

The Round Table

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Stamford High School

Stamford, Connecticut 06902

January 7, 1994

SHS withstands rigors of evaluation

By **Andrey Henkin**
News Editor

Perhaps the biggest process a high school can go through is evaluation. Without the accreditation that a good evaluation brings, a school loses desirability to new students and to any colleges that the school's seniors want to apply to. Although membership to the New England Association of Secondary Schools is voluntary, the accreditation process is important enough to make it a de facto responsibility.

Every ten years, a school is judged on several criteria by a group of peer teachers who provide recommendations and commendations for improvements. The 1993 school year brought the procedure to Stamford High.

The specific process bases its evaluation on eleven disciplines that vary from school philosophy to quality of facilities and curriculum. The group of peer teachers is made up of fifteen evaluators,

each representing a different discipline (e.g. social studies, english, etc.). This group comes to the particular school for three days during which each member observes his or her particular area of expertise. Their judgements are then compared to standards established by the N.E.A.S.S.. The final opinions are then compiled into a draft report that is sent back to the school. The report is checked for accuracy and then sent for final editing. The final version comes several weeks later and becomes the basis of the accreditation decision.

The question is, how does Stamford High rate as a public high school? For the most part, the evaluators come from parallel schools (urban teachers tend to evaluate urban schools) but in SHS's case, over half of the committee came from suburban areas. This however worked out to Stamford's advantage. According to Mrs. Bingham: "The suburban part of the team were extremely impressed by the whole

operation." Although final results won't be available until late January, general indications have been given. Mr. Lutterman says: "Although the facility factor is complicated for a school built in 1927, this was taken into account and the fact we have a curriculum revision process was one of the

committee's strongest points about the school." The indicators look good for a satisfactory evaluation as according to Mrs. Bingham: "We did a self-study project and most of the group's recommendations for

improvement will not be news to us. But, I can safely say the evaluating committee left with the impression that this is definitely a good school."

Senator Lieberman visits SHS to discuss violent video games

By **Kim Molstre**
Managing Editor

In 1960 he was his class president at Stamford High School. Today, he is one of two United States Senators representing Connecticut. On December 13, selected students were invited to an assembly where Senator Joseph Lieberman discussed violence in our society and violence in video games. Earlier in the year, Mrs. Diane Druggey, an English teacher, had her students write letters to the Senators concerning their opinions in the video game issue. Senator Lieberman chose to respond to these letters by coming to his alma mater and speaking directly with these students.

Senator Lieberman has become deeply involved in trying to establish a rating system for video games. The two games he mentioned in particular were Mortal Combat and Night Trap, both available on the Sega system. He said that these games seem to enhance violence among the children and teenagers who play them. This

rating system would not only restrict underage individuals from buying the game, but give information to parents as to the degree of violence in the game. The senator also mentioned the two biggest video game producers: Nintendo and Sega. "Nintendo has managed to control itself, while Sega has produced to very extremely video games," said Lieberman. In Mortal Combat, the player can choose how to finally kill the enemy: twist off his head or rip out his heart. In Night Trap, the game ends with a woman being brutally beaten. He pleaded for them to draw the line. "We have discovered new technology, which can be used for good or bad. Why not use it for good, educational purposes?"

As U.S. citizens we are guaranteed freedom, but people must learn to exercise some self-control.

One student asked about how we can control violence until censorship becomes part of the issue. Sen. Lieberman replied, "People are so frightened by violence/crime that they eventually are going to demand censorship on these video games."



SHS students shine at Uconn Day of Pride

By **Ayesha Adams**
Staff Reporter

The eighteenth annual Day of pride sponsored by the University of Connecticut was held in Storrs, Saturday November 13, 1993. The celebration was held to honor the "top 15" minority scholars who received full scholarships to attend The University of Connecticut. Also the "top 100" early admission were commended for their outstanding scholarship and service to their high school and community.

Among those honored were Stamford High's own Suman Ball, Marie Melford, Rajan Narayanan,

Ken Lee, Ofni Thomas. The winner of the scholarship was senior, Charlene Flash. "Stamford High was one of the high schools in the state having more students recognized in the program," stated Dr. Intrieri, coordinator of the program since 1984. In that time, nine students have been awarded four year scholarships and forty-seven recognized in the "top 100".

Stamford High School was well represented and honored at the ceremonies. More Than 500 people were in attendance for the annual banquet to hear accolades given by President Harry J. Hartley, Dr. James Williams, Director of Day Of Pride and top administrative off-

icials of the University of Connecticut.

Stamford High Principal, Mr. Anthony Markosky and Dr. Intrieri attribute the success rate of the U.Conn. program to the fantastic teaching staff, student body and community. The Round Table and the rest of the Stamford High student body would like the congratulate all the candidates.



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OPINION

View Point

SHS welcomes new security

Many students don't realize the dangers that surround them in school everyday. We've heard the stories of weapons in schools but no one stops to think that the boy sitting next to you could have a gun in his backpack. We've all heard the warnings and cautions of avoiding car jackers. However, while you're innocently sitting in math class your car could be getting broken into. We are all acutely aware of the ramifications of the frightening fires last year and many have voiced their concerns with the stories of gang violence in our schools. It's no wonder that the average student at Stamford High would like to feel a little security in this day of rampant crime and violence.

We, at *The Round Table*, applaud the Stamford High School administration for their growing concern for the safety and well-being of their student body. Just recently, the school has hired two new security guards, Mr. Bingham and Mr. Courtney. After the first of the new year, another one will be hired, making a total of five, one for each floor, excluding the third floor. Although many of us might resent this added security when we want to skip out a little early one day, the whirr and static of the walkie-talkies in the hallways are a soothing reminder that our school is trying its best to keep us safe and unharmed for graduation.

SHS needs to lend a hand

We, at *The Round Table* feel that students of Stamford High, as a whole, need to reevaluate their concern for those less fortunate. We would like to think of our school as a magnanimous institution but the distribution of effort is severely unbalanced.

A minority of our classmates haul in bags of canned food for the canned food drive, wake up early to make and sell bagels for the Help Club, volunteer time to the big brother/sister and adopt a grandparent programs, and generously give change to the Ronald MacDonald House while many of us sit around and contribute nothing.

