ARTS & ENTERAINMENT

WHY ARE TEEN'S OBSESSED WITH CELEBRITIES?

Vicky Byrne CA

As far back as The Beetles got a "Ticket to Ride" or Elvis got "All Shook Up," and even farther, teens especially girls have been infatuated with celebrities. Now N'Sync, MA$E, and Leo DiCaprio are winning girls' hearts.

Well I too have taken on an obsession with a celebrity. Everyone who knows me knows when it's 11:00 A.M. and 2:00 P.M. the NBC Soap "Sunset Beach" is on. For those two hours, I can't concentrate and can't stop smiling.

I love the show, but that's not the main reason for my excitement. It's Nick Kiriazis who plays the handsome priest, Father Antonio. The first thing that attracted me to him was his smile.

I have been a fan of Sunset Beach since the show first aired. But the first time I saw Father Antonio Torres, I could not take my eyes off the screen.

I love sound of his voice and his energetic, believable acting



Nick Kiriazis



Leo DiCaprio

style. One day I got curious and wanted to find out more about this talented man, so I went searching on the Internet and found out the actor's name, Nick Kiriazis. His birthday is June 9th and he originally wanted to get into engineering. Then his friend convinced him to join a theater class.

While living with a friend in a one bedroom apartment and getting small acting parts, Nick's big break was the role as Father Antonio Torres on Sunset Beach.

I keep a picture of him with me at all times, for a sense of security. Anytime I doubt myself I think of him smiling at me. I can find the strength in myself to achieve anything I work for. He is now my inspiration for becoming an actress.

Apparently I am not the only girl in this school obsessed with a handsome celebrity. Christine Berra, a junior, is a huge fan of Justin Timberlake, a member of the group N'Sync.

Her whole room is covered with pictures of the blondhaired babe. "He inspires me to fulfill my dreams with his positive message to never give up. He makes me believe that if he can do it, I can too." She blushes and adds, "He's also drop- dead gorgeous."

Kira Medeiros, also a junior, feels she's infatuated with race car driver Jeff Gordon. "He has showed me that just because you're famous doesn't mean you can't be yourself. He's not just a celebrity."

Nikki Frazier, another junior, found her hero in Michael Jordan. "If it was not for him I would have quit school. When I was younger I would always listen to his positive messages to stay in school. Without him I never would have the self-confidence I have now."

Why are we in love with such celebrities? Is it because the person we are obsessed with makes us feel good about ourselves? Or is it because we are searching for a role model to look up to?

My dream is to become an actress, but I didn't have a role model until Nick Kiriazis. Now I know what I want to do with my life.

I think everyone should be in love with a celebrity of some sort. They help you to forget about your problems and gain self-confidence. They can never hurt you. But you have to love yourself before you can love anyone else.



N'Sync

Library
THE TRADESMAN
DIMAN REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

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COPYCATS

Suzanne Raposo MS

On April 20, 1999, a tragic event occurred at Columbine High School in Colorado that shocked the nation.

Eric Harris (18) and Dylan Klebold (17) had plans of blowing up the school and then to take a plane to New York and crash it. They picked

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REMEMBERING COLUMBINE

By Robert C. Pacheco GA

April 20 will always be remembered, not as the day Adolph Hitler came into this world, but the day the community of Littleton, Colorado mourned.

As many of you already know, two students, Eric Harris (18) and Dylan Klebold (17), revealed their plot for revenge.

The two, armed with semi-automatic weapons and homemade bombs, burst into Columbine High, taking the lives of 12 innocent students, a teacher and leaving 23 wounded, then taking their own lives.



Two days after the shooting, atop a hill in Clement Park, across from the high-school-turned crime scene, fifteen wooden crosses were erected bearing the names of the fifteen lives lost, including the two gunmen.

"Two of the students' cars are at the memorial at Clement Park. Rachel Scott and John Tomlin's cars are completely covered with flowers, signs, etc. It's sad to see," said Dona Molnar (33) of Littleton, Colorado.

Flowers, cards and letters continue to surround the memorial. Thousands have come from all around to grieve along with the community of Littleton.

Continued on page 13

We walked over bodies,
lying everywhere.
People that we knew and
loved were lying dead
there. My friends, some
were dead; it made me
want to leave. How did I
know the killers didn't
want their next victim to
be me? This really
makes me think as I lie
in bed, crying. Can't we
do something to stop
these innocent kids from
dying? We can all make
a difference, if we just
try.

~ A Poem from an AOL Teen

HAVING OUR SAY . . .



Robert Pacheco, Editor

Editorial . . .

WHEN WILL IT END?

Over the past two years, 28 innocent people have lost their lives in high school violence.

As a result of the tragedy at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado on April 20, 1999, that left 14 students, including the 2 gunmen and 1 teacher dead, reports of bomb threats flood high schools nationwide, including some close to home.

On April 26, 1999, New Bedford Reg. Voc. Tech was evacuated for nearly 2 hours after police were called when a student found what apparently appeared to be a bomb.

On the same day, B.M.C. Durfee High School was informed of a bomb threat and made no attempt to evacuate. Three days later Assistant Superintendent Rick Pavao was informed of yet another possible bomb threat and the students and faculty were evacuated for two hours. No bomb was found.

With all that is happening around us, is it safe here at Diman? It's safe to say that it isn't safe anywhere anymore.

Friday, April 30, 1999, four students here at Diman were arrested for making two fake pipe bombs.

Where do these ideas come from? Music lyrics, movie violence, and video games have been blamed for such actions.

Music lyrics such as those from Marilyn Manson's Irresponsible Hate Anthem, off of the Antichrist Superstar album, speak about hate and violence. For example; "I am the ism, my hate's a prism, let's just kill everyone and let your god sort them out, f**k it."

People today, especially children are witnessing more and more violence on TV, through animated programs and movies. As a child, many of you were probably influenced by Sesame Street and Mr. Roger's Neighborhood. Today's youth, on the other hand, are tuning into such programs as Beast Wars and WCW Wrestling, which are packed with violent actions.

Have you ever noticed a child outside playing with friends? Have you ever noticed the violent actions acted out by the child, as if he/she were some evil villain from a Spiderman comic strip?

Children are born into a violent society and exposed to violence daily in the animated programming seen on television.

Teens are also exposed to violence through movies like The Matrix and The Basketball Diaries, where a student dreams of walking into his classroom and shooting everyone.

Are parents monitoring what children are watching? Is this what we, as future parents, want our children to watch?

Another manifestation of violence in today's society is the violent, gory imagery in video games, games in which the player scores more points for killing the opponent in a gruesome manner, games that many of us students have bought and played over and over again.

There is no hiding from the violent lyrics heard daily over radios or the violence seen on film and television; this is just a large part of society today. You can turn it off all you want but there is no escaping it.

We at The Tradesman say music, film and television industries should be more responsible as to what young children and teens are watching and listening to.

