

Compulsory subjects bring mixed reaction

By Sue Shoemaker
A return to compulsory subjects in Ontario high schools is greeted with mixed feelings by the staff and students of Acton High.

The Ontario Minister of Education, Thomas Wells, announced recently, that students entering the province's high schools in September of 1974 will be required to take six compulsory credits in order to receive their grade 12 diplomas; four credits in English and two in Canadian

Studies.

Little effect
David Katz, principal of Acton High School, said that the new legislation will have little effect on our school. Presently, at least 98 per cent of the students enrolled in the school are taking English. For this reason, both the principal and vice-principal feel that at Acton High, for all intents and purposes, English is already compulsory.

Mr. Wells has stated that the English credits could be "any courses which develop

communication skills in the English language." Perhaps Mr. Wells is hoping to appease colleges and employers who complain of the poor reading and writing (especially spelling) ability of high school graduates. If this is the case, high school English courses are not going to correct the problem. These courses are more literature oriented. Therefore spelling and grammar hardly enter into the lessons at all.

As for the problem of reading comprehension, Acton High has been and still is instituting new programs in almost every study area whereby the students are taught how to get the most value out of their reading materials.

Good idea
Mr. Swallow, head of the history department, thinks that the return of mandatory subjects is a good idea. He feels that students coming into grade nine from public school are not always capable of making the right decisions. The subject choices they make at the grade nine level may exclude them from taking certain courses later on.

Still, others feel that with the aid of guidance counselors and parents the students don't go too far wrong.

Canada is our homeland and English is our native tongue. Many feel this is reason enough to make English and Canadian Studies compulsory.

There are many sides to every story, and this is no exception. Although some are in favor of compulsory subjects and some against, it really won't make any difference to the majority of students at Acton High.

tion is Tuesday, January 8. At the after-school club, members begin their meetings by first tuning their guitars and then practising the chromatic scale. They finish their warm-up with different finger exercises and then proceed on to their lesson. At present the students of the club are learning to play the chords in an orderly fashion as well as some different strumming techniques.

Entertainment
They are applying this knowledge by playing and singing contemporary songs. One of the chief aims of the guitar club is to provide entertainment for the members.

Another purpose of the club is to build self-confidence, not only in performing, but also in any other endeavour. Mr. Gny's feels that the group is well on its way to achieving these objectives.

Strum, hum at guitar club

By Debbie Bousfield
One of the extra-curricular activities available to the students of the Acton High School is the Guitar Club. Once a week enthusiastic students meet and play their guitars together for fun and enjoyment as well as for the purpose of expanding their knowledge of the instrument.

The group consists of 15 students and their leader Stefan Gny's. Mr. Gny's is a very able instructor with much experience, who once pursued a career in music. He has previously taught guitar at Grimsby Central Public School. Mr. Gny's is now teaching math and geography at Acton High School.

Folk lessons
In addition to the guitar club for the students, Mr. Gny's will be teaching "Folk Guitar" at Acton night school. The night class will be available to students as well as adults, and will begin January 14, 1974. Registra-



A CLASSROOM was transformed from a drab, institutional place into a warm and interesting one, following decoration by a keen group of students. Posters and a giant collage cover walls and the curtains have been tie-dyed.

Decorated classroom now warm

By Susan Mellor
Several weeks ago, the students of EN204 made the decision that they would try to brighten up their drab room by doing some redecoration. They wrote many letters to various companies, requesting the donation of free materials, such as posters.

Grant Gibson headed the decoration committee which put up the posters. Teresa Synnot and Janet Green were mainly responsible for putting up a gigantic collage on one of the walls. A group of girls from the class tie-dyed the curtains with the help of the home economics teacher,

Mrs. Gatenby.

Mr. Katz officiated at the opening ceremony, on Friday, November 16. To show his appreciation to the class for decorating the room, he presented the students with Coke and chips, which were quickly and happily consumed.

Jim Morrison and Janet Johnson are making an environmental sculpture out of the empty Coke cans, and will present it to Mr. Katz.

Room 16 is now a warm and interesting classroom, thanks to the tremendous group effort and spirit which went into its decoration.

School speaker series breaks down barriers

By Carol Pickles
During the last month, interested students of Acton High have listened to, and talked with, Oscar Driber (whose daughter was killed while travelling in Rhodesia) and MP Terry O'Connor. These two people were the beginning of a speaker series which Guidance Counsellor, Brian Skerrett, has planned for this year. These meetings are held during the lunch periods, enabling all interested students to attend.

One of the main objectives of such a series is to break down barriers that students put up. Mr. Skerrett also hopes that the experience will teach students how to ask questions and get the maximum information out of each question. Already, Mr.

Skerrett found that by the second speaker, Terry O'Connor, the students were asking very good questions.

Three more
Mr. Skerrett has definitely planned three sessions for the future. The speakers will be Nancy Wilson, a teacher at General Brock who will talk of the several months she spent on a Kibbutz in Israel; Wally Walkins, also a teacher, who is a lively, interesting and funny person to talk to; and John Michaluk, who is a former football player for the Hamilton Tigercats, and is now the Recruiting Officer for the Royal Bank.

Other possibilities for the future are sports personalities from near-by towns or cities, someone from a group

called GUARD (people who are trying to prevent Esqueping County from running hydro wires across their land), or anyone that students or teachers wish to bring in. Also, Mr. Skerrett may show movies, and afterwards hold discussions on them.

Well attended
The sessions so far have been well attended and Mr. Skerrett hopes that future sessions will be the same. However, the speakers come knowing that their sessions might not be well attended. Mr. Skerrett feels that a session is worthwhile with as few as five people present.

Suggestions for future speakers would be greatly appreciated by Mr. Skerrett.



GUITAR CLUB is a new organization at Acton school. Teacher Stefan Gny's meets with a small group of students who play together and sing folk songs. Playing together above are Mr. Gny's and Karen Pitt.

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Guelph lights pose question
Guelph hydro and council are both debating the city's Christmas lights. They are regulated with the street lights. The hydro commissioner general manager pointed out Christmas light cutbacks wouldn't make a tremendous difference in hydro consumption and anyway, there's no threatened shortage of electricity. Over two months, all of Guelph's Christmas lights would consume as much electricity as two all-electric homes.

As in Acton, the hydro commission there is keeping up its Christmas contest, with the emphasis on decorating rather than lighting.

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December 1973

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3 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.	4 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.	5 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.	6 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.	7 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.	8 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
10 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.	11 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.	12 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.	13 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.	14 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.	15 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
17 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.	18 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.	19 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.	20 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.	21 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.	22 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
24 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.	25 Closed Christmas Day	26 Closed Boxing Day	27 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.	28 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.	29 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
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