Creative Writing

YOU KEEP ME CRYING

You keep me crying.
It hurts me inside.
I don't understand why.
As I lay in bed
And turn and toss
I wonder why
You keep making me cry.
If I cry in front of you
Would you leave me in the rain?
My tears blending in
Running down my face
I don't know when
I will never see happiness again.
When you needed me for anything
I was there for you.
Now I need you.
Why won't you wipe the tears from my eyes?
You keep me crying,
You know how to make me stop,
But you keep me crying
all night long
Nonstop.

by Sherrie Medeiros

PASTE-POT POEM



TIGRESS

I am hunched down underneath the tall, green things.
I am statue -like, watching intently.
I am so hungry.
Little buzzy things fly around my orange and black head.
They bite at my ears - something that hurts, but I have to ignore.
I see my soon to be dinner move.
I lick my chops.
I put my butt slightly in the air, moving it back and forth.
I get ready to pounce.
That big orange in the air is making me so warm.
I flick my tail and jump.
I got it.
I wrestle with my meal.
I club it and scratch it with my paws.
I sink my teeth in, feeling the blood in my mouth.
It's body shakes and then is finally still.
My tummy growls for hunger.
My mate comes to eat what I just worked so hard for.
Why?
I stare at him, anxious, waiting for him to be done.
I don't know why he gets to eat my food first.
My eyes send out darts of hatred to him.
One day I'll overpower him.
He'll have to watch me eat.
I think of the day that I'll get him.
He will be my prey.
My day will come. Soon.

by Erica Followwill

STEEL IN THE SKY

by Nathan Ouellette

The yellow steel that climbs to the clouds
The lochness monster howls real loud.
I jumped in my seat the bar came down
They said thumbs up we started to roll.
We clicked up the hill it gave us a thrill!!
We flew down the hill it gave us a thrill!!
Throught the loops into the tunnel
Around a few turns man that was fun

THE LAST APPLE TREE

In an empty meadow, two lonely apple trees sit side by side. Right beside them there's a small pond.

It's a dry and cool day in the meadow, but not for long. The temperature suddenly begins to rise, 70, 80, and 90 degrees! It gets so hot, the small pond starts to bubble and boil. Within seconds the pond fully evaporates.

The leaves on the innocent apple trees dry and crumble. There is a foul stench of death in the air as the leaves begin to singe and burn. A large cloud of nuclear flames comes rolling through the once green meadow. The forceful flame picks the two small apple trees out of the ground and sends them flying. They fly through the streets of burning cities watching people die in the streets. As they're being hurled they begin breaking apart into ash. They hear Earth's last cries for help, but there's nothing anyone can do.

The flame stops, but there is nothing left of the two lonely apple trees. A defening silence is what becomes of the Earth.

Out of the black clouds falls a single apple. It falls near the chard skeleton of an infant.

It must have been the apple tree's way of saying good-bye to the Earth they once knew before it what handed over to the apes.

by Adam Huwyler

THE TRADESMAN

DIMAN REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

-- A NEWSPAPER by and for DIMAN STUDENTS --

Volume 4 No. 5 June 1997

Diman Well Represented at MASSACHUSETTS STATE HOUSE

by Christopher Makuch

On April 4th, Diman students Michael Gaudencio and I, accompanied by Mr. Aubin, attended the 50th annual Student Government Day activities at the Massachusetts State House in Boston. Student Government Day was started in order to give high school students a chance to act as State Senators or State Representatives for a day and to give them a first hand experience on how exactly state government is run.

Upon arrival at the State House we admired the craftsmanship and detailed design of the exterior of the building. The interior is filled with statues and pictures of famous people who did great things for the State of Massachusetts.

After getting a brief tour and explanation of the House and the Senate, we soon adapted to our new role as State Senators.

The next thing for us to do was to decide which committee meeting we would like to go to. Each committee would have a different issue to debate. We unanimously decided to go to the committee that was debating the death penalty issue. At the committee meeting the people who were for the bill spoke first and the people who were against spoke last. After the committee voted to pass the bill, it then moved to the House because that it is where it originated. The bill was passed by the House, and then it moved to the Senate where it was rejected. So when all was said and done, the bill would not have become law. For our efforts we each received a certificate of recognition given by our State Representative Rodrigues.

The 50th annual Student Government Day was a great success because we learned so much about how laws are made, facts about the State House, and so on. I would recommend to any student who is offered a chance to go to the 51st annual Student Government Day to go and have fun like we did.



Kids Teaching Kids

by Leeanne Lynn

On Tuesday, May 13,1997, eight Diman mediators traveled to Hoyle elementary school in Swansea. The eight students were Mindy Southworth, Erica Followwill, Leeanne Lynn, Joe Riley, Stephanie Pacheco, Shannon Raposa, Jessica Farias, and Tara Assad. We were supervised by Mrs. Burns, Diman's Health Coordinator.

Before we could go to Hoyle, the principal and one parent came over and watched a mock mediation. We performed a mediation that we would do over at their school.

They liked the mediation and the mediators' good job. They did comment a little on what was being said. For example, instead of saying "resolve" we should say "solve." The mediation we used was sort of down to earth, so that forth and fifth graders could relate to it.

After the parents left, we talked a little on what we wanted to do. Then we got four more mediators, and two weeks later we were off.

When we arrived at the school, we were greeted by teachers and parents. We got a little nervous before entering the rooms, but after being introduced to the students, we were fine.

Mindy, Erica, Shannon, and Stephanie took over the fourth graders, while Jessica, Joe, Tara and I (Leeanne) took over the fifth graders.

First, we explained why we were there and what mediation was all about. Then, we began the mock mediation. We seemed to keep their attention and explained everything we were doing.

We got through the mediation with only a few snickers and began a question & answer period. We got less questions and more, "Do you know?"

After the questions and answers period, we performed 2 mediations. Four of us in groups of 2 did 2 mediations (real ones).

It was a fun day. I'd love to do it again.



Four Mediators putting in a Mock mediation for Hoyle elementry 5th graders.

SHOP PAGE

House and Mill Carpentry

The carpentry students are in the process of building bookcases for the Green Elementary School in Fall River. The Key Club members are paying for the materials as a community project, and that is approximately $600.00 in materials. Jocelyn Motta, a junior in the shop, is a member of the Key Club, and she is part of the construction process. The cabinets are expected to be installed after Painting and Decorating finishes them. This project enabled the students to write computer language for the Computer Numerical Control (CNC) machining center. The CNC does the boring, drilling, cutting, and routing for the project.

As we all know, Carpentry does much of the building of Diman's project houses. This year's house, located at 300 Friend's Cove in Somerset, had it's kitchen cabinets, vanity, tub surround, and window seat built by the Carpentry students using premium grade cherry wood. In about two weeks, the house should be ready. Anyone who would like to see the house is welcome. There will be an open house at the site on June 1, 1997, from 1 to 3 p.m.

