

neshaminy playwickia

neshaminy high school

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Graduation ceremonies cancelled for Class of '86

In what has proven to be a somewhat discouraging year for Neshaminy's class of '86, the final blow has been dealt. Today, the administration officially announced that commencement ceremonies originally scheduled for June 18 have been cancelled. In a statement released by the office of Neshaminy superintendent Dr. Joseph E. Ferderbar, reasons for the dramatic decision were given as "a lack of interest among the senior students" and "a great escalation in costs of the (graduation) ceremonies." The announcement also pointed to incidents of unruly behavior at the ceremonies in past years, including beachballs, firecrackers, and nudity.

According to senior class adviser Dr. Paul Dickler, this action was not completely unexpected. "To tell the truth," he said, "I kind of saw it coming. These students just don't seem to get excited about anything. It would be a shame to waste so much money on an event that is looked upon as an unnecessary nuisance." The 1985-86 school year has been rather disappointing for Dickler and his class officers. Earlier in the year, efforts to organize the traditional senior class trip to Orlando, Florida flopped when too few reservations were received to warrant going ahead with the trip. Later in the year, a planned senior class dinner received a disap-



Raucous behavior at last year's graduation ceremony contributed to this year's cancellation.

pointing number of participants. To top things off, Philadelphia's Bellevue Stratford

Hotel, where reservations had been made for over a year to hold the senior prom, closed

its doors in March, leaving Dickler scrambling for alternate plans.

In an emergency telephone survey conducted last evening by the Playwickia, over 250 seniors chosen at random were asked their feelings on the decision: 12% were pleased, 54% didn't mind, 23% were disappointed, and 11% didn't even realize that ceremonies had been planned in the first place. Reasons for joy over the decision ranged from being able to get a head start on Senior Week festivities to "not having to sit through long, boring speeches in hot and humid weather." One elated student remarked, "Great! I would look stupid in a cap and gown anyway."

According to Neshaminy's guidance department, seniors will receive a packet in the mail at the end of June. Enclosed will be their final report card for the year and high school diploma. Also included will be a letter of congratulations from the superintendent and school board, copies of speeches that were to have been given by the class valedictorian and salutatorian, and a program of what the ceremony would have been. "This approach has been used by several other school districts," said department chairperson Alan Tubbs. "We think it will work well at Neshaminy."

Neshaminy Shots

This is it, folks, the last Playwickia ever! Due to budget cutbacks, all funds for a school newspaper have been cut off. We even had to limit this edition to two pages... The faculty furniture committee has announced its plans to cushion and install heating and massage units on all desk seats in the school. They believe that this will lead to greater relaxation in the classroom, resulting in higher levels of concentration among students... Neshaminy's representative to the Lower Southampton Drug and Alcohol Task Force Advisory Board, DAN "Budweiser" HEILIG, was recently seen at a senior class skip-day party crusading against teenage drinking... Tragedy struck Neshaminy recently when ROB LEVY's hair caught on fire while standing too close to a heating duct. Unfortunately, the bright flames went unnoticed for several minutes before someone smelled smoke and called the fire department. The incident prompted the National Firefighters Association to put out a warning to all redheads advising them to dye their hair some other color before disaster strikes again... Fetal Pig Festival '86 at Neshaminy was once again a rousing success. Held during the week of February 10-14, this festival was a time for all fetal pig enthusiasts to reach deep inside their very own specimen and determine what makes these babies tick. If you missed out on this exciting event and wish to know more, information is still available from MS. CRUMLISH in A-33... FLO LUTTERSCHMIDT and BILL GEIBE have recently been seen spending a lot of time with each other. Is it true that they are planning their summer vacation together? Bill can really turn on the charm at times... The Playwickia has learned that Neshaminy's own MR. DUGAN is not just on sabbatical, but is also pursuing a political career on the Republican ticket... In an effort to clean up the school's bathrooms, the janitorial staff will be placing ashtrays in every toilet stall. Maybe people will use them instead of the toilet seats... The Playwickia wishes to thank everyone who made publication possible: our editors and staff, Neshaminy faculty, and our faithful readers. It was great while it lasted! Happy April Fools' Day, everyone!

Hall of Pleasures

Evans plans recreational wing for students

The administration is currently in the process of renovating J-Hall. After the tragic deaths of Neshaminy students by stampede, suffocation and smoke inhalation in J-Hall last week, public outcry has demanded a solution to the problem of herding students in a hallway.

A bit sentimental about the loss of his favorite project, Mr. Evans commented, "I will miss the traditional J-Hall periods. The time was always well spent by the students and I considered it an ideal learning situation."

