

The Round Table

Volume XX, Number 7

Stamford High School

Stamford, Connecticut 06902

May 30, 1992

AIDS testing law effected by local student activism

By Jackie Denker
Composition Editor

The SHS Student Council subcommittee for HIV/AIDS awareness had been working diligently to change the AIDS testing law since November. The members of this committee were Becky Sobo, Jackie Denker, Josh Fedeli, Kim Wilson, Avra Ramonowitz, Carrie Bunton, and Rachel Chiappetta. The committee was led by Mr. Douglas Ramsdell. Minors under the age of 18 could not be tested for AIDS without parental consent, although they could be tested for all other sexually transmitted diseases, have an abortion, or be treated for drug abuse.

The committee drafted a petition in an effort to change this AIDS testing law.

The months of December, January, and February were spent trying to accumulate as many signatures on the peti-

tions as possible. Multiple letters were sent to all the public high school in the state requesting that they circulate the petitions through their schools. By February 7th, the committee had gathered 8,000 signatures.

State Senator George Jepsen was contacted by the committee. He agreed to sponsor legislation that would repeal the AIDS testing law. They also received the support of Governor Lowell Weicker.

Throughout this process, there was an extreme amount of press coverage. The committee's work was followed by Channel's 3, 7, 8, 10, 12, 30, and 61. Newspapers such as *The Advocate*, *The Hartford Courant*, *The Bridgeport Post*, and *The New Haven Register* followed their progress. Radio stations such as WSTC and WCBS also covered the issue.

The next step was testifying before the Public Health

Committee in Hartford on Thursday, March 12th. In order for Senator Jepsen to be able to bring the bill to the Senate floor, the Public Health Committee's support had to be gained. Josh Fedeli, Becky Sobo, and Senator Jepsen's testimonies all helped to win a 2:1 margin of support.

Committee members then sent letters to all the public high schools in Connecticut. These letters asked all high school students to contact their local legislators. Letters were also sent to each senator and Legislator in the state.

Thursday, April 24th, Becky Sobo was a guest on ABC's *Good Morning America*. Connecticut state Senator Flemming provided the opposing view. This national press coverage played an important role in the senate's vote the next day.

On April 25th, Bill 373 was proposed on the Senate floor.

Senator Jepsen and others led the debate in the committee's favor while Senator Flemming led the opposition. All the senators agreed that teens should be tested without parental consent. However, the dispute was over whether parents would be informed of a minor's positive test result.

This led Senator Jepsen, with the committee's approval, to write an amendment which would allow doctors to make this decision of parents' involvement in treatment. Parents would be informed in all cases except when the doctor feared that it would keep the minor from seeking treatment.

This amendment eased many of the opposing senator's fears. Bill 373, along with the amendment, won a 4:1 victory in the Senate.

The last trip to Hartford by the students was for the House of Representatives vote Tuesday, April 28th. In the

House, the main dispute was not over parental involvement, but whether teens would receive the proper counseling needed if they tested HIV positive. An amendment was added stating that a positively tested teen would receive immediate counseling needed to live with this deadly disease. The bill passed in the House by almost a 3:1 vote. Due to this additional amendment, the bill had to go back to the Senate for one last vote. It passed again in the Senate by a 4:1 margin. The bill was then sent to Governor Lowell Weicker for his approval.

The Committee for HIV/AIDS Awareness invited Governor Weicker to SHS to sign the bill. The committee was thrilled to learn that he would come to our school on May 25th.

Governor Weicker visits SHS to sign testing bill

By Catherine Carriero
Junior Co-Editor-in-Chief

Senior Rebecca Sobo feels "absolutely incredible" about the newest law concerning AIDS testing. Because the law was initiated by her and seven other Stamford High students who fought for what they believed in, a nine month fight was successful and, Stamford High was honored by Governor Lowell Weicker's presence at an assembly to witness the signing of the bill.

In a packed Stamford High auditorium, on Friday, May 22, acting principal Anthony Markosky began the ceremonies stating his slogan "Success for all." The eight students involved in the AIDS

committee were not the only ones recognized; sports teams, History Day participants, and college acceptances were also acknowledged.

Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Peter Horoschak was also in attendance he said, "When I came to Stamford, they told me this high school was a dynamic place. I am really impressed. This is a wonderful example of 'success for all.'"

Mayor Stanley Esposito recognized the AIDS law to be "one early tool in the prevention of AIDS." The efforts of strong students make him "proud to be the mayor of Stamford."

After the Mayor spoke, see AIDS page 5



Governor Lowell Weicker signs the AIDS testing bill in the SHS auditorium as Mayor Esposito and senior Becky Sobo look on. (Photo by Sarah Daitzman)

Smoking to be prohibited on school grounds

By Angie Jimenez
Junior Opinion Editor
& Sarah Daitzman
Junior Photo Editor

Students in the Stamford public schools have been prohibited from smoking in school buildings and on school property for years. Next year, adult staff members will be forced to live by the same rules.

The Board of Education voted April 21 to write a new policy which prohibits smoking on school grounds. This applies even to teachers, administrators, staff members, and visitors. This policy eliminates areas that are now designated as smoking areas. This policy will be effective August 28, 1992.

Right now, most of Stamford's public schools have designated areas for employees to smoke. The schools that don't have such areas allow their employees to go outdoors to have a cigarette. Classrooms and many private offices are off-limits to smoking.

Under the new policy, employees and students wouldn't be allowed to smoke on school property, including athletic playing fields. It would have stricter regulations aimed at eliminating smoking in school and outdoors on school property.

Teacher comment

The teachers' union tried to fight the policy or at least postpone its implementation

for a year so that the Board could provide stop smoking clinics for teachers during that time. The Board decided the time to act was now.

Teachers who want to smoke will have to leave the school grounds to do so. Mr. Bruce Sylvester, business teacher is unhappy with the ruling. "People get away with murder nowadays and they won't even let me smoke. If they're not going to permit smoking, then there should at least be one room where I can smoke."

Foreign language teacher Mrs. Gabrielle Cossuto, a non-smoker, said, "Those who smoke are entitled to one room where they can have their needed cigarette."

Board of Ed comment

"Right now, it's a double standard," said Dr. Marc Peyser, policy committee chairman, "You're telling kids they can't smoke and you're teaching them that they shouldn't smoke, but then you say that the adults can."

Board of Education President Gerald Pia didn't realize how widespread smoking was still until he was talking to a child at the Glenbrook Community Center where he works. "A little girl came to me and kept telling me it was snowing outside. I kept looking out but didn't see any flakes. Finally I decided to check and go outside. On the

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OPINION

Graffiti problem attacked from unusual angle

Graffiti has been one of the biggest and most publicized problems in Stamford High School throughout the years. This year is no exception. Whether racial slurs or simply someone's scribble, it defaces property and detracts from the appearance of Stamford High.

It is sometimes said that graffiti is a form of self-expression. The Stamford High administration picked up on this fact and decided to allow graffiti, yet, a slightly different type. Acting Principal Mr. Anthony Markosky chose two of the top artists in our school, juniors Jason Crowley and Skye Tiedemann, to paint the bathrooms with acceptable versions of graffiti; the point being to see if students have enough respect for their peers not to destroy their creative efforts. The Round Table appreciates and supports the administration's efforts in addressing this issue.

Students must take pride and responsibility for school

Stamford High students often complain about things in their school. Many groan about the bathrooms, the graffiti, the lockers, and other problems that they feel need improvement. Some tend to blame the custodial staff and the school administration for lack of "solutions" or "action."

What most are missing by making these accusations and unfair conclusions is that the real problem lies with the students themselves.

Of course, all students are entitled to voice their grievances and opinions about things at their school, but they should never do so without first realizing to whom most of their criticisms should be directed. In many cases, it's right back at themselves.

The administration and custodial staff often find themselves working in direct opposition to those whom they are trying to benefit—the students.

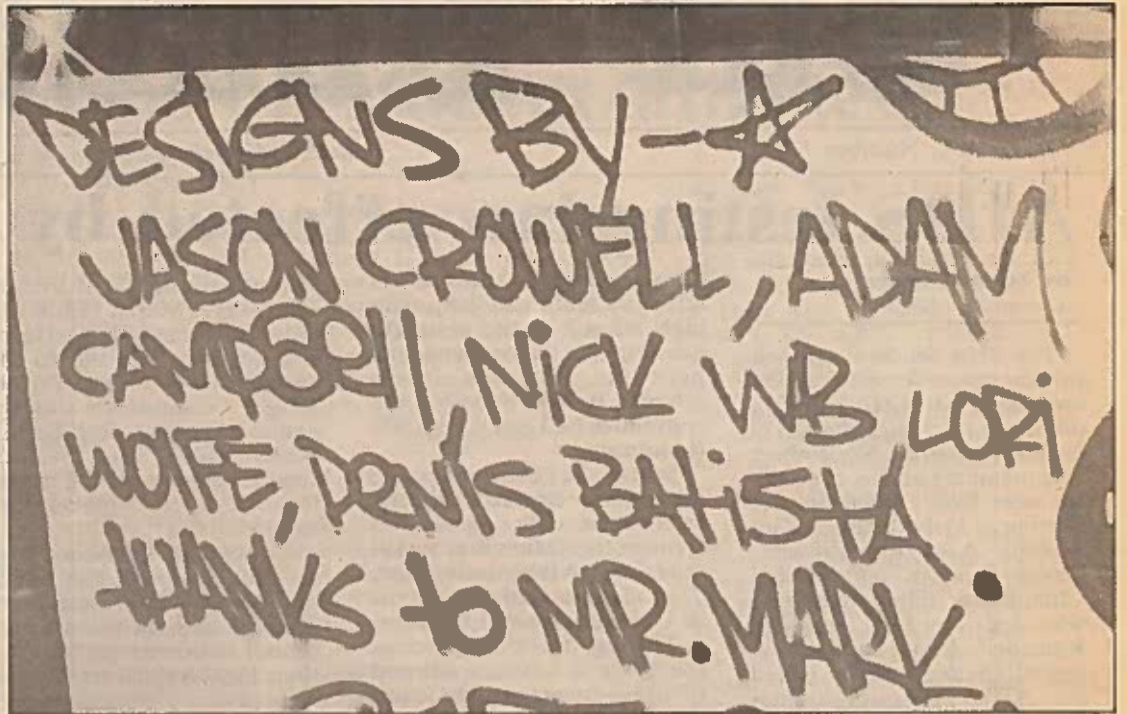
Students complain about smoke-filled bathrooms. But who makes them that way but their peers? Students dislike garbage and graffiti on the floors and the walls, but who does the vandalizing?—their peers. And who usually gets blamed for these problems? The people who are trying to solve them.

