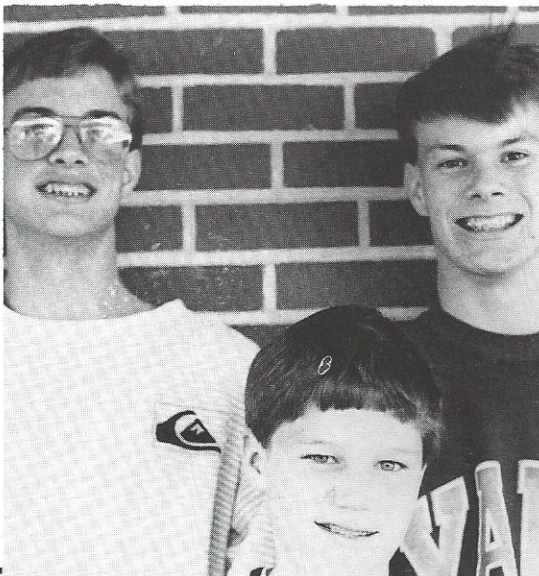


"Spit out that gum!" Kin Kinsey breaks two rules. First, no gum chewing allowed in school; secondly, gum damages the braces.



The phrase that brings terror into the lives of students is when the dentist utters, "You need to see an orthodontist." A referral to the orthodontist usually means you need braces.

Braces affect different senses. Taste buds tingle from the gel used to make molds. Gums are sore from the "spacer invasion" and tightening. Even with the periodic discomfort Danielle Dantzler (top, opposite page) manages a smile; creating nicknames like "tin grin," "brace face," and "metal mouth."

Students wearing braces soon learn about restrictions — no chewing gum (which pleases C.P.A. teachers), no crunching ice (which delights parents), and no eating of hard or soft candies (which elates dentists)!

Students always agree that the trials of wearing braces are worth it for the "perfect smile" which reflects from the faces of students from grades 4-11.

Juniors Robbie Padgett (top left) and Andy Blevins (top right) are the oldest students at C.P.A. with braces; Will Tate, a fourth grader, is the youngest student with braces.