

# The Round Table

Volume XX, Number 3

Stamford High School

Stamford, Connecticut 06902

December 19, 1991

## Petition to amend AIDS testing law gains momentum

By Jill Weisberg  
Assistant Opinions Editor

Students can make a difference. If they believe strongly enough in a cause, and work hard enough for it, it can be done. SHS students are seeking to change the law in Connecticut which forbids AIDS testing for minors without parental consent.

### AIDS in news lately

The impetus for this movement was Magic Johnson's declaration that he is HIV positive. There was a discus-

sion in an SHS student liaison meeting about the virus and testing policies, and this law was brought up. Some students were very disturbed by it, especially SHS senior Becky Sobo.

Becky decided to spearhead this campaign to change the law. She said, "First of all, I don't think there should be any restrictions on testing for any disease which can spread so quickly and easily. Also, I don't agree with the inconsistency in the laws; kids can be tested for STD's [sexually transmitted diseases] but not for AIDS without parental consent."

Becky took action. She formed a committee of Student Council members who would be as dedicated as she. Senior Jackie Denker, junior Rachel Chiappetta, sophomore Carrie Bunton, freshman Aura Romanowitz, and senior Josh Fedeli who is very involved in the politics of the matter, agreed to serve.

Mr. Doug Ramsdell, FLESPS coordinator is advising the student group. The committee was not made to keep others from getting involved, many students are interested in seeing this law changed, but as a means to expedite the process.

At the same time as this committee was formed, a petition went out from the Student Council. Over 1500 signatures were collected during the first week.

State senator George Jepsen (D.27) came to SHS November 25 and met with Becky Sobo to discuss what action the legislature could take.

Senator Jepsen, who has been active in civil liberty issues in the past, thinks that the students' protests and petition is a great idea and said he would be happy to work with them to change the law.

He said, "From a health policy standpoint, it [the law] does not make sense to put blocks in the way of people who are trying to prevent the spread of this disease. It is also a matter of human rights and dignity that teens have a right to privacy as do others under the constitution; especially in such overwhelmingly personal matters as this one."

Jepsen came back the next day to speak with the student committee as well as the Student Council officers, senior class officers, and Caren

see AIDS page 7

## Pearl Harbor Day commemorated

By Dana Plansky  
Managing Editor

On Friday, December 6th, 1991, Mr. Pavia's Twentieth Century History Classes held a day-long Pearl Harbor remembrance assembly.

December 7th was the 50th anniversary of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. All of the students participating in the assembly contributed projects which were displayed in the small auditorium which was transformed into a museum for the day. One group of three students, including Jennifer Kay, Jennifer Ritchie and Jessica Sirico performed songs and dances from World War II.

Five World War II veterans

were invited as guest speakers to discuss their war experiences with the students.

Head of the history department and the Pearl Harbor Day organizer, Mr. Tony Pavia said, "Everyone who I've talked to was deeply moved by the experience. The veterans who I talked to unanimously expressed the view that they were happy to be involved with the program and they were extremely impressed with the students. "It was one of the proudest moments of my life," said one guest.

"The Pearl Harbor Day was one of the most successful 'history days' in this school," said Mr. Pavia.



Pearl Harbor 'Theme Day' sponsored by the 20th Century History class, saw performances by Jen Kay, Jenn Ritchie and Jessica Sirico of World War II songs and dances. (Photo by Sherman)

## Debate over dissection rages throughout community

By Catherine Carrero  
Assistant News Editor

Pat Butterfield sat down to watch ABC News Tonight one evening last November. She didn't realize that what she was about to view would lead her to become head of the Advisory board for the Ethical Science Education Coalition (ESEC), an avid anti-dissection group.

On the night of November 22, 1990, ABC reported that a major preserved-animal supplier obtained their animals through illegal means. The Carolina Biological Supply Company was kidnapping stray cats.

ABC showed actual footage of the cats being poked with

sharp metal sticks, being locked in cages where they were hardly able to move, and being put in a gas chamber to die. Those cats who didn't die in the gas chamber were drowned.

Butterfield, a Stamford resident, said, "This really shook me up." She began talking with others who were concerned with the killing of animals (i.e. Carolina Biological Supply Company) for use in dissection. She started the ESEC because she found so many people who felt the same way as she did.

### Reasons for anti-vivisection

There are numerous reasons why the ESEC is fighting against dissection. They felt that the word "biology" actually means

"study of life." Using the dead animals, to the ESEC, is turning biology into necrology, the study of death.

Some of the social reasons listed in a packet made by the group are that dissection fosters an irreverence for life; leads to health problems because the animals are preserved in toxic chemicals; many companion animals are stolen from animal dealers and later used for dissection."

### Environmental issues

There are also many environmental reasons pertaining to the upset of the "delicate" balance of an already fragile ecosystem, increasing numbers of endangered species, health problems (i.e. Malaria and crop damage), inhumanity, and the

use of toxic chemicals.

The ESEC feels it's making students unaware of being environmentally sensitive.

The ESEC also feels that students could be traumatized by having to dissect, especially if they have pets at home.

### Alternatives to dissection

Looking at the educational aspect, the ESEC feels that, "Hands-on may teach motor skills, but does not teach students to think." They feel students have a right to decide whether or not they choose to dissect. There are many alternatives.

According to Butterfield, the ESEC is offering workshops showing biology

see DISSECTION page 6

### Inside...

PRO/CON

Dissection

page 3

Kenny Blank

page 11

Knight Light

page 12

Winter sports

preview

page 15



OPINION

### Vandalism in the school must stop now and forever

The vandalism problem at Stamford High School has reached a point that is absolutely sickening! Gum stuck to the undersides of the desks is now only a trivial part of the greater problem. Today, a student cannot even go to the bathroom without being attacked by all of the racial slurs, sexual remarks, and the other graffiti present on the walls. A student cannot get a drink of water at the fountains without getting a sharp stream of water shot into his eyes because of the gum jamming up the outlet. The school can no longer take pride in the Boyle Stadium mural because of the spray paint that has been used to deface it.

The vandalism problem at SHS is only getting greater. The pleas and threats by the administration calling for a stop to this stupidity have done nothing. As a result, many bathrooms have been locked and some water fountains have been turned off.

Thus, all SHS students are forced to suffer; forced to suppress their natural biological needs, in order to prevent the destructive acts of a few.

Finding a solution to this problem is not totally up to the administration. Threats will not stop the guilty from committing more crimes. The solution lies in the honor and honesty of the students. Those responsible for the vandalism have to stop and think about what they are accomplishing by destroying school property.

Does offending members of another race or sex make them feel tough? Does sticking that piece of gum in the water fountain give them that much pleasure? Maybe it does, in which case, one must conclude that these people are not ready for high school.

We are destroying our own school! What sense does that make? Anyone who knows anything about who may be responsible must consider the privileges that students are losing because he does not want to disclose that information. Overall, it is just not worth it.

The Round Table deplors the behavior of these few individuals and hopes that honorable students will come forward to report those who are responsible so that our school can once again be a nice place in which to learn.

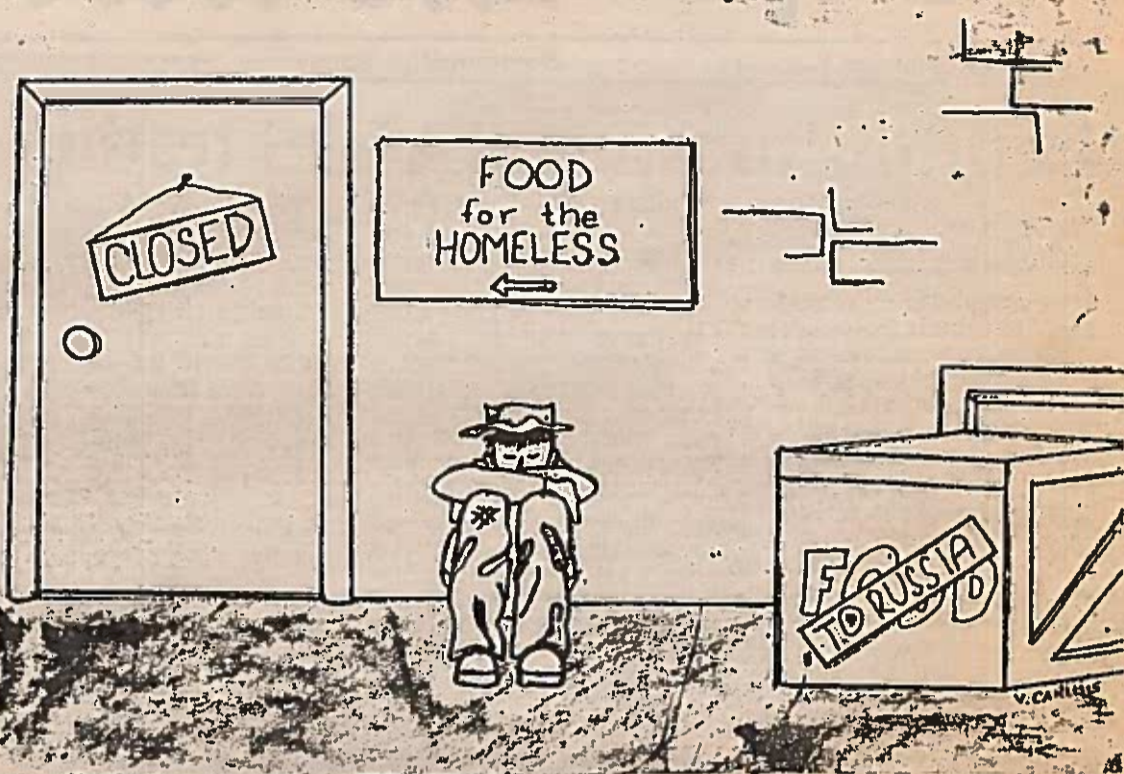
### Theme days help students understand American history

Theme days in the 20th Century History classes are very effective in helping the students learn about a period. December 6th's Pearl Harbor Day, like the theme days in past years, gave the students of Mr. Pavia's classes insight into a period that until that day, seemed distant.

The videos, posters, and speakers gave students a better understanding of the attack at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1942 as well as an understanding of the 1940s as a whole.

The Round Table commends Mr. Pavia, the history department, the guest speakers, and the students for their hard work in making Pearl Harbor Day a tremendous success. It is hoped that in the future, activities like this can be open to the whole school.

## Matt's Musings



### ◀ Letter to the Editor ▶

#### Seniors commended on dance

Dear Editor,

I was extremely pleased with the way that this year's Homecoming Dance was handled by the Senior Class. For the first time in years, the dance was actually fun! Yes, 'fun' at a Stamford High dance seemed like an impossibility, but I sincerely believe it happened! I guess that all of the hype leading up to Friday night's dance worked. Although Spirit Week did not go over as well as ex-

pected, the student body did not lose faith.

I hope that this dance was a growing experience for all of us. The Senior Class was able to get a lot of people to come to the Homecoming Dance. The next step is for people to actually 'dance' at the dance! Maybe in December at the Winterfest!

