

Advocate

Mayo High School
Rochester, MN 55901

Letter to the students

High school is a farce

To the Editor:

Sometime late tonight, the high school experiences of the nearly 600 Mayo seniors will be recalled once more, and then those moments will be retold and reviewed, re-examined and interpreted, complemented, celebrated, congratulated, and finally packaged and distributed between the covers of a diploma.

The words spoken tonight will seem different than the words of one year ago or one year from now, but the careful listener knows that the message is always the same: "Let us not be sad that we will lose each other, but rather let us rejoice that we did once find each other..." What bunk! It's like watching The Wizard of Oz pin the medal on the lion — the language and the symbols are just as phony.

For me, and others like me, the really underlying truths of high school life, no matter how distasteful, must be heard over even the most desirable lies. My message is not one you will like to hear, but it is one you must hear; because the ugly truths of high school lie deep within us all, and my voice should only echo the voice that speaks inside of you.

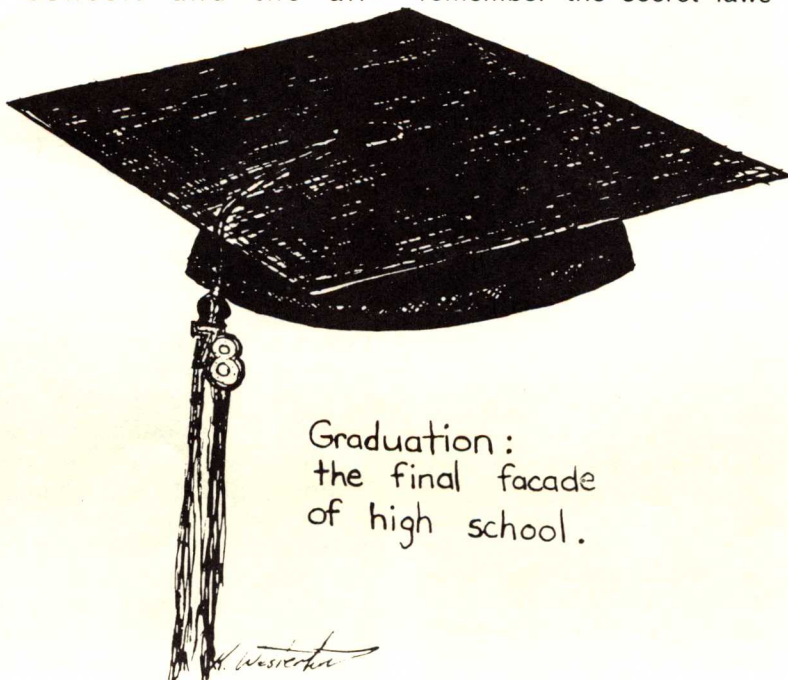
For me, high school has not meant the "joy of finding each other," but rather the disappointment of not doing so. My memory of Mayo High School is not penetrated with a spirit of friendship and unity, but it is filled with thoughts of disharmony and individualism.

Ten years from now, I will not remember the glory of Mayo's athletic victories nearly as much as the overblown desire to win. I will remember coaches talking gravely about beating John Marshall as if a loss would bring down an empire. I will remember the rewards of high school competition — letters, trophies, glory, dominance, status — as having little to do with the personal victory of physical fulfillment, sports' greatest award. Yes, my memories of sports at Mayo will only serve to remind me of the intense, destructive competition; competition that left both the sport and sportsmen in its wake.

School spirit, though not evil in itself, will likely be a source of sour memories for me. For each time I bring back the images of the

Spartan Spirits or cheerleaders, I will also recall images of the false pride, the conceit and the all-

Along with some happy reflections of Mayo's educational standards, I will remember the secret laws



important status drowned out by the cheers and covered by the pasted-on smiles. And, with such thoughts, I will remember school spirit not as a source of unity but only as a front used by the "in" crowd.

that governed the classroom behavior. First, it was known that because of priorities dictated by the "outside world," each student was obligated to receive the best grades possible through any available means. Second,

each student had to appear to be just exactly average. Violation of this unwritten law resulted in an appropriate classification "brain" or "no-mind" — and subsequent removal from the game. This law applies to all students regardless of individual ability or aspirations.

