

Free

TASNIS—The American School *Not* in Switzerland



The TASNIS Tat'ler

Volume 1, Issue 1

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News in brief . . .

- BoringParents Weekend November 13-14
- Practice Pre-Mock -AP workshops announced
- Dining service says wet cutlery and trays "safer"
- Library begins shelving books according to price



Coming to TASNIS!

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Surprise! In-Pro Back On!

A Tat'ler Exclusive

In a surprise move by TASNIS Headmaster Larry Beane, the once-cancelled In-Pro travel program is back on the calendar.

"I promised the students and staff that somehow we would resurrect the In-Pro travel program, and, doggone it, we have," declared the smiling Beane. According to Beane, the fifty-two administrators employed by TASNIS met "around the clock, and then some" to formulate the plan.

The new scheme utilizes parents and existing holiday breaks to "provide a truly individualized experience," according to Upper School Head Armon Carmistead. Students will be assigned to one or both of their parents and

be given the choice of using either the Christmas or Easter breaks for their In-Pro travel.

"Why we didn't think of this before is beyond me," confessed Carmistead. "The school was wasting an incredible amount of time and energy on a program that the parents could have been doing all along!"

Beane praised his administrative cohorts for their efforts: "When I sat around that huge table with fifty-two of the most talented, creative, ingenious humans I have ever had the privilege to work with, my spirit rose within me and I nearly wept."

When asked how students and staff responded to the new In-



TASNIS Head Larry Beane

Pro plan, Beane admitted that he hadn't actually told them yet. "We thought that the most appropriate means of communicating the good news was through the *TASNIS Tat'ler*."

Parents wishing more information are urged *not* to call the school. They should ask their children, said Beane.

Student Center gets VCR

TASNIS Student Center manager Dave James has announced that the popular student hang-out will be getting a VCR.

"We've been thinking about this for quite some time and now that the whole Betamax versus VHS thing has been set-

tled we feel like we can make an intelligent purchase," said James.

Future plans include upgrading to a color television and the possibility of a record-player.

"If this VCR thing works out we might even consider a glitter-ball or

maybe some colored lights. Kids these days like that kind of stuff," James added with a chuckle.

Along with the VCR, the school has purchased a collection of Abbott and Costello films and the entire first season of "CHiPs."

Faculty Residents Gain from In-Pro Change

"Faculty residents basically work twenty-four eleven" -Henry Richard

TASNIS faculty residents have expressed their delight with recent changes (see page 1) to the In-Pro travel scheme. For some, it marks a long overdue "gift" from the school.

Henry Richard, a long-time resident in Thorp Palace IV, struggled to fight back the tears.

"Faculty residents basically work twenty-four eleven and this change in In-Pro has come as a real blessing"



Resident Henry Richard

When asked to explain, Richard continued, "Well, one of the greatest things about TASNIS is the free housing that we're given. Now that the regular In-Pro week has been cancelled, I'm actually getting another week of free housing for nothing!"

Executive Director Fernando Gorgonzola admitted that it was a difficult decision. "I have to confess that basically giving away another week of housing, cafeteria food, not to mention water, electricity, and the use of the TASNIS coin-op laundry could cost the school tens of hundreds of pounds."



Scenic Thorp Palace on the TASNIS Campus

When told of the faculty residents' appreciation, Gorgonzola wasn't very surprised. "We knew that this would be a tremendous hit with the faculty residents. To be totally honest, the free housing that we've given them is worth far more than any trip to Moscow, Madrid, or Munich."

New Phone System Installed

TASNIS has just received funds from PIRC (Parents Interested in Real Communication) for the installation of a new phone system. In the past several weeks, parents have complained that they were unable to call the school without getting a taped message stating "Hi! This is TASNIS and I'm not able to come to the phone. Leave a message and I'll get back to you as soon as I can. Have a good one!"

Project manager Don Pope said that the new phone system will have "big buttons" instead of a dial and a special cord de-tangler.

