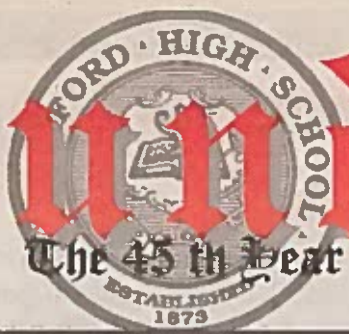


# The Round Table



VOLUME XLV, NUMBER 7

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

JUNE, 2003

## Another Year Comes to a Close

The class of 2003 recalls some of their fondest memories of their four years at SHS.

**Nancy Ringel**  
Associate News Editor  
**Cristina Tuluca**  
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Every year another class of seniors graduates and forever leaves the halls of Stamford High. Yet seniors will carry into the future memories of high school, whether they are humorous, heart

warming, or sad. A few seniors told us about some of their favorite memories from SHS over

the years, remembering the good times they had at their high school.

Some of the students' memories revolved around interesting things that happened in their classes. Carly Miller said that her favorite memory was "When Mr. Carpentieri would make fun of Sam LaRoche every day in class." Kristin Iorio told us that her favorite memory was "Being done with all of our class work and doing nothing for the end of senior year." Doing things other than class work seemed to be a theme; Jeff Pan told us "Since our school didn't have enough money to get us a substitute for AP Physics, so one day when our teacher was absent,

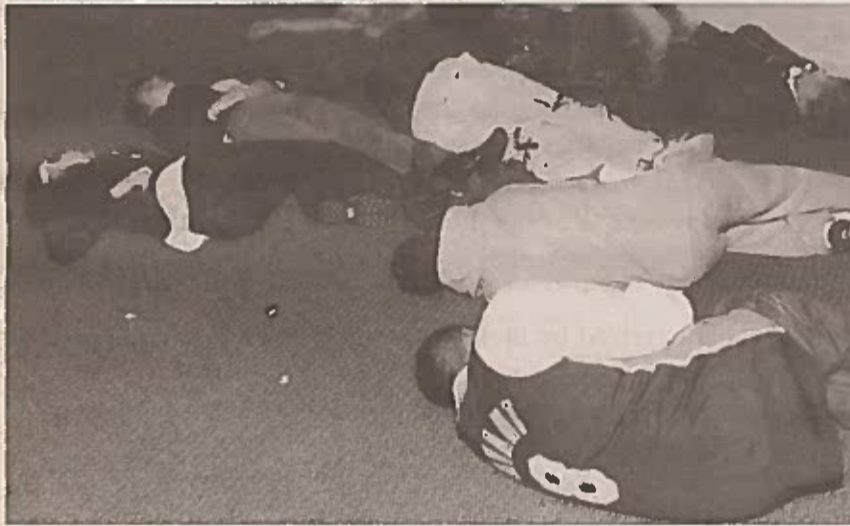
welcome distraction from his difficult English class as well; "Mishuck tackled me in the middle of class," he told us, smiling as he recalled the incident.

A few students even had memories that involved actually doing things in classes. "Some of my favorite memories in high school were setting things on fire in Mr. Krein's class," said Melissa Tatton, who took AP Chemistry with Mr. Krein. Other students enjoyed their AP science classes as well, including Lauren LaRusso, who "Loved making breakfast in AP Biology class the morning of our study group before the AP. We had whipped cream fights and LaBanca made us pancakes, bacon and eggs. It was great." Sanjeev Goluguri's favorite memory was "Building rollercoasters in Mr. Patel's AP Physics class."

Some students' most cher-

ished memories were not involving school at all. Dan Fortin told us that his favorite high school moment was "When Dana became my girlfriend. I love you, Dana!" Efram Navok's favorite memory was "Playing frisbee on the football field with [his] friends after school." Efram Slen's favorite memory involved sports; his was "When Steve Hasak was running the east leg of the 4 x 4 my sophomore year, and he won it for us." Igor Zelenberg thought that when "Someone found a substitute's dating profile online and the whole school found out about it," was one of his funniest and most memorable memories. Many other students recalled that most of their favorite memories did not involve their classes very often.

Students will cherish these memories and others for years to come. While many seniors are happy to be leaving high school and moving on, their four years at Stamford High will remain an important and memorable point in their lives. The Round Table wishes all of the class of 2003 good luck and success in the future. Congratulations!



Seniors at the hypnotist show lie down in a sleepy trance, spellbound by Dan LaRosa's hypnotic words. Though some seniors couldn't remember the night at all, the hypnotist was a favorite memory for many seniors.

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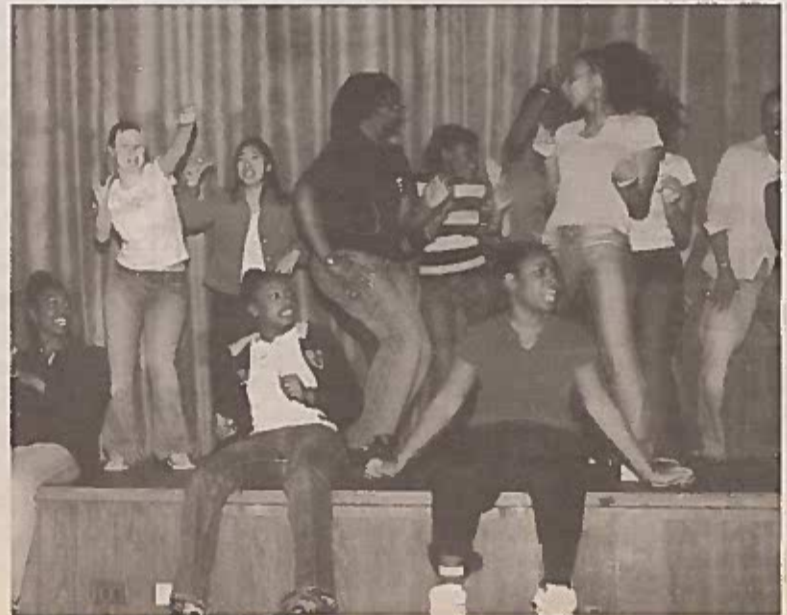
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we all went to Zach Hasak's house and played video games for two periods."

Many students thoroughly enjoyed not doing class work just as much as Jeff; Mala Sharma's favorite memory was "Playing wiffle ball with Ms. Smith's period seven English class every time it was warm outside." Mickey Ferri's favorite memory was a



For the finale of the fashion show, the senior participants dance on stage together. The fashion show was another favorite moment of the senior class.

# The Round Table

Founded in 1957

Jessica Troy, Cristina Tuluca *Co-Editors-in-Chief*

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Randy Miller, *Features Editor*

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*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.

## One Final Word to Our Classmates...

The other day I was at a high school sports game and I noticed that the boys in front of me were acting unusually. A friend whispered, "They're all drunk. And they drove here together." It was two in the afternoon. "Pathetic," I thought. I found the situation pitiable not only because the teens didn't have the imagination to have fun without alcohol, but also because I knew that it wasn't a rare occurrence for them either.

Everybody knows that underage drinking occurs. Everybody knows that it's common among teens of all backgrounds. Everybody knows that teens who drink only put themselves at a personal risk. However, teens who drink and drive endanger everyone around them. To put it simply: you have to be a real jerk to do that.

I've heard it all: "Oh, I've just had a little. I know what I can handle and what I can't," or "I wouldn't get in the car with him if he was really drunk. That's just stupid! But I know he's okay."

Please, spare me. It doesn't matter how much a person has had to drink. Any alcohol dangerously impairs the senses. And sure, some of the time, a kid who is slightly intoxicated will make it home safely. But what about the other times? The times that they don't?

Doesn't anyone ever wonder why it's called an accident? Accidents aren't supposed to happen. No one ever means to lose control. No one ever means to take another life. No one ever means to inadvertently take their own. But it happens, and in a twisted way, accidents are unavoidable. Eventually, one is bound to occur.

But if teens are going to drink in defiance of the law and common sense, one would hope that they'd be smart enough to have a ride home before picking up the beer. One would hope that they would save it for another night if no ride were available. One would hope that they'd realize that their parents would probably be only too willing to drive to the party to pick them up if they called. They might not be happy. In fact, they may be quite angry, but the likelihood of their teenager winding up on a gurney in the emergency room or a slab in the morgue would be statistically and significantly far lower.

We'll admit that teens are sometimes characterized by their irresponsibility, often, rightly so. But drinking and driving is an irresponsibility that is inexcusable for anyone. So, of all those teens who drink and drive, we ask one question: how long do you think your luck is going to last?

### The A - B - Cs of Moving On Up...

As the Class of 2003 moves beyond the aggravating, boisterous, crowded, decaying, enchanting, familiar, garrulous, harrowing, impossible, jocular, keen, loafable, mobbed, naughty, outdated, pushy, quadrilateral, rowdy, surrealistic, tough, unkempt, vital, wacky, xenophilic, yawning, zesty halls that they knew as Stamford high, but which they will soon begin to forget, each member of the class would do well to stop and think. Think about the countless experiences you had because fate led you to The Hill, because luck moved you to the places and times that were your now, because planning captured the opportunities, and because you were selected by some unseen power to be among those chosen to be Black Knights. Think too, of the things that you missed also because you were among those who will carry the legacy of Stamford high to places far and wide. Recall those whose lives have influenced you: teachers, administrators, staff and students. Recall as well those whom you have influenced: teachers, administrators, staff and fellow students. Visit one more time the Wall of Fame to take direction and support from the stories of those who have gone where you have gone, done what you have done, and have, in spite of those experiences, made of themselves outstanding successes. Make part of your everlasting memory and constant hearts the persons who have been your friends and stay close to them throughout your lives. Share with them your hopes and dreams, your fears and your confidence, and pass them all down to those who follow in your footsteps. Return often, not to try to relive the days of your years here, but rather to give back to Stamford high some of the things it freely gave to you. Share your experience, your expertise, your good will. Speak loudly of those good things that you were given here, whisper of the bad things that your shadow should erase over time, and speak confidently of the bright futures that are yet to come for all who are Black Knights. Go out into the world with the faith that you are prepared to meet the future, with the hope that comes from the knowledge and the skills of knowledge. Lower your visor, raise your shield and brandish your sword and go out to meet all that is certainly coming your way. Good Luck, Good Bye, and Good Fortune to all as you continue Moving On Up...

# LaBanca's Research Program Brings Honor to SHS

**Nancy Ringel**  
Associate News Editor

When news spread across the school that Frank LaBanca had been nominated for the Connecticut Education Association Teacher of the Year Award, few people were surprised. As an energetic and active member of the teaching staff, Mr. LaBanca made countless contributions to the school community, and has become a favorite among students at Stamford high. His hard work and dedication ultimately earned him a spot as one of

the top five finalists for Teacher of the Year, and brought recognition to his passion, his teaching skills and his innovative programs.

The process of being nominated for Teacher of the Year can be a tedious one, but LaBanca took on the challenge with little fuss. As part of the application process, he wrote several essays about teaching, traveled to Hartford for panel interviews, and answered many questions about his teaching philosophy, the community he works in, and the innovative efforts he has made as a teacher. "It really all boils down to my research program here at the school," said LaBanca, remarking on why he is

repeatedly honored for his teaching efforts. "It's something that very few other schools offer, and it gives students a great opportunity to explore the field of scientific research."

The program is an independent research program under the complete direction of Mr. LaBanca. Students are responsible for selecting an experimental research topic and designing and carrying out experiments. Most students work under the direction of the teacher-mentor and also have field mentors from local universities and industries. Projects are designed to take place over the course of the academic year, and students often spend time outside of their assigned class periods to conduct experiments in the field. All students are required to present their results at a state science symposium or fair, which motivates them to work hard on their projects and make them impressive to the public.

Though it has only been an active program at the school for the past several years, it just recently became offered as a research class in addition to an after school program. The research program has already produced major successes for its participants. Igor Zelenberg received the honor this year of being a Siemens Westinghouse National Semifinalist, a huge honor in the world of student science. Other program participants have earned awards on the state and regional

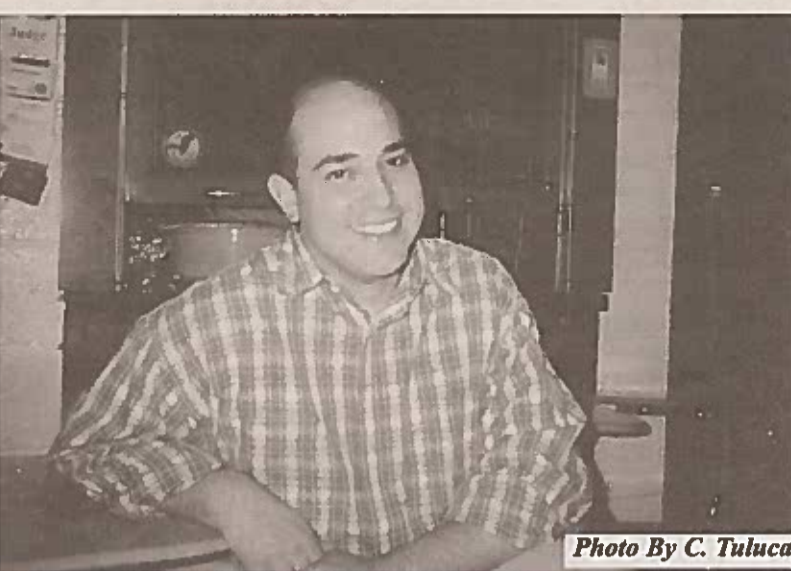


Photo By C. Tuluca

Mr. LaBanca, science teacher at Stamford High, was one of the top five finalists for the Connecticut Teacher of the Year Award.



Photo By C. Tuluca

Students in LaBanca's research class work on their personal research project. The research program has brought much attention and prestige to Stamford High's Science department.

levels, proving the young program to be an early success.

"The research program is really a great thing," says junior Brian Thurm, who has been working with LaBanca on a research project for the past two years. "LaBanca is really dedicated to it, and he helps us to get the most out of it. I've learned a lot through my research, and I've had a lot of fun doing it."

While he says that he gets great joy from inspiring the kids in his program, student satisfaction is not the only reward for LaBanca. Over the last several years, he has also been named a Radio Shack National Teacher, a GTE G.I.F.T. (Growth Initiative For Teachers) Fellow, the Connecticut Science Fair Board of Directors' Outstanding Teacher of

Science Fair Students, has been awarded a National Education Association Innovation Grant (which he is currently using for his research program), and has been invited to travel with delegates from the Connecticut Science Fair as the lead teacher to the National Science Fair. With all of these honors, Mr. LaBanca serves as one of the more decorated teachers on the Stamford High staff.

"He works hard, is passionate about his job, and passes his excitement on to his students," said senior AP Biology student Israella Nof. "I'm not surprised he has earned all of his honors. He's a great guy, and one of the best teachers I've ever had. What can I say? He deserves it."

## More Honors: Amon Recognized with Radio Shack Teacher's Award



Photo By N. Ringel

Ms. Amon, math and physics teacher at Stamford High, was awarded the Radio Shack National Teacher Award for math, science and technology teachers.

**Nancy Ringel**  
Associate News Editor

Being a teacher is thought to be a rewarding experience, but the job is even more rewarding when a teacher actually receives an award. Radio Shack, a popular nationwide electronics corporation, understands this, and every year offers a select group of teachers the chance to be honored and rewarded for all of their hard work and dedication. This year, Stamford High's own math and science teacher Kristin Amon was nominated by Ms. Koroshetz to apply for the award, and after sev-

eral months of waiting, found out that she was among one hundred and ten teachers in the entire nation to receive the Radio Shack National Teacher Award for math, science, and technology teachers.

