

The Round Table



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

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Click it or Ticket: A Policy with Benefits

Andrew Sanzo
Managing Editor

Stamford High students have just received one more motivation to buckle-up. The State of Connecticut's "Click it or Ticket" campaign just swung

"We're helping ("Click it or Ticket") out because we want to reward students for wearing their seatbelts.

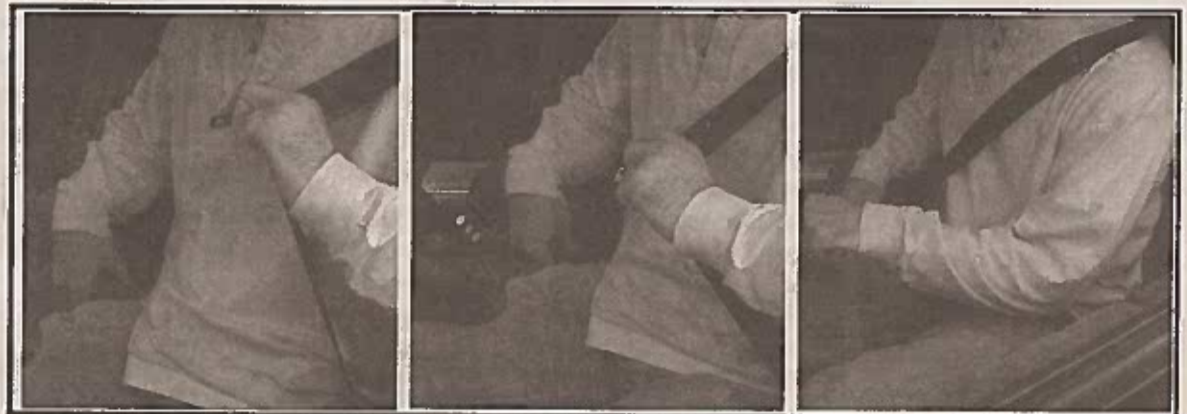
Seatbelts save thousands of lives and if a few bagels can help contribute to that it's worth it."

- Dan Blank, FBLA Pres.

into effect November 17th, and with it stricter enforcement of Connecticut's compulsory seat belt law. Drivers who are caught

without seat belts can be fined, and are also subject to penalties if their passengers don't wear their seat belts.

To encourage students to wear their seat belts, the senior student council, along with the school's Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) chapter and the Stamford police department are providing free bagels and candy to students who wear their seatbelts. Various members of the Stamford High student government, along with the Officer Baldwin, the school's resource officer, have been stationed in the parking lot rewarding students for their participation in the campaign. According to senior class president Nitesh Banta, "Lots of kids take driving school and learn the importance of wearing their seatbelts. The candy and bagels we are handing out are just a little reminder." He added, "Even if we get 10 or 15 kids to start wearing their seat belts, the program has worked."



The funding for the school's "Click it or Ticket" program comes mainly from FBLA, who provide gift certificates to Rob's Place as rewards for seat belt wearers. Said FBLA president Dan Blank, "We're helping ("Click it or Ticket") out because we want to reward students for wearing their seatbelts. Seatbelts save thousands of lives and if a few bagels can help contribute to that it's worth it."

It appears that students at the school are receiving the program well. Many are excited at the prospect of getting a free bagel

for merely "clicking it". Said senior Alex Flaig, "I wear my seat belt in the morning due to the fact that my ride is a really bad driver. To be given a \$1.00 gift certificate for something I have to do anyway is cool." A contributing factor to the overall acceptance of the program could be the fact that Officer Baldwin is expressing leniency towards offenders. Students who are not wearing their seatbelts are simply warned about the dangers of such behavior and the fine they can receive, instead of being given an actual ticket.

Although the "Click it or Ticket" campaign ends at the end of the month, organizers are hoping its affects last far longer. Said Nitesh, "Deaths related to not wearing seat belts are the number one cause of death among teens. We hope that because of this program people get into the habit of wearing their seat belts, and that a lot of these totally preventable deaths will not occur." In the meantime Nitesh & company will be waiting in the student parking lot, gift certificates in hand, spreading the safety belt gospel.

What's Inside

News	
Class Elections	Page 3
Opinion	
Bagel Blues	Page 5
Features	
BBOL	Page 7
A and E	
Musical Crime Wave	Page 9
Sports	
SJS Hockey Melts Ice	Page 12

Arts Academy Sets Its Upcoming Agenda

Rachel Fletcher
Editor in Chief

The Arts Career Academy is a class dedicated to give aspiring performance artists the knowledge and hutzpa they need to survive in what is today's entertainment industry. As part of the class, each student is responsible for hosting an event in the arts that is open to the public. This section of the paper is dedicated to the happenings and hard work of the class.

SHIP!

Chairperson: Mike Santoro
Date: December 5, 2003
Cost: \$5 Students&Seniors \$10 Adults
Imitating the form of popular

improv show *Whose Line Is It Anyway?* SHIP is always an experience that guarantees a laugh. SHIP has been running for several years, and its unscripted actors have endless amounts of energy and wit. The participants are queued with different scenarios that test their creativity and the ability to think on their feet. The results are sure to ensue fun.

Stamford Idol!

Chairpersons: Kenny Turzer, Heather Abrado
Date: December 13, 2003
Cost: \$5 Students&Seniors \$10 Adults (proceeds will go to the Drama Club's Scotland Fund)
Stamford Idol, a parody of pop culture hit *American Idol*, will fea-

ture the talents of approximately 20 singers and a handful of dancers who will perform for three judges posing as the likes of Randy, Paula, and the infamous Simon. With a brand new concept and a whole bunch of karaoke tapes, the show should prove to be both entertaining and interactive.

A Night of Dance!

Chairpersons: Kelsey Emmett, Rachel Fletcher
Date: February 7, 2004

It's third year running, *A Night of Dance* has previously been successful in packing the theater and keeping the audience on their toes. The show features dancing and music from all around the world and draws attention not only from Stamford High Students but pro-

fessional companies from the area as well. **CHOREOGRAPHERS AND DANCERS WILL BE ACCEPTED UNTIL DECEMBER 7th!** To participate in the show, listen for announcements on meeting times and check the school for flyers.

Senior Scenes!

Chairperson: Rob Rosado
Date: January 9&10, 2004

Senior Scenes, a traditional event in the drama department, showcases the directing talent and skill of the seniors who chose a scene, select underclassmen actors, and run the show. Not only do the directors and actors vary, but some are comedies, others serious dramas, and some always leave the genre in question.

The Round Table

Founded in 1957

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Kettia Dolcine, *News Editor*

Jenny Hopkinson, *Opinions Editor*

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Tanev, Daniel Todd, Harry Tournas

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Mr. P. O'Connor, *Faculty Advisor*

The Round Table is published approximately 6 times a year by the Communication and Journalism classes at Stamford High School.

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.

Our View

Hope is not lost; there are still a few things for which to be thankful.

With our sons and husbands, wives and daughters at war in a foreign country, with corporate scandals raging, with poverty and unemployment soaring, and with our economy in a currently uneasy state, it may not seem as though there is much for us to be thankful for as this holiday season approaches.

In recent news we have seen stories that demonstrate human nature at its worst; a husband's gun killing a wife, children asininely starved and neglected by those who elected to love them, a leisurely day trip in the New York Harbor turned fatal, and alleged statutory rapes and molestations flooding the media- to name a few.

