

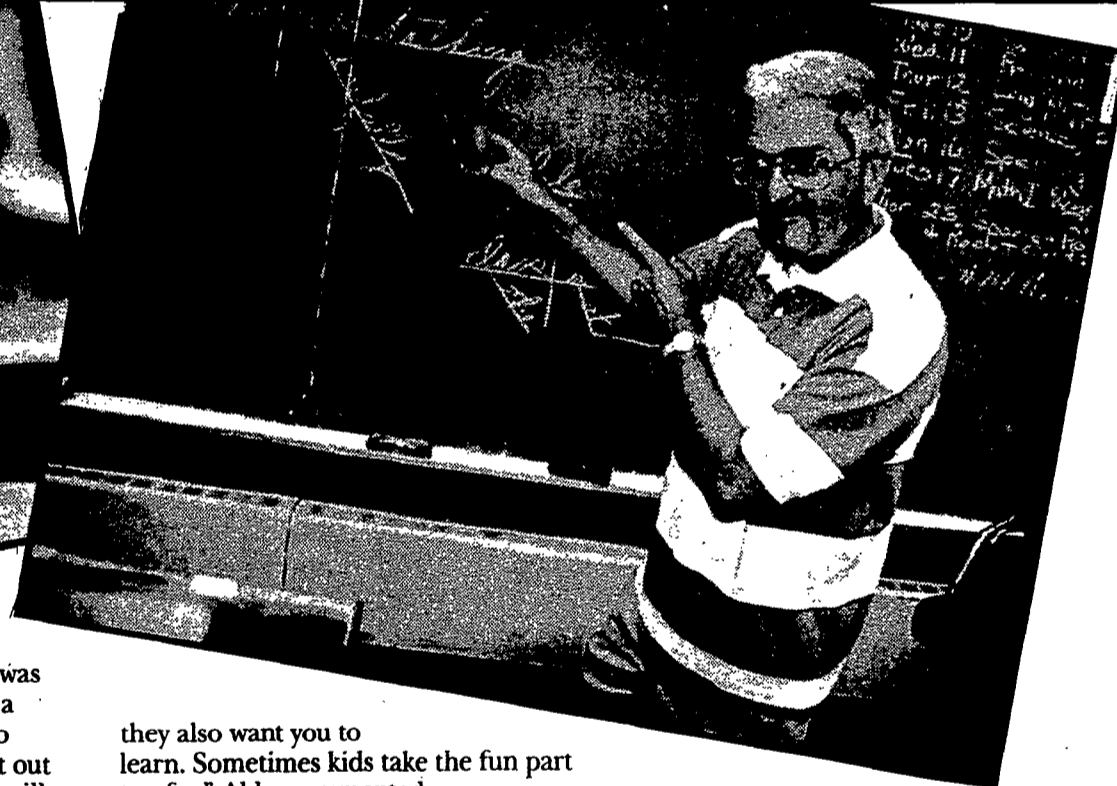
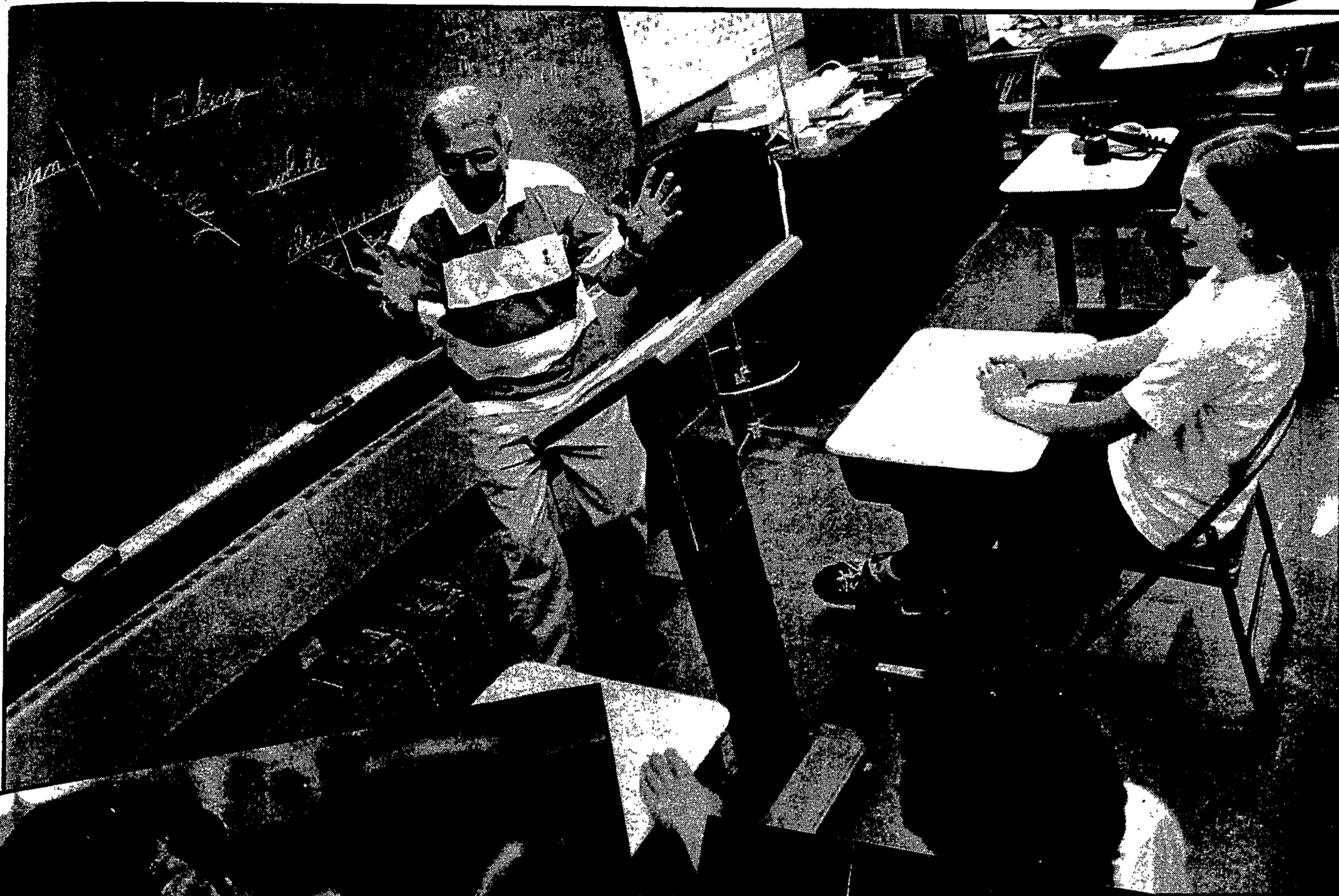
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grade teacher.

