

# BROADSIDE

## HANOVER HIGH SCHOOL

# Have you met the New English Teacher?

CHANTAL PUTNAM - Staff Reporter

From the beginning, I could tell there was something a little different about Mr. Concilio, and it wasn't just the ponytail hairstyle he sports. A rather eccentric man, Brent Concilio, is the awesome new addition to the English Department. Born in rural Southwestern Connecticut, Mr. Concilio grew up riding horses. Some say he has enough horseback riding skills to challenge the most adept cowboy of the west. And to top it all off, Mr. Concilio is a master fencer! Can you get any cooler than that? But don't worry kids, his interesting talents aren't the only reason he was hired. Prior to becoming a teacher at Hanover High, Mr. Concilio got his undergraduate degree in Avalon, Scotland and his postgraduate degree at Dartmouth College. Now as a full fledged adult, Mr. Concilio is teaching APW, Composition II, and 9th grade english at Hanover High. But I'm getting ahead of myself. Here's how I met this man of many talents.

As I walk down the empty English hallway after school, I'm crossing my fingers that the new teacher is still in the building. Here goes. I swing open the English Department's door. To my surprise; the new teacher, Brent Concilio, is sitting at the table offering a frazzled student advice on the particulars of her essay. As far as first impressions go, I was impressed. Mr. Concilio has been here for all of a couple months, and he is already taking the initiative to meet with his students. Upon meeting Mr. Concilio, I was shocked. I expected the next hum-drum personality type, another teacher keen on drilling information through a student's skull. But wow was I wrong! Mr. Concilio talks about teaching with zest. Mr. Concilio not only brings excitement to the classroom with his quirky personality and the occasional bounce in his step, but he also cares a great deal for his students. "I think it's important for students to feel, regardless of their confidence with the discipline, like they are safe and are connected to either the material or to the teacher," Mr. Concilio says. The unique way in which Mr. Concilio teaches requires students to make connections that are not entirely obvious. I remembered how patient he was towards his student, and I found myself wishing I was in Mr. Concilio's class. Asking him questions for the interview came easily; the more we talked, Mr. Concilio's originality became more and more apparent. I asked him what he considered the quirkiest thing about himself that sets him apart from all other teachers. He thought for a minute, and then a smile slowly spread across his face. He responded,

"I was born in 1836 and I genuinely believe I'm an anachronistic mortal. I have a stuffed horse on a stick called 'The Grammar Pony' that has magical powers. I'm confident no other teacher has this."



"I was born in 1836..." I blink. Normally when teachers lie about their age, they claim they are younger. Mr. Concilio clears his throat. "...and I genuinely believe I'm an anachronistic mortal. I have a stuffed horse on a stick called 'The Grammar Pony' that has magical powers. I'm confident no other teacher has this." He reaches behind him and pulls out a miniature version of a hobby horse. Whoa! He's for real. The prospect of this man teaching with a pony seems too preposterous for words, and I join in on his laughter.

After I was properly introduced to The Grammar Pony (and after The Grammar Pony made certain that I capitalized his name), we turned to

my very last question. If Mr. Concilio is an eccentric man now, I couldn't help but wonder- what was he like when he was our age? As a teenager in school, Mr. Concilio was a very idealistic about education. He told me that his view was jaded about the institution of school, a system with its priorities askew which he thought created trivial bureaucratic things. Again, I am impressed. While hormones raged through his adolescent body, he was pondering over the workings of our education system.

So there you have it, the bizarre yet interesting Mr. Concilio in a nutshell. I don't know about you, but I know what teacher's English class I'll be signing up for next year!



# Underage Drinking at Hanover

VINCENT MOORE - Staff Reporter

With Homecoming having been finished for a while now, hopefully most of you have gotten over your hangovers and are able to read this article without seeing a pink elephant dancing in the corner.

To me underage drinking is just something to laugh about, as it always happens to someone else's friend and the story always end with the guy waking up the next morning with a headache and everything being a-okay. But for many people underage drinking is not a laughing matter, particularly Mr. Smith.

Before I talk about this issue, I read up on the facts to see how big of a problem underage drinking is in the United States. According to the Center for Disease Control, a survey was taken in 2011, in which 15,425 questionnaires (it's very important to look at where a statistic comes from rather than just blindly accepting it to be perfect) given to students grades 9-12 from 158 schools were analyzed. The results stated that within one average month, 39% of high school students drank alcohol, 22% binge drank, and 8% drove while under the influence. An interesting bit of info it stated was that children under the age of 16 who drink alcohol

on a regular basis are five times more likely to become addicted to alcohol. Seeing that freshmen or sophomores are rarely invited to insane parties or drinking events, it looks like we don't have too much information about them until they become Juniors.

The CDC also listed many of the consequences that have been attributed to drinking while underage. Examples include declining academic performance, memory problems, heightened violent or aggressive behavior, higher risk of suicide, death from alcohol poisoning, heightened risk of sexual assault or being sexually assaulted, and disruption of normal growth and sexual development. That's right, according to the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, alcohol consumption can lower testosterone levels in men (and lower estrogen levels in women), which can lead to low sex drive, fatigue, and erectile dysfunction. Do I have your attention now?

Getting back on topic, Mr. Smith has stated that keeping the students alcohol free is a big priority, so big that it sometimes seems impossible to accomplish. There are around 725 students in the building at any given time, and it is impossible to monitor every single one all the time. The

best that the staff can do is to make sure that between the hours of 8 AM to 3 PM (2 PM on Wednesdays) students aren't in the possession of or under the influence of alcohol. After that it is up to the Police and Parents of students to prevent them from consuming alcohol.

In regards to my opening line, Mr. Smith has confirmed that drinking is a major problem at school events such as sports games and dances. At one point last year, an ambulance had to come to the school twice in one week for two separate events. That event has led to the decision to bar Juniors and Seniors from lower class dances, as the main instigators of underage drinking seem to come from those two groups. He stated that there just aren't enough chaperones to watch out for alcohol and sexual behavior at dances (If it was up to me I would pay out of my own pocket to hire Blackwater Security to chaperone dances for the sole reason of preventing any "twerking" on the dance floor).

It all boils down to a personal choice we all have to make: do you want to act like a responsible adult, or do you want to act like a complete idiot/loser like we see on reality TV shows.

## Varsity Girls Win Division 2 Championships



Photo courtesy of Mike Stinson

### Join the Broadside:

We meet every Monday in the Library Conference Room  
broadside@hanovernorwichschools.org

### Broadside Staff

General Editor: Conrad Koehler  
Staff Advisor: Ford Daley  
Staff Writers: Vincent Moore, Chanteal Putnam, Caleb Winberry, Matthias Eilertsen, Jack Olszewski, Gerret Margolis