Pelletier Resigns: Reviews Darien Years

By ROGER HORINE
Superintendent of Schools, Daryl W. Pelletier recently announced his resignation effective Jan. 14, 1974. Jack A. Gore, former principal of Matier Junior High School and recent candidate for first selectman, was named acting superintendent by the Board of Education Wednesday, Oct. 31. A nationwide search will be undertaken by the board to find a permanent superintendent.

Dr. Pelletier told Neirad what seven years with the Darien School System has netted, and gave some parting shots on the Review, the School Council, and the problems that Darien will face in the near future.

Darien Review?
While he said that he "wouldn't dignify the Review's [recent] editorial with a comment," he did say that the paper acts as a "negative force in this community." He added that it is "influential in molding public opinion and it's a shame that it is not more constructive. It is wholesome to have a second paper in town, though its impact is still hard to judge.

Despite the Review, Dr. Pelletier feels that he has been given "pretty much" support. "I accomplished about 90 per cent of what I set out to do," he said.

He is proud of the complete elementary library system that has been instituted, the computerization of the business department, the expansion of high school electives, and curriculum revisions.

"We have one of the best art programs in the country," he said. He cited the excellent administrators and teachers that our system has and spoke highly of the growing Instructional Materials Center that coordinates audio-visual equipment use throughout the school.

School Council: "An Opportunity..."

The superintendent is able to overturn the high school principal's veto in matters pertaining to the community government. Then asked how he would rule if the council's and Gordon Bruno's positions were placed before him, he replied, "I'm not sure I would mediate. Dr. Bruno is responsible for the operations within the school." "I think it is a great learning experience for you people and the possibilities work," Dr. Pelletier said. When pressed for an opinion on which interpretation of the constitution was correct, his only comment was: "What an opportunity to work it out!"

Lighting his pipe and getting serious, he added, "Dr. Bruno can instigate rules as he sees fit. The constitution is not an official Board of Education document.

Council Waives Confrontation

By BILL JOHNSEN

The School Council has temporarily averted a crisis in its most recent meeting. After its last meeting with Principal Gordon Bruno, the council set the issue of legislative authority aside in order to get on with more pressing business. As member Edward Higgins put it, for the moment the council must "accept the reality that there are two policy-making bodies in the school." The discussion in the Oct. 24 meeting was solely concerned with the council's reaction to Dr. Bruno's veto of a bill making his homeroom policy optional. Dr. Bruno, however, said, "I cannot be bound by the council." He felt his sole responsibility to the Board proceeded an authoritarian school government.

Mr. Higgins felt that Dr. Bruno had acted in bad faith. He told the principal, "You don't trust us to come up with a policy by Jan. 11 and stated that "the administration has played with democracy only when it is convenient."

At the Oct. 31 meeting an ad hoc committee was created to review the whole council and recommend further action for the council. As Chairman Tim Massen said, "We'd like to resolve these problems for the future, but at the same time want to go on to other school issues."

Committee Inspects Social Studies Curriculum

By TOM GAMMILL

The senior Contemporary Social Issues (CSI) course may be revised and shortened to a half year, according to recommendations of a social studies committee composed of teachers. The recommendations, encompassing all social studies courses offered in grades 7-12, represent a growing dissatisfaction and have not yet even been reported to the Board of Education, Social Studies Department.

Chairman Richard Harper stated that another, a participant in this program, told Neirad that the committee has come up with a number of concepts that would be essential to social studies classes. "We want these courses to move away from just covering material, and center more on ideas and concepts."

The committee, consisting of junior and senior high social studies teachers, has also suggested creating more electives and half-year courses, and changing the focus of some courses in the junior and senior highs. Mr. Harper also emphasized the need for more social studies electives.

During a student's four years in high school, he would be required to take at least a half year of area cultures, plus a half year of Contemporary American Issues, and a year of U.S. history, according to the committee's suggestions. Among the committee's recommendations was the changing of seventh grade social studies to two half-year courses, focusing around primitive man and classical cultures.

Eighth grade social studies would feature "Atlantic Community" and pre-Columbian life in the United States.

Ex-President's History II, might also be offered for those who wanted to do things they didn't have time to do in U.S. history.

Contemporary American Issues would become a required half-year course, replacing CSI in the High School, and would emphasize civil liberties, rights of citizens, and the citizens' influence on their government, and on foreign policy.

Among the electives that might be offered are Latin, modern and ancient Greek, Latin American, and the Middle East.

Danish Visitor Observes Darien Education System

By MEG McCOLDRICK

Soren Groenbeck, a student of the University of Copenhagen, Denmark, has recently been visiting Darien High School for the past month and observing classes, particularly those of the English Department.

