

SAT: STRESS TEST

Saturday at last! Finally we can sleep as late as we like, do what we want to do and not worry about school. Right? Wrong! For most seniors, at least two Saturdays during the year will be spent getting up early to make it to the testing room by 8 A.M. sharp. (I might add that one of these Saturdays is sometimes after a Friday night Prom... which in itself can be considered an obstacle that DOES NOT help towards a perfect score.)

We have been anticipating this event for the past few months; reviews of vocabulary, analogies, trigonometry, and chemistry are the target of our preparations. "It's death, it's terrifying," states Alison Keys. Denise Armstrong had a different view. "It makes you feel that all those things you bothered to learn will finally help you out."

We attempt to make the perfect score, the score that will represent what we can accomplish. We have the pressure of knowing that the score can decide our college acceptance or rejection. All these factors can cause a high level of stress in first time test takers. Leslie Clark, who has taken the test three times said, "Maybe it's a waste of time, but no matter how many times you take it, there still is stress."

With all the stress, anxiety and pressure that goes with the test, when it's finally over we can sit back and relax to enjoy the rest of our year with the knowledge that another batch of seniors will be going through the same agony as we did. Our advice? "Sit back and enjoy the stress," said Brian Park.

"You go in with the idea that your life is riding on this, but once it's over you don't feel too bad. I must admit though, I am afraid about receiving the results in the mail. . . I think I'll let my mother look first."

- Jennifer Keim

