



The Round Table



55 Strawberry Hill Avenue - Stamford, CT 06902

Teacher Tenure Under Fire in Hartford

By: Brian Clemmenson

In Governor Dannel Malloy's State of the State Address, teacher tenure was a hot topic. The governor is calling on state legislators to completely change how the state's 45,000 teachers earn tenure. That is because Connecticut's achievement gap is the largest in the country. In Malloy's proposal the change would link tenure to student performance and teacher evaluations. The change would apply to new teachers and even to those who already have tenure. According to the governor, "Today tenure is too easy to get and too hard to take away."

The Governor's new plan would provide tenure to teachers after two and a half years, only if they earn good grades on two teacher evaluations; based on student achievement. However, if a teacher does not pass these evaluations, and is rated "ineffective," they will have a one-year probationary period to improve. Interim Superintendent Dr. Winifred Hamilton is commending the governor for his plan. "I commend the governor for his aggressive education reform proposal. The proposal reflects the urgent need for all of us to address Connecticut's achievement gap, which is the largest in the country," Hamilton said.

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St. Baldrick's Cancer Fundraiser

By: Zhenya Nalywayko

Walk around the halls of Stamford High School for the next couple of weeks and you will probably find yourself asking the question "what is with all these shaved heads?" Recently, the Stamford High School boys lacrosse and baseball teams had their heads shaved to raise money and awareness for childhood cancer, although the opportunity was open to anyone, sports player or not.

According to their mission statement, the St. Baldrick's organization is a "volunteer-driven charity committed to...funding research to finding cures" for childhood cancer. Through this organization, Stamford High School raised almost \$12,000 for the cause and contributed over thirty "shavees" to the Stamford community to help raise awareness.

Shavees who rose over \$50 for the cause received free St. Baldrick's t-shirts, and anyone who participated got a free button reading "Ask me why I'm bald." The event happened March 14th after school at the Glenbrook Community in Stamford. Thursday at Stamford High saw many of the new shavees proudly sporting their new St. Baldrick's shirts, buttons, and of course their freshly-shaved heads.

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Young Artist



Gun Control

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Teacher Tenure Under Fire in Hartford

This plan has created a huge a firestorm of relations. Many teachers oppose the plan. The leader of the Connecticut Education Association, Mary Loftus Levine, stated, "It's not a job for life, and it's not just earned for showing up." Many teachers across the state oppose the plan, including many Stamford High teachers. Two Stamford High teachers contacted for this story declined to comment.

Currently the Stamford Public Schools uses the State of Connecticut Teacher Tenure Law. The law sets out strict termination and due process requirements for all teachers, whether or not they have tenure. It covers certified professional employees (below the rank of superintendent) employed by a board of education for

at least 90 days. In addition, it covers first hired teachers after July 1, 1996. It states that they earn tenure after working for 40 school months. After working those months, their contracts are renewed for the following year. Tenured teachers enjoy the privilege of having their contracts renewed ever year automatically.

Under the current state law teachers, can only be dismissed for these six reasons inefficiency or incompetence (based on evaluations that comply with state regulations), insubordination against reasonable board of education rules, moral misconduct, disability (proven by medical evidence), elimination of position when there is no other position that the teacher is qualified to be in.

Finally, other due and sufficient causes can also do cited.

In addition, the governor said, "It's pretty clear that once you have tenure unless you do something egregious, you will not lose your job." Malloy's plan, if passed, will be a dramatic shift, as Connecticut will join 19 other states that allow teachers to be dismissed based on evaluations. Interim Superintendent Dr. Winifred Hamilton added about the plan, "I'd like to change the emphasis from teachers to students. The urgency of this reform is not about adults. It's about focusing on student achievement and creating the strongest educational environment possible."

St. Baldrick's Cancer Fundraiser

The event lasted about two and a half hours, as it took the three volunteer barbers a while to shave the heads of everyone there. The final result though was a little more than thirty shaved heads, and two very proud coaches. "You guys are awesome," Jeremy White, the head Boys Varsity Lacrosse coach told his team on the bus ride home. "Once again, you have represented the best of what Stamford has to offer."

St. Baldrick's mission is two-fold: not only is the aim to raise money for research and progress towards the ultimate goal of eradicating childhood cancer, but also to raise awareness. Anyone can donate to St. Baldrick's through their website, <http://www.stbaldricks.org/>, at any time.

Shavees raise money by creating their own page, joining the specific event they are going to be a part of, and having family and friends donate in their name specifically, which goes towards the event as a whole. When the event is over, whatever money is raised is sent to the St. Baldrick's organization which is based in Monrovia, California. Stamford High School senior Tom Roberts feels that participating in this event "was a great way to show how much we really cared about what we were raising the money for."

Marco Critelli, also a senior at Stamford High School, believes that St. Baldrick's is a special organization because "it is a great team-building experience that has a much more lasting effect than just raising money."

Marco feels that "any organization can raise money and have people donate towards a certain cause, but St. Baldrick's raises awareness as well." Carter Trabakinos, a sophomore at Stamford High School expounded upon this, saying that he "did it for the kids with cancer, so that they know they are not alone in the world," and that "there are people out there willing to make a physical sacrifice to try to make a difference." Carter says he misses his hair, which he had been growing and styling for a while, but was glad that it was for a good cause.

So, if you see a newly-shaved head walking around the halls of Stamford High in the next couple of weeks, ask them why they are bald, even if they do not have a button saying to. They will be happy to give you an answer.

The Round Table Staff

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#KONY2012

By: Sam Strizver

This month, Filmmaker Jason Russell released a campaign in the form of a viral video that flash-flooded the internet in the time span of mere hours. The campaign was aimed toward bringing about awareness of a warlord named Joseph Kony, who is most likely in Uganda. Kony is the leader of the Lord's Resistance Army, an organization made up of children kidnapped by Kony and forced to kill. Russell's plan to imprison the Ugandan warlord involves making him "famous" by inspiring the public to put up KONY 2012 posters all around their communities on April twentieth when the clock strikes midnight. Russell has labeled this event "covering the night," an idea which has gained enormous popularity and critique throughout Stamford High, the internet, and America as a whole. The primary complaint many people have about this movement is that of all the donations and the money gained from people buying the "Action Kit" (which contains the KONY 2012 posters and apparel), only 30% of the income fundraised goes to the effort in Uganda itself. Russell defended this criticism on CNN by saying,



Photo Courtesy of <http://www.palm-beach-herald.com/2012/03/20/kony-2012/>

"Yeah, we're an unorthodox organization and so we work outside of the traditional box of what you think about 'charity' and 'non-profit' and we break it down with three M's. We have the movie which is going viral and that costs money to make powerful movies, we know that. So, we spend a third of the fundraising dollars on the movie to make it amazing and then we

spend a third on the movement, the movement is actual volunteers around the world, our vans that tour the movie to high schools and colleges, the t-shirt, the websites to make it powerful and aggressive, and then finally the third is the mission which is to end the war, to stop Kony and to rehabilitate the war-affected children through education, reintegration, and building jobs for the community."

To add to his lack of credibility in the public eye, Russell was recently taken to a mental facility for public indecency and disorder in San Diego, CA, according to the LA Times. Russell was found running naked and clapping on the sidewalks of the Pacific Beach neighborhood.

The movie, which has around seventy-eight million views on YouTube as of this article's publication, can be found (officially) at www.kony2012.com. The website asks its visitors to sign a pledge which requires an e-mail and zip code, and is also where one can buy the action kit or

Stamford High School Teacher's Home Destroyed in Fire

By: Julian Devententes and Brian Clemenson



Photo Courtesy of <http://www.courtside.com/2012/03/05/stamford-high-school-teacher-home-destroyed-in-fire/>

On February 5, Stamford High School teacher Karen Grady's condominium was engulfed by a house fire. The fire was caused by an improperly disposed of cigarette which ignited a man's chair. The flames eventually spread to outside the condo and caused propane tanks to also catch fire, leading to even more condos to go up in flames. Now nine of the sixteen condos will have to be knocked down and rebuilt, having been destroyed in the flames. Grady suffered no injuries and made it out safely with some important belongings. She saved treasured family pictures, her jewelry, and important papers and documents. Six of her neighbors lost everything. The fire started around 5:30. Grady said that "the firefighters were tremendous" and that

every firehouse in Norwalk showed up to fight the flames. Fortunately, the only injuries reported were involving smoke inhalation by one the condominium residents and one of the firefighters.