It is easy to forget what is good in life when there are so many negative issues seemingly overshadowing the positives, and this is especially the case when we are also supposed to be grateful for our self proclaimed "advantaged" lifestyles. The simple things of life, the leaves changing color, chilling air allowing us to watch our breath form clouds of mist, and the crisp, clean smell of approaching winter, tend to lose their seasonal, essential beauty when our focus turns elsewhere and are occupied by such ugliness.

However, this is not the case. In America we have the right to be unhappy. Not only that, but we also have the right to be unhappy and say something about it without having to worry about the consequences. America's promise is that each of its citizens has a voice and a stage on which to use it. In America too, we are free to celebrate however we wish, and that in itself is something to be thankful for.

The thing to remember is that we have the option and the voice to challenge what we feel is holding us down. We, as citizens, also have the opportunity and the ability to reach out and to help those who are less fortunate. If it seems too difficult to enjoy the holiday as one might normally be expected to in the light of current events, turn to helping others and making their holidays more enjoyable as your relief.

Letters to the Editor

To the Editor:

I want to thank the staff of the Round Table for doing an article on how budget/staffing cuts have created the current situation in the library, but I would also like to clear up a few errors that were made in the piece. First, the library does not have a "no talking" policy. We have never had a "no talking" policy and never will. Yes, we ask students not to be disruptive and to be considerate of others doing schoolwork, but we also realize that sharing information is important to the learning process.

As to the staffing in the media center, the two positions that were cut from the library for school year 2003-

04 are educational assistant positions, not media specialist positions. The SHS library has had for quite some time now, and still does have, two library media specialists on the staff. (That would be me, Mrs. Isler, and Mrs. Nurick.) To be a school library media specialist you should have a Masters in Library Science as well as your teaching certification. Educational assistants work in the library as our support staff.

I also think students should know that the book budget was not just "drastically reduced." It was eliminated, completely. At this early point in the budget process for school year 2004-05, it appears to have been

restored.

Although some students may not be "sad" that the media center has had to reduce its services to the school community, we on the staff are very sad about it. We enjoy serving those who make up the SHS community and very much miss being as involved in the learning process as we have been in the past. Hopefully this is a temporary situation and things will get back to normal ASAP. Mrs. Koroshetz, Mr. Lutterman, and the entire media center staff are working very hard to ensure that this happens.

Jean Isler

Head of Media

CORRECTIONS: The Round Table carried a story on the effects of the budget reductions ("Cuts Close Book On Library For Now," Pg. 3) in the first issue which, due to editorial oversight contained 2 errors in fact. The article stated that the library was quieter now because of the "...library's no talking policy." The library has never had such a policy, though they do request that patrons do take into consideration the needs of others for relative quiet. The article also indicated that two of the positions lost to the reduction were "media specialists" when in fact they were educational assistant positions which have different job descriptions and do not require state certification. The Round Table regrets the errors and will make every effort to eliminate such in the future. Please see the "Letters to the Editor," for further commentary on the topic.

Class Elections : What Are they Really About??

Natalia Senatore
Staff Writer

Every year the halls become littered with signs. Some are corny, some are funny, and others are just plain weird and you know what that means...election time.

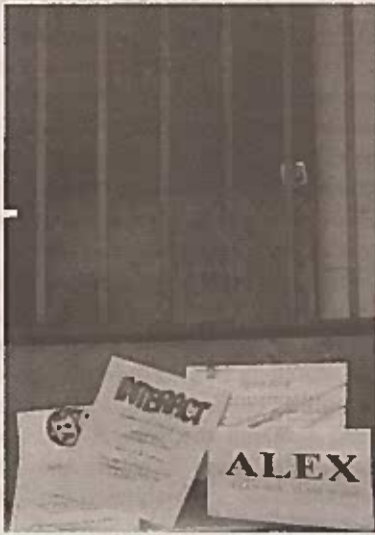
With the exception of the senior class elections, which are held at the end of junior year, elections are generally done sometime in the second month of school. Many students say these are just popularity contests, others believe that the class officers really have no power and now all the questions will finally be answered.

It has seemed in years past that all there is to being a class officer is being popular, maybe give out some candy and make catchy signs but that is not what it's all about. A class officer needs to be dedicated; being a class

officer is work, a class officer must really care and want to help the class and finally a class officer has to know their boundaries.

A senior girl who wishes to remain anonymous said, "I used to think that it was all a popularity contest until elections for [the senior] class because Nitesh isn't all that popular with the kids...and Danny, Claire, and all of them are popular but Nitesh beat them. Our class has proven to choose which candidates are best for the position, not who's the most popular because that's definitely not the case and it turned out well." As for the other classes...freshman

Liam McManus says, "I think it's sort of a popularity contest, you vote for the same person all your friends do and I don't think that they have much, if any, power. None for things they want like the hat thing, that's not going to change, no matter how many peo-



ple write letters or whatever, but a little for things that can just be improved that already exist."

Another thing a candidate needs is a good speech. Usually these consist of ways they plan to fundraise money towards prom and other things for the class. However, especially as of late, promises are being offered that might not necessarily happen. Can a student officer really have the power to change the dress code, hold more dances, or change the cafeteria food? Dr. Intreri, head of school activities, had the answer. "Here at

Stamford High, we believe that the kids, any of the students in fact, have the power to do anything if they follow the right process. If they approach an administrator and are prepared to discuss the situation we are willing to work together to do something." This doesn't necessarily mean that every weekend will become three days long just because we all agree that we want it, it does, however, mean that what's best for the school, the students and teachers, with the approval and support of the parents, will almost always happen.

Mazzullo's Position Up in Arms

Jenny Magyari
Staff Writer

This past September the Stamford Board of Education, in a 5-4 decision, voted not to extend the contract of Superintendent Anthony Mazzullo. The recent elections have many questioning, however, if this decision will last.

The renewal of the Superintendent's contract was voted down by Democrats Susan Nabel, Gail Okun, Chiquita Stephenson, Martin Levine and Dudley N. Williams. Republicans Nicola Tarzia, Rosanne McManus, and Kim Olds, and Democrat Thomas Hickey supported the renewal of the contract.

Superintendent Mazzullo has been criticized for showing little improvement in helping to reduce the achievement gap, low standardized test scores, and overseeing the budget deficit, and has been praised for his role in the progress

made with the school bus system and in the agreement reached with Stamford teachers in which they received a substantial raise.

The meeting concerning the renewal of the Superintendent's contract was open to the public at the request of Mazzullo. The large room in the Government Center was full of teachers, parents, and students from the Stamford School System. It was clear that Mazzullo had overwhelming support from the majority of teachers, who applauded him enthusiastically. The recent election, however, may show that he could have had support from parents as well.

In the election, three of the nine seats on the Board of Education were open. Board member Gail Okun did not seek re-election, leaving one seat open for a newcomer. Candidates for re-election Nicola Tarzia and Susan Nabel, along with several newcomers like Angela Lorenti and Conway seemed to take a firm stance on the

extension of Mazzullo's contract, and the Republican candidates in particular made it a large issue of their platform. Candidate Julie Baskin Brooks decided not to take a stance on Mazzullo's contract. Republican supporters of the extension, Tarzia, Lorenti and Conway, were quite vocal in their campaign and openly showed their support for the Superintendent.

