

Student Survey

The Student Government is interested in establishing Homecoming. Below you will find a survey to get student input on the event. Any suggestions in addition to the information below should be submitted to the Student Activities Office.

-SURVEY-

- Should we have Homecoming?
YES NO
- Should there be a Homecoming Court?
YES NO
- If yes, how many couples would you like to see on Court? (Including the King and Queen)
3 4 5
- If we were to have Homecoming, would it be inconvenient on a Saturday night?
YES NO
- If it were inconvenient, which other day would you prefer?
M TU WED TH F
- Should it be an event that would include activities for a full week?
YES NO
- What activities do you suggest if you answered yes to the previous question?

- Should the Homecoming Dance be:
FORMAL SEMI-FORMAL CASUAL
- Should the dance music be provided by a D. J. or a Live Band?
D. J. Live Band

Thank you for taking the time to give us your input. Please return this survey to the Student Activities Office in care of Maggie Rhodes or Cathi Pearson by January 8, 1988.



On the lighter side

by Stephani Veff
Opinion/Copy Editor



Toys lose in a new era

The shopping days have begun. Already shopping malls and centers are being packed by eager Christmas shoppers and who can blame them with only 22 more shopping days left!

As I set out to begin my own shopping this season, I soon realized that it just may take me until the 24th of December to find the gifts on my list. The first thing I discovered was that shopping for the children on my list is going to be the most difficult.

Every toy store I visited was filled with children "oohing" and "aahing" over the strangest toys you could imagine. Most of the toys I have seen in television commercials, but many of them were still surprising.

My first stop was the doll aisle. Here I was hoping to find some of the dolls I remembered from my childhood. Instead I was bombarded by every type of Barbie doll you could imagine and got lost in fields of Cabbage

Patch Kids. Not a single Holly Hobbie rag doll was to be found.

Turning the corner at the end of the aisle I was surrounded by G.I. Joe and Rambo dolls dressed in camouflage clothes holding little guns and grenades in their little plastic hands. Little boys filled the aisle playing mock war games with realistic looking and sounding machine guns.

Quickly I moved to the next aisle which contained the cartoon-related toys. Here Herman and She-rah stood side by side with the Smurfs and My Little Pony. What is the wonderful world of television doing to these kids' minds?

How little the children of today have to use their imaginations. They are given everything - the future is literally at their fingertips with computerized toys and games. Instead of kids being satisfied with their drawings just lying there on an Etch-

a-Sketch, they are now able to watch them move on the Animator.

No longer do young children need to make up voices for their stuffed animals and dolls, these toys now come with their own voices. Teddy Ruxpin and his talking friends have now eliminated the creative conversations that can only be shared between child and stuffed animal. This type of growth experience is soon to become obsolete.

I did discover a few of the toys from my childhood that somehow didn't get covered up by the new, more advanced era of toys. These mainly consisted of "building" toys. Legos, Lincoln Logs, and Erector sets were among those that have survived the past decade.

It's hard to say why some toys have remained while others have disappeared, but it does cause some to wonder what toys will be like in the decade to come.



Wooden shoe like to know?

by Heleen Veenstra
Editor



Russians are people too

Last week my dad came back home from a trip to Holland and brought me an 82 page magazine. "Big Deal!" you might think, but it was.

The magazine was about the Soviet Union, and not about government stuff. No, it was about the Russian everyday, ordinary life, and believe me it was fascinating.

I was amazed by the many similarities between America and Russia. It showed that we, as Westerners, are not as different from the Russians as we think we are.

Every thing that had to do with the Soviet Union always has been very far away, simply because the Russians didn't want anybody to know about their culture and daily life. But lately the USSR is much more accessible to the world than it has ever been.

That whole concept started with Michail Gorbatsjov, State Secretary of the Soviet Union. He introduced the term "glasnost," which means being open to the rest of the world, and showed that he, unlike his predecessors, is not afraid of communication with the

Western world. Through the "glasnot" he made himself very popular in West Europe, and as the magazine states it, "The portrait of a Soviet leader was never that often on the cover of Western newspapers and magazines. And never was a Soviet leader more popular than his American competitor."

As I said before, there are many similarities between the SU and the US ordinary life. For example, the Soviets skate board, listen to hardrock and punk music, they hitch hike, they have advertising for companies in magazines, and there are even millionaires in Russia.

The "glasnost" brought us all that information, which helps us understand their culture a little better. But besides the similarities, there are also many differences.

The Russians are very bitter people because of the land's history. Nobody can take that feeling away, so the people will never be as open as Westerners are.

They also live very sober lives. They don't have the freedom of just doing what they

want, and are always limited in their actions. Soviets don't have the opportunity to buy luxury goods either. The goods are available, but only for very high prices, and in order to get them the people have to stand in line for hours. You have to be very patient otherwise you'll never get anything!

As I just showed, because of the culture, Russians live their lives different than we do. Their sober life and their bitter attitude will keep the culture barrier up, but barriers are there to be broken down, right?

Next week Gorbatsjov will come to the United States hopefully to get some negotiating done. He indicated that he and Russia are ready to take some steps in breaking down that barrier every way possible.

I think the rest is up to us in helping them with that. Maybe you still are scared towards the thought of working closely with the Russians, but as I tried to show, Soviet people are just as normal as anybody else.

They only have a different culture and a different governmental system but should that really scare us away from them?

