

The Round Table

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Stamford High School

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35 cents

Reagan says, "Go to college now or lose benefits later."

by Maria Palermo

Stamford High School has received shocking news that concerns students who receive Social Security benefits. The guidance department has been calling students down to the office to inform them that they may lose their benefits. The guidance department, headed by Mr. Herman Alswanger, has received letters from the government concerning Social Security. These letters stated that if a student wanted to keep his benefits after the age of eighteen, then the student must be enrolled and attending a college before May 1st, 1982. If a student does not meet these requirements, then he will lose all Social Security benefits.

This may seem absurd to some people because they cannot understand how a high school student can be enrolled and attending college if he is still in high school. The solution is to finish high school at Norwalk Community College where a student will

receive a high school equivalency program. The student will be able to graduate in June with the class of 1982.

After a student finishes a high school program at Norwalk Community College he will be able to attend the college of his choice in September of the current year. The purpose of this plan is to show the government that a student is actually enrolled and attending a college. This plan was the main topic at a meeting held recently by the guidance department. All of the high school students who receive Social Security benefits were there to be informed of the sudden change. After they were told about the plan, there were mixed reactions. For instance, if students were to abide by the plan, they were to enroll at Norwalk Community College that same day. This statement brought up many arguments by the students. Some people thought that they were given very short notice



about enrolling at Norwalk Community. Another argument dealt with the question "How would a student be able to leave the school in the middle of the year and expect to learn the same material he was being taught at

Stamford High?" This along with many other questions were raised at the meeting. When the time came to make a decision, the majority of the students were willing to give up their Social Security benefits.

School spirit fills the halls of SHS

by Sarah Siegel

We often hear about the lack of school spirit at S.H.S. However, plenty of people at Stamford High have school spirit. We have the best band and colorguard in the city, enthusiastic staffs on the yearbook and newspaper, hard-working sports teams, and 25 clubs with active members.

One of our largest clubs, the Student Council gave us the chance to show our spirit on Halloween. This year one student even dressed up as the SHS School Spirit! Halloween may have brought its share of boos to our school, but this year's pep rallies have kept us all in good cheer. Uniformed team members and cheerleaders help contribute

further to the SHSers' pride in the good ol' orange and black.

More good news concerning support and participation lies here at *The Round Table*. We reporters never have to rove far to find an event to cover at Stamford High. In fact, there is so much going on that there's always an overflow of articles on school activities!

The Flashback staff too, meets the challenge of capturing all the events and student achievements for this year's yearbook. Highlights for 1981-82 alone included the appearance of the Harlem Globetrotters, the "Rock Fight" the Sadie Hawkins Dance and the upcoming '50's dance, all of which are held in our gym. Also able to boast of

high attendance are the field trips which have collectively drawn over a thousand students. So far they have ranged from visiting Broadway and Greenwich Village to roughing the Appalachian Trail and the snowy mountains of Vermont.

Stamford High's impressive record of student achievements is a source of pride for all who attend the "school on the hill." There are many students in our school who are academically outstanding and a number of "0" and A.P. (Advanced Placement) sections are offered so these students can get the most out of their four years at SHS. They also have many extra opportunities to widen their horizons by attending symposiums, seminars

and conferences.

From the academic to the artistic our school thrives. Our artists, who enter both regional and national contests each year, always come away with many of the top honors, and it is expected that this year will be no different. Our band and colorguard win trophies for their talent at competitions all over the east coast, and they again look forward to attending spring festivals and major competitions. The concert choir will go on a national tour during spring vacation.

So the next time someone complains about the lack of spirit at SHS tell him to look around. All he has to do is open his eyes.

March dance and April fashion show planned

by Meredith Cowic and Joe Pace

The Stamford High School marching band and colorguard are sponsoring a '50's dance in the SHS gymnasium on March 19 and a fashion show in the auditorium on April 16.

A prize of \$50 will be offered for the best '50's costume. There will also be a prize of dinner for two for the best

The money that is raised will be put toward the band's spring trip to Winchester, Virginia where they will compete in the "Apple Blossom Festival."

Tickets will be available soon at a price of three dollars per person at the door; or five dollars per couple if the tickets are bought in advance.

The April 16 fashion show will have as its theme "Proms"

ply tuxedos for the guys and The Bedford Shop will supply formal dresses for the girls.

Formal wear is not the only thing that will be shown. The Bedford Shop will also show After-Prom wear and casual sportswear for the outing the next day.

Added Touch Florist located in the Springdale Shopping Center will show corsages and

They will also supply decorations for the auditorium.

