

# The Round Table

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Stamford High School Stamford, Connecticut 06902

December 18, 1987

## Safety belt coalition urges teens to 'buckle up' and save lives

By Mona Mohib  
Managing Editor  
& Vicki Friedman  
Staff Reporter

**'N**obody close to me has ever been hurt because of not wearing his seat belt." This was one girl's explanation for why she does not wear a safety belt. Other comments were made and stories told to open a press conference sponsored by the Connecticut Safety Belt Coalition.

Toward the front of the room was posted a large sign which read, "Buckle up - It's more than a law." Pictures of cars that were completely demolished were omnipresent on the walls.

The first speaker, an anchorwoman from Hartford's channel 3, WFSB, stepped up to the podium and began to tell the story which brought her there.

Janet Peckinpaugh recalled to the audience an accident in the late 1960's which left her unable to fulfill her desire to become an olympic swimmer. This was just a scratch compared to her second accident in 1979. "It was a beautiful day and I was on top of the world," recalled Janet, "Everything I touched became gold."

She had just been given the job as the Washington, D.C. hostess for P.M. Magazine and was engaged to be married. This all came to an abrupt halt when the car in which she was a passenger was hit head on by an oncoming car. In critical condition, Janet was taken to a hospital by the Baltimore Shock Trauma helicopter and miraculously survived. With sheer determination she ignored the doctor's predictions of a life in a wheelchair, and overcame her paralysis.

It was not an easy road to recovery. Because she was not wearing a safety belt it took her almost a year to walk without assistance. In the middle of her tale, Janet paused and passionately exclaimed, "I wouldn't have gone through that hell if I had my seat belt on."

Now putting on a safety belt becomes second nature to Janet, who thinks there is a reason for her accidents. They have enabled her to help others by talking about them.

The Safety Belt Coalition has dealt with many cases like that of Ms. Peckinpaugh. Unfortunately, not all people are as lucky as she. Not only have they lost their jobs and their



Connecticut's mandatory safety belt law has saved many lives in its short life. Safety belts can help people survive potentially fatal accidents. (Photo supplied by the Connecticut Safety Belt Coalition)

loved ones' support, but they have also lost the ability to walk, to see, or even breath.

The coalition, developed in 1984, is made up of doctors, political figures, and concerned citizens. It was formed to combat the fact that belts

were being used by only 15% of the population. They wanted to educate people of the importance of wearing their safety belts.

The group achieved a major goal by working with the legislature and in 1985, Con-

necticut became one of the first states to pass the mandatory safety belt law. This increased the usage to 73%, the highest percentage for any state, with 80% to 85% use on the highways.

see Safety Belts page 4

## 'First Night Stamford' promises holiday fun

By Jodi Fisher  
Staff Reporter

**I**t's New Year's Eve. Where are you? What are you doing? Are you babysitting? Watching the MTV party at home? Watching TV waiting for the apple to drop on Times

**Stamford will be the first city in Connecticut, and the 15th city in the nation, to host a First Night celebration.**

Square? Sitting around and getting drunk at a party waiting for midnight? Isn't that what you did last year? What about the year before that?

This New Year's Eve there is an alternative in *First Night Stamford*. On December 31, all of downtown Stamford will come alive with a major arts festival consisting of almost 150 indoor and outdoor per-

formances at more than 30 sites in the downtown area, including The Ferguson Library, Old Town Hall, The Palace Theatre, The Government Center, and many downtown churches.

The sites were specifically planned to be within walking distance of each other to make

the performances more accessible and lessen the need of a large transportation system to accommodate the crowds. Security will be tight in order to insure safety. There will be a security guard at each indoor performance site and extra police officers on duty downtown.

Stamford will be the first city in Connecticut, and the

15th city in the nation, to host a First Night celebration. The idea originated in Boston 11 years ago. It has grown so much there that in 1984 it was selected as one of the "Top 100 events in North America."

Many other cities across the country have adopted the concept, besides Stamford, including Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Providence, Rhode Island, Burlington, Vermont, and San Francisco, California.

*First Night* is a non-profit organization supported by grants and donations from the community. Volunteers will be at each performance site to help, and many local corporations have donated their money and facilities. The project has been endorsed by Mayor Thom Serrani and Governor William O'Neill.

As Phyllis Sinrich, chairperson of *First Night Stamford*, said in her article in the November 8, 1987 edition of *The Stamford Advocate*, "...the overwhelmingly positive response we've had in

this community tells us that we're riding the crest of a significant new wave."

Entrance to all events is gained with a purchase of a *First Night* button, which went on sale for five dollars at the Stamford Town Center, The Palace Theater, Preferred Properties real estate offices and People's Bank branches, among other locations, on December 1. Once you have bought the button, you have your choice of a number of simultaneous performances on New Year's Eve beginning at 3:00 in the afternoon and continue until 11:30 (in order to give everyone a chance to get to the finale). Most performances will run about 30 minutes to an hour. You choose which ones you want to see and design your schedule to fit your wishes.

A major reason for the conception of *First Night Stamford* was to create an alternative to drinking, not just for adults, but for teens too. It creates an alcohol-free atmosphere that of which parents approve and

an atmosphere of freedom and a feeling of independence which appeal to teens. *First Night* also caters to the whole family by providing earlier performances of children's programs such as story telling, which eliminates the need for babysitters.

The Teen Dance will be held from 9:00 to 11:00 p.m. in Bloomingdale's Garage. This event will include a dance contest and live showcase performances. There will also be a performance of Beatle Magic in "The Pit" at the Stamford Town Center from 9:30 to 11:00 p.m.. This group was rated the best Beatle sound-alike group in North America and recreates the group in both music and costume.

It is estimated that upwards of 25,000 people might attend *First Night* this New Year's Eve. With the diversity of performances offered, everyone's tastes are sure to be satisfied. *First Night Stamford* is an exciting new way to bring in the New Year.

### Sport Light Rod Winston



### 'Day of Pride' winners



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## OPINION

## 'First Night Stamford' should be attended

This year, Stamford will become the first city in Connecticut to host a major arts festival on New Year's Eve called First Night Stamford. There are just a few other cities besides Stamford that are privileged to host a First Night celebration.

First Night Stamford will offer a variety of events on December 31st. There will be activities for all ages, starting late in the afternoon and ending in a finale for everyone at midnight.

The Round Table greatly supports the idea of First Night Stamford. These organized activities will not only be entertaining, but should cut down the number of drinking and driving related accidents.

New Year's Eve has one of the greatest number of DWI accidents of all the days in the year. Because First Night Stamford will be a non-alcoholic event, it will be able to entertain a great many people without liquor, a staple of New Year's Eve festivities.

The Round Table encourages people of all ages to join in the First Night Stamford celebration for a safe, fun New Year's Eve.

## Safety belts save lives

Connecticut's mandatory safety belt law went into effect early in 1986. It states that all front seat passengers must wear a safety belt or face a \$15 fine. All children under the age of 16 are required to wear safety belts at all times, both in the front and back seats.