Later,

Beth Rutherford



#### The Round Table

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

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## PRO/CON

## Option to dissect up to student

By Fan Wong  
Special Sections Editor

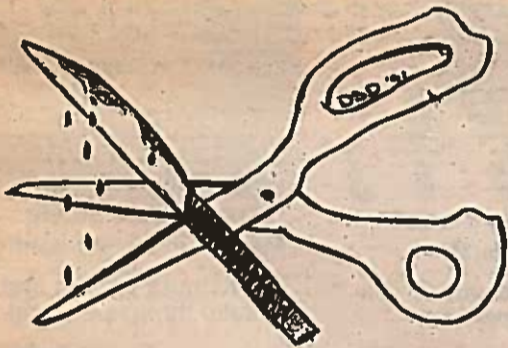
This is the land of democracy; the land of liberty; the land where all people have the freedom to form their own opinions. In this "land of liberty," it would not only be ridiculous, but also hypocritical, to allow schools, where students are required to attend, to force students to go against their beliefs just to receive a passing grade. These schools deny a student's freedom.

Nationwide, the issue of classroom dissection in biology classes is coming to a head. The question which has risen from the whole debate over animal testing and dissection is "Should a student be forced to dissect in order to pass a course, if for whatever reason, he or she does not believe in it?" More importantly, should a student's grade be affected if he or she refuses? The answer is clearly "no."

No one should be forced to dissect. The grade that one receives in a class should be based on academic performance, determined by tests, quizzes, homework, and class participation. Dissection is not necessary to learn biology; books and teachers exist for that purpose. No doubt, it could be helpful to incorporate dissection as a part of a student's learning process, but it is not absolutely essential. Thus it is ludicrous for a student to be forced to dissect.

For the most part, schools realize that everyone should be allowed to hold different beliefs, so why shouldn't they accept a student's decision not to dissect? If students are given the choice to stand or not during the playing of the national anthem, then they should also be given the right to dissect or not. After all, both issues deal with freedoms to hold different opinions, a right that justly belongs to all Americans.

Regardless of what one's views are on dissection, animal experimentation, the future of medical science, or animal cruelty, it is in keeping with the wishes of "our founding fathers" to allow for disagreement without penalty. Neither one's ideas nor one's actions should be dictated. Making a student dissect in order to pass a course is irrational and wrong. It robs the individual of his inalienable rights as an American.



## Veiled racism still exists within school

By Charlene Flash  
Staff Reporter

During the past few years, the racial problem in the U. S. has been steadily worsening. This is exemplified by the killing of a black youth in Crown Heights, New York and the controversy surrounding the nomination of Clarence Thomas to the United States Supreme Court.

Unfortunately, racial problems are present at Stamford High also. Segregation is present in our clubs, sports, and organizations. Membership in these organizations is usually made up of only one social, racial, or national background.

After the 1960's when the racial situation got better, now things seem to be getting worse. As students of SHS, we will be the adults of the next decade, and thus we are in a unique position to acknowledge that a problem exists and seek a viable solution.

As part of an integrated public school system we should foster harmony between all races and creeds and nationalities by having them come together in diverse ways. The mere interaction between races in high school will lead to this feeling of harmony in years to come. We must take joint classes and, most

importantly, we must engage in extra-curricular activities together where students can get to know each other personally and get rid of the myth that personality is determined by skin tone, creed, or nationality.

Due to unconscious actions, many of our school organizations are segregated. Where an ideal might be a 50-50 split or at least a good mix, the reality is that most of our clubs, sports activities and organizations are dominated by one nationality or race with merely a smattering of other cultures.

For example, the color guard has a completely minority membership, while the cheerleading squad has 16 members, only two of whom are minorities.

Christina Gittens said that she was hesitant about trying out for the cheerleading squad because she didn't want to be the only minority member. Although this did not turn out to be the case, the mere fact that the hesitancy was there should be enough to let us all know that we have a problem in our midst.

Students at SHS may not be solely responsible for this segregation, but we are responsible for alleviating the problem. The chance for integration in our school is a golden opportunity for us to enhance our sensitivity to other races and cultures.



## To learn biology effectively, one must dissect

By Dan Backer  
Staff Reporter

Should students be forced to dissect frogs or pigs or whatever in order to pass a class? It has been said that a student should have the right to choose not to dissect. This is true. However, a student who signs up for a biology course in which dissections are part of the curriculum should have to partake in the activity.

In our school system, a student has the option to choose his own science sequence. Therefore, an individual not wishing to perform any dissections need not sign up for any course that requires it.

According to the Stamford High School Program of Studies, a student has the option not to take any biology courses throughout his/her high school career. A student may go directly from CP Physical Science to CP Chemistry, skipping biology and with it, dissection. Students who object to dissection, for moral, religious, or any other reason, should decide ahead of time not to enroll

themselves in any course that requires dissection.

However, if a student does enroll in a class that includes dissection, he or she should have to take part in this activity. It is part of the required curriculum, and therefore cannot be skipped or ignored.

For instance, a student taking a history course cannot skip a certain period of time just because he finds it objectionable. An algebra student cannot skip polynomials just because they make him squeamish.

According to the Program of Studies, "the basic philosophical premise around which our [science] programs are organized is that learning takes place through involvement..." In any learning process, hands-on experience is always better than a demonstration or a simulation. This is particularly true with dissection. Facts and figures about the anatomy of many organisms can be memorized, but only by actual dissection can firsthand knowledge be gained.

## Teen pregnancy still problem

By Melissa Viggiano  
Staff Reporter

Teenage Pregnancy is a serious problem for many high school students across the country, yet their schools choose to ignore this issue.

Every day, thousands of children are born, many of them to teenage mothers. It is a problem in every school, SHS included. While the SHS Health Center offers confidential prenatal care, and one-on-one talks, there isn't anywhere a teenage girl who can go to talk to other teens with the same problem.

A support group for teenage mothers and/or for pregnant teens, should be started. They would be able to discuss mutual problems openly and honestly in this environment. They would also receive information about opinions for themselves and their babies.

A pregnant teen said, "I was so scared of what my parents would do to me, that I actually thought of suicide or abortion as alternatives. I wish there was a support group in the school where I could've met other teenagers with the same problem."

The schools can not afford to push teenage pregnancy into the background any longer. This is an issue about the future. Many girls who have babies are forced to quit school to bring them up. They get dead end jobs because they have no diplomas, and end up in the unemployment lines because they can't provide for their babies without government assistance.

The schools are always talking about how much they care about the future of their students. Now is the time to show that they mean it.



OPINION

## Rotating schedule remains nuisance

By Mandy DeFilippo  
Staff Reporter

The rotating schedule is a pointless policy that does more harm than good and should be revoked.

First of all, it was implemented more or less as a whim and was not planned before the beginning of this school year. The administrators obviously did not think it through very well, for they failed to take into account the A.P. science courses, all three of which they scheduled at fifth and sixth periods. This means that labs, which are of utmost importance, are split up by this schedule every day, making it more difficult to work and learn. Dedicated students who are willing and able to sign up for an advanced placement course should not be punished by this incredible inconvenience.

Another major problem the rotating schedule creates is that it forces some teachers to teach many classes in a row without a

break. More than just a few teachers experience this problem every week.

Teachers who are dedicated, but who have these backbreaking schedules can't be as effective. This contradicts the feelings of Mr. Nast and those in favor of the rotating schedule which is to enable kids to learn more and do better in every class.

This schedule was implemented on a "trial basis", as it was called by the administration. However, despite the negative reaction of students and staff members, Mr. Nast has not given anyone an adequate explanation as to why we still have this inane system.

Even the main office cannot get the periods straight. Classes are interrupted constantly by calls asking for people who are in that room during different periods. It creates more confusion than it's worth, and yet Mr. Nast insists on its continuation.

The administration should consider the many negative aspects of the rotating schedule and then give it a second thought.

## Scheduled fire drills create apathy

By Matt Berkow  
Circulation Editor

The purpose of fire drills is for students to practice the proper methods of evacuating the building in the event of a real fire. It seems that fire drills are doing just the opposite of their intent. They are conditioning students to react apathetically whenever the fire alarm goes off. Everybody's time is being wasted, and we are being set up for a dangerous situation in the event of a real fire.

Fire drills have become so overused that when the buzzer goes off, everyone assumes it is just a drill. Since they know it is a drill, they don't react with a sense of urgency while leaving the building. They finish what they are doing at their own pace. They walk slowly down the hall while talking with their friends.

Drills should be unexpected. Here at SPS we seem to have one every Thursday. They are expected and announced. This is not the

way to do it. Students should be taught to react as if it were a real emergency.

If there ever were a real fire at Stamford High, nobody would be prepared. A student's first reaction to the buzzer would be "another fire drill." Everyone would nonchalantly leave the building; that is until word got out that there really was a fire. Pandemonium would erupt. People would be running all over the place to get out of the building.

Fire drills are not a bad idea all together. They are just used too often. Having two or three fire drills each year would get the job done. Students are going to follow the crowd out of the building anyway. No matter how many times fire drills are done, students still won't walk calmly and orderly in the event of a real fire.

If fire drills were an unusual occurrence, rather than the normal, students might leave the building a little quicker because they won't assume that it is only a drill.



## Attitude makes a hard person hard

By Charlie Boodman  
Staff Reporter

What is a "hard" person? Apparently it is what a great majority of students want to be. According to sophomore Gerry McDougall, to be hard is to be tough or to be a good fighter. Unfortunately, to many students this is highly respectable. Being "hard" has its own dress code as well as its own attitude.

"Starting with the fancy, expensive sneakers and the sports shirts and jackets and ending with the sagging pants, hats (baseball caps), and an occasional beeper, dress shows me how tough a person is," said junior Brian Cronin.

Brian added that all this "hardness" leads to competition and eventually violence, sometimes connected with gangs.

"What is the point?" asked Brian, "We all become 'hard', fight each other, 'dis' each other, show everybody our great accomplishment and then what? The school would be a lot better off without this garbage. Kids should be themselves, concentrate more on their studies, get involved with some sort of activity, and make the school 'hard', academically and competition wise."

## SPEAK OUT

By Jamie Sherman  
Photo Editor

### What are your resolutions for the new year?



Eddie DeSalle  
Grade 9

"To eat more; pass Defeo's class; set up a sound system for Mr. Markosky in the gym."



Les Mosly  
Grade 11

"Become a millionaire; get a car and get a job if I don't [become a millionaire]."



Danielle Lewis  
Grade 10

"Get a stable job and control my temper."



Mrs. Helene Steele  
Media Center Assistant

"To be more patient and not take things personally."

Out of the mouths of many students comes the saying "peace". Is this just a saying or does it have some meaning? Junior Enzo Malagasi wondered, "Why do I hear these tough guys say 'peace' and then go tight or have a reputation for fighting?"

Enzo continued, "It is hypocritical and disgusting. Sometimes I feel like asking these kids or any kids if they know what peace means."

At Stamford High, the "hard" ones are not one specific group of kids. Being "hard" isn't racially related either. There are "hard" boys and girls. It is like a label. Brant Kantor, a freshman said, "I always hear kids complaining that they hate to be labeled but they seem to like when they are labeled 'hard'."

"Perhaps it is all a big front. Maybe these kids return home as 'Mama's boys.' What are they supposed to do, go home and beat up on their parents? Rob the local convenience store?" said junior Joe D'Agostino.