He is here under the auspice of an exchange program between RUC (Rosedal University College) and UConn (There are UConn students who go to Denmark in May). Mr. Groenbeck has been staying with the Fullers on Beach Drive and also spent part of his visit with the Gloe family of Stephanie Lane. Spending time with two families, he indicates, gave him the opportunity to gain wider experience in American high schools.

RUC is a very "new, untraditional university." The students there work on independent study projects similar to the program for HIS students.

Mr. Groenbeck is working on education. He hopes to become a teacher in Denmark.

In Denmark the liberation of young people is a major discussed subject now. Students don't speak of student democracy, but student power.

Mr. Groenbeck has noticed that many HIS students are surprised by the fact that in Denmark the students have more freedom than here. Students in a Danish high school would not have to report to a homeroom. The school would not require a student to stay on campus during the day.

Most kids in Denmark go to high school, graduate when they are 19, work for a year at least a year, then go to college.

"Whether classes are strict or not depends on the teacher, the same as in the U.S."

Commenting on the General Semantics class Mr. Groenbeck said, "Personally I feel that semantics is the most important subject in the English Department because it's the key to better communication." He has noticed that foreign languages are not emphasized as strongly here as in Denmark.

Many Danish teachers teach gym classes as well as academic subjects. In gym the main sports played are soccer and handball. Mr. Groenbeck is impressed by the outside facilities for sports here. But he says he must agree that "the indoor facilities are limited. Putting physical education curriculum into the gym is like having a Cadillac program in a Volkswagen." Mr. Groenbeck has found that there is not such a great difference between schools in Denmark and Connecticut.

"The main things are very alike."
The Review: In Search Of A Scandal

Anyone who doubts that the Darrien Review is a negative force in this town would do well to read the lead editorial of Oct. 25. The simple resignation of the superintendent of schools has been warped and sensationalized to the extent that some townpeople will believe that the Review has courageously discovered yet another scandal—possibly worse than that of the ‘59 Agnew.

Charges that Jacqueline Danberg, chairman of the Board of Education of ‘97, tried to obscure the real picture and to hide the facts from the public, surrounding the resignation is absurd. What information do the Review have to doubt Superintendent Daryl W. Pelletier’s intentions?

Were we the Review criticizing the editorial, we would say that it is a shocking, preposterous, unjustifiable, tasteless attempt to achieve decency. But we would publish such professional insinuations as: "What kind of a contract did he have? Could he break it... without penalty? Was the school board so anxious to be rid of him that it paid him off? Was Pelletier fired? And if so, for what cause? Was he involved in some conflict that he should be selected to realize?"

Decrying Dr. Pelletier’s administration as characterized by “extreme permissive philosophy, free spending liberalism, endless proliferation of courses and costly experiments” is hardly a rational view, but is present at least within the framework of decency.

The Review doesn’t stop there; however. They maintain that his administration has been perceived as incompetent and consequently unconvincing. And that if they cannot change the course, they should avoid the change for the sake of the community.

The Review is not alone in its view. It is in disagreement with the majority of the student body. The administration has an obligation to call both the dog warden and the Health Dept. when the stray dogs are found. Escorting them out of the building does not accomplish the desired objective: getting them to stay out. When dog owners are forced to pay the fine to get their dogs back, perhaps that will coerce them into buying some dog food and caring for their dogs at home.

No Dogs Allowed

The cafeteria is no place for man’s best friend. The continued presence of stray dogs is a nuisance and a health hazard. The federal and state health laws prohibit dogs roaming without a leash anywhere on public property, and even restrained dogs are not allowed in areas where food is being prepared or consumed by the public.

Those who choose a sandwich with one of the stray dogs, or those who feel it is better to feed a stray dog rather than be cruel and govern themselves as much as possible, choose to risk the consequences.

A Candidate For Progress

Darren has been a town with a strong partisan feeling. Jack Forte, the endorsed candidate for First Selectman who lost in the Republican primary, said that he didn’t see how a Republican could lose in Darren. In the coming election, we hope that the voters of this town examine very carefully the candidates for the various positions regardless of their party affiliations.

The office of First Selectman is an important one. The person holding it not only exerts a great deal of influence but also holds a large amount of power. As the highest elected position, it is the only administrative post in the town government. We therefore support Carolyn B. Brokemendt, the endorsed candidate for First Selectman.

Mrs. Brokemendt has much experience in town government, both as a selectman and a member of the Board of Education. The Master of the combines the government, says that it’s not a matter of the job itself but rather it’s just as much as the people who allow their dogs to run free. If everyone was firm about not giving them even the smallest scrap, the dogs would soon find their way into healthier areas.

