English Department Favors Electives

By Cindy Savage

The Darien High School English Department has submitted a proposal for a major revision of its curriculum to the Board of Education. The proposal involves an expansion of the elective approach so that it would eventually include all DHS students instead of only seniors as it does now.

With this new elective program, students will have a wide range of English subjects to take. Instead of taking regular English classes, they will be able to choose from courses such as “Vocabulary and Speed Reading,” “Basic Acting,” “General Semantics,” “Shakespeare’s Tragedies,” “Radio Production,” and “Expository Writing.”

“This change will provide students with better chances of learning the specialized skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing,” according to a summer project report on the electives prepared by the English Department.

The basic premise of such an elective program is that both the students and teachers work better when they are “drawn to the subject in which they are involved and when they have some responsibility for choosing that subject,” the summer report states. This way, faculty and students will have a greater interest in what they’re doing.

“Better utilization of the staff will be possible with elective courses,” reports Mr. William McCarthy is already preparing for the second semester version of his elective “Film as Art.”

Are Teachers Opposed to Four-Year Plan?

By Roger Horine

Victor Durgy, president of the Darien Education Association, stated in a recent news bulletin that the DEA must oppose the Board of Education’s plan for a four-year high school. “In view of the fact that 80% of the staff feel that our present system is educationally sound,” 80% of the Darien teachers responded too.

Mr. Durgy interpreted the poll “not poor” to be “educationally sound.” When interviewed, he also said there was an effort to poll all the teachers. Alfred Senese, Jr., in charge of conducting the survey for the TEPS (Teacher Education and Professional Standards) committee and Dr. Pelleriti, said that a “decided number” of teachers were polled. Miss Krebs, the pollster for the high school said that only 16% of the faculty responded, though she put a ballot in everyone’s mailbox.

Mrs. Claire of the foreign languages department and a member of the DEA commended that it is fairly reasoning to assume that because education in Darien is good, it therefore should not be changed.

In an open letter to the DHS members of the DEA, and directed to Mr. Durgy, he wrote, “Mr. Gerald Heffernan, director of guidance at the high school and building membership chairman said “I feel responsible for telling you [Mr. Durgy] that I am ashamed and embarrassed by the high regard and respect this organization has for the organization and by the position which you have taken as a result of the company.”

Mr. Black, chairman of the English Department, is the only member of the high school English Department who will teach upper class English in the fall. Mr. Black can be reached at the English Department.

This summer report adds, “With this new program, a teacher will have a better chance of covering English than under the traditional system. A greater variety of courses will be offered, therefore providing better exposure to more areas of English. This way, students will be able to take classes that more interesting but worthless material. The department’s objectives will be more specific and subject matter will be put in greater depth.”

Construction Plans Approved for Hockey Rink

By Eric Eaton and John Clinton

Darien’s most wanted facility, our high school, has been approved for a new hockey rink. The plans were presented to the Board of Education. Our high school is the only school to have such a facility.

“This is the plan for Darien’s privately financed ice skating facility recently given the go-ahead by various town commissions.”

Dr. Black, Chairman of the English Department, specifically mentioned that the English Department will be teaching upper level English courses in the fall. Mr. Black can be reached at the English Department.
New English Electives: A Step Forward

Uporn examination of the new English elective program proposed by the Minneapolis High School English Department, one realizes it is a truly progressive educational idea and should be applauded.

English in the past has been a catch-all, subject to the criticism that it teaches all things to all people. But the possibilities of this new program are far-reaching.

There are many advantages to the elective approach which could never be achieved in the traditional program. The students will be taught by teachers who are really interested in their courses and the benefits of this program are quite obvious. With students and teachers able to choose their courses, the educational atmosphere will have to be greatly improved. It is fairly safe to say that no teacher is a master of every aspect of the English language. An elective program may better utilize the strengths of the teachers. Second, in an elective program a student has a great deal more responsibility for his own learning than in the traditional setup. The student has to do research in the building of his own curriculum. With this experience it will make his transition to college that much easier.

In the past, a student would have only three English teachers during the three years of high school. In the proposed plan a student will come in contact with more teachers and various personalities, interest, and expertise. The program which has been flexed in flexibility with many of the courses at least ten or twenty weeks, so no student will be "stuck" in a course for a whole year.

Involvement seems to be the key word in the whole program. If the student is willing to make a concerted effort, he or she can learn more than in the standard program. In fact, a student can take more than the equivalent of three years of English in a year of high school. The courses will be more intense and focus on clear-cut objectives. Such clear objectives in the past have often been nonexistent.

The ultimate outcome of the proposed program is still in doubt, but no matter what happens, our hats are off to the English Department which was willing to break from the monotomy of tradition. Hopefully, the other departments will come together with the need for change and follow the positive lead provided by the English Department.

