What is the Meaning of St. Valentine's Day?

by Daphne Martins

Valentine's Day is a very popular day when couples exchange gifts to demonstrate their feelings for each other. This tradition has been going on for over 600 years. It was a favorite holiday in England, France, and later the United States and Canada.

No one is certain of the beginnings of Valentine's Day, but a possibility was that it might have been an ancient Roman festival called the Lupercalia. At this festival, young Romans placed the names of young women in an urn. From this, a man drew by chance, the name of the young woman who would accompany him to the festival. After the Romans became Christians, a Pagan festival would be held on February 14. This was the day that a martyred Roman priest named Valentine was made a saint.

GREATER FALL RIVER VOCATIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Tradesman

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S I X S T U D E N T S S E L E C T E D

U N I V E R S I T Y P R O G R A M B E G I N S S P R I N G S E M E S T E R



Spotlight participants: (lt. to rt.) David LePage, Lisa Blais, and Keith Gouveia. Brandon Medeiros is not pictured.

by Daphne Martins

Four juniors and two seniors are attending Project Spotlight at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth this semester. Lisa Blais (Health Careers) and Keith Gouveia, David LePage, and Brandon Medeiros (all from the Drafting shop) are the junior participants. Michelle Santos and Daphne Martins (both from Health Careers) are participating as assistant group leaders. Both seniors participated in the program in their junior year.

The Spotlight Program is offered to the gifted and talented (cont. on page 3)

C B P G E A R S U P

by Michelle Santos

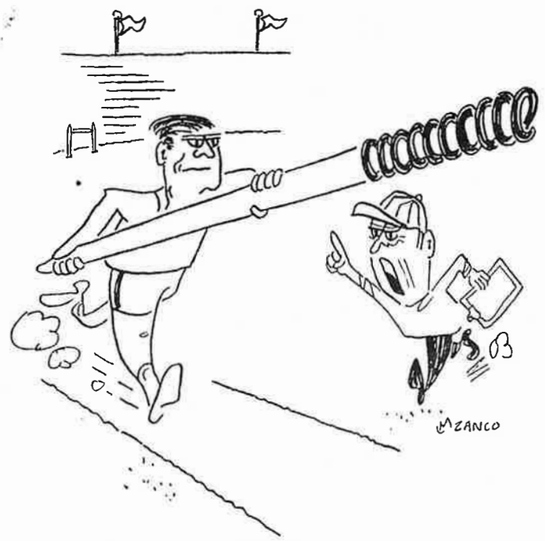
Once again the VICA State Competition is approaching on April 10th and 11th. Many students are already preparing for state competition. One team which has started their preparation is the Chapter Business Procedures team. This is the fourth year that Diman has had a CBP team. For the past three years, the group has brought home a gold medal from "states", qualifying them for the national competition in Tulsa, Oklahoma in 1989 and 1990 and in Louisville, Kentucky in 1991.

The competition involves conducting a ten to fifteen minute meeting according to Robert's Rules of Order which deals with parliamentary procedures. Before competing, the group has a fifteen minute preparation period to look over the "minutes" of a fictitious previous meeting. The team then conducts their meeting before the judges and an audience. Last June, when the CBP team attended the national competition in Kentucky, they made it to the final round. (cont. on p.3)

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Staff: Jon Cadieux, John Camara, Fernando Fernandes, Daphne Martins, Kenneth Paiva, Michelle Santos, and Pedro Teixeira.

Advisor: Dr. James G. Brosnan



"HEY!"

IN MY OPINION

DIMAN HAS A LOT MORE TO OFFER THAN JUST ACADEMICS AND SHOP

by Pedro Teixeira

The typical Diman student might not realize all that Diman has to offer until he or she gets involved. I know this because that was my situation a few years ago.

Going to school and just getting good grades is fine, but that is only part of the educational experience you can get at Diman. You don't have to be a "A" student or a super athlete; all you have to be is open-minded and determined. Diman has a good variety of activities that one can get involved in: Key Club, VICA, Soccer, Basketball, Spotlight, the Science Fair, National Honor Society, and even the school newspaper. This list is but a small sample.

"How do I get involved when I don't even know what's out there?" That is a question that I used to ask myself. The answer to it is easy; go to your guidance counselor and tell him or her that you want to get involved and tell them what activity you would like to learn more about. They will gladly direct you to the appropriate advisor or to someone who might know more about it.

Okay, so you get involved! What's in it for you? Aside from going on trips, meeting other people, making new friends, improving with competition, and just becoming a more rounded individual, you begin forming a portfolio that will impress any job interviewer or college admission director. But more *important* than anything that I have previously mentioned, you attain a sense of pride and accomplishment. You will feel like you have made a difference; that by your participation in extracurricular activities, you have helped to build Diman's reputation which, in turn, builds your reputation as well.

No one can force you into joining an activity; you have to want to join. GO THAT EXTRA MILE and realize that you only get what you put into any endeavor. If you want the best education possible out of Diman, you are going to have to give it all you've got.

TEIXEIRA CAPTURES SECOND

Pedro Teixeira captured second place in the city competition and fifth place in the district competition for his speech on "Meeting America's Challenge".

Every year the broadcasting class competes in the Voice of Democracy Competition sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars. The students were required to write a four to five minute speech and record it on tape. Given such an open subject matter, each student had a unique opportunity to express his or her opinion as to what they thought required more attention in America. The topics included: pollution, the homeless, drugs, crime, education, etc.

Mrs. Arruda, Mr.Dugal, and Mrs. Hopkins judged the speeches and determined Teixeira as the school's winner. Three other seniors received academic recognition including: Jon Cadieux from the electronics shop, first runner up; Michael Cunha from the electricity shop, second runner up; and Daphne Martins from the health careers shop, third runner up.



