

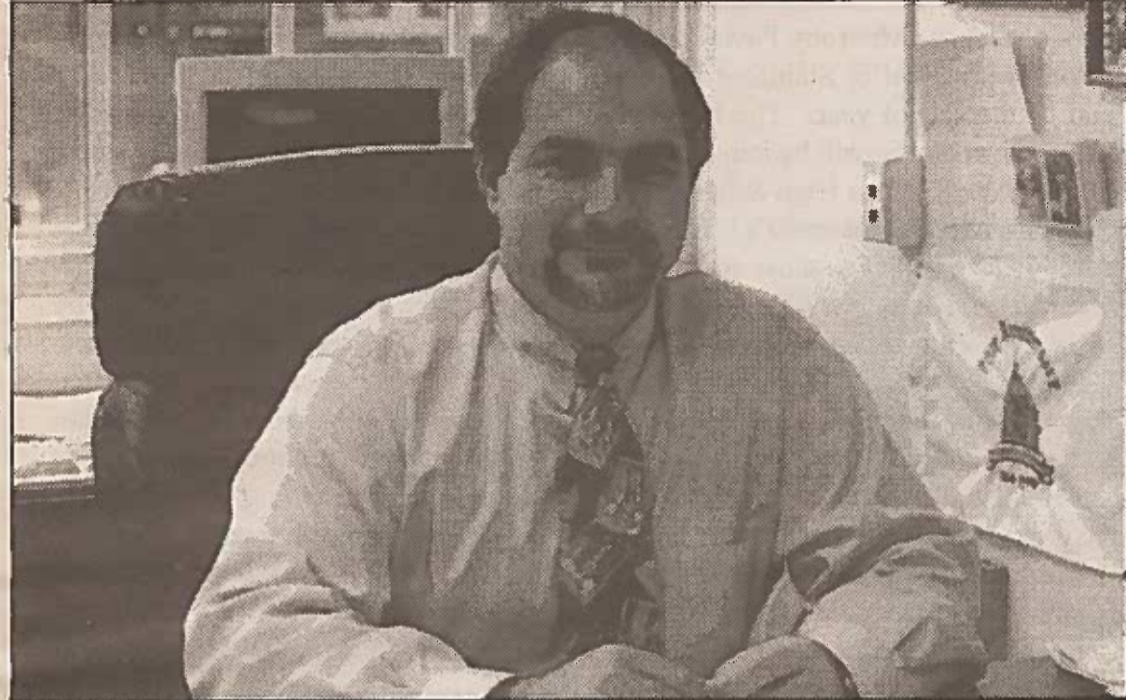
The Round Table



VOLUME XLIV, NUMBER 3

STAMFORD HIGH SCHOOL, 55 STRAWBERRY HILL AVENUE, STAMFORD, CT 06902

JANUARY, 2002



Mr. Pavia (current principal of Stamford High School) recently announced his decision to resign from his position. At the start of next year, he will be occupying the position of principal at New Caanan High School.

“I laughed, I cried, I went to the bathroom”

Randy Miller
Staff Writer

On Tuesday, December 11th, at 7:45 in the morning, Principal Tony Pavia saw one of his dreams come true. A long time fantasy of his, Pavia smiled in delight as he cut the “ribbon” at the long anticipated “toilet paper cutting ceremony” for Stamford High’s new bathroom. Located on the sixth floor, adjacent to the former

band and choral rooms, the new bathrooms are state of the art. With auto-sensor sinks, a carefully designed decor, and various sized water fountains, the bathroom is a major improvement to the ever changing Stamford High. At all times a security guard will be found manning the doors in order to prevent vandalism or loitering, activities common in the school’s other bathrooms. “This is a historic moment at Stamford High School, the pin-

nacle of my career,” said the boastful principal, as he looked at the bathrooms in awe.

In the past few months students have noticed construction teams making amendments to the interior of the school. But these bathrooms mark changes that will directly affect the student population, a difference each student can benefit from. Next to the bathrooms a new yearbook room has been created as well, which has not gone unappreciated. Stamford High’s tremendous student population is being well accommodated and future generations will watch this school grow as they do.

This bathroom was truly Pavia’s project; he made all of the major decisions when it came to his bathrooms. Choices like what grout color to use and what tile color would look best were left in his hands. Much thought and time went

SEE BATHROOMS, P. 3

Pavia announces plan to leave Stamford High

Nancy Ringel
Associate News Editor

Tony Pavia has spent the last six years as principal of Stamford High School. He has brought countless smiles to the faces of students, brightened the hallways with his friendly attitude, and influenced the lives of innumerable individuals with his tireless efforts to improve the school. Stam is a better place since Pavia first set foot in these halls as principal, and it is with heavy hearts that we all must bid farewell to him.

As of the beginning of the 2002-2003 school year, Mr. Pavia will no longer hold his position as Stamford High principal. He will instead be assuming this position at New Caanan High School, which has been without a permanent principle for the past year. The school is looking for-

ward to having Pavia join their staff, and is allowing him to teach in addition to his duties as principal. He will be in charge of a student body less than half the size of SHS, which is a different but welcomed challenge for Pavia, who has said he is in need of a professional change.

Rumors of Pavia’s decision to leave Stamford High had been circulating the school all year, but the official announcement of his decision nonetheless shocked the entire student body. A front page article in the Advocate made the harsh reality all too real for some, who had been hoping that the rumors were simply false allegations. A somber feeling overcame many in the school at the thought of losing such a great principal.

While the senior class will share Pavia’s last days at Stamford High with their own

SEE PAVIA, P. 3

AIDS Day testimonies touch many students

Cristina Tuluca
Associate Features Editor

On Sunday, December 2nd, the First United Methodist Church held the Fourth Annual World AIDS Day Interfaith Service. The service recognized those who have died of AIDS and offered consolation to family members and AIDS sufferers.

The evening opened with a hymn, “The Lord’s my Shepherd, I’ll Not Want,” followed by a welcome from Reverend Dr. Douglas A. McArthur, who conducted the service. He led the audience in a call to worship and lit the candles of Remembrance, Awareness,

Hope and Healing with Pastor Bob Hancock.

Following the welcome, the SHS Madrigal singers performed “Cantate Domino,” and “You’ll Never Walk Alone.” Their voices resounded throughout the church and their messages were well received by the audience.

After the Madrigals took their seats, a touching litany of Remembrance and Sharing of the names of those who have died of the disease followed. A harpist solemnly strummed as people uttered names of those who have died of AIDS. Many, touched by the atmosphere ceremony, dabbed at wet eyes. The candles silently flickered, casting

SEE AIDS PAGE 3

What’s Inside...

- News:** How safe is SHS? *can't live without them.*
- Features:** Sr. Spotlight - *College: Helpful websites*
Eric Hortlett
- Opinions:** Senior Year *Arts/Entertainment: A*
Memories *night of dance and music.*
- Lifestyles:** Toilets, you *Sports: Fall sports MVPs*

The Round Table

Founded in 1957

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The Round Table is published approximately 6 times a year by the Communication and Journalism classes at Stamford High School.

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

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

The Round Table Pledge

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

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

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

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

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

Our View

The Class of 2002 gained one more graduate. One more member of the SHS family will be leaving the hallowed halls of Stamford High School this coming June. However, this graduate is not a student. Mr. Tony Pavia, one of the pillars of Stamford High, will be leaving his position as principal of Stamford High School, mentor, teacher, advisor, and leader come the end of the school year. The Rams of New Canaan High School have won our beloved principal over and he will be joining them in the fall as their new principal. The question is, what does New Canaan High School have that SHS does not?

Mr. Pavia is first and foremost a teacher, a molder of minds. Once he steps foot inside of a classroom his face begins to glow and his eyes light up. He is so vibrant and enthusiastic when he teaches, making everything that he brings forth to the class seem interesting and exciting. Deals and wars that have taken place centuries ago seem to come alive in his classroom. Any student can tell that this is where he belongs.

Unfortunately, many of the most spirited and experienced teachers at Stamford High are not permitted to teach, simply because they have taken over administrative duties. Just look at many of the administrators at SHS and you will see the same love for teaching that Mr. Pavia has. It seems ridiculous that these amazing teachers are no longer allowed to teach once they are branded with the title "administrator." That is the way it goes, however, in Stamford. Is this because someone somewhere believes that these administrators will be taking the jobs of regular teachers if they are allowed to teach classes? They are the ones who have proven themselves in the classrooms time and time again. That was one of the reasons for their present positions. It is like telling these teachers that since they are too good in the classroom they can no longer teach.

Once at New Canaan High School, Mr. Pavia will be teaching a history class, something that he hasn't been able to do on a consistent basis in at least six years. He will be doing the job that he was meant to do, interacting with and teaching children.

How many other wonderful administrators, previously known as teachers, will the Stamford Public Schools need to lose before they realize that these administrators are first and foremost teachers.

Why are we as students sitting around and watching great teachers stop teaching? What better way is there for administrators to know what is happening in the classroom than to be in the classroom? As with most of this year's graduating seniors, Mr. Pavia will be back in the classroom come September. Although his tutelage will help hundreds of students, they will not be students from Stamford High. In order for Stamford students to continue to grow and succeed we need to allow administrators to get back to the basics, the classroom.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editors,

As I read through your most current issue, I came across the editorial and immediately became interested. As I read further though I became appalled. Seniors are always concerned about what kind of legacy they leave behind, whether it's good or bad as long as they are remembered.

This senior does not want to be remembered for a world tragedy. This senior wants her class to be remembered for bringing back the Powder Puff football game, for claiming the City Championship in football, for having school spirit and wearing our school colors with pride, for possibly being an overall athletic or artistic class, friendliest or heck even snottiest ... but not for times of tragedy. Your sentence about classes that did not know if they were going to college or basic training actually brought a tear to my eye, and the words "Oh my God!" escaped my lips. That's terrifying! Although the events of September 11 have had an enormous impact on our lives and the memories of that day will never fade, let's try to think of a happier or funnier thing to remember the Class of 2002 by.

Thank you,
Ashley Partington

Trip to Boston is a success

Cristina Tuluca
Associate Features Editor

Not too many cars were parked in the student parking lot at 7 a.m. There was, however, a coach bus and a handful of students chattering excitedly. They had all been eagerly anticipating December 6th. Students from Ms. Rudzki's, Mr. Buchbinder's and Mr. LaBanca's biology classes had been invited to a day long fieldtrip in Boston.

After a three-hour bus ride, throughout which students were entertained with a selection of movies, the classes spent time at the Boston Science Museum. There they wandered from room to room, fiddling with the various gadgets that related to different areas of science.

A favorite was a room with a flashing light that froze shadows on the wall, and a mirror that transformed two faces into one. Another highlight included the electricity show, in which a

lightning storm was created indoors using a mammoth machine that conducted electricity from the basement of the museum. When the Tesla coils fired, the audience gasped in astonishment and fright as the

At one point, volunteers were called from the audience and the sea lion gave each one a wet kiss on the cheek.

machine created 10-foot long lighting bolts that struck rods within a metal cage.

Afterwards, students wandered through the Boston Aquarium, which boasted a huge underwater tank, filled with fish, sharks, and turtles. Penguins gawked at guests from their own little pools and enclosed frogs

and snakes stared from behind glass panels.

Some students roamed to the top of the tank where they could look straight into the water. There a museum caretaker answered students' questions and told them of the 60 year old green turtle who is expected to live to the age of 125.

After about an hour in the aquarium, the group entered an IMAX 3-D presentation of "Into the Deep." The 90-foot high underwater images were beautiful, and the 3-D technology created a realistic atmosphere. Many students reached out in front of them, almost expecting to touch the corals and giant sea kelps.

Following the IMAX presentation was a sea-lion show. The trainer taught the audience the basic differences between a sea lion and a seal; for example, sea lions have earflaps like humans, while seals have small holes at the sides of their heads. The sea

SEE BOSTON, PG 4

AIDS, Con't fr. pg 1

light upon the harpist whose fingers calmly moved back and forth over the strings.

Once the litany ended clergy and Rabbis from all over the Stamford community read lessons from the Bible. Each lesson was followed by a testimony from a member in the audience. Liz White, a local resident, offered the first testimony and described how in the late 1980s she had discovered that her husband was gay and infected with AIDS. She remarked that it was a difficult time in her life, particularly because she had never let her husband see her suffer. After her husband died, she went to get tested for AIDS. Halfway through her story she began to cry, and her tears evoked similar responses from many among the audience who sympathized with her plight—many of whom had AIDS or similar stories.

White smiled and said, "I was kinda messed up then, and the doctor told me the results, but I was so scared that I didn't remember ... To this day, I don't know whether the results to that

test were positive or negative... and I think I prefer to leave it a blank."

Sergio DeJesus and Carolyn Brangman gave the last two testimonies. DeJesus has AIDS and Brangman is a mother of a daughter who died of AIDS. Brangman said that when she went to see her daughter who had died in a special hospital for AIDS, they had laid red roses around her bed. She cried, "I'll never forget that."

After the moving testimonies, the Sanctuary Choir, an choir from the Union Baptist Church, gave a powerful, emotional performance singing "Anthem."

The First Methodist Church Chancel Choir then sang "A Repeating alleluia," in the background while clergy performed the Laying on of Hands and led the congregation in prayer. A closing rendition of the hymn, "Joyful, Joyful," ended the evening.

People left the service seeming to feel saddened, and appearing very solemn, but grateful for the service.

