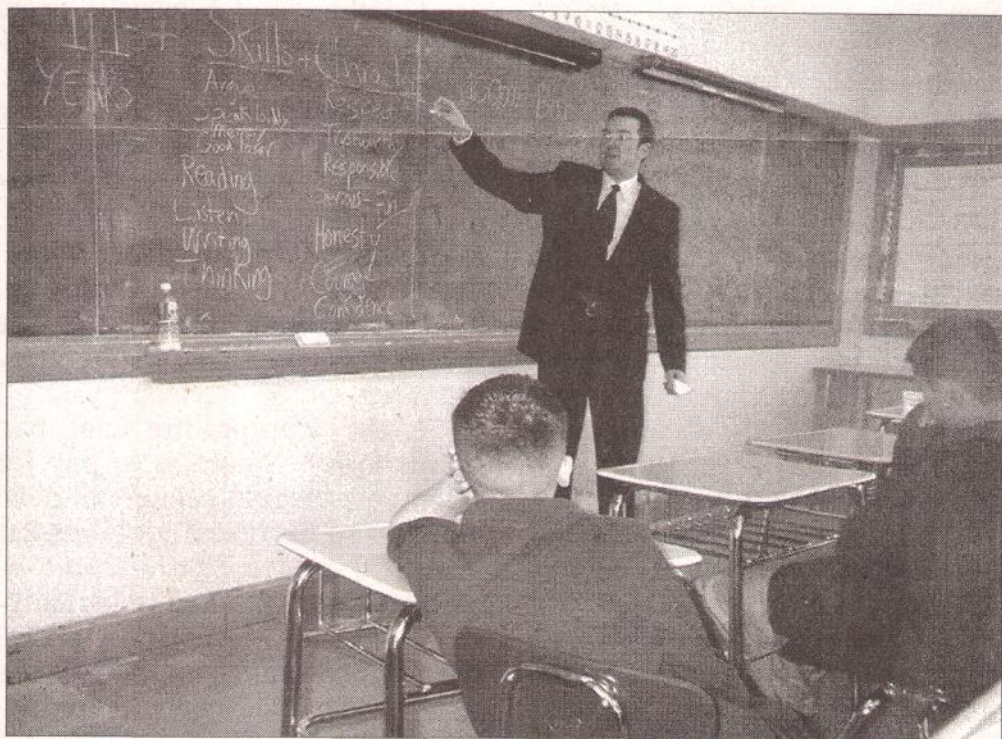


Local Focus

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2005

Atty. Patrick Curley a hit at Chelsea Career Day



ATTORNEY Patrick G. Curley of Wakefield answers questions about the law from Chelsea public school seventh and eighth graders during a recent Career Day.

CHELSEA — Local attorney, Patrick G. Curley, recently volunteered at the first-ever Career Day at the Carter Avenue Middle School in Chelsea. More students had signed up for his law presentation than for any of the other 14 careers represented that day. For many of the more than 75 students who attended his presentations, it was their first personal encounter with a lawyer.

Attorney Curley's presentations began with laughs when the seventh and eighth grade students were first introduced to "Mr. Curley" and they giggled at the thought of the Three Stooges, Mo, Larry and "Curley." He recalls that "laughing with the students was the perfect ice-breaker because they could see me as a normal guy and learn that lawyers can have fun too."

Asked why they were interested in becoming lawyers, many students remarked that they wanted to "help people" in a challenging, rewarding job. Others simply wanted to wear fancy suits to work.

Attorney Curley kept the students' attention by sharing entertaining stories from his eight years of law practice. According to Curley, "the students asked incredibly insightful questions and helped my presentation by responding to my questions about the types of skills and characteristics a successful lawyer must possess."

A few days after the Career Day, Attorney Curley received more than a dozen handwritten letters from students who thanked him for his participation and expressed their desire that someday they hope to become lawyers.