NEIRAD

Volume LXXIV, Number 2
Darlen High School, Darlen, Connecticut
October 5, 1973

Bruno Vetoes Council Plea

By ROGER HORINE

Gordon Bruno, principal, denied the School Council's request to suspend the Thursday morning attendance policy Friday, Sept. 28.

The veto followed the successful 9-4 passing of a resolution which stated, "We believe that Dr. Bruno has violated the spirit of our school community government by his method of implementing the new bathroom policy. According to Dr. Bruno, he just denied the request, a formal veto was not necessary."

Bruno Vetoes Council Plea

By SANDY WARD

"A good theatre program should have variety, comedy, serious plays and plays which appeal to the hearts," says Craig Matheson, English teacher and Director of Theatre 308. "My hope is to create 308 which pulls in all the media, and other art forms to make total theatre."

He feels that an "audience should be bombarded with sounds, visuals and movement. Mr. Matheson is unsure of the future of a theatre community, but believes that there's always an audience if there's a high quality theater program. There are many talented kids at DHS. I know we're going to be successful -- there's talent here."

For their full production, 308 will be performing Under Milkwood by Dylan Thomas. "It's a play originally written for voices, but we're going to stage it," Mr. Matheson plans to use a whole company of actors rather than just a few -- 30 may not do all of their plays for public performance. Mr. Matheson envisions some workshops before school which will be run by kids. He is hoping to bring in some professional touring companies and possibly do some assemblies.

One such group, The Vanities Theatre of Sarah Lawrence College, was here this week to do a program for 308 after school. In discussing his general feelings about 308, Mr. Matheson said, "The kids are enthusiastic and have been helpful to me as a new teacher at DHS. Mr. Matheson is very pleased to be working with Ms. Floren Harper. In the past, they have co-directed before coming to Darlen. He says of her that she has great talent and interest in students and theatre."

School Government Vote Nullified

The Community Government Elections Committee announced that the Sept. 28 student elections would not be counted due to difficulties in its administration.

John Rickard, chairman of the Elections Committee, told Neird that the ballots were confused and the instructions given were incorrectly worded.

Election results from parent and teacher elections were announced Monday.

School Council Winners:
Teachers: Richard Bochinski, Charles Burwell, Dorothy Clark, George Emerson, Richard Harper, Edmund Higgins, Margaret Porter, Mr. Storie Rodman, Parents: Nancy Knox, Barbara Sickels, Activities Council Winners: Teachers: David Herbert, Joan MacDonald, Parents: Grace Bean.

Another attempt at student elections was made Thursday, Oct. 4. Results were not available at press time.

"No one was at fault," said John.

"There just was not enough time to run a really good election." Elaborating on the problems that they faced, John said that his committee received misinformation on the grades of some candidates, and no one was listed on the ballot.

He said that last year's committee was given three weeks to organize the procedures for the election. He said that Donald Robbins, assistant principal, also did much of the work. This year Assistant Principal Gerald Coulombo advised the committee.

"Mr. Coulombo handled the non-student elections. He is very capable, barring his incompetence," John said.

The results are being handled differently this year, according to John. Each person on the Elections Committee will count the ballots from only two or three homerooms, thus eliminating the late night hours the committee spent tabulating last year.

The constitution specifies that there shall be three members from each grade on the two councils. John reports that there are just that number vying for positions on the Activities Council in the junior class. "They win by default," he said.

Dr. Robbins said the constitution specifies that elections will be held in the last week in September.

Guidance Counselor Cathleen Cloutier and Assistant Principal Gerald Coulombo both resigned from the high school before the recent elections.

In a letter of resignation addressed to Chairman Tim Massad, and read at an open meeting of the council, Mrs. Cloutier referred to an editorial published in the September 17 issue of Neird. She indicated that she is "reluctant to speak out on important issues without fear that the school newspaper will comment on what the editor thought I intended" and not on what I said."

She added that she did not wish to be placed in the position of being told that she said something she did not without "having an opportunity to refute it or discuss it before it appears in print."