Surely there are improvements to be made in school policies, but many conditions that need change are created by students. It's the small core of students who have no respect for the school or its property who make the mess for all their peers to live with, and for all the custodians and administrators to deal with.

The way to overcome these problems is by an increased awareness within the student body. If they want change and improvement, it has to start with themselves. Just talking about who should fix things, and never taking the responsibility, will accomplish nothing.

Acting Principal Anthony Markosky wants to form a student committee/advisory board to deal with any problems at SHS.

Any student with ideas or who wishes to provide input should see him before the end of the school year.



Jason Crowell and student graffiti artists decorated sixth floor boys' room (Photo by Daitzman)

The Round Table

The Round Table is published monthly during the school year by the Communications and Journalism classes of Stamford High School, Room 114, Stamford High School, 55 Strawberry Hill Avenue, Stamford, Connecticut 06902, (203) 977-4632.

The views expressed in The Round Table are those of the writers and do not necessarily represent views of the school, its students or staff. All unsigned editorials are opinions of the editorial board.

The Round Table welcomes letters from its readers. Letters must be original and signed. All are subject to editing. Anonymous letters are not published, but names may be withheld upon request. Address letters to the Editor, The Round Table.

The Round Table is printed by The Advocate, Stamford, Connecticut.

Subscriptions @ \$10 per year are available upon request.

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Artist junior Mindy Lombardo poses in front of her award-winning paintings at the recent SHS Art Fair. (Photo by Daitzman)

OPINION

Rodney King case spurs debate

Racial injustice still prevails as King verdict shows prejudice at work

By Charlene Flash
Junior Assistant Opinion Editor

We are living in a nation racially divided, under a justice system that is apparently one-sided. Coast to coast, our nation is in a state of visible turmoil spurred by the highly-publicized Rodney King incident in which four white police officers were videotaped mercilessly beating a black man.

The acquittal of these police officers appalled people throughout this country, and the world. In cities nationwide, while some peaceful demonstrations were held, citizens expressed their anger in many areas with violence. Murder, vandalism, looting, and the burning of hundreds of buildings, including those in every major area in the city of Los Angeles, placed these places in a state of chaos.

There are a few who have used this as an opportunity for excessive violence and looting, but for the masses of minorities this is a chaos of frustration. In reality, the pandemonium is not a direct reaction to the actual Rodney King case. It is the expression of the frustrations which have been growing for hundreds of years.

Many whites feel pity for Rodney King, just as they would for anyone being senselessly beaten, but for blacks there is a different scenario. There is the helplessness that "That could have been me." As blacks bleed inside due to the constant injustices inflicted upon them, whites try to understand, but in reality, can they really put themselves in the situation?

It is easy enough to try and put yourself into the shoes of another person, but it is an impossible task to place your soul in another skin.

Our government in idealistic terms, says that every American citizen has the "inalienable right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." Nevertheless, in the minority community these rights are held just out of reach. No matter how moral or how educated one may be, the fact remains that some others see you not for who you are but for the color of your skin. This causes unending despair.

Of course, violence cannot be condoned. However, throughout the history of the world, where negotiations and arbitration have failed, the next step is revolution and violence. Is that what the fate of our country will be?

In this situation, minorities have been described as "emotionally irresponsible" and "lacking self-discipline." As many try to be optimistic, they say that there was evidence leading the jury to its decision. Within the mind of the faithful, upstanding Americans, there must have been more evidence. Many are not willing to admit that our justice system, especially the police force, has been consistently failing in its dealings with the black community. Where intellect and reasoning has failed continuously for centuries, all that is left is the basis for humanity, the ability to feel.

Daily injustices have been met with the reprisal, "Well, life isn't fair." That may be true, but a level of injustice has been attained at which justice for the black is completely different than justice for the white.

Tragically, the Rodney King incident has sparked the burning of a city. However, the glaring, fearsome light of this burning city may light the road to a more compatible society—free from the burdens of racial injustice.

Students' opinion on King verdict

Krista Ely, junior

"People are turning the case into something it's not. In terms of the rioting, two wrongs don't make a right. I'm not saying I agree with the decision, but I'm not going to go out looting stores and everything."

Jamaal Moses, junior

"I believe that if the police had gotten convicted for the crime they had committed, this whole riot wouldn't have occurred."

Carrie Bunton, sophomore

"There really wasn't any just cause for the riots. The people are allowed their opinions, and that's what we have freedom of speech for. But that doesn't give us the right to express ourselves by doing such things as setting buildings on fire and killing people just because of race."

"If there are people to blame, blame them, not the innocent bystanders."

Les Mosley, junior

"I believe the decision was wrong in every way. The whole thing was on tape so it should have been an open and shut case. If people justify the verdict, I justify the riots."

Ryan Hedrick, junior

"It was unfortunate that the case was moved from L.A. to an upper class white community. This as a definite factor in the verdict."

Rob Merturi, senior

"I believe that everyone made a mistake and that justice was not served. I think the riots in L.A. were uncalled for. This incident should never have been a racial incident because this was not a racial case."

"I believe in civil rights and that Rodney King's civil rights were disregarded. This put the younger civilization in a bad spot."

Tevin Adelman, junior

"It seemed as though it was an open and shut case. When the officers were acquitted it not only shocked the nation, but also put doubts in the minds of all people to the validity of the judicial system."

"I understand the anger and frustration felt the the people, but I was disappointed by all the violence."

Failure of system blamed for verdict

By Angie Jimenez
Junior Opinion Editor

It's been a few years since Martin Luther King, Jr. pronounced his dreams of equality and peace to the population of this country. It is becoming clear, now, that it will be many more years before his goal is achieved.

The Rodney King case has caused horrible racial tensions and violent rioting to occur in our country, but it was long in coming and not surprising. The outcome of the case in which police officers were acquitted of all charges of beating a black man, Rodney King, came as shock to citizens. Many saw it, not only as an incredibly volatile case of racial bias, but also as a horrible perversion of law and order in our country.

There are many facets of the case (which can) be discussed, but the prevalent one that is often eclipsed under that of racial tension, is that of law. This case has struck fear into the hearts of many American citizens, who now feel completely unprotected, vulnerable, and unsure of the police force that is supposed to protect them, and the government that is supposed to make sure they never feel violated.

Some journalists have explained the reasoning of the not guilty verdict as that being the right of the police offices to use excessive force when necessary. Thus, they say the police had the right to retaliate against Rodney King as they did.

However, where is the line drawn for our police in the USA? Not every court case is going to fall into a nice simple category. Each must be evaluated for the circumstances under which it took place, and with all its contributing factors. With a rigid, inflexible law

that lets the police abuse their power on those whom they're supposed to protect, the judicial system has lost sight of what it's supposed to accomplish—justice.

The riots in Los Angeles, and other areas across the country, are emotionally charged, and not just racially motivated. The situation in our country is that of a system that is failing its people, and they are fed up. Many rioters are angry. To the blacks who have struggled so long and hard for equality in this country, this court case was a stab in the back just when some might have felt they had a fair judicial system. The rioters are not just going out because they want revenge on the whites, as some believe. In fact, most of the deaths in the rioting have been of blacks. Pent-up emotion has been supplemented by a sudden feeling of anguish, brought only a complete loss of faith and hope in our country.

Rodney King is not a martyr. He is a symbol; a symbol of things that happen every day and go unnoticed. There is abuse of power, and a loss of trust in the lawful forces that are supposedly there to protect us.

As the next generation, we now look through the windows of the world and see racial distrust and governmental injustice that we had always thought to be of an era long gone.

Do not listen to the words of Martin Luther King as nostalgia, because they are still applicable in our country. His dreams of achieving peace and equality have surged to the forefront with a case concerning a man of the same surname. Let this case cause a change, not just an uproar. Let it be the light that signals the government of the need for fairness and reform. Let us at least rest with the knowledge that somewhere, amidst all the feelings of fear and despair in our country, there is hope for unity and equality.

OPINION

Abortion debate heats up among students and staff

A woman's body is hers No one has right to k

By Angie Jimenez
Junior Opinion Editor

In our country of democracy and freedom, there have been countless debates as to what extent that the freedom should be extended. We, as "the people," have battled with the government when we felt our rights of free expressions were being violated. Right now, the issue of abortion is raging across our country, controversial because it questions an individual's freedom.

I am pro-choice. I feel that what one chooses for her body is her right, and should be included in the freedoms granted by our constitution. Whether abortion is something that the individual citizen feels is morally correct, and whether she would make that decision to abort a pregnancy is not the issue here. The issue is whether we may, by our personal views on the matter, choose to fight for the limitation on all citizens. Can we take away options from American women who become pregnant? Such a choice would be unfair.

Some argue that the legalization of abortion would make pregnancy something to be taken lightly by all, and thus would cause more promiscuity. Abortions, for the majority of women, who because of health, financial, or psychological reasons, cannot adequately support a child.

