

# The Round Table



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STAMFORD HIGH SCHOOL, 55 STRAWBERRY HILL AVENUE, STAMFORD, CT 06902

JANUARY, 2003

## Lieberman Announces Campaign at SHS

Stamford High Alumnus to Run for Presidency

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To many, it seemed like just another day at Stamford High School. Students sauntered the halls, lazily blinking their eyes and slowly coming to terms with the harsh realities of Monday morning. Teachers hurried past the mobs, trying as usual to keep the crowded and busy hallways orderly. Kids laughed, feet shuffled, and everyone went about their normal business; it seemed like just another normal day. But January 13 was no ordinary day for the school. This day, when Senator Joseph Lieberman returned to his home town to announce his campaign for President of the United States in 2004, Stamford High became a part of history.

In the front foyer of the first floor, the hallways were electric.

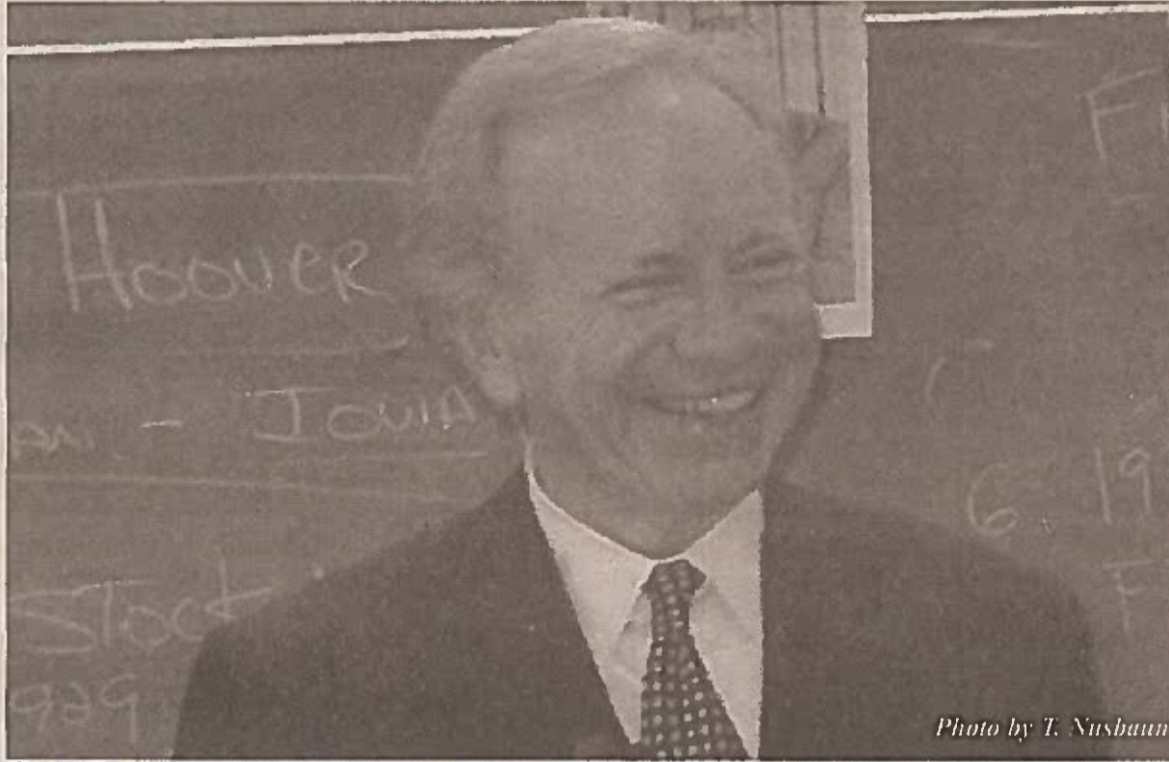


Photo by T. Nusbaum

Connecticut Senator Joseph Lieberman, an alumnus of Stamford High School, smiles after making his announcement that he plans to run for President of the United States in the coming 2004 election. Lieberman made this announcement in room 101 of Stamford High, bringing national media attention and publicity to the school.

Heightened security, bomb-sniffing dogs, and an abundance of cameras indicated that something was different that morning, and the

T.V. camera crews lining Strawberry Hill Avenue confirmed this. In room 101, which normally stands empty aside from several stacks of chairs, a new blue banner hung from the ceiling over the stage; in bold, white letters, it read "For President of the United States- Joe 2004." Just inches from the stage, cameras, reporters, microphones, and lights all flooded the small auditorium, covering every inch of carpet and completely masking the windows. "There were crews from Fox 61, C-Span, CNN, News 12... I don't even remember them all!" said junior Carolina Lescano. "I was so overwhelmed. Everywhere I looked, there seemed to be a wall of cameras." As junior Kesley Emmett put it, "It was absolutely crazy! I've never seen anything like it at Stamford High."

Despite urging from the Stamford High School administration otherwise, Sen. Lieberman's staff insisted on using room 101 for his announcement. While the room had sentimental value to the presidential candidate, the small space allowed a limited number of students to attend. Only forty juniors and seniors from various clubs and history classes received passes to the event, and many other students were upset. "I was really disappointed that I couldn't go," said junior Morgan Miller. "I had a pass, but at the last minute it was taken away and given to someone else."

While it seemed less than ideal to many students and staff members, the ceremony nonetheless took place in the crowded small auditorium. Before the event began, students nervously made

chatter and all eyes focused on the door where Lieberman would make his entrance. "The whole experience was mind-boggling," said junior Amanda D'Onofrio. "Just from the atmosphere in the room, you could tell how important the event was. It really was incredible."

After everyone assembled, Mr. Limone offered a warm welcome, followed by senior class co-presidents Samantha LaRoche and Mark Parrot, who introduced Senator Lieberman.

Now in the spotlight, Lieberman began his speech. He focused on key points such as family values and personal responsibility, and announced that his campaign would focus on the return of the American Dream. He also talked fondly of his Alma Mater, crediting it as where he first came to realize the "miracle of America" and the "importance of the middle class."

In respect to his hosts, Lieberman allowed the students to ask the first questions following his speech. Multicultural Student Union President DeOnna Britt began the inquiry by asking what he intended to do about the rising costs of a college education. He responded that he sees this as a "great problem," and intends to do everything in his power from tax cuts to an increased number of Pell Grants to make a college education affordable.

Senior class Vice-President Jessica Troy followed this by asking how his platform differed from that of 2000 now that he was not running as Al Gore's Vice President. He responded that he had a similar position, but that he differed in key areas where he felt

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# The Round Table

Founded in 1957

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*Unsigned Editorials represent the views of The Round Table Editorial Board. Signed pieces, letters to the Editor, and illustrations represent the opinions of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the student body at Stamford High School.*

*The Round Table welcomes letters from its readers. Letters must be original and signed. Anonymous letters will not be printed.*

## The Round Table Pledge

We pledge to make every student in our school aware that they are welcome to join our staff.

We pledge to publish a newspaper that mirrors the concerns, interests, experiences, and opinions of the spectrum of our student body.

We pledge to publish a newspaper whose content and coverage reflect our School's ethnic, racial, and religious make-up.

We pledge to work to create a newspaper that brings about a greater understanding and sense of mutual belonging to our school community.

We believe adherence to these pledges will make The Round Table a strong publication and an accurate representation of the Stamford High School community.

## This is Our View

Recently, the Stamford Board of Education has been discussing the merits of a third high school, and other options in response to overcrowding in our public schools. Unfortunately, the Board of Education, which one would think would have the most influence in a decision concerning our schools, had very little sway in Mayor Malloy's decision to add onto Stamford and Westhill High School.

Over the past few years, the population in both SHS and WHS has risen and this problem has demanded a solution. The solution Malloy proposes, however, is short-term. He wants to create a 56,000 square foot wing with classrooms, administrative offices and a gymnasium for ninth graders at both high schools. The problem with this is that the numbers of students enrolling keeps growing—it's not static. For example, let's surmise that next year, 700 freshmen will enroll. The next year after that, another 700 people will enroll. The numbers of students who graduate and transfer may well be offset by the numbers of students who may have to be retained in grade to achieve the minimum graduation standards. Eventually, as these students move through high school, each class will be incredibly large, and all in the same building. For how long can the ninth grade classrooms really provide relief for the overcrowding?

In addition, Malloy's plan is \$39.6 million, about \$7 million more than expected, because of including gymnasiums. Yet while we are spending this extra money on sports, there are teachers throughout the building who are lacking BASIC necessities for teaching such as paper, pencils, textbooks, and even chalk. Are extra gymnasiums really necessary? Are they really going to improve the standards of education at either school, or help solve the problem of overcrowding? Ninth and tenth graders are the only students who take gym classes; there is plenty of room. Gyms in both high schools were completely redone a year ago; furthermore, the alternation of boys and girls using the gym for basketball practice, at least at Stamford High, has never been a problem. If the city is willing to spend extra money, why not spend it on what is REALLY necessary, such as supplies, and not superfluous?

A third high school is the only solution that would

incorporate a population increase for years to come, and finally and truly solve the problem. Indeed, the Board of Education was the only board that supported a third high school. Wouldn't it make sense that they would have a better idea of the reality in Stamford Public Schools than any other board? Malloy, however, argues that the cost of operating a third high school would be too high, and that he is concerned about redistricting. According to information reported in The Stamford Advocate it would cost approximately \$800,000 per year more to operate a third high school, than are the annual operating cost estimates for the ninth-grade buildings. Isn't our education worth the extra expense? A city's education system positively influences the economy. The extra money will be worth it in the end.

As to the question of redistricting, what's the big deal? It's been done before, and it can be done again if it becomes necessary. What is important is that students are receiving quality educations.

Another worry is that a third high school will dilute the talent among the sports teams. Children do not go to school to play sports. If the environment and the education are good, that should be the only concern of adults and parents. And if sports are indeed such a great concern, teams can simply combine, as the boys' diving team has done with Westhill. There are solutions to such problems.

It's interesting to hear of, and attend, Board of Education meetings where furious parents and students voice their opinions. It's a democracy, isn't it? Surely the people of Stamford have some influence on where their tax money is spent. It was even more interesting to learn that the Mayor and the Board of Finance have a final say over all decisions, including those of the Board of Education. Democracy, right?

Many people foresaw overcrowding becoming an issue more than seven years ago. It should have been taken care of at that point, instead of waiting until both high schools are filled to the brim, when both students and teachers feel uncomfortable in the present environment. But what can we do? The decision has been made, and it seems the voice of this paper certainly won't make a difference.