Joe continued, "They even have their own language. It's almost like an illiterate person trying to speak English. I don't know, maybe these kids want to be called stupid. It is sad that everybody would want to be part of the absurdity."



## NEWS

## Skiping class often goes unpunished

By Cindy Lash  
& Jen Sherer  
Staff Reporters

"Were you skipping, late for class, or do you really have an excused absence?"

This is the question most teachers ask but don't consider the answers important enough to take much action.

What do teachers think about the attendance policy at SHS? Some teachers feel that they are here to teach, not to patrol their students' whereabouts.

Others feel that they can't teach if students are not in class. Spanish teacher, Mrs. Lisa Rich said, "I think the absence policy could be effective if teachers followed up on the reasons why their students weren't in class. Of course, it requires a lot of work on the teacher's part. In many cases there isn't enough time."

According to the attendance regulations, students are required to attend all classes, study halls, and lunch

waves as scheduled. All absences are recorded and then reported to parents. Either a phone call from the attendance personnel or a computer message regarding the absence notifies the parent after every third or sixth absence.

But how many students actually do receive a phone call? And if the student answers the phone, then what? Parents aren't aware of their child's absences.

On the morning following an absence of one or two days, students are required to bring a note of explanation signed by a parent or guardian. The second period teacher will issue a readmit slip after reviewing the note.

Students say most of the time teachers don't bother asking for readmits. When it comes to re-admitting a student the teacher takes his/her own action on how to deal with the situation.

On report cards, the total number of absences in a quarter is shown. What's not

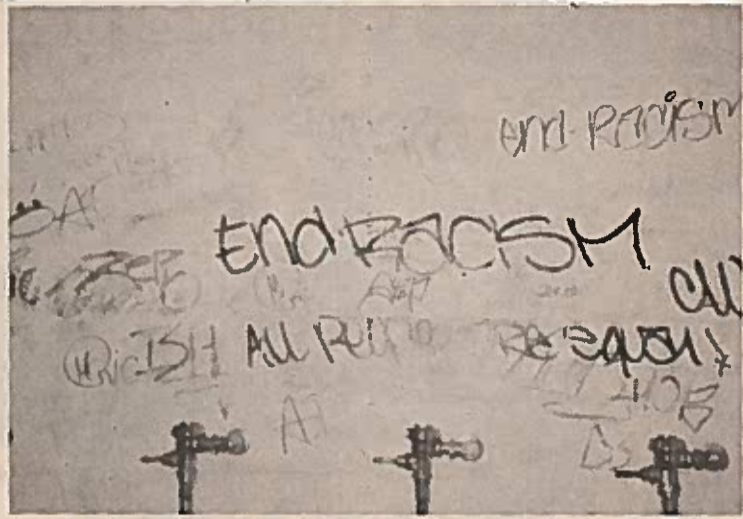
shown is if the absences are excused or not. Therefore, this makes it easier for students to have unexcused absences.

### Lateness is recorded better

In a different aspect, being late to school is handled more seriously. Every student must report either to room 402 (the holding room) or the attendance office upon arrival. Then they must sign a tardy sheet and receive an excused or unexcused pass to class.

After three tardies, a one hour administrative detention is given. This penalty is given regardless of unexcused or excused absences.

Being late to a specific class is not monitored on report cards, and is dealt with by the teacher. English teacher, Mr. Steven Blackman said, "The system doesn't work well because students can get a pass from anyone. This includes security, clerical staff, or anyone who can write. The pass must be honored to excuse lateness."



Boys' bathroom on the sixth floor shows the kinds of graffiti showing up around the school. (Photo by Jason Harinstein)

## Racist graffiti adorns walls

By Ken Shadford  
Historian  
& Jason Harinstein  
Staff Reporter

Heads", "Kill the Greeks", "Whities", and "F\_\_ off."

### Administrative theory

The bathrooms have always been grubby, smelly, and locked, but recently they have become a center for racial slurs. All over the bathroom walls, signs of racial tension in the school are recorded. This is emphasized by graffiti such as "The KKK is still alive in SHS."

Another suggested theory to the writing is by Mr. Markosky. He thinks it's just a few people writing back and forth. "Obviously it's terrible," he said, "Out of 1400 people, you have to expect a few bad apples."

But is this type of racism new? According to Mr.

*"It is not surprising to see graffiti; it is surprising to see racial graffiti"*

—Sophomore Alison Garnjost

Considering that open racial tension is not seen in the halls of SHS, it is surprising to see this graffiti and learn the reality of racial tension actually present here. Sophomore Alison Garnjost said, "It is not surprising to see graffiti; it is surprising to see racial graffiti." Frank Mancini, another sophomore, said, "[The racist graffiti] is just plain stupid, there's no point to it."

Senior Tyrone Powell added, "It's just plain immaturity."

It may just be immaturity, but there also may be hidden racial tension in the school. Some other sayings on the wall include "Brut-Force Skin

Markosky, it used to be worse in the 1970's when racial tension was more prevalent. Though it was bad then, one would think people would have begun to look upon everyone as equal today. This graffiti proves this is not true.

### Solutions possible

The question now arises as to how we can get rid of this problem. First of all, to stop further graffiti, the administration urges those with information on the people writing on the walls to tell them. As to the graffiti already on the wall, Mrs. Bingham said, "It's awful. We have plans to paint over it."

## National Honor Society inducts 78

Tevin Adelman

Kimberly Albert

Jean Alix

Kiriaki Aloupis

Daniel Backer

Keren Backer

Roxanne Bailey

Dionne Beckford

Matthew Berkow

Alberto Blanco

Eileen Bruce

Rachel Cantor

Alexis Carena

Catherine Carriero

Lauren Caveney

David Charles

Giuliana Chinchay

William Copeland

David D'Andrea

Joseph D'Agostino

Katherine Daley

Mandy DeFilippo

Amy Dietz

Nicole DeSalle

Karla Duran

Brian Eng

Angelina Erico

Elie Farhan

Nelson Estrella

Jennifer Ferris

Patricia Fuhr

Irina Galinsky

Neal Graber

Jennifer Gross

Terri Guinipero

Francis Hadju

Jason Harinstein

Eric Hausman

Deborah Heitner

Pegah Hendizadeh

Joseph Ho

Iffat Islam

David Jaffe

Nadia Kalman

Kerry Kelly

Hung Le

Mindy Lomardo

Eric McCue

Stanley McGiveran

Sam Moghtaderi

Gabriel Mondesir

Pat Nikolopoulos

Mergim Nimani

Kelly Pape

Anna Pennar

Yelena Rakhlin

Marcel Rosado

Michelle Rothenburg

Tanya Rubbah

Beth Scheffer

Liza Sherman

Jodi Shydlo

Keith Siegner

Raina Siladi

Leela Sinha

Joseph Stempien

Karl Stewart

Holly Strom

Maria Tomas

Robert Townes III

Christian Useche

Justin Vaccaro

Oscar Villamil

Lara Wagner

Raymond Wang

Jill Weisburg

Marie Zamor



Mr. Nast welcomes parents and members to the National Honor Society induction ceremonies December 5. Pictured are officers Alyssa Terk, Deena Disraelly, Eric Kung and Derek Shendell. (Photo by Disraelly)



## NEWS



Frogs are used as a teaching tool in biology classes to the dismay of anti-vivisectionists. (Photo by Daitzman)

## Dissection (continued)

alternatives. The three main alternatives are human anatomy, biological overlay, and individual healthy and diseased organ models. The ESEC is sure that all these models are just as effective as actual dissection.

### Biology teachers disagree

"I think it does have a value on all levels. There's nothing like the real thing. But if a person doesn't wish to do it then they don't have to," said Biology teacher Mrs. Rosalie Ferrara. "However, on A.P. levels I think it is really necessary."

Biology teacher Mr. Paul Buchbinder commented, "I think dissection is extremely important, but not for everyone. In my class we've dissected animals which include fish, frogs, and cats. I've had students who have become doctors and nurses who say that dissecting the cat helped them along the way." A study done by Michael Leib at the University of Chicago showed no significant difference in the test results of students who dissected vs. those who did not.

There have already been many controversies pertaining to this anti-dissection movement. Jennifer Graham, a California high school student, refused to dissect on ethical grounds. The case was

brought to court and resulted in a state law that guaranteed a student's right not to dissect.

Closer to home, in Norwalk, Connecticut, a case occurred where students and parents protested against dissection for religious reasons. The ESEC got involved and the Norwalk Board of Education issued a policy that students had the right to dissect if and only if they wanted to. Butterfield said that this was definitely an "Uphill pull" for her coalition.

According to Butterfield, the ESEC's ultimate goal is to have dissection replaced by the many alternatives that they are offering. These include videos, computer programs, books, manuals, models, and filmstrips.

"Academic freedom is there, yet teachers and students still feel dissection is necessary," said Ms. Butterfield.

Mr. D. Philip Baker, head of curriculum in Stamford said that students in our public school system have a choice whether or not to dissect. But, as Butterfield mentions, peer pressures exist in dissection, and teachers might be biased to those who dissect as opposed to those who refuse.

A.P. Biology student Diana Champion feels that if students aren't ready for dissection and

aren't planning to go on in the field, then they shouldn't take the course. She said, "I think it's necessary to dissect, especially for the field I'm going into (veterinary medicine). But, I wouldn't dissect using harmless animals who are being killed especially for testing done to them."

No colleges require high school dissection.

Last year, the National Association of Biology Teachers (NABT) formally adopted a policy. Some excerpts are, "The NABT believes that all biology teachers should foster a respect for life and should teach about the inter-relationship and inter-dependency of all living things. Furthermore, they should teach that humans must care for the fragile web of life that exist on this planet... The NABT recommends that teachers carefully consider alternative ways to achieve the objectives of teaching about the biology of organisms."

Steve Weinberg, president of the Educators for Responsible Science, Connecticut chapter, feels the ESEC is just "a code word for the animal rights agenda." He said, "Dissection is not the issue here, but academic freedom. Promoting the cause of animal rights' groups should not be done in a public school system."

Yet, Butterfield seems pleased with the good response she's gotten so far. She would be more than happy to hear from anyone interested in speaking with her about the topic of dissection. The hotline number is 968-9280. As Thomas Bickleman, a consultant for the National Association for Humane Environmental Education said, "As we approach that turning point in history it is time for us, as caring and knowledgeable people, to urge teachers to cast away the dead weight of a mythology that is no longer useful or relevant."

## Condom distribution in NYC spurs debate at Stamford High

By Sue Kim  
Staff Reporter

Condoms have been distributed to students in New York City public schools in hopes to get sexually active teenagers to practice safe sex. Stamford has not yet chosen to adopt this policy, but at a recent SHS Student Council meeting, the issue was discussed.

A few members of the Student Council felt that condoms should be passed out to the students. Senior Kim Wilson said, "I think that condoms should be passed out to the students because it's not encouraging sexual promiscuity, it's just promoting safe sex."

Many felt that condoms should be available but not necessarily handed out. Others felt that protection should be the responsibility of the teenagers who choose to have sex. A thought of a possible petition to get the availability of contraceptives at school is on the horizon now.

Senior Becky Sobo said, "I think that they should be available definitely, in machines and stuff, but I don't know if they should be handed out."