Tarzia and Nabel were re-elected to the Board and new-comer Lorenti will take her seat next month. With the addition of Lorenti to the Board in place of Okun, the supporters of the move to extend Mazzullo's contract appear to outnumber those who voted 5-4 against it, assuming that members do not change their votes.

What does this all mean? Perhaps that a new decision regarding the extension of the Superintendent's contract could be reached within the next few months.

AND THE WINNERS ARE...


Senior Class
President- Nitesh Banta
Vice President- Darline Auguste
Secretary - Christina Mandarino
Treasurer- Shiv Prakash
Historian- Kettia Dolcine

Junior Class
President- Erica Virvo

Vice President - Harrison Abromowitz
Secretary - Kelsey Murphy
Treasurer - Dana Capitelli
Sophomore Class
President - Nick Lamanto
Vice President - Kristen Calendrelli
Secretary - Stella Kim
Treasurer - Joseph Barber

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Sophomore Class
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*Freshman results not available by publication time.




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Student Government Doesn't get the Real Vote

Andrew Sanzo
Managing Editor

I will spare all the preachy nonsense about how student council elections are just popularity contests. They are, but so are all elections. Be it the presidential race or the mayoral election in Paducah, Kentucky, people simply are not going to vote for someone they don't know, or someone they don't like. Secondly, I'm not against the idea of a student government. Far from it, I believe that a school should have a large and active student governing organization. No the problem with student councils—specifically the “student council” in this school—is that these so-called “student councils” are not really student councils at all.

A student council, in its purest form, is a group of students elected by their peers, who act as partners with the administration in

policy-making. It is supposed to represent the interests of the student body, and influence the administration against issuing rules or policies that adversely affect the educational experience of the their students. This is the case at many colleges and universities throughout the country, as well as many high schools. This type of student government is a great thing, and an integral part of any great academic institution. It makes students feel involved, as if they have a say in what goes on in their school. Every school should have a strong and active student council.

Unfortunately we don't. We don't have student government and we definitely do not have a real student council. What we have instead is a glorified fundraising committee, comprised mainly of overly ambitious students who feel the title of “Class Treasurer” or “Student Council President” will pad their resumes

and college applications nicely. That isn't to say that some people on the council don't genuinely care about our school. There are students who run for office in the hope that they will somehow better their class. Some of these people even get elected. It is not long, however, before these students realize that their attempts to change the school are futile.

I do not fault the council for its complete lack of power and its inability to change anything. Instead I blame the school, and more to the point I blame the administration. For years the Stamford High student council has been a mere puppet of the administration, given little more than symbolic powers. As it stands now the main duties of the council are to raise funds and promote school spirit. This is wonderful if Pajama Day is the highlight of your year, and if you live and die by the price of prom tickets. But if you want a student council that

will talk to the administration and the Board of Education about things that are actually important, things that are actually worth caring about (the dress code, overcrowding in the cafeteria, the draconian absence and tardy policy, etc.) you are out of luck.

Our student council derives its power from the administration, not the students, in the same fashion that the Duma derived its power from the czar in imperial Russia, and parliaments derived their power from absolutist kings in medieval Europe. The council cannot affect policy or voice its opposition to the decisions of the administration because it represents the administration and not the students. The students do not keep the council in existence. If Mrs. Koroshetz wanted to dissolve the student council tomorrow she would only have to say the word and some other group would have to hawk candy and hot dogs at football

games. The student council president has no more authority than you or I do to assert the student body's opinions about different issues. Because of this fact the council has absolutely no power to do anything except sell cupcakes and stage pep rallies.

This is why we should get rid of the student council. Or at the very least give it a different name, a title more representative of what it is, like “prom committee” or something to this nature. Calling our present assemblage of class officers and representatives a student council is not only a total misnomer, it is a lie. It is a lie perpetrated by this school to give students some hope that their opinions matter to the administration, that maybe someone is listening to them. Until the day that we can actually establish a real student government, we will just be soiling the spirit and the meaning of the words “student council”.



Jenny Hopkinson
Opinions Editor

Normally I'm not a fan of seasonally inspired articles, I feel its only fitting that I say this and spare all the unharmed souls of the potential danger lurking on their post-thnaks giving day.

Thanksgiving to many is a rather happy and amiable time of year. Families gather to eat foods that retain funny colors and sit around with aged relatives playing Pictionary or watching the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.

But I have a different view of things. Instead of embracing Thanksgiving as a time of year to enjoy the sickly sweet company of family and gain the winter fat to keep me warm in the seasonal New England snowdrifts, I live in terror of its results. Extra pounds will be lost, and relatives eventually leave, but the memory of pureed turkey is

All The Things I Wish I'd Said

one that will forever haunt my thoughts.

Certain people are dangerous around certain things. Staplers, eyeliner and duct tape can all be potential weapons in the wrong hands. A food processor in the hands of my mother is like giving a toddler a jumbo crayon and saying write on the walls; the result will be a hideous mess, but one must smile to hide grinding teeth and declare it a masterpiece.

Its not so much thanks giving that is the problem. My mother is an excellent cook, as long as she sticks to traditional recipes, it's when she gets creative that things go array. Hence for thanks giving, and Christmas as well— I hold the same terror for this event—there is no shortage in the Hopkinson household of good food.

Unfortunately, there is no shortage of leftovers either. In fact we could build our own ginger bread inspired thanks giving house with what remains of our feast - turkey walls and roof held together with mashed potatoes, a green bean lawn, a cranberry sauce chimney and the skin off of the gravy as lattice delicately adorning the roof.

But rather than put the discards of our meal to a good use, such as a

reinvention of a holiday favorite, my mother turns to her beloved food processor. For the rest of the year, this machine seems so benevolent and kind, content to live in the shadow of the other kitchen appliances. It lies as a passive beast as the blender produces chilly smoothies to ease the summer heat, and toaster toasts the breakfast of champions, only to rear its ugly head during what some consider

“the most wonderful time of the year.”

As I have said before, God, or some higher being, did not intend turkey to be pureed. Nor did he intend for turkey to be pureed with potatoes and beans and squash soup to create what can only be described as a non-descript colour that my mother deems edible.

But I suppose that this sloppy mix could have its uses. I often thought

that its soft green completion would make a nice paint color for some dimly lit room in to which no one need enter, or perhaps a great fertilizer from which roses will eventually bloom.

So perhaps my post-thnaks giving slop will come out the other end of me smelling like roses as well; just something to keep in mind so that I can endure the terror that the holidays bring.

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Recruitment in Sports Makes Practice of Unfairness

Bobby Tournas
Staff Writer

The Fairfield County Interscholastic Athletic Conference (FCIAC) is arguably the most competitive high school athletic league in Connecticut. The FCIAC has brought State Champions in almost every sport over the years. Despite its success, there have been many disputes as to whether or not Catholic/Private Schools such as Trinity Catholic, here in Stamford, and St. Joseph's of Trumbull, should be allowed to stay in the conference. The problem with schools such as these is that they are able to recruit student athletes while public schools cannot. Recruiting enables these schools to have the best athletes in the area. Is this practice fair or just part of the game?

A prime example of schools using recruiting to their advantage is in basketball. Trinity Catholic is known for targeting the best basketball players in Stamford and the surrounding area in hopes of winning the FCIAC and State Championships. The question is, is this fair? If not, how can it be stopped? The reason that few people have confronted this issue is because schools like Trinity do not recruit for every sport and subsequently do not excel at every sport. The fact is, though, that there are no rules stopping them.

