Bruno Calls On Council To Pursue Other Issues

BY SANDY WARD

Principal Gordon Bruno presented the following statement to Norwalk in a recent interview:

"I certainly support the School Council's right to appeal veto of the Council passed homeroom bill with my administrator. However, I'm incomprehensible to me why the Council has preoccupied itself with the homeroom issue for almost half of the meeting. As an exception of many other priorities. The school is in the part the energy crisis, a constitutional revision to prevent further issues between the School Council and the administration, ways of improving our physical environment at school and how we treat it, are only a few of these priorities.

"It is beginning to appear as though the School Council has lacked not only its image but also its very existence to winning a mythical power struggle. In doing so, it is not only the many opportunities to establish itself as a tremendously valuable influence on the direction and operation of the school.

"Dr. Bruno elaborated on some of the points in his veto message. He described that it is not "necessary follows" that administrative change would result with the proposed policy which called for a "check-in" system of homeroom attendance. He feels that an "unmanageable burden" would be placed on the homeroom teacher and that the teacher would be in an "impossible position" due to the work required by the policy.

According to Dr. Bruno, "a perfect administrative policy" would be in the form of posting the speed limit line on the hallway at "somewhere between the 3-MPH and seventy and expecting it to work.

He then questioned what he termed, the "other side of responsibility." He said that we (the school community) have a moral duty, but "what we haven't done enough of is the other side." Most students, he said, do not want to accept those kind of responsibilities like keeping the smoking area neat.

Dr. Bruno believes that the present homeroom policy offers a good chance for exercising responsibility on students to be on time. Those who don't show up, according to him, need to be encouraged to keep to a schedule, because there is a "very clear consequence."

He continued that if he had been able to think up an equally effective policy without using suspension as a penalty, he would have chosen another summer. He went on to say that the school Council has spent too much time on the matter and he believes that their attitude is one of "if we can't have all the marbles, we can't have any." The council and the board can work together, but there must be a shared authority, he feels.

On Friday, December 7, a group of students distributed leaflets for a boycott of homerooms on Tuesday. They also suggested that all students attend the Board of Education at the request of the Council's appeal of Dr. Bruno's veto.

Monday morning, Dec. 10, Andy Walworth, editor of Norwalk read a statement over the P.A. asking that students not boycott the next day. The editorial said that the editorial staff did not consider the policy fair, but felt that mass action now would be premature. They urged that all legal action be "exhausted and if such action should fail, then to meet the board as usual.

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One woman said that her student comes home and tells of his freedom. She said that kids are "just running around, studying things like the weather, the fly, the sports. The kids and their teachers are not anymore. They've done away with penmanship! We can't read what they write anymore.

Another man said that there is need for the revival of discipline. He said that there is too much time for talk of sports and hot cars that must have to be in the "in crowd.

Susan Faulkner, said, "I'm looking for a man with experience." She added that an assistant superintendent moving up to the top spot would not be acceptable.

A common theme that was expressed in the comments of many, was expressed by William Jones.

"We have a chain of three superintendent's who have told us what we are going to have and what they were going to give us." He said that the Board of Education is charged with telling the superintendent, what to do, not the other way around.

He continued, "We need someone who will get the most for the less expensive buildings, for education, and for the city the school system.

Mr. Faulkner characterized the Westport confab as an "information exchange of ideas. No formal binding votes were taken."

According to Jacqueline Dineen, chairman of the Board, the board will not comply with the state board order to close schools at 5 p.m. daily and not open on weekends.

Mr. Forte stressed that fuel economy measures will be widespread in Westport as heporntation that normally use school facilities will be consolidated to one night each week when possible. A "sun" education is expected to continue on schedule.
Neirad is published by the students of Darien High School on a bi-weekly basis. Letters and "Viewpoints" may be mailed to Neirad, Darien High School, Darien Conn. 06820. Annual Subscription rate, $3.50.

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Make Our Voices Heard Where They Will Count

On Monday, Dec. 10, a Neirad editorial was read over the p.a. system. The editorial asked students to refrain from boycotts and homework late, in the following Tuesday. No boycott occurred, and Neirad commends the student body on their sound judgement during a difficult period.

As the editorial stated, we urge all students not to boycott homework late not because we consider the personal policy fair, but because we believe any illegal mass action at this time would be premature.

The following is a partial text of the Dec. 10 editorial:

We urge you not to strike, because we must exhaust every legal alternative before resorting to mass action. We have not, to our knowledge, every constitutional means possible, to repeal the present policy. Principal Burton’s latest veto is under appeal to the Superintendent of Schools. If the veto is upheld at this level, it can be appealed to the Board of Education. The Board of Education is analogous to the Supreme Court, and their decision cannot be altered unless they themselves do so on a later date.