## Letters to the Editor

January 17, 2003

Round Table  
Stamford High  
55 Strawberry Hill Avenue  
Stamford, CT 06905

To Whom It May Concern:

As a Stamford High student, athletics and academics are equally important to me. As a starting varsity field hockey player, I don't take field hockey lightly. I also have taken honors classes, have a full schedule and I'm in many extra-curricular activities.

Often athletes are required to miss school whether it is an FCIAC or State game, even if you have a test or a pro-

ject that day. Sometimes you feel stuck, because you have devoted yourself to your teammates and to representing your school but your grades can mean the future. While this absence is excused, it is not exempted, and we need to keep a 2.0 GPA to compete. As a member of the varsity field hockey team, we had to leave school early two or three times for an important game. We even had to leave school early at 12 o'clock noon for two of our state games. This means that if we had many absences, we were not able to go with our team to represent our school.

Over Christmas vacation, the Stamford High Marching Band took a

trip to Florida. I realize this was a national competition, but it was a school event and it was not only excused but exempted. Whether it is a FCIAC, State, or national competition they are all important events and should be treated equally.

Both the band members and athletes work exceptionally hard at what we do best. We practice long hours after school and on the weekends. We do what we do not only because we are good at it, but also because we love it. We put out the same effort for equally important events and should be given the same benefits.

Sincerely,  
Dana Forrest

# A Statement from Stamford High School

There has been much discussion over the past few weeks about the organization of the ceremony featuring Senator Lieberman's announcement. Because of the small venue, which Lieberman requested so that he would be able to take questions from students and mingle with classmates, only a small fraction of Stamford High's 1,960 students was able to attend the ceremony.

"We feel bad that all the kids couldn't see the great event," said Dr. Michael Intrieri, Director of School Activities. "United States Senator Joseph Lieberman's committee directed us here at Stamford High to the agenda- we just followed the directions. It was an unfortunate situation that only a small number of Stamford High students could be included, but the school had minimal influence in this decision." Due to the sentimental significance of the small auditorium to Senator Lieberman in addition to security complications, room 101 was chosen to best suit Lieberman's announcement. "This was not intended to exclude any students," added Intrieri.

He went on to say, "Now that this event is over, no matter if one is Republican or Democrat, we can view it as an honor for Stamford High. A graduate returning to his Alma Mater to announce he is seeking nomination for President of the United States is a privilege that few other institutions have been granted."

The school received a statement from Senator Lieberman praising SHS students, staff, and community for all of their support and cooperation. According to this statement, the behavior of the students was exceptional, and Stamford High could not have been better represented.

On behalf of the entire effort, the administration would like to thank all who made this event possible; it was an historical event, and everyone, from staff to students, made Stamford High School proud.

## Lieberman Continued from page 1

it was necessary to be different. "I felt like he was kind of dancing around some of the questions," said senior Lauren LaRusso. "He spoke like a true politician."

Senior Gregory Hafkin asked for Lieberman's opinion on Bush's new economic plan, to which he replied that he did not like the plan, nor did he believe it would work.

Jessica Rosen asked the final student question, inquiring about the major difference between he and President Bush. Lieberman responded that he felt Bush was putting the American Dream in jeopardy, whereas he was fighting to keep it alive. The senator com-

mented on the intelligence of the students' questions and proceeded on to the press.

A variety of political questions followed, addressing the issues of Lieberman's future political plans, his characteristics as a Democrat, his stance on foreign policy, and his religion, an area which is expected



Camera crews and reporters swarmed Mr. Terlizzo's period 5 AP European History class after the press conference. Lieberman made a special appearance and spoke to the seniors in the class.

sports fields. When it came to athletics, "He was terrible; absolutely terrible."

The senator also took a tour down the school's "Wall of Fame" and briefly stopped into Mr. Terlizzo's period five AP European History class. The senator's daughter, Rebecca, spoke first to the class about the importance of voting, and then Senator Lieberman again

and John Kalinowski asked several questions, after which Lieberman bid farewell to the school.

As he continued on his busy day, Senator Lieberman left the halls of Stamford High in excited disarray. The school now had another tale to add to its long life of stories; it earned the legacy of having a distinguished alumnus announce his intent to run for President of the United States. "I think this event was an important event in SHS history, and it won't be soon forgotten," said senior Jessica Scott. "I don't know if its importance has sunken in yet; but at the very least, it sure made Monday morning a lot more interesting than usual."

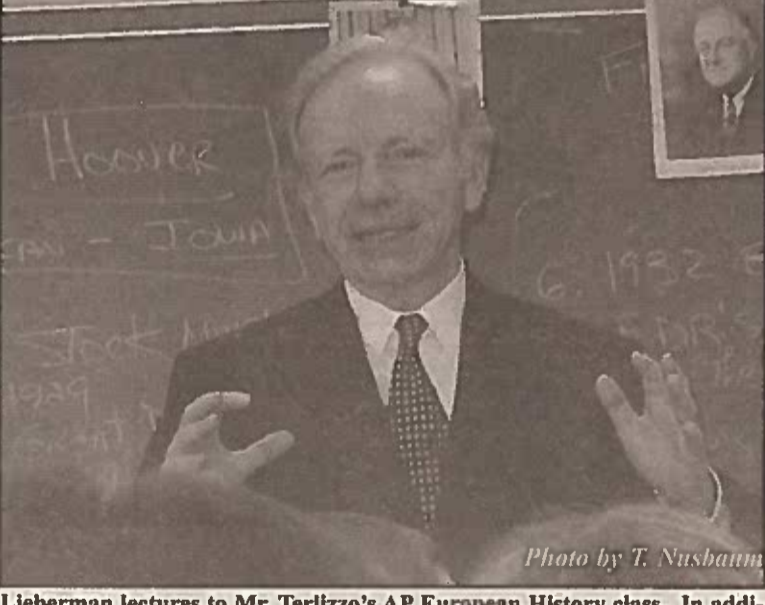
to spark controversy during the campaign. The press conference concluded with a closing statement from Lieberman, followed by an energetic shout of "Now on to Victory!" from the Senator. This marked the end of the ceremony for an historical campaign for both Lieberman and his home town of Stamford.

After the press conference, Senator Lieberman reunited with some of his high school classmates, all of whom seemed to have fond recollections of their school days with the Senator. According to Bob Kennedy, a man who attended middle and high school with Lieberman, "He was a good student; very intelligent, very popular. He was friends with everyone." Unfortunately, according to Kennedy, this academic and social success didn't translate to the

questions. Seniors Nancy Ringel, Brooke Cognetta, Amanda Peyser,



A security agent guards the door of room 131, observing the class. Many security personnel occupied the building in an effort to keep the event secure.



Lieberman lectures to Mr. Terlizzo's AP European History class. In addition to answering students' questions, Lieberman thanked Mr. Limone for the honor of being able to "teach" at SHS.

# Marching Band Makes SHS Proud at Gator Bowl

Jenny Hopkinson  
Staff Writer

In past years, the Black Knights Marching Band has visited New York, made Rome fall, and opened Pandora's Box. This year, the Stamford High School Black Knights Marching Band has been celebrating the future with their show to the music of Disney's Millennium

Celebration. Their disappointing season ended with a fifth place finish at the Musical Arts Conference Championships in November. With the end of their regular season, the band began

preparing for their next challenge: The Toyota Gator Bowl in Jacksonville, Florida. They left for Florida on the 28th of December with fierce determination to redeem themselves of a bad season, and returned with a second place finish in their class in the field show competition, third place in the parade competition, and with fond memories of their participation in the Gator Bowl half time show.

On top of their second place finish, the band received awards for best color guard, best percussion, best general effect, and best drum major for the field show competition, and they ranked fourth overall out of fifteen bands from all over the country. "The season sucked, so it was great to come out on top in the end," said junior color guard captain Megan

Ormond. While the band had been hopeful of winning, they were still content with their finish. "I was very happy with second place," said Assistant Drum Major Nicki Puza. "The other bands were very competitive; to come in second by only one tenth of a point, and win four out of six captions was incredible." Ormond also commented, "I thought it was the best show we've ever had. We all left our

hearts on the field, and the feeling we had at the last hit is more important than any trophy."

The band also received special awards in the Gator Bowl parade, which ran through the streets of Jacksonville on New Year's Day. Along with a third place ranking in their class, they again received best percussion and best drum major. "Winning best drum majors was amazing," said Puza, "We knew we did really well in the competition. The three of us turned it on. We locked together and really connected with both the band and the audience."

The final performance for the band in Florida was at the Gator Bowl halftime show on New Year's Day. At half time of the Notre Dame-North Carolina State game, the Black Knights took the field along with sixteen other bands to participate in the Wachovia Half Time Show. Conducted by the band director

from Notre Dame, they played a medley of songs, which celebrated the 57 years of Gator Bowl tradition. The Stamford High color guard also participated in the pre-game singing of the national anthem; an honor that they received because of their high scores and excellence in the field show competition. "Pre-game was unbelievable," said junior color guard captain Christina Manderino. "It was such a rush to see 80,000 people standing watching you."

These awards did not come easily. This season, more than ever before, the band had many obstacles to overcome. Under the possibility of the band director, Mr. Steve Fasoli, leaving and the loss of two guard instructors, the band fought an up-hill battle which was reflected in their below average scores compared to their past seasons. The problems continued when the band arrived in Florida. Here they were faced with the prospect of competing with bands that were in some cases over one hundred and fifty members strong, compared to the one hundred and two member band from Stamford. These monster bands came from all over the country including Missouri, Illinois, Ohio, and the closest to home, Pennsylvania. Regardless, these huge bands were not their only obstacle.

Upon arriving in Jacksonville, band members and chaperones began falling ill. A malicious 24-hour bug that raged through the band infected over 40 people including students, band parents, and even a bus driver. "I had to move my room three times, and

had eleven different roommates just to avoid getting sick," said junior Melissa Labrandi. This was the case for many people. The band's prevailing illness, which prohibited a few people from participating in the field show competition and the parade, made their success even sweeter.

The band also traveled to Florida two years ago for the Florida Citrus Bowl in Orlando. At that time, they were selected as National champions out of four bands. "The band trip to Orlando was more of a vacation where we performed three times and spent the rest of the time at the theme parks," said junior Jana Zislis "Jacksonville was a band trip

where we did nothing but eat, sleep, and breathe band." Now with a fourth place finish overall out of fifteen bands in a much higher level of competition, the band is just as happy as they were two years ago.

Despite setbacks,

and a lower ranking than they had hoped for, the band sees the positive aspects of the trip. "It was great for bonding," said sophomore Tali Senatore, "We are now a tighter group and more like family than ever."