Other proposed improvements include the use of "celebrity sound alike" for the taped messages and the ability to put a call "on hold" instead of having to cover up the mouthpiece.

Pope also said that each of the receptionists will receive special training on the new system. "When you're used to dialing, pushing a button can be a bit tricky."



PIRC members try out new "big-button" phone

PIRC President, Vicki Batmasterson expressed her excitement about the new phone system. "With this new phone system parents will be able to complain directly to the administration or other staff members without having to leave a message. It's definitely something we've been wanting to do for a while."

Other improvements include assigning each staff member a special 24-digit alphanumeric extension that can be used to direct dial phones within the building.

"This whole direct-dial thing is the wave of the future," beamed Pope.

Dean Denies that School is "Prison"

Dean of Students Bill Crackley strongly denied allegations by several student leaders that TASNIS was on its way to becoming a "prison."

"The addition of armed guards, barred windows, occasional strip-searches, and campus wide 'lock-downs' in no way implies that TASNIS is a prison," declared Crackley.

Student leaders became concerned when new disciplinary measures included "Ten Most Wanted" posters and the electrification of the TASNIS security hut.



Lower school detention

Boarding School to Expand, Become Nicer

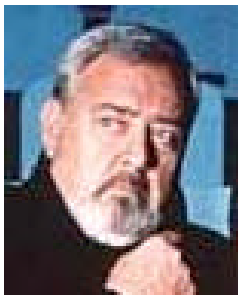
TASNIS boarders can look forward to many new changes and a general increase in overall “niceness” according to Bob Grim, Head of Boarding.

“When I think of the TASNIS boarding program, I automatically think of the word ‘nice,’” said the former lawyer.

“We’re at the point now where we can’t be content with merely ‘nice,’ we’ve got to make it our goal to be ‘really nice,” he added.

Grim’s plans include increasing the total number of boarders on campus, and he knows that it won’t be easy.

“I realize that we can’t build any more rooms, so we’re going to have to be creative to figure out how to



Former lawyer Bob Grim

cram a few more kids in here,” he admits.

Some potential ideas include sleeping in shifts, thus allowing rooms previously used for

two persons, to be used for four. Administrators have promised to provide both day and night school to accommodate the extra boarders.

Another idea includes accepting only those boarders who are shorter than five-feet-eight. “Let’s face it,” said Grim “tall kids take up more room.”

An earlier proposal that had boarders sleeping in NASA designed vertical sleeping bags was nixed after being declared “too expensive.”

Grim thought the idea had some merit. “I figured we might get five or six kids in a room if we had them sleeping vertically. NASA wanted way too much for the sleeping bags so we had to try something else.”

Grim is quick to point out that it’s not all about expansion. Plans to improve niceness will include multi-colored rubbish bins, Glade plug-in air fresheners, welcome mats, and complimentary shower caps. If Bob Grim has his way, TASNIS will soon be “really nice.”

Mrs. Fleming to Visit TASNIS this Fall

World-famous figure skater and TASNIS founder, Peggy Fleming will speak at this year’s Boring Parents’ Weekend November 13—14.

“I’m delighted to be the subject of so much attention!” Mrs. Fleming laughed.

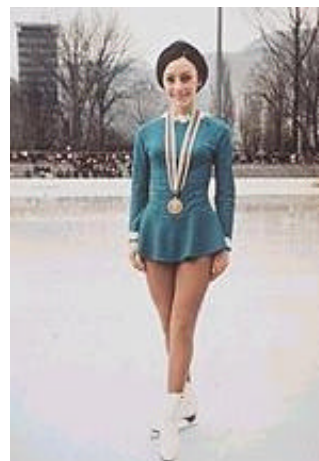
Mrs. Fleming’s visits are highly anticipated events, particularly by several members of the administration, who spare no effort in

fawning over the still charming and talented Mrs. Fleming.