Recruiting is unfair to the public schools in the conference. If Trinity did not recruit, there is a strong possibility that Stamford would be FCIAC champions in boys basketball and possibly other sports. Trinity is known for recruiting for their hockey and baseball teams as well.

But recruiting does not guarantee victories. Stamford High soccer player Steve Magyari commented, "Even though Trinity recruits

Recruiting enables these schools (Trinity Catholic and St. Josephs) to have the best athletes in the area. Is this practice fair or just part of the game?

for soccer, not enough kids go over there to play so they are overpowered by public schools."

An alternative is to move Trinity and St. Josephs to the FAA (Fairchester Athletic Conference) with other private schools such as King Low Heywood Thomas and St. Luke's. In this conference there are no rules prohibiting recruiting. Removing these schools would result in a competitive balance in the FCIAC.

An Increase in Green Leads to Student Body Bagel Blues

Natalie Savona
Staff Writer

The first day of school started off as usual. My schedule was fine, my teachers were all right and it was nice to see the widely diverse Stamford high population at the beginning of my final year. Everything was going smoothly, until I reached the cafeteria.

I was looking forward to my full twenty minutes in which I wouldn't have to fill out index cards with useless information, and smiled with relish as I got in line to buy my usual lunch-

The Opposition to removing Trinity and St. Josephs from the FCIAC believes that many rivalries will diminish such as Stamford high vs. Trinity, and St. Josephs vs. Trumbull high. The solution to this would be to allow them to play in, out of conference games. These games can still decide city champions like in the past, but it won't make a difference in the FCIAC race.

I believe that it is unfair for private schools to recruit because they potentially take talent away from the public schools. In conclusion private schools in the FCIAC should either not be allowed to give scholarship incentives to student athletes, or move to the FAA Conference.

bagel and cream cheese. At the front of the line, I told the lunch lady what I wanted. As I reached into my pocket to take out the single dollar that I had brought to make my purchase, something caught my eye. The register no longer read the accustomed \$1.00, instead, it brightly flashed \$1.10.

I nearly saw five different shapes.

Was this a mistake? What's going on? The lunch lady picked up on my shocked expression and curtly informed me of the 10-cent increase. WHAT? How could they do this to me?

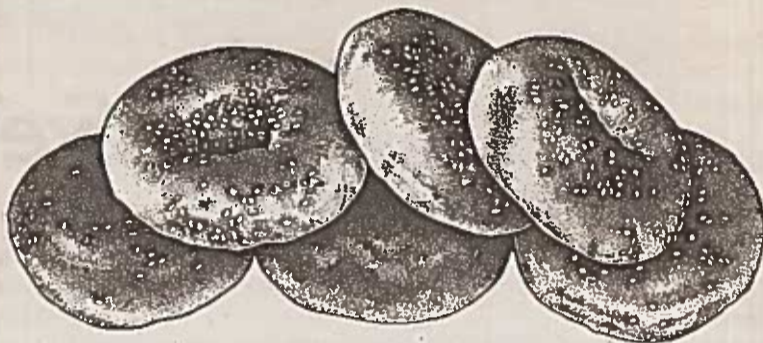
By this time I was holding up the line and the lunch lady was becoming impatient. Obviously without a decent response to my question and desperate to get me out of the line, she quickly responded "Because they can."

With this fresh in my mind, I sulked off into the lunchroom...

without my bagel. After relaying my story, my friends immediately took my side. "This is absurd," said junior Lauren Atkins. "We are already poor enough."

Curious, I calculated the average amount that a typical bagel-eating student would spend with this new increase. The result, students will have to spend about fifteen dollars more than last year. Not only will the new price add up over time, but also after paying for the bagel with two singles, we will now have to haul around a dime, nickel and three quarters for the remainder of the day.

After dwelling on the issue, I came to a conclusion. I will have to give up the varieties of sesame seed, poppy seed, onion, wheat and everything bagels that the cafeteria offers for the simple, but conveniently cheaper plain and raisin bagels in Rob's Place.



It's Tough Being UUUUGGGGGLLLLYYYY

Jenny Hopkinson
Opinions Editor

I have a chair in front of a window in my room and when I sit in the chair my feet rest upon the cool pain of the window leaving a mark. I sit and stare at that mark and come to terms with the fact that my feet are ugly. I'm ok with this fact, I mean our feet have a practical purpose and no one need see them. But still, I have to wonder what other people or even realize how hideous my feet are.

I was at my math teachers wedding a few weekends ago and her teeth were so white that they matched her dress. I wonder if

she realized this. I wonder if that was the goal intended; matching dress, matching shoes, matching teeth. Honestly, they put my teeth to shame. I could feel them shudder with jealousy as she walked down the aisle. Eventually I just stopped smiling.

One day in Physics, my friend told me I had bony ankles. Actually, the phrase she used was 'giraffe ankles'. I was immediately assured that it was a good thing. I had never noticed this before. I looked down at my ankles, and for the first time in my life thought that they were horribly mutated. It didn't help that they were connected to my ugly feet, and on the same body

as my ugly teeth. I quickly hid both my giraffe ankles and ugly feet under my desk.

This is all leading up to my point (which, by the way, has nothing to do with personal aesthetics). My feet were ugly before there was a mark on my window, my teeth were bad before my math teacher planned her outfit for her wedding, and my ankles have always been horribly mutated, but I just never noticed until these various events.

This all leads me to wonder weather anyone else notices those little imperfections that we all try so hard to hide. Last year an article was written by Randy Miller,

who, in the name of journalism, abandoned her undying fashion rules and wore the same pair of jeans for a whole week. She was convinced her friends had realized and were secretly talking about how gross she was and plotting to blow her off the social map, while in fact no one else had noticed.

No one notices others little flaws. It's one of those loopholes in life that means that we spend too much time caring about how we appear to others when they just don't care. Hence, why spend ridiculous amounts of money on clothing when know one will ever remember what you wore.

On paper I can tell you that my ugly feet and bony ankles don't bother me. And they don't until I wear sandals, or look down, or hear the word giraffe. What really bothers me though, is that people don't stare and point and laugh at my horrible deformities, this is with the exception of my friend. Personally if I have to be hideously deformed I would rather people notice and comment in discreetly loud voices as I walk past rather than living in my own personal agony of knowing the truth that no one will accept. So in the future, point out your friends particularly deformed features. Show them you care.



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Bullying: More Than an Elementary Issue

Kelly Cingari
Managing Editor

I used to go to school with a boy named John, who in 3rd grade was about 5'6. When it came time for recess, if John wasn't the first in line for the swings or slides, he would push and shove the much smaller boys in front of him until he was. Many people looked at John as the big bully of our grade. As the years went by, John's behavior became more even-keeled and eventually he became the 'nice guy' of the class. Maybe he was just going through a stage because of his age, or since he was so tall, he felt stood out drastically.

Whatever his reasoning, John realized that bullying other students was immature, and as time passed, he grew out of it. Just because John is no longer a bully doesn't mean high school students don't have to deal with bullying. Now, bullies come in all shapes and sizes; and bullying can no longer be held to the elementary definition of 'the guy bigger picking on everyone else'.

