Assigned Studies, No Cars For Future Sophs

By KAREN MACMURDY

Next year's sophomore class will be confronted with various programs — not experienced by previous sophomore classes at DHS — designed to smooth the transition from junior high to high school.

A Sophomore Advisory Committee formed earlier this year and chaired by Marilyn Deraney, DHS English teacher, is believed to be the biggest change for next year's sophomores — the creation of the Sophomore Advisory Program. Under the guidance of this group, with the cooperation of volunteer teachers, each of approximately twenty staff members will be working with a group of twenty sophomores. The staff member, or "sophomore advisor," will meet with his/her group approximately twelve times during the course of the first semester in an effort to familiarize the students with academic and athletic, and other extracurricular programs at DHS. The majority of these meetings would be concentrated during the early part of the first semester and then become less frequent as sophomores became more secure of themselves at DHS.

The sophomore advisors will also aid students in such areas as proper study skills, mid-year exam preparation, and career exploration. Although Donald Robbins, principal, hopes that sophomores will develop a close relationship with their advisor, he stressed that the existence of sophomore advisors does not replace the need for guidance counselors.

Another change, designed to help sophomores learn to budget their free time sensibly and ease the transition from junior high where silent study halls prevail to high school, will be one required assigned study per semester. As of yet, no decision has been made concerning exactly where these silent studies will be held or who will supervise them. Although Dr. Robbins stated that he would like to decrease the amount of supervisory work done by teachers and increase the use of aides and senior monitors in that capacity, it is certain that with the addition of sophomore silent study duty, cafeterias and hall duty that teachers have done as supervisory duty or another. Sophomores who do academically well first semester may be released from the silent study requirement second semester.

In addition, any sophomore w ho is reading below grade level will be required to work in the E-Wing Reading Lab during homeroom when his gym class does not meet.

Finally, the change most likely to upset those sophomores who are eagerly awaiting to get their driver's licenses, is due to the shortage of campus parking spaces, sophomores will not be allowed to drive to school next year except under special circumstances.

Computer Replaces Arena Scheduling

By DAVID BAUDER

That annual mad scramble in the gym known as "arena scheduling" will not be held this year, if all goes according to plan by the Guidance Department. Instead, a sophisticated computer system will be programed to do all the work of assigning students to their next year's courses with the cooperation of backup system, according to Donald Robbins, principal.

The new registration method will work much the same way as in the past. Each student will get a lottery number and copies of the master schedule. Everyone will hand in his or her first choice and prior to computer programing, and also will have a second choice ready. The computer fills out the student's schedule just as it is done in the arena.

One difference will be that the computer will schedule a person's entire program before it goes to the next lottery number. "This system is fairer because everybody gets a total program before the person gets to go," commented Gerald Hefferman, director of the Guidance Department.

"After all of next year's seniors are scheduled," explained Mr. Hefferman, "we will stop so the juniors can base their programs on what is left." Then the same process will continue for next year's juniors and seniors.

Mr. Hefferman finds many advantages to this new system compared to the old method. "One advantage is that it doesn't tie up the faculty and school for an entire day," he said. "Students can choose the teachers and periods they want, and they will have an even better chance of getting them than they did in the old way."

If this system does not work out, Mr. Hefferman is hopeful of having the guidance counselors do the scheduling by hand instead of going back to the arena method. Another consideration is the possible scheduling of this year's sophomores that way and the whole process took them about three days.

Sophomores will be assigned to at least one study hall next year. Mr. Hefferman said that "I like this idea in principle. Students come here conditioned to being told what to do and they have to be doing the day. The junior high schools are very structured in this respect. When they come here it is not the opposite. I think they should have a kind of 'training period' to help them become adjusted to their freedom."

Nothing definite has been decided as to whether the rotating schedule will be kept for next year. It is being reevaluated in response to some comments and criticisms. "I see some real advantages in the way it is," stated Mr. Hefferman. "I think this one is the rotating schedule... so nearly perfect as I have seen."

No new courses are being planned for next year. Some courses that were offered last year but didn't have enough students sign up for them will be coming up again, but nothing new will be offered.