It is not yet known if this plan is effective or not. An objection to handing out condoms at school is that it is like encouraging pre-marital sex. A counter attack is that teens are going to have sex if they want to, regardless of whether condoms are at school or in the drugstore. Easier access to

condoms is just encouraging safer sex, not just sex. Wilson said, "If people are going to do it, they're going to do it and if someone else shoves a condom in my hand, it's not going to make me find a way to use it."

Senior Dave Zuckerbrod agreed. "I think that easier access of condoms would just encourage sexually active students in our school to practice safer sex."

Pros and cons to this issue have been stated and argued over. Parents and adults in general traditionally have been against teenagers having sex; especially now with so many diseases going around. Distributing condoms in an authoritative environment such as school may send mixed signals to students.

Sophomore Adam Fullilove said, "Although safe sex is a very important issue I think that handing out condoms is like saying to have sex whenever you feel like it."

Are the government, teachers, and parents giving their approval on teenage sex or are they just finally accepting that kids will do what they want to do?

If teens are choosing to have sex with or without adult approval, then it is logical to provide condoms so at least they can prevent pregnancy, AIDS, and other STD's (sexually transmitted diseases).

Sophomore Ferdousi Islam said, "The greater the availability of condoms, the greater the chance that they will be used which will decrease the number of cases of AIDS and teenage pregnancy."

### The Round Table

#### DISSECTION SURVEY

A survey was conducted during the first week of December among SHS students, concerning their views on dissection as a teaching tool.

	YES	NO
1. Do you think dissection should be required for all biology students?	33%	67%
2. If no, do you think there are alternatives available to teach the same thing?	71%	29%
3. Should A.P. Biology and Human Physiology students have to dissect?	51%	49%
4. Do you feel this is an animal rights issue?	58%	42%
5. Do you feel the decision to dissect should be entirely left up to the student?	80%	20%

# STUDENTS

## You Have a Choice!

If dissection bothers you, for information and support, call:

**THE DISSECTION HOT LINE**  
**968-9280**

Ethical Science Education Coalition





## NEWS

## AIDS Education Week December 9-13

By Rob Frangione  
Managing Editor

AIDS has made the headlines and has become a much talked about issue in recent weeks. In response to this, SHS sponsored an "AIDS Awareness Week" from December 9 through 13.

According to Beth Herbst, a social worker at the SHS health center, AIDS Week was started as a result of the news that Magic Johnson is infected with the HIV virus. She discussed this issue with Debby Katz, Head of the AIDS division of the Department of Health and they, along with SHS Principal Michael Nast, decided that the issue should be brought to the attention of high school students.

The three scheduled a meeting with the student liaison committee. The meet-

ing was only supposed to last five minutes, but as Beth Herbst said, "The meeting ended up lasting two hours, with many varied, intimate questions being asked."

## Petition drive

At this meeting, the AIDS petition, asking students to support AIDS testing without parental permission for those under the age of 18, was initiated.

Mr. Doug Ramsdell, the AIDS Awareness Week co-ordinator and FLESPS counselor, said that all week long, students from all English classes attended lectures in Room 101 on the AIDS/HIV issue. Social workers, guidance counselors, health teachers, and guest speakers Dr. Andrew McBride, Dianne Wilson, Bob Murray, and Marsha Sanabria were on hand all week.

Mr. Ramsdell said that stu-

dent co-ordinator Caren Holzman arranged with the Health Department to have someone infected with AIDS come to speak to students. Ramsdell said, "We needed someone who is very knowledgeable about the AIDS virus."

## AIDS info packet distributed

"Not all of our staff is trained in dealing with AIDS and the HIV virus. So we have given the staff packets of information on AIDS so that they might be able to answer any questions that students may have on this disease."

In the packet there is basic information about AIDS, statistics relating the disease to Stamford, and information on AIDS testing. Ramsdell said, "This week is basically an awareness week. We're simply trying to raise the students' level of consciousness about AIDS."



State Senator George Jepsen talks to Caren Holzman about getting the AIDS petition submitted to the legislature. (Photo by Weisberg)

## AIDS (continued)

Holzman, student co-ordinator of AIDS Awareness Week.

Jepsen stressed that the educational aspect of the movement is important. Learning about the government and politics through an important issue which they can directly relate to, will make students understand more about their government.

He explained the procedure for getting bills passed. "In even numbered years, the state legislature holds a short session which lasts three months beginning in February. This makes it difficult to bring up new bills because usually only fiscally impacted bills are addressed in a short session. A committee is needed to bring up a bill, and the follow through is vital to making it concrete. The more people involved, the more impact

it makes."

Senior Josh Fedeli is organizing a meeting with other local legislators early in January to enlist their aid in getting this bill passed. Dr. Andrew McBride, health director, has already endorsed the students' cause. And, at a recent FOSH (Friends of Stamford High) meeting, most parents signed the petition and were enthusiastic about it.

Many television stations and newspapers have contacted Mr. Nast about the petition. These include not only local outlets such as Channels 8 and 12, WSTC, and The Advocate, but the Associated Press, CNN, The New York Times, and U.S. News and World Report. Five other school systems have contacted SHS for information on what they can do to help.



Senior Jennifer Kay and friends decorate her spot in the student parking lot. (Photo by Emily Tsai)

## Parking lot sparkles with imagination

By Dana Plansky  
Managing Editor

The Stamford High parking lot has taken on a new look lately. Spaces are no longer black with yellow lines. Color has appeared on more than 30 spaces already, while 60 others are waiting to be purchased by members of the senior class, who may color them as they wish.

The project was suggested to the senior class by senior Tanya Perkins. She was talking to a friend in Florida who mentioned that her school was holding a similar fundraiser. Parking spots were to be sold for \$15 and the student "owner" could paint his spot the way he wished, within reason.

Said Tanya, "I immediately saw their fundraiser as a possibility for SHS, and I thought it would make the parking lot a lot more interesting artistically. I also

hoped it would become a tradition initiated by the class of 1992. My personal favorite spots to date are the Boardwalk and Park Place duo."

The senior class and its officers embraced the novel fundraising idea and immediately got to work on planning all aspects of it. The spots sold like hotcakes from the start, then the actual decorating began.

Seniors Bonni Fierstein and Kendra Nolan purchased a spot together. Bonni said, "I think the fundraiser is a great idea and it gives each senior a chance to express his individuality." Bonni and Kendra decided to paint their spot in "an interesting shade of pink. We wanted the spot to be seen by everyone within a five mile radius."

Kendra added, "We chose 'The Top Ten Reasons Not To Park In Our Space' to symbolize the memorable events in our senior year."

Senior class secretary Jaideep Talwalkar said of his spot, "Contrary to common belief, the blue thing in the middle of my space has nothing to do with a swastika. 'The Border' reminds me of my runs to Taco Bell. (which I would never do during school)."

Rob Luther, the president of the senior class, sees the fundraiser as, "a great idea which gives the seniors a sense of unity and it's a very effective way of making money. The parking lot looks great now, and I hope this will be a foundation for a tradition that will last a long time."

It certainly seems as if the senior class has struck oil with its new and ingenious parking lot fundraiser. But more importantly, the project has created a situation in which the senior class can be unified, while at the same time allowing for the artistic expression of individuals.

## Visiting colleges important

By Dan Backer  
Staff Reporter

College is a top priority for most of Stamford High juniors and seniors, and what better way to find out about college choices than to visit the schools themselves.

SHS students have been doing this and the general consensus is that it helps students make that vital decision about whether or not to apply.

Many things can be learned from visiting a college campus. One can find out the size of the school, the number of students, the types of classes it offers, and its social life.

Another important piece of information to be gained from visiting a college campus is the students' opinions of the schools.

At most schools, appointments can be made for prospective students to attend classes in almost all subjects.

A prospective student can travel with a "host" student who will show him or her around the campus. Many hosts also let visitors stay in their dorm rooms overnight, giving him or her the opportunity to experience college social life at its fullest.

Amy Calhoun, admissions representative at the University of Pennsylvania, said, "At UPenn, we like to give high school students the opportunity for first hand experience of college life. We encourage anyone thinking about applying here to make an appointment to stay with one of our many volunteer freshmen who work at the admissions office."

Stamford High School junior Karen Backer said, "When I visited the college of my choice, and I stayed with my cousin, it really helped me to decide whether or not to apply."



## HEALTH AND FITNESS

## ◀ Dear Health Center ▶

By Health Center Staff

Dear Health Center,

I'm really scared, I think I'm homosexual. A lot of girls want to go out with me but I don't like them that way. I seem more comfortable around my male friends. They always tell me about their past experiences with girls but it does not interest me at all. What should I do?

I can see that you are concerned about yourself. Your question cannot easily be answered for many reasons. First, the desire of homosexuality is very complex, more information is needed about aspects of your life. It is important for you to discuss your concerns with someone you feel comfortable with and who has the knowledge base to help you. The Health Center is an option available for you to discuss your feelings confidentially.

Dear Health Center,

I often get cold sores during the winter. My friend told me this is a form of herpes. Now I'm worried about transmitting this disease. What should I do?

Dear Health Center is a recurring feature in *The Round Table*. Each month, *The Health Center* staff will answer students' questions about health-related issues. Please address questions to:

Dear Health Center  
c/o The Round Table  
Room 114  
Stamford High School

Common cold sores are one type of herpes. They are called Herpes Simplex type I. Genital sores are called Herpes Simplex type II. In some cases type II appears around the mouth also.

Herpes is a virus that is highly contagious. It is passed by direct contact with sores on by the contact with the area 24 hours or less before sores erupt.

The sores can last up to two weeks the first time you get them. They may go away and then return at different times throughout your life especially when you are run down. Severity usually lessens with repeated attacks.

There is no cure for herpes. Your doctor may prescribe cream. Some home remedies are:

- Keep the sores clean and dry
- Use ice which relieves pain temporarily
- Dry areas thoroughly after baths
- Eat a balanced diet
- Get enough sleep.

If you have any questions or need to be examined please feel free to come to the Health Center.

## 'Thin is in' for teens, but at what expense?

By Sue Kim  
Staff Reporter

Body image is one of the most important factors in a teenager's life. The "thin is in" slogan that is broadcast through all the magazines, televisions, radios, and other media can have a harmful effect on many teenage girls today because they believe the key to success totally depends on appearance.

## Boys not affected as much

Junior Jason Haas commented, "Guys aren't as self-conscious as girls, so they aren't as weight obsessed."

Face it, you never open up a magazine to find a chunky or "pleasantly plump" woman advertising a skimpy bikini. Teenage girls are being bombarded with messages telling them that being thin is the only way to go. But what you may not realize is that many girls will go to drastic extents to achieve the slim, hard bodies they see being featured in all the fashion magazines.

## Obsession unhealthy

Unfortunately, some of these weight obsessed teens can suffer from anorexia nervosa, bulimia or bularexia: a combination of the two. All three are serious and deadly eating disorders that many girls turn to so that they can maintain a certain weight.

"A person should not be judged by her weight because an adverse effect can be anorexia. I saw this happen to someone close to me, and I know how it can ruin a person's life," said senior Stacey Izard.

