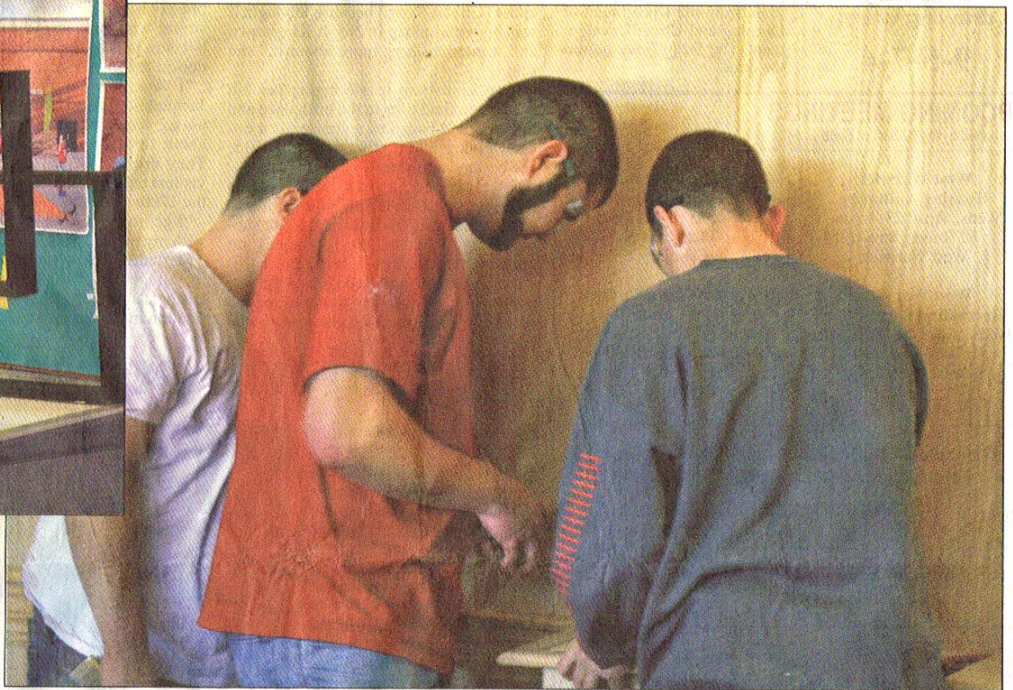


# OAKERS ALL ABOUT ALUMNI



Jessica Boisclair • Daily Times

**ABOVE:** Students from Joe Fagnoli's wood working class made these shadow boxes for the alumni room.



**RIGHT:** Students from Gene Dufault's wood working class constructed these cabinets for the alumni room.

## COVENTRY HS MAKING ATTEMPT TO BRING ALUMNI BACK INTO FOLD

JESSICA BOISCLAIR  
Jboisclair@ricentral.com

COVENTRY—Students from three different classes at Coventry High School are collaborating to put together a trophy case, alumni room and a courtyard before May's unified arts night.

Coventry High School Vice Principal Chris D'Ambrosio, who worked at Cranston High School East last year, said he wanted to create an alumni room at Coventry like his previ-

ous school had.

"When I got here I wanted to see what the whole alumni thing looked like and the whole school culture and from what I've seen, the alumni haven't embedded themselves in the school so I wanted to develop a room for them," he added.

The in-focus room, which was used for meetings by faculty and students, will be converted into the alumni room and students have begun taking all the items out and painting the walls.

Students from Gene Dufault and Joe Fargnoli's woodworking classes are creating the cabinets and shadow boxes that will be installed on the walls of the room.

"We're going to put a notice out to all the alumni in Coventry asking them if they have any memorabilia or artifacts they'd like to donate and we'll put those items in the cabinets and put plaques next to them," D'Ambrosio said. "It can be anything from a Letterman's jacket to some type of award that was won by a class in say, 1952."

He said all the supplies for the alumni room were donated by Bill Finnegan from Coventry Lumber and it's nice to see everybody "working together towards a common goal and building school morale."

Fargnoli said 18 of his students started constructing the shadow boxes and cabinets in March, which will hold smaller items like baseballs and pictures.

One of the biggest ideas, put together by

See ALUMNI, Page A-2

# Alumni will be recognized at CHS

Continued from Page A-1

Athletic Director Chuck Jones and Fagnoli, was the school's Athletic Hall of Fame. The hall of fame was established two years ago and students started building wall cases for various trophies and pictures.

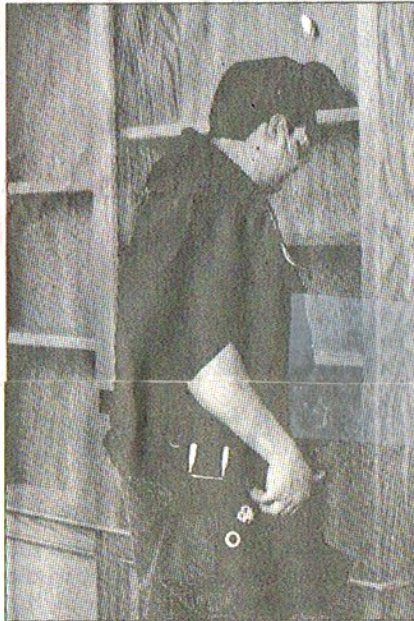
Jones said he would like to see plaques mounted on the walls with trophies in front.

"The trophy cases will include a 12x16 plaque of a group picture of our hall of fame inductees every year," he added. "And any trophy we have throughout the school will go into the cases as well. Once we started the hall of fame we needed some place to display their pictures and we decided to make a wall."

The wall-mounted oak trophy cases are being constructed by mostly senior students from Scott Leavitt's carpentry classes.

He said he designed the wall in March and the students got to work on it immediately.

"There will be two cases and then columns that get built onto the top of the bases and it will stretch from one case to another taking up the whole wall," he added.



Coventry senior Nick Diggle looks over one of the cases he helped to construct that will be used to hold alumni donations and trophies at CHS.

Jessica Boisclair • Daily Times

Senior Justin Perry said the students constructed the three cabinets first then made all the shelves, the crown molding and tweaked anything that needed changing.

"This is definitely something I want to do when I graduate; I'm very passionate about it," he said. "This is artwork. The hardest part of the project though was visualization; seeing what it is now from where it started on paper."

Although Dufault's students are also building shadow boxes for the alumni room, they have been busy working on the inner courtyard, which will be unveiled during the unified arts night as well.

Last year, he said, a big deck was built in the courtyard and the students are adding to it with the help of DownCity Design, a group of designers from Providence.

"We got a grant to bring

them in and they're helping us design the space," he said. "We're trying to find a suitable purpose and seeing what the kids want."

With seven classes completed, the designers will now take the preliminary ideas and build a small model of the courtyard.

Dufault said there will be multiple benches, seating, decking, walkways and planters constructed for the space.

Currently, he said, there is a group of science students who are researching how the sun goes around the courtyard "so we'll know how to do different plantings."

D'Ambrosio said everything is coming together perfectly and the students are working diligently on their projects. "The kids are taking ownership in their work; they've become stakeholders so that's the most important thing," he added. "They're really taking pride in their work."

Anybody with memorabilia or artifacts for the alumni room can contact D'Ambrosio at the high school at 822-9499 ext. 186.