

The Round Table

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Stamford High School

Stamford, Connecticut 06902

April 30, 1992

SHS initiated HIV testing law passes legislature

By Deena Discaelly
News Editor

During the recent legislative session two bills concerning minors and parental consent came before the Connecticut Legislature for approval. The first bill, the HIV testing bill, has already been passed, with the proviso that positive tests will be reported to parents.

The second, a mental health treatment bill provides services for minors without parental notification and/or consent. It requires the minor's written consent for parents to be included.

Current law revised

Current state law says that students may be tested and treated for certain sexually transmitted diseases without parental consent or notification. It says nothing about HIV testing, so some health officials have assumed that parental consent is required for this testing.

The HIV testing bill was suggested by SHS senior Beck Sobo and has been strongly supported by many Stamford High School students who signed petitions and sent letters to state legislatures. The new law states that minors will not require parental consent or notification in order to be

tested for HIV or the AIDS virus.

Many minors are afraid to approach their parents and tell them they want to be tested. Doing so means admitting that they are either sexually active, gay, or using illegal drugs.

Before the bill was passed by the State Senate, Stamford Senator George Jepsen, the bill's sponsor, proposed an amendment stating that if a licensed physician determines that upon parental notification, a minor will be denied treatment, the physician may provide HIV treatment without parental consent.

Mental Health bill

The mental health treatment bill states that minors may seek treatment from licensed psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers or marriage and family therapists, without parental consent or notification. According to the bill, after every six meetings, the minor and counselor must determine together whether or not the parents should be notified.

Abortion foes fight bill

Concern has arisen because both bills grant minors the right to medical or psychiatric care without parental consent. Those committed to the banning of abortion in the state of Connecticut will attempt to

amend the bills by requiring parent consent and notification for a minor's abortion.

"It's a little ludicrous to say you can get HIV tested, but not have an abortion. They have nothing to do with each other," said Sobo, "It infuriates me."

Massachusetts and Rhode Island both require parental consent before a minor can get an abortion. Current Connecticut abortion law says minors under 16 must be counseled and informed about their options. They are also encouraged to notify their parents before seeking abortions. Parental notification and/or consent, however, is see HIV Testing page 4



Collette Yeich, coordinator for the Newspaper in Education department of *The Hartford Courant*, speaks to students about how to read the newspaper, during Library/Media Week. (Photo by Sherman)

Library/Media Week elicits popular response

By Jennifer Burdman
Staff Reporter

Stamford High celebrated School Library Media Week April 6th through 10th. This year's theme was "Today's Readers are Tomorrow's Leaders."

According to Mrs. Tally Negroni, Library/Media Center head, more than 40 million students use their school library every week, and experts say that reading is the most important activity for building the knowledge for eventual success.

Therefore, Library/Media week served many purposes. Two of these were to make students more discriminating readers, and to promote reading as a viable source of information. She said, "I want to get kids to question what's out there. They can't just take what is written down for granted."

Throughout the week, speakers and readers from various fields of communications talked to classes about how important "reading as a lifetime activity" has been in their academic and adult life.

On Monday, April 6th, Gary Greenfell, a Library/Media Specialist at Woodbury Middle School, shared his knowledge about the Renaissance, Christopher Columbus, and the ongoing voyage of exploration.

On Tuesday, April 7th, Janet Bode and Chuck Siversten were at Stamford High. Janet Bode writes non-fiction books for teenagers about the critical issues they face today. Chuck Siversten, a 1972 graduate of Stamford High, works for ABC and has covered New Year's Eve in Times Square, as well as the Gulf War for ABC Radio.

He recently followed Jerry Brown on his Connecticut primary campaign, and gave

first hand reports on the US Air plane crash at LaGuardia Airport.

On Wednesday April 8th, Collette Yeich showed students how to become discriminating readers of the daily newspaper. She is in charge of the Newspaper in Education Department for *The Hartford Courant*. She showed students how much work goes into special sections, and gave out the section on scholastic sports, which mentioned Stamford's Tremain Byrd and Tyrone Powell.

George Judson, a New York Times general assignment reporter and former Metropolitan editor, shared his experiences from working in a daily newspaper on Thursday, and on Friday, Stamford High's own leaders contributed to the week's finale.

During first period, Mr. Ferrara read from the *New York Times* and some

noteworthy baseball books. Ms. Bingham reviewed Stephen R. Covey's *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People* during second period, and showed students how these principles can be applied to everyday school life.

Third period, Mr. Lutterman read some of his "favorite bedtime stories." During sixth period, "Mr. Mark and Company" led an "Oldies but Goodies" sing-along. During seventh period, Mr. Guertin and his veteran thespians demonstrated improvisational theater.

Mrs. Negroni said that the week went very well. Two or three classes signed up to listen to the speakers each period. The speakers gave students an account of their experiences in their respective fields. Mrs. Negroni added that she wanted to "make the connection that all knowledge isn't just in a book."

SHS back 'on the air'

By Rob Frangione
Managing Editor

From April 23-25, SHS on the Air was "SHS Off the Air." A change of policy and format was implemented and a few days of planning were needed.

According to Student Council President and head MJ (Microphone Jockey) Brian J. DiMattia, "We were constantly being interrupted by late announcements as a result of this disorganization."

The mispronunciation of a student's last name by DiMattia and the reading of an announcement which wasn't supposed to be read, by Jon Swerdlick are two specific examples of the mistakes made.

Both of these incidents were the result of announcements being handed to the SHS On the Air staff at the last minute. Because of the size of the school, it is impossible to check on the pronunciation of every student's name. The mispronunciation was due to the fact that the announcement was handwritten.

