



## WILL SCHOOLS CLOSE?

by Ralph Young

I was thinking about the situation the public schools are in just recently and a strange thought occurred to me. It seemed to me that the people who should be the most concerned about the present school situation are the ones who know the least about it, the students.

With that in mind I set out to find some answers. My journey began innocently. I started asking different teachers about the situation. I quickly found out that teachers didn't know much more than I did. I was still determined to find out some answers. Tired of hearing rumors and thirteenth hand information I decided to ask some people who should know the situation. I then found myself in the offices of Mr. David Estrop, president of the Springfield Education Association (SEA), Mr. John Hayes, president of the Springfield school board, and Dr. Richard Klahn, superintendent of schools for District 186. I reasoned that if they didn't have the answers, who would?

The following questions were asked of all three gentlemen. Some questions

were aimed at the problems this year. The other questions pertained to the remainder of the school year and the situation for next year.

**What effect you you think the proposed revenue cuts will have on the financial situation this year?**

**ESTROP:** "The 23 suggestions that Dr. Klahn gave to the board were aimed at taking 2 million dollars out

of the budget for next year and removing some money for this year. I think the question is whether or not the money that would be saved justifies the cuts that are being recommended. My personal opinion? I doubt it. It seems to me a lot of the cuts would hamper education for an awful lot of students in District 186."   
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Merry Christmas

## Bi-Centennial Committee Forms At Lanphier

A special Bicentennial Committee has been established in Springfield. This committee is comprised of representatives from all six Springfield high schools. The primary purpose of this committee of young people is to seek and establish worthwhile historical projects and programs in the Springfield area and to relate them to the overall Bicentennial theme.

"The Bicentennial of the United States is a recognition of two-hundred years of history — a vintage which

gives perspective to the present and holds the relevance for the future. The Bicentennial will be celebrated in many different ways, determined by the people of Illinois and limited only by their imagination and energy."

The Lanphier High School members of this committee are seeking innovative ideas from the student body. The committee is also in search of students from LHS who are willing to work on this project acting as representatives of our school along

with other high school students in Springfield.

Students interested in being members of this committee are asked to contact Miss Mary Fran Lavin or Mr. Barron Robinson.

Hopefully LHS will be well-represented at the next general Bicentennial meeting. Everyone is welcomed.

\*From "American Revolution Bicentennial" prepared by the Illinois Bicentennial Commission.

# Letters from readers...

Dear Editor:

I doubt that few people were more surprised than I was to read the results of my interview with the Light's Feature Editor as they appeared in your last issue. After reading several times the article entitled "Surprising Addition to Lanphier Swimming Team" — which was printed without a byline — I finally accepted the fact that the article was the result of my interview and not someone else's.

The quotes printed in the article were direct quotes. However, those quotes were made in a laughing, joking atmosphere, and at the time were understood to be jokes. Following most of the quotes which were printed were explanations which were not printed.

I also believe some good sound judgement should have been used by the editor proofreading the article. Some of the quotes which I feel were

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☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

Merry

Christmas

used have caused me embarrassment.

I think it's only fair that I should be able to say that Coach Wagner — a coach which I have great respect for — did not "coax" me to join the team as a "joke," and does in fact really care how Karen Winberg and I fare as swimmers.

Although there was a little tension at first, the guys on the swim team have generally been really nice and encouraging. They aren't extremely "liberated" toward women and sports. They've been more than fair with Karen and I. They've had plenty of advice and encouragement to give when I needed it. I am really glad to be a member of Lanphier's swim team.

I regret the misunderstanding which occurred in the publication of the interview and am glad for the opportunity to set the record straight.

Kathy Jones

Dear Editor,

I think it's sick that anyone would break into the school and tear things up. I don't know why they did it but it was probably to get at the teachers, maybe for grades, who knows?

Maybe Mr. Schmidt should hire a night guard or have the janitors check the restrooms and everything else before they leave.

I just hope Mr. Schmidt intends to try and find the people who did it and try to put a stop to it.

Karen Williams

## Student Council To Sell Tee Shirts For City Tourney

During December the Student Council will be taking orders for Lanphier tee shirts for the City Basketball Tournament in January. The proposed cost is \$2.00.

The shirts will have a black Lion and "Lanphier Lions" on the upper left shoulder of the shirt. These will be sold by members of the Student Council. The shirts will be ordered in December and they will arrive approximately January 16th.

