

The Stamford High School Year

Volume XLIII, Number 3 Stamford High School, 55 Strawberry Hill Avenue, Stamford, CT 06902 FEBRUARY, 2001

Band wins Florida's 20th Annual Citrus National Competition

Band sweeps Florida

Nicole Savage
Opinions Editor

I sat down recently with band member Annie Matthews. She told me just what the band successfully accomplished in the sunny state of Florida and what the trip entailed. From what Annie had to say, the trip was a wonderful opportunity for the band.

Where did you go in December?

We left at four in the morning on the 27th for Orlando, Florida. We participated in the Citrus Bowl Parade, a competition, and a parade in Walt Disney World. How did you raise enough money for the trip?

We held several fundraisers such as flower sales, can drives and fruit sales. We also held our own band competition here at Stamford High that raised a lot of money to lower the cost of the trip.

Did the entire band go?

The entire marching band, all 120 members went on the trip.

What did you want to accomplish there in Florida?

We hoped to do well in the field show competition, possibly placing in the top three. We also hoped to do well in the parades. Most of all, we wanted to have fun. We definitely did, consider-

ing we came in first!

How many other bands were there?

There were over 20 bands in the parade, but only four bands were in the competition. The bands were from all over the country, from Kansas to California.

Did the band feel well prepared for the competition?

We practiced every Wednesday afternoon, so we definitely worked hard. It is crazy to think that all our efforts were recognized in a national competition. Do you think this will get you more recognition in Connecticut, and even greater, the nation, as a marching band?

Definitely. This will not only give us the experience of competing against bands from across the country, it will give us the opportunity to be ranked/judged on a national level. This was a big step for our band.



Megan Gargaglano
Arts & Entertainment Editor

On December 27, 2000 the Stamford High Marching Band left for Florida on an approx. 28 hour bus ride (including stops). The large band squeezed into three buses with chaperones and staff, all headed with high hopes to sunny Florida. The instruments were shipped down with the band uniforms on a separate moving truck that would meet the band in time for their first

parade. Each student had to raise approximately 750 dollars for their individual funds but were given many fundraising opportunities appropriately one was a citrus fruit sale.

When the band arrived in the Sunshine State, they immediately prepared for the parade in Walt Disney's Magic Kingdom. It was a short parade that was only a mile long yet attracted many spectators. The musicians marched in step while alternating between playing "Louie Louie" and "On Broadway". The fol-

lowing day the band had the opportunity to compete in Florida's 20th Annual Citrus National Competition in which they claimed first place and won "best color guard" beating three other talented bands. The day after the competition the Stamford High Band also marched down the streets of Orlando in the nationally televised Citrus Bowl Parade.

The trip down south was a huge success for Stamford, as well as a great time. The musicians had the chance to visit such parks as the Magic Kingdom, MGM, Universal Studio, Islands of Adventure, and Epcot Center. While half the days were spent performing the other half were spent playing. All in all, this trip was a pleasurable vacation and an exciting experience.

Snow today but no delay

Gillian Tanz
Associate Editor-in-Chief

Recently the Stamford area has been hit hard with winter weather, and yet not once has school been called off or even delayed on account of the snow.

On Friday, January 5th we saw over 12 inches, and since then we have seen still more snow. On Tuesday, January 9th, students drove to school through falling snow. Many have questioned the fact that, due to bad road conditions, we have not yet had a snow day. Senior Deb Stone said, "I think the roads would be much safer to drive on if we had a delay; I slide all over the place!"

This may not be such an unreasonable request. Senior Amber Ertrachter shared these sentiments, stating, "I don't think we have needed a snow day yet, but we should have had three delays so far."

Contrary to popular belief, it is not only the back roads of North Stamford that have been in poor condition. Senior David Cai stated, "I come from downtown, and the roads were solid ice. And

those are main roads. I was skidding across the road," he said, "and almost hit a tree."

Many students have expressed concern that it will take a serious accident to change the system. Said Cai, "The school won't do anything until someone gets hurt."

These complaints would be easier to dismiss if it were only the students who objected to having to come to school in this weather. The weather conditions also cause problems for teachers who commute to Stamford from surrounding towns. Mr. Frank Picadillo, who lives 58 miles away from Stamford, stated, "I have to assume we have school regardless of what the superintendent says. The problem is that the conditions here are completely different from where I live, which is dangerous."

Mr. William Vitelli agreed: "It presents more than a problem at 6:00 AM not knowing if there's school."

Psychology teacher Mr. Jeremy White added, "I skidded uncontrollably in my tiny foreign car which doesn't want to stay on the road."

Given all of the evidence supporting the opinion that schools should have been delayed or closed on account of snow, it would be easy to condemn Superintendent Mazzulo for his judgment in this matter. However, it is important to consider the other side. Not many people know how these calls are made. At 4:00 AM on a day when road conditions are questionable, the Stamford Office of Operations, formerly the Office of Public Works, surveys the city and reports to Mazzulo on the conditions of the roads. The Superintendent then makes a decision based principally on the advice of the Office of Operations.

When asked whether or not he agrees with the superintendent's recent decisions, Stamford High Principal Tony Pavia stated, "I don't think we've had enough snow to warrant a snow day." Mr. Pavia said that he can understand, however, why students and parents would be upset. "When all the other districts in Fairfield County delay," Pavia said, "I think that's what's upsetting people."

News		
<i>Martin Luther King assembly</i>	4	1-4
Opinions		
<i>SEX, well it got your attention...</i>	5	5-6
Features		
<i>Political apathy causes concern</i>	7	7-9
Lifestyles		
<i>SHS resolutions</i>	11	10-12
Arts		
<i>Fuel explodes onto scene</i>	14	13-17
College		
<i>Acceptances start...</i>	19	19-20
Sports		
<i>Top ski locations</i>	22	21-24

The Round Table

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Megan Gargagliano, *Arts/Entertainment Editor*

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Ashley Partington, Laura Pensiero, Kristen Piatti,

Jessica Ramirez, Gina Sinaguglia, Graciela Torres,

Jessica Troy, Richard Tucci

Staff Writers

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

The Round Table is published every four weeks by the Communication and Journalism classes at Stamford High School.

Unsigned Editorials represent the views of The Round Table Editorial Board. Signed pieces, letters to the Editor, and illustrations represent the opinions of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the student body at Stamford High School.

The Round Table welcomes letters from its readers. Letters must be original and signed. Anonymous letters will not be printed.

The Round Table Pledge

We pledge to make every student in our school aware that they are welcome to join our staff.

We pledge to publish a newspaper that mirrors the concerns, interests, experiences, and opinions of the spectrum of our student body.

We pledge to publish a newspaper whose content and coverage reflect our School's ethnic, racial, and religious make-up.

We pledge to work to create a newspaper that brings about a greater understanding and sense of mutual belonging to our school community.

We believe adherence to these pledges will make The Round Table a strong publication and an accurate representation of the Stamford High School community.

It's our view...

Spring is coming and it is time to get in shape

Have you been shying away from a gym because of all those big, buff, in-shape, intimidating people? Do you wish you could work out where there are people who are just as aerobically challenged as you are? Well, search no further than the local YMCA. At current rates, it's less expensive to live there than it is to join most gyms, which means even high school students on even the thriftiest of budgets can afford to work out.

OK, maybe the YMCA isn't as glamorous as the New York Sports Club or Gold's Gym, but it suits the above-signed editors just fine. While many people scoff at the idea of going to work out at the Y, we excitedly gear up every Tuesday and Thursday night to attend Bobby Fisher's "Box Out" kick-boxing class, a regionally acclaimed, hour-long workout which incorporates

self-defense and good old-fashioned fun.

In addition to the array of aerobics classes offered at the Y, this newly-remodeled gym offers a variety of machines including elliptical trainers, Stairmasters, and treadmills, all equipped with the "Fitlinxx" system. Fitlinxx is a system that allows each member to track his or her own progress. Although we personally stay away from the heavy weight-lifting room, we have observed (through the glass) that it seems exceptionally well stocked with a variety of weights.

We've established that the Y is where it's at, but maybe you still lack motivation to go. For us, thoughts of Spring Break are reason enough. Do you need another reason? What about prom? Now maybe we're appealing a bit more to the ladies with this, but we can't help

but be biased. It's common knowledge that prom dresses are one of the main reasons to work out.

Most importantly, you have to consider your health. The USA is alleged to be the most overweight nation in the world, and it is threatening our health. But getting healthier doesn't have to be a chore. With classes like Box-Out Boot Camp, Power Abs, and Step Aerobics, you might actually look forward to going to the gym. The best way to motivate yourself is to go with a friend, which is what we do. Everything is more fun if you do it together.

If you're sick of running around outside in the slush, and you can't afford fancy gym, consider joining us at the Stamford YMCA. Don't let the name fool you; it's not just for young Christian men anymore.

Have we lost contact with fellow humans?

With the fast pace of society, people are always jumping an opportunity for short cuts, or the easier alternative. This is probably the reason E-mail has been such a great hit. The days of writing and receiving handwritten letters have definitely passed. Who wants to take the time to address the letter, buy a stamp to stick on the envelope, and patiently await the mail to be delivered? With E-mail, all that is required is the simple typing of the E-mail address, and with in a few seconds after clicking the send button, the mail has been safely delivered. Certainly, sending mail through the computer is the easier option, and can help in number of various ways.

Before the days of E-mail, people had to exert much more energy to get things accomplished. "I remember when I was in middle school and forgot my homework assignment in school," said Junior Sasha Virvo "I would have to be driven to a friend's to get the work, or have a friend dictate it to me over the phone. Now it's simple, I get it e-mailed right to me with no time wasted."

Additionally, e-mail provides a much simpler way to get in touch

with those loved ones you have lost contact with for awhile. Senior Katharine Thomas explained how a friend from her old home in West Virginia had trouble reaching her through the regular mail. "She sent it to my old address in Stamford, but since it had been a few years since I've lived there, the mail was no longer forwarded to my updated address. Luckily, she found my e-mail address. I am now back in touch with a great friend from the past."

While E-mail has been a great attribute to our society; it has a downside. The traditional ways of communicating are slowly deteriorating. It is because of how little effort it takes to send a letter through e-mail that the sentiment and value of receiving a letter has been decreased immensely. Birthday cards, for example; are not the same when received online. When one receives a birthday card through the mail the day of their birthday, it means the person who sent it was thinking about them prior to that special day and had taken the time to plan out the time it would take to have the letter delivered. When one signs online, the day of their birth-

day, the "You've Got Mail" sound will surely go off as their online mailbox becomes filled with family or friends' birthday 'cards.' While the electronic greeting is still thoughtful, the handwritten letter surely holds more sentiment.

Senior Cait Collins shared her opinion on the matter. "I remember looking forward to getting my mail the week of my birthday a few years ago. I would be excited to find birthday cards from my camp friends and my family members. In the past two years, however, I get millions of E-mails, and find one or two card waiting for me in the mailbox. I have to say it is disappointing."

It's unfortunate that E-mail is taking away from regular mail correspondence. However, for the most part, e-mail is a positive attribute in the world today. It not only saves paper, thereby improving the environment, but people save a remarkable amount of time as well.

It is estimated that between 300 and 600 million e-mails are now transmitted and received each year in the United States, and a significant number of these e-mails are jokes or humorous stories.

Corrections: Due to an editing error in the December issue an article titled "An up-close look through the smog of the S bathrooms," we incorrectly identified the head custodian as Canindo Ratome. The correct spelling of the head custodian name is Candido Retome. We regret the error.

Plans laid for 2001 AfterProm

Laura Pensiero
Staff Writer

On June 8, 2001, the Senior Class will be celebrating their prom and many will be looking forward to the highlight of the evening - the AfterProm Party, the theme of which is Mardi Gras.

This very popular event is again going to be held at Davenport Ridge School immediately following the Prom. And, as it was with last year's gala, there are going to be dozens of activities and chances to win prizes.

Included in the entertainment will be the musical styling of A.J. the DJ for guests who want to continue the musical theme of the evening. Those interested in more competitive activities will have blackjack tables, a wheel of chance, bouncy boxing, and Giant Twister. For people who may want to take something away from the evening, there will be a 'marriage' booth with the 'do us part' coming at the end of the night, a tattoo salon, fortune tellers, and a caricaturist. And for everyone, there will be loads of photo ops to ensure that they will have a memento for reminiscences down through the years.

But the activities are not the only things that will make the After Prom a hit. Another great part of the experience is the opportunity to win one of the many prizes from categories like electronic equipment, sports gear, entertainment packages, wearables, personal services and culinary delights.

Some of the electronics you can win include a stereo system, a television, a VCR or DVD player, a CD player, and a car stereo. There are great packages that you will have a chance to get your hands on: a car-care package, a golf package, and a tennis package.

For people with entertainment interests there are prizes of concert tickets, Broadway show tickets, Mets and Yankees baseball tickets. For the shoppers, there is jewelry from Tiffany's to win or the chance to go on a shopping spree.

If personal services are something you would like to take a chance



Laura Asserfea
Staff Writer

If you come to school in March and see foreign faces in your classes, don't be alarmed; the French Club and some language classes are hosting students from Grenoble, France for two weeks and they will be attending Stamford High during their stay.

On March 26th to April 16th [date check], students from Grenoble, France will be staying in Stamford with host families from Stamford High. The students will be living with their host families who provide meals, room and board for the first week of their visit while they attend Stamford High School. During the second week, the students will

on, there will be opportunities to win a manicure, a pedicure, a hair cut, and a facial or tanning session at your favorite salon.

There will be passes to Mystic Seaport and day passes to Mt. Creek up for grabs for those who want to get away for a while. For the entertainment and eating people there will be chances at movie and pizza combos, brunches, lunches, or dinners at local restaurants, catered dinners for eight at your choice of restaurant, and even a limousine ride to and dinner in New York.

And these are just some of the great prizes you will have an opportunity to win at the After Prom Party.

It's important to know that you do not need to attend the prom or even have a date to the prom to go to the After Prom Party, and unlike many of the other things associated with the prom, at the After Prom Party EVERYTHING IS FREE!

So, if you are a senior this year, you should begin planning to go to the After Prom Party. What better way is there to end what may be the most memorable night of your life than going to the After Prom Party, winning one of the excellent prizes and having so much fun while doing it?

Stamford High plays host to French students

be leaving Stamford for New York with their teachers to explore the city and to take in the sights.

While in Stamford, the French students will attend all of their host students' classes to become acquainted with the American way of education. French Club President Stephanie Marojiona [name check] said, "The French students will have the opportunity to live with a family here and attend an American school. In this way they can experience both aspects of typical American life."

Club Treasurer Robyn Weaving added, "It should provide an excellent opportunity for the Grenoble students to improve their English while giving us a chance to practice our French!" Many other host students hope

that they will be able to make a new friend.

Ms. Hall and Ms. Anderson, who are the supervising teachers for the French Club, were initially planning to have a short exchange program with Grenoble. Formerly, the host students would only be from the French classes but it is now open to all students. The Grenoble high school students would attend school here and French Club members would live with the Grenoble families in France. However, SHS students would have to miss two weeks of school since the vacations do not coincide with the program dates. But everyone is still excited at having the French students stay here even though they cannot go to France at this particular time.

Since the students are studying

English, they will be fluent in the language. Ms. Hall, Mrs. Anderson and the students hosting the Grenoble students hope Stamford High students will be friendly and helpful to our foreign friends during their stay. This is a chance for us to help someone else learn about our culture while giving us the opportunity to experience a foreign culture, one that you may be studying now, firsthand.

Ms. Hall asked that anyone who is willing to host a student from Grenoble to contact her immediately. It is not necessary to have an extra bedroom for the student, as many are willing to share a room. If you are interested and can help, please see Ms. Hall in room 242 for specific details. All that is required is an open heart!

ASPIRA Club produces new video to help recent arrivals

Lisandy Delgado
Staff Writer

The ASPIRA Club was created in 1990 in Stamford, Connecticut, since this club's creation its dedication towards young Latinos has been tremendous. Aspira's major focus has been to encourage young Latinos to build self-confidence and to foster a strong sense of culture. Awareness, analysis, and action are the processes that the Aspira Club has been using to assist ASPIRANTES (members) to become agents of positive change and to make them understand more of themselves and their community.

The SELF-Club (Studying, Enjoying, and Learning for the Future) is one of the Aspira Clubs, and it was created in November 1997 in Stamford High School. Its purpose is to welcome new non-English speaking arrivals to a whole new environment. It provides tutor-

ing, information through the bilingual newspaper, trips and social events so these kids can work and enjoy themselves while they do it.

If you are thinking that the SELF-club is all about Spanish speaking students you are wrong. The SELF-club welcomes anybody interested in learning about other cultures and teaching others about their own.

But just as the new students need help to develop in a new environment so do their parents. The SELF film committee was created by a group of students that are working along with the Aspira club to develop a mechanism to help the non-English speaking community to understand the academic programs, services and extra-curricular activities of Stamford High.

You might be wondering how are these students planning on accomplishing this project. The students thought that by creating a video of all SHS activities - academics, school services,

sports, clubs and other major activities that would show a little bit more about our school - they would achieve their goal of helping the non-English speaking community understand a little bit more about SHS. But like the club itself the video is not just for Spanish speaking students and parents at school. The film committee is seeking students speaking other foreign languages to translate the script of this video into all of the major languages spoken in SHS, so everybody, no matter where they come from, would feel comfortable about coming to a whole new and different environment and with new people.

This video will be used to guide new arrivals and their parents. Copies of the video in each language will be given to the guidance department so that parents who are waiting to register their students could watch the video in their own native language and learn all about Stamford High School while they wait.

Martin Luther King - A legend revisited at civil rights leader's memorial assembly

Courtney Michelson
Janet Inzitari
Staff Writers

In 1967 Martin Luther King Jr. visited Stamford High School. Thirty years later, a new group of students were able to honor his memory with a ceremony held in his remembrance. Ms. Gloria Blue and Dr. Michael Intriari organized the assembly, and its distinguished guest list included Larry Doyle, Reverend Hill, Reverend Bush and Michael Heyman, a member of the NAACP.

Alden Kelly, a member of the Multicultural Student Union,

introduced Mr. Heyman, the guest speaker for the event. Mr. Heyman spoke about the way that Martin Luther King Jr. changed his life, even though Heyman did not personally know him.

