

CURRENT
EVENTS®

Issue 12 Volume 107

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IN THIS ISSUE

OBJECTIVES

Main News: Students will learn about the steroid scandal surrounding several top U.S. athletes. They will read about the history of performance-enhancing drugs and the growing awareness of their dangers.

News Debate: Students will be able to conduct an informed debate on the Washington, D.C., handgun ban and how the ban can be challenged based on the Second Amendment.

STANDARDS
SOCIAL STUDIES (NCSS)

Main News: Interactions among individuals, groups, and institutions; Civic ideals and practices

News Debate: Power, authority, and governance; Civic ideals and practices

LANGUAGE ARTS (NCTE)

Main News: Students read nonfiction texts to build a better understanding of society and themselves.

News Debate: Students apply a wide range of strategies to interpret and evaluate text.

GEOGRAPHY (NCGE)

Main News: The changes that occur in the meaning, use, distribution, and importance of resources.

SOCIAL STUDIES
VOCABULARY

Grand jury; National Rifle Association

SKILLS BUILDERS

Page 3: Comprehension Skills

Page 4: Critical Thinking

Page 5: Crossword

MAIN NEWS

CHAMP OR
CHEAT?

Get Talking

Ask students: What are steroids?

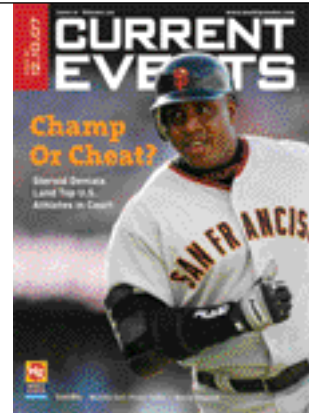
Why are steroids a problem in professional sports?

Background

- The type of steroids found in sports doping are anabolic steroids. They are derived from the male sex hormone testosterone, which promotes the growth and repair of human tissue. In their legal use, anabolic steroids can treat burn patients and people recovering from extensive surgery. However, it is illegal for an athlete in the United States to use steroids simply to bulk up. For more information about U.S. laws on steroids, go to www.dea.gov/concern/steroids.html. Nicknames for anabolic steroids include "juice" and "Arnolds," which refers to Arnold Schwarzenegger, a former Mr. Universe bodybuilder.

- A different type of steroid is found in asthma inhalers and cortisone shots. These corticosteroids are used to reduce inflammation.

- The National Institute on Drug Abuse surveys teenagers across the United States each year about their



drug use. The survey has found that the number of students who say they have used steroids has been falling. In 2006, 1.6 percent of eighth graders and 2.7 percent of high school seniors said they had used steroids. The survey also found an increasing awareness of the dangers of steroids, with 60 percent of seniors saying steroid use is risky. Read the full survey on youth drug abuse trends at www.drugabuse.gov/infacts/hsyouthtrends.html.

Doing More

Have students research steroid use in their favorite professional sports. Have them create a time line showing when each sport banned steroids. Then have them compare and contrast each sport's punishment for players caught doping.

ISSUE DATES • 2007-2008

9/10	9/17	9/24	10/1	10/8	10/22	10/29	11/5	11/12	11/19	11/26	12/10	12/17	1/14	1/21
1/28	2/4	2/11	2/25	3/3	3/10	3/24	3/31	4/14	4/28					

Keep current at www.weeklyreader.com/ce. For updates on the stories in this issue, plus games and more, visit *Current Events* online.

Below are some key terms used in this issue of Current Events.

Grand Jury (page 5)

A grand jury is a group that examines accusations against a person charged with a crime. If the evidence warrants, the grand jury makes formal charges on which the accused person is later tried. Grand juries do not determine guilt or innocence; they decide only whether a prosecutor has enough evidence to bring an accused person to trial. In the United States, the right to be heard by a grand jury is safeguarded by the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution.

National Rifle Association (NRA)

(page 7) The NRA is dedicated to promoting "marksmanship, firearm safety, and the protection of hunting, self-defense, and firearm ownership in the United States." The NRA was started in 1871 in New York as the American Rifle Association by two Union army veterans. The group's purpose at that time was to improve rifle shooting. Today, the NRA is a strong advocate of gun-ownership rights. With nearly 3 million members, it is considered a powerful force in influencing national, state, and local legislation.

SHOOTOUT

Get Talking

Ask students: What are the main differences between a rifle and a handgun? Should adults have the right to own rifles? What about handguns? Should handgun owners and rifle owners have different rights? Why or why not?

