



Windsor High School TOMAHAWK

Volume 40 - Issue 1

November 1999

“THERE IS NO ‘I’ IN ‘TEAM’...” EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR SPEAKS OUT

by Lauren Bielawiec

“Completely surprised,” said Mr. Douglas Maher, explaining his reaction to being given the title of Windsor’s Educator of the Year. As Windsor High’s instrumental music director for the past five years, he achieved this honorable recognition as a result of his students’ accomplishments.

The instrumental program has been growing in the number of participants since Maher’s arrival to WHS in 1994. During his first football season the marching band consisted of 68 students. Presently, Maher continues to oversee Windsor High’s 150-plus member marching band.

The students’ talents under Maher’s instruction have also increased. His Jazz Ensembles, Wind Ensemble, and Concert Band have received numerous awards which demonstrate their outstanding success on festival trips.

Festivals attended by the Jazz Ensembles and the Jazz Combo give the students their chance to shine. In previous years, the groups have performed at Berklee College of Music, UCONN, Western Connecticut State University, and the University of the Arts in Philadelphia. The Jazz Ensemble I and the Jazz Combo have placed among the top schools at the festivals.

The Wind Ensemble and the Concert Band have also had their moments of glory. Both groups received excellent ratings in their divisions at the Virginia Beach festival in April of 1999.

The WHS Music Department has been given the award for most



Teacher of the Year Douglas Maher

outstanding music department and program of study. For the past three years, the festivals at Myrtle Beach, Washington DC, and Virginia Beach have given WHS this award for its success.

Yet it is not all the plaques, trophies, and certificates that Maher enjoys most. Being involved with young musicians and watching his students succeed in school,

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INSIDE:

SCHOOL SAFETY

Are we safe here at Windsor High? How do our safety measures compare to those of other schools? Page three.

PUBLIC DISPLAYS OF AFFECTION

What is allowed and what isn't. Find out how students feel on page four.

HOMEcoming '99

Homecoming week was a success a recap on page four.

DR. REALE

A new face has taken over the position previously held by Mr. Shea. Find out more on page five.

COMPUTING AT WHS

What exactly is the Internet usage policy? What happens if a student breaks the usage rules? Learn the answers on page six.

HOROSCOPES

What is in store for you in the upcoming month? Will you fail miserably or find true love? Your fate is on page eight.

A NEW BUILDING FOR A NEW MILLENNIUM

by Michael Henry

If you have wandered recently through Windsor High School’s Capen Street corridor, you may have noticed that there is no longer carpet covering the hallway and many of the classroom floors. No, school officials did not merely decide to redecorate in gray. The sudden intrusion of bare cement is part of a renovation project, scheduled to be completed in September 2002.

On February 9, 1999, Windsor residents approved a plan for renovations and additions to Windsor High. This decision comes more than twenty years after the last refurbishment, which took place from 1975 to 1977.

Under the project, which will be accomplished in two phases, the school will be completely revamped. The first phase will commence in early December, and will involve the construction

of twelve new classrooms on the Capen Street side of the building. The purpose of the second phase, according to Wesley Vasko, Windsor High liaison to the project, is to “renovate as new.” Every aspect of the school will be upgraded.

The plumbing, heating, and electrical systems will be replaced with more efficient models. Each classroom will have Internet capabilities, the entire building will be air-conditioned, and the 1970s-style pink, orange, and brown lockers will retire after twenty-four years of service. In addition, the Media Center, cafeteria, and parking areas will undergo expansion. The result of these lofty efforts: a beautiful, state-of-the-art facility.

How much will this overhaul cost taxpayers? The current projection is \$35 million. However, Windsor residents may not have

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Artist's sketch of school upon completion

• Letter From the Editors •

Students of Windsor High School, forget about having a future. There is no longer any need to study. There is almost no chance that you will make it to the end of the year alive.

Assuming nobody dies from the starvation in the wake of food censorship, our chances of being consumed by a black hole have just drastically increased. Senior Joseph Reinsch recently informed us that some scientists are working on recreating a black hole on the surface of the earth. Luckily, this mid-November feat won't be such a big deal, considering we won't feel anything; we'll just simply cease to exist.

