



Patriot Pages

Volume 1 Issue 1

October 31st Edition

Patriot Pages: A Wind of Change for Coventry High School

By Alexis Vatteroni

Special points of interest:

- The *NEW*spaper
- Academic Issues
- Around Town
- Athletics
- Arts & Entertainment
- CHS Activities

Let me be the first to introduce Coventry High School's premiere edition of Patriot Pages. Created by the students of the American Cultures: A Journalistic View, this first-year class has been a hands

–on experience for all students. A wide variety of school and community news makes up this monthly, student-generated newspaper.

Our goal is to promote Patriot Pride and relay school, local, and state

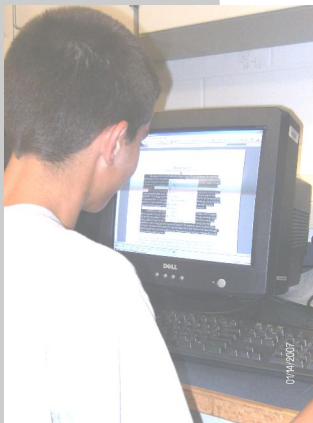


news to the student body. Our reporters will cover topics including academic issues, sports, entertainment, calendar events and much more. For all those seniors overwhelmed with the upcoming college life we will offer a college bound senior column. Is the

new E-Portfolio confusing? We will provide updates and ways to help understand the new format. On a lighter side student art, comics and riddles will appear regularly.

Plagiarism: An Increasing Issue

By Emily Ouellette



What is plagiarism, and why do so many teenagers think it is okay? A whopping 80% of “over achieving” high school students have confessed to cheating or plagiarism. 51% of the students interviewed didn’t even realize cheating was wrong. – www.plagiarism.org (surveys of U.S. News and

World Report)

Whether it be sliding your test into your neighboring student’s view, or copying and pasting an essay from the internet, plagiarism is a vastly growing issue in all school systems that needs to be addressed. Naivety is not an excuse, and only the cheater can truly be held accountable.

An anonymous high school student has agreed to allow an interview on plagiarism.

ECO: Have you ever copied homework, or vice versa?

Anonymous: Only every vocabulary assignment of my high school career.

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Academics or Athletics...What Comes First?

By Amy Dillon and Jessica Dilk

From the first ring of the school bell to the final blow of the ref's whistle, school is always a balancing act between academics and athletics.

School is the first priority for students, but for most athletes, sports come first. "I enjoy it more, and I don't want to miss practice. If you miss practice you can't play in the game, but if you miss a homework assignment you can still make it up. School is all on you, and on a team, it's a team effort," states Rebecca Loftis, volleyball co-captain. On the other hand Fernando Millan-Montes, a foreign exchange student from Spain, believes that school is more of a priority and would skip practices in order to get all of his work done.

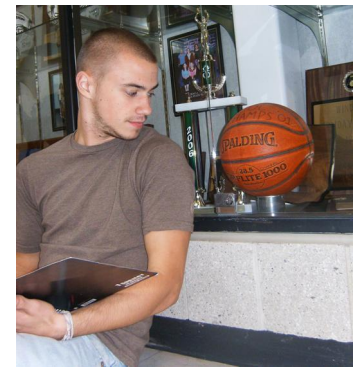
Many athletes spend countless hours slaving away attempting to get all their assignments done. "I have stayed up past midnight because of a game," says Susan Blake, a three-sport athlete at CHS. The time com-

mitment involved in playing sports leaves little or no time for work. This takes a toll on the athletes and sometimes they would rather sleep than finish their homework.

Determined to excel in both areas, many athletes push themselves until their breaking point. Nicole Strauss, a three-sport athlete, agrees, "I will push myself until I get sick." This is a common trend among student athletes, who will do almost *anything* to accomplish *everything*.

Seasoned athletes have had years to get used to balancing sports and academics. Some find it easy, while others think it is difficult. According to Loftis, "I don't think balancing work and play has gotten easier, but I do year-round sports so it's constant; I've gotten used to it."

