The Round Table

Volume XVIII, Number 3

Stamford High School Stamford, Connecticut 06902

December 19, 1989

Students assess lack of minority involvement in school activities

By Anna Griffin Editor-in-Chief

nlike many urban schools, Stamford High School doesn't have any of the violdent racial confrontations that a socially and economically diverse student body can create. While minority students make up 42% of the student population, teachers, administrators, and students agree that there are no obvious racial problems

However, all sides do admit that there is a tremendous lack of communication between white and minority students, stemming from low minority involvement in school activities and events. No fights or riots break out over this problem but it is almost as dangerous to school spirit and to student

This problem is quite evident. At recent Student Council meetings, according to Student Council President Jason Eis, "The only minorities we get are the ones who are forced to come as class representatives." Despite the fact that the meetings are open to all who choose to attend, few minority students choose to do so.

Coincidentally the sports primarily participated in by blacks are the so-called "name sports" of football, basketball and baseball. The only clubs or after school activities frequented by large numbers of minority students are the Minority Student Union, and, as Principal Mike Nast was quick to point out, the Drama Club. According to Mr. Nast, "I've seen changes in the Drama Club. That's where I see the greatest diversity in students."

Even with participation in clubs like MSU and Drama and in sports like football and basketball there remains a dangerous lack of communication among students of different races, colors, and socioeconomic levels.

Various reasons cited

All parties involved recognize that there is a serious problem with minority involvement. Predictably, they all cite dif-ferent reasons. "I don't think we've extended ourselves enough," said Mr. Nast adding, "I guess we have to establish a better feeling. We have to go out of our way to recruit minorities.'

Many agree with Mr. Nast that most school organizations don't openly encourage blacks and other minority students to



Kelly Farrow, Student Council President Jason Eis, MSU President Donna Dorsey and Carla Beckford meet to discuss ways to encourage more minorities to become involved in school activities. The first step is for MSU and Student Council to take charge. (Photo by Coffey)

get involved. "You can't just say, 'black people come',' pointed out senior Kelly Farrow. Jason Eis reiterated that opinion, "I can't just drag kids there [Student Council meetings]. I think groups like MSU should encourage kids to participate. White students also have to encourage their minority friends to come. Once they get there, they'll see how much fun it is."

However, another big problem seems to be that many minority students "don't see any use" in getting involved or claim no interest in school activities. "I try to get a lot of people to come to Student Council and class activities, but response is usually negative, like 'What difference will it make if I go?'," commented senior class and MSU secretary Carla Beckford, Or as sophomore Alva Carter put it, "A lot of black people just don't care about soccer."

While this is in part an understandable feeling, it would appear that all students, black, white, or any color, should be interested in the activities of the Student Council. Unfortunately, and seemingly inexplicable, at most Student Council meetings the majority of students in attendance represent one economic and social type and the majority of these students are white.

"I feel intimidated," admitted Carla Beckford seeing why few blacks attend the meetings that are supposed to establish the opinions of the entire student body. "We tried to encourage more interaction by saying every English class must

send one representative, but by keeping the meetings open to all students you run a chance of making them [minorities] feel overwhelmed," said Mr. Nast.

Dances not attended

There has also been a lack of

minority participation at recent school functions, more specifically school dances. "Some of the music can be changed to encourage different groups of kids to come," suggested Kelly Farrow. While many students, not just blacks, see MINORITIES page 8

Dismantling of Berlin Wall hailed as symbol of freedom

By Dana Plansky Staff Reporter

November 9th, 1989 will go down in history as a crucial day in the "reforming" of Communism. The dismantling of the Berlin Wall and the opening of East German borders were inspired by decades of a depressing, tragic, cold war, a war that benefited no one.

Glasnost and Perestroika suggested

Shortly after Gorbachev came to power in Russia, his ideas of Glastnost and Perestroika were presented to the world. Glastnost, an official policy of openness concerning the problems and shortcomings of Soviet society, promotes ideas such as freedom of speech and freedom of the press. This radical restructuring of the Soviet economy is better known as perestroika.

Ideas spread through Eastern Europe

The desire of people to live better and freer did not restrict itself to the Soviet Union. Gorbachev's ideas served as the spark that is presently responsible for the flames of freedom that are now burning in other Eastern Bloc Countries. (East Germany, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary,

Romania, and Bulgaria.) Over the past year, there has been radical change in many Eastern European countries. Last June, Solidarity, the free trade union of Poland, was voted into power, replacing the Communist government. This political change brought with it the challenge of restructuring Poland's failing communist economy.

October saw Hungary's ruling party shed communism for a more democratic socialist republic. This came approximately five months after Hungary took an important step on its long journey towards opening its borders to the West. The Hungarians began to dismantle the barbed wire along the Austrian border.

Since last summer, more than 100,000 East Germans have fled to West Germany, some using the Hungarian border and others using West German embassies in Eastern Bloc Countries. Unfortunately, not everyone can leave. "The older people just can't pick up and start a new life somewhere

see BERLIN page 6

Knight Light Mariene Kweskin



Dr. Seuss



Auto Safety



OPINION

MSU and Student Council must work together for all

No one can deny that there is a serious lack of communication between whites and minorities both in the halls of Stamford High and outside in the real world. Instead of trying to find a scapegoat for this problem, the students of SHS need to work to consider a solution.

The Round Table proposes a quasi-merger between the Minority Student Union and the Student Council. In order for this plan to work it must have the cooperation of both whites and minorities. If SHS minorities truly want to have a greater "presence" in school they must get involved. One way to do this is to join MSU. Meanwhile, MSU should adopt a provision saying that all members should attend Student Council meetings.

In return, the Student Council could create a new position as MSU representative for the Minority Student Union president. MSU must work within the Student Council to avoid causing further separation and to preserve the intent and power of both groups.

The only way for this plan to work is if minorities join MSU and Student Council. The Round Table encourages a summit meeting between Mr. Nast and members of the Student Council and MSU to look into this process. If this plan can be implemented successfully the Student Council could be a truly representative body.

No smoking in school policy must be enforced

It is an unfortunate fact that in our society many high school students choose to smoke. At Stamford High School it is common to see teenage smokers in bathrooms, in the fifth floor courtyard, and outside the gym before, during, and after school.

Smoking in school is both a health risk and an inconvenience to smokers and non-smokers alike. However, it seems the administration is doing nothing to stop the obvious breaking of Board of Education policy, not to mention state law. At any given time during the day, it is impossible to go into a lavatory and not be confronted by a group of smokers. It is equally as impossible to leave any school rest room without smelling of and coughing from cigarette smoke.

Smoking in school is a problem which affects smokers and non-smokers and which currently is not being adequately handled. A program to enforce its no-smoking policy must be written. Input should be sought from students, administrators, security personnel, and teachers. While students may choose to smoke once they enter school, their habit becomes both a safety risk and an inconvenience for everyone.

The Round Table encourages the administration to improve its enforcement of the no-smoking policy. Students discovered smoking in school must be dealt with. The administration must make a better effort to find and punish smokers. If the students who spend their time smoking in bathrooms knew that at any moment they could be caught and punished, they might be inclined to stop.



LETTER POLICY

The Round Table welcomes letters from its readers. Letters must be original and signed. All are subject to editing. Anonymous letters are not published, but names may be withheld upon request.

Letters to the editor and op-ed pieces are solely the opinions of the writers.

The opinions of The Round Tableare expressed in the editorials and are

The Round Table reserves the right not to publish any letters or op-ed pieces as it sees fit. Address letters and on-ed pieces to: Letters to the Editor

Board policy on distribution of flyers is wrong

By Jen Fraulo
Assistant News Editor

"No advertisements or announcements other than advertisements or announcements relating to school or school-sponsored activities are to be read, distributed, or displayed in the classroom or on the school premises, except with written authorization of the Superintendent of Schools or his designee."

Board of Education Policy amended and adopted December 12, 1978.

The Stamford School Board Policy was originally established in September of 1963. On paper, it seems fairly reasonable. In practice, it is a threat to the First Amendment rights of students. This is because the authorization or rejection of a specific handout or publication is arbitrary, and in the absence of clear standards, becomes subject only to the opinions of those holding administrative positions.

This regulation has since become a restraint against the student distribution of all material of a political or controversial nature, even those which do not involve opinion or persuasion.

According to Mark Goodman, Executive Director of the Student Press Law Center in Washington, D.C., this function is without legal justification, as the distribution of political material of any type, especially factual, cannot be prohibited unless it presents an imminent threat of disrupting the safety and order of the school.