A Call To The Summit

By RICHARD SHU

I agree with the ideals of community government as set forth in the Darrien High School Constitution. However, I am concerned about the current controversy over its implementation. It is my understanding that regardless of what the Constitution says, the School Constitution has no legal right to exist. The Constitution itself has no legal status. If Mr. Condor’s word is true, “you (the students) exist solely by the permission of the principal.”

It is obvious that the present Constitution is too vague and too clever for the Council’s interpretation of the Constitution to be accepted. Dr. Brandon appears to believe that he is bound by the Constitution as he interprets it. For the past two months, he has been trying to arrive at a satisfactory compromise. It is evident that Dr. Brandon will not turn over the making of policy, neither literal nor nominal, to the Council.

I believe that the Council of the Constitution is a form of the real government. In my opinion, are:

1) An out and out suspension of the homecoming and subsequent appeal of any veto. If the Ed of Ed declares an appeal, dissolution of the Council or its reduction to an advisory board.
2) Immediate dissolution of the Council or its reduction to an advisory board.
3) Continued attempts to attain a compromise as the Council has been doing for the past two months.
4) Constitutionally, the Council determined that the school government is not described in flowery words but in cold realistic definitions. The Council is the chosen, elected, and representative of the student body. The council’s decision is final and binding. The school government is not described in flowery words but in cold realistic definitions. The Council is the chosen, elected, and representative of the student body. The council’s decision is final and binding.
5) The establishment of an arbitrator who will interpret the revised Constitution.
6) A petition to the board of that the school government is not described in flowery words but in cold realistic definitions. The Council is the chosen, elected, and representative of the student body. The council’s decision is final and binding.
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Homecoming:
Tuna To Touchdowns
By ANDY WALWORTH
This year’s Homecoming was more traditional than last year’s, but no quieter. The three day event was co-chaired by Sally Genster and Betsy Seelenman.
On Friday night, Oct. 26, the Homecoming Dinner was held in the DHS large cafeteria. I attended both the meal and the music. The dinner that was set before me was, unfortunately, stone cold. Have you ever eaten tuna fish or lasagne ice cream? The salad was blase, but edible, and the bread and dessert were above par. The meat cost only twenty-five cents above the admission price, so you really can’t complain.
The band, featuring Ray Smith and Bill Baren, two top notch artists, both originally from Dartien, was something of a disappointment. Bill Bacon’s drumming was far and above standard fare for local talent, yet it did not measure up to his playing with the band Road Apple. Ray Smith’s singing was tight and pure, especially on “Moon Dance,” yet his guitar work was sloppy at times. It was obvious that the three piece band had not played together much, as they ran out of material a half hour early and had to repeat their opening numbers.

Homecoming Queen Helen Bullock and her escort Al Dragon. (Photo by Moira Gehring)

The half time show at a Dartien Homecoming game is always an experience, and this year it was no exception. First the DHS Marching Band treated the crowd to some fancy goose stepping, led by the Music Man himself, Christopher Deney. Then the Homecoming Court and their escorts strolled onto the field. This year, escorts for the court were chosen from among the captains of various teams. No one talked to give me an explanation for this, and it seems to be a foolish and unpopular rule. I mean, just because you can’t kick or swim or skate doesn’t mean you can’t walk by yards without falling over.

Basic gym keeps us in good enough shape for that. At any rate, the court consisted of some primo women-folk: Sally Croll, sophomore representative, Karen Bierringer, junior, and seniors Helen Bullock, Nancy Chandler, Amy Schellenger, Betsy Seelenman, and Laura Van Werrer.
Of course, the main event of the halftime show was the naming of the queen. A fresh crowd of drunks all of age forced us to keep an eye on the dance floor. Helen Van Werrer was named the Queen of the Court. First place went to the Class of ’74, and second place went to the DHS Band.
The Saturday night Dance was attended by well over 400 students and alumni. The gym was festively decorated in red and white streamers. The band for the evening was White Chocolate, whose rowdy ranch and roll was interrupted only by extended breaks and pitches for a newly released album. White Chocolate limits its material to loud, ugly, simple songs, and their stage presence is terrible, with absolutely no showmanship or poptrash taken in what they’re up to. However, no one seemed to mind (I wonder what), and the dance rocked on until one or two in the morning, depending on whom you spoke you were seeing and when your date was due home.
The crowning of the queen took place sometime during the evening, yet it was so quiet and lacking in ceremony that most people missed it.
Sunday afternoon found the senior girls piloted against the junior girls in the biggest athletic event of the year: the junior-senior girls football game. The seniors managed a 6-0 victory, but the outcome of this historic match will be debated for many years to come.
The Homecoming Weekend grossed over $400.00, the profits of which will be placed in the Activities Council Trust Fund.
The chairpersons for this year’s Homecoming events were Amy Schellenger, invitations; Laura Von Wermmer, publicity; Kim Hoffman, Rosemary Romanos, and Ellen Sandy, decorations; Bill Van Winger, Nata Page, dinner; Nancy Chandler, parade and float contest; Kathy Reilly, Laura Molony, and Doreen Brevoort, junior Senior girls football game; Claire Varnes, dance, and music; the faculty advisor was Gerad Ouellette and Carolyn Brodhead.

