“AROUND THE WORLD IN 90 MINUTES”
By Jill Meisenhelder

On Friday, May 1st, at 8:30 in the DHS Auditorium, students from the International House of Columbia University in New York will present “Around the World in 90 Minutes”, a program of folk songs, dances, and music. The performers are current students of the university, all of whom will attend the University, but come from abroad. They have received excellent reviews from the New York Times after other performances.

This program has been arranged for the public by the Foreign Language Department and the foreign language clubs of DHS. These groups, led by Dr. Fred, chief organizer of this program and head of the Foreign Language Department, that “In this day and age, language should have a purpose beyond that of communication. It must be realized that people have rich backgrounds—a real heritage of their own.” This program will hopefully make the language a student is studying more tangible and meaningful because of the interest into the country’s culture it will give him.

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SATURDAY, APRIL 18—NOROTON RIVER CLEAN-UP

On Saturday, April 18, there will be a general clean up of the Noroton River. Arrangements have been made with the Environmental Committee with Mr. Tower for the aid of the Darien Sanitation and Fire Department. On this day, three sanitation trucks will be on hand to cart away all the garbage from the river. The Fire Department have lent twenty to thirty hip boots for the people who will be working in the water. One hundred people will be divided into ten work crews. At least two people of each crew will be in the water, seven will help to carry garbage to pick-up points, and one person will be the chief coordinator of these actions. A doctor will be on call all during the day.

The Noroton River is being polluted by poisonous chemicals from factories and rotting dairy produce. The Noroton River Company, according to the Environmental Committee, a great deal of the damage is being caused by people who throw away one soda can is not responsible for the pollution.

The Environmental Committee, headed by Dan Franz, feels that attitudes must change towards garbage and pollution. It is obvious that in our attitudes we must begin to care. We must speak up against pollution. The Noroton River can die and will be only one of thousands in an epidemic of death that could eventually lead to our own lives. The responsibility is our own.

L. R. Mr. Sutton, Mary Pieniski, Adrian Spratt

ARTHUR ASHE EXPEDITIONS

Two outstanding sophomore students were awarded Certificates of Merit last Thursday, April 9, for their creative efforts in the nation wide writing contest sponsored by National Scholastic magazine. Mary Pieniski and Adrienne Spratt were the recipients of the certificates.

Although National Scholastic Magazine sponsored the contest, the Hartford Current directed the contest in the Connecticut area.

Mary Pieniski won her Certificate of Merit for her poem “Companion.” It is Mary, displayed the many aspects of war. She is not only in Dr. Haller’s English class. Last year she became interested in this national competition through the participation in class with Mr. Sutton, who urged her to enter both last year and this year. Mary hopes to major in English in college and later to extend her talents into either poetry or the field of journalism.

Adrian Spratt, also a Sophomore, received his award for his short story “With the Blowing of the Wind.” Like Mary, Adrian previously had Dr. Haller for English and last year was a student in Mr. Sutton’s class. This year he is not only interested in English, but also in Latin and Modern World History. Adrian hopes to major in Psychology and minor in English at the college level.

Congratulation are in order for both Adrian and Mary.

EARTH DAY ACTIVITIES
BEGIN THIS WEEK
By Dana Fiske

Earth Day will be observed in Darien from April 13th to 17th to protest environmental pollution, rather than on the national Earth Day, which falls during spring vacation.

The students planning the observations have two main objectives. First they hope to make students aware that a serious pollution problem does exist in Darien, but that students can improve the situation if they really want to. Secondly, they aim to take some constructive action to clean up polluted areas at DHS and around town.

To achieve these goals a committee of students headed by juniors Dan Franz and Nick Ney is planning activities both inside and outside of school. In addition, emphasis will be put on informing students, beginning with an all-school assembly on Wednesday, April 18th. Seminars are planned for Friday and possibly Thursday, too. Posters and display cases will also be used to arouse students concern. Movies and film strips may be shown during study halls.

Students’ actions are considered essential if the action planned is to be effective.

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STUDENTS VISIT OPERA

By Wendi Bartlett

Tuesday, March 31—thirty-first, many students from Mr. Adams’ and Mr. Undercuffler’s music classes went to the Metropolitan Opera House to hear “La Traviata” by Giuseppe Verdi. Lilian Sukis, a very talented soprano, played the heroine, while a very talented tenor, acted on Alfredo.