You, the consumer, should take some responsibility, too.

Recent School Shootings

October 1, 1997
Pearl, Miss. 7 wounded, 2 killed.

December 1, 1997
West Paducah, KY 5 wounded, 3 killed.

March 24, 1998
Jonesboro, Ark. 10 wounded, 5 killed.

April 24, 1998
Edinboro, PA 1 killed.

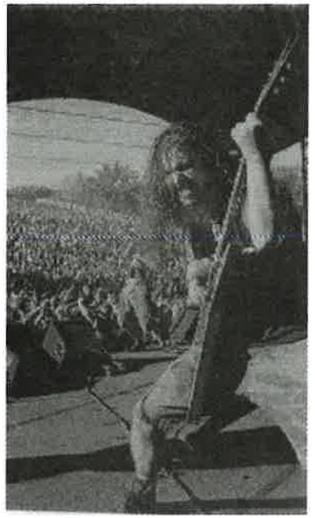
May 19, 1998
Fayetteville, Tenn. 1 killed.

May 21, 1998
Springfield, Ore. 20 wounded, 2 killed.

April 20, 1999
Littleton, CO 23 wounded, 15 killed including the 2 gunmen.

April 29, 1999
Taber, Alberta Canada, 1 wounded, 1 killed.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



COWBOYS FROM HELL

Ricardo Sousa AM

Powerful riffs, pounding sound, great solos, and aggressive lyrics: It is these four things that define heavy metal. If this is what you're looking for in a metal band, then look no further - Pantera is the best.

The "Cowboys from Hell" have released 5 major albums. Their first album, Cowboys from Hell, was very popular with metal fans around the world with such songs as "Cemetery Gates" and "Domination." As soon as I heard this album, I knew they were one of the most talented and soon would be one of the most influential bands in heavy metal. This album was just the beginning of their road to "rule the world".

Their second album, Vulgar Display of Power, is my favorite with such hits as "This love," "Walk," and "A New Level." I like this album because it had a lot of heavy grooves that people could move to. Their next two albums, Far Beyond Driven and The Great Southern Trendkill, were their heaviest and most aggressive albums. With these two albums I knew that they were not just another band that would just die out like some trend.

Pantera also has three home videos. These videos are what got me to really like Pantera. To me, they are just a bunch of really cool guys that will do anything to have fun.

Pantera has four members: Philip Anselmo, the lead singer; Rex Brown, the bassist; Vince Paul Abbott, the drummer; and Diamond Darrell, the guitarist. Pantera also has ways of life that they live by and that I live by: "Be yourself and never listen to people that think they are any better than you are."

They are true showmen when it comes to seeing them live because they always know how to get the crowd banging their heads. They move around everywhere, and it amazes me that they are able to move and jump all over the stage and not mess up their sounds.

If you're looking for more info on Pantera, visit my Pantera web site at www.geocities.com/sunsetstrip/basment/4398/. I have sound clips, pics, tab, bios, and I will soon add tour dates.

AVOID OUTKASTS

Brian Martins

One of the new songs to hit the charts this year was "Rosa Parks" by Outkast. Outkast is a well-known hiphop/rap group who recently came out with the album Aquemina.

After listening to the album, to my surprise I realized that the only song that was any good was "Rosa Parks." That song is the main reason I bought this album, and that is probably true for many other listeners, too. Of the other songs on the album, none have hit the charts yet. Now I know why.

Two of the songs to my distaste are "Return of the G'," which was really weak, bass wise, and had no meaning behind it, and "Slump," which lived up to its title. It really is a slump with bad lyrics and horrible sound.

The worst thing about this album is that the "intro" is even weak. It's not strong enough to attract the listener. Some may not even want to listen to the other songs, with such a boring intro.

Aquemina by Outkast will not be part of my collection, that's for sure.



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



FROM ACE TO TRUMAN SHOW

Sean Grady 99 EL

Imagine waking up everyday and having your whole life and everything you do be a television show. For Truman Burbank that is reality.

Truman Burbank, an insurance salesman, goes through life oblivious that a video camera is capturing his every move. His life is totally under the control of a director, Ed Harris.

The people close to him are acting like commercials, advertising products before using them. Still Truman has no clue what is going on. However, when he begins to realize something is up and tries to change the situation, he is stopped from escaping from "The Truman Show".

This film has good acting and a Jim Carey "funniness" to it. It has also managed to capture awards. Yet, The Truman Show just doesn't make it into the collage of great Jim Carey movies. This is one that many kids wouldn't have expected him to do.

This movie lacked what Dumb & Dumber and Ace Ventura had, crazy artistic talent. Jim Carey just wasn't loud or obnoxious enough as he was in those two movies. If you'd like to experience a different kind of Jim Carey movie, then The
Truman Show is one to see.

Star Wars

Episode 1
The Phantom Menace
(Sci-Fi) Rated PG

By Ricardo Sousa AM

Everyone has heard of Light Sabers, Storm Troopers, Jabba The Hutt, and C-33PO. Star Wars of 1977, the first of the 3 epic sagas of good and evil, gave them to us, and they have become part of our American culture.

Now George Lucas Films bring them back to life in Star Wars Episode 1. It takes place when Anakin Skywalker (Jake Lloyd) who also appeared in *Jingle All The Way*,



played the future Darth Vader. He was a boy with the dream to one day become a Jedi Knight. Young Anakin is discovered by Qui-Gon Jinn a Jedi Master. (Liam Neeson) who also played in *Shindlers list.*

Then Qui-Gon Jinn had a Jedi Knight by his side Obi-Wan Kenobi (Ewan McGregor) who was also in Being Human. Then there is the infamous Darth Maul, completely embracing the dark side of the force. Darth Maul is the fearsome Sith Apprentice. With his techniques and his combat skills, Maul is definitely a force to be reconed with.

And last but not least is the Queen Amidala (Natalie Portman) who also appeared in The *Professional*. The Queen Amidala is the leader of the Nabopeople.

Even if you're not a Star Wars fan, I believe that you will like this film. It was possibly the greatest film I have ever seen.

HAVING OUR SAY . . .

STEP UP TO THE MOUND ALL YOU UNFIT PARENTS

by Laura Ferreira PD

Three strikes and you're out, right? WRONG.

Usually when parents walk out on their child/children, they never get the second and third chance to make up for their mistakes.

I recently spoke with an eighteen year old female. She said that her father walked out on her when she was 13. It was the biggest mistake of his life.

She had a fairy tale life before. Her parents never fought; she and her youngest sister were very loved and had everything they wanted.

But when she was about 12, she began to notice a change in her father. He was never home and was always fighting with her mother. When she was 13 he just left with all the money and "another woman." He left his wife and his children to fend for themselves.

For the first time in her life she was poor. They moved into a small apartment and could not afford to have the heat turned on. Because it either was to be cold or to be hungry, they would rather be cold than not eat.