Amon sent out her application in November 2002, which consisted of several essays about various subjects involving her role as a teacher. In early February, without having heard from the corporation in the interim, she received a letter of notification informing her that she had won the award. "It was kind of like the college application process all over again," said Amon, laughing while remembering her reaction to the letter. "I saw a fat envelope from

Radio Shack in the mailbox, and my heart jumped. I thought since it was big, it had to be good!"

The size of the envelope proved to be an accurate clue to its contents, which in addition to the letter of notification contained an invitation to a dinner in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where all of the recipients of the award would be honored. Amon attended the dinner with Koroshetz as her guest, receiving a \$3,000.00 check in recognition of her efforts. Having been recently engaged, she couldn't have been more thrilled. "It paid for my wedding dress and left me extra spending money too!" she said with a smile.

Many of Amon's students

were not surprised that she received the award. "I think she really deserves the recognition," said junior Caitlin Smolewski, a member of her honors pre-calculus class. "She teaches everything very well and makes it easy to learn. She's been great to have as a teacher this year."

While she does not consider the recognition as rewarding as her daily teaching experiences, Amon is very happy with the situation. She received extra money for her upcoming wedding, earned added respect from her students and colleagues, and brought greater honor and recognition to the SHS staff.

# Students Make Preparations for Senior Prom June 6

**Samantha Maidenberg**  
Staff Writer

With the white and periwinkle invitations on their way, this year's senior prom is sure to be a "knight" to remember. The

executive committee comprising Jessica Troy, Samantha LaRoche, Alex Bernshteyn, Mark Parrot, Jose Candor, and Jessica Scott, is in charge of organizing the preparations for the evening.

The prom is to be held on

June 6, 2003 at 7:30 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency in Greenwich. Although there will be a lavish setting at the beautiful and ritzy hotel, the scarcity of money in the budget this year is forcing the committee to make some difficult decisions. However,

that does not mean that the decorations won't be as beautiful as they are every year.

The theme, they decided, should be simple yet classy, a decision which led to the idea of the candle light motif. The table centerpieces will consist of four candles instead of the expensive balloon arch that has been a mainstay for a number of years.

This need for careful expenditures in all areas must allow for a classy yet inexpensive atmosphere. "The centerpieces will give the room a romantic and sophisticated feel. It will definitely set the mood for the night," said senior Lauren LaRusso.

Another change forced by the financial conditions is the buffet style dinner instead of the usual sit-down. The menu will include a chicken dish, pasta, salad and other side dishes, in addition to a dessert bar for after

the meal. Although it may not be as fancy as the customary dinner preparations, the committee believes it will still be a big success. This change in serving style will also keep enough money in the budget for a senior gift, an item which is still regarded as very important.

With safety in mind, there will be restrictions on the number of people attending the prom. As fire safety regulations are being tightly enforced, they are permitting only 600 people to join in on the festivities.

The price of tickets were \$50 per ticket and went on sale as of May 19. The committee encouraged seniors to get orders in for tickets as close to the sale date as possible, because there were a limited number.

With a motivated committee of seniors and willing faculty advisors, it is sure to all end up to be an overall success.

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Once again the season has rolled around to spring going on summer, and as usual the list of places to go, people to see, and things to do grows faster than the sun-fed grass in your front yard. Many of these items on the list are once in a lifetime events which would be longer lasting and more satisfying if they were recorded permanently for absent family members and friends. In fact, they are just the kinds of events that call for a camera, a camera that is easy to use, and unequalled in quality. But, does such a camera exist? They all seem so complicated and expensive. And if they are not complicated or expensive, they don't take anywhere near a good picture. The throwaway, single use cameras can become expensive because they seem to demand that you use all of the film at once, whether you want to or not, so that you can have the film developed before you lose it. So, what do you do? One excellent answer is to visit Hometown Photo Lab and Portrait Studio to see about a camera that fits both your budget and your need for a quality camera. Yes, you can probably get a less expensive camera, but price is not the only thing to consider. When you get your camera from a high school kid working to save money for college, who do you go to when the answer is not in the poster-sized instruction sheet? There is nothing essentially wrong with the high school kid, but he has just left for college, and the replacement is "new here." Hometown Photo has been under the competent and friendly ownership of David Kay for years; he's a longtime member of the community, and he will be there when you have a question, need advice on film or techniques, or simply want to pick up a couple of rolls of film for those special occasions. And don't forget the processing: at your convenience, quickly and professionally done. Hometown has all of the latest equipment to give your precious pictures the very best of processing technology.

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## What's up at SHS?

**Tuesday, June 10-** Music Banquet at Pellicci's Restaurant, 7:00 P.M.

**Wednesday, June 11-** Senior Picnic  
Student/Staff Softball Game

**Thursday, June 12-** Final Exams: Periods 1 and 2  
Drama Club Banquet, 6:00 P.M.

**Friday, June 13-** Final Exams: Periods 3 and 4

**Monday, June 16-** Final Exams: Periods 5 and 6

**Tuesday, June 17-** Final Exams: Period 7 and Make-up

**Wednesday, June 18-** Graduation Practice in gym, 9:00 A.M.

**Thursday, June 19-** Graduation at Boyle Stadium, 6:00 P.M.

**Friday, June 20-** Raindate for Graduation, 4:00 P.M.

**Saturday, June 21-** Band Flea Market in Student Parking Lot, 8:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M.

**Monday, June 23-** Last Day of School

## Play Tennis?



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# SHS Completes Run of Spring Musical "Ragtime"

**Lauren LaRusso**  
Opinions Editor

The show that beat box office records, selling out all pre-sold tickets, and having an attendance in one night of over five hundred audience members is none other than the Stamford High School's very own Strawberry Hill Players' production of the musical Ragtime. The production of Ragtime is unique in many aspects, such as the fact that it is only the second time it has been performed ever since it has left Broadway. In addition, this is the first time that

Stamford High has approached a musical so freshly off that infamous New York City stage. However, Ragtime at Stamford High indeed was executed with such talent and perfection that it has undoubtedly blown away any insecurity about measuring up to the professionals.

Based on the novel by E.L. Doctorow, Ragtime is set in the beginning of the twentieth century, a time of class separation and rampant racism. The story traces the lives of several people from different societal groups (immigrants, blacks, and upper-class whites) and contrasts their lifestyles through the characters' and groups' interactions. The main story line follows Coalhouse Walker Jr., a talented black musician who is thrown into the white world when the woman he loves is taken under the care of a family from New Rochelle, NY. Coalhouse faces extreme discrimination for being a wealthy man of color and as a result is the object of much scorn and harassment, such as the vandalizing of his car by a jealous, racist fireman. He tries in every



The colorful cover for the Strawberry Hill Players' program for production of "Ragtime" attracted much attention, as did the musical itself.

possible way to receive justice for the crime, but no one will listen to his complaints. Sarah, the mother of his child, even tries to speak to the U.S. Vice-president to inform him of Coalhouse's struggles. However, tragedy occurs due to the common stereotype of blacks being criminals, and Sarah is mistaken for having a gun at the vice-president's speech and is beaten to death. The play traces the events subsequent of Coalhouse's murderous attempts for revenge, and brings up questions of what is really right and what is wrong by showing the various reactions from the different. Overall, Ragtime is a fabulous and intense picture of the America that was just developing during this time, portraying whites, immigrants, and blacks all struggling to find their place in an emerging nation.

However, it is exactly this rich, honest, and vivid nature of Ragtime that struck director Michael Limone as a sensitive subject matter, which would need to be closely examined throughout the preparation of the musical. Not only did the script deal

with sensitive issues, but also included strong language, derogatory terminology, and serious subject matters, such as racism, prejudice, class persecution and death. "There were a lot of issues which were far from being considered 'politically correct' in today's society," says featured dancer and senior Nancy Ringel, "but they are what makes Ragtime an accurate chronicle of society at the time." For this very reason, the script was left unchanged, the audience was warned beforehand of its content, and was, as a result, very well received by all.

The show also stood apart from that of previous years in that it was the first time an understudy performance was held, which was the matinee on May 10th. In addition, actress Regine Thadal, who played the main character Sarah, fell sick on the night of Friday the 9th. This was the first time in Strawberry Hill history that director Michael Limone ever had an understudy, Kim Prosper, go onstage in place of a lead. Certainly, the Strawberry Hill players encountered a unique experience and challenge in the execution of Ragtime in many areas.

Ragtime was most certainly enjoyed by all, both those involved in its production, as well as the audience members, and the Strawberry Hill Players, the ensemble, and all behind the scenes are to be commended for such an outstanding performance. In all that Stamford High School achieves, its staff and students never cease to astound, and once again have exceeded all expectations with the musical Ragtime.

# Debate Team Wins Finals and Recognition

**Jenny Hopkinson**  
Staff Writer

If the Black Knight football team won the state finals, everyone would know about it, but when Stamford High wins the state finals in debate, it is quite likely that no one knows.

In April, Juniors Carolina Lescano and Jennifer Magyari argued their way past approximately eighteen other Connecticut high schools to take a first place in The State Finals of the Connecticut Debate Association at Xavier High School in Middletown, CT. The two, who had never debated before this year, surprised both teammates and themselves by achieving this prestigious award and beating some of the top debaters in the state.

To qualify for their spot in the finals, the two had to win a trophy in a previous debate competition. But even having met this qualification, the two first year debaters were not expecting to win. "When we showed up we didn't even want to debate varsity," commented Magyari. "We only realized how well we were doing when we made it through to the final round, which was a total surprise to everyone, especially since this was our first year in debate." Jokingly Magyari also said "A teammate predicted it, at our first novice (the JV of debate). He said that we would win varsity finals at the end of the year."

The final debate was on the abolition of the death penalty, a topic on which both sides have strong arguments. The debate comprised three rounds; in the first two rounds both teams have a chance to argue both sides of the issue.

"For the final round the teams flip a coin," said Lescano. "Whoever wins the toss gets to choose which side they debate."

Both Magyari and Lescano were very happy when they ended up arguing for the death penalty.

With their First State title out of the way the two experienced debaters are looking forward to next year and to "taking the Connecticut debate world by storm," as Lescano put it.

*The junior class would like to extend a warm thank you to all of the sponsors that helped support the Junior Prom.*

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Congratulations to all of the graduating members of the Stamford High School Class of 2003. May the best of Good Luck be with you wherever you choose to go.

# Six SHS Teachers Set to Retire

## Ms. Sally Anne Brown

**Dan Maimon**  
Staff Writer

When a person enjoys their job, the workdays tend to go by quickly. It seems that the first day becomes 26 years in no time. Then, the next thing you know, you're retiring, and you have no idea how the time went so fast. It seems that you never have enough time in one day to complete your lesson plans, let alone enough time in the entire year to get through the curriculum. Such is the story for Mrs. Sally Anne Brown, who after 26 years of teaching mathematics at over four different schools, is set to retire at the end of this school year.

In an interview with The Round Table, she shared some of her plans for retirement, as well as some concerns, memories, and advice of her own to new teachers:

**The Round Table:** How long have you been teaching here at Stamford High School, and have you taught anywhere else?

**Mrs. Brown:** I've been teaching here for only four years, but I've been in the Stamford School System for about eigh-

teen. I used to teach at Rippowam, and Westhill. I also taught in Darien, New York City, and a college course at Bridgeport University.

**TRT:** What have been some of your favorite moments at Stamford High?

**MB:** Well, I always loved getting dressed up for Halloween, and I also enjoyed seeing my students perform in plays or compete in sports games. It is always rewarding to see a student excel somewhere else besides the classroom.

**TRT:** What are some of your plans for after retirement?

**MB:** As with most people that retire, I would enjoy traveling a little, spending some time with family as well. I would like to also try to give free math tutoring to people that can't otherwise afford it. My family and I also want to try to go down to South Africa and do some volunteer work there.

**TRT:** What are your expected feelings on the last day?

**MB:** I have mixed emo-  
SEE "BROWN" P. <NONE>

**Cristina Mallozzi**  
Staff Writer

As the end of the school year rapidly approaches, Mr. DeMent anticipates the last day of school this year differently from those in the past because, like the seniors who are graduating, it is also his last day at Stamford High School. Like many of the seniors, too, Mr. DeMent expects to feel jubilation on that last day. He describes the emotion he expects to feel as "a wow." The "wow" being a mix of happiness at the end, and the realization that he will no longer be teaching at Stamford High.

Years ago when DeMent first arrived at Stamford High School his reaction to his new environment paralleled that of an incoming freshman. He, like the freshmen, was coming from years spent at middle school. He was, however, coming from the position of being a teacher. After twelve

years teaching at a middle school, the experience that is Stamford High was, as he describes it, "mind-boggling." He said that the size of the school and the amount of independence given to a teacher were much different here than what he had grown accustomed to at the middle school level.

Now looking back at the years he has spent teaching, DeMent thinks most about the students. Over the years he has observed how the students have changed. He relates the fact that there is a difference between the type of student in schools today and the type there was when he first began teaching. He has witnessed the evolution of the attitudes and behaviors of students over time.

DeMent has one regret when reminiscing about the past. His regret is that he chose to decline a job offer he had to work in Hawaii at a time when his area of teaching expertise was very much in demand. He described it as the teacher being able to interview the schools rather than the schools interviewing the teacher for a job. The net result was, rather than ending up in Hawaii or even Alaska, he ended up here at Stamford High.

Now as he prepares to leave, he offered

SEE "DEMENT" P. <NONE>

*Also retiring this year are staff members Ms. Ramona Black and Mrs. June Pierce.*

## Mr. Manhar Patel

**Jenny Hopkinson**  
Staff Writer

Almost twenty-three years ago, Mr. Manhar Patel began teaching at Stamford High in physics and math. Now the well loved college prep, honors, and advanced placement physics teacher and head of the physics club, is retiring. Before he leaves the Stamford High community, The Round Table had a chance to ask him a few questions about his tenure at the school and his plans for retirement.

**Round Table:** When did you begin teaching?

**Mr. Patel:** I began teaching in 1960. I taught for three years in an all girls private school in New Jersey and then spent a few years in New York. Unfortunately I wasn't happy there, I didn't like the school system and wanted a change. I came to Stamford High School in 1981 and have taught both physics and math here happily for the past twenty-two and a half years.

**RT:** Was teaching your first profession?

**MP:** Yes, I have always wanted to teach, although I was tempted to quit before I

came to Stamford.

**RT:** What made you decide to be a teacher?

**MP:** That's a good question. When I was in college, my professors inspired me to teach. I either wanted to teach or be an engineer, and so I studied physics. I like to teach because of the young people and sharing my knowledge with them. I've loved teaching, especially here in Stamford.

**RT:** What are your favorite memories from Stamford High?

**MP:** I enjoyed the physics trips to Six Flags Great Adventure theme park. It is a shame that we can't go on those anymore. Another fond memory was when we won the New England Regional Physics contest in 1997 and placed fourth nationwide. Not only was that a great experience for the students, but as a teacher it was incredible and so were the rewards. But most of all, I've just enjoyed challenging students.

**RT:** Do you have any regrets or things you would have done differently?

**MP:** The main thing I would probably have changed is that I would have taken more field trips to industries so that students

SEE "PATEL" P. <NONE>

## Mr. John Sekara

**Nancy Ringel**  
Associate News Editor

Mr. John Sekara, science and chemistry teacher at Stamford High School, will be retiring from his teaching position at the end of this year. Sekara has been teaching for thirty-five years, spending twenty-six of those years at Cloonan Middle School before recently moving to Stamford High. In a recent interview with The Round Table, Sekara revealed his feelings about his retirement, as well as his future plans and fondest memories.

Though he has been planning his retirement for some time, Sekara told us that he has recently developed some unexpected feelings about the end of his career. "I thought I'd be excited about it being over," he said, "but in the last few weeks I've felt melancholy. I've spent thirty-five years doing the same thing, and all of a sudden it's coming to an end. This thought has started to make me sad."