The opera is about Violetta, a courtesan, who is slowly dying of consumption. She meets Alfredo at a party; they fall in love and soon are living in unbridled bliss in a small cottage outside of Paris. While Alfredo is away, his father comes and pleads with Violetta to leave, so she will not ruin the family name. She tears herself away only to encounter Alfredo at a party, where he accuses her of unfaithfulness. The last act is the reunion between the two lovers, but Violetta suddenly and dramatically falls dead.

Many of the students were seated in the Parterre boxes of the Golden Box, while the less fortunate ones were seated in the orchestra section of the MET. The students traveled to and from New York in a private train car, where the Advanced Choir led the others in song, much to the surprise of several commuters who had happened to wander in.
CAUTION • • •

With spring here, the school year almost exhausted, and elections for different offices approaching, sophomores and juniors should carefully consider the positions for which they wish to compete. Many students do not realize that being too involved is perhaps, just as big a blunder as being "uninvolved."

In our estimation, to be a member of twenty different clubs is meaningless if one does not participate to his fullest ability. Certainly colleges do look at the various activities one participates. However, they are undoubtedly impressed if the student learned something by enthusiastically participating in a single club. This type of active participation will inevitably do more for the applicant and to the school community.

One should not accept more responsibility than he can handle well.

The person who overextends himself in too many activities is useless to the fellow members, and to himself, unless he can possibly devote the required time to each activity. He is being unjust to the other members of the organization and to other students who could have benefited more in the office, and to the school.

• • • AND A SUGGESTION

NEIRAD submits to the school a plan to set up a committee comprised of faculty members, senior class editors, presidents, and coordinators to accept and review applications for any office available to students this spring. This committee will evaluate each person as to their ability, enthusiasm, and ideas. Also, it would consider the applicants' other activities. Eventually, the committee would suggest the best candidates to the present officers of each club, who will conduct elections for their successors.

This proposal, if accepted and acted upon, should help to alleviate the problem of apathy in the school and bring about more student participation and accomplishment.

STUDENT DEATH SADDENS DHS

The students and faculty of Darien High School were saddened by the passing of John R. Mannika, who died on Sunday, April 5, as a result of injuries sustained in an automobile accident. John was fifteen and a sophomore at DHS.

First Selectman James Tower expressed the concern of the community, "The Board of Selectmen and the Town as a whole are saddened that tragedy has silenced another young voice. We extend our sympathy to the survivors."

Darien students are now accepting contributions for a scholarship in the name of John Mannika.

John was born on April 23, 1954, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert John Mannika, of 3 Chestnut street. He attended Hollow Tree Elementary School and Middlesex Junior High School. John was a member of the Boy Scouts of America and played baseball in the Darien Little League.

A talented artist and avid mechanic, John enjoyed working with automobiles and motorcycles. He was very interested in the German language and culture.

John was the brother of Duane Mannika and Scott Mannika.

MESSAGE FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

The week of April 13-17 has been designed to educate and involve all of the students at DHS concerning the problems of pollution and environment. On Wednesday, April 15, there will be an assembly featuring Mr. Walter Peters, a science teacher in Darien, who has studied our environmental problems and is working to remedy them. Mr. Peters will be able to tell us of the problems here in Darien. That is where we must begin.

On the fifteenth, the Environmental Committee asks that all of the students who normally drive to school walk, ride a bike, or at least come in car pools. We understand that one day without cars will hardly make a dent in our pollution problem, but this day is also a time of reassessment, reminding the student of the priorities that are allowing this land and its future to be destroyed.

Many people at DHS do not seem to realize that pollution of air and water is a very real problem here, in Darien. On Friday, April 17, and possibly Thursday, the 16th, there will be seminars in the six team teaching areas during study hall. Students are encouraged to attend to view films about our environment, hear speakers, and enter into discussion concerning ecology. The week of April 13-17 has been designated to gather interest and support so we can act together on constructive projects.

90 Minutes

In reality, the program will be more of a two-way exchange than "just an evening of entertainment" for the audience. Through their travels, students gain a better perspective of the US and an understanding of its problems, ways, and people. At the same time, they give their audience a sample of their own country's culture. Thus, both groups gain from the experience. After the performance at DHS, the students will be available to talk to anyone interested about their customs, life, etc.

This program promises to be an excellent and interesting one. Tickets, priced at $2.50 and $2.00 for adults, and $1.25 and $1.00 for students, will be sold at the foreign language classrooms and outside the lunchroom. To help defray expenses and give the affair a wider scope, the Department is asking various clubs and people who have an interest in culture to become patrons for the evening. Also, to insure a large audience, letters have been sent to other schools in nearby communities to inform them of the occasion. Parents and other community members are also encouraged to attend, as it will be a program for all ages.

