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The Round Table

Volume XXVI, Number 2

Stamford High School

December 20, 1994

SENIOR CLASS SHAPES UP

Liz Caney
Opinions Editor

The senior class of 1995 seems to have gotten its act together. Headed by new class officers Tamika Nelson, Avra Romanowitz, Melissa Gardner, and returning officer Eddie DeSalle, the Class of '95 is working to break their financial situation. Fortunately under the leadership of these new officers an organized plan was formulated and the Auction Dance, their first fundraiser, was an absolute success: "The dance was fun," said senior slave Katie McKeon. "But we also raised a lot of money."

Homecoming, the next dance hosted by the senior class, was just as successful as the Auction Dance. This particular dance was held in order to welcome back last year's graduated seniors, the Class of '94. As with the Auction Dance, tickets were sold ahead of time and a student deejay was chosen to ensure that the class did not lose any money from the dance.

With frequent class meetings and participation from a record amount of students, the senior class is trying to make their last year at SHS their best. If one should hear the excited voices of SHS on the Air in the morning telling seniors to "LISTEN UP", the smart thing to do is to pay attention. The Class of 1995 is getting itself in shape and making sure that this will be one class that Stamford High will not soon forget.

Stamford High Senior Katherine Palley Wins National English Award

Matias Nino
Staff Reporter

Not only is senior Katherine Palley an accomplished singer and thespian but her outstanding academic career now is further polished by being the first Stamford High student in over twenty years to win the prestigious nationwide English Achievement Award in Writing from the National Council of English Teachers. This rare award honors Kate's writing and commends the Stamford High English Department as a suitable environment for the development of talented and creative writers. Kate was picked along with the 11 best writers in Connecticut and the 682 best nationwide.

It all began in the spring of 1994 when Mr. Jerry McWilliams, who voluntarily enters students into the contest, hand picked Kate and other SHS students from a score of writing samples submitted by the students to enter the contest. Following this, he had them write a timed topic essay to send away along with one other short story to the National Council. Later in October, Kate received a letter in the mail saying she had won the NCTE award. Only when she notified Mrs. Ragazzino did Kate finally realize the magnitude of her award. Besides the nationwide commendation, the award recommends Kate to the colleges she applies to and also urges that she be considered for financial aid.



Kate Palley is the recipient of a national English award. (Photo by Goldschmidt)

Kate says that she has always enjoyed the art ever since she first began in Writing Period at Westover Elementary School. After grade school, she periodically wrote journal entries at home. The writer in her was not brought out until high school where she took various writing courses at SHS, taught by famous author Mrs. Ragazzino. Along the way, Kate was also eminently helped by her honors English teachers at SHS: Mr. James DeFeo, Ms. Jan Grey, and Mrs. Laurie Rylander. Her current AP English teacher, Dr. Margaret Queenan, says, "Kate deserves a lot of credit for expanding her natural abilities by selecting these courses." Most of all, Kate credits her father, the late James Palley, former English teacher and devoted faculty advisor to

Continued on page 3

SHS's own Michael Nast Appointed Superintendent of Schools

Christopher Saunders
Editor-in-Chief

For the first time in thirty years the Stamford Public School System will be headed by a superintendent who has worked his way up through the ranks. Michael J. Nast, newly elected superintendent of schools, will be the first to hold that position since Joseph Franchinain in the early '60's to not have come from outside districts without previous experience in Stamford.

In the final bid for the office, Mr. Nast was pitted against Dr. Gerald Kohn, formerly

School System. Both candidates' merits were heavily weighed and debated right up until the final decision was made on Monday, November 14, but not announced until Wednesday.

The search for a school superintendent came as a result of Dr. Peter Horoshak's leaving the position before the end of the 1993-94 school year to assume the head position in the public school system of Albuquerque, New Mexico. Until his appointment, Mr. Nast headed Stamford schools in Dr. Horoshak's stead as interim superintendent.

Possibly a major factor in Mr. Nast's appointment was the fact that he was a well-known name and very familiar with the inner

tem. Mr. Nast had served as principal of Stamford High from 1984 to 1992, ending upon promotion by Dr. Horoshak to the office of Deputy Superintendent. In that capacity, he served to oversee school curriculum. In addition, there was tremendous local parental support for Mr. Nast, in part from his very successful eight years at Stamford High.

Yet not all is well. With the promotion of Mr. Nast and the retirement of Dr. Edmund Barbieri from the assistant superintendentship of program development, two positions have been made vacant in the school system's hierarchy. Superintendent Nast says that one of his first duties will be to find replacements as soon

The Round Table

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

The Round Table welcomes letters from its readers. Letters must be original and signed. All are subject to editing and verification of authenticity. Anonymous letters will not be printed.

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The Royal Court

**Jen Kucharski
News Editor**

For Stamford High students and alumni this year, Thanksgiving was much more than just turkey and stuffing. Between the pep rally Wednesday afternoon, followed by the 55-10 defeat over inter-city rival Westhill on Thanksgiving

morning, and the annual Homecoming Dance the next night, there were plenty of things to do.

The dance was a great opportunity to see returning graduates from the Class of '94. DJ K Swift provided music for the event.

The senior Royal Homecoming Court was

announced at the pep rally. Candidates for queen were Lisa Goldschmidt, Jessica Mitchell, Kim Whitbread, Melissa Gardner, and Kathleen Holmes. Seniors Chris Vigilante, Kris Kessler, Ron Lomax, Eddie DeSalle, and Kevin Turcio rounded out the court for the guys.

Eddie DeSalle and

Melissa Gardner were crowned king and queen at the dance. The sophomore duke and dutchess, Jill Sherman and Christian Page and the junior prince and princess, Billy Fletcher and Teondra Holly, were announced earlier.



Homecoming King Eddie Desalle and Queen Melissa Gardner. (Photo by Kucharski)



Sophomore Duke Christian Page with Dutchess Jill Sherman. (Photo by Kucharski)



Students dance the night away at the '94 Homecoming dance (Photo by Goldschmidt)



Seniors Liz Pia and Yota Begetis wasted no time getting out on the dance floor. (Photo by Goldschmidt)

The Round Table

would like to take this opportunity to thank the hard working custodians for thier patience in putting up with our eccentric

Kate Palley...

Continued from Page 1

The Round Table, for his constant inspiration.

Kate's writing abilities have flourished during her years of education at SHS. She has attended the Creative Youth seminar in the summer of '93 and this summer participated in the Putney School Summer Program to take courses in drama and creative writing. Although Kate loves acting, directing, and singing, she has a special passion for writing which, she says, allows her to

express her imagination and creativity best. She would like to make it know that writing is a medium which "takes creativity and emotion and expresses it like an art." Although many share this belief, the Creative Writing course at SHS currently does not fulfill the art requirement for SHS students. Kate states, "It's simply an form of artistic self-expression and should be recognized as an art SHS."

Auction Dance '94



Greek goddesses Heidi Engleman, Dina Lifshin, and Melissa Gardner pose with Master of Ceremonies Eddie DeSalle. (Photos by Querzè)



Senior studs Chris Vigilante, Paul Cassidy, Jeff Fortmann, and Kris Kessler didn't need costumes to strut their stuff.



Juniors Gillian Shu, Jill Switkin, Alison Balbuach, and Anne Tsai hit the books with their school girl costumes.



Seniors Liz Pia, Jessica Els, Yota Begetis, and Kristen Pape danced as they waited to be auctioned off.



Seniors Canaan Crouch, Carlos Miller, Ralph Day, and Eddie Corsello model the latest fashion in vests.



Senior girls Rachel Berkow, Helena Silber, Melissa Libner,

SHS PANEL GROUP EXAMINES RACISM AND IQ IN *THE BELL CURVE*

Nicole Querzè
Sarika Doshi
Staff Reporters

On December 7, the small auditorium of Room 101 was the setting for a heated panel group discussion on the controversial book *The Bell Curve*. The work, by Richard J. Herrnstein and Charles Murray, deals with intelligence in relation to socioeconomic class and is based on the theory that intelligence is genetically and racially inherent. The Multicultural Student Union (MSU) was the sponsor of this discussion which included a panel of six ethnically varied students and an audience of history classes from every

academic level. MSU President Staci Lewis, who also moderated the discussion, commented that MSU felt obligated to sponsor it because, "We are the ones that have our academic potentials under consideration."

The discussion began with opening statements by each of the panelists. Asian junior Anne Tsai commented on the

effect of one's environment. Her view was based on the theory that environment is the foundation for reaching ones academic potential. "A person is a sponge that absorbs how his environment nurtures him and what it gives him." Next, Melody Poma, a Hispanic junior, paralleled *The Bell Curve* to winning the Olympics, "But instead of athletics it's intellect: Asians get the gold, whites take the silver and blacks get the bronze at a level of retardation. Hey, but where are the Hispanics, in a coma?"

Sandra Helenese took the racial view of this issue to heart as a black student. She stated, "How can people expect African Americans to be up to standards when we were threatened as slaves and could not read or write?" Brant Kantor, a white senior, stated that, "Environment is more important than genetics. Some people come home to cookies on the table and mothers [telling them] to do homework before TV while

others have to worry about just getting their books home safely and then think about opening them up." Tyshawn Spinks continued the argument that tracking draws racial lines and that

this book is based on superficial ideas. Alison Forte, another white senior, said that, "IQ tests are not tests of intelligence, intelligence is how you use it and what you do with it."

These diverse views and beliefs lead to an interactive discussion between the panelists and the student body. Students voiced their responses to the statements made by the panelists. Jordan Press believes that, "Unprivileged (lower class) students have to work twice as hard as the privileged, (middle class) students. This works until sixth grade where most people begin to get discouraged." Senior Larry Hughes could not find an answer to why so many blacks were in lower classes. *The Bell Curve* maintains that they are destined to remain there because of their low I.Q. potential. Can this be the case?

Students Feel Pushed, Shoved, and Irritated in the Halls of SHS

Michelle Adelman
Staff Editor

As beads of sweat begin to form on the skin, and the scent of overcrowded bodies pushing together permeates the air, students know they are trying to walk through the halls of Stamford High. A mob of students shoving its way to its destination, is free from the crowds only by stumbling into the classroom. But once safe from the bustle, the temperature soon rises as the numbers of people slowly multiply.

Only three years ago there was a mere 1200

School. Last year the number had grown to 1700 students, and this year the number rose to 1877. Looking at the middle schools, it is almost certain that within the next couple of years, the number will climb to 2000. These numbers do not even take into account all the students coming from foreign countries, a substantial component of the Stamford High population. The multitude of students results in many classes being full to the capacity of thirty students. In the majority of other school districts, teachers are only required to teach four

Stamford High, the faculty must take on five classes. Besides their hefty responsibility, there are fifteen floating teachers, meaning they have no stable classrooms in which to teach.

Some teachers have classes all day without a free period. Miss Gibson, a history teacher at SHS has this to say about the situation, "It's difficult to reach all the students in the class and to give individual help. Also, when you have a lot of students it becomes very difficult to give a lot of essays and get them corrected promptly."