Stamford case cited

The 1971 U.S. Supreme Court case of Eisner v. Stamford Board of Education affirms the right for students to circulate independent publications without prior administrative approval. Circuit Court Judge Robert C. Zampano had ruled the Board's policy "unconstitutional" and "unenforceable." This was upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Yet it remains, despite this ruling, laden with inconsistencies in interpretation and execution. For instance, some administrators hold the erroneous belief that material may be distributed on school grounds, but not within the school building itself. The right of The Round Table to freely cover controversial subjects in editorial form is respected, while independent fliers that contain only simple facts may be prohibited. And while there is obviously no restriction on subjects that may be discussed verbally, some, such as abortion, become miraculously taboo as soon as they are put on looseleaf paper and circulated.

This reporter suggests that no written material should be prevented from being distributed on the sole grounds of it being controversial. The administration indeed has the responsibility of maintaining order and safety in the building, but don't they also have an equal obligation to the fulfillment of the purpose of this institution, i.e, to encourage education, awareness, and involvement, not to impede it?

As a compromise, this policy should be revised to make censorship applicable only to materials that are libelous, commercially promotional, or that present a clear and present danger to the student body.

-LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Schwartzenegger defended

Dear Editor,

I am an avid reader of The Round Table over the past three years. I have never seen such a misused stereotype in that time as I have in the November 1989 issue. The article on steroid use in high school students was an accurate report of the facts, but in the introduction there was a misleading statement which I feel must be corrected.

"The competition becomes so fierce that the craving to

Red Cross thanks SHS students

Dear Mr. Palley and staff of The Round Table,

Enclosed please find a copy of the thank you letter received from the Stamford branch of The Red Cross. SHS did make a significant contribution to Hurricane Hugo relief, and I thought it might be nice to publish it in The Round Table.

Sincerely, Lisa Rich Foreign Language Dept.

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the victims of Hurricane Hugo, please accept our grateful appreciation for your generous donation of \$295.65.

The compassion that all of you have shown is heartwarming. We at the Stamford Chapter were very touched by your thoughtfulness.

To date, over 8 million meals have been served to the disaster victims. There are still 409 shelters open to assist individuals in rebuilding their lives.

It is only through the support of a caring community that the American Red Cross is able to be there when help is needed. Thank you for caring.

Gratefully,

Jean F. Hall Executive Director overpower one another results in the urge to look like Arnold Schwartzenegger." This is extremely misleading, and gives the wrong image of Arnold Schwartzenegger. The use of steroids is to gain muscle mass and strength which are mostly interchangeable.

In high school athletes, the major concern is for strength to and performance. Professional body builders have mass, but are not concerned with strength.

Using Arnold in this article is a stereotype which defames him out of ignorance. High school athletes, if they are true athletes, would be more concerned with their strength performance from using steroids that their so called "looks."

Lee Fenster Grade 12

Enough on radio show!

Dear Editor,

I have noticed that the radio show has been given too much attention. Our paper is inundated with trivial information about the show which takes up about 1.42% of the school day.

First of all, the show exists solely for the students. It is our five minutes, our time to hear people make fools of themselves and also hear daily student bulletins.

If it was planned for the teachers, we would have them [italics added] broadcasting it. Half of the time I never hear the show because of class lessons or simply failure to hear announcements through the wretched speakers.

If you don't like the show, don't listen. If you do, great! Don't make a mountain out of a mole hill!

> Sincerely, Tom Kanos Grade 12

Radio show host responds

Dear Editor,

In response to Gerard Melchionne's op-ed piece in last month's Round Table entitled 'SHS on the Air' should make changes, I would like to clear up some mistaken facts and refute some of the author's opinions.

First of all you asked the question, "Do they realize with such a wide variety of people in the student population that maybe not everybody likes classic rock?"

To answer your question: during the months of October and November the radio show played only four classic rock and roll tunes while it played somewhere around five or six top ten hits, two rap songs and two songs from the 1920's. I think we realize.

Second, you said, "Obviously the bad jokes and tasteless humor have carried over to our own radio show here at SHS." This comment is not only highly opinionated, but coming from a person who can not even hear the show clearly (due to a broken speaker in his first period class) it is ridiculous. The one instance that was mentioned as having been in poor

taste (the Keith Jackson skit) was one mistake which we apologized for, but also learned from. The citing of this one mistake (which took up almost 25% of the article) was not only inappropriate but added nothing to what was supposed to be constructive criticism.

I realize that the article was trying to get a somewhat valid point across. However, the article failed miserably. It was filled with unfounded facts and nonconstructive criticism. However, in respect to its original purpose, a box for musical and miscellaneous suggestions for the radio show has been placed in the main office.

Sincerely vours

OPINION

Greek should be taught here

By Estelle Nikolopoulos Staff Reporter

Did you ever stop and think about how valuable learning a foreign language could be? Foreign languages not only help you communicate with others in their language, but they also help you to understand your own language better, by giving you a better understanding of English grammar and vocabulary. Unfortunately, the selection of foreign languages taught in high school is limited

Greek is one of the many languages not taught in the Stamford Public Schools. I believe it should be included in the foreign language selection. Greek has special interest for students because many English words are borrowed from the Greek language. Many of our mathematical, scientific, and artistic terms derive from Greek. Greek mathematical terms include arithmetic, geometry and trignometry.

Scientific terms include atom, biology, botany, economics and zoology. Words used in art include criticism, music and poetry.

Latin, another language from which the English language has derived, is borrowed from the Greek language. Latin is no longer a spoken language, but Greek is. Yet Latin is offered to students for study but Greek is not.

During our years in high school, we study Greek history and use Greek terms in math and science continuously. Students should be given the opportunity to study Greek more in-depth by learning the language and the Greek culture that would be taught in a Greek class. This would give students a better view and feeling of the English language and how our culture relates to the Greek.

Personal locks must be allowed

By Kelly Warrick Staff Reporter

Usually our first stop in the morning is our lockers. This is where we leave our books and until now, we could leave our personal possessions. Recently, a chain of locker thefts at SHS has left students with a problem—our personal possessions are no longer

Sophomore Becky Sobo now wears her leather jacket all day during school because "I don't feel safe leaving it in the locker."

She is not alone in her fear. Senior Jennifer Chiappetta had her leather jacket stolen from her locker recently, "I think its disgraceful that you can't leave anything of value in your own locker and its pathetic that there's such a sudden change of thefts by our own SHS students.

Principal Michael Nast recently warned Stamford High students not to bring anything valuable to school and leave it in their lockers. Students are now faced with a dilemma. With the winter months here, jackets are a necessity to get to school. Not many of us have jackets we wouldn't mind having stolen and few want to wear their jackets all day during school. What is the alternative? Is leaving home without a jacket on cold mornings smart? Yet many students

There aren't many more possible solutions. Leaving our jackets at home isn't a good idea. If the administration can no longer provide us with a safe place to store our valuables, then something has to be done! The school does not allow us to bring our own locks at this time, but maybe they should. There is no other plausible alternative and we can't ask students to stop wearing coats. The students need a safe place to put them.

If we were allowed to bring our own locks, we would be sure our possessions would be safe and we wouldn't have to freeze in the mornings. Junior Jessie Jiminez said, "I think it is a disgrace, that even things in lockers are not safe. To find such a reality exists is upsetting of course, but the fact that students are not allowed to add their own locks is something that I question. I find it difficult to believe.'

It is hard to believe that our fellow students have left us with only books in our lockers. Since we cannot realistically leave our jackets at home, we need a solution. Locks seem to be the most effective.

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The Round Table is published monthly (except July, August and September) by the Communications

Smoking area needed for students who smoke

By Jennifer Kay Staff Reporter

Is this a familiar scene? You walk into the bathroom and are immediately covered by a cloud of smoke. You can't breathe. You begin to cough and choke. You rush out of the bathroom gagging. Is this any way to start your

The state of Connecticut bans smoking in all public buildings for all people under 18. It also provides for designated smoking areas for those over 18. Therefore, smoking anywhere on school grounds during the school day is illegal.

For teachers, Mr. Nast has designated a smoking lounge where they can smoke, as long as it is not in a place which a non-smoker must use. Why can't students over the age of 18 have their own smoking area?

There is a school in Maryland which has such a policy. Westminster High School designates certain areas as official smoking areas. A student can be issued a smoking pass by the vice-

principal if he or she has permission of a parent. This policy is designed to keep the smoke out of the bathrooms.

Advantages to program

There are many advantages to a plan like this. First, non-smokers wouldn't have to put up with all the smoke in the bathrooms. Also, smokers wouldn't have to dodge the administration constantly to avoid getting caught. Under this plan, the administration wouldn't have to patrol the school looking for smokers. They would just have to check passes in the smoking areas.

The reason why this plan is a good idea for all students is that if a person is addicted to nicotine, he or she will smoke anyway. By giving them a designated place to smoke legally, it should keep other students safe from the dangers of second hand smoke.

