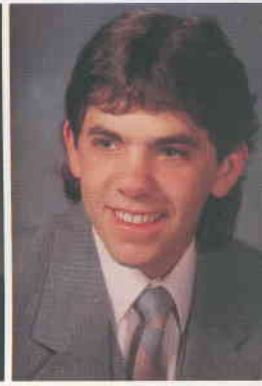
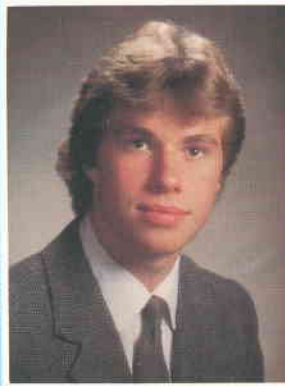
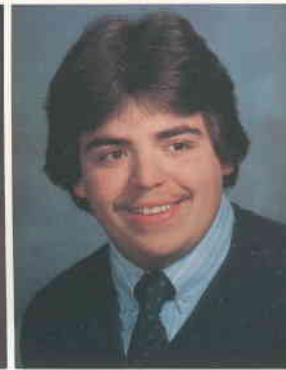
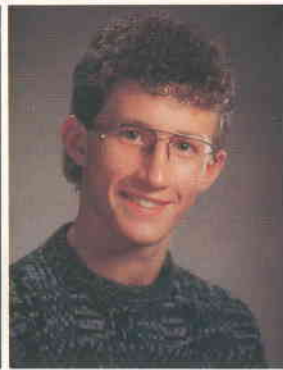


Kevin Jacobs
Ken Jewison
Wayne Kams
Don Kebler



Bill Keenoy
Rick Kellogg
Rodney Keys
Brigida Kimmel



COLORFUL COPOUTS EXCUSES COME IN EVERY SHADE

"My doctor's appointment ran late."

"My alarm didn't go off."

"I couldn't get my locker open."

"I was waiting to see if I was sick."

Sound familiar? These are several excuses given for a variety of occasions. These excuses are used frequently in school, at home, and at work, even though they are not very original.

In school, a late paper may cause panic which occasionally induces a totally outrageous tale. April Rohrbach, a Senior, hoping that humor would help her out, explained, "When the aliens landed, everything started going bonkers. The little hand on my clock got stuck when the alarm went off — that's why I'm late. The sink got plugged up as I was washing my hair, too. The aliens then took my dog (who ate my homework) with them to their planet, 2.6 million light-years away." It was a good try, but proba-

bly not successful.

Usually, students with non-existent or late papers will stick to the basics: "It's in my locker." — "The wind blew it away." — "The ink got wet and smeared." — and "My brother ruined it."

In addition, there are many excuses given at home to parents. They are more practical, and it helps if there is a brother or a sister in the family to blame. "I've got a brother and a sister. It definitely makes making excuses much easier," said Senior Kathleen McCoy. "I thought my brother was doing that chore." is an occasional plea. The most famous excuse is, "But Mom, you never told me to." Another classic cop-out is, "I never heard you say *that!*" Home is the best place to practice excuses. Parents will sometimes laugh while shaking their heads. Teachers, however, give grades.

Excuses used on the job are more serious. Overused excuses

are plentiful: "I had a flat." — "I got caught in traffic." — "My watch stopped." — and "I got stuck in the snow." Of course, the truth can sound like an excuse. Senior Tonya Suttle was picking up her class ring in Detroit when the brakes on her car went out. She was late to work as a result. Fortunately, her boss believed her because she had the bill to prove her statement was true.

Excuses may come in handy in school, at home, and at work. They may be short and to-the-point, long, unbelievable, humorous, outrageous, or simply the truth.

"Mom used it as scrap paper."

"I lost it yesterday."

"My car doors were frozen shut."

"My mom overslept."

"My pencil broke." . . . and the list goes on and on, as the teenage mind continues to invent "one excuse after another."