ELLEN HARREL GIFTS

387 POST ROAD

April 1970

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Assistant Editor Don Kenenly
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"Arsenic and Old Lace" BRINGS MANY LAUGHS

By Beth Ann Kennedy

On April 10 and 11 Theatre 308 presented a most amusing revivification of Joseph Kesselring's "Arsenic and Old Lace." As the curtain rose the audience-viewed a very elaborate and well-crafted set of a living room located in Brooklyn, Mr. James MacConnell, director-theatre's very capable production supervisor, his furniture-prop chairman Dave Tirpack, building and painted chairman Rick Johnson, head props chairman Nancy O'Connell, and all of the hardworking crew members deserve a great deal of praise for their finished piece. Special recognition should be given to Mr. MacConnell's right-hand man, Rick Johnson, the stage and production manager.

"Arsenic and Old Lace" is a comedy about insanity in an old home in Brooklyn, Jenny Beech and Mary Miller played two elderly ladies, the Bixter sisters, owners of the home. Both did an excellent job; their characters came across beautifully. Another occupant and owner was Leonard S. Fort, played Teddy, one of the Bixter sisters' nephews. Louis Exemplifying LAMIC and production- designer "FLY" creates a very effective Teddy Roosevelt. An occasional bystander is another nephew, Mortimer, a big Yale graduate whose character was portrayed by Tom Bonaparte.

Everything is running smoothly in the Bixter home with social visits from the Rev. Dr. Harper played by Dave Tirpack until Mortimer discovers two dead bodies in the window seat. Upon questioning its presence, he is told that there are eleven more buried in the basement, all of which were placed there by his two lovely aunts who felt they were putting lonely men out of their misery by serving them wine containing arsenic.

Things get even more confusing as the third nephew after escaping from prison turns up as a Doctor friend and another dead body. Jamey Brockdoff played the nephew Jonathan, who, due to his disputatious character, had had the Doctor, a plastic surgeon, change his face. During the operation, because of a slip of the hand, Jonathan looks like Frankenstein. John Muee's portrayal of Dr. Einstein created much laughter and his accent was a performance in itself.

Other members of the cast were Molly Seagrave playing Elmina Harper, a neighbor and Mortimer's girlfriend. Four policemen whose accents and gestures helped to make the play so enjoyably. Playing two easy going officers were Bill Ward and JanAbbott. O'Hara was played by Bill Penn and a strictly by the book Lieutenant Rooney was played by Mark Mangan. Dave McCoig was a confused Mr. Gibbs who was almost added to the basement dozen. And last but not least, Bill Vickery played the superintendent of Happy Dale. Mr. Witherspoon.

The play was a success not only due to the actors but also to the Make-up Chairman Cyndi Hawkins, Publicity chairman Anne Walkley, house and tickets chairman Margie Hopkins, costumes chairman Pat Brown, sound man Terry Lindsey, and Richard Jefferts's excellent lighting work and the many crew members whose long hours were well appreciated.

All in all Mr. Jack Dahlby, theater 308's outstanding director, should feel very pleased by the performance. Due to his work and that of Bill Holland, the student director the night will long be remembered.

“WE HAVE MET THE ENEMY, AND HE IS US”

By Nick Ney

Last Saturday, April 11, a major cleanup of Woodland Park (commonly known as Irving's Woods) was undertaken. This effort was made possible by more than 150 students, students, town officials and concerned citizens who pitched in between 9:30 AM and 1 PM. The project was sponsored by Mrs. E. Budd and Mrs. W. Meisenhelder, the two leaders of the movement.

The cleanup was done for four reasons: 1) for all practical purposes, to clean up the litter-laden Park, 2) to bring the attention of the Park's plight to all segments of the Darien community, 3) to make Darien a better place for this year's 150th Anniversary of the founding of Darien, and 4) to contribute their share to the national efforts of the Earth Day Movement.

In talking with Mrs. Meisenhelder, one was able to detect a sense of despair in her thoughts related to the future of the park she said, "If people do not take an active interest in the future of this park very soon, in twenty years this area will be in the hands of building contractors." She was quizzed as to why people couldn't protect a small part of the earth, an area that is not yet made up of neat, man-made towns, etc. She does not want this to become a "token" project, a sort of spring cleaning affair. Mrs. Meisenhelder would like this interest to be generated year-round by those involved and would like the town to take action in making a better park. We wish you the best of luck, Mrs. Meisenhelder!

DARLIE — 150 YEARS OLD

On May 20, everyone in Darien is having a birthday. On that day it will be Darien's one hundred and fifteenth anniversary.