The band returned to Stamford the morning of Friday the third, after an exhausting nineteen-hour bus ride, only to be met by snow, and a channel 12 news crew. Having missed two days of school for the trip the band members headed home to catch up on much needed sleep and homework. Now the band looks forward to the future and what next year's season will hold.



Photo by Hopkinson

A crowd of over 77,000 people looks on as the Half-time show at the Gator-Bowl begins. Stamford High's marching band performed in front of the same audience.




Photo by Hopkinson

The Marching Band performs its field show in a large stadium in Florida.



Photo by Hopkinson

The band members move into a new formation during their show at the Gator Bowl. The band placed second overall and earned many other first-place caption awards.



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# Freshman Buildings - A Compromise of Educational Quality

**Nick Gooding**  
Associate News Editor

The local Board of Education has recently decided that the best, most cost-effective way of solving the over-crowding of the Stamford Public Schools is to isolate ninth-graders in separate buildings constructed on the grounds of the current high schools. Perhaps this plan is the most cost-effective, but one is compelled to question how much the city ought to be willing to sacrifice in order to save money. I understand that the deficit in the Board of Education's budget is a severe and pressing issue, but saving dollars in a way that is so obviously detrimental to the educational environment for

Stamford High School students is surely not justified.

I reported on the issue of over-crowding in the beginning of the year, in particular on a public hearing held to give teachers, parents, and students the opportunity to voice their opinions and concerns regarding the issue. All the students, teachers and parents present essentially regarded the potential solution of isolating ninth-graders as preposterous to such a degree that I therefore only mentioned in passing that it could still possibly be chosen as a solution. Surely the City of Stamford could not completely ignore the citizens and the education of the youth.

Yet as vehemently as parents, students and teachers professed, "when it comes to our children's future, money should

not be the deciding factor," the Board of Education went ahead and ignored the educational costs and focused only on the financial. As was mentioned in the meeting, the transitional years are difficult ones for students, and unnecessarily adding

another (by having students transition from middle school to the ninth grade school then finally to high school) is sure to detract from the quality of the students' education. However, this issue was hardly considered by the board, with only minimal research

having been done on the educational effects of this isolation of ninth-graders. We are entrusting this board with the future of Stamford's students, and they have not done their homework.

Furthermore, not only does the Board's willingness to sacrifice education to save money demonstrate a serious problem regarding the priorities of this city, but is completely unnecessary to make these sacrifices in effort to save money. The option of expanding the elementary schools to include sixth graders and shifting the ninth graders to the middle schools, if done right, is more cost and time efficient as

the isolation of the ninth-graders. It requires less cost to design, build, and run these additions; it frees up space in the high schools, whose campuses do not have the necessary space to house all the students; and this system, being a long-used, time-proven system, has never showed any signs of detriment to students' educational experience.

At a time when Stamford students are doing worse than ever on standardized tests, we cannot run the risk of the educational system being further detracted from. Apparently this hasn't phased the Board of Education, as educational costs seem not to even enter the picture, but as all do not share this apathy towards the future of Stamford's youth, and this decision will not be taken quietly.

*We are entrusting this board with the future of Stamford's students, and they have not done their homework.*

# My feeling of impending ROAD RAGE

**Jenny Hopkinson**  
Staff Writer

In present society, driving is a natural right of passage. It is privilege granted by age, regardless of common sense or intelligence. I think it is that which keeps worrisome parents up at night.

Last year, my neighbor (who was a senior at the time) was a member of the upperclassmen driving contingent, and so on days when I had to stay after school if, he was still there, he would give me a ride. Personally, that's what older neighbors are for. Being an underclassman at the time, driving was still shrouded with awe.

Regardless of his mystical power behind the wheel, my neighbor, who shall remain nameless, was probably the worst driver I have ever known. This is not to say that he was a bad person. Perhaps a little high strung, but he was the National Honor, straight-A, suck up type of kid that your mother (well my mother at least) wants you to be like. However when it came to his driving, I found myself staring death in the face on multiple

occasions.

He could stay inside the lines, knew his brake from his accelerator, stopped at red lights (well, most of the time) but he just had the worst road rage. He would step into the car, and before even starting the engine, his eyebrow would start to twitch in a Jekyll-Hyde type fashion. He would scream at other cars; at red lights he would honk his horn; and he would weave in and out of cars on High Ridge Road at 70 miles an hour. Needless to say, every car ride with this kid was an adventure.

I never understood how any one could get that outrageously angered getting from point A to point B, until realized that I do it everyday. When I walk down the hallways and stair cases of SHS, it's somewhat like my neighbor weaving in and out of cars at 70 miles per hour and screaming while he passed; only I don't scream- I wish I did, but I don't.

I have noticed lately, that when I walk down any hallway, my eyebrow begins to twitch, even if just very slightly. Then, as the person in front of me stops, to talk to a group of five other people standing in the middle of a crowded hallway, I distinctly feel

a spasm raging through my body as if fangs are magically protruding out of my gums. As I push by muttering my apologies (because obviously I am just in the wrong



place) I have to force myself to resist the urge to scream, a lot.

Unfortunately, this does not happen just once on my magical journey to class, for five feet down the hall, like a bad dream; it happens all over again.

This year has been worse than the last two as far as this problem goes. Obviously, some people enjoy randomly stopping in the hallway. Kudos to them, they are particularly good at it. It should become the next Olympic sport,

why not?

Granted, I am very bitter about this subject. Perhaps I'm bitter in general, if this is just the root of the problem, I'm not sure.

What worries me is when I drive. I don't have the same deep rooted hatred for the people on

the road as I do for the people in the halls, but every once in a while I get that distinct itch, and I finally understand why my neighbor drove the way he did.

Richard H. Fisher  
Vice President

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## Dear Polite Knight...

### DEAR POLITE KNIGHT:

I have a problem with the way some students act at lunchtime. After consuming their food, a lot of kids just get up and leave their half-eaten sandwiches, dirty napkins, lunch trays, and soda cans on the table. I find this extremely rude. Do they think that this is actually appropriate behavior? I don't understand how some people can be so self-absorbed that they don't even think of the work that the cafeteria staff has to do after they leave. I feel like saying something to the people around me, but I don't want to seem like a goody-two shoes. What can I do?

- seeking to stop selfish sloppy students

### DEAR SEEKING:

My suggestion to you is to be the bigger person and, if you have a few seconds, throw out a few trays you see around after lunch. In the meantime, in order to better address the problem, you could politely say to someone walking away from his or her table, "oh, excuse me, but it seems that you've forgotten to throw your lunch away." Even if it is received with a tone of slight sarcasm, you will get your point across while still seeming innocently concerned and unassuming.

### DEAR POLITE KNIGHT:

How come I can't even walk down the hallway without someone jumping out in front of me? They say to me, "oh, you got broke!" What is this breaking? Why on earth would anyone jump in someone else's face? I think that it is found humorous to some people. I, however, do not find it an enjoyable part of my day. What can I do to stop this, or in response the next time it happens?

- freaked frosh

**DEAR FREAKED FROSH:** You're a freshman. You deserve to get jumped in front of. However, here is some advice to store in your noggin for sophomore year. When someone jumps in front of you, scream, "WAS THAT REALLY NECESSARY!?" Then turn around and walk away. That's what I do. It will catch them off guard and maybe even embarrass them. Happy freshman year!

### DEAR POLITE KNIGHT:

What is the nicest way to tell the girl who sits in front of me in history to get her long, flowing hair off of my desk?

- hairy happenings in history

Dear Hairy,

"Look what I got you! A ponytail holder!"

## My Masticated Pen Cap

Nick Gooding  
Associate News Editor

I have read somewhere, or been told, that I should write about what I know. Well, in that case, there is one thing surely I know best: the phobia of getting started, especially starting writing.

I start each evening of writing by opening a new page on my computer. The cursor blinks at me a few times, and I blink back for a few minutes in response. I then proceed to head downstairs to my kitchen to have some dinner. I start to fashion some extravagant meal, and as I do so, I conclude that if perhaps I think enough while I eat my multiple course meal, then surely I will have outlined a great and profound short story, ready for the publisher's table as soon as it's typed. I then proceed to think about such things as television shows or what kind of cold cut is my favorite. This dilemma consumes me as I consume my dinner, and it seems I had just come downstairs; I must return to battle the blank page.

My hands tremble, palms sweaty as I fit each finger atop their appropriate letter of the keyboard. A sudden epiphany, a gift from my muse, and two lines, in their entirety, are written. But that second word is not quite the one I was searching for, and so I must stop, for rhythm and flow are essential. I look it up on the computer's thesaurus—shift plus F7 is the shortcut—and I search in vain for the perfect word. I groan in frustration and look down to find the shards of my masticated pen cap laying scattered across my desk.

I reread what I've written, to find that it has no depth. It's worthless. Those must be the worst two lines I've ever written. Two lines that have no depth; two lines that say nothing. And so they must be deleted. I angrily highlight and erase each and every worthless letter, and to my satisfaction they disappear. But that

cursor blinks innocently at me, like it has done nothing wrong and I want to strangle something.

Instead of that, as that kind of thing is generally considered rude and improper, I head downstairs for a second dinner. Hunger, that must be the great enemy to writing I decide. I make myself a salad and pour myself a bowl of cereal in newfound tranquility. Surely, this is what I need, and after I'm full, I'll whip out pages of eloquence and philosophical wonder. There's no pressure. It's approaching only ten o'clock. I'll be done in two hours, and then be sleeping by a quarter after twelve. I'll awake tomorrow more than rested for school.

I look down to see the bottom of my bowl. My stomach turns upon the realization that I must return to face my inevitable task. There is to be no escape. I must start. I cannot avoid it if I wish to avoid an F. But, why? If I start, that only means I will have to continue, and then, worse yet, I still must finish.

I am a fighter. I face my fears with valiance and courage. Oh, there will be no stopping me now. I know just how to begin. I begin with my name, Nicholas Gooding, in the upper left hand corner. And then, why didn't this come to me before?—the date. The date comes next, in the upper right. Why, now I'm on a roll. There's no stopping me now...

Fifteen minutes later my head lands gracefully on my desk with a resounding and appropriate thud.

And then, it hits me! A revelation! Oh, I know just what's wrong. How could I really expect to write with the wrong date on top of my page? It needs to be tomorrow's date, not today's, so that way the teacher, won't know that I waited until today to commence my writing. I look at my clock, and to my surprise, why, at 12:30, today is tomorrow. And it wasn't yesterday; no today was still tomorrow fifteen minutes ago when I inserted the date via Microsoft word's toolbar—alt plus I, then shift plus T.