Dear Editor,

I would like to know the procedure in which the sports editor was selected for the Lanphier Light. I wonder if it was from these persons' first hand experience on a winning cross country course, or a 98 degree football field, or during a set of windsprints during basketball season. Exactly what are the credentials of our "poison pened" editor.

Even a gutless wonder like George Plimpton wandered onto a REAL football field with the Detroit Lions. OUR present sports writer didn't even venture to watch the Lanphier Lions practice sessions. (Maybe Mr. Hardin could have amassed a fortune being the "Toilet Paper Lion.")

Many of the other sports stories in the Light seemed to have been brought about in the same way. By the way, there was hardly any coverage of cross country or golf except on the announcements during fourth hour. Maybe this is where our present sports editor received his background material for his stories. The manner in which it was reported seemed second-hand.

Therefore, I would like to see a more realistic view in reporting sports events in the future.

Don Hudson

Ed. Note — It does not take an athlete to be a sports writer, in fact, some of the best sportswriters never participated in the sports they report on. As for how the sports editor was picked — well he was the only person who showed interest in the position. If anyone thinks they can do a good job of sportswriting, why don't they submit a story?

## Corrections

Mr. Ervin did not say the front yard should be used for athletics. He said the front yard should NOT be used for "athletic purposes."

The guys on the swim team did NOT say, "Aw, Honey, sometimes it's all I can do to say in my lane." The comment was made by Kathy Jones.

# "Half An Education Program Won't Work"

Continued From Page 6

Many people feel that learning to work with other students and being a part of an organization with set goals is as essential to the student as a formal academic education. If the suggestion that all extra-curricular activities be cut is carried out, what could you suggest as an alternative for a student who wishes to better himself (herself) in this manner?

**ESTROP:** "To me the extra-curricular activities are as much a part of the program as any other part. I think they are crucial from the student's standpoint. If the district decides to do away with these activities, then the students will have to find these opportunities somewhere else. I'm sure the students aren't going to stop all of a sudden, participating in sports and getting together in clubs. They are just going to find another way to do it. I think the real question is whether or not this will be beneficial to the students."

**HAYES:** "If you cut out all extra-curricular activities and sports, what you have done is created half an educational program. Half an educational program won't work in Springfield. What I'm saying is; schools don't exist for sports, band, glee club, or drama, but at the same time it's an integral part of your education. I don't think you can really survive without it."

**KLAHN:** "Let me start by saying, I don't happen to think there is a difference between classes and extra-curricular activities. I think all the things we do in school are instructional in nature. They take place in a different setting and there are different outcomes. The activities provide experiences you don't receive in something like math class. I don't have any reservation about their importance."

The second point; it's not a problem of picking out activities as such but, it is a problem that we have committed so many dollars of expenditures for the fiscal '75 budget and we know what our income is going to be. The income is less than the outgo. It's a question of, where do you find the money? If you don't take

from activities do you take it from Spanish or bus drivers, etc.....?

The third point about where would students find a substitute for those experiences that gleem from activities, I don't have an answer."

**Do you think the schools will close this year?**

**ESTROP:** "I think the possibility that the schools close this year is rather slim. I think, however, the financial crisis that we find ourselves in is real. The question then becomes, what do we have left if the suggested cuts are implemented? Will there suddenly be fifty students in your classes? What are you going to do in terms of extra-curricular activities? Will we have them? The schools will remain open, I think, but what will we have?"

**HAYES:** "No. Based on the financial projections that we had at the last board meeting, I think we have enough money to run until June, at which time we will be faced with a financial crisis. It is at that time we will have to decide, in terms of paychecks for the personnel, what could be done."

**KLAHN:** "First, there is a serious legal question as to whether schools can be closed, unless there is an act of nature or something of that sort. The state constitution guarantees a free public education and all that implies. Looking at it broadly, there is a large question in my mind and in many people's minds whether you can do that (legally close down schools).

I am, both philisophically and

professionally, committed to the notion.....that schools remain open and students receive an education. People sometimes forget that teachers and administrators have kids too that are in school. I think talk about closing schools is not appropriate because it doesn't solve any problems."