SHS Boys' Soccer Loses Without Even Playing

Jeff Fortman
Staff Reporter

The Stamford High Boys' Varsity Soccer team's high aspirations for the 1994 season came to a screeching halt when two starting players were found to have violated F.C.I.A.C. rules. This violation forced the team to forfeit all regular season victories and disqualified them from the Class LL State Championships.

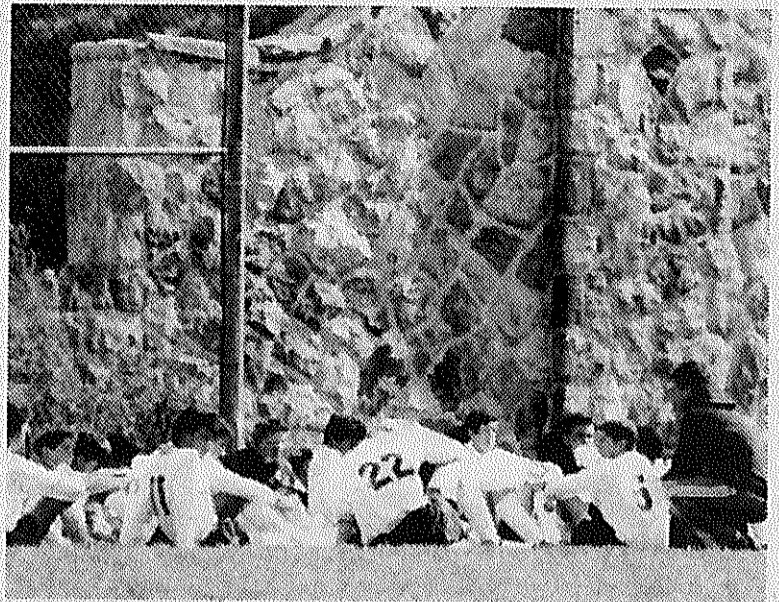
From the beginning and throughout the season, Coach Caminiti informed all of his players of the league rule which states that any player affiliated with another team or league other than the school he represents will disqualify all regular and post season games. Unfortunately Caminiti's

warning was not heeded by two senior varsity players who violated the rule and continued to play outside of the Stamford High School program.

It was the first time in over a decade that the team qualified for states. The team had high hopes for the tournament and believed they could make an impact. Caminiti predicted that if they played their best they would most likely have advanced to the third round or possibly farther. But then the state was notified of these two players, and made the ruling. "After the anger set in, the disappointment fell into place," said Caminiti. "The two players took away an opportunity for which some players have worked three or four years." The coach went on to say that not

only did the boys' decision take away the teams opportunity, but it also robbed the players of a positive experience. "This experience would have shown them that confidence in their own talent and abilities could get them far in life."

The unfortunate expulsion from the state tournament led to the team's first reaction: shock. "It was a disappointment to find out that the boys knew they were breaking the rules," said a teammate. Co-Captain Francesco Malagisi added, "It's too bad this had to happen. Fortunately, though our record may not show it, the team knows what we have accomplished."



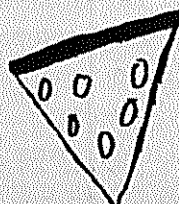
The boy's soccer team was disqualified in accordance with an FCIAC regulation. (Photo by Goldschmidt)

Where do the men of Stamford High go when they want to have fun and great food?



Newfield Pizza

Newfield Green Shopping Center



UCONN Day of Pride Recognizes SHS

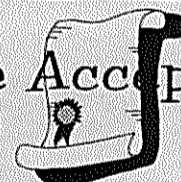
Dr. Interieri
Guest Writer

The 19th annual Day of Pride sponsored by the University of Connecticut was held at Storrs, Saturday, November 12, 1994. The focus was on the "Top 15" minority scholars who received full scholarships to attend UCONN and the "Top 100" early admission for their outstanding scholarships and

service to their high school and community.

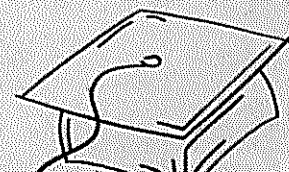
Honored from Stamford High were seniors Kim Clayton, Roberto Crespo, Kathlene Holmes, Staci Lewis, Jessica Mitchell, Margaret Perez, and Veronica Tai. In the past ten years, ten students from SHS have been awarded four scholarships and fifty-four recognized in the "Top 100."

College Acceptances



The Round Table would like to congratulate the following students who have already been accepted to colleges and universities:

Rachel Berkow	U of Pennsylvania
Maya Brym	Yale University
Roberto Crespo	U of Connecticut
Ari Disraelly	U.S. Naval Academy
Peter Hebert	Indiana U, Florida State U
Jen Kucharski	Lehigh University
Staci Lewis	U of Michigan
Dina Lifshin	U of Penn
Nathaniel Parady	Penn State U
Avra Romanowitz	U of Maryland
Lanie Sano	U of Arizona
Chris Saunders	U of Virginia
Rebecca Sempy	Bay Path College
Jason Sheer	Tulane University
Lauren Sileo	Johnson and Wales
Elizabeth Slattery	Manhattanville College
Scott Sommers	U of Arizona, Florida State U
Veronica Tai	U of Connecticut
Christina Vozzella	Central



Opinions

The Round Table December 20, 1994

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To Beep or Not to Beep

ALLOWING ELECTRONIC PAGERS IN SCHOOL IS THE QUESTION ON MANY STUDENTS' MINDS

Beepers Are Not Only For Drug Dealers

Larry Hughes, Grade 12
Guest Writer

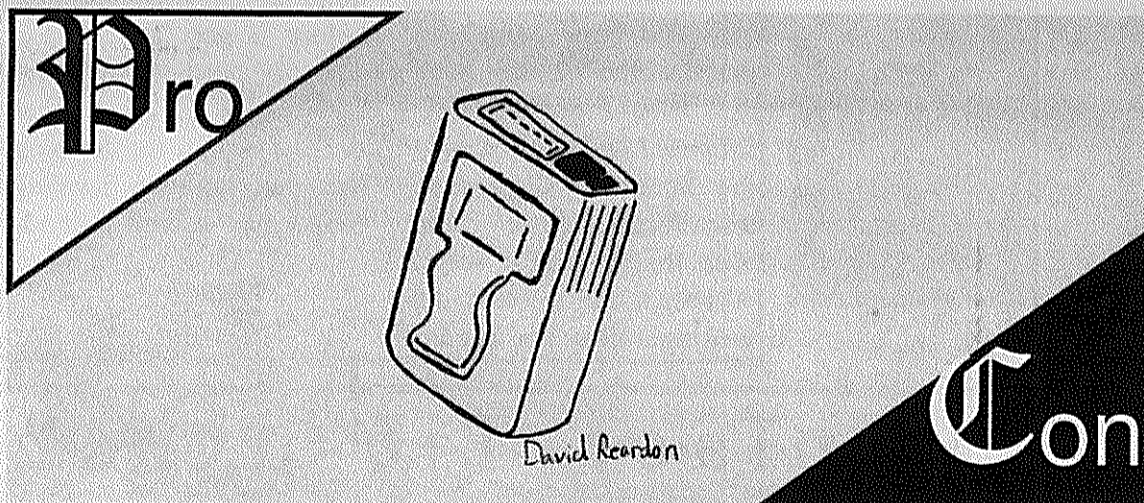
Doctors, lawyers, businessmen, politicians, nurses, and yes, even students carry beepers. However, it seems that when students carry a beeper they are committing some kind of capital offense. Just the other day I dropped my beeper in the hall and was suddenly assaulted by a barrage of administrators asking me all sorts of questions as if I was under arrest. They made me feel like a criminal.

Many students carry beepers for many different reasons. If an emergency arises, or your mother needs you, a quick, efficient way to contact you is with a beeper. I realize beepers are also

used for drug dealing, but should all students be stereotyped as "drug dealers" just because they carry one? If someone was found wearing a walkman in school, no one would say they were listening to it to find out where their dealers would meet them. How can someone judge a person by the piece of electronics they own?

Beepers, the internet, and cellular phones are vital for today's modern world. The administration always says it wants to prepare students for the 21st century, and working with beepers is providing students with some electronic knowledge.

A major concern of teachers is that they are disruptive, but beepers can be put on vibrating mode. Is missing a vital message because beepers aren't allowed in school really fair to the students?



No Mandatory Need For Beepers in School

Mr. Douglas Ramsdell
Guest Writer

The Stamford High Students Handbook states on page 13, "No student will carry a beeper or other electronic communications device while in school."

This Board of Education policy has been in place for almost ten years. Its purpose, both in present and past years, was to insure that students will be able to pursue their educational goals without distraction. If an emergency arises, students can be contacted in a matter of minutes by having the parent call the main office.

The students argue that they "need" a beeper for their job or family business. Students also state that if teachers and security guards are allowed beepers they should too. This argument holds no real meaning: security guards use their

devices because their jobs require it. A student in high school does not require a beeper to perform well in school. If in fact students are beeped in school they need a phone to respond to the call. Students are not allowed access to a phone, and besides, why should a teacher allow a student to leave class during their teaching time to deal with personal business?

It is not for me to say, but in some cases there is a legitimate need for a minor to carry a beeper. Yet, for the majority, beepers simply do not belong in school. There is no logical reason for beepers, the only purpose they fulfill is creating noise and disruption. I therefore believe that the Board of Education policy and the rule in *The Stamford High Students Handbook* should be continued and enforced by staff and administration.

Speak Out: Should beepers be allowed in school?

Mr. McWilliams
English Teacher

"Beepers don't bother me, I also think walkmans should be allowed in school."



Sheryl Reese
Grade 9

"Everyone who uses a beeper is not necessarily a drug dealer, they are also used if someone needs to reach you in an emergency."



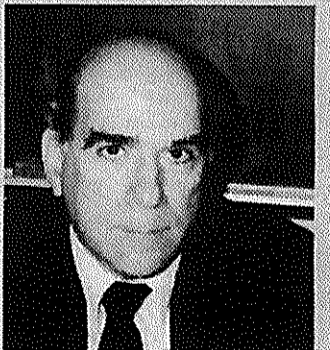
Frank Policastro
Grade 10

"Yes, I think they should be allowed as long as they're hidden and don't beep out loud in class."



Mr. Terlizzo
History Department Head

"There is no logical reason for them to be in school."



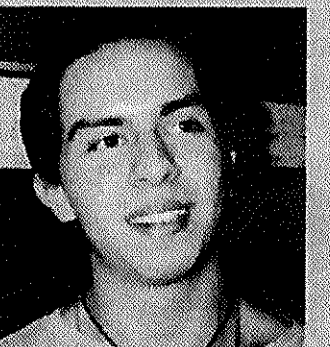
Lore Ferrajina
Grade 11

"Yes, beepers should be allowed as long as they are kept on vibrating mode. There is no real disturbance to the class this way."



Carlos Miller
Grade 12

"There is no need for beepers in school. Kids who have beepers only have them to look cool and sell drugs."



