Splendor in the Grass

Last Friday and Saturday nights, April 9 and 10, Theatre 308 presented their rendition of Splendor in the Grass, a play which was concerned with the conflicts in moral values confronted by two high school seniors. It was fairly sophisticated, dealing with many psychological subtleties. The leading roles of Deanie Loomis and Mark Rodman were well-played by Val Mehlig and Mark Rodman. Both actors handled the highly emotional lines in a low-key, intense manner, contributing to the strained undertones of the play. The roles of the parents of the two students were somewhat stereotyped. This and the awkward updating of the play, originally written for the 1950's, combined to elicit some laughter in response to some of the dialogue spoken by Betsy Blake and Bruce Jones as Mr. and Mrs. Loomis. The rowdy response of the audience, especially Friday night, made it difficult to deliver some very serious lines, but Betsy and Bruce were excellent Holden Phelp's performances in spite of this. John Mucci played a convincing small-town receiving secretary from Jane Barnes as his rather meek wife. The play was sparked by the performances of some minor characters, notably Marion Macchio, Van Ballocco, Bruce Barn and Wendy Wheeler. The acting was

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"We Put Up The Barriers"

Nat Simmons, a touring actor, talked for much of Monday, April 12, to a large audience in TTB. This reporter joined a session which had begun with readings from the works of black poets dramatized by Mr. Simmons in order to demonstrate various different attitudes on life. Among his sketches were that of a policeman, 2 muggers, and one southern white person. The discussion afterward,beginning from students' remarks and questions, ranged through Mr. Simmons' personal experience, notably the environments in which he has lived, the effects of people's lives on each other, and all this with a view to exploring and learning to control the effects of attitudes.

Mr. Simmons' theories were highly exciting to the constantly shifting audience, many of whom returned for the other periods. First of all, Mr. Simmons believes that one must be good rather than good at. He finished his final humorous example of someone who, after being on peace marches and

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Youth Commission Meeting a Success

The Darien High School English Department's year-end meeting went off as planned on April 7th at the High School. The meeting was set up by the Commission so the youth of the High School could talk to the people of different divisions of the town government about the problems they see in Darien. Present at the meeting was the police commissioner, members of the police department, representatives from the Park and Recreation Commission, a representative from the taxes collector and Mr. Robert Gallagher from the Board of Education. The student turnout was not as large as expected and at no time did it exceed thirty.

Chairman of the Youth Commission, Paul Marsten, opened the meeting by introducing the guests to the youth and explaining in brief how their positions relate to the town and the youth. The floor was then open for discussion. Many of the things brought up were questions asked by the town's commissions of the youth present at the meeting.

The Park and Recreation Commission discussed its programs and plans for the summer with discussion from the floor. The now extinct "Barn" was brought into discussion and the question was asked whether a new one would be valuable. The feeling about a new Barn was that it would receive the necessary support to keep it going. The most significant dialogue during the meeting was

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Pass-Fail Committee Formed

A committee has been formed to make recommendations regarding Pass/Fail grading and other evaluative systems besides the one presently in use at Darien. At its first meeting the committee elected Mr. Heffernan as chairman, and Mrs. Gage from Mather JHS as secretary. The committee members divided themselves into subcommittees to research specific areas, as follows:

1. Survey Literature & Summarize Findings—Pro

   Videography Mrs. Irish and Mr. Pidert

   WRITE LETTER & QUESTIONNAIRE TO SEND TO COLLEGE, SUMMARIZE AND REPORT FINDINGS: Mrs. Buxton and Joe Coen.

2. Survey Literature & Summarize Findings—Pro

   WRITE LETTER & QUESTIONNAIRE TO SEND TO COLLEGE, SUMMARIZE AND REPORT FINDINGS: Mr. Heffernan and Mrs. Gage

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Brass Quintet Concert

by Adrian Spratt

The only regrettable aspect of the concert of the New York Brass Quintet on the evening of April 6 was the smallness of the audience. Nevertheless, the receipts from the approximately two hundred people that did attend were sufficient for NEIRAD, the sponsors, to be broken.

The ensemble's instruments were: two trumpets, a trombone, a French horn, and a tuba.

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Ralph Nader Speaks Locally

by Marty Womer

Last Thursday night, April 8, Mr. Ralph Nader spoke to local environmentalists at Stamford Catholic High and at Greenwich High. He spoke on setting up organizations throughout the state, known as the Connecticut Earth Action Group - CEAG. He stressed the importance of forming a group which will finally take legal action against polluting factories and other pollution sources. (See Earth March article.)

