

Cougar Connection

Cypress Creek High School

9815 Grant Road

Houston, TX 77070

Volume 9, Issue 5, April 1986

TEXAS

by Patrick Hays
Staff Writer

You double check your rifle and the ammunition clips on your belt. Your backpack is securely fastened and you want yet another long minute for word from your squad commander, who will receive word from General Sam Houston. Suddenly, your ears numb as you hear the word "go". The fresh morning sun beats down upon your face as you run forward, ready for an attack from any side. As you dive down behind a knoll upon command, sweat and a drop of blood paint your face with the grinding emotion which has not enveloped your whole body; an emotion of fear, anger, hope, resentment, and determination. You can literally feel the adrenalin tearing through your veins. You wait again for further word... "GO"! You repeat attack and when the smoke clears after 20 minutes of gunfire and explosions, you stand on independent soil. You put your gun down,

wipe your face clean, and reach for your canteen...

What you have just read is the situation you may have been in, had you been alive, of age, and fighting for the Texas Revolution in April of 1836.

On March 6, 1836, four days after Texas colonists declared independence from Mexico, General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna soundly defeated the Texan forces at the Spanish mission, the Alamo. On March 11,

Sam Houston gathered 374 men at Gonzales, Texas. As he retreated eastward before Santa Anna's advance, he recruited more and more men. By April 20th, he had the help of 800 men. The two armies engaged in a small battle at a ferry over the San Jacinto River. Houston was outnumbered 910 to 800, and although aware of Santa Anna's coming reinforcement of 500 men, coolly waited for their arrival. He stated

later that "he did not want to take two bites at a cherry."

On the morning of April 21st, Houston and his forces staged an attack. Their surprise was complete. The battle lasted only 20 minutes. Texas was now a free nation. General Houston was among the 24 wounded Texans; only 16 Texans died. The Mexican force was almost completely erased. Santa Anna signed an armistice agreeing to evacuate Texas. Houston was president of a permanent government, inaugurated in October.

So the Texas Sesquicentennial is upon us. Texas is a fine state. It has the most diversified terrain, the second largest square mileage of the 50 states, and the funniest sports teams. So here is an invitation from the *Connection* to enjoy the Texas esqui...qui...cenn...cenn...tittennxifdr!*

\$#@&!* Anyway, happy 150th Anniversary.

TEXANS' CELEBRATION

A JARRE-ING EVENT

On April 5th, French musician Jean-Michel Jarre brought his music and light show to Houston. The audio-visual extravaganza was staged near Sam Houston Park, and was one segment of "Houston Festival, 1986".

An estimated crowd of 800,000 to 1 million people watched and listened at Jarre, along with his crew of 150 people, produced musical and visual images for 90 minutes. The production shot lights and fireworks off seven downtown buildings including The Republic Bank Building, One Shell Plaza, and The Texas Commerce

Tower. Jarre provided orchestral, captivating music to accompany the light show. Also included was a giant screen attached to The Heritage Plaza building under construction across the street from City Hall, onto which images of Texas' heritage, along with its space history and hopes, were projected.

Jarre's music is full, choral and bold, although jumpy and dispersed at times. The 37-year old musician has sold more than 25 million records worldwide. After his first number, he talked to the massive crowd. "I cannot see all of you, but I can feel your

presence," Jarre told the screaming crowd, which stretched for nearly two miles along I-45 and Memorial Drive.

The event commemorated the Sesquicentennial of Houston and Texas, as well as the 25th anniversary of the Johnson Space Center. Jarre dedicated one of his songs to his friend, Ronald McNair, the late astronaut and member of the Challenger crew.

The concert was a privilege. Houston was fortunate to be given such a spectacular event. Special thanks go to Jarre, his band, and crew. Jarre's new album, *Remdez-vous*, is available on Polygram Records.

Library thieves rip others off

by Laurie Nimberger
Editor

Theft. A crime. Students stealing SIRS articles, magazines, books, cutouts from the vertical file; the list of things missing from school and public libraries goes on.

"Replacement runs into the thousands and it keeps us from buying more." Cypress Creek branch librarian Elizabeth Hulsey said.

There is nothing more frustrating than going for something that is expected to be there, only to find it gone. The purpose of a public library is for the public to have access to what it contains. This includes SIRS articles, magazines and books also. The same goes for a school library; the entire student body must be able to use all of the materials.

"The rate of loss is pretty bad. We replaced all kinds of stolen materials as far as funds allow," Hulsey said. The last time the CC Public Library replaced all SIRS articles, which was several years ago, it cost around \$1200, according to Hulsey. They also have to keep all things likely to be stolen, such as wildflower books around spring, behind the reference desk to prevent theft.

