

'Doc' Honored

It was a happy evening Friday for Clinton Earl "Doc" Fehlman, the guiding light of the Santa Cruz High School Alumni Association, which has been hailed as unique in California, thanks to Fehlman. The SCHS gymnasium was officially named Fehlman

Gym in honor of the man who taught at the school for 30½ years beginning in 1923 and who has been official timer at home football games since 1925. For details, see pages 34 and 36. (Photo by The Sentinel's Bill Lovejoy).

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It's 'Fehlman Gym' Forever — 'Doc' Honored

By BOB PUTNEY

Sentinel Sports Writer

Young and old alike gathered to pay tribute to a man who will live forever in their hearts.

He is Clinton Earl "Doc" Fehlman, the 89-years-young living legend. He went to watch a basketball game Friday night and folks insisted on naming the gym after him.

Forever, Santa Cruz High's gymnasium will be known as Fehlman Gym in honor of the man who is the guiding light of the school's alumni association.

The instant 'Doc' walked in Friday night, he was given a standing ovation by a standing-room-only crowd of some 1,800 people — young and old alike — who had come for one united purpose, namely to honor this giant of a man.

Fehlman, who taught 30½ years at Santa Cruz High beginning in 1923, has been the official timer at every home football game here since 1925 and has built the SCHS alumni association into the most unique in California, was honored prior to the Santa Cruz-Marelo Prep varsity basketball game. And the Cardinals responded by winning a thriller, 57-55.

As soon as the junior varsity game ended — it fittingly was an overtime contest that "Doc" watched appreciatively — the school's award-winning Big Red Band marched out and gave Fehlman a special

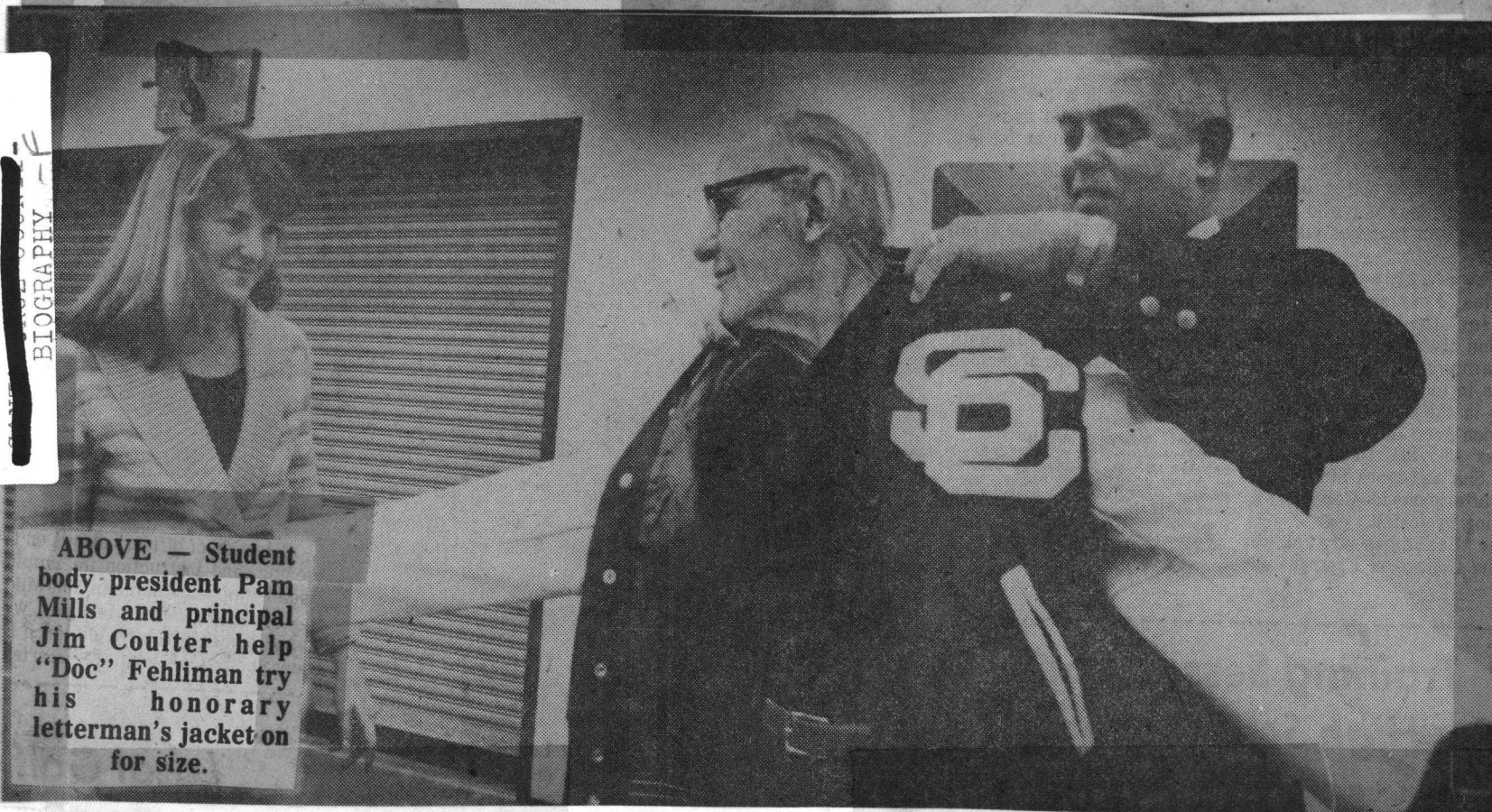
performance. Principal Jim Coulter introduced student body president Pam Mills, who was interrupted by applause several times as she spoke of "Doc" and all he has done for the school and its graduates. "What we really would like to say," she concluded, "is we love you right back, Doc, and thank you so much.... From this moment on, this gym will be known as Fehlman Gym."