The editorial stated that Mrs. Cloutier had made remarks at a council meeting to the effect that the homeroom attendance policy is good. In her letter, Mrs. Cloutier stated that she "wholeheartedly supports the policy, "It has not been in existence long enough for any just personal to become an opinion in the media," she added.

The two Neird Reporters in attendance still maintain that Mrs. Cloutier's remarks were correctly interpreted. Mr. Coulombo has become advisor to the Activities Council and for that reason resigned his seat on the council.

When he said that Donald Robbins decided to split various administrative responsibilities, Mr. Coulombo acquired the Activities advisorship.

Risa Guidole (left) and Romy Andolong (right), both from the Philippines, are here with the Youth For Understanding program. They will be attending DHS for this entire school year. (Photos by John Arrison.)

Resignations Received From Two Council Members
NEIRAD

NEIRAD Invites Ideas

Students who would like the English Department to offer new courses now have the opportunity to petition with their ideas.

The process is a bit more complicated than dropping in a note in a suggestion box. However, the prospective petitioner must secure 25 signatures of students who will commit themselves to taking the course if the department approves of it. They must also agree on one period when they will have free time for a course that starts at mid-year.

A written course description following the department format must be filled in. It must include data on the objectives of the course. Chairman John Black extended an open invitation to help students write the descriptions.

Three students must be willing to represent the group at a committee meeting where they will answer questions that arise from their descriptions.

The committee and the entire department will then rule on it. If the course idea passes both times, it will be listed on pre-registration. If pre-registration does not indicate sufficient interest in Black's and Dr. Black's opinions, the course will not be offered.

Dr. Black told Neirad that he intends to be flexible concerning the number of students required on the petition, "We have got to take the commitment of 25 kids with a grain of salt," he said, indicating that many will not know if they have a free period available in their planning for next September.

"I know this sounds like there is a lot of work involved, but really the whole process can be done in one week. We are not trying to discourage students from applying," he said.

Dr. Black foresees a problem with the assignment of teachers to the new courses at mid-year. "Teachers register for courses when the student body will have to drop a course with less interest to free a teacher who really wants to teach a new one."

"If we just get one new course from all this, it will be worth it," Black added.

Mandatory Assemblies Unreasonable

We believe that the administration's current policy of mandatory attendance for all morning assemblies is unreasonable. Reducing valuable class time for programs of limited appeal does not square with common sense.

Last week's well-presented AFS assembly should not have been mandatory. Students who disliked the idea of being forced to attend made it hard for those who really wanted to benefit from the program to get the most from it. Our capable teaching staff was reduced to little more than kindergarden supervisors, and the students just vegetated, disinterested and bored. Neither teachers nor students deserve to be treated in such a fashion.

AFS and its related programs are very worthwhile activities, but having five sets of slides foisted on the entire school does not justify a very substantial loss of class and study hall time. This is the type of activity that the Wednesday X period was designed to accommodate. It is the type of activity that can be employed by those students who wanted to participate would be in attendance. The smaller group would facilitate question and answer exchanges — allowing a more successful sharing of ideas.

If an assembly must be held in the morning, most students would probably put the time to more constructive use either in the library, at one of the resources centers, or studying privately.

Those who wish not to study would probably not be those who would be responsive to the programs offered.

Some may feel that it is important for students to know about the AFS and YFU programs, and that the assembly is the best way to accomplish mass indoctrination. However, seniors are not allowed to sign up for these activities, so why were they forced to attend?

We hope that either the activities or school council will realize the shortcomings of the present policy and take appropriate steps to adopt a sane, sensible approach to the problem.

Bruno Ignores Law, Cripples Council

Gordon Bruno's veto of the School Council's commendable resolution is tantamount to a formal dissolution of the council. It is ironic that the one to cripple the council was the very same person who allowed it to begin and nurture it along in its formative months.

Thinking back, the community was proud to have a principal that was liberal enough to allow his power of policy-making to be delegated to a select group of students, faculty, staff, and parents. The move that came during the fall of 1972 was a first for DHS — and it owed all of its thunder to its donor, Dr. Bruno.