While leaving Stamford High is evoking some unexpected emotions, Sekara also has fond memories from the school.

"My only regret is not coming to SHS sooner," he told us, adding that developing many relationships with students are among his favorite recollections. "My favorite moments are when a student thanks me for being a teacher," he said. "I'll definitely miss moments like those."

When asked what he would miss most about Stamford High, Sekara responded, "Mr. Ferri," with a grin on his face. "I won't miss getting up at five in the morning for the commute, though."

While Sekara did not enjoy all aspects of working at the school - "the long commute to Stamford was too much," he said - he will miss the students, faculty, and administrators. He admits that retiring will significantly change his life, but prefers to think of it as a less drastic milestone than many others would. "I don't like the word 'retirement;' it seems too final. I prefer to think that I am ending this phase in my life and moving on to something else."

This "something else" is not yet set in concrete for Sekara; his future plans include painting his house, doing volunteer

SEE "SEKARA, P. <NONE>

# Winners of FBLA State Conference Announced

**Andrew Dolian**  
Associate Sports Editor

This summer Stamford High School is sending some of their finer competitors to the FBLA National Conference which will be held this year in Dallas, Texas. Last April, a significant number of FBLA members took part in the state level competition and they finished among the top scorers. Stamford High's club placed many winners among the top 5 of their competitive events (See FBLA WINNERS).

The SHS FBLA chapter placed Third in all of Connecticut and with efforts on behalf of the club's business enterprise, Robs' Place, students got a chance to visit Cancun, Mexico. Since this

is the FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America), the trip was intended to serve not only as an opportunity for relaxation, but also as a chance to see how business is conducted in another country, especially where it may be far different than in the United States.

Senior Secretary Evan Ratner said, "Last year's trip to Cancun may have appeared as a leisure trip, but actually, we visited many historical sites, such as Chitinitza and learned about the Mayan Culture in Mexico. We also had the chance to try deep sea fishing, where we caught a 6 foot fish that

## And the Winners are...

- Mickey Ferri:** 1st in Business Calculations
- Sasha Virvo:** 1st in Job Interview
- George Poulos:** 1st in Networking Concepts
- Kyle Nemcheck:** 1st in Website Designing
- Darlene August:** 1st in Website Designing
- Evan Ratner:** 2nd in Future Business Leader
- Adam Shuckman:** 2nd in Accounting 1
- Dan Blank:** 2nd in Computer Concepts
- Harrison Abromowitz:** 2nd in Public Speaking 1
- Josh Li:** 3rd Business Calculations
- SHS FBLA:** 3rd in CT Trophy for Outstanding Chapter

is now stuffed and hung up in Rob's Place."

Senior Vice President James Cobb added, "This trip determines EBLA members who consistently

work hard, [are] involved with the community, and [it offers them] the chance to visit a place that they may never have the opportunity to do ever again."

Senior President Howard Locker said, "It's much more official [business in Mexico], you can bargain and there isn't any tax at all on goods. Of course those without business sense probably over pay a lot. All of our members had the chance to see how business is in another part of the world."

When asked about some of the problems involved with planning

this year's trip, given the economic and security conditions, Adviser Mr. Frank Pocaiddo said, "None, as of now. But basically we have to make sure of the total amount of commitment [on the parts of the members] from which everyone benefits, and we have to convince [the Board of Education] of the legitimacy of the trip. We have given them more than enough reason to let me reward those who put in hard work day after day."

The itinerary of this summer's activity has not been finalized yet. FBLA Club officials do not yet know whether there may again be an opportunity to visit some of the important social, cultural and economic sites in Mexico, but they are hoping such an extension can be arranged.

### Brown

*Continued from P. 12*

tions about it. On one hand it is nice to be done, but then again I will miss the enthusiasm of the students and teachers and the friendliness of the people here. The challenge of teaching is also something I'll miss a lot. So, I'd say it's more of a bittersweet feeling than anything else.

TRT: How do you compare now to when you first got to Stamford High?

MB: I think my best four years have been here. I think that since these were the last years of my teaching career, I had the most maturity and I feel that I am really leaving on a good note.

TRT: What advice would you give to incoming teachers?

MB: Keep it simple; don't give the kids too many difficult rules that you can't enforce. In essence, don't bite off more than you can chew. Find time to enjoy what you are doing!

TRT: Is there anything you regret or anything you wish you could change?

MB: If I could change anything, I would change the lack of time the teachers get to develop their lessons, and interact with other teachers so we could give each other tips and methods and things like that.

TRT: Well, I thank you for taking the time to do this interview.

MB: You're very welcome.

### Patel

*Continued from p.*

could see first hand how math and physics relate to the real world. I have taken a few of trips in the past, but not a lot, and I believe it is important for the students to make such connections.

RT: How has teaching changed since you first began?

MP: The computer has been the greatest change to teaching. This tool has become much more advanced, and makes it possible to cover more material in shorter times.

RT: What are your plans for retirement?

MP: For the first year I plan to travel, which I am really looking forward to. I also plan to visit friends and relatives within the United States and abroad. After that I am going to teach part time at Sacred Heart [University] once or twice a week as I have been doing for about the past ten years. This is to keep my mind busy and active.

### Dement

*Continued from p.*

some counsel for the students. He advises that students, "put more time and effort into classes and sports. A student needs to be dedicated," he said. "The job market is getting tighter and tighter but for those who work hard there will always be greater opportunities."

### Sekara

*Continued from p. 12*

work in his home town, and possibly even teaching again if he finds a suitable position closer to his home. While Sekara plans to stay occupied, he will enjoy sleeping later and having more free time after his retirement.

Students and faculty alike say that Sekara will be missed, but they wish him much luck in his future endeavors. Sekara leaves his students with simple words of advice: "Get to class on time, come to school every day, and try your hardest; if you do all these things, then you'll be OK."

Graduation Ceremonies for the Class of 2003 are scheduled for Thursday, June 19 with the program to begin at 6 p.m. If there is inclement weather, the ceremonies will be held on Friday, June 20 with these proceedings to begin at 4 p.m.

## Connecticut State Latin Day Proves Latin is Alive and Well

**Steven Taffet**  
Guest Writer

Over 2000 students and faculty members, including about 30 from Stamford high, proved yesterday that Latin is not, as some may think, a dead language. Holiday Hill was brought back to the Roman days complete with chariot racing and a catapult competition.

Many of the Stamford High students took part in the several competitions and a couple came away with awards. Shelly Paight won a fourth place in an academic contest involving Latin derivatives. Dana Forrest, even though she was unable to attend the festival herself, nonetheless did capture a third place award for her model of a Roman temple entered in the architecture project competition.

At Latin Day there was enough food to feed the entire Roman army, and there was never a moment when a hungry Roman couldn't find something good to eat at one of the huge buffets available.

There were arts and crafts to please even the most finicky of Roman citizens. There was button making and lumpy painting, a

lumpy is a clay figure. If these activities didn't suit one's interests, there were other activities including sock puppets, laurel wreaths, dolls, clay sculptures, and mosaics.

Educational activities were also available for those who wanted to do something at Latin Day, activities that even the most scholarly of Romans would find challenging. There was a version of Roman Jeopardy to try one's mind at, as well as tests on Roman myths. If Latin grammar and sayings were your strong points, you could battle the best in Connecticut.

The grounds at Holiday Hill added to the enjoyment of the day. A nearby lake afforded all participants an opportunity to pursue paddle boating, canoeing, or row boating. Even though golf was not a Roman game, a mini-golf course was available for all to use.

Latin Day concluded with athletic games including a of tug of war and some chariot racing. The 'Tunica' awards honored the student 'best-dressed' in a stylish tunic.

With all the activities at Latin Day, one can understand the greatness of the Roman Empire and the hold that it still has on students today.

# "Spring Bling" Draws Attention to Entrepreneurship

**Nancy Ringel**  
Associate News Editor

For days, people wondered what the colorful signs in the hallway were advertising. Some speculated that the fashion club was going to sell clothes; others thought that a club was organizing a school-wide tag sale. Though many ideas floated around the halls of Stamford High in the days before May 20th, few students were actually sure what the words on the signs meant. "Spring Bling" was a mystery to all that walked the halls.

The Spring Bling turned out to be a showcase of a variety of merchandise in room 101 that students sold for their Entrepreneurship class. Items ranged from jewelry, lip gloss and hand bags to key chains, hats and food, all displayed on an assortment of tables lining the back of the small auditorium. The Spring Bling was crowded nearly every period, filling room 101 to the brim with teachers and eager shoppers.

The Spring Bling made many students ask questions about the Entrepreneurship class. The class is new to Stamford High this year, as is its teacher Mr. Keller. The elective offers students an introduction into the world of business,

and even allows them to make a profit of their own. "The class is really exciting because it is hands on," said junior Stacey Lowe, a member of the period three class. "We don't simply learn about the business world; we also get to be a part of it. It makes learning easier and much more fun than listening to lectures all the time."

The class allows this hands on style due to the NFTE Program, which is the National Foundation for Teaching Entrepreneurship. Mr. Keller is a certified NFTE teacher, which allows him to work through the program and give his students maximum opportunities for hands-on activities.

One of the students' favorite activities in the class inspired the idea of the Spring Bling. NFTE allots each student in the class a budget of \$50.00 to buy any amount and type of products that they wish. The students then resell the products, pay the \$50.00 back to the NFTE Program, and are permitted to keep the profits themselves. "Being able to keep the profits is great incentive to get kids into the activity," said senior Julian Velez, also a member of the class. "You want to make money, so you work harder to understand the business process of it. I think it's a great idea."

In addition to buying and selling, the students must also under-

take tasks such as advertising, marketing, tracking profit and loss, preparing an income statement, calculating return on investment, and writing a business plan to present in a competition. The class thought the Spring Bling would be a perfect means to showcase all of the products, and thus went about advertising around the school. "We went around the wholesale district of New York City for a field trip to get all the merchandise," Mr. Keller told us. "The students bought things that they thought would sell well to kids around the school, and repriced them at the Spring Bling to try and maximize their profits. It was an interesting task to undertake, but the students were enthusiastic because of the possible profits."

The Spring Bling was not the only opportunity for the students to make money during the year. There is also a competition in which real business leaders from around the area come to the Entrepreneurship class and evaluate the students' business plans. The panel of business leaders judges the class' work, and gives out \$50.00 for the third best business plan, \$100 for second

place, and \$200 for first prize. The top business planner also gets the opportunity to go to higher competitions on the state and national level.

The opportunities to make profits have paid off, as the students have made hundreds of dollars over the course of the school year. The Spring Bling was considered to be a success by the school, and the students learned a lot about entrepreneurship in the process of planning and preparing the event.

The Entrepreneurship class

shows much promise in its future at Stamford High. Though only in its first year, students have shown much excitement and enthusiasm towards the class, suggesting that the NFTE Program will be a part of Stamford High in the future. "I wish I had heard about the class earlier," said senior Matt Larobina, who will not have the opportunity to take the class at Stamford High. "Learning about business, doing fun activities, making money- I don't see how you could go wrong with something like that."



Photo by N. Ringel

Mr. Keller motions behind him to the mass of students browsing the Spring Bling on May 20th in room 101. This is Mr. Keller's first year at SHS, and he teaches the Entrepreneurship class as that organized the Spring Bling.

## SHS Students Awarded Police Scholarships

**Rachel Fletcher**  
Arts and Entertainment Editor

Being a police officer is a highly esteemed role within any community. The requirements to

defend and protect the public are high and not all are suited for this task. In order to preserve this prestige and to encourage highly qualified young people to become involved with the police force in Stamford, Stamford High's Dr.

Michael Intreri, retired School Administrator Edward Matthews, Lodge President Frank Colello, and Secretary Mark Pesiri instituted a scholarship sponsored by the Connecticut Fraternal Order of Police to be available to two 2003 graduates showing promise in the field of law enforcement and "for the purpose of becoming Police Officers in Connecticut".

Winners Krista Ostaszewski and Sara Anderson were the proud recipients of the first-year award and had to display a GPA of 3.0 or above, intended law enforcement vocation, and demonstrate leadership in the community and school environments in order to receive the allotted \$5,000 each. In addition to the requirements mentioned above each contender had to submit a transcript, Activity

Sheet, a 300-word essay, three letters of recommendation, and acceptance from an accredited

*"Krista and Sara's continuing study of forensic pathology is a tribute to our teaching staff, ....*

*Our partnership with law enforcement solidifies the future growth of our state and community. The two students represent the best of Stamford High."*

*Robert Augustyn, Counselor*

institution. The two girls, who

displayed involvement in the field of Forensic Pathology, were acclaimed by Stamford High Guidance Counselor, Mr. Augustyn "Krista and Sara's continuing study of forensic pathology is a tribute to our teaching staff, especially in the area of science. Our partnership with law enforcement solidifies the future growth of our state and community. The two students represent the best of Stamford High."

Dr. Anthony Mazzullo, School Superintendent was present to congratulate the two girls on their achievements. Krista, whose family has a history in the police force plans on attending the University of Connecticut with assistance from this award, and Sara will be going to Virginia Commonwealth University in the fall of 2003.



Photo by R. Fletcher

Students Sarah Anderson (L) and Krista Ostaszewski (R) stand with SPD officials Frank Colello and Mark Pesiri, Robert Augustyn, Edward Matthews and Anthony Mazzullo. Sarah and Krista were awarded \$5,000 from the SPD for their future plans of becoming police officers.