So girls and guys this is a perfect opportunity to pick out your tux, dress, flowers and other related accessories to make your prom the best it can be.

Remember the '50's dance March 19 and the fashion show April 16. Help send our band

The Round Table

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Wanted: Open bathrooms

by Rick Rozier

How many times do you find that you must go two or three floors out of your way to find an unlocked bathroom? This can be very frustrating and quite painful for the student who is already late to class, and will just be later trying to find the john.

Here is a classic example of how the locked bathrooms can hurt:

Donny has class on the fifth floor during third period. His third period class is an extremely hard one, causing Donny to stay late a few times for help. You all know that the time between third and fourth period is only five minutes. Thus the stage is set.

One day, Donny leaves third period about two minutes late to finish some work. This means that he has only three minutes to get to his locker, exchange books, and get to the first floor. Now Donny's fourth period teacher is one who demands his students be on time. He gives a quiz at the bell and late students miss out. Donny, realizes this, but he has to go to the bathroom. He gets to the sixth floor and the door is locked. So Donny runs to his locker around the corner, exchanges books, and takes off for class. He gets to the first floor and the bell rings. By now Donny is upset. Not only is he in trouble for being late, but he is in pain. He goes to the first floor bathroom before going to class, because by now, he's in dire need of relief. The bathroom on the first floor is locked.

He gets to the second floor just in time, uses the bathroom, the sprints to class. In the end, Donny is ten minutes late, missed a quiz and received a "0."

Can't you see yourself in this situation? I'm sure you can if you have ever met a locked bathroom door. What can be so important as to deny a person the opportunity of relief? After all, when mother nature calls, you must answer.

Students oppose new exemption policy

by Tory Hamilton and Debbie White

Recently the Board of Education ruled that there would be a new city-wide policy on exemptions from final exams. After many years' debate, the question was discussed at a principals' meeting where concerns about the varied exemption policies were aired. Out of this meeting came a recommendation to the Board of Education to end exemptions on all final exams. This recommendation was adopted as Board policy.

This policy was adopted for two basic reasons: one, the Board wanted to install a uniform policy for all three public high schools; and two, to avoid confusion among the departments as to who merits an exemption from any given final. It was these reasons that convinced the Board.

We disagree with that decision. It is unfair and was adopted for spurious reasons. The policy at Stamford High was not confusing and had worked well for many years. The policy was decided upon by each department at the beginning of the year. This decision, voted on by the teachers in each department, became school policy. Students were made aware of the policy and there was no misconception concerning the requirements for exemptions. It was an acceptable policy to all. Then where is the "confusion" the Board wished to avoid? We maintain there is none.

As for the uniformity argument, we believe that a policy should be instituted only if it is effective. The exemption policy at Stamford High is just that. By replacing it the Board of Education is rocking a smoothly sailing boat.

Students who work hard all year and who receive A's on their report cards deserve exemptions as a reward for their diligence. If a student receives A's all year or has a solid A average, he has proved that he knows and understands all the material covered during the year. By eliminating exemptions the reward for this record is lessened. An A student is reduced to the same level as his less hard-working classmates and is treated with no deference for past performance. If education is the reason for taking an exam, then the A students could take a shorter version of the exam to see how much information they had assimilated rather than for a grade.

The possibility of being exempt from the final exam gives students an incentive to work hard throughout the year. When they work hard at their studies they learn more. If one of the goals of the school system is to provide a positive atmosphere for the students to learn, and if exemptions from final exams provide an improved attitude, why eliminate them?

Doing away with exemptions also can cause severe problems for A.P. (Advanced Placement) students. The courses they take are geared for the A.P. exam that is given in May. Why must these students take another exam in the middle of June if they have an A average?

Therefore it is our conviction that the new Board policy on exemptions from finals be reconsidered. Before this policy is irrevocably enforced, the opinions of the students, teachers, parents and SHS administration should be ascertained. Education is for the benefit of students and the Board of Education's policies should be for the students' benefit as well.



Opinion: Should high school students work?

by Jim Bitzonis

A major issue of controversy in high school is *work*. Educators feel that working is unnecessary for students; that students work for their luxuries like clothes, albums, automobiles, gas, concerts and food. This is partially true, but what about the students that work for the one thing that runs the world--*money*. Money for what? Money for education. Educators want us to learn, and they say that by working we are being robbed of education. But, to further our education what do we need? *Money*. How do we get money?

work because I *want* to and that I don't have to work so much. I have a one-word answer for that, "Wrong."