Academics and sports are both equally important, however it is difficult balancing both. Most students can make the adjustment and compromise, while others still struggle. Whether it may be staying up all hours of the night to complete your homework, or working on it during homeroom, students will always try to find a way to have the best of both worlds, in athletics as well as academics.



Coventry Farmers' Market: An Undiscovered Gem in Coventry

By Megan Ward

In 2001, Winter Caplanson, and five others began planning a farmers' market in Coventry for the following year. The team never thought that just six years later, Coventry's Farmers' Market would be the largest out of 100 in Connecticut. Since then, the market has become a good destination for people to come with their friends and families, and has also supported agriculture in the state, a return for Connecticut farmers, and being a focus for the community.

Not even rain brings the market to a halt. Over 1,000 people show up on a rainy day, compared to the 3,000-5,000 people who attend on a regular sunny day. Over 55,000 people attended last season. This season, even more people were expected to visit because of the new and bigger location at Nathan Hale Homestead. Over 80%

of people who attend bring friends with them. Someone would also expect to see a wide variety of animals.

"Of course rain puts a damper on things," says Winter Caplanson, "but everything still continues. Last season, there was no rain at all."

When asked why the market continues to be a growing success, Caplanson acknowledges the year-round hard work by many people, including the savvy marketers.

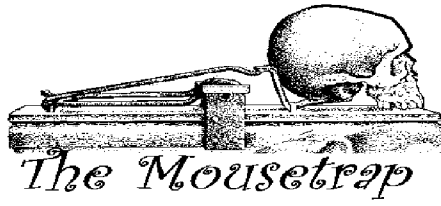
First-time visitors to the Coventry Farmers' Market, can expect to see people of all ages looking around and selling products. In fact, there are 15 youth vendors. There are kid-focused activities, like beekeepers or bulb-planters explaining what they do, and older people who come for the relaxed environment. Dogs are brought to the market regularly, and

don't be surprised to see goats, sheep, and even llamas.

There is also a wide variety of goods to purchase from the 30-50 vendors who come each week. All products are either home grown or hand made. Cheeses, milk, salsas, fruits and vegetables, colonial corn brooms, basswood brushes, birch pot scrubbers, and pots are only some of the many items that can be purchased.

The farmers' market in Coventry has much to offer, which is why people from all over Connecticut and Massachusetts are willing to travel great distances to experience the weekly country fair.

The market is open every Sunday from 11am-2pm from the beginning of June to the end of October. There are also two holiday markets this year; one for Thanksgiving, and one for Christmas.



CHS Drama Presents *The Mousetrap* By Alexa Burrows

Prepare to be mystified as The CHS Drama Company performs this year's fall drama, *The Mousetrap* from November 20th to the 22nd, in the Veterans Auditorium. Written by Agatha Christy, *The Mousetrap* is the most-performed drama of all time. A classic tale of "who done it," this show will keep you guessing until the very end.

The Mousetrap tells a story about a young couple, "The Ralston's," who decide to run a hotel in the old Monkswell Manor. After a terrible storm, the couple is snowed-in the hotel with five other guests. A detective then arrives informing the guests that a murderer is heading to the hotel. When one of the guests is suddenly murdered, they realize the murderer is already in the hotel and could

be any of the guests or even the hosts. With a twist ending that no one expects, *The Mousetrap* is a story you'll never forget.

Corey Boudreau, one of the Drama Company's seasoned veterans plays Christopher Wren in the November production. When asked about the show, Corey said it has been much different then previous fall dramas. "With a small cast of eight, we have to work twice as hard as usual. Also with over a hundred lines to memorize, it's one of the most difficult productions the company's ever performed. However, I have no doubts the show will be a crowd favorite, and I encourage everyone of all ages to come to the show." The talented cast also includes Emily Blanchard, Corey Boudreau, Chelsea Cote, Dan DeMars, Brian Jacobs, Jean Lundquist, Samantha

Stebbins, Carey Wicks, and stage manager Paul DeLucia. The director of the show, Joanne Donoher, expects the show to be a hit among the community. She says, "Agatha Christie has created intriguing characters of great depth. The actors in the company are enjoying exploring the nuance that such characters afford. In addition, since there has never been a film of this play, the actors are interpreting the characters using their skills and artistry. So, the play has provided opportunity for artistic development as well as the usual enjoyment found in rehearsals of a CHS Drama Company show."