Hot On The Lot
By PETER HOOVER
There are a lot of funny looking, weird running cars in the DHS parking lot, and Jay Muchow’s beauty is no exception. It’s a 1965 Chevrolet Belair station wagon.
Jay’s car is very unique — it’s too efficient. For instance, his windshield wipers, while they work when it rains, also work when it shames — they don’t turn on, that is unless you know the procedure. First, put the wipers on high speed for about two miles. Stop the car. Then the windshield wiper switch to off, reach your hand out the window and keep the wipers pressed down — and pray that they’ll stop. Jay says that this method works about 98% of the time.
The car has 100,000 miles on it, and still has the original shock absorbers. If you do pass Jay’s car at the parking lot, and see a yellow mark on his tires, these marks show where the tire might "pop" in any moment — the canvas shows through.
Now, I’m sure many of you have had trouble getting into the trunk or the back of your car. Jay doesn’t have this problem.

I Can’t Get No SATisfaction
By MAE S. SMYTHE
The crisis of the SAT’s but one of the many things a college-bound student must endure. These three-hour tests demand not only a knowledge of English and mathematics, but a command of at least half of the contents of the Oxford Universal Dictionary. A few years of Latin cannot make you any better either. Saturday, next to put on this grueling test of our abilities.
After a week of studying my subjects in the Math Resource Center and gathering vocabulary lists from Dr. Hailer, I decided to take Friday evening off and watch television. Also, it was to be no event. My nervous were shot and I could concentrate but for brief periods of time on the excitement generated by The Brady Bunch. Instead, I was kicking myself for not taking Speed Reading and Vocabulary and for sleeping through Algebra I last year.
Retiring after this exciting evening, I found that sleep was the one thing I missmated. I could not define for “idiote” and remember all the math formulas I crammed in the last few that I could not recall. I realized that it was imperative that I get some, but the moon informed myself of that, the more difficult it seemed. Finally, on the first rays of light shown on the horizon I closed my eyes to what would not be termed the most restful sleep I had ever had.

Arriving at DHS around 8:20, I was shaking, more I think from the four cups of coffee I had consumed than nerves. I was sure I kept awake only from the fear of failing sobriety during the test.
The first few sections went quite well, but the time we hit the last one, it was purely guesswork on my part as my eye

Vote
Carolyn Brodthorn
first Selectman
Nov. 6

Pelliteri Reflects...
continued from page 1
He predicted that within 10 years it will be “It makes no sense to duplicate facilities for ninth graders in two or ad

tional schools,” he said.
No Television
Dr. Pelliteri was the one to cut this district’s budget the television sets and four channel cable system linking all schools. “The expenses were exorbitant, and the system wasn’t paying off,” he said.
“Tardest disappointment,” Dr. Pelliteri reflected, “is the inability to build anything. We’ve just cut back on all facilities.” He said that portables are a good way of stretching small physical plants, but he added that actually a point of diminishing returns is reached — then it is time to build.

Philosophy Change
“Tardest change coming about — there are forces that don’t want a quality school system. There are also large numbers of people that are directly affected, 7,500 kids. That makes me feel good.”

Looking Ahead
Dr. Pelliteri said that “it will take a magician to contend with the net program questions, spawned about the problems that the next superintendent will face. He also feels that it will be hard to deal with the “no spending” philosophy.
He stretched back in his chair and thought of Dartien’s seven years of his life. He remarked, “I have directed or indirectly affected, 7,500 kids. That makes me feel good.”
Gridmen Ride High In Homecoming

By TODD BURGER
The Darien Blue Wave Football team continues to play hard, close football games. On Saturday, Oct. 21, Darien faced a large, tough team in the Trumbull Eagles. It was a defensive struggle throughout the entire contest. The Wave defense completely shut off any offense Trumbull had.
The score of the game was 0-0 going into the fourth quarter. With only minutes remaining Scott Harrington ran around left end three yards to end a Darien drive and score. The extra point attempt failed. Final Score: Darien — 6; Trumbull — 0.