Robert J. Ciosek is the Carpentry department head; Gerald Barbosa is the house coordinator; Ronald Silvia is the cabinet making instructor; and Robert Parks is the temporary related instructor.





Electricity

Diman's electrical program encompasses the fundamentals of modern electrical theory and practices. The program is geared to the apprentice electrician, and it establishes a solid foundation for the electrical field.

The students are instructed in basic wiring methods and materials. These skills are the important stepping stones in mastering the more difficult commercial and industrial wiring which involves motors, generators, and transformers. The electrical program covers all the facets of the electrical trade dealing with light, heat, power, codes, and the licensing regulations related to the industry.

This is a comprehensive course which prepares students for the ever demanding changes in the technology of the electrical field.

Much of Diman's electrical maintenance is done by the students under the supervision of Mr. Pillarella. The juniors and seniors go out to work at the house, and the majority of the seniors are out on co-op.

The instructors are: Mr. Duquette, related; Mr. Martel, freshman and sophomores; Mr. D. Pacheco, juniors and seniors.

"Far and away the best prize that life offers is the chance to work hard at work worth doing."

Theodore Roosevelt

Drafting

The drafting shop at Diman is designed to give a wide background in the field of drafting. The students' focus is on machine drafting, but they will also receive experience in the architectural, piping, welding, and electronics field. Students will use a "V" track drafting machine and CAD workstation freshmen and sophomore year. As juniors and seniors, students will advance these basic skills on CAD workstations.

Freshmen/sophomore instructor: Mr. Belliveau; Junior/senior instructor: Mr. Cantwell; Shop technology instructor: Mr. Pavao.



The Tradesman staff would like to apologize to the shops which did not appear in the paper this year: Plumbing & H.V.A.C. and any others we may have missed.

Due to our time constrains, we were unable to write and publish all of the shop pages we intended. We plan to continue our shop pages next year.

Creative Writing

A Terrifying View From My Window

by Chris Dionne

On a hot and humid summer day in August, 1991, Hurricane Bob decided to visit us and play havoc with humanity in Fall River. It was an awesome storm which I can't remember ever having experienced before. It also occurred at a very sad and difficult time in my life, as my grandmother had just passed away two weeks prior to this cruel act of nature.

I watched this natural disaster from my bedroom window at first, but eventually found myself going from room to room in our first floor apartment. To my amazement the high gusty winds bent beautiful evergreen, maple and apple trees and broke many of their exquisite branches and threw them everywhere as though these essential limbs were no longer needed. The storm finally uprooted the twenty foot tall pine tree in our front yard but spared the house because it fell into the street instead of our living room. Bushes, flower and vegetable gardens were also destroyed by these horrific winds which howled like a pack of wolves and brought debris with them. The sky was black and filled with tremendous thunder clouds as though the heavens were ready to burst open with a wall of water that would flood the whole city. When the rains began, they seemed that they would never end. The streets in and around my house looked like small rivers and were deserted like a ghost town.

Ultimately, everyone in my family took refuge together in the center of the apartment, away from the possibility of shattered windows in case of broken glass and flying debris. All power was lost which made me fearful of the devastation this monster has caused, and I thought this evil would never end. Hurricane Bob was like a living thing that was angry and struggling to survive.

When the rage finally ended I felt that my grandmother's spirit had been watching over our home and protected us.

Written to my Father

Dad,
How could you?
Why did you?
Why?
Why did you leave me with
a bruised heart for the rest
of my life?
The suffering my sister and I
suffered, you will suffer.
The bruised face my mom had,
you will have.
It's hard to live the life
we did.
no one knew,
no one cared.
But soon daddy, I hate to say,
I hope you suffer the same way.

Written by your daughter,
Joanne Matos

Sleepy - a verb poem

Run away fast,
Go Run away jog,
jump and dive roll,
Run away point,
jump and spin roll away flip and (sleep),
Quietly!

by Marcio M. Medeiros

Friends - a haiku

A boy with a horse
riding in the large green field
up an down they go.

by Marcio Medeiros

Slicing

Cutting of cable
Straighten it on a table
strip it
twist it,
cap the conductors
screw up the fixtures,
turn on the power
Light up the tower,
something of life
for
everyone nice.

by Marcio Medeiros

Poem of a Hunter

Don't you laugh as a hunter goes by, because he will be the next to hide.

He wraps himself up like a tree, from his head down to his feet.

Goes into the woods with his stand. Puts it on the tree and goes as high as he can.

Sits and waits with his bow, waits there until he sees a doe.

Draws back his bow very neat. Shoots the doe and the arrow penetrates deep.

He drops his bow, and jumps out of the tree.

Chases the doe that he shot. Found the doe brought it back.

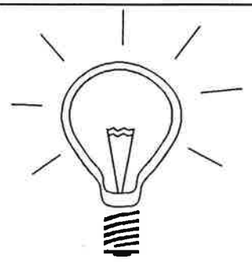
Put it on his truck on a big blue tarp.

Brings it to the weigh station to see what it weighs. Listen to the guy to see what he says.

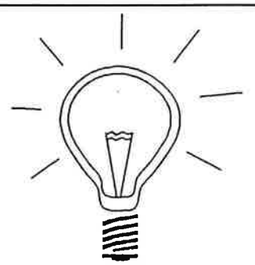
The guy says she weighs 120 pounds. Brings it to the butcher and he cuts it down.

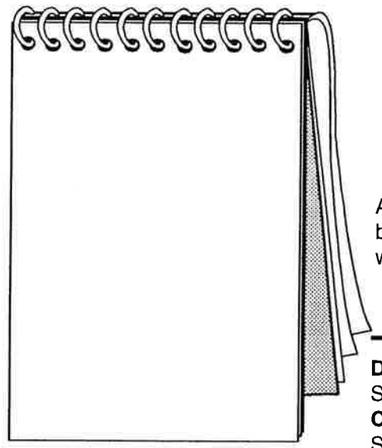
Puts it on the table for Thanksgiving dinner, and everyone says boy you're a winner.

by Richard Amaral



Creative Writing





Temporary Situation

by Laura Silvia

I woke up one Saturday morning at about 10:30 a.m. to hear my father yelling, "Laura get out of bed!" I moaned and rolled over, but hearing my father stamping around the house got me out of bed pretty quick.

When I got upstairs about 10 minutes later, I realized the problem. Dad and Mom were fighting (a rare event), and he was scared she was going to leave him. "Where is mom?" I asked. He answered me with a short grumble that sounded like "She is out." Well, after the morning went by and we had picked up the house, she came home at about 1:30 p.m. I went next door to my vava's house to give them privacy. About 15 minutes later, the yelling came to an abrupt end. I went back home to realize the horrible results of their fight; Mom was leaving. Even though it was temporary, it didn't matter to me because she was still leaving.