But, the memories that will no doubt haunt me most of all through the years concern a part of high school I shall always hate with a passion — high school social life and social contacts. Oh, the horrors of high school compatibility! I will always shudder at the thought of the constant flow of meaningless phrases volleyed between the sexes every moment of every day of my high school career, until I began to wonder whether the facades were thinning or growing thicker. Nor shall I forget the hundreds of hours students wasted in front of mirrors with combs and brushes and make-up in hand, as if a hair out of place or a touch too much make-up would upset the natural balance. Nor shall my tired mind soon be freed from thoughts of homecoming, prom, the obligatory spring tan or the clothing game (conformity with just enough originality to be noticeable without seeming pompous). The more I attempt to understand it all the more absurd it all seems. Yes, the "sweet" social life of high school may end up to be my most bitter memory of all.

Such will be and such are my recollections of the class of '78. It was a class in which

superficiality was the rule and genuine, truthful expression was the exception. It was a class united under the intellectually and socially crippling goal of mediocrity. Everyone was to be totally and exactly, wholly and undeniably average. It was a class in which every member was either too smart or not smart enough, too pretty or not pretty enough, or too athletic or not athletic enough. It was a class, some would say, of 600 individuals and no less. It was a class, I say, of 600 individuals and no more. It was a class — like any other.

Tonight, such words will not be used to describe my high school and my experiences. No, tonight we will be treated with skillfully written lines that tell of the sincerity, the personality and the cooperation that never was. But then commencement is just the ultimate facade; a final desperate attempt to gather a scattered class under an imaginary blanket of unity. It will be the same desperate attempt employed three years before on the same people at the preliminary meeting of the class. So, as high school began, so it will end, for me and the class of 1978. But next year a new group of about 600 students — the proud class of 1981 — will fill our lockers and our desks; and they will relive the seemingly joyful experiences of our yesterdays, only to discover the painful memories of our tomorrows.

Name Withheld Upon Request
Grade 12

Mayo globetrotters hit four corners in AFS travels

by TERRI HERMAN

The wanderings of most students at Mayo consist mainly of trips to the lake, South Dakota or maybe Florida with their parents. This year, four Mayo students are joining the ranks of world travelers. They are: Sandi Hansen, Paul Lofgren, Randy Lord and Dave Williams, all juniors.

Sandi Hansen will be leaving for Japan in early June. She will travel first to San Francisco for orientation, then spend four or

choice was Denmark, her second Japan.

Sandi found out she was going to Japan about five weeks ago. She received more information on what city, and her family in the past two weeks. Her first reaction was one of shock. "The first thing I thought was 'how was I ever going to be able to talk to anyone, I can't speak any Japanese!'" said Sandi. "Then it also hit me that I was going to be living in a completely different culture than what I am accustomed to here in the States."

Sandi feels her biggest problems will be learning the language, school, and packing only 44 lbs. of luggage.

Paul Lofgren will be off for Cali, Colombia in June. He will spend the summer living with a family in Cali — a city of over one million people located on the western coast of Colombia.

Paul applied for the AFS (American Field Service) summer program after Mr. Browne, an active AFS member, told him about the program. Paul enjoys traveling and thought it about going to Colombia at first, but the more he learned



SANDI HANSEN

five days in Tokyo, and then on to Tokushima, a port city of 223,000.

Sandi will be leaving with a family and attending school while in Japan. She applied for the AFS summer exchange program last fall. Her first

Paul Harvey speaks

by PAT O'NEILL
Staff Writer

On May 11 ABC commentator Paul Harvey made his first visit to Rochester, and was warmly received by the 2,000 or so people who turned out for his presentation at the Mayo Civic Auditorium.