Mr. Markosky, acting SHS principal said, "Most teachers felt the program wasn't professional, that it was full of inside jokes and needed to be straightened out. After that incident on Wednesday, the whole building almost blew up! The quality of the announcements wasn't their fault, but I felt it was time to sit down with the kids and talk see SHS on the Air page 4

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OPINION

SHS needs a valedictorian

Graduation is rapidly approaching. At this year's ceremony, just at like many before it, there will be numerous speakers addressing an audience of proud students, friends, and families. Guests of honor, members of the faculty and administration, and the senior class president will all be offering their congratulations and best wishes to the graduates.

However the one member of the Stamford High community who has traditionally been missing from the podium on graduation day is class valedictorian.

At many, if not most, other schools, the student with the highest grade point average after his four years of high school speaks at the graduation ceremony. These students are not only being recognized by their schools' communities for academic achievement, but are also offering words of advice and thanks to their schools. Unfortunately, this part of the ceremony is not a part of graduation at SHS.

There is no good reason for why the valedictorian is not asked to speak at graduation. After all, are we not in school to receive an education? Isn't this the essential reason for the existence of the school system? The student who has demonstrated the greatest academic excellence should be recognized and honored at graduation.

It seems that the priorities at SHS are reversed. Most students have great pride in the school, but for what reasons? Students are often heard boasting about the championship basketball season. The administration even held a pep rally to congratulate the team. The teams extreme dedication and perseverance won them the highest honor. But what about those students who have earned the highest honor, a 4.0 GPA, in the academic pursuits? Shouldn't their dedication and perseverance be similarly recognized?

Students can make a difference

Stamford High senior, Becky Sobo has been on a crusade all year long. Through her extreme determination, along with perseverance of the Student Council, the crusade has finally been won. Minors in Connecticut no longer need parental consent to be tested for AIDS.

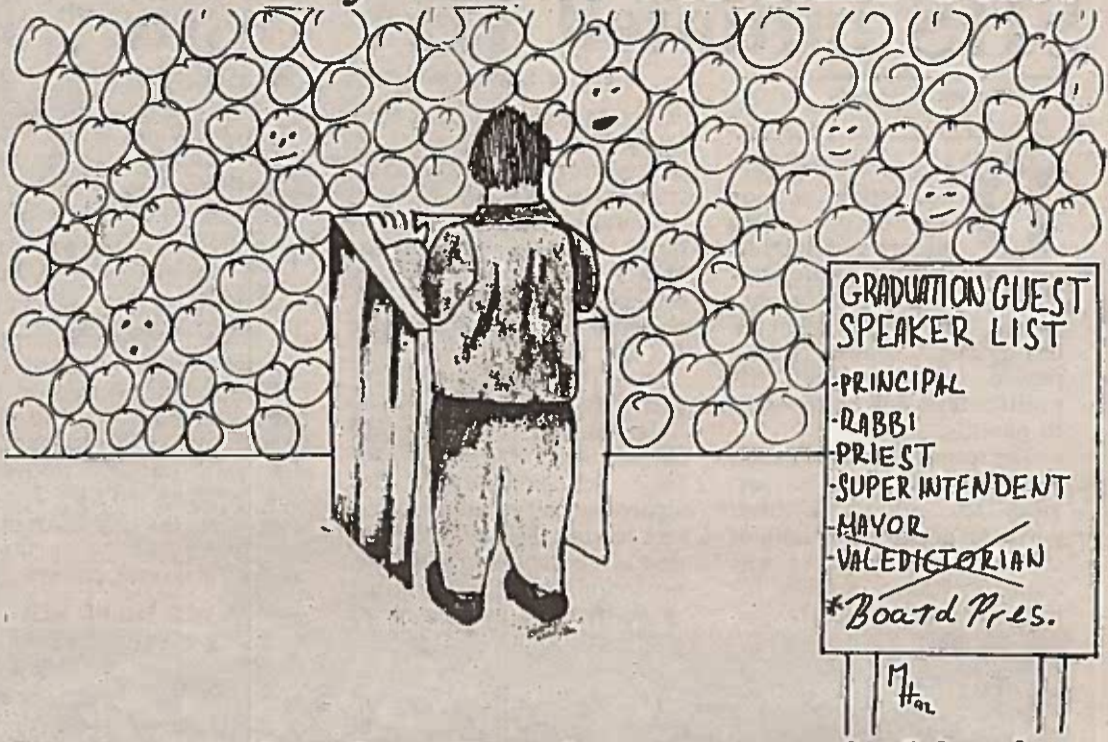
What started as a small movement within the Student Council has now passed the Connecticut state legislature. The Round Table offers congratulations to Sobo, Mr. Doug Ramsdell, adviser to the student group, and the rest of the committee. They have not only shown that students really can make a difference, but have provided a great service to the fight against AIDS.

More minors will be tested for HIV as a result of the new law. Those who have hesitated because of fear of their parents' reactions will now have the option to get tested confidentially. The result will be that more HIV positive cases will be caught early on, preventing the further spread of the virus. The Round Table believes that teens deserve the right to privacy in a matter as serious as AIDS.

The student movement from SHS may set an example for other campaigns across the nation. The precedent set by the change of the law in Connecticut may ignite changes in the laws of other states. In this scenario, the benefits of the SHS campaign will far outreach anything that Sobo and the small committee had originally forseen. In any case, the students should be commended for their hard work and dedication to such a noble cause.

Matt's Musings

Who really knows the class best?



