

The Round Table

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October 17, 1988

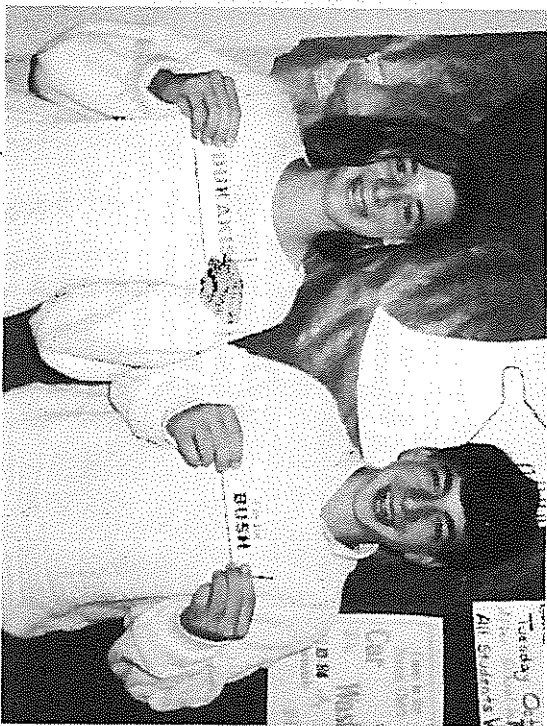
Bush defeats Dukakis in SHS' presidential preference survey

By Vicki Friedman
Co-Managing Editor

The presidential election had been held solely at Stamford High School during the week of September 12, we would now be calling George Bush, Mr. President.

By the margin of 53% to 47%, Bush defeated Michael Dukakis among Stamford High students. These results were gleaned from surveys distributed by The Round Table to all English classes during the week of September 12. Percentages are based on those who responded.

Sixty percent of this year's seniors voted for Mr. Bush. Fifty-nine percent of juniors favored Bush. Fifty-one percent of sophomores agreed. Dukakis' only victory came with the freshmen class. He



Sophomore Timna Sherman and junior Dan Ortega declare their allegiances to the presidential candidates. (File photo)

Both males and females found the issues of crime, AIDS, and taxes to be the main reason they voted for Bush. Bush's tax policy calls for no new or increased taxes in ad-

dition. The final way the poll was divided was by religion. Thirty-four percent of the voters favored Dukakis for the above reasons of drugs and crime.

VOTE BY GRADE		
GRADE	BUSH	DUKAKIS
9	35%	65%
10	51%	49%
11	59%	41%
12	60%	40%

VOTE BY SEX		
Sex	BUSH	DUKAKIS
Male	59%	41%
Female	47%	53%

VOTE BY RACE		
Race	BUSH	DUKAKIS
White	53%	47%
Black	49%	51%

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OPINION

Presidential candidates fail to win endorsement

This year, as in every presidential election year, the Republican and Democratic candidates for president have been doing their share of negative campaigning. Vice President Bush cites Governor Dukakis's flip-flopping on some issues, such as the environment and defense and his lack of foreign policy experience as reasons why Dukakis is unqualified for the office of president.

Dukakis, on the other hand, criticizes Bush's involvement in Reagan Administration scandals such as the Iran-Contra affair and the U.S. sanction of Panamanian General Manuel Noriega's drug-running. The governor also attacks Bush's refusal to increase taxes under any circumstances and his weak support of many social programs.

The Round Table agrees with each candidate, in that his opponent possesses the aforementioned faults. But another reason for the repudiation of each candidate has in recent weeks seen little debate. It is the issue of their vice-presidential selections. Bush picked Indiana Senator Dan Quayle, who has been under fire for using family influence in 1969 to avoid service in Vietnam. Quayle, a hard line conservative, was selected in an attempt to appease the right wing of the party.

Dukakis's choice, Sen. Lloyd Bentsen of Texas, also presents problems. Bentsen, in opposing many major positions held by Dukakis, is closer to Bush on the political spectrum than to his own running mate. Dukakis's main reasons for selecting Bentsen seem to be the Senator's native state of Texas, and the fact that Bentsen will help prevent Bush from labeling Dukakis/Bentsen a liberal ticket.

In theory, though not usually in practice, a candidate selects his vice presidential candidate as the person most qualified to serve as president if need be. Bush's selection of an inexperienced candidate and Dukakis's choice of one who is opposed to many Democratic platform planks, show that each candidate puts his own political fate far above that of the nation. For these reasons, **The Round Table** chose not to endorse either candidate.

School grounds must be maintained to raise pride

The students at Stamford High School have read many articles and heard countless speeches promoting pride in our school. In the past few years, we at **The Round Table** feel that pride has undeniably increased. Through the efforts of student leaders, sports teams, faculty, and the internal repairs, the spirit at SHS has regained its former strength. This year, however, the neglected state of the school grounds has made it difficult for students to feel proud of SHS.

The first day of school, students arrived to see uncut grass and weeds, untrimmed hedges, crabapples on the front sidewalk, and litter scattered all over the school property. We at **The Round Table** feel that it is virtually impossible to feel any pride in our school, when the outside is in such a deplorable state. Pride and school spirit must start with the satisfaction of maintained grounds.

Athletes and coaches should not have to feel embarrassed by unkempt and littered fields, when opposing teams come to compete. Rather they should feel excited to have others witness the beauty and cleanliness of our school.

It is frustrating and unfair to students who are working so hard to upgrade the reputation of SHS when they have no control over how the grounds are kept. When the property is maintained, students will feel more respect in school. Therefore, someone must take

Reasons why Dukakis should be the next President of the United States

By Sabrina Douglass
News Editor

There are many reasons why Governor Michael Dukakis of Massachusetts should be elected the next president of the U.S. As our country stands now, it is evident that the Reagan administration is doing little to end many of the nation's problems.

True, Reagan is an eloquent speaker. Actors usually are. He is excellent at telling our country what will be best for us, and then doing it. What the Reagan administration says and does, and what should be done are not one and the same.

Our country is tolerant of many views. We have freedom of speech, press, religion, etc. Reagan is, indeed, a great influence on our country, since he is President. This does not mean, however, that every citizen's beliefs must be synonymous with his. Reagan's beliefs are not everyone's. By favoring the wealthy and conservative people, the Reagan administration ignores the general population. Everyone has his own beliefs, and he should be respected no matter what they are.

A Bush administration should not even be considered. There are already enough arms in our country. If a war should start, the U.S. would be prepared. If another country initiated a nuclear war with ours, mankind would be destroyed, regardless of how many or how powerful our arms are. There is no need for our country to keep producing more arms. War is not what makes a country strong. There are other things which symbolize strength.

Money should be spent on the education and quality of living for America's present and future. Without better living conditions, there will be neither a present nor a future.

These are enough reasons not to vote for George Bush. However, some people may still assume that Bush is capable of being an effective leader for the U.S. and that he would be an eminent president. Supposing Bush died, though, Senator Dan Quayle of Indiana would then be president.

One of the first articles about Quayle in the N.Y. Times stated three times in one short article that both he and his family are photogenic. No one's physical qualities should have anything to do with why he should be president. It is not wrong that Quayle served in the National Guard instead of the Vietnam war. There are many people who would have

done the same thing, given the choice. Nevertheless, Quayle barely got into law school. His father had to "pull strings" as is stated in one issue of *Newsweek*.

However, there are plenty of reasons to vote Democratic. Dukakis went to Swarthmore University. It is very difficult to get accepted to this school. It shows he must be a very intelligent man.

Also relating to education, Dukakis wants to give everyone the chance to go to college. His idea is to allow students to make loans and pay roughly 4% of their college tuition off every year after they've graduated. This plan will give many more adolescents a brighter future.

Another way in which Dukakis wants to help people is by creating a catastrophic health care plan. This plan will help cover the cost of health problems such as on-the-job injuries. This idea is still in the planning stages, but it should prove to be beneficial.

Also, he comes from a Greek-Orthodox family, and he married a Jewish woman. This is an indication that he is willing to work with people from different ethnic backgrounds without any prejudice.

Recently there was a pro-Bush article in the New York Times which made a big deal out of the whole business concerning the Pledge of Allegiance in school. Dukakis is not necessarily for or against patriotism in the school systems. His primary concern is to protect the rights of people of every religion, such as Jehovah's Witnesses, even if it is not his own.

How is it possible for anyone to question Dukakis's patriotism? Dukakis would not be running for the president of our country if he did not truly believe he could ameliorate its present conditions.

While being extremely intelligent and successful, he remains liberal. He comes from a religious family, and he married someone from a different religion. He shows his belief in liberty for everyone. He shows his open-mindedness again by the act that he does not support the mandating of the Pledge of Allegiance if it offends another human being whose beliefs differ from his own.

Based on the narrow-mindedness of the Reagan Administration, and the receptivity of Michael Dukakis, it would be best for our country to finally have Democrats back in the White House. Dukakis possesses the qualities which will make the U.S. the absolute best country it can be.

Republican policy on drugs is better one

By Len Wolfson
Staff Reporter

During recent years, illegal drugs have become a devastating problem in our country. Some experts are now debating the legalization of drugs in the same manner as the legalization of cigarettes and alcohol were debated.

The advocates of the legalization of drugs contend that the \$10 billion spent annually on drug law enforcement and prosecution would be better spent on medical therapy for addicts. This system would turn drugs into a "medical, not criminal problem."

However, this course is not in the best interests of either political party in this year's election. Both presidential candidates support prohibition, while supporting different routes to reach the goal of a drug-free United States.

The Democrats suggest trade embargoes to

nations such as Panama, that participate in the illegal exportation of drugs. Hence, the U.S. would be alienating the few Central American governments that are friendly to this country. It could be sending these nations straight into the outstretched hands of the Communists, who would be only too happy to gain allies in the Western Hemisphere.

The Republicans have devised a different formula. They propose to use our current armed forces to battle the drug trade by stopping shipments before they enter the country. As a deterrent, the party wishes to pass legislation that will sentence all those who distribute and smuggle drugs to capital punishment.

Such a policy would be the far better one because it should stop drugs from coming into this country and reduce the selling of drugs within the U.S. because it is designed to scare the drug pushers. Something has to be done fast or we will continue to lose the war on drugs.

Bush blunders on choice of running mate

By Marc Mangot
Staff Reporter

It looks as if George Bush has made a mistake in choosing his running mate. By selecting Dan Quayle, the 41 year old junior senator from Indiana, Bush inherited a problem.

Within hours of the announcement, Quayle was attacked for pulling strings to get out of serving in Vietnam in 1969. In response, Quayle showed his political naivete with shaky answers to the press. "I did not know in 1969 that I would be in the room today, I confess."

