Freshmen chose class officers

By Nina Brand

The class of '84 officers, Dan Meader, president; Ann Ferreira, vice president; Libby Ferreira, secretary; Dan Cohen, treasurer; and Kevin Wilson, historian, were elected on October 9, 1980.

The primary was held on October 7, 1980. Of all freshmen, 72% voted, 10% more than the previous record setter, the class of '81.

Running for president were Ed Epstein, Abbey Koplovitz, Chris Sheridan, and primary winners Dan Meader and Joe Mendelson.

Vice presidential candidates were Robert Combi, Sharon Henry, Eddie King, Sherri Scoville, and primary winners Ann Ferreira and Tres Lussier.

Running for treasurer were Dan Cohen and Jamie Pilcher. For secretary, candidates were Kim Balagtas and Libby Ferreira. Candidates for class historian were Niti Goel, Robert Kidary, and Kevin Wilson.

News briefs

Prom Chairpersons Chosen - Gail Liedel and Nadine Dunlap were named chairpersons of the Junior Prom, on October 6. They will preside over the entertainment, decoration, publicity, and after-prom clean committees.

The decorations, publicity, and after-prom committees are in the process of organization, while the entertainment committee still needs suggestions on bands. Suggestions can be made by contacting Mr. Cottrell, Neal Finklestein or Mr. Hopkins.

Juniors who would like to get involved with the Prom should listen to announcements or read the daily bulletin for future meetings of all committees.

Prom night has been tentatively set for May 9. Class advisors also urge that juniors get their parents involved in the after-prom.

Student Union Elections - Election of officers for the Student Union Assembly will be held today.

Running for office are: Arthur Ludwig and Gary Wohl for president; William Hirshorn and Susan Koehler for vice president; Gail Liedell and Joel Moses for treasurer; and running uncontested for secretary is Mark Dembo.

"The election of officers for student government has not occurred since 1968," stated Francis Taormina, principal.

Clothing Sale - The Niskayuna Home and School Association will sponsor a fall and winter clothing sale at Van Antwerp middle school on October 22.

A variety of used clothing will be on sale at low prices. Volunteers will be needed to work October 20-23. For more information, call Kathy Schonewolf at 377-6722, or Virginia Thompson at 374-9399.

WNHS Revived - Radio station WNHS has been revived and will be engineered from the ticket booth.

The station will broadcast music and disc jockey patter to the old cafeteria during lunch periods. There is the possibility of all day music, but that has not yet been decided.

The station, which is student run and organized, is advised by Mr. Tom White.

Halloween Eve Party - Ghosts and goblins will help celebrate Halloween at this year's masquerade party on October 31, 8-11 p.m. in the new cafeteria. The costume party will be sponsored by the class of '81.

The second annual all-school masquerade party will feature a costume contest with record albums as prizes. Admission will be $1.50 for those wearing costumes and $2.00 for others.

Students are requested to wear costumes to school on the 31st to get into the Halloween spirit.

National Vote - Students who have reached the age of 18 are eligible to vote in the national elections on Nov. 4 if registered.

To vote in New York State people must meet the following requirements: be an American citizen at least 18 years of age, be a resident of your country or city for 30 days, and be registered.

Registration in person can be done at the local polling place. Information of the time and place can be obtained by calling the Board of Elections, or the League of Women Voters.

Registering by mail can be done by obtaining the appropriate form from the town halls, the Board of Elections, libraries, or the League of Women Voters.
Initiations demean, humiliate students

To enter certain clubs, students must pass an initiation, usually something they wouldn’t otherwise consider doing. We at the Warrior find initiations both deplorable and dangerous. The fact that any student would have to complete an initiation to gain entrance and acceptance into a club is a sad and dispicable aspect of any society. Especially disturbing is the idea that initiations would take place within the school or be affiliated with any school-sponsored organization here at Niskayuna.

Initiations are often a degrading and humiliating experience. Used to determine the “enthusiasm” of an incoming member, it is usually only a suffering moment for the person and no measure of a student’s worth. The idea that members would feel this was an accurate measure of a person’s worth is unbelievable. It is astonishing that anyone would stand by and see others humiliated for “the good of the club”. Not only are initiations humiliating and demeaning, they are often dangerous.

To avoid this problem, initiations should be banned from any school-affiliated organization and any violation of this rule should result in the loss of school sponsorship and the right to meet on school grounds. Also, with the support of students, faculty, and administration to combat the problem of initiations, they can be eradicated from all school clubs.

Language dept. provides culture, fun

In today’s world, with everything at our fingertips, we seem to take for granted many things. One of these is our Foreign Language Department, at Niskayuna High School.