Now, in resigning the constitution which he himself signed, Dr. Bruno will not let go of the power he wants. According to Chairman Tim Mason, he even admits that he has violated the spirit of the law.

No one doubts that he could suspend the constitution and return to the benevolent dictator that his job description says he is. But the part that is hard to swallow is that he feels that the council can still continue to exist, rendered totally impotent, stripped of its powers of policy-making. That is really its only function!

We cannot, even with a fantastic stretch of our imagination, see how Dr. Bruno can call a new homogenous policy merely a new method of enforcement. By his definition, anything could be called enforcement because DHS has a rule or policy for absolutely everything.

When Dr. Bruno cites the constitution as stating that the council's policy making role is subject to both state statutes and policies of the Board of Education, he is quite correct. But his job description and responsibilities are not board policy — a description is just that — nothing more.

What that clause in the constitution clearly means is that if the board says there will be no more than 10 pupils to a class, the council cannot say there will be 50.

Dr. Bruno is grabbing at straws in an attempt to save his untenable position. He told Neirad that he is faced with a problem. He explained that if he suspends the present policy, submits it to the council as a proposal, and the council approves it, something he doesn't like, all he can do is veto it. There is the refore no way for him to implement what he wants if the students, faculty, staff, and parents do not want it.

We cannot sympathize with him. The council was, in part, designed to stop the principal from instituting a policy that is universally disliked.

We maintain that he can't be a dictator and still have the council. What Dr. Bruno is saying is, "If there is a chance that the council won't pass what I want, I won't bother with them." We will ignore the spirit of the constitution, and institute whatever I please, no matter how bad it is."

Our principal has made a grave mistake, and unless official status of the constitution is recognized by the Board of Education, his constitutional infractions will continue to make a mockery of all things the council could stand for.
Love Litterers To A Happy Gooker

By ANDY WALORTH

My job as a Neirad reporter has led me down many a strange alley in quest of a story. Over the years, I've become accustomed to meeting weird people and going to weird places, but nothing in my past work prepared me for the bizarre happenings I witnessed to get my latest scoop.

At first, the assignment appeared academic. "Research the trash problem?" said Horine. "This is a Walworth story if I've ever heard one." Rog thought this was pretty funny, but the significance of the story could not be denied. DWS was in the midst of a garbage epidemic, and it would be my job to find out why.

Trashera greet the day. (Photo by Moina Gehring.)

My first stop would be the large cafeteria, one of the school's mainstays of public filthiness. As I sat eating, taking notes on the animal behavior of the students, I pondered. How could these people eat amongst such trash? This place would make a goat vomit! There must be a reason for this...

Suddenly, the world went red. I clutched at my eyes, and wiped from my face a thick, oozing mass of transparent red jelly. Some squashed had made a direct hit with a cherry pie! Slowly the world came into focus, and then I saw... her. How can I describe the woman who then stood before me? Yuck! She was a monstrosity! "I screamed ya pretty good with the pie, eh?" she laughed. "That was an undercooked shot, too."

"But... why?" I asked. "Who was this strange creature with such good aim?"

"My name is Trashera, holding the better known as the Happy Gooker. Rubbish, trash is my trip. Nothing thrills my throttle like a twinkle smashed against a locker, or 30 or 40 old soda cans strewn across the smoking area. Garbage is a gas, man, once you get into it."

Even for a time-hardened reporter like myself, this chick was odd! But she was news. Maybe she held the unrecognized school's garbage dilemma. We arranged a meeting for the following morning.

My plan was to trace her through a typical day of littering, defecating, and general mess-making. I insisted our rendezvous point be behind the large cafeteria at 8:00 a.m.

I stood there, in the early morning chill, my pad and pencil in hand. Suddenly, I heard a clatter. I turned to see a woman, who appeared to be a fellow student. She was carrying a tray of food, and as she passed, she exclaimed, "Morning, Trashera!"

I watched her as she crawled out of the box. "What in heaven's name were you doing in that rubbish box?" I queried, just a bit taken aback.

"Oh, just stockpiling for the day ahead," she answered nonchalantly.