The tears came. I felt betrayed, not wanted, not loved, and most of all, I felt all alone. My father, brother, and I were all tears for a long time. When I couldn't cry anymore I called my friend Tracy and told her what happened. She sympathized and invited me over to her house for the night to get this out of my mind for a while. I gladly accepted. When I came home again on Sunday at 6:00 p.m., my sadness came back to me and I felt alone again. I couldn't understand why she left. How come he wouldn't stay? Why didn't she care how I felt? Why? That was the question in my head.

I went to school Monday and couldn't concentrate in any of my classes. Monday night was almost the same as Saturday and Sunday except for one minor detail. Mom came home. She realized how much she was hurting our family, so she came home. She said she was going to try to work things out with dad, and she would be there for Russ and me.

After that Monday night, things changed for me. I realized that you can't take the good things in life for granted because one day you might wake up and it will all be gone forever.

When I was young I use to always wonder what children of divorced parents were like. I wanted to be like them to have a second home to go to. Now I realize that it isn't good for the kids that watch their parents' divorce. It hurts alot. I feel bad for the kids who watch this happen. This chapter in my life taught me a good lesson. Don't take life and the good things that come with it for granted.

THE HUNTER

A HAIKU

An eagle in a tree,
below a school of fish eating,
wings take to the air.

by John Sullivan

DEATH !
So **COLD !**
CRUEL and **HARSH !**
Sometimes **LOVING** and **PEACE-FUL?**
HEAVENLY ! Prepared for burial underground !
DEATH will always be amongst us !
You will **NEVER** be missed as much !
SORROW will **NEVER** be greater than that day !
You will be surrounded by more **GRIEF** than **IMAGINABLE !**
DEAD SILENCE that **WILL BE NEVER ENDING FOR ALL ETERNITY !**
DEAD SILENCE that **WILL BE NEVER ENDING FOR ALL ETERNITY !**
You will be surrounded by more **GRIEF** than **IMAGINABLE !**
SORROW will **NEVER** be greater that that day !
You will **NEVER** be missed as much !
DEATH will always be amongst us !
HEAVENLY ! Prepared for burial underground !
Sometimes LOVING and **PEACE-FUL?**
CRUEL and **HARSH !**
So **COLD !**
DEATH !

by Sierra Dube

SPORTS

The *Lady Bengals* Roar their way into VICTORY!

by Jess Farias

As of the second week in May, the Lady Bengals softball team had won 8 consecutive games and helds the first place position with Norfolk Aggie. After putting away New Testament, Upper Cape Regional, Cape Cod Tech and Old Colony Regional, it was only a matter of time before the girls put away Norfolk. Splitting with Norfolk by losing 15-10 the first game and then beating them 8-7 the second time around put us in first with them and also set the Lady Bengals up for sharing the title of Mayflower League Champs.

The girls are led by 4 seniors: Holly Santos (2nd base), Natasha Sliwa (centerfield), Sherri Machado (firstbase), Christine Wright (outfield), and Danielle Proux (outfield). They continue to hold leadership roles as the season closes in. Juniors Jessica Farias (catcher), Amanda Santos (shortstop) and Nicole Rego (leftfield), along with sophomores Sara Paulo (thirdbase), Lisa Miranda (outfield) and our ace pitcher Kim Silva all tie in defensively and offensively. Our standout freshmen who has shown what hard work is all about are Priscilla Souza (secondbase) and our backup pitcher Sharon Resendes.

As a player I think we have come a long way, especially from last year. This year was our first year as a varsity team and a member of the Mayflower League. I honestly have to say, and I quote Coach Kuthan, "Timely hitting and stellar pitching has produced the victories for the girls." We are well on our way to share a Mayflower League title that we have worked very hard for. I would like to thank Coach Kuthan and Coach Bentley for the time and effort they have put in to make this season a success.

The season is almost over and we would still appreciate you support and attendance at our games. Thanks again and come watch us play!





Peter Mathieu awaits his opponents shot.

Tennis Isn't So Easy!!!

by Todd Rapoza

As you all may know, Diman has a tennis team. Many of you may think tennis is a wimpy sport, but it's not. Tennis is a highly skilled sport and takes a great deal of time and effort to play successfully. Tennis can also be fun to play.

To play tennis you must have a rough idea what the sport is about. Most importantly, you need confidence in yourself and an open mind. You also must have control on the ball and focus on where you want to hit it.

When I first started I thought I was going to be a hot shot and be the best. But when Coach Hopkins hit the balls to me, they were going everywhere: over the fence, into the net. I mean everywhere. But as time went on I got better because I had more confidence in myself and listened to everything my coach told me.

I would be willing to bet it was the same for all the other tennis players when they first started playing. Maybe they didn't know it then but they still had to practice hard to get to where they are today.

I close this article with a dedication to this year's tennis team for a valiant effort in representing Diman in this great sport. Their names are: William Silvia ET; Nathan Oellette BT; Peter Mathieu HMC; Kevin Menard HC; Nigel Guimond HMC; Regina Amaral DR;, the only girl on the team; Scott Cote DR; Robert Bergeron HMC; Todd Rapoza ET; and most importantly of all, our coach Mr. Hopkins.

Out team also has spirit. We stick together no matter what. If we win or lose, we still stick together as a team. We could also use a little of your support. Come to a match, and see what tennis is all about!

Commentary . . .



WANTED: Tupac Shakur Dead or Alive

by Adam Rodrigues

On Saturday, September 7, 1996, Tupac Shakur was shot five times following a Mike Tyson-Evander Holyfield heavyweight fight in Las Vegas, Nevada. He survived the shooting and received a lung transplant the following day, only to pass away six days later on Friday, September 13, 1996, at age 25. Shakur's funeral was supposed to take place on the 14th of September but was canceled for unknown reasons. Instead, Tupac's body was cremated on that Saturday, September 14, 1996. now this rap artist, who is assumed to be dead, is a wanted man. He's wanted not by the police, or the FBI, but by his fans. It seems that his alleged death has stirred up some controversy and, although we were all led to believe he was dead, there are some very suspicious facts that seem to suggest otherwise.

Tupac Shakur always wore a bullet-proof vest, regardless of where he was going, or whom he was going with. On the night of September 7, 1996, however, he was not. If, in fact, his death was staged, his not wearing the bullet-proof vest makes this shooting possible. His funeral was supposed to be off limits to the press but was canceled for unknown reasons. It was to be held on September 14, the day after his death, but because of a sudden change of plans, his body was cremated instead. The fact that he was to be put to rest the day after being pronounced dead seems a bit peculiar since it is illegal to bury or cremate a murder victim without an autopsy.

