

The Husky's Bite

Volume I, Issue I

Week of March 1, 1999

Skip the I.Q. Test, We're all Dumb Anyway

In this issue...

- Unbiased student opinions
- Objective viewpoints
- Big words
- All in four insightful pages!!

It's difficult to think that any school could be made up entirely of underachievers. I was wrong. Other than the occasional freak of nature, Dieruff students are lost in a stupidity loophole. We enter Dieruff as a freshman with high hopes and dreams of success, but will always leave as an unprepared, dribbling dolt of a senior. Do we *want* to be morons for the rest of our lives?

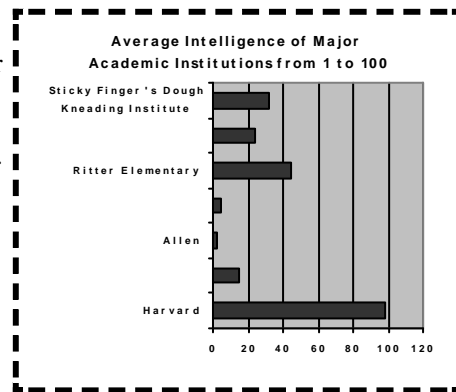
Academically, Dieruff is tied on the national educational ranking with the Milwaukee Canine Obedience School. Although the MCOS went out of business three years ago, Dieruff is still unable to pull ahead. Which is a disappointment since most Dieruff students mastered the art of begging for treats, food, and welfare checks. Which brings me to the creme de la creme, the "Gifted" classes. They can be defined as: "Gifted" class - (*n.*) *the not as stupid people due to their ability to lie well when they don't do their homework.* I've never seen a bigger group of overrated, undeserving, snotty brats. While some do belong a cut above the normal student, the rest mill about posing as intellectuals. This is the downfall of many. Pretending to be something you're not is a serious offense. I'm sure someone, somewhere once died because of it.

Some would blame an unforgiving upbringing,

mild retardation, heavy narcotic use, or apathy for the apparent stupidity. I blame the teal colored walls. That and the reluctance to be spayed or neutered. This is the *ONLY* reason the MCOS led us for that 20 year streak!

As Dieruff enters the new millennium, it must focus on advancing technologically. I recommend stickers be placed on the school computers' mice distinguishing the left from the right mouse button. But then again, no one's blaming the majority of the faculty and administration for the low level of achievement at our institution. I thought that was a given.

—Spike Spiegel



Academic Averages at a Glance, supplied by our own insight.

Other titles we thought about for this story:
2 + 2 = 5? Oh yeah!!

School Builds Diving Board Near Pond

Shape Recognition Test Finds Kiska Smarter than Student Body

Inside this issue:

At Least We're Trying

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Because we are trying to be a respectable (not necessarily proper) newspaper, we need to have a mission statement. Well, we're not actually sure if we need one, but it would make us feel a bit more important if there was one. So here goes...

Mission Statement: This is the first issue of a totally student run newspaper. Our purpose is to express the opinions of the students of Louis E. Dieruff High School. Our ultimate goal is to become the newspaper of choice of the student body. We have no budget and will not ask for money.

This is totally volunteer and free of charge. The manner the issues are presented could be considered rude, sarcastic, or even offensive. We're not out to start a revolution, but we plan to raise awareness; if this involves offending a few of the people or almost all of the people, so be it. We will not allow this newspaper to be filled with bland sound bites and character-less commentary. We want to become the best and most preferred publication of the students. If this issue ends up being the only edition of "The Husky's Bite" printed, we'd feel we have still accomplished what we want to accomplish: To share the

thoughts and opinions of the student body with pupils, teachers, and administrators of Dieruff High School and the Allentown School District.

-Jarvis P. Fundlebottom ed.

If you don't stand for something, you'll fall for anything. -School Milk Cartons

Graduation Project: Foe or...Foe?