I'd Rather Be A Knight Than A Viking

Kerri Tompkins
Staff Reporter

I am currently attending Stamford High as a former Westhill High student. The schools, to say the least, differ in many ways. Rules and regulations, attitudes towards teachers and staff, and teaching styles are quite unique in each school.

Compared to Westhill, SHS students don't have much to complain about. The crowded classrooms, jammed hallways, and shortage of food in the third lunch wave are about the only things to moan about. As far as discipline is concerned, the teachers and staff always have their eyes open for trouble makers. During periods administrators and security guards are evident at every corner. One could only notice how big the difference is between the two schools if they attended or visited both.

One looking at Westhill from the outside might notice its neatness and clean appearance. Many think Westhill is a better school because of its location, but the inside is not always controllable



Stamford High School

(Photo by Goldschmidt)

and organized. Just recently the school has started to enforce stricter rules. When talking to a WHS student they'll tell you of some changes in the rules, such as, eating is prohibited outside, and visitors are not allowed without authorization. The teachers at WHS try to enforce the rules, but they themselves don't even follow them. For example: smoking by teachers is supposed to be conducted off school grounds, but rarely is. There are students in the bathroom every period smoking, the teachers don't stop it because they themselves do it. If teachers obeyed the rules, they would be taken seriously when trying to enforce them.

There will always be problems in both schools, in any school for that matter, but Stamford High seems to solve theirs faster and more efficient.



SHS students in the halls.
(Photo by Goldschmidt)

Viewpoint

We at *The Round Table* would like to thank the SASA club and the students of Stamford High for making the Homecoming football game against Westhill such a success. The SASA club did an outstanding job selling balloons and pom-poms to raise money. It was the first time in the history of our school that city rivals, Stamford and Westhill played one another on Thanksgiving Day. The game allowed not only students from both schools to attend, but the returning alumni from years back to also view this highly anticipated game. The real "Homecoming" feeling that is generally lost during this time was renewed by a real rival school game typical of many schools on Thanksgiving Day. Overall the game was a complete success, not to mention that the Stamford High football team crushed Westhill 55-10. Way to go Stamford!

"Dirty Water Makes Me Puke"

Jen Kucharski
News Editor

Imagine swimming in a pool that has not been drained in five years with dirty water containing everything from hairballs and vomit blood, to human waste and rats. Unfortunately, this condition exists at the pool where the Stamford High girls and boys swim team practice, the Westhill pool.

As a city employed lifeguard and a member of the Stamford High swim team I am in close contact with the pool year round. Although the pool is disgustingly dirty and needs a

very thorough cleaning, the city refuses to do so. As a result of the dirtiness almost every member of the girls swim team has been sick at one time or another during the season. Last time the city tried to drain the pool the dirty water flooded Long Ridge Road.

Something must be done about this situation before it gets any worse. The city needs to come up with some efficient, successful system for draining the pool without flooding frequently traveled roadways.

Penny Loafers to Replace Tie-dyes?

Jen Klemets
Staff Reporter

Imagine walking down the halls seeing all of your friends dressed alike. Blue pants, white shirts, ties for guys, and white shirts and knee-length skirts for girls: Stamford High clones!

Many argue that this style of dressing is more appropriate than the variety of clothing seen today at SHS.

Stamford High School students dress in a variety of clothing varying from jeans, button-down shirts, and sweaters to sagging jeans, ripped pants, untucked shirts, and backwards hats.

While schools in Bridgeport have problems such as teenage mothers, Darien schools deal with low PSAT and SAT scores. Stamford High School has



Jen Kucharski models a uniform that could be worn if they were incorporated into SHS.

these problems ranging from teen pregnancies to inadequate SAT scores. By incorporating uniforms into Stamford High the different worlds could come

a semi-united school. There would not, be any distinction of ones living conditions since everyone would dress the same.

It is not possible

the brand name jeans or the overpriced sneakers seen romping around SHS. If students wore the same clothing, judging one by their appearance would be eliminated. Uniforms would also eliminate the constant comparison of who looks better and how much more their clothes cost. If the pressure of dressing nicer then everyone else was taken off of the students, they would feel better about themselves.

By taking off the old everyday clothes, and putting on new uniforms schools would change drastically. One school in Oklahoma changed their

policy from no dress code to one mandating uniforms. Administrators were worried because it seemed that trendy clothing was monopolizing students' and hindering their school work. One month after the uniforms were instituted teachers and administrators began to notice changes in students behavior, and the schools' atmosphere improved.

With more emphasis on work and less on clothes, the overall effect could only be beneficial. Instead of worrying what to wear tomorrow, your history paper due yesterday would already be finished.



Glenbrook Pizzeria
Large or Small Pizzas

306 Hope Street

George

Body Piercing is now a Mainstream Trend

Melissa Libner
Features Editor

"Ouch! Is it in?!" This is the response of most people after that hoop, hole, stud, etc. is perfectly positioned in a certain spot on the body.

The motives behind why people purposely inflict pain upon themselves is often unclear. However, more

and more students are finding the courage to pierce.

The growing mainstream acceptance of body piercing may be a result of pop happenings like the Lollapalooza tour, which featured booths providing piercings to the ear and nose. Also, ever since supermodels Christy Turlington and



One student wears her naval ring as a badge of courage. (Photo by Goldschmidt)

Naomi Cambell sported naval rings, the fad seems to have caught on.

Five years ago, body piercing was a form of group identification from people in the downtown gay and punk-rock scenes of New York and San Francisco. Now, however, body piercings are considered expressions of individuality.

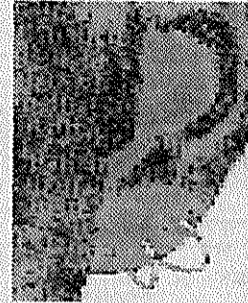
Dan Kopka, a professional body piercer working at the Gauntlet on Fifth Avenue, estimates that he has pierced more

than 10,000 people including himself 17 times.

Body piercing is definitely catching on here at Stamford High. Senior Kate Palley, who has pierced her eyebrow with a unique silver hoop explains, "It's simply a form of artistic self-expression." Kate's able to stand out as an individual at SHS, rather than being

just another face in the hallway.

The body piercing trend started innocently enough with multiple ear piercings and the occasional nostril piercing. Over the years, however, it has definitely taken off and the reasons why people engage in body piercing are as different as their personalities.



Ears remain the dominant pierced part. (Photo by Goldschmidt)

JROTC Is On The Move

Staff Reporter
Nathaniel Parady

In early October, the Board of Education held a meeting to discuss implementing a Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps program in Stamford public schools. JROTC is a military program designed to teach students military science and edict. Even with recent military cut backs, JROTC has been on the rise and can possibly be integrated into Stamford High School as soon as next year.

Major Messier, a JROTC teacher, brought along some of his top students to help explain how the program works. A senior football player and highest ranking JROTC

officer in his high school says, "JROTC was a big wake up call, it really helped me improve my attitude in school."

JROTC does not mean that you're a student in the armed forces. A JROTC class is like any other. Credit is given and students can benefit immensely in college from taking part in it. Military scholarships are most likely given to those students who participate JROTC.

The goal of JROTC teachers is to make better citizens out of high school students. They want to help instill good moral values and aid students accomplishing any goals they might have.

CLUBS

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

Dina Lifshin
Guest Writer

Despite the relaxation time warranted by the upcoming holiday season, the National Honor Society remains in action. Starting the school year with an exciting raffle, NHS was able to raise a substantial amount of money. Hopefully enough to cover the expenses for the ceremony inducting juniors into NHS, scheduled to take place in January.

As usual, NHS's main function in the school is peer tutoring. This year there are several after school programs available for any student in need of help. These include SAT preparatory classes as well as the after school Homework Center, available on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays in the media center. Starting in January, NHS will commence an out-of-school tutoring program for middle schools.

On December 2, the American Red Cross ran a blood drive in the large auditorium, sponsored in part by NHS. Every pint of blood received helps save the life of a person in need.

NHS members are currently running a Toy and a Winter Clothing drive in order to provide community-oriented ser-

vice. Donations of clothes and toys will be made to the Salvation Army and be used as holiday presents for the needy. NHS is hoping to make this season special for others less fortunate than ourselves.



Interact club presidents (Photo by Goldschmidt)

INTERACT CLUB

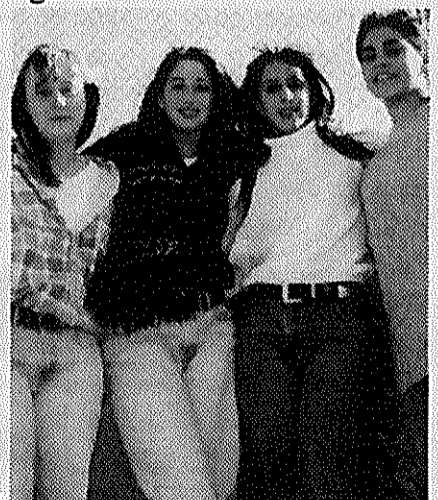
Jen Kucharski
News Editor

With the help of Mr. Swenson the Big Brother/Big Sister program has gotten underway. Seniors Avra Romanowitz, Jenna DeLuca, and Jen Kucharski were elected as president, vice-president, and secretary, respectively. Junior Anne Tsai was chosen for the position of treasurer. The club plans to help out at Person to Person, a community service organization in New Cannan. The Adopt-a-Grandparent program will also be instated shortly. Anyone interested in joining either program should contact Mr. Swenson or any club officer.

HISTORY CLUB

Matias Nino
Staff Writer

The new History Club welcomes many new members as it makes plans for the remainder of the year. The founders of this club -- Jennifer Kucharski, Matias Nino, Chris Saunders, and Aline Druker, are committed to installing historical background into SHS's student body. An assembly featuring veterans of WWII and Vietnam is on the club's agenda.



Newly elected student council officers (Photo by Kucharski)

STUDENT COUNCIL

Election Results

Co-Presidents

Lisa Goldschmidt
Christina Licursi

Vice-President

Avra Romanowitz

Secretary

Liz Pia

Treasurer

Jessica Eis

Membership Coordinator

Jen Kucharski

The Student Council will host a can food drive from 11/14-12/22

CAR OF THE MONTH



The owner of the "Honey Wagon," a 1984 Buick Century, is Larry Settembrini. This luxurious car is loaded with features, installed by Larry himself. After rebuilding the engine and putting in tinted windows, one would think that the wagon is complete. However, Larry has plans to install custom rims for the spring. Is this a car or a Radio Shack?

Photo by Goldschmidt.

- WHAT IS CURRICULUM TRACKING/
ABILITY GROUPING?
- STUDENT/TEACHER POLL ON
TRACKING

Special SHS Debates

Tracking is Now Major Issue Of Debate for Public Schools

Gabrielle Birkner
Special Sections Editor

If you attend Stamford Public Schools, it is likely that you have already been labeled. This labeling includes the middle school "cogs" and the high school zero, one, two, three, and four ability groupings. What is this classification system?