Our first stop, she informed me, would be the smoking area. "Now watch, big boy... I begin slowly, see? She began a slow dancing dance, as she produced cigarette butts from her pockets. "First a few on the sidewalk... then a few on the grass."

She quickened the tempo of her dance, and scooped out two more handfuls of butts. "And then more!" she yelled. Her dancing reached a crescendo as she emptied her pockets on the ground. Finally she collapsed, gasping for breath. When she had recovered sufficiently to talk, she explained, "Ah... that was a good one. Butts are a very meaningful way to litter for me. Littering is beautiful. It's all in a natural, you know? That's just the warm-up. Lunch time's my favorite!"

The dance of the butts. (Photo by Moina Gehring.)

By the time we arrived at the cafeteria for lunch, there was already busting with students. Trashera had to shout to be heard over the din. "Food and trash together are the ultimate trip," she told me. "The two go hand in hand. I mean, wouldn't you really get off if you could transform the food itself into un-manageable refuse?"

I could never have anticipated how extreme her passion could become...

The garbage had enveloped her fully, yet I was able to elude her. I turned to look back, there was no trace of her. The garbage remains a mystery to me. However, the garbage epidemic rages on, as I'm sure, somewhere, she's happy.

By PETER HOOVER

It's known to many as "The Molemobil," "The Pregnant Turtle," and "The Moparmobile." But to Steve Taylor, the gray 1946 Dodge D-28 is more than just a "Pregnant Turtle." In fact, this car has a very unique history. It was given to him last year by Mrs. Naava Schiott. Before that, this relic belonged to Christian Schiott - a knight in the Royal Norwegian Court before World War II.

The car originally came without a radio or heater. However, the undaunted Mr. Taylor had the car customized adding the radio and heater as well as other accessories.

The horn in "The Molemobil" is no ordinary horn. It has three separate tones, and the first three notes of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony can be played.

As well as the horn, there is also fluid drive, which enables the car to come to a complete stop without depressing the clutch or stalling the car.

Another unusual feature is a commuting window knob. In other words, there is no knob to roll down the window on the passenger side of the car - it's missing, which means that Steve has to take the knob off his side and hand it to the passenger so he can roll down his window.

His musical amplification equipment (which is a lot) can fit snugly throughout the car and still leave enough room for people to be seated comfortably.

The engine and running parts are in top condition, although there has been considerable work done on the brakes. The car has 14,000 miles on it. You might well ask what this extinct auto is worth. In 1936, when the car was new, its cost was $1575. Today, Steve has been offered $1,500 for it and has also been offered a school bus. However, in three years, the car will become a collector's item, and will probably double in price at least according to Steve.

But does this car go? One day while riding on the Connecticut Turnpike, Steve was determined to find out. He stepped on the gas The meter needle went up to 200 mph... and finally up to 202 mph. The only problem was that all the other cars were still passing him.

The dance of the butts. (Photo by Moina Gehring.)

Hot On The Lot

Washed out in a sea of rubbish. (Photo by Moina Gehring.)

Tyreone T's magnificent molemobilie. (Photo by Peter Hoover.)

AN INVITATION TO EXPLORE...

all the current issues, in depth, from all viewpoints. Use our up-to-the-minute information, all in a leisurely atmosphere.

745 Post Road, Darien, Connecticut 655-8344

THE SOURCE®
Gridmen Have Win, Loss, Tie

By TODD BURGER

The Darien Blue Wave Football team started things off right this year by defeating Norwalk in the opener, Sept. 15.

On the first play from scrimmage Scott Harrington ran 60 yds. for a touchdown. Ned Gellatly kicked the point after.

Next touchdown for Darien was scored by John Brennan on a pass from Jeff Fitzpatrick. The play covered 49 yds. The point after was kicked by Gellatly. Gellatly also kicked a 27 yd. field goal to complete the scoring for Darien. Final score: Darien:17 Norwalk:0.

Darien then traveled to New Canaan Sept. 22 for their next game. In a game decided by defense, Darien came out the wrong end of a 6-0 score. The Darien defense was superb throughout the entire contest, time and time again they stopped the New Canaan offense.

