

Co-Ed Teams: Both Sides of the Picture

Should girls compete with boys on the same athletic teams?

Pretty Bernie (short for Bernadine) Kenny, an 18-year-old senior at Franklin High School in Livonia, thinks they should.

"To me a team should be made up of the best people, whether they're boys or girls," explains Bernie, who is a trophy winning swimmer and a member of Franklin's all girl swim team.

Recently, Bernie made an unsuccessful attempt to join the boys swim team. She was discouraged by her instructors.

"I wasn't doing it to be different," she explains. "I feel that boys' teams are taken more seriously and that they work out harder."

TALENT SCOUTS. Bernie points out, are more apt to follow the boys' teams and offer scholarships to the most capable male swimmers. This is what happened to her brother but no scouts have spotted her as a member of the girls' team.

Bernie, a modeling student at the Barbizon School in Southfield, and who hopes to pursue a career in this field, is not a crusader.

She's not even a woman's libber. "I'm not involved in that at all," she says. "I just think things should be fair."

Currently, all of Livonia's high school swimming teams are segregated according to sex. There isn't a team where boys and girls compete together.

The new state ruling which says that girls be allowed to participate with boys in non-contact sports could change this.

"If a girl now was to formally challenge our team policy she could probably go out for a boys' team," says Diane Corbett, physical education teacher at Franklin. "But we don't encourage co-ed swimming because, in the long run, we feel it would hurt the girls."



MISS CORBETT feels that girls would lose out to boys in competing for positions on the same team. The result would be that fewer girls would be able to participate at all.

According to some Livonia gym teachers, boys are more serious about sports than girls and have worked harder in developing athletic skills throughout the years.

Against this kind of competition, the average girl just wouldn't fare well.

Most girls are happy with the present arrangements, according to teachers at Livonia's Bentley and Franklin High Schools. And because of ever increasing interest in girls sports, the teams are offering girls better chances to develop their skills and abilities.

"I'd put my girls volley ball team against any boys' team," Diane Corbett declares proudly.

As for mixing that team with a variety of top notch male and female players - well, it just might happen one of these days, especially with increasing athletic skills on the part of the girls and more students who think like Bernie Kenny.

Inside A Day Care Center...

What does a working woman do with her pre-school tots during the day?

More and more are using the facilities of day care centers, many of which have mushroomed throughout Observerland in the past few years.

Staffed by professionals in child care, such centers usually seek to offer children a variety of educational experiences as well as companionship with little ones their own age.

Farmington's Durbin Day Nursery on Shiawassee near Nine Mile and Middle Belt Road is a busy place where about 25 children, from the ages of 2 1/2 to five, are given a full day of activities ranging from art projects to a two-hour nap.

Open from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., the Durbin Nursery is headed by Loy Adamy, who holds a master's degree in child development. With two assist-

ants to help her, the child-teacher ratio averages out to be about 10 to one. Miss Adamy is especially proud of the nursery's homey atmosphere and the flexible program it offers for different age groups.

"The kids are happy here and they are able to get a head start on school because of the range of activities that are offered to them," she explained.

Some tots take to day care centers like ducks to water. On his first day one little boy waved to his mother. "Bye, Mom, I'm going in." And he did just that.

Although open full time, the Durbin Center is also available to children on a part time basis. "One mother teaches in the mornings so her little boy comes only half a day," the teacher explained.

The hours of children's attendance are flexible, depending, usually, on the mother's work schedule.



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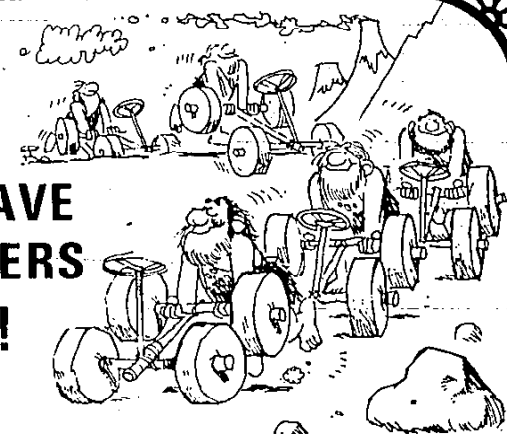
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