

Our number is up . . .

Social Insecurity

by Steve Scott

We're strictly the Safe Generation. It shouldn't take much searching on anyone's part to discover the motivating factor behind our generation, our unspoken watchword—Security.

Most of the things we do and say have the ultimate aim of achieving Security. We strive to get into college because we have been told that college is the "sure-fire way to achieve Security in four easy years." The invention, or firm establishment, of "going steady," another form of Security, will probably be credited to our generation. We aim for Security also by belonging to cliques.

Matter of fact, we're so obsessed with Security that we're careful not to ask for too much, because when you have too much, it can be taken away from you, and then you are insecure. Most of us don't aspire to high positions because of the long fall involved should we fail. We just want to be average—we want a moderately well-paying job, a nice home in the suburbs, an average spouse and a couple of kids, and perhaps two cars in the garage.

Most of us are so busy searching for Security that we have no time to search for its true meaning. We fail to recognize that we have a false ideal of Security based on a blind reaction to the tensions of the world. We try to ignore the rest of the world, hoping it will go away, but it won't! Communism, Krushchev, and the Bomb will not go away if we ignore them—they will become stronger than ever.

The biggest threat to our real security lies in our own false ideal of Security.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Mr. Editor,

As you may well know, the Presidential, Vice-Presidential elections are being held early this year. Election day has been set for Thursday, February 20, 1964, tomorrow. However, both the candidates and the voters at Webster will have found this whole week a very trying and interesting experience. The assembly today with the formal presentation of the candidates will only be a part of the excitement involved in a campaign where everyone can show his support of his choices for these two offices.

Although I am certainly involved in the program this year as a voter, I cannot help but remember what I went through in last year's campaign. It's something that stays with you for a long time afterwards. Most of all I know the feeling of competition that is around this kind of an activity, the inevitable

win or lose theme. I feel confident that the candidates themselves know how to win and how to lose; they wouldn't be running if they didn't. I only hope that everyone else feels that if the winners and losers can take it then so can they. We've had this good sportsmanship attitude at Webster for a long time and when you stop to think about it, that's why we have the vast student government program that we do.

It seems that people are quite often looking at countries such as Russia and Red China to see the opportunities that individuals enjoy in America, but I have only to look at the other high schools in the St. Louis area alone to see the privileges that we have at Webster. The election tomorrow is only one of them, but isn't it the key to all the rest?

Guy L. Mellor

Olenick's trophies not a fishy tale

Jane Olenick, who is crusading for girls on the swimming and tennis teams, last summer, was rated second in the United States in the 200 yard butterfly for girls in the 15-17 age group, and fourth in the 400 yard freestyle. "I see nothing wrong with a girl being on the team," remarked Jane. "I think that girls should be able to swim and play tennis and help their schools in those activities." Jane has been swimming competitively 5-1/2 years, and has won approximately 200 medals, 20

trophies, and 50 ribbons. Jane swims 1:07 for 100 meter freestyle, and 1:10 for 100 meter butterfly. Women's world records in 1961 were 1:01.2 and 1:09 respectively.

"The Washington University swim team asked me to work out with them this Christmas. It was really quite an honor. Seventeen boys and one girl - - me!" The 5'8-1/2" brunette junior enjoys a variety of sports--tennis, diving, water-skiing, trampoline, basketball, hockey, and loves to dance. "I'll swim during college, but I don't plan to swim competitively afterwards. I might coach though," explained Jane, who wants to be a physical education teacher.

A member of the first semester championship GAA bowling team, and treasurer of her Tri-Hi-Y, Jane participates in Spanish Club, her church fellowship, Youth and Government, after-school sports, and GAA. "My grades don't suffer even with these activities in addition to swimming," remarked Jane. "I didn't miss any workouts studying for semester exams!"

"Everyone seems to think that participating in sports means you're masculine," grinned Jane, "but I like to be a girl once in awhile!"



Photo by Paul

Jane Olenick displays some of her numerous swimming trophies.

Piero loves sports, chocolate cake



Photo by Dempster

Top: Piero tries to explain he can't smile. Bottom: Piero studiously reads his English assignment.

"When I arrived in America, I was very much afraid and insecure. But during my months here I've made sincere friendships with students and teachers and learned to resolve my personal problems independently," smiled Piero Pezze, American Field Service exchange student from Italy.

His dark eyes sparkled as he expressed gratitude to the students who voluntarily helped him. "They show their friendship every day. I feel a part of the community."

