

## THE PORT WEEKLY

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## Fate of the Gossip Column

Let it never be said that the **Port Weekly** cannot take criticism, whether it comes from within the school or from the outside. The only way we can improve our paper is by being told when we are wrong.

In the November 6 issue of **Newsday** Joan Ferber's "Chatterbox" column, dedicated to school affairs in this area, listed some faults of "Port Washington's My Social Beat." Some of them were true and some we didn't fully agree with. The purpose of this editorial is to obtain your opinion on the subject. After reading the pros and cons, put your support one way or the other into a letter to the editor.

According to the "Chatterbox," the gossip column is "in poor taste and far below the standards set by the rest of the paper. This is also the opinion of the Columbia Scholastic Press Association which rates our paper each year. The **Port Weekly** has in the past years received only a fair rating, mainly because the Press Association doesn't approve of a gossip column.

Yet the gossip column, along with the sports column, is supposedly the most widely read part of our paper. "Is it really newsworthy that Jane Doe went to the movies with Richard Roe last week?" asks the "Chatterbox." The paper is written for the enjoyment and enlightenment of the students and should contain features of interest to them. But last year ballots were provided for a vote to see whether or not to continue the gossip column. About three votes were handed in. If this is an indication of the students' interest in the paper, it isn't worth the effort to direct the paper at the students' level of opinion.

Finally **Newsday's** article stated that the gossip column "is a conglomeration of names, many of which reappear every few weeks." This seems to indicate a careless job of reporting; however, it was actually the fault of students who failed to contact the staff members as to their dates and parties.

We have discontinued the gossip column because of an apparent lack of interest on the students' part. Hereafter, only school events such as dances will be publicized in the column. If this decision does or does not meet with your approval, please voice your opinion in a letter to the editor. The fate of the gossip column depends upon you!

## Inquiring Reporter

Question: "What is a necromancer?"

Answers:

Bob Dohm: "One who necks with a giraffe."

Peggy Wurtz: "I agree with Bob."

Nuzz: "A romancer who likes to neck."

Jane Heidtman: "A traveling salesman."

Ann James: "Something I wouldn't want to meet."

Jerry Conway: "It's either illegal, immoral or fattening."

Joe Rezek: "Something I'd like to have in the movies on Friday night."

Mike Ciminera: "I agree with Joe."

Nancy Pond: "I shouldn't say what immediately comes to mind."

Debbie O'Reilly: "Something money can't buy."

Rosemary Furth: "If I could get it, I'd keep it."

Doug Kirkpatrick: "Go ask Ginger Crockett."

Ginger Crockett: "You mean like Bruce?"

Cherry McClure: "I don't think it is what I think it is."

Ann Segrave: "My mind's a blank."

Nancy Knobloch: "Opposite of Pete."

A necromancer is a median, one who conducts a seance by pretended communication with the spirits of the dead.

## Pat Moran Hurt In Horse Show

Pat Moran, a senior in PDSHS, is in the Manhasset Medical Center with a serious break in her back. Riding in the beginner's class in the Horse Show on November 11, Pat fell off the horse when he bolted.

Her condition isn't so bad as was first suspected but she is in constant pain. It is hoped that Pat will be able to come home in three weeks but she must wear a cast for about 3 months. All those wishing to send her get well cards should mail them to Room 312, Manhasset Medical Center.

## Student Of Week

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 average of 1.29. Not only does her voice ring among the many in choir but also she puts her other musical talent to work in the school and community orchestras.

Outside of school as well as in, she is creative in art and dancing. Betty also makes and designs many of her clothes, an achievement of which few girls can boast. Because of her high scholastic standing Betty Lou is a member of Circle; she also holds membership in Celerity, Red Domino, F.T.A., and is one of the art staff of the Port Light.

## Mystery Baby

"But I led such an uninteresting life," protested this week's mystery baby. "I was born in Brooklyn and went to private schools and Brooklyn College. I was always a good child and did everything I was supposed to do."

At the tender age of five his picture appeared in the **New York Times**. He explained that this was because he had run away from his mother and had



Guess Who?

gone into a bank. He asked the teller for a Liberty Bond. "I had heard people ask for Liberty Bonds, but I didn't know you had to pay for them. The people inside the bank thought it was amusing and my picture came out in the **New York Times**."

In high school he was a member of two language clubs. Attending Brooklyn College he majored in language, English and speech. "I never cared especially for science and math," he remarked.

His main interest is language and he is now increasing his knowledge of Spanish. Reading is his hobby. I wondered if he likes to travel. "Of course," he said, "in fact I recently enjoyed a very interesting trip to Central and South America."

Can you guess who the mystery baby is? If you do not know his identity, look in the advertisements of the paper and you will find his name.

As a junior Betty held the lead in the spring play, "Goodbye My Fancy," and participated in All State Orchestra. During her sophomore year she was the princess in "Aladdin's Lamp," a play sponsored by the Play Troupe. She was also awarded the title of best actress of the sophomore play.

Headed for New Paltz State Teachers College, Betty plans to major in art education. Betty Lou truly deserves recognition for she has managed to participate in a truckload of activities throughout high school, maintaining her high scholastic standing as well.