There are some things that bother us so much we're going to try to write about them each issue...

My oh my oh my! What will they think of next? A graduation project: the answer to all their prayers. Its another headache for the sophomores and freshmen. Its almost as if they're trying to give us more problems to deal with. We already have to work

to keep our grades good enough to pass, earn a certain amount of credits, keep jobs, and participate in extracurricular activities, so how can we be expected to put in over 200 more hours? I guess the state doesn't think we're busy enough. We'll just have to get an early start on it so that we can finish it on time.

At least that's what I thought. See, sophomores won't be told about the project formally until next year, whereas Allen students are able to start this year. Why couldn't they tell us about it this year? I would like to know the answer to the question myself. Instead of acting responsibly, the school district has sent us pamphlets on the subject. At least half of these pamphlets have been either lost or thrown away. Even the ones that have been kept are still lined with facts about the project that are encrypted in some sort of English that is incomprehensible to me and probably any other student with a Dieruff High School reading level.

According to this pam-

phlet, the purpose is to, "Provide an integrated learning experience which assures each student the opportunity to demonstrate his or her ability to apply, analyze, synthesize and evaluate information and com-

municate significant knowledge and understanding of a topic". I always thought this was the definition of the word school. Hmm...At school we seem to have six or seven classes in one day (an "integrated learning experience").

I'd say we have a good opportunity to "demonstrate our ability to apply, analyze, synthesize, and evaluate information". What do you think a report is? And usually, a report shows we can "communicate [by writing or speaking] significant knowledge and understanding of a topic". Now, if we go to school 180 days a year and have more than a handful of reports assigned, why exactly do we need to do a special report (which take time of both the student and the school board), when the administrators could just take a peek at what we've done?

Because they're going to look over 900 students' projects each year, they will have little time. They may even ask a stu-

dent to shorten his project on the spot. This was the case when a student at Northwestern High School walked into his appointment with a fifteen-minute-long presentation and they told him that it better not be longer than five minutes because they didn't have too much time. Northwestern has since stopped the program and will not continue with it next year. This is not the only discontent with this project locally. Bethlehem School District's student's parents have complained about it, and, because of these petitions, the sophomores will not have to do them. The projects will begin with the class that's in eighth grade now, so that they can have all four years of high school to work on them. Easton's dropout rate has increased largely since the announcement of the project. How will Dieruff's students react once they are formally told? Only time will tell. Not many know about it now, so I encourage you to find out about it. Go call the school board members, or, even better, call or write to the congressmen. Maybe something will happen to us like it did in Bethlehem.

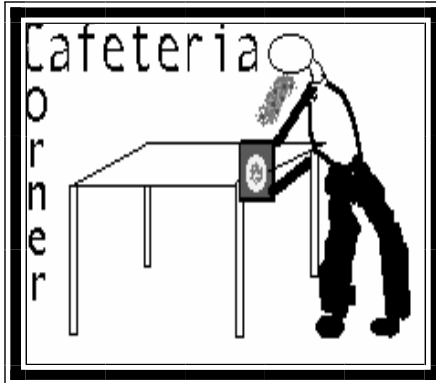
—Martin Stephenson
next time: Taking the Easy Way Out

I'd say we have a good opportunity to "demonstrate our ability to apply, analyze, synthesize, and evaluate information". What do you think a report is?

Mystery Meat Thankfully Remains a Mystery

Pupil Ponders "Porcine" Patties

There have been rumors circulating around the school of officially naming the cafeteria of Dieruff, "The Husky Cafeteria." We are trying to figure out if this name has anything to do with the staple ingredient of ALL the edibles of Dieruff. (Remember, we use the term "edibles" very loosely.) Here's a hint: this ingredient is found in the "Chicken" Italiano, Southwestern "Chicken", Country Fried "Beef" Steak, Lasagna, "Pork" Chop on a Roll (do pork chops really need to be on rolls?), "Belly Buster" hoagie, the ASD Hoagie, the "Veal" Parmigiana, Chile Con "Carne", Big "Beef" Nachos, and even possibly, the beloved "Gelled Fruit." No, I'm not talking about the official spice of the Allentown School District, salt. Another hint: you can substitute this ingredient in place of all the words in quotation marks. Ok, I'm talking of the enigma of mystery meat.