OK, so maybe the scientists won't succeed. It's a sorrow we may have to live with, but we are not without hope. If the black hole doesn't consume us, other scenarios may play out. For example, we could be plagued by one of the recent earthquakes. Taiwan, South America, California... the Northeast has got to be next. Or maybe another late-season hurricane will pay us a visit.

And, of course, there is a good chance that we will all



Lauren Bielawiec

die in the global holocaust that will be caused by the pending switch to Y2K. As civilization grinds to a halt, your studies will not be near the top of anyone's mind. We're sure your teachers will have

deeper things to worry about.

And if you somehow survive the ensuing death caused by Y2K you still have other problems to worry about. For example, nuclear war. Currently, the world could be destroyed a few hundred times over - luckily only the first time will matter for you lucky souls here at Windsor High.

Seriously, though, you should all now have a pretty good idea that news can be whatever



Jeff Wilhelm

one wants to make it. In this day and age the media is everywhere. It influences the way we view the world and ourselves. We are not only informed of daily happenings in society, but also the inherent traits that make us who we are as individuals.

On that note, we'd like to introduce *The Tomahawk*, our student newspaper. The paper is a

product of the students, for the students, and for those of the Windsor community.

Along with a new look, the news reported herein will be objective and informative, bringing the crucial information on the happenings here at WHS and in the community to the community.

Therefore, the new format includes more news and current events while still offering the interesting and humorous articles commonly attributable to a student newspaper.

As the editors of your newspaper, we are open to submissions from students and teachers alike, not only on how to improve the paper, but on news that you think should be in the paper.

THE TOMAHAWK

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The Tomahawk is published at least four times a year for and by the students at Windsor High School. The paper's purpose is not only to inform the students on happenings within the confines of our building and community, but to act as a public forum for the opinions and ideas of students.

Any article represents the views of its author alone. The Tomahawk welcomes any and all submissions to the student newspaper but reserves the right to reject articles and to edit for length and clarity.

The Tomahawk is distributed free of charge to the students of Windsor High School.

Renovation

(continued from page 1)

to foot the entire bill. Mr. Vasko anticipates that the state will pick up 46% of the tab.

What do teachers think of the renovation? Ms. Jacqueline, who teaches English in the Capen Street wing, feels the physical effects of an uncarpeted floor. "It's not easy on arthritic feet," she says, "but it's worth the sacrifice."

Students' reactions to the project are mixed. Some feel that the renovation is a

step in the right direction, but that it is not enough. According to senior Ken Rose, "[Windsor High] is way outdated. They should have spent the extra \$30-\$40 million to rebuild the whole thing. A renovation is like a makeover: it just covers up the flaws."

Still, some students disapprove of the renovation entirely, annoyed by the encroachment upon their learning environment. One student remarks, "Cement floors are a safety hazard... I don't think it's going to be worth it."

Mr. Vasko recognizes that some people share this skeptical sentiment. But he maintains that the restoration project "has been a long time coming," and that the end result will be well worth the effort. "To achieve something that is worthwhile and to improve the environment for education, you have to put up with some things that are not the best."

While most juniors and seniors will not be around to enjoy the new building, this year's freshmen and sophomore classes will reap the benefits in 2002.



HOW SAFE ARE WE?

by *Kenneth Rose*

Students at Windsor High School feel pretty safe, but in reality how safe are we?

During the 1996-1997 school year, one in ten public schools reported at least one serious violent crime (sexual battery, suicide, fights or attacks with a weapon, or larceny), according to N.C.E.S. Also, 47% of all public schools reported one serious non-violent crime, and 43% reported no crime.

Roughly the same percentage of schools reporting one serious non-violent crime also reported incidents involving students as either the victims or perpetrators.

School crime was more commonly found at larger schools, such as Windsor High, with one third of schools with enrollments of more than 1,000 students reporting at least one serious violent crime.

Principal Thomas Reale, when asked about certain statistics, said that statistics would not change his feeling of how safe the school is. He believes that the 10% of public schools with at least one serious crime are the major city schools such as New York or Boston.

Secure schools



Source: U.S. Dept. of Education, 1998 figures; MSNBC

How are such crimes being dealt with here at WHS? According to the Student Handbook, weapons are strictly forbidden. Ac-

companying illustrations in Appendix H, "are examples of knives that warrant a ten-day suspension and a board of Education hearing." Possession of any of these knives will lead to an expulsion of 180 days, because "no knife of any kind is permitted." In addition, carrying a gun in Windsor High warrants a mandatory expulsion.