There are some solutions to these types of problems and it basically has to start with people putting things back and not stealing them. It's like the golden rule, "do unto others as you would have them do unto you." It's a person's responsibility and maturity that will prevent future theft. Take paper to take notes or several items to get things copied.

The money saved from not having to replace things could be used to buy more and better things. If local libraries had the money to buy more in-depth reference materials, then less trips to college or downtown libraries would have to be made during research paper times. That would mean money saved on gas and a big time savings also. The next time something is truly needed, which is common in most every case, one can count on it being there.

Just stop and think before you inconspicuously slip that SIRS article into your folder. The next person who might want it could be a friend, relative or possibly even yourself.

A SADD reply

Dear editor,

One day I sat down in the cafeteria, kicked back and picked up the March '86 edition of the Cougar Connection for my reading pleasure. When I glanced through it, on page four I saw a silly looking fellow wearing sunglasses, so I decided to read what he had to say. Before I had finished the first paragraph, however, my head was already throbbing in disgust. Pat, the young man clothed in a tennis hat and sunglasses, referred to a certain technique of advertising as "ridiculous and contradictory." In my opinion, these are quite flagrant words, especially when backed up by his fallacious remarks which seemed as if they were thrown on the paper without any logic behind them. Pat believes that something is "haywire" when a night club advertisement is followed up by a MAADD announcement; I beg to differ. I believe that this type of organization is very much in order or "a propro" if you will. I sometimes ponder the question: Does Pat even know what MAADD stands for? My conclusion is always, "No, he must not." So listen up Patrick...Mothers Against Drunk Driving. I believe in your thinking you neglected to notice the final "D" in the acronym. The public service was most likely being directed at the patrons to the night-clubs which do advertising to tell them of the risks of drunk driving and of various "free ride" programs offered by the community. In contrast to Pat, I feel that somebody knew what they were doing when they placed these two ads together. I do agree with your concern against drunk driving, but hopefully you'll put some logic into your thoughts before bad mouthing certain companies and organizations. One more thing, your plea directed to the night clubs to stop making alcohol profits is absurd and quite feeble. The vending of alcoholic beverages is perfectly legal with a license and what's more the free enterprise involved in the American Way.

Mike Lattin, Junior

Mike—

You have raised a very legitimate point, one with which I agree. However, not all of the patrons who indulge in the excessive drinking will take cabs or rides with friends, and that is dangerous. I did not ask the clubs to stop making profits, only to look beyond it. Additionally, clubs will not be likely to make a substantial profit by selling drinks for .25¢. I, as well as the staff, appreciate your input.

Patrick

Cougar Connection

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All material contained in the Cypress Creek Cougar Connection is written entirely by high school students. Opinions expressed in columns and editorials are those of the student reporters and not necessarily those of the Cypress Creek faculty, administration, or the student body.

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Freestyling gives the sport of biking a whole new meaning

New styles and tricks dominate the scene

by Jenny Fisher
contributing writer

Bicycle Motor Cross (BMX) racing is out; "freestyle" is in. For beginners, freestyle is simply, tricks on a bicycle. Not just any tricks, though; skill, patience, practice—not to mention a special bike.

BMX-designed bikes are modified for trick riding. Most of the bikes run on mag wheels for durability, with a dialed-in front brake. Standing platforms make the invention of new tricks easier.

The difference between BMX freestyle bikes is their ability to take the punishment freestylers dish out.

Freestyle is a relatively new sport, but several Cou students picked up on the activity, despite the danger and risk involved.

"Well, I saw some guy on a track doing tricks and caught my attention," junior Chris Howell said.

Another junior had a different reason for taking up the sport.

"I got interested because I wanted to get attention," Alan Barber said.

One thing they both feel strongly about is that freestyle is a "sport", not a fad.

There are different kinds of riders in the sport, those who do ramp and those who do ground tricks. Howell is more of a ramp rider. He recently built a 1/2 pipe in his backyard, attracting a great deal of attention from his neighbors.

Barber however, is more of a ground rider. He comes up on tricks like the "Cherry Picker" and "360-Tail Spin".

The juniors have been involved in two trick shows in Houston as part of a group which also includes sophomore Mike Stencel and Chris Jedzang. The team calls themselves "Quix Tris". The two shows were put on by area bicycle stores. In the future, they plan on doing more shows.

"Do it until you're too old," Howell said.

There really doesn't seem to be a certain age for the sport, although the average age of the rider is about 14-16. The oldest free style rider is 26.

How do these guys learn how to do the tricks? There don't seem to be any freestyle teachers.

"You learn from magazines," Barber said.