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**Daniel Acedo**  
**Jose Raul Acosta** A r t  
 Institute - Philadelphia  
**Jaselyn A. Adams**  
**Jeimy M. Aguilar**  
 Norwalk Community College  
**Ray Alexis Alarcon**  
 Norwalk Community College  
**Sara Elizabeth Anderson**  
 Virginia Commonwealth  
**Chris John Annunziata**  
**Katie C. Arenas** UCONN  
**Alberto** Argueta  
**Jared Michael Ashe**  
 Wesleyan University  
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 Norwalk Community College  
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**Carlos Arturo Barbaran**  
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**Charles John Barrett**  
**Edward Barroso**  
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**Kanesha Alisse Basket**  
 Briarwood  
**Titanya Chrishawn Bates**  
**Stanley Belizor**  
**Mario Bellavia**  
**Becker Ben** Westchester  
 Business Inst.  
**Janelle M. Berg** N o r w a l k  
 Community College  
**Alex Bernshteyn** B u c k n e l l  
 University  
**Nathalie Pierre Biename**  
**Frank N. Bistolas**  
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**Jessica G. Blue**  
**Latasha D. Booker**  
**Matthew Stephen Bova**  
**Tamara Boyd** Housatonic  
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**Andriene Samantha Briscoe**  
 Western Conn State College  
**Travis Nesta Brivett**  
 Norwalk Community College  
**Mark Brock**  
**Andre Tarin Brown**  
**Jason Brown**  
**Jonathan Browne**  
**Stanley Bruno**  
**Joelene Justine Bruno**  
**Alfred Bryant Jr.** Gibbs  
 College  
**Shauna-Gaye N. Bryson**

*Graduation Day has been the goal in the minds of everyone since the first day they arrived obviously nervous and shaking, or apparently-calm and comfortable at the school on the hill. Many have seen steady, uncomplicated growth, while others have seen more turmoil and to-do than they would like to see in a lifetime. Either way, most of the members of the Class of 2003 have made it to their finish line that marks the end of their high school careers and the starting line that begins another new adventure. For the graduates, this is a special time. A time for poignant thoughts of days past, an opportunity for reflection, evaluation and contemplation about what they have achieved and what yet remains undone. It's also a time for thoughts of the future, of days, weeks and years filled with more anxiety than any of them is willing to admit. In a few short weeks or months, most will be in college, some will be starting out on a new life's career, while others will be making plans to continue training. Whichever is the route they choose, it is going to be different --perhaps pleasantly so, perhaps not.*

*But enough of the philosophy. There's still plenty of time to think about the future: after they finish the senior paper, after they pay the requisite book-loss fines, after they plan the itinerary for the after-graduation party circuit. Tomorrow, they'll worry about tomorrow's plans tomorrow. For now, there's nothing but...*

## Graduation Day, June 19, 2003.

### "Good-bye, Stamford High!"

**Mark Ralph Bucci**  
**Robert Jerry Buchetto**  
**Dillon Lawrence Burns**  
**Guadalupe Vanessa Calderon**  
 Norwalk Community College  
**Beatrice Cam** N o r w a l k  
 Community College  
**Abdias Cam** Westchester  
 Business Inst.  
**Lauren Michele Campfield**  
 Boston University  
**Christian R. Campos**  
**Steven L. Capitelli** Bryant  
 College  
**Rachel Lynn Capomolla**  
**John Isaac Carrington Jr.**  
**Tejay A. Carswell**  
**James A. Caruso**  
**Lillian A. Castellanos**  
**Stephanie N. Catlyn-**  
**Cumberbatch**  
**Paul S. Cattan**  
**Marie R. Cedan** N o r w a l k  
 Community College  
**Karl Cedrac**  
**Jennifer Melissa Celis**  
**Stephanie Anne Chacra** Purdue  
 University

**Sophia Edwine Charlemagne**  
**Mimode Charles**  
**Andrew L. Chavers Jr.**  
 Morgan State University  
**James Calvin Cheeseboro II**  
**Danielle E. Chery**  
**Jason W. Christie**  
**Adam Cimoch**  
**Latesha Cobb**  
**James Silas Cobb II**  
 Columbia University  
**Brooke A. Cogna**  
 UCONN  
**Toni Colandro**  
**Emmanuel Colas**  
**Sheyla Colindres**  
 Norwalk Community College  
**Krystal Alexandra Collins**  
**Jose Condor** Tufts University  
**Lisette Cordera**  
**Joseph Patrick Corsello**  
**Floid Anthony Creary**  
**Jessica M. Cruz**  
**Nelson O. Cruz-Martinez**  
 University of Valencia  
**Christopher Lamar Cummings**  
**Michael R. Curto III**  
**Hubert Dabrowski**

**Norwalk Community College**  
**Aimee Dacres**  
**Sarita Dan** Washington  
 Univ. St. Louis  
**Katherine E. Davis**  
**Erika S. Delaneau**  
**Cassandra Jean DeLeo**  
 Norwalk Community College  
**Jairon Donald DeLeon-Batres**  
**Adrian Derenoncourt**  
 UCONN  
**Ralph E. Desir**  
**David Desrosiers**  
 Berkeley  
**Latoya Nicole Dickerson**  
**Joseph D. DiGioia** Seton  
 Hall University  
**Edison Dinac**  
**Paul O. Ditimi Jr.**  
**Andrew Reynolds Dolian**  
 Univ No. Carolina -Charlotte  
**David Martin Dombrowski**  
**Tony Domond**  
**Timothy E. Donnelly Jr.**  
**Kerri Amanda Donner** Univ/  
 Maryland College Point  
**Alice Doo** NYU  
**Sophia Dookh**

**Rebecca Anne Coolidge Dorcelly**  
 Norwalk Community College  
**Christina Dufane**  
**Chelsea Monet Dunaway** enter-  
 ing work field  
**Kadeem Edwards**  
**Miguel Elgueta**  
**Joe Elliott III**  
**Kenicha Emillen**  
**Douglas M. Engler**  
**Daniel Eugene Jr.**  
**Windy Exantus**  
**David Benjamin Eytel** Emory  
 University  
**Myriam Faubert**  
**Fernando Julio Febres**  
 Northeastern University  
**Jason Ian Feder** B r a n d e i s  
 University  
**Bethany Ruth Feintuck**  
 Norwalk Community College  
**Jocely Ferdinand**  
**Santos Fernandez**  
**Mickey Aron Ferri** Tufts  
 University  
**Dex G. Fields**  
**William Fils** N i a g a r a  
 University  
**Ashley Elizabeth Fiore**  
**Marysa S. Florita**  
 Manhattanville College  
**Krystina Danielle Fisher** Florida  
 Atlantic University  
**Alexandra M. Flagg**  
 Fordham University  
**Andrea I. Flores**  
**James Joseph Flynn**  
**Lexi L. Forrest** T a m p a  
 University  
**Daniel Patrick Fortin**  
 UCONN  
**Christopher O. Fountain**  
 Western Conn State Univ.  
**Jason M. Fox**  
**Niclasse D. Francois**  
**Yetnel Francois-Fils**  
 Western Conn State Univ.  
**Joseph R. Frattaroli**  
**Sharon Hope Freundlich**  
**Amy Fuks**  
**Josiane Gabriel** University of  
 Bridgeport  
**Brittany Elizabeth Gale**  
 Mitchell College  
**Jonathan Gale** N o r w a l k  
 Community College  
**Rodolfo Galeano-Aquino**  
 Norwalk Community College  
**Dina Maria Galluzzo**  
**Maria Garay**  
**Jodee Sara Garber**  
**Erick J. Garcia**  
**Margaret Ellen Garcia**

*The list printed on the following pages is the roster of Stamford High School seniors, members of the Class of 2003, as noted in the official class register. The colleges and post-graduation pursuits listed are those supplied by the Stamford High Guidance Department as of June 3, 2003. There may be students included in the list who, for one or more reasons, may not be recipients of a diploma and who may not officially graduate on the June 19 date. Graduation is contingent upon completing all necessary course work, fulfilling all academic, financial and legal obligations, and being certified as having met all necessary requirements. Being included on this list does not constitute such completion.*

# ON TO College

**Maria G. Garcia**  
**Anna A. Gershman**  
 Fordham University  
**Jennifer A. Giannitti**  
 Central Conn State Univ.  
**Vanessa Gidden**  
**Kasem Gjini**  
**James B. Go**  
**Sanjeev Goluguri**  
 Georgia Institute-Technology  
**Yuliana Gomez** Norwalk  
 Community College  
**Christine Michelle Gomez**  
**Nancy C. Gonzalez-Zecena**  
**Cinthya Grajeda**  
 Norwalk Community College  
**Brianna Shenique Green**  
**William Green Jr.**  
**Willie James Gullford III**  
 Norwalk Community College  
**Lauren Audrey Gulliver** New  
 York University  
**Lillrena Dorshaine Gwyn**  
 Central Conn. State Univ.  
**Robert Ha**  
**Michael Jake Haendler** Tufts  
 University  
**Gregory Hafkin** Northwestern  
 University  
**Melissa Marie Halladay**  
 Norwalk Community College  
**Christine Danielle Hamilton**  
 5 Towns College  
**Alex Harding**  
**Keenan Reginald Hardy** Gibbs  
 College  
**Zachary Hasak** Univ of New  
 Hampshire  
**Christopher L. Hayes**  
 University of Massachusetts  
**Dishaun Sharmaine Haynes**  
**Eric Hayo**  
**Jermaine R. Henry**  
**Benjamin Herbst**  
**Genaro G. Hernandez**  
**Luis A. Hernandez Jr.**  
**Jacari Hickey**  
**Jennifer Marie Hoeg** Vassar  
 College  
**Peter T. Hopkinson**  
 Syracuse University  
**Hector Daniel Hoyos**

**Catherine Anne Hughes**  
**Aaron Jurod Hull**  
**Dana Lydia Humbert**  
**Kadian Hunter**  
**Erin Elizabeth Hupal** Keene  
 State College  
**Katelyn Leng Imbornoni**  
 Syracuse University  
**Kristin L. Iorio** Stonehill  
 College  
**Carlos Irizarry**  
**Corey Jamell Jackson**  
**Mohammed A. Jaffery**  
 UCONN  
**Melissa F. James**  
**Kateria Nakia Jamison**  
**Kenny S. Jarrett**  
**Stephanie Jean**  
**Michael Christopher Jenkins**  
**Stephanie A. Jenson** Keene  
 State  
**Ricardo Benito Joassin**  
**Tiffany Nikia Charell Johnson**  
 Norwalk Community College  
**Steffany Takia Chanel Johnson**  
**Odiking Joint** Westchester  
 Business Inst.  
**Dikingscia Joint Bay** State  
 College  
**Jesse Jolly** Northeastern  
 University  
**Conrad A. Jones**  
 Johnson & Wales University  
**Meghan Danielle Jones**  
**Mitchell R. Joseph**  
**Stevenson Joseph**  
**Thierry Joseph**  
**Guerline Joseph**  
**Terrance Joyce**  
**John P. Kalinowski**  
**Matthew Kandel**

Fordham University  
**Michael Douglas Arthur Kane**  
 Penn State University  
**Brett P. Kapteina**  
**Stephen B. Karger**  
 Denison University  
**Karen E. Kelly**  
**Julia Maria Khazan**  
**Marianna Kheyfets** Univ  
 of Miami  
**Wojciech Kielczynski**  
**Melissa Jane Kingsley**  
 Johnson & Wales University  
**Rachel R. Knox**  
**Lukasz Andrzej Kochan**  
**Daniel W. Koenig**  
 UCONN  
**Max Koffler**  
**Bella Kotlyar** James Madison  
 Univ.  
**Felicia Anne Kovacs**  
 Marymount Manhattan  
**Justine Marie Kovacs**  
 University of Maryland  
**Paul Kramer**  
**Daniel Jordon Krasney** Bryant  
 College  
**Besnik Krasniqi**  
**Olga Kryzalka** Norwalk  
 Community College  
**Dave Kush** University of  
 Michigan  
**Matthew Joseph Kyek**  
**Lisa Marie LaBella**  
 University of Hartford  
**Matthew A. Larobina**  
 UCONN  
**Samantha Nicole LaRoche**  
 Central Conn State Univ  
**Krystal Monique Larose**  
**Lauren Elizabeth LaRusso**  
 College of the Holy Cross  
**Tamar Laurent** University of  
 Bridgeport  
**Laurencia Laurore**  
 Norwalk Community College  
**Jeff Lauture**  
**Beatrice Lauture**  
**Susanna Lee** Pace University  
**Ronald Keifer Legg Jr.**  
 Norwalk Community College  
**Ernest Bryant Leslie III**  
**Nadine Lesperance**  
**Stacy Meryl Lessen**  
 Syracuse University

**TingFung Li** Rochester  
 Institute - Tech.  
**Joshua W. Li** M.I.T.  
**Jun Li**  
**Jesy Anne Liamzon**  
 Syracuse University  
**Dana A. Litchman**  
**Rubi Loaeza**  
**Howard Adam Locker** Yale  
 University  
**Lindsey Longo**  
**Viviana Lopez**  
**Marcellino Lopez Jr.**  
**Jason Lorenti**  
**Jean-Marie Louis**  
 Housatonic Community College  
**Valentina G. Luccardi**  
 Norwalk Community College  
**Ewa Lupinska** Norwalk  
 Community College  
**Corey J. Mack**  
**Linda Jennifer Madera**  
**Nicole Elaine Mahoney**

University  
**Jason E. McKinney**  
 Norwalk Community College  
**Megan Irene McNamara** Ithaca  
 College  
**Robin C. McNeil**  
**Jason J. Medina** Gibbs College  
**Cesia A. Medina**  
**Kaleen Murray Mehner**  
**Paul Daniel Melchionno**  
**Michee A. Menard**  
**Geysa Mendez**  
**Marcela Mercado**  
**Rosa Irma Mercado**  
**Kristijan Merdita**  
 Norwalk Community College  
**Christine Merritt**  
**Rachel D. Midy**  
**Daphine Milbin** Norwalk  
 Community College  
**Mindy Anne Milbrun**  
**Jessica A. Miles-Pelton**  
**Carly Denise Miller** Boston



Norwalk Community College  
**Samantha Ashley Maldenberg**  
 UCONN  
**Daniel N. Maimon** Penn  
 State University  
**Enzennio Mallozzi**  
**Craig Mammone**  
**Diana Manalo**  
**Mona Mansoori** UCONN  
**Monika Marciczkievicz**  
 Cazenovia College  
**Paul Markovich** Iona College  
**Jessica Martinez**  
 Norwalk Community College  
**Fritznel Masson Jr.**  
 Norwalk Community College  
**Gregory Matta**  
**Eleanor Joyce Matthews**  
 Northeastern University  
**Nicholas Philip Mazzucco**  
**Shakeena McBride**  
**Anthony Ramon McGee**  
**Daniel M. McGrath** Lynn

University  
**Randy Heather Miller** Boston  
 University  
**Shanika Mitchell**  
**Daniela Francesca Moccia**  
**Weslide Moise** Southern Maine  
 Tech. Coll.  
**Michael M. Molloy**  
 UCONN Stamford  
**Rafael S. Monteagudo**  
**Molly Claire Moore**  
 DePaul University  
**Reinaldo R. Moran**  
**Jeffrey Morganteen** Ithaca  
 College  
**Kristy M. Morrell** Univ  
 of Massachusetts  
**Lizette Marie Morris**  
 Franklin Pierce College  
**Sean Thomas Mournighan**  
 Florida State University  
**Ilda Music**  
**Jeffrey Robert Nadro II**

Eastern Conn State Univ.  
**Andrew Nardi**  
 Eric E. Navok Case Western Reserve  
**Peter Jacob Neems** George Washington Univ.  
**Dennis Benjamin Nemchek** Syracuse University  
**Robin Neri** UCONN  
**Gavin Lamar Newsome**  
**Israella Elian Nof** University of Chicago  
**Paul S. Northrop**  
**Timothy W. Nusbaum**  
**Ryan O'Grady**  
**Brian O'Melia**  
**Erica Susan Oberhand** American University  
**Whitney Jane Olds** Furman University  
**Daniel Patrick Oleksy**  
**Katharine Lynn Olson** Muhlenberg College  
**Sonia Orellana**  
**Alcibiades Enrique Orozco**  
**Cesar D. Ortecho**  
**Matthew Ortegon**  
**Jowie Rafael Ortiz**  
**Ederson Osias** U. S. Air Force  
**Krista Lynn Ostaszewski** UCONN  
**Vanessa F. Otayza** N o . Carolina Charlotte  
**Luis Otero Jr.** N o r w a l k Community College  
**James Edwin Owens III**  
**Julianna Pagan**  
**Shelley J. Paight**  
**Rebecca Estelle Palley** American University  
**Jeffrey Jia Chi Pan** M.I.T.  
**Daniela K. Parada-Bravo**  
**Heather L. Parker** Norwalk Community College  
**Mark M. Parrott** S e t a n hall University  
**Beatrice Paul**  
**Michael Paulus** UCONN  
**Jason L. Pavia** Southern Conn State Univ.  
**Andrew T. Pavia**  
**Anna Marie Pelletiere** Norwalk Community College  
**Ryan Pellini** Western Conn. State Univ.  
**Eric Pellow**  
**Nicole Ann Pensiero** UCONN  
**Jesse James Perkins**  
**Rachele L. Perry** W r i g h t Tech  
**Artia Marie Person**  
**Morgan L. Petti** N e w England College  
**Amanda Rachel Peyser** University of Wisconsin  
**Nicole Leigh Pia**

**Monica Pierre** B r o w a r d Community College  
**Lourdine S. Pierre** Southern Conn State Univ.  
**Laventure Pierre** Bridgeport University  
**Oscar David Pineda Jr.**  
**Kimberly Ann Plank**  
**Jaclyn E. Podlaski** R h o d e Island School Design  
**Lucas Podstawka**  
**Matthew John Pollicastro** Bryant College  
**Samuel N. Pomerantz** G e o r g e Washington Univ.  
**Emily Pomerantz** G e o r g e Washington University  
**Brittney A. Porter**

**Gustavo A. Reina**  
**Bartosz Remisiewicz**  
**Kimberly Ann Rich**  
**Nikki Richards**  
**Diana M. Rico**  
**Nancy Ellen Ringel** B o s t o n University  
**Tony Rivera** W r i g h t Tech  
**Walbert Rivera Jr.**  
**Marie-Berline Robert**  
**Angel A. Rodas**  
**Claudia M. Rojas** Norwalk Community College  
**Andres Sebastian Romero-O.** Southern Conn State Univ.  
**Sonia M. Rosales**  
**Elisabeth Marie Rosano** Southern Conn State Univ.