Financial Woes, Personnel Conflicts Trouble 308

By JAMIE MAC KENZIE

Theater 308 has experienced serious financial difficulties this year, due to low attendance at productions and, according to 308 director Jon Edwards, the absence of a fund for theater in the athletic budget. The organization has received a short-term loan from the fund which is supported by the soda machine, and it is seeking permanent annual support from the Activities Council through the efforts of Craig Maheese, dean of students.

According to Mr. Edwards, attendance at 308 productions has been disappointing this year. At the conclusion of The Big Deal, which broke even, the group had accumulated a debt of $408. Theater 308 has paid off this debt with the loan from the soda machine fund, and it hopes to pay back the loan with the proceeds from the spring musical, My Fair Lady, to be produced in early May.

Mr. Edwards has become somewhat disillusioned recently with the school's willingness to support theater. Because of the lack of funding, he said, "we have to take a hike out to all other activities in Darien." None of 308 members feel that their organization loses much of its potential support in the school to the athletic department, whose popular activities occupy the time of possible theater participants.

Mr. Edwards has also been disappointed with the support he has received from some of the Theater 308 members this year. He stated that there is a "very powerful" group within the organization which does not want to reach out to include new members, and which resists and objects to his efforts to cast new members in the productions. "No advisor in any school can expect to obtain a solid organization without the support and cooperation of each member in the organization," he said.

John Gillon, president of Theater 308, denies that he or any other member of the organization is into the casting of new or non-members. "I was a 'non-member' when I first got here, so it would be damn hypocritical for me to say that I don't want non-members to be cast. If the person who auditions is the best qualified for the part, he or she should be cast regardless of the person's association with 308," Denise Hill, treasurer of 308, said. That although there is intense rivalry and competition for parts, everyone is given a fair chance, and students are not spurred by 308 members merely because they are non-members.

Mr. Edwards also claims that he has been pressured to perform students and student obligations outside of theater, which he says have forced him to curtail the number of nights worth of shows would have been able to run. The number of nights The Boy Friend was able to run was cut short because of prior commitments which a large part of the cast has made.

John Gillon feels that outside activities are "not a big problem" for him, and cites the fact that some members have quit jobs in order to eliminate conflicts.

(Continued on Page 2)
Big Changes For Sophomores

When news of the planned assigned silent study halls, Reading Lab, Sophomore Advisory Program, and no cars on campus for next year’s sophomores hit the junior highs, there will undoubtedly be much hostility on the part of incoming sophomores and sights of “Gladweat” being heard.

However, there is much to be said concerning the merit of each of these programs. One certainly can’t question the need for a Sophomore Advisory Program. Tenth graders come from junior highs where the variety of different extra-curricular and athletic activities involved, whereas the course of action, wherein the advisees are to investigate the various aspects of their chosen careers.

But how can a sophomore become involved in any of these if he doesn’t even realize they exist? In addition to advising sophomores in such areas as career exploration and the development of good study skills, the Sophomore Advisory Program will help sophomores become aware of the broad range of opportunities available to them in all areas. The sooner a sophomore becomes involved, the more the other students will know, and the more will he feel a part of, or as Dr. Robbins phrases it, “develop a sense of identity with Darien High School.”

Mandatory attendance of the Reading Lab for those sophomores reading below grade level is a sound idea in every way. Although the phrase “Johnny can’t read” has been greatly overworked by the media in recent years and seems especially ludicrous when applied to DHS, where many students engage in college level work, we do realize that there are students lacking in fundamental reading skills who should not graduate from high school without them.

The required silent study hall for sophomores has its merit, partially in that it provides an incentive for students to pull good grades if they wish to be released from the silent study requirement as fast as second semester final grades are announced. Furthermore, it will give the sophomore more “incentives” of this kind that do not develop at DHS over the next few years. There is a fine line between providing a reasonable transition period and endless handholding.

Finally, why do we have so many more sophomores on campus? We hope that the incoming sophomore class doesn’t perceive this as a punishment; it is merely a matter of practicality—too many cars for too few spaces.

Although these new programs initiated by the administration may at first seem a bit stringent, if viewed with the benefit of an objective light, sophomores will view them as we do—constructive steps towards improving the academic climate at DHS.