Grady has been doing well and had been living with her daughter, son in law, and her grandchildren. She moved into her own apartment on March 10th. Grady said her biggest fear was to die in the fire.

Stamford High School students and staff have felt the pain one of their most loved teachers has suffered. Several organizations have run bake-sales and other student-run fundraising activities in her benefit. The student body and fellow-teachers are glad, however, that Grady made it out of such an unforeseen disaster safe and sound.

Interim Superintendent to Seek Permanent Role

By: Brian Clemenson
Online Editor

Interim Superintendent Winifred Hamilton, who has been top chief of the Stamford Public Schools since July, announced Thursday, March 1, that she will seek the permanent superintendent position. Hamilton has been interim superintendent since September, and previously was acting-superintendent for three months. However, the permanent position will not be available as early as predicted by the Board of Education. The board initially said that they hoped to have a permanent superintendent in place by September of next school-year. The search now could possibly extend into the school-year.

Initially, Hamilton stated that she would not want the permanent position, but she has since changed her mind. Hamilton originally said she did not want to apply because she did not want to prevent a stronger candidate from applying, and has said that she still wants the stronger candidate (if there is one) to apply.

as a physical education teacher at Dolan Middle School, and then moved onto Westhill High School as both a teacher and a coach for



Photo Courtesy of <http://img.com/2012/03/01/inter-super-000-000-000/>

over a decade. In the 1990's, Hamilton began her career as an administrator. After serving 10 years as principal of Dolan, Hamilton moved downtown to the central office in 2005 as assistant superintendent of Secondary

Education. In 2008 she was promoted to Deputy Superintendent.

The Board of Education has selected two representatives from consulting firms to be in charge of the search. The board has been informed by the consultants that the competition right now is fierce not only in Connecticut, but also in many areas across the country.

The board has said that they cannot rely on a timetable, because if there are no good candidates in the first pool they must extend the search and try again. According to the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education, it is important to remember that the community is looking for a superintendent who has a record of improving student learning.

Prom Drama

By: Lisa Shaffer

To most juniors, Friday May 11th means one thing: prom. To those involved in the drama club's presentation of the spring musical, however, the date holds a little more meaning; on the school calendar this year, the two events were scheduled for the same night.

At first thought, this oversight seems to be the type of thing that, although unfortunate, can be easily fixed. Just reschedule one of them, right? What people don't realize is just how much work goes into each of these spring milestones. It's so much easier to say "reschedule" than to actually retrace the planning process to do so.

According to the board of programs outside the auditorium, Stamford High has performed the spring musical at the same time in May since 1999 (if not longer). Contrary to popular belief, the planning of this takes more effort than a simple consensus from the drama club. The rights to use each musical, from "Les Misérables" to this year's "Bye, Bye Birdie," must be purchased before being presented to the public, granting all involved in the creation of the screenplay and its musical scores their fair share of the potential profit.

In preparation for the (now) upcoming show, the drama club purchased these rights for that key second weekend in May some time at the end of last year. Along with that expense comes that of using the school, which is a venue after all. This is a true business venture that also comes along with the cost of security, lighting, and all those other things that we take for granted on a daily basis. To sum it up, it

takes many long months of hard work and planning for the drama club to get everything together in time to choose a musical, go through all the legal technicalities, and still put on a great show for us each spring.

Slightly more understood (or perhaps respected) is the prom planning process. Although no "rights" have to be purchased beforehand, securing a venue is key. Unlike Stamford High's auditorium, which drama club has relatively little issue in attaining, the Italian Center (this year's scene for junior prom)



Photo Credit: [unreadable]

books up quick for every celebration. Schools as far as Shelton High School and beyond schedule their proms there around the same time, making arrangements up to a full year beforehand. This involves some clever planning; student needs and school functions must be anticipated far before any official calendar is made up. To make it even more stressful, huge deposits from each class's relatively small bank accounts must be put down on site. Although several past junior proms have occurred in April, more dictates the decision than just tradition.

While there needs to be a safe cushion of time between junior and senior prom, weather can be an issue as well, since April showers and chilly temperatures do not make for the best overall prom experience. These risks add to the allure of an early May prom, a decision also made (and paid for) many months before the conflict with the spring musical was even realized.

So the question then remains: with these two important and immovable school experiences put face to face, which one wins? In the technical sense, the answer is prom. After careful administrative (and, presumably, economic) consideration, it has been decided that "Bye, Bye, Birdie" will not open its curtains on May 11th. However, this is not to say that the show will not go on; the rest of the weekend remains as musical-filled as ever. As Daniel Paseltiner, SHS senior and vice president of drama club fundraising, joked, "It's usually just parents who come anyway, so they'll most likely just pick another day to come see the show."

To some, this decision may not seem fair, but after all, what's done is done. As Mrs. Nerreau, the faculty advisor of drama club, asks, "In whose interest is it to rile everyone up over it?"

It seems that everyone else involved in the mix-up is asking themselves the same question. Instead of outrage, the general reaction among students and teachers alike was simply concern for the lack of collaboration within the school. How is it that with two major events planned so far ahead in the horizon, no single person was able to spot and avoid the conflict sooner? Such a situation is a clearly recognizable call for reform. With no more room for a scheduling stipend within the budget, the only guaranteed event in the future is another mistake.

Incoming Freshmen Orientation Session Equals Success

By: Brian Clemmenson (Online Editor)

On the evening of February 28, 2012, Stamford High School opened its doors to potential incoming freshmen and their parents. The parents and students enjoyed a handful of events. During the very well received night (with over 600 people in attendance including 350 parents and 250 students according to Principal Dr. Donna Valentine) students were given a tour of the building by National Honor Society members. While on the tour their parents and guardians received helpful information from Guidance Department Head Geraldine Nuzzo, and school administrators (as well as parents) had their questions answered. After the tour students were brought back for a presentation by students and some members from clubs spoke.



Photo Credit: Leah Hazen and Elizabeth Estenne

In next year's freshmen class, there are going to be approximately 475 students. Two incoming freshmen from Rippowam Middle School, Bryan

Schwartz and Ralph Daniele, agreed that, "The tour really helped." There was also some excitement Xavier Richardson, who attends Dolan Middle School, said, "I am very excited for next year; can't wait." Many parents said the information was very helpful as well. One parent, Danette Cahr, who has one student who is a freshmen, and another child who is going to be a freshmen next year, stated, "Most of the several overall questions were answered in the best possible way."

This year's was the biggest freshmen orientation session during the Donna Valentine era. Valentine said, "There were forty percent more people than last year, and kids did not come last year... we did not have a tour last year." Most of incoming freshmen next year seem ready to go!

Student Petitions Next Year's Schedule Change

By: Jake Silver

Stamford High is currently using a linear schedule system, meaning everyone has the same classes during the same periods every day, except for the science lab period. However, Stamford High has decided to join a national trend by possibly instituting a block schedule for the 2012-2013 school year.

The new schedule will be based on a rotation. There will still be seven classes per student, but only six periods in the day. A different class will be dropped each day. A new rotating 86-minute period will also be instituted, allowing all classes to have an elongated lesson.

Stamford High junior Travis Bono is strongly opposed to the block schedule. He proposed a schedule in which only the first four periods rotate, so students will be less likely to fail the first period class due to tardiness. His main goal is to keep the last three periods the same, so seniors with study hall last period can have work release.

To support his proposed version of the block schedule, Bono created a petition. With the help of junior Carmen Morales, Bono's petition reached 900

signatures. When asked why work release was so important, Bono replied, "I'm sure the administration is aware of our current economic state. I think they'll take into consideration that some students need the extra hour to work to support their families." Assistant principal and head of scheduling Raymond Manka says that the new schedule is likely to be implemented for the 2012-2013 school year. He noted that there was no opposition to Bono's proposed schedule, but also said that it wasn't totally equitable for students and teachers who also have classes during the last three periods of the day. Nevertheless, the 900-signature petition was acknowledged by Board of Education members, and Manka commended Bono's effort for amassing the student population and informing them about their future as Stamford High students. Bono says that if his schedule is rejected, he will continue to work for his cause.

The new schedule has many benefits. "The 86-minute period will allow for an experiential classroom experience that gives students and teachers time to focus on the lesson more deeply and



Photo Credit: Carina Krugh

reach subjects that there may not have been time for in the past," said Manka on the positive aspects of the block schedule.