monetarily-constrained to purchase Grade C meat and has resorted to Grade F. It seems the district can use a combination of ground assorted animal parts and label it as chicken, beef, or pork just because some sections of the patty contain parts of an animal we normally choose not to eat. (An insider's tip: if what you're eating resembles a patty, it contains this mystery meat. To make this dish tolerable, get at LEAST two mayonnaise packets and smear it around. And don't look at or think of what you're eating.)

I can almost understand why the district purchases such poor quality food though, almost. If you've seen the movie Jurassic Park, you might remember a reference to "Chaos Theory." This basically says if a monkey is put in front of a typewriter, eventually a complete, understandable sentence will be typed because the animal

Appar-
ently the school district is too

has been pressing keys randomly for an unspecified amount of time. This sentence could happen on the first try or the fifty-millionth. I believe the school utilizes this theory in the purchase of their vittles. If the school buys 2500 patties for "Chicken" Italiano, one of these *could possibly* be entirely chicken parts (not necessarily chicken meat). Therefore, there is no false advertising regarding the entrée. Additionally, according to Chaos Theory, the food (not counting Domino's which isn't made by the school) could be actually decent one time. Unfortunately, the School District lacks both the ambition and money to investigate into exactly when this time will be. So keep your eyes open, but more importantly, tell your grandchildren to keep *their* eyes open in case you're not around when the incident occurs.

—Jarvis P. Fundlebottom

Because the "eating establishment" of Dieruff High School has so many shortcomings, only one article about it would be insufficient. We plan to address these problems one-by-one in each issue.

Freshman Has A Lot To Say About IDs...

"Why an ID?" This is a question I have been asking for months, and you too are probably asking the same. We have not been given an appropriate reason for implementing an ID policy. Are we the students, the ones that they are trying to serve an education, to be so mistrusted that we should not be allowed the courtesy of coming to school in a non-hostile environment? And to be told it is "...For our safety..." without fact or reason, is enough to question the objectives of this policy. We are told that this is to be for our benefit, "But how?" I ask. This would not realistically help in a time of school wide crisis. We would be in a complete position of peril (with or without IDs) if a deranged, disgruntled, disenchanted ex-student came into school grounds wielding a high-powered assault rifle. What is the best the ID system could provide in this situation? Would the "security staff" ask her/him for it while dispersing a few slugs into the student body? Why not just try to have a caring and meaningful relationship, one that would prevent such an event from happening?

We must surely ask, "Why now", and "What is the motivation to make such a policy now?" We look no further than the mass media hysteria that has surrounded the violence in schools throughout the nation over the past year. This has put the public opinion in such a place, that it would be in favor of broad, wide, sweeping changes that make little sense. This is what happened in our security council. What I see as disturbing is, all school councils, until recently, have lacked any student input.

Every time we question this or when any other policy is challenged or asked upon, it is met with the retort of, "...this is high school..."; well, all I have to say to this is, a school should never be too big for it's students (if I am quoting someone with out acknowledging it, I'm sorry; because, I'm just repeating something I have seen). If a school mistrusts its students to the point where it no longer can see the students as people with feelings and emotions, and not just an ID number, then how is it serving us as students and the people whose job it is to educate? If this is true, why not add an additional high school to the district to relieve this problem of mistrust? Perhaps

we need a school where we would be able to operate in a manner where the school is not too big for it's students, where the principal knows all the students, not just those on the football team. I have a hard time understanding how the school can twist and bend district policies to meet its goals. I cite this where the school has decided to issue stickers for our IDs to access the so-called "information super-highway." After carefully inspecting the ID policy handed out with the IDs, I saw no mention of a sticker, or many other things (this is a different issue entirely). I'd say the hologram sticker put on the IDs is both against the rule of not decorating your ID and is a shameless advertisement for Lifetouch Portrait Studios. As you have witnessed, there are too many unanswered questions, and unclear motives to support the ID policy.