Now they are doing great, but her father was not there while she was growing up. She gives him no reason for him to come back into her life.

Then I spoke to a 20 year old male who says he will never speak to his mother again. He said he was only 5 years old when his parents got divorced, but he said: "She didn't love me anyway; she loved the fact that my father loved me and she had me. I got to see my father on the weekends. Those were the best times. He never talked bad about her, but she always talked bad about my dad. I hated her. She always had different men coming in an out of the house, using drugs, hitting me and telling me what to do. She was jealous of my dad. My dad was happy and had a job and one woman.

"When I was ten years old, I told her I wanted to move in with my dad. I just couldn't take her anymore. She got mad and said I would never see him again. Then she went to the police and told them that my father had been abusing me for years. He went to jail for months, but the charges were dropped when there was no evidence, and he was released.

"When I was 16, I was out of control, but what do you expect? I had no role model. My mother said that she didn't want me anymore, and I could go see my father and live with him if I wanted to, so I did.

"Now I'm doing great. My father straightened me out, and now I'm in college. I wish things didn't have to be like this, though."

It's hard enough for the kids in today's society to grow and try to decide right from wrong, and make their own decisions. It is a shame and sad that people are having babies and not taking responsibility. It is selfish and wrong.

People wonder what is wrong with kids today and why they are so out of control. The problem starts at home. Do you really think the two boys that shot and killed those people in Littleton had a good family background? The parents may not have hit them or taken drugs, but they sure did not know how to communicate with their children.

These two cases are just some of the problems. I think our society needs to really address this problem, and then we can look at the whole picture.



REST IN PEACE

Sarah Desmarais PD

Every day in the United States, six teens are injured or killed in car accidents. Most of these accidents we never hear about, because they're out in Nevada or Wisconsin somewhere, and very often the ones that do reach us don't affect us personally. But what happens when they do?

Last year on October 1st, a sixteen-year-old boy was killed in a fatal car accident on I-195, while his seventeen-year-old cousin was critically injured. Their names were Jordan and Simon Lopes. At the time of their accident, I was a student at Dartmouth High, the school both of them attended. Jordan and Simon were people I saw everyday.....and now Jordan was dead, Simon fighting for his life at Hasbro Children's Hospital in Providence.

Teenagers, by nature, tend to think they are invincible, that "it can't happen to them." Well I guess it can.....and it does. Unfortunately,

HAVING OUR SAY . . .

"Rest" Continued from page 3

we never really understand that until we are faced with it. Even then, we come up with justifications and excuses to make ourselves feel better when tragedies like this occur. Of course, there is an answer, a way in which most vehicular teen deaths could be avoided. And the answer isn't all these new teen driving laws.

On December 14th, 1997, two teens, a boy and a girl from Tiverton, were killed, another boy critically injured. They were struck head-on on the highway by a truck driver with his headlights off, attempting to commit suicide. He also was killed, taking two others with him, and leaving one to handle the trauma. This accident was obviously not the result of teens driving recklessly, but still contributes to the statistical deaths of kids in cars.

The Government's answer to all this? Well, what if we don't let kids drive together? Sounds like a good idea, right? Of course not! Now, instead of having five kids in one car, we have five kids in five cars, dramatically increasing the rate of traffic on the road, and the likelihood of an accident within all the bustle. Furthermore, if adults want kids to act more responsibly, taking away our privileges will only make us more dependent on others, discouraging independence and responsibility.

Another tragedy occurred on April 25th, 1998. A seventeen-year-old boy was killed when his Ford Tempo struck a wall of boulders at the end of a dead end street. His name was John Horan, from Dartmouth, and he was killed on impact, while the gas lines were ruptured and the automobile burst into flames. His body was so badly burned that he was identified by the algebra test that lay undamaged in the trunk. He, like Jordan and Simon, was moving at a high rate of speed.

All of these accidents have something in common. They all involve teenage drivers as the victims. And even more importantly, all of them could have been avoided. Students, brothers, friends, and sons have all been lost before their time due to reckless teen driving. Every one of them probably thought "it can't happen to me." But it did, and it shouldn't have.



On July 19th, 1998, Brian Biancuzzo and Alan Couto were killed in a car collision in Wareham. I can't claim to have known either of these people, as I was not yet a Diman student when their accident occurred. However, I am familiar with the grief and emotional outpourings that I'm sure their deaths triggered. Brian and Alan were also two young men with goals in life. Their lives were cut tragically short, as are the lives of thousand of American teens each year.

If we try to find a bright side to this, we can only hope that none of these people died in vain. Maybe kids will consider it before they get in their cars, or before they jet out of the parking lot at 2:30.

Maybe the only way we can come to understand the effects of recklessness is being faced with its consequences.....not by being burdened and oppressed with a ton of new laws designed to increase our responsibility, but actually perpetuating dependence.

CULTS

By Ricardo Sousa AM

"The Trench Coat Mafia" and "Heavens Gate" are just two examples of the big trend in the lives of teens called cults.

These cults are all started with anger for another group of people or a belief that was thought up by a person. This person is usually influenced by a satanic source, whether it be by a book or word of mouth.

Such cults, like "The Trench Coat Mafia", were started by group members" anger for being socially ignored by their peers. Then, others joined the group and the study of Satanism began to take place. Then, they became more fearless of the consequences of killing others, or themselves.

What experts say may be one of the causes for these cults is entertainment. What is seen on the silver screen and TV today is a lot of violence. The movies make it seem like it is an everyday thing to kill someone.

Music is said to be another one of the causes. Music is one of the most influential forms of entertainment. It's ok to like Marilyn Manson, but when his violent lyrics are acted upon, then there is a serious problem.

Continued on page 6

NEWSBREAK . . .

THE KOSOVO CRISIS



By Karen Rocha

NATO bombs have been pounding Yugoslavia for several weeks. This is Europe's worst humanitarian disaster since world War II. More than 2,000 people have died and 1,000 civilians found dead at the time of this writing.

NATO stands for North Atlantic Treaty Organization. It is compused of countries landed of western Europe. NATO is working to protect the Kosovo's from the "ethnic cleansing" carried out by the Serbian government.

The Serb troops that invaded Kosovo were wearing black masks, and were forcing the refugees out of their homes at gunpoint. Serb police told some refugees to go to America and NATO to get help.

One quarter of Kosovo's population has become homeless. Many Albanians have been seen carrying their only possessions by hand. Thousands of Albanian refugees have been seen sleeping in doorways and on sidewalks, and they are wandering aimlessly and begging for help. Camps have been set up to accommodate thousands of these refugees.

Fehmi Agani and four other prominent ethnic Albanians have been reported executed.

Refugees have been arriving at the Albanian border at the rate of 4,000 an hour. Refugee workers are trying to deal with a situation taking place in one of Europe's countries.

NATO is trying to stop Serb aggression by conducting attacks against Serbia. These attacks have targeted sites like Serbian television and radio stations, ammunitions,bridges,andgovernment buildings.

