

dolphin

PRIDE

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MHS Says Goodbye to Mr. Arena...

By Vanessa Hernandez

Mr. Paul Arena is a teacher that has not only inspired this generation of students but their parents before them, and after thirty-four years of teaching at Marathon High School, he is going to retire this year. He plans to spend his retirement traveling and is already thinking about taking a cruise with his wife this summer and then maybe later visiting Rome.

Mr. Arena went to a private high school in Massachusetts where he said he was given a "very fine education." He said that he could not stand the cold weather so he headed south for college to St. Edward's University in Austin, TX. He then wanted to get his Master's degree so he went to Barry University where he met his wife, a woman from the Florida Keys; hence, he came to Marathon. Mr. Arena came to MHS in 1973, after teaching for two years in Washington, D.C. He said it was an exciting time to be teaching in Washington, D.C. because it was just after the civil rights explosion in our country.

He said that the school has changed greatly since he first started teaching at Marathon High School. He described the earlier years of MHS as a "stepchild from a Grimm Brothers fairytale," because of the hostile atmosphere between the school and the downtown office. He said they had little and what they had was old. He believes that now that atmosphere is gone. Teaching and testing has also changed over the years because of the FCAT and the school's tremendous support with technology.

His proudest moment of his high school teaching career is having students leave here with hopes and goals. He is proud when they return and visit and let him know they are doing well and are happy. He is also

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Mr. Sympton (left) and Mr. Arena (right) with principal Dr. Pertner and former principal Kay Gradick. Dolphin statues were presented to the two retirees by the School Advisory Council.

...and Mr. Sympton

By Gaby Brossard

From schools of children to schools of fish, Bill Sympton is ready to begin the next segment of his life. After leaving MHS, he plans on staying busy, by working with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission, where he will be working in the field, and gathering data on lobster, conch, and fish populations. Most of the time he will be out in the ocean, diving.

Mr. Sympton graduated from East Tennessee State University, majoring in social studies and psychology and with a minor in science. He began work here in 1975; he took a break between 1980 and 1984 and didn't work at Marathon, but then began work again in 1985. Marathon is the only school he has ever taught at.

Mr. Sympton says he has many fond memories here and he will miss the students, the staff, and the school atmosphere the most. He plans on staying around, and coming by the school for games and events, and will still drop by occasionally in the mornings to say hello to everyone. Mr. Sympton remembers his favorite year of teaching, which was in 1991,

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proud to see former students go into teaching and finding the joy that can be there by helping someone understand a concept, share an idea, or do something he or she never thought could be done.

When asked which class was his favorite to teach, he had a hard time deciding but he said that he enjoys sharing great literature with his students. He loves to see them approach a work - any great work - with excitement, expressing how the characters should have or should not have done what they did, how they were in control or not in control of their own destinies, how much they are or are not like ourselves and the people we know. He also likes to teach grammar because it is structured and precise with few exceptions.

Everyone at this school has appreciated all the time and effort he has put forth for his students and fellow faculty. Everyone at Marathon High School will miss him and hopes that he will come visit us soon.

Mr. Simpson, continued from p. 1

when he taught middle school science.

He says that the school system has changed a lot since he first began teaching, mostly in terms of pace. He says that things are at a much faster pace, because technology has improved dramatically; when he began here at MHS, computers were nonexistent. All grades and reports were done by hand and there was no such thing as copy machines. He says that his proudest moment here was winning the FHSA School sportsmanship award in 1997.

Mr. Simpson has many fond memories here at Marathon High that he will never forget. We appreciate all that he has done for our school and the people in it. We wish him all of the best and he will most certainly be missed.

PREPARE TO BE A SENIOR

By Lyia Stuart

Attention all juniors! If you want a stress-free senior year, I've got the answers for you. All it will take is a little of your time during the summer. You can do things like community service, taking the SAT and ACT, and some other creative things, all of which will make your senior year count and above all, help you get into the college of your choice.

In the beginning of summer you're going to have a lot of fun, go out every day, and finally get rid of the stench of school and exams. But after all the hype has settled down, you will be sitting on your behind all summer long waiting for something to do.

Ever thought of helping someone out? Try community service. It doesn't have to be an all day thing, it can last anywhere from one to five hours. Pick something you would enjoy doing, like volunteering at the hospital, and it'll seem like the time is flying by and you would actually want to go back! Be sure to add this experience to your resume and have a community service form completed (you'll need this information when applying for scholarships next year).

Are you a book worm? How about taking tests over the summer? Most people take their SAT or ACT more than once. Taking one of the tests over the summer will get one out of your way so if

you want to get your scores higher you will have plenty of time to try again. The summer SAT is on Saturday, June 2nd and the summer ACT is on Saturday, June 9th. Both will be administered at Coral Shores High.