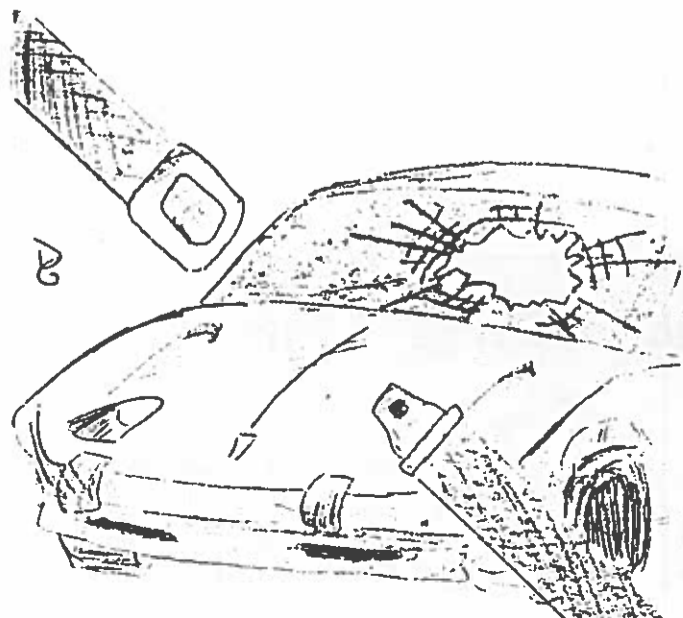
Of course, there are those people who disagree with the law. They feel it is an infringement on their civil rights. The legislature did not pass this law to make drivers uncomfortable, or to feel restricted while driving; nor did they do it in order to exercise more control over society. Rather they did it to save lives.

It is a well documented fact that safety belts significantly reduce the risk of personal injury during a crash. Safety belts can save a person from being thrown from his seat, keeping his head safe from injury.

Back seat passengers have been known to be thrown through windshields from the impact of crashes. Therefore it is not enough for front seat passengers to be strapped in. Drivers should insist that everyone who enters their cars use the safety belts.

Some teenagers may think it's "uncool" to wear safety belts. But who has more to lose than a young person still in the prime of his life, with so much more living yet to do? However, the driver is responsible for the lives of all his passengers, and he must be mature enough to assume that responsibility.

Is it worth risking your life because you didn't feel like wearing a safety belt? It is the opinion of The Round Table that lives are too valuable to be threatened by the failure to buckle up.



## Positive signs for new holding room plan

By Dave Zebroski  
Staff Reporter

Have you been in the holding room lately? If you have, then you were really late to school. The school policy of the holding room has been changed to allow for more flexibility for everyone.

In the past the holding room policy has acted as an incentive for students to arrive on time. Additionally, it has helped keep the halls quiet throughout first period classes. The policy became too extreme however, when the 7:50 time deadline was blindly enforced.

Students who arrived after 7:50 were detained in the holding room. The only exceptions were those students who arrived on the late bus or who had a note signed by a parent, excusing tardiness.

This not only deprived students of valuable class time, but also acted as an incentive to

skip first period classes. As junior Starin Woodward stated, "If I knew I were going to be put in the holding room, I'd go out for breakfast." The former policy did not take into account accidents, road construction, or traffic as reasons for tardiness.

The new holding room policy states that a student may be late for a maximum of three times without providing a written excuse. The fourth time the student is late he is subject to detention.

Teachers and students view this as a positive change. Many teachers interviewed stated that they would rather students miss a few minutes of class than not come at all. The new policy will help do this while still providing punishment for repeat offenders. With this modified policy the administration hopes to discourage late arrivals while understanding that they sometimes happen and those with valid excuses will not be prohibited from attending class.

## Facts about AIDS must be understood

By Jonah Gelbach  
Staff Reporter

Over the past several years, paranoia has set in concerning the AIDS virus. Millions of dollars have been spent to improve public understanding of this deadly threat, but many people still refuse to believe the facts. AIDS can only be transferred through infected bodily fluids, and can only enter the body through breaks in the skin.

Since it is most likely impossible to spread AIDS by casual contact, it is possible to have everyday dealings with AIDS victims, and it is not necessary to isolate them. Recently though, there are reports that some doctors have refused to treat AIDS victims. Although the public has reacted to the threat of AIDS with misguided fear, it is the responsibility of our doctors to treat those afflicted. It is a sad fact that the public has discriminated against AIDS victims.

When doctors turn their backs on the facts and their patients, they commit a gross miscar-

riage of justice. Inherent in being a doctor is the moral obligation to treat patients, regardless of the cause of illness. If those who supposedly understand medicine act in a way so irresponsible as to deny treatments to their patients because of AIDS, they only fuel the fire of public misunderstanding and unwarranted hysteria surrounding the issue.

Last week, the American Medical Association ruled that doctors have an obligation to treat AIDS victims. Citing doctors' "special social status," the AMA stated, "When an epidemic prevails, a physician must continue his labors without regard to his own health."

Notwithstanding this statement, we should expect that some doctors will still refuse care to AIDS victims. That is unfortunate, because with proper precautions, anyone can defend himself against infection by AIDS. It is hoped that the AMA's stand will help curb the trend of discrimination, especially the one taking shape among physicians, against AIDS victims.

It is imperative that all of us, especially our doctors, understand the facts of AIDS and society's responsibilities to its victims.

## Past drug use should not ruin future

By Starin Woodward  
& Erica Bloomenthal  
Staff Reporters

Recently, another candidate for Supreme Court justice has been withdrawn from consideration, this time for past use of marijuana. Judge Douglas Ginsburg, former Harvard professor, admitted to using the drug in the '60's and '70's. But should this be a reason to not allow him a seat on the Supreme Court?

In a survey done by *Newsweek* magazine, nearly 60% of the people polled said that trying drugs in the past should not have any effect on any political position for which one may be running. Why should trying a drug affect the way a person acts ten or twenty years later?

Not only could past experiences with drugs affect the careers of politicians, but many ordinary people who apply for jobs are rejected for the same reasons. On a recent episode of *A Year in the Life*, one character had a job in-

terview for a position as a police officer, but was not accepted because he admitted to trying cocaine when he was a teenager.

We all know of the dangerous effect that drugs such as marijuana and cocaine have on the body, however what we don't know is the long range effect. If we are now finding out about certain politicians who have previously used drugs, who knows about many other senators, representatives or even the president himself?

Maybe some of these people have tried drugs in their lives and might not be competent to run our government. Should all political candidates be tested for drugs to decide their abilities to work now?

Being a constant drug user is one thing, but it's crazy to not allow someone who tried a drug once or twice to have the job they wish. Yet this can be a lesson to young people to avoid trying a drug once. Their past could come back to haunt them by their not getting the kinds of jobs they might want in the future.

Winner  
"Best paper in Connecticut 1987"  
The Hartford Courant

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OPINION / NEWS

## President's policies ignore Soviet Jews

By Ruben Aronin  
Staff Reporter

On December 6, the largest congregation of Jews in the history of the United States gathered in Washington D.C. The purpose of this mass march was to protest Soviet Premier Mikhail Gorbachev's policies with regard to the emigration of Soviet Jews.

The rally was organized to support and encourage President Reagan's efforts in gaining the release of thousands of Soviet Jews throughout his administration. Most important, however, is the fact that the congregating of thousands of American Jews was designed to demand the release of all Soviet Jews who wish to emigrate, and also to request the toleration of any Soviet citizen's religious beliefs or practices.

This noble goal carried out by internationally acclaimed Soviet dissidents, as well as by American Jewish leaders, missed its opportunity to stress the Reagan administration's lackadaisical approach and lack of effort to attempt to improve this situation.

As recently indicated by a New York Times graph, there were more than twice the number of Jewish emigres from the U.S.S.R. during

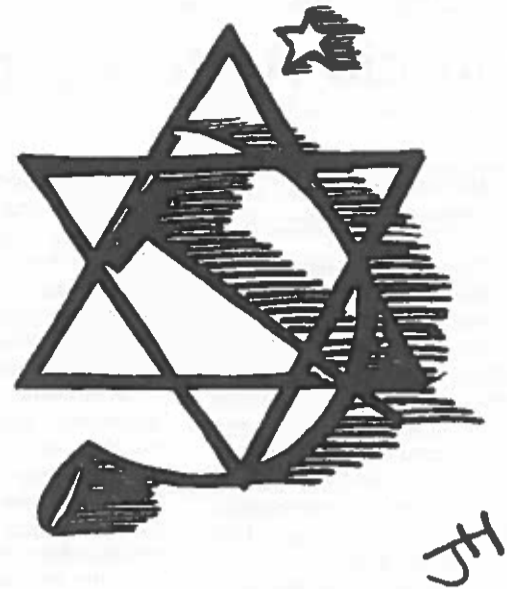
President Carter's four years in office than there have been during President Reagan's six and a half years in office.