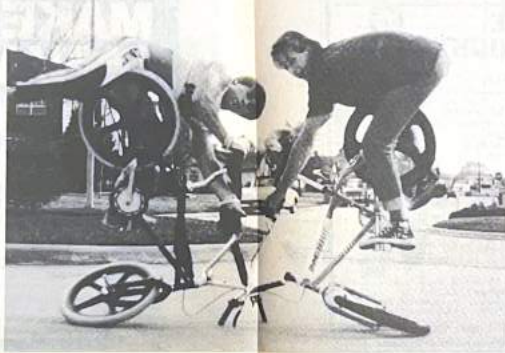
The young sport has several magazines devoted to it, including *Freestyle*, which shows how to do new tricks.

Ed Fiola, known as the "King of the Skate Park" and R.L. Osborn are two freestylers who appear quite often in the magazine. Osborn is a professional trick rider who earns approximately 150,000 dollars a year for his skill. The two of them are responsible for creating several new tricks.

"Many kids see them, try them and don't make up new tricks," Fiola said.

The sport is not cheap, and requires special equipment to do it safely. Some of the necessities are a helmet, a mouth piece and pads. Most of the bikers wear nylon-blended pants to protect their legs.

An innovative, growing sport, freestyle may catch on in this country because of the combination of athletic ability, creativity and—courage.



photos by Shonda Bratton

by Greg Pettit
Assistant Editor

Why is it that most of the truly fun things in the world are not considered acceptable by the guidelines set down by society? For example, food is very unusual. It is a shame that our parents did not allow us to play with it. Food is universal; everyone knows about its unique qualities of appearance, smell, taste, and most importantly, the feel of food in the hand.

I'll always remember the days of my youth when food fights were furious fun on the final Friday of school. My bean dogs with sorrow when I realize that every again I feel the pleasure of a warm fry on my leaving my hand, or a cold donut biting my head.

All food can be divided into four basic food groups, each with its own individual style and flair.

First is the Liquid Projectile group, which basically describes itself. However, for sanitary reasons, we must exclude self-generated liquids. Although ice is not actually liquid, I'll include it here because of its similar ability to send a cool wet chill down anyone's back.

Group two is the Patties. These foods have the ability to take on any shape and mass on contact. The best in this category are able to stick to walls. Good examples of the are burritos, jello, and open faced peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. My favorite, the potato, has a unique pliable substance, whether mashed or baked, that could never be duplicated.

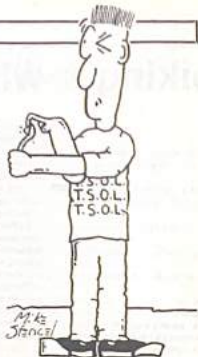
Next is the Stainers. These are the more lethal edible weapons because they leave damage. An interesting side effect of these armaments is that most of them come in squeezable gusset containers, such as ketchup and mustard. Caution must be taken here because, as mentioned earlier, they leave marks on clothing and trousers on faces.

Lastly we have the Solids, which is more of a catch-all for the foods that don't fall into any of the other categories. This includes donuts, mystery meat, fruit, and vegetables.

Once war has become monotonous, true connoisseurs of the art go on to specialize in a particular field of flight. One maestro in my acquaintance, who must remain anonymous to prevent attacks from swarming groupies, has mastered the science of

pickle dynamics. With a subtle flick of his wrist, he smoothly transfers sliced pickles from a hamburger to a secure position on a nearby wall or window. Many a time has he been run out of a McDonald's because of lesser humans' misunderstanding of his art.

So let me give you some advice, my friends. The next time you find yourself staring at a plate full of food from another dimension, don't think of the starving kids in Ethiopia, think of the good old days of elementary school and the potential for food to become art. Give the food a fling.



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A minute with Pat

by Patrick Hays
Staff Writer

How many times have you sat in your English class and studied a piece of literature written four or five hundred years ago and discussed what the author "meant" in his work? How do we know what he meant? Granted, we can pick certain ideas and implications, but we cannot tell what these poets were trying to say. I often think about such people as Shakespeare, Wordsworth, Maugham, and Sophocles being alive and laughing at our analyses of their works. Sophocles is a good example. He wrote the Oedipus Rex trilogy over 2000 years ago.

How can we sit around say such things as "With lines 26-33 he was showing..." and "Through the last scene, he is telling us..." I am aware of background and period influences, and we can make educated guesses, but we still can't tell what these poets are trying to convey. Perhaps a writer of our day will write something, live to see it analyzed, and then completely evaluate the analysis when he tells us what he really meant. Poets of the past would probably be frustrated if they heard their work analyzed incorrectly. Put yourself in their shoes. You spend six years researching and slaving to write and publish your work, you pay good money for the task, and then, sometime later, (maybe 500 years later) somebody runs off on some tangent as to what your work "meant". Writers cannot insert a supplement into their works telling the meaning of the pages. This would almost defeat the purpose of writing and it would certainly take the intrigue out of reading. So maybe when our lessons are presented, we should say "perhaps, possibly," and "we can infer". Oh yeah, if you want to know what I meant by writing this, just ask me, don't try to guess.

