

Bronx High School of Science a Real Brain Factory



VOLTAGE TEST — Two students, Paul Wiener and Valerie Charlton, both 16, senior laboratory. The institution is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year. (UPI)

By GERALD S. SNYDER
United Press International
New York—In the microbiology laboratory, 30 white-coated experimenters bent over their microscopes. An electronic computer chattered away. Test tubes clinked. Guinea pigs shuffled about their cages. These are the sights and sounds at the Bronx High School of Science, a nationally famed "brain trainery" where the median I.Q. is 140 and a student with an average of 91 ranks 202nd in the senior class. This year, Science High (the only public high school in the United States so oriented to the pure sciences) is 25 years old.

Selected Students

The 2,700 specially-selected students at Science High—the youngest 13, the oldest 17—attend a modern, three-story school housing six basic and

six advanced science laboratories, four special project labs, a photographic lab, two greenhouses, a planetarium, an animal room, ceramics lab, general classrooms and a well-thumbed 18,000-volume library, with some 140 different magazines—ranging from the American Journal of Physiology to the Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science. To be accepted into the school, the students are given exams similar to those given by the College Entrance Examination Board. Once admitted (only one in four applicants makes it), they study a full range of scientific subjects in amazing depth. Students move ahead as fast as their comprehension allows and some, caught up in the excitement of learning, devote much free time to visiting working scientists

for "shop talk" in their field of interest.
Many Talents
At Science High, the emphasis is on creative experimentation. A girl, 15, is exploring the effects of ultraviolet radiation on bacteria. A boy, 17, devised an automatic computer language translator. Another is delving into "magnetohydrodynamics."
But despite the school's accomplishments—indeed they are great—it remains virtually unique in American education after a quarter-century. Few cities have followed the pattern.

democratic concept of equal education.
Dr. Taffel believes, however, that brilliant science-minded students should be exposed to priority doses of science and math at an early age.
What ought to be noted, he believes is that "the great things in science are done by young people. He cited Nobel Prize winners, many of them in their 30's and Dr. Jonas Salk, Enrico Fermi and the late Dr. Albert Einstein, all amazingly productive in their early years.
"It is on people who have the capability of reaching the frontiers of knowledge at an early age that we must ultimately depend for leadership," Dr. Taffel said.
Science High boasts among its graduates such producers as Dr. Harold Brown, President Kennedy's Director of Development Research of the

U.S. Defense department, and scores of other scientists and mathematicians.
(Some have done well in other fields. Among them, Walden Robert Cassotto, class of January '53, better known as Bobby Darin.)
The boys and girls (ratio 3 to 1) in the high school today are much like teenagers everywhere. In addition to training in physical chemistry, math indices and symbolic logic, they get well-rounded programs in the social sciences and liberal arts. They put on school plays, go to school dances and boast one of the best tennis teams in the city.
It is in the classroom, however, where they excel. "We are interested in scientific creativity and the element of intellectual independence," Dr. Taffel said.
Not enough people take the shortage of trained scientists and engineers seriously, Dr.

Taffel said. He believes it would be in the national interest to establish more special science schools, such as his, around the country. It can't be done in small communities, he said, but it can in large ones.
Another School
He noted that in Pittsburgh a school patterned after Bronx High School of Science is now being proposed. Members of the Pittsburgh section of the American Nuclear Society are strenuously promoting the project. "These talented young people are an important national resource and the nation, especially western Pennsylvania, cannot afford not to develop the full potentiality of these young leaders," the society said.
The committee has proposed the initiation of a pilot program for 300 students in the Pittsburgh area.
The emphasis, members assert, will be on breadth of experience, analysis, criticism, evaluation, and interpretation—rather than upon the mere acquisition of information. This is the concept at Bronx Science.
The atmosphere of "intellectual stimulation" is what's important, Dr. Taffel said. It is in this milieu that real potential is nurtured," he said.

Good Will Trip Is Set by Chamber

Ashland—A delegation from the Ashland Chamber of Commerce will make a "good will" trip to Mt. Shasta, Dunsuir and Weed in Siskiyou county May 23 to promote the Ashland area and Interstate 5.
The Ashland group will have lunch with the Mt. Shasta Chamber of Commerce and coffee hours with chambers at Dunsuir and Weed.
The trip is planned in an effort to acquaint businessmen in Siskiyou county with the improvements that have been made in travel through the Rogue valley by the opening of the Interstate 5 freeway.

Foreign Language Day Scheduled at Campus

Eugene—High school foreign language students of the state will meet on the University of Oregon campus Saturday, May 4, for the annual Foreign Language Field Day.
Competitive oral and written examinations will be taken by students of French, German, Russian, Spanish, and Latin. About 520 students and 127 teachers from 56 high schools of the state will be on the campus for the Field Day.