Are you the adventurous type? For the student leaving town this summer a good idea would be to visit some colleges. There are over 100 colleges, universities, and community colleges in Florida, so it'll be hard to go to a city where there aren't any. When you go to your first college visit, you won't be sure what to ask or what to look for. Starting your college tours over the summer will be an easy way to get to know what you're looking for.

Junior Jessica Cordova is going to start taking some extra online courses to better her GPA. "I know I'm going to have a lot to do next year, so taking these courses now will be better in the long run," said Cordova. And how right she is, with all the classes you're going to be taking and other senior things you're going to worry about, it'll be nice to know that your GPA isn't one of them.

There are tons of things you can do the summer before your final year to make you a better senior next school year. The main idea is to get off your behind and do something beneficial this summer and you won't regret your senior year.

Buckle up, Eyes on the Road, Hands on the Wheel

By J.P. McCabe

Driving here in the Keys can be challenging because of the tourists, two-lane highways and the weather. These are the reasons why Driver's Education is such a big deal here in the Keys. The course will be offered here at Marathon High School and will be taught by Kevin Freeman. It's a nine-week course and you can sign up for it through your guidance counselor. In order to take this course you must have your learner's permit which means you must be 15 years of age.

According to the Florida Department of Education, this course will "introduce students to the highway transportation system and teach strategies that will develop driving knowledge related to today's and tomorrow's motorized society. It will also provide an in-depth study of the scope and nature of accident problems and their solutions."

When taking this course you will be in the classroom part of the time and on the road part of the time. Initially, you'll be in the classroom doing book work but towards the end of the course, you will be rewarded with about 6 hours of live driving time in a Chrysler 300 aka the "Baby Bentley." You will be driving around Marathon, and up and down US1. Some of the benefits of taking this course are to learn about substance abuse and what it does to you driving. Also if you pass the course then your insurance payments may be lowered by 10%. So if you're interested in this class be sure to keep your grades up and talk to your guidance counselor.



Miss T, the New A.D.

By Brianna Packer

She's a mother, a wife, a coach, a teacher, and now the first female athletic director in Monroe County. Mrs. Konrath has participated in sports throughout her life, including playing high school basketball, softball, track, and cross country; and college basketball at Tulane University in New Orleans. Even with her athletic background, she never expected to accomplish as much as she has. According to "Miss T", "I intended to be just a teacher and a coach, but the opportunity came up, and I enjoy challenges and trying new things, so we'll see what happens."

Mrs. Konrath was born in Naples, FL but grew up in Victoria, Texas. She attended a very large school that had a variety of sports; she even coached there later on. She came from a family of four, three girls and one boy, all athletically inclined. As a child, she became familiar with Marathon when she spent summers here with her father, Billy Tyner, a well known commercial fisherman.

She is happily married to Greg Konrath, an alumnus of Marathon High School, who is one of the owners of Marathon Garbage Service. At the age of thirty-nine, she has three children: Taylor, 12; Sydney, 8; and Parker, 3; all also sports-minded.



"They're going to grow up to be what they call 'gym-rats,'" she says with a smile.

Mrs. Konrath is no stranger to coaching athletics. She has coached several sports such as softball, cross country, and basketball. Also, she has taught alternative education here at Marathon for the fourteen years she has been here.

She believes her biggest struggle as Athletic Director will be scheduling; managing the athletics, her students, and her family all at once. "I don't think being a female will cause any challenges, gender should not cause any difficulties if I do my best and stay on top of things," she says confidently. "I will put every effort into this."



(left) Yearbook Editor Alex Donaldson and teacher Alycia Fulcher pose with a plaque presented by Walsworth Publishing Company. The 50th Anniversary Edition of *Shoreline* has been inducted by Walsworth into its *Gallery of Excellence*. This means that the yearbook will be used nationwide by Walsworth as a quality example, may be loaned to schools to use as idea generators, and will be displayed at regional, state and national conventions and workshops.

Reflections

By Steven Perry

The amphitheatre at the city park was rocking on Saturday, April 28th with students dressed in their best attire. The occasion was prom night for Marathon High, a huge night in a student's life and for some, it was the last chance to hang out before they are off to college. This year's prom was excellent, with "reflections" as the theme. The junior class worked really hard to raise funds to put on prom. They did their best to organize a good prom and they pulled it off. The junior class was led by Mr. Frank, their class sponsor; and Melanie Boyd, the junior class president.

Many students went to Brazalena, in Islamorada, for dinner. When I walked into the restaurant there were prom goers everywhere. There must have been four or five tables with at least fifteen students at each. The food was absolutely incredible and all you can eat. After eating, we showed up to the dance ready to have some fun.

The night was perfect, not a cloud in the sky. The dance went from eight to twelve with everyone on the floor dancing and having a great time. Sam the DJ was on the turn tables with the music. We danced the night away.