The hour-long speech covered such topics as today's energy problems, government restrictions on food and drugs, pornography and the situation in Washington. He spoke of today's youth and predicted they would become the strictest parents in history. Harvey praised the medical complex in Rochester, and in particular, St Mary's and Methodist Hospital for their cost sharing and specialty-splitting methods. Harvey drew applause for his views on the welfare problems:

"What Ralph Nader should do is investigate the 13 million Americans who are simply lazy and have lead in their posteriors!". Mr. Harvey spoke highly of democracy, and reminded the crowd that he himself was 1/4 as old as this nation. He claimed "What's messing up page one of all the newspapers ISN'T senility... It's ACNE!". Harvey added that each person has a responsibility to his/her job. "Self-government without self-discipline is self-defeating!". Harvey appeared through arrangements made by the Rochester Optimists Club. His newspaper columns are syndicated world-wide, and he is heard on more than 1,000 radio stations around the world on the American Broadcasting Company. (Locally on KWEB radio at 7:35 AM and 12 noon.)

(Continued On Page 3)

Editorial

Caps and gowns: Old but not optional

Traditions die hard, and there is a tradition at Mayo and other schools which should have died years ago. However, the tradition of mandatory caps and gowns at the graduation ceremonies is still with us.

This requirement of caps and gowns has two primary drawbacks, but either one is good reason to abolish the policy.

First, caps and gowns at graduation are just another symbol of conformity in an institution which is drowning in conformity. Abolition of the cap-and-gown requirement could be a major move in the direction of individualism in the schools. However, if the rule is not changed, this conformity will continue to hinder the educational process.

The second major weakness of the cap-and-gown requirement is the cost one must pay to rent the graduation dress. To some, the rental fee of \$5.50 may not seem to be a tremendous burden. But, to others, this cost could be quite cumbersome. If one is not disturbed simply by paying the fee, then one should at least be concerned about the principle. A graduating senior is being forced to pay money to participate in his or her public high school's graduation ceremonies. If the student refuses to pay the rental fee — whether out of financial concerns or philosophy on conformity — he or she will be denied the right — not the privilege or luxury — of participating in the graduation ceremonies, a highlight of high school.

This obviously archaic tradition of being required to wear caps and gowns must be abolished. One will likely hear that the students should satisfy their parents, because the graduation ceremonies are held mostly for them. Bullshit! The students, have completed the required work and they now can graduate. Therefore, the individual students should make the decision of graduation dress, and there should not be a forced rule.

Opinion

Senseless killing a “whale” of a mistake

by CREEP MANKIN

One whale is killed every fourteen minutes. Most people will never have the chance to see one of the great whales and the chances lessens every 14 minutes.

The industries have destroyed the herds that once roamed the seas. Senseless overhunting has brought the humpback to the threshold of extinction. Whales are gentle, awesome creatures, trusting even man who has killed off herds for use in margarine, pet food, shoe polish, and lipstick with unforgiveable arrogance.

To kill an animal to extinction is not only denying the animal of it's life, but upsetting the balance each animal maintains in the environment.

The two countries with sizeable whaling fleets, Japan and the Soviet Union stubbornly hang onto poorly maintained whaling ships. Rising costs make replacement of the ships out of the question. It's now a question of: will the whaling fleets fall apart before the whales become extinct?

The Greenpeace foundation has set out to save the whales from extinction. A 25-year old mountain climber scaled the 110-story Sears Tower in Chicago and posted a banner which said, “Stop Killing the Whales” in Japanese and Russian, it also carried the name of the

Greenpeace Foundation. The connection between Sears Tower and the whale is being the world's biggest animal and the world's largest building. This is one way Greenpeace has chosen to make their goal known to the public.

