily because of their extra-curricular interests.

We feel that it is necessary for students to be exposed to diverse political views at the high school level so that they will not be overwhelmed by the multiplicity of views extant on college campuses today. Therefore, we maintain that no teacher be criticized for introducing such ideas in classroom situations.

## Cafeteria Revolution

One week ago yesterday, students and faculty members alike were shocked to discover hamburgers (not beefburgers) were being served in the hot lunch line. Years of hope and anxious expectation were realized on that dramatic day, and cafeteria workers could hardly keep up with the tremendous demand. And to add to the students' delight, fried onions were offered for no additional charge.

The NILEHILITE wishes to commend the cafeteria staff for its diligent efforts to keep up with the ever-changing trends and patterns in our complex society. The Niles East version of the hamburger and the pizza is surely a step forward in bridging the generation gap. Students and faculty members ate the same lunches — another step toward better understanding. And for those diehard conservatives, stuffed cabbage was also served.

The NILEHILITE can foresee the day when french fries are brought back to the school, along with corned-beef sandwiches, as a new innovation. Modern trends may cause the abolition of salisbury steak in favor of hot hamals or tacos. Perhaps some day the daily menu may merit top billing on the daily bulletin.

## Letters to the Editor

## Nilehilite, 'Educational Process' Attacked

Dear Editor:

Your announcement of the lack of need for the "New Free Press" was lacking in specifics.

What is "obviously offensive" to your captive readers? Honesty? Things which they have thought about but never dared to voice? What do you call "good taste?"

Everything in the "West Free Press" should have interested your readers. It was basically about things they live with, that you NEVER could mention. Could you take a stand on the legalization of marijuana without giving the administration grey hairs? Could you really attack the system without offending your money supply?

Be real! There was a need for an independent newspaper. But there isn't anymore!!! We've got one!

Niles Twp. Student Coalition

Ed. note: From the tone of your letter, I feel that you have misinterpreted the main point of our last editorial. It was not specifically meant as an attack on your paper. It just pointed out that the NILEHILITE is still encouraging students to submit articles on topics of interest to all students, such as those you suggested. Let me answer your first question first.

Vulgarity for vulgarity's sake is "obviously offensive" to our readers. Obscenity does not help convey the truth (news) any better than honesty does. We feel truth is synonymous with news, not vulgarity.

Let me repeat that would be extremely cynical and ridiculous for us to oppose an independent newspaper on principle alone. We are

not competing with each other for increased circulation or for advertising. (Incidentally, the students supply our funds, not the administration.) The NILEHILITE readily admits that it is limited in terms of space; consequently, we work under the possibility of being limited in the variety of articles we desire. However, these limits exist because of a lack of funds, not administrative censorship, as you suggest might be the case. We have yet to run out of space this year; our numerous requests for articles from students not on the staff have brought little response.

I am sure that all members of the NILEHILITE and Free Press staffs have a common goal — to improve this school, to make it better for us all. The NILEHILITE and Free Press can antagonize each other, or they can cooperate to achieve this goal. Our offer still stands — we are willing to print any article meeting the "common sense" limits prescribed in the editorial. If students do not respond to this offer, we can only hope that your paper will bring positive results. But please do not claim that the NILEHILITE has failed to provide for the expression of views from its readers.

Dear Editor:

Niles East has always prided itself on having a great, cut-and-dried, static, stagnant air about it. In all the decades that Niles Township High School has existed, I doubt that the "educational process" has been disrupted more than twice. Once this year, such a disruption took place at North and West Divisions, but my main

concern is East Division, because we have different administrative policies here.

It appears to me that our administration wants to keep the student body (as a single entity) happy. I interpret that to mean they want to keep us in "our place."

It also seems that a major concern of the administration is the "educational process" and its possible "disruption," "interruption," and "corruption." East's "educational process" consists of a nine-period day inside the building, frequent interruptions by bells, boring textbooks, and desultory, irrelevant curricula.

