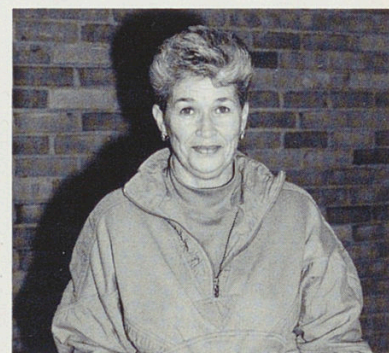




Pool director Val Lyons.

Pool assistant Betty Brooks.



## Paraprofessionals . . . More Than Rule Enforcers

Senior Kevin Barbro, like most other students, really did not know much about the paraprofessionals at school, "I always see them walking around and talking to students, but I never knew why," he said.

Although paraprofessionals were best known for their plans of catching students smoking in the bathroom or defacing the school's walls, they actually had a larger and more respectable responsibility than most thought. They spent their time monitoring the halls, supervising study halls and patrolling in-school suspension. Steve Henke, one of the six paraprofessionals, described his job as being in the realm of "student relations."

Becoming a paraprofessional is quite simple: Get a teaching degree, but wait and do not get a teaching position. All paraprofessionals are qualified to be teachers, but because there are so few openings, those with teaching degrees had to take other jobs in the school system. Ann Washko, like five out of the six

paraprofessionals, has a degree in physical education and health but had to wait for a job. Her reaction to taking a job as a paraprofessional was, "It's a step in the next direction."

Being a paraprofessional can be good preparation for becoming a teacher. Washko commented that getting to know the students is always helpful. Washko also said, "...if done in a positive way, it will get me a teaching job."

Developing a good relationship is also a vital part of being a paraprofessional. Henke described himself as being more relaxed with students and like a friend, "No one told me I had to be a tight fisted disciplinarian," he said.

Washko agreed, "I'd like students to respect me as a person."

Although paraprofessionals were known as police women and men, who constantly got on students' backs, it was impossible to do without them. And you never know, one day that person who caught students for smoking under the stairs, could be your physical education teacher next year.

by Julie Noiman

"No one told me I had to be a tight fisted disciplinarian."

-Steve Henke

D Tutors-- Front Row: D. Vasem, L. Foster. Back Row: J. Vells, A. Lacks, D. Koch, D. Dunathan.

Julie Neenan and Marla Berry make use of some of the numerous resources in the Registrar's office.