You may wonder why we in Minnesota should worry about some animal thousands of miles away in the sea. Even though whales don't directly affect us they do indirectly. Much could be learned about these animals, which would aid in research, but most of all, to kill off a species of animals such as the whale is losing that animal forever. This is not only true in whales, but dolphins, seals, and our national bird, the bald eagle. Modern technology could find substitutes for the whale in the products it's used in, it's only a matter of substituting the whale source.

Whales would cruise the seas virtually unmolested where it not for man. Unfortunately, man kills whales with the same dedication and thoroughness with which he destroys all wildlife of economic importance, this can not go on.

If you'd like to write for more information on this project, or to voice your opinion, write:

**Greenpeace and
Fund for Animals
P.O. Box 35151
Minneapolis, MN 55435**



by PAT O'NEILL
Staff Writer

Take six dedicated musicians who have toured constantly for the last few years, and who have produced an album that was better than it's predecessor each time, and you'd have the Marshall Tucker Band. With the release of “Southern Country Rock” band today. Marshall Tucker never sounded more versatile, either. “Change is gonna come” sounds like it belongs in the soundtrack to a James Bond movie! And, “I'll be loving you” has the potential to become another “Heard it in a love song”, the group's first big single in 1977. The touring has obviously helped the band considerably. “Together Forever” became a million seller one week after it first appeared in the stores. Hard work pays off.

Jefferson Starship Soars with hits

by JEFF KOCHIE
Staff Writer

Back in the 1960s, San Francisco produced hundreds of bands. Some, like the Grateful Dead, are still going strong. Others, like Moby Grape, have become a part of rock music history.

Perhaps no group represented the San Francisco sound better than the Jefferson Airplane. When the Jefferson Airplane self-destructed five years ago, it appeared as if the group would become just a memory to its fans.

But, singer Grace Slick, guitarist Paul Kantner and, later, singer Marty Balin regrouped with new musicians and a new name: Jefferson Starship.

Like Jefferson Starship's previous LP's, its latest, “Earth”, blends softer, ballad-type material such as “Count On Me” with high-powered rock. With six singers in the band, they can lay down harmonies as well as anyone, and they have plenty of instrumental talent to support them.

The material on this album is more subdued than the music in previous efforts, but there are a few exceptions. On “Skateboard,” guitarist Craig Chaquico lets loose with some hot electric guitar work. “All Night Long” recalls the old Jefferson Airplane sound, and the results soar.

Editorial

Liberal education College's best offer

Of the close to 600 students graduating from Mayo High School this school year, more than half will enter college either this summer or in September. And, of these new college students, some will seek a liberal arts education and degree.

The ratio of students seeking a liberal education this year to those exploring a more vocational or job-oriented education likely is considerably less than only ten years ago.

Today, many students considering liberal arts are looking quite closely at the potential benefits from and value of such a college education. And, it seems that too frequently students abandon the liberal arts path and decide to travel a route which may capture them higher paying jobs quicker.

Could these decisions leading less toward a liberal education and more toward a vocational education be damaging to the students, and to the future of the nation? Actually, only each individual and his or her future can really answer the question.

However, several important points should be studied to understand the importance of a liberal education to students and a nation. This liberal education is suffering increasing challenges from trade schools, which prove to be more and more enticing to high school graduates.

First, we should ask ourselves what are the major purposes of a liberal education, and, for that matter, of higher education. Some persons might say that the important outcomes of a liberal education are the ability to think clearly, to communicate clearly and to understand oneself, others and the complex world surrounding us. Others might declare that higher education should allow a person to earn more money than someone who only graduated from high school. But, the majority of knowledgeable people would tend to say that higher education, particularly a liberal arts education, should enhance one's appreciation and understanding of the world and to make a person think in a logical, organized manner.

Sometimes, however, clear thinking and an understanding of the world will not capture good jobs, and this can result in a skeptical opinion of a liberal education's value. It's true that some people who hold graduate liberal arts degrees work at jobs that could just as well be done by only a high school graduate. But, can the value of an education be measured only in economic terms (which has been the case recently)? No, it shouldn't.