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How Do You Live With Others?

This question is indeed a complex one but one which certainly requires an answer if we are ever to go on living together and continuing to face the problems posed by ourselves and by other people whether male or female, black or white, hardhat or antiwar demonstrator. If we are ever to approach that ideal situation of peace and happiness in the world or even just to live each day and find happiness in our own lives and in others around us.

The sophomores and senior seminar programs are a start at attempting to answer this important question and allowing students to learn for themselves about feelings and relationships, but, let's look at what has happened so far and what should happen in the future.

How Others See The Seminars

There seems to be in this town, amongst some students, school staff members, and especially some parents, a narrow interpretation of the seminar programs, classifying them as only reproduction education. One reaction to what is taught is that it is "from the gutter." Other parents feel anxiety about the school dealing with sexual relationships and sometimes the whole idea of the family because they fear moral indoctrination on the part of the teachers. They do not want their children being told that premarital sex is all right and other such statements which incorporate moral values and judgements. Perhaps some other parents fear that even reproduction education should not be taught because they don't want their children to know more about sex than they do. For whatever reason or feeling, these parents have labelled the teachers as "not appropriate" and have attempted to influence the faculty of Education members in certain issues dealing with the programs. These parents have failed to inform themselves on how the courses are taught, what is happening in other schools, and they have made assumptions based on inaccurate information. Therefore, they are unfit to pass any judgements or to criticize the courses in any way. These parents are a minority but, unfortunately, they are making themselves heard and felt. The majority of parents who agree with the programs have remained silent; they must make their voices heard if the programs are to continue. For the benefit of all parents, an adult course in family life and sex education should be offered so that they can see what it is all about and get a chance to talk with the teachers involved.

What The Seminars Really Deal With

The seminar programs are not just reproduction education but, in fact, they attempt to deal with such topics as types of relationships, marriage in our changing culture, the changing family structure, how people see themselves, the changing concepts of masculinity and femininity, family life (such as what happens when an unmarried person adopts, etc.), the generation gap, and of course sexuality because you cannot separate it from the total human existence. Besides this, the teachers work very hard to present alternative moral views so that the student can make up his own mind.

Where Do Student Interests Lie?

The sophomore seminar program aimed at least in figures, to be a success, because after the first six required classes only 14 out of 200 sophomores dropped out. In the course, though, most of the students found the topics elementary and irrelevant. For instance, most found the drug sessions boring because they knew enough about the effects of taking drugs and were more interested in why people take drugs, become addicted to them, the origin of drugs, and drug-dependence problems. One reason why this situation developed is because the teachers were faced with too wide a range of sophistication and education amongst the students to tackle; for example, some knew more about venereal disease than others, and they couldn't satisfy everyone.

WASHINGTON D.C.
April 24-May 5

MASSIVE NON-VIOLENT
COMING TO STAY!
PEOPLE'S COALITION for PEACE & JUSTICE
1529 Vermont Ave. N.W. Room 900
Washington, D.C. 20005

Letter to the Editor

Neirad Editor,

As a parent and a lay member of the Physical Education Curriculum Committee, I feel it necessary to comment on an article and pictures printed in the March issue of the Neird, ("Hair and the Athletic Kingdom", March 24, 1971, Ed.)

It is one thing for a pupil to disagree with their coaches and to be vocal about an issue but it is another thing to be rude and disrespectful.

For example an apology is in order to Coach Santager and to all coaches in the school system. The story, picture, and caption were presented in a vile manner. I also feel adult guidance is necessary.

We in Darien are fortunate to have the finest coaching staff we have ever had under the guidance of an even greater man, Mr. Charles Avedisian. These coaches have done more for the individual child, donating many hours beyond what they are getting paid for. They have produced quality teams. Darien can be proud of them. They are dedicated, hard-working people.

I feel if a coach sets rules and

Continued on Page 4
THE HISTORY OF ROCK
by Grant Castle

After the Twist began to fade in the United States, the teenagers went again looking for a sound to identify with. The inevitable happened. The Beatles, along with other English groups, came along and were obviously the greatest influence on rock music ever.