It is the intention of NATO forces to dismantle Serbian forces and bring the government of president Slobodan Milosevic down. As a result of some of these air attacks, Serbian and Kosovonian civilians have been killed. NATO has been blamed for these deaths.

Kosovans have been forced across the border by Serbian soldiers and are being stripped of identity papers and their car license plates, in an obvious effort to make it impossible for them to return. It's like their identities are being cancelled out.

As of this writing, there are 28,000 NATO troops in Kosovo; 4,000 are Americans.

As of this writing, President Clinton remains opposed to using ground troops to aid the air strikes, in spite of increasing calls for him to do so.



Refugees sent out of Macedonia housed in a stadium in Korce, Albania.

Post Script: On June 9, 1999, The Serbians and NATO signed an agreement which guaranted wit hdrawal of Serbian troops from Kosovo and the safe return of the refugees. NATO place-keeping force have been ordered into Kosovo, and the bombing has stopped.

STUDENT LIFE

TECH PREP

Suzanne Raposa MS

After graduation, students make decisions about what they plan on doing next. Some students will decide to further their education and go on on to college, some may get a full time job in their trade, and others may not know what to do.

If you're planning on enrolling in a college, the tuition is very costly. Tech Prep helps Diman students in Machine Shop, Drafting, Electronics, and Electricity save money. Tech Prep allows students to earn college credits at Bristol Community College while they are still attending Diman.

Greg Levesque, a Tech Prep student, says, "It is good to be earning college credits for free while in high school." He feels that taking college courses has helped with course at Diman.

A student that is not a member of Tech Prep pays $216.00 per course. The courses selected by the students in Tech Prep will have no charge. This is a big money saver. Also, by the time the student graduates, they will have completed a semester at BCC.

Even if some students decide not to enroll at BCC, they still receive college credits for the work they do in their shops.

THE WINNER IS . . . .

Suzanne Raposo MS

On April 29, 30, and May 1, 1999, VICA members attended the Massachusetts State Conference



in Fitchburg, Mass. The students from Diman represented their school with great pride and dignity.

We walked away with 12 gold medals, 7 silver medals, 2 bronze medals, and a state officer-elect.

First place winners are as follows:
Action Skills: Victoria Byrne
Job Skill Demonstration: Sabrina Bennet
Opening and Closing Ceremonies: Stacey Motta, Cynthia Mederios, Stephanie Duarte, Monica DaPonte, Rebecca Steen, and Regina Amaral
Industrial Motor Controls: David Gariepy Precision
Machining: Michael Nadeau
Sheet Metal: Ryan McLeod

Second Place Winners are as follows:
Job Skill Demonstration "A": Ceaser Duarte.
Industrial Motor Control: Joseph Bednarik. ***Welding:*** Michael Botelho ***Precision Machining:*** Joshua Oliver ***Sheet Metal:*** Scotty Texeira. ***Painting and Decorating:*** Monique Nadeau ***Electronics Technology:*** Christopher Makuch

Third Place are as follows:
Painting and Decorating: Jennifer Ouelette ***Electronics Applicatons:*** Jason Thibault Elected as a ***State Officer:*** Suzanne Raposo.



Enthusiastic Teacher

By Stephanie Pereira

Gisele Parent has a secret. She dyes her hair, or actually her husband does it for her.

But that aubin color is the only part of Mrs. Parent that isn't genuine.

She received her undergraduate degree at Bridgewater State College in Chemistry and Biology. Five years later she went back to school for her Master's in Health Science and Health Promotion.

Her teaching career started right out of college at Dighton Rehobeth where she taught Physics to gifted students and taught Chemistry and Earth Science.

She then went to Dartmouth High School and taught Biology.

From Dartmouth she went to Westport Middle School where she taught science.

Before Diman, she worked in a research facility for seven years at the University of MA where she worked with various unknown chemicals for the cranberry industry. She has been teaching Human Science at Diman for the past 2 years.

Mrs. Parent made it very clear that the students at Diman are very polite, curious and respectful and the administration backs teachers up on anything. She also observed that Diman is a very clean school. "I love coming to work."

Mrs. Parent brought a new program to Human Science called RAPP, Responsible Attitude towards Preventing Pregnancy. The main philosophy behind the program is to stress abstinence. "So children don't have sex, " she emphasized.

HAVING OUR SAY . . .

IF VIOLENCE KEEPS UP!

BY: John Midura GA

You walk through two sets of metal detectors; your purse or your backpack gets put through an x-ray machine to look for concealed weapons. You then go on to get padded down by a police officer. You're going to court right? Not really. You're going to school.

"That will never happen," you say. Well, that is where we are headed with the up rising of school violence. Today, violence is everywhere you look: video games, cartoons, movies, day time television, and the home.

The so called censors (the little Y-13 boxes on the corner of your television screen) have tried to stop children from watching violence but that seems to be a little obsolete. Some blame parents for the way their kids are. By the age of 12, children have experienced some form of domestic violence, in the home, some more then others. This may be one of the causes of teens being so violent and troubled.

Some parents say that the teachers are to blame, that if teachers were more one-on-one with students there would be less violence. Most teachers would say that they are with a student for 45 minutes to an hour and a half a day. If the parents cannot control the child, how is the teacher supposed to? No one has ever stopped to think that maybe if parents did not fight around the child that the child would not pick up and learn violent behavior.

It seems as if our society revolves around violence and hatred. Something must be done. But what? Some say crack down on kids, make school days longer, give them more homework. Sure this might work, but what about a better idea? How about more community activities in places where kids and teens don't have a place to hang out without being harassed by others or the police?

Kids need a place to feel safe where they can go to be with their peers, or someone to talk to. Why does local government not give funding to these programs instead of trying to build casinos?

Teen violent behavior is not only caused by television, but also by pressure and harrassment. They are teens who feel they need to rebel or are often outcasted by their peers.

A problem with music and rock videos, according to the Associated Press, is that, "Musicians sing about guzzling liquor and movie stars puff cigarettes and take drugs on the big screen. But federal officials ask, 'Where is the unglamorous side of substance abuse?'" Like hang overs, slurred speech or getting in trouble with the law?"

This is the same for violence. It is very rarely depicted what people go through when a loved one is killed or severely hurt as a result of a violent act. A government study released says that, "People were depicted doing drugs, drinking, or smoking in 98% of the top movie rentals and 27% of the most popular songs in 1996 and 1997. Fewer than half of these movie scenes and song lyrics mentioned any down side to these activities." The study stopped short of saying that music and films cause young people to use drugs, alcohol, and tobacco, which all may lead to more violence.

There is a lot of room for improvement in the entertainment world, but there's just as much room for improvement in homes and communities. All of this is the same for violence. There is something that can be done or rather must be done to try to stop or control violence in our communities.



Will this child grow up to be violent?