The point is this: If we expect Dr. Burton or the Board of Education to uphold the constitution if we ourselves have no faith in it?

We must, however, show our support for the School Council and the Constitution during this most crucial of periods. We are reaching the end of our constitutional rope, and we can either hang it or be raised by it.

There will be a Board of Education meeting early in January, and the final appeal will be made.

If this final appeal for a fair homework policy is voted down, the School Council will have been reduced to an advisory committee to the principal, with no power other than to suggest.

If this final appeal for a fair homework policy is voted down, we will be saddled with the present policy, which has suspended over 60 students to date, and will continue to suspend students every semester, every year.

For these reasons, we urge you to strike now, but to show faith. We must show that, despite recent set-backs, the student body still believes in an effective School Council.

A January Board of Education meeting will be the place to show ourselves. If every student, teacher, and parent sympathize with this cause at that meeting, we will show the Board of Education just how serious we are about this issue. Two hundred students won’t make much difference, but three hundred might make them think twice, but it will take no fewer than one thousand people, protesting the present policy and supporting the School Council, to have any effect upon their decision.

Let us all work toward that goal at that meeting in full force, and to make our "voices heard where they will count."

Editor's note: The ideas expressed in this column do not necessarily represent the editorial positions of Neirad. Readers are invited to turn in their views in editorial form to the Neirad box in the front office. Submission of a column does not guarantee publication, but an attempt to print as many worthy "Viewpoints" as possible.

By BILL HILMAN

Every morning the top two parking lots at HHS are full. In addition, most of the football field is full. Cars are parked outside power mechanichs and on Nutmeg Lane. It is obvious that many of these cars belong to students, and some cars are necessary among the students, but the number of automobiles is ridiculous. I feel that those who drive the "helluva it" should start making that long walk to the bus stop.

With the current gas shortage and the high prices, wouldn’t it be wise to leave the "whale" and take a pump of the less expensive, as a matter of fact free, bus ride?

The buses arrive at school on time and many of you who live within walking distance of a nearby bus stop. Why not take the bus? It is too downgrading to be seen with those passengers who don’t have their licenses? The buses must go to school anyway so why not dust off your hiking boots and plan for the trek tomorrow? Let the school pay for your trip so you don’t have to pay the high price per gallon of gas. That tremendous amount of exercise might be enough to make gym optional.

Give Us a Homeroom Break

By DHS STUDENT

(Named withheld by request)

I can understand why Dr. Bruno rejected the homeroom policy, but I still don’t see why students must be suspended just because they missed three homerooms. This penalty is too strong. It hurts the student academically by causing him to miss classes. It goes on his high school record which doesn’t make him look too good either. Anyway, four absences are not enough. A student should be given more chances.

While driving to school last week, I met a teacher go before me. I followed her all the way up North Avenue. I came into homeroom at 7:52 and received a tardy. I got a tardy because my homeroom teacher was on time for the first time that week, but what about the homeroom teacher? Why can a homeroom teacher come in at 7:55 or 8:00 several times a week and get away with it. When a student comes in two minutes late and gets a late mark that is, if the teacher is there.

I also sit in homeroom listening to the morning announcements and watch the teachers count the students present (late) to homeroom. A student should be penalized for breaking a school rule, but isn’t there some alternative? Give us a break, not a cut.

Women's Lib Ms.understood

By MARTHA CONSTANCE

(another DHS girl)

The "Viewpoint" by "a DHS girl" published in the November 5 issue of Neirad is another example of the flagrant misrepresentation that women's liberation is given all over the country. Apparently the author believes that the essence of this controversial issue is to put women in society, to act, think, and "like men" in every possible way. According to her, this is done at HHS by wearing "clothes just as crass as boy's clothes," being "as clean as the boy's locker room," and having "hurtful language." Not only is she the exception of women's liberation, but a fallacy, it is a personal insult to every male in our student body.

The letter goes on to address customers that "girls are equal to boys."

Intuitively, but they are not equal physically. Of course this is true. No girl who wears "unisex clothing" does so to prove that she, too, is unisex. This is impossible, for obvious reasons. The popularity of boy's clothing is due to the fact that it is often more comfortable and more practical than girl's clothing. By no means does it do the same thing as the letter implies. It is fortuitous for the author that she selected a remainder anonymous, for reasons of "unisex clothing" has offended a significant percentage of the school population.

The Women's Movement is, if anything, an individualist movement. It emphasizes that a society with strict, separate codes of behavior for the two sexes restricts the freedom of both sexes. The people that denounce it, like our unknown author, are usually those who don't understand it.