Other advantages of the schedule include relief to tired students who struggle in the morning, and also for students who may have trouble focusing in the afternoon (due to the rotation). Manka said that he realizes the schedule will be a sudden change to students, and they will need time to adjust. "What looks good on paper may not work in real life," Manka said.

Shakti (Dedicated to Ending Female Illiteracy)

By: Gunjan Hooja

Shakti is a name that means strength and empowerment. That's exactly what our goals are for this group. We want to empower and give strength to girls in developing countries who don't have the opportunity to get the education that they deserve. Sometimes it's because their parents expect them to take care of their siblings. Sometimes it's that the parents think it's not beneficial to educate the girl in the household. Sometimes it's the simple fact that they don't have the money to provide a good education. This group has the power to change many girls' lives. We can change the course of any girl's life, from getting married and having kids very young to being a successful young woman ready to take on the world. We focus on girls' literacy because it is such a huge problem; no child ever deserves to be denied the right to an education and be told they are not good enough to be



© Claude Avézard, Monaco & Dubayy, 4, 2006.

Photo courtesy of rambhikali.org

worthwhile and productive in the world.

In this group we try to help in different ways. First, we try to raise funds for global organizations that deal with this issue too. We partner with them and give funds to their programs, which are already set up in different schools in many developing countries. We also give funds to our very own scholarship program. This scholarship gives the girls who are chosen money for a year of private school. We give this scholarship so that the girls can actually get a worthwhile education. We also help by raising awareness. Not many people in this part of the world know exactly how bad the situation of female illiteracy is.

If you want to help, join Shakti.

Meetings every Tuesday in Room 130

SHS Should Keep Study Halls

By: Thomas Bartlett II

The new schedule Stamford High has decided to use next year will dramatically cut down on the number of study halls. I don't think it is right to eliminate study halls; people who have no time at home to do (or finish) their homework can do it in study hall. These study halls really help some people.

Sure, some people just think of study hall and say "oh, another class to skip," but many other people

use the time to do their work and things they need to get done in the meantime in study hall.

I also think the decision to eliminate work release is a bad one. If you have enough credits to graduate and you're passing all your classes, you should be able to have work release. It would not be fair to take it away from us now, when we've had work release (or something like it) for so long. Many students do a lot of homework and classwork to pass,

and even though they have work, they get what has to be done in on time.

Sure, it may not be smart to finish your homework before you go to bed, but if you have a study hall then you can do as much as you can there. Please let us have study halls and work release - for the past many years that they had it, and students are planning on signing up for work release for next year. Teachers and principals please agree with me - let's keep study halls and work release around.

Is SHS Prepared for the Worst?

By: Meschac Casimir

On February 28, 2012 there was a shooting at Chardon High School in Cleveland, Ohio. Although this tragedy occurred far from home, it did make me wonder about something - is Stamford High School ready or prepared if something like that were to happen here?

I believe that no school would be prepared for a shooting. Such tragedies are rare enough that most high schools have. We have security guards, not SWAT teams. The security guards aren't armed, so honestly what would they be able to do that we couldn't? No high school in America can take on a shooting due to how severe the conditions are during such an event. Security guards are there to handle fights, bullying, and keep the halls regulated. Honestly, how effective are our lockdown procedures if all we can do is lock the doors and hide under desks to remain "unseen"? That wouldn't

necessarily stop a shooter from causing chaos; an armed shooter probably won't care about a locked door.

A school shooting is always unexpected, and the outcome is unpredictable. Though a shooting is not completely preventable, monetary issues probably impede the school system from doing all they can. To be ready for something like that would mean having armed police men on school grounds, and also closely monitoring all the doors left unlocked throughout the day. By doing this at least the school would have control on who comes in and who can't.

Overall, Stamford High School is not equipped with the tools and skills to handle a shooting, because a shooting is simply too unpredictable and can't be planned for. Unfortunately, we can only take precautions.



Courtesy of kateyachultz.com

Theft at SHS- Where's the Trust?

By: Bany Samayoa

Ever had something stolen from you? Or misplaced something valuable and had it end up in the wrong hands? Nowadays you have to be extremely careful where you leave your things, or who you leave them with; there's no trust between people anymore.

Let's say you're having an overwhelming day at school and accidentally leave your cellphone in a classroom; you realize 20 minutes later and go back to look for it, thinking someone would be kind

enough to turn it in to a teacher to help you out. The reality is, when you go back it's nowhere to be found, making your life super difficult. Unfortunately, there's really nothing you can do.

Why would someone think it's alright to take something that's not theirs?

"My phone was stolen right out my back pocket without me even noticing, and when I turned around no

one wanted to tell me who had it - it was too late," said SHS junior Marchelle Newton.

This shows that there are people out there that have no heart and don't care about other people's belongings. Not everyone lives "the good life;" the item you steal may mean more to them than you think. If you were walking and saw someone drop \$10 out of their pocket, would you let them know? Or would you pick it up and keep it for yourself? Think about it...



Gun Control

By: Leah Hazen

Over the past few years the issue of gun control has been brought to the surface as a major priority today.

Throughout the years, there have been numerous criminal offenses involving guns. In 2010 there were 8,775 murders involving firearms. Someone has to put an end to the madness. Since when did civilians of the United States find it imperative to carry around semi-automatics? These guns can't really be used for hunting, so that leaves one option: to hurt or kill another human being. Although many tend to claim self-defense in these instances, all of them could be avoided if guns were just outlawed.

Why do we need guns? Their purpose is to kill or harm; there is no positive outcome once a gun is involved. When thinking of guns what tends to come to mind almost immediately is the shooting at Columbine, VA Tech and most recently, the Ohio shooting. All these have caused nothing but misery and chaos. Guns had been put in the hands of enraged teenagers with intent to kill, and we as citizens were left helpless. There are arms collectors, however, who claim to just display their firearms or to only use them for shooting ranges or hunting; while I understand the sport of hunting (although I don't condone it) and I can relate to having a hobby,

there is no hobby that should be acceptable when it puts someone else's life in danger.

We need to prevent another school shooting, or even a street shooting for that matter. It is our job as US citizens to ensure a better future for generations to come, and it is our right to feel safe and protected at school and home. Save future generations and prevent the production and selling of guns. Lives will be saved, and there is no excuse in the book or counterargument that is worth more than the life of even one human being.

New Gadget Comparison

By: Darnell Morris

iPad 2



Models:

- (Wi-fi) or (Wi-Fi & 3G)

Size and Weight

- Height: 9.50 inches
- Width: 7.31 inches
- Depth: 0.34 inches
- Weight: 1.33 Pounds
- Weight with 3G & Wi-Fi: 1.35 Pounds

Storage

- 16 Gigabytes of Memory

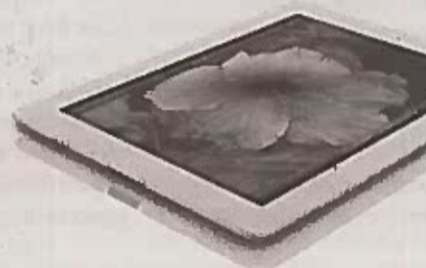
New Low Price

- \$399.00 with Wi-Fi
- \$529.00 with 3G & Wi-Fi

Display

- 9.7 (Diagonal) LED- black lit glossy wide screen. Multi-touch display
- 1024-by-768 pixel resolution
- Fingerprint resistant

iPad 3



VS.