The only known eye-witness, Yafeu Fula, was found shot to death in the hallway of an apartment building in East Orange, New Jersey, on November 10, 1996. With the only known witness dead, there doesn't appear to be anybody else willing to shed any light on the case. When an ABC correspondent asked Tupac's producer and head of Death Row Records, Marion "Suge" Knight, "If you knew who killed Tupac, would you tell the police?", his response was "Absolutely not." Knight was in the car with Tupac at the time of the shooting and was unharmed, as was Tupac's girlfriend at the time, the daughter of TV producer Quincy Jones, who was at first quoted saying she was "in the can" and later said she was not.

The latest Tupac CD was released on November 5, 1996, under the name "Makaveli." Although spelled differently, Machiavelli was a 16th century Italian philosopher who endorsed staging one's death to elude one's enemies and accumulate power. In his book Discourses Upon the First Ten Books of Titus Livy, a book which Tupac is known to have read, Machiavelli states that "a prince who wishes to achieve great things must learn to deceive." I can only assume that Tupac took his advice, but if you rearranged the letters in Makaveli, among other things, you come up with mak alive, or "make alive."

The CD released by the artist formerly known as Tupac was titled "The Don Killuminati: the 7 Day Theory." In the title, "Don" can be related to The Godfather movies as a symbol of someone who is loved, respected, feared, and hated. "Killuminati" could be another altered spelling, this time for the word "calumniate" which means to make a false or slanderous statement. As for "the 7 Day Theory", Tupac was shot on September 7th, and lived throughout the 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th, before "dying" on the 13th.

Tupac also seems to have had some biblical ties with his two latest albums. On the CD's titled "All Eyez On Me" and "the 7 Day Theory", all songs are published under the name "Joshua's Dream." In the Bible, Joshua envisioned the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Also, listed in the CD booklet as the producer of "the 7 Day Theory" is Simon, an executive producer who, prior to the release of "the 7 Day Theory", was unknown in the rap music industry. In the Bible, Simon was an disciple of Jesus who was one of the first to witness the resurrection as listed by Saint Paul.

Not only has the late Tupac Shakur released an album, but the deceased has also managed to film a few videos as well. The video for the song titled "I Ain't Mad At Cha", off the "All Eyez On Me" CD, was released only a few days after his death. The video features Tupac being shot and killed while leaving the theater with a friend. Deja-vu!!! Interestingly, Tupac dies in the last video under the name "Tupac." his very next video was released under the name "Makaveli." In the video "To Live and Die in L.A.", the second video released under the name "Makaveli", Tupac is showing off a pair of sneakers that didn't even exist yet. The latest pair of Nike's Air Jordan's didn't appear on store shelves until the start of the NBA season back in November. With this in mind, how could Tupac be wearing these sneakers is he was murdered back in

Keith Sweat
Twisted: As much as I liked this song, I can't bring myself to listen to it anymore. It's getting old.....Fast. I guess that we are definitely going to hear it somewhere this summer, but I'd rather hear it going off the air.
FYI: He's a talented man, but why hasn't anyone noticed that he sings through his nose yet?

These are just some of the songs that you'll be hearing this summer. There are some others that are worthy of being noted by title:

DJ Kool: Let Me Clear My Throat
Da Brat (featuring T Boz) Ghetto Love
Heavy D: Big Daddy
Dru Hill: In My Bed
Allure (Featuring Nas): Head Over Heels

Turbulence Takes Audience For A RIDE

by Mathieu Teixeira

Have you ever flown on a plane? After seeing the new movie "Turbulence" you'll never want to again.

The movie stars Lauren Holly who is a stewardess on a plane which has only about 5 passengers on it, not counting two very dangerous criminals.

One of the criminals is Ryan Weaver who is getting transported from one jail to another and is on death row. As usual everything goes wrong and the two criminals get loose and take over the plane. Things get worse when all the passengers are locked in a closet, and both pilots die.

Now, there's a big problem when Terry has to fly the plane, which is heading into a dangerous storm, and try's to keep herself away from Weaver who is trying to kill her.

This movie is action-packed and never has a dull moment. It offers breath-taking and heart-stopping suspense and will definitely take you for the ride of your life.

This "Candyman" is definitely not *sweet!*

by Cheryl Pimental

"Candyman" is a horrifying and exciting film. It delves deep into our nightmares making them seemingly real. It stars Virginia Madsen as a professor at a local University. Madsen is cast as the main character. This movie focuses on her and her life with only supporting performances from other actors. Virginia's character "Carol" tries to discover the story behind the myth of the grotesque Candyman.

Candyman is a kind of a boogie man that is believed to have killed hundreds, most recently a local woman. "Carol" enters the slain woman's housing project to discover just how and why such a gruesome murder could have happened. Little does she realize she has just entered the world of Candyman.

This movie takes unexpected twists and turns as she becomes the one thing Candyman wants. He will stop at nothing to get her to join him in his private hell. "Candyman" turns into a race to survive as Masden tries to save the local people, her marriage, and most of all herself from the wrath of Candyman.

In one scene, "Carol's" husband is in the bathroom crying over his shredded marriage. The camera zooms in to the man and ominous music is heard in the background. In a split second the man is gutted from his stomach up from a quick as lightening Candyman! It was as if he appeared out of nowhere.

Overall, this movie was the goriest, scariest don't-watch-it-alone movie ever. From the beginning to the end, this movie is a rollercoaster you don't want to get off. You will never stay home alone again!

Looking For A Change?

by Jesse Pinkowski

Recently, I visited Bob and Timmy's Legendary Wood Grilled Pizza in Providence, R.I. After walking several minutes to the place on busy Federal Hill, a half-hour drive from Fall River, we arrived and were seated. The service was not bad, nothing special, but not bad. I was handed a menu and noticed this menu only had one side. I decided on the Barbecue Grilled Chicken pizza for $11.95, and walked over to the soft drink machine to pick out an ice cold IBC cream soda.

I sat back down and began to admire the place. There was little time spent in making this restaurant look good; it wore a sort of old fashioned restaurant feel. It was a reminder that there was quality food in other places than a high tech McDonalds.

After waiting approximately fifteen minutes, minutes that seemed nearly like an hour after I began to smell the food, it was ready. A server, who was also the cook, brought me my pizza. Digging in now, I was rather impressed by its different taste. (No pepperoni here, sorry) The pizza was rather thin, but that only enhanced its lush combination of chicken, barbecue sauce, cheese, and purple onions. The combination went fabulous together.

After I was done eating, I took a trip to the rest room. It was a co-ed toilet, again, nothing fancy and high tech. There was light orange wall paper on the walls. It made the bathroom seem like it belonged in a dark and ominous horror movie, which was cool.

I paid the kind gentleman and left rather impressed, and pretty full as well.

It was definitely worth the drive.

The Temperature's RISING

by Daniel DeMello

When the sky is that deep red and the temperature hits 90 degrees, it's summer. When the aroma of food on the grill sizzles your way and you're trying to get that special someone's attention, it's time to roll down the car windows and give everyone a taste of summer's hottest songs.