Another fatal trap is diet pills. At least one in six children between the eighth and tenth grade have tried diet pills, according to the Center of Disease Control. These pills can not only lead to anorexia and bulimia, but they can also be dangerous by themselves. They include a mild stimulant which is chemically similar to amphetamines called phenylpropanolamine or PPA. Some studies show that this drug can cause headaches, anxiety, cardiac irregularities, and strokes. Yet anyone can walk into the local drugstore and pick up a box of Acutrim or Dextrim.

People are fighting with the Food and Drug Administration to make diet pill sales more strict. California just passed a bill that would ban the sale of diet pills to minors unless they have a doctor's prescription.

Laurel Mellin, an assistant clinical professor of family medicine and pediatrics at the University of California at San Francisco, studied 500 girls aged nine to eighteen. She found that 58% believed they were overweight while only 15% actually were. Approximately 80% of the ten year olds she studied had dieted already.

"Overall appearance is important to me. The actual weight of a person is not as significant as how it is distributed throughout one's body," explained junior Beth Scheffer.

## Lack of self-esteem

Thousands of teenagers are under the influence of the "pencil-thin" image. Our society is pressuring young, impressionable teens into doing anything to make them skinny. This is harmful to the adolescent not only physically but also mentally. Eating disorders often stem from lack of self-esteem.

Sophomore Roman Krislav said, "I hate when girls talk about being overweight. If you are, why would you say so? If you aren't, you either have low self-esteem or are fishing for a compliment. It's bad to brag about your figure but it's just as bad to beat yourself up over it."

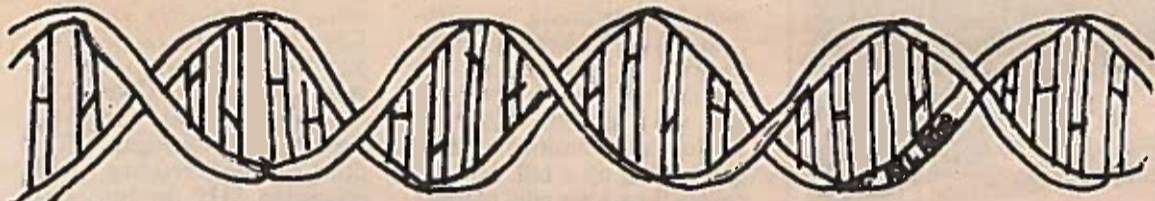
## Solutions

How can we stop, or at least decrease it? Jan Corkery, the nurse practitioner from the SHS Health Center, commented, "Kids don't realize how deadly these diseases are. It's true that it starts from lack of self-esteem and the self destruction continues as parents and peers constantly pressure them to be the best and nothing but the best. The most important thing to do is to get help immediately as the first signs appear."

"I'm aware of the dangers of excessive dieting, but like most girls I would love to lose weight, but never to the point where I would be harming myself physically," said sophomore Ilana Sobro.

It is clear that it is the norm for teenage girls to be dissatisfied with perfectly acceptable bodies. Maybe our culture's definition of beauty should be given a second thought.

If you or anyone you know are having problems with weight loss, get help! Either go to our own Health Center call the Anorexia/Bulimia Hotline at 1-811-873-8732 to seek help from a mental health expert.



## Altered genes revolutionize medicine

By Melissa Bitzer  
Quality Control Editor

Last year, a four-year-old girl made history without even knowing it. She was treated by a revolutionary means of treating a disease; giving her new genes. Her doctors removed immune cells from her blood, fitted them with a new gene, and injected them into her body. The procedure was a success.

In the last couple of months, researchers have announced the discovery of at least four new human genes responsible for ailments ranging from deafness to sterility.

While finding a new gene is only one step towards ending a disease, at least it's a step.

Experiments with gene therapy represent a giant step in the medicine of the future.

Nobody is expecting miracles from this experiment, least of all its creators. They aren't looking for an ef-

fect for a couple of years. The problem with this and other genetic therapies is that most cells have short life spans. In some cases, they only survive for a few weeks. The effect of this procedure lasts only as long as the cells survive. An experiment with rabbits lowered the fat in their blood by 40%, but only for about ten days.

## Student comment

Junior Chris Harrington said, "I don't think it's right to totally change appearance [through gene therapy]. Everyone would look the same, which is basically what Hitler tried to do. It sounds scary."

Junior Kristina Vaughn said, "It's okay for diseases, but it's bad to use it for appearances. It's not natural, and it's morally incorrect."

A committee at the National Institute of Health approved three more gene

therapy proposals' to treat cancer and a deadly inherited form of high cholesterol.

In other labs, scientists have rigged the lining of blood vessels with genes that deliver anti-clotting drugs. They are also exploring genes that could make cells resistant to the AIDS virus.

For all the good things this new procedure can do, there are also ethical dilemmas. These advances bring closer the day when parents can help children not only in health, but also in appearance.

This procedure is not only clever, but is very complex. This gene is ferried into the cells by special viruses. These viruses had been genetically crippled so that once they deposited their cargo of genes, they die without causing infection. The doctors must incubate the renewed cells to make them increase in number.



FEATURES

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**Stress plays role in parent/child relationships**

By Debby Levine  
Business Editor

In most cases, tension and stress between a child and his/her parents is a normal and healthy aspect of parent/child relationships. Children at times will view their parents as annoyances who bother them by meddling into all aspects of their lives. Many students can relate to these kinds of common problems and are able to deal with them easily.

Senior Randy Weiss is a classic example. "My parents pressure me a lot more now to get everything done for college, like getting applications out, visiting colleges, etc. We usually get along, but now since it's soon time for me to graduate and leave for college, the tension is greater."

**More serious problems**

When problems seem to affect different aspects of a child's life, such as lack of sleep, mood swings, and constant depression, the line is drawn from healthy to unhealthy.

Unhealthy problems and tensions between parents and children are more common than most people think. A number of Stamford High School students suffer daily from these types of relationships with their parents and deal with copious amounts of anger, tension, and stress.

A sophomore, who requested anonymity, finds her parents intolerable. "I was forced to move out of my house because my parents could not deal with the fact that I associated with people who were not Italian. I moved in with my boyfriend for two months and was sent to the Greenwich Youth Shelter after."

Though she is presently living at home, she admits that the situation is very difficult.

The sad and shocking truth is that many other students at SHS can relate to these severe problems, though they keep a low profile and walk through the days at school trying not to think about their return home after 2 p.m.

"One of my good friends," says another student, "tried to kill herself last year because of various parental problems which seem unbelievable. It's frightening for me, even now, to think about it. People don't realize how common these problems are."

Tension and stress problems are going to exist between a child and his/her parents. There is no way to completely avoid them no

matter how big or small it is.

**Health Center advice**

Social worker, Beth Herbst, explained that the child is trying to break away from the protective grasp that the parents hold, while the

parents find it difficult to let go. Lack of communication and understanding is also a major factor. Herbst said, "Teenagers are at a time in their lives when they feel like they do need support from parents both emotionally and physically. The friction comes about because kids feel they can do everything on their own. Parents feel they cannot."

For the most normal problems, many teenagers can relate to the constant battle of separation from their parents. For those who deal with more difficult problems, they may not know where to turn or how to solve them.

"I'm a strong believer in families sitting down and talking with a neutral third person," said Herbst. "There can be so much tension and such serious problems, that both sides can not talk to each other, or begin to come to a solution alone."

Beth Herbst has met with many SHS kids and their parents and firmly believes that communication works. Because of the rule of confidentiality between the Health Center staff and the students, no specific cases could be reported, however the problems and tensions between child and parent, have to be worked out. If they cannot be solved within the family, a social worker or therapist is an alternative.

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**Car of the Month**

By Rob Frangione  
& Dana Plansky  
Managing Editors



December's Car of the Month is awarded to Diane Singel's 1988 Chevy Blazer. It is quite possibly the largest vehicle in the student parking lot, dwarfing all of the other cars and anyone who stands next to it. Diane has owned her white with blue trim exteriored behemoth for 1 1/2 years. Her truck has been on several off-road journeys, but none so exciting as the time it almost went into a lake. (It certainly would have floated.) Diane is most proud that her truck will "roll over anything that gets in its way."

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## FEATURES

## Fishbone thrashes to the top

Rock Pile ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

By Sloan Saverine  
Assistant Art Editor

Locked in an accelerated battle against frustrated ambition, cruel indifference and outright racism, the Los Angeles black rock band, Fishbone, has still managed to make a name for itself despite the hardship and obstacles facing them.

Going to school in the San Fernando Valley outside of Los Angeles, Angelo Moore, Chris Dowd, Walter A. Kibby II, John Norwood Fisher, Kendall Jones, Fish, and John Bigham, the current members of Fishbone, all grew up in a predominantly white location.

Together, Moore, Fisher, Dowd, Jones, and Kibby picked up on the hard rock favorites of their white school mates—Led Zeppelin and Rush, and mixed them up with the sounds of Sly Stone, Jimi Hendrix, James Brown and Funkadelic.

Not to lose their ethnic roots entirely, the band members moved back to South Central L.A. for high school, with all of its problems and social influences. From there, they set up shop in Norwood's tiny bedroom, called the aquarium, writing and rehearsing there virtually every day until graduation when they hit the club circuit.

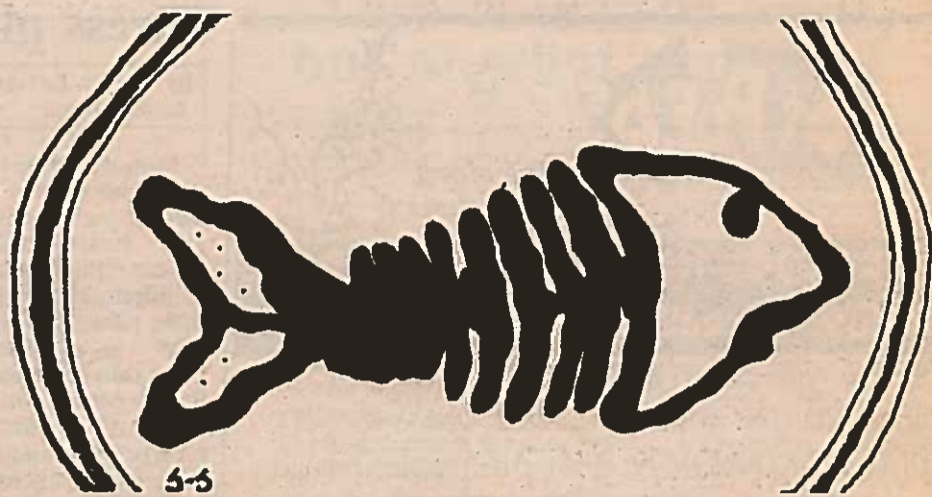
The band's 1985 debut was a six-song LP, consisting of material performed from all 60 of their original songs. Since that time, Fishbone has come out with two other LPs. *Truth and Soul*, which came out in 1988, was their first acclaimed album, yet the band was still quite a distance from breaking their club to club gigs and reaching real stardom.

*The Reality of My Surroundings*, the band's most recent and only album in three years, is the sound of Fishbone fighting back hard. It is a clenched-fisted hardcore hour of patented Fishbone rock-thrash funk and sixties soul, that is defiant and

unyielding in its urgency.

Best known for their uncontrollable stage energy and somewhat giddy jump-cut sound, the members of Fishbone have always mixed their good times with straight talk. This time the straight talk is for real.