Some schools have a program called "student profiling." Reale stated that "profiling is a heavy term."

Student profiling is a technique that is much the same as how the F.B.I. would profile a criminal. According to the Associated Press, student profiling consists of "psychologists [who] are putting together checklists of characteristics common among

students prone to violence."

Just as at Windsor High, 96% of all public schools require visitors to sign in, according to the U.S. Department of Education. Also, 80% of all public schools have closed campuses during lunches.

Ever wonder why all the doors are locked if you leave and try to come back? It's because we are just one of the 53% of public
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SAY Y.E.S. TO CLUBS AT WHS

by *Jeffrey Wilhelm*

The beginning of the school year is always a tough time for students, teachers, the administration, and the clubs here at Windsor High. Settling in after a long summer is never easy. Club membership usually falters until students realize the variety and benefits of getting involved. The Young Educators' Society, or Y.E.S., which teaches students how to become teachers, is one such club that has not been affected by the new school year stresses.

September 9 marked the first meeting of Windsor High's chapter of the Young Educators Society (Y.E.S.). With little fanfare the date came and passed for most of the students here at Windsor High, but according to the ten students who attended the Y.E.S. meeting that afternoon, their meeting was the best part of the day.

Participating in the events of this three-and-a-half year old club is useful if one wants to become a teacher, but it is also for other aspects of everyday life. "It promotes skills useful in life," Social Studies teacher Jessica Blitzer says. "Public speaking and responsibility... makes one much more aware of their

education." Sophomore Amy Wilhelm agrees. "We had to make a lesson plan," she says, referring to one of the activities. "This is my second year in it... I enjoy it."

"It is an exploration," advisor Ms. Blitzer remarks. "Teaching is... one of the most incredible things a person can do..." She has good reason to be pleased. Not only is attendance up from last year, but many of the club's members are interested in participating in an internship. For their internship, the juniors can assist teachers at either the elementary or the middle schools once a week. Then, when they become seniors, they can continue working up to three days per week, or switch if they'd rather try something new.

Y.E.S. also sponsors such school-wide

Young Educators Society (YES)

Advisor(s) - Ms. Blitzer &
Ms. Bavaro-Grande
President - Krista Dillon
Vice President - Beth Paquette
Secretary - Amanda Latournes

events as Teacher Turnabout Day and the practice of giving new teachers the gift of a notecard and an apple.

In fact, Teacher Turnabout Day promises
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WHS THESPIANS PRESENTED "YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU"

On Nov 5 & 6 at 7:30 PM in the Windsor High School auditorium, the Windsor High School Thespians presented "You Can't Take It With You." This timeless classic by George S. Kaufmann and Moss Hart follows the romance of Alice, whose family is a group of lovable eccentrics, and Tony, whose father is a driven Wall Street type. The inevitable and comic clash between the families is complicated by an unexpected raid by the FBI. Senior Rebecca Olson and sophomore Steve Wichlac played Alice and Tony. Senior Dan Buckland played Martin Vanderhof, Alice's grandfather and patriarch of her unorthodox family. Other seniors in the production were Lisa Bennett, Kelly Dang, Joseph Reinsch, Kimberly Stearns, and Tracey Zotter.

P D A ' S :

Where Should the Line Be Drawn?

by Priscilla Drennen

Do you have a girlfriend or boyfriend in this school? Do you engage in public displays of affection? Do teachers or other students say anything to you about it? Or are you bothered by couples in the hallway who show public displays of affection?

Well, some teachers in Windsor High are disturbed by public displays of affection, and say they take away from the academic atmosphere that should be present in school. Some of these teachers say that public displays of affection should be minimized, while some of them want them eliminated.

Mr. Dan Chrisis, a Personal Development teacher, says that if a guest speaker ever came to Windsor High, he would want the guest to be impressed with the school by having the students act professionally, which would mean not having student couples kiss excessively and act in over-affectionate ways in the hallway. He believes that such actions would make the

school come across as undisciplined.

