By John Clinton

Hap Dunne’s recent Neirad “Viewpoint” and an article in the same issue of the paper on a proposed free school, have stirred a controversy at a recent Board of Selectmen’s meeting.

Darien residents Mr. and Mrs. Charles Leonard linked the proposed free school “South Side of the Sky” with Centre Stone and inquired at the meeting whether “in the event” that Centre Stone’s objectives meet with the Selectmen’s approval.

The Leonards indicated they had been informed that the school is sponsored by Centre Stone by calling a person named in the story.

They also asked the Selectmen if Hap Dunne’s request that Centre Stone’s direction come from the young people of the community is acceptable to the Board.

In an attempt to clarify the issues, Neirad has interviewed some of the main figures involved in the controversy: Cheryl Koch, founder of the free school; Hap Dunne, Director of Centre Stone; and James Tower, the First Selectman.

Mr. and Mrs. Leonard, who originated many of the questions that started the discussion, feel that the questions they have asked need to be answered by others and prefer not to be interviewed at this time.)

The purpose of the “South Side of the Sky,” as Cheryl Koch explains it, “is to provide a community learning center for people who drop out, or are disinterested in school the way it is. We would eventually like to get accreditation as a private school.” She also makes reference to the school as a place where townspeople could both teach and take enrichment courses.

Part of the controversy stemmed from the idea that Centre Stone is “sponsoring” the school. Miss Koch stated, “Centre Stone is not the sponsor. They allow us to use their facilities to have discussion meetings one night a week, but our classes meet outside of Centre Stone. Financially they’re not allocating any funds to us, but they have given us spiritual support.”

When asked whether Centre Stone is sponsoring the “Free School” Hap Dunne said, “No we’re not officially sponsoring the free school. The free school doesn’t exist yet and therefore there isn’t anything to sponsor. All we’re doing is opening our facilities to a group determining whether a school is necessary.”

Mr. Tower stated, “I do not consider that giving Centre Stone’s phone number as a source of information on the free school is sponsoring it. Nor do I consider the discussions of a free school in their rap sessions is sponsoring it because this is only time, no money.”

The second part of the controversy concerned Centre Stone’s role in the community. Hap Dunne perceives that purpose of Centre Stone’s is “to provide Counselling information to youth regarding the use directly or indirectly of drugs, including alcohol.”

He added, “I think we should be aware of and involved with all matters concerning youth. I think we should be available to listen to an individual or groups with programs to serve youth.”

Previously Centre Stone was run by Hap Dunne and advised by the Darien Youth Advisory Commission. Now it is still run by Mr. Dunne but its advisor is the Centre Stone Board consisting of members of the Board of Selectmen, Board of Education, Board of Health, and a mayor of South Side of the Sky. The Centre Stone Board’s function is as a supervisor and advisor government in a good deed.” But they were quick to add that the government “will not be successful simply because it is a good idea, but rather because those involved will make it work.”

As previously mentioned, there are those who disagree. Some believe that those involved, particularly the students, are “too apathetic to make it work” because the governments of the past, especially D.S.O. have failed miserably. At least one individual feels that there “wasn’t much of a choice and that another alternative to D.S.O. should have been offered.”

The nominations for positions on either the School Council and Activities Council were due last Tuesday for students and nomination of teachers was decided at the faculty meeting Tuesday night. The next step in this election process will occur when the election committee meets with the nominees to discuss campaign procedures.

The campaigns will take on various forms, according to the individual’s wishes. There will be not one strict set of procedures to follow. The voting will take place before the first of December so that the government should be in operation in the first part of December.

Once the government is in operation, according to Dr. Robbins, “it will be as good as the people who are elected make it.” He feels that it will be about a year and a half before the operation of the government can be evaluated. The two most important things in the government will be “the way in which the councils communicate with the school,” and “the efficiency of the School Council” because of its large size.

Four Year High School: Necessity Or Folly?

By Sandy Ward

Should Darien High School’s physical plant be expanded so that it can accommodate the ninth grade? The Board of Education has said yes, but there are audible voices in town which say no.

In that paper, dated November 29, 1966, Dr. Bruno stated three major reasons as to why a four-year high school makes sense in Darien. The first reason is a practical one. If Darien were to allow its junior highs to grow into a high school, the trend would be one of increasing the junior highs, which would therefore be called middle schools and moving those now in the junior highs into the high school.

But there are many who do not feel that there is any necessity for continued on page 3


Viewpoint

How To Get Around DHS

Editor's note: The ideas expressed in this column do not necessarily represent the editorial positions of NEIRAD. Readers are invited to turn in their views in editorial form to the front office within one week after the previous issue comes out. Submission of a column does not guarantee publication, but we will attempt to print as many worthy "viewpoints" as possible.