It is curriculum tracking—the procedure of separating students according to their academic ability levels. Theoretically, this process distinguishes the "gifted" from the "average," the "average" from the "slow," providing specialized attention as needed. Statistically, though, the dividing lines of this system go far beyond the school's criteria for students, ability level and learning capacity. Furthermore, many say it segregates by both race and socioeconomic status. Within the past few years,

the controversy over ability grouping has led many schools around the country to eliminate ability categorization.

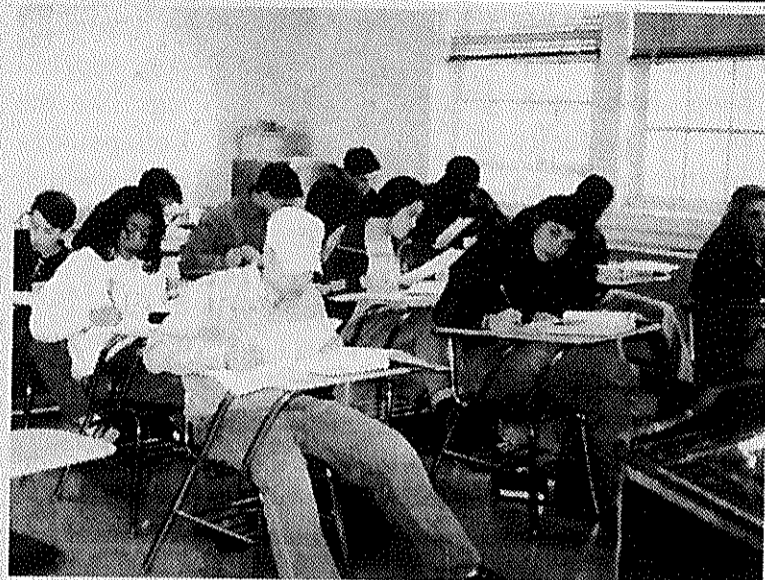
However, ridding schools of tracking is not easy to achieve. There are many of people who hold the belief that these separations provide the amount of challenge directed more personally towards students, individual ability levels. SHS principal Anthony Markosky says he believes that there are a variety of ability of potentials. Quoting Sizer, he compares potentials to containers. He states, "There are a variety of different sized containers and our goal is to fill each on to the brim.?" Others say the elimination of tracking would bring all pupils

to the least common academic denominator giving the top students little challenge. The conception that I.Q. is the greatest indicator of one's intelligence further upholds tracking. Many supporters say that one's learning capacity cannot be changed and that capacity

"Testing and tracking comprise a not so subtle effort to resegregate desegregated schools."

varies largely among students. Therefore, they believe curriculum tracking is logical.

Those opposed to ability grouping see it as a form of segregation, especially for the statistically high percentage of minority and low income students placed in bottom level classes. Jeannie Oakes, author of *Keeping Track: How Schools Structure Inequality* says, "Testing and tracking comprise a not so subtle effort to resegre-



gate desegregated schools. But they reflect as well a preference among teachers for homogeneous groupings of students which are easier to teach than classes composed of varying ability levels."

Could SHS ever eliminate ability grouping? It is not likely. To do so, it must take on the deeply rooted educational norms of tracking and revamp its curriculum to accommodate a heterogeneous group of students. In our area alone, Branford High School, in Branford, Connecticut and Fox Lane High School in Bedford,

New York have successfully detracked. The elimination of tracking requires a commitment to a new system of learning and an alteration of traditional teaching methods that Oakes believes would steer away from an emphasis on skills to that of an emphasis on contextual learning. Above all, it requires a change in perspective from "heterogeneous ability levels must be grouped together" to "all people have the capacity to learn and therefore deserve a fair and equal chance to do so."

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Student/Teacher Poll

160 students and 60 teachers were polled on how they feel about tracking.

STUDENTS

80% of SHS students know they are being tracked.
85% of SHS students feel that teachers DO NOT motivate them to move into higher track
73% of SHS students, given the opportunity, would move to a higher track.
62% of SHS students feel they would receive a better education in a higher track.
88% of SHS students think tracking should be eliminated.

TEACHERS

52% of SHS teachers feel that tracking is good for schools.
33% of SHS teachers feel they would have to change they methods of teaching with class of heterogeneous ability levels.
94% of SHS teachers say they DO motivate their students to rise above their tracking.
64% of SHS teachers feel the learning process between students would benefit with different academic levels.

Section Ability Grouping

- THE POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE ASPECTS OF TRACKING
- STUDENTS SPEAK OUT

Pro

Con

Tracking Has a Negative Effect on Students

Kerri Tompkins
Staff Reporter

Tracking is Beneficial to SHS

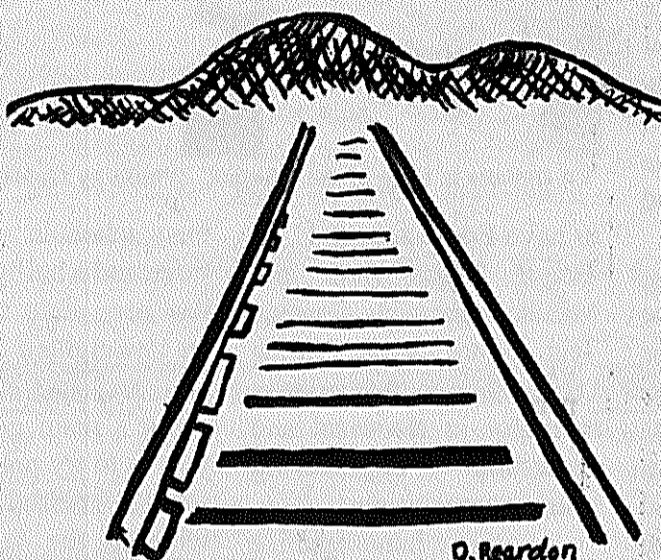
Jennifer Klemets
Staff Reporter

Tracking in Stamford Public schools is beneficial to every student. Each individual has a unique capability to learn. Grouping students together according to their abilities will allow them to go at their own speed and acquire information as best they can. When students reach the fifth grade level, in public schools they are grouped according to Mastery Test scores, and previous grades. This type of tracking is continued throughout the middle and high school years.

The system of tracking is a productive way to structure public schools. Tracking is beneficial because students capable of moving at a faster pace are not being held back by others when they are able to handle the work. In the same aspect, students not capable of moving at a faster pace should not be rushed. These students should have the right to move at a slower pace. The students in lower groups do the same type of work as the

students in college preparatory classes, the major difference is the slower pace.

If classes were mixed, less work would be completed; therefore less learning would be done. If all classes worked at a college preparatory level, students working at a slower pace would easily get confused. They would require more explanation than the honors students. If the classes worked at a slower level, the CP and honors students would find the work too easy and would be bored. The system of tracking is overall beneficial to every student in the Stamford High School because it is designed to their own ability levels.



Ability grouping has an overall negative effect on students. The system of curriculum tracking does not give all students equal opportunities to learn. When many SHS students were asked: "Do you feel you would receive a better education in a higher track?" Sixty-two percent said yes and thirty-eight said no. When students were asked: "Is it all right for you to be tracked?" Forty-six percent said yes and

fifty-four percent said no. *The Round Table* conducted these interviews and the results show that the majority of students in lower groups do not get the same opportunities as students in higher classes.

Voltaire's view that "the lower classes should be guided, not educated," was typical until the 20th century. However, now, some of the problems with lower level tracking include unchallenging work and being grouped with unmotivated students who have a stigma of being an underachiever.

Richard J. Herrnstein and Charles Murray, authors of *The Bell Curve*, who proclaim that statistically there are differences in intelligences between races, state, "Literate cultures everywhere and throughout history had words for saying that some people are smarter than others." However, at Stamford High School some may question, "How do teachers decide who should be in a one or a three curriculum track? Doesn't everybody have the capacity to learn?"

Others may feel a lack of motivation when placed in lower level classes, because the teacher often feels that the students cannot handle high level work. Jeannie Oaks, a graduate school professor at the University of California, states, "Research on tracking and ability-grouped class assignments has provided striking evidence that these practices have a negative impact on most children's school opportunities and outcomes."

In younger grades, students of heterogeneous ability levels are grouped together. This process is called cooperative learning. Within these groups, students tend to teach and learn from each other. Not all students listen attentively to their teachers as they do to their peers. This system shows that the elimination of tracking would be beneficial. After all, all people are created equal and deserve an equal opportunity to be educated.

Speak Out:

How Does SHS Feel About Ability Grouping?



"Tracking demotivates students in bottom level tracks. It is supposed to act as a distinction between students capabilities. Rather, it segregates by socioeconomic backgrounds."

- Yoni Lewis
Sophomore



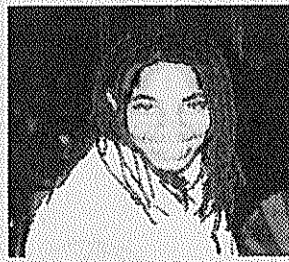
"I think we should use ability grouping for much of our teaching and break down the barriers between bottom groups wherever we can."

- Dr. Queenan
English Department Head



"I have been tracked since grade school and it seems too late to get out now."

- Karla Autore
Junior



"Everyone that I have talked to has made it out to be a racial thing and I don't think it is."

- Kristina Strickland
Senior



"Generally, in three and four groups is where you find the minorities."

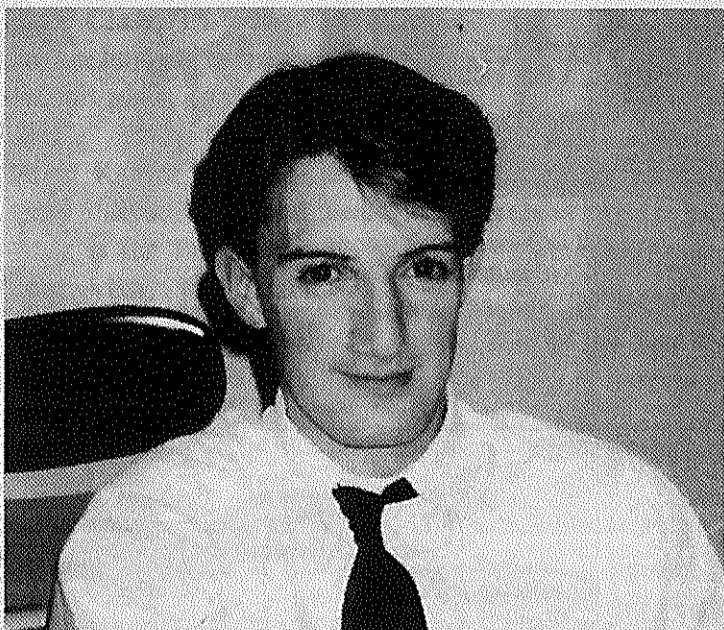
- Farah Pierre



"It is good because then people can move on their own level and teachers can go at a pace according to the

Homecoming King Reigns Over the Black Knights

Lisa Goldschmidt
Photo Editor



Ed DeSalle is King of the Knights. (Photo by Goldschmidt)

He's "saxy," he's sexy, he's Eddie... Edward DeSalle is an asset to the class of 1995, and to SHS as a whole. He has been a successful class treasurer for the past two years, contributing greatly to the numerous fund raising events. On top of his huge responsibility to the senior class, Eddy is heavily involved in the Tri-M Music Society and the Stamford High Jazz and Marching Band.