The school would not be promoting smoking, but protecting the welfare of non-smokers. Perhaps our administration should consider such a plan.

Standing should be optional for national anthem

By Mike Epstein Staff Reporter

Everyone knows that the Star Spangled Banner, the American National anthem, is played every morning on SHS on the Air. But does everyone know what their rights are when it comes to whether or not to stand during its playing?

At a recent Student Council meeting, this issue came up. Someone raised his hand and said that some teachers have been forcing students to stand during the national anthem. Mike Limone asked if this practice were legal. President Jason Eis said that forcing people to stand should not be accepted without question, but that each individual student should discuss his or her beliefs with the classroom teacher.

Court cases rule for students

Forcing students to stand during the national anthem is illegal. In a District Court Case in Arizona, Sheldon vs. Fannin, a suit was brought against the school and its administration for suspending students who refused to stand for the singing of the national anthem. Although the students were Jehovah's Witnesses, which brings religion into the case, some interesting points

First, under constitutional law, the court stated that the singing of the national anthem "is not a religious ceremony but a patriotic one" and it may be freely sung in schools. That point is non-arguable. The court also said that the First Amendment "guarantees to members of a religious sect the right to claim that their objection for not standing during the singing of the national anthem is based on religious belief and the sincerity of the claim may not be examined by the court in determining whether denial of such privilege" is in violation of the First

Non-religious objection

You may say "That's all well and good, but what about those who don't have a religious objection?" This case covers that point as well. The court interprets the First Amendment as "all those who live under the protection of our flag are free to believe whatever they choose to believe and to express that belief...no m how unfounded or even ludicrous the professed belief may seem to others."

This brings us to another point from the

Supreme Court case West Virginia State Board of Education vs. Barnette. In this case, the Court based its decision not only on the "free-exercise clause" but on the principle inherent in the entire First Amendment: "governmental authority may not directly coerce the unwilling expression of any belief, even in the name of 'national unity' in time of war."

Underground newspaper suppressed

In Stanley vs. Northeast Independent School Distict, Bexar County, Texas, the school board suspended five students who had distributed an underground newpaper. However, they handed out the paper off school grounds and outside school hours. The case was decided in favor of

What does this have to do with the national anthem? The court, in this case the U.S Court of Appeals Fifth Circuit, made a number of relevant points both in support of and against the school board.

The court said that "The exercise of right of expression in the high schools, whether by students or by others, is the subject to reasonable constraints, more restrictive than those restraints that can normally limit First Amendment freedom.'

The court stated that the test for setting restrictions on free expression is based on whether or not the expression will "...materially and substantially interfere with the activities or discipline of the school." Also, if the school administration can demonstrate reasonable cause to believe expression would create a disturbance, such expression can be prohibited.

However the court said "Expression by high school students cannot be prohibited solely because other students, teachers, administrators, or parents may disagree with its contents."
Another point was that "[Controversy] is never sufficient in and of itself to stifle the views of any citizen." And finally, "Aversion to 'criticism' is not constitutionally reasonable justification for forbidding the exercise of First Amendment expression.'

So what does all this mean? Basically it means unless a student not standing for the national anthem will disrupt the daily routine of the school, nobody can force him or her to stand. Therefore, if a student decides to sit quietly in his seat during the minute and a half in which the Star Spangled Banner is played, no one can

Students should stand for national anthem

By Josh Weinstein Staff Reporter

Sitting in the Student Council meeting on November 7, an issue was brought up dealing with the national anthem. A student seemed to feel that students should not have to stand up when the anthem is being played. The Student Council officials then told all the representatives that a lot of complaints have been made about the issue. Some students said they seem to feel that having to stand doesn't give them the freedom of choice.

I feel that this is the most ridiculous thing a person can say. Don't students realize how lucky they are that they live in America? I cannot understand how a student could complain about standing for two minutes to show their country a little bit of respect. SHS on the Air came up with a great idea when they decided to add the national anthem. The anthem gives the students

their freedom and they aren't aware of what it's like to live in a non-democratic country. Students should be made more aware of what it is like to live in another country, and then maybe they would appreciate America more.

Originally I was not aware of this problem because my first period class stands immediately when the anthem starts playing. After talking to other students, I learned that the majority of the students stand up except a few who obviously have no respect for their country. Senior Bill Currier said, "The students who do not stand have the right, but I feel that every student should at least take two minutes out of the day to show their respect."

This problem has been explored in The Round Table and will most likely be continued to be studied. The Student Council officers said the school will not stop playing the national anthem, which is good for the majority of the student body who respect this country. The students who refuse to stand should think about why they can

NEWS

Advocates for highway safety emphasize value of responsible driving at Hartford convention

News Editor

"We are here to talk about the importance of the safety belt," was the introduction to the Reducing the Toll convention in Hartford November 1. Students, teachers, reporters and representatives from numerous anti-drunk driving organizations gathered to talk about ways of preventing and lessening the severity of car accidents.

Members and representatives from auto safety programs such as MADD, SADD, RADAR, CARE, RID, insurance companies, advocates for highway safety and numerous more, all stated other problems besides the use of safety belts but all came to a consensus that the use of safety belts is most important and it should be stressed. As one viewer added, "You never know the true value of the safety belt until you're in need

Teens face high risk

More and more people are learning this the hard way. Teenagers are at the highest risk. It is a fact that automobile accidents are the leading killer of today's teens. During 1988, a total of 7,244 teens between the ages of 13 to 19 were killed. These statistics fail to mention the number of people who are left permanently injured. Those people will have to live daily with the side affects of

"The most tragic fact is that many of these people could have survived their crashes if they were only wearing their safety belts," said a registered nurse, Greg Klaus, who works in Mt. Sinai Hospital's Emergency Room.

He explained that there are certain laws of nature which are irrefutable. We are affected by these laws. For example, Newton's second law says a body at rest will stay at rest and a body in motion will remain in motion until an external force obstructs the action. One formula used is to multiply the speed of the car times body against the car. (body weight × speed × impact) No one can resist the movement of his body weight while going 30 miles per hour. That is why the safety belt was invented.

Lives ruined unnecessarily

Klaus spoke of his experiences in the emergency room. He showed slide after slide of people whose lives had been ruined in car accidents. He stated clearly the three stages of an automobile accident. First is the collision of the car; second is the collision of a body against the interior of the car; and third the collision of internal organs within a body. Klaus also described the medical facts and what must be done to save lives. The results of the accident were explicitly described by Klaus as "daily carnage which we try to reconstruct.'

During 1988 a total of 7244 teens between the ages of 13 and 19 were killed. These statistics fail to mention those left permanently injured.



Failure to buckle safety belts and drinking while intoxicated are the two major causes of serious injury among teens in auto accidents. (Photo by Loonin)

The leading cause of death in a car accident is the trauma, the external force, that is exerted on the body. "Prevention is more effective than our medicine and that's why we are here (at today's conference)."

Solutions aren't easy

So what can be done? Connecticut already has a safety beit law. So why do so many people resist the law that was created for their personal safety? Common complaints of irritation and discomfort seem to repeat in an endless circle. If people would think of the consequences before their actions, many lives could be saved. Safety belts are more comfortable than body casts.

Students take lead

Throughout the convention ideas, solutions and new problems were brought up, but the overall feeling that was generated was dedication and a passion for the cause. As one audience member commented, "If we could channel the energy in this room we would succeed in reaching our goals.

Drunk driver tells story

All of these terms and images were completely understood by Robert Stone. He was the next speaker to tell his story. Years ago Stone and two of his friends had gotten behind the wheel while intoxicated. Stone,

the driver, was the only survivor. Besides the manslaughter charges against him, he suf-fered physically. "I was in such a bad condition that doctors told me that my face was literally torn off my skull. Things could have been better if I had worn a safety belt."

Years later and after numerous operations and physical therapy sessions, Robert Stone has become the president of the Litchfield County Chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Driving. He shared his painful experience in hope that it would prevent and educate others. The audience will never forget Stone's emotional speech.

The Round Table looks back at the 1980's

By Len Wolfson Assistant Editorials Editor

(This is the first of two parts which examines the political personalities, the economy, international affairs and social issues of the 1980's)

As the decade draws to a close, it is important to look back and reflect on the people, events, and trends that have shape our lives, for the 1980's are the only decade that our generation of "baby

busters" clearly remembers.
The "Roaring 20's," the
"Fabulous 50's," the "Turbulent 60's," are names tagged to previous decades. How will historians refer to this decade? Perhaps it should be called the "Awesome 80's," for that is truly what they have been-awesome!

POLITICAL

In this category, the decade was dominated by former President Ronald Reagan and his former vice-president, now President George Bush. Together, these two men shaped the political philosophy of the 1980's. Reagan's popularity was evinced by his breaking of Franklin D. Roosevelt's electoral vote record with his landslide victory over Walter Mondale in the 1984 Presidential election.