The main problem here is that we have an "educational process" where we should have a learning process. The process of learning is a voluntary, natural, human, enjoyable, satisfying exercise. It is a stimulating mental activity. Learning is a brain massage. Education, on the other hand, is an itch on the inside of the ear. Education, a forced, controlled experiment in boredom, is an itch that I want desperately to scratch and get rid of, but can't. Education, (and the "educational process") is a collection of facts that somebody else wants me to know. A person's assumption in choosing my curriculum is that I will grow up to be a thinking individual. In reality, the "educational process" trains me to grow up and think like that person and agree with him.

Only I know what I want to learn. It is true that I also don't know about all that I want to learn, but neither does a small child. From birth to kindergarten, a

child learns without the "educational process." A child learns what he wants to learn. A child discovers and learns an entire language without textbooks and teachers. In time, he discovers that there are other things he also wants to learn. If it is alright for a three-year-old to learn in such a way, why isn't it alright for a 16-year-old?

I will learn only what I want to learn. I feel that the teacher's responsibility is only to guide me; it is my responsibility to learn and to take upon myself that responsibility. If this school wants a real responsibility program, it can start with that.

As far as I am concerned, the "educational process" has failed as a learning technique, and succeeds admirably in its failure. I would like to set up my own curriculum in classes where it would be practical: history, English, psychology, sociology, and art, for example. I guarantee that I would learn something then.

The question "if a student hasn't studied it, how will he know that he wants to learn it?" is silly. I know right now that I want to learn how to make films, and I've never studied film-making. The argument that "the student will miss out on information he needs if he picks his own curriculum" is a poor one. If the school is really interested in developing us into individual, happy, satisfied, human beings, it would let us learn that which will make us individual, happy, satisfied, and above all, human.

Education here is a means to an end. "Be educated, get good

leave school any earlier than ninth period, he would have to show evidence of physical, psychological, or financial hardship. This program is open not only to juniors and seniors, but also to the underclassmen.

Although the new proposal is optional for only one period, Mr. Colver added that if it works out, the length of time could possibly be expanded to more than one period.

When asked why so many new innovations have been developed this year, Mr. Colver replied that "the administration has been receptive to the need for change, and this change is the result of cooperation between teachers, administrators, and students. It is something long needed." But when asked why it took all these years just to get it passed now, Mr. Colver made no comment.

Rona Bass, '70

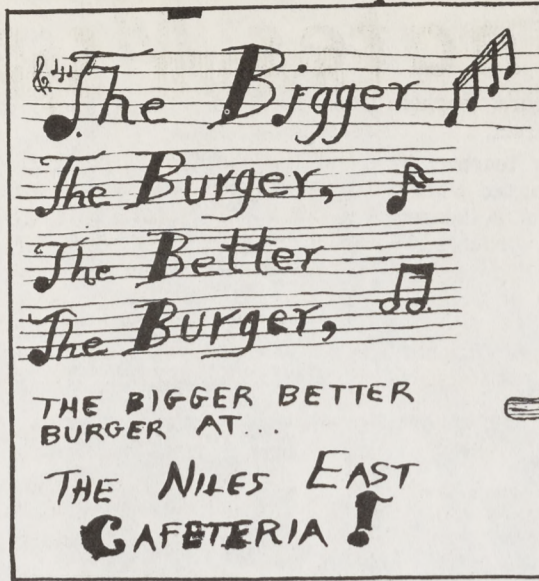
**Nilehilite**

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## Citizen's Advisory Unit Proposes Early Dismissal-Late Arrival Plan

Early dismissal or late arrival for juniors and seniors has been proposed by the Citizens Advisory Committee to be one of the new changes in East's format for next year.

The C.A.C., consisting of administrators and students from all three Niles schools, developed a report in five weeks concerning the question of an optional stagger in the schedule of classes for 1969-70.

Mr. James Swanson, assistant principal, Merle Wolff, '69, and Norm Silber, '69, represented East in this committee. Norm stated that there were many valid reasons for this new option. Some of these reasons are that most Niles students have one to four unassigned periods daily, and a mature student should be able to make the decision as to where he does his studying.