It is granted that wealth and free time are not distributed evenly among Stamford High students. Some receive a weekly allowance while others have part-time jobs. Some have dinner waiting for them while others go home to make dinner. However, many of us fail to realize that we are a lot luckier than some other people in the world. We all have clothes on our backs, whether it be cashmere or polyester, we all have a roof over our heads, we all have food on the table, and hopefully we all have our health.

Those of us who have these things are able to offer some kind of philanthropic service to those who don't. You don't have to give money; you can peer tutor, be a big brother or sister, adopt a grandparent, raise money for the homeless, work in a soup kitchen, or candy stripe. For those who are short on free time but have a little extra money can donate to the Ronald MacDonald House, buy something for Toys for Tots, bring in canned food, make a donation to Save the Children, anything!

John Donne once said, "No man is an island." All of us at Stamford High should put out an effort to reach out and help a fellow human. None of us know if someday we will be the ones in need. "Send not to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee." (Donne)

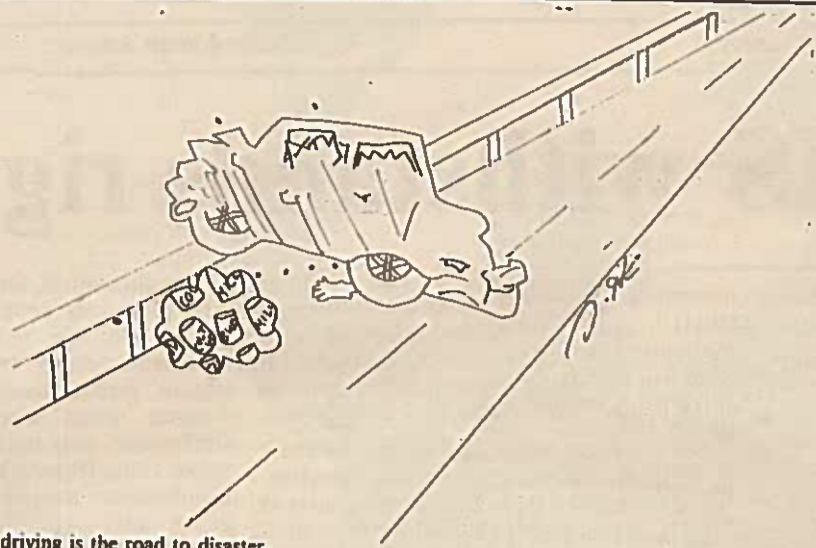
Letter to the editor

Dear Editor,

Is rap really controversial? In today's news there seems to be a lot of talk about rap. Just last night I was watching a show that was about "gangsta rap". The news talked about how the lyrics trigger violence among young teens, and how the lyrics belittle women. But today's youth seem to think otherwise. Personally I think that "gangsta rap" hardly promotes violence. I think the rappers write about what happens every day in today's ghettos. I think that most of the world is not ready to hear the things that go on in big city ghettos. If you look into or at the ghettos you will see young women

and men that live the lives that the lyric's express. For example, in most rap songs they talk about turning to selling drugs because they can't find good jobs. If the news people or any one else thinks that rap is a bad influence they should try going to the ghettos and see the life that so many young kid's lead. Critics of rap would automatically see what ghetto life is like and would understand the reason for rapper's lyrics. The news also comments on the way some rappers disrespect women. I disagree with that.

Sincerely,
Latisha Johnson



Drunk driving is the road to disaster.

Intoxication blurs the road

By Liz Caney
Staff Reporter

I know drinking and driving is a tired, redundant topic for the teens here at SHS. If everyone seems to know what it is, and why you shouldn't do it, then why are so many still driving while under the influence? Don't you understand that drinking and driving is a deadly mix, not only to those in the car but to unsuspecting innocent drivers and pedestrians. I personally know someone who was hit by a drunk driver at age 19. He was attending Columbia University and on his way to a successful life. His hopes and dreams are now ruined. He is 28 now and the left side of his body trembles uncontrollably. He has no short term memory, his speech is slurred, and he is unable to perform even minor everyday tasks. Why is this innocent victim maimed for life? The answer: one guy decided that he was fine to drive home after having a few too many to drink.

Some might say this story doesn't relate to us, or that won't happen here. Wrong! A poll taken of 143 eleventh and twelfth grade students showed that twelve percent have driven drunk. For many this is a typical routine. Most don't think twice about it. How ignorant can one be to get in a car while intoxicated? Many also said that they were aware of the consequences and of their own actions. Twenty-nine percent said that they had never driven drunk but had got into the car with a drunk driver. I hope that our generation is smart

enough to at least prove that we can handle ourselves. We are doubted quite often by our teachers and parents. Since so many of us are consciously getting into cars with drunk drivers, I tend to see where the adults are coming from. We need to stop this problem before it becomes a regular occurrence.

I'm not going to tell you not to drink because at this stage I know that is quite unrealistic. But how can one be so ignorant as to drive drunk? Everytime you do, it's like playing with a loaded gun. If you're lucky the gun will fire a blank and the drunk driver will get home safely. If you do happen to get home safely you are lucky. That's all it is, luck. What will it take to prove to kids these days that alcohol mixed with driving is not a game. Hopefully most will find out before it's too late.

I hope I'm not talking to myself. I know there is a problem here, and so do you, or at least eighty percent say there is. This is scary and quite serious. Most of you have no solutions to this problem. You believe that no teens will listen, or that the cops should try to get involved. But, are the cops the ones giving you the beer in one hand and car keys in another? Please... this problem is real. I want us to be read about in the paper for outstanding achievements, not mentioned in the obituaries.

Anyone with a story or serious idea on how to subdue this problem should advocate their thoughts. I have a few ideas but would you listen, would you care, and more importantly would you stop?

The Round Table

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Afterprom breaks tradition

By Kim DiBella
Special Sections Editor

For years high school students look forward to their senior prom. After fundraising since freshmen year with the senior prom as goal, senior year finally arrives and preparations begin. The hotel is chosen and the long line of decisions continue from the disc jockey to the decorations for that night. All who attend spend hundreds of dollars on tuxedos, dresses, bids, flowers, and sometimes even limosines, for an evening that ends in just four hours.