Edwards Seeks ‘Open’ 308

(Continued from Page 1)

Denise Hill echoed Gilson’s remarks, saying that conflicts are only a problem with a few individuals. She added that the organization does not take Edwards its full support, and that he is a very professional and demanding director who requires a total commitment from those with whom he is working. Denise also remarked that theater at DHS is looked upon by most of its participants as a fun, recreational activity, and not a serious commitment to which Edwards is a primary cause of Mr. Edwards’ pleasure.

In an effort to create a fund-raising activity for Theater 308, Mr. Edwards proposed a “Showcase,” or a performance of a series of scenes from major plays. The showcase would be viewed by parents in the community who would be invited to become “patrons” and make an annual contribution to the theater group. In addition to being a fund-raiser, the showcase would give exposure to a large number of aspiring actors and actresses who have not been cast in the major productions.

Mr. Edwards had already cast and blocked (set the stage movements for) a showcase to be produced several weeks before the senior class play M*A*S*H, which was voted down by the officers of 308. The reasons given for this rejection of the showcase were the lack of time and conflicts with M*A*S*H.

A vote of the entire membership was held, however, and it was decided to produce the showcase a few weeks after My Fair Lady, with participation optional for each member. Mr. Edwards has already spoken to many different groups in Darin; in an effort to drum up support for the showcase and patron membership ideas, and he was received very enthusiastically.

SM*A*S*H Success

By MATT MALEY

The actors and actresses overcame a socially uninvolvedless night made the senior class production of M*A*S*H a smashing success. The play was extremely funny, due to the efforts of the corny dialogue and directing done by the seniors.

The plot of M*A*S*H didn’t seem to follow the storyline exactly. The characters dealt with problems as they arose. These problems rarely quickly and out of nowhere. Although the movie and play are not the same, they are somewhat similar. If one doesn’t know the plot of the movie, the play becomes very confusing.

All of the actors and actresses were great. There were certain standouts, especially in the leading roles. Ted deSuding, who played Hawkeye, was especially outstanding. Everything he did was funny. His lines were funny, and the way he said them made them even funnier. He also added a few lines of his own. For instance, when he meets Trapper John, Who was a former buddy in college, he said, “Well, I’ll be Chris Fenchill’s hair stylist.” Ted also projected his voice very well. He was a natural for the part of Hawkeye and those who know him well will agree.

Gair McKenzie, who played Duke, Greg Derrell, who played Col. Blake, and Karen Congrove, who played Holli, did an excellent job. Gair did suffer one problem; most of his lines were not very good, but he overcame it this added humorous gestures after each of them. Greg was great as the puzzled, disorganized Col. Blake. The loud and irritated tone in his voice was perfect for Blake’s personality. Karen Congrove and GregDerrell made up the book, hated Major Houlihannielessly. Her expressions, his actions and her projection were very appropriate.

The supporting cast was also magnificent. Bob Baker, Walt; Brian Young, Capt. John Black; Paul Van Munching, Radar; Peter Francesco, Father Mulcahy; Sharon Hoag, Margaret; Sergeant Devine; Rhett Drugg, General Hammond; Jim Reid, Speechwacker Jones; and John Gilson, Major Burns, were all very well kept the audience rolling in the aisles.

Heide Franke, Lynn Morse, Barb Dolan, and Gail Hoyt did outstanding jobs as the man-hungry nurses. Sue Crotty, Chris Buonanno, and Laureen Coniglio portrayed the three dancers very well. Karen Bratmayer and Mary Sandel played the medical school president and the psychologist very well also.

The directing job of Clark Porter and Mark Congrove was very well done. This group chose the perfect person for each character. The projection of these actors and actresses was great. The many scene changes were done quickly and the whole play was well organized. Brian Donofree, a DHS graduate, assisted the production.

The play was a great success and the audience loved it. Although the script was not sensational, the actors, actresses, and directors were.

Sea Level: Sweet Southern Rock

By TOM CONSTABLE

The painful dissolution of the Allman Brothers left six talented musicians with nowhere to go. Of those six, guitarist Chuck Leavell, drummer Jai Johanny Johanson and bassist Lamar Williams banded together and, with the help of guitarist Jimmy Nalls (formerly with Dr. John’s Band), formed Sea Level.