"We are going to recommend the Board of Education approve the early dismissal-late arrival option," Mr. Colver stated. "Although it will be open to juniors and seniors, these students must provide their own transportation, and their parents' approval is needed. Also, this option could only be achieved if a student's regular schedule permitted it."

If the Board approves this new policy, a special time will be set aside for students to change their registrations. Also, the time of homeroom would have to be changed next year, because late arrivers would miss the present 8:00 homeroom.

Mr. Colver wished to clarify to all students that this new option would have absolutely nothing to do with the present early dismissal program. If a student wishes to

leave school any earlier than ninth period, he would have to show evidence of physical, psychological, or financial hardship. This program is open not only to juniors and seniors, but also to the underclassmen.

Although the new proposal is optional for only one period, Mr. Colver added that if it works out, the length of time could possibly be expanded to more than one period.

When asked why so many new innovations have been developed this year, Mr. Colver replied that "the administration has been receptive to the need for change, and this change is the result of cooperation between teachers, administrators, and students. It is something long needed." But when asked why it took all these years just to get it passed now, Mr. Colver made no comment.



**REHEARSING ONE** of the many dance scenes in "Flower Drum Song" are (left to right) Gary Covitt, Leon Natker, Jeff Nemetz, and Sue Ann Gershenzon.

# Eastern Splendor Comes to East

**THE SUBTLE** beauty of the Orient and the freshness and vitality of America will blossom on March 28 and 29 at 8:15 p.m. when Niles East presents Rodgers and Hammerstein's "Flower Drum Song." This musical was chosen because the themes presented are so appropriate to the times, the so-called generation gap and the lack of communication between parents and children. Wang Ta (Senior Bob Beazley) insists that he knows about life and love and refuses to listen to the advice of his father,

Wang-chi-Yang (Junior Leon Natker) and his aunt, Madame Liang (Senior Ruth Kornan).

Also dealt with is the conflict between Oriental and American cultures. Helping to convey this theme is the fine musical score, consistent with the characters being portrayed. The Chinese picture-bride Mei Li (Sophomore Sue Anne Gershenzon), to whom Wang Ta is betrothed, is very Oriental and her songs convey the simplicity and quiet beauty of the East. The girl whom Wang Ta has asked to marry him, night-club singer Linda Low (Sophomore Sue Klein), is half-Chinese, half-American, and her songs possess the boldness and brassiness of America, yet have Oriental overtones. Wang Ta's songs, symbolic of the struggle between the Oriental and Western cultures within him, range from the very Oriental "You Are Beautiful" to the spirited "Like A God."

Schaffrick, Elayne Shayer, Tom Stein, Cary Weintraub, Mark Schwartz, Elaine Garland, Carol Glaberson, Gary Hart, La.rie Gold, Ceena Wortman, Kris Keisel, Babette Black, Marnie Bishop, Holly Garland, Sue Cypkin, Linda Podgers, Sue Eckerling, Heidi Scherfling, Dennis Rothman, Frank Glassner, Kathy Kamin, Cass Diamond, Larry Saltzman, and Steve Nathan. Others include Stewart Karge, Jeff Johnson, Terry Sklair, Julie Cole, Karen Stone, Debbie Greenfield, Lois Green, Randy Bornstein, Vicki Cohen, Berdine Wishne, Kris Johnson, Charlene Kantor, Ellen Render, Michelle Oxman, Cyd Holland, Ruth Zimmerman, Marla Tatar, Dahlia Mishell, Sally Wood, Steve Friedman, Cary Kozlov, Howard Knaizer, Steve Schneider, and David Ginsburg.

Accompanists for the production are Kathy Dammann, Steve Fishman, Amy Letchinger, and Eileen Weintraub.

**DANCERS INCLUDE** Linda Bandy, Karen Barach, Sue Buckman, Sherry Gavlin, Eileen Skaltsky, Katie Klehr, Loren Eoyang, Liz Harrold, Toby Nitzkin, Pam Wallis, Ron Stoller, Barry Harstein, Corky Aprill, Jamie Byron, Jim Connix, and Jeff Nemetz.