Through the dedication of the foreign language faculty, we are able to enjoy cultural exchange with other countries. We have language clubs to further expand our awareness of and to have fun with the different languages. There are also many courses to choose from: German, Latin, Spanish, French, Conversational French, etc. There is definitely something for everyone.

The WARRIOR would like to thank the department for their work and dedication in making our foreign language program one of the finest in the area.

Run, crawl, fly to polls

Today, students at Niskayuna are called to vote for their respective candidates in the Student Union elections. Without the support of the student body, the government will fail.

The Student Union’s main objective is to allow the students a voice in the administration. Without student involvement, the Union would only be expressing the opinions or suggestions of a few active members. Voting in these elections is like voicing an opinion. Your vote, along with supporting the Student Union, decides who will win, and who will represent the student body.

The WARRIOR feels this support will make the Student Union a positive force at Niskayuna High School, so get out and vote.

Bonfire: A tradition?

Thanks to the hard work of members of the Student Union, the 1980 bonfire was a success.

The Warrior would like to acknowledge the efforts contributed by students and faculty who made the bonfire possible. The time and consideration put into the function was well worth it because an encouraging result came out. Many students enjoyed the well-attended event and it gave Niskayuna a well-needed boost in spirit and unity.

Students who attended the bonfire also are to be commended for their positive behavior. Since no one threw dangerous materials into the fire or caused any type of serious trouble, the bonfire tradition is likely to continue in the 1980-81 school year.
Art scholarships available

By Barry Jacobs
A new program has been developed by the Educational Testing Service to identify artistically inclined high school seniors.

The program is called the Arts Recognition and Testing Service and is sponsored by the National Arts Awards. It specially provides recognition for those students exceptionally qualified in dance, music, theatre, visual arts and writing. It also provides cash awards to these students solely based on their talents, regardless of scholastic achievement.

Twenty-one finalists were awarded Presidential Scholars Medallions and cash awards last year. This year, the program has been broadened to a wider variety of artistic areas, and new awards have been developed such as scholarships and workshop experiences.

Finalists will also be benefitted by the circulation of their name to educational institutions for consideration of admissions and further scholarships.

Applications for students either 17 or 18 years of age, or any high school senior can be obtained by writing: Arts Recognition and Talent Search, P.O. Box 2876, Princeton, New Jersey 08541, or by calling (609) 734-1090.

Bonfire, rally, sparks spirit

By Maureen Roncevich
The newly revived bonfire was ignited for the first time in three years, on Friday, October 5.

The evening's events were kicked off with a pep rally in the auditorium. Coaches from various athletic teams spoke, and students were led by cheerleaders in rooting for each team. The school fight song was also taught to the crowd.

Following the pep rally, students gathered in back of the school where the highlight of the evening, the bonfire, began and people watched the display of flames while socializing with classmates. When the bonfire finally died down, the Niskayuna Fire Department moved in to extinguish the remaining flames and students moved on to the dance in the new cafeteria.
Your community serves you

Friendships needed: students can help

By Maureen Roncevich

Big Brothers/Big Sisters is a community service that is both offering and asking for help.

Children ages 7-17 may find in Big Brother/Big Sisters a friend they can depend on. If students are not doing well in school, if their parents work, or they feel they just need the companionship of an older person, Big Brothers/Big Sisters is a place where they can find help. Boys and girls find that having a big brother or sister results in a beneficial relationship. In many cases, big brothers and sisters supply a missing male or female influence.

Big Brothers/Big Sisters also are interested in obtaining the aid of volunteer workers. "High school students make excellent big brothers and sisters; at the present time we have two high school aged volunteers," stated Gary Flynn, executive director of Schenectady County Big Brothers/Big Sisters. If a person would like to volunteer they should call 374-4523. The volunteer will then be screened so that people with similar interests will be matched. The purpose of this is so that both volunteer and the little brother or sister will enjoy the experience.

Presently, 170 children have been paired with a big brother or sister; however, 140 are still waiting for help.

Chillrud reminisces on AFS journey

By Leslie Meiselman

Did you ever bargain with a merchant over the price of an item, or visit a bull farm? Well, Steve Chillrud, an NHS student who was an AFS exchange student to Colombia did.

Compared to the U.S., Colombia has a relatively small middle class. "My family lived in Medellin which is the country's second largest city. They owned a farm where they raised sugar cane, and bulls for bull fighting. Their owning a farm is similar to our owning a lake cottage. Outside Medellin, and other big cities, there is nothing. Poor villagers hire themselves out to the big farms for a few dollars a week, and only some the poor have electricity. One thing that is different is that almost everybody had maids. There is always someone poorer than you are."