Although a driving band, Sea Level has roots in Southern, Allmanesque rock, jazz-rock and blues. Jazz being their most prominent influence, their sound can still be compared to the great Dr. John, Beck, a rather spacey sound, attributed mostly to their keyboard-guitar harmonies.

Among their jazzier songs on the album Sea Level are the instrumentals “Rain in Spain,” “Tidal Wave” and “Grand Lyruthany,” all original Leavell tunes. Each features interesting melody harmonies, with Leavell and Nalls trading off tasteful solos, each instrument complimenting the other. “Country Fox” shows a little bit of the band’s boogie side, with some superb bottleneck slides by Nalls. (In concert, the band does a version of the Allman classic “Statesboro Blues” which will knock you flat on your back.) “Nothing Matters But the Fever,” Sea Level’s Allmanesque side comes through with some more slide work, courtesy of Leavell, with some horn flavoring. Paul Simon’s “Scarborough Fair” is given a totally new arrangement, instrumentalized, with a pitch perfect guitar solo by Leavell to compliment the melody line.

All in all, I find that Sea Level has put its talents together to produce a unique sort of jazz-rock-funk sound. For a debut album, they have done a nice job of featuring good examples of all their styles, coming together to form a tasteful, interesting album.

Law Forbids Bottles On Beaches

A modification of a Darien town law concerning drinking on the beaches was adopted to protect some segments of the DHS population.

The law states that no glass bottles will be permitted at either Weed Beach, or Perdido Point. No drinking of alcoholic beverages will be allowed on either of the beaches, though boots can still be legally consumed in the picnic areas. Local stipulations apply, and the breaking of any glass on the beaches is illegal.

Penalties for the offenses are punishable by a $100 fine.

The Better Beach Committee, set up by the Park and Recreation Department, is starting a campaign publicizing the no-bottles-on-the-beach law. Posters have been distributed to local merchants. Two representatives, Ruay Klais and Howard Mastropiero, have been designated in the high school for publicity, and will soon be distributing flyers, stickers and posters around school.

Junior Achievement is coming to DHS due to the efforts of Mr. William Evans, member of the DHS Board.

All students who are interested in owning, running, and sharing in the profit of their own company should contact Mr. Evans at the Business Education Department between now and June. The program is being offered once next October at DHS and runs through April. The group will have no obligation after school but will meet one night a week.
Seaworthy Students Study Biology

By ALEX ANDRIUK

What could possibly lure a Darien High School senior to spend two weeks on a ship in the middle of the ocean... in February?! “Interest probably, and a sincere wish to gain experience,” commented Mark Berlinger, a DHS student. “I wasn’t overly enthused about the weather on the trip, but I did want to see what this sea research thing was all about,” he said. Mark was among several other DHS students that went on trips to study marine biology.

Mark, along with another Darien High School student, Scott Sees, was a member of the crew of the S.S. Delmarva, which was part of an extensive investigation of the effects of sea pollutants on the clam and other related species. Their purpose was to hold: to determine the amount of pollution present in these animals, to count the populations of the various species, and, finally, to determine the feasibility of herring strain of clam, called the “arica” or “quilo 8,” as a possible food source.

Mark and Scott traveled to Sandy Hook Laboratories in New Jersey, where they were greeted by storms and icy conditions. This first expedition in which they were to become involved was called off, and the two boys returned to Darien. At 6 a.m. on one Saturday in February, Mark received a phone call from Norfolk, Virginia; an hour later the two were on a plane headed for the research base in Norfolk. Here they were greeted by the ship’s captain, taken aboard, and given their assignments. The S.S. Delaware left the following morning at 9:00 a.m.

The investigations on board were set up in several shifts of six hours each. “I had the 12 to 6 a.m. shift, also called the ‘dogwatch,’” said Mark. “Let me say this much... it was more than an experience... it was hell!” Mark’s work was generally responsible for a procedure called “shucking.” They would separate the contents of the shellfish from the shells themselves, and the former would be sent up for investigation. They were also responsible for sorting the “mud catches,” separating and counting the species, and sending these animals up for analysis.

