

THE SIREN

Vol. IV

March 12, 1936

No. 7

MANY ATTEND FIRST CONNECTICUT VALLEY STUDENTS UNION MEETING

American Youth Awaking to Danger That Confronts Them

Last December in Columbus, Ohio, the American Student Union was formed. This Student Union consists of many various groups who are interested vitally in the most important problems of the day. It is a progressive union interested in working for peace, security and equality. Its members realize the great danger that is confronting youth—the imminent threat of war and fascism, which will make us in high school ripe fodder for the vicious god of war, and the insecurity facing us who are about to be cast forth in this mad world.

Students from this region who attended the original convention believed, that while the program drawn up at that time was an excellent one, there were problems confronting the students that were peculiar to our district. With this in mind the Connecticut Valley District of the American Student Union was called last week at Smith College, Northampton, Mass. The following points were taken up.

(a) Discussion of the program of the American Student Union with particular reference to the specific problems of this district.

(b) Establish a district organization for the A. S. U.

(c) Stimulate the building of the A. S. U. in the schools and colleges of the district.

Many interesting speakers were heard at the convention, and lively discussions took place.

We hope that this Congress has stimulated them to take an active part in creating a strong union in this section.

INDOOR SPORTS TO BE STAGED AT GYM ASSEMBLY BY PHYSICAL DIRECTORS

The Gym Assembly under the direction of Miss Ballard and Mr. Booker is going to be presented in the gymnasium during the week of March 24, 1936.

All kinds of indoor sports are to be displayed by more than 100 boys and girls. Team sports will be volley ball, basket ball, and individual sports such as ping-pong, badminton, shuffle-board, deck-tennis and tumbling.

Last year was the first time a Physical Education demonstration was ever presented in the gymnasium. It was very successful and was enjoyed by the whole student body.

WHAT'S THE VERDICT? "GUILTY" CLAIMS JURY IN TARDINESS COURT

The Tardiness Court of Room 362 was formed by that class in an endeavor to reduce tardiness. This plan was adopted by the class after several otherwise futile attempts to raise their standing.

This court has been modeled somewhat after the regular law courts; their officers consist of the Judge, Clerk and the Bailiff. Five members of the home room are chosen by ballot to serve on the Jury at each session of the court. The duties of the Judge are to preside over the court and to question the defendant. The duties of the Clerk are to keep a record of all the tardiness and to present to the court the charge against the defendant, and to swear in the witnesses. The du-

ELECTRICIANS VISIT POWER HOUSE; GROUP TO PRESENT ASSEMBLY SOON

SIREN AND QUARTERLY DELEGATES ATTENDING C.S.P.A. CONVENTION

The High School delegates to the C. S. P. A. convention are well on their way. Joseph Fine, editor, Helen Karp, asst. editor, John Tucker, Jim Hayes, and Joseph Tammany are the SIREN representatives while the "Quarterly" is represented by Miss Montgomery, adviser, and Winifred Elster, editor. Today and Friday the delegates will attend meetings and take part in the round table discussions. Saturday the judges award and present prizes to those papers that show individual merit or outstanding features at the banquet held in the ball-room of the Hotel Commodore.

Electricity Class Visits Stamford Power Plant

The class appreciates the courtesy of the Stamford Gas and Electric Co. in permitting this trip and is especially grateful to Mr. Rutz for his kindness in explaining everything in detail and answering the questions which the various members of the group asked.

The course in electricity which is again offered to senior boys this year after an absence of several years from the curriculum is very popular among the group

(Continued on page 2)

CALENDAR

Week of March 9
Sports Tournament in White Plains
Thursday, March 12
Debating Club, Rm. 121
Friday, March 13
Tennis Practice
March 12, 13, 14
Columbia Scholastic Press Association Convention
Monday, March 16
Peace Club, Rm. 124
March 17-19
Riding Club Assembly
Wednesday, March 18
Classical Seminar, Rm. 232
Thursday, March 19
Political Science Club, Rm. 122
Monday, March 23
German Club, Room 246
March 24 26
Gym Assembly
Wednesday, March 25
Dramatic Club

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THE SIREN

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A PLEA FOR STUDENT
GOVERNMENT

The establishment of a student government, an idea by no means new to Stamford High, is once again a leading topic in everyday conversations.

Past experiences in many other schools have demonstrated that plan of student government, properly executed, is of great value in that it increases the student's interest in the school, gives the pupils a definite responsibility in maintaining the school's good name, and supplies much needed training in self-management.

The greatest obstacle to student government in S.H.S. is the lack of interest of the student body.