In order to extend the excitement of the prom, the Friends of Stamford High (FOSH) organization is trying to coordinate an after prom party for those who will attend the prom. Admission will cost five to ten dollars and the party will run from 1 a.m. to 6 a.m. directly after the senior prom (at Davenport Ridge Elementary school). However, it is not necessary to be waiting in line before 1 a.m. Students can show up at the after prom anytime before it ends. It is not required for anyone to stay at the party, either. If the event somehow seems boring to the students, they have

the option of leaving. As casino night, students will be given playing chips and can gamble all night at various games and tables. The Las Vegas and Atlantic City atmosphere will be imitated. Raffle tickets will be given in place of money participants earn. With the raffle tickets, prizes varying from concert tickets to television sets will be awarded.

There are many concerns about the FOSH after prom. However, if many students do not like the idea, it is not required for everyone to attend. Those who are open to new experiences are encouraged to join in the fun of a casino night. When the excitement wears away, students may leave and continue with the fun of the weekend.

Granted that this was planned to encourage students to party sober on prom night, it should not be viewed as a horrible event. It should be viewed as a fun night, unlike other weekends. Instead of going to a usual party just like every other weekend, why not do something different after the prom? Make the night of the much awaited senior prom worth all the anticipation.



This year's prom differs from tradition.

Afterprom promotes gambling

By Sarah Winston
Opinions Editor

This year FOSH has proposed a supervised afterprom to be held at Davenport Ridge Elementary School following the senior prom.

While some parents seem to believe that having this party will provide a safe environment for their children, they are being oblivious to what will really occur.

There is no doubt that teenagers drink. Do parents really believe that no drunk driving will occur? Being that students are allowed to enter the party drunk, who is to say that those who choose to do so will not drive drunk to the school? Just because a person isn't wobbling around and bumping into walls doesn't mean that he/she isn't under the influence. After convincing the chaperons of sobriety, that individual who is under the influence will endanger his/her life and others in his/her vehicle by driving home.

The Auction Dance held back in October foreshadows in a smaller degree what might occur in June. While there were a few individuals who were obviously intoxicated, who is to say that there weren't some others that just did a good job disguising themselves in front of the present cops and administrators?

Davenport Ridge is the selected site for the bash. Will students really be willing to sleep on a hard wood gym floor? For the most part, the location is a poor choice. Why not keep all the money that will be spent on prizes for casino night and raise more money to hold the party in a conference room of a hotel. There, at least, the floor is lined with carpet and students have the option of renting rooms to sleep on beds if they so choose.

It is also quite interesting that Casino Night has been selected as the theme for the afterprom. Casinos and the idea of gambling seem to be an idea that should not be encouraged. Gambling, like many other things such as food and alcohol, can become addictive. Considering that it's against school rules to play cards in school, why is it now permitted at a school function to students who are not even of legal age to gamble?

Last year's prom and afterproms seemed a great success. Why is it that the parents are trying to create something new when the traditional way was popular? Maybe it's time that FOSH change their ideas according to what the students want for what will be our last high school prom.

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NEWS

2.0 requirement poses controversy

By Larry Arango
Staff Reporter

The requirement in Stamford schools is a C average (2.0). That is hard for some athletes in this school to achieve. In towns such as Greenwich, Darien, and New Caanan the requirement is to pass the four major academic courses which are Math, Science, History, and English with a D or better. The requirements that other towns have to meet are much easier to attain than the requirements Stamford students have to meet. This is a big disadvantage to:

Stamford athletic teams. They lose players who are ineligible under these requirements, but if they lived in Darien they would be eligible. Players in other towns who would be ineligible under our system are able to helping their teams win.

Teacher and head basketball coach Jim Moriarity said "He feels the rule is good but there should be an appeal process for students who try hard and still don't meet the 2.0 requirement." Freshman Fernando Arango who is a student-athlete thought "That the 2.0 requirement is not good. He feels a student with a 1.8 or 1.9 should still be

allowed to participate in sports."

The fact that Stamford has stricter academic requirements than other towns is wrong. For the exception of the 1992 basketball state championship team, Stamford's team sports have been hindered because of the 2.0 requirement. Our schools should get together all around the state and agree on requirements for every school to follow so it will be fair for everyone. If this isn't done, Stamford's athletic teams will basically remain mediocre until something is done.



New gun statute tightens law

By Brian Whitbread
Staff Reporter

Bang! A shot rings out in a North Stamford home. Robber? Police? No, it's an 8 year old boy who found his father's gun and accidentally shot his little sister. Sounds like a T.V. show, right? Wrong! Unfortunately this is reality.

Too many accidental and even intentional deaths are occurring. The scenario described above happens much too often. As a matter of fact approximately 4,000 out of

the 57,000 annual gun related deaths, occur in the home accidentally.

Another scenario that occurs much too often results after domestic disputes. If a gun is present, it just seems too easy to pick it up and use it. In a time of rage a person is possible of anything. If a gun is readily available, it is too easy to grab it and fire it.

Fortunately Gov. Weicker is trying to take a stand. He hopes to pass a bill banning all privately owned guns. Many politicians have tried to pass a bill of this nature,

but because of the NRA (National Rifle Association) and angry gun owners, these efforts have been to no avail.

Some people will only see how they are effected by something like this, rather than how the families of these innocent victims feel.

As with everything, people think that they are invincible, until reality hits close to home. By then its too late to realize how serious a subject is.

A comprison study shows that there are 57,000 handgun related homocides annually in the United

States, as opposed to a country like Japan, which sees only 18 such homocides annually.

The number of privately owned handguns is increasing, and with this, statistics show that the death rate is also rising.

Many people have these guns for protection from intruders in their own home, and no-one should feel unsafe in their own home.

The solution for this won't be as easy as passing a bill and expecting everyone to follow it. The only logical, 'common ground', that gun owners and government of-

ficials can meet on, would be to educate gun owners on safe storage of their firearms. As well statistics of accidental deaths due to improper storage should be presented.

