



Features

EDITOR: SALLY LOWDER



BUSY WORK OR DISCIPLINE?

By Courtney Brown

After reading many articles and magazines about learning in school, I have come up with what I think is the main goal of the education system today: to educate the young people so they can not only cope but become assets to their community in tomorrow's society. Educational experts have repeatedly stated that the only way a student can learn is to be present in a class where there is a good learning atmosphere and be willing to learn. Why then is Albemarle High School punishing students by sending them to detention, i.e. "the barn"? Surely, with the intelligence our faculty and administration possess a new and more effective punishment can be implemented that will not detract from a student's education. It seems that the whole idea of sending a student to in-school suspension defeats the purpose of today's education system: to have the student present in class so he can learn.

I have two main complaints about in-school suspension, and anyone who has been to the barn will agree with me. 1. Why is it that when you first walk in the barn door you are told to do detention packets that only take up time that could be better spent doing class work? The reasoning behind the packets is good but the manner in which the work is to be done is not appropriate. Why not instead of doing the detention packets first thing in the day save them until the end of the day when all other classwork is done? 2. The most effective way a student can learn is to be present in class, so keeping a person who hasn't finished his or her assigned work for the day in the barn is ludicrous. He or she should be sent back to class to keep from getting even further behind. I hope this editorial will draw attention to one of the areas of the school that drastically needs new thinking and reconstruction. I would like to say that the barn is not all bad (I speak from experience) and that Mrs. Ward is a very intelligent teacher who has knowledge in many subjects, and I would like to thank her for instructing me in calculus and numerous other subjects during the DAYS I have spent with her.



Ms. Ward helps Eric make sure his assignments are correct.

Cast Your Vote Now

By Sally Lowder

What comes to your mind when thinking of the month November? Voting maybe?! Well, you probably laugh, but voting is very important. The freedom to vote is essential to self-government, whether carried on directly or through elected representatives of the people. A citizen who is too "care-free", lazy, or just indifferent to exercise his right to vote is saying good-bye to one of his most precious rights. He is definitely abandoning his right to have a voice in his own government.

To exercise the right to make decisions that govern the land should be very important to people, especially to those eighteen years and older. There are more than one hundred million United States citizens of voting age, yet many of these have never voted. I really don't understand why some people don't vote. After all, the governing officials' decisions affect everyone's life. Also, there are always those people who don't vote who will sit back and blame the government officials or even their precinct officials for certain things that are going wrong. Yet they don't take the time to vote on officials that they believe could do a good job.

Voting is a wonderful privilege to have and everyone should use it. The United States will be a republic only so long as the people can vote freely for the candidates that they think will govern best. So you eighteen year old AHS students need to register to vote as soon as possible because it's your responsibility as a United States citizen to make sure that the new generation of voters will not disappoint their country.

FULL MOON

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Bathing Suits or Santa Suits?

By Sally Lowder

Ahhh . . . Christmas is in the air, or is it?! These days it would be really hard to try to figure out what month Christmas falls in if you didn't know what month you were presently in. Why, it could be as soon as July, and you could be going to the mall to pick up a pair of shorts and some tanning oil for that summer sun, and Santa is sitting in a big red and white chair asking children what they'd like for Christmas! This occurrence is just one example of the so-called "Christmas Frenzy"! Have you ever noticed that Christmas arrives sooner and sooner every year? Well, you can thank the people of advertisement for that. They always take advantage of this one time of the year event, because by starting early they can make more money. They don't even think for once that by starting in August Christmas gets REAL old before the month of December!

One of the earliest holiday items that is always advertised first is Christmas albums. You turn on the "tube" to watch a baseball game, but to your surprise, you hear the different joyous tunes of Christmas music and see things going down your screen such as:

Winter Wonderland
Crystal Gayle

Silent Night
Dolly Parton

Rudolph the Red-nosed reindeer
Reba MacIntyre

O Holy Night
Kenny Rogers . . .

. . . and so forth and so on. This may at times seem a little crazy but there are people who will actually buy those albums and instead of waiting to listen to them during the holiday season they go right ahead and get an early start by listening to them during baseball season! You know who you are!

Christmas is a wonderful time of the year. Everyone should get started early on buying gifts and it wouldn't be a bad idea to do it all year round! (Just whenever there are good buys!) Just don't tell anyone! Even though the stores start putting up decorations in July, it would probably be better to wait until it gets closer to December before you start getting ready for the holidays. Christmas will seem much more of a wonderful and joyous occasion, and maybe you can experience total holiday spirit this year instead of "I don't have any money" blues!

Your Junk Could Be Someone Else's Treasure!

By Leslie Morgan

Where's the place to be on Saturday mornings? If you haven't figured it out, the answer is at a yard sale. There's nothing better than getting up at 7:00 a.m. and going to stand out in the cold to find bargains. One time at a yard sale I bought a pair of Guess jeans for a low price of fifty cents. Where else can you get bargains like this? Some people just go to yard sales to browse around and see how much junk was in someone's house at sometime. At some yard sales you will find just pure junk, but sometimes you can find really valuable things, such as antiques. Personally, I think yard sales are better than flea markets. The only bad thing about a yard sale is that if you don't get there early, all the good things will be sold out.

If you don't like going to yard sales you ought to try having one. Instead of buying bargains, you can sell them. You wouldn't believe how much money you can make selling clothes you've outgrown or figurines you're tired of looking at. A yard sale is a good thing to have if you just need

some extra money to spend.

If you haven't ever had a yard sale or ever been to one, I suggest you do. However, I never get up at 7:00 a.m. to go to a yard sale. I just sleep in and go to the clothing closet later!



Missy bought all this at a yard sale!

Do Horoscopes Run Your Life?

By Wendy Smoak

Do you read your horoscope or better yet do you believe what you read? Do you believe in predictions? Can the future really be predicted? Some incidents in the past seem to answer this question with a "yes". Is it true or is it merely coincidence?

Maybe you are familiar with Jeane Dixon's and Nostradamus' predictions. Jeane Dixon made most of her predictions in the 50's and 60's. They were not all necessarily about the 50's and 60's, but some were. She is credited with the prediction of President John F. Kennedy's assassination and the election of Richard Nixon as President. Also, unlike the rest of the nation, she was not surprised by Marilyn Monroe's death. Were these just good hunches?

Nostradamus died around the year 1566, but

before he did he made some remarkable predictions. He supposedly predicted the rise of a German dictator—Hitler. Also in a vision he saw the French Revolution and Napoleon. Just more coincidences? If you would have heard these before the fact would you have believed them? Maybe. I think you have more likely of a chance believing a prediction if it is bad. Take horoscopes, for instance. Which would you believe—a horoscope foretelling you to find the man/woman of your dreams or on the 3rd day of the month you should stay in bed?

Horoscopes and predictions are fun and sometimes very interesting to read, but they are not always true. There are more records of incorrect predictions than correct ones. So just take them with a grain of salt.