

## IS ANYONE OUT THERE LISTENING?

by Ann Hassenpflug

Some Americans have begun to breathe a sigh of relief that George Orwell's depiction of 1984 is more fantasy than fact. They think that Big Brother was just the product of an active imagination and has no relationship to our contemporary world. These complacent citizens should spend the day listening to a typical American high school's intercom announcements and then decide if they still believe Orwell's prophecies have no connection with today's reality.

Just listen...

7:50 A.M. -Would you please stand for the pledge to the flag?  
Now, we would like to congratulate the swim team for their fine performance in yesterday's district match. We didn't have any winners, but nobody drowned either.  
Would all students who want to have their pictures made for the yearbook please go to the auditorium today at the time marked on their tickets. There will be no further announcements about this.  
A brown purse was lost in locker #3118. Would anyone who has seen this purse please notify the office?  
All teachers need to turn in monthly attendance sheets immediately. This is the third and final announcement. If you do not get those sheets in by 8:10 we will have to call your names out over the loudspeaker.  
Don't forget that all this week except Thursday the Preppie Club will be selling alligator cookies.  
Students, we want you to be on your best behavior on Thursday when the team from the central office comes to evaluate our lunch program. Please, don't throw food or trash on the floor that day and remember to put your trays back.  
We hope you will have a good day and a productive

one as well.

- 8:05 A.M. -Everyone should be in class.
- 8:15 A.M. -The following teachers still have not brought their attendance sheets to the office: Mrs. A, Mrs. B, Ms. C, Mr. X, and Coach Z.
- 8:20 A.M. -Sorry to interrupt again so soon but we still need the attendance sheet from Coach Z.
- 8:30 A.M. -Would the following students please come to my office: Jerry M., Keith R., Reginald P., Denise B., and Anthony F.
- 8:32 A.M. -Would the following students please come to my office: James Q., Debra C., Mike G., and ANTHONY F.!
- 8:36 A.M. -Would the following students please come to my office: ANTHONY F. and Bill T. and Yol... Wait a minute; I can hardly read this writing. Teachers, when you send in discipline referrals, make sure they are legible. I think it's, um, Yol...anda S.
- 8:45 A.M. -Would the teacher having Anthony F. in class this hour, direct him to the office. We have some po... um, people waiting for him.
- 9:06 A.M. -Coach L., You have a call in the office.
- 9:15 A.M. -Would the maintenance man from the central office please meet his crew in the gym. They are looking for you.
- 9:30 A.M. -Would the car blocking the soft drink delivery truck please move.
- 9:35 A.M. -That's a blue sports car licensed I-TEACH that's blocking the delivery truck. The driver of that car needs to move it right now.
- 9:45 A.M. -Would the following students going on the field trip to the zoo please go to board the bus now. That's Andrea N., Matthew S., Theresa M., Jane K., Lionel H., Louise P.....Teachers, a list of those names was placed in your mailboxes.
- 9:55 A.M. -Would the teacher using projector #A31 from the

library, please check with the library right away. It may be defective.

- 10:10 A.M. -Sorry to interrupt, teachers, but this announcement is very important. Would you check your room phones right away? One of them seems to be off the hook somewhere.
- 10:20 A.M. -There is a small beagle wandering the hallways. If you find this animal will you please bring him to the office or put him outside.
- 10:25 A.M. -Would the custodian take a mop and go immediately to the north stairwell. The dog has been located.
- 10:45 A.M. -Students, we have a very fine lunch available for purchase today. The lunchroom has prepared roast turkey and stuffing, candied yams, green beans, homemade biscuits, and peach cobbler. We hope everyone will want to partake of this very nice meal which our lunchroom ladies have cooked today.
- 10:55 A.M. -We want to remind students to put their trays away when they are done eating. There have been entirely too many dirty trays left on tables. I'll be watching for offenders today and assigning detention hall.
- 11:15 A.M. -It is now time for the students with last names beginning with M to go to the auditorium for their photos.
- 11:19 A.M. -Sorry, teachers, but that's students with last names with N who are supposed to go to the auditorium now.
- 11:35 A.M. -Now students, we have had some very bad behavior in the lunchroom today during first lunch. We will not tolerate this sort of immature behavior in our school. We don't want anything like this happening again.
- 11:45 A.M. -Security guards, go to the rear entrance. That's the rear entrance by the back parking lot, not the rear entrance by the pool.