Other prominent names

However, there were other noteworthy politicians who made a name for themselves during the course of the decade. The first was Jesse Jackson, an African-American who ran for the Democratic Party Presidential nomination twice and lost. However, in the course of his efforts, Jackson was able to register more blacks to vote than any man in history. Jackson became the nation's best known black politician, as well as its most controversial.

Geraldine Ferraro became the first woman to ever run for vice-president on a major party ticket when Walter Mondale chose her to be his running

Gary Hart, former senator from Colorado, also made a name for himself. A presidential aspirant, and the man seen most likely to win the Democratic Party's nomination. Hart was caught having an affair with a campaign worker, model Donna Rice, on board a boat appropriately named Monkey Business.

The Republicans debuted Dan Quayle, who became an overnight sensation. From the National Guard to the Tonight Show's list of casualties, Dan Quayle became-America's most ridiculed politician.

The decade was dominated by former President Ronald Reagan and his Vice-President, now President George Bush. Together they shaped the political philosophy of the 1980's.

Ollie North was a hit too. His four-star performance in the Iran-Contra scandal won him "hero," even though it almost brought down the Reagan administration. The scandal involved Reagan's staff members selling arms to Iran in the hopes that some of our hostages would be released, and funneling the money to the Contra rebels in Nicaragua who were trying to overthrow Ortega's Communist Sandanista regime, even though Congress had banned such aid.

Other great scandals included Speaker of the House Jim Wright and Majority Whip Tony Coelho who were forced to resign from Congress; Barney Frank, the representative from Massachusetts who admitted sharing his bed with a male prostitute for years; and former senator John Tower, whose alleged drinking and womanizing cost him his nomination as Secretary of

Defense. The latest scandal was in the Housing and Urban Development department, in which employees gave money to personal friends them to build low income housing.

INTERNATIONAL

There were few wars in the 1980's. The decade commenced with a short struggle between England and Argentina for the Falkland Islands. Other wars included the ongoing Iran/Iraq War, the constant conflicts between Israel and its neighbors, and the 10 year long Soviet occupation of Afghanistan, recently concluded.

There were however some United States military exercises that Americans will never forget. The first was the Iran hostage crisis in 1980 that involved a failed rescue mission. More successful efforts included the raid on the island of Grenada in 1983 and the bombing of Lybia in 1986.

Lost American lives Other events that Americans

Ronald Reagan

should not forget are the bombing of the marine barracks in Lebanon, the shooting down of a Korean Air Lines jet by the Soviet Union, the Chinese crackdown on peaceful, pro-democracy student demonstrations, and the explosion of the Space Shuttle "Challenger."

International names in the news

Some of the people that Americans came to know during the decade were Lybia's Muammar Quadaffi, Panama's General Manuel Noriega, Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini, the P.L.O.'s Yassir Arafat, England's Margaret Thatcher, and the Soviet Union's Mikhail Gorbachev.

New dangers about smoking fail to deter addicts

By Lisa Dolan Staff Reporter

id you know that cigarette smoke contains over 4000 chemicals including cyanide, nicotine, acetone and

Did you know that 401 substances found in tar are toxic, and another 43 are known to cause cancer?

Did you know that nicotine was used as an insecticide and is an addictive drug as is heroin and crack/cocaine?

Despite these grim facts, each day more than 3000 American teenagers start smoking.

Dangerous chemicals

Cigarette smoke also contains tar which is a mixture of the solid particles found in smoke. The particles combine to form a sticky brown substance which can stain teeth. More importantly, tar contains many harmful substances, some of which cause cancer.

Carbon monoxide is also found in cigarette smoke. It is the poisonous gas which is present in automobile exhaust. Formaldehyde, the chemical used to preserve the dead frogs in biology class, is also present in cigarette smoke.

Methanol, another ingredient found in smoke, has been known to cause blindness. It is also used as an additive in or a substitute for gasoline.

Acetone, found in nail polish remover, is another substance found in cigarette smoke as are arsenic, ammonia, carbolic acid, DDT and radioactive plutonium. These are just some of the chemicals found in cigarette smoke.

Survey results defined

Student smokers however, don't seem to be predominant at SHS. According to a recent survey conducted by The Round Table only 11% of the students polled smoked. Also,

very few students have parents or friends who smoke. Students do mind if their companions smoke and this may contribute to the lack of smokers at SHS.

The survey also showed the 67% of the non-smoking students had non-smoking parents. Seventy-three percent of non-smokers said they do not have many friends who smoke. Of the smokers, 50% do not have friends who smoke.

Of the non-smokers, 66% do not think it is all right for high school students to smoke, compared to the 80% of smokers who feel the opposite. Seventytwo percent of the non-smokers mind when people round them smoke. Smokers differently.

Generally, most of the nonsmoking students have nonsmoking parents and friends. They do not feel it is all right for high school students to smoke and they mind when the people around them smoke. On the other hand, the smoking students think it is all right for high school students to smoke and they don't mind when the people around them smoke.

Smokers believe that they should have the right to smoke and other people's smoke doesn't bother them.

The use of any form of tobacco products (cigarettes, cigars, pipes, snuff, etc.) can lead to serious health problems and cause early death. The average life expectancy of a smoker is 69 years, compared with 76 years for a non-smoker. Smoking doubles a person's chances of getting heart disease, the nation's number one cause of death.

Nine out of ten lung cancer deaths are due to smoking. Also, smokeless tobacco is not a safe alternative to cigarettes,



Students still smoke in the driveways and parking lots even though it is prohibited. (Photo by Mak)

Former Surgeon General E. Everett Koop has called smoking, "the leading cause of preventable premature death in our country.'

Perhaps the reason people continue to smoke, knowing the dangers, is that tobacco contains nicotine, an addicting drug. Nicotine produces a physical and psychological dependence, not unlike heroin and cocaine, making quitting extremely difficult.

Money spent by consumers

Smoking cigarettes costs big money. Smoking just 1/2 a pack per day (10 cigarettes) for 10 years will cost over \$2500. as it can cause gum disease, Smoking two packs a day can tooth loss, and mouth cancer. cost nearly \$1000 per year.

The Round Table **SMOKING SURVEY**

During the week of November 6, 100 students were randomly asked the following questions in the cafeteria:

5. Do you mind when people around you smoke?	68%	32%
4. Do you think it is OK for high school students to smoke?	39%	61%
2. Do your parents smoke?3. Do many of your friends smoke?	33% 28%	67% 72%
	Yes	No

ensorship rears ugly head once again in public schools

By Lee Shufro **Editorials Editor**

here is a fundamental evil that we all must be aware of. This evil strikes at the very soul of the Constitutuion of the United States. Its very existence strikes fear in both the eductors and the educated. This evil is censorship boundaries.

Censorship defined

Censorship is the supression of ideas and information that certain persons and the individual groups or officials find objectional or dangerous. People in favor of censorship believe that schools should not teach certain values or should not expose their students to certain materials.

The reason that censorship is so harmful is it results in the opposite of true education and learning. In the process of acquiring knowlege, sudents must learn to make their own decisions. By supressing materials containing ideas or themes in which they do not agree, censors produce a sterile conformity and a lack of intellectual and emotional growth.

Schools hard hit

Studies have shown that in a

ministrator. The largest number of objections have been raised about isolated passages in books, including books that are viewed as major works of literature, with no regard given to their context. Sixty percent of reported challenges are against books that are fiction, 10% of the challenges came against textbooks, while 25% came against non-fiction tradebooks, children's books, magazines, and films.

The instances of people challenging books became so great that in 1982, the Supreme Court in Board of Education Island Tress vs. Pico, for the first time addressed the issue of whether the First Amendment imposes limitations upon a school board's right to use its discretion to remove books from school libraries.

The 1981 study, "Limiting What Students Should Read", reported that efforts to remove materials occurred with increasing frequency at higher grade levels. High schools are twice as likely as elementary schools to come under attack. In fact, the greatest number of challenges at the high school level have centered on the removal of materials, not the acquisition of

Because of an increasingly growing number of court battions. With the enormous cost of litigation, school officials are forced to curb and amend their curricula so no conflicts.

Many people would assume that censorship is most prevalent in the South and Southwest U.S. But surprisingly, the metropolitan areas of the Northeast and West Coast are equally susceptible because school curricula and library materials are more varied and potentially more controversial.

The most commonly challenged books are Kurt Vonnegut's Slaughterhouse Five, J.D. Salinger's Catcher in the Rye, and Joseph Heller's Catch 22. But books like Blubber by Judy Bloome, Robert Cormier's The Chocolate War, and Gone with the Wind by Margaret Mitchell have also been removed from library shelves.

