

# current

VOL. 12, PETERSON HIGH SCHOOL, NO. 6, Feb. 10, 1977



The above photo was received by the Current via our advisor's mailbox, from an unknown assailant. Apparently the kidnapper is proving his possession of the spirit stick.

## Sticknappers clean up with ransom demand

"They can make toothpicks out of it for all I care," stated Dean of Students, Mike Rambis, when asked about the recent abduction of Peterson's spirit stick.

The spirit stick was awarded to the Band and Mens Glee for their ability to outyell the entire student body at last month's rally. Somehow the stick was inadvertently placed in one of the trees in the quad and left overnight, explaining the reason for its easy apprehension.

Two copies of the ransom letter were distributed to Rambis and the Current. When Rambis received the letter he laughed and threw it away.

The letter demanded that cheerleaders, while in uniform, pick up three bags of litter from campus grounds and place them in the ASB office.

There are diverse opinions as to what should be done. One cheerleader, Melita DeHazes said, "I ain't bending over to pick up trash."

Spirit Commissioner, Cathy Berdan commented, "If it's cheap thrills they want, they can keep it."

Opposing views, made by an anonymous group of cheerleaders, say they plan on meeting the ransom demands. They expressed that the spirit stick means something to them. The cheerleaders went on to say that the kidnappers forgot certain details, such as what size bags should be used and when the demands must be met.

## Food preparations with U.S. rations

Mrs. Dorothy Vogel, the district's food supervisor, plans the hot lunch menu for the district. She bases the menu on state and government requirements for protein and vitamins. The contents of the box lunches are decided by Peterson's cafeteria manager, Mrs. Ruby Rufner, in conjunction with Mrs. Vogel.

Peterson has one of the best food programs in the Santa Clara district. Take the breakfasts, for instance. The government and SCUSD require a basic breakfast of orange juice, cereal, milk and bread, plus protein twice a week such as cheese or peanuts. Our breakfast program adds hot chocolate every day, some type of protein daily, and a variety of dishes such as pancakes and sausages, hot sweet rolls, or breakfast tacos. But one breakfast still costs only 15¢. These extras are decided upon by Mrs. Rufner and the staff.



Cook Edna Mallory prepares for breakfast rush.

## Student ideas communicated at S.A.B.E. brainstorming session

Student government recently sponsored an all-day brainstorming forum concerning student problems, activities, and projects.

Forty-eight student volunteers and randomly selected pupils attended the workshop in the library which was kicked off by a question-and-answer period with board member Al Souza.



Cathy Berdan leads a group in brainstorming ideas.

After the discussion students were divided into five groups which developed ideas for improving the school. Among those selected as the top seven ideas of each group were a school radio station, music instead of bells, re-establishment of the drama department, intramural sports at lunch, and assigned parking spaces.

After lunch, which included a free milkshake paid for by ASB, students formed new groups concerning the top five ideas. The ideas included establishing a smoking area, improving school food, beautifying the campus, improving the sports program, and creating a student lounge.

Then, the groups wrote resolutions which were voted upon by the entire conference, all of which passed. The resolutions contained suggestions for implementation of the ideas. All of the resolutions will be forwarded to student government and the school board in booklet form.

## Rock-around-the-clock at the dance marathon February 25th

Dim lights on a wooden floor under hanging basketball nets and a collage of exhausted dancing couples will be the setting for our "Rock Around the Clock" dance marathon coming up.

The marathon will be held February 25, from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. in the large gym.

Three bands will take three 3-hour shifts with 1-hour intervals for the event.

All proceeds, including admission charges will be donated to the Cancer Society in memory of our former librarian, Mrs. Elizabeth Hansen.

Everyone is welcome to stay as long as they wish, but only registered marathon dancers will be judged. Couples participating in the marathon will be taking pledges for every hour they dance.