In order to convince the faculty that student government would be a desirable thing, it is first necessary to prove our ability to conduct ourselves in a manner fitting for High School students; and we must remember that the initial move for student government must come from the student body in the form either of a petition or some other organized effort.

EXCHANGE TIDBITS

We welcome two new papers to the Exchange Column:

"Mount Vernon Hi-News" of Mt. Vernon, New York.

"Tech Life" of McKinley High, Washington, D. C.

Both are very interesting and worthwhile papers.

APOLOGIES

The SIREN editors regret that many worthy contributions have had to be omitted from this issue because of lack of space. Several columns which we hoped to make regular features have been crowded out. For a school of the size of S.H.S. the SIREN is much too small a paper. It is hoped that future conditions will allow us to print more advertising and through its revenue to increase the SIREN'S size. But for the rest of the year, we must curtail expenses.

We thank the Junior Class for their offer to buy space for their section, and regret that this scheme is not feasible without additional funds.

The "Tech Life" has a special senior issue for graduation, even with chatter. Not a bad idea! Shakespeare's Idea of High School:

Freshmen—Comedy of Errors.

Sophomores—As You Like It.

Juniors—Much A do About Nothing.

Seniors—All's Well That Ends Well.

"The Pennant" Meriden, Conn.

Electricity Class Visits
Stamford Power Plant

(Continued from Page One)

who are enrolled in the class. Although lacking tools and material, the class is working on many fine projects. Several boys are making induction coils, a large Telsa coil is being wound, a multiple section condenser is nearing completion and several boys are rewinding armatures for motors. Mr. Parmitter, of the Gas and Electric Co., contributed two five watt-hour meters and several transformers to the equipment. The class expresses its thanks to Mr. Parmitter.

In the near future this class will present an electrical show for the assembly groups.

Recently Mr. Rhoads' electricity class went on an inspection trip to the Stamford Gas and Electric power house. This class, which is composed of senior general boys, had been studying the methods of generating electricity, and found the trip most valuable and extremely interesting.

Mr. Rutz, a Stamford High School alumnus, who is now as sistant engineer in the power house conducted the class through the plant and explained the entire operation from the arrival of the coal by barge to the ultimate transmission of the electrical energy out over the lines.

WHAT'S THE VERDICT?

(Continued from Page One)

days. 'hird degree tardiness calls for 15 minutes after school for three days, or he may be acquitted. The sentences are served at the convenience of the home room teacher. If the defendant is tardy more than five times, a letter signed by Mr. Humphries, is given him to take to his parents.

If there is any other home room that is interested in forming such a court in their home room, the members of 362 will only be too glad to help in any manner possible. 362 holds court on every Wednesday during the home room period and any persons who are interested are welcome to attend.

THE REPORTER
AT THE PLAY

By The Three J's

Orchids to Miss Shackley and her group of Thespians. The recent assembly program in which the aforementioned group presented a play entitled "The Widow" was received by faculty and students alike with great enthusiasm. The opinions of pupil and teacher show the truth of the above statement.

Mr. Tracy: "An extremely entertaining comedy characterized by splendid acting. Even the minor parts were played with verve and understanding. The best production since "The Valient."

Christine Conron: "I thought it was one of the best assembly programs of the year. The players showed superb acting ability."

Miss Price: "It was an excellent entertainment and charmingly portrayed by both actors and actresses."

John Golden: "That play was worth the price of a movie. One of the best of the school season."

Dorothy Dolan: "The entire cast showed great finesse."

Mr. Hecht: "Superb acting on all parts."

SOPHOMORES

Maybe it would interest you to know that the newly organized dancing classes are open to Sophomores. There are five lessons at twenty cents each! Brush up on your dancing!

THE SOPHOMORE DANCE

Dear Sophomores: The dance that never was. Whose fault was it? Nobody's but your own. I think that was very unfair, class mates. Don't forget our class advisers and committees worked very hard to try to give you a good time! And you turned it down! You thought it smart but what did you get out of it? A bad name for yourselves as a class. Do you call that spirit? Try to erase that name by attending the next dance 100%.

* * *

The Bassick High School held a Leap Year Dance and almost half of the gentlemen present were wallflowers!