**Herby Servil** N o r w a l k Community College  
**Mala Karuna Sharma** B o s t o n University  
**Robert James Sherwood** Springfield College  
**Nicole Meghan Sierpina** UCONN  
**Eleni Sylvia Sikiotis**  
**Michael Joseph Simmons**  
**Efram Blake Slen** University of Rochester  
**Kyle D. Small** U.S. Marine Corps  
**Sarah Elizabeth Smegal** Emerson College  
**Robert James Smith** Southern Conn State Univ.

University  
**Christopher David Townes**  
**Mona Lisa Tranquilus** Norwalk Community College  
**Dan Trinh** UCONN  
**Jessica Anne Troy** G e o r g e Washington University  
**Emily Anne Marie Tu** UCONN  
**Stephanie S. Tucci**  
**William P. Tucker** Maplebrook School  
**Cristina Alexandra Tuluca** Boston University  
**Naykeisha Shante Turkvan**  
**Dimitra Eftixia Tzirikidis** Southern Conn State Univ.  
**Bhavna N. Vaghela** Queens College  
**Daniela Vaillant-Salcedo**  
**Walter A. Valdez**  
**Ashley Nicole Valentine**  
**Bobby Varlamos**  
**Clinton L. Vass Jr.**  
**Joanny Josefina Vega**  
**Julian Velez**  
**Alberto Josue Villeda** Norwalk Community College  
**Mildred F. Villeda-Caceres**  
**Sasha Danielle Virvo** J a m e s Madison University  
**Nina Margaret Volpe**  
**Megan Elizabeth Voyages** Loyola College  
**Maren Lista Walsh**  
**Rachel Maddy Warren** Muhlenberg College  
**Tiffany Renee Webb**  
**Jason M. Webski** B r y a n t College  
**Pamaria Shanika Wellington**  
**Diana E. Wilks**  
**Lonnie Williams**  
**Eric Williams**  
**Curtis Williams Jr.**  
**Tina Wilson**  
**Michelle R. Wilson**  
**Shontel Tavia Winston** Berkeley College  
**Erica Lynn Wondolowski** Eastern Conn. State Univ.  
**Jessica Marie Yahn** UCONN  
**Samantha J. Yellen** Norwalk Community College  
**Gaeun Katie Youn**  
**Theodore Shand Yudain** UCONN  
**Concetta Zaccone**  
**Heather Morgan Zajdel** Brandeis University  
**Alexander P. Zavras** UCONN  
**Igor Zelenberg** C o r n e l l University  
**Nick A. Zolotarev**  
**Jonathan Eduardo Zurita**



**Gareth John Porter**  
**Nickolas Andrew Portillo**  
**George Michael Poulos** Northeastern University  
**Erica G. Pratt**  
**Shacioa Pratt** U n i v e r s i t y of Bridgeport  
**Zinovy Michael Pravin** Clarkson University  
**Chante D. Prawl**  
**Jeffrey Preli**  
**Marie A. Preudhomme** Westchester Business Inst.  
**Gerson Previl**  
**Michael Duane Pribanic**  
**Christopher C. Prieto**  
**Elizabeth K. Pritting** Catholic Univ. of America  
**Patryk R. Prokopiuk**  
**Rebecca Prosper**  
**Kimberly Prosper**  
**Jorge Luis Quezada** Westchester Business Inst.  
**Peter Ramoglou** UCONN  
**Mehul Rana**  
**Desiree B. Rastegar** S U N Y at Albany  
**Evan Harris Ratner**  
**Jefferson S. Reid**  
**Shaun Michael Reilly**

**Jessica Miriam Rosen** U California- Santa Barbara  
**Emily A Rosenberg** Wellesly College  
**Chris Rosi**  
**Lindsay A. Rotante**  
**Richard A. Rotante**  
**Gregory Rowell**  
**Nicole E. Russell**  
**Tania R. Saint Fleur** Eastern Conn State Univ.  
**Amalia E. Salvatore**  
**Nicholas Joseph Samela III** working situation  
**Javier David Sanchez**  
**Jennifer E. Sandoval**  
**Alex Thomas Sanguinetti** Western New England  
**Mareyam N. Sattarpour** entering work field  
**Adam Rhett Schuckman** University of Colorado  
**Jessica Frances Scott** Syracuse Univ.  
**Justin Seaton**  
**Melissa Ann Segers** Southern Connecticut  
**Amy Lynn Serricchio** Renascki  
**Laura Servedio**

**Jodian N. Smith**  
**Andrew Smith**  
**Rebecca Anne Smith**  
**Jennifer Lynn Soltes** UCONN  
**Yordani Sosa** Southern Conn State Univ.  
**Lisette M. Soto**  
**Marie Claude St. Victor** Norwalk Community College  
**Mishca M. Stern** I o n a College  
**Joshua Stovell**  
**Nikeisha Marshella Suckoo**  
**John Paul Tamborino**  
**Lauren K. Taranto**  
**Melissa Katherine Tatton** UCONN  
**Gloria Teran** N o r w a l k Community College  
**Carlos Henrique R. Testa**  
**Regine L. Thadal**  
**Erica Beth Tobias** Dickinson College  
**Sergio J. Toledo**  
**Mannuel Torres**  
**Dimitri P. Tournas** P e n n State University  
**Elaine Tournas** Northeastern

## Dear Polite Knight...

**DEAR POLITE KNIGHT:**

I have received a couple of scholarships for college. They are not from the college as loans, they are additional scholarships from outside organizations. Am I supposed to let the organization know that I am aware I have received their scholarship? Or do I just get it, and that is that?

~ senior with scholarships

**DEAR SENIOR:**

It is definitely most appropriate to write a thank you note for the scholarships you have received. If you were just giving away your money to someone, wouldn't you want some sort of acknowledgement that that person was grateful? So please, do not simply accept the money and disregard all else; a little manners goes a long way.

**DEAR POLITE KNIGHT:**

Since the Senior prom is coming up, the issue of who is sitting at which table automatically has arisen. There is a problem with this, because only ten people are allowed at one table. My group of friends is exactly ten, which would be perfect except for the fact that one guy, who we're not so close friends with, seems to have simply decided to join us in all of our prom plans. (none of us ever mentioned anything to him) This means that we have to rearrange everything, or hurt this person's feelings immensely. How can we figure this out?

~ having prom problems

**DEAR PROBLEMS:**

That is unfortunate that your perfect set up is now being rocked. However, I'm sure there are ways to avoid making a big deal out of it. You did not mention if this boy has a date. If he does not, it is very possible that you will be able to move one single chair into your table of ten and shift around to make room for an eleventh. However, if he does have a date, consider splitting up into groups; each table with three couples from your group. Then ask some outside friends or acquaintances to fill in the extra spots. You will still have a fun night, be with your friends, and branch out at the same time, while avoiding insulting your extra friend.

# Save Our Music!

**Lauren LaRusso**  
Opinions Editor

As I sat in the crowded Westhill auditorium on Tuesday, April 1, I wished that the reason I was there was all just one big April fools joke. Sadly, disgust and disappointment with the decisions and status of Stamford's public schools were the real reasons I decided to change my slippers to sneakers and head out into the rain. The illegal parking spot I frantically chose was the least of my worries as I headed into the high school with other determined residents.

In the foyer, I was greeted by Westhill musicians selling cups of coffee while singing show tunes in attempt to aid their suffering programs. The auditorium, however, was the main scene of incredible dis-

tress. Inside, children from elementary to high school flooded the arena with trumpets, violins, flutes, clarinets, and guitars, and stood along with hundreds of other irate Stamford residents. All in the audience shared sentiments vehemently opposing the Board of Finance's designs to eradicate instrumental music instruction from the schools; another pathetic attempt to solve Stamford's budget crisis. On the stage sat the Board of Finance, behind long tables, sipping Cokes and eating chips, uninterestedly listening to mothers, fathers, teachers, and tiny musicians pleading and begging to stop this destruction of something so sacred - music.

This is where my two-cents comes in. The Board of Education should hang their heads in shame. It is as clear as cellophane that politics is destroying our school system and holds higher importance than the interest of our city's children. What can hide the fact that there must be some serious underlying motives behind the

suspiciously thoughtless and idiotic decisions made for our public schools? It makes me sick to think that although I once hoped to eventually raise my own children this city, I fear this may no longer be possible. How could I ever, as a responsible citizen, send my children to schools that are seemingly crumbling before my seventeen-year-old eyes?

Let's get back to the music-in-our-schools-issue for a minute. I began playing the trumpet in fourth grade. It was the most exciting rite of passage into being an older elementary school student to finally be

*It is as clear as cellophane that politics are destroying our school system and holds higher importance than the interest of our city's children.*

allowed to select that instrument we had each been dreaming of, and join the school band or orchestra. I played that trumpet every day, and with

more vigor than I had ever done anything else. Five years later, in eighth grade, my private teacher became seriously ill, and I put my trumpet down for good.

However, just as soon, I heard an announcement over the TOR intercom welcoming interested students to pick up a stringed instrument and join the school orchestra. So, I picked up a violin and began playing a week later. Again, I was given the opportunity to work intensely with the dedicated music teachers of this city's public schools. I have now been playing violin for five years, and plan to continue in college. Every day here at Stamford High, when Vivaldi and Beethoven rock the orchestra room, I think of how lucky I am to have taken up such a refined and incredible instrument.

Please, tell me how I could have done this if I were just now one of those fourth graders sitting in the Westhill auditorium with my trumpet? Thank you,

SEE MUSIC, PG. <NONE>

**Angelo Fiorita**  
**New World International**  
**59 Dover Street Patterson NJ**  
**973-881-8100**

**Music***Continued from page <None>*

Board of Finance, for robbing our children of one of the most wonderful experiences public school education has to offer. Call me outspoken, but this Opinions Editor will not edit her opinion.

There are other alternatives that can be taken towards solving this budget crisis. Has it occurred to anyone that taking trash pick up away from Shippan residents would conserve incredible amounts of money for the city? I am not randomly targeting Shippan residents, but I say this because I live in North Stamford, the only part of the city that is excluded from trash pick up. Last time I checked, we were tax paying Stamford residents, too. If North Stamford is considered a 'secluded elite area', please tell me how Shippan differs so much? There is as much money in Shippan, if not more, than North Stamford. Let's either all have city pick up, or take it away from both ends of Stamford. In addition, there are

various other measures that can greatly affect the budget crisis, such as hiring a service to detect students who have illegally entered our school system from other cities, and removing them, however, action seems to be constantly taken in all the wrong places.

What will our school be without a music program? Will young couples want to buy homes and raise their children in Stamford? Undoubtedly, the value of homes in this city will depreciate, and the problems will only become worse.

The reason that this issue disturbs me to such an extent is probably because I have been in the public schools since kindergarten and have experienced so much success and so many positive experiences over the years. I want the Stamford schools to continue to allow students now and in the future the same excellent educational and extracurricular opportunities that I appreciate so much myself.

## Out with the Old, in with the New

**Lauren LaRusso**  
Opinions Editor

With the approaching end of the school year, the junior class is undoubtedly extremely excited about finishing the most stressful year in their lives. Here is what some juniors have to say about becoming seniors, and finally moving on to the year every student anticipates since they were freshmen.

"I'm excited about the possibility of getting high school credit for little or no work."

- Andrew Sanzo

"It's just one year closer to being OVER."

- Nick Gooding

"I can't believe three years have gone by already. I'm very excited for next year... once you get accepted into college, it's all about having fun!"

- Amanda D'Onofrio

"I'm really excited to be going into my senior year. You never believed those past seniors when they told you time goes by too fast until it happens to you."

- Dan Blank

"I think it's crazy."

- Caitlin Smolewski

"I have no opinion... I'm getting a jump on my senioritis."

- Jenny Hopkinson

## Knight Insight

**DEAR KNIGHT:**

All of my friends are really excited to go to college. I am too, but I am more upset to be leaving home than it seems my friends are. Does this mean that they're going to be completely detached once we get to our different schools? I feel like I'm just going to lose all of my home friends to their colleges. I feel a little sad that they are so eager to get away. Does this mean that once we get to school our group will break up?

~ *hesitant college bound senior*

**DEAR HESITANT SENIOR:**

At this point you and your friends are all fourth quarter seniors who have had four full years of high school. It is only natural to be anxious for the future, and to be excited for all that lies ahead. Going to college is a milestone, and it is understandable for your friends to be completely caught up in it. This doesn't mean at all that you are going to lose your friends once you say goodbye! When you get to school, all of you will be adjusting to your new surroundings, exploring the college scene, and making new friends. When everything has settled down, there is no doubt you will resume keeping in touch with your high school friends. And when you come home from college on breaks, the first people who call you will be your high school friends. Guaranteed.

**DEAR KNIGHT:**

There is this girl that sits next to me in journalism, and every time I say anything, she repeats it in the form of a song! It's the weirdest thing. She thinks she's in a musical or something. I don't get it. Plus she does other weird stuff too. She has these crazy outbursts. I don't want to be too mean to her. But it's really creepy! What do I do?

~ *scared reporter at SHS*

**DEAR SCARED:**

Learn how to hold a note, and then sing along! It could be very fun! You could even end up harmonizing! That's exciting.

**DEAR KNIGHT:**

What in all of God's green earth is wrong with you? Are you serious? Are you woefully inadequate? How on earth are people like you allowed to write advice columns for school newspapers?

~ *I got the last word!*

**DEAR LAST WORD:**

No response.

# Shop NYC Vintage 'Til You Drop!

Rachel Fletcher  
Arts and Entertainment Editor

If you hate showing up to school wearing the same clothes as half of the Stamford High population and you're tired of seeing everyone in the cafeteria wearing the same pair of sneakers, maybe it's time you got out of the Stamford Town Center Mall and looked for something a little different. Vintage is in, retro is back, and included here is a list compiled from [www.papermag.com](http://www.papermag.com) of where you can find fun vintage clothes in close proximity. Many of these shops have been pictured in T.V. shows like "Sex and the City" and have tons of really fun clothes available for purchase with enough luck. As a frequent transient of these stores, I can vouch for their serendipitous merchandise. It takes a certain kind of person to enjoy the look and the experience of vintage shopping- so keep an open mind.

**ABOUT TIME** 13-15 Prince St., New York, NY 10012; (212) 941-0966 Top-of-the-line designer vintage and reproductions that range from the affordable to the impossible. If you've ever wanted a mint-condition Courreges pantsuit, Rudi Gernreich sweater or never-worn Dior alligator pumps, this is the place. Owner Beverly Wilburn is extremely knowledgeable and has a great eye, which comes in handy during her many trips to the Paris flea markets.

**ARKLE & SPARKLE** 216 Lafayette St., New York, NY 10012; (212) 925-9699 This shop carries an overwhelming array of groovy all-new fashions from the 60's and 70's. Fur-lined walls and plastic decorations add to the shopping experience. For those who hunger for even more polyester, sister store Smylonylon is conveniently located two doors down.