Growing up in the south, Heyman saw segregation on a daily basis, and he still remembers Dr. King's appearances on the television advocating for equality. Mr. Heyman told the packed auditorium about the many acts of inequality he experienced when he was young, the most vivid being when he was trying to buy a pair of shoes. He was so excited because his parents were letting him go and buy them himself, but when he went

to the shoe store, he had to wait until everyone else was helped. Once the salesman finally got to him, he would not let him try on the shoes, just because he was African American. He saw how wrong this was, and he resolved to fight against it.

At this point Mr. Heyman asked the audience about what they would have done; whether or not they would have stood up to segregation. His question was met with silence.

Mr. Heyman continued his presentation with more recollections about the man who inspired him, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Heyman said that back when he was young, Dr. King stood for

hope and strength, while nowadays he seems more commercial than real. Mr. Heyman told of King's becoming more of a product than a spokesman for change and equality, and told how his message has become distorted.

"In reality," Heyman said, "he is much more." Heyman said that Dr. King "allowed us to get away from the injustices brought upon people every minute of the day." If it were not for the Civil Rights Movement, there would never have been liberation for so many people.

Mr. Heyman closed his presentation with a quote from Dr. King, saying, "The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in times of comfort, but where he stands in controversy." Heyman then posed the question, "How do you move millions of people?"

The answer was left hanging in the air as Mr. Heyman asked the audience not to memorialize Dr. King, but to learn about and to remember the real man who altered the destinies of so many. Another highlight of the Martin Luther King Ceremony was the performance of the Bridgeport Central Gospel Choir, which came to perform several songs. Their soaring voices gave the gospels new life, creating from them rousing songs that left no one in the audience untouched. The songs themselves epitomized both the struggle and the triumph, bringing Dr. King and his legacy

to life in the music.

Commenting following the choir's performance, Mrs. Gloria Blue said how moving they were and how much she enjoyed it. In addition to their Gospel Choir, Bridgeport Central also presented the talents of their spiritual dancers. These dancers interpreted the feeling of the music, giving the wordless songs passion and emotion, while telling a story throughout. Melodic music accompanied the dancers, affording their movements a gracefulness that has hardly, if ever, been so well captured. Though the purpose was that of entertainment, The Bridgeport Central choir and dancers succeeded not only in captivating the audience but also allowing them to feel a bit of Dr. King's message for themselves.

Overall, the Martin Luther King Day Ceremony conveyed a very important message. It gave those present a important reminder to cherish the past, as well as reminding them to keep alive its heroes and their accomplishments. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is one such hero; an ordinary man immortalized both by those who knew him, and those who did not.

This event gave the audience a glimpse into the real Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the man whose impact and memory lives on decades after his death. This was the true message of the ceremony.

Upperclassmen take director's chair in 'Senior Scenes' production

Nathan Kitler
Staff Writer

On February 2 and 3, underclassmen appeared in a series of one-act plays directed by seniors, comprising both actors and techies involved in the SHS Drama Club. Senior Scenes was the name of this production, the first of which was presented last year. The seniors were involved in every aspect of their scenes, including costumes, set design, sounds, and lighting. The show was free of charge to the public.

Most of the plays were comedic, with a few moments of drama sprinkled throughout. A number of seniors used their scenes as an opportunity to explore controversial subjects. Director Kristen Olsen said, "My parents were a bit shocked at my scene, but I chose to go a little outside the boundaries."

The performance started at 8 PM, with three consecutive two-person comedic scenes involving a male and a female actor. The first, acted by Dave Kush and Maria Garay, was about two people at a table who got into conflicts over trivial matters like the label of a ketchup bottle. The second involved Bobby Pavia and Nancy

Ringel and was an updated version of Abbott and Costello's "Who's on first" routine shaped around modern music groups and their songs. The third was about two ex-lovers played by John Large and Alex Flagg who met on Valentine's Day. "A Short Divine Comedy," featuring a larger cast was an irreverent take on the Nativity, was next, following some shepherds and wise men as they wandered toward Bethlehem. "Vines in a Vacuum," a dramatic piece featuring Bella Kotlar, Rob Rosado and Robyn Weaving, ended Act I.

Act II opened with a scene about adjusting to life at college, with Teddy Yudain as a college freshman. The next scene was about two people who met at a cafe, and their ids, or subconscious selves that revealed what was really on their minds. Players included Krzysztof Pennar, Maria Garay, Nancy Rigel and John Puzzuoli. The last scene was an episode of the classic TV show "The Honeymooners," featuring John Large as Ralph Kramden and Ted Yudain as Ed Norton. Dave Kush made a guest appearance as a doctor.

Overall, "Senior Scenes" was well received. Ryan Drzyzga said, "I felt Abbott and Costello

Organize the MTV Videotape Library," "Richard Freshman," and "The Honeymooners" were the highlights of the performances." Afterward, many of the students involved walked away with a greater understanding. Director Nina Sherwood said, "This experience made me appreciate directors a lot more."

A list of scenes and directors.

ACT I

"The Ketchup Bottle" directed by Justa Bucyte

"Abbott and Costello Organize the MTV Videotape Library" directed by Nathan Kitler

"The St. Valentine's Day Massacre" directed by Kristen Olsen

"A Short Divine Comedy" directed by James Pritting and cast

"Vines in a Vacuum" directed by Olga Pinsky

ACT II

"Richard Freshman" directed by Doug Rosenberg

"Interiors" directed by Lauren Longyear

"The Honeymooners" directed by Nina Sherwood

The seniors directing were Justa Bucyte, Nathan Kitler, Kristen Olsen, James Pritting, Olga Pinsky, Doug Rosenberg, Lauren Longyear, and Nina Sherwood.

Italian Club seats officers; seeks to add new members

Have you ever wondered what a "cannoli" is made of, or how to really pronounce "ricotta," "mozzarella," or "manicotti?" The Italian Club covers those questions and much more, working toward the goal of immersing students and club members in the rich cultural, culinary and linguistic aspects of Italy and the Italian people.

"We have had our elections of officers," said Ms Luisa Iadeluca, the club's advisor, and she indicated that the club members were

year of Italian oriented activities. Current club officers include President Adriana Tartaglia, Vice President Danielle Defazio, Secretary Domenico Vartuli, and Treasurer Taka Maki.

The club is still looking for new members, students who have an interest in learning about Italy and all things Italian. "If you are not a member," Iadeluca said, "it is never too late to sign up and be one! Anyone interested need only contact any one of the officers or see me, Ciao and Buona Giornata!"

Recycling for our future

Megan Gargagliano
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Only a few years ago a law was passed stating that each household needed to recycle. Once a week a truck passes by each house picking up the bright blue bins filled with recyclables. In a school with 2,000 kids, where countless sheets of papers are used and thrown away each day, why is it that the designated paper waste bins are used more like general garbage cans?

For some students the encroaching danger of pollution and the ultimate deterioration of the planet hits home. Others, because they are not feeling the direct effects, are unaware. One step in the direction of helping the planet is to make good and efficient use of our natural resources, one of those being trees. All of those extra papers, products of trees, are simply being thrown away. They are not sent to a paper treatment plant or to a recycling center, but to the city dumps, where they will add to the pile of garbage that will eventually be dumped in the ocean or buried in a landfill. Thus, more trees will be cut down and more land

destroyed, rather than opting to reuse old paper.

Standing for the defense of Stamford High's not providing recycling is the fact that there is a significant number of irresponsible students. When half a bagel, candy wrappers, and a half filled soda can are thrown into the paper recycling bins, no one would want to separate material that could be recycled from the garbage which can't. The excess garbage has probably already made it impossible for anyone to reuse the paper.

For the same reason there is also an absence of can and bottle recycling because people do not use the bins for their designated purpose. Some people are either unaware or too preoccupied with the present to concern themselves with the future.

So before blame is thrown on somebody else, we as a community must look to ourselves to see if we are doing what we can to recycle. I would urge anyone who is concerned with the problem to take the very simple actions needed to restore an efficient recycling program in hopes that this will create a sense of responsibility both in our school and in our community.

Seize the initiative and reach for the stars!

Stephanie Harris
Staff Writer

Many people would argue that the chance of becoming success, for a person coming from a poor neighborhood, where families struggle to make a living, where drugs flow through the community and where violence is abundant, is slim.

This can be true to a certain extent but false because the opportunity is out there. A lot of teens that come from a bad neighborhood are making bad choices. That's the bottom line. No one has a gun to your head telling you to sell drugs. It's a choice that you make and a bad one that ruins peoples' lives.

Education can get you anywhere in life if you choose to take it. Stop fooling around in class. Be a better person and become a leader to success. Anyone can do it if they choose.

This day and age where the economy is doing so well,

there should be no excuse. There're millions of jobs that are not being filled. So the excuse of not being able to get a job is not one I'll take. To get those jobs you need skill, edu-

should be what drives you to do better. It's no longer a big struggle. Not to say struggle isn't there, but it can be overcome by perseverance. Families are doing better only because they choose to work, they're tired of where they are and they know that they can do better.

It bothers me to see people graduate from high school and end up on the lane selling or hustling for a dollar. I'm tired of it!

"Why" becomes the constant question that runs through my mind. Why make that choice to go nowhere? Why bring kids into the world and lead them in the wrong direction? If anything you would work your butt off so that the next generation won't have to. So that everything is easier for them. It's sad that people are still doing that old time hustle. This is a new age where opportunity is all around you. Everyone can go to college if they choose. Anyone can learn a trade that appeals to them. Anyone can reach that level of success.

Education can get you anywhere in life if you choose to take it. Stop fooling around in class.

cation and pride. I just think that if you want to get out of the bad environment you're in, you can do it. That

SEX... Well, it got your attention, didn't it?

Katharine Thomas
News Editor

It's everywhere, from candy bar ads, to candy coated pop stars, and it definitely sells well. Britney Spears, Gabrielle Reece and Jennifer Lopez are all similar. They're all young women, all talented in different ways, and all of them cash in on their sex appeal. Women have been aware of the conquests their sexuality could possibly attain for a long time. Cleopatra didn't rule the Nile on shrewd intellect alone. However, with this realization, also comes another important question: by exercising this type of sexual advantage, do women subject themselves to being continuously treated like sex objects? It's a debate many women struggling to get ahead deal with.

Many sports figures are posing

nude to attract attention to their sports. Anna Kornekova, the cute blonde with short tennis skirts, called much attention to the bouncy game of tennis. Britney Spears, whose shirts plunge lower with every passing month dances on top of pop charts. Calista Flockheart, from the series "Ally McBeal" joins the rest of her female co-stars, clad in skirts that would make any woman wearing one nervous to pick up a piece of paper, but yet they all play the parts of smart lawyers. These women, young and older, may look cold in their skimpy, or invisible attire, but they're surely fine inside their nicely heated banks.

Is the story of the business executive who uses her looks and coquettish charm to climb to the top, ridiculous? Is she falling back on her sex appeal, when she

could be using her intellect? Or is it really so wrong for these talented women to be known for their sexiness too?

To disregard such an advantage might be inane. Can't these modern women equally have contracts and pouts that make men's mouths water? There are those who feel that expressing this sexuality only shows a strong woman who can be equally attractive and feminine. However, is there a time when this perfect package leaves women meeting men's feet on the very doorstep they fled from in the 50's?

Many feminists dedicated their lives to strife for the equality of women. If some women let themselves symbolize sex one second, can they complain when that's all they are the next? It seems to work well that posing almost

nude will catch people's attention, and therefore increase record sales.

The assumption seems to be that after people buy the CD, then they'll recognize the true talent of the artist. Or will they? Is the public capable of distinguishing the two, incorporated in one person? Let's say that one of the more reputable women right now, perhaps Hillary Clinton, were to appear in short leather, red lipstick and a smirk. Would society still hold them in the same esteem?

Christina Aguilera recently spoke of her performance at the VH1 Fashion Awards. "I knew that when I was holding a note, not one of the guys in the front row cared. They were all to preoccupied with cat calling, and checking me out."

Maybe if Ms. Aguilera were to



appear in a sweater and jeans, she wouldn't have elicited the same response. But that may not be what she really wants. Certainly women living in this new millennium aren't still clinging to the notion that they can't make it on sheer talent. Perhaps they're just afraid to try.

It remains something that women have to deal with, whether they've decided their stance on it or not. I remain puzzled, and close the article open-ended. I'm going out this evening, and still haven't decided between my Nikes or my platform shoes.

invited Bobby Davis and Nancy... forms

The rise of the teen idols:

Bring on the boys

Anna Dreyser
Lifestyles Editor

They're lovable, attractive, peppy, and oh yeah, they sing too. They're built to suit every teen's dream date. There's the cute, young (usually blond) one you can't take your eyes off; the shy guy you just want to cuddle; the older one who's more mature than those high school boys; and that bad boy, who's tattoos or dyed hair worries your mother, and you love it. The boy bands of the world have invaded modern music with a purpose to stay as long as possible.

Whether we love them or love to hate them, they've got our attention. The sensual ballads pledging unconditional love and romance to the up beat party favorites have sent millions of fans to memorize the dance steps. There are lunch boxes, t-shirts, jewelry, and even gum. The more you have, the more devoted, or obsessed you are, right? Well, some seem to think so, resulting in major profit booms for the singers and their labels.

There are The Backstreet Boys and Nsync, 98 degrees, BBMak, and whatever happened to LFO? Newcomers like C Note and SoulDecision are slowly rising on the charts, hoping to get a chance to prove that they're different than all the other manufactured male singing groups.

I must admit, even I have been sucked into the boy band frenzy. I must further confess that I am not fully cured. I still listen to the music, and still find them attractive, but I DO NOT let it interfere with my life.

Yes, those groups are nice to look at and notorious worldwide, but should we use them as the centers of our existence? So, for a moment, try to look past the baby blue eyes, or the raging muscles, and think logically:

1. Most of them already have gorgeous girlfriends or wives, so stop planning your wedding.

2. Maybe some day they'll write their own songs.

3. Even if you buy all the merchandise you can't afford, someone somewhere else will still have more.

4. If you did happen to find love with a boy band member, they'd probably find themselves in jail.

5. They don't know who you are!

6. Loving more than one boy band does not make you a traitor.

7. If you ever do meet a boy band, make sure you know which one it is.

8. Save up your money, maybe Ebay will auction off another piece of toast.

9. Killing someone who doesn't like BSB is not considered a "crime of passion" under the law.

10. Don't get too attached, because all good things must, and will, come to an end.

These footnotes are all in fun and are in no way intended to offend. Remember to love proudly, but watch for signs of obsession.

*I must admit,
even I have been
sucked into the
boy band frenzy.
I must further
confess that I
am not fully
cured*

- Anna Dreyser

AOL, the corporate monster dominates the online craze

Liz Ballbach
Staff Writer

Does it ever cross people's minds to start a support group for AOL addicts? Parents worry about their children becoming addicted to nicotine, alcohol and other recreational drugs but do they ever think their children could become mixed up in the web AOL has spun?

Just like a spider spinning its web to capture its prey, AOL sends out those free 500 hour cds luring their unknowing victims in with such slogans "You've got mail" (so you feel important) and "The easiest, just got easier." But after the fly lands on the spider's web it soon comes to realize that is no longer mobile, trapped in by the silky stickiness the spider has spun. This analogy may become trite before I get my point across, so let's deal with that now. The little flies are the people who inadvertently got themselves involved in something much bigger than them... A CORPORATE MONSTER!

I realize the ramifications of

such a statement, but I am fully ready to defend my standpoint on this issue, I speak from personal experience. I remember when I was thirteen years old and I received in the mail a 3 1/2 floppy disk introducing a new Internet program known as

I had been unintentionally opened to a whole other world. A world filled with emails, chat rooms, instant messages, message boards.

America Online. I was less than exuberant, my parents had signed up for it purely for educational purposes. While harmlessly looking for the definition of Brownian motion I came across CHAT ROOMS! Needless to say, in lieu of getting that definition I received my

first instant message. I had been unintentionally opened to a whole other world. A world filled with emails, chat rooms, instant messages, message boards. It was almost too much. But I wasn't the only one riveted by this new program. The spider began to add onto his web, spinning and spinning. It eventually grew to immense proportions...that led inevitably to the busy signal. It had captured so many it was unable to manage such a capacity that it was no longer just a problem to get on, but it now had the power to boot off.

In the end, what has AOL provided? Granted that new friendships were forged and much thanks to that sector of AOL, but how much money that AOL rakes in do you think is allocated to the promotion of its educational services? Surely there are more chat rooms than homework help aids available. In conclusion AOL provides much distraction away from those important things, like homework. The question is: are you an Internet junkie or do you have an email monkey on your back?

Is legislation on cell phones the right way to go?

Elissa Glucksman
Sports Editor

Recently, three cities, one in Ohio, one in Pennsylvania, and one in New York banned the use of cell phones by individuals who are driving. Fifteen other states are considering legislation of this kind.

The reason for this recent legislation is the reported rise of car accidents associated with drivers talking on cell phones. In 1997, The New England Journal of Medicine reported that motorists who use cell phones are four times more likely to crash, and equated the results of their use with the results of drunk driving. In a new report on wireless communications, state and local officials were

encouraged to begin tracking cell phone use in related traffic warnings, citations, and crash investigations.

These officials recognize the safety benefits of cell phones and said that a nationwide ban was unrealistic. "Every day there are 100,000 calls to 911 from cell phones," said Lisa Ihde, a spokesperson for the Cellular Telecommunications Industry Association (CTIA). "And these calls are saving lives by decreasing emergency response times."

Though it may seem as though this legislation could solve the problem, it is far from the fact. The increase in car accidents isn't from drivers holding their cell phones. The increase in car accidents is from drivers talking on the phones and not devoting

their full attention to their driving. The use of a headset or a hands-free cell phone won't make a difference in focusing a driver's attention.

What will the government do next? Will they attempt to ban drivers from talking to passengers in the car because that will also distract the drivers' attention? The problem isn't new technology that is distracting drivers, it is that the drivers' complete disregard for the responsibility of driving. With new technology coming out everyday to keep those in the car entertained and informed, there will be more and more of these distractions. The accidents are inevitable and the root of the problem is not the cell phones, but the people who use the cell phones.

SHS reacts to cell laws

"I don't think the problem is not having two hands on the wheel because of a cell phone, it is getting wrapped up in hte conversation while driving the car. If Connecticut makes it a law, than they will need cops to enforce it." - Annie Matthews

"I think that the hands free option for cell phones is no different than talking to someone in the car next to you. They emit more radiation, but they are a good alternative." -

Meghan Johnson

The pressures and perils of being a teenager

Lisa Kaufman
Managing Editor

"These are the best days of your life. You better make the most of them." Adults are constantly preaching this advice to teenagers who complain about the amount of stress they are under. This just makes the "young-uns" more stressed out for fear of what awaits them in their future.