Piero has observed that the school systems of the United States and of Italy vary in many respects. In Italy students tackle 13 subjects during a six day school week and must "fight" to stay in school

Italian schools

Much of American students' social life revolves around school, noted Piero. "Our schools are for study only. They do not sponsor sports events and other activities. We students must find our own entertainment." Piero laughed as he said, "I enjoy your activities and love chocolate cake--once I ate five pieces for lunch. But I miss beer and my mother's homemade macaroni."

Italian and American dating customs also differ. Parents seldom allow their daughters to date before they are nineteen, commented Piero. However, he explained, many parents pretend they do not know that their girls go out on the sly. "Most of my friends in Italy have many girlfriends," he stated. Although to Piero "going steadily" is fine, going steady officially by exchanging rings is a "feudal idea."

Four years ago after listening to a family friend speak of his trip to Massachusetts, 15-year-old Piero wanted to visit the U.S. His hopes and efforts were culminated in a letter of acceptance from AFS. "On August 12, 1963, I received my American address and my joy was undecipherable. In thirty minutes I had packed for a year-long trip."

Visit to America

Piero came here under the American Field Service Exchange Program which began in 1914 in Paris where American hospital workers drove ambulances to battlefields and rescued wounded soldiers. During World War II men from many foreign countries joined AFS and together saved over a million wounded soldiers. Because the men of AFS had seen how personal contacts between them had created understanding and respect, they decided to continue personal contacts by bringing foreign students to the U.S. In 1948, 17 foreign students came to America. Today a total of 25,128 students have participated in AFS's program.



by Carolyn Vesper,

Nouns of assembly are fascinating words. (Now before you stop reading, thinking that your English class has suddenly plopped down in print, let me explain.) You may not really know what these familiar-sounding things Well, a gaggle of geese and a flock of sheep are examples. They are words that express the essence of a group of objects. What could be more descriptive than a plump of ducks or a giggle of teenagers?

Many of the words are derived from a singular characteristic of an animal, such as a barren of mules, a busyness of ferrets, a tittering of magpies, and a murmuration of starlings. Other words are simply descriptions of a group--a chance of grass-snakes, a watch of nightingales, a wing of plovers, a pride of lions, a blush of boys.

To completely update the collection, we have found a word for only Those in the Know. To protect a singing group recently imported here from England required an ever-watchful, fiercely courageous shard of policemen.

Smarter sex revealed as girls bow to boy panelists in high school bowl

The traditional battle of the sexes was revived in the auditorium a week ago Saturday as two teams of girls matched wits with opposing teams of boys in the High School Quiz Bowl competition. Held for the benefit of the Exchange Student Fund, the contest was modeled after the General Electric College Bowl of television fame.

During each of the two matches, two teams competed for the opportunity to answer "toss-up" questions worth up to 10 points. Bonus questions, usually containing multiple parts, were worth up to 25 points. The questions, submitted by faculty members, ranged in difficulty from "What is the sum of the positive integers from 1 to 200?" to "How many matches are there in a regular match book?" Oddly enough, the latter question was the more difficult.

Speed a factor

Speed, as well as accuracy, was required as contestants had to press a buzzer before blurting out the answer. The boys seemed to be "faster on the buzzer" than the girls, who mildly suggested that perhaps their opponents were pressing the buzzer before they actually knew the answer.

However, they seemed to know enough of the answers because they defeated both girls' teams with scores of 220 to 95 and 175 to 120. The triumphant men during the first round were seniors John Stocke and Roger Cannady, junior

John Rose, and sophomore Chip Covington. Opposing them were seniors Susan Kice and Aphrodite Matsakis, junior Anne Harkey, and sophomore Peggy Hurt.

The second match pitted seniors Steve Scott and Bob Johnson, junior Bob Bangs, and sophomore Alan McIlroy against seniors Pat Pearman and Pat Woolf, junior Martha Spano, and sophomore Margaret Mellor. For both matches, Guy Mellor was master-of-ceremonies with his assistant Denny White, timekeeper Abby Shaw, and scorekeeper Diane Flesh. Prudy Werth was chairman of the bowl committee.

Ladylike in defeat, yet proud, Susan Kice spoke for all the feminine contestants as she said "I think we're smarter than they are--we let 'em win, so now they'll love us!"

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Haiku . . .

Little children dance
 In the street with raindrops
 Glistening on their feet.

--Lynn Zeiser

Blue cobalt sky bends
 To capture a red, flaming sun
 In darkening arcs.

--Carolyn Vesper