**CHEAP JACK'S** 841 Broadway, 777-9564 Cheap Jack's makes clear the distinction between vintage and thrift. Though it may be pricier than its counterparts, this store

boasts one of the best selections of vintage clothing in the city. If you've looked everywhere else and can't find it, stop here: they probably have 10 of them upstairs and 30 more in the basement.

**FAB-208** 77 E. 7th St., New York, NY 10003; (212) 673-7581; 117 E. 7th St., New York, NY 10003; (212) 260-6495 We like this store because it gives us the best of both worlds. Supplying vintage polyester, 70's unisex pants and disco shirts to the thrifty bunch and house-made garb to the girls who dare to wear new fashions, Fab-208 keeps us dressed with style in mind. Their new store offers new and used bags, shoes, lingerie, hats and gift items. Everything is \$2-\$40.

**GARAGE SALE** 26 First Ave., New York, NY 10003; (212) 260-2269 If you're a sucker for quaint vintage shops, you'll love Garage Sale. Cute, cheap and cluttered with innumerable must-haves for boys and girls, this nostalgia nook has a wonderful collection of vintage shoes, dresses, coats, hats, purses, scarves and more.

**METROPOLIS APPAREL** 96 Ave. B, New York, NY 10009; (212) 477-3941; 43 Third Ave., New York, NY 10003; 358-0795 The buyers at Metropolis have a gift for uncovering abandoned loads of trendy dead stock. This season, the shop is brimming with racks of pea coats and bright ski jackets.

**THE 1909 COMPANY** 63 Thompson St., New York, NY 10012; (212) 343-1658 In addition to stocking mint-condition frocks from the late 1800s to the

early 70's, owner Elisa Casas also designs her own collection of vintage reproductions. Those who crave the real thing can find an exceptional selection of Pucci dresses and Missoni sweaters, as well as the city's most notorious assortment of alligator handbags, including a few that were never decapitated.

**POST WAR CLUB** 161 W. 4th St., New York, NY 10014; (212) 229-9027 The prices will insult those who regularly scout flea markets and yard sales, but they really do get some good vintage pieces here, especially handbags and unworn shoes, as well as a few items like alligator-embossed leather suitcases from the 40's.

**RAG CORNER** 130 First Ave., New York, NY 10003; (212) 505-7637 Small and to the point, Rag Corner caters to the portion of the population that is partial to the early 80's look.

**RESURRECTION** 123 E. 7th St., New York, NY 10009; (212) 228-0063 A veritable treasure trove for those who live for the best of 60's and 70's fashion, owner Katy regularly restocks her funky store with Pucci, Norell, Christian Dior, Pierre Cardin, and more. Some-thing new: 70's custom rock 'n' roll leathers that have been luring a lot of celebrity shoppers (like Vincent Gallo) and tons of those fashion-editor girls.

**ROPA** 113 St. Mark's Pl., New York, NY 10003; (212) 460-9042 Here you'll find the coolest in what owner Rafi Torres calls "new vintage." Retailored pants (pressed and cleaned) in plaids, stripes, solids and prints cover the east side of

the space formerly known as Galaktika, while shirts from every decade cram the west wing. The yellow brick road painted on the floor leads to a coat rack blooming with leather and faux numbers, and glamour-girl dresses can be found in back. Prices vary.

**SECOND HAND** 154 Stanton St., New York, NY 10002; (212) 979-1613 Denise Carbonell's store is remarkable for its classy collection of well-preserved vintage apparel and home furnishings. Second Hand stocks the kind of stuff you could easily give as gifts without feeling cheap because it's used. Definitely worth the trek.

**SMYLONYLON** 222-B Lafayette St., New York, NY 10012; (212) 431-0342 One of the real shopping treasures of N.Y.C., those wacky, witty Smylonylon folks now have three stores filled with must-have, new vintage clothes (heavy on the 60's and 70's) at low prices that allow you to look fab without having to spend the gross national prod-

uct on one outfit. At Smylonylon, look for the Demob collection (designed by owner Chris Brick) and plenty of women's clothes. Arkle and Sparkle has more men's clothes. A third outlet, Mynus Yur Hynus, which is opening

soon in a florescent trailer parked on Greene Street between Prince and Spring will have even more stylish stuff that you absolutely need.

**SPACE-AGE BACHELOR PAD** 77 E. 10th St., New York, NY 10003; no phone. Are we on the set of Sanford and Son? Weighty racks of vintage wear fill most of the floor space both inside and out, and rickety shelves support a jumble of baubles, shoes, furniture and other bric-a-brac. Seek and ye shall find.

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## Maroon 5 Gathers a Crowd: Satisfies the Best in You

**Rachel Fletcher**  
Arts & Entertainment Editor

You may have heard of them. If you attended any John Mayer or Vanessa Carlton performances this summer and experienced their sound, you have probably been assimilated into their fan base because they fabulously opened for the two musicians in 2002. They've also been featured most recently in Mavi jeans commercials. This summer you can catch them again with Mayer and the legendary Counting Crows. Who is it? It's the rock band, Maroon 5.

Facts are, although they may be newly adjusting to playing highly glorified gigs, they have been making their psychedelic inspired, soul ridden tunes for a while now. Their first appearance was actually in 1995 under the name Kara's Flowers in their home turf of L.A., being non-exclusively west coast boys. Band members Adam Levine, lead singer, and incredibly talented instrumentalists James Valentine, Jesse Carmichael, Mickey Madden and Ryan

Dusick, are a bunch of really down to earth guys that totally enjoy playing music. Other credits include a three star (which is good) rating in *Rolling Stone*, and a feature in *Seventeen Magazine*. My prediction, Maroon 5 and their debut album *Songs About Jane* are going to rocket into the music scene for good due to their ability to mix genres with a unique style of their own.

If you are a Maroon 5 virgin, you may want to check out their album or acquire some of their hit tracks "Harder to Breathe", "This Love", "Sunday Morning", "Shiver" and "She Will Be Loved". Those of us lucky enough to be educated in their music will enjoy seeing them rise to the occasion, but will miss their underground image once they hit it big. *Songs About Jane* is now in stores, (They're sold out at Sam Goody, so look in Tower Records) and they are on tour everywhere, for updates check out Maroon 5, critically acclaimed as "Rock's first Neo-Soul band" by *Guitar One Magazine* on their website [www.maroon5.com](http://www.maroon5.com).

*Graduates of the Class of '03,*

*While graduation takes you on to new and wondrous things, don't forget the people of your past who have helped to get you where you are. Keep your hometown in your mind, come back when you can, and remember the people and businesses who supported you.*

*The Round Table thanks the advertisers who have stood behind Stamford High School, and we look forward to serving your business needs in the future.*



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Rachel Fletcher  
Andrew Sanzo

When the Guggenheim or the MoMa have an acclaimed gallery opening, it's not uncommon for it to be packed with a wide array of celebrities and well-known faces. For aspiring artists and current Stamford High students, Nora Hamerman and Elena Getto, their dazzling art debut in Glenbrook was no different in that it attracted the glitterati of The Hill, Miss Beth Hatterman, and Ms. Jenny Freres, significant students, parents, and fellow artists.

The two artists, who have been studying their crafts for a combined 20 years, prepared diligently for the show, which premiered May 10 and 11 and featured several impressive pieces representing each of their unique talents. Getto has been involved in photography,

while Hamerman fashions her works on paper and has previously held a showing of her work in Port Chester, New York.

While Hamerman commented that the most arduous process involved with putting the show together was the cleaning and preparation of their display space, Getto professed that is was her dark room work.

Visitor Kelsey Emmett said of the show and its offerings, "The artwork and photographs were so professional [and] it made me proud to see all of their hard work displayed for everyone to enjoy."

The gallery space, a converted milk of magnesia factory in the Glenbrook Industrial Park, was provided by Hamerman's father, Don Hamerman, himself a professional photographer who was instrumental in advising both of the artists in the finer points of gallery preparation. Said Getto of the help and advice, "Mr. Hamerman was great. He lent us his studio, and helped us display our work in the most effective manner. His experience as a professional really helped us to put on the best exhibition possible."

It was the artwork however, that was the most impressive part of the evening. Hamerman's work comprises a collection of abstract pieces and sculptures Above Left: The photograph is the work of Nora Hamerman

Left: The artists - Left, Nora Hamerman, Right, Elena Getto



All of the photos above and to the right are the work of Elena Getto

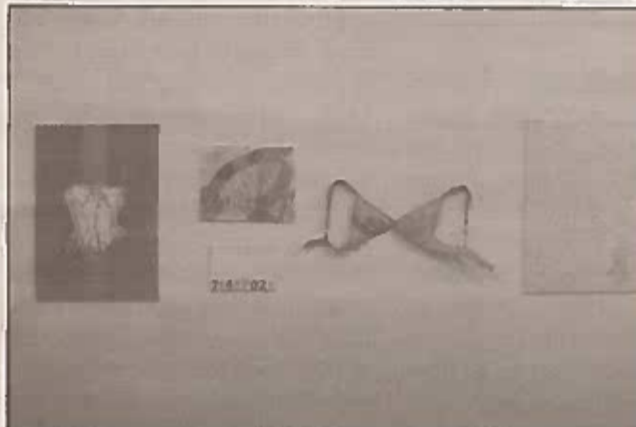
in various media that she says were, "mainly inspired by music." Materials she used included serendipitous otherwise garbage to materials purchased on trips to Europe.


Getto's work is a collection of both color and black and white photographic portraits. Her photography subjects included a neighbor, a friend, family members, and various personalities, such as a street performer, whom she happened to photograph in Paris. It was the black and white photos that seemed to really strike those in attendance. "The photography in black and white truly showed emotions," said gallery visitor Jesus Caicedo.

More important than the artwork itself to Nancy Ringel, a senior at Stamford High School, was the spirit of cooperation between the two. "I thought it was really great that the two of them got

together and showed off their talents to the public. "It's great," she added, "to see students from our high school exhibiting their talents and working on something that they love."

In the end it seems that Getto and Hamerman's first gallery was an unqualified, resounding success. Both sold a number of their work pieces, but more importantly for both was the fact that for the first time they got public exposure of their work.





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## Car of the Month: Steve Capitelli's "Solaro"

**Andrew Dolan**  
Associate Sports Editor

"It is called the 'Solara,' but I call it the 'Solaro,' because 'Solara' just sounds too feminine," explained Steve Capitelli, owner of the June 2003 "Car of the Month". He beamed as he boasted the features under the hood of his "Black Beauty". This includes 215 horses corralled in a V6 engine.

Capitelli said, "With the upgraded SLE model, the 'Solaro' will blow anyone away off the start."

This 2-door '99 Solaro with a black-interior came equipped with 16 inch rims and dark tinted windows. The interior is just as pimped out as the outside. His system would surprisingly blow you away.

"Many people mistake my stock 6-speaker JBL sound system with a fully installed top of the line system."

Even though it is a 2-door many are surprised and impressed to see the spacious interior. It can hold five large people comfortably.

The Solaro has many similarities to the top selling Toyota Camry. After all it is the next step up from the Camry. Due to the greater power and higher accessory class it is classified as the sport model of the Camry. It's sleek exterior and cushy interior make this car a preferred choice for many buyers.

**The Round Table:**  
Have you had any accidents?

**Steve Capitelli:** "If you consider my mom ramming into my rear bumper, then yes."

**TRT:** Have you had any traffic violations while speeding around town?

**SC:** "Yes, I got one on Long Ridge for going a tad over the speed limit, and it set me back \$200 and a court date. But other than that I am clean."

**TRT:** Have you learned your lesson?

**SC:** Yes, I went out and bought a radar detector, so I know when they're creeping around trying to get me."

**TRT:** What was one of your most memorable moments while operating the "Solaro?"

**SC:** "A couple weeks ago, I got followed for a long distance. I cut someone off badly, and it turned out to be the wrong person to mess with. He laid on his horn for about 2 minutes while he started to follow me. He tried to follow me until he realized my car was just too fast for his Ford Taurus."

Senior Brett Kapteina, who is a frequent passenger in the "Solaro" said, "Every morning Steve picks me up and we rock out to a little classic rock, with a little Howard Stern on the side."

Next time you are on the road or in the Stamford High student parking lot, watch out for Steve Capitelli and his prized possession, the "Solaro". As it goes cruising by, take notice of the fine details that make this car our choice for "car of the Month".

## BED BATH & BEYOND

Two great places to shop, for most of your personal college needs.

**Dimitra Tzirikidis**  
Staff Writer

Don't be a victim of over-priced college stuff. College tuition is already expensive enough. The way to cut down on spending money is to shop at stores that have monthly sales and give great deals on things you need. When Bradley's and Caldor's were in business, I remember most kids would be too ashamed to even walk a single step into either of them. But now is the time to get over that fear of shopping in bargain-type stores and purchase things that are less expensive than if you were to buy them in the mall.

The store that has the most, but sells things for less is Wal-Mart. I know, you're probably thinking, "Heck no, I'm not going into that store". But the truth is that it has some really great deals and it sells almost everything. Wal-Mart is a great place for things you need for college. They're always having sales and lowering the prices of things, and they have the added

## Save Money While Shopping for Your College Necessities

advantage that they are all over the country. So, if those jeans that you had to get last minute without looking at the size need to go back, they can easily be returned at the convenient local college town Wal-Mart.

Target is also another store that can compete with Wal-Mart's prices and is equally as widespread. Whatever store is closest is the one you should shop at. You'll be surprised at how many people you know that are shopping there.

College keeps all of its stu-

*Keep your objective in mind and don't go overboard.*

dents writing and typing. Supplies such as folders, paper, disks, pens and pencils, etc. can be purchased at your nearest Staples for a fairer price than your college bookstore. True, this office supplies store makes a lot of its customers walk out with more than what they came in for, but given that you're likely to forget much of what you need, that may not be all that bad. As long as you don't go

totally crazy, you should benefit from the savings. Every isle contains things that a lot of students would go gaga for. Make sure to have a list, because otherwise much needed money will go down the drain, and no one wants that to happen.

Bed, Bath and Beyond is also a store that carries so many things that one could go crazy in there. During the summer, they usually have numerous sales conveniently just in time for the back to college crowd, and sometimes you can catch a coupon in the mail to save \$20 on a purchase of x amount of money. These coupons come in to use very quickly when shopping in this store. Keep your objective in mind and don't go overboard. We all want our dorm rooms to look nice, but try to avoid walking out with a \$150, see-through canopy trimmed with faux fur. Only the necessities, people.

Have fun shopping and try to stop yourself from buying things that are certainly not necessary and will soon be useless. Because remember, you still need money for college books, a significant, often heart stopping expense on excess of \$300, and money does not grow on trees.

### Focus On Mr. Jeremy White:

## Teacher, Debate Advisor, and Lacrosse Coach

**Bella Kotlar**  
Staff Writer

Mr. White is a man of many talents; debate, history, economics, loving father and husband, just to name a few. With all these responsibilities, he still manages to coach the lacrosse team to what in the future can potentially be a triumphant season. Every day he spends a lot of time advising the team in its venture to victory. Mr. White took time out of his busy schedule to answer some questions:

**The Round Table:** What sparked your interest in the sport? How did you come to be the coach?

**Mr. Jeremy White:** Growing up on Long Island, I

was around it all the time. When they decided to get the program running, I expressed interest in to Mr. Gurney.

**TRT:** You've been a club sport for past years. How is it different now that you've reached varsity status?

**JW:** Well, obviously the competition is so much better than at the JV level last year. We've gotten a lot better as a team, but now playing against other Varsity teams, we see that we have to go to a whole other level.

**TRT:** What is your playing philosophy? How are you going to win?

**JW:** I think the biggest thing is to focus on improvement; get better at every practice.

**TRT:** Do you do a lot of

conditioning and technique practice to improve?

**JW:** Lacrosse is different because you can only get better by actually playing. The kids go to camps in the summer, play together in the off-season, things like that.