OK, with that issue resolved, now, now I can write. The words flow effortlessly, gracefully, each perfectly poignant. No, no that's not what happens. My words are neither perfect, nor poignant, nor do they flow at all.

But then, perhaps fears are not so difficultly overcome; for oddly, two pages of words separate my happily blinking cursor from the page's top.



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# Modern English - A Butchered Language

Jenny Hopkinson  
Staff Writer

A long time ago, I was taught to capitalize the word "I", rite once had a 'ght' at the end, and wuzzup was the sound a frog made. I miss those days. Now we live in a world where lol is no longer a typed expression of amusement for those who are too lazy to type out the word "ha", or "that's funny". Maybe I'm afraid of the changes that this new colloquialism brings? Regardless, as much as I fear it, I see its point.

I was watching Friday Night Stand Up on comedy central one night, and the comedian was talking about how gradually things are getting faster and soon like nine seconds will be a long period of time. I have to agree,

well not nassicarily with the nine seconds idea, but, things are getting fast. Naturally language would be once of the first things to go. i suppose a lot of time is saved by not capitalizing my i's. While i know its wrong by every

*in our destruction of  
the english language,  
why stop there? lets  
use an i in places that  
it really doesn't  
belong.*

grammatical experience i've ever had, the feeling of an absence beneath my pinky when i type the letter is kind of liberating.

well, since i'm not going to capitalize my i's, why capitalize at all. have you ever ridden down a really big hill on your bike and had that sudden feeling of flight and freedom before you crash in to a rather large obstacle at the bottom? yeah i have that feeling rite now, its crazy.

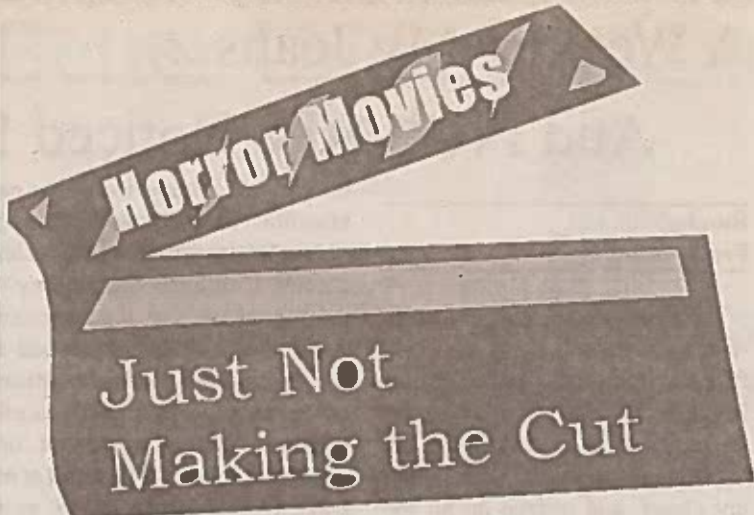
in our destruction of the english language, why stop there? lets use an i in places that it really doesn't belong. yeah, that would be funni, and words would be less ugly. i suppose the i thing is....cute?

in all honesti, l8tli, i just haven't felt like spellin words out. i kno i should, but y bother. single letters r nice substitutions for clumsi words. numbers r 2. now, i don't have 2 deal with most 3 letter words nemore. im really happy about that. symbols r a good idea 2. The # of times when i rite out stuf that i don't need 2.

this instant messenger coined language isn't as bad as i thought. things make sense. while words do get completeli massacred for sake of convenience, its all for a good cause. skools will l day add these skeletons of words and phrases to text books, rite. classes will be thru quickli, and ppl will have more time in general. teahin will be so fast that skool will b shorter. wutz considered standard language now will be as ancient as shakespeare sumtime in the future. evry l will rite like this.

with out the formation of real words goes most punctuation. the period has stayed but the comma has gone as will the semi colon and nethin that dosent bring a sentence 2 an end. ppl will get ova the length of sentences especialli when entire sentences will become acronyms. its slowly beginnin now with phrases like lylas and lol cuz ppl just dont have time to rite them out. read this in the future, and itd b l line and a guessin game.

till then fightin my way thru this internet spawned language looks like my onli option. o well. g2g, ttyp.



Dimitra Tzirikidis  
Staff Writer

Scary movies are not what they used to be. As a young child, at the age of about 10, I remember going to the movie theater with my mom and sister to see a horror movie, hoping to get scared out of our pants. This was one thing we really looked forward to and was pretty much a weekly ritual for us. Almost every time we saw a horror movie, it satisfied our desire of trying not to close our eyes when we knew a frightening part was coming up, and grabbing the person's arm that we were sitting next to. But now it's the year 2003, and the movies that are supposed to be labeled "horror" movies are more inane.

In the past, there were films like *Friday the 13th*, *Nightmare on Elm Street*, *The Exorcist*, and *Halloween*. The budgets to make these movies were very low, yet they still terrified their viewers and made them come back for more, either to see the sequel or to watch it over again. Presently, after seeing the previews of several scary movies that are soon to be released, usually people say to themselves, "I gotta see that!" But after paying the 5-8 dollar fee they end up walking out totally disappointed, thinking their time was wasted.

These half-witted films that are being made nowadays have unbelievably high budgets and cast actors/actresses the public has never seen before. These films appear to be, "low budget", but in reality they are the complete opposite. The script for the film commonly starts out very absorbing, and engages their viewers for the first five minutes. Yet it goes downhill from there.

It ordinarily starts to get boring and takes so many twists that you can't even keep up with what is really going on.

Recently, I saw the movie *They*, presented by Wes Craven. Usually, Wes Craven writes some pretty good films, such as *Nightmare on Elm Street*, with one of my favorite characters, *Freddy Krueger*. He also wrote, *People Under the Stairs*, and *Scream 1, 2 and 3*. They were such a waste of my time and money. Not only was I displeased with the whole plot, but all the other viewers in the theater were also annoyed and made it loud and clear that they wanted their money back. The script was horrendous, and there wasn't even one scene that I could point out that was enjoyable. All I can say is, don't see it and wait until it comes on television.

The bigger question is, what are these people thinking when writing these movies? They come up with a half way decent idea, and then it just goes down the drain. I don't understand how they wrote so many good films in the past, but now it's like they don't put any effort or don't care if the movie makes any sense or not.

When I went to see *They*, all I knew about the film was that Wes Craven wrote it so I thought that it must be good, and that it was supposedly really scary based on the previews.

Before you see a movie, make sure not to be influenced so easily by the previews or the popular name of the writer, because that's just the way of pulling people in effortlessly. Look into the movie to see what it's actually about, and what kind of reviews it got. Make sure not to be easily persuaded like I was.

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## A Week in My Jeans... And Nobody Noticed!

**Randy Miller**  
Features Editor

It all started very innocently with a phone call from my close friend, Sarita. As we chatted I began to lay out my clothing for the next day of school, as was my habit. I groaned as I stared into my closet, and uttered an all too common, "I have nothing to wear." She consoled me, as usual, ensuring me that I would find an outfit.

I continued to skim through my wardrobe, brimming with options. But the truth was Sarita was right. She had seen my closet before, and I did have plenty to wear.

But I, a perpetual perfectionist, have often refused to wear the same outfit twice within a two-week period ever since I devised a clothing schedule in seventh grade. And then came a revelation. "Does it really matter?" she asked jokingly. After a pause I began to wonder, did it really matter? Was anyone really paying attention to what I wore?

I set out to investigate the matter. Monday night, rather than retiring my favorite pair of perfectly aged, slightly faded dark blue stretch Mavis, I folded them on my floor and prepared to wear them again the next day. I decided that I would go to school in those pants for the entire week, to answer the question: would anyone notice?

Feeling slightly self-conscious I strolled into my first period class on Tuesday, economics. I sank



Photo by S. Dan  
Here I am in class on Thursday, still wearing the same pants.

into my chair and tried not to call attention to my ensemble. Though I had plenty of friends in that class I made it through the entirety of the period without confrontation. After that, the day continued to wiz by smoothly, nobody noticed, not even close. I paid careful attention, and caught not one wandering eye staring down at my pants in question, curious as to why they looked so familiar.

I assumed that it was because this was only the second day and at least by Wednesday somebody would pay attention. I finished Tuesday with a deceptive smirk on my face, and was overjoyed when it only took me a minute to decide what I would wear the next day; it was so much easier this way. Once I eliminated the choices I had more time to focus on other things. I only had 1 pair of pants, therefore I could only wear that pair.

Wednesday I walked into school wearing a new sweater, hoping that this time people would pay better attention to my attire. I had gone from wishing that nobody would notice to trying to force them to take note. I made an effort to stand a lot, or pull at my jeans. Still nothing. And though at least 5 people made comments on my sweater, nobody said a word about my jeans. Were they just being polite? I ran home and threw the jeans in an emergency wash cycle.

Thursday I moped into school, tired, as I had gotten very little sleep the night before. I looked around at my classmates and began to realize that not only was I too tired to care about what any of them were wearing, I myself could not remember a single person's outfit from the day before.

On Friday I was ready to burn my once favorite pair of jeans, vowing to never wear them again. I was so sick of seeing the same pair day in and day out. I resolved that while I don't need 13 pairs of jeans, I certainly needed more than one.

My test was almost over with, not an inkling of suspicion, but I had one more matter to settle. I turned to a group of my friends in one class and asked, "Do you think that it would matter if I wore the same pair of jeans two days in



Photo by S. Dan

I wore these jeans to school on Monday morning.

a row? I mean do you think that you would notice?" While their faces were bewildered, their opinions were more decisive, "No, probably not, not if it was a plain pair of jeans," Senior Felicia Kovacs resolved.

As I explained my experiment everyone let out a laugh in unison. I was nervous that they would begin to judge me for doing what I had done, but no. "Good for you." Felicia announced, "You know I've always wondered that before, but never tested it. So I guess that settles the issue. No I wouldn't notice."

There was a similar reaction from each friend I confronted; even Sarita was shocked to hear the news. One friend, after asking if it mattered whether I wore the same pants 2 days straight asked me, "Why, did I wear these jeans yesterday too?"

At the end of the day the answer was clear. No it doesn't matter; people are not as materialistic or as consumed with other people's clothing as we fear. The nitpicking stereotype of the movies is far from reality. And to think, all these years my parents were right when they told me that school isn't a fashion show.

When asked why they didn't notice, some friends told me because they had a lot on their minds that week, or that they were probably too tired to care, or that dark jeans are dark jeans are dark jeans; they all look the same. But in the end nobody noticed, and had they, I doubt they'd care.