Being brought up believing that college would be paid for, I led an easy life. I participated in five major sports and took my lack of responsibility in stride. Then, family financial difficulties made me realize that I had to pay for my own college education. Therefore, in my junior year, I began working 30 hours a week and I am continuing at that pace.

My teachers said that I couldn't work so much and keep up my grades too. Wrong again. My grades dramatically

received, the easier it would be on me in the future. Good grades increase the possibility of a scholarship to help me with college expenses. Also, I work hard at school work because I'm not going to waste my hard earned money on college if I'm not ready for it. My study habits have become more serious and effective.

By working, students also learn the values of life. Handling money on the job, budgeting, and relating to other people in a business-like manner are all aspects of future roles we must play. By participating in the adult business world, we have learned things

know as we enter the business world.

Another positive aspect of working while in school is the effect of these jobs on our plans for the future. Jobs such as gas attendants, waitresses, stockboys and cashiers are usually held by high school students. By working in these jobs now, we realize that we don't want to do them for a living. This motivates us to go to college, to get a degree, and to find *much* better employment.

To many fortunate students, working is an unnecessary task, but to me it is something that is a must if I expect to further my

Whatever happened to the Class of '82?

by Sheila Hughes
Okay, Seniors, it is February 1982. It is the middle of your Senior year - and what have you done to help your class? What have you done besides complain about how lousy the class of 1982 is? There are some students who work hard and break their backs to raise money for the entire class, but they are in the minority. Most of the students have nothing

good to say about the Senior Class. Yet are these people willing to work a little in order to improve their class standards? No, of course not. They just keep on criticizing the class officers, complaining that they "never do anything." Well, a class does not just consist of its officers. All seniors should participate in the activities of their class.

Students complain the class

does nothing. There was a dance marathon planned a short while ago, but what happened? So few people signed up, it had to be cancelled. Where were all of those students who complain about not having any money in the savings? Did they sign up? No, because these students never want to get involved. They expect all of the other students to do their work. Still, they want to have a nice, not-too expensive prom. When activities are planned, no one wants to participate!

Another problem is the class meetings that are held in the gymnasium. These meetings are held so that the Senior Class can get together since so many seniors keep complaining that they don't know what is "going on." This is the one chance that seniors have to be informed about the activities in their class. But when the class officers and advisors make an attempt to talk to everyone, their voices are drowned out by the students yelling and making remarks. The students who are noisy and ignore the people who are speaking on the microphone are probably the same students who complain that they never know anything! Well, it's no wonder.

It is obvious that these students don't want anything done, since they aren't willing to work for it. The money for our prom is not going to materialize like magic. Fundraisers and other such activities cannot be left to a few students. If anyone ever has an idea about what to do for the senior class, he should do something about it and try to get something organized; or else get involved in some or all of the activities that are planned. Make time for these things. Students should either get going and get involved in their class or they should just stop complaining if they are not willing to work.

In case anyone does not know the class officers, they are: Mark Barrencea, President; Tony Amlicke and Kathy Callahan, Vice Presidents; John Carroll, Secretary; and Maria Abalos, Treasurer. Class advisors are Mrs. Wilcox and Mr. Dcary.

The world according to Bruce

by Bruce Miller

As it is often said, history repeats itself. Wars come and go as do other types of revolution. One such type of revolution is quick change through one means or another. A present day example of this sense of reform is the moral majority. They are trying to bring about a change. That is fine, but the methods used by this group are totally unacceptable to me.

First I object to using religion as a front or a vacuum to pull truly religious people into their group. The attitude that "I am holier and more righteous than you, therefore can make the rules" is repugnant.

Second who is to decide what is moral? The moral majority likes to try to "clean up" T.V. Who says it is dirty? They do. If they don't like it, they can turn it off. This is not Orwell's 1984, where T.V. is piped into every home. If what was on T.V. was offensive, people wouldn't watch. How can such a self centered and self righteous group call themselves moral?

The third method of coercion used by the moral majority is not moral at all. It is a philosophy of "my way or be destroyed by economic boycott. What ever happened to freedom of choice and free enterprise?

Finally if the moral majority was actually a majority, it could bring about change in the slow, orderly manner which America is famous for. Amendment to the constitution is the way, but the moral majority will hear of no such thing, for it too time consuming. What is the hurry?

Our system of government has been set up to withstand blows from short-lived uprisings such as this, and it will ultimately survive this one.

Even so, the moral majority, no matter if it is neither, is a real problem. Their leader, Rev. Jerry Falwell, is a disgrace to the cloth, and his mislead followers are a religious mutant breed.