On the other hand, students who have a boyfriend or girlfriend and students who are single agree that public displays of affection are harmless, and that teachers and administration are simply overreacting.

"Students like to show affection for each other," says Thad Bragulla, class of 2002. "If I am having a bad day it is nice to see my girlfriend; a hug and a kiss from her is much more comforting and does more for my mood than a friend or a teacher can do with words."

Younger people are possibly not as modest as adults and therefore are not affected by seeing other people kiss. Public displays of affection are an everyday part of life for almost all teenagers. Kissing is on TV, in movies, and in the most popular magazines, such as *Seventeen*, *YM*, and *Teen*, which feature articles that "teach" how to kiss, and discuss the "dos and don'ts" of kissing.

Asks one senior, "why should school be more regulated than the rest of the world?"

What is Acceptable?

by Daniel Flenke

"There is a time and a place for everything, however, school hours are not the time and Windsor High School is not the place for overwhelming displays of affection."

According to the 1999 - 2000 Windsor High School Student Handbook, this is the Windsor Board of Education's policy on PDAs, or Public Displays of Affection. What is considered an acceptable display of affection? Who has the right to deem PDAs "overwhelming"?

The high school years are well

known for being the beginning of many serious relationships, whether taught by parents through stories or implied by television. One of the common ways of exhibiting these relationships is through affection, whether in public or private. For those around these couples, witnessing PDAs becomes the norm.

But what do people attending Windsor High School feel about PDAs? For most students, public affection is not a problem, as long as they are not obstructed from being allowed to go to their next class. Senior John Aber's response to this topic was, "I've seen many

couples in school holding hands or kissing. It doesn't bother me, because it happens to a lot of people."

The handbook's rule has gotten mostly negative feedback. While often only enforced by faculty with such remarks as "get a room" or "take that someplace else," many students do not feel the faculty stands behind the rule themselves.

The best way to sum up the students' opinion on

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Homecoming '99: What is Spirit?

by Adib Quazi

If you asked a Windsor High School student what spirit was before the week of Oct. 12, he or she would be confused. Windsor was a school that seriously lacked in school spirit.

Even as the football team had its first winning season for the first time in three years, students

would tell you there was no reason to have spirit in our school. Finally, the decision was made that there would be a Homecoming week for the 1999-2000 school year.

The event included a spirit week, with different themes sponsored by a different class each day and a week of class competition. The week included

a Pep Rally, and culminated in the Homecoming game versus Wethersfield. The coronation of the King, Queen, Prince, and Princess at half-time also took place. Then, of course, was the evening of the Homecoming dance. The school came together during this week and showed a great deal of spirit in support of our football team and of Wind-

sor High.

Spirit week started off on Tuesday, October 12 with "oldies day," when many wore tie-dyed shirts. Then came "hat day" on Wednesday, a day when the majority of the school participated. Many different hats passed through the halls, including a large orange cowboy hat

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DR. REALE - NEW MAN ON CAMPUS

by Priscilla Drennen

At 7:15 Dr. Thomas Reale starts his day by signing important forms. Soon he is off to meetings, and then he begins seeing students, talking to parents, and making phone calls. Then, if he is lucky and has the time, he is able to sit in on a class.

Reale attended Tulane University for his undergraduate degree and Purdue University for his Ph.D. He received a degree to become a principal, and a degree to teach the German language.

Reale, at Clinton Central High School in Indiana and at Putnam High School in Connecticut, gained three years experience as principal. Before getting his job as principal, Reale taught German at Milan High School in Indiana.

Reale says he applied for the job as prin-



Dr. Thomas Reale, WHS Principal

cipal at Windsor High School because the school is close to where he lives, and is larger

than any other at which he has worked before. His goals are to get to know the students and staff as well as possible, increase school spirit, and decrease swearing in the halls of the school.

Reale would also like to eliminate study halls. Instead, he would take those assigned teachers and have them teach new classes. Furthermore, the students who are now in study halls can be offered these new classes.

Additionally, the elimination of level two classes is a topic under thorough investigation. Reale is in favor of this because he believes that, if a student is placed in a higher class level, he will rise to the occasion.