By Elliot Rosewater

Since the school is such a firmly established, essential social institution, it must naturally have laws to operate effectively.

This immediately divides the school into two groups: (1) those who make the laws, the "tyrannical administrators," (2) their pawns, the unenlightened students, the unqualified cynical legislators, or the plutocratic enforcers. The point is for the oppressed masses. The Dress Code makes us cry, "Ah, I find this resembles the Bulgarian Revolution of the 19th century" or "Ah, it seems to me that the situation we find ourselves entangled within at the present time is not a new phase of existence but on the contrary is rather, uh, shall we say, cumulative to 11th century Mesopotamia and thus and therefore we ratify it.

To liberate themselves then, (but mainly to stay awake), the oppressed masses revolt. Since it would be pointless merely to "revoit", they must know the rules so that they have something to revolt against — the "cause," as one will often hear "fight for the "cause," or "Long live the "cause!"

They may then have a pointless revolution against (1) rule 1, (2) rule 2, (3) rules 1 and 2, (4) neither of the above, or (5) true, but only if x≠...

...which brings us to the Basic Rules:

1. Attendance Policy: The attendance policy, although they don't state it, is for the oppressed masses' own good. Generally, it means that no matter how smart you are, you won't pass the course unless you are present at least 85% of the time. You therefore have 39 or so absences before you fail. However, if the absences are "illegal," or, unexcused, you only get four. Therefore, one misses X amount of learning when legally absent. Day, but eight times that amount (XX) when illegally absent for the same time. (The theory here is that you could think about what you are missing when legally absent, while in illegal absence you would be too busy considering your guilt and possible means of repentance to think of anything else.) This is also called "New Math."

2. Late to Class Policy: If you are one minute late to class you must give and get a pass. This process takes about twenty minutes. Therefore, you miss thirty minutes as punishment and rehabilitation for missing one minute, or, how much starch can you eat?

3. Dressing: Although this law has been repealed, it is important to know in understanding the heritage of the oppressed masses. The Dress Code defined acceptable and unacceptable means of dress for school. Unacceptable means resulted in being sent home unless you were a relative of Superman. In case you were sent to the phone booth. An unacceptable means was bleach jeans, although regular jeans were allowed. Bleached jeans had to be banned due to their lesser porosity, thereby incapable of absorbing any water. Other unacceptable means, classified there because of their non-conduciveness to learning or rabble-rousering nature, included such items as ties, brown berets, and brown derby.

4. Closed Campus: Closed campus means that you must confine yourself to only school grounds during free time, be there to do nothing but study or play Frisbees. You are not permitted to move about off campus. However, this law, is not actively enforced, and the administrators say, "it's up to the students to deny themselves of their rights." Those students who later on campus for fifty minutes are "responsible" while those who leave and go to the library 2) go home or 3) nourish themselves at McDonald's are "immature."

Ways and Methods of Changing the Rules:

1. Quit school. However, weak persons are discouraged from this method as jealous enemies on rooftops often about derogatory insults and acrimonious jeers such as "You quitter," "You drop-out," "You cop-out," or "You commie." These can be very damaging to the average id of the impressionable adolescent.

2. Circulate a petition. The petition should be a list of grievances with the signatures of several fellow "groovers" or "oppressors." This usually does not accomplish anything, except pass time until you have enough courage for method 1. However, if the signatures of well known personalities can give you petition the rest and flavor it needs, so that the school will be shall be able. Possible names to add are Lowell Weicker, Norman Mailer, Alger Hiss, Soeco and Vannetti, Marpo and Chico, and Topo and Tuna. These might make the principal think you have foreign subversives in your organization in which case you shall have you immediately arrested. However, civic experiences, such as jail, are always a help in your college applications.

Take Your Opinion to the Top

A Call For Involvement

DHS has a new form of government — one that will involve all facets of the school community: students, teachers, administrators, non-professionals, and parents. But remember, the only way it will work is if every person involves himself. As Dr. Donald Robbins stated, the government is only as good as those who run for it. But we should also remember that the government is only as good as those who elect the representatives.

Don't let the new government go the way of BSO. If you want a government to represent you and govern you fairly, you will have to work for it. Everyone must be willing to help and support it. A government such as this one cannot succeed unless it has the support of all the governed. This job is not only up to those who are chosen for the councils, but also all those for whom they do the choosing.
Teen Angel Would Be Proud Of Homecoming

By Andy Walworth

The handling of a traditional affair with fresh ideas provided DHS students with a last Homecoming event that anyone can remember. Over $1100 was raised for the D.S.O. Activities Council treasury, and the money will help finance future events for Darien students.