The Bush camp considered dropping Quayle from the ticket during the convention,

Quayle's mother, Corrine, is the daughter of Eugene Pulliams, the publisher of the *Indianapolis Star* and the *Indianapolis News*. She is rumored to have called Wendell Phillip, the former managing editor of *The News* who was also a retired Army general, to get her son into the National Guard. Despite a long waiting list, Quayle was accepted.

In the Senate, he has allegedly misled his colleagues, and traded votes in exchange for the confirmation of federal judge Daniel A. Manion. Quayle, a friend of Manion's from college, led the fight for his approval. He denies misleading a Kansas senator in an attempt to win a vote, but doesn't deny promising two

NEWS

SHS Health Clinic planning in final stages

By Sabrina Douglass
News Editor

The Stamford Board of Education recently approved a plan to install a health clinic at Stamford High School in the fall of 1989. This plan was proposed by prominent people such as Roslyn Nesin, president of the Board of Education, Dr. Andrew McBride, the Stamford Health Director, and Debra Sate, a health adviser.

This health clinic will offer medical advice on various health issues such as acne, diet, pregnancy, drug addiction, nutrition, as well as offering physical examinations. Although there will be counseling about pregnancy, contraceptives will not be dispensed and there will not be any abortion referrals. The clinic will be staffed by a part-time physician, a social worker, a nurse, a director, and a practitioner.

With the written consent of his/her parents, any student may seek medical advice at this new health clinic. Once this is received, visits will be kept confidential although parents could be notified if a major problem arises.

The health clinic will cost ap-

proximately \$175,000 a year to maintain. A state donation of \$50,000 will help with its establishment. There will be fund-raising activities to raise money for the health center and to make the community aware of its importance to the teenage population. When the money from the fund raisers and the state grant has run out, local and state tax money will be used.

A survey taken by the Stamford Health Department showed that most students and parents are in favor of having this health center at Stamford High School. Among those surveyed: 84.39% (1248) students, and 89.69% (381) parents were supportive of the clinic. However there are still conflicting views on whether or not this novel plan is a necessity.

Because of the fact that the health clinic will be located in the nurses' office, there may be some difficulty for the nurses due to their loss of space. Although both nurses are displeased with this news, Nurse Mary Bien is more vehement about the situation than her partner Mrs. Rosina Zezima.

Nurse Bien's reaction to this idea of instituting a health

clinic was, "What good is it if I can't do physicals or have private conferences with parents? Also, there will be no separate room for boys and girls at the high school level. We already advise and counsel on nutrition, diet etc. We've done it for twenty years. If they take our room, what have we got?"

In addition to the problem of space, Mrs. Bien mentioned the fact that eventually, "The clinic will run out of funds. When that happens the money is taken out of taxes."

The other school nurse, Mrs. Zezima is not biased against having a health clinic. "I have no problem with the health clinic since it is totally separate from the nurses' function in this building. Our only concern is the possible loss of space. I am neither for or against [health centers]."

The health clinic will offer medical advice on various issues such as diet, pregnancy, drug addiction and nutrition.

only have concerns."

Elyse Krasnoger, a junior, believes having a health clinic would be beneficial because, "Some people might not otherwise be able to get medical information that they need, or they might normally be afraid to ask."

Regarding the fact that tax money will be used to pay for the clinic Elyse added, "This does not bother me. I think it's

an important thing, and I'd much rather have my taxes go to something like this than some space or war program."

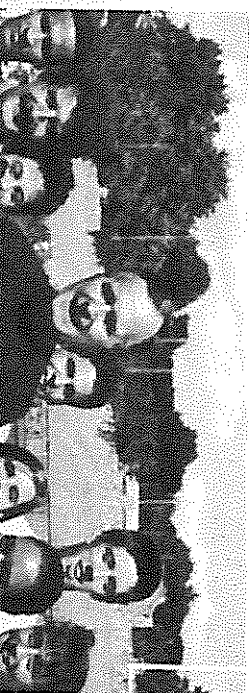
Stamford High Principal Michael Nast is satisfied with this new program. He said, "This year is a whole planning year. We're still in the preliminary stage. I see this as becoming a great service for our students. I am definitely pleased with the idea."



'Running' for president, George Bush jogs at SHS' Boyle Stadium

By Kate Woodward
Staff Reporter

What began as a regular day of practice for athletes turned into an exciting afternoon on September 8 in Boyle Stadium. Little did these



Exchange students

NEWS

Maritime Center offers fun and entertainment

Have you ever swum through the deep ocean side by side with a giant humpback whale?

By Sandra Houston
Staff Reporter

Have you ever swum through the deep ocean side by side with a giant humpback whale? Have you ever felt what it's like to soar through the clouds on a hang glider? Well, next time you find yourself with nothing to do, come to the Maritime Center at Norwalk. Experience these thrilling events through the largest Imax theater in the United States.

Imax is short for Maximum Image. The 340 seat theater consists of an immense curving screen, six stories high and 80 feet wide. Special effects are used to create "pit of the stomach" reality. You not only see and hear, but you are also in the movie.

Other attractions

Besides the Imax theater, the Maritime Center has 20 aquarium tanks filled with 105 different species of marine life. Among these are 10 foot long sharks, sting rays, sea turtles, sturgeons, and other creatures. Not only do you get to see these animals, you can get your hands wet by hand-

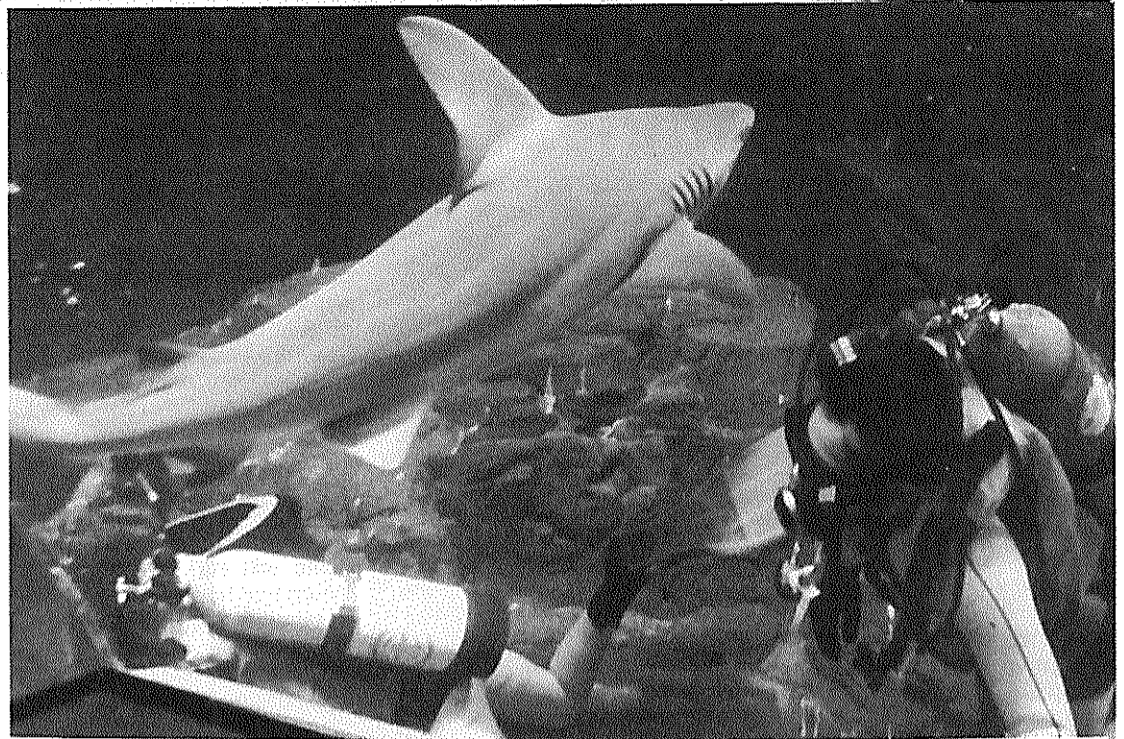
ing sea stars and mussels at the touch tank, with the help of an aquarium assistant.

There are also rooms which display boats, such as the 30 foot steam tender *Glory Days*. In the courtyard sits the last wooden hulled, sail powered oyster boat *The Hope*. The great hall contains the futuristic *Patient Lady 5*, the racing catamaran that successfully defended the Little Americas Cup.

Seven years of planning come to fruition

This dream finally came true after more than seven years of planning, construction, and hard work. The Maritime Center at Norwalk finally opened to the public July 6, 1988. This 30 million dollar project was built to promote tourism to Norwalk and that particular area of New England.

The Center also holds outside programs and lectures available for all ages. The Maritime Center invites you to come scuba diving, canoeing, and beach combing. Discover why the beaches, salt marshes, the Sound, and this area are so very special.



The Maritime Center in Norwalk has an aquarium like no other in Fairfield County. Its IMAX theater brings viewers into the ocean with the fish. (Photo courtesy of The Maritime Center)

Lack of working water fountains upsets SHS students and staff

By Dave Griffin
Staff Reporter
& Jay Vogel
Asst. Layout Editor

With no soda machines in sight, students only have one way to satisfy their thirst. They do this by relying on the water fountains which are closest to their rooms. Unfortunately, the students usually have to walk around the halls in order to find one in working condition. This is a problem that not only has students complaining, but teachers as well.

Teachers who let their students out for a quick thirst aid end up not seeing them again for several minutes. For the sake of the teachers and students, this problem of lack of working water fountains must be solved.

Mr. Pariello, the assistant head of the custodial staff was called upon for the answer to the question, "Why don't all the water fountains work?" Mr. Pariello's response was not fit to be printed, but basically, he avoided the question for reasons which appeared to be lack of knowledge on the subject.

It became evident that the



The broken fountain in the center first floor corridor stifles thirsty student Frank Fazio in his quest for water. (File photo)

situation was out of the hands of his staff, and in the hands of Mr. Burriesci, from the Buildings and Grounds department, and that he was tired of hearing these complaints.

Principal Michael Nast tried to explain the situation. Mr. Nast said that the complete water fountain units are broken. The water has been turned off until the units are replaced. Unfortunately, this is a big project and may not be resolved soon.

The problem has affected

the first floor the most. Most of the fountains on the first floor of the building are not in working condition. This part of the school, as well as the middle sections, will have their problems resolved shortly.

With relief in sight students can wet their palates and think about the refreshing drink which awaits. It is hoped this will not only satisfy students' thirsts, but calm teachers' anguish by reducing the time students spend in the hall looking for water.

