

## Education offers students opportunities for success



The chance to become the person you want to be; the chance to become employed doing the work you want to do; the chance to make a fortune, even a small one; and the chance to gain an understanding of those around you are offered through our educational system.

This week has been National Education week. Little has been said or done to emphasize this, but it is a part of our daily lives. Unfortunately we often take for granted the education we are receiving, and the opportunities we are meeting every day in school.

Begun, furthered and strengthened by the National Education association, National Education week is a way for the adult citizenry to become aware of the changes in curriculum and advances in techniques of our educational system.

Our country has supplied each of us with one of the greatest advantages one person can give another, knowledge; the knowledge needed to understand yourself and others; the knowledge needed to make decisions; the knowledge that helps you adjust to an ever changing world.

Primary schools, high schools, colleges and universities are the basis of our educational system. They supply our nation with the intellectual, economic, and political leaders necessary for America to head the western world.

The challenge of the future and how prepared we will be to meet it depends on how thoroughly we apply ourselves in the search of knowledge.

## Teachers dispute, discuss study aids inhibiting students

Cliff's Notes claim to be "America's most asked-for study aid." Since that suggests they are popular with students, how do they rate with teachers?

Each teacher of the English department received a questionnaire asking for their views on such study guides.

"For certain students, such notes do have a value. The notes might clear up a problem just as asking a teacher might. But generally the notes inhibit individual

thinking, questioning, searching. Used as a substitute for close individual reading, for thinking, for inquiring, they have to be considered second rate learning. I don't wish that for any student.



Edward Basaraba

"I recall that Socrates once said to Plato—'He who uses Cliff's Notes stands dangerously close to the precipice of ignorance,'" commented Edward Basaraba.

"Such guides are all right for college students and responsible, eager high school students, but they are not for the average or lazy students who may not bother with the actual work. Study guides are fair, but too often they take the fun out of figuring something out for yourself. "When students get everything handed to them, as they do in these study guides, they quit thinking for themselves and start

looking for some teacher or literary critic to do their thinking for them. And worse yet, they get in the habit of looking for pat, oversimplified answers," said Mrs. Marjory



Mrs. Marjory Hubbard

Hubbard. "It is rather easy to perceive who uses such notes and who does not. They can be constructively useful. As a teacher I try to be acquainted with the notes covering my class units. I try to indicate where I believe the notes are in error and where they are of real help."

"I caution against plagiarism in using the notes. I find no cases in which the notes are an adequate substitute for the text. By recognizing their existence, I feel that I can direct serious students to use them intelligently. Others profit very little from either the text or notes anyway," commented Charles Randolph.

"I discourage the use of Cliff's Notes. I have discovered that a sizeable number of students use these Notes instead of reading and using their own notes and judgement. I recommend aids and/or



Miss Helen Cherry

criticisms for post reading assignments. I believe they can serve a worthwhile function in reviewing a work which has already been read.

"In addition, I am not so certain that these Notes are critical and comprehensive enough to properly analyze and explicate several of the great classics of literature," explained Allen Transue.

"They can assist the student in understanding a field of study. Too often they are used as a substitute for the original. There are better works of criticism available for student use," said Jack Gilliland.

"Cliff's Notes are great for kids who like funny books and will never get beyond the funny-book stage. Obviously, they are used by those who are more interested in passing tests than in learning anything," Mrs. Constance Person stated.

"I am against the use of such study guides, especially when they are read in lieu of or before the book. The student should allow himself his own opinion, not a biased, predetermined one. I feel that the student should respect his own opinion and if he does he will be very wary of predigested materials contained in these notes," Miss Helen Cherry commented.

## Veterans' day once for Allies' victory; now pays tribute to soldiers of all wars

by Cynthia Barrett

Women cried, men were near hysterics, and spontaneous parades began. The entire nation rejoiced at 11:00 a.m. on November 11, 1918. Armistice had been achieved—the Allies were victorious in Europe.

In drizzly rain, in a railroad car in the Compiègne forest of France, the German peace delegation and Marshal Ferdinand Foch, Allied commander, signed an agreement ending the "war to end all wars."

Headlines screamed the victory, radios crackled with the announcement. After a year and a half of conflict and 126,000 dead, the United States could enjoy peace.