Actually, there are advantages in having a liberal education when a person enters the work force. Persons with a liberal education can often adapt better to different jobs — many being high paying or, perhaps more important, enjoyable — than persons who studied a very narrow field of work, which could very well become obsolete. Liberal arts graduates have been taught to think, and this is undoubtedly a help in almost all jobs.

A third major point that should be considered is the satisfaction resulting from a liberal education. Statistics probably are not available on such a matter, but liberal arts graduates likely feel more satisfied with themselves and their education than graduates from other fields. Liberal arts graduates have developed into keep observers of the world, and therefore they are capable of observing and understanding society and life better than most other people. This ability to observe and understand is important in preserving democracy and maintaining justice.

Of the Mayo graduates who do enter college and do pursue a liberal education, hopefully they will not succumb to the temptation of a high salary and transfer into another educational field. The world needs deep-thinking people who are willing to sacrifice a high salary for a greater understanding of life.

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AFS continued

(from Page One)

sounded like a good idea and picked up an application from Miss Purmort, the advisor for Mayo's student AFS club. His first choices were Germany and Sweden.

Two-and-a-half weeks ago, Paul was working on a term paper at the Public Library when he got a phone call. It was his sister saying "Paul! Mr. Browne found out where you're going to go!"

When he found out his destination, his first reaction was "Colombia? Now tell me where I'm really going?" Paul says he wasn't too enthused

didn't think I'd be accepted. It's fantastic!"



RANDY LORD

Randy is currently attending orientation meetings in the cities once a month to prepare him for his experience. He predicts his biggest problem will be learning the language.

Dave Williams will be spending his senior year in Sweden. He will be staying with Mikeal Lofgren's family and attending school in Gothenburg, a city of 600,000, and the second largest seaport in Sweden.

Dave applied for the ASSE (American Scandinavian Student Exchange) program in the beginning of March at the suggestion of Mike Lofgren, a Swedish student, who is staying with his family.

Dave will be one of fifty Americans participating in the program. He will leave August 5 for Copenhagen, Denmark, where he will spend two weeks of orientation before going on to Sweden.

Although Dave knew in mid-March he'd be going to Sweden, the official letter arrived on May 15. His parents were skeptical about the idea at first, but are now enthusiastic and glad he was accepted.

"I'll miss not participating in senior activities next year," says Dave, "but this trip will be just as great."



DAVE WILLIAMS



"My parents would have rather have seen me go to school full time, but they really like Russ and want me to do what I want to do," Melissa said.

Linda seems to be getting static from Dave's side of the family. "Brothers and side-in-laws. His parents felt it (the marriage) might interfere with his schooling. My parents talked to me; they'd rather see me wait, but it's my life, not theirs, and they realize that."

Their problems, if they have any, will probably consist of what most young couples go through: money and starting a family.

"We don't plan on children for 5 or 7 years," Linda said. "The only thing would be money; extra money. We have a little savings. But we never quarrel."

Melissa feels their main problem would be "being accepted as a married couple at that age." "There's be money problems probably," she said. "But we seldom quarrel, and don't plan on having a family for at least 4 years."

"We both talked it over," Steve said, "and we felt it best to wait awhile before having a family. Our parents said if we needed financial help to come to them, but I don't want to rely on them. That would mean more debts to pay off and if I can't make it on my own, I can't make it at all, ya know?"

As advice for couples who are planning a marriage after high school, Linda and Steve sum it up. "I don't think a lot of high school students are emotionally ready for marriage. There are a lot of things they want to do," Melissa said, "but if they're ready, they shouldn't go into marriage without any source of good income 'cos that normally causes problems. And make sure you really love him."

"Be sure of your feelings," Linda said. "Sit down and think about it. It's not always going to be good, there's bound to be problems like every marriage. You have to be able to handle these problems without blowing up. You have to be considerate of each other's feelings."