Stamford policy?

But, the question still remains: to what extent does censorship exist in the Stamford Public Schools? The Stamford Board of Education endorses and accepts the principles incorporated into the School Library Bill of Rights, which says that principle and reason (rather than personal opinion and bias), shall be used in selection nationality.

However, the Board of Education does accept requests for re-evaluation and there is a form that can filled out to challenge material. The superintendent will then issue a decision about the book.

Mrs. Vivian Gluss, librarian at Stamford High School, said that Stamford High's library is censor-free. Recently one book was challenged, but the challenge was withdrawn.

In the past Stamford High has come under attack. During the McCarthy Era (early 1950's) attempts were made to censor books in Stamford. These attempts were lead by a prominent Roman Catholic priest,

who tried to pull books from school shelves. Even a scant 16 years ago, there was a policy allowing for censorship if a book had any objectionable illustrations. These books were packed away in sacks, only available to faculty members. This precluded any kind of sex education at that time.

Mrs. Gluss emphasized the right to read. "We are not in Russia. We are in the United she said.

States of America, If there is any doubt as to the right to freedom of expression, the first amendment to the United States Constitution says, "Congress shall make no law...abridging the freedom of speech..."



FEATURES

Dr. Seuss books teach social issues to readers of all ages

By Jen Fraulo Assistant News Editor

A most distressing delusion is shared by millions of unsuspecting teenagers and adults. These poor unfortunate souls deprive themselves of laughter, old memories, even enlightenment simply because they are unaware that children's books are not just for children.

It is true that a good many of the books that are read at an early age would probably seem less than captivating at this time. There are numerous exceptions however, which deserve not only time and attention, but also recognition as quality art.

Dr. Seuss speaks to adults

One man who must be cited as a master of children's literature is the immortal Dr. Seuss, author of over 40 books, including such classics as The Cat in the Hat, The Grinch Who Stole Chistmas, and Green Eggs and Ham. Amusing and humorous in writing style and illustrations, his works may appear to be genuine banter and

nonsense, but they actually contain important messages.

The Lorax is perhaps Seuss' most influential and controversial book. It is an allegory that warns of the dangers of pollution and the destruction of the environment. This is accomplished through a narrative which recounts the fall of a paradise of sorts to industrial growth. Animals are expelled and trees are destroyed for the sake of the continued production of novelty items known as threeds.

This book has recently been banned from the reading list of some elementary schools on the West Coast, where the lumber industry is powerful and sees this book as a threat to their business. This action has gained the odium of youngsters in those areas.

More socially acceptable themes can be found in other books. Green Eggs and Ham deals with overcoming prejudice and facing new things

with an open mind.

I Had Trouble Getting to Solla Sollew teaches acceptance of reality and the present, and the futility of living for an unattainable vision of perfection. On Beyond Zebra encourages imagination and resisting the lazy, but common tendency to remain within the boundaries of what society has determined as accepted and proper.

This book most thoroughly expresses Seuss' philosophy of writing and illustrating. His characters are usually exotic creatures beyond the imagination of most people. When in need of a word or a rhyme, he often will invent one.

Seuss is acutely aware that humor stems from nonsense, hence such unorthodox creations as "all through the night PICTURE BOOKS PICTURE BOOKS ARE COLOR CODED BY THE FIRST LETTER Dr. Seuss's

Dr. Seuss teaches and entertains with books that develop young people's minds as well as entertain them. (Photo by Lam)

and all through the day the Wubble wubbed on in a wubble-some way."

Whether for the pictures, the nonsense, the humor, or the

meaning, the works of Dr. Seuss are enjoyable to everyone. His creations are amusing, ingenious, and classic literature at its best.

Short stories entertain with quick hooks for fans

By Elyse Krasnogor Staff Reporter

"There is a typo on the hospital menu this morning. They mean, I think, that the pot roast tonight will be served with buttered noodles. But what it says here on my breakfast tray is that the pot roast will be severed with buttered noodles."

This is the opening paragraph of a short story by Amy Hempez. It is just one of the humorous, sad, bizarre, twisted, romantic, or fun short stories that exist in the world. Short story reading is a wonderful pastime (even a part-time pastime) to take up. There are several practical reasons why this is true.

Many people complain of the lack of time for doing anything, let alone reading. Just reading the newspaper can take an entire day. And investigating new books? "Forget it," they say, "I have an aging list a mile long of books I've always wanted to read, but never got a chance."

What about the person who finally does get into a nice juicy romance, or an evocative mystery, or an enthralling biography only to find out that by the time they get to the fifth page they are falling asleep?

And there is also the person who finds himself with bits and pieces of unexpected free time which go completely wasted because that person cannot think of a single one of the million things that he must do that day, or it is simply inconvenient to do them at the present time and place, so he ends twiddling his thumbs.

The short story can save the person from all of these things and more. Although they vary in length, and can be anywhere from one quarter of a page to 50 pages, many can be found that are short and easily readable.

Amy Hempez is an author whose work fits that description. The person who finds himself with no time to read all of those novels whose titles have been accumulated on his "Things to Do" list, can find great benefit in this aspect of the short story. Some can be read in just a few minutes.

For the person who finds himself shortchanged by the first few paragraphs after being sucked into a book, the short story has the advantage of bewhich can be taken in and digested without wasting hours on an uninteresting book. If the reader doesn't like a short story, he will usually find that out relatively quickly.

Short stories are perfect for filling time. If a person is waiting for a ride home from work or school, instead of feeling depressed by the fact that he just wasted anywhere from two to sixty minutes just sitting around, he could have read one or more short stories. Even if he didn't like one or all of them, at least he will feel that he accomplihed something. And if he did like one or all of them, he will have spent an enjoyable few minutes, instead of having cursed his mother for being

These practicalities are valid hints that can help people spend their precious time more effectively. But there is also the aspect of just plain fun. Short stories come in many different shapes and sizes. From beloved, more well known authors such as J.D. Salinger's A Perfect Day For Bananafish and Ernest Hemingway's Hills Like White Elephants to more unusual stories, that some people would have a hard time accepting as such, like Subtotals by Gregory Burnham, which reads like this: "Number of refrigerators I've lived with: 18. Number of rotten eggs I've thrown: 1. Number of finger rings I've owned: 3. Number of broken bones: 0."

By reading short stories one can also learn things about topics he knew nothing about before, and can be exposed to different writers and different styles of writing. Also, for the person who likes to read a number of works by the same author in a succession, the short story is a good way to do that, because of the brief time required to read most of them.

So, if these reasons and the fun involved don't motivate you to run to the library to pick up some short stories maybe this excerpt from Strays by Mark Richard will:

"Uncle Trash rakes everything my brother and I owned into the pillowcases off our bed and says let that be your lesson to me. He is off through the front porch door, leaving us buck-naked at the table, his last words as he goes up the road, shoulder-slinging his loot. Don't v'all burn the

Knight Light

Marlene Kweskin seeks success and happiness

By Tara Whitbread Features Editor

Upon meeting Marlene Kweskin, one wouldn't expect someone of her quiet nature to achieve as much as she has.

Primarily, Marlene excels in academics. She has achieved a 4.0 GPA even through such demanding courses as A.P. Chemistry, and A.P. U.S. History in her junior year, and A.P. Calculus, A.P. English, O Physics, French 4 honors, and Senior Seminar this year. She is an outstanding student who sets no limits on herself.

Her efforts, though, do not end in the classroom. Marlene is also vice-president of the French Club and treasurer of the Math Club, which competes monthly on a national level. In addition to academic clubs, Marlene also played volleyball for two years, receiving a var-sity letter in her sophomore уеаг.

Her most recent position has been achieved within the National Honor Society where she holds the greatly demanding office of tutoring coordinator.

Her primary responsibility is to see that those students requesting a tutor are matched with an NHS member according to ability and scheduling, and to follow up on the situation to see that progress is

Due to her success in SHS. Marlene' comments that, "Despite some of the drawbacks of this school, SHS is a great resource for the student with a genuine desire to

One would think that all of her accomplishments would be enough for a single person to handle, but not Marlene. On top of all her other responsibilities, Marlene now holds a job working three days a week at a florist.

A great amount of Marlene's



The Lorax is an allegory that warns

of the dangers of pollution and the

destruction of the environment.

Marlene Kweskin spends time tutoring students as a Writing Center peer tutor. Kevin Ng takes advantage of the service. (Photo by Lam)

views. She is looking for a highly competitive liberal arts school in New England, of the like of Vassar or Wesleyan.

The future looks very bright for Marlene who has no goals written in stone except simply, "To be happy."

BERLIN WALL FALLS

(continued)

else," said an East German, as quoted by the Associated Press.