HAVING OUR SAY . . .

"Cults" Continued from page 4

The other major influence of such hate groups as "Trench Coat Mafia" is the Nazis. The day the tragedy occurred in Littleton, Colorado, was actually Adolf Hitler's birthday.

This had been planned by the "Mafia" way in advance to the actual shooting.The group members told their fellow classmates before hand what was going to occur, but their peers just acted like it was a big joke.

"The Heavens Gate" cult is a cult that believed in a spaceship traveling behind a comet. So their plan was to wait for this comet and commit mass suicide to get on that ship. Their leader was a total mad man, most experts say.

We live in a day and age where people will do anything for revenge. I think we make life what it is. If our life is depressing, then we ourselves are making it that way.

Turning to violence is no solution.

IT'S JUST NOT FAIR!

Laura Ferreira PD

Let's suppose that two thirty-year-old men walked into a day care center and shot and killed ten innocent children. I am sure the public would have some type of memorial service for this tragedy, but I am also sure that these two men would not be part of this service.

Eighteen-year-old Eric Harris and seventeen-year-old Dylan Kleboid walked into a school, killed thirteen helpless victims, then, taking the cowardly way out, shot themselves.

Now, Eric Harris and Dylan Kleboid get to have crosses right near the innocent victims. It is a shame that when the family goes to see the memorial site for their loved ones, they have to see crosses for those two monsters. Eric and Dylan should not be recognized in any sympathetic way at all. They are the murderers, not the victims.

If a teenager can commit an adult crime, he or she should be treated as an adult, and should be punished as an adult, too.

HOW DEEP IS YOUR LOVE FOR MUSIC?

Laura Silvia GA
Jessica O'Neil GA

You know how when a certain song comes on the radio, it brings back memories of your past? Well, as seniors, we look back at our last year of high school and cherish the songs that have become big, and memories we have made. We hope that some of these songs will remind you of special times.

We're sure you can all remember jamming to "Money Ain't A Thing" by JermaineDupre or how about getting jiggy with it listening to Will Smith's "Miami?" Remember when the charts got torn up by the songs "Tearin' Up My Heart" and "Torn" by 'N Sync and Natalie Imbruglia?

Remember cruising with your friends and listening to "How Deep Is Your Love" by Dru Hill? How can you forget bouncin to Jay-Z's "Can I Get A...?"

Now, we know all of you out there are not the R&B type, so can you remember listening to Third Eye Blind's "Jumper?" Can you think back to when "I Will Buy You A New Life" came out? What a great song. Or what about Everlast's "What It's Like"?

We all moved to Mya's "Moving On", and we definitely won't forget about Backstreet Boys and 98 degrees with their songs "All I Have To Give" and "Because Of You."

We'll always have songand our memories to guide us back into high school days.

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STUDENT LIFE

SCHOOL POLICY

SUBSTANCE FREE CONFERENCE

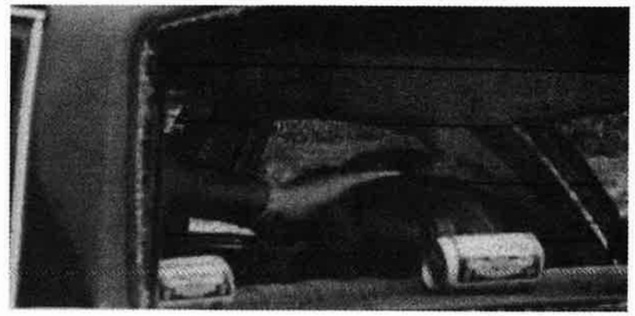
Regina Amaral

On February 9, 1999, Diman held a non-users conference attended by approximately 70 students. These students came from schools such as Bishop Stang, Bridgewater/Raynham, Durfee, Old Colony, Upper Cape Cod, and Westport High School.

This conference allowed Diman students to meet people from other schools and to discuss being non-users. Many activities were held to break the ice between different schools. The activities included group discussion, posters, songs, and plays. These activities permitted students to open up and discuss their reason for "staying clean."

Many views were presented during the conference about the differences between users and non-users. Students agreed that being a user destroys not only your health, but also your life. Your academics will fall and the chances of you being able to play sports are slim. The effects of drugs and alcohol on the user in an athletic event include shortness of breath, and muscular disorientation.

The purpose of this conference was to have students from different areas join together and talk about what they as schools can do to stop the use of drugs and alcohol.



DON'T LET THIS HAPPEN TO YOU! ! !

Robert Pacheco GA

What do empty cans of Bud, a smashed Oldsmobile, and the scent of booze on the breaths of four high school seniors all have in common?

This was the scene as police and fire personnel arrived to rescue the survivors of a freak accident scene early Thursday morning of May 6, as juniors and seniors from Diman Regional looked on.

The accident scene, though only a mock one, carried a strong message: alcohol and cars don't mix.

Operation Safe Prom was brought here to Diman through the careful planning of Mrs. Burns. It is a joint effort between the Fall River Police and Fire Departments and the Emergency Nurses Care (ENCARE), a chapter of Charlton Memorial Hospital. Other groups such as Rosa's Garage and Waring-Sullivan Funeral Home donated their time and services. Jean Mello, a nurse at the Charlton ER, narrates Operation Safe Prom.

Five students volunteered their time to participate in the event. Robert Brum (junior) played the drunken driver of the vehicle who was later arrested after failing a sobriety test. Yessica Torres (senior) was the front seat passenger who was pronounced dead at the scene and taken away by a hearse.

Stephanie Luciano played a friend who identified the body for Police Officers. Also, Brian Pratt and Melany Gauthier (seniors) were carefully lifted out of the smashed vehicle and placed in awaiting ambulances after rescue personnel used the Jaws of Life to free the injured students.

The student audience was able to view the actual response time needed by rescue personnel to safely remove the injured students from the vehicle and transport them to area hospitals.



STUDENT LIFE

MASSACHUSETTS STATE LEADERSHIP AND SKILLS CONFERENCE

Suzanne Raposo MS

The weeks seemed to be flying by. All the countless hours students put into competing at their event in VICA would be put to the test. The day was approaching and the students and their advisors were putting the final touches into preparing for their competition.

On April 29, 1999, VICA members competing in a trade or leadership event at the state level went on a journey to Fitchburg that they will never forget.

When we arrived at the hotel we unpacked our luggage and dressed up for the opening ceremonies. The place was huge and thousands of VICA members from around the Massachusetts were screaming their school names.

The State Executive Council presented the emblem ceremony and gave awards out to people recognizing them for their work and dedication to Massachusetts VICA. Slides were shown of events that occurred during the year. The final bang of the night was the fireworks. This was in celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of Massachusetts VICA.

On April 30, 1999, the students put their skills to the test. All the students' hard work, effort and dedication were to be shown in the competition. After all the competitions were over, VICA members were ready to let loose. There was a dance, and for those that are not into dancing, the movie The Waterboy was shown.