Those words had no sooner escaped her mouth when for the umpteenth time "Doc" was given a standing ovation. Peoples' hands were red and sore from clapping so enthusiastically, but they loved it.

Fehlman received an honorary letterman's jacket and Coulter read a special proclamation from City of Santa Cruz Mayor John Mahaney. Doc's voice rang loud and clear as he thanked everyone connected with his special night. Players from both the Santa Cruz and Marelo Prep teams walked over to shake his hand. It all seemed enough to make a grown man cry and some did.

As people filed out of Fehlman Gym after the game, some of this year's SCHS students — smiling and shaking their heads at the evening's drama — were overheard exclaiming, "Well, we won this one for Doc!"

Fehlman's warmth, you see, touches people of all ages.

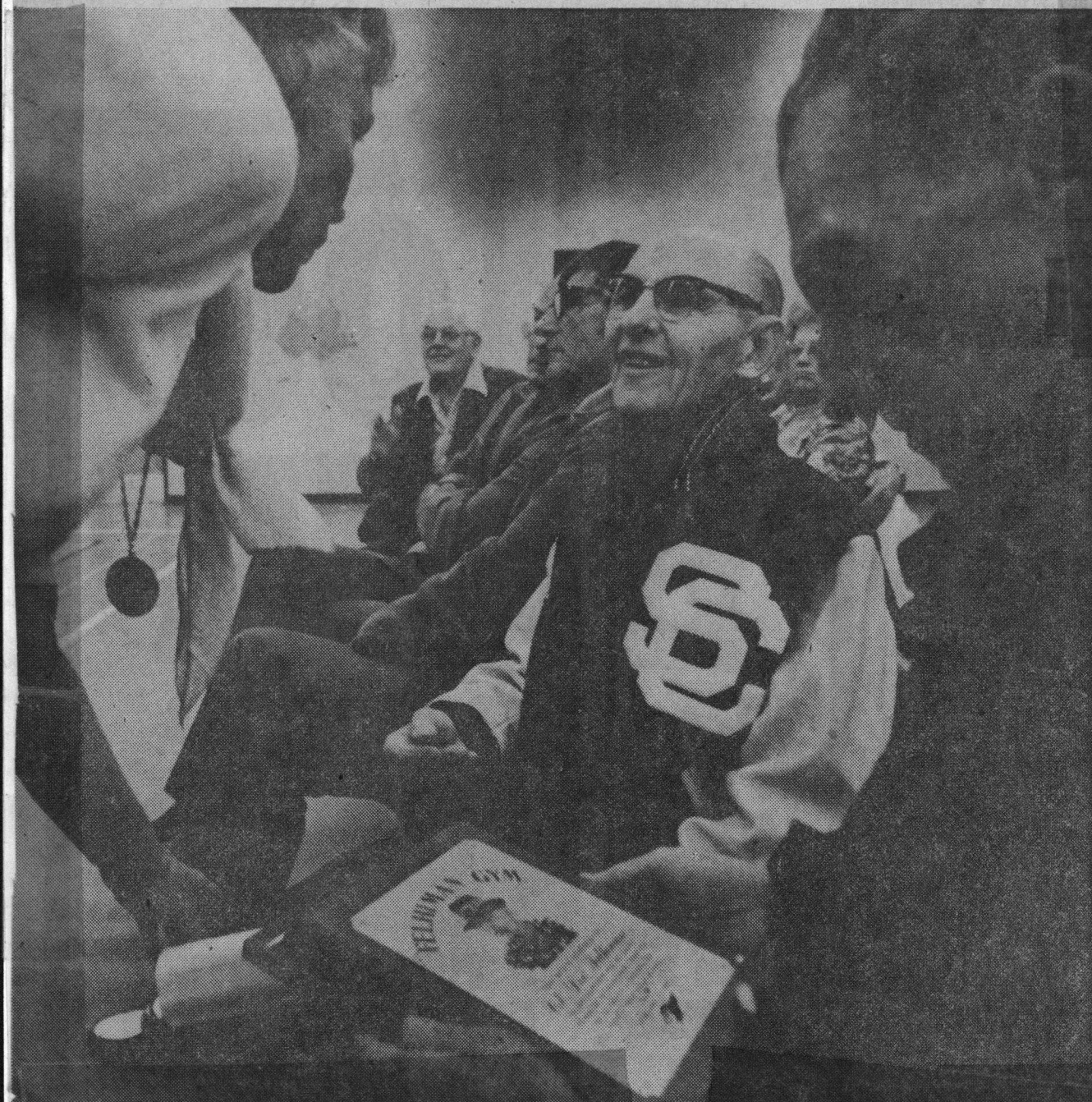


ABOVE — Student body president Pam Mills and principal Jim Coulter help "Doc" Fehlman try his honorary letterman's jacket on for size.

BIOGRAPHY — F

REFERENCE

AMOS, CALIFORNIA, SANTA CRUZ HIGH SCHOOL



RIGHT — Marelo Prep's Russell Gross shakes hands with "Doc" Fehlman letting him know that his efforts have touched the hearts of people of all ages.

LEFT — "Doc" happily greets one of the hundreds of people who came to pay tribute to him Friday night at Fehlman Gym.

Photos by
Bill Lovejoy