East Germans have carried out massive demonstrations within East Germany for reform. Erich Honecker, the leader of East Germany and the builder of the Berlin Wall, was forced to resign, and now the entire cabinet has followed suit. Finally, it is likely that major political and economic reforms will take place, even in East Germany.

On November 8th, the Politburo, the executive committee and chief policymaking body of the Communist party of East Germany, resigned. (This would be the equivalent of the United States's Congress resigning). This resignation was a direct response to the pressure of the demonstrations for

German president, to form a more progressive government.

However, this reaction may not be enough to save communist rule. It is clear that the people are not demanding the reform of a communist government, but rather the elimination of communism and the institution of a democratic government with socialist philosophy.

Brezhnev Doctrine eliminated

October 25th, 1989, Gorbachev announced that the Brezhnev Doctrine is dead, in effect, putting an end to Soviet military interference in Eastern European countries. This will, no doubt, kindle the "Flame of Reform" and encourage the development of democracy throughout Eastern Europe. History is being written right

ing a "neat little package"

FEATURES



Classic Rock has been rejuvenated with '60's groups touring and issuing new records. (Photo by Mak)

Rock Pile

Depeche Mode survives

By Sarah Min Staff Reporter

In the world of new music, there has been one group which has been able to stand the test of time. The group, Depeche Mode, has been a part of the new music scene since the early 1980's. Instead of fading away into obscurity, Depeche Mode has been almost synonymous with the phrase "New Wave."

Depeche Mode, meaning "fast fashion" in French, originated in England. The group consists of four men: Martin Gore, Gavid Gahan, Andrew Fletcher, and Alan Wilder. The lead singer and songwriter is Martin Gore.

The group has not always been made up of the same people. When they first started out, Depeche Mode consisted of Gahan, Gore, Fletcher, and Vincent Clark. Clark was the founder of Depeche Mode.

One of the group's first songs, "Photographic" later became part of an album called Some Bizarre Album. It consisted of a medley of songs by different groups and singers. Photographic was the first step on their path to stardom.

Speak and Spell, the group's first album, was released in November of 1981 and became an immediate hit. The song "New Life" from the next album New Life reached #11 in England. Depeche Mode then went on their first tour.

Founder leaves group

The tour was a big success and Depeche Mode became the hottest new wave band to arrive on the English musical scene. Unfortunately, after the tour Vince Clark left Depeche Mode. He went on to form

another group known as Yaz. Gore took Clark's place as songwriter and Alan Wilder was added as the fourth member of Depeche Mode in 1982.

Despite the loss of Clark, the group has produced eight more albums and each has gained them more popularity. Depeche Mode's hit songs include "Master and Servant" and "Blasphemous Rumours" from their 1984 album Some Great Reward; "People are People" from their fourth album of the same name; "Strange Love" from their album Music for the Masses, and "Route 66" which became "Shriek of the Year" for 1988 on the radio staion 92.7 WDRE.

Some of their songs have

Some of their songs have caused great controversies among critics and listeners. "Blasphemous Rumors" was protested by some Christian groups because the song spoke of God with contempt.

"Strange Love" was a song which received criticism because it preached of the passions of homosexuality. Yet, "People are People" was a song against racism and it was a huge hit.

Depeche Mode's recent album contains five different mixes of the song "Personal Jesus" which denounced the commercialism of evangelism, and two different mixes of the song "Dangerous." Both songs were honored as "Shriek of the Week" in September 1989.

Gore goes solo

Recently, Gore produced a solo album. In it, is the hit song "Compulsion." Depeche Mode has recently come out with a movie Depeche Mode 101, which is now playing in theaters and will be out on video soon.

Rock Pile

'Classic Rock' inundates airwaves

By Brad Rose Staff Reporter

If you have been listening to the radio or following the concert scene lately you may have noticed something strange. You may have even thought that you had gone back to the sixties. Many classic rock and roll bands from the 1960's have just recently made records and are again hitting the road to go touring.

In the spring of 1989 it was announced that the legendary rock group, the Who, would do a tour across America to commemorate their 25th anniversary. Also announced was that they would perform their legendary rock opera, Tommy, in New York and Los Angeles as benefit show. Pete Townshend, the lead guitarist, had also just finished a solo album. This was also a rock opera entitled, The Iron Man. The Who kicked off their very popular tour in Montreal and ended it in Dallas. They are currently touring Europe.

Another group who came to

fame in the sixties is the Rolling Stones. Over the summer they released a new album, Steel Wheels, and said that they would follow it up by doing a tour of their own. The Stones are currently on tour.

Paul McCartney, who gained fame in the sixties with The Beatles released a new album of his own recently. He is also going to do a tour to support the album. He will be playing selections from his days with both the Beatles and Wings, as well as his solo efforts. Paul will be playing a number of shows at Madison Square Garden in December.

The ever popular band Crosby, Stills, and Nash decided to go on tour. They kicked off their tour in White Plains, New York. They are playing smaller venues than the above three mentioned. Jon Casden, who was fortunate enough to see their first show said, "I didn't expect much from the show, but it was an extremely pleasant surprise. It's the best live show I've seen yet. "Neil Young didn't tour with his

three partners; he went solo this year. He made an album and did a solo tour of his own.

Other groups decided to follow this trend to make an album and do a tour. The legendary rock group Jefferson Airplane reunited and made a new album and also did a series of shows across the country. Certain members of the progressive rock group, Yes reunited. They formed a new band called Anderson, Bruford, Wakeman & Howe. They made an album over the summer and continuing for several months are doing a. world tour.

Elton John did the same thing. He made an album and did a todr. The Grateful Dead, are also touring (this isn't surprising because they constantly tour) and are expected to cut a new album soon. Classic rockers Bob Dylan and Jethro Tull made new albums and will also be hitting the roads. All of these recent events leads one to believe that we are traveling back in time.

Dining Out

Four eating places suitable for teenage budgets

By Michelle Hamlin & Emily Moon
Staff Reporters

"Half-day tomorrow guys, where do you want to go?"

"Let's go to Bennigan's."
"No, I just went there the other night with my parents."
"Well, let's try Apple's Cafe."

"I've never even heard of the place. Where is it?" It's on Atlantic Street."

"I don't know. Why don't we go to Le Peep. I've heard they have really good food there."

"I don't know, that's kind of far to walk. We could go the the Croissant Place in the mall."

"Well, since we can't really agree on any place to go for lunch tomorrow, why don't we list all of these places and write their positive and negative points."

Bennigan's

At Bennigan's, located across the street from the mall, there is a great atmosphere, with friendly and helpful service. The portions are large for the money, but for high school students these prices are sometimes too high. Also, with our appetites, waiting for our food is sometimes a problem, since the service is often too slow.

Apple's Cafe

Apple's Cafe, located on Atlantic Street, has a few good aspects. At Apple's, you don't have to wait for a table, and the food is served quickly. But, when you first walk into the place, it is very dark, gloomy and cramped. Tamara Duhov, who has lunched at Apple's said, "I ordered a hamburger and received a cheeseburger instead. I told the waitress not to worry, I would scrape the cheese off myself. She said, 'Oh, no, we don't do things like that here. I'll get you a new one.' When I received my hamburger, I flipped it over and noticed that the cheese was scraped off, and turned over so I would not notice the cheese was scraped off. Personally, I don't plan to go back there again!"

Le Peep

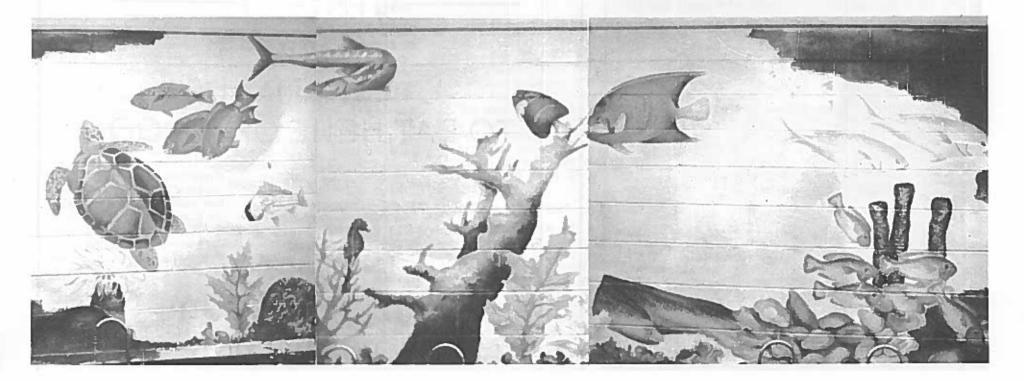
Next, at Le Peep, the food is

satisfactory and it has a cheerful aura. Anna Norgren said, "It is a good restaurant if you are willing to spend a lot of money. The food is adequate and the atmosphere pleasant. Overall, it's a nice place to go for lunch."