Of course there will always be the old but never tiresome songs that remind you of summers past, like "SUMMERTIME" by DJ Jazzy Jeff and the Fresh Prince and other by the Jets, Heavy D, Expose', Stevie B, Salt and Pepa, Warren G, LL Cool J, and 2 Pac.

Judging how these hits made it to the top, the following songs are destined to become summer 97's best or worst jams:

Refugees

We Tryin to Stay Alive: This New blockbuster is back, and it combines today's most popular type of rapping with yesteryear's disco fever. The Beegees are heard singing the famous refrain, "Stayin Alive." Although Lauren is not heard on this track, it is still going to be a chart topper.

Puff Daddy (Featuring MASE)

Can't Nobody Hold Me Down: Spending more than 10 weeks at the number one spot and more than 18 weeks on Billboards hot 100 singles list, Puff Daddy's "Can't Nobody Hold Me Down" is a record breaking success that will grab anyone's attention and send their self-esteem rocketing through the roof!

SWV (Sister with Voices)

Can We

Booti Call Soundtrack: They're baaack! In addition to "You're the One for Me" and other popular hits, these sisters with voices definitely make you want to turn up the volume with their funky, mesmerizing beats and crazy lyrics. Rapper Missy also adds her flavor to this soon-to-be summertime smash.

FYI: I bought the soundtrack just for this song and was very happy I did! It contains songs from Too Short, R. Kelly, and Lil' Kim.

Notorious B.I.G.

Hypnotize: This song debuted on Billboards number 2 spot the week of April 19, 1997. Its continued fame has brought many to buy the late rapper's New and old c.d.'s This one is definitely going to be heard blasting from people's cars this summer.

FYI: As much as I like it, continuos playback of this song can result in becoming tired or fatigued ....odd, huh?

Spice Girls

Wannabe: This song made it as high as the number 1 spot during its first 14 weeks on the chart. At first, it can be a great song, until you hear it more than 5 times. In fact, after the fifth time, you just wanna grab a mallet and give these British babes a reason to "Wannabe" back in their homeland.

FYI: Their followup song, "Say you'll be there" is 10 times better than their first. Thank God.

Lil Kim (Featuring Puff Daddy)

No Time: Lil Kim is without a doubt the best new female rapper around, with the exception of Foxy Brown. She should also be on your hot list for the summer. Her voice is intriguing, and with a sample from "Take Me Just as I am" from James Brown in it, this song is the Bomb! Not to mention she gets a lot of help from Puff Daddy!

FYI: This song has not hit the number one mark yet, and with so many new songs arriving daily, it probably won't. But if you've heard it once, you've got to hear it again!



Freak Nasty

Da Dip: "I Put my Hand up on your Hip!" As repetitive as it is, this song is bound to make you want to dance. You can even hear it daily from other classmates singing it in the halls or shop. I have, believe me! It is really a motivator!

FYI: I give this 3 stars. The only reason I won't give it 4 is because it gets overplayed (like most good songs do). It is going to be your worst nightmare if you hear it non-stop.

Warren G

I Shot the Sherrif: I was very surprised by this new one. As opposed to older G hits, Warren takes on a peaceful stance, although you'd never guess it by the name of the title. Its beats are captivating and yet he still manages to rap calmly and confidently. It has been falling in the charts, but it is right up there with the number ones in my book.

FYI: This video is shot in a western theme, a noticeable change from his chillin-in-the-hood phase,

Toni Braxton

You're makin Me High: O.K. .... So maybe I'm taking this Toni Braxton thing a little too far. I kind of figured that out for myself after naming my lab pig Little Toni Braxton! Anyway, this is still something you want to play to get that love interest's attention. It debuted last summer, and steamed up the radio waves everywhere. It is going to happen all over again.

FYI: Her new hit "Un-Break my Heart" has spent over 30 weeks on the charts. A significant chunk of that time was spent at number 1. For more on Toni, please refer to the last issue of The Tradesman.

Foxy Brown (Featuring Jay Z)

I'll Be: This girl can't be stopped. Spending over 15 weeks on Billboards Hot 100 Singles list and peaking at number 7, she just spits out creative phrases faster than a running fox. This is a real keeper, and I'll Be darned if it doesn't make it to the top this year.

FYI: The C.D. is really good and probably worth the money if you really like her style.

Commentary . . .

(cont. from pg. 4)

September? The answer to my question is obvious. He was never murdered.

My last piece of evidence can be found on his latest CD. In the first three seconds of "the 7 Day Theory", the words "Suge shot me" are mumbled just loud enough to hear before a reporter's voice takes over. This means either "Suge" Knight pulled the trigger, or he and Tupac have staged his death to attract publicity for his next album which, at the time, was "the Don Killuminati: the 7 Day Theory." The staging of one's death does seem a bit outrageous, but if anyone in the rap music industry had enough guts to attempt it, it would definitely be Knight and Shakur. I believe it was all a scheme with the intent of accomplishing two things. The first would be to get Tupac out from underneath the media's microscope and the second would be to sell records for a Death Row Records company on the verge of going belly-up.

With the evidence presented in my persuasive essay, I hope to have altered the thinking of those pessimists who refuse to consider the possibility of Tupac being alive. If I am unable to transform their beliefs, I hope to at least cast a shadow of a doubt on their certainty of his death.

"Every once in a while,
it's a good idea to
hang a question mark
on what you have always taken
for granted."

Anonymous

For Better . . . *or Worse?*

by Ryan Blackmore

I can be a hero. I can earn many honors and fight many battles. I can even die for my country. But when my tummy begins to ache, the nurse has to call "mommy" to get me dismissed! I mean, come on, doesn't it seem a little foolish?

By law, at the age of 18, you as an adult are fully responsible for your actions. It is the point in a person's life that they are noticed and can make a difference in the world, for good or bad, better or worse. It is the gaining of adulthood, independence, and freedom.

Adulthood? Independence? Freedom? Perhaps, everywhere except for Diman Vocational High School. No matter how old a student is, he or she has to get a parent's permission for anything. Dismissals, missing a day, going home sick, and even coming in late, all require parental permission, no matter what the circumstances.

If a student is seriously injured or becomes terribly ill, contacting of a parent is important. However, if the problem is something small and really unimportant, why waste everyone's time?

By the time a person is 18, it should become personal choice to skip, go home sick, or to just get dismissed, because no matter what, that person will be responsible for his/her own actions. Whether they miss two periods, a day, weeks, or even months, they will always pay somehow in the long run. If students miss classes, they have to make up work in order to pass. If they don't, they will fail. It's that simple. There comes a point in life when persons must face their own consequences, for better or worse, thereby learning to change themselves or falling by the wayside.

At this stage in a person's life, it's difficult for someone else to change their path. So instead of focusing on small, petty, time consuming problems, I feel Diman should focus on more important things, such as the student who wants to learn and the student that can make a difference in the world, for the better.

"Summer afternoon - summer afternoon; to me those have always been the two most beautiful words in the English language."