Student Activity Center guide to special programs

By Jonathan Chapman
& Jen Fraulo
Staff Reporters

A group of students have recently formed SAC (Student Activity Center), a committee designed to channel information to high school students about academic competitions, enrichment programs, summer camps, and other student programs.

Group members currently include Jennifer Fraulo, Robin Rosenthal, Aimee Mak, Evan Kantor, Brian Gillan, Mark Mangot, Matthew Romaniello, and Jonathan Chapman. Two students from Westhill, Adena Berkman and Rich Brest, are also participating.

Students are being assisted by Mrs. Dianne Drugge, a district wide coordinator, and parent volunteers. Right now, SAC is in the early stages of organizing information about the special programs, and planning ways to publicize them for the benefit of all high school students in Stamford.

Each member of SAC has been assigned to a department head to gather information about opportunities within each academic area. Unfortunately, because of early deadlines, it is too late to participate in many of the fall programs, but this information will be kept on hand for next year.

Parent volunteers are collecting information on summer programs of possible interest, and SAC members plan to contact other schools that offer special programs. Not much information has been

SAC meets in Mrs. Drugge's office in Rippowam High School once a week. Past meetings have dealt with the various ways SAC could gather and spread information about competitions, camps, and special programs.

Once enough information has been gathered, SAC will need a way to get it across to the student body. No definite plan has yet been set. One idea that has been discussed

SAC is designed to channel information to students about academic competitions, enrichment programs, and the like.

is to set up a desk in the Career Center. This desk would have on it a box for requests and literature about current programs of possible interest.

Another way to spread the information would be to have a desk and filing cabinet that would be manned by volunteers during the school day. Students could talk to the volunteer about their interests, and the volunteer could refer students to what they wanted.

Mrs. Sergel of the Library/Media Center said that the back room of the upper level (the former Writing Center) can house the files. In this way a casual atmosphere can be maintained in which students can peruse the information. Both the Westhill **Westword** and SHS's **Round**

about the SAC. Sophomore Aimee Mak, a member of the founding committee, feels that SAC is, "a great idea. A lot of students want to get involved, but don't know how. SAC will enable them to find all opportunities available in a convenient central location."

Sophomore Beth Hatterman has participated in essay contests, such as those to be offered by SAC. She views her participation as a beneficial experience, "because it was helpful in developing writing techniques and served as a good practice for college essays."

The SAC hopes to eventually be able to offer information regarding volunteer jobs in addition to those about programs and competitions. Ultimately, if successful at Stamford High

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FEATURES

Knight Light

With Jason Schmidt as president, class of '89 reaches new heights

By Matt Steinberg
Co-Managing Editor

Upon hearing the term "senior class president," the words "leadership" and "popularity" come to mind. What better person exhibits these qualities than Jason Schmidt?

As class president, Jason Schmidt is a senior to watch. Combining challenging academic courses with an active role in extra-curricular activities, Jason has succeeded in rising above the others. He has excelled in many areas—student government, athletics, and community work.

Jason has been involved in student government throughout his high school years. For three years he served as treasurer of the Class of '89. Now he is the president. Jason said, "When I entered this school my goal was to have an active role in student government, but I never imagined that it would take me this far."

Jason predicts big things for

"... my goal was to have an active role in student government, but I never imagined that it would take me this far."

—Jason Schmidt

the senior class. Willing to do anything to better SHS, he proclaimed, "I promise to leave my mark."

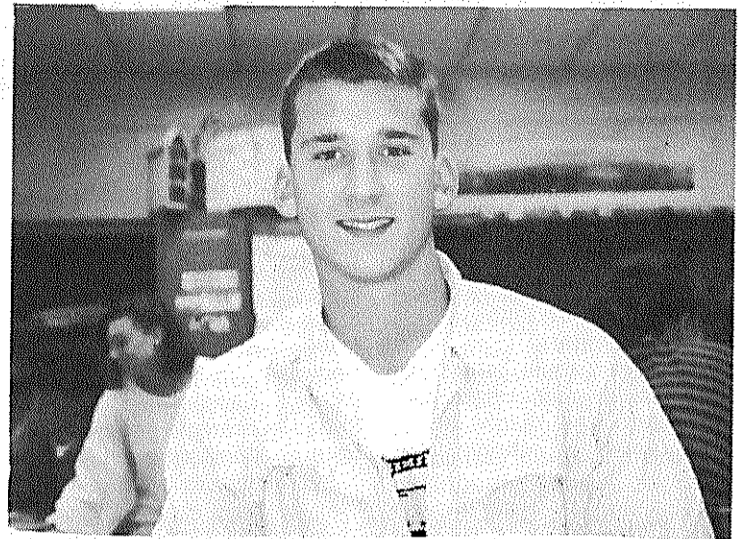
It seems that whatever Jason does he leaves his mark. Take sports for example. For two years Jason has competed on the swim team, lettering in both his sophomore and junior years. He said, "Swimming has made a large impact on me. Coach Dick has taught me to strive to be the best I can be."

Jason's athletic skills are not limited to swimming. In addition to his aquatic participation, he has played on the golf team since his freshman year, and was selected to be the captain of next spring's squad.

Jason has also managed to maintain a 3.4 GPA while taking such challenging courses as A.P. English, A.P. European History, and A.P. Calculus. His schedule is balanced with the more creative endeavors of Creative Writing, Journalism and Psychology. Jason is also a member of the National Honor Society.

Perhaps Jason is best known for leading "SHS on the Air" each morning at 8:35. The wake-up call he gives to Stamford High is one anticipated by sleepy students and teachers.

Besides the myriad of school activities in which Jason participates, he finds time to



Jason Schmidt has taken over the leadership of the school by his intensity and desire to make SHS great. (File photo)

play an active part in AZA (a service group for Jewish youth). He has served as the group's secretary, treasurer and membership chair.

Weekends are special times for Jason. He enjoys going to the movies, going to parties, and hanging out with friends. He said, "I like to kick back on the weekends. Just call me

'Spuds.'"

Possibly the greatest aspect of Jason's personality is his sense of humor. Always one to find the lighter side of even the worst moments, Jason is a good person to be around when in need of a good laugh. Senior Starin Woodward, speaking metaphorically said, "Jason is like a cool breeze on a hot day."

Collecting baseball cards wise investment

By Mark Sherman
Staff Reporter

With the stock market crash last October, the investment world has not been the same. Investors are looking for an alternative and many have set their sights on baseball cards.

Over the past 10 years collecting baseball cards has grown in popularity. In fact, the value of many cards has doubled in recent years. The fact that baseball card shows, as well as retail outlets, can be found all across the country is an indication of how this hobby has grown into a big business.

Ironically, many ask the question, "Why would someone pay over \$1000 for a

picture glued onto a piece of cardboard?"

It may appear silly, but there are several factors, or rules, which determine prices. The rarity, popularity of the player, and the condition of the card all play a part. A star player's rookie card will increase in value as the player increases in stature.

How old the card is is a big factor. A 1952 Topps Mickey Mantle in perfect, or mint condition is worth \$6000. Older cards are less likely to be kept in mint condition, decreasing their worth. Collectors have become experts in handling cards to avoid damage.

Baseball cards have become a stable and interesting commodity for in-

vestors. As the popularity of cards is growing, there is a major argument going on across the country. Many collectors, not primarily investors, are upset at the fact that card collecting has become so expensive. These collectors are the baseball fans who are into collecting for the fun of it. One would think that they would be

happy that their collections are worth so much money, but some collectors say that their collections bring back memories, and memories can't be sold.

The appreciation in value of cards depends upon supply and demand. However it does not end there. If a player does well during the year, his card

will appreciate. Conversely, if a player does something to affect him negatively, e.g. drug use, his card's value will go down.

Another reason for an upsurge in a card's value is if there is a major error in one printing which was corrected later. These cards are rare and their value reflects that fact.

Are school dances out of style for students?

By Dave Barnes
Circulation Editor

This year's senior class kick off dance wasn't a huge success, but for those who were there, it was a lot of fun. To begin with, it wasn't like dances of the past. A new D.J., "Funky Sound," added dance contests and personal remarks which made the dance more exciting.

"Funky Sound, the new D.J., brought better music," remarked senior girls. Funky Sound held two contests during the dance. After several popular songs were played, energetic Laura Bird and Chris Scalise won the Best Dancer Contest. The Limbo Contest was won by Norton Norzeline with runner-up Larry Redden.

All the winners received shirts. As runner-up, Redden won a pair of sun glasses. Funky Sound appears to be

Stamford High's new choice D.J.

Secondly, a small but energetic senior turnout led by wild and supportive students shook the gym until midnight.

The spirit of the senior class was evident upon entering the gym. Boys and girls alike danced wildly in a smoke-filled gym. Larry Redden remarked, "More people should attend the dances and experience Funky Sound."

Finally, a new layout in the gym made people feel more secure.

Senior Angie Dunmire also expressed sorrow over the low attendance and promised to dance with anyone who comes to the next dance.

Although only making about \$10, class president Jason Schmidt looks forward to a successful Slave Dance in October.

Angie Dunmire expressed sorrow over the low attendance and promised to dance with

Problem of teen pregnancy focus of Mrs. Simons' study

By Lia Dickinson
Assistant News Editor

Over 1.1 million American teenagers become pregnant each year. Mrs. Mollie Simons, a guidance counselor at SHS, took a sabbatical leave last year to study adolescent pregnancy. During that time she participated in numerous activities which included conferences and programs for teenage mothers. She continues to be an active member of several committees dealing with the problem of teenage pregnancy. Her involvement is strong and impressive.

Stamford High will have a health clinic opening in September of 1989 [see related story page 3]. According to Connecticut's state law however, the health clinic will be prohibited from providing contraceptive devices or abortion referrals. Students have to rely on their health classes for obtaining information on pregnancy.

One of Mrs. Simons' findings was that, contrary to popular belief, teen pregnancy isn't restricted to minorities. In fact, white American girls are twice as likely to become pregnant than teenagers in France, Sweden, England, and Canada.

Teenage sexual activity rates are basically the same throughout these countries. Then why is it that the U.S. has such a problem controlling the birth rate?

One reason may be the fact



Mrs. Simons' year long sabbatical to study teenage pregnancy prepared her for this year's work. (Photo by Tara Graham)

pregnancy prevention programs, while the U.S. did not stress such commitment until they felt the economic and social strains of day care and financial aid.