The opinions presented in the previous article basically reflect the opinions shared by all the "staff" of this newspaper. If you feel offended in any way, please either e-mail us at huskys-

THE HUSKY'S BITE

An Our Own Cash Publication

Editor

Jarvis P. Fundlebottom, grade 10

Typeset Engineer

Martin Stephenson, grade 10
(even he won't tell us what a "typeset engineer" is)

Missed the Deadline

Dave, grade 11

Contributors

Spike Spiegel, grade 12
Rembrandt Maximus, grade 9
(*he wrote the article about the IDs*)
The general deficiencies of DHS
(*those contributed greatly*)

The student newspaper, The Husky's Bite, is published every now and then, with emphasis on then. It comes to you, the reader, with a guaranteed low price of nothing. You won't even find a deal this great in Canada.

Has Your Article Been Rejected by *The Leader*?

Do you think we're too negative? Do you think we're offensive? Do you think we're even accomplishing anything by this? Well, if you have an answer to any of the above questions feel free to write to us. We're not picky, and as long as we have enough money to cover the cost of the copies, we'll print it. The feedback received from everyone will be helpful toward filling the gaps where we, the writers, don't experience or see every school day. Dieruff is very large, and we only see what is near and in our classrooms. We also only see the student viewpoint. Teachers and administrators especially, we ask for your complaints, questions, general thoughts, and even compliments for *The Husky's Bite* and the school in general. We only have an e-mail address, so if you have internet access, please send us your thoughts to:

Huskysbite@hotmail.com

P.S. All guest articles will be printed anonymously. Just supply your grade or position.

And Injustice For All...

If you're the type of person who is against all injustices of the system, you'll love today's story. Last year a student stood up at lunch and made a loud noise that has been described as a Syrian sound of joy which is made at weddings and parties. He did not offend any student but was suspended and nearly taken into custody for "inciting a riot". While I don't condone this behavior, he could have a decent case here. Either he was overwhelmingly happy with the food, or he was just showing his pride in his heritage. Since no one could be overwhelmingly happy with school food (it's a known fact that all school food is bad everywhere, and that the quality can't be changed), he must be very proud of his heritage. This is a school that supports ethnic pride. Why wasn't that the case here? It's simply because he interrupted what was supposed to be "a quiet,

peaceful lunch". So here we have a precedent set. Am I correct?

A few months ago, a student was being harassed. It had been going on for a few weeks. Three students were behind this mockery of one of Dieruff's own. It was loud enough and possibly offensive enough to be considered as intolerable behavior. They interrupted my "quiet, peaceful lunch". More importantly, they were less than ten feet away from the stage, on which sat two faculty members, two security guards and occasionally a student or two (sitting on the stage is clearly a violation of rule number ten in the Dieruff Code of Cafeteria Conduct). One day, the boy's tormentors were finally heard over the immense bellowing of a certain security guard known to us as, "Colonel Saunders". (for the Dieruff students out there, it's pronounced Ker-nel) The teacher pro-

ceeded to warn the students that if they were caught again they would get p.d.r.'s. It says clearly in "The Ledger" that breaking any cafeteria rule results in suspension. Maybe suddenly "yelling and cheering" is tolerated, after all they were only following the example set by one of their role-models who was once quoted as saying, "Airball? Sh*t's yeah!". I guess if the Colonel can curse during lunch, then I can, even though it's against the rules. This is the thing that disturbs my "quiet, peaceful lunch" the most. Do I think the conduct rules are being enforced? Sh*t's no!!
—Martin Stephenson