Adults think of the short school days they had in contrast to the minimum eight-hour workdays they have now. They recall memories of football games with cheerleaders stirring up cherished feelings of school spirit, and of movies, parties, and especially of a time in life where there were no bills that they were responsible for paying. What these adults fail to remember is all of the struggles and pressures that come right along with all of these joyous memories of a teenager's life.

On the surface, teenagers

appear to have it easy. In truth, it is anything but that. There is a lot more to their "short" six hour school day that they have to deal with than meets the eye. The last period bell for most students does not mark the end of their day, but only another beginning. The extra-curricular activities add a whole extra element which many adults cannot possibly comprehend.

Due to the increase in competition to get into a good college, there is a greater demand for more, more, more! Teenagers must divide their time among a number of clubs, some of which interest them, in order to show they are well-rounded persons. Many of these clubs require much more than just a simple meeting once a week. Rather they involve a good deal of time and dedication.

Some students spend a great deal of their time racing off to an after school sport they play. Basketball players for example, often have up to three or more

hours of practice each day early in the season, and two to three times a week they have games that take them late into the evening. Sure, adults may argue that it is purely recreational, but high school sports are a lot of pressure.

If adults are convinced that they are the only ones with a job, they must come to realize that this is just not so. Many forget how many teenagers take on after school part time jobs in addition to the work of their school day. And after all of these extra activities are completed, homework still awaits them.

A big problem that many teenagers face is which of these to make their top priority. The obvious answer is the academics. However, among all the "Extras" in which each student partakes, the answer isn't that clear. Unlike adults who have to respond to only one boss, teenagers are pulled in all directions and many times by more than just one boss. Teenagers need to explain them-



Photo by Carly Miller

Lisa Kaufman stresses while she revises an article for the paper

selves to a number of people: Each club advisor, employer at work, teacher, and of course, their ever so loving parents, has a hook in the teenager's time. This is a lot for one person, no matter the age, to have to struggle against.

It would be very much appreciated if adults would take all of these added factors into mind

before giving teenagers the "if only you knew how easy you have it" look. Sure, life is a struggle and a challenge when trying to raise and support a family. But teenagers face many different challenges of their own each day, too. So those adults who think teenagers' lives are just like a box of chocolates, they need a reality check.

Nationwide political apathy causes concern

Richard Tucci
Staff Writer

In America we are haunted by an ongoing apathy. Voter turnout at best is only 51 % of the eligible population, and even lower in local elections. The American people seem lost and confused by their political system, and true heroes are hard to find. In the recent presidential election, the country was split almost evenly down the middle, with each presidential candidate only getting 25% support from all eligible voters. The country is divided, not between Republican or Democrat, but between those who care, and those who don't. Why do so many refuse to take part in their right to vote?

One reason is the seeming vengeance taken by each presidential nominee this election to capture controversial and deciding electoral votes in Florida, Iowa, New Mexico, Oregon, and Wisconsin. Both parties have

taken their requests to state and federal courts to ask for recounts, re-votes, and injunctions. Senior Melissa Lewis said, "I don't care about politics! It's all about liars, power, and money! They don't really care about the issues!"

There is the staggering apathy among the young citizens. In a recent poll taken by this paper, almost a quarter of the students interviewed did not know or did not care about the election and its issues. Why? Senior Doug Rosenberg said, "I can't vote, so I don't care."

Many are disappointed with the choices they have been given for president. Senior Andrew Demott said, "I am voting for Nader because after comparison [and] contrast of the other candidates, they do not see a world or a version of America that I agree with. Plus, Nader is a cool name."

Newly naturalized citizen Oleg Iogman said, "Bush is a fool, Gore is a liar." He then went on to say, "I was talking to this person who said she was going to vote

for Bush. When I asked why, she said, 'Because he was president already.'"

While we are the greatest nation in the world, it's like being valedictorian at summer school. Our military is the strongest in the world, but many say that it is only by a slim margin, and that we are highly vulnerable to terrorists such as Osama Bin Laden. Our democracy and principles stand high as models for the rest of the world, but are tossed aside when it comes to applying them to our own system. Senior Nina Sherwood stated, "It doesn't matter, both parties are getting paid by the corporations, so they're just going to mold to them and to what their parties stand for."

In the words of a modern entertainment executive, the youths of America are tired of being manipulated and used. As a result, they have declared that they will not be manipulated either way, and will not participate in the process. In short, they are not comparing the players, they just don't like



President George W. Bush was inaugurated as the 42nd president having won 271 electoral votes, while former Vice President Gore has returned to private life.

The United States needs more than just rich white men who will do anything for a vote. The United States needs more than someone who only wants the presidency for his own ego. Therefore, today, I officially announce my candidacy for president of the United States.

Top 8 reasons why S.H.S. is better than Westhill H.S.

Carly Miller
Kristen Piatti
Staff Writers

Everyone knows that Stamford High School is better than Westhill High School. Here are the major reasons why:

8. Our building makes sense; it's organized.
7. Our colors match.
6. We're not up in the hills.
5. Our teams know what it feels like to win.
4. We can have night home games.
3. We have parking for people other than seniors.
2. We don't have to take a city bus to get to town.
1. Where is Westhill, Connecticut?

Yearbook: A tough job, but somebody has to do it

Nicole Savage
Associate Opinions Editor

Countless hours go into its making. Tons of photographs are sorted through. Pages and pages of copy are written and typed. All this work goes into the creation of Stamford High's yearbook. Each year the Design and Publication class, under the direction of Ms. Wendy Assunto and Mr. James DeFeo, produces a 300 plus page yearbook. Practically the entire student body flips through its glossy pages at some point, many of them not realizing the toil which goes on behind the scenes.

The yearbook is produced by the students in the two Design and Publications classes, along with students in an Independent Study for the course. This year the group is led by Joelle Tanenebaum and Amanda Warren, the Editors-in-Chief. Furthermore, the specific sections of the yearbook each have an editor. This group of seniors oversees the sections and the work involved.

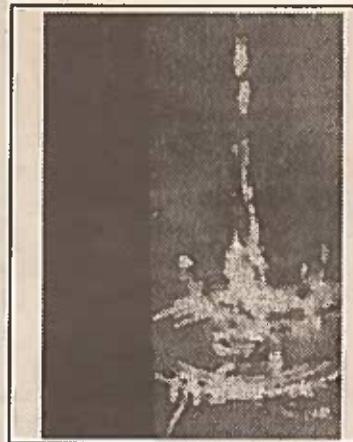
The class is run by deadlines. Although it will not be released until mid-June,

deadlines for specific sections are throughout the year. This is because the pages need to be sent to the publisher, Jostens, as soon as possible to ensure that the book gets out in time for graduation and the final day of school.

Due to its top quality, including about 95 pages of costly color pages, the book's cost is often more than some are willing or able to spend. To keep prices as reasonable as possible, throughout the year the students sell ads to local businesses, family members, and friends. The large numbers of Ads in the rear of the book have helped keep the price the same for the past five years.

The dedication of the students, editors, and advisors is rewarded each year when the book is distributed. It consistently receives national awards and is used as a sample by the publisher. Student Life Editor Carolyn Swerdloff said, "I love being an editor. Even though it's a lot of hard work, in the end the work definitely pays off."

In addition, the quality of the book gives Stamford High something that will and can be remembered forever.



Yearbooks from '98, '99, and '00 are among the several Stamford High award winners.

Senior-itis: Spreading through the class of '01

Rebecca Greenberg
Co-Editor of Chief

Seniors can run, but they can't hide. It is spreading faster than any other disease. It is the most contagious ailment known to man. If a friend has got it, you're bound to catch it next. It has even spread to underclassmen, who have claimed, "It was so strong, I just couldn't fight it!" It's Senior-itis, and it is fatal for any senior's transcript. The question stands: Is there any cure for the Senior-itis epidemic spreading through Stamford High?

"Ohmigosh, it's a plague! Once it's got you, you're screwed!" Senior Ryan Drzyzga exclaimed when asked about the disease. "I'd rather have pneumonia!"

"I've definitely got it. I don't go to school at all," said senior Erin Weller.

"I'm trying not to get it, but all my friends have it, and it's catching. I'm working more this year than any year to avoid the symptoms," said David Crawford, another senior.

When asked about the warning signs, afflicted seniors report that they are all manifesting the same ones. The most common symptoms are arriving to school late, leaving early, skipping classes, and turning in assignments late (some

of the more seriously afflicted do not turn work in at all). If you have not yet been infected, what are some indications that you may be coming down with the dreaded disease? "You wear sweatpants to school every day," said Marri Blank.

Other seniors have noted that in acute cases, a complete neglect of personal appearance altogether is probable. "Ever since I caught the disease, instead of blow-drying my hair, I just get in my car and turn up the heater," commented Pam Fogt with a sigh. Another common symptom is the increased degree of familiarity one experiences with the school resource officers who are always in the parking lot. An Goenz reported, "In severe cases the police officers in the parking lot know you by name because you are there so often."

"Even early release doesn't help with the severity of the symptoms," says Kirill Bernshtyn, "It's hopeless. There's nothing you can do."

Other seniors disagreed. They claimed to be fighting off the illness. "I focus very hard on school and getting into college, and the symptoms subside," says Jonathan Gordon. Let us hope that other seniors are able to ward off the horrible affliction that has over-ridden Stamford High.

Car of the Month: Scott Seftner's '69 Mustang

Ryan Drzyzga
Staff Writer

"Man that's loud," I shouted as the RPMs hit 3000 and the golden sun glimmered off of Scott Seftner's royal blue, flamboyant work of art. Just imagine it: 325 horses, tearing up the road, with just a touch of the accelerator.

His Classic 1969 Ford Mustang fastback can be spotted and heard from afar, and with its mean growl and its hot look, she turns heads wherever she goes. This car is about 95% stock, a description that means that most of the parts are original for all of you non-gear heads out there. The only things that are not original are the tires,

rims, carburetor, manifold, and steering wheel. The carburetor and the manifold are both brand new 4 barrels that he installed himself. The tires, BF Goodrich Radial 8 inchers, were on the car at the time he purchased it from its owner. The chrome rims are brand new, and they are just like the ones it had in 1969.

The original engine is a 351 cubic inch V8, with a 4 speed, manual transmission. Back in '69 that was not an unusual thing, but today you see very few of those out on the road. It pushes out 325 horsepower.

The interior is all the original black leather, and the only other part of the car that is not stock is the steering wheel, which is a newer,

racing wheel. Seftner is installing a new audio system, which will modernize the car, but will not take anything away from its physical beauty.

Personally one of my favorite parts of the Mustang is the gas cap, which is located below the trunk, behind a flip down cover. This feature on the rear of the car does not appear on modern automobiles.

Another great feature on the Mustang that I have come to love is the switch for the high beams. It is a button located on the floor behind the clutch. It is a feature I find to be something that really sets the car in a league of its own, and one that seems to be extinct in today's world.

1969 was a great year, and the



Seftner's lean, mean Mustang machine sports a number of elements that have long since disappeared from the automobiles of today. The original 1969, 351 cubic inch Ford V-8 engine actually fits into the engine compartment without having to share most of the space with all manner of air pumps, anti-pollution temperature, exhaust gas and intake air sensors. It has the room, the power, and the carburetor throats, to ROAR! Mustangs produced during that year can in no way be compared to cars produced at the dawn of the twenty first century. But the 1969 Mustang that sits in our Stamford High parking lot is definitely worthy of being named January's Car of the Month.

Shopping online poses privacy threat

Eugene Brevdo
Staff Writer

Before you shop online this holiday season, think about what you're doing when you click that button. Did you just enter your name and address? Maybe even your social security number? Credit card theft is not the only thing you should be worrying about when you do your purchasing online. Maybe you have not yet looked at the privacy policy of the place that you are purchasing from. Now's a good time to do it, before you tell them everything they need, and don't need, to know.

When you have a free minute, mosey on down to Amazon, the biggest bookshop on the net. Go down to the bottom of the page, and click on the "privacy notice" (or on any other page, that might be "privacy policy," or some other derivative thereof).

First, take a look at how Amazon.com and most other businesses, collect information on you. The web page cites that Amazon.com gathers data when you search for an item, participate in a questionnaire, or bid on something on the site. When you contact technical support, they gather even more "data" (which you "provide", according to them). Of course, there is always the data that is gathered when you purchase a book, a CD, etc. What does this all mean? Every single click you make on that web page can be tracked back to you. When you search for a classical music CD, Amazon.com will take the liberty of adding that to your list of interests for you. The next time you visit their web page, they just might "customize" it so

that there is a list of new music CDs made especially for you to order. And guess what, those CDs will cost you more than they would for a first time buyer, because Amazon now knows what you like, and what you're willing to pay for. Such service!

Amazon.com will also take the liberty of providing you with "informational" e-mails every once in a while. These e-mails describe offers, sweepstakes, purchasing insights, etc. While subscription services like these can be cancelled usually by following directions at the end of the emails, others may not be.

Going back to my example of Amazon: "As we continue to develop our business, we might sell or buy stores or assets. In such transactions, customer information generally is one of the transferred business assets." In other words, this fine print mumbo jumbo basically says that anything Amazon finds out about you from any dealings you have with them, they have legal right to share: your name, address, favorite color, purchasing lists, and interests with any company that will pay enough. Sadly this is the rule, not the exception, when it comes to most businesses.

Many online companies tout their privacy policies on their front pages. What the consumer is not told is that those privacy policies just might be legal waivers that allow the company to share all the data that it can gather about you with anyone who'll pay for it. This is the electronic equivalent of gathering statistics for sending out junk mail. If you don't know what the online equivalent of junk mail is, just get an AOL account and wait a month for the "get rich quick"

schemes and the pornographic links to start appearing in your mailbox. Not only will you sacrifice your privacy by giving these companies precious personal data; you will also lose all respect for the consumer marketing industry. Get ready to download twenty worthless e-mails a day and try to filter out all the "noise".

In today's high-tech world, big businesses, as well as small, have found many ways to get into your home. Computer programs can store and parse through all the data you supply them, and add you to their mailing lists. In the technological world, computer enthusiasts call these programs "spam hots", and all of the worthless emails that they send out "spam", or "noise". They are all too common on the Internet. Here are some tips to keep the gold digging marketers away.

Do not click on banner ads. Remember that you cannot know where they really point! Some web pages have malicious code that can gather personal data about you from your browser. It is probably best to get a separate e-mail program such as Eudora. Not only are programs like these better mail readers than Netscape mail or Outlook, they also do not use an insecure feature called JavaScript, unlike the mail readers that come with Netscape and Internet Explorer.

Turn off the web browser feature "cookies" if you do not shop online; it is in the options menu of your browser. Shopping web sites store data about you on your own computer using cookies, and in this way track your interests and purchases. If you absolutely need cookies, try an anonymity-providing service such as www.anonymizer.com.

Do not participate in, online sweepstakes. You probably won't win anyway, and it's a great opportunity for marketers to gather priceless demographic data.

If they don't really need to know your true name and address, if you aren't purchasing something, give them a false name and address. I prefer to use "John Doe, 123 Johnson St., Stamford, CT, 06905".

The same with phone numbers. If you are going to purchase something online, and address information is usually a necessity, take some steps to protect yourself further. In fact, I do it all the time. Step

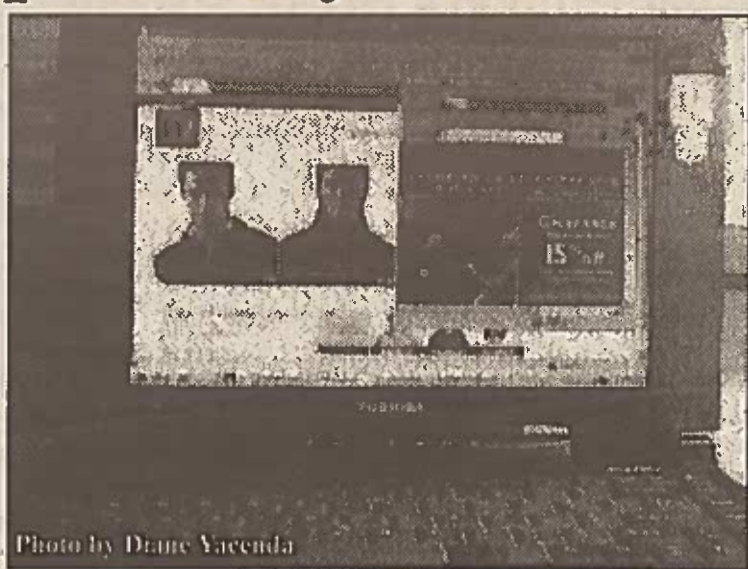


Photo by Diane Vaccaro

Take caution when shopping online. Your privacy may be at risk in more ways than by someone looking at your screen.

one: create a new e-mail account! This is very important! It doesn't matter if it's at Hotmail.com, Yahoo.com, or a second AOL account; it is imperative that you do this. Ninety percent of the spam that you will receive will come by way of e-mail. Any time you make a purchase or give your e-mail out to a web form, use this e-mail address! Only check it once a month or so... after a few purchases, it will become saturated with useless mailings. Online e-mail services such as hotmail are great for this, as they have a feature that lets you delete all the e-mail in your inbox. Your personal account will stay safe and private, used to communicate with family and friends.

Step two: Shop smart! Find an online store that has a good privacy policy (they usually have a link at the bottom like Amazon does). Usually, these stores have fewer customers; they don't share their customer information, and are almost always cheaper.

Step three: limit your demographic data. If you are asked for a list of interests, don't answer the question. If there are checkboxes, don't fill any in. If they ask for your salary, select the smallest possible range. This way, they will think that you will be unlikely to make many purchases, or listen to their promotional offers. In truth, you are quite capable of finding what you want yourself. You do not need a million companies knocking on your door feeding you promotional offers as if you are a sheep. You are not a sheep.