Studies have shown that poverty and the lack of education are the biggest factors causing teen pregnancies. Others believe that the problem of teenage pregnancy should be blamed on America's moral decline or on liberal views on pre-marital sex. The U.S. is faced with a big problem when estimates say that one fourth of today's 14 year olds will become pregnant before the age of 20.

Psychological factors have been found to play a role.

the hardest to overcome. Researchers have found that most young people who have sex will do it for psychological reasons rather than hormonal.

Besides the obvious physical risks for both the mother and the infant, the newborn is unfairly faced with worse health, lower education, and poorer living conditions. These circumstances of their childhood will later be faced with prejudices.

Help and prevention centers are opening in reaction to great demands. Planned Parenthood, mentor and peer counseling, and other such organizations have been proven successful. In addition to this, school based clinics have

FEATURES

New Spanish teacher generates interest in foreign language study

By Will Rousmaniere
Staff Reporter

This year, the language department of Stamford High School has acquired a new teacher who already has evoked increased enthusiasm from his students.

Mr. John Landis, who has been teaching languages for ten years, has taught at a great variety of schools. He

spent four years at Weston; a year and a half at St. Luke's; six months at Westhill; and a year at Hopkins, before arriving at SHS. During that period he also taught in California.

His reason for moving around so much? "I taught at many different schools because I'm a bit of an explorer," Landis said, "but I think I'm ready to settle down here at Stamford High."

Mr. Landis is multi-lingual. Besides teaching Spanish, he has also taught German and French. He believes strongly that everyone should be bilingual. "Spanish for instance," he said, "is unofficially the second language of the United States, and therefore should be learned in order to keep communication throughout America."

He continued, "I believe that language is the soul of man and the only way to really know someone is to be able to communicate with him or her."

So far Mr. Landis likes the school, although he admits to getting lost and still having trouble finding his room. His first task is getting his students to feel comfortable speaking Spanish. He is currently accomplishing this by following his rules for good teaching. They are 1) having knowledge of the students; 2) getting the knowledge to the students; 3) caring for the students; and 4) having a good sense of humor.

He tries to speak to his students on their level. "Too many times I've seen classes where the teacher and students don't communicate."

He said, "Having a good sense of humor is important. It helps to be entertaining. No student wants to watch the teacher read the lesson throughout the period. An occasional joke keeps their attention."

Already students are starting to show greater enthusiasm in their Spanish classes. As one student said, "Before this year Spanish was just a college requirement, but now I'm really interested in learning the language!"

Mr. Landis understands that not everything can be made interesting. In fact, he compares learning a language to playing a sport. "When you practice it's very boring, but after a lot of practice you get to play in the game and it all becomes exciting."

"Having a good sense of humor is important. It helps to be entertaining. An occasional joke keeps their attention."

—Mr. John Landis

Horoscopes alone are not an astrologists job

By Deidre Jafari
Staff Reporter

Most of us are fascinated by astrology, as it lures us into believing it predicts our future. But that belief is really a misconception. Astrology is not some mystifying myth told by a fortune teller. It is a science based on movements of planets as well as mathematics.

Sometimes, astrology is confused with fortune telling, which cannot be scientifically proved.

A professional astrologer might say, "Mars is retrograding by Pluto; it may be wise to clear up any problems with those close to you, as in two weeks it could amount to something more."

It is not saying this will happen. It is saying this could happen. This is what makes people skeptical about astrology. They read one or two horoscopes and decide not to believe astrology. Either the horoscope prediction did not happen or it did not apply to them.

Sydney Omar's column in *The Advocate*, contains real, calculated horoscopes. Although they may seem like generalizations, they are not.

Fortunately, there are real

astrologers, calculated horoscopes, and factual information on astrology. Understanding it does not mean the reader has to know everything about how the stars and planets relate to one another. However, accepting astrology for better or worse is essential. Horoscopes are not always valid.

Astrology is meant to benefit a person, not make him paranoid about a chance prediction. Reading a horoscope the day after is an effective way to discover if astrology can be beneficial.

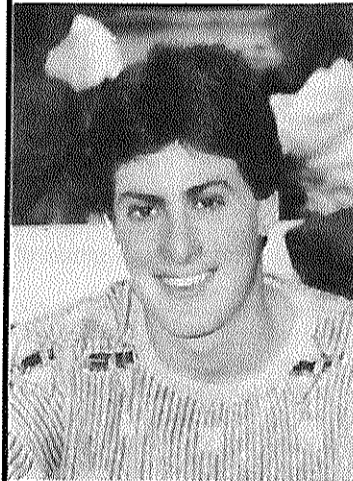
Barbara Wall is an astrologer who has her own program called *Off the Wall Astrology*. Callers call her and ask one question. She tells about the positions of the planets and explains them visually on her television show. She tells the facts and details and will not say something looks favorable when it doesn't. She is on Channel 12 from 6:30 to 7:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

For most people astrology is another form of entertainment. They can either take it or leave it. Life is mystifying itself as everyday is different. Astrology is a way of improving life and who knows, it may help.

SPEAK OUT

If you could vote for president, who would you vote for and why?

By Tara Graham
Photo Editor



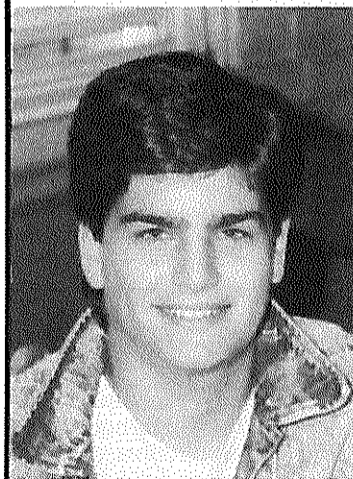
Marc Kipness
Grade 12

"I would vote for George Bush. I like the fact that the past eight years have been prosperous, and I feel that he will be tough on crime with his position on the death penalty."



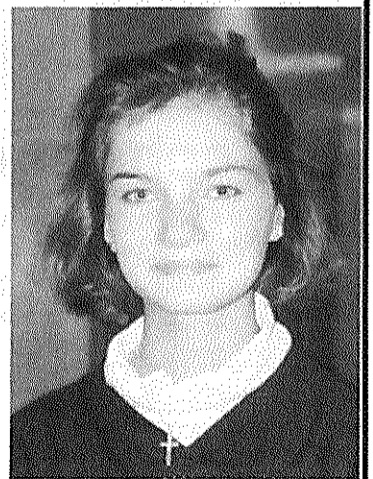
Vanessa Woods
Grade 9

"I would really like to see George Bush as president because I feel he has experience, integrity, and is best suited for the presidency."



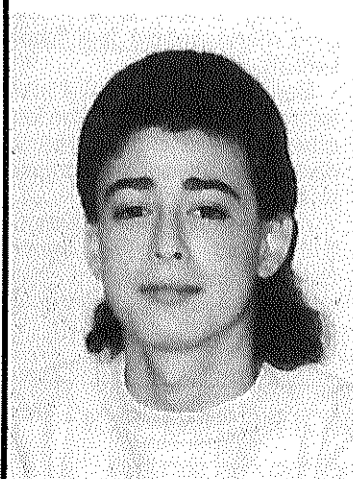
Mark Danon
Grade 12

"George Bush. I like his positions on the death penalty and taxes."

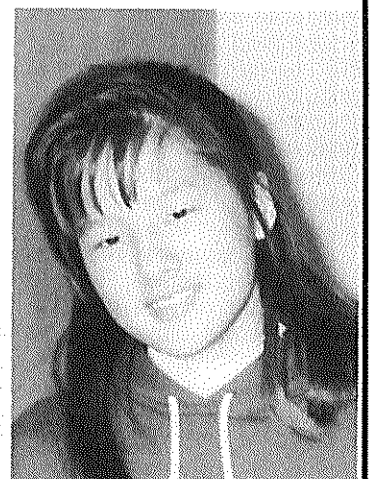


Camilla Wahlberg
Grade 10

"Michael Dukakis because the government needs a change to Democrats."



Eric Lotstein
Grade 11



Emily Tsai
Grade 9

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NEWS FEATURES

Connecticut seen as 'Promised Land' for N.Y. crack dealers

By Tom Jennings
Advertising Editor

In recent years, the number of drug sales and the amount of drug-related violence has increased greatly. In the tri-state area, the growing industry built on "crack" has become a multi-million dollar business, and Fairfield County is no exception to the rule.

Many of our young people view selling drugs as a quick way out of poverty. And now many New York dealers, who see Connecticut as their new "Promised Land", are bringing their troops in to muscle in on the local action. The

result—violence and death in many of the state's low-income housing projects.

For example, just this summer, two people, including a woman seven months pregnant, were shot and killed at Norwalk's Roodner Court. Twin Towers in Bridgeport, a complex with mostly elderly and handicapped residents, has been hit hard by crack and heroin pushers, as well as prostitutes, in the past three years.

In the month of August alone, there were three crack-related muggings. Tenants say that simple trips to take out the garbage or do the laundry are now life-threatening

adventures. The tenants finally got together and called the Guardian Angels into Bridgeport. Mayor Thomas Bucci and the city's police say they will cooperate with they Angels as long as they obey the law.

Angels plan to expand services

Curtis Sliwa, founder and leader of the Guardian Angels, wants to expand his mission in Connecticut into the cities of Stamford, Norwalk and Hartford, but local officials are resisting. Here in Stamford, where drug sales and drug-related violence have increased recently in complexes

Many New York dealers are bringing their troops in to muscle in on the local action.

such as Southfield Village, Police Chief George Mayer wants no part of the "vigilante group" and has made it known he would not welcome their presence in Stamford.

Many say the police merely resent be upstaged by a group of unarmed, unpaid volunteers, who have nothing but their martial arts skills. The Guardian Angels have been credited with making many

citizens' arrests and drug raids. Several members have been shot and killed patrolling the streets, but this hasn't stopped their crusade.

Whether or not the Guardian Angels do a better job than the police is questionable, but any help is welcomed which can make a contribution toward controlling the drug problem in Fairfield County's cities.

Dining Out

Sakura of Westport offers unique dining experience

Sakura attempts to follow that tradition by cultivating the Japanese art of cuisine.

By Sarah Min
Staff Reporter

Having never been to a Japanese restaurant before, going to the famous Sakura in Westport was an exciting experience. Although from the outside, it looked like an old hovel, going inside the atmosphere improved dramatically.

We were greeted by a friendly hostess who led us to a tatami, a room where diners sit on the floor and eat Japanese food. The restaurant had an aura which seemed very ancient, yet had a friendly atmosphere. Right away a waiter came and we ordered sushi for starters, which at Sakura is highly recommended by food critics.