CHATTER

Don't look now, but here we are again to haunt you with more of our idle patter. And first on our list of key-hole tid-bits is the fact that poor Betty Moore just sighs and sighs and sighs some more—all because her favorite heart-throb is at Burdick this year. . . . Did someone mention robbin' the cradle??? Who is it that's causing double trouble in Mrs. Campbell's room, four periods every day—it couldn't be the Mystery Man, Elmer Zilch, could it??? And what's this we hear about Wally Moon riding down on the Strawberry Hill bus every morning. Is he tired of walking or is it a blonde—or even a brunette??? . . . And by very special means of persuasion we have been induced to impart to you all, the news that Jacky Collins is veddy, veddy fickle—So What??? . . . What are the girls in 363 coming to—they must be having a tough time of it when they decide to make out their last will and testament. Tch, tch, and they're so young—Come confess to us, Miss Seidel . . . And why is it that Jo Peissman changed her mind about taking the holy vows of matrimony?? We still don't know matrimony?? We still don't know which way she changed her mind, but that's O. K., too . . . And to think that after yars and yars S. H. S. should arrive at the state where a Senior in American History announces that a Scalawag is some form of a frog—don't worry sops, you'll catch on to this one in a few years—we hope! . . . And what's this about Thaddeus Dejeuski collecting the autographs of his classmates in the fourth period English class—just in case they get famous—Oh well, at least he's optimistic! . . . And has Oscar Sweet discovered what made him the center of curious glances recently??? Maybe he'll know enough to wipe the lip-stick off next time . . . Well, here goes your nodding acquaintances with nodding else to say—

Dippy: Where's the capital of the United States?

Dopey: In Europe!

P.S. He's right! "Tech. Life."

MUSICALLY SPEAKING

This year brings forth special anniversaries of three eminent musicians. They are Jean Sibelius, Franz Liszt, and Charles Camille Saint-Sains. Sibelius has been especially honored in his own land, Finland, as well as others. Outstanding programs of his music were given in America by our best orchestras. Sibelius himself listened in his home in Finland to the international broadcast in celebration of his seventieth birthday.

The centenary of the birth of Saint-Sains began with much splendor in his native land, France. Orchestras, ensembles, and artists joined with each other in presenting his music, while the Grand Opera glorified his name, with the house in gala attire, attendants in bright uniforms to add color, and with Madam Saint-Sains, now over eighty years, sitting in a foremost box. The opera featured in commemoration of the great master was "Samson et Delela."

The one hundred twenty-fifth anniversary of his birth and the fiftieth anniversary of the death of Franz Liszt occurs at this time. (October 22, 1935 to October 22, 1936). The Hungarian government startled many music lovers when it made the statement that many of the composer's finest works have never been brought to prominence. These are his songs. The government says that these songs are the "outpouring of his very soul, captivating in melody and beauty."

SWIMMING CLUB

The swimming club had its first organized meeting last Thursday (March 4). The membership is 64 boys under the advisement of Mr. Clear.

In the first meeting, officers were elected as follows: W. O'Meara, Pres.; R. Cavanaugh, Vice Pres.; J. Jurascheck, Secretary.

The club's first duty will be to find a pool they can use. Probably a team will be organized for competition with swimming teams of the freshman classes in various prep schools and colleges.

RADIO

J. Tucker

Now that the political guns have started booming, the ether will be full of the crackling and sputtering of politicians denouncing each other and promoting their own pet schemes. Despite this fact there are still very many interesting programs on the air. The most popular programs, no matter what type, are due to one or more of three reasons.

Carefully supervised and directed programs have a certain showmanship about them that count for success. A good example is the March of Time, every Monday to Friday at 10:30 P.M. on WABC. In such a program unity is needed, and they achieve their unity by having appropriate music, carefully chosen performers and realistic sound effects. Their perfect timing ties all these together into one excellent program.

Second, we have advertising. Every one has heard a program where the product is advertised after every song. Such a program becomes tiresome. (Calling all men to Barney's, 7th Avenue and 17th Street.) In contrast to this we have the more popular programs of Jack Benny or Fred Waring, where advertising is presented to the radio audience in a more interesting form.

Third, we have the radio performers themselves, actors, musicians, announcers, technicians, and dramatists. The Rudy Valle Variety Hour, with its star performers, fine musicians, good announcer and technicians, and interesting dialogue compiled by dramatists of merit, is an outstanding success. The Al Jolson "Shell Chateau" program is another first class program. It's all a matter of personal opinion, but just analyze your favorite program and see if it doesn't abide by the three general standards mentioned above.

The club will be divided into two groups, one of Seniors and Juniors, the other of Sophomores.

Membership to the club will not be open much longer. In all probability it will be closed after the third or fourth meeting and no more members will be admitted.

GIRLS AND THEIR RELATIONS TO BOYS

By Oscar Sweet

Girls and boys of today should not be kept apart as their grandparents were. It is natural that the opposite sexes should attract each other. Then why try and keep them apart? There is an age, of course, when most boys and girls are not interested in each other, but when they get a little older (high-school age) they change. And sometimes so rapidly that they surprise their parents.