There are more ways of having a smarter and more secure online season. First of all, never give out

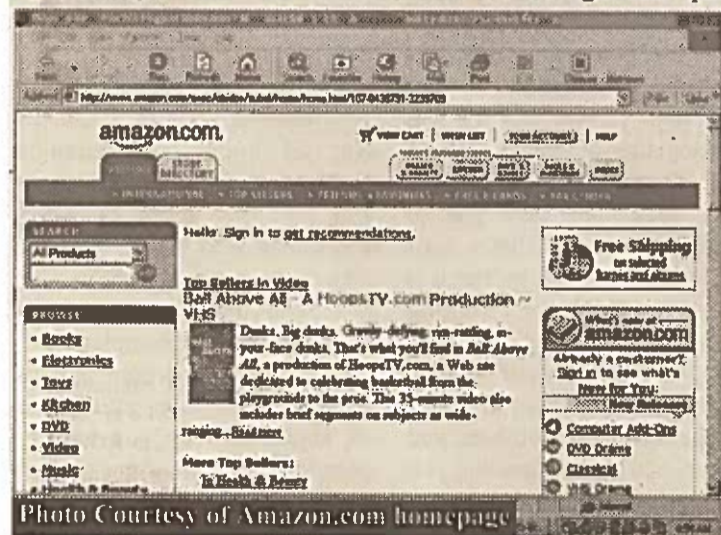
your social security number. Doing so is just plain crazy. If you're purchasing from a company, they do not need that kind of information. If a person asks you for it, be very wary, and never give it away.

Keep your identity secret unless you truly know and trust the person on the other end of the chat screen. Don't even give out your name unless you know exactly whom you're talking to.

Don't give out any of your passwords. Change them all at least once every six months, and make them impossible to guess. Combine letters, numbers, and other symbols when thinking up passwords.

If you're making a purchase, always do it through a secure server. Secure servers use something called SSL to transfer your data in an encrypted form, so that people who try to monitor your connection and sniff out your credit card numbers will be unable to do so. You will know that you are using a secure connection if there is a picture of a closed lock in the bottom status bar of your web browser during your purchase.

Internet users have many things to consider. Even those of us who have been using the Internet since before it began its huge boom sometimes have a hard time keeping our identities our own, and our e-mail addresses private. Remember that the Internet is a very big place, and that anyone can use it; including the guys who are trying to make a buck at your expense. With a little know-how and a couple of changes in the way you shop online, you can protect yourself. Think before you click.



Amazon compiles information on their customers with every web visit

The new group on the block is Agamemnon's Honor Society

Richard Tucci
Staff Writer

The National Honor Society was once considered the only place an intelligent and scholarly student could go to for recognition. Once considered a bastion of intellectuals, in recent days NHS's reputation has been alleged to be one of corruption, exclusion, and scandalous behavior. One student decided to change that and to make a difference.

Jennifer Liberty was your typical straight A student. She was the head of several after school activities, and an honor student as well. She applied to join NHS in her junior year, but was rejected. She was even more disheartened to learn that her best friend, Melinda Owens, had not been accepted either. Jennifer could understand herself, but Melinda was an advanced student who would graduate high school in only three years. Jennifer was later outraged by the letter to The Round Table written by a student who wished to remain anonymous and which contained some upsetting accusations by the NHS member. Jennifer decided then to take action.

This year she is independently founding the Agamemnon Honor Society, as a rival of NHS. She sat down with us to explain. "In the AHS, students are given a form and asked to fill out information about themselves includ-

ing their GPA, SAT [scores], and [their] after-school activities. We don't require an essay. We then take the numbers given, and compile it into one statistical number. If an applicant's statistical number is higher than the required [minimum], then they get admission."

When asked about the possibility that dishonest people could gain admittance, Ms. Liberty replied, "Oh no. You see, each applicant has to pass the admissions committee, which is made up of the club's officers. They have power to veto an applicant's admission by citing a specific reason, like criminal activities."

Liberty also stated that the AHS is different from the NHS because, "You can apply as many times as you want, at any time of the year, and in any grade that you are in. After you join," she said, "the members then decide democratically what the club should do, as opposed to a teacher arbitrarily deciding for us."

There already has been great interest shown in the AHS among students, including current NHS members. Rumors abound that many might "jump ship" for an honor society that they truly feel that they can be a part of.

"The AHS looks for well-rounded students, community service isn't really important," said one student. "I'm just glad that I can be among people that will not exclude me."



Jenna Goldstein
Associate Sports Editor

With Valentine's Day fast approaching, you may already be starting to see the usual advertisements for chocolate, roses, cards, and other gifts for your "sweetheart." But, what if you are one of those people without a sweetheart on Valentine's Day? Have no fear, you are not alone. Actually, here at Stamford High School, you are in the majority.

While it may seem that *all* your girl and guy friends are caught up in the Valentine's Day fever, discussing which pair of boxers to buy their cutie or which perfume to buy their sweetie, you do not need to feel left out.

There is no reason to be ashamed of being single. Plus, flying solo saves you the stress that comes with picking out a gift for your valentine. However, if you are

Forlorn on February 14th?

You needn't be!

still feeling lonely around this romance-centered holiday, here is some advice for what to do.

For the girls there are many options. If you are one of those people that likes to spend time alone, curl up on the couch with a bowl of popcorn and a cozy blanket, and spend the night watching a "chick flick." Some suggestions: *Thelma and Louise*, *Whipped*, and *Waiting to Exhale*. If you have a few friends who are also single invite them over and have a slumber party. You can never be too old for a sleepover! Spend the night watching movies, gossiping, talking, or doing anything else to have fun with your girls and get your mind off boys.

One idea is a new take on the "Secret Santa" idea during Christmas time. The idea is "Secret Sweetheart." Pick names out of a hat with your friends, and agree on a price limit, such as no more than \$20, and buys a gift for their "sweetheart." This way, you will not have to feel left out when your friends who are in relationships get presents. A simple version of this is to agree with your friends to send friendship cards to each other. It never hurts to remind your friends of how much you love them.

For the guys, try a "guys' night out." Get all the "boys" together and hang out for the night. If you want to see a movie, try action adventure or comedy, such as *Top Gun*, *Dumb and Dumber*, *Austin Powers*. Another option is to play pool. Hang out at a local pool hall without having to worry about girls. "Rack a Roll" downtown is a popular spot.

Another suggestion is to go out to eat. Get all your single friends together (guys and girls) and eat dinner together. Have a good time, and make sure to remind everyone that you can have fun without a boyfriend or girlfriend. Some popular restaurants that are not too expensive are Bennigan's

Coach's, Quattro Pazzi, a Bobby Valentine's. Other suggestions include going bowling, the batting cages, or ice skating at your local ice rink.

If this February 14th you are left without a significant other there is no reason to be melancholy. There are plenty of options for you and your friends. These are just a few ideas so don't be afraid to try them or think of your own. Most importantly, you are single, don't sweat it!

If this February 14th you are left without a significant other, there is no reason to be melancholy

Outside jobs take a heavy toll of teens' time

Gina Sinaguglia
Staff Writer

Having a job puts many restrictions on teenage life. Weekend time is limited, giving you only two nights to hang out with all of your friends without having to worry about getting up at 6 in the morning just to be on time to the 7:25 am class that you must attend in order to graduate. Not only does the weekend give you time to be with your friends but it also gives you time to make some of that money you need to do those

not so cheap things you want to do such as shop or go to the movies.

Along with having a job you have to realize many things. First, it is time consuming. You can't just say "ok, I'm tired and I want to go home now." You are on the clock, you are there until you are off work. No ifs ands or buts about it. Unless you want to quit - something you may be thinking to yourself at this point - which is probably not the best idea because that shirt you want from Guess is entirely too expensive to just

have your mom buy.

Second, having a job also tells you when you will and when you won't be home, as well as when you will and when you will not be able to do your schoolwork.

This brings me to a central issue: does having a job affect your school work? Most of you would like to believe that you are superman and that you could handle going to school for 6 hours, attending the two hour basketball practice, and then going to work for another four hours, to then come home and

finish the homework that you didn't get to complete in your study hall. If you add all that time together it brings you to about 12 midnight. How many hours does that leave you to sleep? At most, 7. That's definitely not enough sleep, but it is what you settle for. Nothing more, maybe less.

As you find yourself waking up in a puddle of drool in chemistry because your job kept you out late, and as you find that you had too little time to finish your homework, you ask yourself, are there enough hours in the

day?

Simply close your eyes, rest your head in your arms and sleep. No! 24 hours isn't enough. Neither is 36. We are teenagers and we have more to worry about than who we are going to take to the prom. We are people too, with jobs, stresses, practices and work to complete.

So the next time your parents ask you what your 'attitude' is all about, or why you haven't been in a good mood for the last week, simply give them a low-down on your schedule and see what they have to say.

Stamford High resolutions

Anna Dreyser
Lifestyles Editor

That time of year is upon us. The weather is getting colder, the department stores are overcrowded and we're still waiting for the

snow days. September is far gone, and October and November are behind us. December means Christmas time, and January? A new year in which to get back into old habits. When 2001, the real millennium is here, what will change in your life? The Round Table asked several Stamford High students and one employee, about their New Year's resolutions.



Teddy Yudain/Soph.
"My resolution is to think of better resolutions in the upcoming years. I hope I will be successful.... My resolution last year was to make sure I had one for next year. I didn't really follow last year's, I'm in pretty much the same problem I was last year."

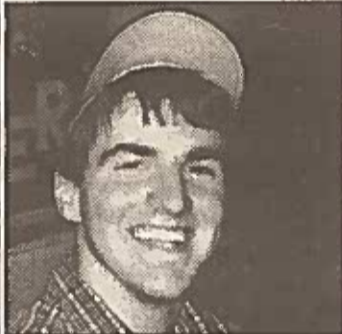


Oleg Iogman/Sr
"My resolution is to stay active in school even after being accepted to college...to stop crashing my car, to not get senioritis...to not [upset] Mrs. Korshets. Last year my resolution was to...avoid the Wall of Shame. I think setting New Year's resolutions are just a good excuse for setting goals."

Heather Katen/Sr
"My New Year's resolution is to fight off the senioritis....I'm highly doubtful [of keeping my resolution], a good New Years Eve party could cancel any resolution I've thought up so far."



Kristen Coleman/Jr
"My resolution is to keep my grades up, and of course, to cut all the holiday snacking."



Chris Sala/Jr
"My resolution is not to crash into any [more] brick walls. My success depends on the weather. Last year, I forgot to make one, I was too busy hiding in a bomb shelter fearing the end of the world."



James Pritting/Sr
"I hope to accomplish world peace. I feel I will be successful, of course."



Dave Clamage/Sr
"Do my school work on time. I don't think I will be successful."



Bobby Pavia /Sr
"I hope to get a girlfriend. I don't think I'll be successful"



Matt Brown/ Jr
"My resolution is to work more so I won't be poor. As for believing in resolutions, no because it seems like a good idea to have a New Year's resolution at the time but after New Years, it's much harder to follow it."



William Porter/Security
"My resolution is to try to stop smoking. I think I will be successful."



Winter break: what can we do?

Laura Pensiero
Staff Writer

Winter break is right around the corner and people are planning trips to warm exotic places. But what if you're not one of those people? Don't worry; you don't have to have a miserable time again. There are lots of things to make this vacation fun, even if you are stuck in Stamford.

First things first. If you want to come back to school after vacation looking as though you went away to the tropics then consider going tanning. There are close by tanning salons including The Beach Club and Village Tanning, on Hope St., and Solar Zone on High Ridge Rd.

But don't get too much. If you have fair skin and overdo it, you will come back looking like a cherry, and may do serious damage to your skin. Find out the recommended length of tanning time and don't take unnecessary risks.

Another vacation possibility is to use the time off to catch up on sleep. It's a good time to relax. Any spare time you have can also be used to get some homework done.

Your vacation can be ten times better if you have a friend home with you, and this will most likely be the case. Take advantage of the fact that one of the biggest cities in the world is a 40 minute train ride away. On one of the days off you should take the train into New York City. There are lots of exciting things to do in New York, even if it is just walking around. If you like surprises, make reservations at one of the top restaurants and you might be lucky enough to glimpse someone famous. Or you could go see a Broadway show.

Another beneficial activity during winter break would be to work out. It will make you feel better to know that you've exercised for a week while others were vegging out. You, or a friend, probably belong to a facility with a workout room. So head on over there and exercise for however long you want; a half an hour out of your day working up a sweat will measurably improve your health. Trust me!

With all the snow we have gotten so far, there will probably be some on the ground when vacation rolls around. So be a kid, put on your snow gear, get your sled out of the storage room and go sledding. This is a perfect way to spend a day with friends: it's fun and you get good exercise walking up the hill. After spending the day outside you can go inside and make hot chocolate with marshmallows, and really feel like a little kid again, which is always a good thing.

Another day you could go to the mall and then to the movies. Shopping and a movie is never something you can pass up. There are countless things to do around this area when you have the time. So, for all of those who are not going away, stop complaining and start planning! Fun is where you find it, and the exciting things to do in this area are there for the looking.

Submitted by Katie Betts

There's a lot I remember about Melissa. We met in 1st grade. We were in the same class and we never talked to anyone but each other, especially not the teacher. We also never did our homework. Our teacher that year remembers us still, to this day. I remember many times going to her house. She would put on music, which I didn't like, but it was okay because she didn't like mine either. I remember her coming to Vermont with my family and me. One of the times we went together to hold newborn lambs. I remember playing in the backyard one day, listening to the Mariah Carey Music Box tape. I remember Melissa coming to Ridgefield where I lived for two years, to visit me all the time. This one time she came up we were eating chicken noodle soup and I got upset because she had more noodles than I did, but then she gave me some of hers. I remember her teaching me how to make bracelets with string. I remember going to her house to sleep over and then having my mom come to get me at 12:00 at night. I remember she loved to eat ice. Whenever we'd be at the grocery store she'd go to the deli section and ask the guy behind the counter for a cup of crushed ice. I remember she came to all of my birthday parties even though she didn't know anyone. I remember in 7th grade when she told me that she would be moving back to Stamford and going to my school; I was so excited. We hadn't been in school since 1st grade. One day, right before she was to start at my school, she came to my house. I was trying to get her to dress up for the first day of school, but of course she wouldn't. I remember going to Port Jefferson for the first time with Melissa and our moms. We had a great time in the pet store there together-she loved animals. I still go to Port Jefferson today because of my friendship with her.

I did a lot with Melissa and I've known her for a very long time. I'm sure most of her present friends had no idea that we were ever friends. That's because once she came to my school, a lot of things happened and we grew apart and I really regret that. Melissa used to be my best friend and I am really going to miss her but I will always remember her and the memories we shared.

Submitted by Tammy Bonesteel

It was like watching a movie
but you were really there,
so still.

With pictures around to remember you,
So hard to believe that you were actually gone,

when just a week ago I was looking at you.
For just one moment to have,
to see you,
to speak to you,
to hold you.
All has passed
and all is still now.

The tears are stuck
I choke to let them out.
For I break to just have one more chance
to be better friends.
I wish this could have never happen
for you deserve better.
You shouldn't be where you are.
I can remember the first time I met you
It seems like yesterday
and now you are gone
without enough time to say anything,
to do anything.

Submitted by Anonymous

I'm sorry I didn't get to know
Melissa as a person or as well as I
would have wished to. I don't think
it was her time to leave because she
had so much more to see and learn.
Maybe from this loss we have experi-
enced we can all learn to be safe.

I wish there could have been more time.
It is too hard to believe there is no more time.
To me it is still a name they call dead,
Because to me you are still living.
Too hard to believe that I will never see you again
But in my memory
I cry

Wish there could have been more time
I know nothing can bring you back
But still you were too young to die
Too hard to believe that you are gone now

Submitted by Bobby Pavia

I remember sitting alone with her at a Varsity Club dance on the bench, holding hands. I asked her out and she said yes. She wrote down her number for me on a book of matches, which I still have in my wallet.

While I was going out with her, we were talking on the phone one night, and as I was about to hang up at the end of the conversation, and she asked me to tell her that I loved her, and I did.

"Memories With Mel"

Submitted by Christine Ruta

Me and Mel used to go swimming at Skippy's pool all the time (Skippy is Mel's mom's friend) then we would all go inside his house and play games in the game room, or go up to the "glass room" on the roof and fall asleep listening to 92.3 K-Rock. We used to leave her house at 1 or 2 am and walk down the street to Dunkin' Donuts.

We would always paint stuff on things like boxes or whatever with nailpolish and make bracelets with string.



We used to go to the mall every weekend. She came with me to Virginia to see my house being built and check out the school and the area before I moved there.

I practically lived at her house and we always used to eat sherbert together all the time.

We used to sneak out onto the roof and smoke cigarettes.

We always wrestled and we used to leave scratches and bruises on each other all the time and we got yelled at by our moms for abusing each other but we had fun so they couldn't stop us.

I used to wear her shirts which on her were big (because she was tiny) but fit me perfectly.

She used to constantly give me dead legs which is where she would punch me in the leg or arm really hard and yell "Dead arm/leg!" She thought it was funny until I started surprising her with them. LOL!

We went to the Humane Society where she stole a kitten which she still had.

Ryan Fienstien and Chris Wynne came over her house once and Ryan almost fell off the roof.

We used to go everywhere together.

She was awesome with artwork - we both had these books from Borders with blank pages and we used to draw all over them.

She always said she was fat though we all know she was thin! -She was such a sweetheart!

One day like 3 or 4 years ago we went to the mall and met Bobby Pavia. They clicked right away and I used to go down to the JCC with her where she would call him from the payphone.

She was the best!

Editors' Announcement:

A scholarship has been created in Melissa Todd's name to benefit students who are seriously interested in pursuing art as a career choice. Seniors at Stamford High School may obtain applications for the scholarship as of this year. Please see Mrs. Spinner, the Art Department Head for more information on the Melissa Todd Scholarship.

Mad
I just want to scream and wake you up
While you sleep
And we go on with our lives
I wonder where you are
How you are
Too hard to believe you are as still as you look
I want you to move
Jump up and scream and dance
Be alive
I cry

Winter movie reviews

Cristina Tuluca
Staff Writer

Miss Congeniality

Gracie Hart: Sandra Bullock
Victor Melling: Michael Caine
Eric Matthews: Benjamin Bratt
Stan Fields: William Shatner
Kathy Morningside: Candice Bergen

Running time: 110 minutes.
Rather PG-13 (for sexual references and a scene of violence)

"Miss Congeniality" concerns a FBI agent (Sandra Bullock) who transforms into a beauty queen, so that she may attend the pageant and hopefully catch a terrorist rumored to appear. Although the plot is somewhat overused (so many movies are about ultimate makeovers, such as "She's All That," and "While You Were Sleeping," to name a few.) However, Bullock plays the role well and delivers a few

good laughs. Its overall, a light, predictable, but enjoyable film. **The Emperor's New Groove**
Emperor Kuzco: David Spade
Pacha: John Goodman
Yzma: Eartha Kitt
Kronk: Patrick Warburton
Chicha: Wendie Malick
Running Time: 78 minutes.
Rated G.