Despite his sadness, Mr. Evans is optimistic about the J-Hall plans. He was quoted as saying, "The new J-Hall will give me a great chance to socialize with the student body. I rarely am able to communicate with the students, so as building principal I feel it will be beneficial to install a two-way television system between J-Hall and my office. (Mr. Evans' comments had to be condensed because they were too lengthy for this paper).

Plans for the new Evans' Hall of Student Pleasures include slot machines, poker tables, a jacuzzi, and guest speakers. The

"Pleasure Hall" will stretch from the remains of the present J-Hall, out to the Neshaminy Creek in Idlewood.

Evans' Hall of Student Pleasures's grand opening is slated for September, 1986, with guest speakers already scheduled including such names as Dr. Ruth, Jerry Falwell, Bobby Vinton, Pee-Wee Herman, and special musical guests WILD.

Students will miss, however, the beautiful panels which will be replaced with stately visages of Mr. Evans and the other benevolent administrators of Neshaminy. Our comfortable benches will be replaced with lavish couches, lazy boys will replace the chairs and coffee tables shall take the place of the folding tables currently in use.

However, no plans for free eating in J-Hall have been included; it seems the hall moms protested losing all their power.

It is anticipated that students will flock to the refurbished recreation wing. Unfortunately, it has been announced that Mr. Wyatt and Mr. Blair will be laid off because they will have no J-Hall cuts to contend with and consequently nothing to do with their time.

Neshaminy School District accepts weighted grades proposal

Last week, the Neshaminy administration announced that it has accepted Student Council's weighted grades proposal. The proposal, which stated that the present system does not provide an accurate or fair measure of a student's capabilities, called for a system of weighting courses according to subject material and level of difficulty. An extensive study was submitted by Student Council several months ago, comparing class rankings with and without weighted grades. The results showed a great number of changes in the rankings, indicating significant need for the system.

Neshaminy principal Mr. Richard Evans, who was originally against the proposal, is now in support of it. "I can't believe that Neshaminy is still in the Dark Ages of education," he said. "Most of the schools in the area have had weighted grades for years now. This well-organized report by the Student Council really opened my eyes to this problem." Superintendent of Neshaminy schools Dr. Joseph E. Ferderbar was in agreement with Evans. "We are always looking for ways to improve education in our

district," he said. "Weighted grading is a more effective way of evaluating and ranking our students." As expected, members of Student Council and the weighted grades committee were elated over the announcement, and thanked the administration for its swift and efficient handling of the proposal.

The weighted grading system is slated to go into effect next year. However, the administration will be making some changes in the original plan. Because of ever-present threat of international terrorism, the JROTC has been given the highest weighting possible. Also, all honors and accelerated courses will be given the same value as a level one class, as students in honors classes don't really work that much harder. In the English department, it has been decided that Advanced Placement English will be given the value of a level two class, and all classes taught by Mr. O'Brien will be given the lowest weighting possible. These changes were necessary, says the administration, in order to make the system more equitable for all students.

New courses announced for 1986-87 school year

1) **SURVEILLANCE & PURSUIT TACTICS:** Learn the latest undercover methods utilized by the CIA, FBI, and high school administrators in combatting international terrorists, communist spies, and partying seniors. Taught by Neshaminy Vice: "Crockett" Rosenblatt and "Tubbs" Blair.

2) **WEIGHT LOSS MADE EASY:** Don't waste time dieting, lose weight the easy way. Doctor Daggett helps you choose the best organs to remove for quick and effective weight loss. Recommended for all Biology II students.

3) **FINANCES FOR THE AVERAGE JOE:** Based on the principle "when you've got it, flaunt it," this course discusses the best ways

to handle your money and choose your money-clip. **FINANCIER:** Howie "I got da bucks" Lindner

4) **PENACOLI'S PETS: TAMING OUR FURRY FRIENDS:** Special celebrity guest instructor Jerry Penacoli from KWT-TV presents the latest techniques in training small rodents exciting new tricks. Students must provide their own gerbils.

5) **STAMP COLLECTING: FUN, FUN, FUN!** Neshaminy Interact Club's faculty adviser shares the exciting hobby of collecting cancelled postage stamps, helping needy people around the world. Empty coffee cans a must! **PHILATELIST:** Mrs. Joan Smith

Chris Banks selected as exchange student to Libya

The Student Exchange Club of Neshaminy is proud to announce their plans for a 1986 summer exchange with the country of Libya. After receiving hundreds of applications for this prestigious trip, Mr. Rowlands finally chose Chris D. Banks I to represent Neshaminy; this honor requires great diplomatic skill. When asked if he felt suited for such an honor Chris said only, "Well...." followed by several minutes of gesticulation.