Darien’s next opponent was Andrew Warde, played at Darien Saturday, Oct. 27. It was the homecoming game for Darien.
The defense as usual played another excellent game recording their second shutout in a row, and became the best defensive unit in the FCIAC.

In a surprise performance the Darien offense came alive and scored 21 points, the most points Darien has scored in a game this year.

Scott Harrington ran the offensive superbly, mixing his running and passing plays, and drove the Darien offense down to the 9 yd. line, where he ran the final yardage and scored. Darien attempted a two point conversion but failed.
The defense held and Warde had to give up the ball. Darien again drove for the score, on the running of Harrington, Mike Ludwig, Bill Hatfield, and Dick Hampson.

Harrington then completed a 19 yd. pass to Scotty McArthur, who had five receptions for the day, which set up a 1 yd. run by Mike Ludwig for the touchdown. Harrington ran the ball over for the 2 points and Darien increased their lead to 14-0.

Darien’s final tally came in the fourth quarter. Dick Hampson kicked his way up the middle for about 12 yards to set up the final score, a 6 yd. run by Harrington. Ned Gellatly kicked the extra point. Final score: Darien — 21; Andrew Warde — 0.

The Darien defense has played superbly all year, and with the offense seeming to finally put it together, Darien could win their final two.

Darien went to Staples Saturday, Nov. 3. (Results not available at press time.)

Footstes Fizzle As Year Ends: Lose Last Two

The Darien Cross Country season ended on a downward note as the Blue Wave was defeated by Wilton Thursday, Oct. 25, and Ridgefield the following Tuesday.
The Wavers, who have been plagued by injuries all season at one time or another felt the loss of four Varsity runners and could only manage a fourth against Wilton. This position was secured by Garry Leonard, followed by Ken Derhy, Tom Rollins, John Briasset, and Jeff Siverine in the fifth through eighth position. Behind them for Darien were Dick Tjader, Al Meeker, and Doug Roberts.
The Harriers faced no better against Ridgefield conceding the first four positions following up with Tom Rollins fifth, Ken Derhy sixth, Garry Leonard eighth, John Briasset ninth, and Jeff Siverine tenth.
The Junior Varsity did somewhat better, losing to Wilton despite the one two finish by Al Dragone and Jim Lewis. But coming to an end against Ridgefield with Al Dragone again leading the pack followed by Doug Roberts third, and Jim Lewis fourth. Also for Darien were Rob Joseph, Pete Dragone, Dave Mecker, John Malloy, Dave Towle and Tom Gammill.

The Harriers concluded their season with a disappointing record of 6-7. The Junior Varsity posted a more impressive record of 11-4.

Thursday, the team traveled to Hubbard Heights Golf Course in Stamford to compete in the County Championships held their annually. All thirteen teams are represented with their top seven Varsity runners. A Junior Varsity race is also run.

Booters Blast Westhill; Fletcher Gets Hat Trick

By MATT CLINTON
The DHS Soccer Team won their last scheduled game of the season on Wednesday, October 31, against Westhill by the impressive score of 6-1. This victory put the Wavers in sole possession of second place in the Eastern Division of the FCIAC.

First half scoring was dominated by Art Fletcher as he collected 3 coveted "hat trick" in scoring Darien’s first three goals of the game. Other first half goals were scored by Larry Coakley and co-captain Brian Nadirzyce. Westhill also scored on a deflected cornerkick. The half came to an end with the Wavers in front 3-1.

Play was not as one sided in the second half as Darien could only manage one more goal, which came on a penalty kick taken by Brian Nadirzyce.

The Wavers have qualified for the post season State Tournament and will play their first game Tuesday. Coach Bill Benton has high hopes for the team.

Mermaids Cast Off

By BARNEY SPURLOCK
The Darien High School Girls’ Swim Team in its first year of existence is on its way to building a great reputation.
The team lost its first meet to New Canaan 25-86, but swam by Greenwich 75-39 and last week defeated Weston by a huge margin of 92-20. This leaves them with a 3-1 win-loss record. On Thursday, November 1, the team had a meet against St. Mary’s High School at St. Mary’s in Greenwich. (Results were not available at press time.)

Coach Elizabeth Dunne, who teaches English at Mother Junior High, is impressed with her two captains, Kim DeVito and Lee Rosenbloom and indicates that they are very good team leaders.

Miss Dunne has arranged a rematch with New Canaan to be held November 16 at the New Canaan YMCA at 4 p.m.
The team’s next meet will be this Wednesday, Nov. 7, against Greenwich at the Darien Y. Time: 3:30 p.m.