Letters To The Editor

IT'S A RIP-OFF

The other night at a party, after everybody had had a good time and the sun was peeking over the horizon, it became time to gather together our possessions — coats, hats, pocketbooks, etc. It very soon became clear that many of the things which had been in pockets and purses were not. Someone, or maybe more than one person, had rifled off about twenty bucks and miscellaneous wallets, ID's, licences. Now, stopping to me is like stealing ashes from a restaurant or towels from a hotel. It may be wrong and it may be right, but that's a decision that you have to make for yourself. But one thing I can tell you is wrong — that's to steal from your own friends!

There were no crashes at that party — there was no one who couldn't have walked in the front door and said "Hey! It's me! Your friend!" And yet someone had walked off twenty dollars richer.

Well, lock your locker, lock your house, lock your car, your bike — everything you own. Sit back and hope that everything's safe at home — while your "buddies" are picking the lock.

Steve Winton

Open Campus: A Closed Issue?

By Chip Harrington

Every year the debates on open campus have filled the halls at Darien High School. Frequent discussions between students and administrators have been standard procedure. This year, 1971, things are much quieter around school. Why is it that the students of Darien High School so willingly let this previously hot issue cool off?

This question was put to Dr. Gordon Bruno, principal of the school. It is however, that the students have acquiesced down for three simple reasons: 1) Students have seen the Open Campus Study Report and realize open campus is not feasible because the townpeople are so set against it. 2) No student government has been in effect and this gives little chance for members of the school community to air their views. 3) A very serious attitude toward academics has been taken by a majority of the kids.

Dr. Bruno argues that as of now it is a definite issue, but he feels it will rise again. Looking at it obliquely he commented, "the 18-year-old is legally emancipated now and he should be able to make such decisions on his own." He went on to say that, "the troubles with open campus just for the sake of trying to satisfy these people that the students are leaving illegally." You also have to realize that this topic covers more than just having campus during a free period.

He continued to say, "I see many advantages to this open campus, but the students would give the seniors a chance to adjust to the handling of their free time before they go off to college." On the other hand, you feel you must look at it from the standpoint of a wide-eyed fifteen-year-old walking into the high school for his first time. He has a tremendous amount of adjusting to do and the added responsibility of handling free time could prove to be too much of a burden.

The Open Campus Study Report released last spring identified the advantages and disadvantages of the open campus situation. It stated that an open campus should challenge teachers and administrators to make education more "attractive," thereby motivating students, and giving them a desire to stay "where the action is." The report went on to say, "if the open campus situation should develop, attract the student population to the school, the student population would be able to look at the other side of the coin. The report also stated an open campus could cause the disenchanted student to completely lose contact with his counselor and there would most likely be an increase in tardiness and truancy." It was his feeling that an open campus could greatly disturb the academic environment of the high school.

In a survey taken last year open campus supporters met strong opposition from the student body. The teachers were split right down the middle on the issue but a very poor turnout of the faculty caused the survey to be invalid.

A key point that Dr. Bruno kept stressing is that we already have an open campus for very legitimate educational reasons. Therefore, a complete study, research, and career exploration. Dr. Bruno feels that with these programs, open campus is not necessary.

The achievement of open campus is not an impossible task. But in order to have it become a reality at DHS we must get the support of the town. This advantages and disadvantages of an open campus free period could be proved to be just too much of a burden.

Construction Plans For Hockey Rink

(continued from page 1)

"We are trying to make this a community project." The rink organizers say, "We would like to encourage groups and help them get started. I would like to see local groups start playing in the elementary schools." The new rink will mean a great deal to the high school team; a regulation rink (200 by 85) on ice to practice and play, more ice time, and the convenience of four heated dressing rooms complete with showers and dressing stalls.

Seating capacity includes four bleacher sections that hold a total of fifty spectators each, the mezzanine, plus plenty of space for standing room. Parking, which posed a possible problem, was cleared up when Goodbody Shopping Center said they would be happy to let season tickets use their parking lot if the rink's own lot proved to be full.

The projected finish date has been set for the first week in December, ready for summer hockey camp. The hot summer weather will provide an ideal environment for the rink, everything will have to work well when the main season starts in the fall. The plans to open all year round, providing hockey camps, races, clinics, and general skating sessions during the summer.
Hot On The Lot

"Elto," the first bread truck on the DHS lot.

By Chip Harrington

After four long weeks of searching for a vehicle worthy of following the "Black Rose" in this column, one of our staffers struck a very lucky gold mine when he noticed "Elto," Steve Watson's bread truck, lying helplessly in the parking lot.

Steve has quite a record of buying vehicles which never seem to find their way to the roads. "Elto," the baby blue and orange, two-door '54 International panel truck could be the break he has been waiting for.