Kuzco is a sarcastic, arrogant emperor. When he fires an aged crone, Yzma, she vows to take revenge. With her faithful sidekick Kronk, (who often loses focus on the task at hand and enamored with his true love—cooking) they slip him a potion. This potion, intended to kill, instead turns Kuzco into a llama. Being a wise-cracking llama doesn't work too well, and he skulks into the jungle, where he meets the good hearted Pasha. Kuzco had planned to build a summer palace, "Kuzcotopia," on a small hill where Pasha and

his family lived. When Pasha realizes that this llama is the very same emperor that intends to banish him, very begrudgingly helps him. The rest of the movie follows the adventures, filled with plenty of comical scenes, that these two unlikely characters face together. It is altogether a very light, upbeat and fun movie, sure to evoke a few laughs.

Vertical Limit

Peter Garrett: Chris O'Donnell
Elliot Vaughn: Bill Paxton
Annie Garrett: Robin Tunney
Tom McLaren: Nicholas Lea
Montgomery Wick: Scott Glenn
Running Time: 126 minutes.
Rated PG-13 (for intense life-death situations and brief strong language.)

When three climbers, a venal millionaire, an experienced guide, and a young woman, are trapped in an ice cave near the top of K2, the woman's brother

SEE REVIEWS P. 16

Fiction

The Adventures of Ignatius Prescott Daily

Jessica Troy
Staff Writer

I was sitting in my office, the janitor's closet, when my next case walked into my life. His name was Mr. O'Connor. He strolled into my closet fidgeting and biting his nails. I knew something had to be wrong in this neighborhood, when the big man on The Round Table was looking to me for some advice.

"I see that you have come to me for a advice, a little help. Please take a seat on the bucket." As the panicking man sat down he knocked over a few brooms.

"Mr. Daily, I have come to you to seek some help. I don't know where the second issue of The Round Table went." With those words I knew that I had an enormous case on my hands. I told Mr. O'Connor, not to worry because I would find the second issue if it was the last thing that I did that day.

For those of you who don't know me, my name is Ignatius Prescott Daily. My occupation, Stamford High School detective. As you already know, I have to

share my office with the janitor. When the janitor is absent I am the one who has to clean the entire school. I also have been working at this school for 20 years now, and I still haven't received a pay increase. Also, once my day job is over, I spend my nights working the late shift at Taco Bell. But that's enough about me. Let's find out more about this interesting case.

Once the crazed Mr. O'Connor left my cubical, I started pondering over who stole the second issue of The Round Table. What type of person would want to steal a school newspaper, especially the best one in town?

I took one giant step out of my office, over the fallen brooms and spilled cleaning supplies, and I was hot on the thief's trail. I took a right out into the hallway, when I realized that my shoe was untied. I bent down to tie my Timberlands, when I fell upon my first clue. No, I literally fell onto and into it; some still wet gum right in front of the busy Round Table class.

I now had three suspects: the photo editor, the arts & entertainment editor, and the features edi-

tor. They were the only ones to chew gum on The Round Table staff.

After I got the gum off of me, I realized that I didn't have to tie my shoes at all because they were loafers, brown loafers.

I peered into the class and saw the busy staff working to produce another second issue. There were three kids at the computers sleeping, and the other three staff writers were busy working on finishing the game of solitaire.

The three suspects however, were talking with one another in secret. I knew that I had to question each and every one of them. On the other hand, I am too lazy to do anything that complicated and that stressful about it. What can I say? I am one lazy person, and that is why I am probably a detective at a high school.

I stepped into the classroom. No one moved except for the three editors: Dianne the photo editor, Megan the arts & entertainment editor, and Ryan the features editor. They quickly dispersed to separate corners of the class. That was when I saw

SEE I.P DAILY P.16

Chronicles of Black Rose High

Stephanie Harris
Staff Writers

Second in a series of short story episodes to appear in subsequent issues.

In the previous issue Amber was running late to school. Her mother gave her a ride to Black Rose High where she remember the disturbance an incident cased last year. She dreaded going to school after the summer was over, not because she hated her teachers; she was afraid.

Amber started towards the school and her mind was once again flooded with memories. She glanced down as she walked up the steps and remembered the black rose petals bathed in red. She could still see the trail leading into the building. A friendly voice brought her back to the noisy, crowded hallways.

"Hey! You're late." Hope said in her usually cheerful voice, "I saved you a seat in homeroom." "I'm coming," I said. Hope and I have had the same homeroom all through high school. She's one of my closes friends and yet she has no clue of what I've been through, or of what I'm feeling right now.

I caught up and we walked side by side through the halls. Every corner reminds me of that dreaded night. No one seems to care, it's as if nothing happened and life hasn't skipped a beat.

As Hope and I walked into homeroom, I notice that everything in the room had been changed around and a different voice shouted to the class to take a seat. There were symbols and weird drawings on the wall. As we went to sit down I asked Hope "Who's this lady? What happened to Mr. Lockwell?" Hope sat in the desk beside me and shrugged her shoulders,

puzzled.

"OK Class settle down," came from the front of the room.

"My name is Ms. Moloch and this is your home room. Luckily for me I don't have to see most of you, that is unless you're taking algebra. I want all of you"

I was thinking to my self, what is going on? What's this decrepit lady, who twitches when she speaks, and by the looks of the kid in the front row has really bad breath, doing here? I looked at Hope and said, "This lady is weird. Look at her, and what's with the crazy drawings on the wall and..."

"Excuse me young lady. Do you have something to share with the class?" She was standing over me like a cat over a mouse before it attacks. Her voice and the way she spoke, for some reason, sent chills through my body. I couldn't say a word. I was in shock that she even heard me.

"Amber honey," she said calmly. "I take great pride in my drawings." Her tone changed to bitter. "If you can't appreciate them, you can have a nice DETENTION!" The bell rang.

"What!" My day just begun and I have a detention with this witch lady, that gives me the creeps. What else could go wrong? Hope and I made our way to the door to leave.

"Two o'clock sharp! Have a nice day, Amber."

As we walked out of the class, I was so angry. "You know what, Hope? There's something really wrong with that lady. I don't get it, where's Mr. Lockwell?" Hope turned to me with a puzzled looked and said out of the blue, "How did she know your name?"

Fuel explodes onto the music scene

Courtney Michelson
Staff Writer

If Tennessee does not seem like the ideal starting place for a rock band, you have obviously never heard of Fuel. This group first came roaring out of the South back in the mid-nineties, and still not slowing their break neck speed four albums and numerous hits later.

Founded by songwriter/guitarist Carl Bell and his long time friend and bassist Jeff Abercrombie (no, not that Abercrombie), they released

their self-produced album, Porcelain, in 1996. The album gained them not only much deserved recognition, but also two other band mates. Lead singer and guitarist Brett Scallions soon joined the two friends, as did drummer Kevin Miller, bringing the quartet a new, harder sound that would soon become their trademark.

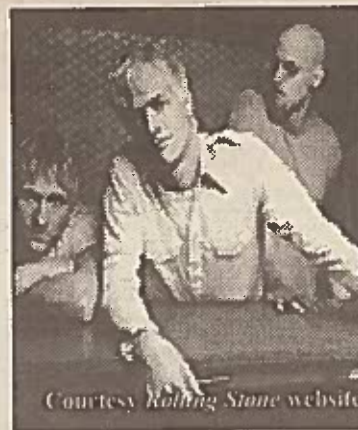
From Tennessee Fuel moved to Pennsylvania, where they collected a larger fan base, and released their next album, the multi-platinum Sunburn. Sunburn brought the band a number one hit with

"Shimmer," a guitar driven single that charged onto the scene. From that point on, life as been a blur for Fuel, considering the fact that as soon as they came off the Sunburn tour they headed right back into the recording studio, and produced their next album, Something Like Human.

Something Like Human is the band's most recent release. It has held the airwaves hostage for several weeks and has been steadily climbing up Billboard's Top 200 album charts. Fuel's latest has included such hits like "Hemorrhage (In My Hands)" and "Innocent," both unques-

tionably demonstrating how talented and huge this band really is. "Hemorrhage" is a song that combines poignant lyrics and harmonic guitar rifts, which together spin the tale of a lost love. While still big on radio, "Innocent" has followed its predecessor, turning out to be just as large a hit and just as powerful a piece of music, with the song starting out slow and then exploding.

The entire album is full of hits, some of the more notable ones being "Scar" and "Prove," two hardcore songs that demand your full attention for the entire



Courtesy Rolling Stone website

three minutes they are playing.

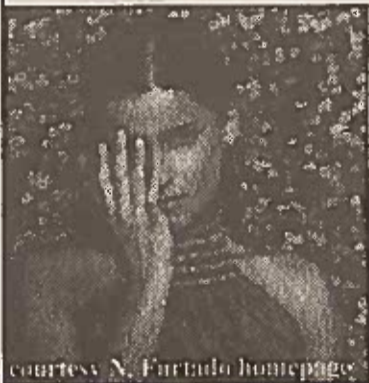
Something Like Human contains one melodic guitar solo after another, overflowing with a raw energy that is just barely contained, re-reinforcing what a force Fuel really is.

Dido and Furtado: the next big sounds

Liz Ballbach
Staff Writer

New artists have been coming out of the shadows more, as radio stations are becoming more diverse in the selections they play. One of the more popular new artists is a woman by the name of Dido. Most of you have probably heard of her because of her collaboration with rap artist Eminem on his song about an obsessed fan, "Stan." Another artist slowly rising is the Canadian Nelly Furtado. Her first album out is called "Whoa, Nelly," and her one video out so far is on the music channels.

Dido has a New Age type sound, a voice similar to that of Sarah McLaughlin, and she



Courtesy N. Furtado homepage
Canadian born Furtado brings her exotic ethnicity to the pot-pourri of her first album.

can't really be put into any particular category of music. In concert, she has been known to sit on stage with a guitar, backed up by a crew of conga drum players clad in colorful outfits and dreadlocked hair. Dido is becoming more popular on radio stations like Z-100 and 92.7 LIR, and is attracting fans from every angle. Keeping up like this could land her a nomination in next year's best new artist category, a move she didn't seem to make in time this year.

Another new artist, more fresh than Dido and still trying to get her name out there, is Canadian native, nineteen year old Nelly Furtado. She's already pretty popular on stations like Much Music, where she has a video out for her first single off her album called "I'm Like a Bird." If you get the album, you won't be able to take this song off repeat. I wouldn't be surprised if MTV gets a hold of her pretty soon boosting her popularity to that of Fiona Apple, Jewel, and Tori Amos. Being half Portuguese, she incorporates her ethnicity into her music by adding some singing in Portuguese to the end of the album. It won't be long until she hits big time in the music industry.

New musicians and artists



The eclectic moods of Dido in concert are graphically portrayed on her album covers and her publicity shots, but these cannot portray her unique sound.

come around every day, and rarely do we stop to actually listen to the sound they have, or their lyrics. If you asked me what CDs were in my CD player right now, I would tell you Dido and Nelly Furtado. They're great, so check them out.

Kill time with a laugh: explore humor on the web

Nathan Kitter
Staff Writer

Maybe you're a student looking for something new on the Internet. Maybe you're a stressed senior who could use some relief. In any case, the following web sites are worth a look.

The Onion (www.theonion.com) is a weekly satiric newspaper that regularly covers current events and culture. The headlines include "X-Files Fan Killed For Knowing Too Much" and "U.S. Population At 13,462: 'We Don't Think Everybody Sent In Their Census Forms,' Say Officials." Two books that feature the Onion's articles have been published, one satirizing events from the entire twentieth century!

Some pages like **The Romp** and **Newgrounds** use Flash, which is a popular method for web animation. Each animation takes between 2 and 5 minutes to load, depending on how fast your connection is. In general, the more complex animations take longer to load.

The Romp (www.romp.com) is one of the better places to go for serialized, flash animation shorts, the most famous being "Napster Bad, Money Good!" It is based on the recent controversy over the music-sharing utility, and Metallica's vehement reaction against it. The episodes

depict Lars Ulrich as a hyperactive, fast talking midget, and guitarist James Hetfield as a monosyllabic ogre whose main role is to growl "Napster! Bad!" while sweeping his arm out in front of himself. The first episode is a parody of COPS, where James and Lars go around making Napster busts. I highly recommend this site.

Newgrounds (www.newgrounds.com) is a site where many viewers submit their own flash creations. The genres, as well as quality and degree of taste run the gamut. Although it's updated regularly, only a fraction of the content is worth watching.

RedMeat (www.redmeat.com) and **User Friendly** (www.userfriendly.org) are two comic strips that get primary exposure over the web. Red Meat's humor is often dark and macabre, and its style is known for being static, since the same image is used in all three panels. The characters include Bugeyed Earl, a terminal weirdo, and Milkman Dan, who takes pleasure in terrorizing children. User Friendly's characters are involved with computer programming and tech support. You will probably find User Friendly humorous if you are a computer geek and proud to say it.

Obviously, these pages aren't the only ones worth viewing. New pages are appearing every day; so if you want something more to your liking, search for it.

Magic of street magician sends chills down spine

Diane Yacenda
Associate Photo Editor

Magician David Blaine, age 27, wearing only a pair of pants, boots, and some hours later a sweater to protect himself, accomplished yet another miraculous feat while 'frozen' alive inside a 6-ton and 8-foot sealed block of ice. His body contour had been cut into the block which was then welded together. Blaine was encased between the two 288 square foot halves of ice so that he could stand upright with just enough room to barely scratch his nose. He couldn't eat or sleep. He could only breathe, drink, and urinate via tubes running through the ice.

Passersby were able to view Blaine by passing the corner of 44th Street and Broadway in Manhattan's Times Square for a 62 hour period beginning on November 27th.

The well-known magician Harry Houdini inspired Blaine to attempt this unthinkable "magic trick." Blaine once saw an image of Harry Houdini frozen in ice in Houdini's 1922 movie, 'The Man from Beyond,' though he never

in fact had been. This simple image somehow inspired Blaine to be "Frozen in Time" in Times Square because the stimulus film had premiered in the Times Square Theater at 42nd and Broadway back in 1922.

Preparation for the feat included fasting for 4 days beforehand, immersing his body in tubs of ice in order to acclimate himself to the cold temperatures, trying to learn to sleep standing up, and by practicing in a 14-hour test in an icehouse.

The world record for lying down in an ice encasement previously had been only 57 minutes before David Blaine set the new record for standing still in the ice at 61 hours, 40 minutes, and 15 seconds.

Junior Galina Portnoy contended, "I'd like to just say that I could sit in the ice for twice as long."

The two inches of air that separated Blaine from the ice was the only barrier that prevented him from freezing to death. Had it not been there, not only could he have frozen to death, but also, if he had fallen asleep so that his face rested against the ice, he may well have lost skin or even



frozen his brain tissue. If his core temperature dropped below 87 degrees, his heart could have stopped. In response to these facts Freshman Natalie Savona exclaimed, "Wow! He must have been pretty cold in there!"

Among the other serious dangers Blaine faced were hypothermia, muscle spasms, loss of circulation, and frostbite in his fingers and toes.

Is David Blaine, with so many possible risks threatening his life, absolutely insane or simply motivated by the magic? Junior Jennie D'Elia concluded, "He's a really cool magician, but I wouldn't consider that trick real magic, probably more of a crazy stunt to test his extraordinary endurance."

Celebrities and Drugs ...

Where's it all coming from?

Nicole Savage
Associate Opinions Editor

Oh to have the lifestyle of the rich and famous. A life full of fame, fortune and instant recognition. To attend photo shoots, glamorous award shows and nightlong parties. Lately many stars have proved this extravagant lifestyle can be too much with what seems to be Hollywood's rising dependence on drugs and alcohol. Over the years, as celebrities private lives have become increasingly public, so have their faults, including addictions to drugs and alcohol.

Take Robert Downey Jr., a talented 35-year-old actor. The Wonder Boys star was arrested three separate times in 1996 for testing positive to morphine, heroin, marijuana, valium and cocaine. In June 1999, Downey violated probation by failing to submit drug testing and was consequently sent to the California State Prison. Over the past year it seemed like the star had cleaned up his act, but recently, just three months after his release from jail, he was arrested for possession of cocaine and methamphetamine. He is now in a residential "after-care" treatment center.

Some celebs seem to have been able to kick their habits.

Matthew Perry, the "Friends" star, was addicted to pain killers for a while, but with help he quit the habit. Melanie Griffith, most recently in Cecil B. Demented, checked herself into rehab fearing that her growing dependence on prescription drugs was growing out of control. Previously she had also dealt with addictions to alcohol and cocaine.

Why are these stars doing this to themselves? Can it be that the pressures of the spotlight get to be too much and drugs are the place to turn? Maybe more people than we realize are addicted to drugs, yet since these people are the center of attention, they get noticed. They could be representing the sad state that the American population has fallen to. Maybe they are actually lonely deep down inside and are subconsciously looking for attention. Whatever it may be, Hollywood's new obsession needs to stop.

All celebrities live life in a fishbowl. Their every move seems to fill magazine covers, headlines and entertainment news shows. The much adored and idolized celebs seem to be perfect. Perfect bodies, relationships, jobs, you name it, they've got it. But with the underlying problems they have with drugs and alcohol, they prove no one is perfect.

Backstreet's back

"Black and blue": the colors of gold

Diane Yacenda
Photo Editor

The Backstreet Boys recently returned to the media scene with the release of their new compilation titled Black & Blue. This new album represents the group's attempt to introduce a new sound to the realm of pop music. In order to find this new sound, the group retreated to a studio in the Bahamas for about a week and a half, to just concentrate on writing songs.

Each member contributed their individual ideas and eventually came up with about seven songs, some of which can be heard on this new

album. At this point, the Backstreet Boys have reached a comfortable point in their careers, because they no longer have to prove anything to anybody.

These five talented guys, Brian Littrell, Kevin Richardson, Howie Dorough, Nick Garter, and A. J. McLean, represent the grown-up version of a "boy band." Not only has their fan base grown, but the group has also matured both professionally and personally. Two of the members - Briann Littrell and Kevin Richardson - are now even married. Hopefully these marriages will not have a negative effect on the group's future.