John's case might be considered the typical example of bullying, but from hearing many stories and my own experiences over the past four years, I've come to the conclusion that as both genders grow up, the girls become more 'territorial' and defensive. Without trying to generalize a whole gender, some girls tend to be possessive of friends, jobs, and even social standings. In the end, it seems a bully can most easily be characterized as a person who covets things they lack or other people possess. Whether it is power, clothes, or even a relationship with another person they see as beneficial, a bully's insecurities can result in more aggressive behavior. After this 'beef' is created, the aftermath usually escalates.

In high school, people seem to revert to one of three ways to set-

ting conflict. They fight, have a quick talk, or just drop the issue all together. Guys can run the gamut on this one, and on a daily basis can use just about any solution. Most girls on the other hand, don't want to physically fight, but have problems dropping things, so they revert to the second solution; gossiping.

Just about everyone in high school at one time or another gossips and it is become the new means of bullying. In a technologically adept age, where information can be sent at lightening



rates over the Internet, so can gossip. Programs like AOL and AIM are being used more often than not to find out who hooked up with whom, rather than who invented the light bulb. I'm in no way trying to suggest that gossip be dropped completely, it's become too much of the norm to do so, and I myself take part in it at times. However, students need to realize the harsh ramifications that some of this gossip can create.

The need for teen psychiatrists and therapy is on the rise. While positively, suicide rates are down, the production and prescription of several different drugs used for cases of depression in teens such as Prozac, Zoloft, Paxil, and Effexor, is higher than ever. "So many more drugs are out there now. Depression in teens has always been there, but I think after Columbine, everyone become more aware of the dan-

gers of being isolated from your peers or succumbing to depression. Everyone wants to make more of an effort so that people don't hurt themselves or others", according to school psychologist Mrs. Seger. In a recent TIME Magazine survey, a poll of thousands of college students showed that a whopping "45% of students said they had difficulty in functioning owing to depression at least once in the past year." The reason as to why these prescriptions of drugs have reached an all-time high cannot be attributed to one area of a teen's multifaceted and very hectic life, however bullying, in any form, is undeniably up there. "There hasn't been much research about the relationship between bullying and depression, but I'd have to say there is a correlation, absolutely. Students who feel rejected by their peers, or are picked on have very low self-esteem," said Seger.

One SHS student who chooses to remain anonymous relates the traumatic effects harassment from inflammatory statements on the computer has had in her life. "People don't realize how words can completely demoralize a person. I've been ostracized from friends and even changed extra curricular activities I've loved in order to avoid confrontations with people that spread lies on the Internet. The sad thing is that students don't seem to understand you don't have to get a black eye in order to be bullied. In fact, words can be much more damaging. I've had to seek counseling and take anti-depressants in order to deal with the pressures of this type or harassment."

The bottom line is with all the technology available to students, idle gossip becomes transformed into verbal slurs, threats to personal property or even death threats behind the so called safety of a computer screen. So, the next time you sit down at the computer and hear the familiar "You've got mail", remember you could potentially be inviting the old schoolyard bully right into your house.

Need Help With English? BBOL is Here to Help

Andrew Pramberger
Features Editor

Coming to a new country is never easy. A new language, new places and a totally new culture are factors facing students who arrive in the United States for the first time. For many Stamford High students, this is exactly what they must deal with. Approximately 27 percent of the student population was born in a foreign country. These students have the dually difficult task of getting an education and learning and adapting to their new environment. To help these students Breaking the Barriers of Language, or BBOL for short, was born.

BBOL was started in December of 2002 to help foreign-born students work on con-

versational English in a relaxed environment. The club was the brain-child of English teacher Mrs.

Mrs. Drugge who teaches sheltered English, among other classes. Mrs. Drugge noticed students in her class were uncomfortable speaking English. Her idea was to

create an opportunity for students to speak without pressure with students who are fluent English speakers. After a year of organization and planning, BBOL finally started to meet after school in room 219 on Tuesdays.

"The first meeting was really exciting," recalls Diana Tucci, club president and founding member. "It marked the beginning of a new idea set in motion. We started small but are growing and would like to invite anyone interested in the club to come to our Tuesday meetings."

During the weekly meetings, students practice their conversational English skills. Ice-breaking activities such as cards are provided. The students create a friendly, peer environment that escapes pressures that a classroom might create. Students are welcome to stop in on any Tuesday to see



Photo by Andrew Pramberger

Students in BBOL practicing English

what is going on. Lists of ESL student attendance are also taken distributed to English teachers for possible extra credit.

BBOL is also looking for English speakers to help with the program. Questions about the club are welcome, and can be sent to the club email address, SHSBOL@hotmail.com.

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Car of the Month

Sara French's 1995 Nissan Quest

Jack Meltzer
Staff Writer

You can always tell which car is senior Sara French's, because it's the hideous mini van in the middle of the parking lot. She tries to hide the van amongst other nice cars but it doesn't work. You can spot this dark gray beast from a mile away. It's the car with a two-year-old faded hula girl on the dashboard. If you've ever seen her car you might think "Wow, at least she has tinted windows," but this so called "tint" is actually a layer of old dust and grime that has been accumulating on the windows since 1995.

Sara's 1995 Nissan Quest originally belonged to her dad, who then gave it to her as a special present. At the time, the car was bought it was worth about 20,000 dollars; eight years later it's worth about 2,000 dollars.

You may know Sara French as a funny, quirky girl, but there is nothing funny about the engine of this car. It's a six-cylinder engine that overheats almost every time it's started and the engine has had to be jump started four times because she left the lights on. Friend and fellow Senior Kelsey Emmett recalls one experience that she had with the

van. "One time when we were coming back late at night, the car suddenly overheated, and we had to stop every five minutes and let it cool down. Eventually, it died so we had to get out and push it all the way back to Sara's house which was like half a mile away."

The farthest place Sara has taken the car is Florida and that's as far as she plans to take it. She doesn't want to push her luck and have it break down again.

Sara's 1995 Nissan Quest is a primitive mini van compared to the ones out there today. It only has one sliding door, and there is no CD player, instead Sara hooked up a Discman, and runs it through the tape deck. Sara's favorite part of the car is her homemade security system: gypsy scarves on the back of the headrests so it looks like there are people in the car.

The van didn't have a name back when her dad owned it, but as soon as she got it, Sara named it Eduardo. When asked how she came up with the name she simply said, "It looks like an Eduardo, so I named it that." Eduardo is a gas-guzzler, as it takes a whopping \$32.00 to fill up the tank, but to the 11 people that have been in her car at once, it's worth every penny.



Photo by Rachel Fletcher
Sara French's 1995 Nissan Quest "Eduardo"

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Brooke Drzyzga
Staff Writer

Embarrassing Moments

"I remember freshman year when Brian Lamonica and Dante Calabrese started to fight on the turf and Brian pantsed Dante in front of the whole stadium."

- Pat Donahue, senior

"One morning, it was very dark out and I was trying to get dressed in my room. I guess even with the lights on I couldn't exactly see what I was doing because when I got to school, I realized I was wearing two different shoes."

- Mr. Cox, math teacher

"I was talking to this really hot kid at the mall and things were going really well. Out of no where, my mom comes up to me and says "honey, you forgot your midol in the car. Gotta take care of those cramps!" then she kissed me on the cheek, pinched my butt and told me to have a good time with the "fine looking gentleman" I was talking to. The guy didn't even know what to say, so red-faced with embarrassment, he walked away."