Under the guidance of Neil Lucado, Homecoming Committee Chairman for this fall, "It came off better than anyone could have possibly wished. We owe a lot of thanks to Doc Robbins and all the committee chairman," Neil also expressed thanks to her co-chairman, Betsy Seleetman.

The Saturday morning "Box Lunch" netted $163 and was organized by Lisa Saylerth. It was a new idea, and it worked out to be a huge success.

Once again, it was the sophomores who walked away with the blue ribbon and a check for $30 for the best float. Doreen DeVivo accepted the check for the sophomore class. Later, she said, "I think our win shows the enthusiasm of our class. I want to thank everyone who expanded the high school. One such group is the Citizens' Committee on Schools. They feel that the projected mark of 5,700 is way off because the population is not increasing, but decreasing. Births in the town are down due to the influx of foreigners. There has been a decline in the number of pre-school aged children since 1969 down from 1975 to 1978. The number of elementary aged children is down from 1970 to 1978 and will continue to go down. They believe that there is ample classroom space in elementary schools and that there will be no problem of space even if the parochial school closes.

The second reason in Dr. Bruno's paper for Darien moving to the four-year instead of junior high school is due to the social and emotional development of adolescents. There are many today who feel that ninth graders are more like tenth, eleventh and twelfth graders and sixth graders are more like seventh and eighth graders. Many feel that there are fewer discipline problems with the ninth graders at the high school. Dr. Bruno stated in his paper, "There seems to be widespread permissive attitude of today's children..." Dr. Bruno said, "...There seems to be widespread agreement that today's adolescent is about one or two years older psychologically and socially than his counterpart of the previous generation. Certainly most parents would agree that their children of lute elementary and junior high school age are more knowledgeable and sophisticated than those of a generation ago."

The third reason for going to a 5-4 system would be administrative and academic. Darien has for many years had the ninth grade in the junior high, even though it has been functionally part of the senior high school system. All of the information collected about a student in high school begins at the ninth grade level. Therefore, there has been a great deal of duplication of records. It would be much more efficient to have one central storehouse for all of the students' records.

One of the arguments against the four-year high school is that it would bring about permissive education and unnecessary experimentation. The

---

Four-Year High School?

By Dave Hable

If you are a senior, and you want to go to college next year, you might be planning to visit some of the schools you are interested in. This means you will have to face that frightening new experience, the "college interview." Anticipating your first interview, you might have visions of sitting in a book-lined office, facing a gray-haired man who peers at you over the tops of his horn-rimmed glasses across a huge wooden desk while he makes notes on everything you say. This might not prove to be the case.

I spent hours the night before my first interview memorizing answers to all the questions I thought he could possibly ask me. As an afterthought, I took off at 7:30 that morning to find a barber who was open. I was even in the catalogue, or other points that the catalogue didn't cover.

Like myself, other seniors were told by their interviewers that admissions officers today are trying to get away from the very formal, sometimes graded interview that our parents might have experienced.
The DARIEN Soccer Team ended its winning season with the best record in the league. The team ran away with the title. The last game was a loss to Andrew Warde by a score of 3-1. The loss was scored by Robert Back.

They found out they were in the States Saturday Nov. 4. The first game was to be against Manchester High School in Hartford, Conn. on Monday, November 7. Darien came out on top by a score of 7-6 after overtime periods, which resulted in a tie, and an exchange of penalties kicks. The first score of the game came at 3:10 into the first quarter by Manchester. Darien tied the score at 4:34 of the first quarter by a direct kick from Eric Hanson to Eric Eaton who headed the ball over the goalie who was caught out of position. Manchester then came back to break the tie at 11:21 of the 2nd quarter by a direct kick.

Darien tied the score with only 4 second left in the game. The Manchester fullback had saved a goal by sticking out his hand which resulted in a penalty kick. The best Darien scored and tied the game once more. The game then went into two 5 minute overtime periods which resulted in no score. Next, the game went into two 5 minute overtime sudden death periods, meaning first team to score wins, which also resulted in no score. Finally, the game was to be decided by penalty kicks which were to be taken by five members from each team, alternately one after another. The five from Manches-

The Wayers Upset Wilton, Swamp By Norwalk

WILTON 21-8 On October 28 the Blue Wave faced the Wilton Wavers in the opening game of the season. Darien, a tough local underdog, fell behind quickly 2-0 as the Wilton Warriors took opening kickoff and scored. Wilton's offense drove the ball downfield as Scott Harrington and Mike Ludwig produced long runs. The Wilton defense stiffened and on fourth down Seyferth's dying quack was plopped out. The ball changed hands many times during the half but a Darien fumble quickly produced another T.D. as the score at halftime was 14-0. The fans who braved the rain were in for a sudden downpour as the Darien Blue Wave came to life in the second half. On the second play from scrimmage, Scott Harrington raced 47 yards on the one yard line and from there Mike Ludwig scored. A point conversion pass to Robert Byler was a good and a fired up Darien team was now behind 14 to 8. Darien's defense rose to the occasion as Marc Dickman recovered a Wilton fumble on the 30 yard line. Four plays later Tom Gunn tied the score at 14-14.