Furthermore, between the years of 1981 and 1986 there were fewer than 8,000 Jewish emigrants from the Soviet Union, compared to 50,000 emigrants in 1979 alone.

The recent mass mobilization of Jews on the Capitol should have chastised the President, not praised him. A rising call for an agreement between the U.S. and the Soviet Union concerning Jewish emigration should have been discussed during the recent summit.

The direction of praise and encouragement should have been geared towards Mikhail Gorbachev for his most recent bold and liberal actions of releasing several vociferous Soviet Jews, many of whom have been detained in prison camps for decades.

The Jewish population, the people of the United States and the entire world have been misled by the president and the media; the real truth must be told. The success of the campaign to release Soviet Jews from captivity can only be accomplished by attacking President Reagan's abominable track record in the area of Soviet emigration.



## Costa Rican president wins Nobel Peace Prize

By Dave Griffin  
Staff Reporter

The 1987 Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to President Oscar Arias of Costa Rica.

Arias received the award because of the peace plan in Central America that he persuaded the other leaders of the area to adopt.

In the running for the prize were 93 other participants of which 15 were organizations. The selection of Arias was said to be a surprise because the choice was based, at least partially, on accomplishments occurring after the nomination closed on February 1st.

Arias was notified of his victory while vacationing in rural Costa Rica. Arias was quoted as saying, "I accept it for Costa Rica, for peace; and not only for Costa Rica but also for Central America where twenty-five million human beings deserve to live in peace, with optimism, with some hope of progress. We must not forget that in this moment, in which the eyes of the world are fixed on Central America, that this little geographic part of the world has suffered."

Finally, Arias called for an end to the civil wars in both

Nicaragua and El Salvador.

President Reagan, who has called the Arias plan "... fatally flawed," said, "President Arias fully deserves the Peace Prize for having started the Central American region on the road to peace."

Some U.S. Administration officials have critiqued the Arias plan, which would require an end to all outside support for rebels, because it does not prescribe penalties for non-compliance with the provisions of the plan.

The plan lays foundations for the further development of democracy and for open cooperation between the people and states. President Arias, has not permitted Contras (Nicaraguan rebels) to operate from Costa Rica. Costa Rica is Nicaragua's southern neighbor and has no army of its own.

Arias proposed the peace plan after taking office in May of 1986, but needed 15 months to overcome objections, mainly from the ruling Sandinistas in Nicaragua.

Arias, having won this prestigious award, like others, will receive a cash payment of \$340,000. Arias called his award, "incredible."

## Gay protests against AIDS policy rankles

By Maureen McHugh  
Staff Reporter

On October 12th there was an article in the newspaper that caught my attention. It said, "200,000 march for gay rights." It also had a picture beside it with three men in wheelchairs, one holding a poster that said, "Fighting for our lives."

The article went on to say that arm in arm, hand in hand, hundreds of lesbians, gay men and other homosexual rights advocates from across the nation marched past the White House to the Mall, demanding an end to discrimination against homosexuals, and appealing for more funds to fight AIDS.

Many of the marchers were dying of the disease, one which has devastated the gay

community. Over 25,000 people, both homosexual and heterosexual have died from AIDS thus far.

There were demonstrators marching in dozens of contingents and affinity groups, including AIDS patients, gay college students, gay senior citizens, gay couples and gay rights organizations, all chanting, "We're not going back," "Gay Rights Now," and "We are everywhere, California to Delaware."

While the federal government could do more for AIDS research, it is up to gay people to take some responsibility to prevent the spread of the disease. Their promiscuous life-style of the past must be ended. Otherwise many adults and children will die.

People have a right to be homosexual, but they do not have the right to risk the lives of innocent people.

## Letters

### Ann Landers? Holding room

Dear Editor,

The Round Table is a quality paper, but in my opinion, it is missing something. I think it would be nice to add a section to The Round Table resembling an Ann Landers column.

There should be a specific name used just like Ann Landers that students and even faculty could write to. I am aware that The Round Table does not publish "anonymous" letters, but I think my idea would be great for those with a problem who want to be unidentified. I am unaware if anyone else has ever thought of this idea, but I think it would be great to take into consideration.

Tracy Adelpkopf  
grade 11

Dear Editor,

I think the holding room is a good idea. It encourages kids to be on time because some of them don't want to sit and waste their time missing quizzes or tests.

They don't want to stay after school to make up tests missed.

The holding room prevents kids from wandering in the halls, screaming, running, and disturbing others. It also cuts down on disturbing classes by walking in late asking the teacher what the class is doing, or asking students what they are doing.

The holding room helps by making students responsible for their actions while allowing others to pursue their education.

Yvrose Romulus  
grade 11



## When a drunk driver injures a loved one

By Amy Albrecht  
Staff Reporter

On May 8, 1987, we received in the mail a letter from MADD, Mothers against Drunk Driving. My mother sent in a contribution to them and did not really think much more about it until the phone rang late the night of May 14th.

The call came from my brother's college roommate who told us that Jon had been in a car accident. While walking down the sidewalk to meet some friends in town, he was hit from behind by a drunk driver.

I had heard the stories of drinking and driving accidents before, but this one really hit home. I think society should be given the freedom to drive, yet with that freedom comes the obligation to assume a sense of responsibility.

Freedom is defined as power of one's own action. Different levels of freedom are given to us at various stages in our lives, but the freedom to drive in Connecticut is given to us legally at age 16. This new found freedom provides a whole new dimension to life. Now, instead of my mother picking me up after the early movie, I can go to the late one and drive home myself. I am free to drive along the Merriott Parkway to distant places such as Hartford or Boston.

Driving opens up a totally new sense of self-sufficiency and independence. Driving is a freedom that should be valued greatly, and by most of us it is.

Yet with this freedom must come certain responsibility. As a new driver myself, I

around me, and most importantly I must be in control, both over my car and over myself.

It is hard to understand how anyone could get behind the wheel of an automobile without that sense of control, because every time he takes that step he is responsible for what happens to others by his actions. The 18 year old who hit my brother was obviously not in control. He gave up on his responsibility to drive under control, and because of this has now lost his freedom to get behind the wheel.

It is too bad that this lack of responsibility can cause an innocent victim so much pain. My brother Jon has suffered a serious break in his left leg which has resulted in the loss of an inch of bone. To correct this break, he has had to have a steel rod inserted in his leg and two screws to keep the rod in place.

Since his surgery he has been on crutches with a cast up to his knee. This has caused much physical pain, yet this pain does not even come close to the emotional pain this accident has inflicted upon him. My brother has always been a very physical person, with a deep love for the game of football. In fact, his life long dream had been to play professional ball. This accident shattered that dream and Jon must now watch from the sidelines.

It is now December, seven months after the accident, and my brother's assailant has yet to go to court. When he does, I hope it serves as a lesson to all who have been affected by this incident, Jon's friends, his family, and especially the boy who ruined Jon's lifetime plans.

Accidents like this do not have to happen.

**Editors' Note:** An advice column has been proposed several times before. With the paucity of letters received on general issues, it is improbable that any would come in. Besides, haven't you ever seen the TV show or read the book, "Dear Lovey Hart?"