Besides sushi, there are various types of main dishes, such as beef or salmon teriyaki. The teriyaki is very tender, full of flavor with lots of delicious Japanese sauce surrounding it. Lunch or dinner can be topped off with a variety of desserts such as ice cream, sherbet, or cake.

In another section of the restaurant a hibachi chef demonstrates his culinary skills with knives and other sharp utensils.

One of the special things

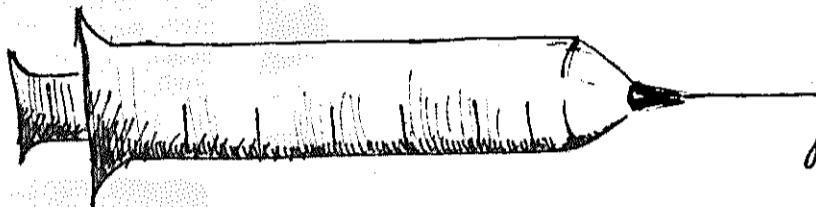
that makes the place so attractive is the live birds ranging from tiny canaries to huge parrots which are placed around the rooms. Of course, they are kept in huge glass cases, but it gives Sakura a jungle like atmosphere.

There is also a sushi bar where chefs slice the fresh clams, fish or other various types of seafood and prepare it for the customer.

Sakura, meaning cherry blossom in Japanese, is the national flower of Japan. The flower has been cultivated and has survived for more than 1000 years. Sakura attempts to follow that tradition by cultivating the Japanese art of cuisine.

There is a slight flaw though; the cost of the food is a bit on the expensive side. But that is the sacrifice a customer must make if he or she wants the most authentic kind of dining, with delicious food. To enjoy good Japanese food in its surroundings, go to Sakura. As junior Lee Shufro commented, "The atmosphere was pleasant, the service efficient, and the food scrumptious."

Sakura recently opened another restaurant on West Park Place in Stamford, opposite Columbus Park.



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FEATURES



Ms. Mary Sentementes at work in her math classroom, finds time to instruct the field hockey team as well. (File photo)

Grateful Dead still rockin' after 20 years

By Jon Casden
Staff Reporter

Now going into their 24th year, The Grateful Dead are still alive and kicking. They have been through a lot, but they're still playing as well as ever.

Group's History

The group formed in 1965 in San Francisco, with guitar player Jerry Garcia leading the way. From 1967 to 1969, The Dead were at the center of the Haight-Ashbury hippy scene along with such groups as Jefferson Airplane led by Grace Slick, New Riders of The Purple Sage, and Big Brother and The Holding Company (featuring Janis Joplin). At this time The Dead were developing a loyal legion of followers, known as "Dead Heads." These fans were known to follow the group around to wherever they played. And they went all over, since The Dead were known more as a touring group rather than a group that produced great studio works.

During the late '60's, The Dead showed up at such major festivals as the Monterey Pop Festival and Woodstock. The Fillmore West was the club in San Francisco where The Dead played often. The advertisements for these shows produced some of the greatest psychedelic posters ever.

Drug connection

As The Grateful Dead continued to play into the '70's, the number of Dead Heads likewise grew. These loyal followers were known for being heavy drug users, as was Jerry Garcia. Nevertheless, the group continued to play and tour in the company of these groupies into the mid-'80's, until they suffered a major setback.

In 1986 Jerry Garcia was hospitalized with drug-related diabetes. Garcia was close to death for several months, but recovered, to the joy of Dead Heads everywhere.

Shortly thereafter, the group returned to the studio and produced a new record, *In The Dark*. Released in 1987, it was the Grateful Dead's first platinum album ever, as they hit new heights of popularity.

Concerts successful

The group now sells out every arena in which they play, filling them with old and new Dead Heads. Concerts usually open with something from *In The Dark*, such as *Touch of Grey*, their first top 40 hit, or *Hell in a Bucket*. Following these selections they play a mellow set with songs such as *Ship of Fools*, *Strawberry*, and *Fire on the Mountain*.

The second set consists of fast-paced rock which includes the like of *Samson and Delilah*, *Aiko* and *Bertha*.

The Grateful Dead are still

The Grateful Dead are still playing as well as they ever have, despite the fact that each member is in his 40's.

Field Hockey Coach Sentementes shows team hard work pays off

"I think SHS is a great place to teach. Everyone is positive from Mr. Nast to the students."

—Ms. Sentementes

By Sara Albrecht
Staff Reporter

Some of you may know her as "Coach", others know her as Miss Sentementes, but all who know her, know her as a lively, optimistic, and understanding person. For those who don't know her, she is the newest member of the math department, as well as coach to the field hockey team.

Miss Sentementes became interested in teaching math while substituting for a math class at Dolan Middle School. She received her Bachelor's Degree in math at the University of North Carolina and received her master's at the University of Bridgeport. Because there was an opening at SHS, she started working here, instead of going back to teach at her Alma Mater, Westhill. She said, "I think SHS is a great place to teach. Everyone is positive, from Mr. Nast to the students."

As both a teacher and a coach to some students, she said it is sometimes difficult, as she does not want to be accused of playing favorites. She feels teaching here is a definite advantage because she is able to know the

students both in and out of the classroom.

Sophomore Kelly Walters, a student and athlete of Miss Sentementes stated, "It's great having your coach as a teacher. She is really understanding and explains everything one hundred times if you need it, both in the classroom and on the field."


"Coach S", as she is called by many, brings new knowledge to the field hockey team. As a player herself, she has a very prestigious list of awards. In her high school years she was ranked as all-city, all-county, and all-state. In college she was ranked all-American, and Atlantic Coast Conference MVP.

Miss Sentementes holds strong philosophies as coach and teacher. As a teacher she said, "My goal is to develop students' mathematical ability as well as their overall academic achievement."

As a coach, "I want to develop each athlete's athletic potential to its fullest, as well as instilling academic awareness as representatives of the student/athlete."

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playing as well as they ever have, despite the fact each member is in his late 40's. In New York from September 14 to September 23, they sold out eight shows in less than a day. Now experiencing immense popularity, The Dead will keep on truckin' right until they die.


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SPORTS

Coach Bob Pendergast takes over football program at SHS

By Jeremy Heckerling
Layout Editor

On Monday, August 22, the Black Knights football team was introduced to something they had not seen in their high-school careers, a new head coach. Forty-nine players showed up to meet and begin practice with new coach Bob Pendergast.

Though the inner workings of the Stamford High School football team are not too familiar to him, Boyle Stadium and the Black and Orange are quite familiar. Pendergast was a star athlete at Greenwich High School—an All-American his senior year in football, and a two-time All-FCIAC selection in baseball. Not only will Pendergast be competing in Boyle Stadium again, but on November 5 he will match wits with his former coach, Greenwich's Mike Ornato.

"This will be the first time in 28 years that I will have a former player coach against me," Ornato said.*

From Greenwich, Pendergast went to Boston University where as a cornerback, he was a three-year starter and All-Conference selection. As with many young athletes, he had dreams of playing professional sports, but reality interfered. "I was probably two to three steps too slow to play professional football. I've always loved sports so I decided to get my physical education degree and go into coaching. I love to teach and see the kids progress."*

Before he came to SHS, Coach Pendergast acquired some valuable experience as defensive backfield coach at both Bates College and Dickinson College. Living away from home did not sit well with him. He missed Fairfield County. He sent out letters to many area schools and unofficially received word that there was an opening at Stamford High. When he found out that the rumor was true, he moved back to Fairfield before he was even hired. "I decided that after bouncing around for seven years, I wanted to get back to my family and friends."*

When Pendergast came to Stamford High for opening practice, Chris Pensiero said, "He came across very strongly. He was straightforward about his expectations; what he wanted done."

"It was a good turnout. We had 49 kids and they were very enthusiastic and willing to learn," said Pendergast. "I was a little hesitant, being the new kid on the block, but they responded well to me the first day."*

He said that when he became acquainted with the team members and their families on a more personal level, they would respond even better.

Placekicker Matt Perlman said of Pendergast, "He turned the program around, not only strategically but emotionally as well. He never gives

up on us. As long as we don't give up, neither will he. He'll stick with us 'til we get it right."

A goal of Pendergast's is to instill a lost sense of pride in his players. "I want to bring back the pride and tradition of the good football teams that I knew Stamford had when I played against them. I remember seeing kids walking down the streets of Stamford with their Stamford Football jackets on, proud to be a Black Knight. They believed in themselves and believed in the orange and black."* It seems the former Cardinal holds quite a belief in the orange and black himself, expecting his players to wear nothing but the school colors, including the stripes on their socks or the T-shirt under their padding, on the practice field

Band and Color Guard future looks bright

By Lisa Dolan
Staff Reporter

Last year Stamford High's band and color guard were lacking members. Is there any hope in sight? Both Mrs. Sinagulia, the new band director, and Mr. Zecca, the color guard director, have hopes of improvement with an increase in participation.

Mrs. Sinagulia said there are about 20 band members, most of whom are new. There are approximately 15 color guard members, half of whom are returning members, said Mr. Zecca. Despite the numbers, the two directors anticipate performing. The color guard plans to perform in the Pulaski Day Parade in New York and the Columbus Day Parade in Stamford during October. Also, in November they will march in the Veteran's Day Parade where they hope to be accompanied by the band. The color guard will also perform at the football games.

Both groups are low on members due to lack of commitment and spirit of students

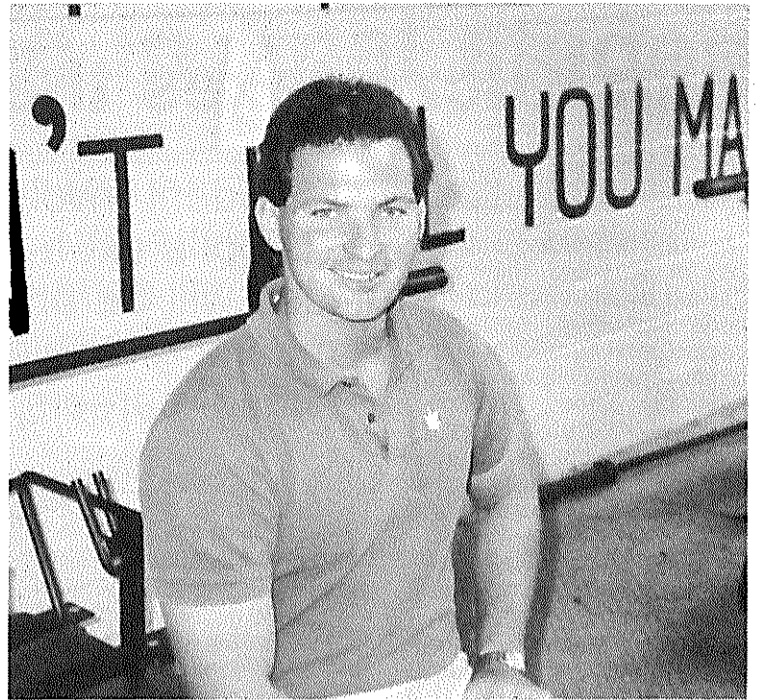
as well as conflicts with outside activities. For instance, many students have after school jobs while others play sports.