It usually starts with silly little notes, then accompanying each other home, the boy doing the manly act of carrying the books. If they get along well together and are really fond of each other, the affair proceeds very rapidly. Perhaps at this age it should be called puppy love.

The teens are the happiest years of our lives usually; that's why we should get as much good clean fun as we can—while we can.

Why should I write all this about girls? Because it's fun, and I'm sure that most of you girls will agree with me when I say that most of it is true. If all I really know about girls in general was pure ink, there wouldn't be enough to dot an "i." No male lives (or ever will live) who is able to understand all about girls. (You can't win.) That's why I have decided to discuss next week teachers in general.

BOOK REVIEW

By Marjorie Neilson

Crowded Hours—Alice Roosevelt Longworth

This is an autobiography of one of our leading women politicians. Mrs. Longworth gives the reader a vivid portrayal of the "private life" of a daughter of a President and a wife of a Congressman. She tells of her experience in the White House and relates her travels in a rather humorous manner. In this book the reader may follow the rise of Theodore Roosevelt, her father. Also, there are pictures showing various famous people in "out of date" clothes, which are strikingly funny.

This is a book all you political-minded students must read,

THE SCIENCE CLUB GAZES INTO THE CRYSTAL BALL

Since 1933 the Science Club has passed safely across the threshold of three new years, each one giving forth a better club. And now this hardy group of chemical fume bravers, and the like, under the able direction of Mr. Copeland, looks toward a bright and progressive future.

The program committee chairman assures the club of a series of interesting and instructive meetings for 1936. Mr. Copeland announced the possibility of invitations to the Sikorsky Plant, and moving pictures to be shown at frequent meetings.

The officers for the coming year are: President, Seymour Cohn; Vice-President, Benjamin Shilepsky; Secretary, Martin Cash; Treasurer, Norman Shilepsky; Sergeant at Arms, Bernard Bedyneck; and Chairman of the Program Committee, John Caddle.

"The Boulevards of Broken Dreams"—the corridors.

"Temptation"—to go on the "hook" on a nice afternoon.

SPORTING AROUND

WITH
JIM F. HAYES

BILL McKEITHEN

Bill McKeithen has pitched his last game. He hardly ever struck out, but the Greatest Umpire of them all has just called him out in the great game of life. Bill was one of the all time outstanding athletes of S.H.S., and probably the greatest colored athlete ever to wear the Orange and Black. No finer thing can be said of Bill than, "He played the game."

THE PERFECT MILER

No. I am not going to select one man as the Perfect Miler, but I am picking a mythical man to eclipse all records at present and turn in the Perfect Mile (generally regarded to be four minutes flat). For this experiment, take any average miler, and with a few changes we'll have a man capable of beating Cunningham, Bon-

thron, and Venzke. To do this we must take the outstanding qualities from each of these three men. First, we'll give our myth runner the beautiful running form of Gene Venzke. Gene is the boy who turned in the record breaking 4:10 mile, when only in high school. Venzke now carries the colors of the U. of P. to greater heights. Secondly, we add the stamina of Glenn Cunningham. Today, Cunningham of Kansas is recognized as the Mile King. Lastly, the Bill Bonthron final kick tops the picture. Bill, from Tigertown, holds the American record for the 1500 meter event.

Picture if you can a composite man racing with these enviable features in his makeup, paced by crack mile relay teams, and running in Palmer Stadium. Our myth man does not have to beat the relay team (impossible to say the least), but he should finish about thirty seconds after the anchor man. If so, the composite runner would have the honor of being the first to hit four minutes flat. Well anyway, sue me if I'm wrong. But regardless, Cunningham, Venzke, and Mangan in the order Saturday night.

EVERY FOURTH YEAR THE FAIR SEX REIGNS SUPREME

It's leap year girls! Just the time for you to work your points and get whatever your heart desires. Why just think of it! You are able to ask for all the dates, dances, and other things you may want. You're even allowed to pay for all the sundaes and shows you want to share with the boyfriend.

To come to the point, leap year is a girl's year. She's the queen of it and reigns the whole year through. Whatever a girl desires should be done and no invitations refused, for as the saying goes: "No gentleman would ever refuse a lady." After all, leap year comes but twenty-four times a century, so the men-folk haven't a thing to complain about.

Boys, just think of it! Moonlight, a girl, and you. Wouldn't it be fun to listen to her wooing you, talking about your eyes, your hair, and ah, your lips? And wouldn't it be a relief for you to go meet the girlfriend without having to memorize a poem or "love-line?" Some year is "Leap Year!"

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