Some women may choose abortion for other reasons, but that is their concern. Abortion, if deemed legal by our whole country, would become much safer for women, and would still follow regulations of being performed in the early part of the pregnancy when the fetus, by medical terms, is not considered to be a person.

Those who are pro-life are by no means undemocratic in their beliefs. The best thing about America is that we are allowed freedom of speech. Pro-life is a stand that some take because of moral reasons which make them opposed to abortion. As a pro-choice advocate, I feel that the only way to preserve the rights of all women is to give them an option, not a directive. Then, those who are opposed can say, "You can get an abortion, but I will not do it myself because I don't think it's right," and will be perfectly just in saying so.

Abortion is a personal choice. We cannot, as citizens, let our opinions make the laws. We have a constitution to uphold, and a pro-choice decision on abortion would be the way to do that.

SPEAK OUT

By Sarah Daitzman
Junior Photo Editor

How do you feel about abortion?



Betsy Jewell
Grade 12

"It is a difficult decision but when it comes right down to it, too many people are killed every day accidentally. An intentional death seems absurd."



Brant Kantor
Grade 9

"I am pro-choice because it should be the mother's decision; the one that's carrying the baby."



Ravi Hiller
Grade 11

"I think that abortion is wrong. That's why I am pro-life. It is not fair that babies don't get a chance to live."



Janet Rubin
Grade 10

"I am pro-choice because it's a woman's body and she should have the right to choose."

By Charlene Flash
Staff Reporter

Wichita, Kansas was their first stop. They came Buffalo, New York. Currently, thousands gather before abortion clinics throughout the nation. They rally together with terror. These people are answering a higher set of morals than those instilled by written laws of our country that allow an abortion.

These demonstrators profess that our country should not forsake its morality for a reason, and they therefore take a pro-stand against abortion.

There are things which are understood by those who take the pro-life stand. A higher set of morals is held by some conscientious members of the Western world. One of them, whether instilled by religion or personal convictions and values, is "Thou shalt not kill." The murder of fetuses through abortion is included.

Who has the right to decide when and how someone should be killed? The collective morality of our country must not be forsaken because someone made a mistake. The choice to abort is a decision we all must make. It is a mature decision, which when made binds two parties together to naturally accept the consequences, including pregnancy.

Unwanted pregnancies should not be terminated by the slaughter of a developing child. Extinguishing a chance for a new life is a terrible thing to do. It denies this person a chance to excel in this world of ups and downs, because he never gets a chance to shine.

Some pregnant women may feel that if they have their child, their lives will be ruined. I feel that as long as we are able to breathe life's air and make decisions we have a chance.

When a computer program is "aborted," the program is often retrievable. However aborting a life is a different scenario. That life is irretrievable.

Abortion is not something that simply affects the mother. It equally touches the child and the mother. A part of themselves and their souls is lost forever.

Our government should not succumb to the pressure from pro-choice people. We cannot forsake the morality of our nation as a whole. People must not be allowed to legally commit genocide by killing off our future through abortion.

Being prepared for drivers' license exam half the battle

By Jen Guitton
Staff Reporter

Being a teenager in 1991 isn't easy, especially if you don't have a driver's license. Underclassmen are embarrassed to have their parents drop them off at the door of a very important dance.

Parents are also pressured when there are several places their children have to attend. They even feel like a "chauffeur," which makes the child feel worse and the parents frustrated. So underclassmen dream about becoming sixteen when a license can be theirs and the freedom that goes with it.

Once someone turns six-

teen, he or she rushes to the Department of Motor Vehicles to make an appointment for a driver's test. Getting a test date can take months because of the state budget crunch. As a result, seven DMV buildings have been closed. Luckily, Stamford remains open until the new building in Norwalk opens later this year.

Because the previous Norwalk office closed last year, the Stamford office has to accommodate five cities. This, in turn, results in very long lines and long waits for appointments.

Here is some advice for prospective license seekers: Before you make your appointment you must have a

family member such as your father, mother, aunt, uncle or legal guardian sign for a driver's permit. This means you may start driving, but only with your permit signer.

You must take a 6-hour drug and alcohol course, which will cost approximately 25 dollars. Soon after you get your permit, an appointment slip for your driver's test which is usually scheduled one month after you obtain your permit.

Once the day comes for your test, the officers that evaluate your driving for your test, aren't there to help you, they are there to see if you are a competent driver. The key to doing well is to stay calm.

The driver's test consists of

knowledge of car operations, rules of the road, vision and "behind the wheel" driving.

To begin you take an eye exam consisting of signs and letters. You then take the written examination on a computer which gives you sixteen questions, four of which may be wrong. All the answers are in the book published by the DMV which contains driving information. If you pass the written test, then you will go for the 20-minute road test. You will be expected to perform certain driving operations. The tester will let you know if you pass.

That's the process! Getting your license gives you more freedom, but new responsibility.

Don't drink and drive and don't let friends drive drunk

Save a life—take the keys.

NEWS

Alternative to dissection policy enacted by Board of Education

By Dan Backer
Staff Reporter

Biology classes may have a different look next year because of a policy recently passed by the Board of Education. Stamford students will be given a new option—the option not to dissect.

Up until now, Stamford public schools had no distinct policy on the question of dissection, and it was left up to the discretion of the individual teacher whether or not students were required to dissect. While most teachers allowed students this choice, there were still some in the system who believed that if a student were to sign up for a Life Science class, he or she should have to dissect, as part of the curriculum.

However, a Board of Education meeting on April 7, 1992 helped to change this, by providing Stamford schools with a clear policy concerning the right to choose not to dissect. Passed unanimously, Board Policy #6162, Alternatives to Dissection, states that students have the right to request alternatives to dissection; including videos, computer programs, films, models, transparencies, charts, diagrams, dissecting microscopes, and textbook overlays. The policy goes on to state that teacher assistance must be made available to students requesting dissection alternatives, and no grades will in any way be adversely affected because of a request for alternatives.

According to Mr. D. Philip Baker, director of curriculum,

this policy "affirms the rights of a student, making it a positive progression from the lack of policy before hand."

This policy has been approved by the National Association of Biology Teachers.

Stamford High School students, as part of the Student Liaison program, who meet with Board of Ed members, had input into the discussion. Mr. Baker said the Board listened to many students opinions on the policy before the vote.

Stamford High Junior Kika Backer, a member of the Student Liaison committee said, "All of us students basically felt in favor of the policy, and we were glad the Board was willing to listen to what we had to input."

This new policy will most

likely not affect the teaching of life-science, since most teachers have always let students choose not to dissect, and this policy only makes

their past teaching methods official.

Stamford High Sophomore Jamie Friedman supports the new policy, saying, "My Biology teacher is going to give me a zero because I refuse to dissect a frog. This could really hurt my good grade. It is totally unfair."

This problem has plagued some high-school Biology students, but with the new policy in effect, it will no longer occur.

According to Sidney Abramowitz, science department head, who helped to write the policy, "It's based on Norwalk's policy of last

year, but we made it more general so that it would apply to all students who don't wish to dissect."

Abramowitz went on to say "As of now, there are no detractors to the new policy. We're basically not changing anything present in the system, we're just making it official. This policy will not hurt our science program, just enhance it."

Abramowitz said that it will not be hard to implement the policy in the Stamford High science department, for most of the necessary materials are already in our possession. Some new equipment, such as computer software, will be ordered. Abramowitz will hold a staff meeting to discuss the new policy with science teachers.

Foreign language students win awards

By Maria Tomas
Junior Features Editor

Nineteen Stamford High School foreign language students participated in a language day contest conducted by the Department of Modern Languages of Iona College, New Rochelle, New York.

The program, which began in 1954, has as its goal the promotion of foreign language study by recognizing and

rewarding students who have demonstrated a high level of proficiency in foreign language.

The contest is divided into two parts. Phase one is a written examination. This test evaluates mastery of the basic skills in the language, as well as an understanding of the culture.

This year, a total of 744 students, representing 62 schools from the tri-state area, competed in this phase. The students who receive the

highest scores are invited back for phase two—oral proficiency.

In the oral proficiency, a topic is given to the finalists, and they are to prepare a brief speech. Students are evaluated on their fluency in their targeted language.

Stamford High placed seventh out of 27 schools from its category. Foreign Language Department Head Mr. Mario Caminiti, along with several other teachers, prepared students for the contest.

AIDS law (continued)

Senator George Jepsen introduced Governor Weicker or "the gutsiest man in America."

Governor Weicker spoke eloquently of the "courageous legislatures and people in the state of Connecticut." He addressed the SHS AIDS committee, saying, "I like people to stand up and do something. This wasn't my idea. It was your idea and it's about to become a law."

"There's no second chance when it comes to this disease," he continued. "If it is indeed an adult generation that's going to ignore the disease and ignore the facts, thank God for the young generation."

He closed by saying, "In this nation, the people rule. In the ruling, a selfish generation is left behind. Once again, America shows its best face to the world in a little corner of it called Connecticut."

Governor Weicker then signed the bill on the Stamford High stage in front of students, faculty, local health activists, and state and city government officials.

Sobo ended the assembly with a speech explaining how students, or anyone, with ef-

Round Table editor named Presidential Scholar finalist

Round Table editor-in-chief Emily Tsai has been named one of 500 Finalists in the 1992 Presidential Scholars Program. The finalists were selected from more than 2.5 million students expected to graduate from U.S. high schools in 1992.

From these finalists, 141 were selected as the 1992 Presidential Scholars (one from each state, Puerto Rico, and American students abroad).

fort can make a difference. She thanked everyone who helped her along the way. She praised the American system. "Democracy can work. It doesn't matter how old you are."

SMOKING (continued)

ground I saw thousands of cigarette butts. This was when it really hit me as to how bad the smoking problem is. I am thoroughly for the policy."