A similar attempt was made to change a way of life in 1919 (Prohibition) and it almost worked. Let's stop this one.

Knight Light

Mike Wilhoit

by Sarah Bowen and Heather Barry

Since basketball season is upon us, a person frequently talked about, throughout the school, is Mike Wilhoit, captain of this year's squad. The senior point guard is quite an asset to the Black Knights. He has been a member of the team for his four years at Stamford High and averages 15 points and 6 assists per game.

Aside from being a great basketball player, he is in the top ten percent of the senior class with a 3.28 grade average.

Mike's future plans include college, although he is unsure of what he wants to major in. He says that he is inclined towards business or counseling because he likes kids. He has already applied to several colleges, including: Lehigh, Bucknell, Wittenburg, and Oral Roberts University; he does plan to apply to other universities.

Mike has a strong belief in God. He feels that without God, he wouldn't be where he is today.

Another driving force in Mike's life is his family and friends. They give him strength and support which he finds helpful. An additional impetus, though not as strong are

his academics and basketball.

Mike feels that he should strive to achieve his best in everything that he does. He believes that, for the first time, the senior class has really come together. He thinks that it's a loss that it didn't happen sooner. Something among them all has finally "clicked." Mike attributes this to the fact that the class has finally realized that this is their last year together.

Surely Mike will be missed along with the rest of the senior class.



Skiing has its ups and downs

by Sarah Bowen

I don't think I'll ever forget the first time I went skiing. I was twelve but I remember it as well as if it were yesterday.

My friend, Stacey, had invited me to go skiing with her for the day. When I told her I had never been skiing before, she said that was no problem; she'd be able to teach me. A little unsure of it all, I agreed.

When she dragged me out of my warm bed at 4:30 A.M., I thought to myself, "This better be worth it." We arrived at Butternut Basin at 8:30. I had to admit it was very beautiful.

I asked her if she was sure she could teach me. She just laughed and assured me that with her as a teacher I'd be whizzing down the slopes in no time.

So off we went to get in line for the T-bar. Getting on it was simple enough but half the way up the bunny slope I was

tried her best to calm me but when we reached the top I panicked and slid off into a snowbank. I got up vowing once I got down the hill I would head straight for the lodge, never to venture up another mountain!

This turned out to be much easier said than done. Stacey tried to teach me to snowplow but my skis seemed to possess a will of their own. They insisted on pointing straight down the hill; hell-bent on my own personal destruction.

Finally, after many falls and bumps, Stacey assured me I was ready for the intermediate slope. I asked her if it was hard; she just laughed and told me not to worry about it. So, ready or not, up I went.

By some stroke of luck I made it off the chairlift without any serious injuries. It was then I got my first good look at

power of speech. It looked so steep and windy! She instructed me to stay close behind her and never look too far down the hill. I did well for the first couple of yards but after that it was all "downhill!"

The worst was yet to come. About a third of the way down the hill I took a nasty spill, my ski came off and somehow managed to go scooting down to the bottom of the hill! I had nothing left to do except walk the rest of the way down. I found this next to impossible since the snow was very icy. I ended up sliding down in a crouch position. When I finally arrived at the bottom I vowed never again to set foot on another ski slope.

But when the next winter rolled around and all my friends were high-tailing it up to the "north country," I couldn't help but high-tail along with them. Luckily for me, the



CIF: Cheating is Fundamental

by Sarah Siegel

Sneaking answers from a nearby student may help another topas that algebra test but this method of cheating is passe at S.H.S. Though most teachers are aware of the insidious problem, many have not kept pace with the times and are blind to the more current modi operandi employed by a considerable part of the student body. As recently as last Friday a language teacher was heard to say to his class, "I know this is a Latin test, but don't have roamin' eyes." Innocent teachers such as these deserve to know, just as their more perceptive colleagues already do, about students' secret swindles.

There are distinguishing characteristics intrinsic to the sophisticated cheater. He will seat himself in the front row of the classroom. By doing this he has already earned his first A for mastering the concept of advanced reverse psychology.

Next, the experienced cheater will create a diversion.

One successfully cheater boasted of setting her desk a' fire during a major history exam. She chuckled, "I almost lost my cheat sheet in the blaze," and then added seriously, "Such drastic measures usually aren't necessary."

The last, yet most vital, characteristic of the sophisticated cheater is self-composure. The purpose of being even-tempered is two-fold. It makes last minute rationalizations for cheating much easier and it creates, for the teacher, the illusion that the cheater has studied and is totally prepared for the test. A cheating veteran of many English tests agreed, "The main thing you gotta be is c-o-m, calm!"

