

# Inside Schreiber

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## Please Pass the Blow Torch, Marge

### Hall Monitors: More Than Meets the Eye

by Brian Stein

While walking through the halls of school, one is confronted with hall monitors. Their purpose is to keep the halls clear during class periods and to ensure that students use their lockers quickly and efficiently.

These hall monitors also reside in the cafeteria, and while there they are aptly dubbed cafeteria aides, these people simply stand and watch students eat their food. When a student finishes feasting, the monitors guarantee that the empty wrappers and cans are placed in the proper oval container.

Certainly a job of this caliber requires, minimally, a master's in either child psychology or education. One will find in the better school districts that the aides will often have a combination of these degrees, and often a doctorate (90% of aides at Schreiber have doctorates in one area). The competition for becoming a hall monitor can be a vigorous ordeal.

Some of these hall monitors/cafeteria aides are now training in highly specialized vocational schools. These institutions are commonly known for teaching oxyacetaline welding on repairing diesel engines. It should be noted that while both of these courses must be passed with a "B" or better to obtain a doctorate in cafeteria regulation, only oxyacetaline welding is needed for the hall patrolling degree. More vocational schools, such as Apex Tech, are now moving into this vast field of training.

Entering the school, each student learns the basics to become the best monitor he/she can possibly be. Each of these techniques is very advanced and should only be practiced under supervision. Please do not try these at home:

**Eye Control:** This includes the ability to use your eyes to watch people put books in their locker and eat food, both very impor-

tant activities to observe. If you are not able to scrutinize a student's every move, you will never become a top notch monitor. How else will you be able to spot a person at his/her locker, or leaving a table covered with a pile of garbage? Exercise for increasing eye control includes standing on a street corner watching people cross the street and raising an ant farm with a clear plastic front.

**Verbalization:** This is another key component in becoming one of these elite few. If you do not have the ability to walk up to a student and tell him, "Hurry up," you had better get out of the kitchen, I mean hall. In the expert level course some actually yell, and other trainees are even able to yell at an entire group of students. Key phrases taught to beginners in this class



Cafeteria lady scolds delinquent diner Todd Newby.

include, "Pick that up -yeah you!" "Hurry up," and of course, the all time favorite "C'mon, let's getta move on."

**Facial Expression:** This course is separate from eye control. The facial expression course deals with the ability to give "looks." This is commonly mentioned, as in "if looks could kill." The multitude of facial ex-

pressions is too vast to mention, but I will divulge that they can be perfected in front of a mirror.

This training leads towards a complete sequence of courses. Training starts as a child and lasts until one is about 45, depending on mental development. The courses offered are very rigorous, and when attending one of the better schools one may find war veterans training the

aides to subdue hostile students. The wide selection of courses often draws in parents who want their children to have an edge later in life.

**Refuse Engineering:** This is key in the cafeteria training course. It teaches the future deputy to distinguish between the trash cans and recycling can receptacles. Instructors teach students to differentiate between cans, by color, smell, or actually handling the substances held in each. It has been reported that reading the label has been used on occasion, but this is rare.

**Slow Reading:** The acclaimed slow reading class is very helpful for those slow days. These slow days will usually show up around final and midterm time; most of the students don't have the energy to fight back. The slow reading technique allows even the hasty reader to take all day to read virtually anything. By counting the number of pages of reading material, a

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Sports Night Captains: The Props, the Mission

Photo  
of  
the  
Month

...from the  
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