On May 1, 1999, the students would get the results on the competitions. Not everyone would win a medal, but the truth of the matter was that everyone gave it his or her best shot. Everyone was a winner.

Diman brought home 12 gold medals, 7 silver medals, and 2 bronze medals. Also an officer elect was chosen.

Every gold medallist in almost every trade or Leadership Event will go on to compete in the National Level of Competition.

Even though VICA's main theme is to compete, we also know how to have fun.



MS Students who worked on Starshine

STARSHINE

Jesse Carneiro MS

In late October a NASA team announced a "project" for all willing schools around the world. This project would send a spherical ball (19 inches in diameter) launched from a shuttle named Discovery into space, covered by 843 polished aluminum pieces (1 inch in diameter).

The launching would occur on June.

Students would polish these aluminum pieces all across the world. The Machine Shop students here at Diman Regional Technical High School found it interesting when this project was proposed by our sophomore instructor in the shop. We all consented and sent a letter to the NASA team.

Soon after, the sophomores received a box and letter. The letter thanked the students for participating in the project; the box contained the aluminum pieces to be polished, materials needed for the polishing process and an instructional video. After the pieces were completed we sent them back to NASA.

After a few weeks, a letter was once again received. The letter said thank you for all the help that the students had contributed, but due to many schools not returning their aluminum pieces, the project would be a failure. Again we were confronted with another problem. In a determined state of mind, we asked NASA to send us more pieces. Once we received them, we continued with their project and sent back the pieces just before the deadline.

In mid-December we received a letter stating that the project was a success, with help from Diman and other schools. We, the Diman Machine Shop students, accomplished much with this project, totaling 24 pieces polished, making us third in the world.

On June 5, dicovery was successfully launched, those 24 pieces.

As a class we had an opportunity to actually work on a project that would be put into space and, more than that, see what we all could accomplish.

So, when you wake up in the early morning or just before you go to bed you can look out your window and see a bright object in the sky. This is Starshine. This was only accomplished by a group effort of students around the world. Many can now say to their parents and friends, pointing into the sky, I made that!

HAVING OUR SAY . . .

Recycling . . . *What?*

by: Tony Correia DR



Some of you juniors and seniors may remember Diman's recycling program. You know, that little brown cardboard box they lay on the side of the trash in every classroom. "Oh Yeah," you say. Well, I shouldn't have to tell you, but... it's gone.

As a freshman, I didn't know why the program diappeared, and even as a sophomore I really didn't care. But now that I'm a junior I like to think of myself as a little more mature. Stop laughing! The fact that my school doesn't have a recycling program concerns me a little.

I'm in Drafting, and I know how much paper we throw out a week, paper we used to send to the recycling plant. I can't imagine the amount of wasted paper that shops like Graphic Arts and maybe even Painting and Decorating generate each week.

So to answer my questions about this (and I'll admit, to try to get some well needed extra credit in English), I decided to talk to Mr. Kuthan, the head of the old program. He revealed to me the following:

The program started back in '95, yes, not too long ago, and ended in '96. According to Mr. Kuthan, "there wasn't enough room to store the six bins that would hold the recycling material." This may sound like a "lame" excuse at first, but it was a big problem.

The bins needed to be stored where people who picked them up could easily access them. The bins were stored in General Shop; however, the shop, as everybody knows, is not that big and the bins took you too much space. The school could build a shed and store them there, but this would cost money, money nobody wants to spend for a couple of acres of saved trees.

Mr. Kuthan stated that we would, on average, fill up six bins a week. To get an idea of how much paper that is, it takes four bins to fill one of those dumpsters we have outside the school.

We use one and a half more dumpsters a week, money the school could be saving for that are needed more, like supplies... but that's another article. When this all written out, it almost seems stupid that the program ended, and it is. Mr. Kuthan said to run a successful program like recycling we need people that want to be there and until then, there can't be a program.

The school didn't directly get paid money for the paper, but it saved on the amount of times our dumpsters had to be picked up. The school pays for each time the trash is picked up. Think about this... the school won't build a shed for the bins because of the money this project will require. However, if we are saving money by recycling, then the money saved could be used on supplies for the shed.

Don't get me wrong. I am not a "tree hugger" or anything, but the logical thing to do is recycle. After a while, a recycling program would pay for any expense that it takes to start and run it, with the space it saves in the dumpsters. Then, after that, it might even make money and it wouldn't kill us to do something to help the environment, either.

Now, the real question is, what are we going to do about it? I hope to follow through with the research and find more answers.

In the meantime, anyone could help by just telling someone you care about it.

STUDENTS LIFE

The House That Diman Built

by: Sean Grady EL

Leaving the shop to go out and build a house people will reside in is an educational experience that is offered to many Diman students each year. This is known around school as "The House". This program has been offered for the last 25 years here at Diman Voke..



Nigel Guimond works at the circular saw.

This year Diman is building a house in Rehoboth with crews from the Electricity, carpentry, HVAC, Plumbing, and Painting and Decorating shops. To choose a house location, first the school advertises for people to submit applications. The plans you must be finaancially possible. The group department heads then look over the plans, and one or two of those plans go before the school committee; there the final choice is made. As for the size and style, they are based on educational value.

House building instructor for 2 years, Mr. Peter Nowell expressed concern over the schedule for the construction project. "Progression of the house has been slower than it should be, but the overall quality of the house is quite good. We like to have the walls up and the roof on before Thanksgiving, but on this one we fell behind."

As a learning experience Mr.Lowell feels that "the value of the experience depends on the student, whether he or she feels that they have benefited from this project. Some students leave with little knowledge due to little effort. Others gain valuable experience."

How do the students involved in this house project evaluate their experience? On the day of this reporter's visit to the site, the carpentry shop were the only crew present.

Nigel Guimond a senior in Carpentry shop, knows his work on the house is beneficial. What was the hardest part of building this house? "The roof trusses. A crane had to lift them up and place them in their exact spots," replied Nigel.

Dave Coelho, also a senio,r believes that the process of building is excellent. "Everyone's working hard to finish, doing a great job."



Dave Coelho measures a door frame.

Mark Delisle a junior feels, "It's a lot harder for the juniors who are still learning, but with the help of the teachers like Mr. Nowell and Mr. Rogers, the project is coming along great."

A Diman crew is working to create yet another house, a crew who believes that hard work and determination will produce another "Diman Special."



STUDENT LIFE

"Columbine" *Continued from page 1*



Controversy over whether the crosses bearing the names of Harris and Klebold should be included side by side with the 13 others in the memorial, forced the Illinois carpenter who erected the display to remove it early Sunday morning of May 2, after an angry father of one of the victims removed the two crosses.