Models:

- (Wi-Fi) or (Wi-Fi & 4G)

Size and Weight

- Height: 9.50 inches
- Width: 7.31 inches
- Depth: 0.37 inch
- Weight: 1.44 pounds
- Weight with 4G & Wi-Fi: 1.46 Pounds

Storage (Prices Vary Per Size)

- 16 Gigabytes of Memory
- 32 Gigabytes of Memory
- 64 Gigabytes of Memory

Price

With Wi-Fi

- \$499.00 - 16 Gigabyte of Memory
- \$599.00 - 32 Gigabyte of Memory
- \$699.00 - 64 Gigabyte of Memory

With 4G & Wi-Fi

- \$629.00 - 16 Gigabyte of Memory
- \$729.00 - 32 Gigabyte of Memory
- \$829.00 - 64 Gigabyte of Memory

New Features

- Dual Core apple A5X processor
- 5 Megapixel iSight Camera
- Auto-Focus
- Face Detection on still images
- Geotagging
- Three new sensors
- Longer Battery Life

Artists You Ought to Know

Name Genre

Childish Gambino – Comedy/Rap/ Songwriter

Dr. Dog- Indie Rock/Alternative

Mt. Eden - Dubstep

Avicii – Electronic

Down With Webster- Rap/Rock

This Condition- Pop/Rock

Ellie Goulding- Electro-folk/ Pop

Tyler, The Creator- Rap

Set It Off- Orchestral Pop Rock

Twin Atlantic- Rock

Black Veil Brides- Glam metal, Alternative rock, Post-hardcore



Photo Courtesy of: facebook.com/setitoffband

FLASHBACK

Def Leppard was a classic rock band that formed in 1977. Their music would help shape rock music for years to come. The members were Joe Elliot as lead vocals, Rick 'Sav' Savage on bass, Rick Allen on drums, and Vivian Campbell and Phil Collen on guitar. Steve Clark was originally a member of Def Leppard, as a guitarist, but died in 1991 and was therefore replaced by Campbell. From their first EP titled *First Strike* in 1979 all the way to their 2008 album titled *Songs From The Sparkle Lounge*, this band never ceases to impress and captivate their audiences. Although their time on top of the charts has come to an end, their music still ranks them among the top rock bands of all time.



Information and photo Courtesy of: www.nolifetilmetal.com

Closing the Stable on "War Horse"

By: Bennett Leeds

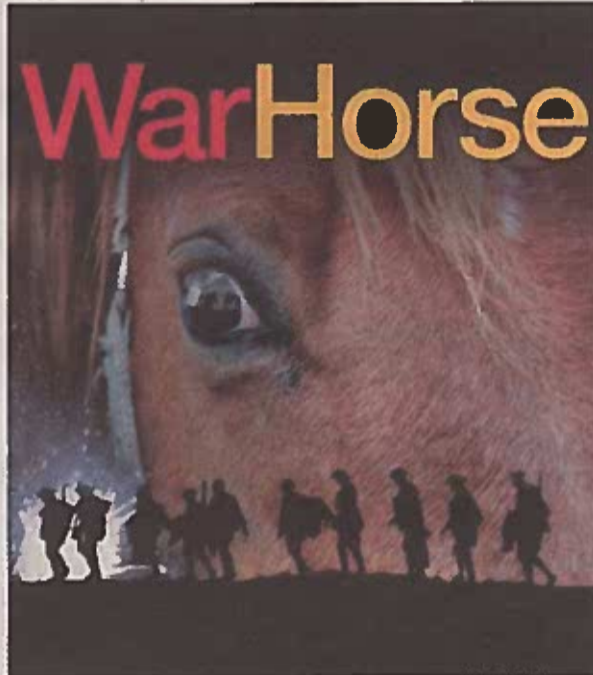
One of the most critically acclaimed shows on Broadway recently has been "War Horse," written by Nick Stafford. "War Horse" was nominated for 5 different Tony Awards last year, and won each and every one of them, including "Best Play," "Best Direction of a Play" and "Best Lighting Design of a Play." With all of the hype around the show, I was ecstatic when I was offered a ticket to see it.

The greatest asset of this show is definitely the amazingly realistic use of puppetry. From the moment the lights went up, three unbelievably focused puppeteers worked together to successfully maneuver a beautiful, intricate, life-sized skeleton-like puppet of a young foal that is named "Joey" by the energetic 16-year-old protagonist of the show, Albert Narracott.

The puppeteers moved with a constant energy that flows through their puppet, allowing the audience to completely forget that there are three fully grown adults behind the complex metalworking transformed into a spry young horse (complete with properly placed breaths, twitches, and improvisational reactions built off the unique yet harmonious stylings of each puppeteer).

The story follows Albert and Joey as the young foal grows into a tall, strong stallion. To showcase this transformation, an additional three puppeteers command a massive, life-size puppet of a fully grown horse, holding what

one would assume to be at least 120 lbs. of material, not to mention the various limbs and features such as twitching ears, pressing hooves, and much more that must be occupied at all times. As Joey gets drafted to the British Army as a Captain's Horse, Albert decides to lie about his age in order to follow Joey, and be reunited with his friend once more.



Having established that the technical aspects of the show are a major attraction, I must now, unfortunately, be brutally honest about the

acting involved in this Tony Award-winning production. The quality of the actors' performances was nowhere near deserving of a stage on Broadway, let alone a Tony Award. Personally, I could not understand how and/or why a director would allow the actors in what could be such a powerful and moving show to be so untalented compared to the inanimate puppets that shared the stage with them.

Yes, there were a few moments in the show that made me chuckle to myself as a result of some relatively mediocre acting and comedic timing. The truly disappointing fact is that in a show that, according to rumors and hype, should have had me sobbing uncontrollably before the first act was finished, the most shock-inducing, pulse-quickening moments were when the guns used as props turned out to be real; the blanks being shot off startled myself and my neighbors a few times.

Blame it on whatever you like; a new cast member throwing off the energy, a few missed lines, and some technical malfunctions backstage. The bottom line is that, as someone who paid an exorbitant amount of money to see a show as renowned as "War Horse," I believe that I truly did not get my money's worth. I hope that the cast in turn realizes this, and is able to fix and polish their performance for another audience.

The Boy that Drew on Clothes: The Matt Beluk Story

By: Matt Savona and Leah Hazen

Arts, crafts, and crazy patterned hats are the specialty of Stamford High prodigy Matt Beluk. Matt Beluk is not just another art genius, though, for he's turning his little arts and crafts project into a small business. Beluk calls it, "The art of making money." Beluk said there's also a deeper meaning for his patterns in the art work; the pictures represent the things that he enjoys doing or shows an interest in, while the lines represent

society's outlook on these ideas and the attempt to oppress them through the eyes of a young middle class kid. Many people have stopped to compliment Beluk on his art, so whether you are looking at or rocking one of his art pieces, you have to appreciate the ingenious creations of Stamford High's newest designer.



Meet the Editors!

By Rachel Arlin

Part Two: Editor-in-Chief Dylan Keith and Opinion Editor Lisa Shaffer

I'm back with another "Meet the Editors!" article. This time I sat down with Dylan Keith (Editor-in-Chief) and Lisa Shaffer (Opinion Editor) to discuss what they do for the Round Table. Both editors' jobs are extremely important, particularly the Editor-in-Chief position (though it also hasn't been easy for newcomer Shaffer, who replaced Fiona Oweke as Opinion Editor). We discussed how she's handling her new position, and also the progress the Round Table's made at midyear.

What's your reason for taking the Communications class?

Dylan Keith: I want to go into the Communications field in college.

Lisa Shaffer: I chose the class pretty last minute, but soon realized how great of a choice it was. It's so much more productive to write about things people actually care about than sit through a boring elective and doodle the time away.

What is your job as Editor-in-Chief/Opinion Editor?

DK: I help lay out the paper, decide on stories and come up with ideas. All the important decisions come to me last.

LS: I do the layout for the section and help people edit their own personal opinions into editorials that other students would like to read.

Do you like your job?

DK: I love it, it feels great to be in charge of something so big and important.

LS: Surprisingly, yes. It's a lot of fun and I feel important (and sneaky) being behind the creation of each issue.

Dylan, Editor-in-Chief is a big job; what made you feel entitled to take on such a heavy task?

DK: I thought it would be a good idea to try to take on the position because I've always been very organized and love to

write and it seemed like I could actually help.

What are the perks of being Editor-in-Chief/Opinion Editor?

DK: Having such a big influence on the paper itself and all the work that goes into it.

LS: Not only do we get extra credit for the actual class, but laying everything out gives us a sneak peak of what is on the people's minds around school.

Lisa, do you have high hopes for the newspaper next year?

LS: There are definitely high hopes for next year. Hopefully we're going to take a new spin on it so that people actually read it (instead of ripping it up in the hallways) and even more people will participate.

Dylan, how does it feel to be a senior and watching the Round Table expand?

DK: I'm just happy that I've been able to watch the paper grow and become what it is now. I also believe that the other editors that will move up to higher positions next year will help and keep up with the expanding of the paper.

What's been the biggest challenge this year?

