The Library: Can Big Brother Help?

By ROGER HORINE

"We all hate the idea of Big Brother but it's important to realize that the system is designed to help the students," George Emerson, DHS library director told Neirad.

Referring to the $4,000 security system, newly installed by the SM Corp., Mr. Emerson told his students that he hopes that students will accept the system rather than try to beat it.

The complete set-up will eventually include a gate installed at the entrance to prevent leaving through the wrong door. Alarm devices have already been implemented on the other doors, now serving only as emergency exits.

The library is currently leasing the system for one year at a cost of $2,800 to determine its effectiveness. Should the system prove useful, the library will consider purchasing it at reduced cost.

There are no penalties planned for the student who is caught in the clutches of the machine, Mr. Emerson said. "The library will ask only if someone in the assembled crowd has a book he wishes to check out."

Mr. Emerson said that last year, the most popular book was "the casual book thief that inadvertently forgets to sign books out. "The system won't stop the determined thief," he said, "It's only about $5 to 90 percent effective."

All hard and soft-bound books are "de-sensitized." They can be "de-sensitized" only by the special machine located under the front desk. "Magazines can be sensitized," Mr. Emerson said, but he would not say whether any or all of them are. He also would not comment on the security status of cassette tapes.

Reference books are sensitized with a different process, rendering them impervious to the de-sensitizing process.

Mr. Emerson said that this system was the most flexible system they had investigated. He said that with other models, books would have to be de-sensitized each time they were brought into the library and taken out by the borrower, or the borrower would have to have the book bypass the sensor via a librarian.

The system is necessary partly due to interference problems, which cause the machine to trap innocents and free thieves erratically.

Mr. Emerson said that 74 percent of the students polled in a survey given in homeroom last year indicated that they would be in favor of a system such as the one installed. Others said that they did not want such a system, but if it was absolutely necessary, they would not object.

The library staff will conduct a selective inventory in November to determine how successful the system has proved to be. Mr. Emerson said that there is no "break point" at which he would decide that the system is not working well enough to maintain it. "That would be a matter that I would have to study," he said.

Food Folks Present Shakes On Parade

By TOM GAMMILL
And ANDY WALWORTH

As some of you may have already noticed, the summer vacation has drawn to a close. Everywhere, students are returning to school, bringing with them eager minds, open hearts, and empty stomachs.

Returning DHS gastronomes will find changes in both menus and expense. Lunches will retain their interdimensional flair, and favorites like beef and bacon burgers will still be available. Yet in this time of ever-rising food prices, the cafeteria's pledge to keep prices down will become harder to fulfill with every passing day.

Meanwhile, back at the range, head cook Mike Nesick harasses and punishes over the problem. In a Neirad interview, he assured us that although the price of meat is higher, students and faculty will still receive the same amount of food for the hot lunch price. "We did not raise the price for a complete hot lunch," explained Mrs. Nichols, "so the people who want the meal can have it."

Unlike before, Darien's milk program is not subsidized by the federal government. As a result, the price of milk has doubled. However, experts in the field have assured us that at ten cents per glass, milk is still a bargain. Small sandwiches and steak sandwiches are both up, but the price of burgers, dogs, and grinders has remained unchanged. Faculty lunches are not subsidised either, and had to be raised slightly in price.

As in the past, the cafeteria is continuing its efforts to create a more varied menu, with the installation of a milk shake machine for students and faculty. Many have expressed their interest in it, and will come in two flavors: chocolate and vanilla. The machine makes its debut this Tuesday, sure to be another red-letter day in the annals of DHS cookery.
Editor-in-Chief: Roger Horine
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Council Impotence Sets Precedent

The School Council has proved that it has the backbone of a chocolate eclair. The resolution presented by Tim Massad, John Hart and Richard Harper suspending the severely restricted homeroom attendance policy was a "do or die" test of the council. Had that resolution been passed, the community would have been convinced that the council would not assert its constitutional authority.

But the council was afraid. Dr. Bruno said that he did not think it was worth the trouble of bringing the idea of thehausman attendance policy before the council. He is legally bound to do so by the community constitution that he agreed to. He failed to pass the policy again. The law requires that this policy be removed from the agenda for re-development of the student council for action.

The council's failure to pass the resolution sets a precedent, and why should Dr. Bruno go to the council for its approval of his policies if they do not want him to do it?

Guidance Counselor Cathy Clayther's remarks to the effectiveness of the policy is a good example of how it could cause confusion if it were applied. The council's behavior is not consistent with the point of the resolution.

