

Student forum on teaching techniques

Education at St. Mary's College High School was the topic of a recent student forum conducted at the Berkeley school. The students discussed the advantages and disadvantages of attending a private school, the individualized teaching techniques, independent study and personalized education.

Mike Paladin, 17, junior class president: "Our system is different from last year. Now we're picking all of our classes. The student has a choice in whatever he wants, and it is very successful. Our education is very individualized now and whatever you want to go into, the preparation is here. It's basically left up to the student to do the work on his own and learn."

Jerome Jacobs, 15, sophomore: "The most important change to me is the way it's set up. You can have two or three hour breaks where you can study or do whatever you want. By giving us a chance to make choices now, we can make a choice later in life that will benefit us. If we make a mistake now, it isn't too serious."

Dan Gray, 16, junior: "The way the program is set up now the teacher can teach on an emotional level with the students. I think the advantages to that are really great because the students get in personally with the teacher and the teacher knows the capabilities of the students. The student gets an education more than strictly by the book."

Steve Llamas, 17, senior class president: "I think the independent study program is the best. If a teacher doesn't offer a certain course, the student can go to him and ask for it. He'll give us books and we get credit for that also."

Nathan Thorne, 18, senior,



Dan Gray



Nathan Thorne



Steve Llamas



Jerome Jacobs



Mike Paladin



Howard Jackson

work or they won't do it. They're the ones who will fail, but they would probably fail in public school also. They need the extra push and it's not given here to the extent they need it."

Dan: "One disadvantage since the school is so small, is you see a lot of the differences more easily. It's just like one big family where everybody finds out about everyone else. In public schools, the teachers are quite hesitant about communicating with the students on a active or emotional level. We do have a good relationship with the faculty."

Nathan: "I think the advantages that we do have now over many public school is the fact that we are small and private and that the Christian Brothers have the winery to support us. The faculty has been able to experiment with the educational system with a more community-type thing. That's not to say that the public schools aren't doing that, but the public schools are funded through the Federal and state governments which is one way that has more bureaucracy which makes it a bit harder to get quality education. There have been millions of changes since I went to public school, five years ago. The public school is probably the school of the future. It's just that I think we have developed a little bit faster because we're a little bit smaller and were separate from them. They will come, too."

Jerome: "Another disadvantage is that, because we're small, we don't have a lot of people and we lose out because we can't appreciate certain things. I think that in public school there are all different kinds of people and if we had that we would learn different type of values. We have the basic values of love and unity, but we don't have all of the different values."

student body president: "As far as the entire school is concerned, the first basic difference is that we have the option to go here or not to go to public school. Since we support the school, the teachers have to cater to the desires of our parents and to because they are the Christian Brothers of California, Christian Brothers so they can create the institute that they want. What I see as being creative at St. Mary's is a much more individualized education for the student who has a deficiency or remedial type of thing. I think that there are three kinds of students. The student that needs help with a deficiency, it may be a developmental kind of thing that can be solved easily; the student, that no matter where he goes to high school he is going to be okay, and then there's the student who just doesn't care and is really apathetic."

Dan: "We have all three types here, every creed, race and intelligence. We have the slow, the exceptionally bright student and the average

struggling student in the classes so that each class draws from every percentage of the school. There's no tracking here."

Steve: "The homework assignments have changed also. It used to be that they'd give us homework one day and expect it to be turned in the next day, but now they give us weekly projects so that we have a few days to work on it and hand it in. With this method, we have time to do it in our own time and not cram it in one night."

Nathan: "I think that the most important thing developing now is the counseling department which has picked up some new members this year and are developing at a phenomenal rate. Because the school is run by the Christian Brothers, you can't get away from some kind of pastoral counseling. Some people would frown on that in that you're getting the strictest kind of morals and Christianity thrown at you, but it's not true."

"In fact, I think that

through history, priests and clergymen have been known as and have the image of being good counselors and that holds true here."

Jerome: "I think that the priests and Christian Brothers are a part of the school that people don't understand. When they give religion class, it's not straight out of the Bible. It's more like a social thing where we talk about such things as the draft, the "People's Park" riot and other things. People thought that was bad, but if you look at what really caused the riot, you can see why the people did that."

Nathan: "The brothers have a house in Saint Helena that has a couple of Brothers that live there. They run the retreat and this is the first time we've had co-ed retreats with girls from Presentation High School. This is one area where our program is different. St. Mary's is all part of a religion program that doesn't necessarily bring the Bible into all matters, but there's always the biblical overtone. They're

always showing relations to the Bible. It's not bad, it's just part of the education and you can take it as a strict religion and faith or as academic."

Howard Jackson, 14, freshman: "It's a big change from grammar school. It's kind of a religion history that you learn about. Now we move on and cope with what's going on now. They teach us how to handle morals and how to handle certain situations and govern our own lives. They give us a code to follow. The religion history that you learn about, now we have to handle them in a different way. We don't have any books, we talk about different things such as morals, and humanitarian and legal rights."

Dan: "I think the main difference between our school and public schools is that the public schools have so many people to answer to. The Christian Brothers have more leeway and they work on a deficit each year. One of the main reasons they stay in is that the winery is doing such good business. The system here has so much to offer,

courses, credits, night classes, morning classes and so on."