Late to school policy 'encourages' skipping

By Charlie Boodman
Staff Reporter

Since our school has a new principal, there has been a difference in the "late to school" policy. Our new principal has made the rules clear for the students as well as the teachers. This is great.

One part of the new rule is that the students late to school past eight o'clock even with a note or valid reason, like an accident, are sent to the holding room for all of period one that day. That's a great way to teach students to get to school on time, but after the first time of being late and sitting in the holding room, does our principal really believe that we will show up if we're conscious of the fact that we are tardy?

Why not just wait in your car and study or listen to the radio or nap or even go out for breakfast? If anything, the school's policy

keeps students from learning, and that is not what a learning body should do. What's the point in even going to school anyway? Half of the students would prefer to sleep all day.

There is no question that it is our job as responsible high school students to arrive at school on time; however, this will not always occur. After rushing out the door to your car or to the bus half-dressed without the day's necessities—lunch, money, or books—nobody looks forward to sitting in the holding room. They will simply occupy themselves with something other than school.

It's great to see the principal starting out with a bang, but if the "late to school" policy lasts, first period will not. It's up to both the students, the administrators, and the teachers to start the day on time, but out of the entire staff and student body there will always be that one who cannot arrive on time for whatever reason.

The Round Table

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Enforce SHS attendance policy

By Angie Jimenez
Exchange Editor

The attendance policy of SHS needs to be enforced. Failure to enforce policy leads to a lack of respect for the school and its administration and staff. There appears to be virtually no serious disciplinary action taken against class cutters, or preventative measures being taken to stop it. It is a simple task for students to walk in and out of the school any time during the day undetected. Though teachers serving as hallway monitors have helped to curb traffic, skipping still occurs. The avoidance of the few teachers on each floor, and an escape to the bathrooms, which are hardly ever checked for class-cutters, are easy measures to take to avoid being caught.

With all of the doors in this school, we either need alarms on the doors, more hallway monitors, or many more security officers patrolling the outdoors. The punishments need to be strictly enforced, and followed always to the letter. Because it is so easy to skip class, or a school day entirely, students lose sight of how important it is to always attend class. It becomes a joke, and a game to them, and then the school is stuck with the problem of the chronic class cutters who are unmotivated.

Teachers must be consistent in demanding a note and or a readmit slip every single time a student is absent from class. Knowing there will have to be proof of a legitimate absence is the first step towards preventing absences that aren't.

Homosexuals are people too

By Sarah Bensimon
Staff Reporter

Why are homosexuals looked down upon in society? Some people would agree that it's because they are the main social group to carry the AIDS virus.

This is untrue. Even though it is mostly IV drug users and homosexuals who carry it, today, anybody can get AIDS.

Others say that "homos" are mentally ill, and that's why they are the way that they are. How can one classify gay people mentally ill based on their sexual preference?

Some people say that the reason for their "unusual" sexual behavior is that he or she was, in some way, tormented as a child-either by their own parents or by peer pressure.

How can one make a judgment like this when there are so very few cases like this on record?

There are, of course, riots, strikes, and movements for gays, by the gays. They believe that they should be heard. They believe that they shouldn't be looked down upon.

Sometimes these riots grow out of hand and maybe they even make it worse for them to live peacefully in society. People say that if they are going to be homosexuals they should stay quiet about it and not make a big deal of it by rioting in the streets.

This is, again, unfair to them. What happened to freedom of speech?

Maybe it's time we come to the realization that homosexuals are people with the same rights as everyone else.

Abortion may be option for pregnant teens

By Sue Kim
Staff Reporter

Teenage pregnancy is a vital issue in today's society. More than 400,000 teenage girls are faced with the dilemma of what to do with the baby. There are a few choices:

1. keep the baby
2. give it up for adoption
3. have an abortion.

Abortion controversy

Abortion is a controversial topic that plagued our nation for years. We've all heard the arguments from both sides. Pro-lifers protest that abortion is killing a human.

On the other hand, people that are pro-choice feel that a woman should have the right to do whatever she wants with her body.

Sophomore Stephanie Izard commented, "I am pro-choice because I feel that an unborn baby is better than an unwanted baby."

The issue of abortion has been in and out of the courts but laws concerning this issue have been tough to establish. A year ago last summer, the Supreme court said that stringent laws on abortion passed by states are legal. Some of these state that a girl who is pregnant and under the age of 18 cannot have an abortion unless she confides in her parents or confronts a judge. These laws are enforced in the 14 states that already had parental notification laws. Connecticut is not one of these states.

Teens tell parents

For some teenage girls, telling their parents about their pregnancy is not a problem. Many girls feel that their parents will be understanding and help them rather than punish them. Junior Liza Sherman said, "I would definitely tell my parents. Abortion is too serious of a matter to go about it without the support and help of my parents."

According to the Allan Guttmacher Institute, almost half of the pregnant girls under the age of 18 tell at least one parent whether the law forces them to or not.

Beth Herbst of the SHS Health Center said, "We encourage girls to tell their parents. The initial fear is getting kicked out of the house or some other punishment, but it seems parents are usually very helpful."

However, some girls feel that their parents might not be so understanding and the girls opt to tell a judge. This option might be more

difficult than telling their parents. Telling a judge about such private and intimate matter may be impersonal and frightening. More girls would prefer to have the support of someone close to them. "I know telling your parents that you are pregnant is the hardest thing to do but an abortion is an operation which can have dangerous aftereffects. A parent's aid may be needed," said senior Meg Magistro.