STAMFORD HIGH SCHOOL

PASS

ISSUED FOR ALL STUDENTS PARTICIPATING IN MADD

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Room \_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_

Time Left \_\_\_\_\_ To \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_

### LETTER POLICY

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

The Round Table reserves the right not to publish any letters as it sees fit. Address letters to: Letters to the Editor, The Round Table, Room 114, Stamford High School, 55 Strawberry Hill Ave., Stamford, Connecticut 06902

## FEATURES

## Knight Light

## Patricia Rattray's excellence shown in all aspects of school life

By Michelle Fenton  
Staff Reporter

Patricia Rattray transferred to SHS from private school in her sophomore year. And she has not regretted it. She is a student who maintains a 4.0 grade point average and is ranked number one in the senior class. She shows how hard work and an "I can do it" attitude are all the ingredients one needs in the pursuit of academic excellence.

Not only does she excel in the classroom, but she is also involved in extra-curricular activities, which makes her a particularly well rounded person.

Tricia exemplifies the fact that there are no excuses for squandering precious opportunities. This is demonstrated by the demanding courses on her schedule which includes A.P. English, A.P. Physics, and

A.P. Calculus (BC).

"One of the reasons that I am really happy that I transferred to Stamford High is that there are so many more academic opportunities here that provide me with a good college preparatory program."

Tricia has won numerous academic awards, including the Wellesley Book Award and Latin Scholar award. She also was a recipient of the UConn Day of Pride full four year scholarship for outstanding minority students.

Tricia hopes that these awards will help her gain admittance to Brown University, where she plans to major in either political science or economics.

Despite Tricia's rigorous academic schedule, she still finds time to participate in a wide range of extra-curricular activities. She has been play-

ing the piano for a number of years, and belongs to the Physics Club and the Latin Club.

Tricia is as thoughtful and intelligent as she is modest. She attributes her demonstrated academic strengths, maturity and high moral character to the excellent teachers she has come into contact with at Stamford High. "They not only gave academic support but also emotional support. My relationships with the faculty and also the students are what made me the mature individual I am today."

As her high school days are nearing the end, Tricia feels confident that Stamford High has prepared her for the real world. The experiences she has had here, and the value of working toward common goals, with people from different backgrounds, both ethnic and social, has given her a strong sense of herself.



## Former Beatle makes comeback with 'Cloud Nine' album

By Tom Jennings  
Staff Reporter

Former Beatle George Harrison has just turned out his first solo album in five years, *Cloud Nine*. Among the artists featured on Harrison's album are Ringo Starr, Eric Clapton,

and Elton John, along with keyboardist Gary Wright and drummers Jim Keltner and Ray Cooper. The LP was produced by Jeff Lynne, leader of the Electric Light Orchestra, who wrote and co-wrote two songs for Harrison.

Although the album follows

a five year silence, it is not lacking in quality. After all, in spite of the fact that Harrison has managed to escape the limelight through most of his post-Beatle years, he has been more active than one would think.

Harrison was the organizer of the benefit concert for Bangladesh (a forerunner of Band Aid and Live Aid) which brought together many rock stars of the time for famine relief. He made a tour of America in 1974 to mixed reviews and wrote an autobiography titled *I Me Mine*.

Also, he started a movie company called Handmade Films and his own record label, Dark Horse. In addition to all of this, Harrison produced and played on several records for other artists and maintained a fairly consistent flow of solo albums and singles.

But with the big failure of his last solo attempt in 1982, *Gone Troppo*, Harrison seemed to have become disenchanted with the whole music industry and remained silent up until now.

There are some shortcomings to the latest record, but there are some positive aspects too. Despite all of the shifting around of musicians playing on the record, Harrison manages to maintain a consistent sound on *Cloud Nine* that combines a little bit of the '80's synthesizer sounds with the influence of rock and roll of the late '60's.

Also, Harrison's gently weeping slide guitar leads are featured on the album, especially on the title track in which he duels with Eric Clapton.

The other songs on the album vary from songs of deep meaning to songs like the album's first hot single, *Got My Mind Set on You*, seen on MTV. The ballads, *Just for Today*, *Someplace Else* and *Breath Away from Heaven* set a mood

of contemplation that's almost prayerlike.

Harrison sings of his age (44) and attacks the press that tried to discourage him from attempting a "comeback"

Harrison looks back at his years with the Beatles with humor.

Harrison is still not sure about a tour, which would be his first since 1974, but there

## Harrison was the organizer of the benefit concert for Bangladesh (the forerunner of Band Aid and Live Aid...)

because of his age in *Wreck of the Hesperus*. Then he echoes his assault on what he calls "poison pen men" and "brainless writers" of gossip journalism in a song called *Devil's Radio*.

Finally in *When We Was Fab*

should be more videos on the way despite his personal dislike for them. One thing is for sure, *Cloud Nine* is Harrison's finest attempt since his first solo effort after the breakup of the Beatles.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING NEW YEAR'S EVE???

The same thing as last year?



# FIRST NIGHT Stamford 1988

A Celebration of the Arts in downtown Stamford with over 100 performances of music, dance, theater, and more!

The purchase of a FIRST NIGHT button for only \$5 admits you to almost all performances including:

★ Beatle Magic: The show rated the best Beatles cover band in North America

★ Teen Dance/Showcase

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NEWS

# UConn 'Day of Pride' honors SHS students

By Vicki Friedman  
Staff Reporter

On November 14, five students from SHS were honored at the University of Connecticut's "Day of Pride." Danny Kim, Patricia Rattray, Michelle Fenton, Huma Khan and Mona Mohib have all been granted early admission to the University of Connecticut. In addition, Danny Kim and Patricia Rattray have been awarded full four-year scholarships to attend the University.

Mona Mohib, Michelle Fenton and Huma Khan were recognized as being two of the top "100" minority students in the state of Connecticut.

These five students were selected from 377 seniors who met the requirements for the honor. The students had to be minority seniors enrolled in Connecticut schools and permanent residents of Connecticut.

A screening committee was appointed to select the final

115 students to be honored. They took into account academic and extra-curricular activities, such as the National Honor Society, employment, community or civic activity, and sports.

The fact that SHS students have been very competitive among minorities throughout the state bodes well for its academic standing. This year's winners have excelled both academically and socially. Honored student Danny Kim says, "It's a great honor to be named one of the top students in Connecticut. It's a tribute to the excellence of Stamford High."

Considering the large number of minority students in the state, qualifying these five students was quite an honor for Stamford High. Dr. Michael Intrieri, adviser to the UConn Prep Program, a program aimed at helping minorities prepare for college, said, in reference to SHS's two full



Honored students in the University of Connecticut "Day of Pride" competition are (front row) Michelle Fenton, Danny Kim, Mona Mohib; (back row) Huma Khan, Patricia Rattray, Che Hood. (Photo by Carin Pearce)

scholarship recipients, "[Our success is]...definitely a working together of both scholars along with the

cooperation of administration and staff. This is indeed a partnership in education." The students were honored

with a dinner on the main campus of the University in Storrs, Connecticut.

## Quiet rooms provide relaxed atmosphere at rock concerts

By Susan Feuer  
Assistant Features Editor

Practically the last place on earth where a teenager would want to be with his parents is at a rock concert. But if they have no other way to get a ride to the show, then what other option is there?

There now may be an answer to that problem. The solution comes in the form of something known as "quiet rooms." They are small rooms located near arena or concert halls. They are something like a day-care but in reverse. Parents can relax in these rooms while their children attend the concerts.

The concept of these concert "quiet rooms" has spread across the nation from Long Beach, California to Atlanta, Georgia, to the Nassau Coliseum in Uniondale, N.Y. All of these arenas have been equipped with quiet rooms. To be admitted into some of them, parents are required to buy tickets to the shows. Other places give out identification badges. Some groups, such as Ratt, have suggested that parents should pay for the privilege, but that is a rarity.

