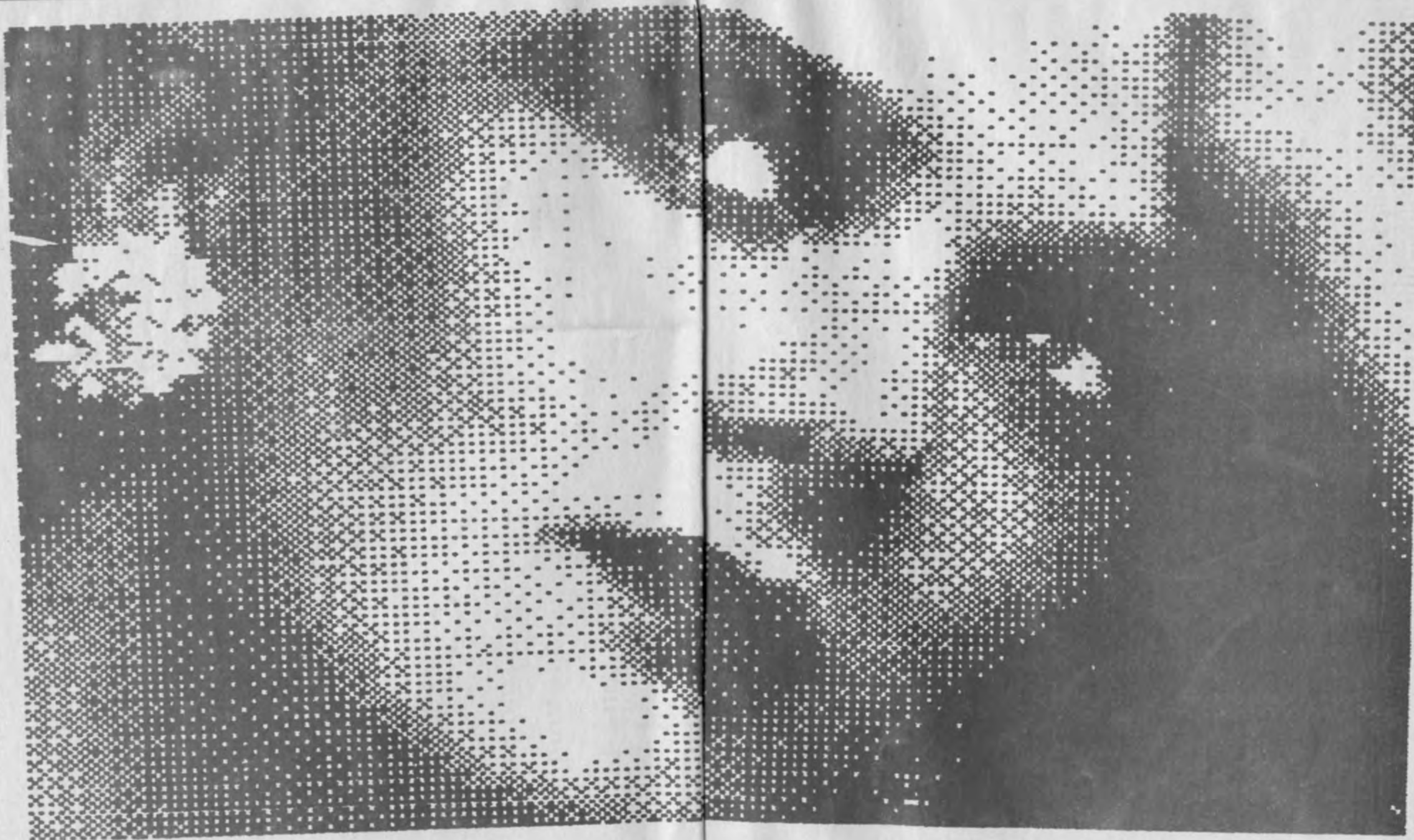


RILEY REVIEW

James Whitcomb Riley High School,
405 E. Ewing Ave., South Bend, IN 46613
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Inside



much will it cost? of course, how these Riley students seem to be headed on the right track.