The cast and crew proudly invite you to sit down, relax, and enjoy the Drama Company's production of *The Mousetrap*. *The Mousetrap* will be performed in the Veterans Auditorium from November 20th to the 22nd at 7:30pm.

Fall Sports Overview

By Alexa Burrows, Becca Loftis, and Kyle Surprenant

As the leaves begin to change and the days appear shorter, Coventry High's fall sports are now in full swing. As their seasons near a conclusion, the success rate for all teams seems to be consistent.

One of the most hardworking teams of them all, the girls soccer team, has vastly improved since last year, according to Varsity Coach Warren Herrington. He feels "IF the team

continues to work hard, then they will make a deep run in states." The team had the same number of wins only 7 games into the season than they had all last year. With a record of 7-6-2, the girl's soccer team will definitely make a great impression in the state tournament this year.

As for Boys Soccer, this has been a new year for the team.

After losing 12 seniors last year, the team had to rebuild itself with the addition of many talented freshmen. One of the freshmen, Taylor Vann, thinks the team "plays hard but needs to work on communication on the field." As a younger player he feels like the whole team is relying on the more experienced members to lead them to victory. The varsity team currently has a record of 4-9-2, and is expected to make a turn around and finish the season on

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Photography Fundraiser

By Jessica Dilk

Every year different classes go on field trips, and conduct fundraisers to help defray the costs of the trip. The high school photography class is no different. Photography classes are taking a field trip to New York City on Dec. 12th. They are selling postcards to help lower the cost.

The Photography Class has been taking a variety of pictures. The students will vote and the pictures that get the most votes will be made into postcards. The students, in turn, will be selling a pack of eight original postcards for \$10.



STUDENT OF THE MONTH

By Amy Dllion

From week to week the Broadcast Journalism crew goes to different subject areas and asks teachers to nominate one student for CHS Student of the Week. For the month of September the four students nominated were Taylor Vann for American Cultures: A Journalistic View, Mike Richard, nominated for chemistry, Ashley Leamon for Calculus, and Valerie Stickles for Spanish III.

Valerie Stickles was selected by the staff of CHS to be the Student of the Month.

Valerie Stickles is a school leader. She is always pleasant and ready to help. - Ms. Hoeflein

Valerie Stickles meets every new stage of learning with enthusiasm and effort. - Mrs. Garrity

Valerie Stickles is a leader and top performer both in and out of classes (Earth Club). Simply an awesome person! - Mr. Peracchio



Sophomore Valerie Stickles

Advisor Needed!

By: Emily Ouellette, Taylor Vann, Naina Syed

The class of 2012 is still without a class advisor. To all freshmen, you may be wondering how this will affect you in the long run. If you ask any member of the senior class, they will tell you how crucial it is to have one. Senior, Becca Loftis, stated "Don't do what we did." in regards to their situation. For them, a class advisor was not found soon enough.

Class advisors do many things, including organizing fundraisers and other events to raise money for the class. The money will be used to make senior year more memorable. Things like prom, field trips, and other general events would be examples of what the profits of fundraising efforts would cover. The implications of not finding an advisor will be felt throughout

all four years of high school. There won't be enough funds to support all of the expenses for the many activities that classes enjoy.

A teacher isn't the only person raising funds for their class. In fact, the students are the ones who do most of the work. As well as a class advisor, we need several class officers who are willing to organize the fundraisers. Student involvement is crucial in raising sufficient funds for the class. Also, those students who constantly volunteer at fundraisers will find that their class dues will noticeably decrease. Their volunteer work will help pay for ex-

penses such as the costs of prom tickets, yearbooks, and more.

In conclusion, the consequences of not finding a class advisor will be evident in most events that classes participate in. Senior Class President Amanda McGowan shared her view on the situation, "My advice to the freshmen is to find an advisor and get class activities going as soon as possible unless you want to have prom in the cafeteria." To prevent this from happening, all of the freshmen need to find a class advisor so they can begin participating in fundraising events.