Howard: "The one advantage here is that you have so many different things to do. There are so many extracurricular activities outside that occupy your time. There is so much free time available the way the classes are scheduled now and this stops school from being so boring and tedious."

Jerome: "I went to public school and it's different. At Berkeley High School they now have five sub schools in one and that's the way to program a school so that students can do many things."

Nathan: "The basic difference I found, and it's an important difference, is that in public school, there may be some three thousand students and here we have 500 students. If one gets thrown into jail the student from the public school may ask for help from a teacher. The teacher would probably tell him you're on your own, buddy. Here, the Brother would come down and get you out. Because, as much

as the term is over used, we do have a community here which is tighter than most people would suspect. It's an important facet of the life that we lead. I think the fact that the teachers live here at the school and opens up the weekend to us makes for a different type of education."

Steve: "One thing that is different about public schools is that we were always lectured at. We couldn't express our ideas on what we felt. Here they respect us for what we think and they in turn make us think and don't tell us the answers."

Mike: "I think private schools are better because there's more interrelating and that's what education really is. The Brothers here interrelate with the students. It's impossible for that to happen in a public school, but when you have such a large student body, you can't get in all of what's necessary."

Steve: "The only disadvantage is that people aren't forced to do work here. Some people have to be forced to do

will perform at H S Lodships on the Berkeley Marina Friday and Saturday at 9 p.m. and Sunday at 8 p.m. He will perform with his 21-piece band.

A series of folk guitar classes for teens begins today at Montclair Recreation Center, taught by Genny Haley. Fee for the 10-week course is \$8. Bring your own guitar.

Two English bands, King Crimson and Fairport Convention, will share the bill with San Francisco's own Jalao at the Winterland Arena Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. Lights will be provided by Heavy Water.



Joni Mitchell

Joni Mitchell flawless In concert at Berkeley

By DORIS G. WORSHAM
Tribune Teen Writer

A singers' singer would be an apt description of the young Canadian songwriter-singer Joni Mitchell who presented a flawless concert last Saturday evening at the Berkeley Community Theater.

Miss Mitchell, in her first appearance in the Bay Area in quite a while, is an artist who has perfected her craft. Her craft is music and she knows it well.

For more than two hours, Miss Mitchell completely enthralled her audience (and that's rare for a Berkeley audience) with her lyrical, flowing and melodious tunes, old and new.

Her musical stage presence was still there on some of her older hits such as the rollicking "Big Yellow Taxi," the

moody "Both Sides Now," and "That Song About the Midway."

New Joni Mitchell tunes were introduced during the evening, during which she played the piano, dulcimer, and acoustic guitar. Her rich, lilting, and full voice was a pleasure to hear on "For the Roses," and "Oh Honey You Turn Me On I'm A Radio," which she said would be her next single release.

The one fault that Joni Mitchell has, is repetition. Many of her songs tend to sound the same and run together so that the listener cannot tell them apart.

The senior class of Fremont High School in Oakland will sponsor a "Snow Trip" Saturday starting at 5 a.m. and ending at 9 p.m. The trip will be held at Plavada, Kingsville Ski Area in Northern California. Tickets are \$9 for singles and \$17 for a couple.

The American Field Service Chapter at Richmond High School will sponsor a benefit potluck dinner to be held in the school cafeteria tomorrow evening from 6:30 to 8:30. The event will help raise funds to send two Richmond High students abroad this summer as part of the Students Abroad program of AFS. The cost of the dinner is \$1, \$1.50 and 50 cents for children under 12 years.

Students of Skyline High School will sponsor an "Educational Fair" Saturday at Montclair Park, Mountain Blvd. and Moraga Road in Oakland from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The fair will include such activities as oral history classes, ethnic dancing, arts and crafts displays, music, and exhibits. The free event is sponsored by students who participate in the "School Within the School," an alternative education curriculum.

The senior class of Oakland Technical High School will present musical groups, the Vosomics, the Delfinos, and 8 Billion Strong at a rock concert to be held at the school auditorium, Saturday evening at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$1 in advance and \$1.50 at the door.

TEEN Age!

Oakland 20c Tribune Wed., Mar. 15, 1972 E 25

What's doing... where

The students of Acalanes High School in Lafayette will present the Broadway musical hit "Oliver" tomorrow, Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. The cast will include 125 students in the musical based on Charles Dickens' classic tale of "Oliver Twist." Tickets are \$1.50 for adults and \$1.25 for students.

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Cyd Kauftheil, left, and Lindsay Spiller appear in musical 'Oliver.'

Milton Williams, director of the University of California Department of Vocal Music at Berkeley will be the guest soloist at a concert to be held at De La Salle High School, 1130 Winton Drive, Concord, tomorrow evening at 8 p.m. The program will feature selections by Ygnacio Valley's Madrigal Singers and the Concert Choir, also of Ygnacio Valley High School. Admission is \$1 for adults and 50 cents for children.

"Asian Perspective" is the title of a program to be presented in the Oakland High School auditorium Friday at 8 p.m. Chinese folk dances and a Filipino Pole Dance will be presented. Demonstrations of Gung Fu and Kendo are also scheduled along with entertainers playing the Kot, a 13-string Japanese harp. In

addition, displays of Chinese brush painting and an Asian fashion show will be included in the program.

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