

# The ADVOCATE

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the election

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In The Advocate

## Audit: Stamford has \$1.3M deficit

By Kevin McCallum

STAMFORD — For the first time since Mayor Daniel Malloy took office six years ago, Stamford has suffered a financial loss. After budget surpluses in the first five years of Malloy's administration, the city ran a \$1.26 million deficit for the year that ended June 30, according to draft financial results prepared by the city's audit firm, McGladrey and Pullen of New Haven. Malloy blames the deficit on

## Malloy blames Board of Education

overspending by the Board of Education.

The audit firm presented the results to the Board of Finance's Audit Committee earlier this month and will release its final report, with comments, by the end of the year, said Tom Hamilton, city Director of Administration.

The audit showed the city spent \$293 million on services

and expenses, including \$159 million on education.

"What we're seeing now is the beginning of the results of the poor fiscal management by the Malloy administration," Board of Finance member James Rubino said of the deficit.

Rubino said he and fellow Republican members of the Board of Finance have long called for deeper cuts in city

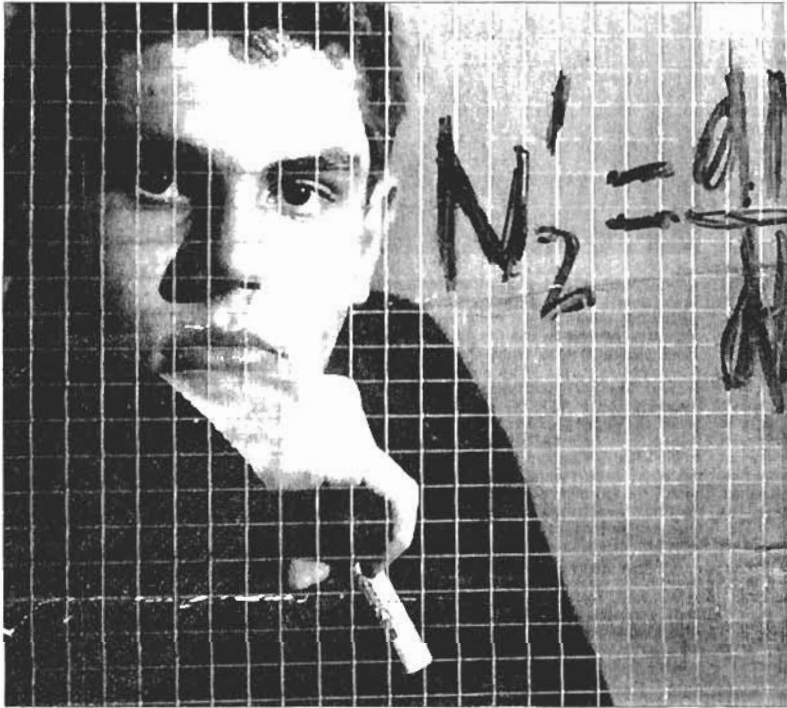
staff. When the economy was booming, this "fat" in the city budget could be disguised, but not any more, Rubino said.

"He's sanidist," Malloy said of Rubino. "In good times, I reduced our work force by 200 people. Jim has been no part of it. He's been absent. He doesn't make a whole lot of sense in good times and makes even less sense in bad times."

Hamilton contributed to a decrease in its estate tax policy and the and in unexpected from it.

The result, worse, he said. Last fall, the \$1.5 million, tuting a hiring ing 1,300 and 3

## Salt marsh scientist



Igor Zelenberg, a 16-year-old Stamford High School senior, has written the mathematical equation for the rate of change of a population over time. He has been named a national semifinalist in the Siemens Westinghouse Competition in Math, Science and Technology for his studies of the effect of pollutants on fish.

Stamford High senior named a semifinalist in national competition

By Charles Dianis Staff Writer

STAMFORD — Igor Zelenberg received two important letters in the mail Saturday.

The first one told the Stamford High School senior he had not been chosen for membership in the National Honor Society.

"I was disappointed over what I had read, and I didn't open the other letter for three hours," the 16-year-old said.

But the second envelope contained better news. Igor was one of 288 high school seniors to be named a national semifinalist in the Siemens Westinghouse Competition in Math, Science and Technology.

The award honors students who conduct scientific research. Igor was cited for a project that studied the

"It's really tiring on the brain, but I like doing the work."

Igor Zelenberg

High schooler on his science project

effect of pollution on minnows in two Connecticut salt marshes.

"I knew I wanted to do something with the environment and the effects of pollution. Then I had to decide what to focus on," said Igor, one of five semifinalists from Connecticut.

After choosing to study fish, Igor received help in the past year from mentors at the University of Connecticut, Trinity College and

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in fish from Stratford, which were taken from a site near several industrial businesses.

"It's really tiring on the brain, but I like doing the work," Igor said.

This fall, Igor started studying the level of pollutants in other sea creatures — such as mussels, clams and plankton — in the Stratford salt marsh.

"The higher you go up on the food chain, the concentration of pollutants goes up as well," he said.

Igor, who was born in Ukraine, moved to the United States when he was 4. His mother, Inna, taught math in Ukraine and his father, Mikhail, was a scientist and high school physics teacher.

"My family's big on science, but we're more into math," said Igor, who moved to Stamford three years ago from Brooklyn, N.Y.

One of his classmates, Jimmy Tournas, said Igor has a knack for science.

"Sometimes, he just spouts out random facts that nobody else would know, and he can think of ways of doing things without following procedures," Jimmy said. "He just knows how to figure things out."

Igor has not decided which college he wants to attend but

"He takes criticisms and suggestions very well, which is good, because science can't exist in a vacuum."

Teacher Frank LaBanca On student Igor Zelenberg

said he would like to study biochemical engineering. Igor has good instincts that would help him excel in science, LaBanca said.

"You can tell by the way he asks questions — they aren't straight-on," LaBanca said. "I could tell from the start he was really thinking about what I was saying in my lectures."

The Siemens Westinghouse competition includes a \$100,000 grand prize and scholarships, but Igor's project is not considered for the top award. Instead, he has been invited to give an oral presentation on his findings next month at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Igor is a member of the Stamford High tennis and swim teams, but his busy schedule doesn't bother him, he said.

"I wouldn't want it to be easy," he said. "I come to school to learn."

The Common Council approve additional expenditure of the project, plagued by Please see P

## Students seal the seals of the

By John Nickl Staff Writer

NORWALK — A group of school students spotted the season during a motorcruise in Norwalk Harbor.

The unexpectedly early seals was made by 26 students in a Marine Corps ship participating in a Marine Corps Marine Life Studies Competition.

One seal was seen hauled beneath an irrigation canal mouth of the harbor in a C. The other two were seen

Teikyo Post University. Igor also relied on Frank LaBanca, director of a program at Stamford High that allows students to conduct independent scientific research.

"He's doing it because he thinks it's important research," said LaBanca, who teaches biology. "He really enjoys the feedback and he takes criticisms and suggestions very well, which is good, because science can't exist in a vacuum."

Igor analyzed the levels of metallothionein — an enzyme produced in response to the existence of heavy metals — that accumulated in minnow livers. The fish were taken from salt marshes in Stratford and Stonington.

Igor's research indicated metallothionein levels were significantly higher

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