PAVIA, Con't fr pg 1

into the selections that contributed to the creation of two new bathrooms for students. Administrators stood by and shared in the principal's joy. "I think that all of the other principals will be jealous when they hear about this, but I'll tell them that it's only water under the bridge," said a delighted Dr. Anthony Mazzulo, school superintendent. He was pleased to watch as this new addition became a permanent part of the school. "I'm just so happy that we are able to honor Mr. Pavia's request," declared Dr. Dan Cook, assistant principal.

So if you have not taken the time to stop by the new "Tony Pavia Bathrooms," you should visit the next chance you get. Besides being a clean, safe alternative they stand as a testament to the dedication of Principal Tony Pavia, and a tribute to the work he has put into this school that he so evidently loves.

BATHROOMS, Con't fr. pg 1

final days, the underclassmen are facing a different situation; they will not be graduating with their beloved principal handing them their diplomas. While the freshmen may have not yet developed a close bond with Mr. Pavia, many sophomores and juniors are disappointed at the prospect of spending their remaining high school career without him. "Mr. Pavia has always been there for not only me, but everyone in the school," says junior Molly Moore. "It is going to be hard without him to guide me through my senior year at Stamford High School."

Despite the disappointment of much of the student body and staff, Pavia's decision remains sound. Some upset stu-

dents hoped for him to change his mind, but others felt that this was not the right thing to do. "I think that we should respect his choice to leave and not try to convince him otherwise," stated sophomore Clare Cavaliero. "He has been a good principal, and he just needs a change. Of course he'll be missed, but I understand his actions."

Pavia will leave behind him a legacy of positive contributions to Stamford High School. He has touched the lives of hundreds of students that have passed through his guidance, and will not be soon forgotten by his loving coworkers. Though many may be disappointed of his leave, his warm disposition and caring nature will linger on in Stamford High's hallways, students, and alumni, forever influenced by his presence.

Bake sales are poppin'

Gyna Villard
Staff Writer

working with all classes and clubs with any Bake Sale that they want to put together.

In the past three months or so we have had a wave of Bake Sales occurring in the front of the school as well on the fourth floor. Selling baked goods is one of the top ways of raising money besides selling candy. Half of the sports teams and most of the clubs we have at Stamford High have done one or even two in the past few months. These Bake Sales have brought in money ranging from \$100 to \$500, depending on how long and vast the bake sale is. Here's a list of all the Bake Sales that have already passed.

- October 2 Girls Soccer
- November 8 Future Educators
- November 27 Drama Club
- December Step Team
- December 7 Debate Team
- Dec. 10/11 Girls Track
- December 12 Bible Club
- December 18 Drama Club
- December 20 Soph Class
- January 8 Spanish Club

Dr. Intrieri, the Administrator in charge of Activities at Stamford High had much to say about the Bake Sales. He commented, "It's a great endeavor that involves students to get involved in a positive manner, make money for clubs/activities and share the goodies with the students and staff. In some cases get to appreciate the different ethnic foods." Dr. Intrieri looks forward and enjoys

Most of the students at Stamford High agree that they love the idea of the Bake Sales during class. Senior Nakiesha Powell said, "I really love the Bake Sales. I think it gives students a way to participate more with other students beside in the clubs and see how much Stamford High students gives each other support." Junior Rebecca Prosper added, "When I used to go to Westhill we had one Bake Sale a month. I really like the idea of having so many Bake Sales. The good thing about it is that every one of the Bake Sales look very successful."

The great thing about Bake Sales going on at the High is having such a wide variety of foods at every sale; so you have something different to look forward to at every Bake Sale. The Spanish Club had their Bake Sale in January and they had Empanadas, which are little meat patties for sale. That's interesting for someone that has never had Empanadas before.

The Bake Sales are currently planned to continue throughout the year. So I hope students and staff will look forward to supporting Stamford High. If any club or sport team needs to raise any money don't hesitate to set up a date with Dr. Intrieri to have a Bake Sale. It's easier than it looks.

Rob's Place...it is more than just a school store

Brian Kaplowitz
Staff Writer

"Move it up to the front ... walk in, walk in ... what can I get you?" These are just some of the phrases heard when walking by or entering Rob's Place, a school store which runs under the auspices of the Future Business Leaders of America program.

In many ways, Future Business Leaders of America, better known as FBLA, has helped to fund events and charities within the school and community. FBLA has also provided an opportunity for its workers to learn of the everyday objectives that a store must achieve in order to remain successful. FBLA advisors Mr. Frank Pociadlo, Mr. Bruce Sylvester and Mrs. Mary Cantow have been particularly instrumental in the store's accomplishments over the years. In the last fiscal period alone FBLA accumulated over \$100,000 in profit, and these three mentors have been a major reason for it.

FBLA is a school program that teaches students how to run a business and make it profitable. This learning in many cases is very basic, starting with topics like the efficient ways of handing out a coke and a bagel, and acceptable ways of relating to fellow employees, managers and business officers.

Rob's Place has become a friendly environment over the years, and it is one of the reasons why students and teachers make their ways in and out of the store every period to buy whatever it takes to make their stomachs stop grumbling. Whether customers want some Oreos, a Snickers bar, a bag of Lays Potato Chips, a bottle of water, or a hot cup of French vanilla, Rob's Place has got it all.

Although Rob's Place is a fun atmosphere and everything is "all good," there are still plenty of things that have to get done. When each period is over, the refrigerators need to be restocked



Photo by: Staff

Vynette Lochard serves the first customer of the day in Rob's Place. Just a few minutes later, and often between classes, when this site may appear to be in the midst of chaos, Rob's Place does a land office business with the sale of food and drink for students.

with drinks, the shelves need to be refilled with chips and candy, and the bagel bins need to be

many ideas to help out organizations within the community. Last year they funded both the hockey and baseball teams' state championship dinners. They are currently conducting a fundraiser for the March of Dimes, which is focused on helping save newborn babies with birth defects. They also just recently found a crib for a family which is expecting a child and cannot afford one.

In the recent past they have made a significant donation to a Stamford family which was a victim of the World Trade Center attack. The staff of SHS made a contribution and FBLA chose to match their amount, which accumulated to over a \$10,000 donation.

replenished, along with countless other lesser jobs that must get completed.

Fortunately, this year again there are managers and officers who are really getting the chores done. Senior Co-presidents Vynette Lochard and Ashton Dominique have done an exceptional job at keeping their staff of employees on task. Senior Vice President Andrew Tobin has also been a key element in the great success that FBLA and Rob's Place have enjoyed.

Together, this student management team has come up with

The staff of SHS made a contribution and FBLA chose to match their amount, which accumulated to over a \$10,000 donation.

How safe do students feel at Stamford high?

Randy Miller
Staff Writer

Schools should be safe and secure places for all students, teachers, and staff members. Without a safe learning environment, teachers cannot teach and students cannot learn. But unfortunately, this environment may not always exist. In 1998, students ages 12 through 18 were victims of more than 2.7 million total crimes at school, according to the national center for education.

In that same year, these students were victims of about 253,000 serious violent crimes at school (rape, sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated assault). There were also 60 school-associated violent deaths in the United States between July 1, 1997 and June 30, 1998-including 47 homicides. Fortunately, in recent years that number has been steadily declining; between 1995 and 1999, the percentage of students who reported being victims of crime at school decreased from 10 percent to 8 percent. While that is not to say that the problem is solved, it is comforting to see any improvement from these frighteningly high statistics.

As the rate of victimization in schools has declined or remained constant, students also seem to feel more secure at

school now than just a few years ago. The percentage of students who reported avoiding one or more places at school for their own safety decreased between 1995 and 2000-from 9 to 5 percent in a national study.

In light of the national statistics, Stamford high students lend a more reassuring statistic. In a recently conducted poll of 65 students in this school, barely 3 percent agreed to avoiding certain areas of school for safety concerns. When recently asked how safe they feel in their school, 86 percent of Stamford high students polled responded that they do feel comfortable in this setting. Many of those who responded in favor of the safety of this school indicated that this security was due in large part to the excellent security staff. "I have never been afraid to walk through the halls of this school. People just leave others alone. Stamford high is a comfortable environment for me, in which I feel very safe. But if I ever do have a problem I am sure that the security staff would help me handle it," claimed a junior who asked that his name not be used.

Despite a national concern for the safety of America's students, Stamford High School is apparently confident. With a less threatening air in this school, students are able to focus on a successful learning career and on having a great high school experience.

BOSTON, Con't from pg. 3

lion then performed many comical tricks, and showed that he knew how to grin. At one point, volunteers were called from the audience and the sea lion gave each one a wet kiss on the cheek. Everyone seemed thoroughly amused.

The last stop of the day was perhaps the one most anxiously waited for: Quincy Market. For two hours, students meandered through the small boutiques and stores, buying souvenirs and trinkets for family and friends, and of course, taking time to eat a delicious dinner.

At 7:00 p.m., the day came to a close as students boarded the

Good Luck to all Stamford high students on their upcoming midterms. Remember, luck is often created by means of preparation. Study hard, prepare well, and the 'luck' will come.

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My senior year memories

Casey Colandro
Staff Writer

It seems like it was only yesterday when I first entered high school as a freshman. When I became a senior I began to think about all the good and bad memories that have become mine throughout the last four years. I realized what I was going to miss as my senior year rolls by and it comes closer to graduation. All my friends, teachers, activities, and things that just make me happy about SHS.

Freshman year is when you first meet new friends and start over. You just start to feel like you are on your own. It is when you feel like you are actually a part of something. You adjust to the surroundings by talking to friends, teachers, being friendly with all the classes, playing sports and doing after school activities.

When you become a sophomore you are not the youngest in school anymore, but you are in the middle. You are not an upper classman yet, but you are not a baby anymore either, so you feel like you don't get any attention.

Junior year is an important year for every student. You want to have fun because everyone is getting cars and going out and not having their parents drive them everywhere anymore and so the juniors want to go out every

weekend. But they also have to get all of the work done to earn good grades, because this year is what the colleges base most of their decision making on. You are finally an upper classman, but still, still not a senior.

All three years you can't wait for senior year until it comes. When you are a senior, in the beginning you are excited and can not wait for graduation, and to go on to college and have fun and meet new people again. But you never realize what you are going to be missing.

As the year goes by you think about everything that has happened to you in high school. You recall the first person you met, how funny all your classes were, how much fun all your friends are, how excited your teachers could be, every practical joke that has happened throughout the years, and just talking to people that you will probably never really talk to that much again.

The senior year is supposed to be the best year of high school, but all you can think about is how you're not going to be in the same school the next year, not going to be with the same friends and teachers, not playing on the same sport teams or doing the activities you have done the year before. Everything will change for you and then it will be time for you to start over again and become the baby in a different environment.

Money, money, money

Jessica Troy
Associate Sports Editor

Money, to some, is the world's greatest item. It comes in many different shapes, sizes, and values. From round and small, to rectangular, flat, and green. Money, the one thing that people want a lot of, but unfortunately it is one of the things that only a select few have a lot of. It is an item that many can't live with, and one of the things that many can't live without.

It is nice and comforting to hold a big pile of twenties and fifties and buy frivolous items, but there are complications that arise with friends and relatives who are then always asking for handouts. However, those who don't have money need money to buy the necessities which range from providing a roof above their heads to a nice hardy sandwich for lunch.

The only real problem with money is that it comes and goes just like your sixteenth birthday.

When it comes to the users of money there are two types of people. The majority of the people are those who occasionally have money, and when they have it, they spend it. They are called spendthrifts. These are

the people who finally get their pay checks after a long month of hard work, and go out that weekend for good food and shopping. They see a nice shirt that looks pretty in the store window, and they purchase it. They go home with a nice new shirt that takes up more closet space, and no more money. Then they start off Monday morning in a bad mood because they are broke again, and they



have to work hard for another whole month to receive more money.

Then there are the people who hold onto their money no matter what. The common name for this select few is tightwad. These are the people who work hard all month, realize how hard they have been working, and put their money in a safe place where it won't be

spent until something important arises. Even though they see a frivolous item in the store window that might be nice to have, they refuse to spend the money on something that is not in dire need.

Unfortunately, within this select few there is a sub-group of people that has trouble helping a friend out here and there, and who will not spend more than a certain amount of money even for those who are friends and family. Those people have to loosen up a bit.

However, the ultimate question related to people and their money is, who has the better time? Some can argue that the people who buy what they want, when they want it, have a better time because they are happy with what they have even though they don't have all the money that they want.

Others can argue that the "tightwads" have a better time because they are saving money for the future. They have saved up their cash to buy necessities, and they are learning how to spend their money wisely before it is too late to learn.

Whatever type of person you may be, there is one thing that is shared among everyone. All mankind wants money, and they are often extremely happy when they receive a lot of it.

Should eligibility requirements be changed?

Andrew Dolian
Associate Sports Editor

Did you know that Stamford High and Westhill student athletes have to achieve a 2.0 G.P.A. to earn eligibility to play sports and that the CIAC (Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference) only requires a 1.0 and is the standard which a significant majority of the surrounding schools follow? I sat down with basketball coach Jim Moriarty, cross-country and track coach Art Brown, and the head of the drama club Michael Limone, and asked them a few questions.

RT: Stamford High and Westhill have a policy of 2.0

GPA for athletic eligibility and the CIAC is a 1.0. Do you think Stamford Public Schools' requirement should be lowered to a 1.0?

JM: "No, I don't think so. Students are here for an education and to do well is the more important thing. Sports comes second. But it really is unfair to students in Stamford because an overwhelming majority of the schools follow the 1.0 CIAC policy and ours is a 2.0. It isn't fair to athletes who have anywhere from a 1.0 - 2.0 because they would be eligible to play in many other schools but not at Stamford High or Westhill."