Your Money's Worth

By SYLVIA PORTER
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Court Records

MEDFORD MUNICIPAL COURT
James Sidney Winslow, violation of basic rule, \$5.
Virginia Maxine Russell, violation of basic rule, \$10.
Wilbur Orvel Sessions Jr., expired vehicle license, \$5, suspended; no vehicle registration, \$5, suspended.
Henry Gordon Lenz, wrong way on a one way street, \$10.
Albert LeRoy Cox, violation of basic rule, \$25.
Roy Donald Rosa, excessive noise, \$10, suspended, 8 hours work in park.
John William Axtell, disobeyed traffic signal, \$10.
Constance Paulette Jenksky, disobeyed traffic signal, \$10.
Joseph Ross Ryland, operating on suspended license, one year probation.
Nancy Ann Materie, violation of basic rule, \$10.
Gerald George Matley, violation of basic rule, \$50, suspended, Driver Improvement school.

Unusual Findings During Bird Count Are Reported

New York City—A widespread flight of hawk owls from the subarctic across southern Canada, the first record of cattle egrets in California, and evidence of a continuing movement of fulvous tree ducks up the Atlantic coast were among the remarkable findings in the 1962 Christmas Bird Count sponsored by the National Audubon Society.
Ornithologist Allan D. Cruickshank of Rockledge, Fla., who edits the Christmas Bird Count reports for "Audubon Field Notes," estimated that more than 15,000 persons took part.
They spent one 8-hour day between last Dec. 19 and Jan. 1 in local teams scanning 672 census areas, each laid out ahead of time within a circle

15 miles in diameter. This was a new record: 11 more such areas checked than in 1961. It was the 63rd such inventory of bird life since the Christmas Count technique was started in 1900 by Dr. Frank M. Chapman, dean of American ornithologists.
From 50 States
Reports were received from all 50 states, eight provinces of Canada, and the District of Columbia. New York led in number of census areas with 44.
Although reports of hawk owls came from as far west as Alberta and as far east as New Brunswick, the main invasion appeared to be in Ontario, Cruickshank said in his summary. At least 10 of these rare northern birds were seen in Toronto.

It was, however, a poor year for snowy owls, grouse, Bohemian waxwings, northern shrikes and the northern finches all across southern Canada and in the northern United States.
Seen in California
A cattle egret spotted by Irving Meyer in Orange county, California, is believed to be the first record of this Old World species in that state. A member of the heron family, the cattle egret is a native of Africa. It was reported to have been seen in Florida in 1942 but its permanent residence in North America was not established until 1952 when Audubon observers definitely identified the species in Massachusetts.
Some other unusual sightings noted by Cruickshank: An Oregon junco at the Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge in Delaware; evening grosbeaks at three Georgia points, Atlanta, Milledgeville, and Rome; a new, more south-

ern concentration of Brewer's blackbirds, a prairie-state species, in the Southeast, with an estimated 3,390,000 in one big roost near Rome, Ga.; a rare trumpeter swan at Tomales Bay, Calif.; 48 lesser prairie chickens seen at Fort Supply, Okla.; five clay-colored robins, a rare visitor from Mexico, at Benton State Park in Texas; a northern waterthrush at Espanola, N.M.; an unusual flight of American goldfinches in the Florida Keys; green-tailed towhees far outside their normal range in Massachusetts, New York and New Jersey; two mockingbirds and a brown thrasher at Denver; a Bullock's oriole and a phainopepla at Glacier National Park; the latter probably a "first" for Montana.
More than a million European starlings recorded at Portland, Ore., confirms that the population explosion of this generally unwelcome immigrant now extends to the West Coast.

Applying Hits Stands Against Prison Labor

Salem—(UPI)—Secretary of State Howell Applying Jr. assailed unions as "hypocritical" and the governor as "timid" Wednesday for their stand against use of prison labor to build state buildings.
He testified before the Senate Public Buildings and Institutions committee on a bill that would prohibit construction of state buildings by convicts.
The current dispute centers on use of inmates to build a women's prison.

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MOTHER'S DAY - BILLION-DOLLAR BONANZA

A week from this Sunday, May 12, we'll be celebrating a holiday which has become second only to Christmas as an economic bonanza—Mother's Day. For this one day's gifts, it's estimated we'll spend more than \$1 billion. For May 12 offerings, the calculation is an average of \$20 per family is being spent. For the stores, an indication of the economic contribution this holiday makes is the fact that sales in these pre-May 12 weeks are sharply higher than in the pre-Easter weeks.