To those who have been lucky enough to enter Chris's prestigious circle of close friends and admirers, this honor comes as no real surprise. Chris's illustrious Neshaminy career as a politician, singer, dancer, and now as a diplomat, makes Mr. Banks an admirable choice and also makes Neshaminy proud to have him. Chris's plane leaves on July 1, and is due to arrive in Khadafi Airport in Tripoli on or about July 15, after what will amount to numerous delays.

Chris will first visit the Muammar Khadafi Terrorist Training Camp, where he will stay for some time, and experience first hand what it is to be a part of an intricate hostage drama, although it is unclear which part he will play.



Exchange student Chris Banks helps guard Colonel Khadafi on a recent tour.

After his camp experience, Chris will move in with a typical Libyan family, for an undisclosed period of time, during which he will be exposed to a multitude of Libyan customs, such as flag burning and making inane demands in boring speeches.

When he leaves his hosts' home, Chris will then travel to the lavish Tripoli Hilton. While in the capital Chris will be treated as any honored guest from America. No return flight has been scheduled.

The exchange is not one-sided. In exchange for Chris, Mr. Rowlands negotiated to get over 300 militant students. Housing is needed for these Libyans, so ask your families if they would open their homes. In a plea for volunteers, Mr. Rowlands stated, "I'm not totally naive to the prejudices against the Libyans, but really, come on, they're just kids." Some rides will be needed, but for two weeks Mr. Rowlands has arranged for the students to visit MX bases in the Southwest, followed by a quick trip to Washington, D.C. and a meeting with the President.

When asked if he had any thoughts on his upcoming trip, Chris, a man of few words, said only, "Well...." followed by several minutes of hand motions.

Helpful hotlines offered to Neshaminy students

The break-up of AT&T has allowed the Neshaminy School District to offer a variety of helpful hotlines to its students. Here is a list of some that are now available:

- 1-800-MISSPEL:** Set up to help students with spelling difficulties, Neshaminy math teachers are available during peak homework hours: Monday through Friday, 9:00-10:00 PM, Sunday 7:00-7:30 PM.
- 1-911-BADFOOD:** Emergency trauma specialists are on call 24 hours a day to provide life-saving information and antidotes to students suffering reactions from ingesting school food.
- 1-800-HALLMOM:** For those who just can't get enough, students can call and hear taped messages of Betty Crocker and their other favorite disciplinarians bellowing such eternal sayings as "That was the bell, people!", "Pass!", and MORE!!!
- 1-800-REDSKIN:** Call and hear the latest scores of all Neshaminy matches. Features football, baseball, bowling, chess, debate, and MORE!!!
- 1-800-OVERDUE:** In an effort to retrieve overdue books, the school library has set up this anonymous hotline offering amnesty to all culprits. Students with overdue books can call up and leave a taped message as to where the book(s) can be picked up by the librarians without penalty.

Administration dedicates rooms to outstanding individuals

Every year around this time the Neshaminy administration dedicates certain areas of the school to well-deserved individuals. Past examples include the Harry Franks Stadium, the Marti Carlson Room, and the Pat Schlaich Curriculum Library.

The administration has recently announced some of the areas which will be renamed, as stated below, beginning in September of 1986.

Everyone who has met Dan Hanlon knows that he is a man of great knowledge pertaining to very difficult and challenging subjects. In order to commend D.H., as his students refer to him, the administration has renamed his room. H-2 will now be called the Dan Hanlon Center for Nursing, Basket Weaving, Basic Arithmetic, One-step Photography, Pottery Making, Earth and Space Science, and Human Physiology.

The in-school suspension room will be named after Mr. Rosenblatt, the tenth grade Administrative Assistant. It will be called the R. Rosenblatt Delinquent Holding Tank.

We're sorry!

In a recent edition of the Playwickia, Neshaminy's Student Exchange Club was mistakenly referred to as the SEXchange Club. The Playwickia regrets this accidental misprint, and wishes to apologize to Mrs. Tom Rolands and the members of the sex-change club.

This special edition of the paper was prepared by the Playwickia editors and faculty adviser Marsha Franke. We're sorry if we offended anyone. Thanks for being such good sports. Happy April Fools' Day!

The trainers' room outside of Gym 3 will also be renamed. Because Mike Bowman seems to have an outstanding everyday medical vocabulary, the trainers' room will now be called Mike Bowman's Miniscus, Medial, Collateral, and Anterior Cruciate Rehabilitation Center.

Those athletes who really have a medical injury needing professional attention, and would like to know what their problem is in common language, can go to the Barbara Matthews Nursing Center at A-1.

The weight room at the end of J-hall will now be called the Jim Mahoney Weight Training and Steroid Distribution Center.