Plagiarism

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ECO: Have you ever cheated on a test or quiz in high school?

Anonymous: ...Vocab. No one actually uses the word juggernaut, so why memorize it?

ECO: What do you consider to be plagiarism?

Anonymous: I consider stealing of another person's original ideas to be plagiarism. Collaborating on homework that everyone is going to have the same exact answer on, does not strike me as plagiarism. Maybe cheating, but not plagiarism. (Sarcastically)

ECO: Has anyone ever tried to persuade you to cheat or plagiarize for their benefit?

Anonymous: Yes, but I am an entirely self-serving individual, so I said no. But for

real, I didn't because it was on an assignment that required originality and creativity... AKA effort.

ECO: Once you get to college, do you intend on changing your views or actions with plagiarism?

Anonymous: It's a much more serious environment in college, so yes. But pointless busy work assignments are not assigned in college, so I do not foresee it as being either a temptation or a problem.

ECO: How do you think the school system can collectively prevent plagiarism?

Anonymous: Well, when you consider plagiarism to be something such as copying a mindless, unimportant assignment, not much can be done to stop it, except perhaps assigning more engaging work. If something is too easy, it will be written off as unimportant and thus much more likely to be plagiarized.

Academic Integrity is heavily involved with the plagiarism controversy. Some students will make a vow to keep their records clean, and their work origi-

nal. However, other students may not see a difference between a plagiarized paper and that of their own, besides the effort that was demonstrated. It's harder to decide if ignorance is the bigger problem, or if it is just the average teenager's lethargic lifestyle that has seeped into their school work. Either way, the vast amount of plagiarism cases has proved that we need to redress the subject. As a community, I firmly believe that it's time to step up and detect plagiarism in the earlier years before students rely on it to get all of their work done. By the time they are in college, they won't know how to write their own term paper. That does not compliment our school system.

It has become quite obvious that plagiarism is not a joke, and you should take your academic integrity very seriously. Colleges do not accept cheaters, or stained academic reputations as quickly as they would a clean reputation. So next time you peek over your friend's shoulder during a test, think twice. The consequences don't even up.

Got Suggestions?

The print journalism class is looking for ideas for the new monthly school student newspaper, Patriot Pages! Any ideas for stories? Any suggestions for columns?

Please leave any ideas in Mrs. Kendall's room 83 in the suggestion box.

Sports Overview

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a high note.

One of the newest additions to the fall sports program is the CWT Football Team made up of players from Coventry and Windham Tech. Long and difficult practices have paid off driving them to an impressive record of 4-3. Captain Joe Sparveri states, "I am excited about the season, I believe we will do well, we have a lot of new players on the team, but they are learning fast and want to win."

Alongside the CWT boys are the Coventry High School cheerleaders. Bursting with pep, these girls work their hardest to cheer the players on at every game. After every touchdown the girls have to do pushups, sometimes nearing 150 during the course of a game. Junior Lexie Vatteroni states, "The squad has

transformed throughout the years and has become more like a family, while increasing our skills as each year goes on."

Everyone sees those kids running down the road and wonders who they are and why they are running so fast. Those are members of the Boys and Girls Cross Country team. The teams compete at our home course at Creaser Park, where the girls have showed their dedication with a record of 12 -14 Anna Mills, captain of the Girls team, believes, "Our record doesn't show how hard we work." Senior runner Ben Dagg, adds, "Our sport is your punishment. We are looking for our freshman to step up, because we are a little short on players." So far the boy's record is 2-22. Both teams will continue to work hard and are looking forward to the rest of their season.

The last, but certainly not the least fall sport, is the Coventry volley-

ball team. They have gone undefeated this season with a record of 17-0. Back-to-back state champions, the team is gearing up for the tournament season. Junior Megan Ward says, "The team works hard, sometimes practicing before school, and the dedication shows in our state titles." Currently riding a 63 match winning streak, the volleyball team is hoping to continue in their success.

As the fall sports season continues, look for more updates in *Patriot Pages*. All teams are looking for supportive fans to attend their games. Sports schedules are posted throughout the school and are also available in Mrs. Levinson's office.