The following statistics are results of a national survey conducted by Parent's Magazine.

37 percent of the people surveyed, favor a law making it illegal to own or buy handgun.

91 percent approve of participation in a mandatory gun-safety program for any first-time gun buyers.

89 percent approve of a two week waiting period between applying to buy a firearm and actually taking possession of the weapon.

If the actual gun owners are willing to take a stand, than we must also. More and more children and innocent people will die if some kind of action isn't taken.

New AP policy implemented

By Sue Kim
Editor-in-chief

This year, Stamford High students who are enrolled in advanced placement classes are subjected to a new policy concerning the advanced placement exams. In past years, the school board paid for each student enrolled in an AP class to take the exam. Although it was not mandatory to take the exam, many teachers pressured their students to take full advantage of the school's generosity and take the test. However, due to budget cuts, the school board needed to find an area to cut back on that would hurt the least amount of students. Since only a minority of the student body take the AP classes, funding for the exams is the target of the cutback. Starting from the spring of 1994, any student wishing to take an advanced placement exam will have to pay \$64.00 per exam. The school will be saving up to 25-30 thousand dollars from this one cut. Although students have taken on

the burden of paying for these expensive tests, they have ultimately gained the privilege of choosing if they want to take the test.

AP exams are held from May 4-20. Advanced placement classes are accelerated courses which can earn college credit. Available AP classes range from the sciences, English, history, foreign languages, to art. The format usually consists of multiple choice and essay questions, although the form may vary slightly from test to test. The AP exams are nationally administered tests just like the SAT's, ACT's, and achievements. They are scored from 1-5, 5 being the highest. Many colleges give credit for scores of 3,4, or 5, depending on the school. This enables a student to fill requirements of their core curriculum and possibly save thousands of dollars. There have actually been instances where students have skipped an entire freshman semester due to AP credits.

The new AP policy has envok-

ed several different views. Senior Camilla Lyons says, "For someone like me who is taking five AP exams, paying for them is not exactly pocket change."

Some students feel that paying for the exams is a small price compared to the money they could be saving in college. Senior Amy Siegel comments, "Most of my friends in other schools outside of Connecticut have had to pay for their own exams for years. Although the price is a little steep, you have the advantage of choosing to take the test(s) you feel most prepared for. You will be able to spend more time studying for those chosen tests and increase your chances of getting a good score and earning college credit. The \$64.00 will be well worth your money."

Mrs. Bingham offers her own opinion, "I think it is good that the kids have the choice of taking it. Many students wasted the school's money by taking the test when they were neither serious nor prepared. However, I think that the price may discourage many kids from

taking the exams. I want to assure everyone that no avenues will be closed to a student who wishes to take the exam but can not afford it."

Head of the guidance counselor, Mr. Alswanger wants a list of students from each AP class who have decided to take the test. For those students who would like to know more about the exams, brochures explaining them in more detail are available. If anyone is seeking financial assistance in paying for the exams, they should see their guidance counselor.



FEATURES

Doron Comerchero finds harmony in and out of school

By Jennifer Sherer
Managing Editor

Many recognize Doron Comerchero as "the dancing kid with the yellow beret," in the Stamford High School marching band found at the football games, but there is much more behind this senior with the yellow hat. Doron is currently president of the Tri-M Music Honor Society, member of both the marching and concert bands, Jazz Ensemble, and National Honor Society.

Doron has been a member of the Tri-M Music Honor Society since his junior year. Doron explains, "being a member of Tri-M, you have to show emotion in music, it's much more than just technical playing." Doron also states that his role model would be Mr. Fred Joiner (former music director at Stamford High). "He taught me about the deeper meaning of music and jazz from which I learned a lot about life." As the 1993-1994 elected president of Tri-M, Doron wishes to raise money for the general music program for instruments and band uniforms. He wishes that the school was better educated on music, and more people were involved in the music program. "I would like to see music play a greater role not just in



school but also in the community," Doron states.

Aside from the musical view, Doron also enjoys such sports as rollerblading, tennis, and skiing. He has been skiing for the past 6

years and heads for the slopes any chance he gets. "Skiing is the ultimate high," comments Doron. Doron plays tennis on the Stamford High tennis team. He also rollerblades with friends or his dog

Loki in his spare time.

Doron's current schedule consists of A.P. English, A.P. Biology, A.P. Calculus, Marine/Environmental Science, Jazz Ensemble, and Senior

Seminar. His cumulative GPA stands as an unweighted 3.69. Doron has been accepted to the University of Michigan. He plans to major in Environmental Science and continue his love for music in the band of this University.

Doron spent his past summer in Holland with his father, step-mother, halfbrother and sister. Doron lives with his mother here in Stamford, while his father lives in Holland. He toured Western Europe with his friend from Arizona. They went sightseeing in places like Paris, Brussels and Amsterdam. He enjoyed the trip and jokingly adds, "It was great eating a real Belgium waffle with everything." Doron is also planning to meet his family from Holland in Spain over Christmas vacation.

With all these many events that Doron participates in, one would think that Doron would have a great deal of stress. When asked how he deals with stress he replied, "I don't let stress bother me." Senior Mandy Walsh adds, "I have never seen Doron stressed over anything- he's always happy, which is what makes him such a fun person to be with." When asked if he had more time to himself, he replied, "I just wish I had a little more time for my sax!"



FOSH coordinates afterprom

By Cindy Lash
Features Editor

A difficult task has been taken away from the senior class; finding a place to have the afterprom. The seniors consider themselves to be the "guinea pigs" of the new project, but FOSH (Friends of Stamford High, a parents' organization) has decided to give a gift to this year's senior class. They are working hard on fundraising and planning a new concept of an afterprom party.

Casino night has become the chosen theme. 15 black jack tables, one money wheel and one dice table will cover the gym and cafeteria of Davenport Ridge School (the elected place of the party). So far 20 teachers have volunteered to man the tables and deal the cards. The games will be spread out among the school for the students to gamble with play money or chips.