The Backstreet Boys

launched Black & Blue with a global tour titled "Round The World in 1000 Hours" that flew the boys to Stockholm, Tokyo (Japan), Sydney (Australia), Rio De Janeiro (Argentina), New York City (United States), and Cape Town (South Africa). Fans all around the world will get a chance to see their beloved group perform their newest songs.

This album will likely bring the Backstreet Boys just as much success as their last two albums have, the self-titled Backstreet Boys and Millennium, even though in the minds of their many fans, the group has already reached that goal.

READ, Con't from p. 16
hadn't even considered writing an article on any form of literature. It just feels as though the majority of students wouldn't respond to an infiltration of articles concerned with authors such as Kipling, Dickinson, and Shakespeare.

Today I'm not concerned with whom to blame for this lack of emphasis on reading; I'm concerned with re-igniting an interest. I admit that I feel pressed for time and busy with reading for my English classes. But, recently I feel as though I've experienced a reawakening that I'd like to share.

By the middle of junior year I felt overwhelmed with schoolwork and lost the desire to enter into a world created by imagina-

tion and communicated through words. Over the summer the incoming seniors were assigned to read Kurt Vonnegut's Slaughterhouse Five. It was this book that sparked my interest and captivated my heart. This novel was beyond reading for simple plot, but delved farther into the meaning that drifts between the printed lines.

Clichéd as it may seem, books open up a world that challenges your intellect and pulls at your heartstrings. I am writing to all of the readers of The Round Table asking that you to share reviews, feelings, or opinions on any novel, poem, play or short story that has affected you. I am writing this in hopes of reintroducing the enthusiasm for reading in our Stamford High Community.

Artist Review: Blink 182

Janet Inzitari
Staff Writer

It has been said by some that Blink 182 is a down to Earth, good band, full of nice people and a truly wonderful meaning. Mark Hoppus, Tom De Longe, and Travis Barker make up the trio of mischievous terrors, and these three have really been together through thick and thin.

In VH1's Behind the Music program about Blink-182, it was alleged that these men, though they prefer nudity in their videos, are really just a group of shy young boys trying to make it. Well, "The Mark

Tom and Travis Show" has proven that analysis completely wrong. This is not to say that Blink 182 is a bad band; rather, that they are just what they seem to be.

Blink 182 has written some of the more popular songs of the 90's, ranging from their #1 hit, What's My Age Again to their newest hit, Man Overboard. With this history

Blink 182 has proven to be a pop-alternative band that has pulled through the beginning stages of success.

Blink 182 has had many hits since they first started out, though. The biggest, older hit that is still played today is D*mmmit, off of their first CD. D*mmmit has been heard on most alternative radio stations,

Blink 182 is a down to Earth, good band, full of nice people and a truly wonderful meaning.

such as K-ROQ and even Z-100, even though they are not classified "alternative."

From their baby faces to their generally attractive personalities, these "heartthrobs" tend to rock the worlds of many fans and would-be girlfriends worldwide.

This says nothing of their talent, though. Blink-182 is well known for their catchy tunes, but they would not be catchy if it were not for that special Blink 182 flair that so many have tried to capture.

Blink 182, in conclusion, is not just another band with pretty faces. They are, combined, an up and coming talent!

I.P. DAILY Con't from p.13

the final clue that I needed; a blank disk. This disk contained the answer to all of Mr. O'Connor's worries. I knew what was on that disk (what was left of the deleted second issue), but I wanted to gather all of the suspects before I revealed anything.

"I have gathered all of you here because I thought that you would like to know that you are all suspects in the missing second issue of The Round Table." The photo editor stood up, "I don't belong here because I have nothing to do with it."

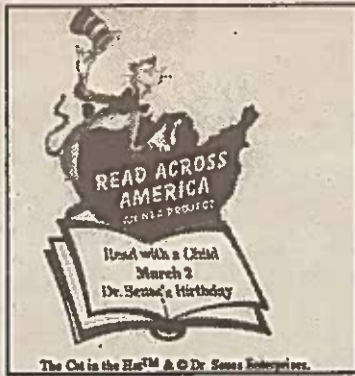
"You are wrong my good my friend, because you are all involved. I found two clues. One of which I fell on, and the other of which you three were

so stupid as to not get rid of."

All three stood up and screamed in unison. "We cannot tell a lie. We can't go on any further. We did it! We were the ones," they screamed, "that stole the second issue. Why we did it, we don't know. All we know is that in our next crime we won't leave the main evidence behind."

"I told you, Mr. O'Connor, you would have nothing to worry about." With those words I put this baby to bed.

While I was walking out of the room to look at the mystery that I solved, and as I turned around, I walked right into the wall. With that silly action completed, I got up, cleaned myself off, and walked out of the class without my pride. For I, I. P. Daily, was headed to the bathroom.



Hey, let's read a book!

Stamford High School is making plans to join a nationwide, NEA sponsored effort to increase citizens' appreciation for the benefits of reading. On March 2 SHS will become involved in any of several events that are now in the planning stages.

Megan Gargagliano
Arts and Entertainment Editor

There hasn't been one book review in this entire year's running of The Round Table. The blame can't be placed on any individual person for, I, myself

SEE READ P. 15

Young books for adult readers

Liz Ballbach
Staff Writer

When I'm not cramming to finish a book assigned for my English class, I try to read books that I'll enjoy myself, just to stay levelheaded, so to speak. For a while now, I have taken interest in the work of a different kind of author. Her name is Francesca Lia Block, and she creates stories so far out there and so interesting, you won't be able to put it down.

The interesting thing about Ms. Block is that she is a young adult fiction writer and her books can be found in the young adult section, right next to Goosebumps and Nancy Drew. Even though she is catalogued in that section of the bookstore, she discusses issues applicable to a reader of any age.

Every character takes on a fairy tale persona with very realistic ideas, and problems. Being the progressive writer that she is, she writes about life-styles and experiences that anyone can identify with. As a Hollywood,

California native, all of her stories take place in Hollywood, and within the same neighborhood. So going from book to book, you become familiar with the characters' surroundings and what it could look like in your mind's eye.

The detail is beautiful, and very descriptive, and every character has his or her own unique trait that sets them apart from an average character you, might find in another book. From a little girl named Weetzie Bat living in a house full of hippies on a hill, (there is a whole series about her), to a child model named Barbie who is followed around by a fairy named Mab, Francesca Lia Block's imagination runs rampant in creating these funny, sad, and jaw-dropping tales of modern, perhaps too modern, characters living in a world that sometimes can seem to be a little too fake.

But, if you just want to relax for a day and have fun reading a different kind of book, check out Francesca Lia Block. Any of her stories will get your mind wandering and waiting for more.

REVIEWS Con't from p 13
(obviously the hero of the movie) gathers six volunteers on a possibly suicidal rescue mission. To aid them on their journey, they bring nitroglycerine, that throughout the film, causes unintended explosions and endangers the party on several occasions. Although the plot is nothing unique, the stunts and special effects are amazing. It's definitely an edge-of-the-seat thriller. This movie is for people who enjoy jaw-dropping action scenes and heart-pounding moments.

The Family Man

Jack Campbell: Nicolas Cage

Kate Reynolds: Tea Leoni

Arnie: Jeremy Piven

Cash: Don Cheadle

Annie: Makenzie Vega

Lassiter: Josef Sommer

Running time: 124 minutes.

Rated PG-13 (for sensuality and some language.)

Jack Campbell is a workaholic, completely ruled by his career, having no social life. On Christmas Eve, a magical taxi cab driver intervenes and takes

him back to the past, where he discovers what would have happened if he had stayed with his college girlfriend. In his new life he is now a family man, with two kids, a dog, and a lovable wife. The rest of the film is predictable—Jack realizes what he has missed. It's a sweet, light film, nevertheless. Cage plays his role very well and brings a few smiles to the audience.

A Hard Day's Night

John: John Lennon

Paul: Paul McCartney

George: George Harrison

Ringo: Ringo Starr

Grandfather: Wilfrid Brambell

Norm: Norman Rossington

Running Time: 92 minutes.

Rated G.

Newly re-mastered, "A Hard Day's Night" was filmed right at the dawn of the Beatles phenomenon. The movie is great for Beatles fans, and clearly shows what a good time the Beatles had, and the joy they brought to the audience with their music. The music is immortal, and Roger Ebert gave it four out of five stars—enough said.

O Brother, Where Art Thou?

Ulysses Everett McGill: George Clooney

Pete: John Turturro

Delmar: Time Blake Nelson

Pappy O'Daniel: Charles Durning

Big Dan Teague: John Goodman

Babyface Nelson: Michael Badalucco

Radio Station Man: Stephen Root

Modeled after The Odyssey, three heroes journey through Mississippi during the Depression. They intersect with a political campaign, become radio stars by accident, stumble upon a Klan meeting and deal with Penny (obviously short for Penelope.) There are a few haunting, powerful scenes in the movie, such as when the trio comes across three women doing their laundry in a river (like the Sirens in The Odyssey.) They sing "Didn't Leave Nobody but the Baby" and the effect is what it's supposed to be—mesmerizing. However, while some scenes were very well performed, the entire movie didn't seem to unify very well.

Save the Last Dance:

A slightly biased review



Janet Inzitari
Staff Writer

"In your dreams, it's not as hard as it may seem..." If you recognize the words to this song, chances are it's been stuck in your head, as well. "All or Nothing" by Athena Cage, Sarah's "last dance," is a catchy tune that has skyrocketed since the movie's release.

This is not all that has excessively grown, though. According to the box office statistics, *Save the Last Dance* grossed \$24 million in ticket sales on its record debut weekend. This knocked *Castaway* down to number two after three steady weeks at number one. Only time will tell its whole success story, but judging by the popularity of the story line and the ticket sales, *Save the Last Dance* is sure to be a winner.

Sarah Jones (Julia Stiles) has spent her entire life with her mother in a small town. Her dream throughout her entire life has been to become a dancer, and her mother, a divorcee, has devoted her life to helping her daughter achieve this goal.

When Sarah's mother dies on her way to the audition, Sarah is forced to uproot her life and move with her father to the ghetto in Chicago. Her hopes and dreams of being a dancer are shattered, and she finds herself in a society where things are dirty, ugly, and destructive. Sarah goes through her first day of school not really knowing anyone, but she meets Derek, for whom she has an instant dislike. The two become immediate enemies, but ironically Sarah becomes fast friends with his sister.

As Sarah starts to fit in, Derek's sister takes her to a dance club called Steps, where Sarah claims she can "dance circles around Derek." When it turns out that the hip-hop of the club is much different than Sarah's ballet, Derek offers to give her lessons. This offer starts

a daily routine of hanging out after school, and learning how to dance.

Derek and Sarah become closer and fall in love, and this is obvious to all around them. Meanwhile there is a lot going on with Derek's friend, Malakai, that Derek tries to prevent. He tries to tell him to stop the violence, to not get involved with gangs. But Malakai will not listen. So Derek and Malakai stop talking.

This happens at about the same time that Derek's sister tells Sarah that maybe people are right about Derek and her. Maybe black and white just don't mix, and maybe the two of them are living in their own little dream world. This creates confusion in Sarah's mind, and she breaks it off with Derek. In response Derek gets so angry that he teams up again with Malakai and plans to join him in his "gang wars."

When Derek's sister hears about this, she tells Derek about what she said to Sarah, that which originally started this whole thing. Derek runs to find Malakai, breaks it off with him, and then races with time to get to Sarah's audition for Julliard. On her second try, she needs someone there for her, someone who will not let her down. Derek knows this, and makes it just in time for her audition. The movie ends with Sarah getting into Julliard with her performance of the contemporary mix of hip-hop and just enough gracefulness to make the cut.

Obviously, I cannot say everything that there is to say about this movie. It has been the opinion of many dancers that Sarah's moves were not well choreographed, but once again, there is no reason to not see this movie. All in all, *Save the Last Dance* is not the love story that I expected it to be; rather, it is a film that has so many plots woven into it that if you are looking for a movie to see this weekend, consider it!

Reality T.V. focuses on the sordid

Katharine Thomas
News Editor

The Super Bowl may have been over, but there was still a reason for millions of Americans to stay glued to their TV's. The season premiere of the second "Survivor" series aired on January 28th after the big game. Reality based programs seem to be the new big thing.

It started back in the early 90's with MTV's "The Real World." Now everyone seems to be craving the enjoyment of shows that aren't shows, but glimpses of someone else's life. Real World, Survivor, The Mole, Road Rules; all of these shows have the same premise. There are no actors. The people are all your so called average citizens and the reactions are all in earnest to these "real" set-up situations. People seem to love it and the revenue for a show with no paid actors set in little to no maintenance places, is quite pleasing to the networks as well.

In case you haven't seen the shows listed above here is a brief summary on the latest; "Temptation Island". Four couples, all of which are in a serious relationship and contemplating marriage, are chosen to go to an island. (They are separated, men from women for two

weeks) During this time period, gorgeous members of the opposite sex surround both groups. The object of the "game" is not to cheat on your "loved" one. One might have the fleeting notion that people wouldn't actually exploit their infidelity to the nation and succumb to the people set as props to destroy their relationship, but of course it would be a fleeting thought. The show does its "job" and the people actually cheat on their significant others with reckless neglect of their "love".

It may seem ridiculous, but this is just one of the shows that made it. The fire that fuels these reality shows in Europe burns even stronger. "Sweet Revenge" is a show where people get back at their Co-workers, friends, and lovers. One episode showed a group of friends pretending to shoot another one, all to get a reaction out of the person receiving the revenge. He sat shocked, thinking his best friend had been shot, and possibly killed. Seems cruel? These are the ones that actually made it into production, wait until you hear the pilots and pitches.

An interview was done on all of the major agents that sign shows for big networks like CBS, NBC and FOX. The agents gave detailed descriptions of the types of shows they have to sort through. One woman described a show where all the people would be thrown

into a crocodile pit and have to escape. Another man told of a show where ten inmates on death row would all compete for their vindication of murder and the electric chair. Of course the series would be sure to show the murder of the losing nine inmates. Perhaps this is all beginning to get a bit disturbing. It sounds familiar though, doesn't it? Do Roman Gladiators or Lion Pits ring a bell? That may be a stretch, but with pitches like this, it isn't as crazy as we hope.

The problem is that while bigger networks may be smart enough to steer clear of ideas such as the above, smaller stations might be tempted to pick them up in hopes of making big bucks. When is too far? When does it cross the line, "to stop being polite and start being real?" Looking in on people being seriously hurt and lives being manipulated so that the American public can get a good shock, or laugh, or a moment of entertainment, begins to fade pretty fast.

There is a distinct feeling that comes with the ending of certain movies. A feeling of relief overcomes us because we know the drama we were wrapped up in, the death that made us cry and the love that faded, was all just a movie. It all ended when the director yelled cut. But, with reality TV we lose this feeling of relief.

Antitrust goes unnoticed by audiences

Laura Asserfea
Staff Writer

Lost in the shadow of profusely advertised *Save the Last Dance*, *Antitrust* is not getting the recognition it deserves from moviegoers. Although receiving positive reviews from critics and newspapers, *Antitrust* has not done as well as expected at the box office.

Directed by Peter Howitt, the movie is a high tech, edge of your seat thriller that showcases the talents of Ryan Phillippe, Claire Forlani, Rachael Leigh Cook and Tim Robbins. The

plot revolves around a recent graduate of Stanford, Milo Hoffman (Phillippe) who is a genius computer programmer. The company which he has started working for, NURV, is run by a very discreet and suspicious character, Gary Winston. Winston may be acting outside of the law in order to achieve his new product's launch date, a product which will revolutionize communication around the world. Milo investigates the company using another employee's identity of to gain access to private areas. He gets help from a surprising source as he tries to expose the company and their

law-breaking habits.

Each new twist in the movie may be somewhat expected if you pay close attention, but are still cleverly woven into the plot.

The additional intrigue of the movie is its apparent correlation with computer mogul Bill Gates. Privately Gates' friends call him Gary. Although MGM denies any such correlation, it brings an uncertain anxiety about the danger of Gates' superpower.

The movie is a thriller that really delivers to its audience. If you want an action-packed movie experience that pushes the limits of imagination about modern technology, check this one out.

Sweet Sentiments....

To Cheryl,
Happy Valentine's Day!
Love Milton

To Corinne,
Happy Valentine's Day!
Love Mark

*To Dana,
Happy Valentine's Day!
Love Mallory*

To Eric,
Happy
Valentine's Day!
Love Gina

To Carmichael,
Happy
Valentine's
Day!
Love
Kristen

to lindsey,
happy valentine's day
love aaron

To my favorite piece of poo,
I love you.....Dick

To Alina,
Happy Valentine's Day!
Love Craig

To Andre,
Happy Valentine's
Day!
Love Jess

To Danielle,
Happy
Valentine's
Day!
I love you,
matt

To Coley,
My Sweetheart, my
joy. I will always
love you!
Love Uncadunk

*To Joey,
Happy Valentine's Day!
Love you!
Emily*

To Kristen,
Happy
Valentine's Day!
Love Chris

Much Love to my girls-
Marni, Gillian, Becky,
Pam and Amber! Who
needs boys!
Love Becca

To Kirill,
Happy V-day!
Love Oleg

**To Brandon,
Together Forever.
Happy Valentine's Day.
Love Paula**

To Peter,
I love you sweetie and I hope that this v-day
will be as special and loving as the rest of
our life together.
Much Love Aga

**Hey Lauren,
I love you a lot!
Mucha Bineso.
- Dick**

To Caitlyn,
Happy
Valentine's
Day!
Love Ray

To Jena,
Happy Valentine's
Day!
Love Brian

To Karesia,
Here's my secret:
I Love you!
Jed

To Casey,
Will you be my Valentine?
Happy V-day!
Love Joe

The 'wait - list letter'

Make them want you!

Laura Asserfea
Staff Writer

So now that you have camped out by the mailbox crossing your fingers, eyes, toes and whatever else you can, what do you do when you finally get a response from that dream college and...you have been wait-listed? Before you start ranting that you don't have a shot at getting in, remember that they could have just rejected you outright, but they didn't. Chances are that they saw something in you that they would like to have as a part of their freshman class and all they need is a little push to put your application on the "accepted" pile. They've done their part, now you have to do yours.

The first thing to do when you've received a wait-list response is rejoice. You still have a shot, and all you need to do is give them a reason to want you. Show them you are still interested, with a beautifully written "this is why you should take me" letter.