Girl Resolves Dress-up Dilemma

By ANOTHER DHS GIRL

(Name withheld by request)

After reading the "Viewpoint" of the DHS girl in your Nov. 5 issue, I stared at myself in the mirror — from my combat boots and khaki pants to my pea jacket. I didn't think anything too "crass" that girl would be at my appearance. Just as I was about to run home and put myself in personal and struggle into a dress, I stopped to think. I don't care what she wears she can always look neat and pink if she wants. Far be it from me to say that I think she looks pretty dumb in pant leg loafers so don't say why she has the right to critique my clothes. In reference to her statement about the dating situation, I say that wardrobe seems a rather thin basis for romance. Be that's my opinion. It may or may not be true. Not all girls do dress for boys. Some girls do not depend on clothes to attract attention. If she feels she wants to wear combat boots, fine, but she has no right to expect me, or anyone else, to do so.

A 10-penny bag of peanuts or a 25-cent bag of potato chips are not considered "quick snacks."
Nelson Courts Girls' Basketball Team

By JANE ADAMS

The 1973 Girls' Basketball Squad starts its season with two new coaches and plenty of enthusiasm.

George Nelson of the Math Department and Deborah Blossom, the new physical education teacher, coach the varsity and junior varsity respectively.

Mr. Nelson, the first male coach of a girls' sport in the history of DHS, mentioned four reasons why he decided to coach the team. First of all, the girls' team needed a coach. Secondly, Mr. Nelson stated, "I didn't practice with the boys until 4 p.m. and I don't like to win the time between 2:35 and 4:00." Mr. Nelson expressed a desire to teach the girls the fundamentals of the game and to cultivate an appreciation for basketball. "It's just not a rat race on the court, it's a highly skilled and organized sport," Nelson said.

Winter Track Scene: The Diary Of A Harried Harrier

By GARRY LEONARD

Summer has gasped its last and we can now look forward to winter. One of the more unusual things about this time of year is that it's the season designated to run track. Track! Well, indoor track really, but it's the same spring track... almost.

For the sprinter and the field event man, winter track has obvious advantages. One of these is being able to practice in the warmth and luxury of the great indoors. There is, however, another member of the team who is not so fortunate: the distance runner for whom long mileage daily is essential. It is to this Goffersakerath athlete this journal is dedicated.

The public in general is of the opinion that anyone who would run seven to ten miles on a hard road is of questionable sanity, and anyone who would do it in thirty degrees below zero or below should be committed, even if he appears harmless.

One of the things that is a constant source of amusement to me when I'm running through an off-season is that one's usual attention to the grip of the running surface is heightened. It is often in the middle of a long, long stretch of pavement that I suddenly notice there's a faded line on the road which has been covered by street-lamps or something similar. Or I find myself walking in the middle of a street because I'm lost in thought. Then I violently snap out of it and realize why I am doing what I am doing.

The average reader must now be wondering what I am doing. Well, if I have so far lost the full scope of the situation, you round a turn and are confronted by this wondrous machine controlled by some maniac who feels that he is in the sole owner of the road and all that surrounds it. His philosophy is that one must be able to perform all the tricks of the trade, to do them with all the skill, and to do them under the most adverse conditions. He is the master of the world, the king of the road, the one who can do anything.

Another joy is the driver that comes along behind you, then suddenly zooms past you on the shoulder of the road. Your heart, which is already under considerable strain, practically leaps through your mouth. If this is the norm, number one, I have no business imped ing his progress. He is the one who has the right of way, and I should do as he says. If this is too much for me, I usually qualify with a hand signal of my own.

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Hoosters Hope To Be Happier

By TOTTODGER

Just as seasons of weather change, seasons of sports change. Basketball is on top at Darien High with head coach Richard Pesciantini at the helm of the Blue Wave for the second year.

Darien fans were optimistic about their team's chances of having a winning year this season, and it was with no wonder with four returning lettermen back in the fold this year.

Co-Captains Greg Gillman, Greg Jenkins, John Rice, and Brett Barlow are all returning veterans to the team, with Gillman and Rice starting at the forwards, receiving relief from Barlow and Jones starting at center. Center is occupied this year by Chip Tallman, a promising senior transfer from Chicago, Illinois, and Jeff Leonardi is the other guard with Jeff Fitzpatrick alternating with him or Jones.

The hopes of Darien fans were further enhanced by the Wave's routing victory over St. Luke's in a scrimmage. Darien completely destroyed the St. Luke's basketball team, defeating them by a score of 30 to 14.

In the season opener against Jonathan Law, Friday, December 7, the Darien side of boys was packed in anticipation of a Blue Wave victory. Darien lost the ball game 44-42. Don't let the score mislead you. It was anything but a defeat. For the whole team played in the Yeuletter spirit that it is better to give than receive. It looked as if neither team wanted the basketball. Darien trailed at halftime 24-22.