Notes Behind the News

- The U.S. Supreme Court has directly addressed the Second Amendment in a ruling only once before—in 1939, when the Court upheld a man's conviction for transporting a sawed-off shotgun across state lines. The Court ruled that the Second Amendment did not cover such a weapon, because it had nothing to do with maintaining an effective state militia. In their appeal last spring, lawyers for the District of Columbia cited this 1939 case. They argued that the words and history of the amendment show it was meant to refer to a militia, not to individuals.
- Today, judicial thinking has begun to move toward the idea that the Second Amendment was written with individual rights in mind. In the Court of Appeals decision last March that voided D.C.'s barring of

handguns, Judge Laurence H. Silberman wrote that viewing the Second Amendment as a protection only for states and not for individuals did not make sense. "The Bill of Rights was almost entirely a declaration of individual rights, and the Second Amendment's inclusion there strongly indicates that it, too, was intended to protect personal liberty," Silberman wrote in the majority (2–1) opinion overturning the law.

Doing More

The Second Amendment is part of the Bill of Rights, the first 10 amendments to the Constitution. Review the Bill of Rights with students. Then ask: If you could add a right that is not in the Bill of Rights or elsewhere in the Constitution, what would it be? Have students defend their choices as rights and not just wishes or privileges. For instance, driving a car is a privilege, not a fundamental part of a democracy, whereas being treated with dignity, even if you are a child, might be considered a legitimate right.



ANSWER KEY

Teachers: Please see the Teacher's Guide that accompanies the printed magazine for the *Current Events* answer key. Answers are being removed from the online version at the request of several educators.



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SKILLS PAGE

12.10.07

Analyze the Editorial Cartoon

Study the cartoon. Then answer the questions that follow.



Daryl Cagle/MSNBC.com

1. Write a caption that describes what is taking place in the cartoon.

2. Why did the artist use an asterisk instead of a baseball?

3. Cartoonists often use a technique called caricature. Caricature is the exaggeration of a subject's features to make a point. How does the cartoonist use caricature to portray Barry Bonds?

4. What might be the cartoonist's opinion about whether Bonds used steroids? Do you think he believes there should be an asterisk next to Bonds's home-run record? Do you agree? Why or why not?

Comprehension

Read this issue's cover story, "Champ or Cheat?" and then answer the following questions.

1. Which charge is Barry Bonds facing?

- A. perjury
- B. steroid use
- C. cheating

2. What does the author mean by saying Jones's "reputation is in tatters"?

- A. Her record books have been shredded.
- B. No one believes she's a fast runner.
- C. She has lost the respect of her fans and former teammates.

3. Which of the following did not result from Marion Jones's steroid use?

- A. Officials erased her most recent records.
- B. She was told to repay \$700,000 in winnings.
- C. Steroids were banned from the Olympics.

4. Which statement is a fact?

- A. Barry Bonds was able to break Hank Aaron's record only because he used steroids.
- B. Steroids can give users pimples and make their hair fall out.
- C. People who use steroids don't care about keeping their bodies healthy.

5. Which of the following might be a reason the International Olympic Committee decided to ban steroids from the Olympic Games?

- A. Steroids can endanger both athletes' health and the integrity of the Olympic Games.
- B. The United States had already declared all steroid use to be illegal.
- C. Fans watching the Olympics complained that athletes didn't perform as well on steroids.

CRITICAL THINKING

12.10.07

That's a Fact! Or Is It?

Below are 10 statements related to the News Debate on the Second Amendment on page 7.
Put an *O* before each statement that is an opinion and an *F* before each statement that is a fact.

- ___ 1. The decision by the U.S. Supreme Court to hear *District of Columbia v. Heller* is a long-overdue vindication for millions of Americans who know in their hearts that gun ownership is their right.
- ___ 2. If the U.S. Supreme Court strikes down the District of Columbia law banning handguns, the murder rate in Washington, D.C., is likely to rise.
- ___ 3. The National Rifle Association and other advocates of gun owners' rights want the Supreme Court to strike down the Washington, D.C., handgun law.
- ___ 4. The mayor of Washington, D.C., Adrian M. Fenty, says he believes that the handgun ban has saved many lives and will continue to save lives if it is allowed to continue.
- ___ 5. Whatever the Supreme Court rules, the decision will heat up debate in the 2008 U.S. presidential election campaign.
- ___ 6. The U.S. Constitution should not prevent communities from having the gun laws needed to protect public safety.
- ___ 7. If the Supreme Court upholds the decision of the lower court, many state and local governments may have to change laws restricting gun ownership.
- ___ 8. Judging by the amount of controversy it has aroused, the Second Amendment is one of the most important of the 10 amendments that make up the U.S. Constitution's Bill of Rights.
- ___ 9. The NRA has long argued that gun-ownership bans, such as the one in Washington, D.C., do not prevent criminals from getting guns and using them.
- ___ 10. The Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence believes that the Second Amendment supports responsible gun laws banning or restricting handguns.

