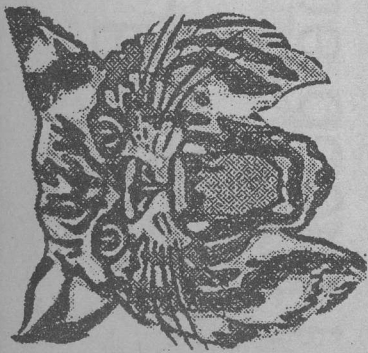




RED & BLUE

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FIRST in engineering teamwork

by Matt Wernke

Adding to the list of "firsts" for the city of Kokomo is the newly formed KHS FIRST club. Kokomo is presently the first and only team in Indiana that is competing in the US FIRST competition.

KHS FIRST will be traveling to Orlando, FL to participate in the Nationals at the EPCOT Center on March 30, 31 and April 1. The competition will be televised live on ESPN.

Many hours of preparation have already been put into the competition by not only the students, but also by the sponsors and engineers from Delco who have given up their time to help the students. These engineers have been paired with students and assigned to a certain part of the vehicle.

Jack Davidson, KHS FIRST sponsor, said, "Due to the increase in the number of participants in the US FIRST competition last year, we decided to make a club this year. We have already had two inter-club competitions and are planning one more after the US FIRST competition."

There is about 25 engineers from Delco working with KHS FIRST to help in the building of their vehicle, called H2Kat. Each of the engineers has been assigned a specific part of the machine to work on with the students.

"This is an excellent program for kids and gives them a chance to find something out about engineering," said Bill Ramseyer, project manager.

by Bryan Schleeter

KHS FIRST has quickly become one of the most productive organizations at school. Its members believe teamwork has been the key to success.

"I'm confident in the team," said Jennifer Heronemus, sophomore. "Even if our vehicle doesn't win the competition, I believe that we've already won because we work together like a family," continued Heronemus.

Heronemus sums up the overall attitude of KHS FIRST, that although building a victorious vehicle is important, there are greater lessons to be learned, like friendship, cooperation with peers and adults, and goal setting.

Brian Hipp, junior, explained his teams chances at the competition, "I think we'll do fairly well considering how large and diverse of a group we have."

This "large" and "diverse" group includes smaller divisions including teams for engineering, shop work, paper work, and design.

Students involved in KHS FIRST reap many benefits. "I do it because its fun and will help me prepare for college," said Armando Leija, senior.

Hipp stated that KHS FIRST will help prepare him for a career in chemical engineering and fulfill the academic competition requirement for the Honors Diploma.

Heronemus said, "It (KHS FIRST) makes me a well rounded person."

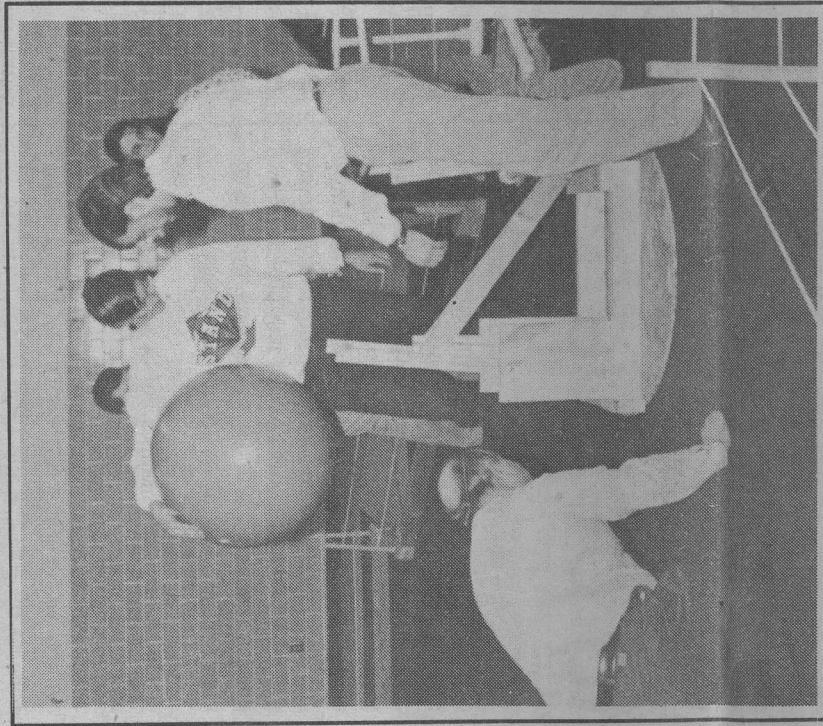


photo by Andy Redmon

Bill Ramseyer, engineer, George Drake, senior, and Howard Free, engineer, work on a prototype for the US FIRST competition.