DK: Finishing everything on time and having everything come together, because we have so many articles and so many

different writers, working on a tight schedule.

LS: Learning how to do layouts for the first time was a little tricky the day before the paper came out.

How do you both feel about your writers?

DK: I feel like at the beginning they were all a little confused with how the whole paper thing came together and none of us had an idea of each others' talents. But now everyone is really coming into their own and the article are getting better with each issue.

LS: The ones we do have are great, but we definitely need more.

Lisa, are there any opinion pieces that have really stuck out to you?

LS: Sam's piece and his picture for "Stay Young, SHS" were amazing. All the other ones that had a real message had an impact too, though.

Are there any changes that you'd like to see in the newspaper?

DK: I'd like to see us become more official as a newspaper, and be able to put out more issues that are more in-depth, throughout the year.

LS: I'd like to see more participation by people who aren't in the class. So come to the meetings, SHS!

Overall, both Keith and Shaffer are having a good time with their jobs. Oweke was transferred to a boarding school, but Shaffer reports in by saying, "I seem to be getting good feedback." Highlighting the editors has been a source of great publicity for the Round Table. Both editors have received a lot of responses. Without Keith and Shaffer, the newspaper staff would lose some significant members.

Photo by Tsering Yangzom



SHS Custodian Breeds Giant Dogs

By Lenard Brand



George Harrold, a custodian here at Stamford High School, has a very interesting past time. Harrold is full of Irish pride; in fact, he even raises Irish Wolfhounds that he enters in competitions. He currently has two of these giant dogs, a male named Paddy (four years old) and a female named Clover (one year old). George competes Paddy in different dog competitions, and Paddy and Clover marched in the Milford St Patrick's Day parade on March 10.

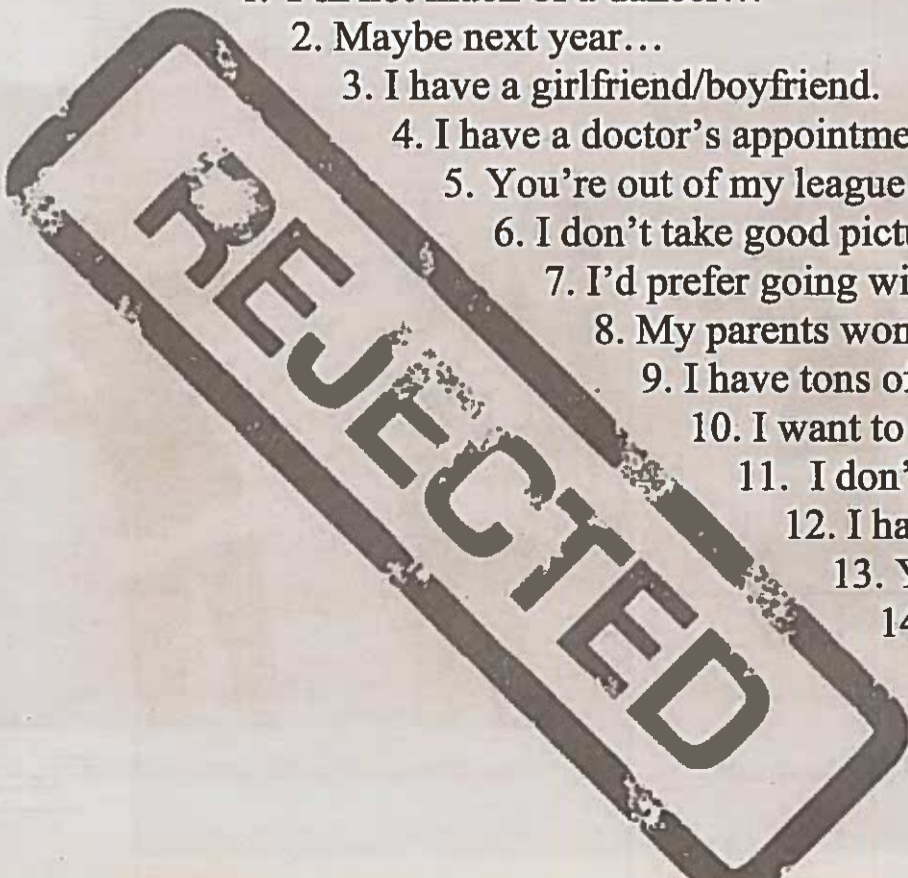
"Paddy, he's from a family of champions," said Harrold. George explained to us that his oldest dog (Paddy) was bred from a father who competed in national competitions. Harrold also said that this particular breed of dogs was originally raised in Ireland. They were raised to hunt and kill wolves and wild boar along with guarding castles. However, over time as people started keeping them as pets, they have grown less aggressive and are actually gentle when it comes to kids.

George's intentions with the dogs are mainly to breed them and give the puppies a good home. "I've always wanted one ever since I saw one when I was a kid. I raised Paddy from the time he was four months old." These dogs can reach about 7 feet tall when standing on their hind legs, which can cause health problems such as heart disease, bone cancer and more. Be sure to consider these issues before rushing out to buy one for yourself!

15 Ways to Say "No" to a Prom Request

by Justin Smith

1. I'm not much of a dancer...
2. Maybe next year...
3. I have a girlfriend/boyfriend.
4. I have a doctor's appointment...
5. You're out of my league...
6. I don't take good pictures...
7. I'd prefer going with a friend...
8. My parents won't let me go...
9. I have tons of homework that weekend...
10. I want to ask someone else...
11. I don't think we would have fun together...
12. I have to go to a wedding...
13. You're too tall/short for me...
14. I'll consider it...
- 15.



Car of the Month

by Justin Smith

'92 Volvo Station Wagon

The most interesting cars found in the student parking lot:

Interview with owner Peter Tu (Senior):

Photo by Eric Jeffers



Best feature?

-The stickers on the car's exterior

How does it drive?

- My ride is groovy. There's heat, but there's no air conditioning.

What is one feature that your car has?

-The passenger seat has a heated seat and that is the only seat that heats so my passengers are in great luxury.

What is the best experience you've had in this car?

-I was hitting 75 mph going to Old Greenwich. My car was shaking and it felt like a roller coaster.

Has it ever broken down?

-Not yet.

Does it have a name?

-Yes.

What is it?

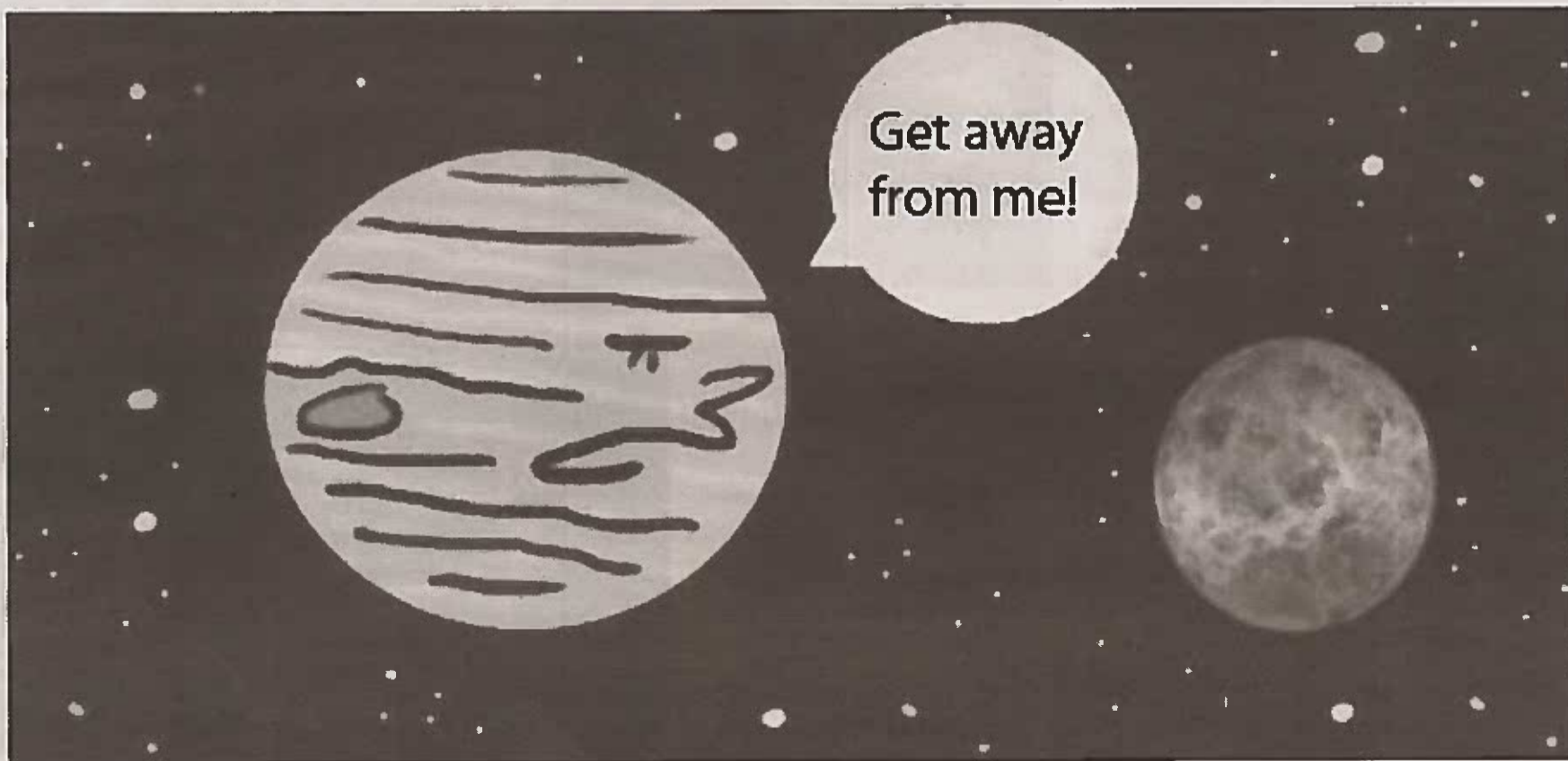
-Sally.