The first arena to house a quiet room is not known, but the idea developed a few years ago. There is one theory that an arena executive walked through a parking lot after a

concert and saw that many parents had stayed in their cars during the shows, reading or sleeping. He figured that if parents were more comfortable during the shows, they would possibly be happier with the whole idea of their children attending rock concerts.

ing in. One mother was disappointed at a Bon Jovi concert when she found out that they would not actually be able to see the performers. Said a parent, "You want to act like the kids, but you can't." At a recent Beastie Boys concert in Washington, D.C.,

**If parents are more comfortable during the shows, they might be happier with the idea of their children attending rock concerts.'**

The atmosphere of a quiet room does not differ from arena to arena. In Nassau Coliseum for example, parents sit around cloth covered tables talking, smoking, munching on snacks, drinking soda or watching television. Muffled sounds of the concert barely come through the walls.

Parents sit around reading, watching their younger children, or talking with other parents. Conversations often relate to the concerts. Tales about having to wait in line in freezing weather for tickets, or about scalping tickets were discussed at Nassau Coliseum one concert night.

Some parents do enjoy the idea of hearing the music com-

the group made an appearance in the quiet room. They expected to be accused of being bad influences on the kids, but instead were flooded by parents asking for autographs.

Whether or not parents like the groups that their kids are seeing, most seem to look at the idea of quiet rooms favorably. "At last we've got something to do...At one concert we ended up waiting in the car all day," said Paul Jackson in a *Rolling Stone* article. Said another parent, "I'd be a nervous wreck waiting at home for someone to drop them off. I enjoy hearing the music through the wall anyway."

## SPEAK OUT

Will you be attending the 'First Night Stamford' celebration this year?

By Carin Pearce  
Photo Editor



**Lisa Luther**  
Grade 11

"No. I wasn't aware of what it was."



**Amanda Cholden**  
Grade 12

"Yes, because it's something different and why not check it out."



**Kevin Asamoah**  
Grade 12


"Yes. It's something new and everyone in Stamford should be there"



**Jeremy Zeichner**  
Grade 9

"No, because I have a party to go to."

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## NEWS

# Stamford schools see enrollments rise as transfers from private schools enter

By Sabrina Douglass  
Assistant News Editor

Enrollment in public schools is on the decline. Is it because students are leaving public schools for private? Or are there just fewer children living in Stamford? These are two of the questions that the Stamford Board of Education has been wrestling with in recent months.

In the past, many parents decided to send their children to private schools once they reached middle school or high school. In fact, for a while, it was a concern that the public school enrollment was decreasing because of this.

Recently, there has been a change in the public school enrollment. More students have been leaving private schools to come to public schools. Between July and October 1987, 246 students who were enrolled in private schools left those schools for the Stamford public school system. Only 113 students transferred to private schools who had previously been attending schools in Stamford.

There is a variety of reasons why more people have chosen to transfer to the public school system. Mr. Michael Dagostino, Associate Superintendent of Schools in Stamford said, "I think it's happening for some of the right reasons; [for one]... that parents feel their children would receive the programs they want them to receive in the public schools."

One example of a program offered in the public middle schools which is not offered in many of the private schools, is

foreign languages. In seventh and eighth grade, students may choose to study a foreign language, such as French or Spanish. In the parochial middle schools, foreign languages are not offered.

Another advantage to the public schools is that the students get more exercise than they do in private schools. One mother started sending her child to Davenport Ridge School instead of to a private school because she

"There's just no doubt that some parents feel that with what it costs to send a child to college, [the cost of private secondary school]... makes a big dent."

Roslyn Nesin, the president of the Board of Education, said, "I was really delighted... [to see the numbers coming back]. I personally know of several students who came to the Cluster Program, Westhill and Stamford High, and they've

"There are more opportunities in public schools. There are more classes you can take and there are other advantages..."

—Michelle Fenton

thought her child would become more involved in physical activity.

Another reason for students transferring from an all girls' or all boys' school (such as Sacred Heart Academy or St. Basil's Prep) is that they were interested in seeing what a co-educational school was like.

A major factor which has recently emerged for the transfer from private to public schools is the high cost of private schools. At King School, the tuition is approximately \$7,000 per year. Stamford Catholic School costs \$2,600 per year. The Catholic elementary schools cost between \$700 and \$1,380 per year. The cost may be less if the family are members of a Roman Catholic church.

Russell Ryan, the headmaster at King School said

come because they've heard good things."

Some SHS students, who used to go private schools, had comments about their experiences. Michelle Fenton, a senior cheerleader, who had attended Low-Heywood Thomas School, had this to say about public school, "Yes, I like it much better. There's more individualism in the public schools. People aren't afraid to be themselves because it's a microcosm of the real world."

"There are more opportunities in the public schools. There are more classes you can take, and there are more advantages for getting into college because there are more scholarships offered."

Patricia Rattray, who had attended Sacred Heart Academy agreed. "The teachers here



Senior Michelle Fenton transferred to Stamford High School from Low Heywood because of the academic opportunities that the public schools have to offer. (Photo by Carin Pearce)

are more experienced. You feel like you're getting a more adequate college preparation. In most private schools, they don't have A.P. courses."

Patricia likes it better in the

public school system because "It's like a melting pot. There is more diversity than in the private schools where the students are all clones."

## Band membership drop due to decline in spirit

By Dan Gray  
Art Editor

A major problem in SHS this year is a lack of spirit. There have been many efforts made by the administration, student government, and concerned students, especially the cheerleaders, to curb this problem.

One important part of this problem is the school band. In 1981, the school band consisted of 80 members. It is now reduced to approximately 20.

Senior Hillary Jassey said, "It [the band] used to be so big when I was a freshman, now it's almost non-existent."

Mr. Nast feels that the decline in band participation is due to competition with other extra-curricular activities and after school jobs. Mr. Nast commented that he is trying everything possible to raise the morale of the band and that he hopes more people will sign up next fall.

The band members blame it partially on the fact that there have been three different band directors in as many years. Members are unmotivated as a result of this confusion and their diminutive size. As sophomore Tobi Abrams said,

"It's sad; no one wants to do it [take Band]."

The combination of a smaller enrollment in SHS and more activities to choose from has led, according to Mr. Nast, to this problem. For instance, The Round Table staff has tripled in the last three years.

Charles Murphy, who was the band leader during its heyday, was sick for most of the 1985-86 and 1986-87 school years, leaving the substitute, James Perna to try to uphold the winning tradition. Perna was not given a guaranteed contract for this year so the band leadership was transferred to Tony Lahotsky, once again leaving the band in difficulty.

The lack of band size was especially noticeable at the Greenwich/Stamford football game at Greenwich High. Although the cheerleaders did an admirable job, students said that they, "... could not even see the band from the top of the stands."

However, according to its members, the band is still trying hard and as senior Deena Copeland observed, "It's good they're still showing spirit, despite their size."

## Safety Belts (from page 1)

In the United States, Connecticut accounts for only 45 of approximately 13,800 annual fatalities and 5,440 of 589,000 serious injuries. The new law brought the number of serious injuries down by 30% though there were 10% more cars and 15% more accidents than before. Deaths rose only one percent.

Now the main concern of the Safety Belt Coalition is teenagers. Since the law has been passed the percentage of teens wearing belts has more than tripled, but it is still less than 24%.

The coalition is focusing on the teens, because as one member said, "... the teens are our future, we want them to be around to live it."

People by their nature, live with a feeling of invulnerability. "Nothing can harm me" is a sentiment repeated continuously. There are also various arguments against the use of a safety belt. "I'm too short. The belt hurts. I feel too restricted."

These are the excuses State Trooper First Class Curt Peirce says he's heard in his years as a member of the state police traffic safety unit. He has heard the arguments of people afraid of being

a 1% chance of this happening. Officer Peirce stated that more people are killed or hurt because of the use of these excuses, and asks teens to, "Please wear your belt and act as captain of the ship. Don't put the key into the ignition until everyone has their safety belts on."