## Editorial

# ASB government lacks support

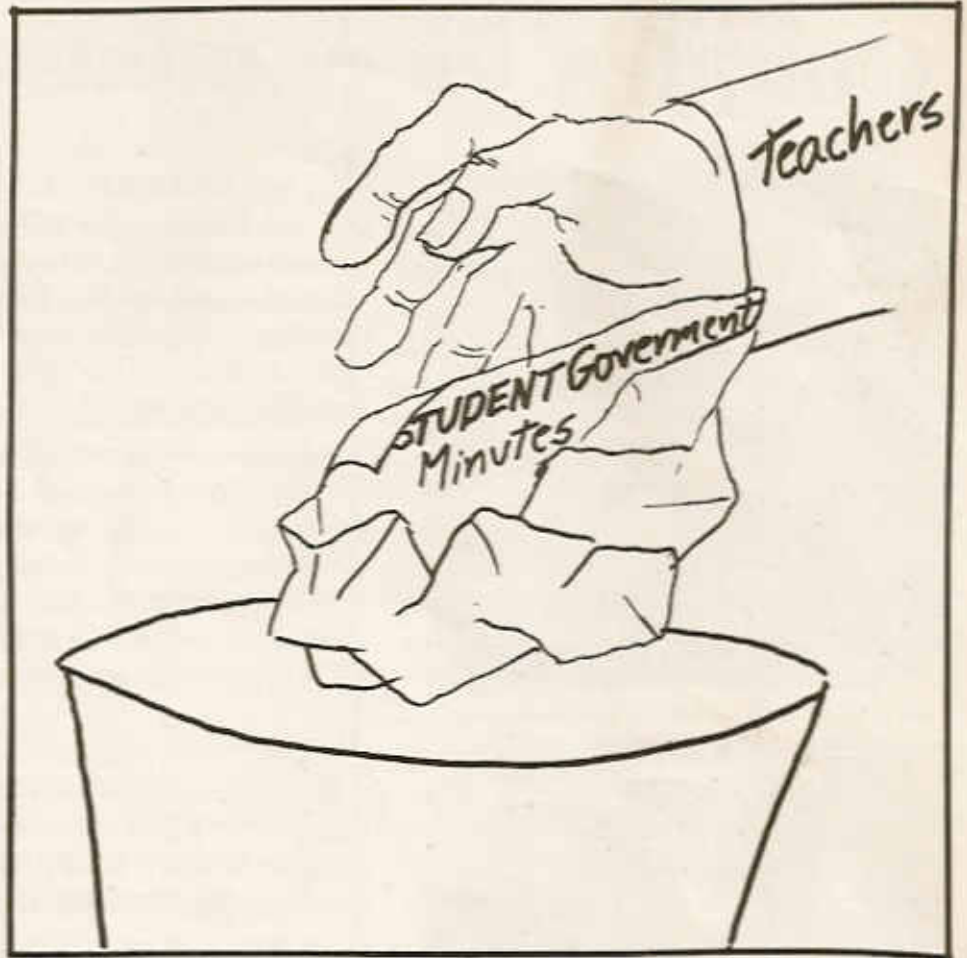
In order for students to take an interest in their school, there must be some way for them to express their views. Student government provides such a way. However, without support, it may become a "student" government in name only.

Teachers hold the student government back. It is evident that some of them feel that student government is worthless and express their views by restricting the representatives (i.e. after distributing minutes to all teachers, only two R.A. reps received their copy). School is more than taking classes; student government provides a valuable lesson in the theory of democracy.

The teachers are urged to give the representatives time to do their duties. Class opinion should be taken and minutes distributed. Most important of all, students should be excused from their classes to attend the meetings. A representative who leaves his or her class must realize and accept the responsibility of making up the missed work.

You do not have to be an officer to lend support to the student government. If you have a free period, go to the meetings, or you can participate by giving your ideas to your R.A. representative. They are there to represent you.

School is not an assembly line with students riding on conveyer belts being force-fed knowledge. Take an interest! Apathy, a neutral opinion, can do the most damage.



## *Private schools prove different*

Public schools abound in the Bay Area, but there are relatively few private schools. Since the majority of people go to public schools, those who choose a private school are considered to be somewhat different. Though some differences are present, many similarities can be found.

For example, Valley Christian High located in the hills of Saratoga, has a small campus and only 315 students. As a coed school it attracts people from many areas such as Gilroy, Los Altos, and the Almaden Valley. Despite the tuition fee of \$85 a month, and another fee for bus service, which is used by many, the student body is mainly made up of middle class people.

As with many private schools, Valley High is religion-oriented, but it claims to be non-sectarian. Even so, Bible classes along with PE, are required for each student's entire time at the school.

Since Valley High is described as an academic, college-preparatory school, the curriculum requires a minimum of two years in math and science, three years in social studies, and a full four years of English. These courses, included in 24 units, are needed to graduate.

The sports programs are very active, but football fans need not apply because the main concentration is on soccer.