The musical director is Mr. Earle Auge. Mr. Proffit is the drama director, assisted by the two student directors, Senior Ellen Miner and Junior Steve Nathan. The technical director for the musical is Mr. Alan Kent.

## Staff Looks for Pen Pal

"WHY JOIN THE NILEHILITE staff?" a friend once asked one of its editors.

"To meet girls," he retorted. And in his pursuit of the female, he has tried to establish a relationship with Melanie Link of Chula Vista, California. It should be explained that the NILEHILITE exchanges its papers with Chula Vista's Spartan Campus for the purpose of comparing journalistic techniques. So enthralled was he with a picture of Homecoming Candidate Lois Taylor, he wrote the following letter to the Spartan Campus' editor-in-chief, Melanie Link.

Dear Melanie,  
Please inform Senior Lois Taylor that she meets with the unanimous approval of the males on the NILEHILITE staff. If she ever has an opportunity to visit the Chicagoland area, she will be warmly welcomed and royally treated. Ask her if she'll please send an original autographed picture. Thanks, sweetheart.

Love and kisses,  
Me

**RESPONSE FROM CHULA** Vista was rather restrained. As a matter of fact, there was no response. Undaunted, our stranger tried again. This time, his letter reflected the outpourings of a tortured soul.

Dear Melanie,  
When I got back to school after our winter vacation, I was sad to see that you had not written. Are you well? If there's anything wrong — if there's anything I can do, all you have to do is ask.

Please, love, my only concern is for your welfare. But maybe your letter got lost in the mail; it's a long way from Skokie to Chula Vista, I know. Our zip code here is 60076. If you'd like to call collect, our NILEHILITE number is 312-966-3800, Ext. 343. I was going to call you over vacation, but I couldn't find Chula Vista's area code, let alone its directory.

**IN ANY CASE**, I'd like to wish you and yours a very healthy, happy, and prosperous New Year. I'm looking forward to meeting you at the Columbia Scholastic Press Association convention in New York City, March 13-15.

Please write back soon. I want to establish a warm, sincere correspondence. And unlike Pygmalion, I don't want to write to a statue. Since we come from different backgrounds — you, from a small, Western town, me from a large, Midwestern city — I know that sharing our ideas and thoughts on current affairs can be a meaningful experience. You can write me in care of Niles East High School, Attn: Nilehilite, Lincoln and Niles Aves., Skokie, Illinois 60076. Hear from you soon.

Love and XXX,  
Stranger

**WE ARE HOPING**, dearest Melanie, that you will read this and show us you care. Stranger has become a shattered man, mumbling to himself in school corridors. Please, please write soon. It's so lonely here.

And incidentally, we welcome letters from any one else out there

in our vast readership. We love every one of them.

### Coming Up

**Saturday, March 22**

Panic '69

**Friday and Saturday, March 28 and 29**

"Flower Drum Song"

**Monday, March 31**

Spring Vacation

**Monday, April 7**

School Resumes

**Friday, April 11**

Next NILEHILITE

## Reading Teaches Varied Skills

**HIDDEN IN THE** far corner of the new addition is a small room called the Reading Laboratory. Although the majority of the Niles East student body has never seen the inside of the lab, it is still a very important part of the school.

"The Reading Lab offers its courses to students who have a genuine interest in improving their reading skills, comprehension, speed, and vocabulary," explained Mrs. Vella Bass, reading lab instructor. "At present, we have 35 students enrolled in some phase of our reading program. Various courses are open to each class level," Mrs. Bass continued.

Reading Improvement, (Reading 1, 2) which concentrates on comprehension of expository writing and the function of the sentence and paragraph to express thoughts; and Developmental Reading, (Reading 3, 4) which includes in-

terpretation of narrative writing for central thoughts, characterization and organization are open to freshmen. "Developmental reading is a popular course among freshmen," said Mrs. Bass.