RT: Do you think there should be an eligibility level for the marching band, color guard, or

in order to be a part in the drama club who practice as much or more after school as sports teams do?

JM: Yes, I think that they are discriminating against athletes over clubs or marching band. In band, as long as you're passing then you're fine. Also the history of the 2.0 is supposed to apply to any extra-curricular activity after school. It was dropped and I think it is very wrong and needs to be addressed.

RT: Why are Stamford schools the only schools who follow a 2.0 policy?

AB: The Board of Education passed the 2.0 and cared more than the state policy. They thought it was too lenient with

the 1.0.

RT: Do you think there should be any change? If so, what?

AB: I don't feel strongly about it being changed but maybe to a 1.75. But it's okay.

RT: Do you think band should adhere to the eligibility level of other after school activities?

AB: Well, band is a class but I think other after school activities should also follow the 2.0 policy with the exception of band.

RT: Many people feel strongly about having an eligibility policy for other after school activities. Do you think there should be an eligibility requirement for drama or other clubs?

ML: There is an eligibility for drama. The eligibility is that a

student who wants to try out for a role in a play has to get a note from their guidance counselor.

RT: How about a requirement to participate in the band and the color guard?

ML: Band and color guard are similar to sports and should be treated the same way.

As you can tell there are many concerns with the eligibility policy on the parts of teachers and coaches for athletics and other after school activities. Based on the seeming disparities in the application of the requirements in the state, and the differing opinions among the advisors, there is probably good reason to at least revisit the standards to determine if there needs to be a change.

Who's the cheater?

Jessica Troy
Associate Sports Editor

Cheating has been a problem ever since the first schools were created, in fact, ever since mankind was created. Students would look at one another's tests and copy one another's homework, so there wouldn't be a punishment when they came home. Now, in the 21st century, students cheat to maintain good grades, and receive the highest of honors, that 4.0. Cheating is still an issue today, and it is difficult to put an end to it. And the questions still need to be asked: What should a teacher do if he or she notices that two test papers are the same? Since both are implicated in the act of cheating should both people be punished, or should just the cheater be punished? But if just the copier is punished, how does one find out which one was is at fault?

Ultimately, the teacher is put in a very bad and very awkward situation. No matter what, the teacher cannot let the cheating slide because it is not ethically correct, but what should the plan of action be?

If the teacher decides to penalize both students, then the morally correct student is punished. That student has "cheater" stamped on his or her record, when no "crime" was committed. It is like an innocent man receiving the death penalty for a crime that wasn't executed.

The other student, the one

who copied the answers, does deserve to be reprimanded. He or she should be taught a valuable lesson, but it is unfortunate that it has to be at the expense of a peer.

Another option available to handle this difficult situation is to give both students a warning. This makes it clear to the students that the teacher has spotted the situation and that there will be repercussions if the problem arises again. However, this may make it seem that the teacher is not condemning cheating. They are not punishing the copier; they are only making it appear that the ethically correct student is possibly a cheater.

Another alternative to this is to give the students a re-take that same day. This would, perhaps, show who actually knew the material. If a new test is given that same day, the cheater doesn't have enough time to prepare, and he or she won't do as well as on the controversial test. This makes sure the copier is punished, and it shows that the teacher is not letting cheating go unpunished.

In this situation the best of both worlds would be had if the copier stepped forward and took responsibilities for his or her action. This would make sure that the correct person is punished, and it prevents the teacher from looking like the 'bad guy'. The teacher, however, has to be very cautious when labeling a person a cheater because that person might not be the culprit, and there may be many unintended repercussions in the long run.

The joys of the fruitcake

Lauren LaRusso
Associate Opinions Editor

There is one aspect of the Christmas season that will never lose its traditional meaning and presence. I will give you a hint-it is rotund, unnaturally hard, and mysteriously flecked with various dull colors. Still can't guess what it is? It's usually sent over by the annoying next-door neighbor who is trying to wish you a happy holiday, yet both of you know very well that nobody in his or her right mind would ever want to eat it. Yes, you have got it now. It's the infamous holiday fruitcake. Oh, what would Christmas be without that unappetizing and borderline revolting, yet somewhat comforting and reassuring dessert?

It never gets eaten, of course. It is simply something received during the Christmas season and accepted as a traditional unwanted gift. Although my family has lived in our house for over 13 years, our Realtor sends us a fruitcake and wine each holiday season. Just in case we might want to get up and move away, right? No. That fruitcake keeps us in place. I would be disturbed if we suddenly ended the tradition of stumbling over that fruitcake waiting on the doorstep of our house. It's forgotten completely until someone trips over it trying to come in through the front door. Then, it is brought inside, and we all take turns making faces at it. Fruitcake? Yuck.

Despite its unattractive features and the dust that collects

on it until someone throws it away, the fruitcake is a timeless symbol of Christmas. Regardless of our changing world and fast paced society, the fruitcake calmly and firmly hold its place year after year. Although it continues to be rejected, it possesses an almost proud air. Maybe it knows that without it, there would be something missing from the holiday tradition; from the constants in life.

It is now, more than ever, that we all need reassurance in the things that stay the same year after year. We need to find comfort in things that never change and will remain true to our lives. So this year, I hope that you appreciated your fruitcake for all it is worth. It is worth a lot more than meets the eye.

2 0 0 2: Right on dude

Dan Renzetti
Associate Features Editor

In the year 2002, there are some things that I would love to see happen, and some things that I never want to see again. So, read this list and do not take anything too seriously.

1) I wish to see Mr. Law and Justice Brown smile for once in his life and not comment on my hair. I have heard over the years that I look like both Billy Idol and Eminem. I also want to congratulate him on never making a mis-

take in his life, 'cause obviously after the Pledge of Allegiance mishap that I am sure nobody else has ever messed up, he sure set those kids straight like only a man who has never made an error would.

2) I would like for one day to go by, and not have Dr. Intri call either Ryan Pape or myself to the office.

3) I wish to see Frank Russo our beloved security guard but more important, tennis coach's dog run into Aaron Raddock in the hallway and knock him down the stairs. Dude, that would be really



funny.

4) I wish that every time either Diana Lipsitz or Anna Levy mentions something about their summer camps, they get lectured for an hour about nothing by Mrs. Leech

5) I wish to see Mr. White go a week without kicking Dave Eisner, Jon Levy or myself out of his 2nd per. Economics class. Actually, feel free to boot Eisner.

6) I wish to never again see Brian Kaplowitz dressed as a cross-dressed 80's transvestite. I found it disturbing and mind scaring.

I am sure all of you out there can share some of the same feelings that I do. Until 2003, good new years vibes and keep it positive.

Why our holiday vacation should be extended

Lauren LaRusso
Associate Opinions Editor

It is Wednesday, January 2, 2002, and yesterday was New Year's day. You may keep asking yourself just why you are back at school. What a coincidence; I keep on asking myself the same thing. Don't get me wrong, Stamford High is a great place. It's just that the day after New Years, I think I speak for everyone when I say that we

don't want to just hop right into the classroom.

First of all, it is absolutely impossible to catch up on any sleep. On New Year's Eve, nobody goes to sleep earlier than midnight, of course. Who goes to sleep at midnight, either? Sleep deprivation wreaks havoc (as usual) on high school students, but it is New Years when its at its worst. Then we have to go back to school the next day? I felt like crying when I woke up at 6 am for school today. I felt like

sleeping forever- the sound of my alarm stabbed me like a knife. It was one of the most horrible feelings.

Now I would like to take notice of a very important source in this argument; my daily planner. This planner, designed to write down homework and other important school related information, provides an entire page for each school day. Today when I wanted to write down homework and turned to January 2, 2002, the date was sharing a

page with January 3, 2002. After I flipped through the pages around it, I realized that the days that the publishers thought would be school vacation were given a half a page. Shocker! What does this mean? It means that the daily planner manufacturers only provided a half a page because they think that we would not be back in school at this time. And trust me-they put a lot of thought into that planner. The dates with half a page continued until January 7, 2001. Is this a sign? Are our

vacations really supposed to last for three more days? I think so.

Also, what is the point of coming back to school for three days when you have been off for almost two weeks? Just give us the two weeks! We are good kids, and I speak for all of Stamford High when I said, "we deserve it, don't we?" Mr. Pavia is a great principal, the secretaries need a rest, the teachers work hard, the lunch ladies are superb. I know that they deserve it, too.

Patrick Holden
Guest Contributor

On Holiday Gift Giving



There are certain traditions, namely the giving and receiving of gifts during the holiday season, which have played a major role in the misrepresentation of the gift-giving process. Today, there are emotions attached to this gift-giving process that unless done properly leave the giver and recipient feeling anything but positive, which, unfortunately, barely ever happens. It seems that one must give a gift to receive one, otherwise, one person is disappointed and the other

person feels guilty. For instance, if I receive a gift from my friend, the first thing that I feel is guilt over not getting them anything, then embarrassment for having to say "I didn't get you anything," or not giving them something, and having the other person realize my lack of preparation. This is a horrible feeling, one that seems to be the influence in our society. There is no real giving for the joy of giving, and no matter what the intentions of the giver are, both participants will feel some disappointment.

Disappointment also occurs when one person purchases a gift of greater expense for another, than the

other does for him. Though these feelings of guilt, disappointment and so on are not as poignant as

The gift giving process has become a test of how much money a person is willing to spend on another.

when one does not have a gift, these feelings can still cause turmoil for a person. On top of it all, these feelings can be present in the form of anxiety even before the exchange of gifts, when the shopper is worried about who will be giving gifts and who

won't and how much to spend.

Problems can also arise with birthday gifts. The person whose birthday it is has expectations of what one's friends and family will get for one's birthday. These expectations give rise to feelings of disappointment when one does not receive what they had hoped for.

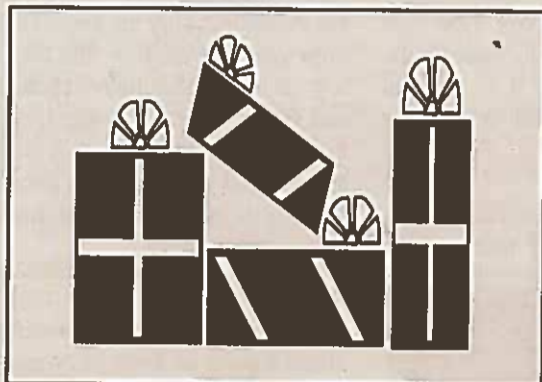
The expectations that a person has for the gifts have given rise to the birthday/Christmas/holiday gift list. This is a most ridiculous thing. As opposed to a person putting thought into what would be most appreciated, all the work is done for him. All he must do is choose a price range, choose the appropriate gift from the gift list, and then give that gift to the recipient. The gift giving process has become a test of how much money a person is willing to spend on another. These expecta-

tions can and do result in negative feelings between individuals who exchange gifts.

These gifts are surely rooted in the wish to appreciate the relationship that one person has with another. This by no means is a bad thing and should be a wonderful and fulfilling experience. However, the experience has been contorted over the years into a ridiculous rivalry, which causes only bad sentiment.

But this is not the end; people do not have to continue with the current situation. There is an alternative. The first step is to abolish gift giving associated with any holiday, including Valentine's Day, Mother's Day, birthdays, Christmas, and any other holiday where gift giving takes place and is a social requirement. This seems harsh, but it is necessary.

SEE ON PG. 9



Midterms: You can run, but you can't hide

Julie Stoltman
Associates Opinions Editor

January, 2002. It's the start of a new year and with this comes many events to look forward to. Just around the corner are winter break in February, springtime and nice weather in April, and for the seniors, graduation in June. But before all these joyous events can take place there is one obstacle guaranteed to make all high school students shudder. That's right, midterms.

Right after the nice, long holiday break that lulls students into a false sense of complacency, comes the dreaded week of tests. For four days in January, SHS students will walk the hallways more beat down and tired than usual. They will be subjected to two, 90 minute exams per day, where the questions will cover not just a single chapter, but will consist of four months worth of information. In addition to the overwhelming stress students

will suffer through trying to understand everything they have learned all year in every class, the midterm is worth ten percent of a student's final grade.

Now, consider the sheer immensity of that ten percent. Let's say you are a student in a

All that can be done to prepare is to study, study some more, have a brief panic attack, and then continue to study frantically....

science class. You work hard, hand in homework and labs, but tests really are not your strong point. It's a tough class, but you pull off a B- due to the effort put in. This approach may work for quarter grades, but midterms are a whole different ballgame. For

midterms it doesn't matter if you understand the concepts or not. One test is all it takes to ruin four months worth of work striving for that good grade. Just one bad day, one day when you wake up on the wrong side of the bed, or forget to review your definitions, or panic as you stare blankly down at those ubiquitous scantly sheets. One test is all it takes to totally demoralize a person about a class, and their chance for success in it.

You can run, but you can't hide from midterms. All that can be done to prepare is to study, study some more, have a brief panic attack, and then continue to study frantically until 30 seconds before the teacher hands out the test. But on the bright side, when the week is finally over, if you haven't collapsed from exhaustion yet, you have the satisfaction of knowing that you tried your best and that you'll never have to go through that experience again. At least, not until finals come around.

Question of the Month: What's the worst gift you have ever received?

Anna Dreyser
Julie Stoltman
Co-Editor-in-Chief
Associate Opinions Editor

"I got an IOU. From my mother." -Adam Bull, Sr.