Vie de France

Lastly, there is the Vie de France in the mall, or the croissant place, as many students call it. It has cafeteria style service. You get your food relatively quickly, the prices are reasonable, and the food is very good. Not only do they have croissants baked daily, but they also have fresh fruit and vegetable salads. The only problem with this cafe is that it is usually very busy during lunchtime and on the weekends so you are often cramped.

All of these restaurants have their good and bad points depending on the mood you're in that day, the amount of money in your pocket, and how long you feel like waiting for your food. So depending on the above one of these four restaurants we sampled should fit your mood and style.



A LOOK BACK (continued)

Liberalization of Eastern Bloc

One of the most important things to occur internationally was the liberalization of Eastern Europe. Under Gorbachev's policy of "perestroika," doors have begun to open, people have become friendlier, the first treaty outlawing an entire class of nuclear weapons was signed, and democratic elections as well as reforms have begun to occur.

Hungary, which had led the Warsaw Pact in reforms, has gone as far as abolishing its Communist Party and organizelections. free ing Czechoslovakia has promised to open its borders. Poland has the first non-Communist government in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union is also moving towards free enterprise.

In East Germany, the Berlin

Wall, that symbol of communist oppression visible to the whole world, finally came down at the close of the decade.

ECONOMY

From 1982 to the present, the American economy rose nonstop, making this the longest period of peace-time expansion in history. The level of inflation reached all-time lows as the unemployment rate also stayed

However, Reagan, with the help of Congress, doubled the size of the national debt with record-breaking annual deficits that have only recently begun to come down. More and more of corporate America was sold to foreigners in recent years and the trade deficit exemplified the United States' lagging position in the technological world.

SOCIAL ISSUES

increased Drug use throughout the decade, with marijuana use falling, while use of cocaine, and a new drug knows as crack was rising sharply. Drugs turned some of America's streets neighborhoods into war zones, with gangs fighting among themselves for control of drug territories.

Drug users resorted to crime in order to support their expensive habits, and gangs murder one another in constant feuding over territory. The drug war has also turned the nation of Colombia, where most of the cocaine is produced, into a nation at war with its drug lords who control much of the government.

Record number of homeless

Another problem is the increase in homeless people that can be found on the streets of any city. These people, some of whom are mentally disturbed former mental patients, have shattered the picture of the American dream in which anyone can live well if he works hard.

AIDS epidemic

Perhaps the most dangerous epidemic of them all is AIDS, the disease that is killing more and more people each year. Originally a disease that primarily affected homosexuals and drug abusers, the killer has spread among heterosexuals as well, making promiscuity particularly unsafe.

MINORITY ACTIVITY (continued)

have complained about the music at recent dances, the lack of an acceptable mix remains a determining factor in low minority attendance. Currently, the MSU and the Student Council are trying to plan a dance that would encourage all students to attend, not just those in a certain clique.

Sports like swimming, tennis, golf, and field hockey always fail to attract large numbers of minorities. In the cases of golf and tennis, and SHS's sometimes active Ski Club, many minorities, as well as many white students, simply cannot afford the equipment required.

Lack of free time

Mr. Nast also questioned how much free time blacks and other minority students have after school allowing that, "More of our own minority students work after school.'

The activities in which minorities do participate are primarily sports. Mr. Nast pointed out, "Sports are a major way for people to get to know each other." Minority in-volvement in sports has, according to many coaches, improved in recent years.

Minority involvement is also lacking in more academic areas. In the National Honor Society, which requires a 3.2 unweighted graded point average, Mr. Nast estimates there is "One, if no black students." When asked why there is such a low number of black students with a 3.2 GPA he said, "I'm not really sure. The bottom line is the students themselves. But it's

[NHS] not only for kids who are going to Harvard.'

Unfortunately, unconscious prejudice by both blacks and whites, is another reason for low minority involvement. According to Carla Beckford, "Sometimes all you hear are teachers downgrading lower groups. A lot of those kids are black."

Blue "Sometimes when people downgrade kids they [the kids] think, 'Why am I wracking my brain for that?' ''

The prejudice between whites and blacks isn't purposeful or malicious. "It's more like, 'You stay on your side and I'll stay on our side,' " commented Kellly Farrow. This is evident any weekend night as well as at school functions. Donna Dorsey, MSU president said there is also pressure to act "stereotypically black," which means not getting involved in school activities. "There are almost two classes of black people."

Keily Farrow added, You see two different types of blacks. There's black and then there's

As Mrs. Blue pointed out, "The relationship between black and white kids at Stamford High is a whole lot better than at other schools." Even so, in order to make Stamford High a more unified and spirited school, it is important to have all types of students, regardless of color, gender, birthplace, socio-economic, or academic levels involved in student government and other school activities.

SPEAK OUT

How can more minority students become involved in mainstream clubs and activities in SHS?



BRAD KAY Grade 9

"They [clubs] should be more advertised around school, and talked about over the P.A."



AIMEE MAK Grade 11

"The clubs should be advertised and interesting, that way more involvement will result. They will realize how



MICHELLE HAMLIN Grade 10

"By each student taking the time to ask one [to come with them to an activity]."



Grade 12

"The clubs should have a more aggressive advertising campaign that would draw



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SPORTS



Coach Lee Fleseler who has led SHS to four consecutive state gymnastics championships has left Stamford to pursue other interests. (Photo courtesy of Yearbook)

What's wrong with high school sports in Stamford?

By Gerard Melchionne Staff Reporter

In the past, Stamford had been known for its successful athletic programs, not only at SHS, but also at Westhill and Stamford Catholic. However, this fall, the programs in Stamford may have had their worst showing in years.

The drought began with the three city football teams. Between SHS, SCHS, and Westhill, the city teams compiled a total of three wins, none of which occurred against teams outside of the city.

In soccer, the numbers are not much better. Westhill had a winless season, while SHS finished with two wins. Catholic was 4-9.

Of course, the field hockey teams did not fare much better, winning only twice, one by forfeit. For SHS, scoring a goal was a big accomplishment. And, except for defeating Brien McMahon, the girls swim team continued their losing ways.

What can be done to revive the SHS band?

By Seth Nesin Staff Reporter

During football season, Stamford High had games on consective weeks against Darien and Stamford Catholic. The Darien band had over 100 members. Stamford High had a group of about 10 students who played kazoos. Is this the destiny of the band at SHS?

Years ago, the band at SHS was a prize winner. They traveled to St. Petersburg, Florida for competitions during vacations and were featured in many others. Yet, beginning in 1984 or 1985, interest in the band diminished. Today it seems to be non-existent.

The Round Table as well as The Advocate and even The New York Times wrote on the plight of our band. The causes promulgated by the newspapers were that people did not want to participate in the band. But the causes of the band's demise run much deeper than that.

Perhaps the primary reason for the lack of a band rests in the fact that many of our athletic teams are terrible. This breeds a lack of school spirit and a general apathy towards the school. But even if our football team was respectable, it would not solve the problem, because other sports are also awful. Band is usually an alternative to playing sports, but even the least coordinated and worst athletes can participate on our teams because they are so poor.

Problems of the band represent a trend in our society. Students would rather have after school jobs than participate in extra-curricular activities. Also, being in the band is not the most respectable activity one can participate in

Most people would

rather say that they

are a member of an

athletic team than

the band.

because of the social stigma attached to it. Most people would rather say that they are a member of the soccer team or field hockey team than the band. No one looks at a band jacket without letting out a chuckle or two.

Another reason that we have no band this year is that if someone wanted to be in the band. he or she did not know where to go. The freshmen had an assembly to tell them what to do in order to join sports, but there was no effort made to recruit band members. The middle schools have had bands for years, but when the band members get to high school, they have two alternatives: do sports or nothing.

The future does not look good for the Stamford High band. Our teams are weak and are only getting weaker. Fewer and fewer people are participating in sports. The band has little chance of ever starting again. So next year, go out and buy a kazoo.

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Bright spots few

The few bright spots in Stamford High were the SHS volleyball team, which qualified for the FCIAC and state playoffs, and the boys gymnastics team, which won its fourth straight state championship.

Lack of student support

The demise of the programs can be partly blamed on the lack of students going out for each of the teams. This year, Westhill was lucky to have a football team, let alone win. Most players at Catholic High played both defense and offense. Fortunately, at SHS there was a sufficient turnout for the team and they were able to avoid any serious injuries. (And of course win for the first time in 2 1/2 years.)

Community support needed

Another problem is support from the parents and the community. Very few, if any, people come to the soccer games, field hockey games, or swim meets, and the only large turnouts for football games were for city games. The enthusiasm just is not there anymore.