Junior Jason Haas, a long-time fan of Fishbone commented, "The music is versatile; it's got a funky beat that's not like any other band."



4-5

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—Beth Lahr, Honors Marketing Student, Class of '94.



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FEATURES

Where are they now?

John Boccuzzi, Jr.

By Brian J. DiMattia  
Layout Editor

In 1986, the graduating class of Stamford High included a student named John Boccuzzi Jr. He served as class president for his junior and senior years, leaving his mark on Stamford High by working in the Student Council, the National Honor Society, the Key Club, the Pep Club, and the yearbook.

Now, he's back in Stamford after graduating from Bryant College, a school in Rhode Island focusing on business. Boccuzzi is now program director for the Southwest Connecticut chap-

ter of Junior Achievement, an organization that teaches high school students how to run their own businesses for a period of time.

While still in Stamford High, Boccuzzi spent a great deal of time working with Junior Achievement, attending both regional and national conferences, one of the highest honors in Junior Achievement.

Now, Boccuzzi is putting that experience to work, coordinating the activities of more than a dozen student companies in the Stamford area. Boccuzzi said, "The program did a lot for me. I love working with students and I like to see people bring out the best they have."

Boccuzzi said that his fondest memory of Stamford High is of the athletics programs. "We were #1 in track

back then," he said, and he should know! Boccuzzi was a member of the indoor and outdoor track teams for four years, and served as a tri-captain of the cross country team.

In addition to his sports career and his politics, Boccuzzi was an active member of the class, being voted *Most Likely to Succeed* and *Most Outgoing*.

Before taking the job with JA, Boccuzzi wanted to start his own business, but as he put it, "I don't have a good enough idea for a business right now." However this is still his major goal, which he decided early on in life. He said, "At Bryant I was reassured that entrepreneurship was where I wanted to be; that I wanted to start my own company."

Since he has been working closely with teenagers, Boc-



John Boccuzzi, Jr. 1986 Yearbook photo

cuzzi said, "The most important thing you need is more education and guidance after high school. What kids are lacking today is guidance from their parents."

His advice for today's high school seniors is, "Regardless of what field is most popular, do something you enjoy. You will be successful in life if you love what you do."

SHS freshman Kenny Blank star of stage, screen and MTV

By Maria Tomas  
Copy Editor

There's a face in Stamford High School that has received more than a second glance around the hallways. This face belongs to freshman Kenny Blank, a.k.a. "Milo" from the popular Bubble Yum commercials.

Many students have probably seen Kenny around school and wondered if that could possibly be the same kid who does the Pepsi, McGruff, and Lego commercials. Well, that is exactly who this young aspiring actor is.

But that's not all Kenny does! Besides being extremely gifted musically, having produced, sung, arranged and/or played on 15 commercials, Kenny has also appeared in over 35 commercials. Because he is so comfortable in front of the cameras, he has also been able to do many other projects. Kenny is the vocalist on Kodak's "True Colors" T.V. campaign, the rapper and dancer for Legos, the arranger, keyboard player, and singer for such projects as Tyco toys, Theragram Mineral Ice, and the theme for "Inside Video," which he scored at the age of ten for the national television program.

Musical talent abounds

Although Kenny appears in numerous commercials, his musical talents have never been overlooked. He owns his own 24-track music production studio which includes video and audio recording, and a rack of professional video recorders for his use in editing and producing original screenplays.

But where does all this music sense come from?

Much of the credit goes to his family for their musical backgrounds and incredible support. Kenny's mother, Lola, toured with James Brown, the "Godfather of Soul," for years as a singer and dancer. She also plays saxophone and violin. His stepfather, Bob, operates a recording studio here in Stamford that handles advertising work and musical projects. The popular song *The Greatest Love of All* by singer Whitney Houston was recorded at Blank productions.

Then there is Kenny's dad who is the noted jazz drummer Warren Benbow.

When he was only eight years old, Kenny attended the international summer camp at Appel Farms Arts and Music Center in Elmer, New Jersey. He was the musical director for a children's production of *Alice in Wonderland*.

He also worked on original compositions on the camp's Synclavier synthesizer, having had experience with its use because of the recording studio back home. Kenny's teacher at Appel Farms, Maria Lattimore, had called him a "modern-day Mozart."

The young actor has also had some stage experience as well. He has appeared in Stamford at the "Pink Tent Festival," for Lola Blank's *Go Bang, Wax the Van, and I Need More*.

He has appeared for Kids America in the *Dinosaur Rap* and has even had the opportunity to get on stage with the Connecticut Grand Opera in productions of *Tosca* and *L'Elisir d'Amore*.

Varied TV career

Blank's television career has consisted of roles on *The Guiding Light*, and *Reading Rainbow*; *What's Your Child*



Freshman Kenny Blank's face is familiar to TV viewers for his many commercial and film ventures. (Photo courtesy of Blank)

*Watching, Drug Avengers, and Square One* all for PBS.

Kenny has also served as an announcer for USA Network's *Kid's Club*, a program which includes *In a Minute* featurettes which ask a certain question to young children and gives a variety of responses from different children in the space of a single minute.

Blank's most recent television role was in a made for T.V. movie with Lou Gossett Jr. and Bruce Dern. Set in the 1930's, *Carolina Skeletons* was based on David Stout's 1989 award-winning story about a returning Vietnam War hero who must clear his brother's name of a murder that occurred 30 years earlier.

Blank appears in flashbacks as the 13-year-old boy unjustly accused, convicted, and executed for the murder of two young white girls. Louis Gossett Jr. played the grown brother of the accused, and Bruce Dern played the son of a sheriff who framed the young boy.

Because the film was filmed in Atlanta, Georgia, Kenny missed out on some school and almost missed his own graduation from eighth grade. Luckily, his good friend, Kino Nori, also a freshman at Stamford High, would fax him his homework and fill him in to all the school news.

To develop the southern accent for the film, Kenny practiced by reading books and continuously talking with his accent. He also researched the last minutes of the lives of some electrocuted convicts to get a feel for his own scene in the movie. He played the first person in the United States ever to be sent to the electric chair.

Film credits

As for his film credits, Kenny has appeared in *Mo' Better Blues*, *Presumed Innocent*, and *Funny Farm*. He also played the featured role of "Kenny the Drummer" in *The Teddy Bear Habit*. His first starring role was in this fall's 20th Century Fox film,

*The Super*. The film starred Joe Pesci, who won an Oscar for Best Supporting Actor for *Goodfellas*, Vincent Gardenia, and Ruben Blades. Pesci played Louie Kritksi, a New York slumlord who undergoes a change of heart when a housing court judge sentences him to live in one of his decrepit buildings.

Kenny plays Tito, the wise ghetto kid, who becomes Pesci's conscience and changes his attitude about people. "The thing about Joe Pesci is that you don't know whether he's serious or really laughing," said Kenny.

Since Kenny also performed the film's title song, he earned a spot on "Yo MTV Raps" and a guest spot on *Good Day New York*.

Most of the profits from his commercials have gone towards video and sound equipment. He is planning for college and wants to attend USC film school, where he will get the opportunity to work with others who share his interests.

As for the immediate future, what doesn't it hold in store for the young, talented actor, musician, singer, dancer? There is a series in the works which would feature Kenny on HBO. Michael Dinner, a writer/producer for ABC TV's *The Wonder Years* is the developer.

Right now he's happy with school and is in the SHS Drama Club on tech crew. He said, "I like SHS. The students are nice and you have more freedom [than middle school]."

He tries to live as normal a life as possible including shopping for his own clothes. His penny loafers and his look are all part of his success and he feels he is a "walking GAP ad."



## FEATURES

## Knight Light ★★

## Emily Tsai's work ranges from class office to AIDS research

By Tjada D'Oyen  
Special Sections Editor

Top scientists around the world are working diligently to better understand the nature of HIV with the hope of someday finding a cure for the fatal AIDS disease. Working with these scientists is senior Emily Tsai.

Every Tuesday and Thursday after lunch, Emily leaves school to begin her commute to New York City. Her destination: The Aaron Diamonds AIDS Research Center where she works as a student fellow under noted AIDS researcher, Dr. Ruth O'Conner. The Aaron Diamonds AIDS Research Center, located in the Public Health Laboratories of the City of New York, is the most up-to-date AIDS laboratories in the world.

## Ambition to succeed

Emily's ability to land a position at such a noted place is testimony of her sheer ambition. During her junior year, Emily was in search of a summer research internship that could accommodate other summer commitments she already had. However, most of the programs she found were too rigid to fit her schedule.

Then, last spring she read an article in *The New York Times* announcing the opening of the center. Immediately seeing an opportunity, Emily wrote to Director Dr. David Ho and submitted a resume of her extensive science background. About a week later, Emily was contacted for an interview and the rest is history.

"I was so excited when Dr. Ho offered me the position. I was unsure as to what to expect and wondered if I was being unrealistic to hope for anything," said Emily.

Emily hopes to do more scientific research in college. "The life of a research scientist is not glamorous. Experiments are tedious and often repetitive, but I enjoy it [research] because I know what I'm doing will ultimately help HIV-infected people. That's reason enough."

The project Emily is working on now involves determining whether the AIDS virus becomes more cytopathic, more potent, over time. She plans to publish a paper sometime next year.

Despite Emily's deep commitment to her fellowship, she still manages to find time for other activities. Emily is Editor-in-Chief of *The Round Table*, a position she worked hard to earn. She began her journalism career in her



Senior Emily Tsai takes time out of her busy schedule to study for A.P. English. (Photo by Daitzman)

sophomore year and quickly proved herself invaluable to the newspaper. As a second-year student, Emily was appointed Special Sections Editor her junior year.

This year, she has logically succeeded her meteoric rise on the paper by becoming Editor-in-Chief.

"Having the Special Sections made me really enthusiastic about the paper. The taste of editorial responsibility gave me an idea of what to expect later," she said.

Reporters on *The Round Table* often find Emily excited, supportive, and helpful. Senior Jaideep Talwalkar, Emily's friend and the Opinions Editor of *The Round Table* said, "It's amazing how, with all her other activities, Emily can be so dedicated to the paper and preform at such a high level."

## Extra-curricular activities

Emily has been the vice-president of the class of 1992 since her sophomore year. She as worked tirelessly in this job to make her class the most prosperous ever. She has spearheaded many events such as the penny war, numerous banner-making projects, and the new senior privilege of personalized parking spaces.

Senior class president Rob Luther commented, "Emily has contributed a great deal, this year especially. Her new ideas and pride in her class has been a great asset to the seniors. How she does it all, I don't know."

Perhaps Emily's persistence and persuasive manner can be

credited to the fact that she has been debating since her freshman year. Over the years, Emily, along with her partner Karen Hebert, has won numerous awards in Connecticut Debate Association tournaments. She and Karen have placed in the state finals on the varsity level since their sophomore year.

Emily's club interests don't stop here. She is treasurer of the Spanish Club and a member of the National Honors Society. Emily has also been a member in the Adopt-a-Grandparent program of the Interact Club for three years.

Unbeknownst to many, Emily also studies Chinese Cultural Dance and plays the piano.

Emily's piano career began when she was four years old. "My mom was taking lessons at the time. I wanted to learn how to play, too, and so I asked for lessons. I've kept with it since then," said Emily.