Inadequate high school preparation may lead to poor college performance

By Susan Shaw

Dropouts, along with declining enrollment, threaten the survival of colleges and universities across the nation, according to the Bureau of Evaluative Studies and Testing at Indiana University-Bloomington.

About 6 million of the 15 million college students in the United States—between 30 and 40 percent—are expected to withdraw completely from college during this decade.

Withdraws, in these cases, refer to transfers, flunk outs, dropouts, or "stop outs" (students that drop out for awhile and later return). About 70 percent of the 15 million will eventually earn their undergraduate degrees, Kenneth F. Garni of Suffolk University estimated in the May 1980 *Journal of College Student Personnel*.

But how does this apply to high school students? Declining enrollments cause higher tuition rates. Also, to help prevent students from withdrawing, colleges and universities are tightening up their admission requirements so high school students will better prepare themselves academically for the college challenge.

Colleges and universities ask that high school seniors take as many college-prep courses as possible. This includes foreign languages, science, and math. Slacking off on "hard" courses during the senior year can result in losing study skills and misusing time, habits that might affect academic performance in the future.

To correct the problem of inadequate preparation, colleges and universities offer tutoring, counseling, assistance with study skills, and remedial courses in reading, writing, and math. These solutions,

however, are directed to those students already in academic trouble.

"They either learn or they don't learn," said Philip W. Namy of the University Division of Indiana University. "We don't hold their hand." The university, however, does refer the students to the Learning Skills Center to learn how to budget their time better. According to director Sharon L. Smith, the Center also offers credit courses that aim to develop study habits and test-taking abilities.

In a survey held at Miami University, results showed that most of the 375 freshmen who earned less than a C average in their first semester were in the top fifth of their high school graduating class. Many of the freshmen were too confident of their abilities and idealistic about the expectations in college classes. Thus, the students ran into problems because they put too little time and effort on their homework.

Some colleges across the country are offering pre-college summer programs to incoming freshmen to ease the transition from high school to college. Eastern Kentucky University offers a six-week program called the "College Warm-Up." It consists of seven credit hours of classes that allows high school graduates to experience a summer term of college before tackling their first full semester in the fall.

According to the university's Benny Hall, the students return in the fall "with a head start in college, with enthusiastic attitudes about their college careers, and with lessened chances of dropping out during their first year."

Also on the college early-help list the Advance Placement program tests for high school seniors. The advantages of the Advance Placement program include the elimination of unwanted required classes

and the savings of course costs. Students may place into a higher level of study (skipping over, for example, freshman English) by placing high on a test. This, however, may or may not include credit hours for the class skipped.

Due to increasing admission requirements, rising tuition, and decreasing financial aid, some students have more obstacles to overcome than others, reported the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education in the *Christian Science Monitor*. But, the commission noted, state university systems are trying to make sure positive-action admissions programs for minorities and underprepared students aren't harmed.

For some private institutions, the attrition rate is due to lack of financial aid along with high tuition. At Notre Dame University, the withdraw rate stands around five percent. According to admissions counselor Don Bishop, this rate has increased significantly within the past year because of cutbacks in financial aid available from the university.

At St. Mary's College, however, the withdraw rate is low this year (2.6 percent), according to Mrs. Theresa Marcy, assistant to the vice president of academic affairs. She said that usually these withdraws relate to a change in college choice, whether it's for a bigger college, a change in majors, or a place closer to home.

Bethel College offers student services and programs to students who need help with academics or with coping. Ms. Vickie Gillen, associate director of admissions and financial aid, believes the main coping problem at Bethel lies with the fact that the students are independent for the first time, making their own decisions.

Tutoring, helping out all part of cadet counseling

By Linda Makley

Sacrificing a free period to tutor, help, and talk with fellow students is a normal part of the day for ten seniors. They are in the cadet counseling program, supervised by counselor Mrs. Anita Landry.