Henry James

Forever Gone

by Erica Followwill

The other day I was looking at my calendar and a big bunch of smiley faces and balloons caught my eye. I had drawn them on the block for June 19th. That's when I realized how close the end of the school year is.

So, I stopped and thought, "What is it about summer that makes me so happy?" Of course I came up with a list of things (no waking up early, no homework, lots of relaxation, etc.) Then I thought "Hey, is there anything that's not great about the end of the school year?" There was one thing stuck in my mind. It was the fact that seniors leave forever. Every year I get a little sad knowing that the people I've grown close to are not going to be there everyday anymore.

I'm also reminded each year that it's getting closer and closer to my time to leave. Although I'll be very happy to be going next year, I also know that I will miss everyone.

So, to all the seniors graduating this year, I'd like to say Congratulations! Good Luck in whatever it is you decide to do.

P.S. To all my Senior buddies - I'll miss you!

Seniors SENIORS Seniors SENIORS Seniors



















Entertainment . . .

"Kids"

(NR)

by Leeanne Lynn

If you're a teenager, "Kids" is a good movie to see. It teaches you about AIDS and relationships. "KIDS" is a movie with a down-to-earth sort of theme. It is one good movie that teaches you a lesson without you knowing it.

The movie starts off with a boy sweet talking a girl. You would never imagine the end results.

"KIDS" tells you a story that actually does happen with kids today. There's the partying because the parents aren't home. There's also a fighting scene where Casper (Justin Pierce) picks a fight for no reason. What starts out as a fight turns out to 50 kids on 1. There are also the scenes where they're all just chilling.

"KIDS" wasn't a big hit in the theaters. I never even saw a movie preview of it in the theaters close to home. It has, however, been a hit on video and on cable.

Director Larry Clark put together a really good cast. Although we haven't seen much of actors Leo Fitzpatrick (Telly) and Justin Pierce (Casper), these two played the lead roles.

Telly and Casper are best friends who seem to do everything together. They're two "normal" teenage guys, talking with all their friends about "girls" and "partying."

Now don't get me wrong. The girls also sit around talking about "guys" and "partying." There's even one scene where the conversation keeps going back and forth with the girls and guys talking in separate houses. The main topic of the discussion is relationships.

"Kids" takes place in the city during a period of one day. These kids make the 24 hours seem like forever.

This is one movie you have to see. It is a real eye opener. You'll never want to leave the tube. Ask around; this is one real good movie.



Pulp Fiction

A Review

by Gregory A. Fiego

"Pulp Fiction" is a wonderful but confusing movie. However, if the movie was not presented in the confusing manner it was, it would not be such a success, both critically and in the box office.

The movie's story line is really confusing because it is filmed in the reverse sequence. The first scene is the last scene. The first scene of the movie shows a guy and his "honey bunny" girlfriend sitting in a diner talking about "the hyst" when suddenly all hell breaks loose. Later on, this scene comes up again but with a twist. John Travolta (Vincent Vega) and Samuel L. Jackson (Jules Winfield) are sitting in the same diner as the previous two characters, played by Tim Roth and Amanda Plummer, and the scene is running out as it was from the opening scene, but from Travolta and Jackson's point-of-view.

As in "Reservoir Dogs", Tarantino presents us with a duel plot. The first plot is based on the missing soul of a night - club owner, Marsellus Wallace, played by Ving Rhames. Marsellus' soul was stolen and he hires Vega and Winfield to retrieve it.

In the second plot, Butch Colidge, played by Bruce Willis, is a run down prize fighter who is trying to make ends meet. One way to make this happen is to throw a fight, or lose it on purpose. Marsellus puts a large sum of money on this fight but ends up losing because Willis does not exactly throw it.

The casting of characters is outstanding. Tarantino picked the almost - perfect leading cast for this movie.

This role is a pretty outrageous come back of sorts for John Travolta, one time sitcom star of "Welcome Back Carter", and Mr. King of the disco scene in "Saturday Night Fever." But with his last big screen flop in a recent role as a taxi cab driver/pilot with a talking baby in "Look Who's Talking: One and Two," Travolta makes a good decision in accepting the role as Vincent Vega. The script was almost designed for him. The punkish-out-of-shape appearance of Travolta in this movie is probably not going to please the ladies, but it fits the role.

A face that had not been seen on the silver screen for a long time is Samuel L. Jackson. He plays an afro-gerry- curl-gospel preaching gangster hit man with an attitude. His performance is powerful.

Bruce Willis' performance was almost an out-take for "Die Hard" flicks. This role was not the best for his kind of ability. This part was too weak for such an strong actor. But considering what kind of part he had, he brings out the best.

The most surprising performance in this film is from new-comer Uma Thurman. She plays a night club owner's girl friend that is a junkie. She is the key to all the problems that happen in the two plots of this movie. She, being a new comer, really surprised me in taking on such a demanding role.

Even though "Pulp Fiction" is confusing and sometimes seems unorganized, if you are willing to watch it again, you'll see it as Tarantino imagined it.

"When Fortuna spins you down . . .
go to the movies."

A Fashion Statement!

by Daniel DeMello

There was a kind of anxiety in the air surrounding the darkened auditorium stage that was unlike any I've ever experienced before. It was an exciting kind of anxiety, the kind that keeps you in suspense.

"Will they really impress the audience? What if someone gets mangled in their outfit and falls down?" I couldn't help but feel nervous for them. It was 2 minutes to Showtime at the Diman Fashion Show, and the performers were all huddled in the corner as if they were seeking shelter from a hurricane.

The music sounded with a blast and the lights illuminated the stage. The models then stormed out as if they had become that same hurricane that once held them captive behind the immense draped curtain in the Auditorium.

Master of Ceremonies, Shannon Raposa, described the outfits to taped music by Madonna, Kenny G, Toni Braxton, La Bouche, and others.

The models were: Tara Assad, Kara Burns, Kristen Courchesne, Andy Carvalho, Patty De Souza, Erica Followwill, Josh Hetzler, Leeann Lynn, Timmy Marques, Delilah Medeiros, Jay Ninetemp, Stacey Motta, Helen Pacheco, Jessica Raposa, Joe Reiley, Craig Soars, Mindy Southworth, Rebecca Steen and Nicole Veins.

The event was sponsored by popular clothing retailers such as Kathleen's, Rave, 5-7-9, Limited, and Robert's Tuxedo. Some area salons also helped the models. Unlimited Expressions and Joseph's Hair Design sent out their best people to dazzle the participant's up. Makeup was also provided by Garden Botanica.

The Event was organized by Mrs. Noreen Burns, our health protection coordinator. She was assisted by peer mediators, Ms. Dore, Mrs. Bernard, Ms. Emond; and PAC representative.

All proceeds were given to Our Sisters Place, a shelter for abused and battered women, and The Diman Parent Advisory Scholarship Fund.

