

# IN THE NEWS

## ACTING I CLASSES PLAY

By JULIE ALAGNA

For the past five years, Mrs. Foerster's Acting I classes have presented numerous plays to the English classes, usually on the day before the Christmas vacation. Because school was closed two consecutive days before vacation this year, the rescheduled date was January 7, the Wednesday after we returned to school. But again, school was cancelled. Despite the previous postponements the plays were enacted on Thursday, January 8.

Mrs. Foerster remarked that it was hard to find good material for her classes to perform; it not only has to be the right type of script for the student actors, but also enjoyable for the audience. "A student last year suggested working more of the holiday idea into the plays," Mrs. Foerster explained. "Most of the commercial holiday plays that we have read over are unsuitable for presentation before a light hearted high school audience on the day before a long vacation. Some are too 'heavy', with long speeches, and deep philosophical or religious themes; others are too juvenile, full of Santa, his elves, and disabled reindeer. Most have very small casts."

So this year, her classes wrote their own plays. Five of the six plays were written or thought of by the students themselves. It was felt that these plays were better than those which would have to have been bought for the dramatization.

"Supermarket" was a humorous play, about two cashiers working in a grocery store on Christmas Eve. Gordon MacPherson, Chris Cooper, Bill Morath and Ted Williams portrayed the cashiers for different productions. The store managers were played by Chris Sanders, and Jennifer Cece; the comical bag boys were performed by Ken Fitzpatrick and Bill Smith. This play was written by Mrs. Foerster, based on ideas from Eileen McGovern and Chris Cooper.

"Mrs. Cooper's Soup" was a humorous "tongue twister of a play" written by Jennifer Berg. The play featured Scott Ghahory and Michelle Congiello.

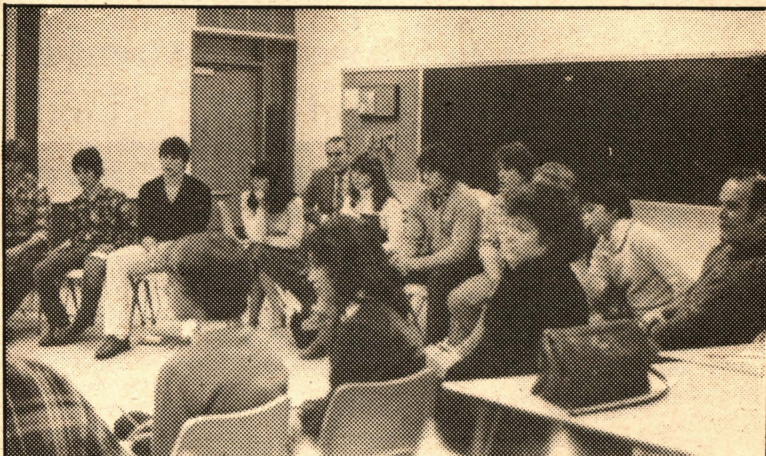
The other two plays written by students were "Hospital," (Alex Costa), and "The Newlyweds," (Beth Robertson). Eileen McGovern and Annika Ahlostrom played two little girls in a hospital, one about to have her appendix out, and the other, her tonsils. The

two newlyweds returning from the television show "The Newlywed Game" were played by Scott Ghahory and Lori Pennetta at one performance, and Scott Ghahory and Claudia Frei at the other. A melodrama was also presented: Stacey Spencer was the Narrator; the "Sweet Young Thing" was played by Sue Bager, the "Hero" by Doug Littlejohn, the "Villain" by Michelle Congiello, and the "Greedy Physician" by Tracey Wintrode. Sally Bonin performed Joan Hilbish's monologue called "Spoiled Brat."

Mrs. Foerster said with a smile, "I am especially proud of Randi Johannessen and Michelle Congiello, who jumped into the roles of full-stricken fellow actors on a moments notice, and didn't miss a line.

Other students performing included Alex Costa, Mona Holthe, Kim Pendergast, Joan Sandeck, Barbara Symon, Yvonne Frei, Sue Johnson, Terri Anzalone, Stephanie Bernstein, Mary Griffin, Don Lightweis, Denny Meininger and Lori Wolf.

Gordon MacPherson commented, "The wonderful thing about acting class was that at the beginning of the year, everyone was shy and afraid to show off their talents. Now it's a very open atmosphere in which it's easy to learn."



CACHE MEMBERS, PARENTS ASSOCIATION, AND STUDENTS GATHERED TO DISCUSS THE ALCOHOL AND DRUG SITUATION IN ALLENDALE AND UPPER SADDLE RIVER.

## CACHE MEETS

At its second open meeting on Wednesday, January 14, the local CACHE (Community Action Can Help Everyone) Committee invited parents and representatives of the Home and School Association and PTA from both towns to attend. Helping CACHE organizers (Ms. Phyllis Frey, Mr. Al Vinci, Mr. Dick Twiefel, Ptl. Gary Ahlers, Ms. RoseAnn Maguire and Ms. Sheila Hansen) were students from Brookside, Cavallini and Northern Highlands who had been to a previous CACHE workshop. Their objective was to make parents aware of the so called alcohol and drug problem in Upper Saddle River and Allendale.