"This year our band has been the largest, since the late 70's early 80's, Eddie smiles. "We have also won numerous awards. In 1993 we won the CT Western Regional Band Award, and in 1994 we won All-State Band and CT Western Regional Jazz Band lead alto sax."

Eddie intends to play in the Marching and Jazz Band in college. The schools that may be lucky

to have Eddie are the U. of Texas, Texas Arts and Music, Indiana U., Georgia Tech, Notre Dame, Purdue U., and Duke. Eddie plans to major in electrical and recording engineering music composition.

After band practice and senior class meetings are over, Eddy must find the time for his work in AP English, AP Calculus, AP Chem, and economic. Not suprisingly, Ed also fits choir and band into his

busy schedule. In the past three and a half years Eddie has been able to maintain an unweighted 3.513 GPA and a 3.857 weighted. Eddie's main goal for this year is to try not to let himself get stressed out. After winning the homecoming title, Eddy is without a doubt true king of the Stamford High black knights.

TLC Hosts More Than Just Rippowam Dances

Rick Allen
Staff Reporter

Teen Life Center has been stereotyped as the organization that puts on middle school dances. However, TLC is a multi-functional, non-profit, organization that is dedicated to improving the quality of life of teenagers.

The Teen Life Center is aware of the widespread use of alcohol and drug abuse in today's teenage society, so one of their motives is to provide an alternative for teenagers. TLC is making a difference through entertainment and

social programs that are safe and substance free. They run and operate dances, video jobs, music and entertainment programs, the Youth Leadership Conference. Community service projects including food drives, Teen Clowning for Youth, city wide scavenger hunts and Meals On Wheels are ways in which TLC helps within Stamford.

The Teen Life Center originated in 1984 and is governed by a Student Board of Directors. Over the years it has been supported by over 4,000 teenagers, over 16,000



adults and 35 community organizations. Presently TLC exists downtown Stamford at 268 Atlantic street. They are open 9:00am to 5:00pm everyday for anyone who is interested in becoming a member or learning about DJ and video facilities. TLC has a full DJ and video business. If you need DJ or video work done, you can hire qualified students who are experts in their area.

Through these accomplishments the Teen Life Center develops leaders out of teenagers.



Knights on the Move

Eve Cohen grade 9

The familiar freshman face of Eve Cohen is well known on the volleyball team and in the band. Eve plays the flute in the band and claims her interests include biology and math. She has plans of playing softball in the spring and her first quarter grades are exceptional.



Christopher Nam grade 10

Is it possible to maintain straight A's, participate in three sports, and the band? For Chris Nam it is. Soccer, wrestling, track, and the saxophone are his extra-curricular activities.



Val Feygin grade 11

Even with a perfect PSAT verbal score and academic excellence, Val claims that music is his true passion. An avid clarinet player, Val attends the Julliard Music School every Saturday. He is part of the New England Math League and chemistry and Spanish clubs. A future goal of Val's is to attend Columbia, as a pre-med major, and continue at Julliard in a joint program.



Photos and article by Melissa Libner

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Arts and Entertainment

11

The Round Table December 20, 1994

Young's New Album Reveals Old Sound

Kris Kessler
Entertainment Editor

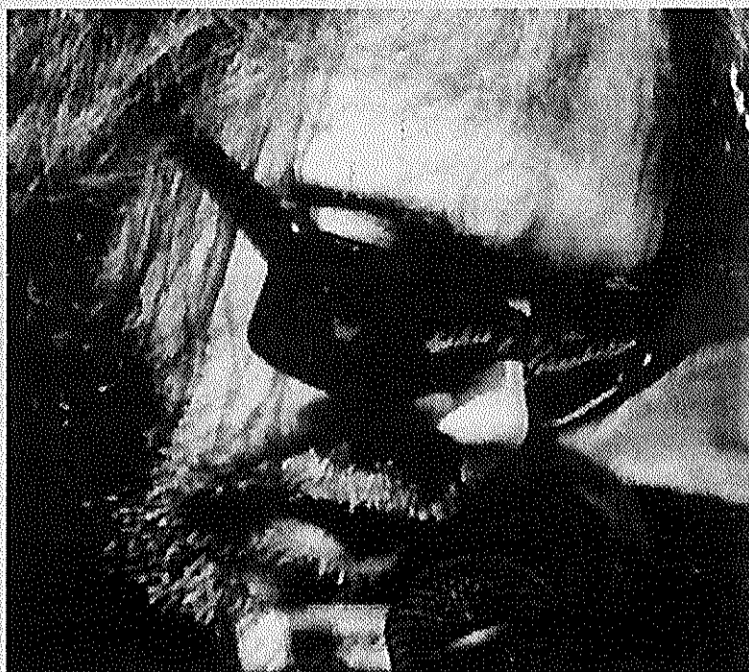
Neil Young's first studio album since the platinum *Harvest Moon*, finds him back with Crazy Horse for a set of songs that range from deeply personal views of love, to observations on life in the '90's. Put together by two fragile solo performances, "My Heart" and "A Dream That Can Last", *Sleeps with Angels* is among the most-wide ranging albums Young has ever recorded. Including tracks from crashing rockers like

"Piece of Crap", to the 21st-century grunge of "Blue Eden", to the classic Crazy Horse jamming on "Changing Your Mind".

The flaws in the album occur both lyrically and vocally. Young's voice is often frayed and muffled, while bad rhymes drag down more than a few songs. Instrumentally, Young delivers some interesting guitar work, but even with Crazy Horse as the back up band, it doesn't help the album. Although, when you're ready to write the album off, Young deliv-

ers the powerful "Trans Am" about the fading of the American dream. It's followed by "Piece of Crap", a humorous put-down of consumer culture that amplifies the theme of "Trans AM", which makes both songs stronger. This album relives on past glories as well as making new waves.

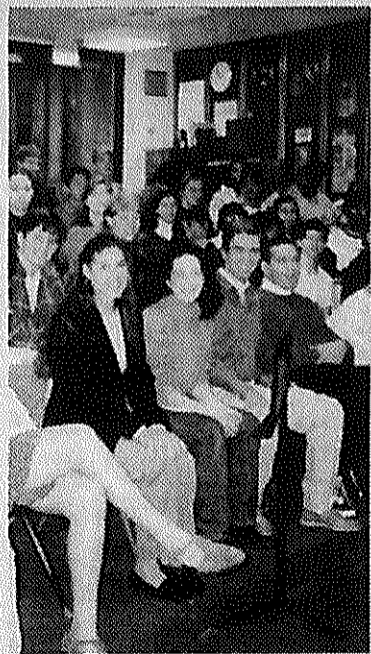
Neil Young and Crazy Horse were filmed during the recording of the album, which should be released in the next few months.



Neil Young deep into a song
photo from album

SHS's Choir and Orchestra Perform All Over the State

The Stamford High Choir, Orchestra and Madrigals have been quite busy this fall. Entering try-outs for the CT All State orchestra and choir to perform in Grand Central station.



Stamford High's Madrigals

Some members of the band, choir, and orchestra auditioned for the All-State Orchestra. Sophomore trumpet player, Lauren Mallozzi, was accepted into the Western Regional Band. The rest of the orchestra and choir are still waiting to hear if they made All-State.

On Tuesday December 13, the choir spent the day singing Christmas music in New York's Grand Central Terminal.

The Madrigals have performed all over the state and we wish them good luck in the All-States.

Pulp Fiction: Not For Everyone

Eiz Caney
Opinions Editor

If you are in the mood for a cute movie in which you will be able to sit back and relax, *Pulp Fiction* is definitely not for you. This movie is not for the faint-hearted. *Pulp Fiction* will keep you on the edge of your seat for two hours anticipating every move.

Expect the unexpected, and don't doubt the audacity of this movie, because anything is possible.

John Travolta, Uma Thurman, Bruce Willis, and Samuel Jackson star in this outlandish movie. The actors in this all-star cast bring the movie

to life and are the driving force behind the action. The movie never follows one set pattern, but the scenes all mold together. *Pulp Fiction* is comprised of many different sequences which when put



together leave the audience satisfied.

To say the least, *Pulp Fiction* to many may be disturbing. There are numerous scenes of violence, an entire "episode" devoted to drugs, and a scene involving a homosexual rape. Even though there are numerous shock-

ing scenes the overall response generated from the movie is positive. *New York Magazine* exclaims, "Ecstatically entertaining, one of the great wild rides of recent cinema." There are those however who are disgusted and outraged by the graphic and explicit scenes used.

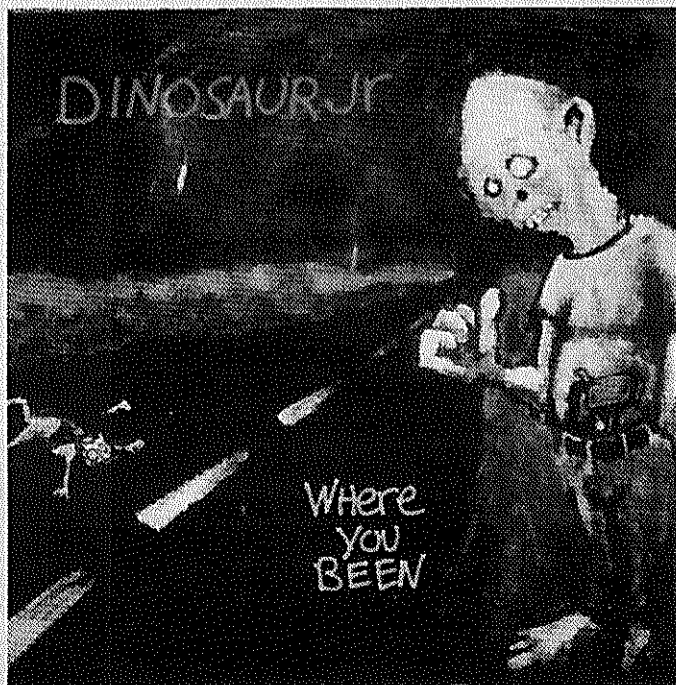
It is hard to say whether or not one should recommend this movie. The best advice is to read the reviews and know what you're getting into. If action, violence, and non stop excitement describe your movie taste, *Pulp Fiction* is a definite must see. If not, I'd stay at home, you never know, *Sleepless in Seattle* may be on.

Without a Sound Makes A Big Bang

Ethan Heftman
Staff Reporter

After thrilling the dust cover crowds at Lollapalooza '93, and selling over 300,000 copies of their previous album *Where You Been*, Dinosaur Jr. is back with a new one, called *Without a Sound*. "Feel the Pain" is the album's first single and video. It is a brilliant song in the Dinosaur Jr. tradition of quick tempo changes and anger filled lyrics.

The band's front-



man, I. Maccis played all except keyboard, played by Mike Johnson. *Without a Sound* is Dinosaur Jr.'s most refined album to date. It is also the most mainstream, with the band moving away from the sound it had on *Green Mind*.