One of the main arguments for the policy has been the fact that not only does adult smoking set a bad example, it also increase the student risk of suffering cigarette-smoke related diseases because of "second-hand smoke." Studies done recently have confirmed that the smoke of

smokers inhaled by non-smokers can be very dangerous to their health.

Sophomore Mike Sarafin said, "Teachers should be able to smoke in designated areas because they get bad-mouthing by students and need something to calm their nerves."

School officials began thinking about the policy, which denies employees' smoking rights on school property, when several parents urged such a ban or update of the current policy.

Though the ban might make life more difficult for some employees, it is expected that the policy wouldn't be too hard to implement. Some teachers may feel it is unjust, but most are expected to

Iona Language Contest Winners

First Honors - Certificate Winners

- Iffat Islam - French 4
- Gerthy Samedi - French Native
- Francisco Sieira - Spanish Native
- Fan Wong - French 5
- Jaideep Talwalkar - Spanish 5

Second Honors - Certificate Winners

- Tamara Cline - French 3
- Anna Pennar - French 3
- Maria Tomas - Italian Native
- Jacqueline Shaldjian - Spanish 5
- Katuska Aleman - Spanish Native
- Nicole Martel - French 5
- Radha Sripathy - Spanish 4
- Elie Farhan - Italian 3
- Charlene Flash - Spanish 3
- Katherine Daly - Spanish 4

Hartford Courant chooses The Round Table as best high school paper in state

The Hartford Courant's annual school newspaper contest has named Stamford High School's Round Table as its winner in the state-wide competition. This is the third time in the past six years that Stamford High School has been so honored.

Editor-in-chief Emily Tsai, News Editor Deena Disraelly, and faculty adviser James Palley will be honored at a luncheon at The Courant in Hartford on June 4.

cooperate because it would be detrimental for them to break a school rule. Also they realize that, in a way, it condones smoking, and the fact that second-hand smoke is a risk to the students' health.

Dr. Peyser sees some other benefits the policy might bring

with it. "Schools should not condone an unhealthy habit," Peyser said, "But it goes beyond that. If we can help people stop smoking and get healthy, we are going to reduce absenteeism and probably [save] money in the long run."

FEATURES

Knight Light ★★

By Jennifer Kay
Features Editor

If anyone can accomplish 25 hours of work in a 24 hour day, Senior Deena Disraelly can. Not only is she dedicated to her community service and sports, but she is also an excellent student.

Deena Disraelly illustrates the typical "well-rounded student" everyone always talks about. She is involved in such diverse clubs as the National Honor Society, where she holds the office of secretary; Chemistry Club as vice-president; Biology Club and Student Council. She also devotes a lot of her time to the school's two major publications. Deena is the News Editor of *The Round Table*, and "Capo di tutti capo" of Yearbook.

Community service

Her vast community service ranges from SADD to Red Ribbon Week. She also volunteers for the Red Cross, and the Darien YMCA.

Deena is a Russian resettlement aid for the Jewish Family Service and is a guest writer for the *Jewish Voice*, a local newspaper.

It seems almost impossible that Deena could have any other time for any more activities. Surprisingly, she does. Deena works on the water

Deena Disraelly takes on the world with determination



Deena Disraelly with one of her young students at the Darien YMCA (photo by Disraelly)

front staff at Camp Yavneh in New Hampshire, and as a swim instructor and lifeguard at the Darien YMCA.

With all of these activities, one would think Deena would not have the time to devote to a varsity sport, let alone excel in academics. With Deena, this is untrue. Deena is not only the tri-captain of the girls' varsity swim team, she is also an excellent student. Her GPA is 3.94 and 4.67 weighted. She continues to

maintain her academic excellence by taking such challenging classes as A.P. English, A.P. Physics, Senior Seminar, Honors Spanish 4, Journalism, and Yearbook.

Mr. Krein, one of Deena's past teachers, said, "Deena is one of our finest science students and may be one of the strongest in SHS's recent history. She always challenged herself beyond the requirements of the course itself such as skipping C.P. Physics, and

after preparing during the summer, went on to be one of the best students in this year's A.P. Physics class. Deena creates challenges and sees them through."

Deena has been a four-year member of the varsity swim team at SHS. She has also served as the manager of the boys' team for four years. Her major events in swimming are the 500 and 200 freestyle, and she has qualified for FCIAC's. However, swim-

ming doesn't end at the end of the school season, for Deena trains year-round for the Darien YMCA and its USS team, the Piranhas.

Through both her activities and her studies, Deena keeps a positive outlook. She doesn't give up on something once she's started. "Whoever said you can't win them all was right. But, if you want something long enough, and hard enough, and do everything in your power to get it, then even if it doesn't come immediately, eventually you'll get it," Deena said. This is the attitude with which she approaches everything.

This attitude is one which has caused Deena's wide range of accomplishments not to go unnoticed. She has won numerous awards in the past two years for her academic and extra-curricular excellence. These include being named a National Merit Commended Scholar, the RPI medal for math and science, Francis Scott Key Scholar, Dean's Scholarship and a Regional Scholar in the prestigious Coca Cola Scholarship Program.

Deena chose a university from an illustrious engineering schools including the U.S. Naval Academy, Cal Tech, and Georgia Tech. However, she will be attending MIT and joining ROTC.

New program helps Spanish-speaking students learn English

By Deena Disraelly
News Editor

While the United States is an English speaking country, many immigrants have Spanish as a first language. To learn to be integrated into the community, these Spanish speaking students have been working hard to learn English.

Still, they do not converse in Spanish; they practice their English with each other.

"[Generally] Here [in Stamford], I don't have many opportunities to practice my English," said junior participant Yordanska Thomas, originally from Cuba. The program allows her to speak English with her friends.

Approximately 50 students participate in the lunch program. They are joined in their discussion by a few volunteers and members of the National Honor Society.

The participants come from Mexico, Central America, and South America. They represent grades nine through twelve and display a variety of

interests and talents.

Junior Maribel Rivera, who comes from Chile, loves dancing, gymnastics, drama, and ping-pong. Junior Abdul Sanabria, a Colombian, plays soccer.

Each of these students is certainly worth knowing and has a story of their own to share. Junior Michele Morales came to America from Mexico. She attends school, and then goes home to care for her two-month old son Charlie.

Rivera works during the summer and vacations helping her sister. Together they go to Old Greenwich to clean houses and take care of children.

Quezata learned about America from television shows and movies. "I thought America was beautiful; now, I like it but not much," she said. "The clothing and people are different here than I thought."

When she was in Chile, Quezata only studied. Now, she has to help her parents pay the bills.

Junior Yorley Avendano

only came to America to study. She will return to Colombia after she finishes high school.

Sanabria came to America to study and be with his father. He works at Clairol on the cleaning staff during the evenings. He enjoyed Colombia more because he had more freedom. "[Here] I need permission for everything."

Thomas has only been in America for four months, yet she speaks English fluently. "Here is better because we have more opportunities and many things to do. In Cuba, there is no photography, no art, no business. I try to learn many things here," she said.

Thomas tries to learn English as much as possible. She learned English from her English class and from movies. "I have read many things, like Shakespeare, and that is all English. When I listen to someone speaking in Spanish, I try to translate it into English."

Junior Jazmin Chaves works at McDonald's to help her family pay the bills.

Still, despite the large variety of their interests and the availability of these programs at Stamford High School, these students do not participate.

"We hide because we think you (the students of Stamford High) think bad things about us," said Quezata.

That is one reason Culturist Sylvia Fernandez-Stein in-

"Here is better because we have more opportunities..."

—Yordanska Thomas

roduced the lunch program. Sylvia, originally from Chile, got tired of listening to people stereotype the Hispanic students of Stamford High as drug addicts and drop-outs. "They're very talented, smart, nice people," said Fernandez-Stein.

She also hoped to help the students become more integrated into the Stamford High population. The language difference makes it hard for the students to get in-

involved and make friends non-Spanish speaking dents. "Language is a very big fence," commented program volunteer and psychologist Christina Oliveras, initially from Argentina. "I like it [SHS], but the people don't see me as I would like to be seen. They don't have the time to try to know us or understand us."

The program is helping the students learn English and practice communicating. They are also getting involved in other activities and establishing friendships with the American students of Stamford High.

Derek Shendell, president of the National Honor Society and a coordinator of the program, said, "The students are becoming more proficient in the English language every day. I have learned how hard it is for them to learn a new language from scratch, especially when I try to explain something in Spanish!"

As Thomas said, "We are beginning here. Maybe next year it will be easier."

FEATURES

Coordination of outfits key to success on prom night

By Dana Plansky
Managing Editor

The key to spectacular prom fashion is combining looks that coordinate. Not only should your own outfit match, but it should also pair well with your date's ensemble.

For both the guys and the girls, planning ahead is crucial. To be sure he'll get what he wants, a "picky" guy may start checking out the tuxedo-rental stores as far as six weeks before the prom. On the average, though, selecting a tux four weeks before the big night will eliminate any last-minute hassles. Also, a guy can always decide on his cummerbund and tie at the last minute, if his date hasn't purchased her dress yet.

"Renting a tux" entails much more than it seems at first sight. It consists of renting a tuxedo jacket, a shirt, studs, cufflinks, pants, a tie, and a cummerbund or a vest.

Additional items may include dress shoes, top hats, and canes. Without these optional items, a tuxedo rental can run anywhere from \$50 to \$100. While a black cummerbund and tie are usually included in this price, colorful ones will usually cost extra.