Taken together, the campus has a pleasant and easygoing atmosphere.

# Couples on campus



Seniors **SHERYL LAMB** and **GABRIEL BARRIO** met and really came to know each other while celebrating Gabriel's birthday. Gabriel comments to other couples, "Don't let the fact that you are of different gender keep you from communicating." Sheryl is involved in swimming, humanities, student government and a member of C.S.F., science and math clubs. Gabriel is in the MBR program, C.S.F., science and math clubs.



Bright green and red Christmas lights illuminated the meeting of junior **CINDY RAFFARIN** and senior **MARK GINNANI** when they met at a Christmas party and began their long lasting relationship. Cindy is a Pi-rette and a member of C.S.F., French and Rally clubs. Mark plays football and baseball and is a member of the Lettermen's club.



Sighting each other through a crowded room full of dancing couples and soft lights at their sophomore homecoming dance, juniors **KATHY BROWN** and **SKIP LAVERY** met for the second time after truly meeting for the first time in 8th grade at Patrick Henry. Kathy, a song girl, is in choir, Canta Nova, and Rally club. Skip plays basketball and football, and is in the Lettermen's club.

## School ready for shake-up



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TO SEE IF YOU QU  
STOP BY AND TAI  
YOUR LOCAL NAVY REPRE  
HIS ADDRESS IS:

# 'Kong' remade

by GLEN WILLIAMSON

"King Kong" is mainly just a modern remake of Merian Cooper's 1933 classic monster movie and a technical masterpiece with weak plot and acting.

After over an hour of cheap dialogue, shallow character development, over-acting, and suspense created only by anticipation of the giant ape's appearance, Kong, who is worshipped by a primitive tribe of natives, is discovered on an island. Through further ado and cheap dialogue, beautiful Dwan is captured by the natives and wed to the oversized gorilla.

Then a strangely moving, fantastical, bitter-sweet relationship that can never be begins between a simple-minded, sexy would-be movie star and a 40-foot ape. The script is still juvenile, but the acting is touching and memorable. Ms. Lange ably alternates between fear and compassion as Kong, mechanically created by Carlo Rambaldi and Glen Robinson with a wide and sympathetic range of emotions, lovingly plays with his tiny bride. (He even risks his life for her.) The segments with these two excellent actors should be shown separately as an exciting, wonderful, short fantasy film, leaving extraneous plot to the imagination.

Kong is taken from the island to New York as a publicity stunt for Petrox Oil Company; the natives' worship as well as fear is taken away for the sake of free enterprise and modern civilization.

Jack Prescott, a young, stow-away, anthropologist and foil to selfish capitalism, also falls in love with Dwan.

The end is sad as modern civilization succeeds in destroying the (anti-) hero, who only wanted love, as well as any chance for the human lovers' happiness.

In spite of its poor script and bad acting, "King Kong" offers a valuable cathartic experience and fantasy fulfillment with miraculous special effects.

or table and stay away from brick walls and glass windows. If there are any injuries, teachers are trained in first aid and can offer immediate assistance.

If you are at home, stay away from falling objects and your fireplace. Whatever you do, don't panic. Panic is the major cause of death during and after earthquakes.

After the quake, check your utilities, but do not turn them on. Earth movement may have cracked water, gas and electric conduits. If you smell gas, open windows and shut off the main valve. Then leave the building and report the gas leakage to authorities.

It is advisable to keep a supply of non-perishable food in non-breakable containers and an extra supply of drinking water, in order to be prepared for an earthquake.

---CLIFF ALDECOA

Windows shatter, scattering harmful splinters of glass; lights fall, a pipe splits open as the building shakes, toppling books. A major earthquake is inevitable according to the news media, but Peterson is prepared.

Most of our structures are made of prestressed reinforced concrete. The pillars in the quad have spaces between them, so during an earthquake the structure can slide instead of buckle. As stipulated by law, there are no two story buildings on campus which could pose hazards during an earthquake.

Also, a civil defense radio is located at the switchboard, ready to warn the school of impending earthquakes (if prediction is possible) or to deliver news concerning the extent of damage and location of disaster relief facilities.

If you are at school during an earthquake, get under your desk

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# Soccer goes out kicking

The varsity soccer team, after an outstanding start, hit upon hard times when it lost the last four games.

In the crosstown rivalry against Buchser, the Pirates were totally run off the field with a 6-3 loss.