Although gambling with pretend money doesn't sound exciting there will be a catch. These chips can be used to buy prizes. The prizes (which FOSH is hoping to receive donations for) can be bought with each student's winnings. A store will contain all of the

prizes in which you can purchase the gift of your choice. At the end of the night an auction will take place where students may bid on the prizes (in some cases, kids will have to pool their money to afford the biggest prize). Such prizes possibly include a trip for 2-4 people. Yet these two ideas are not the only options to win prizes. Every 15 minutes there will be a drawing of everyone at the party, where small prizes will be awarded as well.

The parents involved in FOSH have decided that just having a casino is not enough to keep over 400 seniors occupied. The party, which will run from 1 a.m. to 6 a.m. on June 3rd, will also have a D.J. The Teen Life Center D.J.'s were viewed by several parents who all agreed that they were outstanding. The 15 student organization comes with computer graphics and a big screen television to display what is going on in the room. Karyoke is another addition to the event. The possibility of miniature golf, caricatures, and group photos is also in discussion. FOSH is also hoping to video tape the actual prom and play it on a big screen T.V. during the night.

The question of alcohol was a big concern among seniors. What

would happen if they were drunk, and would they get suspended?

Mrs. Jane Molstre, a coordinator of the party, answers the question, "We are not allowing students to go drunk, but if they have been drinking, they will be let in. As long as they are not causing a disturbance everything will be fine. If someone does cause a problem, they will be dealt with."

It was also stated that students will not be suspended for their actions. Once a student leaves the party they can not return, yet if they are intoxicated, they will not be allowed to leave and parents will be called.

Senior Marc Murphy says, "I think it is a good idea to let kids in drunk. This mostly for the fact that kids will drink anyway, whether or not they are allowed to. But I'm sure everyone was hoping to come and go as they please."

Many seniors have different opinions as to whether or not they agree with the big bash. But one thing that has been decided is that students are now going to be allowed to help plan the party, which most seniors seem to be happier about.

NYC offers action

By Peter Hebert
Staff Reporter

Whether it's shopping in Greenwich Village, seeing a Broadway show, or watching the Knicks play at the Garden, New York City has something for everyone. The city has tons of great things to do, it is a cool and exciting place to be, and it's only 45 minutes away.

Transportation

There are many ways to get into the city. The easiest and quickest way is to take a train into Grand Central Station. A round trip ticket costs only \$12. Once you have gotten into the city, as Junior Christina Licursi says, "Getting around is no problem whatsoever." You could take the city bus, a taxi, a subway, or if all else fails, you could easily walk. Taking the subway is the quickest and cheapest; and contrary to popular belief, it is not that dangerous. Taxis are also always available and cost cost \$1.50 to travel 10 blocks.

Shopping

In New York City there is a wide range of shops and stores. The best and cheapest stores for teenagers have to be in Greenwich Village, which is between 4th and Houston Street. The village is an exciting place where you can buy almost anything. Senior Jamie Friedman says, "The Village is so different,

and that's what makes it so fun." On 8th Street between 5th and 6th Street, is also a good area for shopping. For those who can afford it, there are always the expensive shops on 5th Avenue.

Clubs

Another popular thing to do in the city is going to clubs. Some popular clubs are Emerald City (617 West 57th St.), The Limelight (47 West 20th St.), and the Palladium (126 East 14th St.).

Concerts/Sports/Theatre

Another exciting part of New York City is the concerts. Most concerts take place in Madison Square Garden, the Ritz, the Palladium, Roseland, and the Knitting Factory. The Garden is not only the home of concerts; it houses the Knicks and Rangers of basketball and hockey respectively. New York is world renowned for its great theatre. There are many good Broadway shows that have reduced student rates.

Food

While touring around the city, you're bound to get hungry. Some good restaurants with affordable prices are the Caliente Cab Company on 61 7th Ave., and Benny's Burrito on 131 Greenwich Ave. in the Village. Wherever you go in the city, there will always be good, cheap food.

FEATURES

School rivalry promotes tension not sportmanship

By Cindy Lash
Features Editor

The fierce competition in high school sports has always been prevalent. The "big" games seem to bring out school spirit and excitement. The roar of the crowd at pep rallies and other events motivate the team players, as well as the fans.

Slogans like "Kill the Hill" and "Crush the Crusaders" become the average chant at any sporting event. Yet enthusiasm is sometimes channeled in the wrong direction.

Mischief is now perceived as proving students school spirit. Recently, Boyle Stadium was damaged prior to the Westhill/Stamford High Football Game. This has become a rotten tradition. Every year this occurrence takes place, but nothing has been done about it. The track and stadium are spray-painted (although this year, the track was not ruined), the senior picture was painted over, and balloons and threatening signs were hung.

Mr. Gary Lutterman says, "You see the same kind of rivalry now, as you did when I was in school. It's a lot of fun and brings in a lot of school spirit." Although he continues, "It's interesting, painting over the knight is more of a good-natured prank but once it's moved off the wall it then becomes vandalism. There is a fine line of what is ok and what is going overboard."

This year, Westhill students snuck in the night before the game and tampered with Boyle Stadium, as usual. Two cheerleaders along with other Westhill students were caught, but no punishment was allocated. The normal penalty for this crime would be suspension, however, no action was taken.

Vandalism is not the only result of high school rivalry. Several fights have taken place over the years. Just last year, a huge fist fight was displayed on the football field after the Westhill/Stamford High game had ended. Mr. Lutterman feels that the fight was because of bad tempered football players and that football is an emotional game. Yet soon the field was flooded with people who tried to throw a punch. A few students did get hurt.

Two years ago, a Westhill student was surrounded and jumped by a group of guys from a neighboring high school. He was put in the hospital and had to have surgery. The reason he was attacked, was because he was wearing a Westhill Varsity Jacket.

The singing of "Old McDonald" is another favorite practice. During the half-time shows of football and basketball games, the opposing cheerleaders get booed in the middle of their routine. At times, even SHS students will sing the old childhood song during the other team's cheer. Not only is that rude,

but it ruins the show for those who want to hear the cheer. The cheerleaders are there to boost spirit among the fans, not promote hatred for the opposite team. This does not only get the cheerleaders and the receiving crowd angry, but it elevates the abhorance and rivalry between the two schools (which later leads to more fights).