Voice of Democracy finalists: (standing) Daphne Martins; (seating) Jon Cadieux, Pedro Teixeira, and Michael Cunha.

In May, Pedro will receive a trophy and a fifty-dollar prize at the annual Veterans of Foreign Wars Installation Banquet.

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Student Government Day

T W O S T U D E N T S E L E C T E D

Peter Richard, Machine shop, was elected as Diman's delegate to the Student Government Day Program while Joshua Gorman, House & Mill Carpentry shop, was elected as the alternate.



Student Government Day representatives, Joshua Gorman and Peter Richard.

Both of these juniors have already participated in the regional workshop to introduce the students to the program and to provide information about the state government system. Recently, they attended the Glass Bowl Drawing at the State House in Boston. At this workshop state officials explained their duties and responsibilities to the delegates.

In the last workshop in March our delegates will visit the State House to observe committee hearings and legislative sessions.

After Peter and Joshua attend a series of three workshops to prepare them for Student Government Day, they will perform the roles of their counterparts at the State House on April 3, 1992.

These two students were elected by their fellow classmates to participate in the Student Government Day Program in November. The program is held annually for high school students throughout the state to provide student interaction with our state government.

##

C O M I N G

I N T H E N E X T I S S U E

SCIENCE FAIR WINNERS

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Seniors Daphne Martins and Michelle Santos, assistant group leaders for the Spotlight program

SPOTLIGHT (cont. from p.1)
students of the area's fifteen high schools. The meeting take place on Thursday afternoons until 5:30 pm. Students listen to various speakers from the college and community on such topics as: Politics and World Issues, AIDS: Myths vs. Truths, and Life in the Theatre. The second half of the afternoon is spent in small groups discussing student reaction to the presenter.

Half of the semester student participants are in mini courses. This semester's choices include: Classroom Behavior, SAT Math Review, Children's Literature, Termite Guts at 450X, and Street French.

Diman's
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OF ITS
LITERARY MAGAZINE
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for the
SPRING 1992 EDITION

For further information, contact the National Honor Society officers or Dr. Brosnan.

Chapter Business (cont. from p.1)

On the second day of competition, they came in seventh in the nation. Less than 8 points of a possible 200 points separated them from the first place finalists.

This year's members are John Camara and Kenneth Paiva of the Drafting shop; Theresa Guinen, Cesar Pereira, and Pedro Teixeira of the Electronics shop; and Jessica Hendry, Daphne Martins (chairperson), and Michelle Santos (secretary) of the Health Careers shop.

The school advisor of Chapter Business Procedures is Dr. James G. Brosnan. College students also acting as advisors include: Edward Levesque, William Nelson, and Drey Andrade. Both Levesque and Andrade have chaired CBP squads.



Chapter Business Procedures team members include: (lt. to rt.) -front row: Terry Guinen, Michelle Santos, Daphne Martins; back row: John Camara, Cesar Pereira, Pedro Teixeira, and Ken Paiva. Jessica Hendry is not pictured.

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT PLANS SECOND FAIR

Mr. Roger Ramos, science lead teacher, has announced that



February 13th will mark Diman's second annual science fair. It will be held in the gymnasium and will consist of from 30 to 80 projects. Prejudging has already taken place on January 23. This will ensure that only the best projects represent Diman to the panel of outside judges on that day. Although it was open to all classes, it was only required of some 9th, 10th, and 11th grade classes.

Members of the Diman National Honor Society have volunteered their time to help organize the event and assist the judges.

Award categories include these four: Biology Demonstration, Biology Experimentation, Physics Demonstration, and Physics Experimentation. The winners will receive plaques and the runners-up will be given ribbons. All students who compete will receive certificates of participation.

Unlike last year, this year's winners will be entered into the Regional Science Fair.

From the newspaper staff to all the participants, good luck!



"Please excuse Robert for not bringing his project to the school's Science Fair. It exploded."

DIMAN COED PUBLISHED IN NATIONAL ANTHOLOGY

Nicole LaFrance, a junior in Culinary Arts, has just had an original poem entitled, "I've Been Waiting for You" published in Windows on the World.

Nicole has been writing for two years and her favorite subjects are love, happiness, and life.



Nicole LaFrance, Culinary Arts junior.

VICA STUDENTS EXHIBIT SKILLS



This year's winners include: (lt. to rt.) Nicole Menard, William Travers, Steven Miranda, Tina Lopes, Paul Andrade, and Joseph Cabral.

by John Camara

The annual Local Job Skill Demonstration Contest was held on December 11, 1991 in the school's auditorium. This year there were eleven seniors, five juniors, and eight sophomores who had competed in two categories, which were Traditional and Non-Traditional Job Skills.

This year's winners of the Traditional Job Skills contest are: Steven Miranda, a sophomore in Culinary Arts, whose first place demonstration was on the proper way to cut a chicken; William Travers, a sophomore in House and Mill Carpentry, came in second place for his demonstration on how to make a lap joint; and Nicole Menard, a senior in Culinary Arts, came in third for decorating a cake.

The Non-Traditional winners are: Tina Lopes, a senior in the Health Careers shop, for her first place demonstration on the proper procedure for brushing teeth; second place was awarded to Paul Andrade, a junior in the Building Maintenance shop, for repairing a hole in drywall; and Joseph Cabral, a sophomore in the Painting and Decorating shop, placed third for his demonstration on lettering.

Mr. Robert Ciosek, the event manager, said the six judges felt that the English teachers helped prepare the students well. He also said " Great fusion continues to improve between the vocational and academic community."

The district competition will be held Monday, February 24, 1992 at Tri-County Regional Vocational High School. The Job Skills winners will move directly into the State Competition which will be held in Fitchburg on April 9-11.



The 1991-1992 VICA Job Skills Contestants