Steve explains, "Anybody who can afford to, sends their kids to private schools for grades K-12. Even at the private schools, only the teachers have text books. The private schools also have an informal atmosphere. The kids call the teachers by their first names. The poor people send their kids to public schools which are much stricter..."

In Colombia, the options after graduation from high school are different than those in the United States. "Competition to get into college is very tough. If they can't get into college in Colombia they go to the U.S. If they don't go to college, they must serve 14 months in the army. It's not really a big fuss, but they don't like it."

Steve says that he went to downtown Medellin many times after school. "I loved to bargain with the merchants. They'll quote a high price because they know you're from the U.S., but the whole process of bargaining is still very civil."

The Colombians' view of the U.S. isn't what many of us would expect. "They like the people of the U.S., but they think the U.S. government is stupid for getting involved in all the world's power struggles and problems. Colombians don't see much difference between the Soviet Union's government and the U.S. government. They see both as trying to control everyone else."

In Colombia, teens drinking is treated differently than in the U.S. "There's no legal drinking age. Because alcohol isn't off limits, kids don't drink to get drunk. But they are more strict with girls than boys. In fact, the boys can do almost anything. Practically no one smokes pot. Ironically, they think that we all smoke pot. They also think that women of the U.S. are loose. The people of the U.S. and the people of Colombia seem to have distorted pictures of each other."

"Surprisingly, I learned a lot about the U.S.A. while in South America. I saw things from a different point of view. On the 4th of July, they gave a big party for the kids from the U.S. To Colombians, commemorating the day a country gains independence is very important. I became patriotic too."

Steve also wants to clarify one thing: "Contrary to what most people think, you can drink the water... in the cities that is."
Hey - Whatdoyousay?

Success possible for school functions

EDITOR’ NOTE
In an effort to bring student opinion and observation into the pages of the Warrior, this column will appear periodically. A question will be posed to students in an attempt to get a picture of their thinking on matters affecting individuals, the school, community, and the world in which they exist.

By Joanna Welch & Lila Knox
The question asked was a result of the recent all-school bonfire and dance.

What are your suggestions for ensuring the success of school social functions?

Joe Mendelson, freshman: "I think more publicity is needed. Students should be told that the money they put into a fund raising activity will go towards an activity they want. With this information people will participate in the activities.""

Tanya Rasmussen, sophomore: "A social function shouldn't be held on a Friday night because people who have games on Saturday have to be home at a reasonable hour. But even on a good night, kids are kind of shy about going to dances. After the bonfire, I think the chances of having another are ruined due to the condition of the kids that night."

Helen Shahdad-pey, junior: "I think more students should get involved in making suggestions about improving dances. And make sure bonfires aren't on rainy nights.""

Shari Quidos, senior (class president): "As a class officer, we face this problem a lot. At this point in time, kids aren't interested in participation. Having a car and having home parties is more fun. We've tried to plan functions kids relate to, but kids are more independent these days and tend to stay with their own friends. The junior and senior class seem to have no interest in anything we would plan. So we will aim the social functions directly at the freshmen class. The masquerade party last year was a great success with the freshmen class, and we plan to do that again."

We hope this question and the answers of four students will start our readers thinking. What would your answer have been?
Harriers dominate X-C circuit

By Alec Petro

The Niskayuna Boys’ X-C team has repeatedly demonstrated that they are one of the premier X-C teams in the state. Having won their last three Invitational meets, including the prestigious Grout Run, and beating an arch-rival, Shaker squad, by an impressive margin, they are not putting any limit on their goals.

The harrier squad, led by senior captain Tim Egan, is improving rapidly and has proved to be faring better than Coach Matt Jones’ pre-season expectations. Jones explained, “In the beginning of the season I was fairly skeptical about the team being able to handle the Suburban Council teams, but right now we are not planning on getting beaten by too many teams in the section or the state for that matter.”

After taking the first Gloversville Invitational by almost 50 points, the Warriors have gone on the warpath. The next meet was the Shaker Dual in which the Nisky team beat the Bisons, 14-40. Tim Egan crossed the finish line in the record time of 14:49 for the 2.85 mile course. Greg Reilly was second and Pete Hajjar finished a close third.

The Guilderland Invitational loomed as another possible victim for the squad, and when it was over the Warriors proved to dominate the trails of Tawasentha Park. Again Tim Egan crossed the finish line first. Pete Hajjar was 8th, Greg Reilly took the 14th spot, Jim Juracka was 16th and Scott Mastro was 20th.