No place to turn

Unfortunately, having the choice to tell a parent or a judge is no choice at all for some girls. These girls might feel as if they can't tell either and that they are in desperate situations. The consequences may be as serious as death. Back alley or illegal abortions are not uncommon. It is highly dangerous because usually it is not sanitary or professional. Yet, this remains an option that several girls chose.

Keeping the baby

The option to keep the baby usually ends up with the mother in financial trouble. The norm for the situation is for her to forfeit her education to take care of the baby. Jean Tucker Mann of the Child Welfare League of America said, "The cost of caring for American women who had babies as teenagers is twenty billion dollars a year." The mother and the child wind up having a life of unnecessary poverty and struggle.

Adoption option

Of course, there is the adoption option but it has its drawbacks, making it the most unpopular choice for the mother. First, she has to deal with being young, pregnant, and unmarried, not to mention the physical discomforts of pregnancy and labor. Then she must face the bitter emotional situation of giving up the baby. This can haunt the mother and the child for years to come.

Freedom of choice

A women, despite her age, should have the freedom to do what she wants with her own body. To most people it does not seem right that men in a courtroom should not have the right to decide a person's fate in one ruling.

There are too many consequences and risks in outlawing abortion. The teenagers of today are the leaders of tomorrow. Outlawing abortion can snatch away a young girl's potential to be something great.

SHS needs massive clean-up program

By Angie Jimenez
Exchange Editor

The school's appearance is one of the most important issues which must be faced. Though it may seem to some as shallow and unimportant, the bottom line is that this affects whether or not students have any pride in, or respect for, Stamford High School.

As of now, it seems that students do not. The condition of the school, despite good attempts by the administration to improve it, leaves a lot to be desired. Many lockers are broken, the bathrooms are usually disgusting, the floors always look dirty, and there is a lot of graffiti.

Though an expensive and time consuming task, the school's appearance must be an ongoing project. If things are run-down, students won't think twice about defacing them even further.

When the controversial principal Joe Clark took over a run-down high school in New

Jersey, the first thing he did was to make a massive clean-up.

Students in detention and in school suspension should be put to work. Have them clean the graffiti from the walls and do menial clean-up jobs under tight supervision. Thus, costs for labor will be cut and things will get cleaned up all the time. The custodians would have more time to do tough clean-up if the menial, yet time-consuming, jobs were taken care of by the students.

Students hear what kids from other schools, say when they come here to visit or play sports. The visitors see some bad conditions, and that degrades our students. If we had more self-respect, through a really nice-looking school, maybe we'd show it by not defacing it. It would be a gradual change, but eventually continued clean-up of the school would increase the respect of it by the students, and would decrease the amount of vandalism and carelessness displayed by them.

NEWS

HIV testing law (continued)

not required.

This would be changed by the amendment that would require parental notification and consent, thus limiting the minor's access to abortion. This amendment might also require parental notification and consent for a minor to be treated for other sexually transmitted diseases. "This is designed," according to Planned Parenthood member Judith Hersch, "to put roadblocks in the way of medical treatment."

Wallingford State Representative Mary Fritz is among the pro-life minority in the Connecticut House of Representatives. According to Planned Parenthood member Deb McDonald, Mary Fritz was a supporter of the proposed amendment and was expected to introduce the amendment in the House of Representatives. According to an informed source, however, this will not come to pass. "The wording on the bills has been reorganized in such a way as to make the additional amendment unnecessary."

The Catholic Council and the Pro-Life Council are both also strong supporters of the

amendment.

Sobo questions why minors should be able to be tested without parental notification and/or consent, but could not obtain an abortion without parental consent. She worried that despite the HIV testing bill's strong support in both houses, "the minute they attach this amendment to our bill, the HIV testing bill is dead."

"The issue of parental consent prior to abortion is hard for many people to understand," said McDonald.

If teenagers are required to notify their parents that they need an abortion, they must admit that they are sexually active. In many cases, minors will resort to "back room," illegal abortions or travel to other states for the procedure, rather than tell their parents, or postpone telling their parents until it is too late to terminate the pregnancy.

"Any time you require a minor to involve a parent in a decision that is difficult—involving pregnancy, sex, or mental health—they will not go (to get the service), or they will go in much smaller numbers," said McDonald.

SHS on the Air (continued)

about how the program should be run."

"Hopefully this will improve the program for next year and will cause greater communication between the students and the staff."

During the three-day respite, Mr. Markosky read announcements over the public address system.

The new policy has been designed to avoid major problems. No announcements will

be accepted and/or read over the air once the program has started. There will be no exceptions. All announcements will be screened by Mr. Markosky beforehand and all announcements must be typewritten.

DiMattia added, "I hope these changes will improve the program and make life easier for announcers that will follow us in future years."



Seniors Jon Swerdlick, Dave Telep, and Brian DiMattia hang loose as they prepare for SHS on the air. (Photo courtesy of Yearbook).



Head basketball coach Jim Moriarty receives an award from the Stamford Old Timers Association at a banquet honoring the boys' team. It was the first such championship in SHS history. (Photo by Sherman)

Springdale tutoring program succeeds with help of dedicated SHS students

By Dan Backer
Staff Reporter

Every Tuesday and Thursday a group of Stamford High School students make their way to Sprigdale Elementary School to help fourth and fifth graders improve themselves. They are part of the new Springdale tutorial program, an enterprise which assists elementary school students who are deficient in certain subject areas, such as mathematics, or reading.

The program has been in existence since the fourth of February, and the response from teachers and parents has been overwhelming.

The program was organized by Mr. John Kane, vice-principal of Springdale, in conjunction with the Stamford High School National Honor Society. Mr. Kane had founded similar programs on the middle school and high school level.