Oh

Think your car is cool?
Reach us at
TRTSHSPaper@gmail.com

Fun Fact of The Month:

Did you know that Jupiter and Venus are the closest they've ever been in 200 years.



Stamford Academy Spartan Rugby

By: Kyle Carey

When we think of spring sports at Stamford High, we often think of lacrosse, baseball, softball, tennis, or track. We never really think of any other spring team as being part of the Black Knight family. However, a little-known group at Stamford High looks to change all that. Clad in green, holding peculiar shaped balls, and sporting shorts that reveal their abnormally large thighs, you are bound to have seen (and should certainly remember seeing) one of these athletes walk the hall. They are Stamford Spartan's Rugby team, a group that is looking to show that they are the best around.

Most people have heard of rugby, but few know what it is, let alone how it is played. Rugby draws from both soccer and football, taking tackling and the brutal qualities of the latter and combining it with the elegance, use of feet and the constant pace featured in soccer. The goal of rugby, as in most sports, is to score more points than your opponent.

Rugby offers three ways to score a point. The first is a try worth five points. It involves touching the ball to the ground past an opponent's goal line similar to a touchdown. Forward movement towards the goal line is achieved by kicking, backwards or lateral passing or running with the ball. The second option is a goal, which is worth three points and comes from set kick through a pair of uprights. This form of scoring usually occurs after a penalty. The final way to score is a field goal, which is worth two points. Scoring one simply involves a drop kick through the uprights.

Games typically last 80 minutes and feature limited subbing. Rugby requires great stamina and endurance to play. Score lines range anywhere from the single digits to as much as thirty points. It is an extremely fast-paced, high action sport.

Rugby has its origins in England. Beginning as a sport commonly played by the UK's upper class, it has since spread across Europe and the English-speaking world. Although the Brits pioneered it, the

people of New Zealand have since hijacked it from them, and become the world's best team. It has become an increasingly popular sport in the United States, and nowhere is this more clear than in the case of the Spartans' team. Almost all of the team (if not the entire team) has picked up the sport in the past few years.

Despite the loss of several key players, the rugby



Courtesy of: Adam Satz

team has the talent to achieve success this season. Since its inception three years ago, the team has drawn from Stamford Academy, Stamford High and Westhill, though the bulk of the squad is made up of Black Knights. Our classmates play a wide variety of positions on the field. For the forwards we have Amitan Rubin as the Hooker; small, sturdy and quick, he is key to the scrum (a reset of the ball that occurs after a forward pass or out-of-bounds ball). Amitan is accompanied on either side by props Will Carroll and Marc Johnson, whose imposing size and strength proves invaluable to scrums. Rounding out the forwards is Adam Satz, who demonstrates great ball handling skills and has an uncanny ability to break through defenses. Stamford is represented in the backs by centers Alex Littlehales and Alex

Alexis whose jobs are to distribute the ball out to the wings. Also worth mentioning are Simon Walker and Ben Rathman, both of whom will undoubtedly be team leaders and make an influence as seasoned players. As of now, their positions are still undecided, but we will definitely see them on the pitch.

Leading the team is a set of five experienced coaches. Duo "Big" Mike Schacter and Frank Gianchetta, former Greenwich high players, make up slightly less than half the coaching staff. Michael Hanley, Jeremy Kosbob, and Joe Sullivan join them to complete the group. Kosbob brings an up-to-date vision of the game, as he plays for semi-pro team the New York Knights.

The coaches work the team extremely hard preparing them for the upcoming season in the Connecticut Rugby Union League. Despite having to go up against seemingly unbeatable teams (like reigning D2 champs Darien), the Spartans remain optimistic. Adam Satz put it best by saying that "this year we expect to be able to achieve success on all fronts because of the great dedication we have put in."

The team also hopes that all their hard work will lead to some recognition from their classmates. So if you're free, make sure to go to one of their games. Even if you don't know rugby very well, you'll surely find some enjoyment in the big brutes tackling each other for an hour and a half. I know the rugby team surely would appreciate the support of the student body, and they promise not to disappoint.

The sky is the limit for the Spartans. They have the coaches, the will and the raw skill to take on anyone that dares to challenge them. It took 300 Spartans to drive back the Persians at Thermopylae, it will only take fifteen to wipe the floor with every team in Connecticut.

Black Knight Baseball Preview

By: Michael Savona

The spring has arrived! And with it comes the year we hope to have more team chemistry and improve last year, the Knights ran with an 8-12 season. For some, Coach Kelly, he's still looking for major adjustments. Kelly about the previous season, "and our defense was strength and our defense will be better." Kelly indirectly speaks of pitcher Louis Lopez who is equipped with Nick Palumbo at centerfield and Travis major improvements in their defensive line-up. The team as a whole has been in the weight room and pushing us to our best so that we can improve our game. Teams that they will be looking out for are Greenwich, show them support at some of the games and promise us



Photo Credit: Michael Savona

new edition of our Black Knight Baseball team. "This off of last year," said Captain Doug Knopf. That kind of season may be considered good, but for "Our pitching wasn't as good as we anticipated," said not always on key. This year I foresee pitching as our

expected to turn out big for the team. Kelly has also been Docimo at shortstop. Both of these players will show

practicing their game in the off-season. "Kels has been said junior Justin Smith, "and it will show." Staples, and St. Josephs. The Black Knights trust us to a great season.

Manning Chooses Denver

By: Justin Smith

The great Indianapolis Colts quarterback is no longer the face of the franchise. After the Colts earned the first overall pick in the 2012 NFL Draft, the team decided it'd be best to part ways with the quarterback who was out for the 2011 season. Manning had multiple suitors while testing the free-agent market including Miami, New York (Jets), San Francisco, Tennessee, and of course Denver. Executive John Elway was one of the main men in the Denver office to persuade Manning to choose Denver. Tim Tebow was the Broncos quarterback in 2011 and became a fan favorite in the mile-high city. The Broncos have not yet released Tebow but, they will likely part ways in order for Tebow to get a shot with another team. Although Manning is an aging quarterback, he is the type of player that can turn a franchise into a serious title contender.



Photo Courtesy of CBS

Soccer is Better Than Football

By: Ron Andre

“Soccer is better than football.”
 “No, football is better than soccer.”
 This is a common argument amongst high school athletes. I would argue that the better sport is the sport that is manlier, more athletic, has better-looking players, is more popular, and has more fans. I think both sports are good sports and they both are very different, but some characteristics can be compared. I'll just give a couple of reasons why I think soccer (whose original name is football) is better. I mean, I really don't get why they call football “football,” because soccer is actually played with feet and “football” is played with hands. Maybe during the early days, football wasn't doing so great and they needed an easy way of tricking people to come play it.