Bottom line, though companies will try to sell you 50 pairs of perfectly fitting blue denim, it's not worth the investment. By the end of the week I knew that, but was ready to put those jeans into retirement for a while.

## Seniors On the Road to College

**Nancy Ringel**  
Associate News Editor

We are embarking on what is typically a stressful time for most seniors, filling out stacks of applications, running around collecting recommendations, and waiting eagerly for letters. But for some, the stress is boiling down to an end. For those who applied Early Decision or Early Action to colleges, the acceptance letters are starting to flood the mailboxes. The waiting game is over and their futures are suddenly a little clearer. Congratulations to the many seniors who have already been accepted to college!

**Jared Ashe** Wesleyan University  
**Jeremy Bloom** Northwestern University  
**Robert Buchetto** Wentworth Institute of Technology  
**Jennifer Cells** Berkeley College  
**Krystal Collins** University of Rhode Island  
**Sarita Dan** Washington University in St. Louis  
**Kerri Donner** Indiana University  
**Alice Doo** New York University  
**Doug Engler** University of Scranton  
**David Eytel** Arizona State University  
**Krystina Fisher** University of Hartford  
**Lexi Forrest** Tampa University  
**Margaret Garcia** Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute  
**Vanessa Gidden** Hofstra University  
**Sanjeev Goluguri** Rutgers University  
**Gregory Haskin** Georgetown University  
**John Kalinowski** Eastern Connecticut State University  
**Marsha Keyfets** Pennsylvania State University

University of Rhode Island  
**Justine Kovacs** Indiana University  
Michigan State University  
University of Vermont  
**Lisa LaBella** Southern Connecticut State University  
**Lauren LaRusso** University of Connecticut (Honors Program)  
**Stacy Lessen** Syracuse University  
**Joshua Li** Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
**Howard Locker** Yale University  
**Samantha Maidenberg** Southern Connecticut State University  
**Mona Mansoori** Pennsylvania State University  
University of Connecticut  
**Eleanor Matthews** University of Rhode Island  
Pennsylvania State University  
**Daniel McGrath** Slippery Rock College  
Lynn University  
**Carly Miller** University of Hartford  
University of Rhode Island  
Towson University  
University of Connecticut  
Northeastern University  
**Randy Miller** Boston University  
**Molly Moore** DePaul University  
Michigan State University  
**Jefferey Morganteen** Ithaca College  
**Whitney Olds** Furman University  
**Krista Ostaszewski** University of Rhode Island  
**Edwin Owens** Sacred Heart University  
**Shelly Paight** Albertus Magnus  
**Jeffery Pan** Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
**Mark Parrot** Southern Connecticut State University  
**Nicole Pensiero** University of Rhode Island  
**Morgan Petti** New England College  
**Amanda Peyser** Indiana University  
**Emily Pomerantz** University of Michigan  
University of Wisconsin  
Tulane University  
**Samuel Pomerantz** Tulane University  
**Evan Ratner** University of Connecticut  
**Kim Rich** Southern Connecticut State University  
**Nancy Ringel** Pennsylvania State University  
SEE COLLEGE, PG 9



# Online Study Guides Lead to Better Understanding

**Randy Miller**  
Features Editor

English class can be tough, especially when homework time is consumed with lengthy reading assignments and often archaic novels. But relax; you have an excellent resource right at your fingertips, free of charge. Study guides are easily available, and often an under-appreciated reference tool. When used in conjunction to reading the book, they can lend to further understanding. Believe it or not many teachers actually condone, if not recommend, using such tools as long as you read the book as well.

Surprised? Well don't be. For years teachers have known that such resources provide clarification, and helpful bonuses like character sheets to keep an often-perilous list of names in order.

Your desktop computer is your best guide through the ample selection of book notes and

online summaries. At [thespark.com](http://thespark.com) you can find humorous features, hilarious personality tests, and helpful study guides. Simply click on the Spark Notes logo on the left side of your screen and you're in. They may ask you to register or log in, but it's free of cost, so go ahead and type in your information. Once inside you can find study guides on a wide range of subjects from

*For years teachers have known that such resources provide clarification...*

biology to health and fitness. And though admittedly these guides are not produced by PhDs, they are reliable and knowledgeable individuals who have read the books and display a vast under-

standing. But if it's literature you want the selection is just as plentiful with hundreds to choose from. If you can get past all of the pesky pop-up ads then you'll find them. Whether you're looking for Shakespeare or Morrison, it's here. And with their databases updated periodically, more and more novels are added every time you visit.

And though few obscure books make their way onto this list, few obscure books make their way onto your reading list. This web site tends to have typical, high school reading assignments.

Once you make your selection you are directed to another menu, and more irritating ads pop up. Context, plot overview, characters, character analysis, and symbols are among the many items which aid many students in their journeys through the novels. For additional clarification there are in-depth summaries and further, deeper analysis. You'll find significant quotations, practice tests,

and citation information as well, all helpful and necessary if you choose to use any information obtained on this web site in a report. Above all spark notes are easy to read, reliable, and detailed. When you need a good friend to guide you through a difficult assignment [thespark.com](http://thespark.com) is a safe choice.

Another option is [pinkmonkey.com](http://pinkmonkey.com). It is similar to the aforementioned Spark notes in that it provides free and in-depth book notes for high school students. The web site boasts 380 literature summaries, all of which are downloadable and printable. Once you find your novel it's just a few clicks away, but be careful because hit the wrong button and you may end up paying for your book notes. Since this site offers both Pink monkey notes, free of charge, and Barron book notes, averaging \$4 each, pay attention when making selections. So stay in the left hand column to find what the web site calls, "absolute-



Two examples of helpful online resources.

ly a 'G' rated, child safe, and teacher recommended site." Providing students with key literary elements such as setting, characters, conflict, plot, themes, mood, background and historical information, this web site is a safe bet. Each chapter is summarized and include notes that, when used with a close reading of the actual book, ensure that you'll pass any test any teacher could ever give.

A third and less popular web site is [novelguide.com](http://novelguide.com), an under-used resource in the menagerie of online book notes. SEE GUIDES, PG 10

## College continued from pg. 8

- State University  
University of Connecticut  
(Honors Program)
- Elizabeth Rosano  
Southern Connecticut State  
University  
University of Rhode Island
- Jessica Rosen  
Tulane  
University
- Mala Sharma  
Northeastern  
University
- Adam Shuckman  
Indiana University  
University of Colorado  
University of Arizona  
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- Efram Slen  
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- Elaine Tournas  
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George  
Washington University  
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- Emily Tu  
University of Hartford  
University of Connecticut
- Megan E. Voyages  
Sienna  
College
- Erica Wondolowski  
Southern Connecticut State  
University
- Heather Zajdel  
University of  
Rhode Island



## "Made From the Best Stuff on Earth": Snapple Drinks Are a Favorite Among Students

**Alex Terwilliger**  
Associate Photo Editor

There will always be the ever-popular Coke, some just prefer water, but one can't deny the growing popularity of the Snapple drinks. With these drinks available in every state in the U.S. and in 80 countries, you are bound to find at least 1 of the over 30 flavors of Snapple anywhere you go. Snapple has divided their drinks into 4 separate categories, each category having its own color top: teas have blue tops, juice drinks have green tops, lemonades have yellow tops, and diets have white tops.

Since Snapple started selling their all-natural juices in 1972, over 50 flavors have been retired, and there have also been 3 recent

additions to Snapple's menu of flavors. Diet Snapple Apple is a diet version of the original, but also somewhat new, flavor Snapple Apple.

Kiwi Teawi is a recent tea arrival that has the word "Snapple" written upside down on the bottle, because kiwis supposedly come from "down under".

Go Bananas, is a flavor that according to the people at Snapple, tastes just like fresh picked bananas.

The people at Snapple say the top 10 sellers of the year 2002 were in this order: Lemon Tea, Peach Tea, Diet Peach Tea, Kiwi Strawberry, Diet Lemon Tea, Raspberry Tea, Diet Raspberry Tea, Mango Madness, Fruit Punch, and Diet Cranberry Raspberry.

When students here at Stamford High were asked their

favorite Snapple flavors, Lemon Tea was the most popular answer. Junior Chris DeNapoles likes Lemon Tea, "Because it makes me feel GREAT!"

Kiwi Strawberry was the sec-



Lemon Iced Tea was voted "most popular" by SHS students. It's one of those sweet drinks with just enough tang- it's a kick in a can," said Senior Sasha Virvo.

Peach Tea earned third place. It's Junior Francesco Corrente's favorite, "Because I like everything peach flavored."

Lemonade Iced Tea was the fourth most common response. A brilliant mix of tea and lemonade- often known as "half and half" or "Kris's mix-up." Junior Tommy Domanick says it tastes "slammin'" compared to all the other really fruity drinks.

Raspberry Iced Tea came in finally in fifth. The same tea leaf flavor- with a berry twist.

For more info on all these Snapple facts, and to stay updated with the newest flavors, visit [www.snapple.com](http://www.snapple.com). At this corporate sponsored site you can also get a tour of "Snappleton;" an animated make-believe town inhabited by all the little workers who help make the drink we know as Snapple.

# Job Ideas For Those Short On Cash

**Nancy Ringel**  
Associate News Editor

Being a teenager can be very expensive, and it's not always easy to come across money. Just to help some of you out, there are a few fund-raising methods listed below. There are pros and cons to every option, so make sure you read carefully before you decide how to earn your dough.



## "Mooching" off your parents

**Pros:** You can get money whenever you want, and you never have to worry about working yourself. This way, there's no responsibility.

**Cons:** Your parents don't always have the money, nor will they always give it to you. Also, you don't earn the value of your own money and how to spend it wisely.



## Babysitting

**Pros:** You get paid well, for very little work (the kids usually go to sleep after only an hour of being with them, but you get paid for several hours!). Also, you get to spend time with kids (this is good only if you like kids though) and get some of your other work done while the kids are sleeping.

**Cons:** Dealing with kids can be very frustrating, especially if they are bratty. There is tons of responsibility involved, and it can also severely hamper your social life (most babysitting is done on the weekends, when teenagers prefer to go out).



## Working in a retail store

**Pros:** These stores usually have flexible hours and good working schedules. You can decide when and how often you work, and you get good discounts at the store (great if you love to shop!).

**Cons:** These jobs don't pay too highly (not often much above minimum wage), and you frequently have to deal with snotty or difficult customers. Also, these jobs can get very tedious and boring after a very short time.