"The teachers love it, because they see their students improving, without having to spend the extra time to help them," he said.

He believes that this program is slightly different from those found in the secondary schools because "... a solid

educational base at the elementary school level is likely to give underachieving students an advantage when they are subject to the ability grouping system found in area middle and high schools."

"The Springdale program is special because within the regular school day, students do not have the opportunity to learn one-on-one with their teachers. The tutoring gives students a chance to learn at their own rates, which proves to be very effective," Kane added.

This thought is supported by Kane's personal motto for teaching, "Every kid a winner."

Students carefully selected

Students are picked by the Springdale school faculty using the Connecticut Mastery test results as criteria. From these results, it is possible to pinpoint each student's weak spots, and supply the tutors with the necessary materials for addressing these concerns.

It is stressed that the program is not just for consistently slow students, but for any student who is having difficulty in a certain subject.

A goal of the program is to improve the results of Stamford elementary school

Mastery testing. In May, students will be given another chance to take the Connecticut Mastery test, to examine the effectiveness of the tutorial program.

Jamel Adams, a fifth-grade student said, "My tutor and I have gotten along really well, and my grades in math have really gone up."

This program would have not have been possible without the work of the tutors who include Kelly Pape, Neal Graber, Justin Vaccaro, Ray Wong, Liza Sherman, David Charles, Dan Backer, Karen Backer, Nathan Neulinger, Jim McGiveran, and Anna Egloff.

Though they are being paid for their efforts, all have said that it is an extremely rewarding experience, and have enjoyed helping the children.

Jim McGiveran said, "It feels good to see a child grasp a concept that you've just explained. The money doesn't hurt either."

The tutorial program is sponsored by the Connecticut Department of Education. This helps to pay for materials, tutor salaries, and a late bus to pick up the students.

Mr. Kane is also pursuing corporate sponsorship for the program.

School evaluation planned

By Jill Weisberg
Assistant Opinion Editor

The surveys that were passed out in every English class a few months ago were just the first step to a complete school evaluation.

Every ten years, local public schools get evaluated by The New England Association of Schools and Colleges, which is based in Massachusetts. This is an accreditation evaluation which is given to most colleges and universities nationwide.

This accreditation is crucial because colleges and universities might not accept students from the high schools which do not pass this inspection.

Two year process

This evaluation is a full, two year process for analyzing most aspects of a school. A large committee consisting of teachers and administrators from the school under inspection, which sub-committees,

headed by different staff members, evaluate different parts of the school.

One of the most important sub-committees is school philosophy which has to do with the overall feeling and spirit of the school body. Other committees are school and community, school facilities, educational media, curriculum and instruction, student services, administration and staff, community support and involvement, and school climate.

These sub-committees are in charge of the individual evaluations, then the cumulative results compose the complete review. The individual evaluations consist of interviews and surveys for the parents, students and staff.

In October of 1993 volunteers from our tri-state area, usually teachers, will come to SHS to validate the self-studies done by the committees up until that point.

Dissection policy revised

By Sue Kim
Staff Reporter

The concerns and protests of students, parents, and residents working with the Stamford-based Ethical Science Education Coalition (ESEC) have been officially recognized. The adoption of the policy of "Alternatives to Dissection in the Classroom" was passed unanimously by the Stamford Board of Education on April 21. This program will go into effect on July 1, 1992.

The policy states, "The absolute right of the student to request and receive permission to pursue an alternative to dissection is affirmed, but it is the intent of the Board of Education that the alternative method chosen be equal in rigor and evaluation to regular classroom dissection."

This means that the students who choose not to dissect will be offered a different type of lesson that is educationally equivalent to dissection. Their alternative lessons can range from videos, computer programs, filmstrips, models, transparencies, charts, diagrams, and textbook overlays. Their option to not dissect will not effect their grade in any way and a teacher will always be available to assist them.

Stamford has now joined Norwalk, Redding, Vernon and Stratford, Connecticut in its "choice" dissection arrangement. The policy will be displayed in every science

room in the middle and high schools. It will also be included in the Program of Studies in the Science program portion.

At the beginning of each school year, the middle school principals and high school department chairpersons will review the policy with the science teachers.

Local comment

Sophomore Jennifer Sherer, a current Biology student, said, "I feel students should have a choice. I don't like the idea of dissecting. If the policy were in effect now I would choose an alternative."

Earl Wunderli, Board of Education member, said, "Students should feel that choosing dissection or opting for an alternative lesson plan, are equally acceptable and challenging. No student should feel uncomfortable choosing either one."

"There has always been an unwritten policy here at Stamford High that gives students the option not to dissect," said Advanced Placement Biology teacher, Mrs. Rosalie Ferrera. "I honor whatever reason the students have whether they are ethical or digestive ones."

"Alternative learning methods are equally as effective. Of course, there is a level at which dissection is essential to the learning process. Usually when a student reaches that level he or she expresses a strong interest in Biology and does not object to dissection."



(Left) Assistant Principal Ms. Camille Bingham and girls' basketball coach Curtis Tinnin take part in Booster Club's fashion show.

(Lower Left) Juniors Rachel Chiappetta and Steve Nikolopoulos show off the dance moves.

(Lower Right) Jennifer Ritchie and Alan Rider strut their stuff on the catwalk.

(Photos by Sue Kim)



Fashion show highlights new styles

By Angie Jimenez
Exchange Editor

On April 8th, at 7:45 in the Stamford High School auditorium, the SHS athletes put on the fifth annual fashion show. This event has become a real tradition here at Stamford High School.