He also suggests that even if you're not concerned for your life, how about for your wallet. If people don't stop getting hurt because of their negligence in putting their safety belt on, the cost of insurance fees will continue to escalate.

Christopher M. Kennedy, a retired Chrysler worker, spoke to the press as an automotive expert. Since 1964, the Chrysler Corporation has been installing safety belts in their cars. With over 1,500,000 installed every year, there is no reason for them to fail to do what they are supposed to.

Mr. Kennedy suggested that if a person wears his safety belt that it must be worn properly, not slacked and without tucking the cross-chest strap under his arm or behind one's back. Mr. Kennedy said, "Working with the Connecticut Safety Belt Coalition has been the most gratifying thing I have

lished in which people come together to tell their stories. These people have been in terrible accidents and only survived because they were wearing their safety belts.

Putting on your safety belt is such a simple task, yet most teenagers don't do it. Why? The safety belt has over and over again proved itself as a life protecting instrument. The statistics are on the side of the belt wearer.

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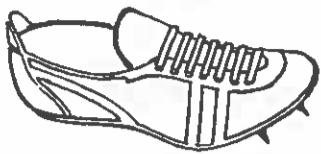
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## SPORTS

## Winter sports teams forecast exciting year



## Wrestling

By Claire Dal Mollin  
Staff Reporter

This year's wrestling team will be looking for a successful season under a new coach, Joseph Lombardo. Lombardo has much experience, as he coached Wilton High School for 7 years. Although he is a newcomer to Stamford High's wrestling program, he is known to be a "tough coach" and the team expects to better its last year's record.

The returning varsity members of the team are: Lee Fenster, 112 pounds; Ernest Murray, 119 lbs; Andre Evans, 125 lbs.; Steve Wells, 130 lbs.; David Sheer, 140 lbs.; Joe Simon, 152 lbs.; Marc Reiner, 165 lbs., Jeff Zeichner, 172 lbs.

The team is looking for a replacement in the 145 lbs. weight class due to the loss of Jeff Bassett who broke his ankle and is unable to participate.

The team is led by captain Marc Reiner who is also expecting a successful season. Reiner said, "Because we have a young team with a lot of experience, we expect not only to compete, but also to succeed this year and in years to come."

This combination should be the key to the Black Knights' winning performance.

## Swimming

By Matt Perlman  
Staff Reporter

Winter is upon us and with it the swim team has hit the pool. A promising season should be in store this year's aquatic Knights.

What the team has lost in all-state swimmer Steve Bohac, it has gained in two outstanding freshmen. One, Todd Feineigle is nationally ranked in the butterfly and freestyle events, as is the second newcomer Chris Russo, who has already tied the school record for the 100 yard breaststroke during workouts.

Stamford can also expect fine performances from diver, Joe Somma who finished second in last year's State Championship, as well as returning co-captains Matt Garelik, and Terrence Mulhern.

The team will also be aided by juniors Jason Schmidt, Brian Shydo, Matt Perlman, Eric Minoff and Chris Scalise, along with sophomores Jason Brafman and Mike Limone. The team also welcomes triathlete senior Jon Jafari, who is contributing for the first time this year.

## Boys' Track

By Matt Steinberg  
Staff Reporter

With this year's 1987-88 track season underway, the team has set high goals for the indoor season. The team looks to be competitive for the Western Division title as well to put in a good showing in the FCIAC.

After a successful season in which the team placed second in the Western Division and third in the county, the team starts the season with a number of returning runners.

In the long distance races, last year's first place finisher in Western Division's 3000 meter race, Mark Wesley, will lead the attack along with juniors Matt Brown and Dave Barnes.

In the middle distance races the team looks for Dave Zebrowski and Nick Rocherolle to put in good performances. In the 300 meter and 500 meter races, Rob Sarnelli hopes to lead the team along with Tilford Cobb in the relay races.

The field events (high jump, pole vault and shot put) feature Mark Stevenson and Jeremy Heckerling

While the team does not appear quite as strong as last year, the Boys' Indoor Track team has high aspirations for the 87-88 season.

## Girls' Track

By Erica Bloomenthal  
& Starin Woodward  
Staff Reporters

After such a rewarding cross country season, the girls' track team is ready to meet the challenge of indoor track.

Indoor track involves many events, including shot put, long jump, high jump, pole vault, sprints, middle distance races and long distance races, thus making it necessary to approach the training season differently than cross country.

Headed once again by veteran coach Art Brown, the team expects to do well.

The sprinters will be led by senior Michelle Fenton running the 50 meter dash and possibly the 4 x 1 1/2 meter relay. Seniors Nicole Lewis and Maria Wilkes will also lead the sprinters. Senior Lindsay Koester is the only girl hurdler so the Knights chances in that even rest on her shoulders.

Juniors Marie Boccuzzi and Starin Woodward and senior Julie Mak will be the star middle distance runners, with junior Kate Woodward and senior Hillary Jassey running long distance.

## Gymnastics Boys' Basketball

By Robin Cohn  
Sports Co-Editor

Despite the disappointments faced by the SHS girls' gymnastics team last year, the girls returned this year with renewed enthusiasm and power. The team is coached by Cathy Bevino, now in her second year.

Cathy returns to SHS with the experience of being a gymnast herself at Stamford High, and being a coach at the Arena Gymnastics School. The assistant coach this year is Debbie Tandet, who has had years of previous coaching.

Although there are few returnees because of the loss of graduated seniors, senior Robin Cohn and junior Vikki Cooper should be active competitors. With the addition of freshmen Robin Rosenthal and Camela Wahlberg, the team's all-around position is solid.

This rebuilding year for SHS should show improvement over last year, as well as give hope for the future.

## Girls' Basketball

By Maureen McHugh  
Staff Reporter

This year's girls' basketball team has come back strong with returning seniors Lisa Sacchi, Shannon and Maureen McHugh, Michelle Judkins and Che Hood, along with underclassmen Cindy Nielsen, Kathleen Landers, Christine Cronin, Krayl Funch, Lorraine Sanabria, Lacey Banks, Jennifer Chiapetta and Anna Griffin.

Coach Brenda Birch feels that the team should be successful because of a change in pre-season conditioning and more intense workouts. She believes that the team's hard work and experience will help them do well in the FCIAC.

By Jay Vogel  
Staff Reporter

The Stamford High Black Knight basketball team is preparing for yet another season. This season's team will have to use aggressive defense and a smart, fast break style of offense to make up for its lack of size.

The team is led by tri-captains Steve Moffatt, Maurice Curry, seniors, and junior Henry Moss. The backcourt is directed by point guard Curry, and the off guards are Danny Turkvan, Tony Lingard and Jimmy Quinn. The front three starters are Moffatt, Moss, and junior Damon Stevens.

Center Henry Moss stands at 6' 3", which means he will be outsized by many of the opposing centers in the league. However, Moss' smart and aggressive style of play should make up for his lack of size. If Curry can effectively run the offense as he is capable of doing, the Knights' offense should be adequate.

Defensive standout Steve Moffatt must cause key turnovers for the defense to be successful.

The Knights worked very hard to get in shape, beginning with individual workouts and running during the fall. Coach Moriarty had all players who didn't play a fall sport on a rigorous training program. Being in outstanding physical condition is necessary for the Knights to play their pressing defense for a full game and to run the fast break effectively, which is traditional style of Stamford High School basketball.

The Knights must put every aspect of their game together if they're going to continue to uphold the winning basketball tradition at Stamford High School. Hard work and hustle have to make up for a lack of size and a lack of experience.

## From the Editor's Desk

Students should choose athletics as a means of supporting their school and benefiting themselves.

By Tom Butler  
Co-Sports Editor

There was a time when Stamford High School's athletic teams were some of the most respected in the FCIAC. However, in the past few years our teams (with few exceptions) have not performed up to this standard.