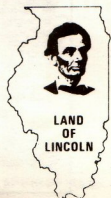
**Let's take a hypothetical situation: If schools were to be closed, what provisions, if any, could you suggest for graduating high school seniors?**

**ESTROP:** "The district has a school calendar they operate under. They are mandated by the State of Illinois to give a free public education. There are a minimum number of days that students must attend schools in order to meet the requirements of the state. So I would assume, that if those minimum number of days were not met for some reason.....this would obviously work a hardship on teachers and students (that is if schools needed to be reopened in summer months creating job and other problems for college and other financial needs for everyone).....but particularly the senior students because if they wanted to graduate they would have to be in school. I really don't think that will happen."

**HAYES:** "We would have to find some type of situation that would allow the normal process to take place so they could graduate and go onto college if they so desired. If this means shutting down the whole system, hypothetically speaking, with the exception of the senior class, maybe

Continued on Page 4

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# "The Schools Exist For The Students..."

Continued from page 3

that might be an alternative. I say maybe, I don't know!

In any case, we're talking about the ones who are affected the most, the students, and people fail to realize that. The schools exist for the students to begin with. The board is just as concerned with the students as the students are.....we're there to serve the students and, do program-wise what we think is best for the students within our means, in terms of a budget."

**KLAHN:** "I know of some instances around the country where this has happened due to natural causes, the school burned down, tornadoes, etc. In those instances they simply declared the seniors graduated.

"Do you think that would happen here?"

"I'd have to wait and see?"

The state constitution says every citizen has the right to a free public education through two years in college. If the suggested cuts are implemented and we have overcrowded classrooms, lack of teachers, no extra-curricular activities, etc.....do you feel that this is the type of "education" the state guarantees us the right to?

**ESTROP:** "There is no doubt in my mind that if the 23 suggestions made are implemented, the quality of education in Springfield is going to go down. I would guess you're going to have all kinds of problems. Not only

will you have academic problems (the ability to compete with people in other districts for jobs, college educations, etc.) but also there are going to be increased discipline problems. There will also be increased problems in terms of teacher and student moral and, that's just the beginning.

**HAYES:** "No! I think the students deserve a great deal more than what they are getting. Really, if you want to get down to it. I think it is a matter of priorities from the state. It just is the fact, I think, that lobbying groups to the state legislatures haven't lobbied hard enough for education. They have to be stronger in their lobbying for education with the state legislature in order to make education the number one priority, instead of building of roads, etc...."

**KLAHN:** "No, in two respects. First, the constitution guarantees access to education. The state legislature, in their infinite wisdom, outlines various laws and regulations that apply to public education. One of these (laws) states how schools shall be

financed. That is in terms of a shared responsibility, with local support and state aid. (Dr. Klahn seemed very dissatisfied with this sharing process.)

No, I don't think the present conditions come very close to approximating what the legislature has in mind about an adequate educational opportunity. So, we have a double burden. We need a lot of effort to catch up to what is adequate. And, we have the other burden of maintaining what is somewhat inadequate."

Can the state help in some manner?

**ESTROP:** "There are a couple of things that the state can do. One would be to revise the present state aid formula.....to kick in more money to District 186. District 186 is what is called a unit district (one school district for elementary, middle and

Continued on Page 7

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## CHESS MAKES GOOD IMPRESSION

by Berry House

Want to impress people? Dan Gallagher suggests chess "People think you're like God when you can play chess," he said.

Dan is the president of the Lanphier Chess Club. The other officers are: Steve Walter, Vice-President; Barb Slingerland, Treasurer; Ray Anederson, Secretary; and Mike Wheeler, Sergeant at Arms.

The dues are 25 cents a week. Since everyone that pays the dues is a member, membership fluctuates between 7 and 24, usually 12.

Gallagher said that the club will be holding a tournament in the near future. Club members will be allowed to play free, while others will have to pay.

It all happens in room 220 every day at noon. So stop in and play some chess or in Dan Gallagher's words, "Do whatever comes naturally."



## LIONS PRIDE . . .

### Folk Singers Change Name, Music

If you have seen fellow students walking around in orange and black tee shirts saying "Lions Pride" (on the shirt) and wondered who they were, they are the former Lanphier High School Folk Singers.

They felt that since the group no longer sang folk music that a name change was in order. And so, Lion's

Pride is. (A pride is a group of lions.)