President Woodrow Wilson pro-

claimed the day to be a holiday, and on every November 11 Armistice day was celebrated. The day was made an official federal holiday in 1938.

Special services are held every year at the tomb of the unknown soldier in Washington, D.C. Parades, picnics and speeches celebrate the day of victory.

But the celebration began to lose its significance when World War II and its cold war aftermath began to tarnish the happiness felt when the end of "war to end all wars" was celebrated.

President Dwight D. Eisenhower decided to change the name and emphasis of the holiday. He proclaimed November 11 Veterans' day in 1954, to honor the veterans of the United States armed forces. The day was dedicated to world peace.

Traditionally, Veterans' day is celebrated here by an assembly featuring patriotic speeches and music. These recall to mind the democratic principles for which our veterans have served, and perhaps fought.

What does it involve this joining the armed services? Strain, fear, delay in marriage, and delay in education are some of the factors veterans considered.

If world peace is ever achieved, and the need for armed services is ever destroyed (an unlikely eventuality), Americans will still honor their veterans, for these people were willing to sacrifice for their country's wellbeing.

Our dead veterans have honor "... beyond our poor power to add or detract," as Abraham Lincoln expressed it. Those veterans still living are honored tomorrow, and it is our privilege to honor them.

## Grading confusion due to students' ignorance of cumulative system

by Elaine Wolfe

The first grading period is over. Soon the cries of "That teacher doesn't know what he's doing, I deserved at least a 'B,'" or "Grades don't mean anything the way these teachers grade," will be heard throughout the school.

Complaints such as these about grades are partly due to student ignorance about the cumulative grading system. By understanding this system, teachers' grades may seem more reasonable.

By attributing all of the student's academic achievement from the first day of school to the day before the report cards are filled out, the cumulative grading system takes in the widest scope possible. With each new grade, the previous one no longer pertains, or in effect it no longer exists.

In other words, the first quarter's grade is given for the first ten weeks. The second quarter's grade is for the first 19 weeks, and so on until the final grade at the end of the year accounts for the entire year's work.

This particular grade system has two distinct advantages over the averaging grade plan. With the cumulative system a student's level of achievement at that precise time is indicated, but with the averaging plan the present level of achievement is added to that of the previous quarter's and then divided.

Also under this system if a student tends to slack off in his effort toward the end of the year his grades will show this. The average plan would not show the slacking off, because it would have to be averaged in with rest of the year's work.

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## Yes I Can motto describes Sammy Davis

"He's the greatest entertainer of our time," and "Go back to the Congo you Koshier coon," were both said of Sammy Davis Jr. The first was stated by Frank Sinatra and the latter by an anonymous bigot protesting outside a 1960 John F. Kennedy rally where Mr. Davis was performing.

YES I CAN is the autobiography of a man who has been on stage all of his life, spotlighted by those who admired him for his talent and by those who hated him for the race he was born into and the religion he chose. YES I CAN is Sammy Davis' personal story.

The years of struggle; the car accident when stardom was within reach; the age

of doubts, fears and hypocrisy; and the people who had faith in him are all portrayed in this recent autobiography.

Success and failure came his way, but the success became Mr. Davis' passion and "yes I can" his motto. He believes he has to be three times the performer that anyone else is. Once because he is a Negro, twice because he is a Jew, and third because of the physical handicap he acquired in a car accident when his left eye was torn from its socket.

Sheltered and protected from racial prejudice for the first half of his life by show business, Mr. Davis had a rude awakening when he joined our still racially segregated army during World

### On The Shelf

by Elaine Wolfe

War II. His adjustment to a world he never knew existed is stirringly told by Mr. Davis.

Friendships with Frank Sinatra, Peter Lawford and the rest of their clan, Jeff Chandler and Tony Curtis, are genuinely told without exploitation or fraud. Frank Sinatra's deep rooted faith in Sammy Davis from the beginning gives a keen insight into their relationship of today.

Through his own words Mr. Davis transports the reader into his own personal and public worlds. His worlds of perpetual motion, concern for all people, and boundless talents are truthfully exposed for the first time.

Yes I Can is in the school library.