Despite the need for more members, Mrs. Sinagulia does not wish to use trips as a means of enticing students to join the band. Students should join because they have a commitment and a desire to help make the band a success.

Mr. Zecca said the success of the color guard is often related to the success of the band. If the band is good then the color guard is good.

The band and color guard can be proud of their past accomplishments. In past years, both have traveled to take part in competitions and perform at festivals. Only with an increase in pride and spirit can the band and color guard regain their past level of respectability. Only with enthusiasm and hard work can we renew our past glory.

For now, Mrs. Sinagulia wants the band to be "musically sound."



New head football coach Bob Pendergast reflects on his goals and successes of the 1988 season. (File photo)

or in the weight room.

Pensiero said the new blood has excited everyone. Judging by the size of the program, which now consists of freshman, junior varsity, and varsity level, he is correct. Pendergast always played his

sports for the fun of it. It seems the love of the sport is rubbing off on his players, renewing a spirit that will take them a long way.

* excerpted from *The Stamford Trader*, reporter Anthony Pinciaro.

Fitness walking gives benefits of exercise

By Estelle Nikolopoulos
Staff Reporter

The safest and most natural way to good health and fitness is America's number one participation sport, fitness walking or speed walking.

Fitness walking is the name given to brisk or vigorous walking. The pace of a fitness walk can range from three to five and a half miles an hour. It's the ideal workout for every age and level of physical ability and strength, and can be done all year around.

Fitness walking offers a balanced approach to strengthening muscles and burning calories. Brisk walking at three to four miles an hour burns approximately 400 calories. In fact, speed walking a mile and running a mile burn the same number of calories and walkers don't have to worry about the high risk of injury as in running or jogging. Also, speed walking requires the use of more muscles than running or jogging so muscles are toned better during a speed walk. Since fitness walking is also an aerobic exercise, it strengthens the heart and improves overall health.

There are a few simple rules to follow when one begins fitness walking.

- 1. Before you begin, be

sure to stretch arms and legs well, and do the same after you finish.

- 2. Don't start off too fast. Start slowly and gradually build up your speed. Once you've gotten to the pace you want, keep to it and take long, quick strides throughout your workout. Toward the end, gradually slow down to lower the heart beat and cool down the body.
- 3. While walking, swing arms back and forth to strengthen and tone upper body muscles.
- 4. Try to walk on a level surface so that you won't risk twisting an ankle.
- 5. Be sure to wear comfortable, lightweight shoes with shock absorbers, and substantial arch support.

You don't need machines or other gym equipment or strenuous exercise to keep you fit. All you need is a pair of feet and you're all set. So get out there, peel off those unwanted pounds, strengthen those muscles, and most of all, have a fun workout.

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SPORTS

John Kuczo takes the reins of inter-scholastic sports

By Chris Scallise
Staff Reporter

Both the faculty and student body of Stamford High will miss our devoted high school sports enthusiast, assistant principal John Kuczo. Mr. Kuczo has served SHS as an administrator since 1983. He may have left the attendance office at SHS, but fortunately students will be seeing more of Mr. Kuczo on the athletic fields.

Where is he going? Our former assistant principal has been appointed to the newly established post of District Department Head of Interscholastic Sports. Mr. Kuczo was one of five candidates for the new job. He received the Board of Education's backing by a 6-2 vote after a recommendation by Superintendent William Papallo.

Mr. Kuczo's new responsibilities include overseeing the total interscholastic athletic program of Stamford's middle and high schools, scheduling, budgeting, and hiring and supervising both coaches and referees. In addition to these administrative responsibilities, Mr. Kuczo's primary goal is to expand the middle school interscholastic athletic program, including the instruction of skills and fundamentals of sports not ordinarily taught in physical education classes.

Mr. Kuczo has many goals for Stamford High's own athletic program. One long range goal already underway is the complete renovation of Boyle Stadium. The long jump and high jump areas have already been resurfaced with a one inch thick rubberized-pavement called "Omniurf."

"Student involvement in your school's extra-curricular activities will be one of the most meaningful things in your high school careers."

—Mr. John Kuczo

If the surface proves to withstand changing weather conditions and general use, Stamford will invest in a completely rubberized six lane track.

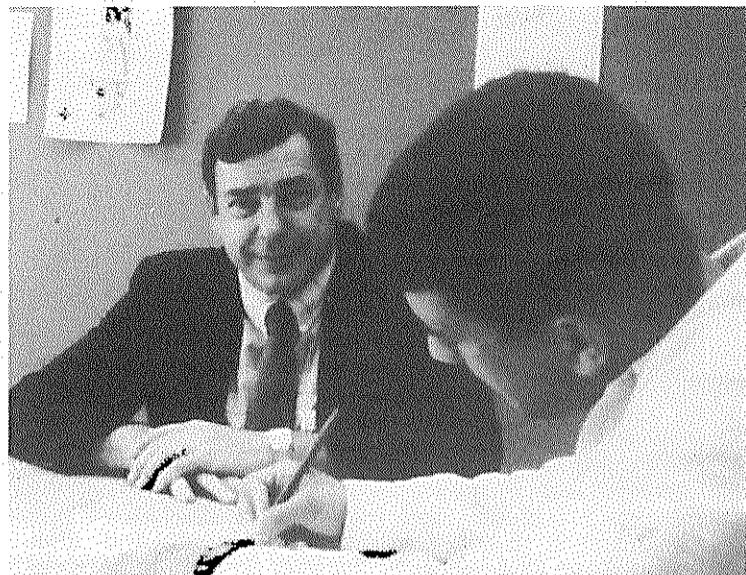
The fence around the football field will be taken down and redesigned to accommodate the space needed for the change from a five lane course to the standard six lane course. There has also been a proposal to install lights for night football games.

Another more immediate project which began last year in Mr. Renzulli's drafting class will be the construction of a 30 foot long trophy case. This will be located in the gym foyer on the brick wall near the pay phone. The case will provide SHS with one central, impressive location to display all athletic trophies and awards. This should instill even more pride in "The Oldest and the Proudest" athletic teams. Lighting in this area will be upgraded so that the case will be shining bright with "Knight lights."

"Someone has to be a proponent for athletics and I see myself as that proponent. My goal is to make sure we have superior athletic programs [in Stamford]."

Mr. Kuczo's message to Stamford High students con-

veys the need for and advantages of student participation in school athletic teams. Mr. Kuczo claimed, "Student involvement in your school's extra-curricular activities will be one of the most meaningful things in your high school careers."



Mr. John Kuczo will supervise all inter-scholastic sports besides helping SHS improve its program. (Photo by Matt Field)

Another voice about student involvement

By Anna Griffin
Staff Reporter

For anyone who has ever participated in a sporting event at Stamford High School, the advantages of playing for a school team are obvious. In addition to the pride and respect earned by those who wear the orange and black, there is also a large amount of personal gain. "A student who is involved in sports gets to be more a part of the school than one who simply leaves at two," says Head Baseball Coach and Assistant Football Coach Bob Augustyn. "They are more committed to school."

Students looking around the Kuczo Gymnasium see the success of Stamford's varsity teams on the banners dating back as far as 1896. In recent years, though, Stamford High sports have been in a decline. This is because of small freshmen turnouts that led to inexperienced varsity squads.

Now however, that is changing. As Coach Augustyn said, "Freshmen are the most important class in terms of building a strong varsity team." Beginning with the entrance of the Class of 1989 Coach Augustyn feels that he "can see just from football that freshmen participation has been steadily rising."

The rebirth of SHS tradition can be based on large turnouts for all sports at all levels. Strong junior varsity programs in sports such as track, girls' and boys' basketball, and baseball have led to the building of FCIAC contenders for Stamford High.

Several reasons are given by students who don't participate in interscholastic sports. One major reason is grades. All coaches at SHS stress academics over athletics, and the requirement which includes four passed classes

(not including gym) to play backs them up. Stamford teams have lost several good players simply because they weren't able to keep up the grades. Coach Augustyn doesn't believe that schoolwork should be a problem. "Practices end at 4:30 or 5:00, giving a student plenty of time to study."

Many athletes feel that the rigorous discipline required to play a sport at SHS carries over into the classroom. By learning to organize their time to include both school and sports, Stamford's student/athletes are preparing themselves for later life. "Being a student/athlete is tough, but athletes have an organized day," Mr. Augustyn stated.

Another reason given is the need to get a job. With the legal work age at 15, Stamford students may find the lure or need of money important. Nevertheless, Coach Augustyn considers sports more important. "Jobs represent short term goals, like having money to spend. Long range goals like college are aided by the experience of playing a sport. As teachers, we've got to continue to teach the long term goals which will, in the long run, be more beneficial to the students." He added, "A student who works four hours a night is mentally exhausted afterwards and isn't focused on school."

By participating in a sport at SHS, students gain much more than physical conditioning or the excitement of playing. As senior Tracy Jenkins said, "You become more responsible and committed as a student because of sports."

Besides the thrill of beating Westhill, or of helping your team to become and FCIAC power by playing and competing for Stamford High, students who are athletes look back on their high school careers knowing that they have grown as people.

'Tour de Greenwich' bike race for all riders

By James V. Forgiione
Staff Reporter

Bike riders, both expert and novice, will be competing in the fourth annual Tour de Greenwich, sponsored by the Threads and Treads Bicycle store on Sunday October 16. This 20 mile bike race has proved to be a great way for bikers of all ages to get themselves involved in a non-expert competitive race.

On that Sunday morning, bikers ranging in age from 16 to over 60 will be seen in their biking tights and hard shell helmets with numbers pinned to their backs. Since it is not a race for experts, no license is required and no drafting or bumping other racers is allowed.

Because drafting and bumping are dangerous, and inexperienced bike racers are not used to such practices, they could be injured. The point of this race is to have fun. And hundreds of bikers take part each year.

Times vary from 50 minutes to 2 hours, evidence of different types of competitors. The "true" biker, who has

himself to the limit.