"My uncle gave me the book: The Autobiography of John Travolta." -Ryan Henck, Sr.

"An atlas." -Sarah Dacres, Sr.

"For this Christmas I got a big box of 102 crayons" -Lameka Samuel, Sr.

"A singing bird." -Larlenture Pierre, Jr.

"I got something that I couldn't figure out what the heck it was. I gave it away." -Fabienne Desravines, Sr.

"A gift certificate to MacDonalds." -Nikeisha Suckoo, Jr.

"Handkerchiefs." -Mr. Terlizzo, History Teacher

"A Hello Kitty key chain from my mom." -Crystal Yeung, Sr.

"Sprinkles. Just sprinkles." -Jamie Terwilliger, Sr.

"This nasty puke green sweater my brother got for me." -Amanda Morelli, Sr.

"I got a roll of scotch tape for Hanukkah this year." -Evan Ratner, Jr.

"A stuffed cerulean colored octopus." -Jon Levy, Sr.

"A cell phone case that was a shiny, disgusting dark blue." -Jen Edenberg, Sr.

"A thesaurus." -Dean Lasalandra, Sr.

"A Where's Waldo book...this year." -Mike Domanick, Sr.

"A can of olives." -Chris Sala, Sr.

"A coloring book when I was in the sixth grade. My grandma gave it to me."

-Howard Locker, Jr.

Gift Giving, con't from pg. 8

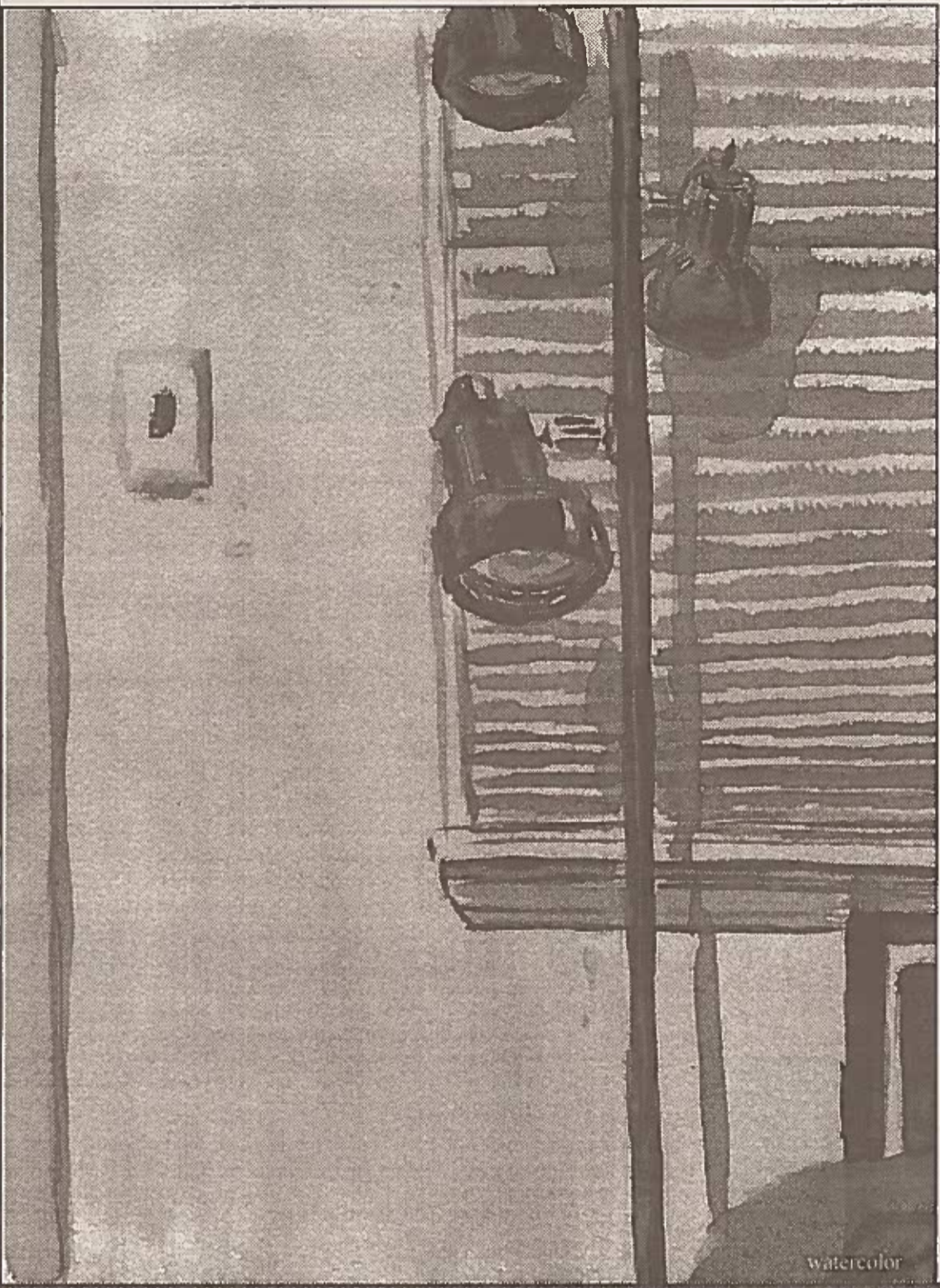
However, this is not the end of gifts, nor is it the end of the potentially fulfilling process of gift giving, which is actually a physical representation of the appreciation one feels for another. What can be done is to give gifts at random. This way, there would be no expectation of the gift by the recipient and there would be no expectation of the reciprocation of the gift. This gift would be purely the appreciation of the relationship between the giver and the recipient. And the monetary value of the gift would have no consequence. Is not a "cheap" gift better than no gift at all? The gift, though not expensive, would still show that one person values another person enough to think of them, and spend money on a gift for them.

I realize that this process will be hard at first. Each person would find disappointment in not giving and receiving gifts, and I realize that if everyone does not comply, then many people will feel disappointment. Small groups of people, for instance one family, or one whole group of friends, could enact this change and not feel the initial harmful effects of it. But it is important that the whole group, however large or small, agrees on it.

This change in the gift giving process is for the betterment of each individual. People will finally fully appreciate the value of a gift, and not be disappointed if their expectations are not met.

The gift giving process would finally be something that one is happy to participate in and pleased with the outcome.

Featured SHS Artist: *Konstantin Prishchap*



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would like to wish you
good luck in 2002!*

Senior Spotlight: Eric Hartlett

Julie Stoltman
Associates Opinions Editor

From the bottom of his ratty Converse All-stars to the top of his green spiked hair, Senior Eric Hartlett is Stamford High's resident "friendly punk rocker." At 5'8" and 115 pounds Eric may not contribute to any athletic teams at SHS, but that does not mean that he sits back and watches. In fact there are a number of areas where he makes significant contributions. He is the head fly master for the drama club. He is also the treasurer for the film club, which will be producing a movie about Eric, starring Eric. "It's sure to be a hit," he remarked.

Outside of school Eric plays in a band, holds down a paying job, and commented that he is a "big fan of sitting around." He is surrounded by a close knit group of friends, and a comes from a remarkably normal upbringing. "I've got an overachieving little brother and my parents run a

softball team".

Both of these factors contribute to his relaxed demeanor, and lead to his friends' description of him as "a laid back, easily approachable, highly charismatic guy."

What may surprise many who do not know Eric is his love of bowling and Disney World. He prides himself on a respectable 157 average on the lanes, and has been to the famous theme park three times in the past 13 months.

While Eric enjoys high school, he is also looking towards the future. He hopes to major in either computer network administration or puppetry. Fortunately for Eric, his top



Photo by D. Yacenda

Eric Hartlett gives a "thumbs up" to the readers

choice for college is UCONN, which is also the only school in the country with a major in the art of puppetry.

In case he has to fall back on his computer skills in the future, Eric has prepared by working as a technical service representative for an internet service provider,

SEE ERIC PG. 12

Memories of the first day of high school

Andrew Nardi
Staff Writer

The first day of high school is often etched into the memories of students. Some memories are good, some are funny, and some are terrifying!

10) "The first day, Dave Kopec told Mr. Roark that I said he stunk, but I was really saying it to Dave."

9) "Getting lost every period."

8) "I didn't understand anything, or where to go, or how the whole floor numbers worked"

7) "I hoped I wouldn't get beaten up."

6) "I needed sleep."

5) "Being put into the wrong math class, and feeling really smart."

Freshman Allie Morganteen

4) "I remember I twisted my ankle on the first day coming up all those stairs. I cried"

3) "It felt like it would never end."

2) "It was the most boring thing I have every been through."

1) "I fell asleep and fell on the floor and was still asleep."

Senior Tom Pirb



Proliferation of Clubs:

Bible Club makes "straight its way" into SHS

Jennifer Celis
Staff Writer

Earlier this year sophomores Anna Nyakana, Amanda Kelly, and junior Rachel Knox, who wasn't present for the interview, decided to take their Christian



Photo by D. Yacenda

Amanda Kelly talks to a friend

beliefs, and invest them into a club. Even though it was very difficult to start the club, it seems at this point to be a success. We spoke to Nyakana and Kelly to learn about some of their ideas.

The Round Table: Why did you come up with the idea to start the Bible Club?

Kelly: We wanted to start a meeting place for Christians and we wanted to help the community. We also felt that Stamford High needed a club for Christians.

TRT: Did you feel that there was some criticism about your wanting to start the club?

Nyakana: Yes, a lot of people brought it down. It was extremely difficult to start.

TRT: What differences do you think the Bible Club could

make?

Nyakana: Our main goal is to have people build a relationship or strengthen their relationship with God. We also wanted to show leadership and work as a group and as a family.

TRT: Do you have any activities or trips planned for the Bible Club?

Kelly: Yes, we wanted to sing Christmas songs at the nursing homes, we have a trip planned for November 23-25 to Lake Champion with Young Life, a group for teens. In the future we'd like to have a flower or bake sale, and have a Christian Day.

TRT: What do you do at your club meetings?

Nyakana: We open with prayer and then we split into groups and have bible study, and



Photo by: D. Yacenda

Bible Club members meet on Fridays to discuss religion and prayer

then we end with prayer. During this time we interact and at the end of the meeting we have refreshments and we have fellowship.

TRT: What advice could you give to other students that are holding back their ideas about starting clubs?

Nyakana: Don't hold back and just do what you're passionate about. We're passionate about God, so we started a club about Him. Don't ever adjust yourselves to others.

TRT: Thank you.
Kelly and Nyakana: You're welcome, that was fun.

Christine, a.k.a. "Tine" Hamilton moves up into the pop music industry

Cristina Tuluca
Associate Features Editor

December 1st marked Christine Hamilton's second performance at the Rich Forum. The show sold out a half an hour before beginning at 7:30 pm. Christine, also known as Tine, is a junior at SHS who is making her entrance into the music industry. She debuted 2 years ago, with her album "Magical," and since then has continued to create songs and send them to record companies. Saturday night's show consisted of 10 songs, some choreographed, others highlighted with videos. Her music, in general, was sugary pop, although there were some more alternative songs. The topic was usually one most teenagers have dealt with: the opposite sex. During an interview, she shared

some of her thoughts on the show and her future:

RT: How did you produce the show?

CH: This year's show I co-produced with my mom. I had a



This photo is on Tine's publicity-card that goes out to companies

lot more to do with the technical stuff this year because I was in charge of getting the dancers together. I helped my mom figure

out the lighting cues and order of the songs and we made up some skits so it was a great learning experience and a lot of fun to work on it. The show sold out and a lot of people had to be turned away because there were no more seats, so we're going to be doing another show some time in March or April.

RT: So what's going on in terms of record deals?

CH: We shot the second promotional video in the fall. We went up to Litchfield for part of it one day and we got some beautiful shots with the foliage up there, so that was cool. The other part was shot at the Terrace club. It was supposed to simulate a concert and I had a couple of people from school and acting class be audience members. That video is being edited right now in LA and we're going to start shopping (showing it to labels) in

January. Besides that, I'm going to be on the Exchange, Channel 12, singing Santa Baby on December 12th.

RT: You mentioned acting classes. How did this begin?

CH: I started taking classes at John Robert Powers in August. I was in a commercial print course (learning how to pose, what looks good, what doesn't,) a TV commercial class, which is learning how to cold read (when you get a script and you need to read right away,) and different techniques. I also took a sitcom/soap opera class, which is really cool because it's overdramatic and we got to make up skits. And then what happens with John Robert Powers is that after five weeks of classes you get to start to audition with agents. I got picked up by McDonald Richards, an agent from Manhattan. I recently went on my first photo shoot to get pic-

tures taken for them, which was exciting!

RT: What is the process of coming up with songs?

CH: The songwriters call me when they finish writing a song for me...what happens is they work with me "on speck," which means that we don't pay them, they get paid through the label when I get one. So, the deal that we have now is that I sing demos for them in exchange for them writing songs for me (and sometimes I get to keep the demos to sing in shows.) I've also written a few songs myself--the words and the melody. My songwriters said they would help me and work on putting music to my lyrics. I can't wait for that.

Tine has dreams that are certainly within her reach. She's a talented performer and she truly enjoys her work. May the best of luck be with her.