**TRT:** Has the season so far been going as you expected it to be?

**JW:** It's going about as well as could be expected. Being a new varsity team, we're not going to win a whole lot this year, but our expectations are certainly higher than what we've performed so far.

**TRT:** Have you had prior experience in lacrosse? Did you play in high school or college?

**JW:** My only experience is

See WHITE Page <None>

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**White***continued from page <None>*

watching my brother play. He was an All-American goalie. I didn't play lacrosse in high school, I played baseball.

**TRT:** Who are some of your better players?

**JW:** John Kalanowski and Jeff Nadro are my two captains. They have the best chance at playing in college.

**TRT:** There are a number of programs which have strong traditions in the sport, like Darien, New Canaan, and Wilton. How long do you think it will take to become competitive with those teams?

**JW:** If we get our middle school program up and running soon, we'll be able to kind of close that gap a little sooner. Those teams are nationally ranked teams, so it's going to take quite a commitment on my part and the players' parts.

**TRT:** Have the budget cuts had an effect on the lacrosse program? If not, will they next year?

**JW:** Not that I'm aware of. This year we have new uniforms. As far as I know, I'll be

the head lacrosse coach next year.

**TRT:** How do you manage to juggle Lacrosse and debate in the same season all at once? Do



White practices his "game face".

you find it difficult?

**JW:** Well, debate is supposed to end before Lacrosse starts, but that hasn't happened lately. Last year, I drove to New Britain for the state debate finals, then back to Fairfield to coach against ND - Fairfield in lacrosse, then went back to New Britain in time to see Eva and Alex win the state championship. Then we went to

Stamford for ice cream. Crazy day, but I love it.

**TRT:** I understand that you're involved in the Connecticut Debate Association, outside of Stamford's team. Do you hold any positions like that in lacrosse?

**JW:** No, but if a situation comes up where it will help the kids and they need it, then I'll do it.

**TRT:** Where do you see your team at the end of the season? How do you expect to rank?

**JW:** I expect to be competing for a spot in the state playoffs by the end of the season. I think right now we potentially can be "middle-of-the-pack" Division Two lacrosse program. As long as we beat Westhill, I'll be happy.

**TRT:** What are some of your other interests?

**JW:** I'm a huge sports fan. You name the sport, I probably know more about it than I should. My family is really my life, though. My wife and kids are everything to me.

Okay, so there you have it: The multi-talented, multi-tasking, multi-incredible Coach White!

**Seniors Define Their Legacies**

**Randy Miller**  
Features Editor

Every year the departing seniors leave something behind. And no I'm not referring to moldy lunch bags in lockers, or even class-donated gifts: what comes to mind is far more significant. The graduating class does not vanish from the school with the final bell and a commencement ceremony, for their reputation supersedes them long after graduation. Whether it be positive, or negative, a legacy can elevate a class from insignificance to immortality. Whether they like it or not, some classes will always be remembered as lazy, or spirited, or menacing by teachers and students alike. Years from now how would you like your class to be remembered?

When asked whether this class would leave behind a legacy, and if so which type, many seniors, and faculty members, had their own ideas:

"Every senior class has a legacy, some more positive than others."

**Mr. Jim Terlizzo**

"I doubt we'll have a legacy; this

class will be forgotten just as quickly as summer vacation passes. And maybe that's a good thing."

**Elaine Tournas**

"People have been critical of this class but I doubt that we're any different than those in the past. If anything we're a typical group of seniors, ready to graduate and eager to get out of here."

**Kerri Donner**

"We looked forward to senior year for years now. The thoughts of Powder Puff, the Auction Dance, a real pep rally, were so exciting. But the lack of involvement led to the depletion of such activities."

**Jason Christie**

"We'll be remembered as a class who couldn't get their act together enough to raise funds for prom. We were seriously lacking in the volunteer department and that will be reflected in the price of prom bids."

**Anonymous**

Unfortunately this question elicited a response more unified than any other behavior of this class over the past four years. A negative perception of ourselves may unfortunately leave behind a self-imposed legacy of indifference, laziness, and overall apathy.

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**Congratulations to  
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# Annual Band Banquet finishes excellent year

Jenny Hopkinson  
Staff Writer

On Tuesday, May 28, the 120 members of the band, along with friends, family and instructors, gathered at the Terrace Club, in Stamford, for their annual band banquet. The event, which marked the culmination of the year for the Black Knights Marching Band, Color Guard, Winter Percussion, Concert band and Jazz Band, is what director Steve Fasoli called "A night for the students."

As at any banquet, awards were presented to those students who exemplify certain positive

aspects of the program. The winners of the main eight awards, which are voted on by the student members of the band, were no surprises. The award captions included Freshman of the Year, Most Improved Marcher, Class Clown, Marcher of the Year, Color Guard Member of the Year, Winter Percussion Member of the Year, Jazz Musician of the Year and Musician of the Year. "I think some of the awards were silly," said sophomore Natalia Senatore, "and many were based on popularity instead of who truly deserved it. But these awards are also not the Pulitzer or anything. They're for fun and I do think they should be taken lightly."

The last student voted award,

The Legacy Award, was presented to the person who truly exemplifies the program in all its aspects,

*"Band dinners are a great reunion of all our friends, and it reminds me of all the great times we spend together in the fall."*

Junior Sarah Gileski

and it went to senior trumpet player Chris Fountain. Fountain also

received the Marcher of the Year award, and a Band Director's Award.

Band Director's Awards, which are given to those students who the director deems an important part of the group, also went to four other seniors including Peter Hopkinson. "Being able to receive a band directors award" said Hopkinson, "was a very meaningful experience and made me know I made a difference to this program."

After the recognitions of each of the four classes, selected band members offered some heartfelt thank you's to band parents and instructors, including accolades to the retiring band parents association presidents, Dave and Rose

Puza. Finally band members of the senior class presented Mr. Fasoli with their gift.

Because the other sections of the music department are holding a banquet following the completion of the Spring Show, the awards ceremony went quickly. In order to make the night truly for the students, after the awards and the dinner, DJ (flo) played and the party began. Despite a few awkward moments on the dance floor in front of unsuspecting parents, the night was a success.

"Band dinners are a great reunion of all our friends," commented Junior Sarah Gileski, "and it reminds me of all the great times we spend together in the fall."

## Annual Awards Assembly Honors Achievement Among Students

Nick Gooding  
Associate News Editor

As Superintendent Dr. Anthony Mazzullo looked on, Stamford High School's finest students were recognized for their hard work and academic excellence on the evening of Monday, June 2.

After Stamford High School's departing interim principal, Mr. Carmine Limone, gave an opening speech, the Madrigals performed the National Anthem and thus signaled the beginning of the 2003 Awards Assembly, and the latest of a long series of such gatherings.

The first group of students to take the stage was that which comprised the top 5% of the senior class. Dr. Mazzullo commended them for their work and for the effort they have applied to their high school careers.

The next students honored were the National Merit Finalists and other commended students.

The president of the Board of Education, Mr. Dudley Williams, Jr. called up each student individually and spoke in recognition of their achievements. After that, students recognized with awards, local and college scholarships were called

up to the stage by assistant principals Janet Skwiersky and Angela Thomas, and the Department Head for Guidance, Ken Barber.

After another Madrigals' performance, Assistant Principal Angela Thomas called

up students to receive group awards. Finally, several juniors were honored for their achievements with book awards from colleges. "It was a nice gesture by the colleges to recognize juniors," said Caitlin Smolewski, who received one of said awards.

Of the assembly senior Lauren LaRusso said, "Honestly, I completely forget what happened. But that's what seniors are supposed to do, right?"

*"It was a nice gesture by the colleges to recognize juniors."*

Caitlin Smolewski, Junior

## What Comes After High School? There Are Simply Choices Galore!

Jason Pavia  
Staff Writer

When high school ends, every student is faced with a decision. Their decisions will decide the outcomes of their futures, and the question of which future to select is the hardest choice of them all.

The choice for most kids once high school ends is to take the next step in education and go on to college. College is currently the more popular of the choices, and is often the best decision for many people. It is very hard to get a good job in many career fields without having a bachelor's degree, especially in those fields where information is the commodity. In college students will frequently have the times of their lives and will receive the education they need in order to accomplish their goals in life.

Still, many do not take that next step in their education. A significant number of students opt to get jobs immediately after high school to support or to start a family. Many of these grads go into the family business with their parents or decide they want to follow a career field that does not require the added years of

formal education. Instead they pursue careers where apprenticeships or on the job training programs are the routes to expertise in the field.

A lot of people choose to take a year off from school and relax, rather than immediately entering what is likely to be a long series of decades of full-

*...there are many decisions one has to make in his or her life. Each decision will affect in some way, either positively or negatively, the futures that lie ahead.*

time work, even if that time may find them involved in three, or four, or five different careers. Some take that year or so off and travel around the world, while others use that break and just basically do nothing, but relax at home.

Good majorities of grads

opting to not go to college volunteer and go into the Marines, the Army, Air Force or Navy. Many go into the service for the required four or five years with the idea of earning the valuable \$30,000 or so that the military offers towards tuition at almost any college you wish to attend after your service is up. Some programs even allow service personnel to attend college while they are on active duty. In the meantime the enlisted volunteer will be set up with a home, a reliable income and a degree of security. Of all the choices to make after high school other than going to college, serving one's country is perhaps one of the smarter choices to make. The only thing difficult about serving is that it can be among the more dangerous and risky things to do in life.

As indicated earlier, there are many decisions one has to make in his or her life. Each decision will affect in some way, either positively or negatively, the futures that lie ahead. And in the final analysis there is no right or wrong decision to make after high school, because each person has a different future, and it should be one with which the individual is comfortable.

# Lessons Learned by the Light of a Hole Punch

Jenny Hopkinson  
Staff Writer

Somewhere along the line someone missed a memo that speaks about how school actually ends June first. Maybe not to the administration, but to every student, come that first day of June, that big brick building where you come to waste away 7 hours of your day, no longer has any relevance or purpose.

It's not really our fault. I blame it on society. Personally I didn't mean to lose all of my work ethic or concentration, or, ummm, that other big word which is probably important to proving my point. But when my favorite pastime is punching holes in the label off of my water bottle with the seventy four-cent single hole punch which I just bought from Staples for said purpose, I think something's wrong.

Yet I'm content with my current state. I suppose I'm one of those lost children whom the school system left behind because I spent too much time eating glue in first grade. Unfortunately, as I said before

someone missed the memo that June first can have this affect on students. Some schools have it right. I went to Serria Grille on High Ridge the other day over lunch, or if I had, that is, I would have noticed the number of students there eating their quesadillas obviously unburdened by the chains of heavy backpacks and homework.

I was jealous, or at least I would have been if I had been there. They were probably from Trinity, or some other private high school that

has figured out that attempting to teach come June is futile. Although it's ironic that people at private schools pay to go to school for less time than those who seek a free public education.

But that's irrelevant. What is relevant is the fact that teachers refuse to humor us in our sub standard states. I think I have had more projects in the past week than I have all year. It's almost cruelty. And while I should be doing one right now, instead I sit here punching holes in my water bottle label.

I'm sure everyone else is doing something just as banal, and it's a comforting thought. Unfortunately the year still stretches on like train tracks toward the horizon, seeming totally endless. There is a note on the board in my French class counting down the days left until finals. I can't remember it ever being a different number, and every day I want to cry because of it.

Lately I've had the desire to erase it in a fit of rage. Then I lose my train of thought. In fact the train just crashes and I begin to ponder

the next remedial thought which comes into my mind. Today I think it was the purpose of the little indentions in saltines.

But here again I suppose that's irrelevant. I suppose that delight is taken by teachers who have the power to level this upon me. To that I say "kudos." If giving me the desire to gouge my eyes out with cocktail forks is a hobby, then they're doing it very well.

In the mean time, I'm going to go back to punching holes in a random piece of paper.

## Push Small Dorm Space to the Max

Dimitra Tzirikidis  
Staff Writer

Living in close quarters can be quite a hassle, especially if it has to be shared with someone. When seniors head off to college some sort of plan should be designed, as far as the organization aspects, so that the small dorm room doesn't give the feel of a closet. So here are some ideas that may help in making your tiny dorm room look just as good or better than the larger room you had at home.

The first thing that needs to be given careful consideration is organization. Going into a new room is a huge advantage because one gets to 'throw away' anything that is not needed or is just plain garbage. It can either be left behind at home, or literally thrown out. Don't bring

feel more at home.

Anything that you like do or play on a daily basis at home, do it at college too; like video games or playing baseball or football.

Coming prepared to college is often difficult because many colleges do not offer very complete lists of requirements for supplies. Colleges leave much of it up to the student to figure out what to bring for classes and studying.

Before classes begin, colleges will give their students a list of books they have to buy in order to take the classes. These are expensive, with some books costing up to \$150, so be sure you have enough money - more on this later.

You will also need the usual basic materials: the required sheets and towels according to the college list, and some paper and pens.

Student might also consider

things to college that you know darn well you're not going to be using. Bring only the necessities to build on that early advantage of moving into an empty room. Keep most stuffed animals and excess clothes at home. These things will only take up space that can be used for something a little bit more important ... like school books and computer space.

One item that will help in organization is one of those hanging, canvas, closet shelves. They can be purchased at stores like Bed, Bath and Beyond or Linens N' Things. The prices vary according to the size that you want, and how many shelf units desired. It can be from 15 to 25 dollars. These types of great inventions utilize some of the space in the closet and keeps things like tee shirts and pants folded nicely, instead of having to hang

bringing a computer along, whether a desktop or a laptop. Coursework requirements in college are such that each student will need to have ready access to one, and though most colleges provide 24 hour lab access, having exclusive use of your own computer may relieve problems.

A laptop computer is easier to bring; it's lighter and smaller so you can take it from class to class, but keep in mind that the convenience of a laptop is appreciated by all ... even those who would remove it from your possession. If you decide to bring a laptop, make sure you take the necessary security precautions.

Probably the most important thing many students are going to need for college is an alarm clock. College students tend to have a difficult time waking up for their classes for a number of reasons. First, their parents are no longer there to wake

everything up.

Other items that can help with maximizing space is keeping a Rubbermaid or Yaffa container under the bed. These things can be used to hold all sorts of objects like magazines, cleaning supplies, etc. Having these sorts of helpers around will not only make you happy but it will make your roommates even happier because both of you will have more space for other important things.

In a magazine article that I read recently, it said to stay away from "very patterned and busy looking fabrics" for the bed and rug. The article stated that the large scale patterns will minimize the look of the space, and should only be used on small items such as pillows.

Lighting is also pretty important. Keep away from very bright lights which will in turn accentuate them up like they used to. Second, the number of hours students spend awake and involved in the activities of college - whether it be reading, studying, writing papers, visiting, dorm-hopping, or partying - tend to be much greater. Waking up for class is an important step in becoming dependent on yourself. The loud and persistent roar of an alarm clock an invaluable tool that will enable you to wake you up on time for your classes.

Another important thing — some might even say vital thing — to have in college is money. When you are out every night with your friends, you're going to find that you're spending lots of money. Whether you have saved it up from a high school job or are earning it from a college job, you had better make sure that you have money, and that you have an efficient and inex-

the smallness of the room and they may make the health hazard that tends to grow on the floor too obvious to the random room inspectors. Go with the cooler lamps around the room and in the corners of the room because this will give the illusion of more space.

Mirrors can also be used to reflect light, but they have to be placed near a source of light. The only negative thing about mirrors is seeing the scariness of your face when you wake up at 7 p.m. to attend that early 8 p.m. class. Otherwise they will reflect the light and give off some great reflections.