Over the years, Emily has won numerous awards on state and regional levels. While she had trained at a more competitive level earlier, her focus changed as she entered high school.

"Playing the piano helps me relax," said Emily. "I enjoy it more than just as a hobby. I don't plan on competing in college. I doubt I could compete at such a level, but I can't imagine putting an end to my piano training."

On top of everything else, Emily has participated in interscholastic sports. She played volleyball and tennis and ran indoor track

freshman and sophomore years. This year Emily was co-captain of the newly formed girls soccer team. "Playing sports is invigorating and stress-relieving. I like the workout, competition, and teamwork of sports. I just wish I had more time to devote to sports."

As one might have guessed by now, Emily is also an incredible student. Most recently, Emily was named a National Merit Commended Scholar. With a GPA of 3.9429 (unweighted) and 4.76 (weighted), she ranks fourth in the class. Her course load this year includes AP English, AP Biology, AP Spanish, and Senior Seminar. She completed the math sequence offered at SHS her junior year by finishing AP Calculus then. She is now taking Projective Geometry at Columbia University as part of the Science Honors Program.

"Some friends think me sadistic for taking courses outside of school, but I actually like learning," said Emily.

As a math and science Connecticut Scholar, Emily

received a two year scholarship to study at Choate Rosemary Hall Summer Academy.

With her high level of ambition, dedication, and intellectual ability, Emily is destined for greatness. She continually amazes those around her. Emily's friend and debate partner Karen Hebert says, "I admire her not only as a friend and a debate partner, but for the fact that she is so dedicated to her pursuits and the fact that she can do it all, even really well."

Next fall, Emily hopes to find herself majoring in biomedical engineering.

Ultimately, Emily would like to find herself with a career in medicine and/or biomedical engineering. She is also considering the field of scientific research. Whichever career path she chooses, you can count on the fact that we have not heard the last of Emily Tsai.

Senior Jaideep Talwalkar said, "I've known Emily since the 7th grade and believe me, it was all a growing experience."

Flashback • Flashback  
to The Round Table

By Ken Shadford  
Historian

Flashback is a recurring feature in *The Round Table*. In each issue an article from an early edition will be re-printed. These articles show how much newspapers record the trends, ideas, and language of the era in which they were written.

Colorization of films maligns  
artists intentions

By Joel Fenster  
Film Critic

This year Hollywood will be celebrating its 100th anniversary. It is a shame that this celebration should come at a time when the early art works that were created by Hollywood are being defaced. Old black and white movies are being colorized by computer.

Adding color to these movies is supposed to enhance them. It is destroying them. Black and white films like *Casablanca*, *The Maltese Falcon*, and *It's A Wonderful Life* are classic films, loved by all. Companies like Ital Roach Studios and Ted Turner Broadcasting are colorizing these films to make them more appealing to the public. People in this day and age want full

color.

The companies are making a lot of money from the colorized movies, but Hollywood is in an uproar. The Directors' Guild of America, the American Film Institute, and the Motion Picture Academy of Arts and Sciences have banded together with other groups and independent filmmakers to protect the colorization process. Even Steven Spielberg, who is usually ignored by Hollywood bigwigs, is jumping to the side of the Hollywood agencies.

Black and white films are a part of American heritage. It is like burning or defacing the Constitution or the Declaration of Independence. This altering of old black and white movies must be stopped. Before you know it someone will colorize the black and white segments of *The Wizard of Oz!*

This article first appeared in *The Round Table* in March 1987.



## SPORTS

## From the Editor's Desk

**Eligibility for sports is responsibility of players**By Derek Shendell  
Sports Editor

December has come, and SHS winter sports are back. The success of these programs, gained in the state's toughest conference, the FCIAC, is the result of hours of hard work by the coaching staff and players.

However, before our athletes can suit up for the game, they must make the grade in the classroom. In previous years, a 1.0 grade point average was required in order to participate in a varsity sport. However, effective with the start of 1991 winter sports, a new policy mandates that student athletes have a 2.0 average. No longer can anybody slack off and receive failures in a class or two and still be eligible to play.

The system has not been in effect for even a month yet, but already teams are experiencing the same problems with eligibility as they did last year in sports like gymnastics and swimming. For example, in boys' basketball, one important senior has been declared ineligible until January. The entire school received notice of the very reasonable requirement well in advance, and there is no excuse for ineligibility.

If a student needs help, teachers are always available and the Board of Education has even funded a homework center after school four days a week.

Last year, the Black Knights had a very successful winter season, with both teams and individual performers winning championships and placing high in competition and all-star balloting. Since many of the athletes are returning to their respective teams this season, the expectations are running high.

The academic problems of our student-athletes must be solved immediately. However, it is not totally up to the coaches or administrators to do so. It is up to the student-athletes who are at risk. They are the pride of our school and should begin to accept the responsibility for keeping their eligibility.

**Sport Light ★★ ★**By Charlie Boodman  
Staff Reporter

The word at SHS is \_\_\_\_\_. Hint: He's about 6'3", a superior basketball player, a hard worker and a friend to all. Of course! This month's Sport Light is senior Tremain Byrd. And the Byrd is the word.

Tremain has just concluded his high school football career and is about to top three years of outstanding basketball performance off with his last and final basketball season with Stamford High. Although Tremain was a major contributor to this year's football team, basketball is his specialty.

The name Byrd has been well-known around SHS for four years for his on court exploits. Girls' basketball coach Curtis Tinnin, who has been a friend to Tremain for the past four years, said, "I have watched Tremain grow and mature through his high school years as an athlete and a person. He has a lot to be proud of. He is a gifted young man with a great future ahead of him."

Some say that it is impossible to uphold an image of a

**Cross country skiing fun**By Dan Backer  
Staff Reporter

The winter is fast approaching, and one challenging and fun sport to try is cross-country skiing.

Unlike downhill skiing, cross-country skiing can be learned quickly and easily by anyone. The equipment is relatively cheap, and a lift ticket is not necessary.

Cross-country skiing is little more than walking and gliding with boards on your feet and poles in your hands. The right ski goes forward, the right pole back. The left ski forward, the left pole back. One, two. One, two. At some ski areas, specially groomed tracks help you keep your skis straight.

Some people consider cross-country skiing easier than downhill skiing. However, even though skills involved are much simpler, cross-country skiing is physically much more challenging, because all of the forward momentum must be provided by the skier's muscles. Gravity doesn't help as in downhill skiing.

Cross-country skiing is not just a recreational sport. In the last Winter Olympics,

**Hoopster Tremain Byrd flies above the rim**

Tremain Byrd demonstrates his talent during a game against New Canaan last year. (Photo courtesy of *The Advocate*)

star figure and be level headed at the same time. Teammate Isaac Johnson, said, "I have never known Byrd to discourage anyone on the court. He uses his gift to help others learn."

Byrd possesses that ability to exceed in his field and not wave it in anybody's face. His determination to improve his game motivates him. He

leaves no time for cockiness, only time for work.

Speaking of work, Tremain has also performed well in the classroom. Tremain's GPA is 3.0. He comes through in the classroom like he does on the court. Tremain said, "By my mother's standards and my own, basketball alone will not get me places. I know if I show hard work in the classroom as well as on the court, I'm bound to be successful in whatever I do."

"Everybody needs something to fall back on. I don't expect life to be fun without working hard."

As well as the returning All-FCIAC performer and three year varsity starter, Byrd will also be a captain of this year's Black Knights.

Basketball coach Jim Moriarty said, "A lot of pressure has been put on Tremain due to his starting position as a sophomore. As a sophomore he averaged 18 points a game. Last year he sacrificed his points in order to work on his defensive skills and passing skills, and was still able to average 17½ points. My goal for this year is to win the first FCIAC championship in 27 years. With Byrd, as well as many other talented ball players, the goal becomes easier to reach. Tremain is one of many gifted players on the team who can contribute to the team's success."

Tremain has some goals of his own that are congruent with Coach Moriarty's. "This year our goal as a team is to stick together like a family and to work hard to win the FCIAC championship and the state tournament. The future begins today. We have the talent. It's the work and unity that is necessary to take our season to the limit."

there were six cross-country races between 10 and 50 kilometers, but also the biathlon competition, a combination of cross-country skiing and riflery.

**Equipment different too**

Cross-country skis are very different from downhill skis and the poles are thinner as well. Also, the price of cross-country skis is much less expensive. Outfitting oneself can cost as little as \$100.

Cross-country skiing can be done in almost any outdoor area that has snow. Nearby woods or golf courses are ideal, and some ski resorts offer graded trails for beginners, intermediate, and advanced skiers.

In terms of fitness, cross-country skiing ranks as the top sport for getting in shape, better even than running, cycling or swimming. In fact, the highest lab fitness results ever recorded were for a cross-country skier, Juha Mieto, Finland's top competitor.

So, if you are itching for a little exercise during the winter months and don't like skating or downhill skiing, try cross-country. It combines fun and great exercise at the same time.

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SPORTS

Area NHL teams enter 1991-92 season with high hopes for success

By Brad Kay & Jason Harinstein  
Staff Reporters

As the 75th anniversary of the NHL begins, the three metropolitan area teams, the Devils, Rangers and the Islanders, begin their quest for the Stanley Cup. Two of these three teams, the Devils and the Rangers, have legitimate shots at achieving hockey's ultimate goal. The Islanders, well, let's just say that they have a long season ahead of them. Here is a preview for the 1991-92 season.

Islanders

This season marks the 20th anniversary for the team. However, there is not much celebrating going on. Beginning this season without their franchise player, Pat LaFontaine, further diminishes the prospects of their having a good season as the team is not very talented to begin with. Despite this lack of talent, there are a few bright spots that stand out from the rest of the team.

Joe Reekie, their talented blueliner, displays superior defensive skills. Fellow

defensemen Jeff Norton and Tom Kurvers, give the Islanders two good pointmen on the power play. On the front line, veteran Adam Creighton, acquired from Chicago, spearheads the offense.

New center Pierre Turgeon, acquired in the LaFontaine deal with Buffalo, and Ray Ferraro add punch. Leftwing David Volek, the young, talented Czechoslovakian, provides further offense.

Youthful inexperience is the



New Jersey Devil goalie Chris Terreri another talented local player. (Hockey Digest)

Islanders' main weakness. Also, without LaFontaine, the team lacks a pure scorer, and defense is full of holes, as well. Overall, the team lacks depth.

Rangers

During the off season, GM Neil Smith was busy trying to put the pieces together to mold a championship caliber team. Every year it is a platitude for Ranger fans to think "this is the year." Quite possibly, however, this year the Ranger are for real.

With the acquisitions of superstar Mark Messier along with power play force Tim Kerr and prospect Adam Graves, the team's offense and power play is vastly improved. Added to Briah Leetch, James Patrick, and Mike Gartner, Kerr and Messier help constitute one of the best power play units in the league. The team boasts the soon to be famous "Senior Citizen Line", consisting of 49 goal scorer Mike Gartner, left winger John Ogrodnick, and Mark Messier. Also adding a potent scoring punch is young right winger Darren Turcotte.

Goalie Mike Richter is spec-

tacular in net and backed up by the solid veteran John Vanbiesbrouk.