Tri-M: the hard facts

Cristina Tuluca
Associate Features Editor

This year Tri-M is led by President Galina Portnoy, with Senior Josh Sette as Vice-President, Senior Jessica Scalise as Secretary, senior Jackie Chnowski as Treasurer and Junior Jeremy Bloom as Historian. Last year, many plans were fruitless, but the new officers promise it will be different. The objective of Tri-M is to, "To



Courtesy of SHS Yearbook

Three Tri-M officers, Jackie Chnowski, Jessica Scalise, and Galina Portnoy happily sang at Karaoke night.

promote music in our school system and community," as reads the Mission Statement. Standards and criteria to remain in the society include record of

attendance and five hours of community service per year.

Community service includes playing/singing at senior citizen homes such as Atria and at community events. Sharing music in schools is another method through which members complete their five hours; a string quartet played at the entrance of the SHS Open House and at the dedication of the new magnet middle school. Also, Tri-M held a Karaoke Nite on November 30th, which turned out to be a great success. Treasurer Jackie Chnowski noted, "The other officers, and myself, are very proud that Tri-M is giving its self a name throughout the school this year, especially with our very popular Karaoke Nite!"

Tri-M has already raised money through the Lollipop Music Notes Sale the week of November 25th.

Other events will include inductions for new members in late January. New members must be involved in the music program at SHS, and are nominated by other Tri-M members.

Tri-M is also con-

SEE TRI-M PG. 12

...and a little Karaoke Knight Music

Anna Dreyser
Associate Editor-in-Chief

On the evening of Friday, November 30, 2001, members of the student body met for an evening of music, food, and fun. The first ever Karaoke Night invited students and teachers from all walks of life and musical ability to sing their favorite songs in the small auditorium. House favorites included, "I'm real," by Jennifer Lopez, sung by various ensembles, and old favorites like Aretha Franklin's "RESPECT," which was belted out by Lauren Gulliver.

Upon entering, students paid \$3 dollars admission to support the Tri-M society, and then proceeded to sign up for their favorite tunes from a list near the small auditorium. Those inter-

ested in performing songs not found on the "menu" were encouraged to bring their own CDs.

As the evening progressed, performers got creative by choreographing routines. No one will likely forget the moves of Lauren Gulliver, Sarah Smegal, Cristina Tuluca, Sasha Virvo, and Lauren LaRusso rendered to Sir Mix-a-lot's, "Big butt" song, nor the rapping prowess of Dan Maimon and friends, who performed Snoop Dog's "Next Episode."

In addition to being entertained by their peers, guests were serenaded by the members of the security detail like Willie, the fire marshal, who not only surveyed the scene but also joined in "Mambo #5!"

Besides satisfying their musical appetites, students could

feast on the array of food and drink provided by Tri-M members, and offered inexpensively for a few quarters. The success of the evening can be attributed to the hard work of President Galina Portnoy and Secretary Jessica Scalise who served as the evenings MCs, as well as to the contributions of the other officers and members.

Many felt that Karaoke Night was a unifying activity since it brought together different grade



Courtesy SHS Yearbook

Sara Hashmi and Eva Troyb sang to "Fallin" by Alicia Keys

levels and groups of people. Senior Adam Marcus commented, "I had a lot of fun doing something I've never done before." Marcus and Erik

SEE KAREOKE PG. 12



Photo Courtesy of SHS Yearbook

L to R: Aaron Raddock, Jenna Goldstein, Julia Perri, Erin Emmet, Mark Vitti, Sharon Banta, Anna Dreyser, Kristen Coleman, Patrick Holden, Kate Raddock

Come to Senior Scenes!

Jennifer Yacenda
College Editor

In case you were wondering what all those "Senior Scenes" signs are about, I am here to give you the 4-1-1. First of all, "Senior Scenes" is a production put on by the drama department. The seniors select a scene they want to direct from a group of pre-approved



Photo by J. Yacenda

L to R: Sage Suppa, Erin Talboys, Danielle Guerra, Valentina Luccard, Desiree Rastigar and Jimmy Ringel take on a pose for cameras at one of the several publicity sessions.

scenes. Mr. Limone handpicks the available choices. The seniors then read through an entire play or two to get a feel for the particular scene. Directors find what they are looking for and begin working. The seniors work with a cast of underclassmen. Freshmen, sophomores, and juniors appear in the starring roles. "Senior Scenes" allow the newcomers to demonstrate their skills and lead rather than having seniors in the spotlight. Thus, the seniors direct and Mr. Limone supervise. Directing requires the seniors to account for pauses in speech, tone of voice, facial expressions and of course, body language. The seniors, like any director, pay attention to detail and are all about creating a hysterical and enjoyable masterpiece.

This year's seniors that are directing scenes include: Julia Perri, Sage Suppa, Evan Christiano, Ashley Partington, Pat Holden, Manuela Prince, Yamilette Riveria, Anastasia Margolina, Josh Lucas, and Robyn Weaving. I had the pleasure of talking with a few to get a preview of the scenes. First, I sat in on a rehearsal for

Ashley Partington's scene titled Beyond Therapy. Her cast includes senior Adam Bull and sophomore Cat Yudain, both aspiring to be hilarious. Ashley's scene is a riot: the two characters through the personal ads and go on a date where an uproarious scene explodes on stage when a ridiculous conversation ensues. I witnessed the scene performed three times. Initially, Adam and Cat

underclassmen pupils include freshmen Alex Tanev and Erin Talboys, junior Emily Rosenberg, and senior Jennifer Edleberg. Their roles, respectively, include Sam the Pickleman, Isabel a self-possessed young woman, Bubbie, a Jewish Grandmother, and a matchmaker from Long Island named Henka. The scene occurs in the grandmother's kitchen where Bubbie and Henka try to set up Sam and Isabel. Julia commented her scene "has some funny moments but is also sweet." She chose her scene because she is "a sucker for the romantic part of it." So go see Crossing Delancey and discover the outcome of the matchmaking on January 18th or 19th.

Also, Evan Christiano is directing a scene titled It Had to be You, starring Adam Bull (Vito) and Danielle Palmer (Theda). "Theda is an aspiring actress desperately trying to find a job. Vito is a producer and sees the talent within her," describes Evan. This scene is very climatic and methodically builds up sexual tension as well as a plot. "Sexual humor is key to this scene," commented Evan.

Well, there you have a short preview of three of the ten-featured scenes, which will be performed January 18th and 19th at 8 p.m. in the Stamford High auditorium. Directors, cast members, and tech crew have worked really hard and



Photo by J. Yacenda

Julia Perry (right) is conducting a scene with Erin Talboys (left) and Alex Tanev (center)

played their characters Bruce and Prudence in a totally different fashion and mindset.

Then, I also had time to chat with Julia Perri, who directs a scene called Crossing Delancey. Her

will demonstrate their talents, not to mention provide entertainment. So if you complain that there is nothing to do on the weekends, you better be at Stamford High that Friday or Saturday.

The Jump Spot...

ERIC cont. from pg. 10
and designing web pages. When asked about the positive aspects of his job Eric remarked, "I get called sir all the time."

Eric Hartlett is a young man of strong opinions, and he lives by the immortal words of the French philosopher Voltaire who said, "Anything too stupid to be said is sung."

TRI-M cont. from pg. 11
sidering developing a music-tutoring program for middle and high school students. In the new Rippowam Middle School, for example, there is a shortage of music teachers. Therefore, only children that previously played an instrument can join the band.

KAREOKE cont. from pg. 11
Hartlett teamed up for their own rendition of "Point the Blame" by the underground Ska band, Catch 22.

Karaoke Night allowed students to let their voices be heard

If any student would like to seek out more words of wisdom from Eric, it is not hard to spot him walking down the hallways of Stamford High, said friend Justin Fendo. "He sort of hops down the hallway. It's a jubilant hop, like he's ready to face the world," Fendo remarked.

Those that would like to learn will be denied the opportunity. Tri-M hopes to resolve such problems. The objective of Tri-M is to bring music to the community, and so far, it seems that the year is off to a "mellifluous" start.

as they sang along to a variety of songs. The evening came to a close at about 11 o'clock as patrons were serenaded one last time by, "Take me, or Leave me, from the Broadway show, RENT."

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S.H.I.P. Show cruises to a smashing success

Julie Stoltman
Co-Opinions Editor

On Friday December 14th Stamford High School students were treated to a night of improvisation, courtesy of the Strawberry Hill Improv Players (S.H.I.P.). Students demonstrated their comedic skills in the show titled "S.H.I.P.: The Maiden Voyage". The show was put together by Senior Ryan Feinstein and Mr. Limone, and was based on ABC's popular improvisational show, "Who's Line Is It Anyway".

The students played games such as "Change", in which the

audience came up with a scenario and a relationship between the participants, and Mr. Limone, as host, would yell out "change" throughout the skit. When he did, the S.H.I.P. members would have to alter their last phrase said on stage, and continue with the scenario. Worlds Worse, the Alphabet game, and the Dating Game were also popular acts performed by the players. The audience played a key role in the success of the performance, as they not only provided the scenarios and relationships between the improv players, but were asked to come onstage on several occasions and participate themselves. In particular, one game had

"I didn't think there would be that many people in the audience, as funny as we are, I thought there would be like 15-20 people there. The show was hella-funny though."

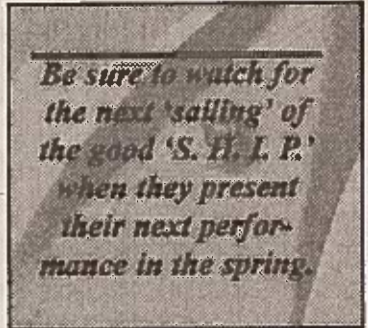
Senior Adam Bull

Teddy Yudain and his sister Cat Yudain acting as immobile people, who had to have their limbs

moved by two audience members.

The twelve participants of S.H.I.P., Ryan Feinstein, Teddy Yudain, Josh Sette, Alex Sanabria, Josh Lucas, Sage Suppa, Adam Bull, Kyle Rice, Jim Ringel, Cat Yudain, John Large, and John Wills, dressed in coordinating Hawaiian shirts throughout the day to promote the show, and many SHS students took note by attending the performance. Senior Adam Bull said, "I didn't think there would be that many people in the audience, as funny as we are, I thought there would be like 15-20 people there. The show was hella-funny though."

The show ended with a game of "Change" between S.H.I.P. founder Ryan Feinstein and Mr. Limone. Teddy Yudain was the host, and the audience offered up the scenario of the two being gay lovers decorating a Christmas tree. Needless to say, the show ended on a hilarious note.



A word search puzzle for your enjoyment

T	N	E	M	E	T	A	T	S	N	O	I	S	S	I	M
R	E	C	C	O	S	M	S	B	Y	U	W	X	I		R
A	L	R	F	E	L	A	T	O	E	V	B	A	N	D	P
C	L	A	A	D	C	R	C	R	K	C	J	Y	N	R	A
K	A	B	B	G	L	D	R	A	C	E	D	D	E	A	V
D	B	N	Y	H	M	M	H	N	O	Z	A	B	T	C	I
N	T	O	I	P	Q	X	I	Z	H	L	E	F	G	T	A
H	O	K	J	L	L	A	B	T	E	K	S	A	B	R	S
H	O	M	E	W	O	R	K	O	S	R	Q	P	M	O	A
C	F	O	L	H	M	P	J	C	B	W	X	A	N	P	L
M	W	R	I	J	G	N	K	D	N	L	Q	R	O	E	L
O	S	B	A	L	L	A	B	Y	E	L	L	O	V	R	B

Constructed by Andrew Doljan

Words to find:

- Football
- Basketball
- Tennis
- Track
- Soccer
- Volleyball
- Hockey
- Rob's
- DECA
- Mission-
- Statement
- Homework
- Report card
- Mr. Pavia
- Band
- Drama

M(ainstream)TV is just not its old self

Dan Renzetti
Associate Features Editor

Once upon a time, in the early and mid 90s, there was a channel called MTV. Maybe back in the 80's and early 90s the "M" stood for music. Today it can very well stand for anything but that. Coming home from middle school and even elementary school, I can remember sitting down and watching non stop music. Now when I want to watch music videos I turn to anything but MTV.

Whatever happened to good old rock and roll music video shows like, "Headbangers Ball," "Alternative Nation," "120 Minutes" and even the "top 20 video countdown," which was a staple on MTV and is now only available at MTV.com? Sure, there are a few music video blocks every now and then on MTV, but for the most part it's just another six month long marathon of the "Real World vs. Road Rules Challenge."

TRL is anything but a music video show. The show plays about one minute of the video, and in between the videos Carson Daly just goes on and on about why he thinks he is such a cool dude. Sorry, Carson, but if it were not for 14 and 15 year

old girls, you would still be out in California on the radio or still trying to make it as a professional golfer.

Can someone please bring back old school VJ's like Kennedy, Matt Pinfield or even Bill Bellamy. They at least sounded like they had some knowledge of the music they played. When MTV had a variety of shows that played different genres of music, it was the best thing in the world. On shows like "Headbangers Ball," I can be watching bands like Soundgarden, Alice in Chains, and Megadeth and then, when that show is over, I can watch a little Public Enemy and Cypress Hill on Yo! MTV Raps. Whatever happened to those days? Now I watch MTV and see the same N-SYNC and Britney Spears video 5 times a day, everyday.

Fortunately, there are other channels that play music 24-7. Much Music is one. Whether it is the Canadian based station or Much Music USA, they provide the viewer with continuous eclectic music.

While MTV is going down the tube, I do give them respect for one of their creations, MTV 2. It is a very clever idea from the businessmen over at MTV to

SEE TV, PG. 14

Dance & Music join in showcase coming to Stamford high in Feb.

