

Chemistry students, Carrie Carothers and Kathryn Taylor work on a chemistry experiment which involves making ice-cream.

Advanced Biology, students Joel Guigui and John Bahkit, show off their findings for their plant collections.

Experimental Experiences

As the week comes to an end, chemistry students looked forward to (besides the approaching weekend) the Friday Demo. The Friday Demo is an experiment to display something new or recently learned.

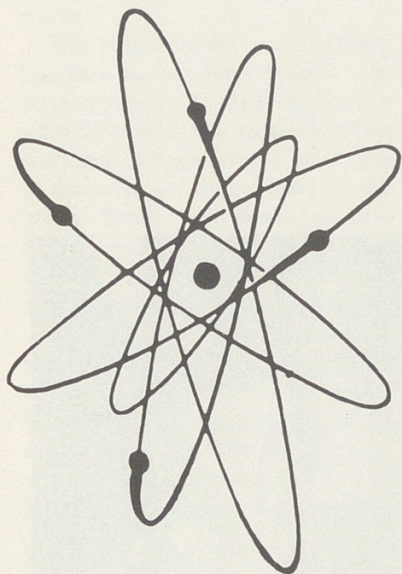
Chemistry teacher Linda Ford, a pioneer in demos, always enjoyed the end of the week. Mrs. Ford has "performed" her demos since 1972, and has created most of them herself. Her ideas stem from such things as strange reactions, science magazines, and her own creativity. According to Mrs. Ford some favorites of teachers and students include "Swamp Gas," where a foggy gas forms from a vat of reacting liquid and "Chemical Sunset," in which a fan of spreading color forms on an overhead projector.

Jon Hartsel, one of Mrs. Ford's chemistry students, commented, "I

like demos because they liven up the class." The demos serve as a treat for students to get a break from the monotony of theories and mathematics and to see chemistry in action. According to Mrs. Ford, watching the demos also helped the students visualize the concepts they have been learning. Interest in chemistry increased as the students related the demo to the equation on paper.

Harmless looking enough, some demos require much skill to perform. If every step isn't done correctly, an accident could occur. In fact, one year the "Swamp Gas" experiment blew up very unexpectedly. But in spite of the hazards, both chemistry students and teachers agree when Mrs. Ford says a Friday demo is "A unique thing to end the week."

By Julie Noiman



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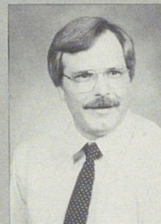
James Allison



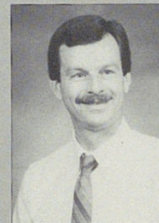
Fred Emerson



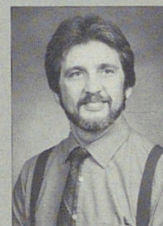
Linda Ford



David Gillette



Bil Ignatz



Dan Murray