Said Mark of his adventures: “I would most certainly repeat the trip if I had the chance. We learned more about sea research than I could have hoped to learn in a full course on the subject. Next time, though, I’ll bring more gear... a ...better ‘winter’ for starters!”

DHS Hobbies Weird, Exotic, Bizarre

By JAMIE MACKENZIE AND JEANNE MUELLER

The busy schedules of most high school students leave little time for extra-curricular activities which are unrelated to school. Years ago many people were involved in hobbies which they pursued at home in their spare time, but in recent years, these have gone out of vogue for both students and adults alike. However, Neirad has discovered some members of the DHS community who are currently involved in interesting and unusual hobbies. We have selected the following as examples.

Senior Leslie Evans has one of the more unusual hobbies we ran across. Leslie collects toilet paper from the different countriles and cities she stays in on her travels abroad. She has over 30 different kinds of paper from such places as Monte Blanc, the highest of the French Alps, Hungary, Innocarbach and Salzburg, Austria, Zurich and Geneva in Switzerland, several French cities including pieces from the Louvre in Paris, and Hitler’s Eagle’s Nest and Schönbrunn in Austria. Each different sample has its own characteristic texture and design.

According to Leslie, she decided to start her collection because European toilet paper was of such poor quality that she thought it would be amusing to save some and show it to friends in the U.S. She describes the texture of European toilet paper as ranging from sandpaper, to waxpaper, to paper bags.

Kristina Williams, junior, helps look after a family menagerie which includes four sheep, a donkey, eleven chickens, and numerous assorted dogs, cats, and birds. Until recently the family’s animal population included an authentic South American llama, which they have now sold. Mrs. Williams is a biology major, and has been interested in animals since her childhood when she had charge of a small Zoo which included rabbits, snakes, and a goat and mungi. She purchased the llama primarily to use its wool for making articles of clothing.

The family has made Scandinavian sweaters for every member from the wool of their four sheep.

As a result of Evans Kerrigan’s hobby, his workroom (the laundry room) now has a wax floor.

His hobby, candle-making, has proved to be a business for him, too. A month before Christmas he does some door-to-door selling, from which he has made as much as $200 at a time. Evans claims that his 15” star-shaped candle sells best. He owns molds of Jesus Christ’s and the Madonna’s crowns, as well as many other designs.

Because Evans’ candles are chiefly for decoration, his customers don’t burn them. “It’s a way to defeat my own business,” he commented. “Since they don’t burn their candles, the next year they don’t want any more.” Hence, each year he has to travel further and further away.

“A collect massage parlor flyers,” Scott Sees said. For the past five New Year’s Eves Scott has gone down to Times Square with the intent of gathering these flyers. His record so far is collecting 42 flyers in two hours.

“Usually there’s a half-dozen guys down there, handing the flyers out to prospective customers. They’re used to say ‘check it out, check it out,’ but now they say, ‘free peeks, free peeks.’”

Scott’s life ambition is to collect one flyer from every parlor in New York, and one from every major city. Finally he would like to get into some book of world records for his achievement.

All-School Musical ‘My Fair Lady’ Set For Early May Showing

By MARY ELLEN KIDDING

The all-school musical My Fair Lady will be presented at Darien High School on May 6 and 7 at 8:15 p.m. and on May 8 at 7:00 p.m. Tickets, which were available for a student price of $2.00 the first week of sales, are now available for the price of $2.00 per ticket.

The musical, which is produced by Darien High School and co-produced by Theatre 308, will be directed and choreographed by Jon Edwards of Mame fame). Assisting Mr. Edwards will be Greg Kiernan as stage manager and Edward Jovitelli as musical director.

Since My Fair Lady is an all school musical, it involves aspects of the High School including the vocal, band, and theatrical departments. The cast consists of about 87 actors, actresses, singers, and dancers including the orchestra, totals about 100 cast members.

This year’s musical production involves many new faces, which Mr. Edwards feels is important and “good for school morale.” He also pointed out that involving people who are not particularly known as theatrical shows that “everybody has the talent.”

Leading the cast, which Mr. Edwards termed as “very easy to work with,” are Suzi Coates as the cockney flower girl Eliza Doolittle, Rip Haaghen as Professor Higgins, Clark Porter as Colonel Pickering, Rob Baker as Mr. Doolittle, and Dave Ellison as Freddie Hill.