The Booster Club sponsors the fashion shows as a way to reduce costs for another annual event sponsored by them, the sports banquet and was organized by Mrs. Jean Frattaroli.

This year's show was the largest ever, with approximately 130 junior and senior athletes participating. They rehearsed with the booster club volunteers for nearly a month on a weekly basis.

The juniors modeled the active wear. The clothes for the girls were supplied by Dress Barn, and for the guys by Athletes Foot and The Athletic Shoe Factory.

During the show, the juniors got a chance to strut their stuff on stage to the music of a D.J. as the audience cheered them on. Then all together the juniors per-

formed a dance routine consisting of such nostalgic 1950's moves as the hop, the stroll, the hand-jive, the twist, and the electric slides, all highlighted by special neon lighting effects.

The seniors, who modeled formal wear as a preview for the prom season, were supplied evening gowns by Helen Ainsow of Darien and tuxedos by Gingiss Formalwear of Stamford.

The seniors got a chance to show their dancing talents on stage with a choreographed dance. They then slipped into their formal wear and took to the balloon decorated stage again, this time in couples, to parade elegantly in their finery.

Each junior and senior couple was introduced and had their clothes described by student announcers. At the end, all the students danced in the aisles and on the stage in front of the audience, the largest ever in the show's five year history.

Charlie Boodman, a junior said, "It brought all of the athletes together to do this show."

Shirley Escobedo, a senior participant said, "I think it was good. The juniors did just as well as the seniors. Everybody had a good time and cooperated with each other."

Monica Mann, a sophomore who attended the show seemed to really enjoy it as well. "Everyone looked great. I liked the show a lot. It was fun watching people bug-out on stage."

Volunteers Mrs. Diane Margerum, Mrs. Sandy DeLeo, Mrs. B.G. Livolsi, Mrs. Mary Jo Weiss, Mrs. Roseanne Fazio, Mrs. Rosemary Rende, Mrs. Jane Vigilante, Mrs. Maureen Brandi, Mrs. Sandy Rubin, Mrs. Judy Sherman, and Mrs. Sherry Twardy, all helped her with organization, rehearsals, and the show itself.

Mrs. Frattaroli said, "The show was fabulous. The feedback we got was excellent. All in all we thought that the show went really well. We enjoyed doing it because the kids are great and that's the reason we continue doing it. We get as much a thrill out of it as the students do."

FEATURES

Cheating becomes acceptable for students

By Oruj Quaraishi
Staff Reporter

Students at high schools all over the United States use all sorts of tricks to pass courses without cracking a book. They peek at fellow students' test answer sheets, write notes on hands, legs, and shoes, and surreptitiously change more than one grade from a D to a B in a teachers record book.

A study released by Rutgers University concluded that an alarming 67% of today's students cheat at least once during their high school years.

While this includes a wide range of academic deceptions, from buying papers to falsifying bibliographies, the study found that a full 41% of high school students have cheated on exams.

Donald McCabe, an associate professor of business ethics at Rutgers University, who conducted the study of cheating, was shocked at the results. The problem that worried McCabe is that these kids are the academic elite. These future leaders of America subscribe to the attitude that "society owes me, so why should I have to do the work?"

Some of McCabe's respondents believe that society is what encourages the students to cheat. Many students believe that if our

leaders can commit heinous acts and then lie before Senate committees, feigning total ignorance and innocence, then these kids can cheat a little.

Teenagers believe that studying will take away their party time. They feel that cheating will allow them to have a social life, whereas if they studied for the tests they would have no free time.

McCabe's study found that the most devious group were the business students. 87% of students admitted to cheating at least once during their high school careers.

Perhaps the most discouraging aspects of cheating in high school is that it is addictive. The students have to cheat to "stay alive." Their views towards cheating are that they must do it because they have no choice. If they don't cheat their grades will be less than satisfactory.

New ways to cheat

Cheating has grown increasingly sophisticated over the years. Cheating practices such as looking over a neighbor's shoulder during an exam, or bringing crib sheets to the test are still in use, but cheaters have gone above all this. Some use programmer calculators which have enough memory to store notes from an entire semester.

Schools respond

Some schools are striking

back. Teachers make up four different copies of a test and pass it out in a pattern so that a student cannot look at his neighbor's test. Also, calculators are handed out in the beginning of the test and collected at the end, to avoid storage of the notes on these high-tech machines.

Local response

Students refused to be identified, for obvious reasons, but had comments. One said, "I've never got caught and I'll cheat again. Some teachers you can just open your book or notes right on the desk. Cheat-sheets, passing answers, or just telling the other kids the answers during the test."

Another answered, "Well it's pretty easy. You can ask someone around you, or write some of the answers on the desk or on a piece of paper and I never got caught. I'm not sure if I'll ever cheat again but if the test is hard or I'm not ready, I'm sure I will."

"You ask around or make a cheat sheet. No I never got caught. Yes, everybody cheats. If you don't cheat you're cheating yourself," said a junior girl.

All cheaters, whether they cheat on one problem, one test, or all tests have to acknowledge that cheating doesn't guarantee doing well. It's just easy to do.

SPEAK OUT

By Jamie Sherman
Photo Editor

What are you looking for in a new principal?



Ms. Lynn Ryan
Guidance Counselor

"The new principal should be fair and consistent, as well as visible. The students need to know who he/she is, and interested in all phases of the school—academics and activities."



Andrey Henkin
Grade 10

"The new principal should get along well with kids, but can still do the job."



Mrs. Camille Bingham
Assistant Principal

"Someone who can help bring about dynamic educational ideas and someone who fits the tone of SHS."