The day Paul McCartney was born, the #1 song was "Sleepy Lagoon" by Harry James. It really could have been any bandleader (Benny Goodman, Glenn Miller, Guy Lombardo, etc.). The entire world was at war and Moonlight Cocktails, Sleepy Lagoons and White Christmas swept everyone off their feet. Bing Crosby didn’t want to be fenced in, and Frank Sinatra was a prisoner of love when the Beatles were young boys. Every popular song was sung by adults. It seemed that nobody cared about the teens, or they just didn’t matter. Obviously the parents were buying most of the records and that’s what mattered.

When the Beatles were in their teens, something happened that would change the face of popular music and lay the groundwork for revolution in music that the Beatles themselves were to bring about in the sixties. Of course it was Bill Haley’s "Rock Around the Clock." It was so different for it spoke of revolution. The Beatles were at the right age to be hit hard by that song and John Lennon started a group called "The Quarrymen" (at age 13). His brother objected vehemently and he argued and finally gave up on him (as was the spirit of that time), and put all of his efforts into the group. In 1956 John met a boy in school (about a year later) and heard him play guitar. The boy was Paul McCartney and thus began one of the most famous song-writing teams in history. Paul thought John looked a bit like Elvis, and this was a time when the entire world was Elvis-crazy. The two played Elvis’ songs in the group (not very well) and wrote a song in the same style which five years later in 1962 would be their first English release. The song was entitled "Love Me Do."

George Harrison had a band called The Rebels. George came from the most stable family of all the boys, the other’s emanating from broken homes. Only John, who was both a 1/4 (a "teddy boy" in English vernacular), with tight pants and greased-back hair. In 1958 he left The Rebels to join the Quarrymen. This was about the time when the King-stones Trio was making a mark on the charts with folk ("Tom Dooley" was the song). This began a fold revolution that would make Bob Dylan possible three years later. A lot of big things were happening in 1958 but who would have imagined that the Beatles were destined to be biggest?

The Quarrymen changed their names several times and finally came up with "The Silver Beatles," the second "c" in Beatles changed to represent that they were a "beat" group. The name was considered terrible by many and John was told to change it many times by friends, but for lack of a better name, he held on.

In 1959 the Silver Beatles went to Hamburg to back up a singer named Tony Sheridan. They did a sort of rock version of "My Bonnie." It was really terrible. There were many better groups in Liverpool where they all bailed from at that time. It was only in Hamburg where they got together musically with George, Paul, John, Peter Best on drums, and Stu Sutcliffe who was to die soon of a brain hemorrhage (some say he was the most talented of all the Beatles). They were all electric, breaking a trend of long draped suits set by Rory Storme and the Hurricanes, the leading Liverpool group at the time. They had a drummer named Ringo Starr who was later destined to join the Beatles, only after he learned to brush his hair forward.

An interesting point is that Stu Sutcliffe’s girlfriend, Astrid, persuaded him to change his hairstyle and brush it forward. This was copied by the other Beatles, hence the "pudding bowl" haircuts.

On October 18, 1961, a customer asked Brian Epstein, a record salesman, for a copy of "My Bonnie" by the Beatles ("Silver" had been omitted by this time). Epstein had never heard of them but was intrigued oddly enough by the name. He went to a gig of theirs at a small Liverpool club called the Cavern and was "knocked out" by the sound and became their manager and, after wheeling around and getting a million rejections, he got the Beatles a recording contract. Ringo Starr put away his drum kit and took off his hair, replacing Pete Best on the drums. Ringo played a different beat that the Beatles liked better.

The Twist was the only thing happening at that time and it was getting stale.

EARTH MARCH

Tens of thousands of high school students from every school in Connecticut will march on the State Capitol in Hartford at four o’clock on Saturday, April 17. CBS, NBC, ABC and other radio and television networks will be covering this unprecedented event.

RALPH NADER has selected Connecticut and Ohio as test states to see whether or not over EARTH WEEK we can inter a minimum of 25,000 high school students to march into the State Capitol on a ten-mile march. The EARTH MARCH is sponsored by environmentally concerned citizens all over Connecticut: businessmen, housewives, parents, and students. If each student marching represents at least $10 worth of contributions, the amount will be sufficient to open an office of Nader’s Raiders right here in Connecticut. They will work in Connecticut, for Connecticut.

This office, the CONNECTICUT EARTH ACTION GROUP (CEAG) will be completely independent, and will work solely for the good of Connecticut’s environment.