CROSSWORD

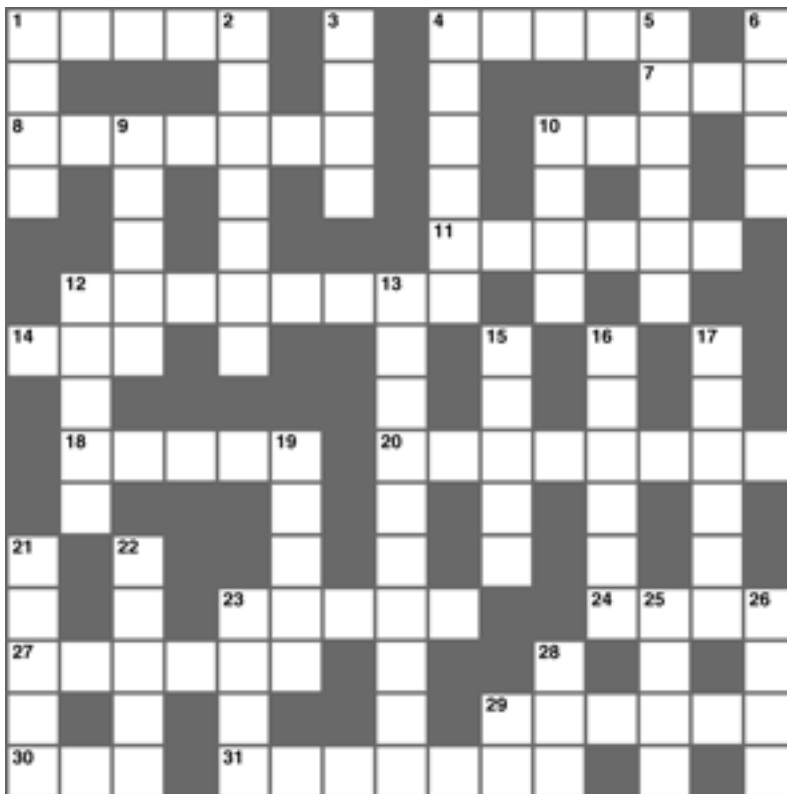
12.10.07

Across

- 1. fallen U.S. track star who admitted using steroids: Marion _____
- 4. big hitter accused of lying under oath about using performance-enhancing drugs: Barry _____
- 7. listening device
- 8. high court that's hearing arguments about a Washington, D.C., gun-control law
- 10. alphabet starters
- 11. the "stupid" act of abusing performance-enhancing drugs
- 12. armed groups
- 14. a sailor's signal for help: _____
- 18. type of exhaust that comes out of a chocolate-powered truck? _____ puffs
- 20. the symbol that might be next to the record of 4 across
- 23. word that describes a not-so-nice kitty?
- 24. Lilly's alter ego
- 27. *a, e, i, o, u*
- 29. where the Orioles play, _____ Yards
- 30. that Web thing: Really Simple Syndication (abbr.)
- 31. type of alcohol used for fuel

Down

- 1. Nike motto: _____ do it.
- 2. Testosterone is one.



- 3. what a guitar does when it's worried?
- 4. If girls abuse 2 down, they might grow these.
- 5. U.S. amendment that protects the right to bear arms
- 6. slow jog, for a horse
- 9. youths rioted in the suburbs of this French capital after the deaths of two teens
- 10. European mountain range
- 12. bovine borrower?
- 13. Earth's coldest continent
- 15. word that describes a restless insect?
- 16. Ehud Olmert is prime minister of this country.
- 17. what a flower uses for a duel?
- 19. Palestinian leader, Mahmoud _____
- 21. The Nile is the longest.
- 22. William Clark's travel companion (last name)
- 23. This is one.
- 25. 1, 3, 5, 7, 9 ...
- 26. teen trouble that's a side effect of steroids
- 28. a "bad" prefix
- 29. a Rocky Mountain state (postal abbr.)