

# Students in the Spotlight

by Jason Levy

What exactly is the definition of courage? Is it sampling some of Schreiber's cafeteria food? Is it daring an audible whisper in the social studies resource room? Or is it waking up in the middle of the night and braving sub-zero temperatures to fight a raging fire which could endanger an entire neighborhood? Schreiber High School can boast of eight such men who have each undergone the process necessary to become firefighters. These eight students, who usually remain unrecognized by Schreiber students,

show true courage in their desire to fight Port's fires. All of Schreiber's student firemen are in their final year of high school. In alphabetical order, they are: Joe Cardiello, Dennis Cychan, Tony Dileo, Kevin Lang, Nester Laserna, John McMahon, Petros Mestheneas, and Roy Peterson. Kevin and Dennis were the first to become firemen, joining in May 1988. The most recent addition was John, who was a February inductee.

The procedure for becoming a fireman is quite stringent. The first step is for the student to go to the firehouse on Thursday nights, for what are called "work nights." On these nights all of the equipment is checked. Each of the student firemen had to go to work nights for about two months until his name was sent to the fire board made up of chiefs and officers. Their names then went to the Port police, who checked for criminal records. When everything cleared, the names were sent back to their fire companies, where they were

voted on the following month. Port Washington has six firehouses; the head firehouse is on Port Washington Boulevard. Ten trucks, two ambulances, and three chief cars are available to Port's firemen, all of whom work on the volunteer basis. A fireman's "turn-out"

ceives calls at home) to all firemen. You've also probably seen the student-firemen carrying pagers on their person. These alert the firemen that there is a fire, and that they should report to a firehouse.

If there is a fire call during the day, the student firemen get

firemen will proceed to the nearest firehouse, and don the turn-out gear. They will then board a departing truck and respond to the alarm. The degrees of alarms vary from a still alarm (outside of houses, involving brush fires, car fires, and dumpster fires) to a general alarm (anything inside of a structure). At the fire, the officers will assign tasks.

Student firemen here at Schreiber feel that, although their job is very serious and extremely demanding, they are not appreciated the way they should be. Joe remembers many occasions when he or other student firemen were teased by others for carrying the all-important pagers, or told that they were "not real firemen." Considering the gravity of the job they do, one would expect that they would receive a more considerable amount of respect from their peers. But perhaps the fact that they are unknown heroes makes the job they do all the more admirable.



Four student firemen: Joe Cardiello, Petros Mestheneas, Tony Dileo, and John McMahon

gear includes a helmet, boots, a coat, and gloves. The department also issues keys, badges, and Plectron receivers (to re-

ceive calls at home) to all firemen. According to the firefighters, the teachers are usually understanding, so they have no problem leaving. The

Photo by Dan Fisher

# Craig's Court



Politics will be tried

by Craig Johnson

One week ago, I thought I was going to use my column to

discuss my opinion of the Bush cabinet. However, in reading the paper this past weekend, I've decided to devote the column to an issue I feel is more important and controversial: the death penalty.

Year after year Mario Cuomo has vetoed the death penalty. However, this year the state legislature seems ready to override the veto and once again power up the chair. The question is, should the death penalty exist? The answer is yes.

A few weeks ago Ted Bundy, a man convicted of killing two coeds and also implicated in seventeen other murders, was executed. There are some that say

it was wrong to execute Bundy. However, where is the justification for allowing a man who raped, strangled, and killed seventeen women to live? What is the justification for the seventeen families suffering, who have been cursed with great sadness and grief, while the murderer lives? Does this type of man deserve to live? My answer is burn, Bundy, burn.

According to the death penalty bill introduced in our state legislature this month, capital punishment is only to be considered as a sentence in cases of contract murder, the killing of a witness to a crime, the murder of a police officer or prison guard,

or a murder committed during a robbery, kidnapping, or rape. This bill contains most of the necessary ingredients. We live near a city with the highest homicide rate in the nation - one

placed in the way of the death penalty by its opponents is not one of morality, but of races. According to some reports, the death penalty is given eleven times more to blacks than to

## What is the justification for seventeen families suffering? My answer is burn, Bundy, burn.

thousand, eight hundred and forty in 1988. In this city, six police officers were killed in the line of duty. These murderers deserve to die. However, an addition should be added to the bill; those who kill children should receive the death penalty. We must sufficiently punish people who kill the most innocent of human beings... our children. Otherwise people like Joel Steinberg, found guilty of first degree manslaughter of a child, won't have to worry about execution. Judges should be allowed to institute the death penalty on any case they feel needs it.

A major obstacle that is

whites. But let us look at the other statistics that opponents of the death penalty fail to tell us. Statistics tell us that minorities commit more violent crimes than whites. And the death penalty is given to people convicted of violent crimes, not people convicted of being black or Hispanic.

Capital punishment is not intended to stop violent crimes. However it does act like a deterrent. And if capital punishment can prevent only one person from taking another's life, the system is a success. It's been long enough, let's stop waiting around and bring the death penalty back to New York.

# It's a Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood

by Dan Shodell

I know that report cards have already been handed out, and the damage has been done, and that many of you feel that daylight will never be freely viewed again. But in the midst of struggling for survival in your jail cell (disguised as a bedroom), there is hope, despite agents conspiring against you (any teacher who didn't grant you an A+). If you lack skill as a con man, there is another effective alternative for avoiding punishment due to bad grades.

Parents often mistrust computers. Their views may seem irrational, but it can be used to your advantage. "The computer screwed up" is the most faithful and effective excuse presently available to students in western industrialized nations. Remind

your parents that all of these new "computer viruses" make computers unstable and inaccurate. Also be sure to mention that your schedule and grades are compiled by a computer that cannot correlate numbers to letters, as in mods 1-18 and letters A-R.

Once your parents are softened up with the computer scare, it is time to move in with the fine print on the back of your report card. For example, look at the definition found under the grade "E-3." It says; "Lab reports not done, if not done cannot take June regents." When deciphering this for your parents, simply explain that you're not in a Regents class, and the labs... what labs? Also point out to them that the statement is not written in proper English and can't possibly be official; no wonder your English grades are ailing. Look at the explanation found under the grade "B-3." Defined as "Poor class participation," it does not mean that your participation is lacking, as most

people would assume. It is meant to be translated as "Due to your in-depth discussions with the teacher, the rest of the class was unable to participate to any great extent."

I know that many of you feel that "the system" has abused you, so isn't it time to abuse the system? Next time you are preparing for another lengthy stay behind a locked door, remember to check out the back of your report card - it may be the lifeline out of your room and back to a normal, free life.

Look for Times columns in every issue.



## HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY

from the

# STUDENT STORE

Don't forget!

♥ You can buy candy for your sweetheart at 1:30 ♥