The council's action of sending a delegation to talk with the principal is pathetic. Action should be taken swiftly to preserve what little power the council has, or now, this time is lost.

It is clear that the administration does not respect the council. It is to be of any real consequence. Mr. Coulbeck should have said that the homeroom policy had to go through the council when he was helping Dr. Bruno write it. For a member of the council, he has treated his responsibilities with surprising tact.

From their failure to pass the resolution, the council has shown its own lack of confidence in itself, and given the administration a free hand in determining policy it would choose not to place before the council.

Write On for Neirad

Neirad is open to all students. While edited occasionally by students enrolled in the Advanced Journalism course and bounded by those in Introductory Journalism, any community member is welcome to submit articles, ideas, letters for publication and, of course, opinion pieces for our "Viewpoints" column.

Photographers are needed to contribute to our sports page and to help illustrate news features.

Other news stories and features may be written for publication in Ripple, DHS's newspaper of the students. Those interested in submitting material for the next issue of Neirad should do so within a week after the previous issue has been published. Due to the time needed to set the type, paste-up and print the paper, generally five days are required from the last possible deadline to the distribution.

Because of this time lag, Ripple was inaugurated last year to provide up-to-the-minute news coverage. Neirad has concentrated more on in-depth news features and news analysis. If you have suggestions on how we can improve our coverage, please let us know.

Don't Steal This Book

Neirad supports the library's efforts to stem the growing amount of thievery. A library is not much good if students are constantly searching in vain for a book that has been stolen.

It is a sad state of affairs when $14,000 of leased electronic equipment is removed to force people to sign their name and homeroom to a card. Fines have been eliminated except on reserve books, and magazines so there is really no excuse for not checking them out.

We urge that students accept the system and realize that it is there to help make it easier to use the library and all the materials that should be there.
Shakes, Cakes On Parade

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The snack bar is open again, serving the usual variety of cakes, cookies, sandwiches and pies. By order of the managers, the cooks were forced to raise the price of pies, but cakes average three to five cents cheaper than if bought in a store. All these goods are sold at "break even price," explained Mrs. Nichols.

The snack bar booths exist as a direct result of the work of the pie snatchers and cake thieves, who in the past ravaged the shelves of vast quantities of Twinkies, Yankee Doodles, and Funnypops. The Snack Bar staff have prevented the cookie monsters from continuing their dastardly work, and also serve as a torture test for any student over four feet tall. Cafeteria personnel are aware of this problem, and hope to provide more space for a larger snack area.

In conclusion, Mrs. Bees Nichols reminded us that it is not as simple to run a hot lunch program as people think it is. "Our food is always fresh," she added, "and we have one of the cleanest kitchens around."

Not completely satisfied with the cafeteria lunches, many DHSSers feel that they "deserve a break," and have been making unauthorized field trips to sample the cuisine found under the golden arches. But even at McDonald's, you'll be getting less change back on your dollar. The price of shortening (oil) has almost tripled, causing the price of pies, fries, and fish to jump. With the recent lifting of the price freeze on beef, it seems that McDonald's will have to raise prices of other products, as well, but employees feel it's too early to say. "We'll have to wait and see what the manufacturers and producers are up to, before we can speculate on any price changes for the consumer," explained one employee of the store.

Gridmen...

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certainly manned by experienced seniors. Chris Kingins and Rick Bailey are the starting guards with Gary McDaniels and captain Andy Nelson at the tackle spots. Senior Bob Calvo is the lone newcomer to this line and the center spot is in good hands with him.

Letterman Tom Genn and newcomer Keith Gerstenmeier, both seniors, will split duty at tight end. Senior letterman John Bohannan is the starting wide-receiver for the second consecutive year. Defense should be a strong point for the Wave this season and it's no wonder with the defense being just as experienced as the offense.

All-East defensive tackle Andy Nelson, senior captain Jay Byler, and senior Tom Craig return at the end spots for the defensive line. Other candidates for the defensive line are Gary McDaniels, Bob Calvo, Mike DiSilvestro, Mike Sabunn, Rick Risty, and John Wright.

Those slated for the linebacking are seniors Bob Jackson, Chris Kingins, and Nick Harnick.

The strongest area on the defense will be the secondary where seniors Tim McAuliffe, and Tom Craig return as starters for the second year, while Ed Leehak, John Bohannan, Bill Hatfield and Steve Carey fight for the remaining two jobs.

All things considered, Darien should do very well this year. With an experienced offense and defense returning, the Blue Wave can be a very serious contender.