"There are so many people in the school that haven't even heard about cadet counseling," said Debbie Truesdell. In between running errands for the counselors, showing new students around school, and tutoring students, the cadets have some free time during which they would like to be talking with students.

"If anybody ever has a problem with anything (teachers, family, friends) they should come in and talk about it," stated Jennifer Steele. Everything that is said will be kept in confidence. Jennifer continued, "Students shouldn't be embarrassed about coming in. Everybody needs a little help sometime!"

"There have been times when I have wanted to talk to someone but no one was around," explains Jennifer. "I want to be that 'someone' for somebody."

The cadet counseling program was started six years ago by Mrs. Landry. Originally cadets were supposed to convince students to go to class. Since this didn't work well, cadets began focusing on other ways to help their peers, such as tutoring and giving advice.

The cadets have a variety of reasons for becoming involved in this program. Iradella Newhouse likes to "help students with their homework or any problem they might have." Sally Kirwan said, "I felt that I should perform a service for my school and this was the perfect way." Students who show an interest in cadet counseling must have the approval of their counselor before becoming a cadet.

Debbie Stroop enjoys being around the counselors and principals and observing the way the school runs from their part of school.

Some cadets wanted the counseling experience because it will benefit their future career plans. Debbie Stroop, who plans on majoring in psychology, said, "I've learned a great deal about



Cadet counselor Derrick Preston is shown tutoring Al Young with his homework.

people's behavior under different conditions." Both Jennifer and Iradella plan on becoming nurses and cadet counseling will help them communicate better with patients.

The other cadet counselors are Darren Fisher, Phil Hohulin, Derrick Preston, Scott Regina and Keri Roenfeldt. Two cadets are in Room 222. "A Special

Place," near the counselor's office, each hour. Contact Mrs. Landry, another counselor, or one of the cadets if you would like to use their services or just talk.

"We are always willing to listen to anything you want to talk about," said Sally. All the cadets are glad to be part of this helpful program.

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Computers and students; preparing for the future

By Richard Silberman

Computers: those marvels of microtechnology that have been invading and unalterably changing society in recent years. To some people the computer is an abstract, all powerful, technological monster. To others, computers mark the threshold of a new age—an age of far reaching technological advancements and a move from a primarily industrial society to an information society. Either way, the microcomputer has found a permanent place in the world today. Realizing this, and the benefits of learning how to operate and program a computer, some Riley students have acquired their own.

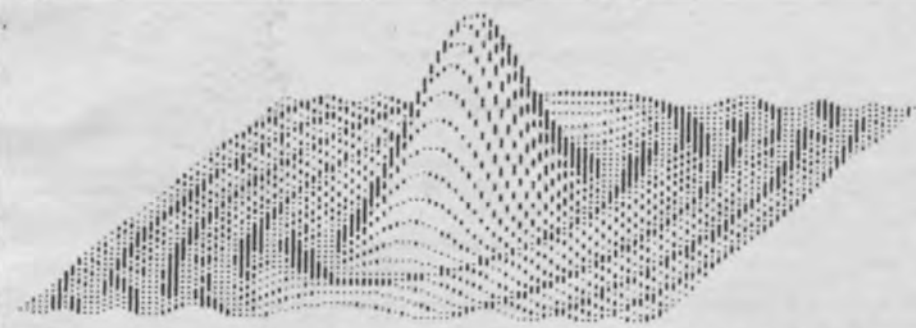
At senior Mike Rosenberg's house the latest addition to his "family" sits comfortably on a desk in his room. It is an Apple II microcomputer with one disc drive (loads programs) and an Epson MX-80 dot-matrix printer. The computer's been a part of Mike's life for the last two years as he interested himself in computers and pursued that interest through reading, taking Riley's computer math class, and finally getting his own computer.