On May 20, 1830, Old Deerfield Parish, having finished its "formative years," broke away from Stamford and was incorporated as the town of Darien. During the week of the 20 through the 24, our town will be celebrating this event. A special committee for this celebration has been working all year to make certain that this week will be a memorable and enjoyable one for every person in the town from age one to one hundred.

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ATHLETICS AS CHARACTER BUILDER

Why is Coach Smith in education? Neirad interviewed this coach of the swim team (among others) to find out.

"I see my job in athletics as one of taking young men who come out for sports and giving them the sense of confidence and pride that will make them worthwhile human beings. A man has to know that he has some worth and value in order to achieve anything in his life."

"I try to promote in my teams a positive self-image. If a man knows that he can do something, that he can achieve, he is far more likely to contribute to his world."

"The idea of transfer from one activity to another, that is, that a good man here will be a good man there, is a debatable point, but I believe it." How does he go about this character building? "I make them work their butts off at the sports instead of going to pot parties and drunken brawls. While they're on the team, they have to concentrate on improving themselves, so those activities are out. There may be some of it, but I think we do a pretty good job."

The subject has been on his mind alot recently. "People need goals in life. They need something they can strive for. In sports they can see that at least a dozen or more girls have fainted at the very sight of him. His grass hut is constantly filled with letters and gifts from his admirers. He has one or two request. Please stop sending javelins because his mother is going to throw him out if they have to build any more extra rooms for his presents. Grass aint cheap ya know!

When you think of track, often it gets the field events that are part of every meet. On our Blue Wave track team is a select group, who because of their backgrounds, have been chosen to represent the Wave in the field event called javelin throwing. The best javelin chuckers are from the deepest depths of the darkest jungle in Zambouland.

Heading our squad of javelineros, as they are commonly referred to, is the original javelinero himself, Ubangi Bill. Just the sight of his flaming red hair is enough to scare off the competition. If that doesn't do it, Bill has the tendency to throw at an angle, thus narrowing the competition as well as a few spectators.

Mosie Manchon Manchon is the brain of the squad and figures out their strategy for during and after the meet.

Watsusi Wasserlein is Ubangi Bill's little cousin (on his mother's brother's aunt's side of the family). So Bill is giving him special lessons on how to chuck the spear so as to give him a background for when he returns to Zambouland and uncle Leo.

Uranjimunbaru Moresse brings on the crowds to the meets with his flowing beard. It is rumored attain recognition for their skills and the achievement they repre-

"I can't help thinking that there is a direct relationship between getting involved in sports and getting involved in life. You have to care about life just as you have to care about sports to get anywhere. I see athletics as a means of change within society, rather than criticising from the outside. By that I mean that if you can build a man's character, his sense of worth, you can give him the courage to stand up for what he believes. A man should be able to face anyone and say that the war is wrong. Or that the war is right, for that matter. It's the same thing."

Well, how about his swimming team this season? "This year we weren't given a team to pick up where they left off last year. We had a team from the beginning. We didn't have depth, so we had to build in depth. I was pleased with the results this year, and next year, if they work, they should be up where a Darian team should be, on top."

"I do a lot of things to build a swim team. We did much of our work on endurance, distance swimming. I work in the pool with them to perfect their stroke, because swimming is a very scientific sport. Football is a physical sport. A football team has to be psyched for a game, where the determination to win is more than not the determining factor. But in swimming, the ability is important. Psyching up may make the difference in a very close contest, but given a man with Brindley's ability, for instance, he could win over most of the people put against him even on an off day."

Athletics is for the mind.

BASEBALL LOSS TO NEW CANAAN 3-2

By J. A. Vitii

The Blue Wave baseball team opened its 1970 season with a thud, losing to New Canaan 3-2.

The Wave scored the first run of the game in the second inning. Co-captain Bob Whelan, who had reached base on a single, stolen second, and gone to third on a passed ball, was driven home by Bob Bush.

new Canaan scored one run in the 3rd and 2 in the 5th. But in the 6th it looked as if the Wavers would recapture the game.

Len Duda reached base on an error and on a double by Whelan he got to third. Ben Teuber hit into a fielder's choice and drove Duda home. The wavers were unable to score and the game ended New Canaan 3, Darian 2.

Fitcher and co-captain Jim Andreoli hurled for the wavers but was not having a good day, striking out only three batters.

The Blue Wave baseball team is looking forward to a much brighter future and is eager to take the competition. You can read about their victories in upcoming issues of Neirad, but don't wait to read the stories, come down to the games and see the news as it is made.

JAVELIN CHUCKERS ON THE LOOSE

By J. A. Vitii

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