To help defray the high cost of renting a tuxedo, guys have several options. Fortunately,

many rental shops, such as Gingiss Formalwear and Camillo Tuxedos give out coupons for anywhere from \$5 off the price to a free tuxedo. Also, seniors who have participated in the SHS Booster Club's Prom Time Fashion Show have been offered \$20 off the price of their rental at Gingiss Formalwear. Finally, a guy may also be able to get a free tuxedo rental if he models a tux, from the rental store, in school, and passes out coupons. Both Gingiss Formalwear and Camillo Tuxedos offer this option to several students.

Senior Rob Luther, who modeled a tux for Gingiss said, "It is a great idea on the part of Gingiss, and it is also an easy way to get a good reduction on a tuxedo for the prom."

According to *Your Prom Magazine 1992*, "Jewel tones, particularly teal and purple, polka dots and paisley prints are the most popular styles for cummerbunds and ties. Vests, an alternative to cummerbunds, are also available in polka dots, paisleys, and brilliant, multi-colored patterns."

As far as jackets go, you can choose from a peak, classic notch, or shawl lapel, and either a single or double breasted jacket. This year, the regular "street length" dinner

jacket and tails are popular choices. For pants, you can choose pegged, tapered, or the traditional straight-legged style. Shirts are almost always classic, crisp, and white, so that they look good even when the jacket is taken off. Studs and cufflinks make the outfit even more formal.

Girls tend to have a tougher time selecting a dress that is both fashionable and comfortable. This feat is made even more difficult by the definition of "fashionable" for 1992. Little, black, sexy numbers are definitely "what's in." The emphasis here is on "little." The problem is that 99% of most girls don't look the same as models who display these thigh-high dresses that fit like a second skin. Girls should look for a dress that accentuates their individual positives and hides their flaws, without sacrificing comfort.

In terms of choosing a color, black is classic as well as very trendy for 1992! On the other hand, bright colors and combinations of colors in diamond patterns are also on the top of the list this year. And, if a girl is really daring, she could even try "harlequin sequin" which incorporates eight different colors, and is the hottest selling dress for J. Reynolds. Above all, a girl



Senior Dave Telep and Jessica Sirico show off their prom wear at the recent fashion show. (Photo by Jamie Sherman)

should choose the color of her dress based upon what goes with her hair color and her skin tone.

Once a girl has selected the "perfect" prom dress, she must focus on hunting down the "perfect" accessories. According to *Your Prom Magazine 1992*, "Satin shoes, sequin purses, and rhinestone necklaces, earrings, and bracelets" all seem to be what's "in" for Prom '92. Most importantly, accessories should coordinate with the dress, not make the outfit look "overdone."

When selecting shoes, a girl should again try to choose

what is fashionable, without sacrificing comfort. This may include choosing a lower heel. Jewelry should be chosen with much attention to the style of the dress. A simple dress could be played up with bold jewelry, while a glitzy dress would be best accompanied by more subtle jewelry. Hair accessories should be thought of as hair jewelry and should be carefully coordinated with the dress and the other accessories, so as to avoid "clashing."

Looking "prom-perfect" isn't always easy, but with a little planning, anyone can pull it off!

Gender becoming irrelevant in who asks who for date

By Kim Molstre
Staff Reporter

The prom is a very special event in the life of every teenager. Everything must be perfect. The most important factor is your date. Every girl wants to go with that special guy. She sits by the phone, night after night, waiting for him to call, but he never does. What does she do?

Well, there are two options. The girl could set her eyes on another guy and hope he asks, or she could take the matter into her own hands, and ask him.

From a recent survey in *Seventeen* magazine, 90% of the guys polled said that they would love a girl to ask them to the prom.

Most girls are too embarrassed to ask, or think that it is the male's job to do the asking. Guys have a lot of pressure on them—paying for dates, asking people out on dates, and making the first move. Why should a guy always have to be the one to ask? "They shouldn't always have to be the one's to ask," said sophomore Ilana Sobo, who went to the junior prom. "Girls have just as much right to take the in-

itiative as guys do. I think that it is great if a girl does this, but personally, I don't know if I'd have the courage."

Junior Dionne Beckford did have the courage, "I didn't feel uncomfortable asking a guy because there were

a lot of girls I knew that were asking guys. Most people don't think twice about it, because it is an accepted thing."

Junior Carmela Vozzella, a junior who asked a guy to the prom agreed. "I asked a guy to the prom and I think that if a girl really wants to go with that 'special' guy, then there is no reason for the girl to wait around for him to ask her."

"There shouldn't be anything embarrassing about it. If you really want to do it, then just do it."

The girls seem to think that asking the guy is great, but what do the guys think about it. "I think that it is better if a girl asks a guy because it seems as if guys always have all the pressure. It also has its disadvantages because girls would be beating down my door," boasted an anonymous male junior. The results are conclusive. Girls can take the matter into their own hands.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Second annual talent show promises laughs and sighs

By Pegah Hendizadeh
Arts and Entertainment Editor

Singers, dancers, jugglers, and musicians will grace the SHS stage Wednesday, June 3 at 8 p.m., for the second annual talent show sponsored by the junior class and the Drama Club. The show will be held in the Stamford High School auditorium.

This year's show features a variety of acts, including singing, rapping, comedy, lip synching, dancing, and instrumentals. A new feature, teacher acts, will be included.

Thirty five acts signed up to try out, but only 18 will be presented because the show is limited for time. All these acts will be introduced by hosts Nolan Haims and Mario Pittore.

Brian Eng, a senior who played the piano last year, and who will be playing again in this year's show, said "The talent show was an important experience not only for me but for all students. It gave a chance for everyone to be able to effectively express their talents, and also for people to see how much talent their peers had."

"To be involved in it again will be an enriching experience for me."

Proceeds divided

Last year, a profit of \$1500 was made by the show. This profit was split equally between the three sponsors, the senior class, the sophomore class, and the Drama Club.

This year's profit will be split between the junior class

and the Drama Club. Also, a percentage of this year's profit will be donated to the principal's general fund. This fund is set up for students who can't afford to buy necessities such as coats or eyeglasses. It also helps pay for trips for those who can't afford it.

Keith Humphrey, president of the Drama Club said, "After being involved in it [the talent show] last year, it was definitely a project I wanted to get involved in again. It helped boost school spirit and everyone in the audience had a good time."

Angie Jimenez, president of the junior class, said "I'm pretty excited about it because a lot of schools have this tradition, and I want SHS to have this tradition too."



Senior Brian Eng practices piano for the June 4 talent show (Photo by Daltzman)

Board of Education summer theater plans production of *Li'l Abner* in August

By Pegah Hendizadeh
Arts and Entertainment Editor

Every spring the age-old question confronts many teenagers, "What am I going to do this summer?" Summer Youth Theatre could be an answer.

This summer, the Stamford Board of Education, in association with Curtain Call, will be presenting Summer Youth Theatre at Stamford High School. This year's production is *Little Abner*.

Little Abner is based on a now defunct cartoon by Al Capp about the small hillbilly community of Dogpatch, and its search for a reason to prevent the U.S. government from using Dogpatch as a bomb testing site.

Through the intrigue and adventure there is love and lots of laughs.

Last year, Summer Youth Theatre presented *The Me Nobody Knows* in which some Stamford High students were involved.

Nikki DeSalle, a junior said, "Last summer was probably one of the best summers I've had because I had something I love doing to keep me busy. And the opportunity to meet new people, as well as to work together with some very close friends."

Junior Dionne Beckford said, "I don't get a chance to perform on stage in the Stamford High musicals, so I'm glad I have an opportunity to be involved with this in the summer."

Senior Keith Humphrey, Drama Club president said, "Last summer, I got a chance to meet new people from New York City to Bridgeport.

However, the two best friends I met were Laurie and Lynn; they make the summer theater all the fun it is."

Laurie Guzda and Lynne Colatrella are the directors and producers respectively of *Little Abner*. Stephanie Gaumer will be musical director and Al Recchia choreographer.

Laurie and Lynn co-own *Curtain Call*, which is a Stamford-based, non-profit organization that holds theatrical workshops in comedy, scene study, and musical performance throughout the school year. They are also a casting service and serve at the home of the Dressing Room Theatre.

Jennifer Ritchie, a senior, who also performed in *The Me Nobody Knows* and takes classes with *Curtain Call* said, "Laurie Guzda is the best acting coach and director I've ever worked with. Her help with my audition piece got me into Syracuse University."

The audition dates are June 13 and 14 at the Glenbrook Community Center and the showdates are August 7, 8, 14 and 15. Anyone between the ages of 10 and 24 can audition.

Laurie urges that one does not have to be a great singer or dancer in order to be in the cast. Also if anyone would like to help behind the scenes, help is needed in the areas of set, design, tech work, and advertising.

On a final note Laurie said, "It's a great way to spend the summer for anybody who is interested in acting or ever had a desire to, and who isn't scared to have fun."

For more information, call 327-0314.



Student singers rehearse for the upcoming summer theater *Li'l Abner* tryouts June 13 and 14. (Photo by Laurie Guzda)

Classic *Casablanca* print restored

Movie update ★ ★

By Kim DiBella
Staff Reporter

Fifty years ago, a movie was released which amazed the world. None of the actors could have predicted the everlasting effect it would have.

Casablanca is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year with a bang. The Turner movie division, which presently owns the film, has restored the old movie on new black-and-white 35mm theatrical print. The movie will also be released on videotape and laser discs by Warner Bros. and the Criterion Collection. These new improvements will only add to the movie. It has not been colorized because it is feared that the old romantic effect would be destroyed.

Casablanca is still the great film it used to be. The love affair between Ilsa (In-

grid Bergman), and Rick (Humphrey Bogart), gets better with each viewing. Seeing the movie again and again makes the actions of the lovers more effective and meaningful. This movie is one of which no one can ever seem to get tired.

The romance aside, it is a remembrance of a simpler time, when duty triumphed over love. Ilsa must choose between her freedom-fighting husband and her long lost lover.