Of course, it's a sentimental event dating back to ancient times. Although it wasn't until 1914 that President Wilson proclaimed the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day, the ancient Greeks paid homage to Cybele, mother of the gods, and the Romans followed with their Hilaria during three days of the Ides of March. Centuries ago the English paved the way for our formal holiday by designating "Mothering Sunday" on the fourth Sunday in Lent, and observing the occasion with a gift of flowers and a simnel cake for Mother.
But the point of this column is not the sentiment of May 12. It's the impressive bread-and-butter side of the holiday. To be specific:

Mother is no longer the only beneficiary of this holiday's gift-giving. Gifts are now being sent to grandmother, mother-in-law, stepmother, foster mother, even expectant mother. This adds substantially to the 36 million mothers who would be loaded down with gifts this month if the National Committee on the Observance of Mother's Day, affiliated with Parents Magazine, had its way.

What does Mother get?
She gets cards, naturally. Hallmark, biggest in the field, figures 300 million Mother's Day cards will be sold this year, bringing in \$30 million. This would suggest nearly 10 cards per mother—but Mother, I repeat, is no longer the sole recipient. In addition to those named above, greeting cards also have been created for great-grandmother, godmother, wife, "Dear Aunt," "other mother," "the mother of someone very dear," "someone who's like a Mom to me." The gagsters have put out a card for Father as well and husband is supposed to send his own card. Even Mother is not exempt. She is being brain-washed into sending cards to every relative who could possibly qualify.

She gets telegrams, naturally. You may compose your own, but in case you're tongue-tied, Western Union offers you a selection of 22 different Mother's Day messages, expects 200,000 to be sent this year. WU also has two singing telegrams to the tune of "Home Sweet Home," "Candygrams" and flowergrams by which candy or flowers may be sent to mother by wire. Mothers will get around 125,000 Candygrams and about 100,000-plus bouquets of flowers by wire in 1963.

This is just the beginning. "It's a bandwagon anyone who has something to sell can jump on," urges the Mother's Day National Committee. Confirming the bandwagon is this lament from a candy industry spokesman: "Years ago, there were limits on what a consumer might consider suitable for a Mother's Day gift. Candy, flowers, jewelry, a few other items. Today, anything goes." Candy sales have slumped in proportion to other fast-climbing items, with one large company reporting the decline as high as 35 per cent in the past decade due to our awareness of diets and to the fact that other gifts have become so popular. "We've all been going crazy in the past few years," says a candy maker, "dreaming up something new for Mother's Day."

Hosiery, lingerie, jewelry and flowers head the gift list, according to the Mother's Day National Committee. Appliances, large and small, are gaining an increasing share of the market.

Restaurants pound home the theme that Mother must be taken out to dinner on her day. Beauty parlors offer gift certificates for Mother's Day permanent waves. So it goes. It's a billion dollar bonanza for business indeed and, says the national committee with zero sentimentality: "This day is looked upon with eyes as big as dollar signs by sales planning experts. Each year, more and more effort is being made to stimulate its observance via the pocketbook."

INSURANCE

New York—(UPI)—Life insurance holders received a record \$1.98 billion in policy dividends in 1962, an increase of \$161 million or 9 per cent ahead of the 1961 payments, according to the Life Insurance Institute.

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PLEASE - Be Careful!

MAY IS AMERICAN BIKE MONTH

Quickie Quiz For Safe Cycling

Safety is as safety does, and before reaching the doing stage, KNOWING HOW is most important. As today's 55 million cyclists gear up for Spring and Summer bike fun, a quick quiz to test their safety procedures knowledge might pay handsome dividends. Here then are 10 true or false questions designed to test your bike IQ.

1. A bike should be ridden on the left side of the road, facing traffic.
2. "Jumping" a curb will not damage a properly inflated tire.
3. The hand signals for stopping or turning a bike are the same as for cars.
4. Riding two on a bike is all right for an experienced rider.
5. When passing a slow-moving car, pass on the right.
6. The cyclist has the right of way over pedestrians.
7. Riding "no hands" is safe on a smooth, straight road.
8. Stop signs, traffic lights, and other signaling devices designed for the autoist do not apply to the cyclist.
9. A level, straight highway is a good place for a bike race.
10. A cyclist should stop, look and listen at ALL intersections.

Answers: 1-F, 2-F, 3-T, 4-F, 5-F, 6-F, 7-F, 8-F, 9-F, 10-T.

The cyclist who answers three or more of the above questions incorrectly had better stay home until he learns the rules of the road.

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