On Monday, May 3, Greg Zanis, the carpenter who erected the display, was asked by the families of 3 victims and many of the community to resurrect the crosses back atop the hill where they had been placed nearly a week earlier. Zanis agreed to return the thirteen crosses for the victims atop the hill overlooking Columbine. The two for the gunmen, he said, would be then placed on another hill to avoid any further controversy.

On May 2, one last memorial service was held at the Red Rocks amphitheater, just west of Denver, where nearly 3,000 attended.

During the memorial, four students, each representing the four grades, spoke and sent get well wishes to the 23 wounded, and many eager to someday return to Columbine. Students say they do not want their school taken away from them by this tragedy, and the school community has taken on the phrase "We are Columbine."

"I think we all still feel stunned, even after two weeks. Most of the flags are still at half-mast, and lots of people are wearing blue and silver ribbons. However, there are signs of life continuing. School sporting events are being held. Classes are starting tomorrow," Carolyn (39) of Littleton stated.

Several banners at Chatfield High, a neighboring school three miles away and a rival, welcomed the 1,900 Columbine students as they returned to attend class there on May 3. Students of both school will finish off the school year together on a split schedule.

A complaint dated July 19, 1998 reported that Harris and Klebold had been detonating pipe bombs. Information in the complaint also stated that Harris had posted three death threats against a class mate on the internet.

Harris and Klebold in February had been given probation after a recent van break in. Magistrate John A. DeVita if informed of the complaints, would not have allowed the two on probation. It has been speculated that the Columbine tragedy may have been avoided if authorities had shared the important information about Harris and Klebold.

As the students returned to class investigators continued their search for suspects in the Columbine massacre.

It is said that Dylan Klebold's girlfriend, Robyn K. Anderson (18), a Columbine senior, purchased two of the four guns used in the attack, at a Denver area gun show last fall.

Anderson had recently attended the prom with Klebold just days before the massacre and investigators do not know where Anderson was the morning of the shooting. Miss Anderson has been very cooperative with the authorities, according to the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office.

On Monday, May 3, police arrested Mark Manes (22), a former Columbine student, who sold the semiautomatic TEC DC-9 pistol to Harris and Klebold.

A month before the shooting, Manes joined Harris and Klebold in the Colorado Mountains to fire automatic weapons.

Investigators questioned Manes, but did not know whether he knew that the pistol was to be used in the attack. Manes' attorney states that Manes admitted to selling the pistol, and was horrified when he heard what had been done.

According to investigators on May 5, a third suspect has been sought in the Columbine attack.

Students that escaped the tragedy had identified a possible third suspect, but no name had been released.

As the community of Littleton returned to normal schedule after a long two weeks of attending funerals, the investigation continued.

Within the walls of Columbine High, engraved upon an arch above a hallway, a motto reads: "The finest kids in America pass through these halls."

~ Cassie Bernall
~ Steven Curnow
~ Corey Depooter
~ Kelly Fleming
~ Matthew Kechter
~ Daniel Mauser
~ Daniel Rohrbough
~ Rachel Scott
~ Isaiah Shoels
~ John Tomlin
~ Lauren Townsend
~ Kyle Velasquez

STUDENT LIFE

Adapting To A New Country



Born Nop MS



All of this is my family. The house on the background is our house. All the houses that you see in our village we built by ourselves.

I had been living in Cambodia for the past eight years. I really enjoyed living there. But things were about to change. My family and I were forced to leave our country because of the war that took place in Asia. We were fortunate to come to America because those in power in Cambodia were supposed to send us to Thailand.

Our first home in the United States was in Louisville, Kentucky. When we first got there we were scared and nervous. Everything was new to us. We lived in an apartment house on the third floor. During our first day, we stayed home and stared out the window. It was a boring day for us.

But then there was a knock on our door. At first, my brother Saboeun didn't want to open it, but he had no choice. He opened the door and there were two Asian people at our door. They introduced themselves to us as Mr. and Mrs. Oung. We were happy and relieved that they spoke our language.

We remained close until my family moved. They helped us out with many things. We enjoyed their company. They have two kids. Their names are Savoaun and Pitch. Pitch and I became best friends. As for Savoeun, we never got along. I enjoyed her picking on me because I had had a crush on her since the first day I laid eyes on her.

Six days after in Louisville, I went to Rufferfer Elementary School. The school is huge. I was put in the first grade. There were kids in the school. During my first day in school, there were kids staring at me, calling me names, and some of them even wanted to hurt me.

As the years go by, I am glad that I live here. I also enjoy making new friends, learning the language, and studying the customs.

On the first, scary day, the bell rang and it was time for me to go to my first class in my new school. My class was full of kids. They were all American. I was the only kid that was different from everyone else. Everybody was speaking English except me. Then a few hours later, Mrs. Kurt was talking to me. I couldn't understand a word she was saying. So, I got scared and decided to run out of the classroom. Everybody in the classroom was screaming and yelling.

I ran and ran until a janitor caught me and told me not to be scared and to stop running away. He told me that everything was going to be all right. Then the teacher brought Savoeun to talk to me and tell me not to worry. It had been a wild day for me and I couldn't wait until it was time to go home, I said to myself. I went back to the classroom and everybody was quiet the rest of the day because they were me. I want to cry but I never do in front of them. It is hard for me to adapt to a new school or a new country when everything is new to me because I'm different. I was lucky that I had Savoeun and Pitch by my side. They were like brother and sister to me. We always stuck together during the good and bad times.

As the years go by, I am glad that I live here. I also enjoy making new friends, learning the language, and studying the customs.



This is my village. This is my aunt with all her kids.

STUDENT LIFE



Shirley Dubois, Hall monitor

WHERE'S YOUR PASS?

By Cynthia Raposa

If you are one of these students who is still trying to get away with smoking in the bathroom, you are probably used to hearing, "Come on girls, put it out!" This is the hall monitor, Shirley Dubois, a 61-year-old dynamo who is just doing her job, a job she "loves" very much.

"I like working with the students," Shirley says. She directs kids where they need to go. "I do my best to send them in the direction they need to go in."

After a hard childhood as a ward of the state, Shirely married and had 2 children of her own: a daughter and a son. Then, at the age of 42, on March 24, 1976, her husband died unexpectedly leaving her to raise her daughter, 15 at the time, and a son who was 6, on her own. "It was hard, but I did it,"

Only a stateward child would know how it felt to be abandoned, so Shirley decided to be trained to become a foster parent. Now, Shirley has full custody of her 7 year old grandson Joshua. "I fought and went to court for him".

While having a full time job and taking care of Joshua, Shirley finds time to solve crossword puzzles and go to casinos and play slot machines.

According to Shirley, "Kids these days are so different. In my day, there was no drugs, alcohol or smoking around."



Outstanding Athlete

By Regina Amaral

"Success comes from believing in yourself and placing hard work in that belief," states Jonathan Buchanan.

Jonathan, a nineteen-year old Diman varsity spring track runner, has been running since he was a sophomore in high scool. Jonathan says the reason he enjoys the sport is because of its speed, the excitement of winning and the "rush it gives a person".