One of the biggest meets of the year was the Grout Run, held at Central Park. The meet, drawing many teams from the New York City and Long Island area, had never been won by a Nisky squad. They managed to end that streak by beating the second place JFK-Somers team, 77-94. Tim Egan placed third with a blistering time of 13:41. Other fine efforts came from Pete Hajjar, Greg Reilly, Jim Juracka, and Alec Petro.

The fact that the team started the season off with easy training could be one of the team’s keys to success. The team has not started training for the Sectionals yet, Jones plans on starting hard sessions in a couple of weeks and hopes to have the team peak during the Sectionals and State Meet.

Early injury hurt JV

By Tom Lui

The Niskayuna Boys’ JV Soccer Team is boasting a record of 3-5-1, going into the second half of their season. This disappointing record can be accounted for by the number of key injuries suffered during the first few games of the season.

Players Andy DePalma and Matt Petro suggested, “Most of our injuries are due to our team’s aggressive style of play. We are looking forward to a better second half as players are becoming less prone to injuries.”

The team has played without their leading scorer, Jamie Castelli, for the last five games, and the results are noticeable. The team’s record for the last five games stands at 1-3-1, and they have only scored five goals. Other injured players include starters Bob Anderson, Tom Lui, Andy DePalma, Paul Kennedy, Mike McDonald, Matt Petro, and Damiam Foti, who have all been playing hurt throughout the season.
Swimmers dive into ’80 season

By Ellen Schuler

The Girls’ Varsity Swim Team, coached by Mary Jane Beaulieu, captured their first win against Guilderland on October 1.

Prior to this win the Warriors lost two in a row. Nisky’s first meet pitted them against one of the toughest teams, Glens Falls. The second meet, which was a one point loss to Shenendehowa, was a disappointment.

With the assistance from two Union College swim team members, Chris Howd and Chris Mever. senior co-captains Zandria Curran and Claire Beaulieu are hoping for a successful season which now includes six more meets and the Sectionals on Nov. 13 and 14.

Freshmen Ann and Libby Ferriera are proving to be two of the team’s strongest swimmers. This year senior Linda Conley will not only dive, but also participate in some swimming events.

The girls’ team practices at Union College and at the high school. The swimmers hope to see spectators at their meets.

Varsity boys hit soccer rut

By John Wilson

The Boys’ Varsity Soccer team has lost some momentum in the mid-part of their season, going winless in four consecutive games.

Burnt Hills blanked the Warriors, 2-0, during a rain storm. Saratoga, a new team in the Suburban Council, upset the Warriors, 3-2, in overtime. The Nisky squad struck first with Jim Murphy’s goal, but then they lost the lead. Jim Nuss tallied on a volley kick, but again Saratoga was able to get the equalizer. During the first over time period, the Saratoga Streaks were able to pull ahead for the first time in the contest, and they were able to maintain their lead and go on to win.

Shaker edged Niskayuna in a very close game. Jim Nuss, one the team’s scoring leaders, was sidelined because of a broken foot for three weeks. This loss hurt the booters’ offense, which was unable to score during the contest.

Shaker won, 1-0, because of a goal in the first quarter.

The Nisky squad next tied Guilderland, 1-1. A penalty allowed Niskayuna to go ahead on Rick Sherry’s kick, but Guilderland was able to score a goal in the 4th quarter.

The Warriors at this point stand at 3-4-2, a record that hides their potential. A couple of key wins in the future could enable the booters to again join the Suburban race, which is presently a free-for-all.
Girls roll in early season

By Carol Westcott
Coach Richard Rini's varsity girls' soccer team has a record of 9-1-1, as of October 7. The team travelled to the New Lebanon Tournament on the weekend of September 26 to defend their title as champions. The girls once again captured the title, beating Ravena 3-0, and New Lebanon 3-0.

The season opened with an impressive 20-0 win over Colonie. Bob Panetta scored twice, while Pat Corken added the third touchdown. The defense was outstanding, yielding eight yards total offense.

The gridders then suffered back to back losses against Columbia and Shaker, before bouncing back with a 34-15 thrashing of Burnt Hills.

The defense is led by Matt Young, who leads the team in tackles, and Dave Koehler, who has five interceptions in four games. The offense is led by junior fullback Rob Panetta, sophomore tailback Pat Corken, and Charlie Young, a junior brough down from varsity.

J V gridders boast of .500 record

By Dan Lazarek
The JV Football team is off to a good start this season, sporting a 2-2 record.

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