People who complete the race on 30 lb. bomber bikes, while taking in the Greenwich scenery, are in the second group.

To recreational bikers, "The Wall" is an album by Pink Floyd. To "true" bikers, it is a large hill which can separate the wheat from the chaff. It is a place for the leaders to break away from the pack. The Wall finds many bikers gasping for breath, while other seem to move effortlessly along. It is this kind of diversity which makes the Tour de Greenwich such a unique race.

Not just anyone can participate in such an event. Some level of fitness is required to complete the course in an acceptable amount of time. In addition, the smart cyclist previews the one lap course through North Greenwich at least once prior to the race. It is to a racer's advantage to get the feel of the terrain, the hills, straightaways, and downhills, where bikers can conserve energy.

It is the serious cyclist who is often in the lead because he is well prepared. However, the

Winning at all costs leads to drug abuse

By Seth Nesin
Staff Reporter

Drugs are rampant in the world of sports. Recently, 17 players in the National Football League were suspended for drug use. And 16 of them were only suspended for 30 days. It was the second offense for these 16 players. The first offense is kept quiet and each team can handle it in its own way. A third offense suspends a player for a minimum of one year.

Lawrence Taylor, in his autobiography, ridicules the treatment centers. He claimed he beat his addiction through playing golf. That was in 1987. In 1988 he was suspended for 30 days for testing positive for cocaine.

In addition to those players who were caught, there are many more whose drug use went undetected. Because the tests are not administered at random, players know when to stop taking drugs in time for the test. Random drug testing is opposed by the players' association on constitutional grounds. The National Football League's system is

ed at rehab as a vacation where he could play some golf.

In other sports, players are known to take other drugs which mask the illegal ones. In the Tour de France, the most prestigious bicycle race in the world, the winner, Pedro Delgado, tested positive for probenecid. The main purpose of this drug is to mask anabolic steroids, but probenecid was not a banned drug.

Dwight Gooden of the New York Mets was found to have used drugs in the spring of 1987. In baseball, a player must go through an approved rehabilitation program or be banned for life. In the NBA any rookie failing a drug test is suspended without pay for a year.

In the Olympics, medals can be taken away (Ben Johnson) and athletes sent home if they test positive for an outlawed drug. These drugs may not be illegal, as cocaine or crack, but they are taken to enhance performance. Therefore these athletes are cheating.

Professional athletes can afford to buy drugs because they have a lot of money. They are successful in their fields and feel invulnerable. Amateur athletes use drugs to help them per-

From the Editor's Desk

All students should be involved in athletics

By Jason Schmidt
Sports Editor

From day one of ninth grade we are told to get involved, participate, and make the most of our high school days. But how many of us really do?

The success of Stamford High demands participation by a majority of students in school sports. If we don't attain this majority, our sports programs will go down the drain.

Poor participation last season in our football squad led to talks about an end to the program. With the leadership of Coach Pendergast, enrollment has increased and with that hopes for improvement on last year's record are high.

Yet, it is not just football where participation has been weak in the past few years. Every sport needs more players if it is to expect success. The fans of SHS may complain about a poor football team or basketball team, but not until each and every one of those "complainers" tries out for these teams does he or she have the right to complain.

There are many excuses for non-involvement. No matter what the excuse, there is almost always a solution. If it is a health problem, he or she may inquire about becoming a team manager, scorekeeper, or filling some other needed spot on the team.

To these aforementioned students and others: Get off your seat and show the FCIAC that Stamford High is still the "OLDEST and the PRO-UEDEST." There is no reason why a student should not gain what school sports can offer him. Sports teams offer the student a chance to keep in shape, learn sportsman-like conduct, and get a feel of what the competitive world is like.

If students leave SHS without learning these things, they did not use their time wisely.

SportLight

Sherri Hassan talented and dedicated

"My family has always encouraged me to participate in sports. . . [My sister] was captain of the field hockey team."

—Sherri Hassan

By Matt Steinberg
Co-Managing Editor

Shereen Hassan is a senior to watch, both on and off the athletic field. As an athlete, Sherri excels in three sports: field hockey, gymnastics and track. Her success carries over into the classroom where she strives for excellence in her academics. She is also involved in extra-curricular activities.

Athletics have always played an important role in Sherri's life. She said, "My interest in sports started when I was eight years old and I would practice gymnastics after school at the Darien YM-CA."

Sherri attributes her interest in sports to her family. "My family has always encouraged me to participate in sports, especially my older sister. She was captain of the SHS field hockey team, and she set a precedent."

While Sherri also competes in gymnastics and track, her true love is field hockey, and she, like her sister before her, is now co-captain of the team. She began playing hockey during her freshman year and has developed into one of SHS's best players. She was promoted to varsity during that year and played in a few games.

But it was her sophomore year when Sherri really began to stand out, earning such honors as all-county second team, and Stamford High's

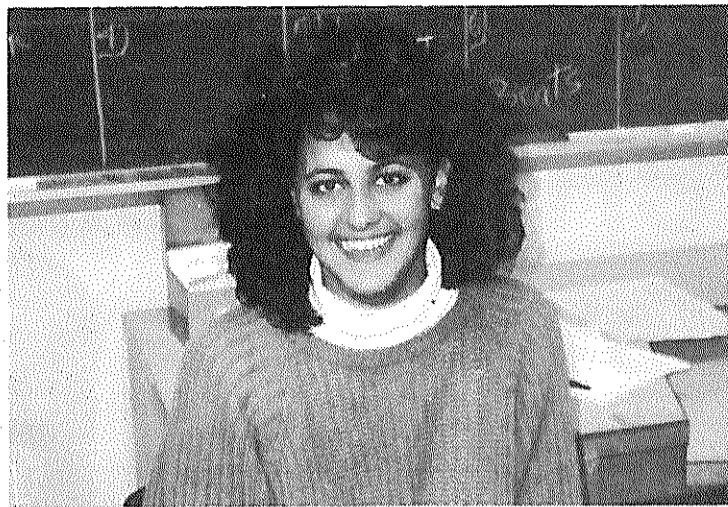
MVP. Her junior year was a disappointment due to a knee injury, suffered while doing gymnastics and she was forced to sit out the season. She said, "It was so frustrating being injured. I was anxious to improve on last year's season, but there was nothing I could do."

Sherri's hard work and dedication have not gone unnoticed. Her coach, Mrs. Brenda Birch, described Sherri as, "a dedicated, responsible hard worker who strives to improve herself [She] is a fine example of a student/athlete who does well in the classroom and on the field."

Sherri is not just limited to athletic excellence. Sherri's 3.8 GPA ranks her high in the class and her courses are no picnic. She is currently taking A.P. English, A.P. Calculus BC, and Senior Seminar. Sherri said, "Athletics has taught me to balance my time right. I know after practice I have to get right down to work and can't waste time."

With all the time Sherri puts into athletics and academics, she still finds time to participate in a wide range of extra-curricular activities. As vice-president of the class of '89 for three years, and a member of both the Student Council and National Honor Society, Sherri exemplifies the true student/athlete.

As field hockey co-captain Amy Albrecht put it, "On the field I can count on Sherri as a teammate. Off the field I can count on her as a friend."



Sherri Hassan captains the field hockey team which is off to its most successful season in years. (File photo)

Olympic eligibility subject to debate

By Leigh Fuchs
Staff Reporter

The 1988 Summer Olympic Games were just completed, but there are still persistent questions regarding the eligibility of athletes.

Because eligibility is left to either the country or the organization, there are many variations of who is eligible to compete. Tennis, for example, which was reintroduced after 64 years, allows professionals to compete, while other sports, such as crew and archery, are open only to amateurs.

Soccer is open to anyone who has not made it to the World Cup, and the Track and Field Federation is allowing pros from other sports to compete only if they have retired. Basketball is open only to amateurs now, but will be open to professionals in 1992.

Clearly, there is no logical set of rules as to who can compete. To clarify this situation, there are three possible paths which could be followed: 1) only true amateurs could compete; 2) each sport and country could set its own rules; 3) the games would be open to anyone.

Historical Significance

The Olympic Games originated in Olympia, Greece in 776 B.C. They disappeared completely, however, during the Middle Ages, and did not take place again until 1896 in Athens. All participants in the modern Games were amateurs until shortly before WW II, when growing nationalism encouraged state support of athletes in some countries.

State supported programs

Since WW II there have been many changes within the

Olympics. A key change has been the rise of the East Bloc teams such as East Germany, the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia, with government supported programs. These countries train and support Olympic hopefuls at a very young age.

American hopefuls who are not earning money from their sport can usually not train full time since they have to support themselves. This often puts them at a disadvantage. Each country certainly has its own definition of an amateur.

Another key change since WW II has been a tremendous growth in professional sports. More pros have therefore become available and interested in participating in the Olympics.

Future plans debated

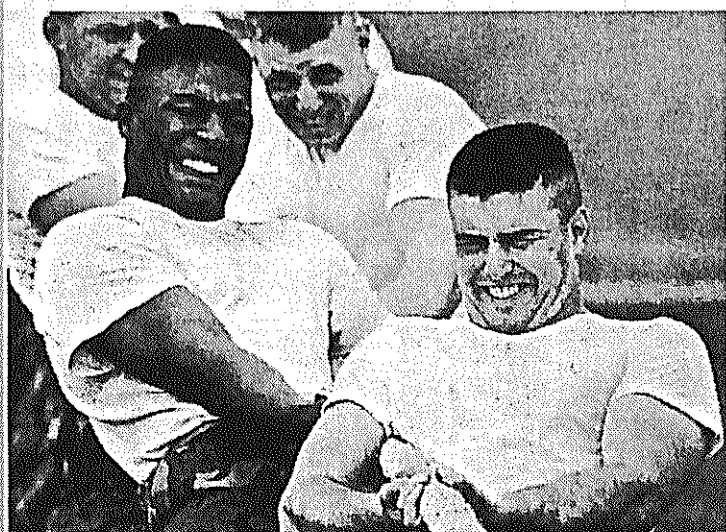
The big question now is what is ahead? The same three options must be explored. If the Olympics allows only true amateurs to participate, we would need a universally accepted definition of amateur. A posture such as this might eliminate large numbers of athletes now competing. If each country and sport sets its own rules, the confusion and inequities that now exist will continue.

If the Games are open to anyone, it would be a true test of the world's best athletes, and would end a lot of confusion and arbitrary decisions. It would, however, change the nature of the Olympics from the original concept.

There is no one right answer to the dilemma. It depends on what the people want the Olympics to be. Do they want to go back to the original idea of competition for the glory and love of the sport, or do they want competition of the world's best athletes?