The team's weakness is that it lacks in defensive toughness on the blueline and along the boards. Also, the team is historically very streaky. Tim Kerr has a history of injuries. Finally, not to be outdone by their rivals, the Rangers have an anniversary of their own. This marks the 53rd year that the Rangers have failed to win the Stanley Cup.

Devils

After being knocked out in the first round of the playoffs last year, the team's disappointed GM Lou Lamárillo made many drastic changes. Upon celebrating their 10th anniversary, the team is looking optimistically towards this coming season.

The greatest asset of this year's team is defense. Added to an already impressive corps comprised of Ken Daneyko, Bruce Driver, Viacheslav Fetisov, Alexei Kasatonov, and Eric Weinrich is Scott Stevens, one of the best defensemen in the league. Obtained as compensation for St. Louis signing of Brendan Shanahan, this controversial



Stephane Richer, recently traded to New Jersey, adds spark to a moribund team. (Hockey Digest)

acquisition further strengthened the team defense. The other big acquisition for the team was high scoring winger, Stephane Richer, obtained in a trade for Kirk Muller. He adds needed scoring to the team. Before him, John MacLean was the only player who consistently netted the puck. Finally, goalie Chris Terreri gives the team a great last line of defense.

Team initiations endanger participants

By Angie Jimenez  
Exchange Editor

Many times during the year, you will see a group of Stamford High students walking around in outrageous costumes of orange and black. No, they're not people with bad taste in clothes, they're being initiated.

Virtually every sport has a traditional initiation to formally accept new members of a team whether freshman, sophomores, juniors or seniors. Most teams, such as volleyball and field hockey, simply have the initiates dress up in their sport's uniform and paint silly sayings on their faces. The point is to make them stick out like sore thumbs in school that day.

Most sports also have certain cheers or chants that old players can make the new ones perform in the hall upon command. It's an embarrassing tradition for the initiates, and great fun for those who went through it and now get to run it.

At SHS most initiations are harmless and fun. Only the cheerleading initiates are dressed up in outrageous costumes of clashing colors and cheap fabrics for a day. But, again, all is in jest.

Initiations are great fun, and often bring teams together with the sense of spirit and camaraderie that is achieved. However, some believe that initiations are potential trouble makers and will be bad if given the chance to get out of hand. Should they be mandatory to be on the team? Or should a player have the choice to participate if her or she is strongly against it?

Last year, a cheerleader was kicked off the squad when she refused to participate in the initiation. The argument by the team, in support of the dismissal, was that it was a tradition followed by all, and that withdrawal from such an activity would be unfair to the rest

of the team. Without specific guidelines and rules, it is difficult to say what goes.

Recently there have been rumors around school that an initiation for a sport at SHS that included taping an initiate up to a goalpost resulted in injury when the player fell. A few years ago the hockey team ran into big trouble when the administration found out that part of their initiation process included "swirlies". "Swirlies" are when an initiate is forced to stick his head into a toilet bowl which is then flushed. Obviously, such procedures are not only cruel, but can be dangerous.

Students go out for sports because they want to play and have fun. They do not want the added pressures of feeling as though they are pledging a fraternity.

The initiations in school are innocent, though sometimes embarrassing, and a lot of fun. Students should stick with that type of activity or come up with something else that is fun but not cruel.

Skye Tiedemann, a junior, is opposed to the idea altogether, though she has never been through an initiation. "It seems really embarrassing," she said. "And in some cases it can be really degrading."

Junior athlete Michele Twardy, who hasn't been initiated, feels that they are harmless. "They're just traditions to bring the team together, as long as they stay that way and don't get out of hand."

Senior Lawrence Gay said, "It's okay as long as you don't take it too far and someone gets hurt."

It seems that many SHS students feel the same way. Initiations are a fun and harmless tradition, unless taken to far.

Maria Zezima, a freshman who was initiated for girls' soccer, seemed to agree. "It was embarrassing, but it was fun. At least next year I'll get to be the one to do this to next year's freshmen."

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## SPORTS

## Winter sports teams look to 1992 with great expectations

## Wrestling

By Amy Dietz  
Inter-office editor

The SHS wrestling team is starting off its season with several new members and a new head coach.

Last year's coach, Mr. Lombardo, left at the end of the team's 3-17 season. Mr. Jon Albrecht has taken over the job.

Co-captains for the 1991-92 season are seniors Stu Chung and Rosie Rosivach. Other returning key members are Ryan 'Ratboy' Hederick, Anibal Gonzalez, Tevin Adelman, Devan Reece, Daryl Lewis, and Kevin 'Shaka' Reed.

The team is already double the size of last year's squad. One of its newest members, Jason Duvo, wrestled last year with a New York team and ended up with a 24-2 record. The team is very excited to have Jason joining them this year.

Members of the wrestling team have high expectations for this season. Four of the team's returning members

## Swimming

By Deena Sara Disraeli  
News Editor

A classic rock station blares from a radio, by athletes stretching, jumping, and practicing dives. In the pool, swimmers kick, pull, and race from end-to-end, as words like "drill," "streamline," and "yardage" echo through the air. For years the scene has remained the same for the Stamford swimmers and divers, yet this year, one thing changed. The Stamford Boys' Team has a new coach: Steve Smoragiewicz.

Steve, as the swimmers refer to him, may be new to the Westhill/Stamford pool, but he is by no means new to swimming. He has coached YMCA/USS teams in Westport and Wilton. He has also been the assistant girls' swim team coach at Norwalk High School.

During the day, Steve is a fourth grade teacher in Norwalk. Because his school doesn't get out until after Stamford High does, he can't always get to practice in time for warm-up. However, the boys are learning to discipline themselves and deal with it. When they arrive at Westhill, they begin stretching. They then get the warm-up set Steve has left them and begin practice.

"I look forward to a good season, but I don't know



Wrestling coach Jon Albrecht shows off his many skills during a recent practice. (Photo by Rosenstock)

placed in last year's FCIAC competition. Senior Stu Chung was the FCIAC champion in the 119 lb. division with a 13-0 record. Senior Rosie Rosivach, wrestling at 140 lbs., made second team all county and placed third overall in the FCIAC competition. Juniors Ryan Hedrick

(103 lbs.) and Anibal Gonzalez (112 lbs.) also placed in FCIAC competition.

According to Rosivach, "This should be the best season the team has had in a while. We have a great team and a wonderful new coach. The outlook for this year is really positive."

about meets," Steve said, "We have a very young team; a lot of freshmen and underclassmen, with a lot of desire. Such a good foundation will allow us to have a successful team."

Although the team finds itself with several new members, including freshmen Roberto Crespo, Ari Disraeli, Eddie Corsello, Brian Daley, and Jeff Fortman, and senior Chris Russo, it also has several veterans. Sophomores Adam Altshuler, Rob Levine, Suman Ball, Peter McKeon, and FCIAC champion Adam Fullilove; juniors Derek Cantor, Jason Haas, and George Rios, and seniors Andy Phillips and Vladimir Boulatnikiw are all returning to the team.

"Our seniors Andy and Vlad are showing strong leadership, which the underclassmen need," Steve said of his two co-captains.

Under the instruction of diving coach Maria Coomaraswamy are returning senior Randy Weiss and first-time junior Joe Clemmons. "The two both display excellent promise for the season as scorers and state qualifiers," Maria said.

Steve is "getting intense." He is starting with the basics, going back to technique and drill.

Although he has almost done away with the usual weight training, he has in-

duced dry land workouts and an optional morning practice. "I know that sometimes the guys want an afternoon off," he said.

He also lets the boys make their own judgments. The boys voted on captains and practice schedules. He also stressed to the team that they should talk to him, especially if they will be missing practice. However, he doesn't allow them to slack off. "If I want excuses, I'll give them to you," he warns the swimmers.

"He's cool, but makes us work really hard," said Vlad.

## Girls' Basketball

By Sloan Saverine  
Assistant Art Editor

Coming off a 10-10 record in 1991, which provided a city championship and a state playoff bid, this year's varsity girls' basketball team hopes to improve on last year's success. With the absence of last year's stars, first year head coach Curtis Tinnin has high expectations for the remaining veterans as well as the newcomers. Junior guards Michelle Twardy and co-captain Angie Jimenez, along with senior center co-captain Asante Green will provide the experience.

Accompanying the veterans will be junior Charysse Handy and senior co-captain

## Boys' Basketball

By Eugenia Eliopoulos  
Staff Reporter

SHS basketball will be unbeatable once again! This year our team is looking just as good as last year and even better. Last year's record was 18-5 overall. They won the city championship, the Paul Kuzco Memorial Christmas Tournament, the FCIAC Eastern Division championship, and were runner-up to Danbury for the FCIAC title.

Their goals this year are to win city, Western Division, FCIAC, and state championship. With an experienced, strong team, these are attainable goals.

Tremain Byrd, three year senior starter said, "Our team predicts we should win both the FCIAC championship and state championship; something that hasn't been accomplished in years."

The team is led by the sharp-shooting Byrd, who has been heavily recruited by top basketball schools. Other returning players are starters Tyrone Powell and Isaac

Johnson. Johnson said, "I feel we have a good chance of winning not only FCIAC's but states as well. We have three returning starters with a lot of experience and I feel that because of this we can do really well."

Coach Jim Moriarty has a lot to be proud of this year. He said, "We made it to the FCIAC's last year and our goal is to make it there again and win it. We have an experienced team. This year we have a difficult practice schedule that we have to work around. Our goals are to repeat the City and Division Championships and add the FCIAC and state championships. This team has the experience and talent to have a very successful season."

"Everybody has to be willing to work hard, play together, get along with each other, for us to be successful."

The rest of the supporting cast includes Terrence Corley, Ron Fields, and Bernard Threadgill.

Art Brown, they plan on working hard in order to reach their goals.

The team is led by seniors Bethany Chadwick, Anna Norgren, and Tanya Perkins; junior Dionne Beckford, and sophomore Karen Francis, the team's potential for the coming season is great. The top newcomers are freshman cross-country sensation Karen Wachowski and Jessica Peligrans.

## Boys' Track

By Keith Slegner  
& Jason Harinstein  
Staff Reporters

Led by head coach Stan Lord, the boys' indoor track team promises to have a successful season. They hope to repeat as divisional champions as well as winning the FCIAC's.

They also hope to come in top three or four in the state. To accomplish these goals the team looks for top performances from the veterans of the team. These include senior distance runner Fabian Housen, senior Erik Wochok, and junior Ken Gunn. Sprinters are senior Terry Staber and sophomore Paul Gittens. Field competitors include seniors Rob Frangione and John Cochran.

The boys also hope for strong performances by newcomers Marvin and Marlon Haye, Keith Slegner, and Rodney Bryant.



## Girls' Track

By Jason Harinstein  
& Keith Slegner  
Staff Reporters

The girls plan to improve upon last season. They would like to be in the top three teams in the division and one of the top four in the county. Under the direction of coach



Round  
Table **SPORTS**

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Stamford High School

Stamford, Connecticut 06902

December 19, 1991



Freshman Mary Martin uses her skills to outsmart the whole West Haven basketball team. (Photo by Rosenstock)

**SPORT LIGHT**

Senior Tremain Byrd soars on the basketball court leading Knights to top of the FCIAC and state

**SEE STORY PAGE 13**

**1991-92 Winter sports preview**

**SEE STORY PAGE 15**