LUDLOWE 7-14 On Nov 4 the Darien Blue Wave took on Roger Ludlowe in front of a huge homecoming crowd. Darien used a ball control offense in the first quarter to open the scoring. A Steve Seyferth pass to junior Robert Byler, who alertly kept the ball in bounds, produced the only T.D. The tough Ludlowe defense thwarted many a Darien drive throughout the game. As the Blue Wave offense did a good job, as Ludlowe, the leading scoring machine in the county, was held to two points. But, they proved to be decisive as Darien's valiant effort fell short. The final score was 14-7.

NORWALK 31-8 The last game of the year was played on Nov. 11, at the D.J.S. field. Once again the Wavers took home the crown from above. Norwalk was the closest they had not won a game all year, but they were determined to beat Darien. The Blue Wave scored first as Mike Ludwig who had an outstanding day, swept around right end and raced fifty-two yards to the Norwalk thirteen yard line. From there, quarterback Steve Seyferth, on an option play, scored the Wave's first touchdown. The score was aided by a clutch block by Scott Harrington. Darien moved the ball up and down the field, but penalties kept them from putting another score on the board. Before halftime, Norwalk received a break when they recovered a Blue Wave fumble on the 15 yard line. The defense stopped the Bears cold, but on fourth down a Norwalk halfback squeezed through a small opening for a touchdown, Norwalk elected to go for two points and they were successful. At halftime the Norwalk Bears were leading the Blue Wave 8-7. It was the first time Norwalk had ever been ahead this year. They were determined, however, to show what kind of team they had been capable of being all season, as the second half was all Darien. Mike Ludwig, who had rushed for 167 yards, scored another touchdown on runs of two, thirty-seven, and forty yards. Dick Hammernick humped it up the middle for a 10 yard T.D. on the 15 yard line and the final of 8-2-1 record. The Wavers' final record was then 9-6.

The Harriers Capture Sixth

The Cross Country meet against Wilton, Darien's last before the FCIAC Championships, was a disappointing loss to the varsity squad, 19-37. Co-captain Schaffel came in fourth and was the first to place. Brissette came in fifth, Leonard eighth, Rahe ninth and Beauchamp eleventh. At Dragonie, one of the Blue Wave's top runners was injured and unable to run. The Wavers' final record was then 9-6. Darien's J.V.'s went into the meet determined to keep their undefeated record. Co-captain Bartlett, who has been injured for the entire season, ran J.V. and came in first place. D. Clark was second, Saverine was third for the Wavers in fourth place. Canton fifth and D. Meeker was sixth. The Junior Varsity, soundly beating Wilton, wrapped up their undefeated season.

In the FCIAC meet, the varsity went six place, losing to the same teams they lost to in the regular season. Placing first for the Wavers was Brissette, followed by Dragonie, Schofield, Bartlett and Saverine.

THE ~ PLACE

Field Hockey Finish 4-4-3

Winding up their season the Girl's Field Hockey Team played New Canaan, which resulted in a 2-2 tie. Scoring against the aggressive New Canaan team were: Kate Manning and Julie Hoffman. The team played spectacularly, especially goalie, Liz Van Den Heuvel who made at least 15 saves. The previous Low-Heywood game, resulted in a scoreless tie, and the Ridgefield game resulted in a a 3-2 victory. Scoring in the Ridgefield game, were Sue Schofield, Kate Manning, Jennifer Barrett, and Leslie Milne. The Varsity's final record is 4-4-3.

The Junior Varsity's season with an 8-2-1 record. Against Low-Heywood, the J.V.'s put forth a great effort defeating their opponents 6-0. Scoring were Doreen DeVivo, 1, Sherry MacKay 2, Kate Manning 3. They also defeated Ridgefield 5-0, with Doreen DeVivo scoring twice, and Kristina Smith, Jill Glick, and Gail Wheeler each scoring once. Their final game with New Canaan, brought another victory of 1-0, with Allison Kinor scoring the lone goal.