The other factor is the number of high schools in the city of Stamford. Not only do we have SHS, Westhill, Rippowam, and SCHS, but also St. Basil's, Wright Tech, King, and Sacred Heart Academy. There is no way to unify the city's athletes. Could you imagine the powerhouse teams we would have if everyone was at one school?

Is coaching the problem?

Some also believe coaching is to blame. A person sometimes gets a coaching job based on seniority in the system or because they are the only applicant. Senior Evan Stein said, "A lack of adequate coaches has been a

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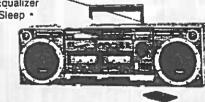
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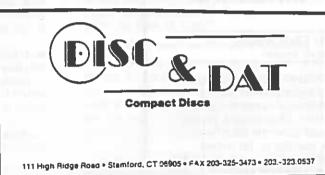
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From the Editor's Desk

Save the gymnastics program by hiring a new coach now

By Jon Casden Sports Editor

Once again the Stamford High gymnastics team has easily won the state championship. The 122 points scored in that meet was the most scored in Connecticut in over 10 years.

With three all state performers returning, and many more competitors will all-state potential on the team, there is a possibility of a fifth straight state title in 1990. However, one problem could cost the gymnastics team this opportunity. There is no coach for the team

Coach Lee Fieseler was the men's gymnastics coach for 10 years. When he left he had been a head coach at Stamford High longer than any other. In 1980 he took a fledgling, last place program and slowly, but surely, built it up. By 1984 the team placed second in the state. 1985 also saw a second place finish. Since then the team has never lost the state championship. The program has undoubtedly been the most successful athletic program in Stamford for the past six years. But now that Coach Fieseler has left, can the program continue to thrive?

Gymnastics is a very specialized sport. Few prople know enough about it to coach it effectively. Over his tenure, Coach Fieseler has had difficulty finding assistant coaches. How is Mr. Kuczo to find a head coach, when assistants are hard to find? It seems that members of the team will be looking for someone to coach them. The girls' gymnastics program has been suspended for this year because of a lack of a coach. Where is the public outcry?

It is up to the students at SHS and the team members to put pressure on the Board of Education. This will not be easy. It took until August to find a football coach, a job which has high visibility and pays better.

The boys' gymnastics team has been a bright spot in an otherwise dismal fall season. The Board of Education and Mr. Kuczo must begin now to hire a coach for next year. Otherwise, a once healthy program will fall by the wayside, just like the marching band.

Snowboarding rivals downhill skiing

By Andy Philips Staff Reporter

Shhhh! This is the sound that lots of skiers hear, and are complaining about. The objects that are making these noises are known as snowboards. These snowboards are just like surf boards, but they go on the snow and not on water.

Many people, especially skiers, have recently embraced this sport. It has grown in popularity during the last five years particularly out west, in places like Utah and Colorado.

Most snowboarders of today have skied or still do ski, but switched to snowboarding for a change of scenery.

Snowboarders take chairlifts up the mountain just the same as skiers. But snowboarding is unlike skiing because when one snowboards down a mountain, there is a totally different kind of rush. It feels like floating down the slope because while skis are on separate feet, both feet are on one snowboard and

speed is attained much more quickly.

Snowboarding requires the use of many different muscles. The muscles used for snowboarding are similar to skiing, but besides the leg muscles, snowboarders also use their ankles to make sharp, quick turns.

Another part of the body that is used more in snowboarding is the arms. This occurs because arms are used to maintain a sense of balance much more than in downhill skiing. Snowboarders use their arms for balance, just like kids on a balance beam.

Mountains adapt for new trails

The places for snowboarding have been limited. Since many skiers are switching to snowboarding, the mountain space allotted to snowboarding is increasing. Ski resorts have, and still will, increase areas for snowboarding since it seems to be the wave of the future.

Can snowboarders and skiers co-exist?

Do snowboarders belong on the mountain with skiers? Sophomore Anna Norgren said, "No. I hate it. I think they should go and find their own mountain."

Another unhappy skier was junior Mark Sherman. "The skier is already a victim of other out-of-control skiers. Adding snowboarders to the mountain is just putting a bigger burden on the skier, and taking a lot of fun out of the sport."

Junior Len Wolfson agreed and added, "Snowboarding is just a passing fad. As soon as the followers of that sport grow up, they will revert to skiing. Allowing them on the mountain is just going to ruin it for the regular skiers." Endorsement by some

But there are people who think that snowboarding should be allowed on regular ski mountains. One of them is sophomore Brian Carmody. "Skiers get mad at us snowboarders. This is understandable because of what our boards can do to the trails. But all you people are just going to have to accept the sport of snowboarding, because it's here to stay."

The Burton Corporation, the leading snowboard manufacturer, is considering the possibility of opening a total snowboarding mountain in the southern Vermont area. Currently, the company is sponsoring a U.S. Snowboarding Open that is held annually at Stratton Mountain in Vermont.

Most snowboarders of today have skied or still do ski, but switched to snowboarding for a change.....



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SPORTS

Sport Light

Captain Joe Bamberger leads Knights on ice

By Jared Cohane Assistant Sports Editor

Joe Bamberger sits in the locker room before a pending FCIAC hockey game. He is in good spirits, joking with his teammates, while remaining focused on the task at hand. He puts on his equipment, tightens his skates, and takes to the ice.

Joe is one of the most intimidating hockey players in Fairfield County. He stands over six feet tall with two hundred pounds of pure strength. He can withstand the onslaught of seveal opposing players, and not only come away standing, but also with the puck.

Joe has been playing hockey for twelve years. He learned the sport in the Stamford Youth Hockey program, where he was a standout player. He began playing hockey for Stamford High his freshman year, where he quickly established himself as a regular defenseman. Joe scored three goals in his freshman season, quite an accomplishment considering the size difference between him and the seniors against whom he was playing.

In his sophomore year Joe scored 10 goals as a defenseman, and received all-county honorable mention. Before his junior year, he was named team captain.

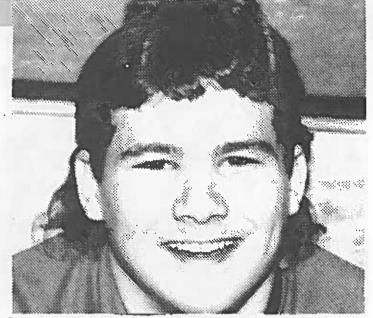
His quality play earned him all-county second team honors. Joe was also named Most Valuable Player for the Knights in 1988-89 season. But Joe was not satisfied with these honors. He kept busy in the off season, playing hockey for Stamford Catholic in the summer league. He also organized the SHS fall league hockey team.

Now Joe is a senior and after

leading the Black Knights in scoring during his junior season with 21 goals, he is now approaching the peak of his high school career. If Joe's past performance is any indication, this season should be his best.

Joe is excited about this season. "I am looking forward to a good year. We have plenty of new recruits, and some experienced players. I think we can give Stamford Catholic and Westhill a run for their money this season," said Joe. "With a little extra effort we should be able to make the state playoffs."

Joe's personal goals for this season are to make all-county first team, and to top his scoring statistics of last year. After Stamford High, Joe hopes to try out for a junior (Minor) hockey league team. With Joe's ability and determination, he can readily achieve this goal.



Joe Bamberger's hockey career begins again at SHS and he hopes to continue into college. (File photo)

"I am looking forward to a good year.

I think we can give Stamford Catholic and Westhill a run for their money this season."

-Joe Bamberger

Locker security threatened

By Chris Nakian Staff Reporter

Many students have had the experience of having something vanish from a locker. Sometimes a person could leave his bookbag out by mistake or his locker open. But, instead of this being a random problem, recently items have disappeared more and more frequently.

Almost every day someone has something stolen. Something must be done about this.

In the boys' locker room, it is not uncommon to see sweatshirts on the floor or in the toilet. It is not the most pleasant thing for a student to come to the locker room and see his stuff scattered all over the floor. Often athletes find the missing items hung in the shower or thrown in the garbage can. Nobody wants his clothes after they've been messed up.

The girls' locker room has not been as bad but numerous things have also been stolen like jewelry and jean jackets. However, the girls' locker room is considered relatively safe. A girl can leave her book bag out and not have to worry about someone opening it up and throwing everything around.

Thefts probably happen during the school day because that is when nobody is in the locker room. There should be a teacher in there before the gym period starts to make sure nothing is damaged.

A big problem occurs when kids leave their uniforms for sports in their lockers and they get stolen. The kids then have to pay large amounts of money for whatever is missing.

Students should be careful not to leave valuables in their lockers and not give out their combinations to anyone. They should also make sure that their locker is closed all the way and nothing is hanging out to pull on, to open the locker. Also they should be sure not to leave bags outside the lockers just because they do not fit inside. These precautions will lower the risk of having students going

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