I've got to let something out. I have to speak out against running. I'm sorry Mr. Ashworth, Mrs. Croto and Mrs. McVay, but I've gotta say something.

WHY DO PEOPLE RUN? Number one, where are you when you've finished? Right where you started. You have gone nowhere. Maybe if you jog to the mall or a restaurant, you have accomplished something, but otherwise...

Number two, running hurts the entire time you do it. What a hobby, huh? Number three, some runners spend anywhere from

40-130 dollars for a pair of running shoes. When was the last time you spent 100 dollars to go out and inflict a little pain upon yourself?

Any English teacher will tell you that a good paper contains a refutation, so I guess I'd better take care of that. Running is healthy. I won't argue with that; but I just don't see the idea of engaging in something that I am absolutely sure will cause me pain. Again, I apologize to the runners of this world, and I thank you for letting me get that off my panting chest.

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Silverado dances circles around competition

by Adrienne Anderson
Staff Writer

At one time or another, most girls have dreamed of being a dancer. After seeing the hard work and dedication that must go into it, however, many drop out. Sophomore Aimee Sanders has kept with it, though, and her hard work has brought her far. In her first year as a Silverado, she has won first division medals in the Houston International Open Solos, Miss American Drill Team at Oakridge, and Miss American Drill Team at San Antonio.

Sanders has been dancing since she was four years old, when she asked her mom to take her to a ballet class at Northwest Dance Academy. She danced there until ninth grade.

For the last three years she was at Northwest, Sanders was involved in the Dance Spectrum, a company that danced at demonstrations at several colleges, as well as performances.

"We've danced for all ages, from grammar school kids to Princess Anne of England, which was the most exciting," Sanders said.

"Dancing is
in my blood"



Aimee Sanders

The Dance Spectrum was like a second home from sixth to ninth grade, according to Sanders.

"It was then that I started dancing three to four hours every Monday through Thursday evening and almost all day on Saturdays," Sanders said.

At the time the studio was changing management, Sanders decided to try out for Silverados.

"I'm glad I did. I've had a lot of fun with everything we've done this year," she said.

She has had to sacrifice time with her friends during the week, and there has been a lot of tears shed, but she feels it is made worthwhile when she performs.

"It's like the reward for all the work, training, rehearsals, and stress that goes into it all," Sanders said.

Though dancing has been a large part of Sanders' life, she doesn't plan to do it professionally.

"I decided in eighth grade that that kind of life just wasn't for me," Sanders said.

Dancing, in any form, is what is important to Sanders right now.

"It's in my blood, whether I'm doing high kicks or modern," she said.

Girls have sights on championship

800 meter relay ranked fourth in Houston

A list of outstanding performances has boosted the girls' track team, coached by Mrs. Toni McVay and Ms. Patterson to among the top in District 15-5A. The girls placed first in the Katy and Conroe meets, and second at another.

The team had a clean sweep at the Katy meet by winning all three relays and placing first overall.

The 800 relay team, consisting of Liz Hadfield, Cathy Clover, Sheila Morgan, and Joanne Brown, has already been ranked fourth in Houston.

The 400-relay team has also snatched first place trophies. This team consists of Liz Hadfield, Cathy Clover, Joanne Brown, and Althea Fox.

Although hindered by injuries, the mile relay team of Paige Hazlip, Kristen Irwin, Liz Hadfield, and Althea Fox placed first at the Katy meet.

Althea Fox, "The Jamaican", had an outstanding performance at the Katy meet, placing first in the 400-meter dash with a 58.5. Althea came to Cypress Creek from Jamaica to attend an American school. She has her sights set on Rice University, via a track scholarship. She hopes to place first or second in the 400 at the regional meet in Dallas this month, and hopefully at the State meet in Austin in May.

Another Creeker making tracks is sophomore Liz Hadfield. Liz is the highest scorer on the team and her long and triple

jumps have ranked her first in the district for the past two years.

Joanne Brown adds yet another name to the outstanding list of female trackers. She is a senior and four-year letterman who has qualified for regional competition in the long jump, relays, and 200-meters in past years.

Any successful sports team or program plans for its future. The future of girls track at CCHS is stable. Girls such as Cathy Clover, Sheila Morgan, and Kristen Irwin will provide the victories in years to come.

In the past four years, the Cypress Creek girls track team has been the district champion and runner-up, and has qualified over 25 girls for regional competition.