The minor characters of Sam, the piano player, and Louie, the policeman, are well-drawn and give the feeling of *Casablanca* as an oasis during a time of trouble.

By issuing this new print of *Casablanca*, future generations will be able to feel the emotions and enjoy the characters as viewers did when it first came out in 1942. Perhaps in another 50 years, even more advanced perfections will take place, and the film will continue to live and breathe.

Basic Instinct not for the squeamish At the Movies ★ ★

By Keith Siegner
Staff Reporter

You may not want to go see this movie with your parents or grandparents. I am referring to the Michael Douglas movie *Basic Instinct*. It is not for the faint of heart. You will realize this during the opening scene, which the word graphic does not do justice.

The movie stars Michael Douglas and Sharon Stone (*Total Recall*), an aspiring young actress who will definitely be around for awhile.

The movie is about a homicide detective who is investigating various murders which are all similar and all follow one writer's book. Michael Douglas, the homicide detective, meets Sharon Stone, the writer of the novel. He gets pulled into a fast-paced world most people will never see. It is a world of fast cars, drugs, and unlimited sex with lesbians, bisexuals, and anything else one could imagine.

Michael Douglas only gets deeper and deeper into the case, and he finds many more mysterious occurrences that involve Sharon Stone. He soon gets in way too deep to back out, and it ends with an incredible climax.

The movie is filled with little details that never let you drift away for even one instant. This movie is definitely entertaining and I recommend it highly. You will leave the theater in an excited state with your adrenaline high. The acting is good, as well as the scenery of the beautiful California coast. The hour and a half of pure tension is definitely worth the price of a ticket.

FEATURES

SHAD continues work in fighting drug use

By Maria Tomas
Junior Features Editor

Often we hear of incidents in which teenagers are the bad guys. It's nice to know that there is a group of fine young adults who take pride in themselves and try to help others. SHAD (Stamford High Against Drugs) began in October 1991, and has done numerous projects and activities dealing with teen issues.

SHAD is the "high-risk prevention education group dedicated to substance abuse education and creating a 'No-Use' message for alcohol and drugs," said Laura Young, adviser to the group and on staff at the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Council.

SHAD members meet once a week, every Thursday afternoon for three hours. The first hour and a half is dedicated to substance abuse education, in which the members discuss issues pertinent to teenagers. They have also had a number of speakers from Alcoholics Anonymous, the Rape Crisis Center, the juvenile court, and AIDS awareness.

A most interesting aspect of this particular group is that it has had drug abuse counselors from Russia that have come to speak on the difference in methods between Russia and the United States in dealing with drug traffic and crime. The members learned to engage in a cultural exchange of ideas and possible solutions.

The remaining time is devoted to creating a message of "No-Use." This may consist of either a rap and dance routine or various Ann Landers readings about drunk driving and the risk of using drugs and getting caught and possibly arrested.

Presentation to parents

The group performed this routine to the school during an assembly on May 12th and at a parents' meeting on May 7th.

This program has gotten the kids together for a good cause. Senior Emily Moon, a SHAD member said, "it is a chance to do something for the school, and brought a whole bunch of kids together in a common goal with different people and ideas."

Sophomore Sorcire Rios agreed, "We've made friends which we never would have met." She also said that the group is "fighting for what's killing the young, and the group can get to the younger kids who might be confused."

There are other reasons why students have become involved in SHAD. Marc Colucci, a junior, got involved because of his rapping ability and interest in music. "All of the kids work together well, and I give them a lot of credit because there are pressures to do good by the group," said Marc.

Maggie Supple, a sophomore dancer, liked the "idea of the group being against drugs." Maggie also liked "performing in front of

kids because of the negative feelings kids who don't do drugs face."

The members are also very complimentary of their advisors Ms. Beth Herbst of the SHS-based Health Center; Fred Joiner, SHS music teacher; and Laura Young from the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Council who give of their time freely to help and instruct SHAD. They also commend the students for their hard work and dedication.

Junior dancer and choreographer Erica Brown said the the group and advisors are "doing a great job."

"A lot of people feel they are aware of things, but are not REALLY aware. Little kids need to know what will await them in the world because of the violence in the world today," she added,

"Stamford High Against Drugs does that."

Senior rapper Kevin Kelley said the group "... gets involved with a message that can be sent to kids of all ages to get a good and positive response. It is the most positive thing going on, and it's too bad that there aren't too many teens getting involved against drugs."

In a world of differences among people and the concerns threatening them, a group of teenagers are taking a stand against something they feel is destroying and corrupting people of all ages. The group has the chance "to encourage the community to have faith in their young adults, and kids shouldn't be labeled. Every young person has something to offer, and I am proud to work with spirited and dedicated students," said Young.

Ken's Corner

By Ken Shadford
Columnist

Let me tell you something about "senior slump." Anyone who claims he is in the middle of senior slump is nothing but a lazy, resume-building, phony.

For those of you who don't know about senior slumpers, they're the ones walking around school saying, "Hell, I got into college already, so who needs—?" (Fill in the blank with anything that has to do with school.)

These seniors think that they're on top of the world right now, don't they? Well, they are only ruining Stamford High School for the rest of us.

It seems that once those midterm grades are passed into the colleges, Stamford High comes to a standstill. Clubs stop meeting. Grades start falling. Classes become smaller. Almost everything is stagnant, leaving the underclassmen empty-handed, with nothing to do but go home, eat cookies and watch The Brady Bunch.

What's even more pathetic is that these same big shots are waltzing into middle schools, inspiring eighth graders with words like "Get involved!" and "Commit yourself to SHS!". That's appropriate advice coming from people who will be rushing off to the beach once they leave the middle school. Why should they go back to high school on such a nice day?

As a result of the slump, we are all suffering. Why don't you slumpers with important positions finish what you started.

Sure, I'm being harsh, but when seniors like Becky Sobo are out there busting their butts after midyear and getting results, just think what would happen if everybody else put in 100%?

What it comes down to is a basic lack of motivation. Perhaps the school could offer cash awards to the top ten all-around seniors. Or the best club's officers could all go on expense-paid vacations. Better yet, they could pay the Student Council officers a weekly salary. Maybe then they'd do something.

I guess I'm too idealistic. Now that I think about it, at this time next year, I'd be out of my mind to show up for journalism. Besides, with a little luck, I'll be in college by then. And some junior columnist will be lambasting me.

Spring fashions cater to individual style

By Stefanie Ferri & Alli Rose
Staff Reporters

Floral patterns are back, as are checkered and striped patterns. Polka dots are also a big fashion statement this year. This spring we will be seeing a lot of different types of clothing.

The main look for this spring is the Beverly Hills 90210 look, short shorts with tights, or baggy jeans with a tight shirt.

Other looks this spring include bodysuits. A bodysuit is similar to a leotard, but worn like a tight shirt. They come in all patterns and styles. Also having the same effect are the shirts that tie in the front. These shirts are short and snug, but not as tight as a bodysuit. They are more of a 70's style but are very cute.

In shorts this spring, the style says bright colors. People aren't just going to be wearing plain shorts anymore; the bright colors are in. The in colors are purple and pink, as well as shorts in floral patterns.

According to Cynthia Rivers, sales clerk in the junior department of Macy's, "Bright colors are in this Spring! The brand called 'Hot' will be a major part of the girl's wardrobe. Shirts that tie in the front, along with checkers and stripes, are the new look for the season."

Tight or loose?

If you choose not to wear

shorts, baggy jeans are the new fad. Unrolled baggy jeans worn with tight shirts are what a lot of girls are wearing. This produces a sloppier, but sleeker-looking style. Along with this sloppy look are sweaters with holes in them. These sweaters look like they are something your grandma would knit for you, but they actually make a really cute sweater. Crocheted style sweaters with holes with an under shirt will be seen.

Ribbed T-shirts and V-neck T-shirts will also be worn a lot in the spring and summer. They look cute when put with a pair of bright shorts.

Hats as accessories

For accessories this spring girls are wearing a lot of different types of hats. Baseball hats recently are worn almost as much by girls as by boys. Also in hatwear are the sailor type hats with flowers on them. These look cute and dress up an outfit a little bit.

Black and white outfits

Also in style are the colors black and white. According to Seventeen magazine, these two colors together will be found often in forms such as checks and stripes. Black and white seem to never go out of style.

So this spring, there are a lot of different looks for girls to choose from. Fashion seems to reference the fifties with short shorts and sixties with hippy-type flowered patterns.

California exchange

California Exchange is a new feature in The Round Table where we exchange articles with The Pen, the Palos Verdes Peninsula High School newspaper. These articles can show differences and similarities between high school students on the east and west coasts.

By Ken Shadford
Historian

Verdict Leads to Violence

by Chris Jensen
editor-in-chief

In the summer of 1965, the city of Los Angeles was burning. The black population of South Central Los Angeles took to the street to protest political and economic oppression. They rioted, looted, and burned entire blocks of the city to the ground.

Some may say the civil rights battle has been won. However, in light of the recent beating of Rodney King and the subsequent trial in which all four accused officers were found innocent, it is obvious that America is still a racist country and that institutional racism still goes unpunished.

On Wednesday, the black population of Watts took to the streets for many of the same reasons that lead them to violence when they rioted 27 years ago. Impoverished and desperate for a solution to problems both within and outside of the

black community, they turned to the last resort of all desperate people - violence.

Although violence is obviously wrong, it is a predictable reaction to the blatantly unjust verdict in the King trial. Two organs of the local government, the police department and the courts, have shown no respect for the civil rights of minorities.

Sitting back and watching the events from a third-person point of view, it is easy to brand the violence immoral and irresponsible. This is true - violence cannot be condoned, but to a person involved in the events, no other option seems to be available.