- Erica Inland, junior

"A bunch of my friends and I all decided to go to the movies one night. I guess a lot of other people had the same idea because the place was packed. I was walking up the stairs with my popcorn in one hand and my soda in the other and I tripped and fell on the stairs. My popcorn and soda went flying into the air and came back down on me. I kind of just sat there in the middle of the mess as everyone pointed at me and laughed."

- MM, freshman

Drama Club: Edinburgh or Bust!

Samantha Blank
Business Editor

Edinburgh, Scotland, the country's capital, where one can find a castle speckled countryside, a glistening coastline, Edinburgh University and The Strawberry Hill players. Wait, does that say the Strawberry Hill Players? Yes, Stamford High's very own drama club, the Strawberry Hill Players will be in Edinburgh, Scotland this August participating in the Fringe Festival. The club was granted one of the forty American slots to the largest international theatre festival in the summer of 2004. Of the over two thousand schools are considered from all over the United States, the Strawberry Hill Players and only thirty-nine others were awarded places. As cast member Laura Sanzo puts it, "Our drama club has finally been rewarded and recognized. We now have a chance of impressing people from all over the world - an opportunity we really do deserve. We put a lot of hard work into our shows and being accepted into such a prestigious event is heartwarming."

The forty students going on the trip, actors and tech crew, are all but ecstatic. This once in a lifetime two week, twenty-four hour theatre

experience will be unforgettable. While the players are in Scotland they will perform this year's fall drama, Sophocle's Antigone four times, and when they are not performing they will be able to soak up more theatre than many people see in a life time. The festival will prove to be a non-stop chance to learn about almost every genre of theatre. Tech member Alex Hajjar reflects on the upcoming trip by saying, "[The fact that I can tell people] I went to the Fringe Festival at 16 is



something really incredible and it's going to teach me a lot, but it's a lot of commitment, A LOT."

The production is quite demanding and the commitment level is high. In fact everyone who is involved with the production signed contracts abiding by the rules set out to achieve this goal. This minor technicality doesn't seem to bother Zully Ramos, one of the seven choral women in the cast, "This will be an unexplainable trip and probably a great gift for ending my senior year. Speechless is what I am and

will be when I come back from this wonderful trip with a wonderful cast and crew."

Senior Mike Miller who plays Antigone's love Haemon had something to say about the people involved too, "I am so excited to go to Scotland and to be a part of such a wonderful cast in Antigone; this experience will forever be with me." Miller hit the nail on the head, the cast and crew are actually quite cohesive with Mr. Michael Limone directing, Mrs. Claudia Nerreau technical directing, Danielle Guerra and Tom Olesky assistant directing and Megan Jones stage-managing.

How is the club proposing to pay for their trip to the Festival with the cost of it promising to be about \$140,000? They have already begun rigorous fundraising efforts in the school and in the community. The drama club parent group is working around the clock making phone calls, bartering and pleading for donations and help from anyone who will listen. The students themselves have invented ingenious ideas of their own to rustle up the money needed to achieve this dream. So if you see a drama club member trying to sell you a cookie, or asking for a donation, help them out because it's the entirety of Stamford High that will be represented on the World's Stage.

Free Music- The New "Crime Wave"

Justin Cymbol
Arts and Entertainment Editor

The swirling sample collages and rhythmic, hard-hitting beats of Front Line Assembly's "Monument" might have me rocking out at my computer desk, but I owe it all to illegal software. Like many Americans, particularly teenagers, free music is altogether too tempting a concept for me to ignore. "Downloading music has its pros and cons. On one hand it will give artists much needed exposure, but on the other hand it can cripple the sales of larger acts," said Senior Mike Sotire. Discovery of online downloading paved the way for an introduction to a variety of music I had never even heard of before. Given the narrow range of music that ever reaches the airwaves, many bands remain "underground" and largely unknown despite their talent. Free music gives the downloader a chance to sample the material of previously unknown artists. Most people wouldn't go out and buy the Meat Puppets just because they heard Nirvana cover a few of their songs. They would want to hear some tracks first before deciding whether or not to buy. Subsequently, the thought of actually paying for a CD has quickly become laughable among the so-called "Internet generation", as music downloading services—such as the now-infamous free music pioneer Napster—have become a regular feature on anyone's desktop. In an era where music listeners have become increasingly impatient and rarely take the time to listen to an album in its entirety, the thought of downloading the singles off of an album and ignoring the rest of the tracks is tempting to many. Bands like Pink Floyd, whose heavily experimental and sometimes ambient records were appreciated in full despite their creative risks, are few and far between now. Artists will always have their core fan base, but the majority no longer have the attention span to resist hitting the skip button routinely. CD burning has allowed this "musical ADD" to flourish even further,

permitting the listener to form a CD composed exclusively of hits from any of their favorite artists. "Downloading music online should be legal because many of many of today's albums only have a few hot songs," said Junior Melanie Saunders.

These threats combined have the music industry's executives shaking feverishly. Formerly, these business men were the "bad-guys" of music; simultaneously exploiting the artists and limiting their creativity in order to keep the cash flowing. This situation began as the initial race to create a low-cost way to record and play back sound

Subsequently, the thought of actually paying for a CD has quickly become laughable among the so-called "Internet generation"

resulted in a number of competing companies. Many wound up merging forces around the turn of the 20th century, forming a stronghold that for the most part has been the locus of industry power for a hundred years. The RCA Music Group, part of the BMG unit of Bertelsmann; the EMI Group; and the Columbia Records unit of Sony are among the current music companies that have long, historic roots in the business. These companies combined a few necessary factors to create the century-long monopoly that they have enjoyed until recently. First, the capitol required for initial investment is, in itself, relatively high. Very few starving garage bands can compete with the fat wallets of blue-blooded music executives. Second, these companies developed the technology to record, produce and distribute the music themselves very early on.

With the advent of online music downloading, however, these factors are now meaningless. Since music can now be expressed as an intangible com-

puter file, there is no physical product in need of production, and no large capitol that must be invested. These companies no longer retain advantages over the consumer, who can quickly and easily obtain nearly any song he/she wants with the click of a button. Although this threat to the record industry is by no means revolutionary; it started with the invention of the radio in the '20's and continued with cassette recording in the '60's, it is certainly more lethal than ever. The fact that the industry has found support in government legislation is hardly a comfort either. Millions of people continue to copy and share songs over the Internet without paying for them, undeterred by lawsuits filed last week against 261 people. KaZaA, the most popular file-sharing software available since Napster's demise, was used by only 5 percent fewer Americans after suits were filed only a week before. It seems that the ever-present right wing "moral majority" that has kept marijuana illegal and the drinking age at 21 is breaking from tradition on this particular issue. Only 36% of Americans polled feel that downloading music is immoral or unlawful.

The future of the record industry is still in the balance. "If music is to be taken seriously as a career, artists must have a source of income," said Senior Jack Meltzer. Some companies have begun to lower the price of CDs from the standard \$20 to a more affordable sum in an effort to restore the legitimacy of buying disks at the record store. Given the success of online music stores such as Apple's iTunes, launched in April, however, it seems that the record industry's fate is already decided. "The Web eliminates two-thirds of the cost factors," said Richard Kurin of the New York Times, director of folk life and cultural heritage at the Smithsonian Institution. "You don't have to produce a hard product and you don't have to pay a middleman."

The industry now faces a frightening ultimatum: Adapt and evolve itself to the new reality, or simply lapse into bankruptcy.