Darien came out in the second half and just couldn't avoid committing errors and mistakes. But Law, not to be outdone, matched Darien error for error and Darien led going into the fourth period 36-32, but couldn't hang on and finally lost the game 44-42.

High scorer for Darien was John Rice who had fifteen points. Chip Tallman was right behind him with fourteen. Others who scored for Darien were Curtis Jenkins, Bob Law, and Jeff Leonardi with two, and Greg Gillman tallied a surprising one.

Darien's next opponent was Stamford High, a home game played on December 11. In a surprise performance, considering how they played against Law, Darien threw a scare into Stamford, playing good, aggressive basketball in the second half. In the first half it looked like an instant replay of the

Law game only gaining a better team. At times it looked as if Stamford was going to blow Darien off the court, leading at one point in the first half 30-12. Darien came back to narrow Stamford's lead at half time 44-31.

Darien came out in the second half a different ball club. They were more aggressive, more confident, in complete control of the way they played against Law. Led by Greg Gillman, who finished the game with twenty-four points, Darien came back and with about three and a half minutes remaining in the game Chip Tallman, who for the second game in a row made 11 points, scored, tying the game at 62-62. Stamford went ahead 65-62, but that was narrowed to 66-64 on a shot by Jeff Leonardi who had twelve points for the game. But Darien tied it at 68-68, old way of playing the ball twice and fouling a Stamford player and lost the game 72-64. Darien's remaining points were scored by John Rice, who had eight, and Jeff F. Fitzpatrick with six.

It was a tough loss for Darien who proved that they could play basketball when motivated.

Icemen Skate For Winning Season

By MATT CLINTON

The Blue Wave Hockey Team, coached by Dan Dydlite, is looking forward to another successful season this year, in the Eastern Division of the FCIAC.

As usual, Coach Dydlite is playing two lines alternately. The first line is centered by senior Jim Groos with Charlie Hartigan and Brian Nadreczy skating the wings. The other of the two lines is centered by Bill Vermont with Hugh Hough and Steve Franklisk skating along side him. The defense is led by co-captain Greg Clark along with Matt Clinton, Kris DiSilverio and Curt Stiles.

Co-captain Marc Chilton is starting in goal.

The Wave's suffered a 5-1 defeat in the opening game of the season against the New Canaan Rams, last year's runner-up for the state championship. Next the puckers face the Vikings of Westhill. The Wave's blasted 36 shots on the Woodhill cage but could only manage four goals for a 4-1 victory.

On Dec. 11, the Wave traveled to Bridgeport to face the undefeated Ludlowe Tigers. Despite a 27-18 shots-on-goal advantage, the Wave could not seem to put the puck in the net, and lost by a score of 5-2.

If the play in these first three games is an indication of the type of season Darien will be having, they will soon be back to their winning ways.

For the first time ever the puckers are playing in the Eastern Division of the FCIAC. Power houses are expected to be New Canaan, Ludlowe, Staples, and, of course, Darien. Other teams in the division will be Andrew's, Wilton, and Ridgefield.

The Darien Hockey Team played Stamford on Friday, Dec. 14 and Walling on Tuesday, Dec. 18. Results were not available at press time. The Wave's will face Brian McManus on Friday of this week.

Do Poolsters Lack Depth?

By TOTTODGER

The Darien Blue Wave Boys' Swimming Team has been working hard to try and register another winning season to go down in the annals of DHS sports history.

This year's team has several lettermen returning and some promising newcomers to help carry Darien to a winning season. Co-Captains Jay and Rob Byler return along with Tom and Peter Craig, Mike Amsay, Richard Simmons, Richard McGonigle, Steve Kamin, John Rechamp, and Rollie Lambertson.

Newcomers to the team who will help the Wave include Dave Chandler, Jim Shannon, and Scott Kenney.

The team finished last year under the watch of the NCAA, which counts only the first three places in a meet. This year Darien is under the new rules of the National Federation of High School Athletics, which count the first five places in a meet. Coach Sangster stressed the importance of depth that will play with Darien this year. "Our front line of swimmers is fine. Right now I'm worried about the depth we have. We have some unproven newcomers this year and they will have to come through for us to win this year. If everybody reaches their potential and develop the way they should we should do right in the state meet. In the dual meets there's no way to tell because of the new rules. What the new rules do is count the first five places, whereas it was only the first three last year under the NCAA. Last year it took some 48 points to win a meet. This year it will take about eighty points to win a meet. We could take first place in every event and still lose the meet.

Darien is going to have a tough time to try and repeat last year. They have a tough schedule, and, with the new rules, will have to have depth on the squad. But under the tutelage of Coach Sangster look for the Blue Wave to be right up there in the top of the standings once again.

NOVIS AND... QUIZ FOR GUYS AND GALS

How do you rate your nose, bottom, balls and jackets?

NEWS AHEAD

December 20, 1973