Art Lucas III
Grade 11

"We need someone who won't suspend me for smoking and someone not as smiley as Mr. Nast."

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Knight Light ★★

By Pegah Hendizadeh
Assistant Features Editor
& Kim Molstre
Staff Reporter

Senior Nolan Haims 'juggles' a busy schedule

performers who went to the former Soviet Union, and trained with their counterparts from the Moscow Circus. This group lived with the Russians, and visited all over the Soviet Union.

After three weeks, both the performers from the U.S. and Russia came back to the U.S. to do a New England tour. Finally, at the end of the summer they did a half-Russian half-American performance.

While in Russia, he trained with some of the top coaches in the world.

Nolan credits his awards to the originality of his acts. He books his own acts, designs his own costumes, and he even taught himself how to juggle. Nolan is a non-conformist in his performances. While most magicians wear formal attire, Nolan prefers to perform in pajamas.

Acting another pastime

Another aspect in his life is his acting career. He began at the age of 8 by attending acting camp. Nolan believes that his acting abilities help his magic performances. He has been greatly involved in the



Senior Nolan Haims opens wide to reach a high note in *The Pajama Game* in which he starred as the jealous boyfriend. (Yearbook photo)

SHS Drama Club for the past four years. His acting experiences at SHS include *Pippin*, *Anything Goes*, *42nd Street*, and most recently *The Pajama Game*.

Mr. Henry Guertin, the director of these musicals said Nolan "[is] a performer who does everything to make his part work."

Nolan intends to major in theatre arts in college. However, he desires to make a career of the business side of show business rather than actually performing. He is already one step ahead of the game by interning for a talent agent this past summer. This upcoming summer, Nolan will actually be helping to cast ac-

tors for Broadway shows.
Other activities

Besides the Drama Club, Nolan is actively involved in the Olin Improv Players. He and the other members educate teens on teen issues such as sex, suicide, drugs, and divorce. Mario Pittore, a senior at SHS and fellow Improv player said of Nolan, "There is definitely never a dull moment with Nolan."

Featured on television

Recently Nolan was seen on Channel 11 WPIX on a talk show called *Best Talk*. On this show they showed clips of his performances with Olin Improv.

This is not where his talents end. He maintains a 3.57 unweighted GPA and a 4.18 weighted GPA. He is currently taking A.P. Calculus, A.P. English, and A.P. European History. He has been accepted to prestigious schools such as Brown, Tufts, Boston University, and Northwestern.

Some famous magician once said, "A magician is an actor playing the part of a magician." That sums up Nolan Haims.

Excessive sunlight can hurt teenagers as they grow older

By Sue Kim
Staff Reporter

Summer is just around the corner! That means lots of sun, surf, and sand.

While everyone is breaking out their sunglasses, bathing suits, and beach towels; sunscreen might be something that slips their mind. However, with the current, deadly problem of skin cancer, sunblock should be the first thing that you pack for sunbathing.

Sun causes skin cancer

The sun is the cause of practically all skin cancers. An estimated 80% of all sun damage done to the skin occurs before the age of 20. The damage done will probably show up about 20 years later in the form of wrinkles, premature aging, and possibly skin cancer.

The sun's ultraviolet rays are what does the damage.

The most dangerous kind of rays are UVB rays, which can cause skin cancer and burning. UVA rays are what can cause premature aging and wrinkles. Approximately one out of every six Americans will get skin cancer. The deadliest form of this disease is called melanoma. This type of skin cancer has increased 500% between 1950 and 1985.

This figure is not surprising, since the ozone layer, which usually filters out the sun's damaging rays, has been seriously deteriorating.

By wearing sunscreen regularly, the risk of skin cancer can be reduced by as much as 75%. Sun screen's effectiveness is measured in SPF (sun protection factor). The SPF level that a person should wear depends on their skin type, activity and location. Fair skin will usually require a higher SPF because it burns more easily than a darker skin. Certain places may demand a higher SPF due to increased exposure. Areas closer to the equator and at higher altitudes will need a stronger protection. Also, sunscreen should be worn even during the winter because the sun reflects off the snow and ice.

Indoor tanning salons are no solution to the skin cancer dilemma. Actually, the salons' rays may be even more detrimental than real ones. This is because the salons need to use an increased intensity of UVA and UVB rays.

All of this fuss over SPF and skin cancer can be annoying as well as scary. A great tan is nice to have to feel and look good, but a deep, dark tan is definitely not worth the risk of developing skin cancer or permanently ruining the skin.

Car of the Month

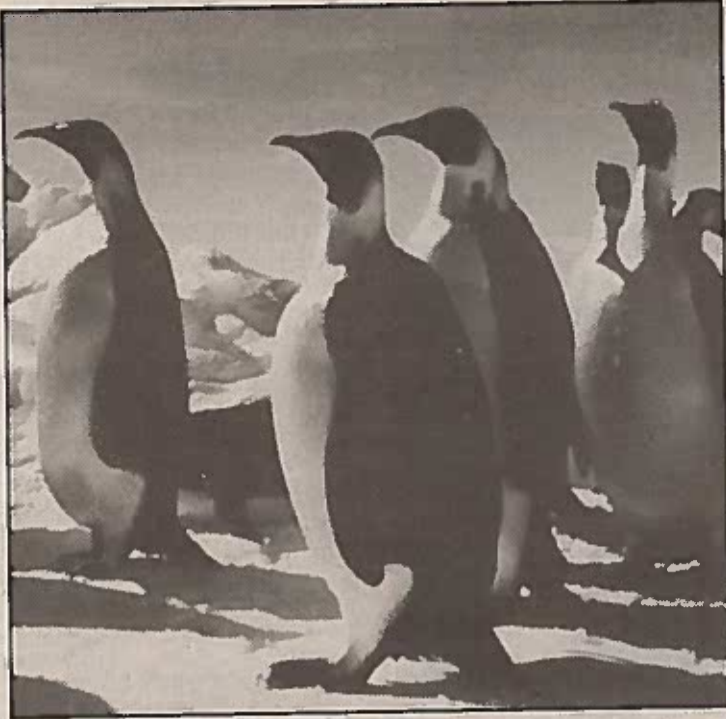
By Rob Frangione
& Dana Plansky
Managing Editors