Antigone is a Success

Natalia Senatore
Staff Writer

For those of you who missed the Strawberry Hill Players performance of Sophocles' Antigone you really missed out. While the play was a difficult one to comprehend due to its language style, the creative and beautiful music, lighting design, and costumes kept audiences intrigued and entertained.

The 2,500-year-old Greek tragedy, the third installment of the Oedipus trilogy, was presented masterfully by the 29-student cast and eighteen-member tech crew. The play tells the story of Antigone, played by Morgan Miller, a young woman who has lost her all of her family, and wishes for nothing more but to honor her dead brother by his burial. Unfortunately the king, Creon, (Robert Rosado) has outlawed this. When Antigone is caught in the act, Creon sentences her to be buried alive in a cave. Unfortunately, Antigone is not only Creon's niece, but also his son's, Haemon (Michel Miller), bride to be. The ensuing tragedy tells not only of Antigone's death, but also of Haemon's, and Creon's Wife, Eurydice (Sara French).

The Greek chorus consisted of seven female students playing the part of townspeople, as well as the voice of reason to their stubborn King. Behind the scenes were seven ensemble members that acted as puppeteers and mimes, along with other miscellaneous

jobs.

The simple set of flowing cloths and natural colors allowed for the amazing acting to be the most predominant feature of the show. With only a small amount of comic relief supplied by Ariel Cheslow as Guard 1, the show can only be described as very heavy. The strawberry Hill players adjust well to such a tragic performance. The show is well cast with leads given to seasoned, and often chorus bound, seniors of the drama club. For Morgan Miller, who plays Antigone, this is her first time in the spot light and out of the chorus or back stage. "It's a lot of pressure to be the lead, but I'm excited to have this opportunity before I leave." Miller gives an amazing performance despite spending the entire show in tears.

Between Creon's anti-women's rights views (portrayed by Robert Rosado) and Antigone's strong belief in doing what's right, even if she will die for it later, this was a "Titanic" sob story. The plot, complicated and beautiful, is one of the most well known in history. Through her brave speeches in favor of women's suffrage, Antigone will be a symbol of speaking out in the name of justice for years to come.

The first act, only forty-five minutes long, was short and sweet. The show, however, did not end the same way. By the time the curtain closed five characters had died. *Jenny Hopkinson also contributed to this article.*

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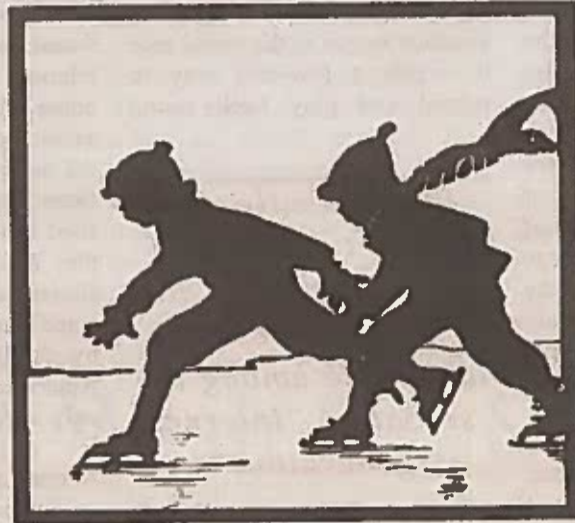
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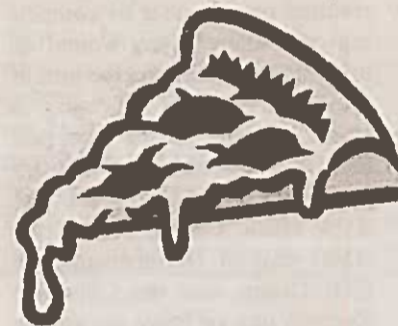
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The Real Truth...well mine anyway.

Overcoming Obstacles

Lauren Yanicky
Sports Editor

Sometimes change is for the better; sometimes it doesn't always work out the way you want it to. In the case of the Black Knights varsity boys basketball team we're not yet sure whether the change in the roster will have any affect on the outcome of the season. Two players that will not be returning to the team this 2003-2004 season were such an integral part of the success of this team last season that they will be missed by many.

The players I am

referring to were respected by teammates and feared by opponents. They stood 5'11" and 6'4" high. They made shots like it was going out of style. Took risks even the best career players wouldn't dare. They played with both grace and determination. Skill and unselfish style. They played with their hearts. They played with the teams' best interest in mind. They awed every audience they performed for. They are Job Casimir and AJ Stevens.

In this 2003-2004 season these two players will be playing with other FCIAC

teams. One will even be playing for cross-town rival Westhill. Of course I wish them all the luck in the world on their new teams, but I hope they don't forget where they came from and that we're coming after them when that day comes and we meet them at center court.

Stamford is going to prove to everyone that has their doubts about us, that we could overcome this loss, and have a winning season, and if not a winning season at least a season that we played with heart and determination and could be proud of.

Court Case: SHS minus 2

David Fogel
Staff Writer

Last season the Black Knights Varsity Basketball Team surprised a lot of people as they finished the regular season with an outstanding 22-4 record and made a trip to the FCIAC finals. As an avid Stamford High basketball fan, I was optimistic about this coming season until I heard the shocking news that All-State guard Job Casimir along with All-FCIAC center A.J. Stevens were no longer members of the team.

Suddenly, everything came into perspective and questions arose. How, and by whom will these rising stars be replaced? How will this affect the Black Knight's chances of being crowned as FCIAC champs for the first time since 1964? Senior center Jeff Michelson and sophomore center Dylan McCullough will have a tough time filling in for Stevens, a prolific rebounder who kept the knights in a lot of close games last season.

Replacing Casimir will be even tougher. Due to Casimir's absence,

a large burden will be placed on the shoulders of senior captain Brenton "Ziggy" Brown, who had a solid 2002-2003 season, and guards Marlon Brown and Micrus Jones who will also have to step it up, as they will be seeing big minutes this season.

Let's face the facts, the absence of Casimir and Stevens will hardly go unnoticed, however there is no reason to panic. I am confident that Michelson, McCullough, Jones, and Ziggy and Marlon Brown have what it takes to carry this team. I am also confident that Ziggy is one of the more underrated players in the FCIAC, and his senior season will be a breakout one.

The ultimate question here is this: How big of an effect will the loss of Casimir and Stevens have on the team's performance for the 2003-2004 season?

If you ask me, the answer is contingent upon how the players respond to the situation at hand. The way I see it, they can take one of two attitudes. They can either act like nothing happened, or they can realize that they will all have to step it up and work that much harder.



Profile: Senior Quarterback Frankie Ortiz

Chris Jimenez
Staff Writer

Frankie Ortiz is one of the four senior captains on the Stamford High Black Knights football team. He wears number 17 on the football field, stands at 5'11" and weighs approximately 176 pounds. Frankie started playing football at Stamford High during his freshman year, and was a quick learner to the sport. Frankie is of Puerto Rican background. Frankie explained that his parents both love sports but they hate seeing him play football due to the fear that every parent has; and that is seeing their child getting seriously injured.

Frankie started his freshman year with having aspirations of being a running back and scoring all the touchdowns, but Coach Kelley had a different idea. Coach Kelley made Frankie into a quarterback and showed him how to be a "Black Knight Winner" and how to throw touchdowns, and maybe run a few in. Also in his freshman year, Frankie played freshman basketball. Frankie still likes to play basketball "now and then" after school, but ended his formal High School career in the winter of 2001.