The letter should be short, simple and prompt. Begin it once you receive your wait-list letter. It should also contain minimal pleading. Admissions officers usually have hundreds of students on their wait-list and the last thing they want to do is read three pages from each one again.

Use a business style block letter format with your name and address underneath that of the college. Start out by identifying yourself and your situation. You might use something to the effect of, "Dear so-and-so, I am a senior at Stamford High School and I have recently received a letter from [insert college name] confirming my wait-list status."

Quickly refresh their minds about what your major may be or

which field you were planning to enter and the reasons why their school was ideal. This is much like one of those letters you used to get from schools recruiting you. Just as they had tried to sell their school to you, you now need to sell yourself to them. Finish off your letter with a quick review of why you and this school are a perfect match.

Don't stress your SAT's or extracurriculars. And don't worry; they have those at hand.

You can include any new accomplishments that might add to their picture of you. Include a brief account of what it was you did that might add to your ability to handle college work and why it's important to you as a person. For example, if your interests lie in acting or directing, mentioning that you just

directed a school film is relevant, but saying you've just joined physics club won't help much.

If you don't have any new accomplishments to add, don't worry; there are other positive things you can emphasize. Remind them about your unique major in marine biology or your heritage; anything that differentiates you from the average student.

Try to keep the letter to one page and unless it's much longer than that, you can double or 1.5 space it. At the end of the letter, thank anyone that you knew or met with at the college for their time and help. Then thank the admissions officers or the persons to whom you are addressing your letter for considering you. Also include your phone number in case they need to call you.

Once you've put the letter in the mailbox, you can go back to your campsite nearby and recross those toes and hands. It will be well worth the effort when you get your acceptances.

College acceptances begin appearing in the mailboxes

Nicole Mahoney, Carly Miller
Staff Writers

Names of seniors appearing in this list are those who have received acceptance letters through January 30, 2001. Later acceptances will be covered in subsequent issues.

Jay Abraham University of Connecticut
Marni Blank University of New Hampshire
Chrissy Cacace University of Vermont
David Cai University of Hartford
Ki Chan University of Connecticut, University of Miami
Kim Charles Briarwood
Heather Cobb University of Connecticut, Penn State
Cathy Coburn North Carolina (Charlotte) University of Georgia
Jonathan Cohen Tufts University
Dave Crawford Lafayette
Daniella Delmazio University of Connecticut
Kara diSpagna Kutztown University
Adam Fisher University of Hartford (Alumni scholarship), Ryder University
Pam Fogel University of Vermont, University of

Connecticut
Megan Gargagliano Boston College
Adam Gartka University of Hartford
Ruth Ginsburg University of Hartford, Ohio University
Verd Goncalves Boston College, University of Connecticut
Vera Gonzales Boston College, University of Connecticut
Kimberly Greene Michigan State University, University of Central Florida, Penn State, University of Connecticut
Steve Hasak Cornell University
Janet Inzitari Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, Keene State, Quinnipiac University, SUNY at Albany
Magdalena Jajkiewicz Berkley College
Jennifer Jimenez University of Connecticut (Day of Pride Scholarship)
Heather Katzen University of Delaware
Alexis Lanuk Farleigh Dickenson
Melissa Lewis Marymount College, Bay Path College
Corrine Liamzon University of Connecticut
Jennifer Liberty University of Connecticut
Natalie Lusher Rutgers, Penn State, SUNY at Binghamton
Andrea Martinez University of

Connecticut
Ann Mathews Duquesne University
Courtney Michelson Marist College, Rutgers University
Stacie Miller University of Hartford
Taylor Miller Bowdoin
Bernadine J. Mingot University of Connecticut
Cara Nemchek Cornell University
Morgan Olds Elon College
Bobby Pavia Johnson and Wales University
Emily Rezak SUNY at Binghamton
Suzanne Robles University of Connecticut
Nicole Savage Boston College
Brian Sexton Tufts University
Andrew Shvets University of Connecticut, New York Institute of Technology
David Stein Franklin College (Switzerland)
Carolyn Swerloff Cornell University
Joelle Tannenbaum Rochester Institute of Technology
Nathan Taylor Marist College
Nicole Torre Johnson and Wales, Fisher Junior College
Mary Tournas Penn State
Cecilia Tumbaco Berkley College
Amanda Warren Brown University

Applications to college done? That's when the relief sets in

Jessica Bander
College Editor

That is it! I am done! It is over! The endless rounds of filling out college applications have ended. I have hustled for the past three weeks to make those deadlines, and I can finally say I am finished.

The stress is gone and the pervasive fog of worry is lifted. There is no more thinking of topics for writing and no more

actual writing of anyone's essays. I can now say that I feel elation over the reality of their completion. A true sense of relief has kicked in and I feel like I can breathe easy again.

But here comes the hard part to learn. You have to be patient. The acceptance letters will be mailed out; they're usually in the mail by March, though not always. All you can do is wait. I agree, this is easier said than done.

Seniors who have not sent out

their applications yet, however, had better hurry. Do not let deadlines creep up on you and overtake you. The worst thing is not to be able to go to the college of your choice just because you did not get the application done on time.

You, too, can alleviate your parents' anxiety by simply finishing the applications. Fill those college applications in, get them mailed out on time and then just sit back and let the relief set in.

A College Review

New Jersey's Rutgers University:
it's got a little bit of everything

Courtney Michelson
Janet Inzitari
Staff Writers

We recently visited Rutgers University in southern New Jersey to find out more about the school and what goes on there. We first learned that Rutgers has campuses in several cities, such as ones in Camden, Newark and New Brunswick, and we opted to visit the the main branch in New



A scene near the Cook College campus at Rutgers University.

Brunswick Campus.

The New Brunswick Campus serves four major schools, one for science and three for liberal arts. The liberal arts schools are Douglass College, Livingston College, and Rutgers College, and the math/science school is Cook College. They all have several thousand students and are only a five minute bus ride away from one another. This proximity makes it easy to take classes at the different campuses while also keeping all of the nearly 33,000 students well connected.

Rutgers College is the main liberal arts campus. Just over ten thousand students attend this campus, right in the heart of New Brunswick. Founded in 1766 as Queens College, it is surrounded by scores of diverse shops and restaurants, one of the more interesting being an Ethiopian diner, one of the many geared towards the students. However, students don't need to go to the surrounding city for food or supplies, since the campus boasts its own.

As far as education goes, this campus is widely renowned, offering students a wide variety of classes to take in many different fields. The performing arts is one such field, and a popular one

as well, calling its home a rather large and nice looking building off of one of the main streets.

Among other schools are those for communications, history, English. Each of the schools' course offerings is challenging, but rewarding.

The residence halls at this specific college are well-maintained, and a few are right across the street from the admissions office. Others residences are scattered around the campus, but all of them are within a ten minute walk from their corresponding college. Rutgers College also boasts co-ed dorms.

Among Rutgers' more famous attractions are the old trailers housing the sandwiches and other assorted goodies which are perfect for the 2 a.m. snack attacks; you're sure to find something there!

Livingston College is another, more rural campus. It is set on the outskirts of New Brunswick, housing approximately 3,300 students, and 60% of those being male. Livingston, as well, is a liberal arts campus, but it is more geared towards the school of education. Among the attractions of Livingston College is the day-care center, where students participate in a co-op learning experience with children. This opportunity has proven to be a great learning experience for those who wish to go into education.

Another of Livingston's main attractions is its athletic center. This is a large athletic center on the campus where most of the games are played.

Livingston has fewer students, but this does not change the quality of the education offered. A student may take a class at Livingston, one at Douglass, and two at Rutgers College, while they reside at Livingston. An added plus is that there is extra parking at Livingston, whereas the other schools do not have enough room to accommodate all of the students' cars.

Douglass College is another of the New Brunswick schools, but this one is unique due to its all-girls status. Douglass is the

largest college for women in the United States, and its 3,000 women love the supportive atmosphere that one gets when attending a same-gender school. Douglass students have the benefits of attending a large co-ed university, while still enjoying the comforts of a smaller campus. Douglass College is a liberal arts school, and none of its students can graduate unless they have a 2.0 GPA, a requirement which is not at Livingston or Rutgers College.

The Douglass campus is much more woodsy than the other two, and the lake on the campus that is shared with Cook College is beautiful. Aside from its location, Douglass is much like Livingston in its degree programs, and since it is closer to Cook, you can find all different sorts of people hanging out in the hallways of Douglass.

Lastly, Cook College is a wonderful school for technical, scientific, and mathematics fields. The 3,309 students enrolled at Cook complete many different majors, such as biology, environmental science, meteorology, and geography. It was originally founded as Rutgers Scientific College,



A view of the surroundings of the Douglas College campus of Rutgers University.

and then became the Cook College in honor of its founder, George H. Cook. All students at Cook are guaranteed housing, since there are enough on-campus facilities for all. Students in Cook College are required to complete 8 more credits than everyone else for a total of 128, and they must maintain a 2.0 GPA in order to graduate. Cook students, as well, tend to go to other colleges to take their basic courses such as English and history. Students are right across from Douglass and only a couple



One of the central buildings of the Rutgers College campus at the Rutgers University.

of minutes away from the other campuses, so the commute is far from difficult.

Overall, Rutgers seemed like a really great college, the only downside to it being that the surrounding area is considered by some to be not the best. Academically and socially it seemed to have everything a student could want, so when you are thinking about where to apply, you might look no further than Rutgers.

All photos compliments of Rutgers University web site.

The career column

Who wants to
be an engineer?

Courtney Michelson
Staff Writer

For all of the students out there who don't know what they want to be when they grow up, here's a hint: Do not become an engineer. While there are less honorable jobs, like those of a bookie or lawyer, becoming an engineer is worse in the long run. Here's why. Many people think that all it takes to be an engineer are thick glasses and a pocket protector. And while they may be right, that's not all. You need pens, too. And a stapler. Forget a stapler and you won't last the day.

How do I know this you may ask? Or you really don't care but find yourself intrigued never the less. Well, for one I am the daughter of an engineer. It's sad but true.

Also, all of the highlights in the career of the engineer are documented in the comic strip "Dilbert". See, Dilbert is a funny, egg-shaped man of an engineer who goes through a barrage of incompetent bosses, satirical co-workers, and evil PR directors, barely surviving with his laptop intact. By the way, I do have a reason for bringing up Dilbert. One is that he is God. The other one I forgot.

In case you haven't figured it out already, this article is to warn all of you potential engineers out there not to do it. While being an engineer may look like a more glam-

orous position than that of its cousin, the sanitation engineer, it's really not. For instance, have you ever seen an engineer on casual day? I can still see the plaid in my sleep.

Take college for instance. Regular students go happily on their merry little way. Engineering students don't. No, they are too busy trying pass. You see, classes are hard; very hard. Hard as in you won't see the sunlight for several months, so that by the time you emerge from the inner depths of the library you are going to look like a day glow t-shirt. And that's not even the worst.

After college it's time to sign away your life, a process commonly referred to as getting a "job." I say "job" because while you are paid to do work, you are also systematically tortured as well. By torture I mean hour long business meetings where you emerge with fewer brain cells than you went in with. Plus, as a bonus, all engineers have their free will drained out through 6 by 6 cubicles and the power of free donuts.

Remember Dilbert? Read it one day. Then you will know that I'm not joking (Well, maybe a little. Sometimes the donuts aren't free.) Everything that Dilbert says is real. Be an engineer and while you may not become egg-shaped, you're pretty much doomed anyway. Either way, it's not a good idea. And if I still haven't convinced you, remember one word: plaid.

...all it takes to
be an engineer
are thick glasses
and a pocket pro-
tector.

Turk Wendell still a Met to the Nines



Jenna Goldstein
Associate Sports Editor

On Friday, December 1, 2000, Turk Wendell decided to remain with the New York Mets, agreeing to a three-year contract worth just about \$10 million. Actually, his contract falls just a penny short, with the actual value being \$9,999,999.99.

Wendell, who prefers that his contracts total to odd amounts, technically only signed for \$9,399,999.99. However, he will receive yearly salaries of \$3 million, \$2.85 million, and \$3.25 million. He also receives a signing bonus of \$299,999.99. If he can earn an additional \$600,000 in bonuses, this would bring the total value of the deal to \$9,999,999.99.

Wendell, who wears Number 99 on his jersey, had originally asked that his deal include an option year for 2004 in which he would pitch for free. This plan was scratched though because of Major League Baseball's collective bargaining agreement, which requires a minimum salary of \$200,000.

Wendell was a part of the Chicago Cubs organization from 1993-97, and they offered him about \$8 million to return to their club, as opposed to the Mets, whose initial offer was only about \$6.6 million.

Wendell became the second relief pitcher to return to the Mets in an eight-day span. The left handed setup man for the Mets, John Franco, signed just one week before to a \$10.5 million, three-year contract on November 24.

This season, Wendell was the top middle relief man for the Mets. He was 8-6 with a 3.59 ERA in 77 relief appearances. He struck out 73, and walked 41. He played in 6 postseason games and came out 0-1 with a

1.80 ERA. His lone loss was Game One of the World Series against the cross-town Bronx Bombers, the Yankees.

"All I wanted was to be treated fairly and this is more than fair," Wendell said. "Last year was a great season for us and the bullpen was one of the main reasons why we got as far as we did. I spoke to Johnny (Franco) last week after he signed and he told me to do the same. I couldn't be happier with the way things have worked out for the both of us."

Junior Ashley DeFilippis summed up the feelings surrounding this monumental contract, stating, "I wish I was him!"

Wendell enters his ninth major league season, and his fourth full year as a Met. He was first acquired on August 8, 1997 along with Mel Rojas and Brian McRae from the Chicago Cubs for Lance Johnson, Manny Alexander and Mark Clark. In 414 career appearances, Wendell has compiled a 29-25 record with 31 saves and a 3.83 ERA.

The Mets, who are focusing on solidifying their bullpen, are still trying to figure out the remaining three-fifths of their starting rotation. Mike Hampton, Bobby J. Jones, and Rick Reed became free agents after the 1999-2000 season, leaving Al Leiter and Glendon Rusch as the only returning starters.

Mets fan Brian Kaplowitz, commented, "Hopefully the team will have a lot of returning players. Either way, they're going to make another run at the championship next season."

#1 UConn women fall to Notre Dame

Elissa Glucksman
Associate Sports Editor

UConn, the number one team in women's basketball has fallen. Although it seemed as if no team could dethrone the reigning Huskies, number 3 ranked Notre Dame defeated the Huskies by a score of 92-76 on January 15th.

This snapped the Huskies' nearly 12 month, 30-game winning streak which has run since Feb. 2, 2000. It was their worst loss in more than seven years when Stanford University defeated the Lady Huskies 94-75. It was UConn women's basketball's first Big East loss since Boston College beat them on Jan. 23, 1999. Connecticut, with a 13-1 and 4-1 Big East record never led in the contest.

In a showdown between the

nation's only unbeaten Division I teams, Notre Dame, with its 17-0, 6-0 Big East record, ended an 0-for-9 drought against top-ranked teams and defeated Connecticut for the first time in 12 tries.

Ruth Riley led the way for the Irish with 29 points and 12 rebounds, after she sprained her ankle two days earlier against Virginia Tech. Riley made 8-of-11 shots, sank all 13 of her free throws, frustrated Connecticut's double teaming with strong passing, and finished with four assists.

Notre Dame, which used only six players until the final 19.5 seconds, seemed to do everything right during the game. The Irish handled Connecticut's press, shot 57 percent, and stayed out of foul trouble.

Siemon, another injured player for Notre Dame who broke her

left hand against Virginia Tech, finished with 15 points and eight rebounds. Niele Ivey was able to break UConn's press, scored 14 points, and dished out 10 assists.

Svetlana Abrosimova led Connecticut with 20 points and Sue Bird had 17, but starter Swin Cash had only three and Shea Ralph just two. The Huskies had plenty of chances to stay in the game against Notre Dame, but they only made 29 of their 79 shots with 37 percent shooting.

Notre Dame led by nine at halftime, and the Huskies came back within 6 in the second half, but this was as close as Connecticut would get. Before the Huskies knew it Notre Dame had a commanding 68-50 lead. UConn tried to come back again in the final minute bringing the game within 9, but Notre Dame kept their lead and ended up

The Super Bowl's not too super for New York's hapless Giants

Ryan Pape
Features Editor

Throughout the Tri-State area, talk spread of New York having yet another team in the finals of a professional sport. Following baseball's subway series, it was all but a certainty that the Giants would win the Super Bowl. To the contrary, it did not happen.

The Giants were aware of the fact that they would be facing a tough Ravens' defense, but the match also brought the stereotyped 'weak' Ravens' offense. When it came down to game time though, there was nothing weak about the Ravens' team. Trent Dilfer, the Ravens' quarterback, and the rest of the offense got the job done early, scoring the first 17 points of the game. The defense did all the rest, leaving the Giants scoreless and shutting down the Giants' quarterback Kerry Collins. This forced him to throw four interceptions, establishing a Super Bowl record. Ravens' star defenseman, Ray Lewis, led a swarming flock that literally shut down the Giants' offense. For his efforts, Lewis ended up being

named the Most Valuable Player of the game, with a total of seven tackles.

The Giants' defense did not look as good as usual, and it was obvious that the Ravens had done their homework over the two week break before Super Bowl XXXV. The Ravens, frontrunners going into the game, were expected by Giants fans to fall just as the front-running Vikings had - 41 to 0 - the game before. In that game, the Giants defense shut down the usually effective Minnesota offense, and the Giants' offense ran all over the Minnesota defense. Unfortunately, little did they know that during the Super Bowl, they would be the team getting run over.

The Giants were defeated 7-34 by the Baltimore Ravens, and only seemed to be in the game for a short minute. This flash occurred when the Giants' Ron Dixon ran back a touchdown off of a Ravens' kick-off. This score immediately followed a Ravens' touchdown, and made the score 7-17 in favor of the Ravens. Against all odds, on the following kick-off, the Ravens also ran all the way back for a touchdown, and

ran up the score, making a Giants win highly improbable. These three touchdowns, all within a period of 30 seconds, made for exciting football, and would have been better for Giant fans had the Giants scored two and the Ravens scored one.

This Giant loss devastated fans all over, fans who had been waiting since the early 1990s for the Giants to appear in the Super Bowl. Although the results of the game left many devoted fans disappointed, Ryan Mack, a senior at SHS stated after watching this upsetting game, "The Giants will be back next year, more prepared and better than ever."