In the game against Palo Alto, the Pirates put up a good show, lost by 4-3, only to have the game forfeited by Palo Alto because they did not have numbers on their jerseys.

In the final game of the season, against Los Altos, our booters were behind 2-1 when the game was forfeited due to fights.

When asked for his evaluation of the season, Coach Jules Phirippidis said, "It was disappointing because of bad officiating. The officiating caused a team morale problem."



The Pirettes are seen above at a rally practicing the routine they used in the annual drill team competition held at Cupertino High on Jan. 22. Schools from as far away as Oregon participated. The competition lasted from 9 to 11:30 am with the finalists competing again later that night. The Pirettes performed around 9:30. Even though they didn't make it into the finals, they did do a fine job under the leadership of head Pirette Jeannine MacLeod.



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## GAA shoots to win

This year has been one of the best seasons for girls basketball. The Varsity team is undefeated in all games, and JV is undefeated in the SCVAL.

At Los Altos Mary Hile and Maureen Haniger racked up 17 points and 10 points respectively, and the Varsity team won 45-29.

Lisa Hughes and Chris Troolines each scored 6 points to end the JV game with Peterson scoring 28 points and L.A. scoring 12.

Wilcox was battered on the 18th of January, losing 53-32.

# Cagers fight court battles

The varsity basketball team won 1 out of their last 5 games, bringing their record up to 4-6. Their win came against Buchser, who was tied at the time for first place. They sent them home with a score of 77-44. Leading scorers in the game were Chuck Wright, 17 pts., Bill Pecota, 14 pts., and John Tarabini, 12 pts. Wright also recovered 10 rebounds.

The Pirates next game was a loss to Awalt, 58-43. Jeff Conforti was the leading scorer with 12 pts. Mark Nardini and Pecota also did a good job by scoring 8 pts. a piece. The closest and most exciting game came when the Pirates played Los Altos, the first place team. The game was forced into a three-minute overtime, with Los Altos winning 53-51. High scorers were Conforti, 15 pts., Wright, 13 pts., and Pecota, 11 pts.

The Pirates then lost a close game to Cubberley 63-61. Conforti was the leading scorer with 16 pts. Tarabini, playing a super game, scored 14 pts. and recorded a game high of 10 rebounds. Against Wilcox, the Pirates lost 65-58. Pecota was the leading scorer with 15 pts. Wright and Scott Shields also had a good game scoring 10 pts. a piece.

The JV's, as the varsity, won 1 out of their last 5 games. This



John Tarabini, Scott Shields, and an unidentified Los Altos player race down court in the recent Los Altos confrontation.

brought their record up to 3-7. They lost their first game to Buchser. They then went on to play Awalt, losing 50-33.

Trevor Ngai was the leading scorer with 16 pts. The JV's then had a fairly close game against Lost Altos 49-45. Ngai again was the leading scorer with 14 pts. Jay Palma did a good job scoring 12.

Against Cubberley, Terrence Stokes played an outstanding game. He was the leading scorer with 10 pts., hitting five out of six shots. Rob Wagner and Rich Gonzales also played a good offensive and defensive game,

The game went into a three-minute overtime allowing Cubberley to win 63-61. The JV's major break through came when they beat Wilcox, knocking them out of first place.

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# CHEATERS still USING old METHODS

Cheating continues to be wide spread among students.

Chemistry teacher Richard Parsons commented, "The most common method of cheating I see in my classes is looking on each others papers. I don't need to catch them. I let them cheat until a big test, then I give opposite tests."

Math teacher Jerry LaHann has seen other ways of cheating such as writing on their bodies (wrists and arms) with ink and whispering. He caught people using a tapping code on true-false tests and once he caught a student with his book opened on his lap during a closed-book test.

LaHann tries to prevent copying by rearranging the desks. He feels that by doing this the students will be less tempted to look on someone else's paper. He believes it makes the other students feel less self-conscious knowing that others won't be copying from their papers.

While most students use the age-old methods (i.e. whisper-



A student demonstrates the proper method of hiding cheat notes.

ing, looking on other's papers, writing on the desks, etc.), one student, who has asked to remain anonymous stated, "I never use conventional methods and I always use a way where I can get out of it."

One of his methods was sharing a calculator with a friend. He would do the problem on the calculator and put the answer into storage, then pass it to the other student. One push of the 'clear' button and the evidence is gone.

"Never rely on cheating because that's when you get caught."

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