The Darien offensive unit was plagued by penalties.

The Darien defense held New Canaan scoreless except for a fumbling minutes of the third quarter when New Canaan scored on a pass play. The point after attempt failed.

Darien’s next opponent was Ridgefield, a home game played Sept. 29.

It was a punting contest the entire first half, with neither team moving the ball consistently. The first half ended in an uninspired 0-0 tie.

Both defenses continued their fine play, until the third quarter, when Ridgefield ended the stalemate by running up the middle 77 yds. for the touchdown. The point after attempt failed.

It wasn’t until the closing minutes of the fourth quarter that our offense started moving. Jeff Fitzpatrick, who did not play one of his better games, guided the Darien offense down to Ridgefield’s 7 yd. line, where on third down he threw what was assumed by Darien fans to be an touchdown to Scott Harrington, who made an acrobatic catch.

The touchdown was called back, as the referee ruled Harrington was out of bounds when the reception was made.

Fitzpatrick, undaunted by the call, calmly faded back and threw another touchdown pass, this time to Mike Ludwig. This time no penalty was called and the touchdown was ruled good.

Ned Gellatly who earlier in the game had a field goal blocked, attempted the point after but kicked it wide.

The game ended in a stalemate 6-6. Darien’s record now stands at 1-2, 0-1 and 1-1 tie.

Darien’s next game is tomorrow against Roger Ludlowe at Roger Ludlowe. 1:30 p.m.

“I have the strength of ten for my heart is pure.” (Photo by John Arrison.)

Ice Rink Opens - Will Host Pucksters

By JIM GROUT

The new Darien Ice Rink beside Goodwives Shopping Center is on the verge of completion. It was scheduled to open to skaters just past Wednesday, Sept. 26.

Tony Van Voorhis, manager, said the rink will have a fully stocked proshop which will carry well-known skating sporting goods lines. Modern skate-sharpening machinery has also been acquired.

A restaurant with a lounge area is located at one end of the ice surface. A heated, glassed-in balcony is situated above the restaurant and runs the width of the building.

Mr. Van Voorhis stressed the fact that there are four large team dressing rooms.

Ferraina. Ferraina made it 5-0 on a goal-way away goal assisted by Nadzirski. Curt Stites scored on a direct kick and then Ferraina added his second goal with an assist by Stites. Junior Mike Piotto broke out the scoring on a goal resulting from a corner kick by Nadzirski.

Darien played a tough defensive game as Ferraina could only muster a meager seven shots at Wave goalie Chris Cushing, while Darien had 28 shots at the two Rippowam goalies.

Darien 1: New Canaan 1

Undaunted Darien battled undefeated New Canaan to a 1-1 tie at home on Friday, Sept. 29.

The game was scoreless until the 30 minute mark when the Rams’ Jim Tumusielli chipped a shot just over the shoulder of Wave goalie Chris Cushing. Darien tied the score midway through the second half as they were determined to get the equalizer. Sal Ferraina, the league’s leading scorer (as of Oct. 1) found the range on a pass from Brian Nadzirski.

Both teams had numerous scoring chances throughout the game, but neither was able to turn them into goals, as the game resulted in a 1-1 tie. Darien goalie Chris Cushing was brilliant in the nets, making 23 saves, as was his New Canaan counterpart, Jeff Hall, making 14 saves.

Runners Win Duel, Tri-Meets

By GARRY LEONARD

The Darien Cross-Country team showed potential in its first meet when both Varsity and J.V. won dual meets and a tri-meet by wide margins.

Among the Blue Wave’s victims were Ludlowe, downed 18:39, and Andrew Wandes-Brien McMahon, who were outscored 16:39, and 15:39. Last, but not least, was Rippowam, which was thrashed 15:50.

The Waver’s record now stands at 4-1; they are in second place in their division behind Ridgefield. The Junior Varsity, who were undefeated last year, ran second this year with a record of 5-0.