Parents and students alike felt that communication was of vital importance in dealing with the drinking that students said so blatantly goes on, "especially on weekends." Mrs. Conway, a resident of Allendale, stated that some "parental responsibility is definitely

missing." Mrs. Gloria Roth of Allendale believes that "everyone should try (alcohol and marijuana...) and then decide on their own."

Freshman Doug Gerabrant brought up the fact that elementary school health classes are really "garbage" and some responsibility lies with these health educators. He feels the classes should possibly deal more with pertinent subjects like drug and alcohol abuse.

The consensus of the two hour meeting was that different school and local organizations should act as a liaison and work with parents of the communities and make them aware. PTA members had thoughts about handing out literature on drinking and even questionnaires to find out how much parents know. In closing, Mrs. Frey was skeptical in saying that "we (educators) get no parental response--it's like knocking our heads against the wall."

## CLASS OF '80 GIVES

It has become a tradition here that every year, the graduating class gives a gift to the high school. Last year was no exception. Mr. John Fedele, 1980 senior class advisor has announced that the class of '80 has donated a Video Casette Recorder and several tapes for use at Highlands.



MR. KEOUGH AND HIS GENERAL SHOP CLASS DISPLAYS THEIR HANDIWORK. AT CHRISTMAS, THEY GAVE THEIR 75 WOODEN CARS AND TRUCKS TRACTORS TO THE MARINE CORPS "TOYS FOR TOTS" PROGRAM, WHICH DISTRIBUTED THEM TO NEEDY GROUPS; AND TO THE STUDENT COUNCIL, WHICH DONATED THEM TO AN ORPHANAGE IN PATTERSON.

## SUPREME DECISIONS

Mrs. Feldman's Constitutional Issues classes have participated in two Supreme Court assimilations this past semester in which decisions on controversial issues were made. During the first one, in October, one class argued the question, "Should illegal aliens be granted United States education?" The other class discussed whether "the regulation of nuclear power plants lies within the jurisdiction of the state or the federal government." After the roughly researching the issues, the justices voted five to four in

favor of illegal alien education and decided by an eight to one count that nuclear regulation lies within federal jurisdiction.

The two classes have recently completed their work on the assimilation held January 15 and 16. Both prosecuting and defending lawyers argued their side to the chosen issues: "Is restitution constitutional or unconstitutional?" and "Does the Unification Church deserve the tax exempt status given it by the IRS tax codes (Does it violate these codes by engaging in non-religious business activities)?"

Nine justices, one chief justice heard the lawyers' cases in each class. After researching both aspects, the justice discussed the problem among themselves, voted, and each wrote a paper explaining and supporting their decision. The justices voted unanimously that restitution was constitutional and unanimously that non-religious business activities of the Unification Church are not tax exempt.

## WEIGHTING RUMOR

By WENDY MARTINI

About three years ago, the Board of Education instituted a program in which class rank was established by weighing all subjects equally. Every subject, whether it's Calculus, Intermediate Math, A. P. Biology, or General Science counts the same when a student's grade point aver-

age is computed.

Recently, a rumor has been circulating through Highlands that next year the Board would begin a new class ranking system involving the weighting of certain subjects more than others. However, according to Mr. Hopkins, this rumor has no factual basis. The Administration has no present or future plans to weight

grades. Mr. Hopkins did not know how the rumor began. He explained that although there have been appeals by parents and students to institute a program of weighting, a study done several years ago by the department chairmen at Highlands concluded that a change in the ranking system was unnecessary.

## Sr. Citizens at Highlands

By JACKIE GONZALEZ

The National Honor Society will be holding its third annual party for the Post Stokers at the high school on February 14. The Post Stokers are senior citizens who have all suffered strokes. As a service to the community, the NHS invites the group to spend a few hours speaking with younger

people. Refreshments and entertainment are provided. Last year, one elderly man sent a poem he had written expressing his gratitude toward the program.

The purpose of the program is to promote leadership, scholarship and service in our community.

## a winter concert

By JILL MOLINDA

On Thursday, January 15 the Northern Highlands instrumental music department presented their annual winter concert. Performing were the concert band, under the direction of Mr. Michael Longdo, and the Symphonic band, under the direction of Mr. Robert Manzo. The concert band performed a variety of songs while the

Symphonic band played an unusual program with music of a contemporary nature. One of their selections, "Impressions of Cairo", used Egyptian music in a band setting. When asked to comment on the performance of the Symphonic band, Mr. Manzo replied, "They did an excellent job and I'm very proud of all members for their professional performance."



TWO WEEKS AGO, PIPES BURST IN THE PHYSICAL EDUCATION WING AND WATER RAPIDLY FILLED THE CARPETTED WEIGHT ROOM. SOME EQUIPMENT SUFFERED DAMAGE BUT THE MAJORITY OF THE WEIGHTS WERE SAVED. ABOVE, A CUSTODIAN MOPPS UP WATER THAT LEAKED INTO THE GYM CORRIDOR. LATER, A PLUMBING CONTRACTOR WAS HIRED TO EVALUATE AND ADJUST THE MISHAP.