

und Rap Around Rap Around Rap Around Rap



By MARTHA UNGATE
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If students were only aware of what their rights are when it comes to freedom of the press and student publications, they might take a more active part in their school newspaper and build it up to be something respected, worthwhile and widely read. When a school has a newspaper like this, it can be used as an effective tool in bringing about changes desired by the students.

High school students have the right guaranteed them by the constitution to print anything they feel would interest today's readers and is timely — provided the article is not obscene, libelous, or disruptive concerning school activities.

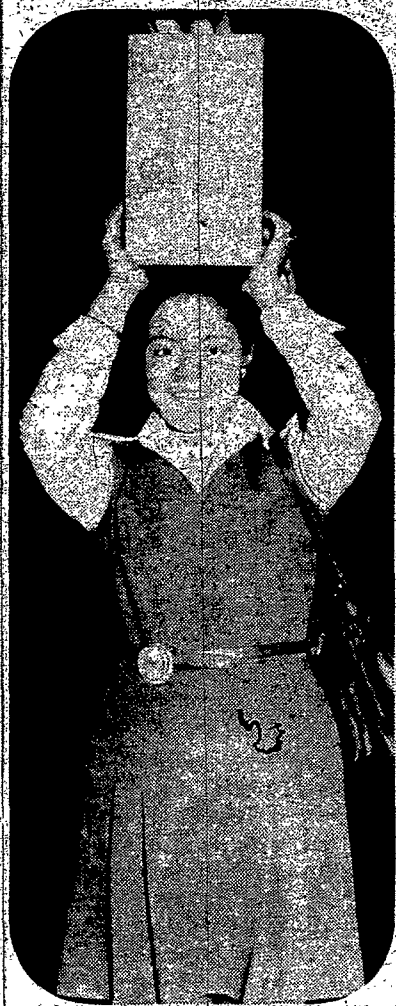
If school publications contain material which obeys the three points listed above, no advisor, teacher or school administrator can take action to prevent the printing of such publications. They may not agree with what the students have to say, but they must agree with the fact that the students have the right to say it.

On Oct. 2, 1973, a ruling was

handed down by the U.S. District Court applying First Amendment rights protecting journalists on official, in-school newspapers from prior restraint by school officials. The ruling stated: "The School Corporation shall not prohibit publication of articles in official school newspapers on the basis of the subject matter or terminology used unless the article or terminology used is obscene, libelous or disrupts school activities."

It is true that a lack of student interest can be blamed for a conservative, social school newspaper, but how are the students supposed to take an interest, when they are uneducated about the facts of student freedom in the press and good journalism.

The supplying of funds for school publications by the administration is definite evidence of support, but this is not enough. Education of the student in constitutional rights of the freedom of the press, and good solid courses in journalism is what is needed. This is the only way that students can learn to build a strong, effective newspaper, exercising their rights to voice their opinions.



Candy Sale

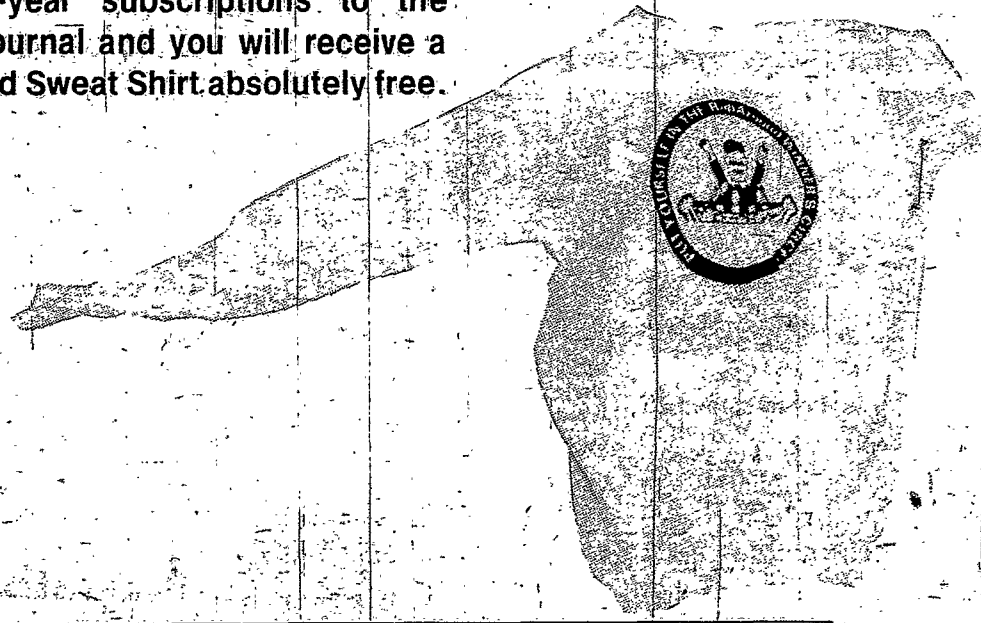
Mercy's candy drive got underway on Friday, March 12. Senior Jean VerHoeven, enthusiastically gets into the swing of selling her candy in hopes of winning one of the many sales prizes like the stereo being unpacked by Linda and Sue Hahn. The school's drive will end on March 29. To order candy call 288-7100.

Photos by Ben Susso

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