12:07 P.M. -Teachers, before you get started with your afternoon classes, let me just remind you to see my secretary before you leave today and tell her which fringe benefit you've selected for this school year. That has to go out tomorrow morning. We have had that sheet on the counter for a week, but some of you still haven't signed it.

12:15 P.M. -Would Mike G. please come to the office?

12:30 P.M. -If anyone has a wornout American flag in their room, the V.F.W. representative is here now to give you a replacement. Send a student down now for yours if you need one.

12:40 P.M. -If there is anyone who still needs a flag, would you send someone down right away as the representative has to visit other schools this afternoon.

12:41 P.M. -Please excuse this announcement. Would the person who borrowed the vice-principal's master key, please return it.

12:45 P.M. -Folks, sorry to interrupt again, but we do need that key.

12:48 P.M. -Would the custodian go unlock room 147.

12:50 P.M. -Please disregard the three previous announcements, we found the key.

12:59 P.M. -If Coach Z. is in the building, would you come to the office. You have a long distance phone call.

1:15 P.M. -Can I have your attention for the afternoon announcements? (Cough, cough, deep breath) The student council members are to meet in Ms. C's room before school tomorrow.

Teachers, it is imperative that I have a brief faculty meeting today at 2:30. I promise to keep it short, but I do have some important announcements you need to be aware of.

The cheerleaders will be selling school bullhorns to yell at this Friday's game. Buy yours at lunch this week.

If any student has not turned in his leftover detergent that he or she didn't sell, please turn it into the counselors.

Any students who are interested in joining the chess team should sign up with Mr. R. in room 267.

Ah, teachers, since that was the bell and we still have a few more announcements, I'll continue at the start of sixth period.

1:30 P.M. -Teachers, sorry for that delay, but we had emergency situation develop in the office and I couldn't get back to the announcements as I promised. But everything is O.K. now, and we'll finish these posthaste. The U.S. Association for Quality Education is sponsoring a student essay contest about how concentration is important to the successful student. Contest rules are posted in the office.

All football players are expected to be present at the meeting this afternoon in the gym.

Due to an oversight, when we announced the perfect attendance awards for the month, Lisa A. was left off the list. So we want to recognize her for this achievement.

This is the final reminder to all teachers that the library is discarding pre-1981 magazines. You have until 2:00 P.M. today to collect these.

Would all classified personnel see me before you leave today? Also, I need to see Miss D.

1:35 P.M. -Teachers, one additional announcement, Lisa A.'s name was left off yesterday's announcements of students who had perfect attendance for last.. What? ....Oh, sorry, teachers, I already read that.

1:45 P.M. -Any students who have not had their picture taken for the yearbook should now come to the auditorium.

1:55 P.M. -Mr. G's fieldtrip to the zoo is now returning. Those students should be in their sixth period class within the next five minutes. Teachers, please



- admit them without a pass.
- 1:56 P.M. -Teachers, we are having too many students out in the hallways. Please make sure that any other students going to have their pictures taken show you their tickets first.
- 2:01 P.M. -All football players should now be at the meeting in the gym.
- 2:10 P.M. -All teachers on the street side of the building, please remember to pull your shades down to the first window pane. We don't want any more complaints from our neighbors about how tacky it looks when all the shades are at different heights.
- 2:19 P.M. -One final announcement. Students, this is very important and I want you to listen carefully. Bus 314 will replace bus 329 today. That's 314 replacing 329. It will be parked in the same space where 329 usually is but won't be today.
- 2:25 P.M. -Before the bell rings, let me remind faculty members that there will be a brief faculty meeting at 2:30 in the large cafeteria. No, make that the library. The custodians are not finished with the cafeteria yet.
- 2:29 P.M. -Folks, I'm sorry to have to tell you this, but the central office just called to say the repair crew will be out tomorrow to overhaul the intercom system. I'm not sure how we'll be able to function without it. This critical situation should only last a day, though, and after that we'll be back to normal just like today.