Have fun decorating your new space, but remember these little pieces of advice so that instead of the dorm space looking like a closet it will look as it is supposed to, like a room.

persive way of getting it. With costs as they are today, students cannot afford to be spendthrifts. Money is hard to come by, but part of college is learning to budget and spend money wisely. Having to pay high ATM fees at machines foreign to your hometown bank can become an expensive proposition. Find an inexpensive resource for cash before you find the account empty, and certainly before you have to call your hometown banker (Mom or Dad?) with a request for emergency ca\$h.

There are other things that you can do or take with you to college that will make the transition easier, but taking your private possessions, preparing to meet the expenses, and making sure that you will be able to function efficiently in your primary responsibility, becoming educated, will help ensure that your dorm can feel as much like home as possible.

## Preps For College

Jason Pavia  
Staff Writer

There comes a time in everyone's life when they have to pack up their bags and move on to college. In most cases, going to college is one of the bigger changes in a person's life. It's the time to depart from home and leave the people you know and love behind to start all over. But just because you have to leave your loved ones, doesn't mean you have to leave your possessions.

A trick to feeling as comfortable in college as possible is to make yourself feel at home. To make yourself feel at home, you're going need to bring some homely possessions that can make your dorm room feel comfortable. Pictures of yourself with family members or friends is absolutely necessary. Posters, cd's, a TV, some of your favorite movies, and a computer also help. Even something as seemingly meaningless as your own pillow makes you



Photo by Tim Nusbaum

## Rocky Lacrosse Season Ends on a High Note

Andrew Sanzo  
Managing Editor

For Stamford coach Jeremy White the season couldn't have ended any better.

Under the lights at Boyle Stadium, in front of a large and boisterous crowd, his team fended off Westhill's assault for an 11-8 victory and more importantly the city championship. To outsiders this game may have seemed an unimportant contest between two losing teams.

To the fledgling Stamford squad (3-12), for whom this year marks their first of varsity competition, the game and ultimately the win meant much more. It marked a new stage in the transition of a program that just four years ago consisted of a coed intramural team. It also lent Stamford some credibility in an FCIAC conference that is widely held to be one of the better leagues in the country.

The significance was not lost on coach White, "I didn't think we were going to win three games this year... (for the season) to culminate in a city championship, one that meant something, in varsity competition, I think that's great."

Things were not always so great this year for Stamford. After a 0-9 start the team was left dejected. Junior Brian Thurm said of the team's mounting aggravation, "All those losses early in the season were frustrating, especially after the great season we had last year when we went 7-4."

Whatever the reasons for the string of losses, the athleticism and dedication were there, said Thurm adding, "We had the talent and the heart early on but it just didn't click. There were a lot of teams we should have beaten,

teams that we were faster and stronger than, and for some reason we just couldn't overcome them."

This all changed though after a late season victory over Weston. With that win, which ended the team's nine loss slide, the team turned over a new leaf. Refreshed and rejuvenated the squad went on to finish the season with a 3-3 record, a far cry from the days of seeming futility they had endured earlier in the season.

Though the season has ended on such a positive note the players and coaches are already looking to next season. According to senior Jeff Morganteen, "There are a lot of seniors leaving this year, so for next year a lot of the younger guys are going to have to step it up."

Coach White has faith they will. "We're losing a lot of kids, and most of our scoring is gone. But the kids who did not get a lot of playing time this year improved just by practicing against the [exiting starters]."

White is especially optimistic about the future of lacrosse in Stamford. "Once the game starts picking up in this town," he said, "once the kids start seeing that it's in the newspapers and that other kids are playing it and that it's a great sport to play- an athlete's sport, I think there is nothing we can do but get better."

So as the 2003 season finally draws to a close the future looks bright for Stamford High lacrosse. The school's newest varsity team went through a tough season, one of heart-break, trial, and ultimately success, and came out the better for it.

Whatever future glory may or may not lie in store for SHS lacrosse there is one thing that is certain: From now on lacrosse will have a home in the city of Stamford.

# Hard Work and Dedication Pay Off in Girls' Softball Season

Jessica Troy  
2003 Softball Season

It was suppose to be a rebuilding year for the Stamford High School softball team with the loss of nine seniors, and only three starters remaining. However, the 18 girls on this year's team were not ready to hand in the towel before the season began. Led by tri-captains Katie Olson, Natalie Savonna, and Jessica Troy the SHS softball team was determined to prove themselves in the Fairfield County Interscholastic Athletic Competition.

The season for these 18 athletes began in January, where they attended the batting cages every Sunday evening for two hours. There the team was able to prepare themselves for the fierce competition that lay ahead of them. The team threw, fielded ground balls, hit off of machines, and faced live pitching for approximately two months before the official season began.

The team looked impressive in their first game against Trinity Catholic. The team won with amazing defense and decent hitting. Unfortunately, in their second game against Trumbull High School the extraordinary defense went out the door with eight errors, the most in one game for any SHS softball team. Despite all of this the team was able to pull together and they won their next five games. The team's second loss came from inter-city rival Westhill in 12 innings, where SHS gave up two unearned runs. After the defeat to WHS, the softball team was still not showing all of their potential. The team won another five games before they came across their third loss from Trinity Catholic. Trinity defeated the Black Knights with a score of 3-1, but this gave Stamford the push that they needed.

After the loss to Trinity Catholic, Stamford looked like they had in the past. They were playing solid defense, they were hitting the ball well, and they were playing like a team. Everyone was doing their job, whether it was pinch running or designated hitting. Unfortunately, the team faced their fourth and final loss during the regular season from Staples High School. Even though Stamford had a one run

lead, two outs, and no one on base in the bottom of the eighth, Staples was able to put together a walk and two hits that drove in two runs and the win. The team was disappointed with their performance, and they knew that they had to win their next two games in order to obtain home field advantage in the FCIAC tournament.

As they had hoped for from the beginning of the season the 2003 SHS softball team was ranked fourth out of eight teams in the FCIAC tournament, and they received home field advantage by defeating Norwalk and Wilton (the last two games in the regular season). In the quarterfinals Stamford faced fifth seeded McMahon who they defeated 1-0 in the regular season. Just like the regular season game SHS was able to pull away with a 1-0 win. The team had a solid performance, but they would have to pick up the bats if they wanted to make it to the championship game.

SHS would go on to face Danbury in the semi-finals, who they beat 6-1 in the regular season. But, Stamford new that it would not be an easy game because Danbury must have done something right when they beat the number one team to advance to the finals. In the bottom of the first inning Stamford took a 1-0 lead, a lead that they can usually maintain. However, in the second inning Danbury proved themselves by scoring 4 runs off of the ace pitcher Katie Pensiero, who led SHS to last years FCIAC Championship. Danbury did not allow any more hits until the bottom of the sixth inning when Jessica Troy got on with a bunt single. Two batters later Natalie Savonna hit a two run home-run, which brought Stamford within one run. In the seventh inning Danbury scored one more run to increase their lead to two. However, Stamford had a lot of heart inside of them and they were not ready to give up. Stamford was able to get bases loaded with one out, and Melissa Giordano drove in two runs to tie the game. With bases loaded again and one out, Jessica Duda hit a fly ball to the outfield and the runner on third was able to tag up and win the game. This semi-final game showed what Stamford was made of 100% talent and 10% heart.

For the second time in two years Stamford had made it to the FCIAC

Championships, and the idea of back-to-back championships was on everyone's mind. SHS would play sixth seeded Norwalk, who they had just beaten one week ago by a score of 2-1. Both teams knew each other's capabilities, and both teams were eager to win. The game started promptly at 7:00 pm as the sun was beginning to set, and as the lights were turned on. It was scoreless until the third inning, when Colleen Perry was walked. Her pinch runner was later moved over to second base on a base hit that just got by third baseman Alex Griffiths. With a runner on first and second Norwalk hit a double, which was just fare, that scored both runners. Even though Stamford had at least one runner in scoring position every inning, they did not score until the bottom of the sixth on a passed ball. Despite having bases loaded with only one out, Stamford could not drive in another run to tie the game. Katie Pensiero held Norwalk in the top of the seventh, and the nine, one, and two batters were up in the bottom of the seventh for Stamford. Katie Olson was able to get to second on a base hit and a steal, but unfortunately her teammates could not bring her home. Stamford lost to Norwalk with a final score of 2-1. The girls played their hearts out, but the ball did not bounce their way that night.

Even though Stamford was not repeat champions they had a fantastic season. These 18 girls did not let anything stop them from achieving their goals. Each player worked extremely hard, and gave everything that they had in every game. It did not matter to these athletes that they were a young team. It did not matter to this team that they lost nine seniors. It did not matter to them that no one thought that they could do it. The only thing that this team cared about was playing to their potential, and that is exactly what they did. This 2003 SHS softball team made everyone proud of them for what they had accomplished. Yes, it was not an easy path they travel on, and yes, there were many bumps along the way. But this group of 18 athletes proved themselves time and time again.

# '03 Student Athletes of the Year: Justine Kovacs and Jared Ashe

**Andrew Dollan**  
Associate Sports Editor

As Justine Kovacs runs down her high school career, we acknowledge her as the Female Athlete of the Year. Justine Kovacs is a senior here at SHS who has achieved so much in the four years she has been here that any person would dream to accomplish in 6 years of high school.

Kovacs participates in three sports while managing her studies. Not only does she participate in the time consuming and demanding sports but many would agree that she dominates in all of them. In addition to competing in the sports, she also takes leadership roles in that she was tri-captain of the varsity field hockey team, tri-captain of girls' indoor track, and tri-captain of the girls' outdoor track team.

Kovacs was named All FCIAC 1st team, All State 1st team, Most Valuable Player Of of the 2002-03 field hockey season Kovacs said, "We had a good season, but we would have liked to do better in States and FCIACS."

Her second season was indoor track where she ran the mile and 2 mile races. Kovacs earned her personal record in the two mile event where she ran it in just 10:59, while her personal record for the mile was 5:15. This year she was 3rd in the Western Division Championships, 2nd in the miler and 1st in the two miler in the FCIAC Championships and the State Class LL Championships, and 4th in New England's tournament, when running the 2 miler.

Kovacs is currently waiting to participate in the big championships, but so far Justine came in first in the FCIAC Championships in the two miler event, with a time of 11:56 and she won by more the 40 seconds to the second place runner.

In a brief interview with Kovacs we learned of her opinions of the several sports she pursues.

TRT: Which do you like better to run, indoor or outdoor?

JK: It varies because in indoor, you have to run 20 laps around a track and it can get very boring, while outdoor you only have to run 8 laps. Outdoor, you

have the weather conditions to worry about and it can seriously affect your performance. But overall, I like outdoor better, because I feel more free when I run.

TRT: How do you feel to be captain of three sports?

JK: It is a great honor, but at the same time I like the responsibility of being a leader.

Not only does Kovacs excel in athletics, but she also does very well in the classroom. Kovacs applied to five major colleges and she was admitted to all five. Those to which she applied and received acceptances included Indiana University, Michigan State University, University of Vermont, and Fordham University. It is the University of Maryland, however in which she has decided she will be enrolling in August. At Maryland she will be running both indoor and outdoor track, and she will be trying cross-country in the fall which will be a new addition for her.

TRT: Is it hard concentrating on school when you play three sports?

JK: Most of my life in high school I was dedicating my time to running, field hockey, and school. It is constant because I am always training whether it was weightlifting, or cross training, day after day. It was hard to excel in both but it was all hard work that paid off."

TRT: How do you feel having to give up field hockey to run cross-country?

JK: Well I have always wanted to run cross-country, but I wanted to do something different. Field hockey requires more athletic ability and it is a constant up and down the field sport.

Related to her academic accomplishments Kovacs has been the recipient of a number of scholarships and awards. Justine was named "Who's Who in Sports" for both her fall and winter season. She had been named Athlete of the Week in Stamford High a numerous amount of times in each of her sports. Outside of sports, Justine was inducted into the National Honor Society as a junior, and will graduate in the top 5% of the senior class. On top of that she has made the Honor Roll every quarter in her high school career.



Photo by: T. Nusbaum

Justine Kovacs and Jared Ashe were selected as this year's Athletes of the Year. They were selected by the editors of The Round Table for outstanding achievement in their multi-sports activities.

**Andrew Sanzo**  
Managing Editor

Rumor has it that Jared Ashe's parents held him back a year before kindergarten so that when the time came he'd be more athletically adept than his younger peers. Although this isn't exactly true because the decision was made for scholastic reasons, it turned out to be a very happy accident for the 2003 Stamford High Sportsman of the Year. Now a college bound senior, Ashe's athletic prowess has been spectacular enough to garner for him accolades from various printed sources around the state and New England, as well as gaining him admission to the prestigious Wesleyan University where he intends to pursue both soccer and basketball.

Ashe's accomplishments at Stamford High read like a laundry list of athletic acclaim. He was ranked the number one soccer player in the FCIAC along with being named to both the All-State and All-New England teams. He broke the all-time scoring record at SHS with his 130 total points comprising 56 goals and 26 assists. In basketball, the sport for which he was selected to

Kovacs has participated in a numerous amount of clubs and organizations in and out of school. In Stamford High, she has been a member of Interact, Building With Books, Big Brother Big Sister, and a Volunteer for Meals on Wheels. Justine spends some of her time outside of school by volunteering for Save the Children, and a member of the Green Ribbon Campaign, which she help raise over \$1,000 to

the All-State 2nd Team, he averaged 14 points a game, along with 8 assists and 6 rebounds.

For Ashe Sports has been a way of life for as long as he can remember. "I've always loved sports, ever since I was a little kid. I would play with my father, watch (sports) on TV, pretend I was a superstar with my toys." It wasn't until later that he began to realize his true potential. Said Ashe, "I never really thought about how good I might be or could be or if I was excelling or becoming better until 8th grade and then freshman year. I was

*"My four years here have made me a better student, better athlete, and a better person."*

Senior Jared Ashe

growing, getting stronger; I knew I could do something special with my athletic ability. When I came in as a freshman and started varsity soccer and then made the varsity basketball team and sat on the bench, I knew I could become great."

help the families of the victims of the September 11th tragedy.

TRT: How do you feel being selected as the Female Athlete of the Year?

JK: It is truly an honor, but I know there are definitely other girls out there who also deserved this award.

Kovacs has had much support throughout her career. Her mom was her number 1 fan who

Perhaps more impressive than Ashe's athletic ability and accomplishments are his scholastic achievements. He finished 13 in a class of 458 while maintaining an unweighted grade point average of 3.95. All of this was realized while maintaining rigorous practice regimens for both soccer and basketball. According to Ashe one of his greatest struggles was, "trying to finish homework after a game and staying up to 2 in the morning."

One of the more daunting challenges of Ashe's life will be the changes he will encounter when he makes the move to colleges. He is both excited and apprehensive about the prospect, "My biggest adjustment will be reorganizing my balance between academics and athletics," Ashe said. "College is obviously a different atmosphere from high school, and I'm starting fresh at Wesleyan. I'm just a little freshman again. I want to make a mark on the school immediately both as a student and an athlete."

But what means more to Ashe than all of the attention and awards is the time he has spent at Stamford High and the people that he met. Said Ashe, "My four years here have made me a better student, better athlete, and a better person. I grew up and became a man. I love the teachers, coaches, everyone who helped me along the ride. Coach Moriarty and Caminiti are close friends and have done so much for me, I couldn't have asked for better coaches," he said. "Mr. Scott, as a guidance counselor, was always there for me and also was a good friend. I could go on and on about my coaches and teachers. I'm going to miss all my friends and teachers. I'm going to miss all my friends and teachers, these years have been the best."

never missed a single field hockey game or track meet.

JK: I definitely couldn't be where I am now if it wasn't for my mom and my friends and family. They would put up with me on the days I was frustrated and they were always there for me.

Kovacs is pursuing her education and her athletics at the University of Maryland and is enrolling in August.

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