Dan Renzetti
Co-Features Editor

This coming February 7th, is going to bring the start of something entirely new. Never before has Stamford High School hosted an event like the one to which we all will be treated. The first ever "Night of Dance," is being brought to the Stamford High stage at 7 p.m. The show is being put on by the Drama Club, Mr. Limone, and Seniors Erin Emmett and Jen Edelberg.

Emmett has put in numerous hours of effort into organizing the event and is also credited as being a dancer, choreographer and co-student producer. Edelberg is also a co-producer and will split M.C. duties with Senior Ryan Feinstein, as well as help plan and produce the show.

The event is planned to live up to its slogan; "a showcase of talented dancers and choreogra-

phers." Students, talented enough to take part in the show, went through an audition process. Surprisingly, more males than females auditioned. Each dancer was asked to fill out a brief form explaining what kind of dance they are most familiar with, whether it be hip-hop, jazz, classical, etc. Then the choreographers picked their desired dancers. Unfortunately, not every dancer was able to take part in the show, many were cut. Choreographers from Stamford High School include, Erin Emmett, Josue Jasmine, Mikelah Rose, Kendall Gladstone and Karesia Batan. Also, there are choreographers coming from different dance studios such as, Ballet School of Stamford, Jazz Works in Norwalk, and Dance Works. This means that some of the dancers in the performance will not be from Stamford High.

Each dance incorporates its own story, making this night of

dance so special and unique. The energy level changes from dance to dance and will make you respect to the highest level the effort that these dancers have put in. Instead of reading a book or watching a movie, these stories are displayed through the universal medium of music and dance. Stories vary from the history of hip-hop to serious and thought provoking tales of abuse. Music for the dances was carefully selected to fit the mood of the dance. Both the dancing and music feed off each other making it more of a unified experienced on stage blending together. "The dance show is a combination of dancing, music and lights," said Senior co-producer /dancer/choreographer Erin Emmett.

The admission fee for the event is five dollars, and well worth it. This night will give kids, teens, adults and senior citizens the chance to unite through the art of dance and music. It



Photo by: P. Fiorita

Erin Emmett, who wears more hats than anyone can count, demonstrates one of the aspects of her talents. Emmett and her troupe are preparing to present a first of its kind showcase of dance and music on the Stamford high stage this coming February. Tickets to the show will go on sale in late January and are reported to cost \$5.

will be a night that will not be soon forgotten. Jen Edelberg said, "we are hoping that the show will appeal to a wide audience from children aspiring to be dancers, to SHS students, to par-

ents and teachers. 'A Night of Dance' is not only Stamford High oriented, but community oriented. That's what so special about it." Good dancing vibes and keep it positive.

Personal soliloquy (Hamlet Twist)

Gyna Villard
Staff Writer

[Exeunt girlfriend and boyfriend.]

Enter Gyna

To speak or not to speak, that is the question:

'Tis one friend to the other.

I stand in between the trust

Which one trust too far a deep secret

One a girl another a guy.

The girl doth lust for him

but 'twill ruin the friendship,
if pursued.

A guy so sweet and loving is too hard
to resist; but 'tis friend with one.

I in between see two perfect

for each other. The greatness that

I know inside is too much not to let out.

The trust would be ruined

forever if this secret is let out.

Rather I let this take its own
course; and I won't interfere.

Which one day I know

Love will take a place
in her heart.

A Day Without Rain brings day's sunshine

Cristina Tuluca
Associate Features Editor

I walked through Natural Wonders, fiddling with various gadgets. Passing the clerk, I heard him mutter unprintable words beneath his breath because the CD player was jammed. With a violent shove, he pushed the album in and music flooded the store.

I stopped, startled. This music was completely new to my Z100 ears, yet strangely pleasing. I learned that the name of the artist was Enya and immediately left to buy a copy upstairs at Sam Goody.

A combination of multi-layered harmonies, gentle piano, resounding percussion and plucky strings, New Age music grew to be one of my favorite genres.

Enya, arguably New Age's biggest superstar, has released a new album, *A Day Without Rain*. Like her past albums, the music is fresh, unique and reflective. *A Day Without Rain* is a superb collection of calming melodies characterized by all the elements that

made Enya popular in the first place.

One of the album's more memorable tracks is "Wild Child" — quite possibly this album's "Orinoco Flow" or "Anywhere Is." "Wild Child" rides over

New Age music is not too popular among teenagers, but on a fluke, I had the good luck of hearing it....

rhythmic strings and background harmonies with simple, yet profound lyrics such as "Only take the time from the helter skelter / Every day you find everything's in kilter / You don't need a reason / Let the day go on and on."

Other album highlights include the catchy ballad "Only Time," and the lingering "Tempus Vernum." New Age music is not too popular among teenagers, but

on a fluke, I had the good luck of hearing it a few years ago.

If you are thinking of exploring a new music genre, *A Day Without Rain* is certainly worth a listen.

TV Con't from pg. 13

make another channel that plays music non-stop, music that has to be specially ordered, and cut down on the music on MTV which mostly everyone gets. It always is about money, but, nevertheless, MTV2 is a great channel to watch, not only mainstream artists, but for the still undiscovered. MTV2 also has the old school MTV look.

So if you have caught yourself watching VH1 more than MTV lately, you are definitely not alone. There is no doubt that MTV has been bad mouthed lately by former dedicated viewers. So for MTV's sake, and for Carson Daly's sake, long live the annoying fourteen-year-old screaming girls. Sorry, dudes, "Headbangers Ball" and the MTV that we all used to know and love is never coming back.

Just for Laughs Bathrooms: can't live with them, definitely can't live without them

Jessica Troy
Associative Sports Editor

Bathroom: the home of the almighty toilet. It is a word that describes a lot for so many different people. It is a place where some people relieve themselves, where some people sit and ponder, where some people feel like they are "king of the world", where some feel like doing a little reading, and where some people just have old fashioned fun. The bathroom is a necessity in life, but it is also a place that causes heartache and pain.

"You can't live with them," is a nifty phrase that people may use when they are frustrated with the bathrooms. Everyone has had that moment when they wished bathrooms were just a simple hole in the ground and the toilet paper was leaves. Everyone has had that painful experience of being locked out of a bathroom, when they REALLY had to go. Some of us even had that mortifying

experience when the bathroom was clogged by an over usage of toilet paper, and somehow, everyone found out who done it. Also, some have been deceived by that lock on the door. The faulty craftsmanship caused that person, who was doing his/her business, to be interrupted and

Everyone has had that painful experience of being locked out of a bathroom, when they REALLY had to go.

embarrassed. This is really when the feeling of hating public facilities really starts to kick in.

Along with the humiliating bathroom experiences there are the times when things don't function properly, or even worse when they run out on you. Don't you just hate it when that darn toilet won't

flush? You just stand there with your pants down at your ankles jiggling the flusher with some chance that the toilet might actually come back to life. Unfortunately, it never does and you leave the bathroom as quickly as possible before someone finds out who done it. Then there are the times when people forget to "look before they leak." They forget to check the toilet paper dispenser to see if there will be enough for whatever is going to be done. Unluckily, some are caught in that awkward situation, and they have to ask the person in the next stall over to spare a square. Then they have to reach their hand under to grab it. Just, another situation when you wish that public restrooms were banned by the constitution.

However, it is important to think of the good times and the special moments that you share with the bathrooms. You need to remember all of the times that the bathroom helped you come up with that good essay topic. You should look back at the times when your



Photo by: D. Yacenda

Bathrooms can be the best or worst place to be. Jessica Troy leads you through the trials and tribulations on the "almighty toilet". There's one thing for sure: when you got to go, you got to go.

"thinking throne" was always there for you, whether you were in a rush, or just needed a place to sit for awhile. Everyone has had that experience when all of a sudden you really had to go, and that restaurant bathroom (no matter how dirty) was there for you. Everyone has shared that moment when they were grateful for the invention of the bathroom on a bus. Those six-hour bus rides, with constant bumps, help one to appreciate the small cubicle of a bathroom

that offers alleviation. There are the times when the bathroom stands by your side through thick and thin. It is there for you when you need a place to hide or a place to cry. It is a place where you know, that no matter what, you can get things done.

The important thing about bathrooms is that you have to look past all of the bad experiences, and see the toilet bowl as half full, not half empty.

Student resolutions for New Year 2002

Andrew Nardi
Staff Writer

I wanted to find out what some of my fellow classmates thought of New Year's resolutions. To some people, the beginning of a new year is a time to start over with a clean slate. Others, however, feel that New Year's Day is nothing more than just another day. Let's see what some people at SHS had to say about their New Year's resolution.

"I want to go through the year without swearing."

Jr. Jodee Garber

"I want to do better in school."

-Jr. Nick Mazzucco

"I want to work out and

improve for baseball."

Soph. Pat Donahue

"I need to give back to the people who gave me so much."

-Soph Elena Getto

"I will try to be more tolerant of people."

-Fr. Allie Morganteen

"I will try to have more school spirit."

-Fr. Erica Mallozzi

"I need to be thankful for what I have."

-Sr. Fred Quezada

"To put 100 percent into everything I do."

-Sr. Bryan Wallman

I always wonder if people will ever really stick by their resolution. People always

say they will but many don't. I guess we'll just have to see how

2002 goes and see if these people keep their word.

How long until vacation?

Randy Miller
Staff Writer

It's that time of year again, the period when the student body emerges from winter vacation and enters back into the daily rituals of school life. It's a reacquaintance period with the monotony of the teenager's routine week. It is a seemingly endless span of time which appears to be never ending to the tired and worn-out student. With no vacation in sight for months, when winter break arrives everybody is ready for a good week long vacation. Packed into these next two months before the anticipated break will be many time consuming events, like further

PSAT testing and midterms (to make matters worse).

As students struggle to come to terms with this difficult period they face the harsh winter weather with fewer daylight hours, darker drives to school, and just a general, overall rut.

Fully emersed in education and losing sight of the once picture-perfect summer memories, students will find it harder to wake up every morning. "I go to sleep the same time now as I did at the beginning of the year, but now waking up takes so much more effort. I always hit the snooze button three or four times in the morning because I don't want to wake up," commented junior Sarita Dan.

Teens who are late to

bed are inevitably late to rise. All of this equates to students who are late to school, "I have so many tardies this quarter alone, it is ridiculous. I just can't get myself out of bed in the morning. It's too early; I don't want to go to school. How many days 'till vacation again?" remarked junior Jessica Rosen. Waking up for school is never easy for most teens, especially when the morning alarm sounds at 6 a.m., but it is more difficult now than ever. Most students have X'ed out the weeks in their calendars or scribbled the number of days until vacation in their notepads. Doing things like this will keep students awaiting the arrival of vacation, hopefully, it'll be worth the wait.

Colleges and Universities Where Seniors Have Been Accepted

Diane Yacenda Photo Editor	Eastern Connecticut Amanda Morelli	Pennsylvania State University Sharon Banta Patrick Holden	Amanda Morelli Stefanie Tamborino	University of Illinois Adam Marcus
Amherst College (MA) Kate Raddock	East Carolina University (NC) Mark Vitti	George Kruglov Jon Levy Diana Lipsitz	Suny-Binghamton (NY) Anna Levy	University of Michigan David Eisner Jenna Goldstein Aaron Raddock
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Duquesne (PA) Jacalyn Chnowski	New York University Laura Pensiero			University of Virginia Aaron Raddock*
	Ohio State University Karen Brown Sara Brown			Wentworth (MA) Dave Engler
				Note: * Early Decision

Need Help? Don't Have Time to Stay After? Check Out These Web Sites

Elissa Glucksman
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Ahh! Midterms are coming but wait there's no need to freak out. Of course most students at Stamford high have been diligently studying and preparing for the dreaded week of midterms. But just in case a few of you have been slacking or need some extra help, here are some great web sites that could save you from a lot of stress. Or they might just save your grades.

<http://school.discovery.com/homeworkhelp/bipinchbeck/>
Rating: *****

This has links to help on subjects including arts and music, computer science, English, foreign languages, health, math, news, science, and social studies. Plus, there is a reference section for handy information as well as a link to other search engines. Though some of the links may be

for younger students, the majority are on high school level. This site seems to be number one on many critics' lists for homework help.

<http://www.lapl.org/kidsweb/cool/sites/homeworkhelp-Op.html>
Rating: *** 1/2

This site provides independent information on varying topics rather than relying on links to other sources. Topics include the arts, biographies, geography, history, math, science, and social studies. If the site is too specific for your research, it includes a listing of general homework help sites to browse through. Though some of the links may be confusing, if you are patient you will find what you are looking for.

http://www.yahooligans.com/school_bell/homework_help/
Rating: *****

Now I'm sure that most of you have heard of Yahoo.com. Well here's Yahoo!igans!, for

kids in desperate need of assistance. Not only can students ask an expert questions, he/she can also get help on subjects concerning the environment, geography, history, language arts, math, and science. The best part is that for the links on this page provide links on the same subject. If Yahoo!igans! doesn't supply exactly what you want, one of these links will.

<http://gosin.com/homework.htm>
Rating: *****

Not only does this site help with science, math, social studies, history, English, writing, and literature, it gives you the grade levels next to each link. This way you won't waste time looking for a link only to find that it is meant for a fifth grade student. The site also has links to a wide variety of dictionaries and encyclopedias. To top it off, there is a translator capable of translating a wide variety of languages. Other useful tools include a cal-

culator, a search connected with AskJeeves.com and links to various newspapers and magazines.

http://www.indianchild.com/project_or_homework_help.htm
Rating: *****

Everything a student will ever need to study is on this web site. The long list of subjects includes composition, essay help, grammar, vocabulary, quotations, foreign languages, math, economics, history, geography, arts, drama, films, theatre, poetry, literature, music, astronomy, animals, inventions, biology, plants, physics, chemistry, computer science, and environmental science. If that's not enough, several encyclopedias and dictionaries accompany this list. Be sure to check out links like "Tips on getting good marks," and "How to reduce homework stress."