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!

They're out of school and married

by SUE GRIFFIN
Staff Writer

No sooner than these Mayo students graduate, they are making their most important decision of their lives — marriage.

Melissa Christenson, Linda Thompson and Steve Meek, all seniors, are tentatively planning to tie the knot with to-be spouses who were once their classmates.

They seem to have thought their decisions over very carefully.

"I'll be attending Alpend Community College in Michigan," said Melissa, "I'll also work part time. We plan on living in an apartment off base." Russ Tuernhold, her fiancé, is in the Air Force. He is a '77 graduate of Mayo.

"I don't need a lot of school for my career," said Linda, "I have a job at the State Hospital in Ames, Iowa, and plan on working with the retarded." Her fiancé, David Shultz, also a '77 graduate of Mayo, is attending college in Ames.

Steve plans on becoming an electrician, and his wife-to-be, another '77 graduate of Mayo, Tami Rinn, is attending Rochester Vo-

Tech. "She's been accepted by the clinic as a Medical Secretary," Steve said, "to help out expenses. We'll probably get a small apartment or rent a house. Maybe move out west and build a house in the mountains after we get a few bucks."

All three don't feel that they've given up their careers. "Earlier I had planned to go to 4 years of college," Melissa said, "I had to turn my other plans away. But I'm doing what I want to do now. As Russ and I grew up together, our plans changed together."

"I don't feel I have given anything up," Linda said, "I'm doing what I always wanted to do." Steve feels the same, stating he had a lot of thoughts about his career, but hasn't given anything up.

Young couples seem to have hassles about an early marriage, and there are no exceptions here.

"They (our parents) have their doubts," Steve said. "Anybody who cares for their kid would want them to have a good life and not start off on the wrong foot. They (Tami's parents) aren't saying much. They're not happy to see her go, but we have their blessings."

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"Parking" — dating???

by PAT O'NEILL
Staff Writer

Since the dawn of civilized dating, (1940 or so — when automobiles became an important part of the custom) a tradition has grown and grown to the point where the term is a household word — "Parking". Though not all teenagers "indulge", certainly all know what the term means. (However, during the countless interviews I conducted in preparation for this article, I was surprised to find so many young ladies who claimed to have no knowledge of the subject. One girl, in response to my question of "What's your favorite parking spot?" pointed out the window at the Driver's Range and said "I park near those back cones every day.")

Parking has become an accepted part of dating in America. It's been the symbol of maturity of boys during the 1950s. Countless jokes, some printable, some not, have centered around "parking". And almost **everyone** has some type of story to tell (again, some printable, some not) from their experience. Of flashlights shined in their face. Or, of shining a flashlight into someone else's face. Or papering the car of two young parkers. Or of being papered. Or perhaps mysteriously losing their wallet — or car keys — or their . . .

The, ADVOCATE talked with many Mayo students, and found that about 65% have

favorite parking places. Most popular is St. Mary's Park ("With it's great view") in S.W. Rochester. The Mayowood area is second in popularity. Various other answers turned up worth mentioning: the area around KWEB Radio's broadcast towers on Highway 63 South, Soldiers Field, R.C.C.'s parking lot, Good Shephard Church, "Behind the Silver Lake pool", Pinewood School's parking lot, and Old Valley Road. About 35% of those surveyed had no particular favorite spot, or claimed to have no knowledge of the subject. We also discovered that boys were much more willing to discuss the topic than females. Females claimed to have more bad experiences when "parking".

Singers see 'Up With People', then find out they're in group

by SUE GRIFFIN
Staff Writer

Three people from Mayo have become members of the group "Up With People". Randy Hertle, John Richardson and Randy Jones, all of whom are with Southtown. Usually, after a performance, Up with People take interviews from interested people. Afterwards, if the individual made the group, they would find out a month afterwards. Randy Hertle and John found out the day after the interview and Jones found out on May 16. They will leave in July.