On November 19, the last game against Westhill, a decision had to be made. The talk of cancelling the game was discussed. One administrator claims that it was only because of the weather, but most others feel that it was because of the anticipated problems. The ideas of danger were present and any risk had to be eliminated. The game was

played, and several police were present. Many students were positive that a fight would definitely break out.

These precautions should not have even been a concern. School spirit is important, but should remain under control. Senior John Jennings states, "It's one thing to support your school, but vandalism and violence is not support, it's immaturity."

SASA makes a difference

By Kelly Stempien
Staff Reporter

If you are a person who is concerned about the drug problem in today's society and you want to make a difference, then SASA is definitely for you. SASA, meaning Students Against Substance Abuse, is a club in which anyone can join. SADD, Students Against Drunk Driving, is the former name of SASA. A law made it change because it was afraid that it condoned drinking. SHS is the only school in Connecticut that has SASA. This club, which is government backed, is hoping to raise drug awareness.

During the week of October 25-29, SASA sponsored Red Ribbon Week. SASA was hoping to increase awareness of the drug problem in the world today. This week was declared a Drug Free Week. Some students took a Red Ribbon Pledge stating that they would not use any kind of drug for this week.

A lot of students took this very seriously. They wouldn't sign the pledge if they weren't positive that they weren't going to drink or do drugs. They didn't want to contradict themselves. SASA's membership doubled during this week.

To start off the week, SASA held an assembly for juniors and seniors. Mayor Stan Esposito attended this assembly and he presented a speech to the students. He also signed a Proclamation stating that SHS is anti-alcohol and drugs. Melissa Gardner, Chrissy Grosso, and Aline Drucker spoke on behalf of SASA. Through these speeches, the students learned important statistics on the use of drugs by teenagers.

Vice President of SASA, Chrissy Grosso said, "The main goal was to raise awareness and hopefully if a person stopped using drugs for this week, they would stop altogether."

During the week of November

15-19, SASA, along with the Cancer Society, sponsored The Great American Smoke Out. The goal of this week was to get people to quit smoking.

SASA is hoping to have a Prom Promise, which is students promising not to drive drunk on Prom night. If the Prom Promise works out, the junior class will be competing against other schools as to how many people make this promise. The school with the most amount of signatures of people willing to make this promise and actually follow through with it, will win money for the school towards next years prom.

SASA has many goals for this year. They are hoping to accomplish a lot. New members are always welcome. If you are interested in joining, SASA meets every other Wednesday in Mr. Ramsdell's office, room 123, during both lunch waves.

video game sparks controversy

By Chris Saunders
Assistant News Editor

The recent release of the arcade hit *Mortal Kombat* for home video game systems has raised many questions about video game censorship. How far should video-game manufacturers go in order to make a quick buck? How far can censorship go? In essence, *Mortal Kombat* is a tournament of fighters, each with special abilities. One thing that sets the game aside from the rest of the genre are the superbly realistic graphics. Another is the violence, which parents and special-interest groups are objecting greatly to; when a player is defeated by another, the winner has the option of killing the loser's character. The game is available for Nintendo of America's Super Nintendo tabletop and Game Boy hand-held systems, as well as in Sega of America's tabletop Genesis and portable Game Gear formats.

As Nintendo officially will not allow blood or gore in their games, neither of their two above systems contain the graphic demises found in the Sega versions - yet there is still enough violence in the game to separate it from the rest. General opinion among vendors is that the hype about the gore only served to make the game even more popular.

Parents with concerns about the game before it was even released forced Sega to provide printed ratings on the violent content of their products. Displayed on the outside of the games to aid parents in weeding out games that are designed for older players, the ratings range from GA (General Audiences) to MA-13 (Mature Audiences) of 13 years of age) to MA-17 (For such bloodbaths as Lethal Enforcers.)

There are, however, drawbacks of the rating system. The vendor can sell any game to anyone, as the rating system is not legally restrictive as are movie ratings.

Car of the Month

By Jennifer Sherer and
Kim Molstre
Managing Editors



This month's car of the month goes to senior Adam Fullilove's 1986 Ford Ranger. It may look red in color but Adam vehemently insists the pigment is actually canyon red. It is an extended cab pick-up truck. Adam boasts that the back of the truck is used as a mosh pit. He also shares with us that the most common question asked about his car again is, "Say, have you taken that to Baha again?" All we have to say is, "What?!"

...PREVIEW....

“Education must enable one to sift and weigh evidence, to discern the true from the false, the real from the unreal, and the facts from fiction.”

**Coming Special Sections
Black History Month:**

**“The changing role of the NAACP”
Literary Review of African-
American authors old and new
and More...**

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

Capra A Holiday Treat

By Rob Levine Jr.
Arts and Entertainment Editor

It is the Christmas movie. It embraces the entire Christmas spirit. Not a year goes by that on Christmas day Frank Capra's *It's A Wonderful Life* is not shown several times. The recent colorization of this classic has angered many who love the film's nostalgic aura.

The film stars James Stewart as George Bailey, a small town banker. George has always wanted to leave his small New England town Bedford Falls, but every time he has the opportunity extenuating circumstances cause him to have to remain faithful to his family and stay in the town that he yearns to stray from.

On Christmas eve the Bailey Brothers Savings and Loan of which George is President falls on hard times. George's scatter brained uncle, Billy has misplaced eight thousand dollars.

George in a fit of rage and fear drives to the nearest bridge and ponders throwing himself in to the icy waters below. Just then his guardian angel Clarence, (angel, second class, who must save George

to receive his wings), comes and saves George from suicide. He shows George what life would have been like without him.

George then realizes that he did make a difference and life would have been worse without him. His truly was *A Wonderful Life*. In the end he returns to his family and friends who have come to his aid at his time of financial worries. The entire town chips in and helps to defray his debt. His brother Harry makes a toast "To my big brother George, the richest man in town." George truly is the richest man in town, because wealth is not measured in Potter's monetary terms, but in Clarence's terms, friends.