Soccer is also a world sport; maybe it's not as popular as football in the United States, but what about the rest of the world? When the World Cup is on, the world stops - even people who don't have a clue about the game cheer their countries on, because soccer is not about money - it's about pride. There are no lockouts in soccer. In Europe, soccer is like a religion. The world plays soccer, but only Americans play football. According to a Fox Sports blog, compared to soccer, football game atmospheres are tame! Soccer has

sections of fans called “hooligans.” These groups of like-minded ladies and gentlemen cheer their team on with outrageous enthusiasm. Often times they will have cannons, smoke flares,



Photo Credit: Teering Yangzon

and drums. But the one thing that soccer fans do that really differentiates them from other fans is sing their team's chants.

Soccer players are also more attractive; it's a fact. Look at Heather Mitts. And one of the reasons people watched the last season of Dancing with the Stars was because of U.S Women soccer goalkeeper Hope Solo. During the Super Bowl, two seconds after a David Beckham ad appeared my entire news feed was covered with “OMG Beckham is so sexy,” and every

time a girl sees a picture of Cristiano Ronaldo, it's like everything else they think of goes through a sewer.

On a soccer team, every player has to be in top condition; just one out-of-shape player can affect the whole team, as the players play for ninety minutes or longer without a break. They are also sprinting about eighty percent of the time depending on the pressure or the speed of the other team, whereas football games last for 60 minutes and the individual players only play half of the time (since the offenses and defenses have to change out, a play in football lasts about 10 seconds and they get at least 30 seconds to rest).

Catching a ball with your hands is natural because we use our hands to do almost everything; I mean, do you ever see a baby support a baby bottle with its foot? Unless you live in some magical land, I don't think so. It takes way more skills and practice to play soccer; the younger you start playing, the better you will be at it because it takes years of practice for you to become natural. You can easily switch from soccer to football and get into the NFL, because all you need for half of the positions in football is speed, the ability to think quickly and a bit of strength - basically, what soccer players do while they sleep.

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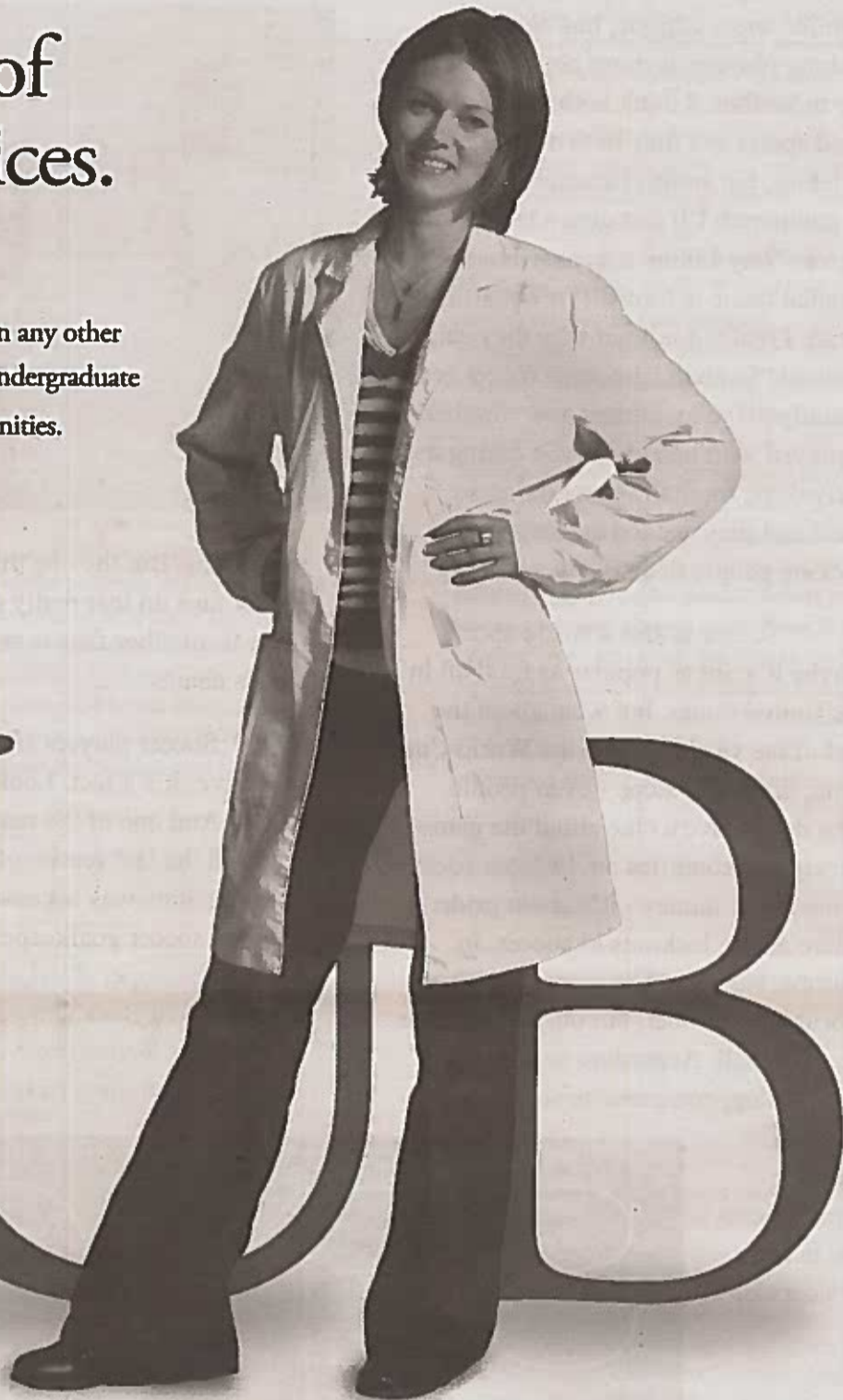
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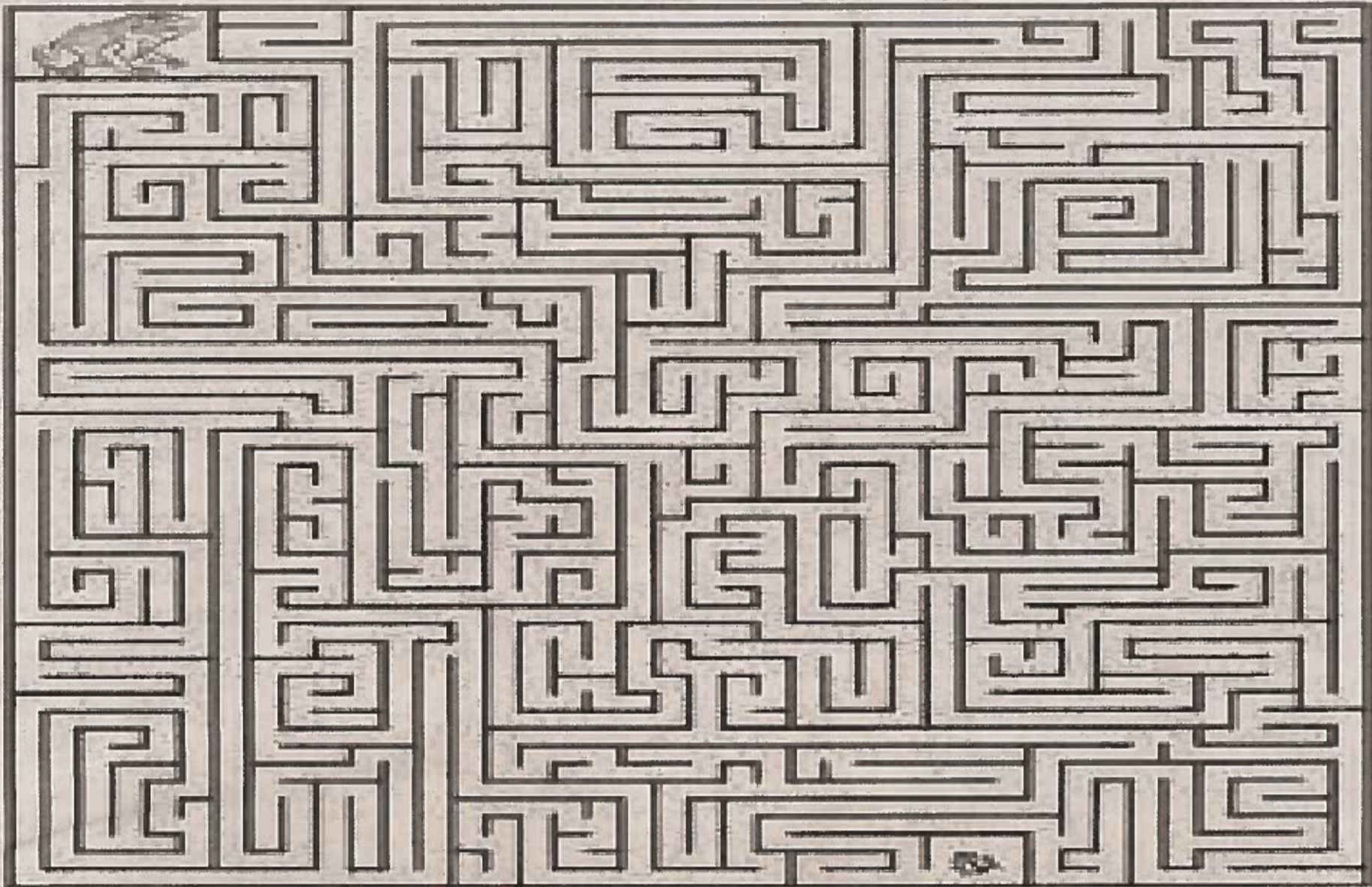
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 March
 May
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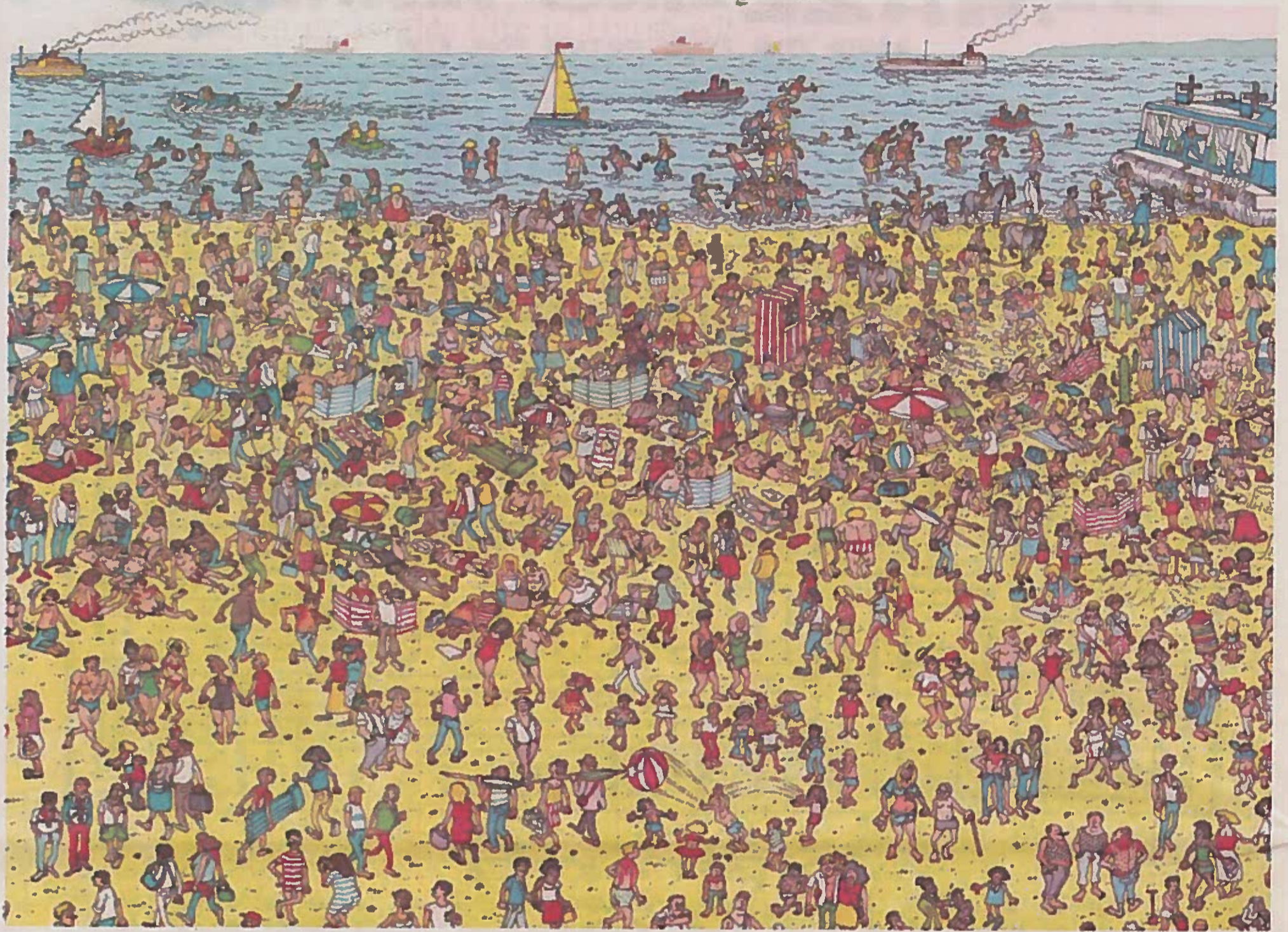
Corrections from Our Previous Issue:

MYLC Photo taken by Samantha Lyman

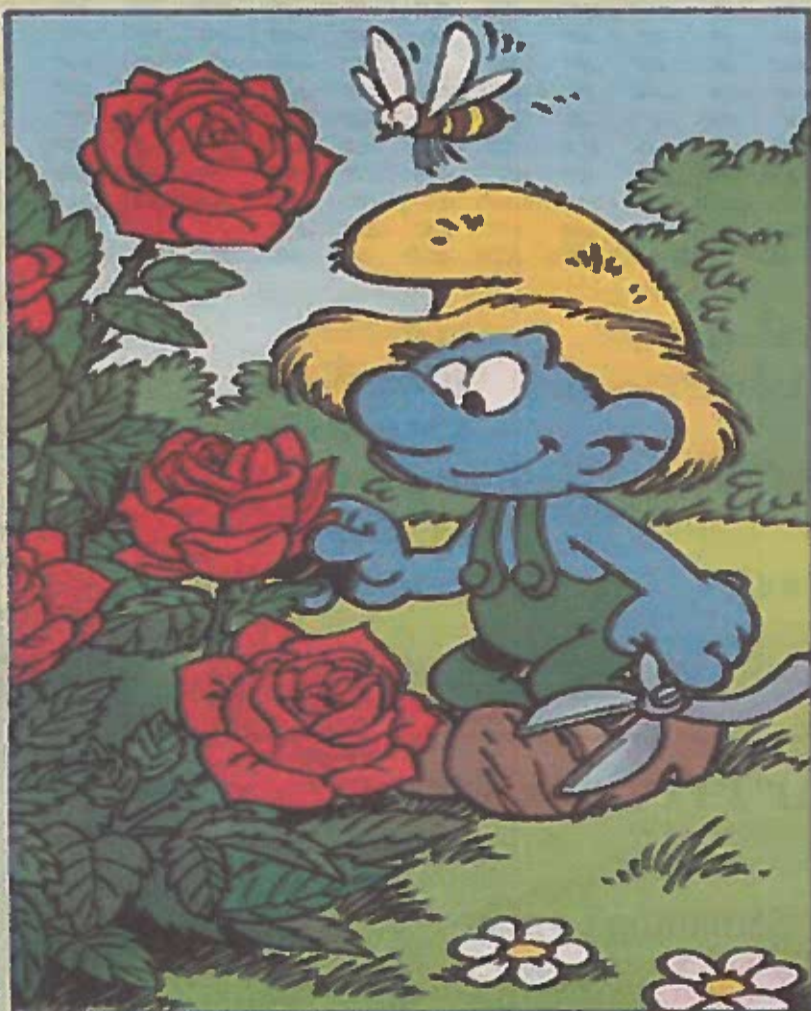
Black Knight Nation Photo taken by Nicole Kolenberg

Black Knight Nation started by Christopher Kuczo

Where's Waldo? Can you find him?



Can you find all the differences?



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