In 2001, his sophomore year, Frankie did not play football; his grades didn't allow him to. He stated that not being able to play his sophomore year made him work harder and make himself better for his junior year. Frankie saw that

other players were working hard, so he knew he needed to shape up physically and academically to help his fellow teammates.

Ortiz started his junior year not expecting much, especially from taking a year off from football. He knew that he wasn't going to start over senior quarterback Steve Capetelli, so he decided to work hard in preparation for whenever he got the call to go onto the field. He started off the season as the number two quarterback, but soon made his way up to the starting role. By the third game of the season in 2002, Frankie found him-

has a passing game to go with a running game." During the Bassick game, Ortiz threw for 241 yards (173 in the first half), tossed all four of his scoring passes in the first 16 minutes. If there is one thing Frankie makes sure of, that is by leaving nothing behind, and having no regrets on the field. Ortiz is also a humble person; he doesn't receive compliments on a personal basis, but relates them to the whole team. He explains that he is only as good as his receivers, and he is lucky to have such a great group of them. He says his great group of receivers makes his job a lot easier.

Junior Year Stats	
Games	11
Rush Attempts	53
Yards	50
Touch Downs	2
Pass Attempts	123
Pass Completions	46
Yards	815
Interceptions	8
Touchdowns	5
Sacks	10



self calling the plays on the field. He was happy about starting, and he knew he deserved the job because he had put so much effort into being the starter.

The Bassick Coach commended Frankie Ortiz this season by saying that Stamford High "certainly

Frankie explains that he does plan to go to college, but he is unsure of where he wants to go just yet. He also said that he hopes on playing football in college. Frankie also says that it will be hard to leave the Black Knight team because they're like one big family.

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Stamford Vs. Westhill: The Last Hurrah

Harrison Abramowitz
Staff Writer

It's a tradition, come homecoming weekend, the time when everyone knows that the Black Knights of Stamford High battle the Vikings of Westhill. This game is always expected to be a very competitive and spirited game, no matter how good or bad the teams are. This cross-town rivalry has more than just a "W" on the line; it has a whole lot of pride at stake. Many of these contests decide who will be crowned city champs, so even if one team's season is done record wise, there always seems to be some motivation to ruin the other school's season.

This year Stamford High has had

its best season in the past decade. The skill position players (QB, RB, and WR) were able to spark an offense this year that was its most complete and effective in a number of years. The catalyst of the offense was Senior Dontay Wilson, who made many Black Knight fans forget about last year's star, James Cobb. In addition to their potent running game, which the Black Knights have had the past several years, Stamford incorporated the passing game into their strategy. With QB Frankie Ortiz constantly throwing an accurate deep ball, wide outs Mike Montas and Kenny Fersner were able to showcase their skills in outrunning and out jumping smaller and slower defensive backs. Because of this, they were able to find the end

zone on a consistent basis and were a reliable source for the team to count in for production.

After getting off to a hot start with a 3-0 record, including a satisfying 40-7 thrashing of rival Trinity Catholic, Stamford slipped a bit and lost the next three games, which brought them back to .500. The fact that star running back Dontay Wilson got injured during that stretch didn't help the cause. However, once healthy, Wilson and his teammates have been able to bounce back and play the rest of their games on a very competitive level, including tackling a few more wins for the record.

As for Westhill, they have once again had a difficult rebuilding season. Although they started the season 1-7, QB Shane Davis and

running back James Hill have been doing their best to spark a very one dimensional offense, that has Hill getting most of the plays headed in his direction. This is not bad though, considering Hill is one of the better backs in the FCIAC. Due to the unfortunate injury of Davis, Westhill will rely heavily on the legs of Hill, which will make the offense even more one dimensional. This could be the reason why it has been hard for Westhill to keep the defense honest, due to the fact that the defense always seems to be keyed on stopping the running attack. Not to mention, Westhill's defense has given up lots of points and it is hard to win games when a mediocre offense has to bail out on a defense that has consistently

given up 30+ points to the opposition.

Overall, Stamford is more skilled on both sides of the ball and the Black Knights will be able to shut down the running game pretty quickly. Due to the skills and speed of the defensive line and line-backing core, which includes standout Blair Smart, the defense will be able to contain James Hill. In addition, the Knights' explosive offense will not have trouble moving the ball and scoring points. Look for this game to be a one sided affair and another year the Black Knights will be crowned city champs. Reminder: the game will be played Thanksgiving morning at Westhill and not on Thanksgiving Eve. So go out and support our team to a victory.

New Leadership Melts the Ice

Bobby Tournas
Staff Writer

Last season was full of promise for the Black Knight hockey team which finished 20-4. Their three regular season losses came by only a combined 3 points. They fulfilled a goal by defeating New Canaan to win the FCIAC championship (5-2). But another goal remained unconquered, the Division I State Championship. The Black Knights despite a valiant effort were defeated 3-2 at the hands of the Fairfield Prep Jesuits in the semifinals at Terry Conner's Rink. The loss was heartbreaking to many of the players who believed they could go all the way to the final.

"We can be a strong team this year because we have many returning starters, all of us understand the system well."

Tommy Domanick

But all that was last season. This season there is a new head coach, Doug Robinson, replacing a well respected coach in Roger

Haggerty. And despite losing all-state caliber forwards in Doug Engler and Brett Kapteina, the Black Knights are still flooded with talent. Tommy Domanick, All State Second Team goalie and co-captain feels, "We can be a strong team this year because we have many returning starters, all of us understand the system well." Another influential player and the other co-captain this season is last year's leading scorer forward Brandon Godspodinoff (35 goals last season). Other key players returning this year for the Black Knights on offense are senior forwards, Jordan Fogel (All FCIAC Honorable Mention), Steve Fecteau, Danny Todd, and junior forward Ryan McLaughlin.

Meanwhile the starting defense will be a strong three-man rotation with senior David Haggerty (All West Second Team), and juniors, Scott Morissette (All West Second Team) and Neal Rich. Their job will be helping Domanick in goal. This defense compiled 8 shutouts last season. Neal Rich believes, "This year our defense will be more solid we have three returning, experienced players, and a goalie that is simply a brick wall."

This season the Knights will try to improve their edge on the other Stamford schools. Last season they defeated Trinity Catholic twice (3-0), and blew out Westhill

9-0. But in the long run city championships mean little when compared to the big picture. They are looking to avenge loss against Ridgefield, the only team from the FCIAC that they did not defeat. The Knights believe that with key wins over good programs they can not only repeat as FCIAC and City Champions, but become State Champions as well. According to junior Ryan McLaughlin, "We can repeat because we have many talented players, and our teamwork is just as good if not better than last

"This year our defense will be more solid we have three returning, experienced players, and a goalie that is simply a brick wall."

Neal Rich

year."

In conclusion the Black Knight Hockey Team is looking toward another great year. A new coach in, and some old stars gone, they have a lot to prove. But in the end these players won't accept failure, if all goes their way by the end of the season you could be seeing State and FCIAC Championship Banners on the wall at Terry Conner's Rink.



Photo By: Dana Forrest

Photo of the Issue

Cheerleaders have begun their ruthless schedule of practice for the up and coming winter competition season. They are all being trained to tumble.

DECA will be collecting
NEEDED, WANTED and LOVED



between December 1st and 5th

Bring contributions to Rm 251, the main office or Dr. Cook's office.