A change in the GPA system — from 8.25 to 4.0 — is another change Reale would like to enact. He would also like to raise the standard of grades needed to participate in ex-

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Homecoming '99

(continued from page 4)

worn by senior Thomas Lavallee. On Friday, the student body exhibited its spirit by wearing our school colors, maroon and white. At the end of the day, the senior class sponsored the Class Competition/Pep Rally.

In the cafeteria, each class decorated a wall



From left to right, Kyle Elligers, Amanda Lescarbeau, Stacy Walters and Mahdi Alston

as part of the competition. In first place was the class of 2002. Second was a tie between the class of 2001 and 2003, and fourth place was awarded to the class of 2000.

However, the seniors did not let their standing go overlooked. They came back with full force during the class competitions at the Pep Rally. Leading the victories were senior brothers Aitor and Andoni Alberdi in the three-legged race, who, as one senior put it, "destroyed their competitors."

The fall sports teams also came out and showed as much spirit as they could. The one team that got the most excitement (next

to the cheerleaders) was the football team, who got the school revved up for the game against Wethersfield that Saturday.

Come game-time, the stands were packed with enthusiastic fans from both Windsor and Wethersfield. People came out to show their support for their team. Tim McKay, Student Council President remarked, "we went out to get school spirit up in Windsor High. It makes me proud to be a student here."

The game was well fought between the two teams, but by the half Windsor was down 6 to 18. During half time the King and Queen, Mahdi Alston and Stacey Walters, rode around the track in a blue Camaro. The Prince and Princess, Kyle Elligers and Amanda Lescarbeau, rode in a Geo Tracker. The crowd applauded the Homecoming royalty as the court passed and waved.

The game, albeit well played, ended in a loss for Windsor. The final score, 25 to 6, did little to dull our spirits. Even when Windsor was handed its Homecoming defeat, the fans were up in spirits, and knew that the dance that night would still be a great enjoyment.

The night was full of energy when students and their friends came to the school with expectations of a great night. Needless to say, the blasting music did not let them down. Teacher Dan Chrisis and senior Dan Buckland teamed up to play the latest songs,



The Volleyball seniors enjoying the pep rally

bringing additional excitement to the evening.

The sold-out crowd of the Homecoming dance seemed to enjoy every moment. The royalty dancing together was almost as memorable as Chrisis dancing to Michael Jackson. Jessica Bona, Homecoming chairperson, remarked, "we worked hard to accomplish what we did. I'm happy it came together so well."

If a student were asked what spirit is, he or she still may not know. But those who were involved in Homecoming in any way will remember spirit that exceeded its boundaries. Spirit came to Windsor High and we latched on to it.

HOW TO HARNESS THE INTERNET AT SCHOOL

by Ryan Barnes

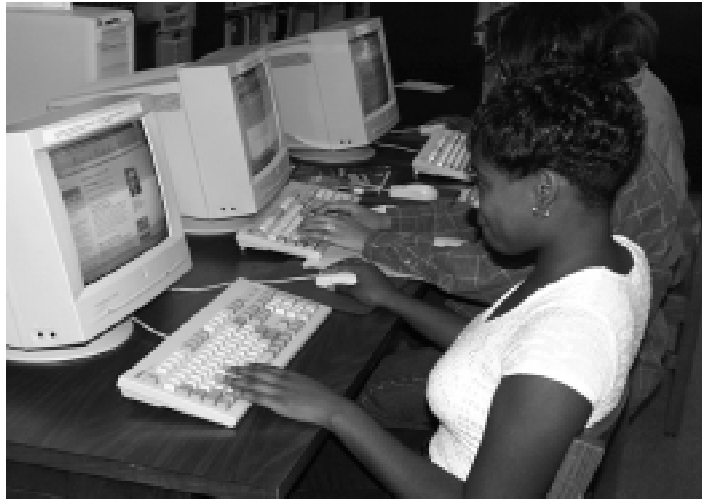
Windsor High School's computer usage policy lays down the guidelines for the proper use of the computers in the building.

In the Library Media Center, in almost every classroom, and the computer labs, a student may use the computers for school-related activities. Library media specialist Ms. Rosemary Morante explains that a student must have teacher permission to use those computers, and that he/she must follow certain guidelines or "rules" for proper usage of them.