This prediction may turn out to be true, and under the coaching of Jim Fassel, maybe they do have a chance next year at being one of the best teams in Giant history. However, they will have tough competition in much the same manner of the Giants of the late 1950s who were led by Stamford High School's own Hall of Famer, Andy Robustelli. This high standard, and the horrible loss at Super Bowl XXXV, may well motivate the Giants to excel next season.

Bromley Mountain

The day was clear, the snow was white and "The Sun Mountain" of Vermont was ready for business. Bromley Mountain is located in Londenberg, Vermont, in the southern portion of the state, and is very easily accessible. From Stamford it is about a four-hour drive, excluding any traffic delays of course.

The mountain and its environs have plenty of restaurants, eateries, motels and lodges to cater to your every need. The mountain itself has terrain for skiers and riders of all levels, has two terrain parks, and usually at least one race taking place somewhere on the mountain, on the weekends.

The mountain's operators have provided for very good snow making and grooming capabilities, and skiers are carried to the trails on one high powered quad, four double chairlifts, two J-Bars, and one regular quad. Lift passes are very reasonable, ranging from 30 to 40 dollars depending on your age and what time of the week you are attending.

Bromley sports a new trail that was

Hunter Mountain

While most were in school or at work, the lifts were running at The Snow Making Capital of the World. That is Hunter Mountain to those who had to take a day off to enjoy the abandoned ski slopes. The mountain is located in the town of Hunter, New York, only 120 miles from Stamford, so the trip can be made in just under two hours.

Weekday lift passes are only \$38, which is a great deal because Hunter has so much to offer. Though the mountain has trails ranging from the Green beginners' slopes, to the treacherous and feared Double Black Diamond expert only trails, I believe that the mountain is not really a great place to learn how to ski or ride.

The mountain's terrain is very steep throughout, and even the beginners' trails are quite challenging for a novice. There is a 1600 foot vertical drop on one face of the mountain, and I found that the angular slopes of the trails were as steep as, if not steeper than, many mountains in the upper part of the country like Vermont and New Hampshire.

Hunter is a great mountain that will tire out even the best skiers and riders. The

recently added to their list, and is their only double black diamond. Only the best skiers on the mountain should take "The Plunge."

Bromley is also operational during the summer season because it has alpine slides. These are giant cement chutes that you can ride down on a small cart. They are a lot of fun, attract a good crowd and give Bromley year round attendance.

Once a year the annual Winterfest hits Bromley. During this celebration they have free promotions from Poland Spring water and Dannon Yogurt, and they provide free rentals and demos from top of the line ski producers.

Bromley is a great family mountain and resort, and I highly recommend it to anybody who is interested in skiing and riding.

Butternut Mountain

The sky over the slopes was absolutely cloudless as the lifts began to run, the trails were freshly groomed, and the parking lot started to fill with the beginning of our ski day at Butternut.

Butternut Mountain, located in Great Barrington, Massachusetts, is about a 2-hour drive from Stamford. The mountain's facilities include two base lodges, but only one of the two has a full food menu. Two double chair lifts, one triple and one quad, service the beginner through the advanced terrain of the

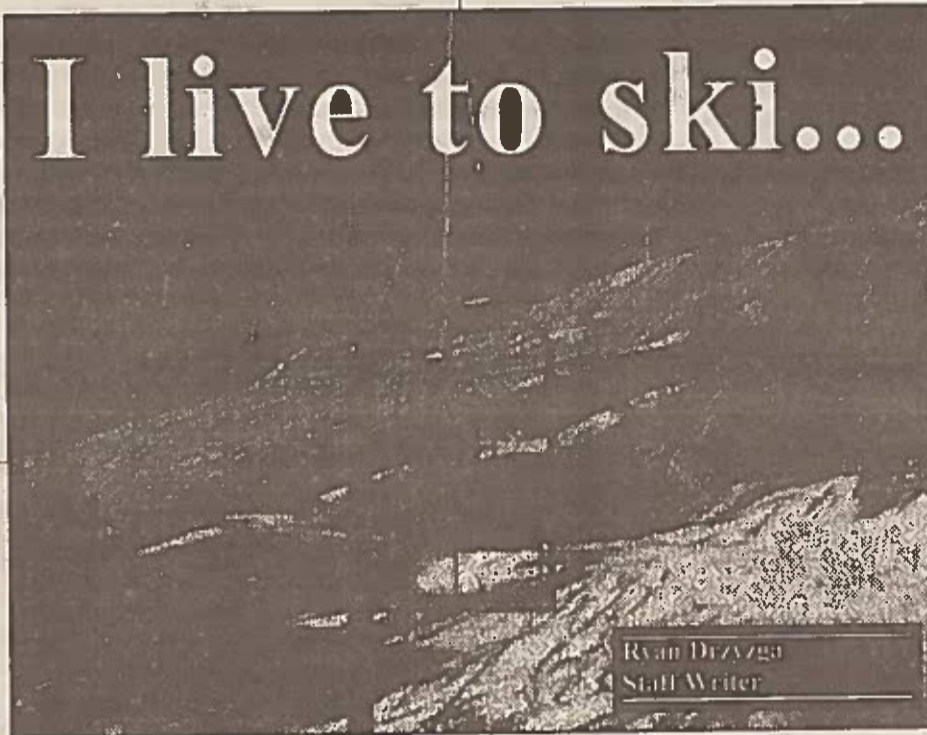
mountain's numerous trails. Though there hadn't been much fresh natural snow in the days preceding my visit, Butternut's maintenance crews were able to make enough man-made snow to cover just about every inch of the slopes. Butternut's crews also have a scheduled mid-day grooming at 12:00 to keep the slopes fresh and smooth.

The Western side of the mountain is home for a 4-man extreme snowboarder course, which was open to both skiers and riders, though I do not recommend it to skiers. Some of the jumps and drops that are suitable for snowboards are just not meant for skiers, and more than once the ski patrolmen were making rescues, and helping broken and bruised skiers out of the area.

The eastern side of the mountain, however, had one black diamond trail, with three table-topped jumps that gave skiers a chance to catch some air. Though the snowy launch pads were a lot of fun if you knew what you were doing, a certain amount of heightened risk and danger is involved. Junior David Pavia took advantage of the jumps and beautifully executed a spread-eagle maneuver, only later to sprain his thumb. "I knew I was in trouble once I left the base of the jump," he said. "Something just didn't feel right when I was flying through the air, and when I landed, my hand immediately began to hurt."

Though there were no serious injuries on that day, there were a few Ski Patrol rescues made for minor injuries, like pulled ligaments, or bruised knees.

Overall our day at Butternut was fantastic. During this up-coming February break, if you are learning to ski, you cannot go wrong if you make your way up to Butternut for a great day of skiing or riding.



Brodie Mountain

As most were sleeping in late on Martin Luther King's Birthday, some of the more active ones took to the slopes of Brodie Mountain in New Ashford, Massachusetts. Though it had been a little warmer than ideal prior to the national holiday, Brodie had adequate snow for skiers and riders.

The mountain facility is located right on route 7, and is right next-door to Jimminy Peak Mountain. The ride from Stamford is a bit over three hours, but the facilities at the end are worth the drive.

Brodie has more ne base lodge, and they were surprisingly empty. With a total of only 40-50 people on the entire mountain, the lodges were yet cozy. They all have fireplaces with fires burning, plush couches and yes, even TVs to watch Jerry Springer.

The mountain's terrain is not as vertical

and difficult as some of the bigger mountains in Vermont, but it does have a good mix of trails for all skill levels of skiers and riders. Brodie does not have as sophisticated a system of snow making capabilities as some of the bigger boys, but they do offer night skiing, an amenity which many of the bigger ones in Vermont and New Hampshire do not.

The lift tickets ranged from \$30-40. However the biggest drawback to Brodie is that all of their chairlifts are double chairs, and they do not have any high-powered lifts. But the mountain seems to be less populated at most times so there are usually no lift lines.

Since the mountain is somewhat smaller than others further north, their cafeterias are better priced. They are still a bit overpriced, a circumstance which you will see at 99% of all mountains anyway. You are, however, able to get a pretty hearty meal for 6 or 7 dollars.

Though the terrain is not as challenging as some others in the area, Brodie still offers great accommodations for those who want to go out to ski and to have a good time.

The debate rages on: is cheerleading a sport?

Elissa Glucksman
Associate Sports Editor

During fall and winter at Stamford High there is often a dispute between the cheerleaders and a segment of the student body over cheerleading's place in after school sports activities. Jokes are made and small arguments arise on the question of whether cheerleading should be considered a sport or not.

Many at Stamford High say that cheerleading is "the same as dancing, it's not a competitive activity." What constitutes a sport anyway? The general consensus is that a sport is a structured activity requiring uncommon physical abilities. According to this definition, shouldn't cheerleading be considered a sport?

Most cheerleaders say yes. They say that anyone who has participated in cheerleading knows the extent of the physical requirements. Among the traits of a good cheerleader are strength required for stunts and pyramids, and flexibility and coordination for tumbling. Cheerleading also requires the physical skill associated with jumping and dancing as well as a

sense of rhythm for both the dancing and the cheers. Cheerleading isn't just stomping and screaming a cheer at the top of your lungs.

In an informal survey taken in Stamford High, students voiced what they thought about the

Bias against cheerleaders, widespread stereotyping, and a general lack of recognition of the significant changes cheerleading has seen over the years has greatly affected the debate over cheerleading's place at a school as a sport or an activity.

topic. The majority of those asked indicated that cheerleading at Stamford High School is not a sport that it is simply "an activity that anyone can do." It involves no skill or athletic talent."

How does Stamford High officially categorize cheerleading? The school pigeonholes cheerleading as an activity, not included with the rest of the sports. Many cheerleaders have said that this is just an administrative categorization and in no way reflects the true nature of cheerleading.

Some may argue that if cheerleading was truly a sport then it would have been included with other sports a long time ago. The reason for this continuing separation seems to be cheerleading's traditional roots and its continuing role as a spirit, pep or support organization. Bias against cheerleaders, widespread stereotyping, and a general lack of recognition of the significant changes cheerleading has seen over the years has greatly affected the debate over cheerleading's place at a school as a sport or an activity. Therefore, the inclusion or exclusion of cheerleading as a sport for administrative reasons is of no significance in determining if it is truly a sport.

The opinions heard around SHS are just that, individuals' opinions that are not always based on fact. Many of the opinions rely heavily on what each person considers as a sport. In other words, it's up to you. Do you consider cheerleading a sport?

Cheerleaders take home fourth place in FCIAC competition

Gina Sinaguglia
Staff Writer

Taking fourth place in the FCIAC cheerleading championship at Greenwich High School probably was not what the SHS girls cheerleading team had hoped for, but it is what they felt they deserved. Coming in behind Danbury High School, Fairfield High School, and St. Joseph High School, taking fourth place was an accomplishment. "It was what we deserved. It was a really hard competition, all of the teams did great. We got what we deserved," stated Lauren

Mailhot, a junior cheerleader. The SHS cheerleaders may not have come in first but they took home 6 awards. Their stunt teams took both second and third place. Marysa Fiorita and Dana Litchman made the All FCIAC cheerleading team. The cheerleaders also won the spirit stick, which is the award given for the cheerleading squad that shows the most spirit.

The bleachers were full with Stamford High School students, proud parents, and many other supporters. Dressed in orange and black they began cheering along with our girls. As the cheerleaders approached the mat, the fans started the classic,

"lets go Stamford" cheer. "In the three years that I have been a cheerleader at Stamford High and been in competition, I've never seen so many fans. It really helped to have so many supporters", Stacey Psychopaidas said with a smile. Several cheerleaders said that the support made a huge difference. With the crowd's encouragement and cheering, the cheerleaders were pumped up enough to clap, tumble and cheer their way the fourth place.

Although the cheerleaders did not come in first place, Stamford was number one to their fans, and that is what is most important.



An excellent sense of balance and a high degree of body control: basic requirements for many advanced cheerleading maneuvers demonstrated here by the SHS team.



Moves that may be simple on solid ground become difficult in mid-air.



Photos by Diane Yacenda

Sasha Virvo, Dana Litchman, Toni Colandro and Erin Emmett wait nervously for the results of the recent cheerleading competition



Rhythmic dance moves were combined with strength and balance elements to create a controlled team effort as the SHS Cheerleading Team performed in the Fairfield County Cheerleading Competition at Greenwich High.

Boys' Basketball Preview:

Perimeter shooting and rebounding carry the Knights

Jenna Goldstein
Associate Sports Editor

The Stamford High Black Knights, coached by Jim Moriarty, are hoping to be one of the surprises this season. Looking at last season's record, in which the Knights went 10-12, is a little deceiving. The record does not tell you about their victory over Notre Dame of West Haven in the first round of the state tournament, a shocker. Nor does it reflect the stretch of 8 games in which they went 2-6 while their leading scorer, Danny Melzer, was out with a broken finger.

The Knights are looking to come out strong in their first few games, which are against such traditionally tough opponents as Brien McMahon, St. Joseph, and Warren Harding. Good showings against these teams will hopefully set the pace for the rest of the season.

The starting lineup for the Knights comprises all seniors, which will certainly give them an edge over other teams. Senior Darryl "Lurch" Williams will be playing at the forward position, along with Slawik Drabczynski. Herbie Fabius will be at center, while Tremain Stephens is the starting point guard. Shooting guard Danny Melzer who led the Knights in scoring last season, averaging 17.5 points per game, completes the lineup.

This year the bench is going to be an important part of the team, providing strong backup for the Knights' starters. Led by Seniors Beeford Bruno, Andre Clark, and William Alexander, the Knights can be confident when substitut-

ing. All of these players have Varsity experience from last year, and will provide energy and talent coming into the game. Juniors Lionel Hull, Curtis Shepard, and Anthony Harris, along with Sophomores Andre Brown and Jared Ashe comprise the rest of the bench.

Coach Moriarty, and the Knights' captains, Danny Melzer and Darryl Williams, plan to push their team hard this season. A good work ethic is going to be very important if the Knights want to go somewhere with their season.

The Knights will also be working on their inside game, since they are already strong on the perimeter. Danny Melzer is an excellent three-point shooter, having connected on 9 three-pointers in one game last season. Although Stamford's inside game may still need some work, the team already has a good start. Darryl Williams averaged nine rebounds last season, and 6'5" Herbie Fabius is giving them a good height advantage over many other players in the FCIAC.

With the loss of a number of key players from last season, including Michael Yacenda and Brad Dolian, the Knights have their work cut out for them this season. They are also playing without one of their better players, Junior Tyrell Aaron. Aaron, who started for the Varsity his freshman and sophomore years, is unable to play this season.

Despite these circumstances, the team has both the talent and attitude to make this a very successful season. But as is usually the case, the Knights' destiny lies in their own hands.



Photo by Diane Yacenda

Darryl "Lurch" Williams and Andre Brown box out against McMahon.



Photos by Diane Yacenda

Jared Ashe, #2 (left) and Beeford Bruno, #3 (right) show off their ballhandling skills against McMahon.

Girls' Basketball Preview:

Experience gives the team a boost

Jenna Goldstein
Associate Sports Editor

Experience. This will definitely be a big factor for the Stamford High School Girls' Varsity Basketball Team during the upcoming season. While other FCIAC teams may struggle with younger players, Stamford High boasts of a team that consists of only seniors and juniors.

Although the Knights return only one starter from last year, Cindy Lucien, every player on this year's squad played with the varsity team last year for at least a portion of the season, giving them much-needed experience in the competitive atmosphere of the FCIAC division. The Knights thus have an advantage over other teams. This advantage could be the edge that the Knights need to start off their 2000-2001 season.

Starting for the Knights will usually be Senior Captain Patty Lowe, Cindy Lucien, and Lindsay McHugh, Soph Vanessa Gidden, and Junior Captain Lesley Ferrara. This is the first year that the team has had four captains, and with the leadership of these experienced players, the Knights are in a great position to finish well in both the FCIAC and state competitions.

Coming off the bench will be Seniors Sam AVECILLAS and Nikki Robles, and Juniors Allison Brander, Diane Yacenda, and Jennifer Yacenda. Sophomores Michelle Williams and Katie Olsen will also float between the junior varsity and varsity teams, and will probably see some varsity playing time in a few games

this season.

The team has already come out strongly, and is playing as if they have something to prove. In their first game on December 7, 2000, they defeated Greenwich by the score of 54-26. Their defense was amazing, as the Knights cumulatively had 15 steals and 8 blocked shots.

At the other end of the court, the offense was also working well. Center Vanessa Gidden led the team with 14 points, while point-guard Cindy Lucien added 8 points. Patty Lowe and Diane Yacenda contributed 7 points each, which included a 3 point shot by Diane Yacenda at the buzzer to close out the 2nd quarter. The Knights played an all-around balanced attack, and in their first game, they exhibited the teamwork that eluded them at times last season.

With big games against Westhill and Trinity scheduled only a few days later, the Westhill, and Trinity basketball teams were at the game scouting their opponents. Varsity coaches Curtis Tinnin and William Porter were careful not to give away too many of their secrets. The coaches did not want opponents' scouts to watch their starting players too much, because they could learn then how to better defend against the Stamford team. This concern led to their starting 5 players rotating regularly with other players, and giving the whole team a chance to play.

When December 9th came, the Knights defeated Westhill by a decisive score of 49-34. Cindy Lucien led Stamford with 12

points and Diane Yacenda and Vanessa Gidden each added 8 points in an all-around good showing by Stamford.

The Trinity game, on December 12, was a hard fought battle between the two top teams. The Knights fell behind early, and were down by 13 points at in the second quarter. Losing by a score of 30-21 at halftime, and falling further behind to 36-23 in the third period, the Knights stormed back with renewed pride. Cindy Lucien and Patty Lowe had a combined 12 straight points that were unanswered by Trinity.

After tying the game at 43 in the last quarter, the game was a back-and-forth fight for the lead. A tie at the end of regulation sent the game into overtime. Trinity dominated the extra period, going on to win the game by a score of 61-57. The game was decided on foul shots, as Trinity was 16-for-19 from the free throw line, while Stamford was only 6-for-19.

Coach Tinnin has said before that this has been Stamford's "Achilles' heel," so this is an aspect of their game that they will continue to work on during the season. This is perhaps the team's only real problem in an offense that was otherwise working well. In the game Vanessa Gidden led the offense with 23 points, with Cindy Lucien adding 15.

The huddle by the Lady Knights at the end of each game exemplifies what Knights' basketball is all about. Although the girls may not always walk off the court with a win, the team always ends with a cheer and encouraging words for everyone.