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NEWS

SHS Health Clinic planning in final stages

By Sabrina Douglass
News Editor

The Stamford Board of Education recently approved a plan to install a health clinic at Stamford High School in the fall of 1989. This plan was proposed by prominent people such as Roslyn Nesin, president of the Board of Education, Dr. Andrew McBride, the Stamford Health Director, and Debra Sate, a health adviser.

This health clinic will offer medical advice on various health issues such as acne, diet, pregnancy, drug addiction, nutrition, as well as offering physical examinations. Although there will be counseling about pregnancy, contraceptives will not be dispensed and there will not be any abortion referrals. The clinic will be staffed by a part-time physician, a social worker, a nurse, a director, and a practitioner.

With the written consent of his/her parents, any student may seek medical advice at this new health clinic. Once this is received, visits will be kept confidential although parents could be notified if a major problem arises.

The health clinic will cost ap-

proximately \$175,000 a year to maintain. A state donation of \$50,000 will help with its establishment. There will be fund-raising activities to raise money for the health center and to make the community aware of its importance to the teenage population. When the money from the fund raisers and the state grant has run out, local and state tax money will be used.

A survey taken by the Stamford Health Department showed that most students and parents are in favor of having this health center at Stamford High School. Among those surveyed 84.3% (1248) students, and 89.6% (381) parents were supportive of the clinic. However there are still conflicting views on whether or not this novel plan is a necessity.

Because of the fact that the health clinic will be located in the nurses' office, there may be some difficulty for the nurses due to their loss of space. Although both nurses are displeased with this news, Nurse Mary Bien is more vehement about the situation than her partner Mrs. Rosina Zezima.

Nurse Bien's reaction to this idea of instituting a health

clinic was, "What good is it if I can't do physicals or have private conferences with parents? Also, there will be no separate room for boys and girls at the high school level. We already advise and counsel on nutrition, diet etc. We've done it for twenty years. If they take our room, what have we got?"

In addition to the problem of space, Mrs. Bien mentioned the fact that eventually, "The clinic will run out of funds. When that happens the money is taken out of taxes."

The other school nurse, Mrs. Zezima is not biased against having a health clinic. "I have no problem with the health clinic since it is totally separate from the nurses' function in this building. Our only concern is the possible loss of space. I am neither for or against [health centers]. I

The health clinic will offer medical advice on various issues such as diet, pregnancy, drug addiction and nutrition.

only have concerns."

Elyse Krasnogor, a junior, believes having a health clinic would be beneficial because, "Some people might not otherwise be able to get medical information that they need, or they might normally be afraid to ask."

Regarding the fact that tax money will be used to pay for the clinic Elyse added, "This does not bother me. I think it's

an important thing, and I'd much rather have my taxes go to something like this than some space or war program."

Stamford High Principal Michael Nast is satisfied with this new program. He said, "This year is a whole planning year. We're still in the preliminary stage. I see this as becoming a great service for our students. I am definitely pleased with the idea."



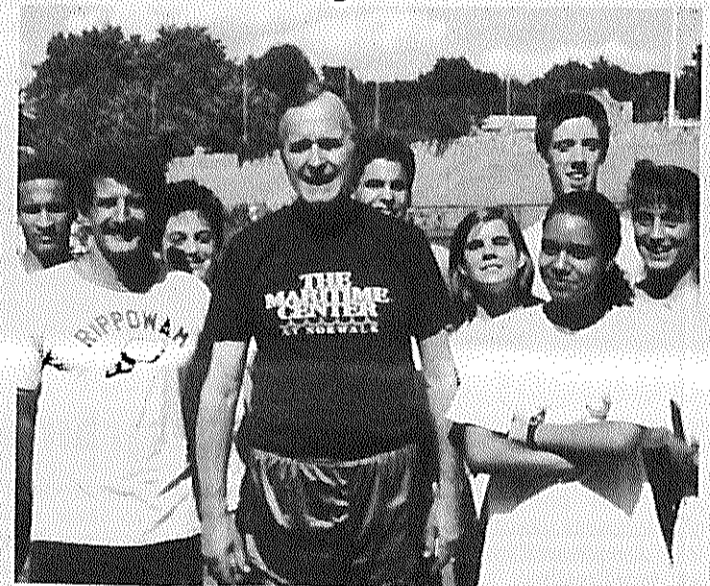
'Running' for president, George Bush jogs at SHS' Boyle Stadium

By Kate Woodward
Staff Reporter

What began as a regular day of practice for athletes turned into an exciting afternoon on September 8 in Boyle Stadium. Little did these athletes know that a surprise visitor would soon join them. But who could it be?

First, a police car pulled up and a suspicious looking man in a three-piece suit entered the stadium while another stood guard at the car. The whole scene was a bit confusing. Soon more police cars arrived and guards covered the area. At this time, cross-country coach Arthur Brown announced to his team that Vice-President Bush would be accompanying his team on its run.

Word traveled fast across the playing fields and the anticipation grew. Finally his parade pulled in. Up came a limousine and out burst Bush, dressed, and ready to run. Sweaty students gathered around the Vice-President hoping for at least a hand



Vice-President George Bush stopped and visited with SHS athletes after a jog around the track. (Photo by Lia Dickinson)

shake, and possibly a quick exchange of words.

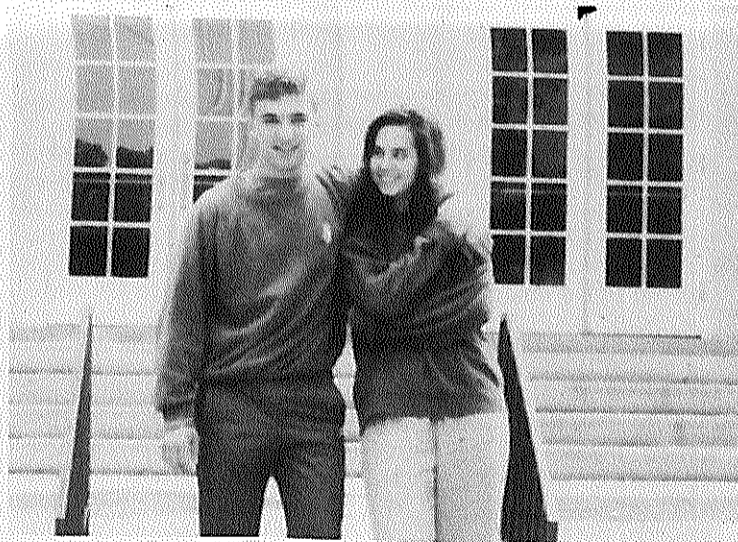
What were the athletes' reactions to his visit? Senior cheerleader Laura Bird said, "I couldn't believe it was him at our school in jogging shorts and a T-shirt."

Some students have still not gotten over that afternoon.

Matt Steinberg, looking a bit dirty claimed, "I still haven't washed the hand that shook George Bush's."

On his way out, Mr. Bush was given an SHS sweatshirt by Mr. Vrtiak who remarked, "This day is one that Stamford High athletes will remember always."

Exchange students observe differences



Tony La Verghetta and Penelope Winterhager came from Europe as exchange students this year. (Photo by Rachel Kallen)

By Eric Minoff
Business Editor
& Matt Brown
Staff Reporter

This year, Stamford High School is honored to have exchange students from foreign countries among the student body. Last year, two teens came from West Germany. This year, the two exchange students come from Italy and West Germany.

Tony La Verghetta, (Italy), and Penelope Winterhager, (Germany), have decided to take their lives abroad and study in a different culture.

Tony La Verghetta

Tony was born in Verona, Italy in 1971, and he lived in Milan for the first 11 years of his life. When his father found a new job he moved to Belluno, Italy, which is where his family now lives. Tony is presently staying at the house of senior Matt Brown in Stamford.

The organization which sent Tony to the United States is the American Field Service, a foreign exchange program. He

wanted to do it. However, he still had to choose a host country. He explained, "I said to myself, 'Self, if you want to go somewhere, go where you know you will enjoy yourself.'"

Tony had visited the U.S. before and he liked it so much that he decided to come here to live. His visit was two years ago when he toured the country and saw New York, Philadelphia, Atlantic City, and Chicago. Tony has an uncle in Chicago so he is not completely without family here.

Tony is very athletic and loves to play volleyball. He regrets that there is not a boys' team here at SHS. However, he plans to swim in the winter and play tennis in the spring.

By the end of his stay Tony hopes to fulfill his goals for inter-cultural experience. "I hope to keep part of the U.S. with me, and I hope to leave a part of Italy in the U.S."

Penelope Winterhager

Born in West Berlin, Penny Winterhager, a 15 year old, moved to Frankfurt as a young child, where she now lives

ding, a program which she heard about from her sister, who five years ago also spent a year in the United States.

Penny said her reasons for studying abroad are, "to get accustomed to a new culture, explore a new country, and learn the English language more."

If ever puzzled by the lack of a word to describe something, Penny consults her pocket-size German-English dictionary which she carries at all times. Even after studying English for the past four years, Penny still has a little trouble with the language.

Upon arrival in New York on August 8, 1988, her first home was in New York City. But a week later, she and her host family moved to Stamford. Penny's first observation

about city life are, "Everything moves faster here, especially when I eat. When I eat, I eat slowly; everyone else tends to eat faster."

Penny's host family is very important to her. "They make me feel so at home." She has one host brother, age 16, spending the year in Hamburg, West Germany. Her host sister, 12, attends TOR Middle School. "Living with my host family is great. But I had a funny feeling at first. At home, I had a big sister, here I have a little sister," she chuckled.

One would never know that Penny is German unless you talk to her. With baggy blue and white striped pants, a blue mock turtleneck, and a jeans jacket, Penny looks like an ordinary American teenager. "I feel," she expands on the sub-

ject, "most teens are alike. There is no great difference in the mode of dress here or in Frankfurt."

School is a large difference, as Penny points out. The German equivalent to an American graduation is an "Abitur" which includes only the 12th and 13th grades.

When one mentions sports, her eyes light up. Although sports are not emphasized as much as education in Germany, Penny still found time for basketball. Her skills brought her team to a divisional championship. As a member of the SHS volleyball team, and a prospective member of the basketball team, Penny enjoys sports to the limit.

For the year, Penny is looking forward to meeting new people with whom she could correspond when she returns home. "Establishing a new home in a foreign country is hard, but well worth the experience," she said with excitement. The excitement is due to her adventure, but she

"[I came here] to get accustomed to a new culture, explore a new country and learn the English language"