Biohazard began recording their new album, *State of the World Address* with their career beginning to move as fast as their music. Having built a large audience with their previous independent label releases; the Brooklyn band puts the hard in hard core. This album is an intense

barrage of crunching guitars and barking lyrics, courtesy of front-man Bobby Hambel. The first video "Tales From the Hard Side" has been getting lots of play on MTV's *HeadbangersBall*. They can also be seen in a second version of the Onyx video "Slam." The first 100,000 copies of the album were housed in a special orange jewel box with the Biohazard logo on the front.

B.I.G. is PHAT: Notorious B.I.G.

Peter Hebert
Sports Editor

Live from Bedford Stuyvesant, Brooklyn, emerges rapper Notorious B.I.G., and his debut album, *Ready to Die*. The album is filled with "phat" tracks that are currently or bound to get a lot of radio time.

The album begins with an "Intro" that chronicles his life, using short sound bytes. It starts with a scene representing his birth, and follows him through a troubled childhood, up to the point when he holds up a subway train. The "Intro" finishes with a scene in which he is released from prison, and

the notorious



ready to die Biggie Smallz as a baby

immediately cuts into the second song, "Things Done Changed." B.I.G. who often uses the name Biggie Smallz, uses samples, "phat" beats, and creative

rhyming in compiling a great album. The fourth song, "Machine Gun Funk" uses a sample of the Lords of the Underground's, "Chief Rocka." Other

standouts on the first side include "One More Chance" and "The What." "The What" also features Method Man of Wu Tang Clan, and could well be the next popular cut off the album.

The second side is filled with great singles. The first song of the side, is the ever popular "Juicy." Featuring the repeated lyrics, "Its all good," has become a huge hit. Two other tracks that are very popular are "Big Poppa" and "Unbelievable." "Big Poppa" is similar to "Juicy" in that its lyrics and beat have a smooth flow to it. "Unbelievable" is possibly the best song on the album. It has great

rhymes, set to a thumping beat full of bass. The album *Ready to Die* is one of the best rap and hip hop albums released recently, and is a must buy for any rap and hip hop followers. Though he makes it clear that he has made mistakes in his life, Notorious B.I.G. has learned from them, and now has a successful career in rap ahead of him.



Mathew's Dreams Come to Reality

Jeff Fortmann
Staff Writer

It's the classic success story. The basic "tell a friend" method of advertising has gotten The Dave Matthews Band somewhat overnight success along the Eastern coast.

The band began three years ago when David Matthews, a South African native, moved to Charlottesville, Virginia.

The band currently has two albums released. *Remember Two Things*, released in 1993 by Bama Records and their second album *Under the Table and Dreaming* came out by the

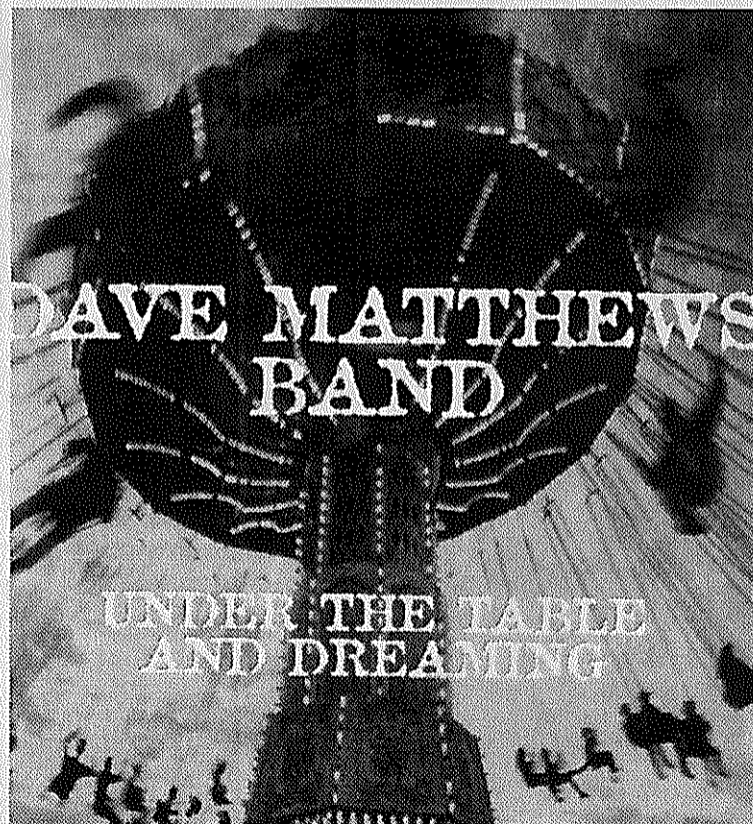
significantly larger company, RCA. *Under the Table and Dreaming* was produced by Steve Lillywhite who has also worked with U2, The Rolling Stones, and Talking Heads.

The band consists of five members: Dave Matthews, violinist Boyd Tinsley, reedman Leroi Moore, Bassist Stefan Lassard, and Carter Beauford who holds the beat as the bands drummer. The band throws together folk-rock, blues-based funk; and their own special talents to create a sound of their own.



Under the Table and

Dreaming contains twelve songs that reveal the bands creativity. Tracks like, "The Best of What's Around" and "Jimi Thing" presents the band's grooving style. Other tracks like "Satellite" (which was also on the premiere album) and "Lover Lay Down" display their lighter and dreamy sounds.

The band is currently touring the east coast in small arenas, theaters, and clubs.



The Dave Matthews Band swings around

Mario the Baker

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SPORTS

Tuesday December 20, 1994

Coverage/Sports Feature

The Round Table

13

SHS ends year by Crushing Westhill

Scott Sommers
Asst. Sports Editor

The end came to another exciting Stamford High School Football season following a final, uplifting 55-10 drubbing of Westhill on Thanksgiving morning. For the Knights, this was the end to a very inconsistent season filled with many big wins and humbling losses.

The Knights finished out their 1994 season at an even five wins and five losses, in what was Head Coach Charles Pike's last year before retirement after 35 years of coaching. Pike said that his final season on the sidelines was an "enjoyable year." Despite some disappointing losses, he felt this team had met his pre-season expectations. Pike also pointed out the team's youth as a reason to

be optimistic for next year. "This is a very young team. Only three seniors started for us." Two of those Seniors were Captain Linebackers Ben Schrier and Antrone Kelley.

Despite having such a young team, the Knights surprisingly beat half of their seasoned opponents. However, they were a very streaky and unpredictable team. Stamford surprised many by defeating Darien, but then lost three consecutive games, including a humiliating loss to previously winless Bassick. The other losses were blowouts at the hands of Trinity Catholic and Danbury. Stamford then caught on fire and won three of their next four games, including wins against Harding, St. Joseph's and Ridgefield. They closed the season by losing to F.C.I.A.C.

Champion Brien McMahon and then dropping a disappointing game to Staples. The blowout of Westhill completed this season full of streaks, and inconsistency.

The Knights were not contenders for the State Title this season, but showed great signs of improvement. The team has almost all its starters coming back next year, including explosive running back and Tri-Captain Billy Fletcher and hard nosed back Elisha Jones. Stamford had many superb individual performers. Fletcher and kicker Ian Duggan were named 2nd Team All-East Division (F.C.I.A.C.), while Ben Schrier, Antrone Kelley, and quarterback Marc Boucher, were named Honorable Mention. Other standouts were center Andrew Katz, linebacker Tim Burke, wide receiver Mike Coney, nose-guard Stefan Westhelle, and line-

Sports Photo of the Month

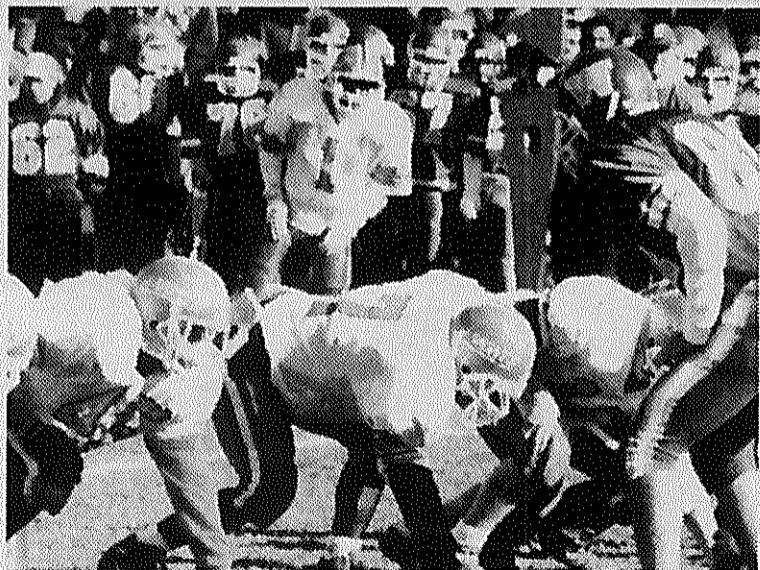


OUCH! Center Andy Katz (53) is nailed with a forearm blow as he pursues a St. Joseph's player. (Photo by Madestone)

man Albert Hargrove.

This was an exciting season for the Knights and next year provides many reasons to be optimistic. Coach Pike feels that next season, "this team can be as good as it wants to

be." Junior Billy Fletcher says of the season, "We learned a lot, and hopefully next year, we'll be one of the top teams in the F.C.I.A.C. We have the talent and the desire, and now we believe we can win."



Juniors J.T. Thomas (45) and Tim Burke (7) prepare to rush the Westhill quarterback in a 55-10 victory. (Photo by Burke)

J.V. and Freshman Football

Scott Sommers
Asst. Sports Editor

Under Coach Jon Albrecht, the Junior Varsity squad had almost as inconsistent a season as the Varsity team. They began the season by winning three out of their first four games, but then lost

the next five games by a combined score of 134 -24. Finishing with a record of 3-6, their leading players were John McMurray, David Isador, and Marlon James. Coach Albrecht feels that these players will step in to help the varsity team next season. Albrecht is in his last

season as J.V. coach before presumably moving up to the Varsity Head coaching position.

The freshman team finished the season with a record of 3-6. Chris Zezma, Mike Magnano, and Paul Katz lead the freshman gridgers.

Runners Look to Next Year

Larry Arango
Staff Reporter

The 1994 Boys and Girls Cross Country teams showed that despite their overall youth, they were still very competitive.