Stamford High's students have, in their own words, made it evident that cheating is a much more complex practice than the elementary peak-at-a-neighbor's-paper routine.

Teachers beware! There is a lot more to cheating at S.H.S. than meets the eye!

Designer jeans-- fad or style?

by Brett Katz

Since 1980, the designer jean industry has been in a state of major growth. Over the last two years, many small companies such as Chardon, Carrabine, Taylor, Zena and others have been springing up to compete with the big ones. However, Pat McGinley (Vice-President of Sasson) said, "The big companies are not a bit worried."

Names like Sasson, Jordache, Calvin Klein and Sergio Valente have become household words. I was fortunate enough to interview Izzy Heinfliig (part owner of Sergio Valente) to get his views on the

subject.

Why are there so many new companies?

For the last year or two, the jeans industry has been a very productive business. Right now it is a very secure one and it has great profits. So, if anyone had the money, starting a designer jeans company was a good investment.

Do all these small companies affect your business?

No. They don't really hurt us, but they are causing the market to become saturated and stores don't buy as much from us.

How long do you think the small companies will last?

I expect them to be around

about another year. Once business slows down and the market settles, it will get harder to sell, and only the big companies will be able to compete. When business gets tough only the tough get going.

Why is business so good now?

ADVERTISING. It has increased sales of designer jeans tremendously. Last year we spent over six million dollars on advertising, and this year we will spend eight million.

Also, besides jeans, big companies are making other kinds of pants such as cords and baggies. In addition we make shirts, jackets and some companies even sell shoes and

sneakers.

However, we feel that jeans will still be about 70% of our business.

Designer jeans are a great product. They are long-lasting and look great. That's probably why so many people wear them. And yet the underlying reason they are worn is the effect of television advertising. When a person sees how good the jeans look on beautiful models, he or she thinks a pair will have the same effect on him or her. And if your friends have designer jeans, then peer pressure encourages you to wear them too. It's like a chain reaction, and a very popular one at that.

Arthur Asks

by Jodi Talentino

What would you do with a WAPITI?

Mr. Levy - Do some market research on it and see how much we could sell it for in DECA.

Liz D'Andrea - Take it to bed with me.

Mark Toscano - Take it down the street and feed it to Oscar.

Jeanne Black - Give it to a teacher when you find out that you are failing.

Donna Farina - Anything that wouldn't embarrass me.

Alison Burns - Give it to someone special.

Charlene Zecca - Get rid of it.

Lulu Lester - Take it sailing.

Cindy Steele - Take it to a bar.

Maria Gutierrez - Hit someone over the head with it.

Tracy Winn - Put it on my shelf with my stuffed animals.

Neil Signore - Drink it with rum.

Eddie Fries - Shoot it.

Mike Christie - Give it to Miss Wiener.

A WAPITI is the largest North American Deer; an elk with widely branching antlers.

Innuendo

Seniors - Hope y'all had fun on your vacations...Hey J.B., J.M., D.S. and J.C.--have you seen the new sign lately? Well if not, the same person wants to know if C.W. knows his lines yet...Wisdom lurks throughout the halls--K.L., if you only knew, 1,2,3. Now for the questions.....J. wants to know what it's like being an only child now.....Yo Redd, is it true you're now being Mrs. Nelson??...We've been informed that Cindy has finally made it!!!...and that was *some* party!...Finally, someone wanted to say, "Oh, Henry!".....

Juniors - The juniors are an inquisitive bunch...Nwad? How's Ed?...And what V.P.?...Air-S'up?...Any more osembe?...What! Another Davis? R.R., what happened to the dozen carnations??? Kar, have any weird dreams lately?...K.G., is he a saint or not?...W.G., the best is yet to come...S.L. wants S.W. to rake her and shake her...S.S., some certain sophs have it in for you!!! A.L. wanta play quarters? C.W., M.B., what a "trip.".....

Sophomores - In the lead, R.S., do you lead when you dance?...Sophomores really know how to drive people crazy...K.G. & D.J. had car trouble...D.J., you shouldn't kiss him while he's driving...Airhead, where is the green mustang?...They're also a little fruity...D.W., did you want a banana split or Doritos? Is that your nose or are you eating a banana?.....

Freshmen - Such Fickle folk...Who does K.H. really like? And who does M.N. really like? E.W., which sophomore are you chasing now?...We want to know what is happening with K.P. and Andy...It's snack time...How are ya "popcorn"? "Pretzel", you'll never know how many like you!...D.C., I thought you'd never ask...J.S., wash your hair, it's Friday! *Bye for now.*