As far as we can tell through the rust and corrosion, she packs a whopping 120 horses with modified Holley racing carburetor under her hood. Steve said, "When Elto was in her prime, she could have blown any other bread truck right off the road!"

This magnificent piece of machinery was stolen for a grand sum of $30. The engine has not been started by Steve, but legends have been passed down saying it has three gears and one can "get rubber" in each.

Her real beauty lies in her interior. When you slide open the door, you see the seat with plush black upholstery and the dash, but that there is wall to wall rust. This creates a cozy atmosphere, because everyone is forced to sit. Elto's floor in the back.

Elto had been sitting in the power mechanic's parking lot for a month, but Steve has now managed to get her back home. He feels Elto should be tearing up the roads by 1974.

Many of you may be wondering why this beaten down truck made "Hot on the Lot." The answer is quite simple. Elto, as well as the Black Rose, has a real personality which is rarely seen in a vehicle these days. Secondly, it is the only bread truck that has ever been in the DHS parking lot.

Review

Skin Torn

By Dave Hubbe

Theater 308 opened its season Friday night, November 17, with a somewhat disappointing production of Thornton Wilder's "The Skin of Our Teeth."

The disappointment was not in the cast, but in the play itself, which was very slow paced and totally confusing. Losing all interest in the story, the viewer turned his attention to the individual performance of the actors, which were on the whole, excellent.

Sarah Schultz and John Cannel were both outstanding in their roles as Mrs. Antipodes and her son Henry, making the whole evening worthwhile. Chris Kavanagh's interpretation of George Antipodes can best be deemed adequate, while Kathy Kimman and Lynn Collenwater both did a good job in their parts as Sabinus and Gladys.

Two of the brightest performances in the play were those of John Carter, the announcer, and Spencer Beckwith, the broadcast official, who were among those with smaller parts.

Despite the determined effort of the actors, "The Skin Of Our Teeth" remained a very unmemorable play. Listening to bits of conversation in the lobby at intermission led me to believe that only 90% of the audience didn't have any idea of what the play was about. I kept finding myself wondering why the committee that selects the plays picked this particular one. I was told by a cast member that the committee thought it was hilarious. I hope next time they choose a play that a high school audience will find more intelligible.

Graffiti Maniac Turns Journalist

By John Goodman

In and around DHS this past year you may have noticed a strange graffiti plague having to do with "Bozo," "Pygmy, and "Alpha Omegas" spreading over bulletin boards, ads, and posters, especially during the past few weeks. One of the Bozo artists, responsible for most of the bizarre Bozo creations around, has gone so far as to produce a small newspaper titled "The Daily Boozette."

Although this distinguished person professes to remain anonymous and refused to reveal his real identity to the public, he is known by his fellow Bozo clan as "Mr. Doorknob." Mr. Doorknob, the real mastermind behind the "Boozette," says, "The whole 'Bozo' thing started several years ago with the 'Bozo Light Show.' " The word "Bozo," at that time, had such a tremendous religious significance for many people who were once bozo-minded worshipers of the famed TV star that he word stayed in their lives up until today and recently has had a sudden unexplainable comeback at DHS. He goes on to say that, "There are about ten to fifteen participating members of the Bozo subculture that before the Boozette came out, could only make themselves known by scrawling on the walls."

I asked him specifically why he actually went so far as to produce a newspaper dedicated to keeping the subculture and all outsiders informed on the "Bozo scene" and he replied, "It was the most absurd thing I could do so far. I hoped that people would find a laugh in it to relieve a little of the boredom school provides.

He explained that Mr. Coulombe was the one who inspired him to put it out after he discovered a so-called "obscene word" on the "Bozo board" and traced it to Mr. Doorknob. Mr. Coulombe suggested producing a Bozo oriented newspaper (non-obscene of course) to inform the Bozo public.

He makes it clear that even though he has the highest respect for the assistant principal, "We Boozers don't plan to let him stand in our way. I asked him what his views were on the other Pygmy and Alpha Omegas rah rah subcultures forming around the school and he responded, "I welcome all political debate from all subcultures and I am all for free enterprise."

But he claims, "The A.O.R. has made many false statements, one of which is that they 'have legitimate Narratives' which is obviously ridiculous." He stated that the F.B.I. (Federal Bozo Investigators) is going to look into the facts as soon as possible.

The power of Bozo definitely has a marked effect on all students and we owe a good portion of the "Boozette" and its creator.

Sicilian Defense

On DHS Boards

By Al Papam

Before Ireland, and before Fischer, the Sicilian defense could have been a secret military maneuver. But it is now common knowledge that this move is indigenous to a person to person war: chess. Long the game of Kings, chess has lifted itself from the homes of the aristocrats, and into the library, S.A. room, and cafeeteria of D.H.S.