<http://www.sparknotes.com>
Rating: *****

This site figures out what Shakespeare is talking about, and/or deciphers that confusing novel you are reading. This site has book notes, similar to Cliffs Notes, however, these are free. The site also provides study guides and information on various subjects such as sciences, psychology, and history.

<http://www.pinkmonkey.com/>
Rating: *****

It has two helpful types of books notes: Baron's and Pink Monkey. The notes outline popular novels and includes a character list, chapter summaries and test study questions. The site also has study guides, essay help, and test prep.

Ratings

- ***** -All midterm help.
- **** -Doesn't have everything.
- *** -Lacks subject areas.
- ** -Little information.
- * -Don't try it.

The 4-11 on the SAT and the 4-1-1 on the ACT

Jennifer Yacenda
College Page Editor

Among the different tests and homework assignments that high school students have to do to maintain a high GPA, they also are required to take standardized tests. These tests function primarily as a test to determine how one would do in college. The majority of national colleges and universities require applicants to take such tests. More specifically, the SAT and the ACT, both nationally administered tests. So what's the difference between the two? I'm glad you asked because here is a breakdown of the two.

The SAT stands for the Scholastic Aptitude Test I: Reasoning Test. It is given on assigned Saturdays throughout the year at high schools across the nation. The purpose of the SATs is to assist college admissions by providing them information to aid in evaluating prospective students. SAT scores predict how well you are likely to do as a freshman in college. Your scores help colleges and universities compare your abilities with those of two million other students taking the same test. While your grades and class rank describe your abilities best, the varying programs offered at high schools across the nation do not provide colleges with standards. The SAT tests your ability in both math and verbal reasoning. These skills develop over time thus a student you are continually practicing them.

What will I be tested?

Verbal questions test:

1. Critical Reading-understanding and analyzing what you read
2. Analogies-determining relationships between words
3. Sentence Completions-forming logical sentences

Math questions test:

1. Arithmetic
2. Algebra
3. Geometry

From the two sections, math and verbal, the test is even further broken down. The total test takes about three hours long and is divided into seven sections. There are always two thirty-minute math sections and one fifteen. It is the same with verbal, two thirty-minute verbal sections and one fifteen. There is also an experimental section, which is thirty minutes long, is varies from verbal to math each test.

How do I prepare?

Basic Preparation Tips:

1. Learn how the test is structured and timed
2. Learn the directions for each type of question
Note-Look on sample test
3. Practice sample questions
4. Take a practice test
5. Focus on your problem areas
6. Take a SAT course

Once you take the SAT, you can take it as many times you want to thereafter. If you are looking to improve your scores, there's hope. The major cause that will help score change is academic growth. Your verbal and mathematics skills need to develop more thoroughly. As you do your homework, study for tests, and use your skills, a better score is inevitable. Reading, learning new vocabulary, figuring out math tricks, all cut down the time you spend figuring problems out on test, enabling you to answer more questions. Practicing sample questions and tests will also dramatically boost your scores. To do well, you should practice, practice, and practice.

Now that we've discussed, what the test is for, what's on the test, how to prepare for the test and how to score higher, here's some more useful information:

Initial Cost of SAT:	\$24.00
Late Registration Fee:	\$15.00 + 24.00
Standby Testing Fee:	\$30.00 + 24.00
Scores by phone:	\$13.00

Bring:

- Identification
- Two number 2 pencils
- Admission ticket

For more details please visit www.collegeboard.org.

The ACT stands for American College Test, and is very similar to the SAT. It is yet another test that helps you make important decisions about your future. It is administered on specific Saturdays at high schools across that nation. Finding a local high school is generally more difficult to find. I went up to Danbury high school the time I took the test. The ACT is another standard for colleges to measure you up to other students. The skills tested are more specific than the SAT, testing English, Reading, Math and Science reasoning skills. When registering for the ACT there is an extensive student profile, which is recommended to fill out. The questionnaire is about 189 tedious questions that range from your major to your family income, and from your religion to your preferred type of school. This profile aids colleges in their searches for prospective students.

What will I be tested?

English-

1. Grammatical errors
2. Sentence structure
3. Paragraph structure

Reading-

1. Reading and comprehending reading passages
2. Analyzing stories

Science-

1. Reading graphs
2. Drawing conclusions from given data

Math-

1. Algebra
2. Geometry
3. Coordinate geometry

The ACT allots different time amounts for each section. The English section lasts forty minutes and is 75 questions long. The math section is sixty questions in sixty minutes. The reading section is thirty-five questions in forty minutes just like the science section. The total test lasts two hours and fifty-five minutes and is 215 questions long. Many students find this test easier than the SAT simply because it tests the same skills in a different format.

How is the test scored?

English 1-36 Composite Score

- Sub scores-Usage/mechanics (1-18)
- Rhetorical (1-18)

Math 1-36 Composite Score

- Sub scores-Pre-Algebra
- Intermediate Algebra/Coordinate Geometry
- Plane Geometry/Trigonometry

Reading 1-36 Composite Score

Science 1-36 Composite Score

An average is taken = (English + math + reading + science)/4

The ACT is composed of these four tests that generate twelve scaled scores, four test scores, and a total composite score and seven sub scores. For more explanation, check out www.act.org.

Now that we've discussed the ACT, it's structure, what's tested and how it's scored, here's some more useful information:

Initial Cost of ACT	\$24.00
Late Registration Fee	\$15.00+24.00
Standby testing fee	\$30.00+24.00

Bring:

- Admission ticket
- Proper Identification
- Calculator
- Number two pencils

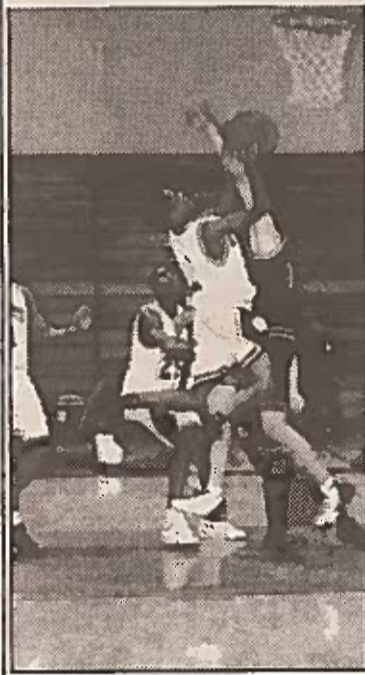
That is about it for the ACT and the SAT.

through some of the links may be well here's a suggested for other useful too include a car-king ***

Sports Highlights



TOP LEFT: Curtis Shepard drives for a lay-up. TOP RIGHT: Tyrell Aaron completes a resounding reverse dunk. BOTTOM LEFT: Job Casimir makes his way to the basket through mid-air. BOTTOM RIGHT: Jared Ashe easily beats his defender for two points.



Photos by D. Yacenda

Baseball team has new look

Brian Kaplowitz
Staff Writer

"We are the champions my friend ... And we'll keep on fighting til' the end..." to get new uniforms. Finally, the moment has arrived. The Stamford High Black Knight Baseball team is getting new uniforms made for their 2002 season. The overall feeling is that it has been a long time coming and after winning the State Championship in the State Class LL tournament last spring, the baseball team is well deserving of it.

In the past, the Black Knights baseball team has not asked for much in the way of uniforms or apparel for their team. Yet, after winning the State Championship, SHS' Athletic Director Al Gurney, and coaches Bobby Augustyn and Frank Scott, got together and discussed how the Black Knights would go out on the field this year.

"After winning the 2001 State Championship, the coaching staff decided to give our game jerseys to the members of our team. In doing this, we were left with a decision on what to do for next year," said Guidance Counselor/Assistant Varsity Coach Frank Scott. "After looking at numerous styles and types that were available to us, we decided on a new look for the 2002 season," he

continued.

Guidance Counselor and Varsity Head Coach Bobby Augustyn then said, "We are really grateful to have Mr. Gurney on our side. He's been very supportive of our program, especially after we won the States. He has gone above and beyond what we have asked of him, and it is because of him that we will have a new look this year."

This year's uniform

"...we decided on a new look for the 2002 season."

Ass't Var. Coach Frank Scott

looks to conform to the new age of baseball. No longer do baseball players wear the tight pants and the tee shirt jerseys. Baseball players like to feel relaxed in their clothes while looking appropriate and classy on the field.

This year the Black Knights will model a completely new uniform from head to toe. In the past the Black Knights wore a Reebok design, while this year the coaches decided to switch over to Rawlings, which is a well-established baseball company all over the world. Last

year, the hats were changed from a New Era adjustable to a New Era Fitted Mesh hat, yet that design will change again this year, thanks to this reporter and Eddie Martinez.

So all in all, this is how the uniform will look this year. The fitted hat will now be a black wool hat with an orange brim. It will have the traditional Old English 'S' in the front, while sporting a new Black Knight head on the back.

The jersey will be an all black button down, with an orange stripe lining the buttons and going around the neck. There will be the same orange piping going around the sleeves. Instead of the usual "Stamford" going across the front, the Old English 'S' will be orange bordered by white, located in the tight corner. The bottom left of the jersey will have the number in orange bordered by white. On the back, the player's number will appear in orange bordered by white.

The pants will look similar, except for the side stripe, which will be a bit thinner. The socks will be solid black, a feature that was a new addition to the Black Knights' uniform last year.

So this year, as the Stamford High School Varsity Baseball Team runs out on the field to defend their title, they will do so with pride in the way they look.

Boys' and girls' indoor track look ready for a successful season

Lauren LaRusso
Associate Opinions Editor

"Remember, you can't move out of your lane and into the first lane until you reach the orange cones on the opposite side of the track," shouts a voice from the starting line, "On your mark... BANG." The crack of the gun echoes through the crowded arena, and cheers immediately ensue. The race has begun.

The boys' and girls' indoor track teams are off to what seems to be a very promising season. What is unique about this team, however, is that unlike

other sports, each participant has his or her own goal, such as qualifying for FCIACs or bringing their time down.

As a team, they wish to perform to their optimal ability, but as an individual, each possesses a strong desire to reveal what kind of runner he or she really is. For the members of the indoor track team, this mentality truly shines. "I love getting 'I wish I could do that' looks from people," Junior Justine Kovacs said intently. "It reminds me that I really am a runner."

Kovac's goals over the past year personify those of a determined member of the indoor track team, as she has

conquered her competition in the mile through concentrated mental and physical training.

Watch just one race, and it is impossible to escape the intensely competitive feeling that exemplifies the sport of running. If simply observing produces a heart-pounding effect, imagine what it is like to be the actual runner. It is even more intense. A runner is alone, the track and the clock are their only companions.

"You have to have confidence, because you're the only one out there for yourself," explained Senior Captain Jessica St. Juste. "Then [you have to] get out on the track and never

let up. Push right through the finish line."

The feeling of being alone with the track and clock is something that runners thrive on. Most members of the indoor track team return season after season for that very reason; they crave that experience.

Not only do the members of the indoor track teams experience the immensely unique conditions and mentalities of being runners, but they know how to enjoy it.

"Track is totally bodacious, man!" exclaimed Junior Zach Hasak, who has been an asset to the team for three years. The indoor track team enjoys immensely the activities they

engage in and the associations each member shares with the others. Despite its individualistic mentality, both the boys' and girls' indoor track teams become a close knit group of friends. They never fail to cheer one another on in the events they are each running.

Overall, the boys' and girls' indoor track teams look fiercely strong at this point. Each member seems to possess significant goals as well as a disciplined and determined mentality. For this reason the forecast is for nothing but positive accomplishments on the parts of this fine group of athletes as the winter 2002 season progresses.

Fall sports teams name their MVP's

Elissa Glucksman
Co-Editor-in-Chief
Carly Miller
Associate Sports Editor

A team is not made up of one star who can carry the team on his/her shoulders. It is made up of many individuals each of whom contribute a vital part to the team. On each team there are players who bring different strengths and qualities to the playing field. There are those who are great leaders, others who are great on defense, and those who can play on offense like no one else. There are also those players who are not necessarily the best nor most skilled individual on the team, but they decide to step it up to another level each time they walk onto the playing field. This fall season has shown Stamford High some of the best and brightest individuals in the athletic arena.

When asked what single player has stood out the most this season Coach Mario Caminiti seemed perplexed. He was unable to produce one single name. He instead asked what the limit was on the number of names he could specify. In his mind, there were three standouts on his team, his tri-captains. Jared Ashe, Enzenio Malanzi, and Julian Beles, "stepped it up throughout the year and led the team." Coach Caminiti went on to describe his captains, saying, "They really did a good job with their leadership."

The boys' soccer team had a season to be proud of, even with the disappointing end to their season. Losing in the opening game of the state tournament, the tri-captains did not disappoint Mr. Caminiti. "They were the core and heart of the team."

Though the girls' soccer team accumulated a losing record this season, it had one of its best seasons in recent history. With four wins the team seems to be moving up. Though the team may not be made up of the most skilled soccer players in the FCIAC (Fairfield County Interscholastic Athletic Conference), it has more heart than most other teams they face.