The program was great and it was apparent that everyone had a wonderful time. No one became mangled in their outfit, no one embarrassed themselves, no one left without a smile on their face.



















Commentary . . .

SATURDAY SUSPENSION

by Leeanne Lynn '98 HC

This school year some of us here at Diman got to unluckily experience what Saturday Suspension is all about. If not, then we heard about it from our classmates.

As this school year began, the administration told us the new punishments. We first learned that In-School was done away with and Saturday Suspension had been brought in.

Saturday Suspension is a punishment for non-violent offenses committed in or on school grounds. This punishment takes place of in-house or out of school suspension usually given for these offenses.

Non-violent school offenses are as follows: truancy; cutting class; unauthorized dismissals; failure to report to administrative detention; smoking or tobacco offenses; excessive tardiness; dismissals or absenteeism; always being sent out of class.

Now that all of this has been brought to my attention, do I think Saturday Suspension is working? Yes, because before if you committed any of these offenses, you were sent home or to in-school. That wasn't half bad, though, was it? Now, the administration has the Saturday Suspension. Most kids don't want to be there. But, of course, there's always the repeated offenders who make this seem like it's not working.

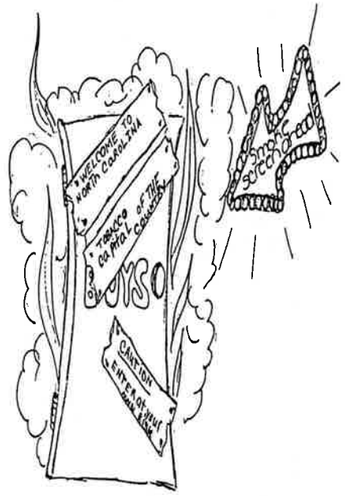
Wouldn't want to spend my Saturday at school because of something I did during the week. I'd rather serve my detention or go to school Monday through Friday then attend on Saturday. Come on, you explain to your parents that they have to get up early bring you to school on their day off.

I asked Mr. Bentley if he thinks Saturday School is working. He answered, "Very much so; the students don't like giving up their day off for punishment."

Keeping this idea in mind, Saturday Suspension may not always seem to be a punishment but more of a blessing. Okay, we all know we are only allowed to have 16 unexcused absences, so say you were absent 19 times? What happens? Well, first of all, for each day absent you are docked half a credit per course. To make up these absences, you would go to Saturday Suspension. But if you are docked too many credits and don't have enough for promotion and don't go to Saturday Suspension, then I guess the teachers will see you in summer school.

Saturday Suspension starts at 8:00 AM and ends at 12:00 PM, four hours you could have been working. When reporting to Saturday School you must bring school work just like when you're in d.t.

After learning more about Saturday Suspension I wouldn't want to have to go. After all, it's my choice.



Lisa Medeiros '99

Where did they go?

by Stacy Pacheco

I noticed that there is something missing from Diman Regional. Manners. Both students and teachers lack manners.

Some teachers do not respect students. I hear them say, "I don't want you here. What, are you stupid? Why are you wasting your time and mine?" Some teachers have no respect for other teachers either. Students can sit in a quiet classroom and all they hear is screaming from other classrooms. Walls are paper thin, you know. The least these teachers can do is be a little considerate.

Once a day, I sit about 5 doors down from one teacher on the other side of the hallway, and I can hear this teacher yelling loud and clear. I guess that's just the way this person teaches. But, the disruptive yelling is rude to others, and I think it's time those teachers should start listening to themselves and realize exactly what they sound like.

There is quite a bit of rudeness going on by the students as well, like walking down the hallways saying F this and F that. There is a place for everything. Yeah, of course I swear; I'm normal. But I have more respect than to go around screaming the F word for no reason. Even if there is a "reason," school is not the place for that.

It's time kids learn some respect. For example, when students hand out attendence, many of them just walk into classrooms without knocking and start saying hi to this one and that one. Did they ever hear of just smiling at someone they know instead of interrupting the class? Then, there is the other group of students who barge into a class selling something. They should knock! It's not hard to do. And what happened to saying "please" and "thank you" or "excuse me" when you want to talk?

Trouble with Bubbles

by Dan DeMello

Bubble Sheets. They are the new way of grading at Diman. And they contain the comment section. This section shows how a student is progressing in his/her classes, points out strengths and weaknesses, and provides colleges with a taste attitudes. But do we really want this?

Some teachers are noticeably upset when it comes to filling in bubble after bubble after bubble. I'd hate to burst our administration's bubble, but the comment section is a poor way to analyze students.

In fact, it is really a waste of time. A student's grades should reflect his/her attitude in the classroom. In addition to that, isn't it enough that the teachers have to average out about 200 student's grades?

Out of a small number of student's surveyed, 12 thought of the system as being unfair, 4 thought it was fair, and 2 were undecided.

The majority of students felt that teachers would not put alot of thought into a comment with a deadline in their faces, producing a less than thoughtful comment.

Mr. Freeman, a Biology teacher, said the system, "would be easier for all of us because it is computerized," mainly due to how much time it can save. However, all teachers do not share the same feelings on the subject.

I then asked Joseph Sousa, Graphic Arts, instructor and department head, what his thoughts were on the subject. He made it clear that the system was "terrible."

While researching this subject, I obtained information of an incident that took place during the issuing of last terms report cards. When a student questioned a teacher about the poor comment she received on her report card, the teacher allegedly told the student that, "There was nothing else to choose from," on the list of comments.

I made repeated attempts to contact Mr. Muscarella about this subject, but was not called back. I also asked Mr. Letendre if he could talk to me, but he declined due to the fact that Mr. Muscarella worked with the report cards.

Could it possibly be that what was once a seemingly bright idea has faded to a dim light? I can't tell you for sure. But I do know that if I were asked to grade these new report cards, under comments I'd list: Improvement needed.



Mr. Clifford Ford

"All actual heroes are essential men (and women), and all men (women) possible heroes."

Elizabeth B. Browning

AN AMERICAN HERO

by Adam Huwyler

On a dark and cloudy day, a fleet of 4,000 American war ships crossed the English Channel and landed in Normandy on the northern coast of France. Naval guns bombarded the coast, and planes provided air support as soldiers scrambled ashore.

D-day, June 6, 1944, will be forever burned into the memory of the American people and those who experienced it first hand.

On Thursday May 8th, I had the privilege of interviewing a veteran of this fierce battle, Mr. Clifford Ford, a Diman employee.

Mr. Ford joined the navy in 1942. He was a first class petty officer on a sub-chaser. A sub-chaser was a ship used for tracking down and destroying German U-boats.

The day of the Normandy invasion, Mr. Ford was a young gunman on his ship while the allied troops stormed the beach.

Mr. Ford was in the navy for three and a half years. When the war was over he worked in the heating and air conditioning trade. He is now the store keeper at Diman.