The "Pride" consists of 22 people or 11 couples; namely Mark Agnew, Gayle Ahlers, Sarah Alscott, Gail Bee, Nancy Bojarzin, Mike Boston, Tim Davis, Len Ferguson, Sharon Hashman, Ed Klint, Candy Lyons, Vickie McGhee, JoEttta Monroe, Wayne Petro, Ward Rivinburg, Lori Shaffer, Keith Timko, Kim Weed, Ron Weed, Ben White, Karen Winburg, and Tom Halford. Debbie Brown is the accompanist.

The group is now performing popular style music along with dancing.

Their first performance was at Easton, Illinois at a junior high music festival. They also perform for club meetings, church groups and parties.

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5 CONVENIENT LOCATIONS IN SPRINGFIELD

## Spanish Club Active & Growing

The Spanish Club is a new club that is being started just this year. It is still a growing club and anyone who would like to grow with it should come to room 198 and see Mr. Meyer about the requirements for joining and become a member of the Los Conquistadores. The members that have joined like it.

Some activities which are coming are on Friday, December 13, 6:30 p.m., a Christmas Party and a surprise for Lanphier on Thursday, December 19, 5th hour.

# Volleyball Champs-Plagued By Injuries

by Cheryl Thompson

"I got it! -- Set! -- Spike it down their throats!" The latter sentence WAS a bit harsh, but it reflects the strong determination that is evident among individuals on the LHS Girls' Volleyball Team. "GIRLS TEAM?!! What a turnoff!!!" you say. But if you watch these girls in action, you'd know that they earn their respect of title as Lanphier Lions. Last year, Lanphier placed first in city playoffs against such tough competition as Springfield, Southeast, Ursuline, and Sacred Heart. This year, the team hoped to keep the title.

There are really two teams -- an A

team, or varsity, and a B team. As of this writing, A Team has won several games, with B Team yet to victor. Warmups are a bit grueling, known to the girls as circuits, which are a series of skill tests, etc., each completed by running laps around the gym. "One more circuit and I'll short-circuit!!!" cried one player.

Many a coach dreads the loss of a player to injuries. And the volleyball team is no exception, as they've been plagued by losses early in the season. The first to go was senior Donna White, who tore ligaments in her knee Halloween Day and has been out of commission ever since. Next to luck

out was senior Val Frankie, who broke her foot in two places, leaving Val on crutches the rest of the season. Even glasses aren't sacred, as Sophomore Virginia Smith soon found out. These aren't even counting the additional jammed fingers, pulled muscles, bruised elbow joints, and skinned knees that are ever-present on a volleyball team!!!

Taking note of all this, you can maybe see why we say the LHS volleyball team is ready for anything!!!

## LHS Swimmers Splash Into '74-'75 Season

Hey Sports Fans! We can tell by the weather it's winter. And that means it's time to swim. Yes! Don't look so shocked. The Lanphier Lions Swim Team is off and ready for action!

There are 23 swimmers this year. Eight seniors are participating: Craig Boyd, Gerry Castles, Scott Castles, Kathy Jones, Steve Ladd, Roger Wainwright, Karen Winburg and Mark Wallen; six juniors: Rusty Clark, Bob Jallas, Steve Maroy, Jim Pavlisin, Greg Prince, and Dave Reynolds; four sophomores: Pat Crotty, Matt Breen, Carl Haas and Pat McDonald; and last but not never least the freshman: Bryan Castles, Mike Crotty, Gary Finigan, Jim Hutchins and Danny Sands.

The team has twelve meets this

year, five of those at home. The home meets will be held at Eisenhower Pool and the others at the respective pools used by those schools.

The team is coached by Mr. Wagner.

The first meet was held Saturday, November 23rd. They met Burgan. Lanphier dropped the meet 55-28. There were two relays taken by the team. Members of the 200 medley: Greg Prince, Bryan Castles, Jim Pavleson, and Craig Boyd. 400 free style: Steve Maroy, Greg Prince, Scott Castles and Craig Boyd.

The diving team took two places with Roger Wainwright coming up with second and Rusty Clark with third.

## Will Schools Close ?

Continued

**HAYES:** "If the suggested cuts that the superintendent came out with were implemented, we would probably be able to finish the school year out. However, the legality of most of them are in question. A great many suggestions can't be implemented.....because of the legality of them to begin with. For instance, the releasing of non-tenure teachers and putting substitute teachers in their place would probably not be legal.