In the 1986-87 season, only five teams finished with records above .500: Boys' Basketball, Boys' Gymnastics, Girls' Cross Country, Boys' Track, and Boy's Tennis. This is out of over 20 athletic teams fielded last year.

The decline of our athletic teams is not primarily due to the lack of athletic talent here. One reason is, however, that many potentially excellent athletes choose not to participate in inter-scholastic sports.

These students may feel that they don't have time for sports, or they may not be confident of their abilities. However, the major reason for this lack of participation is an absence of enthusiasm, the "school spirit" that is the elusive goal of all academic institutions.

Students should realize the enjoyment and satisfaction that come from playing on a high school team. Playing on a team can be a lot of fun, and it also helps students to become more involved in the total high school experience.

Jim Quinn, a National Merit Scholar as well as a two sport participant said, "Playing a sport keeps you active and makes you feel like a part of the school."

If SHS students develop a more enthusiastic attitude toward athletic participation, our teams are bound to improve.

There is a lot of athletic ability in Stamford High that needs to be tapped. Then, much of that seem-

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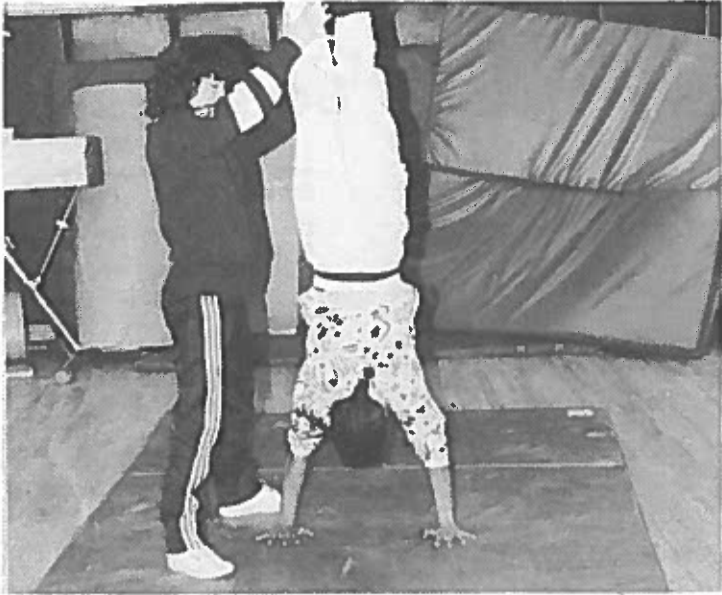
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## OPINION



Gymnast Vikki Cooper spotted by Coach Cathy Bevino during a recent pre-season workout. (Photo by John Clinger)

## Taking of steroids proves detrimental

By Stacey Silverman  
Staff Reporter

Anabolic steroids have become a greatly used drug in the world of sports. Steroids are a hormonal manipulating drug which makes body muscles larger. They develop weight and muscle by increasing protein assimilation. They are believed to enhance performance, alter size, appearance and psychological make-up of a person.

Steroids are intended to be bought through prescription only, but they are easily obtained through illegal means on the black market. Some athletes get them from their doctors as samples.

Steroids are available in three different forms: tablet, injectable oil-based liquids and injectable water-based preparations. Steroids can cost anywhere from \$4.00 to \$20.00 per dose.

Athletes who use steroids do it because it is an easy way to get large muscles. They think that by taking steroids, their athletic ability will be enhanced. This is not necessarily the case.

Steroids have many physical and psychological effects on people. While using steroids an athlete's appetite, sex drive, aggressiveness, energy level, self esteem and tolerance to pain increase. Because of this he may think he can do things better than he really can.

After continual use of steroids all of the aforementioned characteristics decrease below normal level, very much like a drug crisis.

Another effect of these drugs particularly affects men. Steroids overdevelop the sexual organs, grow more facial and body hair, develop thick skin, and deepen voices.

When women use steroids they take on male characteristics. They disrupt normal growth pattern if the girl is not fully grown; her voice changes, acne develops, she grows unusual body hair and has enlarged sexual organs. These characteristics are usually irreversible even after therapy which weans them from the drug.

Both men and women steroid users have a greater chance of developing diseases such as liver damage, cardiac trouble and cancer.

Steroids are not illegal for medical use. There are beneficial uses for them if they are used correctly. They are used to build up the strength of weak patients and to help transplant patients fight rejection.

Even though athletes take steroids to try to improve their skills and strength, most doctors do not approve of their use. Dr. Robert Block of Santa Ana University in California said, "Building a body for short term gains is not a fair trade-off for long term pain and suffering."

## Boys' gymnastics team takes state title

By Angle Dunmire  
Staff Reporter

The Stamford High boys' gymnastics team was once again victorious in the 22nd Connecticut State Championships. The Knights, winning every event, left the meet with a total of 114.5 points. The meet took place in the Kuczo Gym on Saturday, November 14.

Sophomore Sean Mulcahey placed first in the all-around with 49.7 points. His excellent performance led Stamford High to success for a second

somersault. This trick gave Sean a score of 9.25.

Sophomore Jason Eis took third place in the all-around with 34.8 points. Freshman Floyd Lawrence placed sixth in vaulting.

Bulkely High School of Hartford captured second place with a total score of 99.7 points.

Suffield and Greenwich followed with 94.5 points and 94.2 points respectively. The Black Knights crushed the competition with their 14.9 point lead.

The next few years look very promising for SHS. The three

## Where are wins which will raise spirit?

By Tracy Lessin  
Staff Reporter

It's the same old story. You pick up your yearbook, flip to the sports section and look at the teams' recaps for the season, only to read, "Although the team did not have a winning season . . ." or, "This was a rebuilding year for the team."

Stamford High continually cannot produce winning athletic teams. The boys' teams had an accumulative won/lost record of 6-7 in regular season play last year (winning seasons/losing seasons per team). The girls' won/lost record was 0-9-1. Absolutely no girls' teams had winning seasons last year.

Why is it that in a school the size of Stamford High we cannot produce winning sports teams? Let's face it, having fun in sports is important but there is nothing like a good victory to boost everyone's spirit.

There is no question that the teams possess some excellent individual athletes. The boys' track, tennis, and gymnastics teams had fantastic seasons. However, past records show that year after year SHS is lacking in the victory column.

There are many missing links that prevent our sports teams from producing successful seasons. A shortage of coaches has become a serious problem. Often, teams are now coached by people with little or no experience in the sport.

Even with an "experienced" coach there is often a lack of quality coaching. Coaching is teaching in a different classroom. Just as there are classrooms where learning consistently goes on, so there are classrooms where there is very little. So too on the athletic fields.

There are too many good athletes who give

up on participating in athletics after one season because they are fed up with the lack of instruction in their sport.

Stamford High's sports' budget is another problem. The teams do not always have quality equipment and uniforms. Even some FCIAC sanctioned sports don't have SHS representation. SHS has no lacrosse or girls' soccer teams, sports which are gaining popularity throughout the county.

When was the last time you got really psyched up to see a Stamford High swim meet, hockey game, field hockey game, volleyball game, or a good football game for that matter? Believe it or not, it happens at a lot of high schools.

Where is that school spirit the class of '87 talked so much about? It's sure not making any changes in the athletic teams of Stamford High.

There is not a lack of talented athletes at Stamford High but there may be a lack of talented athletes going out for teams. When was the last time anyone really had to worry about being cut from a team? Something must be done right now to recruit students for teams and keep them on the teams. Those class assemblies about getting involved in SHS are not enough. More extensive measures need to be taken. Perhaps the athletic department needs to talk to every student individually about joining some team. If it could produce better teams, wouldn't it be worth the time and effort of coaches and team members? We need to get back to the days when Stamford High teams were feared and respected. New ideas need to be tried. It is sad but true that Stamford High sports need help and they need it soon.