When Mike bought his computer at a local auction, he was approached to take a job at General Microcomputer. Mike accepted the job and worked full time last summer. He continues to work part time during the school year. "My primary job is Apple II technical support. I also do software (programs, that is, the information fed into the computer that tells it what to do) support, program debugging (finding



and fixing problems in computer programs), customer service, hardware, (the mechanical, component parts of the computer) service and maintenance and hardware assembly," says Mike, who has even been sent out of town on this job to set up hardware and give instructions on a computer's operation at various businesses.

Averaging between one and three hours a day at his computer, Mike has expanded a program to convert digital entries into musical tones. And, of course, the computer comes in handy when doing homework. "I have a word processor which is a great help when writing reports. I also have a program that plots any mathematical equation given it," claims Mike.



Mike Rosenberg, with his computer printer, has created the various graphic designs seen on this page including the image of the lady seen on the cover.

Other Rileyites have developed their own programs, too. Brian Mercedes, senior, has a program for his English vocabulary words and is working on one for Calculus. Steve Gardner, senior, made a program to test Hebrew vocabulary while senior Greg Elin "created an address book that can retrieve a person by name, phone number, city, or birthday." With his IBM computer and math programs Greg feels he can better comprehend advanced mathematics.

Junior Don Yates created a program that translates Spanish to English while senior Don Snyder made a program that figures his expenses for the week. And the list of computer-owning Wildcats and their programs goes on.

Some students developed an interest in computers on their own, others through Mr. Larry Morningstar's computer math class. Riley has had computers for three years with the math department having nine Apple II computers, one printer, and four disc drives and the science department having three Commodore Pet computers on which students practice techniques in chemistry, physics, and astronomy.

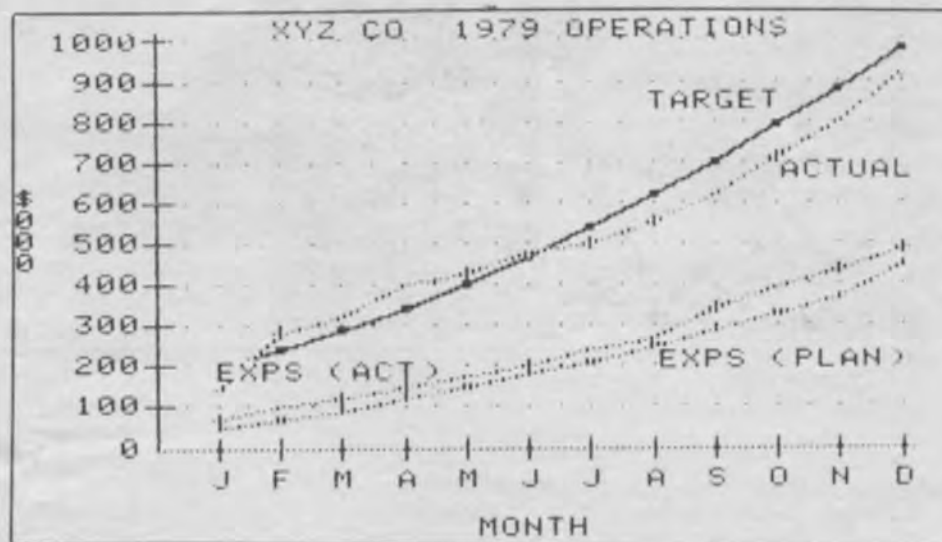
"Computers will probably be used more and more as teaching aids in years to come. In addition, as they become more affordable, people will use them

for household tasks such as balancing a checkbook. Furthermore, the time may come when interacting home and business computers will conduct business without the parties seeing each other," commented Mr. Morningstar. The applications of computers do seem endless and even beyond imagination to some.

But what about the person who wants to pursue a new-found interest in computers? Well, according to Mrs. Paulette Katz, an instructor at the

Presently, microcomputer prices range from the \$250 Vic-20 to the \$20,000 Alpha-micro, says Ms Patricia Finnegan of General Microcomputer. She noted that the computer is steadily dropping in price as well as getting smaller in size. She added that every computer on the market is different; each one better for a certain reason. For example, presently the Apple II has the most software available, but IBM and Apple III have more power and storage capacity, Ms. Finnegan claims.