Academic Dean Lord Byron Hosier expressed his views. “No doubt about it—she’s a real hottie,” beamed Hosier.

“Civilization” will be Mrs. Fleming’s topic for the evening. “Civilization is simply a race between those who have a lot of stuff and those who don’t,” she revealed.

The banquet begins at 7:30.



Mrs. Fleming on 1968 visit

“Brown Building is so much more accurate and appealing to me.”
Uma Reallylikeaheiniken

After years of being known as the “Funny Hut,” the Funny Hut will now be known as the “Brown Building,” announced Director of Student Services Uma Reallylikeaheiniken. The proposed name change came as a result of several

“Funny Hut” to Change Name

years of planning and consultation with members of the student body and administration.

“Brown Building is so much more accurate and appealing to me,” said Reallylikeaheiniken.

Reallylikeaheiniken’s co-worker in the building, CSP Director Will Holler agreed that it was not an easy decision to make.

“We tried loads of different names: Wacky Wigwam, Happy Hut, Comedy Cabin, but nothing really leapt out at us until Uma suggested Brown Building,” declared the obviously pleased Holler.

Reallylikeaheiniken admits to being bombarded with questions regarding the name change and it’s impact on the campus. “All I can say is that it’s not funny any more.”


If you really need to contact us . . .

**TASNIS—THE
AMERICAN SCHOOL
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Oldharbour Lane
Thorp, Surreyshire
TWA UR6T
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Phone from UK: 01932-555252
Phone from Thorp: 555252
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Changes for New School Year

TASNIS administrators have released a list of several rule changes that will take effect in 2002.

- Facial hair on males is now required. "We're trying to encourage young men to begin to be a little more 'manly'," said Dean of Students Bill Crackley. Hormone injections will be available in the Health Centre for Freshmen and Sophomores.
- A new pedestrian roundabout has been installed near Really New East Wing and the Penny Arcade classrooms due to last year's "pileup" which injured several students one foggy morning. Security personnel have urged everyone to "yield to the right."
- Students are now required to sign out to the restroom. Director of Boarding Bob Grim explained the rationale: "Nothing's worse than having a parent call up and ask me if their son or daughter is in the restroom and having to answer 'I don't know'."
- Students will once again be able to do homework during detention. In a compromise reached with student leaders, pupils will not, however, be able to do homework during study hall.

Security, Gardening Staff Combine Forces

"It's only natural," said Director of TASNIS Security John Smythe when asked what prompted the new team-up.

The newly formed security and gardening squad will be code-named "The S.A.G.-Team."

Smythe said that financial pressures and increased security needs meant that TASNIS had to somehow come up with a plan that was both virtually free and "sounded good."

"The gardeners are really our first line of defense. They'll continue their duties around campus

but should they notice any trouble, they'll be instructed to take action. Should they need assistance, one



of the security team can be dispatched from the faculty room or the security hut at a moment's notice," said Smythe.

All S.A.G.-Team members will receive special training in hand-to-hand combat, dealing with mob violence, hostage negotiations, and the care and handling of hardy mums.

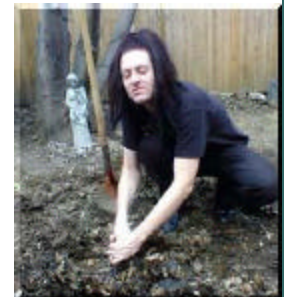
Another bonus, says Smythe, is that the gardeners are, in a sense, armed. "While the ordinary members of our security team

are not allowed to carry weapons, the gardeners have an incredible array of gardening tools at their disposal. Just imagine what you could do with a well thrown lawn rake."

One gardener, known only as "Juan the gardener," who spoke on the condition of partial anonymity said that he was anxious to get started. "I feel like people might not take us seriously, but as soon as I heave a serrated trowel at some trespasser I have a feeling they'll be singing another tune," the stern-faced TASNIS employee said. Patrols begin in 2002.



Security, gardeners train.



Disguised gardener on alert.