The D.H.S. chess tournament now in progress involves people of all skills, be they just beginning or budding grandmasters. The tournament is being conducted in Round Robin Play. Utilizing this method, each player plays each person in his group. Winner of the round robin progresses to Candidate's Tournament, which will entail two out of three match play. By December 5, all round-robin play will be finished, when winners will be participating in the Candidate's Tournament.
Optimism Echos Through Winter Gym

Icemen Have Undefeated Fall

By Ned Blue

The Darien hockey team is off and flying this year as they blazed through their exhibition schedule undefeated, 6-0. In their first game they manhandled Team Norwalk, a group of Norwalk alumni, 5-1. Their next game was against an upstart team, Fairfield Prep, who they outscored and out hustled. Darien peppered the Prep goal, scoring five goals including the "hat trick" by Dave Eversmann. Meanwhile, Darien goalie Peter Bowlin turned back all 15 of Fairfield's shots to produce the first shutout of the season. Darien was put to their first test in their last pre-season game against the defending W.H.I., champs, Mamaroneck. The Wavers demonstrated their depth and defense by shooting four lines on their way to the 4-1 victory. Bolstered by the confidence of out-scoring their pre-season rivals 14-2, this year's squad has set high hopes for themselves. Their season goals are to win the Westchester County title, gain a berth in the State Tournament, and to capture the State Championship. The team led by Coach Dan DaSilia.

Wrestling

Co-Captains Steve Castle and Lee Arnold prepare for opener with Staples High School on December 15.

Strong Wrestling Squad

Ready For Opener

By Chip Harrington

This year's wrestling team has a number of outstanding grapplers and is looking forward to a strong season. Jim Girardi taking over as head coach has the touch just right replacing Phil Rubell, who left to teach theater at a local college.

It looks as though the team has five potential state contenders in co-captains Steve Castle and Lee Arnold, as well as returning varsity letter winners. Greg Hill, Jim Szudnick, and Paul Lapinacchi. Hopefully, one of these five can bring DHS its second individual state championship in two years. Last year Jim Palosey, who was possibly the finest wrestler in the history of the high school, won the state with a dramatic pin in the last period of the finals.

The individual weights are obvious, but the overall success of this year's team ultimately depends upon the boys that will be rounding out the rest of the roster. It is fairly safe to say that the top five will win a large majority of their matches, but these matches alone cannot bring the team to the state level. The team will need two or three wins per meet from the other weight classes. These wins could come from a number of mat men. The "Armenian-hamdi" Berj Krikorian, a two-year letter man, is just out of a broken collar bone and it is uncertain whether he will be ready for the team opener on December 15. Mike Mergerman left an outstanding job last year is also looking for a shot at the state tournament. The coaches are hoping that John "Genghis" Bennett will venture out upon the mat once again this year, because if he does, it will notify the team. The rest of the classes are occupied by "Big" Al Zechen, Aaron Peters, Pat Ferrana and David Simpson. The heavyweight who has improved substantially over last year.

The team this year is quite optimistic and feels if some of the less experienced boys can come through they could go all the way and win the counties. It is safe to say, looking at the team, they will be well off five hundred percent in the win and loss column.

I would put my money on Steve Castle, Lee Arnold, and Greg Hill to make it to the state tournament.

Dribblers Trying To Rebuild

By Todd Barger

It's a new season for the Darien basketball team which will be led by new head coach Richard Perceufani. The hoopsters are trying to rebound from last year's disappointing season and are starting off with high hopes for a winning year. The team has been practicing two rigorous weeks and is looking forward to opening night, Friday December 13 at 8 p.m. where they will take on the Stamford Catholic Crusaders at the Darien gym.

As in past years the Wavers are basically small and will have to depend on their quickness, hustle and desire. Coach Perceufani has been getting the team in shape in hopes of out-running their opponents.

The co-captains for this years squad are seniors Jim Case and Mac Taylor. The rebounding responsibilities will be taken care of by the big men. John Reda, Bert Barrows, and Tim Hendry. The back court men include Kevin Fitzpatrick, Roger Smith, Scott "Murphy" Brooks, Steve Seyfried, and Greg Jones. The forwards are Norm Selover, Jim Case, Mac Taylor, Jim O'Brien and Greg Gillman. This year's team will be backed by six returning lettermen. The starting lineup has not been set as there is still competition for each position.

The J.V. basketball team coached by George Nielsen is also looking forward to a fine winning year. Some of the players who will be seeing a lot of action are Dave MacNamara, Jeff Bruno, Jim Luchesi, Bruce Brewster, Dave Eversmann, Jeff Fitzpatrick, Mike Pittman, Dan Johnson, Jeff Leonard, Peter Scott and Scott Werner. The J.V. will play the Crusaders on December 15 at Stafford Catholic at 6:15 p.m.