**KLAHN:** "If the suggestions we've made for budget reduction for the current year were implemented, they would have little effect on the instructional program. In other areas such as substitute teachers and eliminating activities, I think it's obvious this would have a negative effect on student body attitudes and school spirit generally."

Continued on Page 3

## Pekin Tournament To Offer Tough Opposition

by Don Harden

As the Christmas vacation approaches, everybody starts winding down. Everybody but our basketball team. They will be moving into high gear as they will be participating in the Pekin Tourney. Some of the top teams in the state will be represented

including Quincy, Chicago Heights Bloom, Richwood of Peoria and Streator. Coach Nika expressed his views by saying, "None of these teams are pushovers. Every game is going to be a battle. This tournament can also help us determine what we will do in the future."

Merry  
Christmas

# EDUCATION WILL BE INADEQUATE . . .

Continued  
high schools). Particularly in the northern part of the state, there are also dual districts (separate school districts for elementary schools and high schools, and separate school boards even though they are in the same area). As it stands now, the unit districts are restricted as to the rate of taxes they can levy (the dual districts can charge a higher tax rate than unit districts). They could change that, make us equal and bring the unit districts up to the funding level of the dual districts.

**HAYES:** "Right now we, the committee of the board, met with Rep. Doug Kane, who is newly elected to the legislature, he has arranged, first of all, for us to have a meeting with the Governor on December 18. The purpose of that would be to see if the Governor will fully fund the educational program next year in the State of Illinois. The second purpose of that meeting would be to see if something could be done about rewriting the state aid formula for schools. This past year the state aid formula hurt Springfield because of the buildings the State owns that are in the city. We are not receiving tax dollars from them (state owned buildings are not required to pay property taxes.)"

**KLAHN:** "Realistically, I think it's an illusion to assume that the legislature is going to make an exception for one school district. Whatever action taken, if any, and approved will have to be something that fits the state as a whole."

Well, here were their answers. After reviewing and analyzing this information and opinions, I came up with these conclusions.

(1) Some of the suggested cuts, such as the firing of non-tenure teachers, won't be carried out because they aren't legal.

(2) Referring to the above, this will mean all sports and extra-curricular activities will be cut, possibly after January because, the money that was to be saved from these cuts will have

to be taken from somewhere else if we are to make it through the year and, sports and clubs will be the first to go.

(3) Some clubs will be able to operate. Those where the advisor is not paid a salary and if that club has very, very little or no deficit it will be able to continue. A club will also be allowed to continue if that club has a contract where the school would be sued if it were not fulfilled. The only situation I can think of where that would occur is the publishing of the yearbook.

(4) When one sport is cut all sports will be cut. Even though it has been said basketball doesn't operate at a deficit, it still would be cut because it wouldn't be fair to keep one and deprive the rest of the athletes a chance to compete.

(5) The schools will remain open until the school year is finished. I believe the school board can redirect enough funds to keep the schools open.

(6) Even though the schools will remain open and seniors will graduate, the type of education we'd have, if you could call it that, would be at best grossly inadequate.

(7) We can live through half a school year of this type of situation even though we won't like it. It is not too feasible to believe the state will act quickly enough to do something for next year, if they do anything at all. It will then be up to the people of Springfield to decide, again in the form of a referendum, whether they will maintain this status or whether there will be something better for their children, and education that is beneficial to child and parent.

(8) Looking at the present situation I can say, the superintendent and the school board are not responsible. They do what they can using the means we provide them with. I, too, would do as they are doing if faced with the same responsibility and the same problem.

(Next issue: Part III - We can do something.)

# T'was The Day Before Vacation . . .

Twas the day before vacation and all through the rooms,  
Not a creature was stirring as if filled with doom.

All the pencils were still and made not a sound,

And the hands on the clock moved slowly around.  
The students sitting all snug in their seats

With visions of fruitcake, nuts, and mincemeats.  
While teachers at the doors with coats and caps,

Anxiously awaited their long Christmas nap.

When all through the school there arose such a clatter,  
They sprang from their chairs to see what was the matter.

Then what to our wondering eyes did

appear,  
Someone running through the halls shouting, "Christmas is near!"

