

Too many drama clubs, too little quality

On most days of the school year, the morning announcements are met with an apathy similar to that of one who is watching roller on ESPN. There does exist a day, when the morning announcements are met with a fervor of emotion; when the announcements indicate the day of the Rep Theatre assembly. The emotional reaction to this information is mixed. It is clearly evident that happiness is exuded by the students over attaining an opportunity to legally miss a class. This emotion clashes and sometimes loses out to another emotion. The dread screening yet another production of Rep Theatre.

There is no denying that the rep theatre productions at SPFHHS are full of holes. The reason why stems from its philosophy. Rep Theatre is a student-run organization which is not regulated by the Board of Education. They receive no funds from outside sources. The adviser, Dave Multer, is merely a figurehead. He is there basically to make sure that the kids don't burn the school down. Multer lacks the power to affect the substance of the plays that the student director chooses. Multer also is not required to have any certification in the area of dramatics. Thus, rep theatre is a decentralized organization working in a relaxed atmosphere. The students are responsible for knowing enough about theatre and its many aspects so that they can make a production on their own. This kind of organization is doomed to failure. For one thing, the students themselves don't know enough about theatre to put on a quality production. Thus, a blind-leading-the-blind sort of situation arises. Second of all, the one remedy for the first problem, is eliminated because the adviser, under the policy of rep theatre cannot substantially affect the way the students run the show.

5-day phys. ed. week suggested

By Jennifer McEvoy

A new bill has been proposed to the Board of Education which is causing a debate over whether or not Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School students should take gym four or five days a week next year.

This bill is being proposed to the Board of Education because of a test that was taken last year by all New Jersey athletes. 50% of those athletes who took the test failed. The purpose of this test is to make sure the students are playing the sports safely.

Mr. Cobielligh, a gym teacher at SPFHHS, is in favor of the five day gym week, because in a recent study, America's youth ranked sixteenth world-wide. This study shows that our youth are not very physically fit.

Mr. Cobielligh said "Working out four days a week is good, but working out five days a week is even better. Working out burns calories, and can also prevent a heart attack, which may one day save your life."

Having gym five days a week is not out of the ordinary, and SPFHHS is not the only school considering it. Right now, 92% of all New Jersey schools have gym five days a week.

There is also one other problem that the school must deal with if this bill is made official. Those

students who participate in the band, are exempt from the fifth day of gym. The band students will be exempt from the fifth day because without that one free-period a week, the students are missing a practice session. The idea of the student missing the fifth day, came from the band instructor Mr. Vincent Tutturiello.

Mr. Wall, Algebra I teacher, says that this idea is good, but unfair. He's in favor of the Phys-Ed classes five days a week, but he's not in favor of the band students being exempt from one day. The free period is voluntary time for students to practice; it is not mandatory.

The Board of Education should be voting on this proposal some time next year or late this summer. If this idea is to be put into effect, the change should take place some time next fall.

So next year, get for Phys-Ed, and be ready for an extra workout.

Who or what has influenced you political decisions?

- a. parents, friends, relatives 27%
 - b. the debates 22%
 - c the specific stand on the issue 36%
 - d. political party 15%
- Should women have the right to choose to have an abortion?
Y 86% N 14%

Do you philosophical/religiously believe in abortion?
Y 50% N 50%

Should the pledge of allegiance be mandatory in all schools?
Y 53% N 47%

Are you in favor of stricter drug laws?
Y 82% N 18%

As a last resort, do you favor an increase in income taxes?
Y 26% N 74%

Should minimum wage be set above \$4.00?
Y 87% N 13%

Should a moment of silence for prayer/meditation be mandatory in all schools?
Y 16% N 84%

Are you in favor of the death penalty for drug related crimes and/or the murder of cops?
Y 70% N 30%

Would you object to the attendance of a student with AIDS in SPFHHS?
Y 48% N 52%

Apathy problem

It seems as though part of being a student at SPFHHS means hearing about "apathy." Every year, through a variety of sources, the students are reminded that they do not do enough to radiate a sense of school spirit. However, contrary to popular thought, there does exist a measurable amount of spirit at the high school.

There is no doubt that it is there. One only has to look for it. Take for example those individuals who chose to show their sense of "spirit" through attending school in costumes last Monday. These individuals competed for prizes in a variety of categories. Obviously, those students weren't victims of our apathy. There was also the Halloween dance last Friday sponsored by the Culmen. Thus, there are efforts being made to boost the spirit of SPFHHS.

Other expression of school spirit can be found in the Raider's Den, which was created a year ago in order to rally fans for the basketball team. This year, Raider's Den T-Shirts were made available so that this "institution" could become further entrenched in the minds of students. Others have shown their spirit through the purchasing of football uniforms for casual wear.

Nothing is ever as good or as bad as it seems. This is true concerning the alleged apathy problem. It would be foolish to say that SPFHHS is a model of school spirit, but it would also be wrong to assume that none exists. Those who are of the opinion that SPFHHS has no spirit simply aren't looking for it. Maybe instead of chastising the students who don't participate, the cynics of the school should applaud those who do.

