

# SCHOLASTIC NOTEBOOK

John Dover

Mum's the word.

That's the word at Cardinal Mooney High School. And, it's only a three-letter word.

Four-letter words can create problems.

If a point can be made without using four letter words, why use them?

Surely, considering the number of words in the English language, there are more than enough adequate substitutes for that one particular four-letter word, which we must admit, is appearing more and more frequently in the everyday language of youth than it did 10 or 20 years ago.

It was a four-letter word which football player Tony Shaw chose to use at a recent Mooney student assembly which triggered more media action on Mooney's front door steps than the good brothers and sisters at the Maiden Lane school had ever seen before.

Shaw, who won a full scholarship to the University of Wisconsin for his gridiron exploits as a halfback for coach Tony Merola, was suspended as the result of a culmination of a series of suspensions and school rules violations, according to Mooney principal Brother Aubert Harrigan.

And, in a letter to Shaw's mother, which McCuller made public, Mooney school disciplinarian Brother John Walsh wrote that the All-Greater Rochester football all-star had completed 38 detentions and two

suspensions during his four-year career at Mooney.

None, however, were apparently administered during the fall seasons when Shaw was scoring football points, which gives the youngster at least one small point in his favor.

Brother Harrigan, in another letter to Shaw's mother, said her son would not be allowed back in school, but would be given private exams, in July, and a certificate of graduation, if he passes.

He also would not be permitted to participate in Mooney graduation exercises.

Brother Harrigan said the suspension decision was made by a discipline board of eight staff and faculty members. Neither Shaw nor his mother were present at the meeting.

Shaw (as this was written) had enlisted the legal services of attorney David C. Leven, and apparently the situation was headed for the State Supreme Court.

Shaw was contending that he was deprived of due process because he was not given a hearing before the school's

discipline board which suspended him, and he claims the suspension was illegal because he was exercising his First Amendment rights to free speech.

Mum's the word at Mooney. Coaches, refraining from comment, refer reporters to the front office because they say it's an administrative matter. The office refers reporters to Mooney school attorney George T. White.

Editor's note: Since the writing of this column, Shaw and Mooney reached a compromise whereby Shaw will take his final exams, and receive a diploma if he passes, but will not attend the final Mass. or graduation ceremonies.

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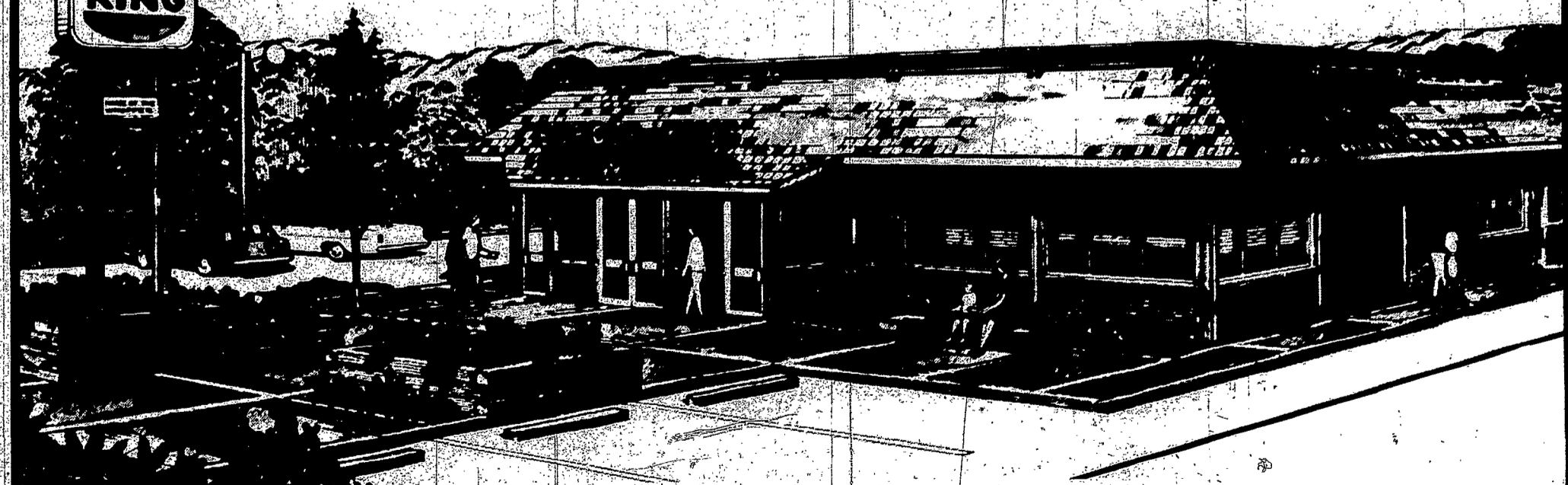
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