Recently, on a day that began just like any other, Mr. Ford received a package in the mail. When he opened it, there were four medals: a medal for the European/African theater, the American theater, a WW II medal, and a good conduct medal. All of the medals were for the three and one half years he served during the war. The strangest thing about these medals is that he received them 52 years after the war, but he believes they are a prize well worth waiting for!

After the interview I told him to have a nice day. He replied by saying, "Every day is nice now."

Mr. Ford is truly an American hero. We can thank Mr. Ford and so many others like him, our World War II veterans, for the freedom we enjoy today.

Kasparov vs "Deep Blue II"

by Mike Gaudencio



In American literature you might have heard of the legend of John Henry. John Henry was a mighty steel driver who decided to compete against a machine to see who would prevail. He died trying to beat that machine.

Now, in 1996-97 the legend takes a different form and becomes reality. It's now a chess grand-master against a computer, the classic "man vs. machine" conflict. In 1996, Gary Kasparov, considered the greatest chess player to have ever lived, faced an IBM computer "Deep Blue" in Philadelphia Pennsylvania for a large amount of money to see who was better, human being or machine. In 1996 Kasparov faced the IBM computer and emerged victorious, defeating the IBM computer 4-2 and walking away with prize money.

After the defeat of IBM, the team of programmers and computer specialists added more muscle to the computer. They greatly increased the processing power of the machine to several million instructions per second. They also programmed it with more chess moves that the previous computer. The final result was the new adversary for Kasparov IBM's new "Deep Blue II"

The competition was set. It would be a best out of five match. Kasparov guaranteed that he would emerge victorious, even though D.B. II can calculate several million moves per second vs. Kasparov's 2 or 3 moves per second.

The competition was held in New York City. After two matches, the competition was tied 1-1. The remaining ended up in a draw until the final match.

Then in the final match, to everyone's surprise, Kaspraov resigned. The computer had defeated the world's greatest chess grand-master in 19 moves. The human being had lost to the machine. After leaving the table rather abruptly, Kasparov was reported to have to have said that only lack of concentration and fatigue would have caused him to be defeated.

This is certainly not the last match that Kasparov and Deep Blue will have. Rematch or not, IBM and their "Deep Blue" team will be ready for the next challenge.

The Tradesman Staff

1996-1997

Staff:

Erica Followwill '98
Danny DeMello '97
Tara Duclos '99
Kristy Roussel '99
Mike Gaudencio '99
Adam Huwyler '99
Matt Teixeira '98
Lisa Miranda '99
Jessica Farias '98

Advisor:

Mrs. Susan Sayre



Contributions:

Stacy Lee Pacheco '97
Ryan Blackmore '97
Chris Makuch '99
Leeanne Lynn '98
Mrs. Mechelle Letendere
Marco Pavao '97
Cheryl Pimentel '97
Greg Fiego '97
Adam Rodrigues '97
Laura Silvia '99
Marcio Medeiros '98
Richard Amaral '97
John Sullivan '98
Joanne Matos '99
Sherrie Medeiros '98
Chris Dionne '2000

(cont. from pg. 8)

The intercom system also adds to interruptions, a rude ding followed by an announcement. This happens all day long. Most of these "important" announcements wouldn't be necessary if the newly installed phone system was put to better use.

How about when kids walk down the hallway and think they're bad pushing and making fun of people? Do they feel like Mr./Mrs. Popularity doing that? They are not. They are, however, rude, obnoxious and stupid.

We're old enough and smart enough, both teachers and students, to know what's right from wrong. Let's stop blaming everyone else for our rudeness and all set good examples.

IN MY OPINION . . .

As an educational institution, Diman is responsible to instill in its student that rules are meant to be followed, and not to be bent or broken. Rules should not be "bent" because of who you are or what you might contribute to a team or group.

The rule to which I am referring is the Eligibility Rule. This rule specifically states that the "Academic eligibility of all students shall be considered as official and determining only on the date when report cards for the ranking period have been issued to the parents of all students within a particular class." Basically, this means that a student's eligibility is determined on the day that report cards are issued to the student's class. (Not the day the Ineligible List is published)

Being a member of a sports team or a member of an extracurricular activity can be a valuable and rewarding experience. Being a well-rounded student begins with doing the job in the classroom in the shop and then devoting time to a sport or activity of interest. It is a privilege, not a right, to be a member and to participate on such a team.

Along with this privilege comes the responsibility to adhere to the school rules as well as the rules set forth by the M.I.A.A. (Mass. Interscholastic Athletic Association), which govern interscholastic sports in Massachusetts. It is incumbent upon all teachers, advisors, coaches, guidance personnel and administrators to assure that each student participating in extracurricular activities is indeed eligible the day report cards are issued to his/her class. It is a disservice to Diman students if they are allowed to participate when their academic and/or shop grades are not up to standards.

Rather than waiting for report cards to be issued and finding that a student is ineligible, perhaps a pro-active approach could be taken. At mid-term all students participating in extracurricular activities should be required to submit to their advisors or coaches a report sheet listening their general average in each subject and in shop and any problems that the student may be experiencing. In this way, remedial action could be taken prior to the issuance of report cards. On the day that report cards are issued, a follow up report sheet would assist these advisors and coaches in determining their own ineligible list. Each teacher would need only to initial on this report or the student's report card verifying that he/she is indeed passing for the term. This would be done for team members that are in season only. All others could wait for the publication of the school's Ineligible List.

It is my hope that preventative measures taken prior to report cards will enable all students to remain eligible during their season(s) and help them appreciate the need to meet their scholastic responsibilities.

Michelle Letendre,
Physical Education/ Science
Instructor

GANGS?

by Marco Pavao

Why? For protection? For the violence? For the territory? Why? These are just a few questions that emerge when some people mention gangs.

I had a chance to speak to a few gang members in the school and in the Fall River area, and asked them some questions.

Most people think that gang members just go around neighborhoods causing trouble. Well, it's not even close to being that. Most gang members are in gangs because of where they live or who they hang around with. Gangs are a bunch of friends hanging with each other wearing colored rags to identify their groups. Most of them just hang on their own street corners. That area that each gang hangs on is their territory".

The "rags" are the colored bandannas that gang members carry around. They usually have them hanging out of their back pocket or tied around their necks. Rags are also used to hide the identity of the person's face in a fight.

Some gang fights happen when one gang goes through another gang's territory, displaying rags, yelling and throwing symbols with their fingers at each other. Mostly the reason one gang will go through another one's territory is because one of their gang members has been hit or harassed.

Sure, some carry weapons like guns, knives and bats, but that is for protection from anyone else. They don't use anything unless they have to. However, that is a problem that society has today. A lot of innocent people get caught in and become victims of gang wars because they were at the wrong place at the wrong time.

Gang members don't look at themselves as punks. They just stand up for their friends and territory. To them it's not like they go around trying to start trouble. They just protect what they feel is theirs.