Advanced Development Reading, a nine week course open to sophomores and juniors, develops such skills as concentration, memory, good study habits, and speed reading. Analyzation for central thought, details, and conclusions in reading is also studied. A six week course in Reading Preparation for College Board Tests (Reading 7, 8) is available to junior and senior PSAT and SAT applicants, to prepare for the verbal sections of these tests. A special course open to all levels is Individualized Reading. Each student is tested and given a personal program to develop those skills which he wishes to improve.

"THE MOST POPULAR and well received course we offer is that of College Preparatory Reading," cited Mrs. Bass. During per-

iods 2, 6, and 7, college-bound seniors spend time improving their general reading abilities. College level books, including Vocabulary for College, Improvement of College Reading, and college history books are used to increase ability, speed and comprehension. A nine-week course in speed reading is incorporated into the Prep course. "Two kinds of speed reading are taught," explained Mrs. Bass. "The first is reading every word on the page at a fast rate. Speeds of 900 words per minute can be obtained in this manner. The second kind is the more popular 'over-view skimming' method, an approach similar to that of the expensive commercial courses. With this method, it is possible to obtain speeds of thousands of words per minute." How to vary speed according to purpose and to difficulty of material is also explored.

After speed reading, pressure reading is pursued. The purpose of pressure reading is to effect a transfer of skills acquired on the speed-reading machines.

All reading courses are taken on an audit basis during study hall periods.



**STUDENTS FIND** reading aids can build their skills.

## About As Deep As a Well

by Eric S. Palles

I AM A deep person. Of course I wasn't always deep. I used to be a plastic person. I thought about clothes, money, girls, and Niles East Basketball (and mostly in that order). I was content to live in the plastic bubble of Skokie, living life through the 10 O'clock News before drinking warm milk and dreaming sweet dreams.

But now, I'm hip. I saw which way the wind was blowing. I became part of a giant wave of non-conformity. I grooved on poetry. I read Rod McKuen and grasped the essential truths and monumental commentary he makes on life. I read Kafka, Sartre, and Alice B. Toklas. I transcended existentialism and existed for transcendentalism.

### Groove On the East

I know that in order to enhance my spiritual qualities and purge myself of my materialism, I would have to take up Eastern culture. That's when I read erotic Japanese poetry. I ate fortune cookies voraciously. I saw "Flower Drum Song" twice in the movies.

**BY NOW**, I was saturated in Eastern culture. Yet one thing still bothered me. I wanted to know the secret of life. I went to my rabbi and begged

him to tell me the secret of life. He replied that he knew, but couldn't tell me because then it wouldn't be a secret. Instinctively, I knew I must head to the East for the true answer to life. I heard of a Tibetan monastery high in the Himalayas where the wisest man in the world lived. I was determined to go there and learn the Secret.

### The Quest

The torturous trek across the Gobi desert was followed by a month of hand over hand climbing over treacherous Himalayan slopes. I reached the monastery, clothing torn, limbs bleeding, covered with dirt from head to toe. I staggered toward the high priest who looked amazingly like Sam Jaffe in "Lost Horizon." Falling to my knees, I queried, "What is the secret of life?"

**THE SAGE** looked down at me and knitted his brow as he spoke slowly and deliberately, "Life is like a well." I was aghast. "Do you mean that I traveled 4,000 miles, over the ocean, desert and mountains to have you tell me that life is like a well?"

He was thoughtful for a moment. "Have it your way. Life is not like a well."