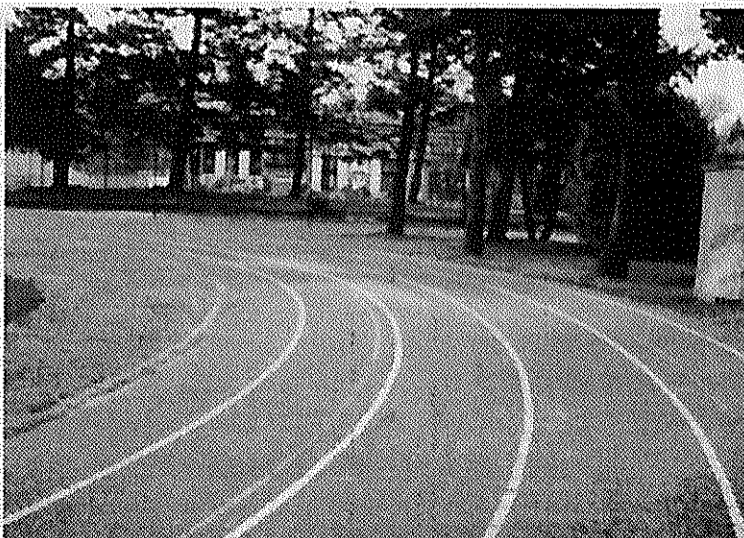
The boys' team struggled throughout the season but managed to finish with a record of 5 wins and 10 losses. This year was considered a rebuilding year and because of the great underclassmen potential (there were no seniors on the squad) throughout

the ranks, they will certainly have a lot to look forward to next season. The team was led by the talented tandem of Sean Mehner and Yoshimi Endo. Both runners were recognized as 2nd team All-F.C.I.A.C. Mehner and Endo, along with many other talented underclassmen, helped the Black Knights to an 8th place finish in the county.

On a more positive note, the girls' cross country team showed this season that they will also be a dom-

inating force in the F.C.I.A.C.s next year. Led by lone senior Jaime Austin, Stamford had a very prosperous season. They finished with 9 wins and 4 losses and placed 6th in the F.C.I.A.C.s. Sarika Doshi, a talented junior runner, was named 1st team All-F.C.I.A.C., while Austin received 2nd team status.

Both teams, are very optimistic about what next year can bring them. Coach Art Brown agrees, "If we work hard during the



Hopefully next year our track will look better than this (photo by Goldschmidt)

off season, and things go our way, we are both going to be contenders to be reckoned with." The Track

team hopes for a strong season. Runners are ready to put all their effort into the upcoming season.

Stamford Wrestlers Look to Demolish Opponents

Melody Poma
Staff Reporter

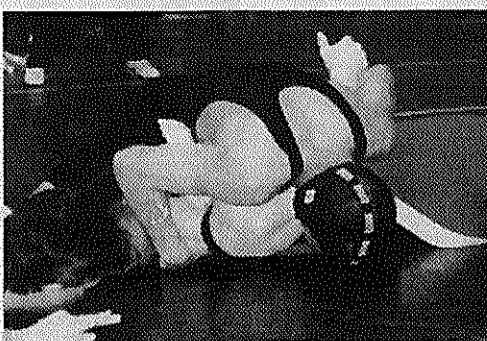
What ever happened to Hulk Hogan, "Macho Man" Randy Savage and the Iron Shiek? Who knows. However, you should know the whereabouts of your Stamford High School wrestling team. If you want to see real matches featuring brute strength, and great techniques, you should stop watching the premeditated WWF and check out the Black Knights in full force. And guess what? They don't have to bathe in oil and construct muscles from a needle to show how tough they are. All one has to do is look at their recent performance.

After last year's superb 19-1 season, and final ranking of 3rd in the State, the Knights look to

wreak havoc upon opponents again this year. Runners-up in both the F.C.I.A.C. and State Class "LL", they are not looking to finish second place again. As senior Tri-Captain Brant Kantor emphatically says, "Second place is the first loser!"

This year, the Black Knights have already been named the top ranked wrestling team in Connecticut. They are also ranked #20 in the nation, in a recent USA Wrestler Magazine poll. Are all these high expectations warranted, after the Knights lost three State "LL" Finalists, including New England Champion Kevin Reed?

"All I have to say is that we will do some definite damage," comments senior Tri-Captain Ron Lomax. Stamford definitely



Senior Mike Gonzalez hopes to have as successful a season as last year. (Photo by Goldshmidt)

has reasons for such optimism, due to the fact they have a group of five returning senior State "LL" place winners that includes Lomax, Kantor, Canaan Crouch, Mike Gonzalez, and Peter Hebert. Other wrestlers looking to make a definite impact are juniors James (J.T.) Thomas, Jay Katz, Tim Burke, and Andy Katz.

Though Stamford's goals are focused on becoming F.C.I.A.C. and State Champions, they are

obsessed with the thought of defeating power-house rival Danbury. The Hatters are the only F.C.I.A.C. team that Stamford High has never defeated in a dual meet and will have won their last 110 dual meets within the County by the time they face SHS. This looks like it will be an amazing season: Stamford can finally prove to the few remaining non-believers in the state that they are championship material.

So, why keep that date with your television to watch a WWF match, when you can come and see the Black Knights inflict brutal bodily punishment on their opponents. And those whimpering cries heard from opponents being viciously pressed to their back? They are very, very

real. Besides, our boys don't strut in wimpy bikini briefs either; they sport the tights!

1994-95 SHS Wrestling

- Dec. 15 Harding
- Dec. 17 Weston Tourn.
- Dec. 20 Norwalk / New Fairfield
- Dec. 23 @ New Caanan
- Dec. 30 Danbury Tourn
- Jan. 3 @ Danbury
- Jan. 6 @ Fairfield
- Jan. 12 Ridgefield / Bunnel
- Jan. 14 @ Fermi / Farmington
- Jan. 17 @ McMahon
- Jan. 20 Greenwich
- Jan. 24 Trumbull
- Jan. 28 Windham / Darien / E. Haven/
- Jan. 31 Montville
- Feb. 4 Westhill @ East Hartford / Newington /
- Feb. 7 Glastonbury

Girls' Field Hockey Team Fights for Respect

Jen Kucharski
News Editor

Judging by the result of their first game, one could say that the future of Stamford High's Field Hockey team would look rather bleak. But after that 5-0 crushing loss to Darien, the team's performance turned out to be better than expected.

Although they only registered one victory, the team showed a marked improvement as the season progressed. Spirits were high for the city championship game against Westhill, but Stamford could not muster a final

goal to tie Westhill. Senior Co-Captain Jessica Mitchell scored the lone goal for the Knights as they fell to the Vikings 2-1. Stamford's only victory came the next day against Norwalk.

Although Norwalk dominated the first half of the game, junior Tara Boland sneaked in two goals, leading the Knights to 2-0 victory. Boland also shined in the Wilton game, scoring the only goal for Stamford in the 2-1 loss. Senior Veronica Tai was the offensive key during the season for Stamford, having assists in both the Norwalk and Westhill games.

After the Wilton

game, the Lady Knights went on to tie both Danbury and Fairfield. They then lost heartbreakers to Ridgefield, Greenwich, Trumbull, and New Caanan, each by a single goal. The fact that the games were so close, was undoubtedly due to the defensive efforts of seniors Alison Forte, Emily Koplik, Jennifer Tamborino, and junior goalie Jennifer Cardilli. Jessica Mitchell summed up the season by saying, "Our record did not show how well we really played. The games were closer than the scores indicated." Scoring goals seemed to be the problem

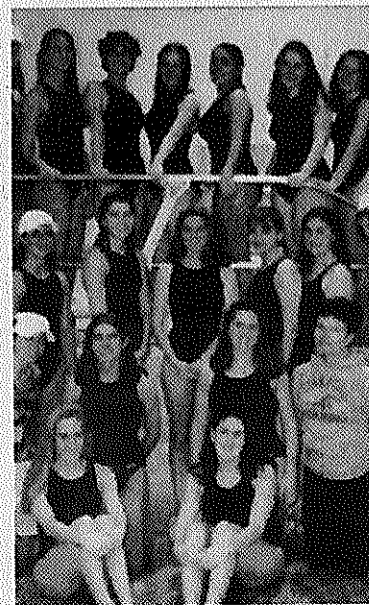
that hampered the Knights all season. The defense could only hold the F.C.I.A.C.'s potent offenses such as Trumbull and Darien to a certain point.

With offensive threats such as Tara Boland and Jen Bemonte returning, hopefully these low scores will be a thing of the past.



Senior defender Ali Forte brings up the ball. (Photo by Boucher)

Black Knights Make Big Waves in '94'



Paul Cassidy
Staff Reporter

The Girls' Swimming and Diving teams just finished an exciting season of F.C.I.A.C. competition. Although losing some close matches, the team ended the season with a 3-9 record. The girls had great wins over Foran, Stratford, and Norwalk. Despite some tough losses, both teams did much better

Seniors Co-captains Jen Kucharski and Katie McKeon were inspirational leaders and left competition in their wake. Jen excelled in the Butterfly while Katie bedazzled opponents in the Breaststroke and Individual Medley. Senior Allison Palauch also swam well in the relays.

The lady Black Knights ended their season with a heartbreaking 98-88 loss to arch-rival Westhill in a match that went down to

brighter spots of the battle were when Jen Kucharski and Sophomore Nicole Querzé placed first and second in the backstroke, and Katie McKeon won 100m Freestyle. The dive team also won city bragging rights this season. Senior Jessica Eis and Junior Nikki Dielo excelled qualifying for State competition.

The squad is optimistic about next season. Freshman Erica Kucharski, Sarah Warren, and Lindsay

be valuable swimmers in the near future. Along with Sophomores Sara Bromley, Danielle Campfield, Emily Carter, and Nicole Querzé, the Black Knights prospects for next year's season look outstanding. The team is guaranteed to improve over the next couple of years.

Katie McKeon gave her version of the season by saying, "We tried hard, swam well, and had fun." That's what high school sports is about.

SPORTS LIGHT

Brant Kantor: Terror On The Mat

Peter Hebert
Sports Editor

The date was February 19, 1994. The remaining seconds ticked off and the loud buzzer was sounded. Brant Kantor had thrashed his opponent and was now the Connecticut State "LL" Wrestling Champion. He became only the fifth Stamford High School student to win, and just the second to do so as a junior. Kantor, now a Senior, views this as the defining moment in his athletic career. Brant had lost to Southington's Marc Dynder a year before in the 1993 State Tournament, and weeks earlier during a dual meet. But in the 1994 State "LL" tournament, the satisfaction of victory belonged to Kantor, who soundly defeated Dynder in the Finals.

Kantor has always been a good athlete, but has found his niche to be on the wrestling mat. As a

Sophomore, wrestling at the 95 lb. exhibition weight class, he had a superb season, finishing with a record of 25-5. He placed 3rd in the F.C.I.A.C.s and 5th in the State "LL" Tournament. Kantor is quick to down play his Sophomore success. "I got some very important mat time, but as I found out, the competition was not nearly as tough as wrestling varsity last year."

In his junior year, Brant dominated his opponents, proving his previous season was not a fluke. Kantor prefers to use his strength on the mat, pinning 10 of his opponents in the first 2:00 minute period. In this outstanding year, he accumulated 17 dual meet victories, compared to only 3 losses. He also finished 2nd in both the Weston and Danbury Tournaments. Through these two defeats in the Tournament Finals, Brant developed an extreme dislike for being a runner-up. "My brother always told

me that second place is like kissing your sister. After the tournaments, I felt like I



Brant "Little Vicious" Kantor looks to repeat as State Wrestling Champ. (Photo by Goldschmidt)

had accomplished nothing. It increased my desire to take home the bracket," referring to the coveted piece of cardboard paper that a tournament winner takes home upon victory.