After all, if a black man cannot find justice when a mob of policemen beat him unconscious - and are filmed in the act - there is no reason why the black populace should expect to be treated justly.

Instead of sitting back and moralizing about the events, Palos Verdes residents should understand the causes of the violence and seek to correct them.

HEALTH AND FITNESS

Use of anabolic steroids causes serious consequences

By Neal Graber
Health and Fitness Editor

Steroids are classified as an addictive and dangerous drug. Most people do not realize that this type of drug is detrimental to one's health.

They are most commonly used by athletes who strive for superior physical strength. Also, they have been used in sick people who have special needs.

Steroids are synthetic derivatives of the male hormone testosterone. This hormone is responsible for specific maturing processes in a man's body. For example, it is responsible for the development of male characteristics such as muscle, hair, bone growth, and strength.

Steroids can cause many temporary and permanent ill effects. They cause oil glands to produce more secretions which can lead to deep scarring, cystic acne, which can leave pock marks all over the body. The worst and most detrimental effect it has on a person is that it may cause impotency. The steroids actually inform the body to stop

producing testosterone naturally. As a result, the person's sperm count could drop the sterile levels.

Other ill effects can include bone damage, tendon damage, and hair loss.

Junior Jim McGiveran commented, "I work out and lift weights a lot during the week, but I would never even consider taking steroids. I only take high potency vitamin pills that assist in muscle growth."

The psychological effects include aggressive behavior and paranoia. Steroids make a person feel extremely "charged," angry, and irritable. Jan Corkery of the Health Center commented, "We strongly advise that you should not use them. Since I do not see all SHS athletes, I have not been exposed to any cases so far."

Since steroid use can produce a psychological addiction, getting off the drugs may take more than willpower. For those with this drug dependency, call the NIDA (National Institute on Drug Abuse) hotline: 1-800-662-HELP.

Lyme Disease prevalent particularly in Northeast

By Darwin Shen
Staff Reporter

Lyme disease is an ailment spread by a tick which can be carried by deer, dogs, mice, and birds. It was first identified in Old Lyme, Connecticut in 1975, but evidence shows that the disease existed much earlier.

An ailment called Montauk Knee caused problems in Long Island, N.Y., and in Sweden in 1908, a disease was noted that was indistinguishable from Lyme disease.

What is Lyme disease?

Lyme disease is a bacterial infection that often resembles the flu. The disease progresses in various stages. Within a day, a red rash surrounding the bite occurs. Forty-eight hours after infection, fatigue, dizziness, and muscle pains begin. Long term symptoms include memory loss, lack of coordination, and an irregular heartbeat. The disease can even escalate to meningitis and neurological damage.

Senior Rob Frangione overcame a bout with the disease. He said, "I could have had the disease for six years, but

the Lyme tests were not accurate and they came out negative. The physical therapy was painful, but it was worth it."

Guidance Counselor Gerri Nuzzo also had a bout with Lyme Disease. "I think it's a frightening disease because everyone's symptoms are different, so it requires a doctor to make a diagnosis, and by that time the long-lasting and permanent damage is done. It is a very difficult thing to live with."

How to avoid Lyme disease

To avoid the dreaded bite of the deer tick, there are a few things you can do. First, avoid walking in tall grass or woods in tick-infested areas, in May, June, and July and keep lawns cut short so that rodents who carry the tick don't hide in the grass. Second, when working outdoors, be sure to wear long pants, and long-sleeved shirts. Tuck pant cuffs into socks.

Third, spray insect repellent containing DEET on clothing and skin.

Dear Health Center

Dear Health Center,

After asking my girlfriend to have sex with me, she finally consented. To my dismay, I realized I couldn't perform adequately.

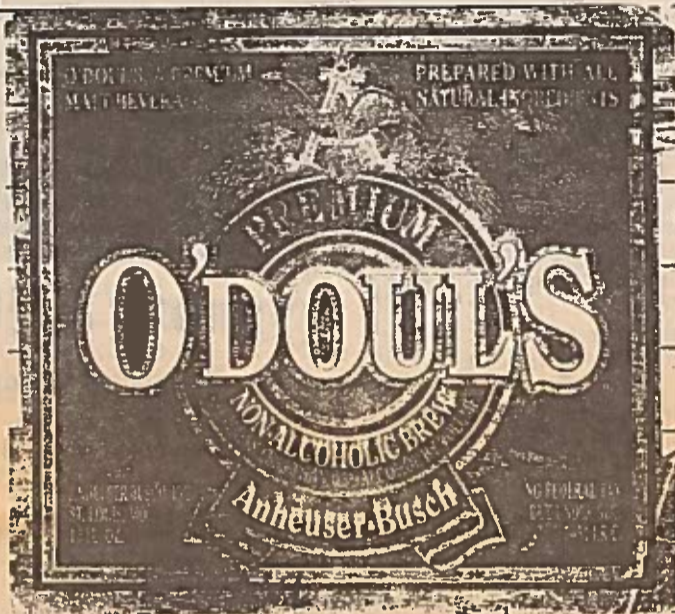
I'm not quite sure what your concerns are from this question. The question seems to have other emotional and/or physical implications which appear to be affecting you.

Whatever it is, this is an issue that should be discussed with your parents, doctors, and/or Health Center staff.

Dear Health Center,

I seem to have terrible body odor, and I have tried all the deodorants on the market, but nothing seems to work. What should I do?

Going through puberty starts the development of sweat glands. Some people perspire more heavily than others. Deodorants are meant to conceal body odor. Antiperspirants are used to help stop underarm perspiration which in turn will help stop body odor.



"I think non-alcoholic beers are a good idea for those who enjoy the actual taste of beer.

However, the majority of the people drink because they enjoy the taste of alcohol and its effects."

—Jordena Ginsburg

Non-alcoholic beer available for those who like the taste without the buzz

By Jon Rosenstock
Staff Reporter

Social drinking is an accepted practice among young adults. However, the current emphasis on fitness and health has boosted the popularity of non-alcoholic beers and wines.

The demand for these beverages began about a decade ago. They are mostly consumed by people who do not enjoy the effect of alcohol, but do not want to give up drinking completely.

Also, public awareness programs on drinking and driving and random alcohol testing on highways has influenced the choice of a non-alcoholic beverage. In addition, certain people are advised not to consume alcohol due to various health problems.

For example, diabetics, people with ailments common to older people, and pregnant women, are advised not to drink alcohol.

Non-alcoholic drinks have been around for many years. During Prohibition, many brews were made without alcohol. Industry analysts say that non-alcoholic beers and wines were created largely to please women who were pregnant that wanted an alternative to mineral water and soft drinks.

Recently, the sale of non-alcoholic drinks has skyrocketed. In 1989, 811,000 barrels were produced. By 1990, sales nearly doubled with the introduction of Sharps by the Miller Brewing Corporation and O'Doul's by Anheuser-Busch Corporation.

There has been much controversy over these types of beverages. The Federal

Bureau of Alcohol has stated not, and should not, be called beers. Other analysts say that these "beers" are merely "training beers" for young people.

Senior, Jordena Ginsburg said, "I think non-alcoholic beers are a good idea for those who enjoy the actual taste of beer. However, the majority of the people drink because they enjoy the taste of alcohol and its effects."

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SPORTS

Intensity the key for Dave Saba's winning ways

Sport Light ★★

By Derek Shendell
Sports Editor

As a 12-year old pitcher in the Springdale Little League, a young but strong and talented Dave Saba led his team to District and State championships and the East Regionals—one step away from the Little League World Series. It was the start of a fabulous baseball career.

Making the SHS varsity baseball team as a freshman pitcher, a rare accomplishment, Dave helped the team to two division titles, two FCIAC semi-finals, and two state tournament births. Dave went 4-0 as a junior for one of the most talented staffs in the state.

However, Dave wanted to be part of an FCIAC Championship team, and missed out two years in a row even though SHS was the top seed in the tournament. Therefore, as a senior and co-captain, Dave had big expectations. "I expected us to have a really strong team even though we didn't have the talent as in past years because we had played together for a long time."

"Once practice started, I knew we were in for a great season," he said.

Both Dave and the team had great starts this season. Dave is 6-1 for the 10-3 (as of 5/12) Black Knights with an outstanding E.R.A. Among his wins are two games (9-1 and 4-2) over Trinity Catholic. This, along with the team's victory in their first game against Westhill, gave the team at least a piece of the city championship.

When Dave is not pitching, he remains in the lineup as the second baseman or shortstop.

Dave's pitching prowess and team leadership is a major reason for the early successes. Mr. Frank Scott, assistant varsity baseball coach, said, "Dave is the ace of the pitching staff. His effort on the mound has been superior this year."

Dave does not stop with athletics after baseball season. Dave was also a four year member of the boys' soccer team, two years as a starting defender on the varsity squad. He was so well respected for his ability, nurtured by years of youth soccer leagues, and his work ethic, by his coach and teammates that he was named co-captain as a senior.

Dave Telep, goalie and other co-captain of the soccer team, commented, "I have been on two teams with Dave



Senior Dave Saba led the Knights to the second round of the FCIAC playoffs with clutch pitching. (Photo by Daitzman)

as captain and have found it beneficial to myself and the team."

Dave's fondest memory in his high school athletic career was having the team vote him as one of the captains as a senior. "I felt I worked hard enough for the varsity team all three years and gained a lot of experience. Being voted captain made me feel more a part of the close-knit team we have now," said Saba.

Other interests

Besides his athletic endeavors, Dave is a well-rounded student who participates in other extracurricular activities such as Student Council and Physics Club. His senior course load includes Drawing and Painting, Survey of English Literature, A.P. Physics, 20th Century History and Psychology. A straight B student, Dave was accepted to nine colleges, and will attend Wagner College on a partial baseball scholarship.