# Trojans Take Honors in State Competition

## Fencers Place Second; Fleischer Takes Fourth

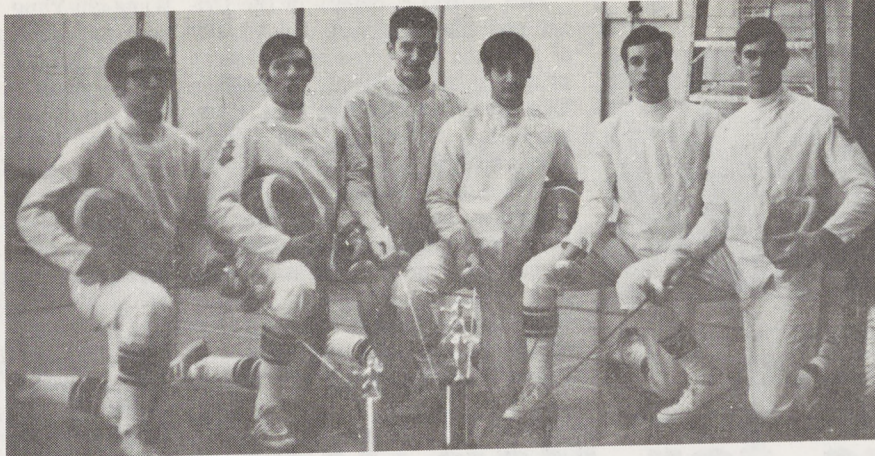
ALTHOUGH FALLING short of the coveted state championship, Troy's varsity fencers turned in a second place finish in the state fencing tournament with their number-one fencer, Sid Milstein, watching from the sidelines with his incapacitating knee injury. Senior Ken Fleischer paced the Trojan down-state effort with a fourth-place individual finish in the tournament.

The Trojans scored 55 points in the meet but were swamped by the first-place Commandoes of Marshall High School who ran up 86 points in overwhelming competition. Ken Johnson paced the Chicagoans with a second place finish in the individual standings, losing out in his bid for the first spot only in a post-meet playoff with Maine South's Dave Lietell. Another Commando, Bill Haywood, took sixth in the finals, giving Marshall the only one-two combination among the six finalists.

### Dash Fails

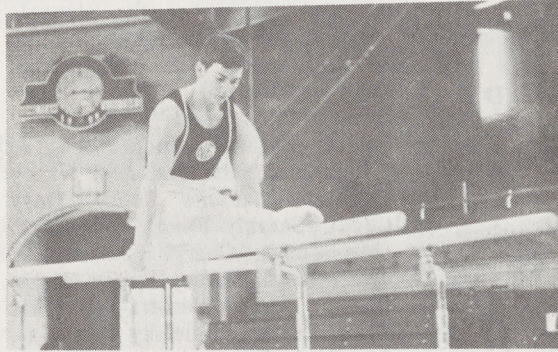
Nilehi sophomore Glenn Dash posted a 2-3 record in the prelims as all six East fencers made it to the second round. However, Dash was the first Trojan casualty of the tourney as he got blanked 0-5 in the second round. Senior Captain Neal White flashed to 5-0 records in both of the first two rounds but ran out of gas in the quarter finals and was eliminated on his 2-3 mark.

Senior Marty Fraeman posted a 6-4 mark before getting clobbered 1-4 in the quarters while Juniors Tom Fillipp and Al Acker ran up seven wins and three losses each before they too got eliminated in the quarters on 2-3 performances. These losses left the Trojans with only the slow-starting Fleischer in the semis. Fleischer squeaked



**KEN FLEISCHER**

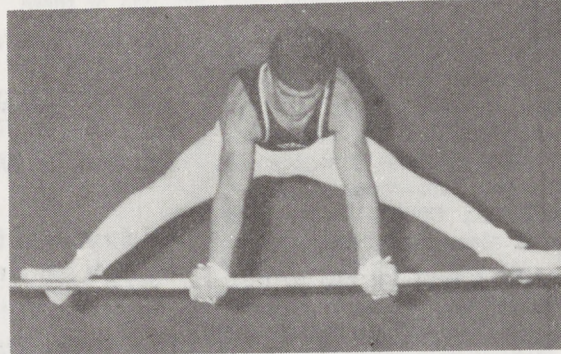
(second from left) exclaims as (from left) Neal White, Marty Fraeman, Al Acker, Tom Fillipp, and Glenn Dash stab the 2nd place team state tourney trophy.



**SEYMOUR (SPANKY) RIFKIND**

through the first two rounds with identical 3-2 records but suddenly turned hot in the quarters with a 5-0 mark.