At about ten o'clock, Mr. Frank announced the prom king and queen. Nick Morato was crowned as the king and Natalie Johnson was crowned as the queen. Then the king and queen had their dance along with the other candidates of prom court.

As the night ended, everyone left happy. It went very well and was well planned. We give the juniors lots of credit for doing their best and putting on a great prom. The juniors worked very hard to raise money and the 2007 prom was quite a success.



King & Queen

SENIOR MEMORIES

By Ruby Bielik

The time has come for the class of 2007 to put the final touches on the high school chapters of our lives. We're swiftly approaching the day that pushes adolescence behind us: graduation. Everyone has worked hard to get so far, but in order to truly know where we're going, we have to remember where we came from.

Some of our Seniors saw the last days of Sue Moore elementary, as they took the big steps into kindergarten. We learned by playing, singing, coloring, and needless to say, by napping. Ms. Houser taught us the alphabet by introducing us to the Letter People: "Mr. T and his tall teeth," and "Mr. M and his munching mouth." We used our imagination to become Pilgrims, Indians, kitties, and of course, the best Kindergarten Circus ever.

Between first and fourth grade, we went through a lot together. Our friends became our very best friends. Together, we learned how to read, write, and avoid nasty bouts of cooties. Ms. Buhyoff taught us how to sing when our

ears hung low. Remembering back, she says we were "the best and the cutest." Who can argue with that? In the third grade, our class traveled all the way to Miami to see the Parrot Jungle. The day turned out to be more exciting than anyone would have thought; we left with stitches, bruises, and an unfortunate case of bird poop. When we hit the fourth grade, we were old enough to get the "Sex Talk" for the very first time. Or at least the girls were.

The next year was when we started to realize that our time at Stanley Switlik Elementary was going to end sooner than we imagined. We were some of the "big kids" now, so we liked to think that we ran the school. Instead, we ran much of Swit-TV, Switlik's locally broadcast news program. We were anchors, weather-reporters, camerapersons, and perhaps most notably, Chef Combo.

In the sixth grade, everyone felt too big for Switlik. We

were the first class to "graduate" from the new Cafetorium, and masters of the levels of Scientific Classification: Kingdom, Phylum, Class, Order, Family, Genus, and Species! The elite Safety Patrol officers were awarded a trip to Disney, and they made



the rest of the class envious. We got a real taste of what was ahead by taking the 6th grade tour of Marathon Middle School. We put our fears behind us and strutted into the territory of older kids, confident that we could run that school, too!

Middle school was an awkward transition, but a blast, nevertheless. Our 7th grade class endured Mr. Terpos' antics, but we all left a little richer. After Ms. Fuller's reign ended, we must have broken some record for "most English teachers in one year." In our final year before high school, we participated in MMS traditions; Beach Day and the Youth Fair in northern Florida. Again, it was time to move up.

Our first years in high

school were the last years for the old Marathon High buildings. We put our fair share of stress on the school and the teachers, with the sneaky pranks and the massive food fight of '04. The summer after our Sophomore year, the ancient walls of the first MHS came down. All summer, we watched our beloved school crumble.

We returned as upper-classmen to attend school in a glorified trailer park. We smiled through the mold, through the leaks, and through the dead animal stench. The new campus was forming before our eyes, so we remained optimistic. In good spirits, we as the Junior class pulled strings to host Prom 2006 at Pigeon Key. Life was good, and getting better. When school let out, our class of 2007 became MHS's Seniors.

So here we are. After all of the years of anticipating and daydreaming, our time has come. Our Senior year of high school has definitely been an interesting one. For our class, dull moments have never existed.

The Seagrass Rescue Team

By Anthony Delillo

This year, Ms. Ryals is helping the environment by taking her students to Pigeon Key to restore the sea grass beds while teaching the students about scientific process, ecology of the marine environment, the appreciation of Florida Keys, and the quality of life.

The growing of sea grass is very important in the Florida Keys; it filters the water, provides food for many animals in the water, gives small animals a home, and protects the shore from damage caused by the waves. Many boaters are responsible for the tearing of the sea grass due to the wrongful driving of their motor boats, and the problems with pollution. When driving your watercraft through shallow water, you are risking cutting through the sea grass along with possibly killing the rest of the bed that it occupies.

Once sea grass is destroyed, it takes a long time to grow back. Because the loss of sea grass is tragic for our environment, Ms. Ryals and her rescue team have a mission to restore the sea grass. Our mission starts out by plotting the effected sea grass beds. This part of the mission is one of the most important parts. Once the effected sea grass beds are plotted, it gives us an idea of how much we are working with. When we find out, we get plans started for planting the sea grass beds. As of right now, the seagrass project is on hold till the summer when there is more available free time to dedicate to our project. If you are interested in helping out with the seagrass project, you can contact Ms. Ryals of Marathon High School for more information and times.