## Working at a restaurant (waiter/waitress)

**Pros:** As long as the restaurant gets good business, you make great money at this kind of job. You can leave work that day with the money in your pocket, so there's no stopping at the bank or waiting an entire week for your money. Also, in most restaurants, you get free food while you're working and a discount while you're not on shift.

**Cons:** Working in the food industry can be very disgusting (but if you can stomach sticking your gloved hands into a giant bucket of mayonnaise to refill the stock and refilling mustard containers, you should be fine), and it can also be difficult to find someone to cover your shift if you can't make it to work (most restaurants have a limited wait staff, so if you need to miss a shift, it can be hard to find someone to cover it for you). Also, waiting on tables can be tiring, and dealing with picky people is never fun.



## Teaching Lessons (swimming lessons, tennis lessons, etc.)

**Pros:** These jobs pay very well (usually well over ten dollars per hour), and you rarely have to work long shifts. Plus, if you're teaching the lessons you're probably good at what you're doing, so you get to get paid for doing something you're good at!

**Cons:** You actually have to be good at what you teach, so you need a talent in order to get a job like this. Even if you are good, these jobs can still be hard to come by, and even when you find them you don't work many hours. The job pays well, but you still don't make much money.



## Working in an office

**Pros:** Working in an office is good life experience, because it gives you a good taste of what the real working world is like. Also, these jobs look good on your resume when applying to future jobs, and they pay a decent amount.

**Cons:** Offices are usually

VERY boring. Also, it's not easy to find these jobs all the time; often, you need some sort of connections to be considered, or you have to be very persistent. Also, you usually have to have some sort of qualifications (skills in office procedures) to get these kinds of jobs, so they are that much more difficult to come by.



## Lifeguarding

**Pros:** You sit around most of the time and get very long breaks, and you get paid very well. Also, if you work during the summer, you can tan while you work. Unless there is a real emergency, you don't have to do too much while working.

**Cons:** You have to pay to take a course and get certified, and if you don't have the money to do this, it can be a problem. Also, if there is every an emergency, someone's life is in your hands, which is a very big responsibility. Plus, during the winter, it can be difficult to find work.



## Working at a summer camp

**Pros:** You can spend time with kids all day and do fun activities. The campers look up to you, and you can spend time with other counselors your age and meet new people. You're outdoors most of the time, and you get a lot of exercise.

**Cons:** These jobs usually pay terribly under minimum wage, and can be very tiring. Also, they are extremely time consuming, and you must make a commitment for the entire summer in order to work at almost any camp. Plus, you're out of work during the spring, winter, and fall.



## Doing Focus Groups

**Pros:** Focus groups are random meetings held by companies that gather a group of people to tell the company information about a product. You get to try out cool new products, get paid for your opinion (around \$50-\$100 just for an hour or two of your time!), and you even get paid for coming if the company ends up not needing you.

**Cons:** You need to be in

## Guides

continued from pg. 10

New additions of practical, and popular literature arrive daily. In addition to novel summaries you can find character profiles, metaphor and theme analysis, and biographies. Become a member of their e-mail list and you will be notified when new additions and major events are posted on the site.

Using this web site means taking advantage of what they claim to be, "... the premier free source for literary analysis on the web... an educational supplement for better understanding of classic and contemporary literature." Listed by title, and then again by author, this web site doesn't have the largest collection of novels, but it maintains a quality list with detailed information on each book.

Students know that a good study guide can get them through a novel, of the fifty students polled thirty-two admitted to using study guides, but thirteen of those confessed to not reading the book in conjunction to the guides. Of the thirty-two students who used online guides forty used spark notes, and thirty-seven used Pink Monkey, and only

contact with a focus group agency or have connections in order to get on the focus group list, and appropriate focus groups don't come up very often. At best, you might get a focus group every other month or so.



## House-sitting

**Pros:** You get paid a lot, there are few things to actually do, and you can spend time in the house. It's a nice side job to have, because you can sometimes work another job while house-sitting.

**Cons:** People trust you with their home, so you need to be careful and respect it. This means being responsible and not breaking anything, and making sure to keep up with the chores they ask you to do (like taking care of plants, pets, cleaning, and picking up mail).



## Random summer jobs (pool club staff, beach life guarding, etc.)

**Pros:** You find something to do with all your spare

twenty-two used alternate sources (numbers seem large because students often used more than one guide). "Of course I use study guides. They give me an edge. When I finish reading a book its helpful to look back on the notes, not only to remind me of plot earlier in the novel, but to explain and help me analyze themes," said one anonymous student.

It could happen that you can't find the novel your looking for on one of these three web sites. If that's the case why not go to you're favorite search engine and click in a key word like "book notes" or "a summary of Hamlet"? Something's bound to come up. But if all else fails remember to take it slow and concentrate as best as you can when reading, because though they can be helpful they should not become a necessity. Don't rely too fully on them because they do not have all of the answers, those can only be found within the pages of the book. By merely reading just the notes you are not only jeopardizing your education but you are potentially missing an incredibly rewarding literary experience.

time in the summer, and you get paid for it! With more time for a social life, you need more money to spend, so summer jobs are very convenient.

**Cons:** These jobs fill up quickly (the college kids are home during winter break claiming them, so act quickly if you want to work this summer!) and do not always pay very well, but the pay makes up for the time you spend outdoors in the summer sun. Also, you miss out on time for fun and going to the beach.

Some of these jobs are hard to come by, so if you're planning on looking for work, start looking now! Retail stores always have applications available, and summer jobs have openings even this early in the year. Talk to your neighbors about house-sitting and babysitting, and as for mooching off your parents- good luck.

Just remember, when searching for a way to make money, the only way to do it is to be persistent. Fill out applications, talk to managers, and keep looking! Money is out there, and you can find it.

# An Old Broadway Hit With a New Twist

Rachel Fletcher  
Arts & Entertainment Editor

A few rainy and cold Fridays ago made for a perfect movie day. My choice this time was to see the musical-made-movie Chicago, one of my favorite Broadway plays. Although a live performance can never be topped, the movie provides a fresh take on the story set in the earlier part of the 20th century. The over the top song and dance numbers are dazzling and fun to watch even on the silver screen.

Actors Catherine Zeta-Jones, Renee Zellweger, Richard Gere, and the surprisingly good hip-hop song stylist turned actor, Queen Latifah bring Broadway to the screen with flair and style. The talent these actors showed, especially Richard Gere who provides his own tap dancing for the classic "Razzle Dazzle" number, has surprised many. Zellweger and Zeta-Jones have a catty, fame-crazed relationship that makes their dueling partnership work well, especially in the number

everyone who appreciates music, every dance school student, or jazz guru knows, "All That Jazz". Queen Latifah, who plays Big Momma- the warden of a high security women's prison, delivers a punch with her brassy and out-

*There is also more leeway in terms of visual affects, computer editing, and the Hollywood secret to happiness-airbrushing.*

rageous role. There are also quick, but striking appearances from actor Taye Diggs, figure skater Katerreyna Gordeava, and singer Mya that you can catch if you look behind the well done costuming and elaborate make up.

Of course there will be

the inevitable comparison of the screen actors to the Broadway actors, the setting of a big wide screened theater to the small Broadway theater, but to each his own. Some people prefer movies, others prefer live performances. There is no definite way to compare the performance of a screen actor to a Broadway actor because anyone on the screen has the benefit of multiple takes, a professional sound system and possible voice-overs, which aren't used in Chicago. There is also more leeway in terms of visual affects, computer editing, and the Hollywood secret to happiness- airbrushing. While the Hollywood pros have the luxury of these things, there is the always fresh experience of a Broadway show that has a much longer shelf life than a movie run.

Although we cannot deny the fact that seeing a show with the actors on stage right in front of you is better, Chicago the movie sheds a new light on the acclaimed play and makes it available for viewing any time you want for much less than the Broadway price.

# 45th Annual Grammy Awards

Dimitra Tzirikidis  
Staff Writer

Who will be the winner of the much-desired Grammy Awards? No one really knows, but SHS students like to think they do. There are so many types of awards that are given at the ceremony including the more popular ones like song of the year, record of the year, and best new artist. Yet there are categories that not many people know about including best polka album, best musical album for children and best historical album. This awards ceremony gives every type of music award you can think of. But for the poll given to ten SHS students, I chose the more popular awards that contain nominees that young people know more about. The awards selected were song of the year, record of the year, best new artist, and album of the year.

For the song of the year award, the nominees are Complicated (Avril Lavigne), Don't Know Why (Norah Jones), The Rising (Bruce Springsteen), A Thousand Miles (Vanessa Carlton), and Where Were You (Alan Jackson). Before asking my fellow students who they thought would win the award, I, myself, predicted

that most of the tallies would go towards Complicated. Come to find out, after tallying up the ten votes for this category, Avril Lavigne came out on top with six votes. Bruce Springsteen and Vanessa Carlton tied for second. While having a conversation with two seniors, Rachel Midi stated, "I really like Norah Jones' song and her voice is really nice but I don't think she will win the Grammy because not many people know her." Another senior, Kim Prosper agreed with Midi's statement.

The nominees for the award record of the year are, *A Thousand Miles* (Vanessa Carlton), *Without Me* (Eminem), *Don't Know Why* (Norah Jones), *Dilemma* (Nelly featuring Kelly Rowlands), and *How You Remind Me* (Nickelback). The scandalous Eminem won 80 percent of the votes from SHS students. Ten percent went to Norah Jones and the remaining ten went to Nelly.

The other award that was polled, best new artist, had an outcome that was a surprise to me. The nominees for the real Grammy are Ashanti, Michelle Branch, Norah Jones, Avril Lavigne, and the only male in this category, John Mayer. Our winner was... Drum role please. Ashanti! She came out on top with half the votes, and John Mayer was next with three votes. Michelle Branch and Avril Lavigne each finished with one tally. Senior, Sara Anderson gave her loyal vote to "Miss Sk8er girl" (Avril Lavigne).

Last but not least was album of the year, including *Home* (Dixie Chicks), *The Eminem Show* (Eminem), *Come Away With Me* (Norah Jones), *Nellyville* (Nelly), and *The Rising* (Bruce Springsteen). The not surprising winner of this category was, you guessed it, Eminem. He ended up with eight votes and left the Dixie Chicks and Springsteen with one each.

We'll see if the predictions of the SHS students come true or not. The show will be aired Sunday February 23rd- and be sure not to miss it! This is the first time a Grammy Awards show has been aired on Sunday and you can be sure that the live show will bring some excitement. Madison Square Garden in New York City will be hosting the show in its arena for the first time since 1998.