The Lunch Aides in the cafeteria do an outstanding job of keeping the lunch room under proper decorum. The administration has decided to honor this special group by naming the cafeteria after them. All students should now refer to the cafeteria as the Mrs. B., Dee, Weston Dining Hall.

The boys room in F-hall is apparently the cleanest bathroom in the school. Mr. McMasters has done such a great job of maintaining it that the administration has decided to rename it after him. The bathroom will now be called the Ward McMasters Memorial Lavatory.

Perhaps the greatest honor of all belongs to Mr. Chris Banks. Mr. Podlesny has agreed to rename the driver ed. course. It will now be called the Chris D. Banks Driver Training Course in Praise of all the time Chris has spent and will continue to spend practicing on this and many other similar driving courses.

Teacher of the Issue

World Cultures teacher brings interesting history to the job

Almost every student at Neshaminy knows or has seen him. He's Mr. Robert Brann, the Social Studies department's small bundle of wonder. Department chairperson Mr. Witcoski speaks highly of him. "Of all the teachers in this department," he said, "I'd have to say that Bob Brann is one of them." And those of you who have had him know just what kind of teacher he is.

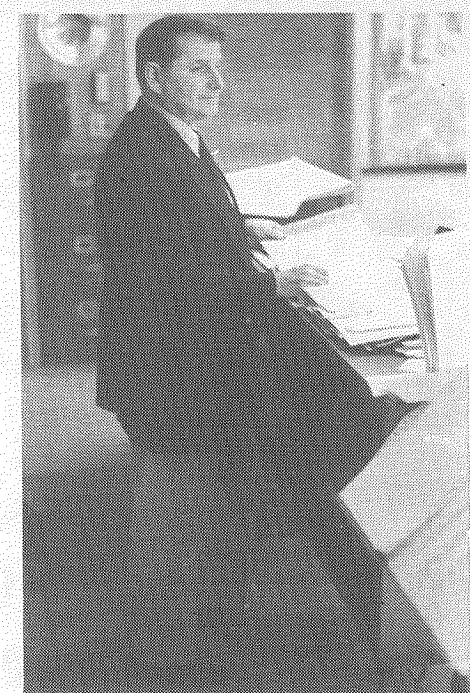
Born and raised in affluent Newark, New Jersey, Mr. Brann is the son of a wealthy polyester tycoon. His family traces its roots back to the ancient "Barnelius Rubbelius" clan, which dates back to 4200 B.C. As a child, Brann was brought up around his father's business, doing odd jobs there in order to earn enough to pay for his meals. The family was devastated when little Bobby decided to go to college to become a teacher rather than work in the textile business like his seven brothers and sisters. It was a wise decision. In the years to come, the market grew smaller and smaller, forcing his father out of business. Nobody but nobody was wearing polyester anymore.

A real buffoon of a college student, Brann was constantly being reprimanded for lateness to his classes. "Better late than never" was my excuse," he said. "Fortunately, I eventually overcame that problem. Lateness is simply not tolerated in the work world, especially in education." His favorite activity was sipping booze while cruising the night in his big, yellow banana boat. He still drives the car, which was originally a high school graduation gift from his father. "With my sunglasses on, I was a regular Tom Cruise," he said. "Still am."

It was in his junior year that everything changed. Her name was Stella. She was the captain of the university debate team, and had the nicest rebuttal that he had ever seen. Making a resolution to get to know her, he joined the team. Learning all that he possibly

could about the art of debating, Brann made every attempt to impress her with his skill. But, alas, it was all in vain, for in his senior year Stella eloped with the captain of the university football team. All was not lost, however. He found that his new love was now debating itself, and has stayed with it ever since.

Since he was hired on at Neshaminy, a great deal has changed. Electric lighting has been added, and indoor plumbing installed. But one thing has remained a constant here at the school — the unique and unchanging character of Mr. R.J. Brann.



Good things really do come in small packages.

Clip these coupons

As a public service to the students of Neshaminy, the Playwickia has arranged with the administration to bring you these coupons good for valuable goods and services around the school. Make your life here a little easier—go ahead, use them!

GET OUT OF ROMPER ROOM FREE
Bearer of this coupon will be released from a sentence to in-school suspension.

Good for
ONE FREE PHOTO COPY
in the school library.
A \$.10 value!!!

Good for
ONE EXCUSED LATENESS
Bearer of this coupon will be excused from all penalties for lateness to school or class of choice.

Good for
FREE FOOD
Bearer of this coupon is entitled to as much food as he/she can carry from the school cafeteria.

Good for
ONE GYM CLASS MAKE-UP
Bearer of this coupon will be excused from one (1) gym class make-up session.