Ralph Nader will supervise without compensation, the basic administrative and financial aspects of CEAG.

CEAG’s major roles:
To uncover and bring to court Connecticut’s major pollution sources. The average citizen is concerned today, but is quite unwilling to take legal action against corporate polluters. CEAG will take action! (The cost of taking this action is our greatest financial need.)
To organize and promote state-wide pressure on polluters and environmentally unsound projects.
To establish lobbies for strengthening Connecticut’s laws and regulations for environmental protection. To encourage the State government to take a more active role in enforcing the laws governing our air, water, and land use.
Future finances will be covered by contributions from environmentally concerned citizens, based on CEAG’s success in bringing about ecological reform.

Fairbanks Shops
Darien’s Complete Camera
Store
Sales, Repairs, Rentals
Sugar N’ Spice
Gift Shop
Halmark Card Shop
655-0404 - 655-1566
1094 - 1096 Post Road
RING’S END
DARIEN CONN
655-2525

Harley’s
Fine Shoes and Accessories
Next to Darien Playhouse
1073 Post Road
655-3003
I AM YOU

But don't be fooled by me
Don't be fooled by the face I wear
For I wear a thousand masks,
Masks that I'm afraid to take off
And none of them are me.

Pretending is an art that is second nature with me
But don't be fooled
For God's sake don't be fooled

I give the impression that I am secure, that
All is sunny and unruffled with me,
Within as well as without,
That confidence is my name and coolness my game.
In the water is calm and I am in command,
And I need no one.

But don't believe me, please.

My surface may seem smooth, but my surface is my mask
Beneath this lies no completeness.

Beneath the real me in confusion, in fear and aloneness.

But hide this. I don't want anyone to know it.

I panic at the thought of my weakness and fear of being exposed.

So I play my game, my desperate game,
With a facade of assurance and without, and a trembling child within.

And so begins the parade of masks. And my life becomes a front.

I chatter to you in the sparse tones of surface talk,
I tell you everything that is really nothing,
And nothing of what's really everything.

Of what's crying within me?

So I'm feeling my way through my routine must be fooled by what I say.

What I'd like to say but can't.

I dislike being honest.

I dislike the superficial game I'm playing, the phony game.

I'd like to be spontaneous and genuine, and me,
But you've got to help me. We've held your hand.

Even then things are what I seem to want.

Only you can wipe away from my eyes the blank stare of breathing death.

Only you can pull me into aliveness.

Each time you're kind and gentle and encouraging,
Each time you try to understand because you really care,
My heart begins to grow, wings very small, very feeble wings.

But wings,

With your sensitivity and sympathy, and your power of understanding
You can breathe life into me. I want you to know that.

I want you to know how important you are to me,
That can be the creator of the person that is me if you choose to.

Please choose to. We alone can break down the wall behind which
Tremble; you alone can remove my mask.

You alone can release me from my shadow world of panic and uncertainty
From my lonely person. Do not pass me by.

I am not sad. I am not sad. I am not sad. I do not pass me by.

A long conviction of worthlessness builds strong walls.
The nearer you approach me, the harder I slide back.
I fight the very thing I cry out for,
But I am told that love is stronger than walls, and in this I hope.

Please try to beat those walls with firm hands,
But with gentle hands—for a chance.

If I can meet you, and can meet you in my own way, I meet you.

You know

Joseph Viss
Centre Stone: Then, Now, and Coming
by Hal Cherry

In the past half-year since our conception, the phone listeners at Centre Stone have handled calls ranging from the potential suicide victim to the prank caller screaming, "Help me, I'm freaking out on oregano!" We have, perhaps, saved three lives, and have utilized many of the area's services in making referrals. Much of the satisfaction derived from working on a hotline comes when a caller ends a conversation with, "Thanks, you've really helped."

Since its inception, last September, Centre Stone has averaged seventy to eighty calls per month, and we believe that this average will increase. In January, we experienced a marked decrease in the number of calls; this can probably be attributed to an article appearing in the local newspaper which misquoted our director, Hap Dunne, as saying, "Kids who were last year's drug abusers have stopped and are now working on Centre Stone, but these are now diminishing as people realize Mr. Dunne would never say this.

As of the moment, Centre Stone serves only as a hotline-telephone counselling/referral service, but we hope to institute additional programs in the future. Our plans include the establishment of an adult hotline, a house with our own drug addiction facility, and open workshops and encounter group sessions for interested individuals. We also plan to align ourselves more closely with other drug programs in this area, and in May or June we hope to conduct another training session to replace the departing seniors.