The movie truly epitomizes the holiday spirit of giving and togetherness. Through George's life, he always thought of other people first and himself second, and in the end, his good will was returned.

Do not let the holiday season go by without watching this immortalized classic. In the spirit of George, watch it with someone that you love, because remember, "No man is a failure who has friends."

They won the lottery when they were born

By Kris Kessler
Staff Reporter

After two years of waiting for a new album, Pearl Jam finally released *Vs.* this past October. Every Pearl Jam fan was hoping that this album would live up to the expectations of the six time platinum album, *Ten*. *Ten* is an album that you can listen to over and over again without getting tired of it. With great songs such as *Deep*, *Release*, *Jeremy*, *Alive*, *Even Flow*, *Porch*, *Once*, and *Black*, you would think *Vs.* would be only average. Although, the songs *Go*, *Animal*, *Daughter*, *Glorified G*, *Dissident*, *Elderly Women Behind A Counter In A Small Town*, *Indifference*, *Leash*, and *Rearviewmirror* make this album a success.

Even though *Vs.* is a great album, you can't compare it to the music Pearl Jam produced in *Ten*.

Pearl Jam had an alternative sound to it, now they seem to have their sound of their own. Vedders' singing was so much deeper and more spiritual. You could relate to almost every song and feel the energy Vedder was giving off. Also, *Ten* had more guitar solos that really made the songs powerful. *Vs.* songs have too many lyrics and not enough guitar solos. The first three songs are tremendous in *Vs.* The first song on the album,

Go, starts off with great guitar riffs and the drums make the song. It is a terrific way to start off the album. The next song, *Animal*, has a fast guitar sound and Eddie Vedder really uses all of his vocal talent. With *Daughter*, the album mellos out and it is a type of blues song. The guitar is calmer and steadier at a low key. It goes excellent with Vedders' monotone voice in the song.

Elderly Women Behind the Counter In A Small Town, shows that Pearl Jam can go to both extremes in their music. The song starts off



immediately with Vedder. His voice makes the song what it is. Another great song is *Indifference*. You can compare that to the moving song *Release* on the *Ten* album. *Indifference* can be interpreted differently every time you listen to it.

popular, but the just want to perform music that they enjoy and love. *Vs.* is a great follow up to *Ten*. It's a definite must and should be a part of your CD collection. To really enjoy the CD, you should't compare the two albums, but listen to *Vs.* and appreciate Pearl Jams' new sound.

Unfortunately for Pearl Jam fans, they don't like to tour in huge arena and stadiums anymore. Instead, small clubs with a capacity of the people at a minimum is Pearl Jams' preference. They take their music extremely serious and they like to entertain smaller crowds, which they feel makes a better experience for both them and the audience.

For tour dates in the U.S., Pearl Jam is only announcing the dates and cities they'll be in about two weeks in advance.

After everything has been said and done, *Vs.* is a huge success. It appeals to more of a broader range of people than *Ten* did. *Ten* had a hard edge to it and seemed that they let loose and played typical Seattle Music. *Vs.* is smoothed out and they gained a style all of their own. The songs from *Ten* and *Vs.* are original with no traces of any other bands from Seattle. Pearl Jam's songs are all maily about lust, confusion, and despair with very dark sides.

Unfortunately for Eddie Vedder who despises fame with a passion, is going to have to deal with it. Pearl Jam does'nt want to be

WASP's breaks no boundaries

By Andrey Henkin
News Editor

Despite its purposefully melodramatic title, WASP's new album "The Crimson Idol" offers no musical tension and can even be said to offer no music. No music worth speaking of, that is. Blackie Lawless, the frontman and music writer for the band, suffers from an unfortunately formulaic approach to music. Although technically, he is quite proficient and capable of writing potentially worthwhile music, Lawless falls into the traps of power ballads and three-chord speed attacks. The twist on this particular album is an idea sometimes occurring in heavy metal albums: concept. This supposedly differentiates "The Crimson Idol" from albums of disconnected and disjointed songs. However the themes of child neglect and teen rebellion which hold this album together aren't a strong enough bond to make this album worth purchasing over any other.

writing and performing all the music on the new album. He is unfortunately also the lyricist, the main problem of the album. Lawless is no poet. Modern music does not expect inspired poetics but it does expect lyricists to stay within their limitations. Again this is the problem. Lawless is ambitious, overly so. His tales adolescent negligence (based his own personal experience, the booklet says) are an honorable subject for and album but his range as a writer do not sufficiently liveup to his goals. The lyrics tend to either be cliché-ridden or bitterly sentimental to the point of silliness. he switches between teary-eyed ballads and "rockers with a message", another common device used in heavy metal. Lawless has not strayed far from the typical path of the genre. Each song takes no chances and presents no surprises. Perhaps it is sufficient for a droning buzz to send one to sleep but as real music, it lacks challenge and any interest.

In discussing "The Crimson Idol", a song-by-song analysis

First impressions aside though, Blackie Lawless has accomplished something in singlehandedly would be both unnecessary and repetitive. One song is essentially like the next and the minute differences between them are minor in comparison to the similarities. Each ballad basically sounds like another and the faster-paced songs bear an even stronger likeness. Perhaps it is too much to expect a bit of variety but obviously it is too much to ask from WASP. Blackie Lawless perhaps is limiting himself by only exploring heavy metal. He has some ability that is being wasted on his current musical set-up. Or maybe that is being too kind. Whatever the answer is to that question, "The Crimson Idol" standing on its own merits, is definitely not an achievement worth buying.



SPORTS

Jamie Friedman aces them all

By Jennifer Melchionne
Assistant Features Editor

Jamie Friedman is a friendly face known to many at SHS. She is not only a great athlete, but a well rounded student.

A senior at Stamford High, she is one of the captains of the Varsity Girl's Tennis Team. Jamie has been playing tennis since she was eleven years old. Her freshman year at highschool she qualified and became a member of the Girl's Varsity Tennis Team. Jamie usually plays doubles with her partner Emily Koplik at her side.

"I've played with Jamie as her teammate in field hockey and her partner in tennis. She is a very dedicated and high spirited player as well as friend," said Emily Koplik.