A student may only use the computer for purposes that are set by a teacher. According to Morante, if the student has an English class and is required to write up a report on the Great Wall of China, that person may only use the word processing

program to write it. However, if the student needs additional resources, he/she is allowed to access the Internet as long as the

pal, Dr. Reale, a new policy is in effect. Teachers and librarians are required to take stricter measures when a student falls out of



Senior Talea Harris uses the Internet for research in the library

sites pertain to the topic of study.

Although last year the policy for inappropriate usage was not very strict, this year is different. As set forth by the new princi-

pal, Dr. Reale, a new policy is in effect. Teachers and librarians are required to take stricter measures when a student falls out of

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Maher: Goals, Teamwork, Camaraderie

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while they "make music" is his greatest source of pride.

Maher believes that the importance of music in a student's life encourages self-discipline, responsibility, and commitment on a daily level. He hopes that his students gain a lifelong appreciation for music. "It sounds corny, but 'music feeds the human spirit.'"

There are several goals that Maher has for students in the instrumental program. He anticipates that his students will experience the musical elements of performance and hopes that the sounds they produce individually and as a group will move them and inspire them.

The "satisfaction of being part of a team effort" is most important to Maher. He believes that setting goals and working to achieve them help the groups unite.

"I am a big sports fan, and I loved playing sports. I wasn't very good individually, but I loved the camaraderie." Maher relates being on a sports team to being a part of a performing ensemble, indicating that everyone has to work together. "There is no 'I' in 'team.'"

As a teacher, Maher has set goals for himself in order to maintain the success and achievement of the instrumental program. He seeks to provide a quality music experience for his students and to establish an advanced program of study for those who have a serious commitment.

Mr. Maher describes his success for reaching his goals by "coming to work everyday, and doing what I do." By applying this attitude in his daily teachings Maher is able to provide students with an unforgettable musical experience.

Young Educators Society

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to be the best yet. This year Y.E.S. is exploring the possibility of including administrators in the event normally reserved for students wishing to switch places with one of their teachers for a day. According to Blitzer, a student will plan the lessons for the day, dress like the teacher normally would, and possibly follow the teacher's schedule. In essence, the student has the opportunity to become a teacher for a day.

According to Blitzer, Y.E.S. also plans to take a field trip to UCONN's School of Education, and will also be visiting Eastern Connecticut State University. Furthermore, they will continue to participate in such community service as visiting the preschool at Ellsworth School to read Dr. Seuss to the kids.

Recently Windsor's Y.E.S. chapter hosted an "Idea Swap,"

in which our Y.E.S. students mixed with students from East Hartford, Hartford, Bulkeley, and Manchester in a two-hour session on September 30th. Besides icebreaker events and team-building skills, the various Y.E.S. chapters discussed ideas and plans for the upcoming year.

For more information on joining Y.E.S., speak with Ms. Blitzer, or one of the members listed in the inset box on page three.

Something Missing?

The Tomahawk welcomes student submissions. For more information, leave a note for the editors in room 222.

Privileges?

by John Buda

Students on the first day of school were exasperated when they found that they had lost their chance for eighth-period privileges because they had Senior College Math.

At least one-third of the students in the class said they didn't like the schedule placement of the class at all. About five out of eight people have either dropped the class or have found a way to get into the fourth period Senior College Math class.

The students that transferred out of the eighth period class left because they wanted their eighth-period privileges, or had other obligations during that period. These other commitments mostly involve part-time jobs.

Vice Principal Catherine Costa said that the scheduling of the classes at Windsor High School is a long and complex process that begins in early June.

When the guidance counselors schedule classes, they look for what period the class can be taught based on the amount of students that can be put into that class.

When Costa scheduled the classes, Senior College Math best fit in eighth period because the office could get the largest amount of students in the eighth period spot because no one, until now, has ever complained about the class being eighth period.

Dr. Reale

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tracurricular activities from four D's and three F's to four C's and only one F. His last goal is to see that the renovation process goes smoothly (see page 1 article).

Reale's four values, which he refers to as 'virtues,' are respect, civility, effort, and re-

***"respect, civility,
effort and
responsibility"***

sponsibility. He states that these are virtues that all people wouldn't mind seeing in others, as well as in themselves. "Moreover," he continues, "it is better to have these virtues than not to have them."