Getting a home computer is an individual's decision which should be



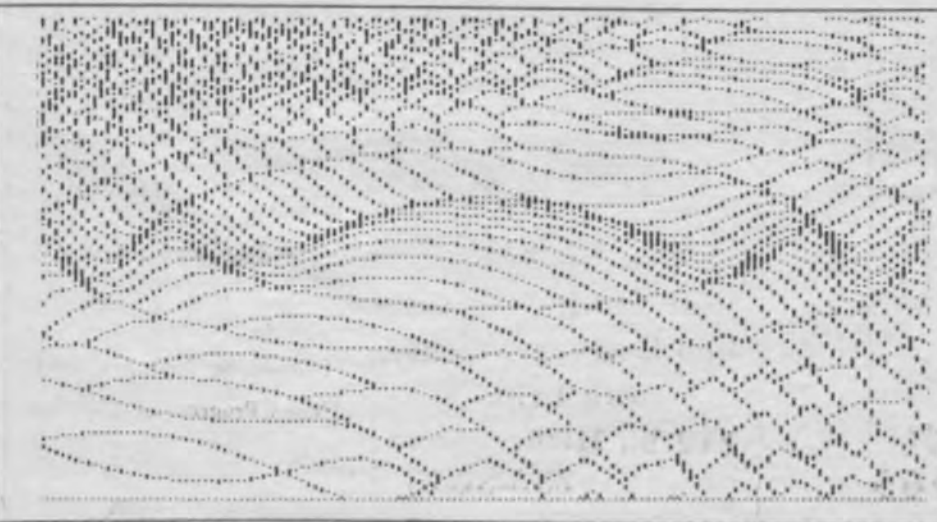
microcomputer demonstration laboratory at IUSB, there are many courses through which students can find out what computers can and cannot do and how they work. These classes range from those specifically designed for the college bound student to those in word processing and software applications.

And then it may happen . . .

"I want my own computer," will be the thought and a person will be confronted with all sorts of questions: Should he get an IBM, Apple, Atari, Texas Instruments, Commodore, or Zenith with how much memory capacity, is a printer needed, what about the available software, what graphics capabilities, and . . . of course . . . how much will it cost?

made under the guidance of a qualified, knowledgeable computer vendor. One can base a decision on cost alone or investigate a multitude of qualities and weaknesses in a multitude of computers. Getting the right computer depends on how serious one is about what could end up a major investment.

Indeed, as each year goes by the computer becomes a less avoidable and more necessary part of everyday life. The field of computer technology appears to be in its infancy and the doors are just opening on numerous computer related fields. If it appears the future belongs to the computer, then these Riley students seem to be headed on the right track.



"Dark Deeds" a Riley Thespian success

By Sean O'Neill

"I think, um, the hardest part of acting is reacting. There's a scene in 'Dark Deeds' where my two assistants turn me in to the police. It's a pretty long scene, and by the, um, end of it I always find myself running out of dirty looks and reactions to give."

So says Gary Kresca, sophomore, star of 'Dark Deeds at Swan's Place (or Never Trust a Tattooed Sailor)'. Judging from the reaction of the audiences on November 19 and 20 at Century Center's Recital Hall, 'Dark Deeds' was another great success for Riley's award winning Thespians.

Although the beginning of both the first and second acts tended to drag a bit, 'Dark Deeds' was a generally fast-paced American melodrama. The jokes flew as the story of Bertha Birthright and her problems with villain Montague Leech unfolded.

The cast, for the most part, was excellent. Gary Kresca took the lead role of Montague Leech and brought it to life. He made incredibly corny jokes and danced, snored, and spit his way into the hearts of the enthusiastic Century Center crowd.

Jackie Hildebrand, too, was superb as Carlotta Castinet de San Diego (the she-wolf of Monterey). She handled a complex Spanish accent beautifully and was very credible as the Latin spitfire. "I liked Carlotta more than most of the characters I've played," she says. "She was exciting."