Besides the practice Jamie puts into tennis for school, she makes it a point to play in the off season. During the winter season Jamie can be found three days a week at Stamford Indoor or Shippan Racquet Club. Jamie's practice definitely paid off when she was chosen by Tennis Europe to play in tournaments. She competed in Belgium, Holland, Germany and France.

"I thought it was a great experience because I was able to compete against all different ranks of players," said Jamie.

She is also one of the captains of

the Varsity Field Hockey Team. Jamie has been playing varsity for two years. Throughout this time she has achieved All West for FCIAC two years in a row.

"Jamie has improved consistently during her four years with the program. She began to excel when she took over the role as the defensive quarterback at the sweep position," said Coach Michilidis.

Aside of Jamie's sports activities, she participates in many school and community related activities.

"Not only is Jamie a hard working person, but she also finds time for friends and family," said Senior Jill Snyder.

In school she is involved in Help Club, SASA, Spanish Club, Interact and has also held the position of class secretary for four years. Her community activities are equally important. She is a member of the Bnai Brith Youth Organization which is a Jewish youth group. She has held positions such as News Editor, Treasurer and Sisterhood Chairwoman.

Jamie plans on attending college after high school. She is interested in Ithaca College, University of Wisconsin, Syracuse University and the University of Miami. She would like to study Health Care Administration and possibly pursue a career in this field.



Money can't buy victory

By Julie Perkins
Sports Editor

Money. Money either makes the world go round, or it is the root of all evil. In the sports world, teams are trying to perfect the notion that money will make the world go round by buying their way to the top. Well established teams keep pouring more and more money into their organizations in an attempt to make them the biggest and the best.

The New York Rangers and the New York Mets are just two examples prove that money will not buy success. The success they need is to win the Stanley Cup or the World Series, but money is not the thing that is going to make these dreams happen.

Last year the New York Rangers had many talented players in their lineup. They also had a huge payroll. If something was available that the Rangers wanted, they bought it. The Rangers bought everything they desired including the fiery Mark Messier. Mark Messier was supposed to be God's greatest gift to the world of Rangers' hockey. In return for \$2,533,000.00 (the fifth highest paid player in the NHL) he was supposed to be the strong man that would show leadership, confidence, and spirit; he was supposed to bring the Rangers the

Stanley Cup that has eluded them since 1940 or for the past fifty-three years. However, instead of winning the Stanley Cup, the Rangers finished sixth away from last, last in their division and did not even make the playoffs.

Another problem that arose for the Rangers occurred in the spring of that season. The camaraderie of the team had been torn apart because the so-called leader Mark Messier, did not like the strategies or playing style of the Rangers ex-coach Roger Neilson. Roger Neilson became an ex-coach because Mark Messier put up such a big stink and said the reason the team was doing so poorly was because of the coaching style of Roger Neilson. Mark Messier thought that his idea of how the team should play was much better and so he argued and fought to dismiss Roger Neilson and get his own way. His obvious friction with Roger Neilson divided the team. There were some who supported Mark Messier and some who supported Roger Neilson.

Having two different people telling them to play two entirely different styles of hockey, The Rangers were unable to get their act together. Because of the big disagreement, Roger Neilson was eventually fired and now Messier could do whatever he pleased. Mark Messier is a

classic example of how overblown one's head can become when a person thinks that he is number one. The Rangers tried to buy success but the plan backfired on them and it had the opposite effect. It brought destruction and tore up their team.

The New York Mets also have a huge payroll. The Mets were supposed to be contenders in the race for the World Series this season. Instead, they are contenders for the worst record in major leagues. On Monday, September 21, 1993 the Mets reached 100 losses for the first time since 1967. The Mets record is also worse than any team in the Japanese leagues. The abominable season the Mets are having is the perfect opportunity for young players or an already established player, to step forward and make a name for themselves, but no one rose to the occasion. Instead of trying harder, the players have lost hope and are thinking about next season.

The Mets have a very talented, high expense team that blew off what could have been a very successful season. The Mets who once had a successful ball club tried to improve their team with more money and more finesse, instead they discovered that money will not buy success.

Jordan is gone

By Drew Humphrey
Assistant Sports Editor

In 1982 when Michael Jordan hit a last second shot to beat Georgetown and capture the National Championship for North Carolina, basketball fans got their first taste of what came to be the greatest basketball player in the history of the sport.

There is one question that surrounds Jordan's retirement; why? A simple question yes, but a simple answer no. At the press conference to announce his retirement Jordan stated an answer "I've always stressed that when I lose the sense of motivation and the sense to prove something as a basketball player it's time to leave.

However, Jordan's feeling that he had nothing left to prove wasn't the only reason that Jordan decided to retire.

The media's constant pressure on Jordan about his gambling scandals, and most recently about the mysterious death of his father pushed Jordan over the edge. No stranger to the sports media Stamford High School Basketball coach Jim Moriarty commented on the subject, "Dealing with the media is difficult. You have to watch what you say because it is easy to get misquoted. Reporters often take you out of context, and when

dealing with young players it can get tricky." Coach Moriarty also commented on Jordan's retirement, "People don't realize the pressure put on a person like Jordan. When you reach the lime-light the way Jordan did plus the amount of endorsements Jordan had, he couldn't go anywhere or have a normal life." He continued to say, "Jordan needs time to himself, but he'll be back."

Thirty years old, in the prime of your career isn't usually the time when one ends their career, but such is the case with Michael Jordan. Jordan has come under great criticism for retiring at the top of his game, but in the sports arena it's not uncommon. Jim Brown, arguably football's greatest running back, just like Jordan retired at the age of 29 after leading the NFL in rushing eight times. After leading the Brooklyn Dodgers to three National League Pennants and three Cy Young awards Sandy Kofax retired at the age of 30.

Every generation has its sports legends, or sports gods; Babe Ruth, Mickey Mantle, Jim Brown, Magic Johnson, and now you can add Michael Jordan to the list. Although many people didn't get to see Michael Jordan play live, one thing is for sure many generations to come will "want to be like Mike."

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