In the F.C.I.A.C.s Brant placed 3rd, which increased his desire to win the upcoming State Tournament. He cruised through the opening two rounds of the States, pin-

ning the 3rd seeded wrestler from Simsbury. In what Kantor considers to be his toughest match of his life, he edged Manchester's Dan Hughes 7-5, to secure a birth in the Finals. Brant, wrestling at his best, easily beat Southington's Dynder, to win his weight class. He had surprised many onlookers by winning the Tournament as the number 6 seed. "All I could think about was being in the same league as Stu Chung and Kevin Reed (Both former Stamford High School State Champions). I looked up at my mom, who was sitting in the stands, and she was crying. It was great."

This year, Brant plans to have an even more successful season. He has

worked hard during the off-season, lifting weights and attending J. Robinson's Intensive Wrestling Camp, considered the most demanding camp in the nation. In addition to wrestling, Kantor has also been a starting mid-fielder for the SHS Varsity Soccer team for the past two years. He is also very unique because he is able to balance this busy athletic schedule, with a very impressive academic record. He has a G.P.A. of 3.58 and is ranked 23rd in his class. Brant is looking at a list of colleges that include the University of Michigan and Syracuse University. Wherever he attends, Kantor also plans on wrestling. With his desire and work ethic, it is apparent Brant can do whatever he puts his mind to.

1994-95 NBA Season Begins With a Big Splash

Peter Hebert
Sports Editor

A brand new season has begun in the N. B. A. and the competition is as tough as ever. There are several new rule changes that might make or break some teams. The N.B.A.

moved the three point line inches closer and has also made hand checking a foul. These changes were brought in to increase scoring after last year's Eastern Conference Finals. The 1994 Conference Finals, between the New York Knicks and the Indiana

Pacers, turned out to be an ugly, low scoring slug-fest that was dependent on voracious defense. The N.B.A. wants the focus of games to turn to offensive skill rather than brutal defense.

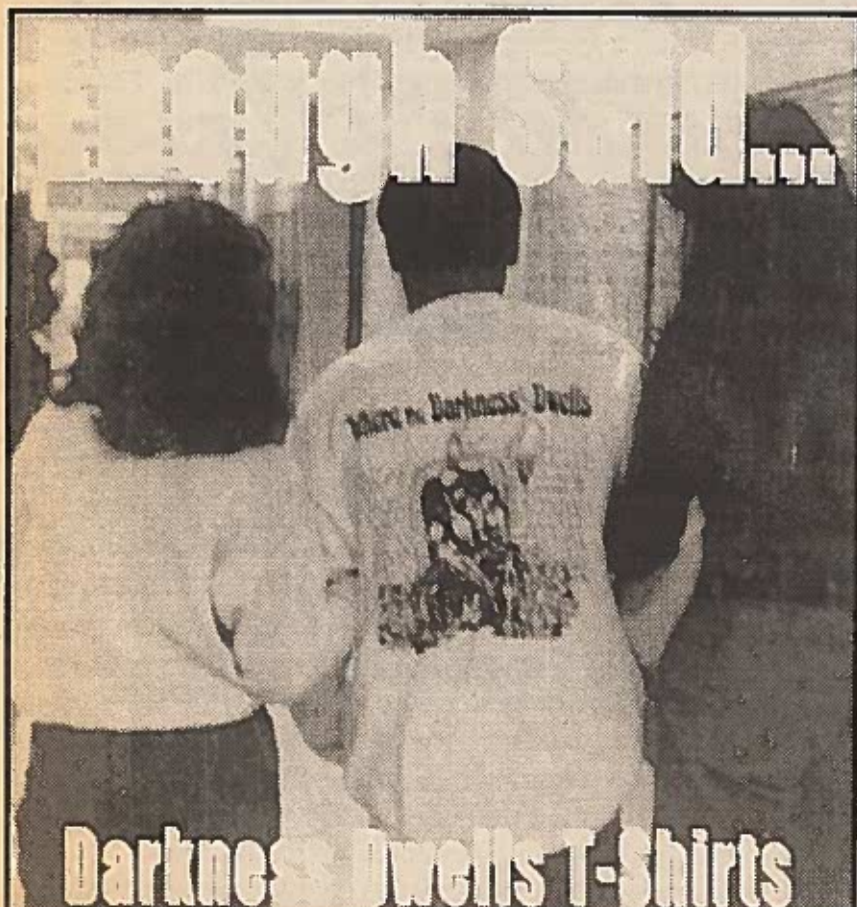
The new rules may directly affect the New York Knicks. New York is the defending Eastern Conference Champion, and was a game away from becoming N.B.A. Champions. The Knicks are led by the all-star threesome, Patrick Ewing, John Starks, and Charles Oakley. Though the Knicks' intense defense must be turned down a notch, the Knicks are still one of the league's top teams. Unfortunately for New York, throughout the season they will be looking up in the standings to the Orlando Magic. The Magic, whose off-

center and aspiring rap artist Shaquille O'Neal. The new additions to the team include Brian Shaw and all-star Horace Grant. In only his second year, dazzling Anfernee Hardaway is another reason the Magic are thinking Championship. So far the Magic have been a dominating force in the league, and look to continue this outstanding performance. Surprising everyone but themselves with last years playoff run, the Indiana Pacers are back for more. The new 3-point line stands to help the ever-dangerous Reggie Miller. With new uniforms, a brand new arena, and a competitive team, the Cleveland Cavaliers are hoping to add excitement to the city. Defending 3-point Competition Champion and all-star Mark Price is just another player looking to take advantage of the new rule.

The Western Conference seems to be the

offense and a stifling "D." Last year's MVP Hakeem "The Dream" Olajuwon leads this young and talented squad. Other key players are Vernon Maxwell, Robert Horry, and Otis Thorpe. There is no lack of raw talent on the Phoenix Suns this year. With the acquisition of all-star Danny Manning, the Suns have one of the best teams on paper. However, the performances of Charles Barkley, Dan Majerle, and A.C. Green will decide the team's fate.

The league is blessed with one of the best rookie classes of recent years, led by the Milwaukee Bucks' Glenn Robinson, the Detroit Pistons' Grant Hill, and the Minnesota Timberwolves' Donyell Marshall. Guard Jason Kidd of the Dallas Mavericks is another explosive rookie that provides an immediate impact for his team. With the new rule changes and player moves, the 1994-1995



Health and Fitness

The Round Table December 20, 1994

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Drop the Advil Bottle Today!

HOME-REMEDY TREATMENTS CAN PROVE TO BE MORE THAN JUST AN OLD WIVES' TALE.

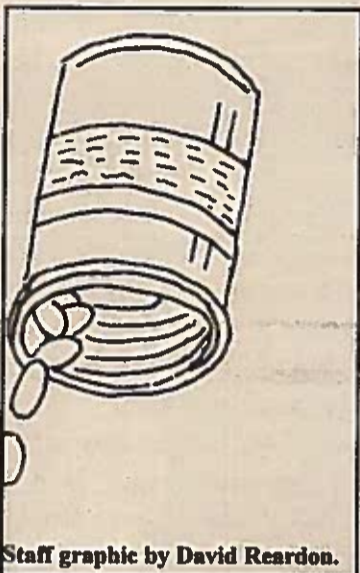
Nathaniel Parady
Health and Fitness Editor

Medical problems can often have long lasting effects. Often the problems that cause the most discomfort do not have prescribed remedies. People have found that going to the doctor is not always the best solution to their problem. The solution may be found inside of your home without having to go to the doctors office and paying expensive doctors fees.

If swimming is a big part of your life you might have the constant painful irritation of ear aches. The ear ache is caused from excess water that builds up in the ear

over long periods of time. Holding a hair dryer to your ear on a low level can help evaporate the water in your ear.

During the summer, if you got stung by a bee you probably had serious inflammation and pain. It



Staff graphic by David Reardon.

has been found that holding a freshly cut onion to the bite reduces the inflammation tremendously.

After eating lots of Halloween candy tooth aches might be a common problem. Try holding ice in your hand for a couple of seconds and the pain should go away.

Finally, for the hard to cure sinus headache, pinching your hand near the thumb's web may very well relieve the pain. The coldness in your hand directly relates to the pressure in your head. Next time you have a minor yet irritating problem, think twice about heading out to the doctor's office. The cure could be in the kitchen.

Can't Eat, Have to Run

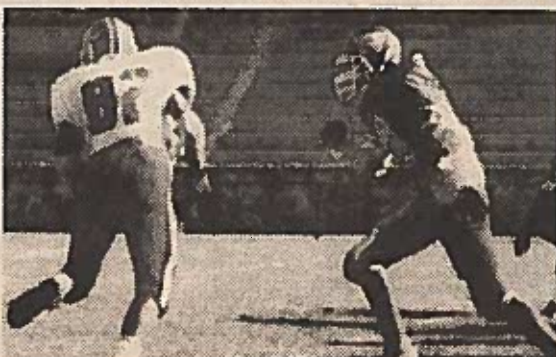
Nathaniel Parady
Health Editor

"How much fat does this have in it?" Sounds like a weight conscious girl at a lunch table, but in the winter it is a wrestler. The three month-long season involves athletes who must maintain a strict diet. Many wrestlers have to drop up to thirteen

pounds to stay in the weight class they are competing in. There are restrictions as to how you can drop the weight, forbidding the illegal use of rubber suits or other devices that making the wrestler sweat uncontrollably. Although the sport is volunteer-based, athletes can face a lot of medical problems

because of dieting. The lack of food can result in constant nose bleeds and stomach problems. All wrestlers in the FCIAC division need to diet, sometimes a lot or a little, but wrestlers say that it is just part of the sport, regardless, in some cases, it can be a serious health hazard to the athletes body's.

55-10 WE KILLED THE HILL!!!



Dear
Health Center.



I have trouble losing weight and I watch my diet. what types of food and exercise are good to keep my weight down?

Moderate aerobic exercise for forty five minutes at a time at least three times a week is the single best

way to keep your body from converting extra calories into fat. Aerobic exercise such as jogging, bicycling, stair climbing, or swimming are great exercises.

Your diet should always follow the USDA Food Pyramid. Most of your calories should come from the bread, cereal, rice and pasta group. You need lots of fresh fruits and vegetables, and a couple of servings of dairy products. Fats and sugars need to be kept to a bare minimum. This means that when you eat a nice cream cheese bagel from DECA in the morning you should leave off the cream cheese or keep it to a very thin layer.

I am fifteen years old and I get dry skin a lot. What are the best creams for dry skin?

First, you need to know why you get dry skin a lot. One common reason for dry skin is our centrally overheated

home's and schools combined with dry winter weather and showering often with a strong soap. The treatment is to bathe no more than once a day, using a mild soap. The use of moisturizing cream as soon as you get out of the shower will help also. Curel, Vasoline Intensive Care, or Lubriderm will work well.

The Round
Table would
like to wish its
readers a happy
holiday season
and a happy
new year!