Debbie Stroop and Bill Flesh were both uproarious in their roles as Mother McGoof and Rawhide. Bill as the not too bright

cowboy, and Debbie as Leech's decaying old servant were responsible for much of the laughter ringing out at the Recital Hall.

Phil Hohulin seems a bit type-cast in Riley productions after portraying the sensitive Paul in last year's 'Carnival' and the similar Jack Swan in 'Dark Deeds.' Type-casting does not mean bad, though, as Phil put in an excellent performance as the sappy Jack.

Emily Merriman seemed miscast in 'Dark Deeds.' Normally a vibrant, bouncy actress, she seemed a bit subdued as the orphan Bertha Birthright. She did have a good time, though, especially with the lively audiences. "The best thing about acting is playing to a great audience. Especially with a melodrama, an actor needs audience reaction, and we sure got it."

Olios were presented as short bits of entertainment between the acts. These mostly musical interludes were a bit confusing, especially a dialogue scene between Emily Merriman and Gary Kresca. It took most of the audience a while to figure out that these interludes had nothing to do with the plot.

The scenery, props, and lighting all fit in perfectly with the context of the show. Strobe lights highlighted the effect of a chase scene.

Under the always superb direction of John H.B. Kauss, the Riley Thespians (who won numerous honors at last year's state conference) provided an excellent evening of entertainment with 'Dark Deeds.' Who has seen the wind? Only the lucky who went to Century Center for a great show.



OLD MOTHER McGOOF (Debbie Stroop) slaves to make her 3c a day.



MONTAGUE LEECH (Gary Kresca, right) plans to shanghai some unlucky lad with the help of Captain Bermuda (Bart Goldberg).

Your Thoughts

What was your reaction upon hearing the news of Mr. Ell's resignation?



Mark Bauer

I was not surprised, simply because I felt that Mr. Ell could not handle the students at Riley. I'm not trying to take anything away from Mr. Ell, but some people just don't have the authority to handle delicate problems like those at Riley. Most of the fault should go to the central administration because they did nothing to back-up Mr. Ell.

Caroline Nemeth

I was surprised but not affected by the resignation in any way. There are many problems with teacher/student relations and school attendance. Mr. Ell just couldn't cope with the situation.



BOY OF THE '80's



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Riley's positive aspects

Last week, in a letter to central school administrators, Riley Principal Phillip Ell asked to be removed from his current position and reassigned to a teaching position. The result: more bad publicity for Riley as the local news media jumped on the story and quickly cited discipline problems as the major factor in Mr. Ell's decision.

Bad publicity is certainly nothing new at Riley, though. Ever since the Jackson/Riley merger in 1975 it seems the building has been under the constant surveillance of news hounds. When something goes wrong, the television cameras move in; it never fails. Once again Riley is in the spotlight and once again Riley looks bad, real bad.

No one can deny that the why's and why-nots of Mr. Ell's requested reassignment were newsworthy. But from the recent publicity of both the newspaper and the television stations one might think Riley were a shambles. The South Bend Tribune headline over the story concerning Ell's requested reassignment read "Discipline a concern/Riley principal wants out."

James Whitcomb Riley High School; what kind of high school has it become? To many people Riley is a very poor example of what a high school should be, certainly the worst in the school corporation disciplinewise and the publicity that Riley receives only confirms these beliefs. Some feel Riley is a blemish to the school corporation simply because almost any news associated with Riley is negative. What about Riley's positive aspects? One never hears about the quality programs (speech, debate and drama are some good examples) that abound here at Riley. No, we just read about the discipline problems that exist here.

Beyond a doubt, Riley has its problems, and Mr. Ell's request for reassignment has brought these troubles to the surface. But every school faces certain dilemmas and every school must deal with them. At a time when Riley High School is in such a state of confusion it is important that everyone, the students especially, realize that while the school does have its troubles, good things do exist here.