**KEN CONTINUED** his onslaught with a 3-2 record in the much-tougher semifinal competition, and he then posted the same mark in the finals. This win left him tied for third, but Bob Vasconcelles of Pleasant Plaines was awarded the number three position on total points.



works out on the p-bars in which he took first in state and on the high bar where he took fifth in the state tourney.

## Netmen Face Maine W.

ALTHOUGH MARK Bishop, last year's Illinois state singles champion, has graduated from Nilehi East and is now attending Indiana on a scholarship, Coach Chuck Morrison is still looking for a winning season from his young netmen. The squad has only two returning seniors in Ernie Miller and Dave Wiggins, who will be battling for the first and second singles positions. Both boys played doubles last year, according to Coach Morrison.

## Lettermen Spark Diamondmen

COACH NICK Odzivak's Trojan diamondmen will be out to improve upon their third place standing in state competition last year with four returning regulars. Leading the group is all-state tournament Second Baseman, Tom Ryan, '69. Since the press doesn't select a baseball all-state team, being named all-tournament in baseball

is equivalent to making an all-state team in basketball or football.

The squad also has starting Center Fielder Rick Rice, '69. Smooth Glove Man Tom Hopsicker, '69, will be holding down the shortstop spot for the second straight year, while defensive bulwark Rich Becker, '69, will be handling Trojan catching duties if the injury

he suffered in an accident last Sunday evening is not serious.

Without star pitchers Dave Diamond or Don Siegel returning, the Trojans will begin the season with a rather inexperienced but talented pitching staff, according to Coach Odzivak. Leading the pitching corps will be Seniors Gary Binder, Al Michel, Mark Koppel and Juniors Scott Farber, Rich Rothstein, Reid Neuman, and Steve Fine. Sophomore Pitcher Ira Levy also looks promising during his workouts with the varsity.

**OTHER VARSITY** players are Seniors Theo Prousis, first baseman; Larry Rafferty, infielder; Mike Kolb, third baseman; Chuck Gockenbach, outfielder, and Juniors Jerry Oher, outfielder; Mark Allen, catcher, and Jim Tedeschi, catcher-outfielder.

East looks strong defensively with a solid nucleus up the middle, according to Ryan. The Trojans open their season on Thursday, April 3, with a home game against the Glenbrook North Spartans at Oakton Park.

## Track, Golf Teams Hope for Success Under New Coaches

"OUR TRACK squad is a team of the future," said new Coach Dean Slavens about the Niles East varsity indoor track team.

Inexperience has been the main problem for the team this year as sophomores have been pressed into service because only one senior remains on the team.

With the indoor season drawing to a close, the track team has managed to earn victories in meets against Waukegan and Forest View.

### Junior Hopefuls

Coach Slavens is hoping that he will be able to strictly rely on the upperclassmen to pull the team through when the track season moves outdoors.

Bob Wolf and Jasper Tovalacci, both quarter milers, Steve Rose and Mike Portman, the shot putters, are four juniors Coach Slavens is counting on for the outdoor season.

Pete Jungwirth will be at the high hurdles and Chris Short will run the 880 when the track team moves outside.

### Oswald Coaches

While the track team leaves the indoor area, the Niles East golf team moves in under new Coach Jerry Oswald.

The golfers will be working out in the indoor track until the final cut is made next week.

Coaches Oswald and Wayne Lueck are in the process of carefully scrutinizing each golfer's swing before they decide who is going to make the varsity and frosh-soph teams.

**LETTERMEN** TIM Melas and Dave Chaiken are returning to the team this year. Three other boys will be chosen for the varsity team.

Twenty-five boys are trying to make the frosh-soph team, which will eventually be cut down to seven players.

After qualifications next week, the team will get ready for its season which will begin April 14 with a meet against Hershey.

In each meet, nine holes of golf are played. The Trojan home course is Arlington Country Club.

## Rifkind Powers Gymnasts to 3rd

SPANKY AND OUR GANG put on a show that was better than even they had expected, but the end result was exactly the one predicted.