(Hal Cherry serves as Assistant Director of Centre Stone to Mr. Dunne—Ed.)

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1971 Vaudeville Show. The show that showed us...

The Fabulous Temps doin' their thing

In order to finance CEAG, student and community ecology groups are raising money all over the state. In Darien, funds for CEAG are being raised by the DHS Environmental Action Committee, as part of Darien CARFES. A door-to-door campaign is underway, asking town people for donations of at least one dollar. Each contributor receives a slip, or ticket, briefly explaining the Earth March and CEAG.

Nader's CEAG funds are also being raised locally via the sale of CEAG buttons, posters and bumper stickers by Environmental Action.

Mr. Nader said that at least $250,000 must be raised for CEAG to effectively start functioning, so everyone's contributions are desperately needed.

Another way to help CEAG and to help raise money with the local drive is the area's groups, such as Environmental Action, are relatively small and urgently request that interested people get in touch with these groups and lend a helping hand.

The Children of Change have led many adult Americans to re-examine their way of life, their value system, and whether it any longer fits the world they live in. Despite its anti-intellectualism, the Movement is a little philosophic: it asks not "What?" or "How?", but "Why?"

—Kaiser Aluminum News, Volume 27, No. 1

THE STUDENT SHOP
Apparel for Boys and Young Men

Novis Paint Co.
899 Post Road
Continued from Page 1

 rigidly adhered to the classical style of playing, but occasionally incorporated certain types of jazz. For instance, the last piece on the program, Joseph Horovitz's "Music Hall Suite," was similar to New Orleans jazz of the '20s. Some of the pieces were almost Hip and with the instruments playing a long series of quavers concatenated, each instrument contributing to the pattern of the melody and the fabric of the accompaniment.

In other pieces, notably the second movement of "Brass Quintet" by Maud Arnold, the tuba and the French horn would dominate the melody for a while. Then the other three instruments would rigidly follow the lead but firmly take up the melody themselves, only to return to it the second movement. The effect was that of waves of sound, or thought, or the sea, relentlessly pressing forward towards their shore. There were the few climaxes, in which the lower register instruments would act as a cushion restraining the tension. As the music ascended themselves through the ceiling. Suddenly however, they would seem to forget their prodigality and return to the playfulness of the short notes.

The description above will perhaps sound trite to some readers. However, the unflagging skill with which the Quintet performed gave it a fresh meaning and accuracy. Characteristic of classical music concerts, everyone felt compelled to observe a strained silence between movements as if fearful. However, after each piece, the audience was genuinely enthusiastic in its applause and the musicians consented to an encore. By the end of the evening, the quality of their performance had been so pleasing and interesting to listen to that the audience went away well satisfied.

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evening was between the Police Commission and the youths. Tactics were discussed and questions came up about the illegal searching of cars "without a warrant" by patrolmen. The police commissioner said that he knew of no searches without a warrant and that it was illegal for a patrolman to search a car. Hap Dunne of Centre Sine said that several illegal searches had been cited to him and he requested that the police commissioners have them stopped.

The police commissioner said that any complaints could be brought to him and he would investigate them personally. A discussion was brought up about the function of the beach during the summer and the police commission was questioned about the tactics on patrol in the beach. The police commissioner asked why the police at the beaches during the summer nights were armed. The police commissioner said it depended on whether the police or special police or patrolmen as to whether they were armed or not. The commission asked what could be done to patrol the beach during the summer nights and not create tension between the youths and the police. It was suggested that a special unarmed policeman be placed at the beach. A special policeman had been placed at the beach in the past and had become a part of the crowd at the beach at night, instead of an armed patrolman watching保罗。

Paul Marden of the Youth Commission said that the meeting was a success and that a significant dialogue had taken place. The commission will have a meeting in the future and will continue to use the high school senior commons to achieve the social atmosphere. Paul Marden said that he would be better if the meetings centered on one topic at a time. The Youth Commission hopes that the response will be better next time as this type of dialogue is needed.


tems & Philosophy of Grading: Dr. Jaroslav (curriculum co-ordinator), Mr. Keen (Alumni JHS).


hopes to be ready to make recommendations to the Departmental Council by June 15, 1971.

Dana Fiske