"Whenever I go there, she asks how school's going and how my teachers are, and what I've been doing after school. And I ask her how her classes are going," Abby remarked.

As a teacher, Abby said, Wilcox "was awesome. She would come up with a bunch of ways to get something into your head. She never said, 'Figure it out yourself.' I have some teachers who will say, 'It's just common sense.' Well, if I ask a question, then it's *not* common sense for me."

Peter and Lauren, also, think back several years when asked which teachers have left the strongest impressions on them. Both voiced fond memories of their kindergarten teacher, Kathleen Peters, who currently serves as principal of St. Michael's School in Newark.

"One time, my friends and I accidentally broke one of her chalkboards," Lauren recalled. "Even to this day, I'm still amazed at how calm (Peters) was. I was more upset than she was."

"Mrs. Peters, I liked her a lot," Peter said. "I thought the most fun I had was in kindergarten."

Abby acknowledged that many teachers successfully inject humor into their curriculum. However, she pointed out, those same instructors must also draw lines in order to keep their classrooms under control.

"They might want to have fun, but

they also want you to learn. Sometimes kids take the fun part too far," Abby commented.

"Once in a while they should lighten things up to keep the kids awake," James suggested. However, he added that "they've got to be real serious and let you know when it's time to get down to work."

Unfortunately, Abby said, students at her high school often don't respond kindly when a teacher attempts to buckle

down.

"Every single day, kids totally put down (teachers). There's disrespect in the classroom — talking back, yelling and swearing," she said.

Peter in Waterloo is concerned he might encounter similar abuse of teachers when he begins high school. He said he has heard "there's a certain lack of respect (for teachers) in high school, a lot of back-talking. But I don't think that should be accepted anywhere. All students should be responsible."

When such attitudes arise, James

Teacher David Mulvey keeps things lively for eighth-graders Peter Eshenour and Lauren Weber at St. Mary's School, Waterloo.

noted that Harris, his math instructor, invokes a saying that usually gets his students' attention: "If you don't care, then I don't care."

James was also quick to point out that deep down, Harris isn't as unfeeling as that statement would lead one to think.

"He's kind of hard-nosed, but he really cares for kids," James said.

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