"I was confused," John said about his reaction when he found out. "I hadn't planned on it. I had a lot of stuff on my mind."

"I was really happy," Hertle said. "I had no college plans. I was confused about my future. That night I went to bed knowing what I was going to do."

Jones was "super excited! I had plans to go to RCC but I

didn't really want to go to college. I didn't get much sleep that night."

Up with People tour all over the world for 10 months. Each person pays a tuition of \$4,500. It seems that Hertle, Richardson and Jones are trying to raise the money. Up with People can offer them a partial scholarship. They have already had a disco dance for raising money and it was a huge success!

"We earned \$1,580," Hertle said. "We may have another one in June sometime. A lot of people enjoyed themselves." They have other fund raisers such as a ping-pong marathon, 75 kicks tickets to sell and other ideas still in their minds.

"Plus I'm using work money," Hertle said. "All my life savings except \$3 which I ate!"

"I'll use all I can get," Richardson said. "I don't have any life savings but when I do! . . ."

"I'll use half my life savings,"

said Jones. "And even the rest."

Their family and friends are excited about them going on tour with Up with People. With reservations of Randy Jones, "My grandmother doesn't want me to go," he said.

John had some reservations, "I didn't want to go right away. I had mixed emotions." But Hertle and Jones had no reservations. "It was Gun-Ho!" Hertle said, "I was all for it!" "No second thoughts," Jones commented.

What's happening

by PAT O'NEILL
Staff Writer

My editor suggested a nifty idea for this column for our special year-end issue of the ADVOCATE. He said, "Pat, mention a few popular songs that would be easy for this year's graduating seniors to identify with." Great idea, huh? Well, to make him happy:

- 1) Stayin' Alive (That fit the situation for most of the year)
- 2) Movin' Out
- and perhaps most appropriately 3) Just A Song Before I Go.

The school year saw many changes and events in popular music. Barry Manilow sang an uptempo song! ("Daybreak"). Shaun Cassidy made a record that **didn't** sell a million copies ("Do You Believe In Magic"). Pat Boone's daughter Debby sang, "You Light Up My Life" which sold five million copies world-wide — or about 4H million copies more than any record her dad sang. Donna Summer released another of the socially redeeming songs she's famous for ("I Feel Love"). It had a good beat and was fun to dance to.

Music gained a lot:

Heatwave, Player, The Baby's, Dave Mason, and Saturday Night Fever.

Music lost a lot: Elvis, Lynyrd Skynyrd, Terry Kath of Chicago.

Music lost a lot (part two): Shaun Cassidy.

Racism found a place in contemporary music as one popular song featured a black man proclaiming "Yowsah! Yowsah! Yowsah!". But it was also fun to dance to.

We heard to much from: Fleetwood Mac, Linda Ronstadt.

We heard to little from: Boston, Bob Segar, Peter Frampton.

Missing in action: Hall & Oates, David Bowie, George Harrison.

Rookie of the year: Warren Zevon.

Left field artist of the year: Michael Franks, and the "Where have You Been All These Years!" award goes to Chuck Mangione!



WALDO'S PIZZA JOYNT

"Congratulations Seniors"

Car of the month



Can this issue's Car of the Month qualify for the world's largest steamship? Most people would think so as the above photo is actually a closeup of a 1964 Ford Galaxy owned by Brad Chase, a Mayo graduate from last year. Obviously, it's not the car itself that deserves merit, but the car's unusual features that claim attention. Two mufflers are exhausting air the unorthodox way . . . up through the hood and above the roof. Two spotlights are included on the roof. And not shown, is a huge fender that sticks out in front of the car. Incidentally, the car was known as "Brunswold's Bomber", because its previous owner was Mayo counselor Wally Brunswold.



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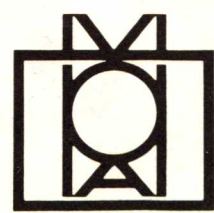
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