The four virtues worked for Reale at Putnam High. By putting signs up around the school which reminded students and faculty of this model of behavior, eventually the standards began to take effect.

O - P - I - N - I - O - N - S Swimming in Self-Pity

by Jill Pirog

Everyone is familiar with that ominous reminder they receive in their freshman year. It cools the blood, quickens the pulse, and drenches anyone who forgets a bathing suit. It is the sophomore swimming requirement that every student is supposed to fulfill.

There have been a couple of lucky exceptions who managed to cleverly cheat the "system," but the majority of students - seven out of eight - openly despise, yet do nothing about changing their situation. So, what is the true purpose of taking a semester of swimming?

As a participant of intermediate swimming two years ago, I never looked forward to the twice-weekly swim for a few reasons. First, I knew how to swim and found it unnecessary. Second, it was early February when our semester started and much too cold to consider jumping into a cold pool.

I could attribute a few colds to having swimming eighth period and then walking outside into the winter air with dripping wet hair. What made swimming look a little brighter to me was the fact that it was only one semester and we played water polo every couple of weeks. We even had a snow fight once. None of us truly wanted to be there, however, as was illustrated by our chilled skin and chattering lips after we climbed out of the pool on Mondays and Fridays at two o'clock.

Every class, we swam laps, circled the

perimeter of the pool, or halfheartedly dove in, resulting in the inevitable belly flop. There was the aforementioned water polo game, which was fun, but we all usually got mad at each other by the end of the game. If that didn't happen, we all had too much water stuck up our noses to think properly. Whatever the case, not one period went by when all of us hadn't squinted at the clock on the wall at least twice, hoping, pleading with some higher power, that we only had a few minutes left to suffer.

Looking back on my swimming experience, I see no purpose in the class except to irritate most kids and some parents, too. If someone really needs to learn how to swim, chances are they already know how to, or will learn on their own.

All I can honestly remember learning is how to tip over a canoe safely and how to properly hold someone's head underwater in a game of water polo. One sophomore as yet to take the class admitted that she was "not unhappy about the class," but felt the time could be put to better use. I couldn't agree more, but this won't happen unless students take the initiative to complain to the right people.

In the meantime however, to those taking swimming now or in the future, proudly jump into the pool as if there were a large treasure at the bottom - just don't be too unhappy when you reach the bottom and find out it's only a hairball clogging the drain.

Drinking and Driving

by Brendan Stone

Students drink - there are no two ways about it - and they get behind the wheel afterwards.

If Windsor High School provided a safe ride system for intoxicated students it would lessen the chance of drunk driving related accidents occurring. Senior Sasha Suto admits that students would use the system as long as there is no penalty for calling the number.

Obviously, it is not OK to drink, but students are going to do it anyway. Every year there is a story of a student dying in an alcohol-related accident.

Students would much rather call for a ride than risk driving home themselves. If it were possible for them to take advantage of the system, while not incurring any consequences it could be a real success.

If a student does not have a ride home from a third-party they will inevitably get behind the wheel. If the WHS administration doesn't want that student to potentially become another statistic, they would benefit from implementing a safe ride system.

The school system should get involved with kids partying. This system, with the support of the student body, can become a reality and start saving young lives.

Horoscopes

by Rachel Klein

Aries (Mar 21-Apr 19) You have been outspoken lately. It is time you stopped worrying and enjoy life. You will win the confidence of people who trust your judgment. *Compatible with Libra*

Taurus (Apr 20-May 20) Remember who you were crushing on this summer? Now would be the perfect time to make your move. Beware of anyone wearing Airwalk sneakers -- they may be hazardous to your health. *Compatible with Cancer*

Gemini (May 21-Jun 20) Now that school has begun, you may begin to get fed up with all the difficulty life is throwing at you. Don't slack off, next month will be astonishing. *Compatible with Scorpio*

Cancer (Jun 21-Jul 22) This month your writing capability will be at an all time high. Use your talent sensibly, not to satisfy others. Nevertheless, give full play to your intellectual curiosity. *Compatible with Aries*

Leo (Jul 23-Aug 22) Keep your eyes open. A false move and you are out of the game. Keep your eyes out for people lurking around the corner. Believe no one; you are on your own. *Compatible with Gemini*

