



I Can't Leave Yet!

Seniors found out quickly that their final year was not all fun and games. In order to receive that coveted diploma at graduation, certain criteria had to be met.

"As soon as I walked into the school that first day back after summer vacation, all I wanted to do was graduate,"

said senior Tony Stone, "but I soon found out that my high school career wouldn't be over that easily."

The state graduation requirements included a minimum of 20 high school credits and passage of all three sections of the Exit Exam or Basic Skills Assessment Program (BSAP). The 20 credits had to be comprised of a certain quota for each subject, including one physical education (P.E.) credit and one half credit of American Government.

P.E. and government were high on sen-

iors' priority lists. Those seniors who had failed P.E. their freshman year because of refusing to dress out or who had simply opted not to take it and had "forgotten" about it could be found in the gym trying to sweat it out for a diploma. A comparable substitute for P.E. was NJROTC.

"I can't wait to hold my diploma in my hand and know it is finally all over!" said senior Waylon Cain.

American Government, that pesky, required semester course that all good American citizens should know inside and out, was perhaps the most intolerable of all the requirements. A class that actually required thinking, it was pre-

ferred first semester in the hopes that senioritis would not kick in until after it was over.

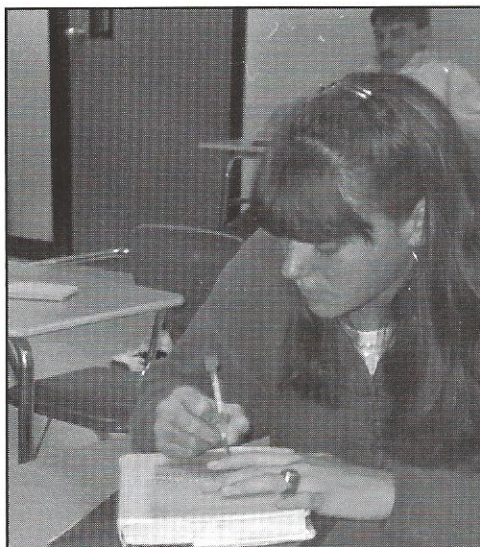
"Once I got through my government class I felt like I could relax a little bit," said senior Lisa Winter. "It was the last class I needed to graduate."

Other seniors were not so lucky. English and math electives left some students having to really hit the books all year.

"I've completed government, but I also have to pass A.P. English," said senior Ian O'Briant. "I skipped English IV to take the class and need my fourth English credit to graduate."

The Exit Exam, first given to students their sophomore year, is a test of basic skills. The BSAP served as the Exit Exam; however, the *Press and Standard* reported that educators found the current BSAP to be too easy. BSAP tested eighth grade skills so a new, more challenging test is proposed for 1998.

— Jennifer Babilon



To prepare for the BSAP or Exit Exam, sophomore Jenny Burke fills out her index card for Mrs. Cheryl Murdaugh's geometry class. Mrs. Murdaugh gave her students math problems daily to be put on index cards in order to review for the Exit Exam.