## Varsity athletes should not take gym

By Chris Scalise  
Staff Reporter

Many students this year are struggling to maintain a respectable grade point average while playing a varsity sport. During their busy days at SHS, all student/athletes are also required to take three years of some sort of physical education, i.e., "gym."

Do these student/athletes need it? Do they benefit from gym classes? They don't believe they do.

Students playing varsity sports get plenty of daily exercise during their demanding, sometimes grueling team practices and games or meets. They have proven their fine abilities in physical coordination, sportsmanship and strength, yet every other day students must give 45 minutes of their school time to more physical education and conditioning.

The time that a varsity athlete spends in high school gym class could be spent on

academics, different courses or homework. This extra study time could make up for that which is lost due to practices or away games. Some of the pressures of the student/athlete could be diminished and one could enjoy more of his or her high school years.

Jeremy Heckerling, a varsity soccer player at SHS who takes the Outdoor Living class offered by the physical education department said, "In theory gym is supposed to keep students in good physical condition, but in actuality students experience no real physical exertion which makes gym a waste of time."

More students would be inclined to play a varsity sport if they knew they wouldn't be required to take gym during that season. Thus, the sports program at SHS could become more successful with an increased depth.

Other schools in our area, such as King, Low Heywood, and Greenwich High have a "varsity waiver" excusing varsity players from gym during their season to compete in the particular varsity sport. Why not SHS?

## NFL owners embarrassed players unfairly

By Jon Casden  
Staff Reporter

During the recent N.F.L. players' strike, the owners were acting in an unfair manner. They were not negotiating in good faith and yet they were successful in forcing the players' union to break its unity and go back to work without a contract.

First of all, the owners refused to grant unlimited free agency. Unlimited free agency allows a player, when his contract expires, to seek employment elsewhere. If he feels another team offers him a better contract, he may sign with that team.

It is understandable that the owners did not want to grant this opportunity. They want to keep control of the players and keep salaries down. Right now the N.F.L. is a league in which compensation for free agents is so high it is practically non-existent. The players requested free agency for four-year veterans and the owners refused. Since the average N.F.L. career is only 3.6 years, free agency would only affect a minority of players.

Then, the players offered the owners the right of first refusal, as in pro basketball. This system means that the player's current team has the right to match the contract offered by

no money for players who aren't already in their fourth season. Under the current system, a ten-year veteran would receive \$16,800 per year at age 55, not exactly a princely sum. The union wanted to double the owners' contribution to the pension fund. Baseball and basketball players receive much more and their careers are longer and less physically damaging.

The owners also made a travesty of the game by bringing "scab" football to their stadiums. The quality of these scab games was far below N.F.L. standards, and the fans knew it. The TV networks broadcast these games, but the fans failed to fill the stadiums. These games were an insult to the fans and the union.

Some people may say that the players are greedy, since the average yearly salary of the N.F.L. players is over \$200,000. But the players were not striking over money. They were striking for a principle; freedom to change jobs and pension money for all players.

Other issues included job protection for player representatives to the union, and increase in jobs from the current 45 per team, to 52.

Right now there is no contract, no settlement. The players have returned to work, having lost at the bargaining table. However, the players have taken the owners to court to



**SPORTS**

**Sport Light**

**Rod Winston considers sport and school challenges to be conquered**

By Matt Brown  
Staff Reporter

Though many people know Rod Winston as wide receiver and quarterback of the Black Knights' football team, he has also proved himself as an all-state athlete in track, having excelled since his sophomore year. Throughout Rod's athletic career at Stamford High he has been recognized for his speed. He has worked very hard and his effort has paid off.

Rod did not start participating in organized athletics until he entered high school. He played freshman football and by his sophomore year he was on the varsity team. During outdoor track, in the spring of his sophomore year, he ran the third leg of the 4 x 100 meter relay.

In the state championship Rod, along with his teammates, took fifth place, making him all-state. His success seemed to blossom from that point on.

During his junior year, Rod was starting wide receiver for

the football team. Rod contributed to this very successful season not only on offense, but as a defensive back. Versatility helped Rod show off his considerable athletic talents.

In the spring of his junior year, Rod reached even greater heights than the previous year. In the midst of the track season Rod decided to learn how to triple jump.

This proved to be very rewarding, for once he sharpened this unpolished skill, he became a winner. He took fifth in the state in the triple jump within his first month of learning the skill. Once again he proved his vast potential.

As a senior, Rod was placed in the unfamiliar position of quarterback, a position of which he had limited knowledge. Despite Rod's athletic ability, he eventually moved back to wide receiver, where he contributed on a weekly basis.

Rod, speaking of his accomplishments said, "My athletic career at Stamford High has been a challenge; a challenge I have met."

This attitude of facing a challenge pervades all aspects of Rod's life. He has received several recruiting letters from major universities such as the University of Connecticut and Syracuse. Says Rod, "If you want to get ahead in life, you must work hard on and off the playing field."



4 x 100 relay runner Rod Winston receives the baton from Tilford Cobb during an outdoor track meet. SHS won the Western Division in 1987. (Photo courtesy of SHS Yearbook)

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**Ski trips come under administrative scrutiny  
Parents required on outings**

By David Barnes  
Staff Reporter

"The 1988 ski season is in jeopardy, based on requirements for parents to attend trips with our additional supervisors," said Mr. Vaccaro, adviser to the Ski Club.

The problem of partying and roughhousing on ski trips has prompted the SHS administration to require parents on ski trips.

The club still plans to take four weekend trips and hopes to begin taking day trips. It is obvious that the future of the Ski Club is in the hands of the students.

Last year's junior/senior trip was the reason for this new ruling. Too many people were allowed to go on the trip, but that was only one mistake. Students had driven up to meet their friends which added confusion and trouble.

The new motel the club was staying at was built like a maze. It had a lot of doors, so control was out of the question for the supervisors. Mr. Vaccaro noted this problem and will not bring the club to such a motel again.

The truth is trouble is usually caused by only a few participants as was the case here. The vast majority of the students were well behaved and followed the rules. Because most of the skiers did behave themselves Mr. Vaccaro does not feel that the administration's requirement that parents go on the trip is reasonable. He said that "...troublemakers are everywhere and that the administration could never keep graffiti and skipping down to the approximately 5% which spoiled the ski trip."

If the club is to continue, the number of students going on each trip will be limited to 40 for the sake of control, and the club will have to reach an agreement with the ad-

The administration is not against ski trips, but wants them to be under a safe and controlled atmosphere. Many ski clubs from neighboring schools have ceased to exist because of alcohol abuse on trips. In one instance, a student was even taken to the hospital.

So far, only mild problems have existed in our club. Mr. Nast would like to ensure a safe environment for students and put confidence back in the parents' minds. He feels that placing parents on the trip will minimize problems and let them see first hand what goes on. This would allow the club to run smoothly and without problems from complaining parents.

The Ski Club ventures off to three different mountains for their weekend trips. The December 11-13 trip is open to students from all grades, and will go to Smuggler's Notch, Vermont.

Skiers will stay at Middle Earth's Condo when visiting Sugarbush January 22-24. This trip is open to juniors and seniors only.

After the February vacation, freshmen and sophomores will be staying at Wiffle Tree Condos at Killington from February 25-28. Killington will also be the spot for the senior trip in March. Its dates are undecided.

This year's Ski Club will also offer three day trips in January and February. There are no designated mountains although Brodie, Jiminy Peak, and Butternut Basin are targeted areas.

The future of the club is in the hands of the students. Exaggerated rumors of what happens on ski trips must stop; students must not visit their friends on the trips, and students should be cautious of their behavior. The committee representing the club will discuss its future and should

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