Darien opened against Norwalk at home September 15. (Results not available at press time.) Next Saturday, September 22, the Blue face New Canaan at 1:30 p.m. there.
Complementing Harrington in the backfield is senior Mike Ludwig, also a captain and two-year letterman, and junior fullback Dick Hamerick, who was the only sophomore to letter last year. Quarterback was supposed to be a trouble spot in this year's lineup, but Coach McCarthy High Has High Hopes for Harrirers

By MARY ANN JOHNSTON

Darien's Cross Country team is off and running to an encouraging start this year, with tri-captains Al Dragnone, John Briar and Doug Roberts leading returning members Al Dragnone, John Briar and Doug Roberts leading returning members. The Cross Country team held light practices this summer. Instead, the team has held morning and afternoon practices since the start of school, to prepare for the Wee Burn golf course, Darien's home Cross Country course.

Strom's Girls To Bully In Season

BY MEG MCGOLDRICK

The DHS girl's field hockey team, led by Co-Captains Jennifer Barrett and Deby Carella, starts the season against Ludlowe Thursday, Sept. 27.

The season looks "very promising" according to Coach Rebecca Strominger. About 20 girls went to field hockey camp in Greenwich the last week of August. Despite very hot weather they were undefeated in camp competition. Miss Strominger said, "We 1 your own. That's the name of the game." She added, "What other teams in this stickwork we can make up for in determination." Miss Strominger was pleased at the large turnout at camp, but she welcomed a larger squad.

There are only a few seniors returning this season, along with many juniors. The junior varsity's season last year was excellent and hopefully this year, as the varsity team, they will get into the states. They need to win six games by October to qualify.

Booters May Surpass Last Year's Win Record

BY TODD BURGER

The Darien Blue Wave Soccer team is looking forward to another winning season. Last year's team posted a 9-3-1 record and competed in three post-season contests. Head Coach William Benton thinks this year's squad will do better, and that there is no doubt that Darien will be a contender.

The team will be led by senior co-captains Brian Nadrizen and John Rhett. Other key seniors are Joel Baird, Jim Fowles, John Hart, Curt Stites, Arthur Fletcher, Chris Cushing, John Rockard, Richard Sal and John Scully.

Junior who will play an important role to the team are Sal Ferranas, Mike Prate, John McLennan (all three lettered as sophomores last year), Larry Conauck and John Doughale.

There is no disputing the record last year's team posted. It was the first winning soccer season in Darien history. This year's squad will be hard pressed to repeat last year's success and will have to play to their full potential to have a winning season.

Coach Benton feels, "We can be very, very good, or very, very poor, depending on their (the players') attitudes."

The soccer team will have a new assistant coach this year, Arthur Arsham-bault, a student teacher from the University of Bridgeport. The soccer team opened its season Friday, September 14, against Norwalk, at Norwalk (Results not available at press time.) The Blue went against Wilton Tuesday at 2:15 p.m. at Wilton.

Blue Gridders Whistle A Fresh Tune

BY TODD BURGER

Fall is nearly upon us and with its coming, there also comes another new season of football. "Autumn fever" has struck again, and in Darien the news about football is nothing but good.

It has been a long time since Darien has had a winning team (1982 to be exact), but this could and should be a big year for the Blue Wave Football team. Head Coach Jack Rimebush is very optimistic about this year's team, and he has several reasons for this optimism. The biggest reason is the return of senior Scott Harrington, All-East halfback for the year.

The teams leading scorer last year with fifty points, and their most valuable player, Harrington (one of this year's captains) is an excellent runner and receiver. Add to this the fact that Scott is also one of the best kickoff and punt returners in the FCIAC and things look very secure with him in the backfield.

HAY YOU CONSIDERED SERVING THE DHS COMMUNITY AS A MEMBER OF THE:

School Council?
Activities Council?

To become a candidate, submit your name or the name of your nominee in an envelope to the Activities Council Advisor.

School Council Membership
Membership shall consist of ten students, consisting of two from each grade and four at large (of these four, no more than two may be from the same grade), nine faculty members, and two parents. The principal is an ex-officio member.

Activities Council Membership
The Activities Council shall be composed of seventeen individuals consisting of three members of the senior class, three students from any class, two members of the faculty, one non-faculty member, and two parents of Darien High School students. These are the voting members of the Activities Council.

Candidates Meeting: September 24
Elections: September 28

Copies of the Darien High School Community Constitution may be obtained from the high school office.

Paid for by the DHS Election Committee