Spanky (Seymour Rifkind) led Bob Quintanales and Al Weiner in an all-out assault on third place in the 1969 state gymnastics finals last Saturday at Niles West. And when the chalk cleared, that's where the Trojans stood.

The trophy was the first that Troy's gymnasts have brought home from the finals since the 1964 squad returned with the second place award.

### Spanky Stars

From anyone's point of view, the superstar of the meet was Rifkind. Rifkind coasted into the all-around championship, considered by most coaches to be the top individual title.

He then added the state parallel bars title to his overwhelming list of career awards. To round out his finale in high school gymnastics, Rifkind also tied for third place in state on still rings and took the fifth place medal on high bar.

Rifkind's total of 79 of East's 121.5 points would have placed him in a sixth place tie with Waukegan if he had been entered as a team by himself.

### Quinto Takes Fifth

Bob Quintanales wrapped up his three years of gymnastics at Niles with a fifth position state rating on parallel bars and a ninth spot rating in all-around.

Junior Al Weiner even surprised himself by finishing in a three-way tie for fifth on trampoline. The medal is just one more indication of Al's great chances for leading East into next year's state contest.

**THE THIRD PLACE** team rating climaxed a three-year drive for a trophy by the Trojans. In 1967, East placed fifth in state. Last season they rose to the number four spot, but only the top three schools receive the awards.

## Proviso, Waukegan SL Reps in State Tourney

**PROVISO EAST** and Waukegan, fellow Suburban League teams of the Trojans, meet this evening in the quarterfinals of the state basketball tourney. These teams are trying to succeed SL Evanston as the champ, something that could prove the league's athletic superiority.

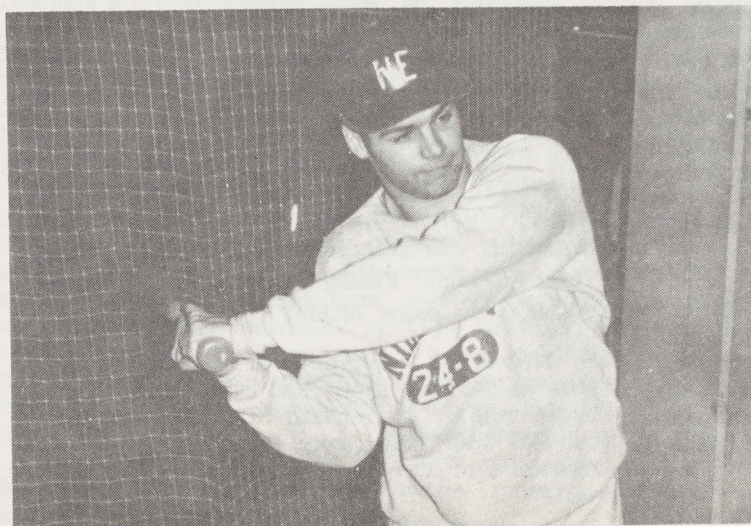
Proviso is currently rated the number one team in the state, was the SL champ, and has a 27-1 record.

The Pirates only loss came to second in state rated Galesburg, 44-40, earlier in the season. Other teams left in the tourney are Galesburg, Champaign Central, Belleville East, Aurora East, Peoria Spalding, and Mt. Vernon.

**WAUKEGAN LOST** twice to Proviso during the SL season, both times by about 10 points. The Pirates squeaked into the "Elite Eight" with a 47-46 comeback victory over Chicago Public League Hirsch while Waukegan upset highly rated Thornton 63-61 behind Vernon Martin's 25 points.

In the Proviso-Hirsch contest, the Pirates trailed by 15 points at one time during the third quarter. However, super star Jim Brewer rallied the Pirates with his rebounding as the Hirsch lead slowly dwindled. With only nine seconds left Ira Carswell missed a long shot that Brewer rebounded and put back up for the score that won the game. A desperation shot by Hirsch fell short.

Although Proviso is undeniably favored this evening, an inspired Bulldog team might pull another surprise. Either way, the SL will have a team among the top four in the state.



**ALL-STATE TOURNAMENT** Tom Ryan, '69, works on his swing in the indoor track.