Virgo (Aug 23-Sept 22) It is about time you ditched that jerk, you were never loved anyway. Move on only grief will be found; there are more fish in the sea. Always remember to live life to it's fullest. *Compatible with Leo*

Libra (Sep 23-Oct 22) You have a radiant personality and a lot of energy. You should slow down and consider talking to a reliable friend or starting a journal. *Compatible with Taurus*

Scorpio (Oct 23-Nov 21) Your new friend from the lunch room is someone who should be history. This person does not value your other friends. Go back to your real friends. *Compatible with Virgo*

Sagittarius (Nov 22-Dec 21) This will be a good month. Spend more time with your friends, and go spend some money; do something! *Compatible with Aquarius*

Capricorn (Dec 22-Jan 19) This month, music is your obsession. Why not take a walk down memory lane and visit your old teachers, or better yet, your old music teacher. This month will fly by in a breeze. *Compatible with Pisces*

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb 18) You can, you are, and you will be on the right track this month. A theatrical debut is the perfect way to show everyone what you are capable of. *Compatible with Capricorn*

Pisces (Feb 19-Mar 20) You should definitely consider forgetting your current crush or girl/boyfriend. This person does not really love you for who you are. Don't discourage though, close-by are some others who really care. Keep your eyes out for flirting, and be ready to flirt back. *Compatible with Sagittarius*

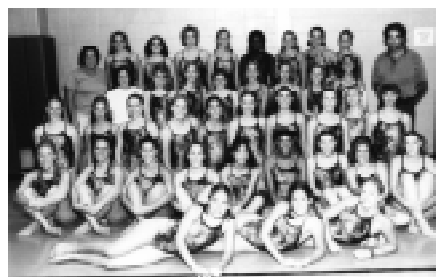
Superior Swimming

by Lauren Bielawiec & Denise Pontacaloni

"Super year, super kids," said girl's swim team coach Gary Dennis after their recent victory over Conard, ending the season as the CCC West Champions. Finishing undefeated, Windsor sent 13 competitors home dissappointed. "The girls worked very hard this year, they did it all themselves, they deserve this victory," states Ms. Ericka Boiczuk, the assistant and diving coach.

Perhaps their most impressive win was over Wethersfield. On October 8, the Warriors broke Wethersfield's five-year undefeated streak. The final score was 99 to 87.

Through long hours and swimming large distances, the team trained rigorously. Thirty-six WHS females and two



The WHS girls' swim team

from South Windsor give two and a half hours of their time each day to this strenuous workout.

Although the practices are tough, the girls develop a tremendous amount of team spirit.

In school before each meet, the team dresses up to show their excitement and anticipation for that day's event. Examples include: "Hawaiian Day," "Britney Spears Day," and also days where they wore their team sweatshirts.

As a result of their hard work and effort, Shannon Kelley, Claire Henrich, Charysse Johnston, Lindsey Lefebvre, Neily Jennings, Kyle Begina, Ashley Johnston, Chelsea Gavitt, Amy Bolduc, Rachel Delaney, and Erin Greeno qualified for states. For diving, senior Emily Sava qualified with a score of 168.

Twelve seniors will graduate, including captains Kristina Gembala, Jennifer Price, and Kathy Wyporek. The remaining

final-year swimmers are Emily Sava, Katelyn MacIvane, Michelle Pansius, Daisy Buckle,

Allison Joanis, Lisa Berlinski, Bridget O'Rourke, Diarra Greene, and Mindy Hopper. However, the team continues to have confidence in those returning, and also are hopeful of those upcoming. "We'll be bigger and stronger next year."

Public Affections

(continued from page 4)

teacher enforcement of the PDA rule was Justin Smith's reply: "If teachers are trying to prepare us for the real world, why should life be more censored in high school than in the real world?" Besides the workplace, there are no rules regulating most forms of affection occurring in public.

School Safety

(continued from page 3)

schools that control access to school buildings. Yet we are not part of the 24% that control access to school grounds or the 19% that have one or more drug sweeps. Four percent of schools have random metal detector tests and one percent require that students pass through metal detectors daily.

TOMAHAWK POLL

Question: Are teenagers today under more stress than those 30 years ago?

☐ YES

☐ NO

Check the box with your answer, cut out and place in Tomahawk box in room 222