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## Mushy Valentine's Day Word Search

ANDREW DOLIAN  
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

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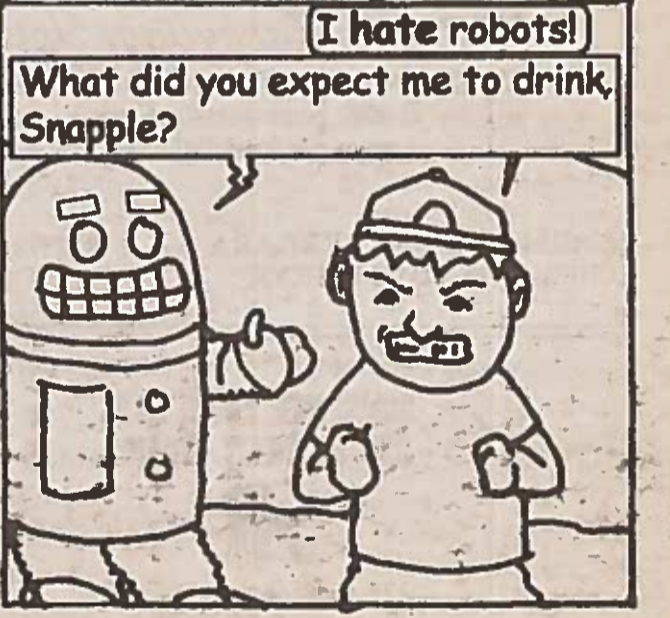
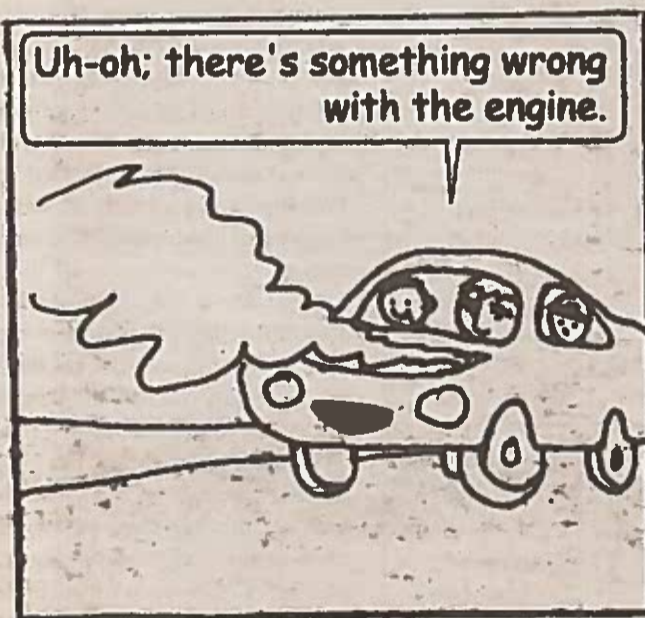
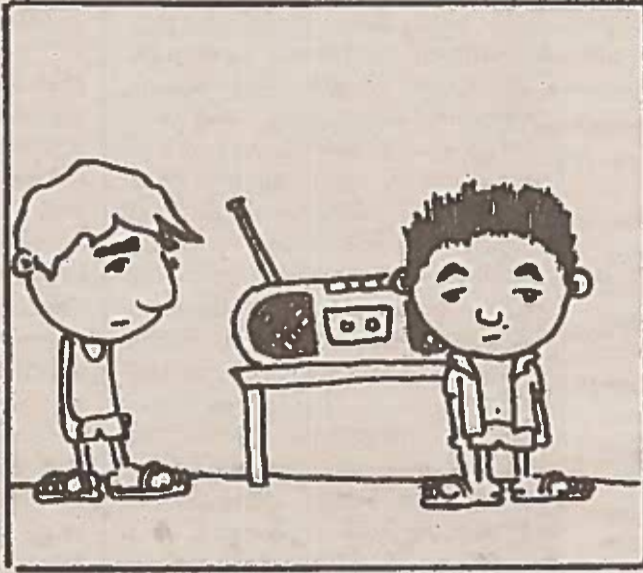
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- |                    |          |            |
|--------------------|----------|------------|
| 1) Valentine's Day | 2) Heart | 3) Arrow   |
| 4) Love            | 5) Cupid | 6) Pink    |
| 7) Candy hearts    | 8) Roses | 9) Flowers |

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# The Troubled Return of Guns n' Roses

**Christina Malozzi**  
Staff Writer

Amid cheers and with excitement in the air the legendary rock band Guns N' Roses made their comeback performance at MTV's Video Music Awards last August. They performed their hits, "Welcome to the Jungle" and "Paradise City" for an eager crowd. The band that sold millions of albums played after being on hiatus since the early nineties. The interruption was supposedly imposed to allow for the band to return with an album as good as its rock classic Appetite for Destruction. The new album, titled Chinese Democracy, is tentatively scheduled to be released in February. They also planned a tour after their appearance at the award show.

It seemed a perfect comeback for a band, which already had a large number of fans. The band's resurgence, however, is far from perfect. The first problem with the revival is that it is not the original band. Although the name is the same, the band has only one

of the original members. That one member, singer Axl Rose, also happens to be the most temperamental, which might explain why he is the only member left. The originals including Slash have been substituted by members who Rose personally picked. Although some of the new members do have talent, they cannot replace the originals in the hearts of true fans.

Another problem with a comeback lies with their album. They had originally planned for the album to be released much sooner. The release date continues to be pushed back because it is rumored not to be finished and not nearly as good as what the original band would have put out years ago.

The last problem, which has been featured on the news many times, pertains to the band's touring to promote their nonexistent album. The problems lie in their inability to fill seats at the venues at which they were scheduled to play. This means a loss of a great deal of money. A part of that problem is in the fact that Rose has cancelled a number of the dates at which time he was

supposed to play. He canceled the opening in Vancouver because of an apparent flight delay. The crowd was angry and rioted. The police had to subdue the crowd with pepper spray. The same scene occurred some 15 shows later in which failed to show for their Philadelphia concert. The fans trashed the arena, tearing up seats and throwing them. The riot was quelled but not before several people were hospitalized. Rose failed to show up for another show in Philadelphia, again causing a near-riot. These happenings prompted the cancellation of the remaining shows on the tour.

All of these problems have caused innumerable setbacks in Guns N' Roses's attempt at a successful comeback. For a short while it seemed that a great band of the past might have been returning to the current music scene. Now it seems a better idea for fans to pull out an album that was recorded before most of the original members left, as opposed to being disappointed by what at best is likely to be a mediocre comeback. Stick with the original; it's always the best bet.

# Is This TV Reality?

**Randy Miller**  
Features Editor

Sir Paul McCartney once said, "Money can't buy me love." Well he was right, for the most part. These days money still can't buy love, but it can get you homes, cars, clothes and, apparently, if you have enough money, a relationship. Out to prove this point is the latest installment of reality television "Joe Millionaire." For those of you who haven't seen the promotions, Fox has billed this as "... a show with a twist... that's really twisted." The network promotes the series by posing the question, "Can true love survive a little fifty million dollar lie?"

First premiered on Monday, January sixth, the show chronicles the adventures of an alleged recipient of a hefty inheritance, Evan Marriot, in his pursuit of a bride. The catch? Evan is not a millionaire, but rather a construction worker earning a mere nineteen thousand dollars a year. The chateau is not his chateau, the butler is not his butler, the last name isn't even his last name. It's all a sham, an elaborate plot to settle a long time debate about the importance of money in a relationship. At the end of the month long charade Evan will propose to the bachelorette of his choice and expose the truth. The question on most peoples' minds is not who will he pick, but how will she react? Are women really as shallow as network execs hope or will the woman be able to see past the money and stand by the man she fell in love with?

Fox has done it again; audiences are hooked to this despicable, brutal, catty, and addictive installment of reality TV. Women, and men, all over the world are tuning in to catch the "ladies" on the show behaving badly, and to watch the "millionaire" squirm. As Senior Molly Moore put it simply, "It's funny." Her classmate, Kerri Donner shared in her enthusiasm,

"I can't wait to see the last episode." Donner is referring to the point at which the secret will be revealed, and when, in Senior Sarita Dan's words, "That girl is going to look so stupid. She's going to look like a fool, because not only was she deceived on national television, but if she gets mad she'll look like a 'gold-digger'."

Even opponents of the show can't help but watch this train wreck in progress. "It's messed up," said Lauren Campfield, a senior, with a smile on her face, a smirk that acknowledged her viewership. Senior Alex Flagg, admittedly a feminist, noted, "It's a complete blow to American Consumerism... but he's pretty hot." Which raises the question, how importance is appearance? Evan is dirt poor and has a blue-collar job in construction, "He's pretty good looking," acknowledged Dan. "Sure the money helps, it makes him a little more attractive. But," she added, "I wouldn't say that it makes that much of a difference." Most other students were hesitant to admit that the money added to the intrigue but some openly confessed their honest opinion, "It's nice to have money. What's better, a hot guy without money, or a hot guy who's also rich?" asked Senior Elaine Tourmas rhetorically.

So over the next few weeks America will be watching to see the fate of this 28-year-old construction worker. "The bottom line is," added Senior Felicia Kovacs, "that he is lying to these girls. Maybe they would have liked him in the first place, but I wouldn't blame them for being mad after the fact. There is a huge difference between \$19,000 and \$50,000,000."

Whether the woman stays with him or bids him adieu, people will tune in weekly, anticipating that final decision, the inevitable outcome that will either support or refute longtime suspicions that money can buy you love.

## A Remniscent Look at Childhood Television

### Top 10 Shows of the 1990s

**Rachel Fletcher**  
Arts and Entertainment Editor

Waking up on a Saturday morning at the crack of dawn. Coming home from school. At 7:30, just before bedtime. After a long soccer game and a bath. If you were ever a typical kid, you would have quickly picked up that these aforementioned time slots were prime television viewing opportunities as a young kid. As a child, since your independence was still pretty limited, those precious TV times allotted a little freedom - after all, while you were rotting your brain in front of the TV for 30 minutes at a time, mom could do laundry and her exercise tapes and get off your back. We weren't spoiled as a generation, we didn't have the Cartoon Network that plays great cartoons all day long- we had to memorize what time our favorite shows would be on Nickelodeon, or the Disney Channel, or ABC. As for

- |                                      |
|--------------------------------------|
| <b>Daniel Maimon</b><br>Staff Writer |
| 10. The Adventures of Pete and Pete  |
| 9. Doug                              |
| 8. Step By Step                      |
| 7. The Cosby Show                    |
| 6. Saved By the bell                 |
| 5. Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles      |
| 4. Boy Meets World                   |
| 3. Full House                        |
| 2. Family Matters                    |
| 1. The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air       |

what you were watching, it is safe to say that at least one of your favorite shows is likely to pop up on our list of Top Ten Television Shows of the 1990's.