Darien captured the first seven places in their sweep of Rippowam. Thursday, Sept. 29, in a solid team effort. Ken Derbyshire and John Beauchamp came in together for first with Tom Rollo and Gary Leonard tying for second, and the second behind Jeff Saverine, Al Dragono and Doug Roberts completed the sweep.

The Junior Varsity also turned in a strong performance against Rippowam.

A rapidly improving Dick Tjader took first with Al Meeker close behind, rounding out the victory for Darien were Jim Lewis, Bob Josephs, Dave Towle, Drew Clark, and Dave Meecher.

Girls Split Pair

By MEG MCGLYDRICK

The Darien Girls Field Hockey team played Greenwich Academy in a scrimmage Tuesday, Sept. 26, and lost 5-1.

Debbie Grant, new to the team, scored the only goal for the Blue.

Coach Rebecca Serramone said the team members have learned to step and drive the ball instead of "dilly-dallying" up and down the field.

Darien beat Roger Ludlowe 2-1 at Ludlowe Sept. 27.

In the first half Julie Hendrickson, assisted by Jennifer Barrett, scored a goal. At the end of the first half the field was open for Hendrickson to score, but she missed.

One minute into the second half, Hendrickson did score again, with an assist from Je McHale. Ludlowe scored near the end of the game and the scoring was tense, but Darien held them off.

The J.V. team ended with a scoreless tie.

Local Soccer Team Riding High

By CURT SITTES

The Darien High School Soccer Team remained undefeated last week as they slaughtered Rippowam 8-0 and tied New Canaan 1-1. The beaters, off to their best start ever, were in first place in the PCIAC’s Eastern Division with a 3-0-1 record as of Oct. 1 and an overall 5-1-1.

Darien 8: Rippowam 0

Darien took on Rippowam in Stamford on Tuesday, Sept. 29, and crushed the “Rips” 8-0.

Darien opened the scoring early in the first half as Co-Captain John Bhetich scored his first goal of the year on an assist by Sal Ferraina. Co-Captain Brian Nadzirski made it 3-0 on two quick goals, both assisted by Ferraina.

At the start of the second half Bhetich scored again with an assist going to Nadzirski. Ferraina. Ferraina made it 5-0 on a goal-way away goal assisted by Nadzirski. Curt Stites scored on a direct kick and then Ferraina added his second goal with an assist by Stites. Junior Mike Piotto broke out the scoring on a goal resulting from a corner kick by Nadzirski.

Darien played a tough defensive game as Ferraina could only muster a meager seven shots at Wave goalie Chris Cushing, while Darien had 28 shots at the two Rippowam goalies.

Darien 1: New Canaan 1

Undaunted Darien battled undefeated New Canaan to a 1-1 tie at home on Friday, Sept. 29.

The game was scoreless until the 30 minute mark when the Ram’s Jim Tumusielli chipped a shot just over the shoulder of Wave goalie Chris Cushing. Darien tied the score midway through the second half as they were determined to get the equalizer. Sal Ferraina, the league’s leading scorer (as of Oct. 1) found the range on a pass from Brian Nadzirski.

Both teams had numerous scoring chances throughout the game, but neither was able to turn them into goals, as the game resulted in a 1-1 tie. Darien goalie Chris Cushing was brilliant in the nets, making 23 saves, as was his New Canaan counterpart, Jeff Hall, making 14 saves.

Public skating has been scheduled every day of the week. Admission fees are $1.50 for adults and $1.00 for children under twelve. (No season passes.)

Public sessions Monday through Friday will be at 12:15-1:45 p.m. and 3:00-4:30 p.m. On Tuesdays only there will be an 8:15-10:15 p.m. Friday through October and November there will be sessions at 7:30-9:00 p.m. and 8:15-11 p.m. Saturday at noon there will be a one-hour session for children. There is also a session from 1:15-3:15 p.m. Sunday sessions will be at 12:45-2:15 p.m. and 2:30-4:15 p.m.

When the rink is completely finished, according to Mr. Van Voorhis, it will have cost well over a million dollars. There are ten miles of pipe in the building, which cost thirty thousand dollars.