April's Car of the Month goes to seniors Rob Frangione and Dana Plansky. Dana's car can be seen taking her to field hockey and tennis practice, while Rob's car can be seen whizzing him away to cross country and track practice. Sometimes his pole vault poles are on top of the car.

Dana and Rob's cars have been taking them to practice for the two years they've owned them. They take them home from their activities such as French Club, The Round Table, National Honor Society and Student Council.

Oh, by the way, Rob drives a 1985 pewter Nissan Maxima and Dana drives a 1987 grey Volvo.



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From the Editor's Desk

All championships should be recognized equally

By Derek Shendell
Sports Editor

On March 21, 1992, the boys' basketball team brought home the first state championship in school history. The victory created a tremendous amount of school spirit among the students, parents, and faculty.

The team was recognized for their accomplishments at a pep assembly on March 25. The pep rally and extensive media coverage were a foregone conclusion. However, enough is enough. Now, rings, jackets, a special banner for gym, and a special banquet on April 22nd were added.

If the basketball team deserves all of this credit, why didn't state championship teams in the past and outstanding individuals get similar attention?

Last spring, the boys' outdoor track team made a clean sweep of things, winning the city, FCIAC, and State Class L championships. What happened as a result? One article in *The Advocate*.

This winter, senior wrestler Stuart Chung completed an incredible 130-12-1 career by going undefeated and winning the FCIAC (for the

third time), State Class L, and New England titles, as well as finishing second in the state open and competing at the U.S. Senior Nationals. Stuart was a major part in turning around the SHS wrestling program. Did he get any special recognition? No. A couple of pictures and a few small articles in *The Advocate*, and not even one word of his performance at Nationals. *The Round Table* gave more publicity to Stu than anyone else. This is not fair.

It is not our intention to take any undeserving attention away from the basketball team. But, the fact is that every athlete at Stamford High represents the school just as much as any other one. Therefore, the administration should see to it that all of our champions receive equal attention.

Sport Light ★★

Anna Norgren overcomes obstacles to excel

By Fan Wong
Special Section Editor

This past summer, senior Anna Norgren confronted a personal crisis that most teenagers are, to say the least, unfamiliar with—Anna faced the possibility of cancer.

When she first felt the bump on her neck, she assumed that it was merely a cyst, a common and harmless skin growth. A visit to the doctor, however, proved otherwise. The diagnosis—a possible cancerous tumor on her lymph nodes. Surgery followed soon after, and, fortunately, the growth was not cancer after all, but rather just three inflamed lymph nodes.

For Anna, encountering such an ominous and tragic disease as cancer was a tumultuous experience that demanded personal strength and character. She responded bravely, and has even learned important lessons drawn from the experience.

"The whole ordeal made me realize how precious life is. It made me stronger and helped me to believe in myself. It also restored my faith in God, giving me guidance and direction."

Anna's only visible reminder of the incident is the reddish scar on her neck. Besides the scar, however, she has emerged from that part of her life relatively unscathed. She did not allow the life-threatening experience to dampen her spirits, nor to lessen her zeal for life.

In fact, Anna has leaped right back into her every day life, and, if anything, she is even more energetic than before.



Senior Anna Norgren looks at life differently now as she completes a successful high school athletic career. (Yearbook photo)

Return to athletic field

Autumn found her competing on the SHS swim team. As one of the three captains, she helped lead the team to the best season in history and showings at FCIAC's and state opens. She participated in the 50m free relay and the 400m free relay. Both teams placed well at FCIACs and states, breaking school records along the way.

Stacey Izard, also one of the captains on the swim team, stated, "Anna's an incredible athlete. She accomplished in four years what other people take a decade to do."

Track and field

During the winter season, Anna was co-captain of the girls' indoor track team. Her

first place finish in the shotput, and third place finish in the 45m hurdles during the Western Division championships helped the team to a stunning victory, the first in school history.

At the FCIACs, Anna placed an impressive third in shotput.

Bethany Chadwick, teammate and the other co-captain of the track team, said, "Anna's such an addition to the team, playing with a winning spirit and a winning personality."

What makes Anna's outstanding performance even more remarkable is that she just started track last year!

Art Brown, Anna's track coach had this to say, "She is very self-motivated and a great role model for the other girls. She's made incredible progress in such a short period of time. I expect she'll do really well in college."

Anna plans to attend the University of Vermont next fall where she hopes to double major in American History and Literature and continue her track and field career.

Other activities

Juggling sports and school work is not easy. Anna manages to pull it off beautifully though, and even has maintained extra-curricular activities like Interact club, as well as a very active social life.

Dan Griffin said, "I admire her a lot. She's one of the few people I know who can balance sports, school, and a social life as well."

Still more amazing is that Anna manages to keep a friendly smile on her face throughout her hectic day, spreading her contagious laugh and warm spirits.

In the words of senior Meg Magistro, "Anna's just one of those people you can't help but love."

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