He stresses that the reason he is a good runner is because of his team, and his own hard work. He really enjoys placing in the top three at each meet, which he usually does.

"Keeping your mind focused on your task, brings you closer and closer to its completion."

"Copycat" *Continued from page 1*

New York because of the high population. These two males really wanted to send a message. They even made their own bombs.

Ever since this happened, schools around this area have been receiving bomb threats. Have these two "Trenchcoat Mafia" members created a chain reaction?

Recently, Diman students were arrested for manufacturing fake pipe bombs in their shop. The plan was to place the bomb in the boys' locker room. One of the students was to call the school and report where the devices were located. Also, students mentioned a threat to blow up the school on May 11, 1999, an early release day for students. Whether students are joking or not, most of these threats are being taken seriously and are not being tolerated.

During that same time, B.M.C. Durfee High School had several threatening phone calls. Students were evacuated for over 2 hours. Hearing from word-of-mouth, students said that a bomb would go off on April 29, 1999 at about 10:00 A.M. It didn't.

Police, security guards, and school officials searched the school, but no bomb was discovered.

Edmund Fredericks, a 36-year old man, was charged with making the calls. The Fall River Phone Company traced the call. During the trial, he denied making the calls saying he just called to get a transcript of his grades.

Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational Technical High School also had a bomb scare. The students were evacuated after a fake pipe bomb was found. Again, state and city police, the state fire marshal's office, and a state police sniffing dog searched the school to make certain it was safe.

Three youths were charged with the bomb scare. Two of the suspects are sophomores and one a junior. One of the students is from, Greater New Bedford Regional one is from Acushnet, and one from Dartmouth.

Schools are taking precautions. They are adding more security cameras and they are having no more than 3 doors open at a time.

These students thought this was all fun and games. It was all a joke, but let's see if the judge also thinks so.

CONGRATULATION TO THE



Mike Gaudencio,
Valedictorian Class of '99



Top: Chris Makuch, Kenny Amaral
Bottom: Michael Gaudencio,
Jay Mederios, Brenda Zak

ATTENTION SENIORS!!

Have you heard the news?
By Danielle Concepcion CA &
Heather Small CA

The top five academic seniors in the class of 1999 are (in alphabetical order):

Kenny Amaral DR
Michael Gaudencio ET
Chris Makuch ET
Jay Mederios HC
Brenda Zak HC

These top five students have worked very hard for the past four years to earn this place of honor, keeping track of their GPA's (grade point average) all along.

Kenny Amaral is in Drafting and holds a GPA of 4.185. He is very quiet and is a person who keeps to himself. Kenny is very positive about school work not being stressful.

Michael Gaudencio is in Electronics and has earned a GPA of 4.566. "It can be tough trying to juggle everything. You know some people work, some people go to school activities, play in a band, or in a club, and stuff like that. "Sometimes it gets really hectic," Mike says seriously.

Chris Makuch, an Electronics student with a GPA of 4.52, disagrees with what Mike says about schoolwork being stressful.

He plays baseball, he's in VICA and has a part time job. He explains, "I was in special needs since I was younger, so I worked my way up. When I started coming to Diman it was all new to me. I do the best I can." This young man has a very positive attitude about everything, and as he states, "I do the best I can. Whatever I get, I get."

Jay Mederios is in Health Careers and has a GPA of 4.137. He's a quiet and calm person, keeps to himself and agrees that schoolwork and homework are not stressful.

Brenda Zak is in Health Careers, and wishes not to have her GPA published. Brenda has advice for other students. "Pay attention in class; that's the biggest thing." She pointed out, "You don't have to study as much, just as long as you pay attention. It really is no big deal dropping spaces. It's an honor just to be in the top ten."

Everyone has to have 20 credits in shop to pass. Your #1 priorities in academics are English, math and shop tech.

At the end of the term you can easily figure out your GPA, by multiplying 21/2 by 8 (the 21/2 is your credits for each class; the 8 is for the amount of classes you have). You get 20 credits for the week, when you're in school. If you decide to skip a class, don't expect to get credit for that class.

Your GPA is something that you are able to get from your guidance councilor. You may be in the top ten and not even know it.

Class of '99!



Outstanding Vocational Student: MIKE MAKUCH

Vicky Byrne CA

Mike Makuch has been chosen as the Outstanding Vocational Student of the class of 1999. "I am honored to be chosen," Mike modestly laughed. "It came as a surprise".

This 6-foot-1 blue-eyed, friendly Culinary Arts senior is not only the Outstanding Vocational Student; he is a shop representative and treasurer of the National Honor Society. He is also a member of the baseball team and is currently employed at Kent's Restaurant in Swansea.

Mr. Abdow is the advisor to the students who are eligible to become Outstanding Student. "The Outstanding Vocational Student is chosen by an election." Mr. Abdow explains." Teachers within the school vote by a paper ballot on the students who will be graduating in the top 10 of their class" Mr. Abdow explains.

"Mike was chosen based on his goals, objectives, academics, and vocational performance. Academic teachers have a stronger say than the vocational teachers," Mr. Abdow concluded.

Qualifications include willingness to apply yourself to academics and extra curricular activities, and graduating within the top ten. Mike's class rank is number 7.

After graduation, Mike is planning to go to college and continue in the trade. He has applied to the Culinary Arts Institute of America and to Johnson and Wales University. His preference is the C.A.I.A because "the curriculum and the time spent in the kitchen is a more complex program. You work harder, but you get out faster."

In the future, Mike would like to open his own restaurant and maybe teach in the trade. "Mike always did beyond his best," stated Mrs. Sayre, his 10th grade English teacher, and as you can see, it paid off.

We're Outta Here . .

Laura Silvia GA

Graduation is a wonderful word. In less than 3 months I will graduate along with most of the class of 1999. The day we have all waited for is just around the corner.

It seems too good to be true. Am I finally out? In the words of Dr. Martin Luthur King, am I, "Free, free, at last"?

I can't say that I won't miss Diman. Actually I will. I'll even miss the teachers that have helped me along these past years. But I won't miss the tests, midterm warning notices, academics, stupid people, and oral presentations.

My first day of high school was pretty intimidating. I only knew two people, and I was totally lost in this new, "huge" building.

I never thought that I would actually get comfortable with all the teachers, students, the two week cycles. But I did, and I am now a senior on my way out. (What a relief.)

But leaving here isn't as easy I thought it might be; it's actually a little hard. I will miss all my teachers, and friends. I'll miss the irresponsibility of being a high school student with no bills to pay. I'll miss Diman.

I've often heard that your high school years are supposed to be the best years of your life, and for me, they have been, but they have also been the hardest for me in many ways.

I'll never forget these past four years as long as I live. I'll cherish my memories and the things I have learned.

Diman has done a lot for me. I will miss it, but then again, I'm graduating. Real world, here I come!