Against teams with All-State caliber players, it is the players'

hard work and heart that keep them fighting. One of the players who epitomizes this type of individual is Elissa Glucksman. About Glucksman Coach Guido Segovia stated, "I always tell my girls to give me 100%. Elissa always gave me 110%. She always worked hard, no matter if we are winning or losing, (especially when we are losing). She worked hard and gave me everything she had."

Of all the fall sports, cross country is the one that is most focused on the individual instead of the team. For this reason, it is very easy to spot the standouts on this team. For Coach Brown the decision on which runners stood above the rest seemed simple. For the boys squad, Nick Gooding was the runner who stood out among the road runners. For the running Lady Knights Margaret Garcia was on a higher level than the rest.

Both of these runners are underclassmen meaning there will be more success for the cross country team in years to come. Coach Brown commented, "both teams are young. We are headed in the right direction." Due to these two young runners, the team is heading for a future with more victories and faster times.

Though this season has not been what Mr. Vitelli hoped it would be, there were a few aspects of the SHS Football Team and its season in general which did stand out. The first of these noteworthy aspects was the city championship and the second was Sheriff Little. Of all of his players Vitelli believes that, "Sheriff is a leader on and off the field. He does things we expect a student athlete to do." Sheriff stepped it up this year and is one of the reasons why the football team won the city championship this year.

By far, Stamford High's most successful team this season was the volleyball team. Though they didn't make it all the way, they were able to reach the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference (CIAC) semi-final round. One of the main reasons why they made it that far was Kate Raddock. Coach Mike Smeriglio went on to say, "Kate has worked very hard the past

four years and developed into one of the finest players in the state of Connecticut."

Kate's credits this season include First Team All FCIAC and First Team All State. "She averaged three kills per game and has improved every aspect of her game including a consistent jump serve," Smeriglio said.

Kate's influence on the team

goes beyond her distinctions though. "Kate has been a shining example to the younger players, demonstrating what it takes to become an outstanding player," Coach Smeriglio went on to say. "She was a very good player last season, but has taken her game to another level this year. She has won the respect of her teammates and coaches as well as opposing

players and coaches throughout the state. Kate is an extraordinary person and we feel she will be successful in any endeavor she chooses."

Such positive words clearly suggest that Kate epitomizes everything that the Stamford High School Volleyball team stands for: hard work, dedication, and heart.

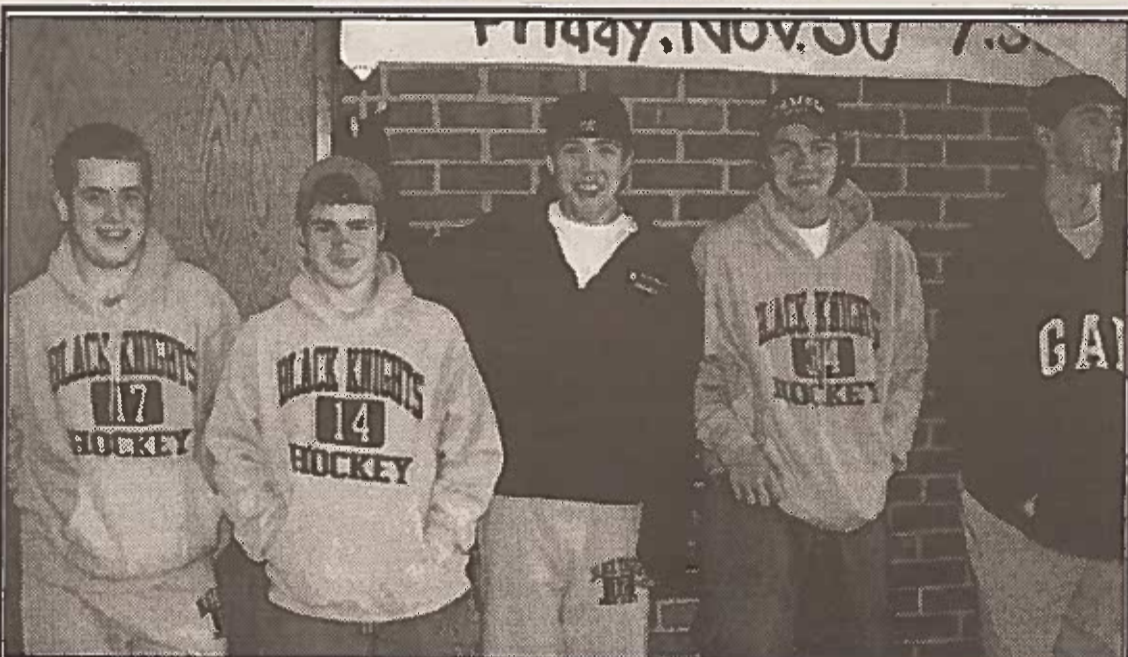


Photo by: D. Yacenda

(L-R) John Kalinowski, Dave Engler, Jordan Fogel, Phil Fodiman and Dave Haggerty spend some of their free time standing by the weight room waiting to go through their lifting and conditioning routines.

Hockey's once bright future not so bright

Jennifer Yacenda
College Editor

It is the beginning of a New Year and it is mid season for most winter sports. Vacation has ended and teams are working diligently to prepare for upcoming games. The boy's hockey team for example plays Guilford, Fairfield and New Canaan in the near future, which are all away games. New Canaan, whom the hockey team plays on January 19th, has given Stamford High trouble in the past. For instance, last year, New Canaan accounted for one of SHS' four losses, with a score of 5-1. Already this season, our SHS team met New Canaan on December 29th and the outcome was not in our favor losing 3-0.

Just recently, the boys played Darien, SHS' biggest

hockey rivals. It was a tough battle and they fought through three periods as well as overtime only to be defeated in the final six sec-

"It was so heart-breaking to see the guys lose like that."

Senior Jessica Plank

onds. Jessica Plank, a senior fan, commented, "it was so heart-breaking to see the guys lose like that." Darien is "very beatable, but we did not play our best," commented Mike Domanick. "Darien simply capitalized our mistakes and in Division I we cannot be making those mistakes," he added.

On a more positive note, SHS dominated the game against our city rivals Westhill. The Advocate deemed the game "A Civil War," for the intense animosity and physical contact. "There was a lot of tension," deemed senior Erin Emmet who attended the event. SHS shut out WHS with the final score of 5-0. Stamford scored three rapid goals towards the end of the third period to secure the win.

Ray Dischino, senior, feels the season is "not going as good as [he] had hoped." As of January 8th, 2002, the team's record was 4-5 overall and 1-1 in FCIAC play. In the past, there were some tough loses, with close scores, but SHS was not able to pull through. "Right now we seem to be playing better together than before," he said and hopes their record will improve and "see some more W's."

Kuczo Boys' Basketball Tournament:

First SHS victory in five years

Jessica Troy
Associate Sports Editor

December 26, 2001 marked the first round of the annual Kuczo Tournament. This year there were four teams invited, and each of them were looking to take home the championship trophy. In the first round, Stamford High School faced local school Wright Tech, while Westhill High School faced Brooklyn Automotive. SHS played extremely hard and they were looking to accomplish one of their goals for this season: winning the annual Christmas Tournament.

The first round seemed to pass by quickly with Stamford crushing Wright Tech, and Westhill demolishing Brooklyn Automotive. Wright Tech and Brooklyn Automotive faced each other in a complimentary game to decide who would come in third and fourth place. By half time, Brooklyn was winning 48 to 21, and they continued to play strong until the very end. The head coach for Brooklyn gave all of his players a chance to play, and they were still able to pull off the win with a score of 76 to 66. Wright Tech was disappointed that they finished last, but they gave it their best shot.

The final game was played on December 28, 2001, and the gym was jam-packed with fans that came to watch

rival schools face each other: the Stamford Knights verses the Westhill Vikings.

The game started promptly at 8:00 PM, and the Knights were able to start strong and stay strong for most of the game. After the first 8-minute quarter, SHS was winning 16 to 6. During the first quarter Westhill was playing an extremely tough and physical defense, which caused them to foul a lot. At the end of the first quarter WHS had seven fouls, which put SHS in a one and one situation. On the other hand, Stamford was able to play a solid defense only acquiring three fouls and leaving room for silly fouls.

In the second quarter, WHS increased the pressure with a press defense. They were also mentally stronger, which helped them hit their shots with confidence. With amazing three-point shots, the Vikings were able to cut the Knights 10 point lead to 7 by half time.

The third quarter came and went. Both teams were playing extremely well on offense, but the defense was lacking. SHS and WHS put all of their efforts on offense, and they slacked off on defense. There were also a lot of silly fouls and turnover. Westhill was only able to decrease Stamford's by 6 with a score of 54 to 48.

With the start of the fourth quarter Stamford High

was determined not to give up the lead and lose the championship. They had the taste of victory in their mouth and they were not prepared to give it up. Within the first three minutes the Black Knights brought the game to a whole new level. They stepped it up a notch with an amazing press and defense that was impossible to break. The players put the crowd on their feet and everyone in the gym was going crazy. But then came a silly foul on Stamford with 5 minutes left, and then the unbreakable defense fell apart. Even though defense was lacking, the hearts of the SHS players and their incredible offensive skills pushed them to victory. Stamford High School won the Kuczo Tournament with a score of 75 to 64. "It was a real battle to the bitter end, but we played smarter and we deserved this win," commented MVP Junior Jared Ashe, who was the leading scorer in the final game with 18 points.

With Coach Moriarty and the three captains hosting the championship trophy over their heads, the Kuczo Tournament was over. This meant that the end of 2001 was near, and that Stamford High School was able to pull away with the first victory of this tournament in five years. Coach Moriarty put it best when he said, "It was a great win and a great city game."

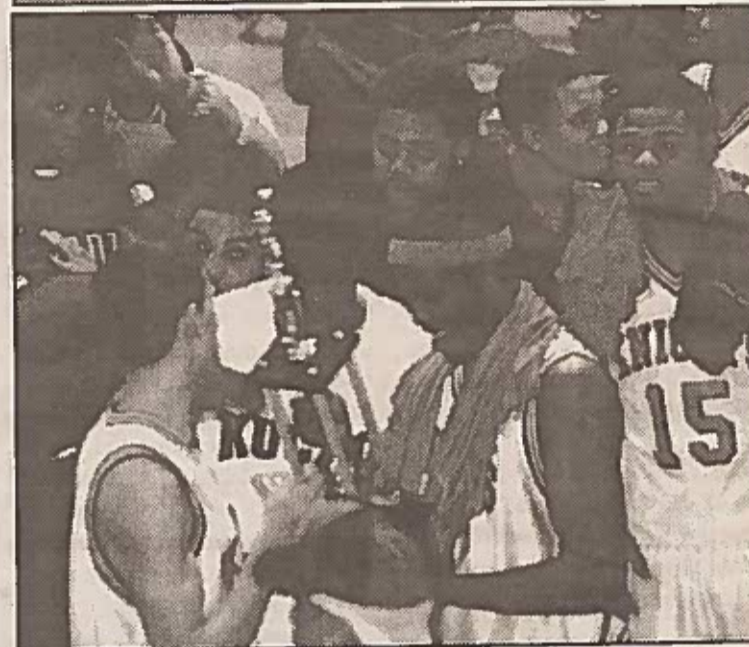


Photo by: D. Yacenda

Top: MVP Jared Ashe demonstrates his audacity driving to the hole during the New Canaan game, like he did numerous times in the Kuczo Tournament. Bottom: Tri-captains (l-r) Tyrell Aaron, Andre Brown, and Jared Ashe gather around the championship trophy.

Boys' swimming: the team that's big inside

David Eytel
Associate News Editor

Each day as soon as the final bell rings at 2:05, a proud group of young athletes begins to congregate at the rear entrance of Stamford High within minutes. This superb group of young men are the members of the Stamford High boys swimming team. They stand and wait for the van to take them to Westhill High, where they practice each day and compete each week.

The small group of swimmers

seems to be very close knit. Each member has a good sense of humor and a strong willingness to perform. This mentality is very good, and most necessary, considering their team's predicament. The first thing anyone on the team will tell you, is that they "need more swimmers." The team's poor performance is not blamed on the level of talent of the team, but on the team's lack of participants. To understand why, you have to understand how the swimmers are score: each swimmer (except for the last place swimmer) scores points as long as they compete and

finish a race. Since the SHS team has fewer members than most teams, each of the swimmers has to be entered into several events repeatedly. This causes them to not perform as well as they can because they grow tired. As a result, unlike many other teams, Stamford's swimmers are not well rested for each event. As Wes Mattice and Steven Ratner, members of the diving team put it, "We're the best - all two of us." Igor Zellenberg also added, "We need swimmers so badly that we would take anyone who could float."

Members of the team blame the lack of swimmers and support due to their poor performance at the start of the 2002 season. However, this does not prevent the boys from practicing hard and competing with intensity.

The group of guys remains optimistic and they believe that their small team has a lot of talent. Evan Ratner said, "Even though our team doesn't do well in meets, I'm sure that individually we'll do well in states and FCIACs." Jeff Pan also shares the team's optimism, saying, "We may be small, but we still try our best."

Upcoming Sporting Events

Boys' Basketball:		
1/15	Darien	Home
1/18	St. Joseph	Away
Girls' Basketball:		
1/15	Darien	Away
1/22	St. Joseph	Home
Indoor Track:		
1/19	Wilton	Away
1/26	Staples	Away
Ice Hockey:		
1/16	Fairfield	Away
1/19	New Canaan	Away
Wrestling:		
1/16	Danbury	Home
Boys' Swimming:		
1/23	New Canaan	Home