The nights you begged and

pleaded with your parents for just ten more minutes of indulgence, just until the episode was over, are probably still fresh in your mind. The days you heard of the cancellations, and the kids getting too old to play their parts will most likely still break your heart. And for these great shows, who could ever forget them? Certainly not Senior Dan Maimon, who compiled the list, and still claims "They just don't make TV like they used to any more." As we get older, it is essential to never forget what keeps us young. If you're lucky, it is possible that you might just catch an acclaimed, but all too rare rerun on a less trafficked network.

Once and for all, here are those shows of our childhood commemorated on the pages of our Round Table. Cherish them. Buy the box sets and give them to your kids when the time arrives. Do whatever it is you can do to keep the memory of these shows alive for generations to come.



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# Knight Hockey Team Dominates the Ice

**Daniel Malmon**  
Staff Writer

The Stamford High School Boys Ice Hockey Team has always had moderately successful seasons. Last year they finished at 12-11. They were slightly disappointed at this record, so they trained hard before this season started, and it is clear that we are watching a much better hockey team this year. So far this season, the team stands at an exceptional 12-1, and it looks like the season is getting even better. What is it about this season that makes it so much better than last season?

Assistant captain Jeff Morganteen says, "We're playing more as a team this year and everything is coming together better."

"We step it up when we play the good teams. We have a lot more comradery and chemistry on the ice," said team Captain Doug Engler. "Also, we owe a lot to our two goalies, Tom Dominic and James Arpaio. They have been playing well

every game."

Of course since the team is doing much better this year, it has drawn more Stamford High School fans to Terry Conners Ice Rink whenever the team has a home game. "I enjoy going to the hockey games because our team actually wins," said Senior Tim Nusbaum.

"I enjoy the hockey games because we are so close to the exhilarating action, and the atmosphere is fun," said Senior Lauren Campfield.

"We really like to see a lot more fans at the games, it is much appreciated, and it boosts our morale," said Engler.

If the season keeps on going the way it has been, this means that the team will have a good chance at competing for the FCIAC or state championships. "We are expecting to be one of the top teams in the state and we hope to be contenders for the FCIAC and state tournament," said assistant captain Morganteen.

Recently, the Black Knights achieved a great victory against the Greenwich Cardinals, 5-1.

This was a great milestone in this season, because the Knights haven't beaten Greenwich in over twenty years. Currently, Stamford is ranked number seven in Division 1 by two major polls, one is Hartford the other in New Haven.

Led by head coach Roger Haggerty, the guys are kept working hard, and playing well. He makes sure that he has dedicated members by holding practices in the early morning hours at Terry Conners. It's pretty tough waking up at 4:30 in the morning to go to hockey practice, and then to school, but it seems to be working, because they are playing better than ever. Many players claim that the practice may be very hard and tiresome, but the breakfast at Rinaldi's afterward makes it all better.

In the weeks to come, the Knights will face the Darien Blue Wave. This is another loss they hope to avenge from the previous season. The team shows that they are going into this game feeling confident and ready to place another victory under their belts.

# Darline Auguste Makes Impact as Female Wrestler

**Rachel Fletcher**  
Arts and Entertainment Editor

When you picture a wrestler you normally see a big guy, all sweaty, with the little outfit and ear piece, right? When imagining this, does the image in your head ever change to that of a girl? That's all about to change here at Stamford High with its newest addition to the wrestling team, Junior Darline Auguste. Here is my interview with the star herself.

**ROUND TABLE:** Did you have any apprehensions before joining the team?

**Darline Aguste:** I was a little afraid that I would get slack for being the only girl or that they'd go easy on me. I quickly proved them wrong with my immense physical ability and

quick footwork.

**RT:** Is there anything that constitutes to a specifically prohibiting other female wrestlers?

**DA:** Not every school has a female team, but from what my teammates say, there are girls.

**RT:** What's it like, the locker room situation, etc.?

**DA:** It's mad fun! Watching guys roll around in tights, I just don't see a problem. It's a win-win situation. Know what I mean? Unfortunately I haven't been in the locker room yet, but I'm working on it.

(We shared a laugh)

**RT:** Uniforms?

**DA:** They're tight and bright orange! A definite fashion no-no, but, whatever.



Photo by T. Nusbaum  
Junior Darline Auguste, Stamford High's first female wrestler.

**RT:** How do your counterparts treat you?

**DA:** At first they went easy, but after I slammed a couple of them, they quickly realized I was a force to be reckoned with! I've made new friends, and admirers, and hopefully I've earned their respect.

# Local star and National Champion visits SHS

**Shaun Reilly**  
Staff Writer

Rashamel Jones, a home-grown star basketball player from Trinity Catholic who played for the University of Connecticut, visited Stamford High recently to talk to students in Ms. Kenna's Sports Literature class. Jones played from 1991-1995 at Trinity and from 1995-1999 as part of a National Championship team at UConn. Every day during high school he took an hour train ride to Trinity from his hometown of Mount Vernon, New York to pursue his basketball and educational dreams. He was one of the better players ever in any of the Stamford schools scoring a career 2,301 points. He was an all-state player his last three years and in 1994-95 was selected as both the Connecticut Player of the Year and the New England Player of the Year. That season he averaged 27 points, 10 rebounds, 5 steals and 3 assists a game.

Coming out of high school Jones was heavily recruited, but as he said "Connecticut was just the right fit." In his four years he scored a total 857 points and started as a sophomore averaging 13 points per game. He was the Co-Captain for his last three years with Guard Ricky Moore at UConn. After UConn he didn't get to the NBA, but did play professional over-seas.

The following interview was conducted in Ms. Kenna's Sports Literature class.

**ROUND TABLE:** When you went to college did you really think you could make it to the NBA?

**Rashamel Jones-** I always dreamed that I would get to play professional, and prepared and worked as hard as I could, but when I didn't I know I couldn't do any more.

**RT:** Why did you chose to go to UCONN?

**RJ-** They showed a lot of interest in me and would go to everyone

of my games, plus Coach Calhoun would call my house a lot. It was a great fit.

**RT:** How did it feel to win the National Championship against Duke?

**RJ-** It felt great, unreal. The night before on ESPN the showed Duke fans making National Championship shirts and we felt totally disrespected.

**RT:** Where was the toughest place to play in college?

**RJ-** Madison Square Garden because it is an NBA court and the rims are tough to shoot on and the backdrop is much different then in college.

**RT:** What did the team do for pregame?

**RJ-** We would relax and do a little shoot around. If we had a home game we would be in a hotel the night before so we were away from campus. We always ate well and we felt like every game was our last.

**RT:** What do you think of high school players going straight to the NBA?

**RJ-** I think that if they are good enough they should be able to go. I wouldn't stop anyone after the success of Kobe Bryant, Tracy McGrady and all the other players.

In conclusion, Rasamel had a great impact on the class. What he talked about was very true and realistic and everyone in the class learned a lot about life, college, and him personally. Finally, and most importantly, Rashamel now works in Stamford at Child Care Learning Centers as a fatherhood coordinator. This means that he goes around and tries to get estranged fathers involved in their children's lives. His basketball career ended because of a knee injury he suffered in Australia. That was a tough break, but it opened him to new things which he enjoys doing now.

# Boys' Basketball Team One Of Top 10 Teams In The State

**Andrew Dolan**  
Associate Sports Editor

As we step into the season Stamford High's very own high school basketball team has made it into the top 10 list in the state. At one point up to #6 but has dropped to #8 with recent loss to Central High.

Senior captain Jared Ashe said, "We're looking really well and were starting to play together as a team."

With win against Darien on Tuesday Jan 28st., Stamford High improves their record to an 11-1.

Senior Andre Brown said, "It's been tough not being completely healthy but once I'm 100% the team and I will be unstoppable."

Coach Moriarty has been starting senior Jared Ashe, sophomore AJ Stevens, junior Brenton Brown, junior Job Casimir, and Westhill transfer Justin Seaton. While Stevens has been dominating the boards averaging around 13 a game. Jared Ashe has stepped up in the

point guard position and has picked up his defense recovering more than a few steals a game.

With all these positive attributes Stamford still has some problems that they must solve if they want to win this year's FCIAC championships at Sacred Heart. One problem is that, people have been questioning Stamford High's depth. In some games only 6 players received playing minutes. One other problem appears to be whether or not

Stamford's top players can stay healthy or academically eligible throughout the course of the year. Last year a couple of Stamford's players had to sit out the last 6 games of the season and the tournaments. A final problem is that, it looks as if Stamford High was going to blow out McMahon on Saturday Jan.4th, but in fact blew a 20 pt lead and managed to hold on by only 4.

As Stamford went up to Central High on the 17th, both teams top in the league with a record of 8-0. Stamford High got down early but managed to come

back late in the fourth quarter. They had a chance to win the game but the shots didn't fall from Jared Ashe and Andre Brown. Stamford dealt with their first loss 77-76 to Central.

Stamford High had to bounce back from their first loss of the season to play city rival Westhill. Stamford had no problem beating Westhill 70-41.

About the past problem, Senior Andre Brown said, "We have to keep up our intensity and we just slacked off a little and we were lucky. In the future we can't afford to do that against a better ball club or they will make us pay for it."

When asked what it is like playing in Stamford's newly renovated gym, Senior Jared Ashe said, "It's so hott, we can actually invite teams to play us at home with pride and without embarrassment."

Come out and support your top ranked high school basketball team with upcoming games, at Trinity for the city championship on Feb. 4th, at home against Harding High, the 7th, and Staples on the 11th!

## Upcoming Winter Sports Events

Who	Date	Opponent	Team	Site	Time
Boys' Basketball	2/4	Trinity	F/JVV	Trinity	3:30/5:15/7
Girls' Basketball	2/4	Trinity	JVV	Stamford	3:30/5:15
Ice Hockey	2/5	Westhill	V	Terry Connors	8:00
Boys' Swimming	2/5	Danbury	V	Westhill	3:45
Wrestling	2/5	Greenwich	V	Stamford	6:00
Boys' Basketball	2/7	Harding	F/JVV	Stamford	3:30/5:15/7
Girls' Basketball	2/7	Harding	F/JVV	Harding	3:30/5:15/7
Ice Hockey	2/8	Wilton	V	Wilton	8:15
Wrestling	2/8	Trumbull	V	Trumbull	11:00
Girls' and Boys' Indoor Track FCIAC Championships	2/8	FCIAC	V	Staples	11:00/4:00



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