A happy young man so lively and quick, we knew in a moment it must be Mr. Schmidt.

More rapid than eagles to the

classrooms he flew,  
To tell everyone that school's about through.

His eyes how they twinkled so merry and gay,

When he thought of dismissal at the end of the day.

And then laying a finger aside of his ear, he flew out the door when the bell he did hear.

But we heard him exclaim as he drove out of sight.

Happy vacation to all and to all a good night!

## BASKETBALL MANIA STRIKES LANPHIER

I don't know whether YOU'VE noticed it, but I certainly have. It's basketball mania. Both guys and gals have got it but, its the guys who've gone crazy over the whole thing. Most people, this time of year would be talking about ice, snow, Christmas, and vacation. But not our Lanphier males. They're going to wait until April to talk about those things. The only thing important to them right now is shooting, passing, dribbling, sinking, free-throwing, jumping, and not fouling. Sure we want them to practice so they'll win, but not if they're going to kill themselves while they're at it.

And, if you haven't had the pleasure of seeing our boys in action, just drop in either gym at anytime. You'll be sure to see some action. And, if they work any harder at this sport they seem to enjoy so much, we may end up being the only school in the state that has basketball players with tired blood.

But I do have to admit, it makes a great pastime for girls who like to watch them practice. So I guess you'd better keep taking those vitamins, fellas, and keep making those baskets because Lanphier's right behind you.

## Clubs Decorate For Christmas

If you've noticed the hallways lately, you're bound to see that they are decorated for Christmas.

Student Council and most of the clubs at Lanphier undertook the task of decorating Lanphier for Christmas.

If you have a chance before or after school or even during the noon hour try to see the different decorations, but don't get caught under the mistletoe.

## Memories Of Christmas Past

by Blake Roderick

As I sit listening to Christmas carols I wondered what it must have been like Christmas Eve and Christmas day in my grandparents time. It's Christmas eve and everyone huddles around the Christmas tree awaiting the lighting of the candles. When father lit the candles the tree seemed to come to life as the flickering light shone on the ornaments of brightly colored pine cones and hedge balls and the endless strings of popped corn. At the top, four candles surrounded the beautiful china angel whose feather wings fluttered with each gust of winter's wind which had sneaked through an opening in the house. Stockings were hung around the hearth as the family sang Christmas carols. As the fire

faded out, so did the singing and everyone was off to bed, happy knowing that during the night Santa would have left something. In the morning the children would run to their stockings to find precious gifts like oranges and peaches from Florida, or maybe picture cards from Paris or Washington D.C. Maybe there would be a penny along with the yo-yo or stuffed doll. No one was disappointed in what they got and they would cherish their presents until the next Christmas.

As I ponder Christmas past, I wonder if we are really contented with the way Christmas is run these days. Maybe we all at one time wish we could have had an old time Christmas.

## DEAR SANTA

Have you thought of all the things we need at Lanphier? Well, I can only think of one person who might possibly give them to us.

Dear Santa Claus,

We want you to know how good we've been this year and we hope you'll bring lots of presents to our high school. And, in case you aren't exactly sure what to bring us, we've made out a list so you'll know. Now....first things first.

1. Some new furnaces for our old classrooms, because, Santa Claus, you wouldn't believe the noise we get from the old ones.
2. To win our basketball games. (At least a few.)
3. Something to keep us from sliding down those slippery stairs.
4. Less homework.
5. More free time.
6. And some really cool snowball fights.

Now, Santa, if there are any questions pertaining to this letter, simply write to Lanphier High School, 1200 North 11th Street, Springfield, IL 62702. We'll be happy to answer.

Yours truly,

Everyone at Lanphier

P.S. Say hello to Mrs. Claus for us.

## Lanphier French Classes Study About The French Youth

The advanced French class has been studying French civilization and after reading how French students feel about some topics of general interest decided to take a survey of some Lanphier high school classes on the same topics.

Two classes were surveyed and the most interesting findings were that there are no significant differences between teenagers on either side of the Atlantic. French young people indicated that they were more interested in politics than their American counterparts. Questions were researched dealing with religion - the majority stated that it was very important to them.

Love - most American students plan to get married, but not at an early age.

Future Plans - everyone seems to save plans at least until college.

High School Studies - although French students seemed to fear that their studies were not too relevant, American students in general thought their studies were good.