Senior Pete Valiotis, a varsity baseball player who has been Dave's catcher since they were 12 years old in the Springdale Little League, said, "Dave has always been the most intense competitor I have ever known. He refuses to let himself or his team ever give less than 100% on the field."

Lone freshman recounts experience on championship basketball team

By Randu Cobb
Guest Writer

For the first time in Stamford High School history our boys' basketball team won a state championship title.

The members of that state championship team were senior guard Tremain Byrd, guard Earl Garner, and guard Cesar Barrera; senior forwards Tyrone Powell and Ronnie Fields; senior centers Isaac Johnson and Terrance Corley; juniors forwards Thomas Glover, Luigi Cardillo, and Menelik Mahon; sophomore guards Greg Riley and John Jennings; freshman guard me—Randu Cobb.

It was a nice, warm March 21 in New Britain, Conn. Before we left for the game we shot around the gym for a while and talked about my picture in the paper. In that picture, I, Randu Cobb, made a silly face. I can't remember why I did that.

When we arrived at Central Connecticut State University, we went straight to the gym and in the lockerroom. In the lockerroom before our last game for the last time Mo, our coach, went through a touching pep talk. It was touching because everything he said made sense. After the

talk everyone was psyched, eager, and ready to play the game. The we left the locker room and ran up through the hallway and stairs to the gym.

Out on the court, the team shot around. When I was in the layup line, one of the Harding players said to me, "Look at him, he's already scared." I just turned my head and told Greg and we laughed.

During the game there were three Jamaican men standing behind our bench talking junk. They were doing it because we were losing and they wanted us to keep ourselves down.

One went behind me and told me that I was "sorry," and Tremain Byrd couldn't shoot.

At the end of the first half we were losing 39-31. We all marched back to the lockerroom disappointed.

In the lockerroom everyone seemed down except for Tyrone Powell. Coach Moriarty went through another pep talk and we stormed out of the lockerroom onto the court.

In the third quarter we lost everything. They began to beat us on the backboards and we played sloppy defense.

Everything went downhill for us.

But in the last four minutes of the game we came back strong. We were down by 14 points. Tremain Byrd hit two three-pointers; Tyrone made two baskets; Isaac scored and got fouled; then we were back in the game.

The final score was 71-70, we won the state title.

Minutes later we went back down to the lockerroom. In there were several sodas and sandwiches. Everyone ate and

got dressed as we got ready to leave.

On the bus everyone was happy. A reporter called Tyrone off of the bus to talk to him about his performance in the game. We just sat there and waited for our coach to get on the bus. He was still in the building talking to people.

On the highway we stopped at McDonalds to eat. I ate a quarter pounder, a cheeseburger, and a milkshake. Isaac and Earl walked around the place with the game nets

around their necks.

Back at Stamford High we stepped off the bus. Curtis Tinnin, girls' basketball coach, lifted the state title plaque in the air and a crowd of people applauded. That showed everyone that we had won and we had gone up there to bring that title home.

Everywhere I went that day people were asking if we had won. And I was glad to answer them, "Yes!"

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From the Editor's Desk

Upperclassmen deserve to have the chance to play

By Jason Harinstein
Junior Sports Editor

This year, Stamford High athletic teams have been very successful. Usually, these achievements would be accounted for by senior stars who dominated the rosters as a result of their four years of hard work. However, this year freshmen have contributed greatly to the success of the teams.

Although upperclassmen leadership is apparent on all teams, some are losing their spots to these talented freshmen. Is it fair that athletes who have worked hard for three or four years to move up the rank and suddenly lose their positions to untested rookies?

In three Stamford High athletic programs this year, in sports where positions are limited to a certain number, freshmen have earned starting roles. The girls' basketball, tennis, and softball teams were all helped by members of the freshmen class. Some are stars of their respective teams. *The Advocate* has paid great attention to these athletes over the seasons and deservedly so.

However, what about the junior or senior athlete who has been working hard throughout their high school career who has been waiting for their predecessor to graduate. When these athletes graduate, the reserves expect to move up. But now, when a freshman with more talent comes in and takes their positions, these athletes feel that they've worked for nothing.

The priority in high school sports should be in participation. It is part of the high school experience to play a varsity sport. If an upperclassman is forced to sit the bench their whole career, they lose out on this experience.

Coaches should give the starting roles to these devoted upperclassman athletes because the freshmen will have three more years to start on a varsity team. If the priority of high school athletics is winning no matter what the cost, then something needs to be changed.

Coaches keep tabs on student/athletes

By Bobby Townes
Junior Assistant Sports Editor

Stamford High School has had a long history of having competitive teams in the Fairfield County Inter-Scholastic Conference (FCIAC). The school is home to many fine athletes. Some athletes struggle to make the grade in the classroom. Others have to fight off the temptation to cut class.

Coaches have ways to make sure that players keep their grades up and stay in class. The coach can also act as a buffer between the students, teachers, and administration.

Why do coaches keep tabs on their players? The answer is simple. Loss of a star player due to bad grades or trouble with the administration could be the difference between a championship season or a season among the also-rans.

The school could lose the

prestige connected with being the home of a championship sports' team.

Although coaches have an obligation to all of their players, they might be more likely to go out of their way for the star because of that person's importance to the team. Every coach wants to be the coach of a winner.

Different tactics employed

At Stamford High, coaches employ many tactics to keep check on his or her players. Jon Albrecht, coach of the wrestling team said, "I employ the buddy system. I try to get the older players to look out for the younger ones. I want the older players to set an example for the youngsters."

"Also, I go to each wrestler's teacher and talk to them. I let them know that the student is also a wrestler and that if he or she has any prob-

Track

Boys' track Coach Stanley Lord said, "You better believe I check up on my players."

As well as the work he does to keep tabs on his players at SHS, he goes one step further. He started his own track club called The Lord's Striders.

Basketball

Curtis Tinnin, head coach of the girls' basketball team said, "We have a bi-weekly progress report that we give to the players. That report shows players, grades, attendance, and comments on things such as behavior and class participation. I also talk with my players' teachers so I can get feedback from them. This program lasts throughout the school year, not just during the basketball season."

Jim Moriarty, coach of the state champion boys' basket-

ball team, has the same program set up.

Many of the coaches have good relationships with their players. Coaches often go out of their way to help their players. The players, in turn, will work a little bit harder to be able to play for the coach. lems with that kid, then the teacher could get into contact with me," Albrecht added.

Baseball

The baseball team is kept honest in the classroom by assistant coach and SHS guidance counselor Frank Scott. Mr. Scott checks up on his player's grades in the classroom and in the office. He informs players who are in danger of being academically ineligible and he stresses, along with SHS head coach Bobby Augustyn, that the classroom is important.

Girls' soccer to get its kicks in FCIAC

By Brad Kay
Staff Reporter

If you're a girl, play soccer, and go to Stamford High School, you've been at a disadvantage. The Stamford school system has not supported an official girls' soccer team, and until the past few years there was no team at all.

Three years ago there was a team, supported by the Stamford Youth Soccer League, yet unfortunately it was not an official FCIAC club. In 1990, no team was formed at all, and in 1991 there was a J.V. team, partially supported by SYSL and partially by the Stamford Board of Education.

The team was coached by Stamford High teacher Mr. Dave DelGuidice.

Yet, thanks to unrelenting petitioning by the girls and by Polly Jimenez, mother of player Angie Jimenez, to get an official team by the Board of Education, it seems possible that there might finally be a team next year. Says Mrs.

Jimenez, "This is all in an effort to bring Stamford High School up to par with other FCIAC teams with existing programs, and to create a strong soccer program in Stamford, including a viable varsity team for the high school girls."

The team, if formed, would be a combined Stamford High

and Westhill High team. It would play its official FCIAC season in the fall, as do the boys, and would therefore be able to compete for a spot in the post-season, with the team's record counting in the FCIAC standings.

Yet with all this good news for female soccer players, the team starts out at a huge disadvantage. Since there is no girls' league that feeds directly into the school system, the neophyte club has not only a lack of overall soccer experience, but a lack of playing experience as a team compared to the other FCIAC schools which have always had teams and have been able to build up a strong system.



Sophomore Bertoni Celicour runs the 110m hurdles. (Photo by Daitzman)

Boys' track reaches goals in very successful season

By Keith Siegner
Junior Layout Editor

As the boys' track team approached the end of the regular season, they set their sights on the post season in hope that they would do as well as last year.

In 1991, the team was city champs, county champs, and State Class L Champs.

"The team doesn't have as many superstars as last year, but with a lot of excellent talent, the goal is definitely attainable," said Coach Stanley Lord early in May. The loss of several excellent performers from that championship team made the trip harder, but many of the spots have been filled, either by newcomers or improved veterans.

The two rookies Marvin and Marlon Hays aid the team in the shorter events. Marlon has much potential in the 100m, the 200m, and the 4x100m. Marvin excels in the 400m, the 4x400m, and the

100m. They are helped by freshman Rodney Bryant who has really come on as a future star. He competes in the 400m, 4x400m, and 200m.

Rookie javelin thrower Stanley Peart had high hopes for the post season as well. Stanley has come out of nowhere to become an excellent thrower and a big help in the field events.

Veteran Ken Gunn, off a 5th place in the 800m State Open last year, hoped to improve on that. Ken looks forward to the 1600m, the 800m, and occasionally the 4x400m with optimism.

Sophomore Paul Gittens is a definite asset to the team in sprints. Last year he placed extremely well in the FCIAC, and he hoped to go even farther this year in the 100m, the 200m and the 4x100m.

Alexander (Sacha) Shekdar, an excellent 110m and 300m hurdler; Rob Frangione, the pole vaulter; shot put and discus thrower John Cochran, rounded out the top competitors.



Girls' soccer may become varsity sport for the first time at SHS. Pictured is the first ever Stamford high school travel team.

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