The story takes place in England in the early 1900’s and involves polished English people and the Cockney’s (the English lower class). It concerns a professor who is a master of dialects who has bet with a friend that he can turn a common, uneducated flower girl into a lady and pass her off as a duchess at the embassy.

In this production Mr. Edwards noted that they will be trying to do a lot with lighting and costumes. The highlight of the play will come during the scene in which the cast sings and dances to the number “Get Me To The Church On Time.”

Among Mr. Edwards’ main goals in presenting My Fair Lady is “to get a student and adult audience” because he explains, no theatrical production, except perhaps the senior cast play, draws a good crowd.

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Bicyclists Take To Road

By Noreen Tully

As the weather warms up, car windows roll down, convertible tops roll back, and more and more people can be spotted carousing.

Robert Lyon, a member of the English Department at DHS, started this year’s bicycling season on March 1. He says that by that time “I’m ready for a change” from the winter sport, ice skating. Mr. Lyon, who began bicycling seriously in 1974, has since cycled over 10,000 miles. He hopes to hit a total of 15,000 when this season is over. He has cycled from New Canaan to Bar Harbor, Maine, and has traveled the Gaspe Peninsula in Quebec, and plans to bike cross-country this summer. When on tour, his bicycling average is at least 75 miles per day.

Gail Hoyt, one of the many students who bike, has cycled 900 miles throughout New England and 1400 miles in Illinois, Michigan, and Wisconsin. For the trips, she works up to 20 miles a day preparing herself. What are the advantages of riding in a car? Gail says, “Tourists see the trees while the bikers see the leaves.”

Rebecca Stumquier, girls’ physical education coach, takes to her bike “whenever the spirit moves me.” She has traveled through Martha’s Vineyard and Nantucket, and can be seen riding around the Ridgefield area. She bikes for the scenery and enjoys sharing her cycling with other people. Betsy Seel, student, can be seen almost any day pulling up in front of the school on her Schwinn La Tour. For Betty cycling is a means of transportation, “It’s made me independent,” she says.

Bill Dobbs, a student at DHS, has traveled with his bike overseas on the annual Coven-Ladd summer tours available to senior high students. For four weeks in 1975 he biked with 16 people throughout England and southern France.

As more and more people opt for two-wheel travel, one wonders what the attraction is. As paraphrased from one biker, it’s a chance to become a participant in the sights, sounds and fragrances nature has to offer, a refreshing, if occasional, respite from being a cliche observer only to the confines of a four-wheeled vehicle.

‘Slumpo’s Disease’ Runs Rampant Through Halls

By Jack Low

“Chopper, what has the hock got into you? You’ve been dodging on your desk, mumbling and making disgusting noises all period long. You haven’t done one constructive thing! Why, you used to be a ‘A’ student, and now you just sit there like an Oreo cookie with its filling gone! Chopper! CHIKER are you listening to me?”

What seems to be the problem with Chopper? Is he on drugs? Did his hamster just die? Has he been turned down for a better summer job? His teacher, Miss Perkins, is baffled. But she shouldn’t be. The only thing Chopper is suffering from is a mild case of senior slump (and maybe indulgence from the Nejad bake sale). Chopper is not alone in the wake of this nasty disease.

As a matter of fact, he has the whole senior class of ‘77 following in his infectious footsteps. The few health conscious students are asking, “What causes this debilitating disease?”, “What would you do if there are many causes of this disease?”, “Is it possible to find the cause(s) of the disease?”.

The disease, clinically known as “Slumpo’s Disease”, is running ramp through DHS classrooms and is spreading into students’ homes. The effects of this strain of disease are visible. Horrible habits like looking away from homework assignments, burping at report cards and giving the razzle to administrators are common symptoms of the affliction. The victims sometimes wander off school grounds, seeking healthful refuge (without prescription) at golf courses, benches and Britt’s Lanchesette. Slumpo’s disease tends to make its victims drink plenty of fluids, a habit usually enlarged as treatment, but in this case, only making the health conscious unconscious.

At least half of the senior class has felt the plague effects of this disease, and at least one fourth don’t even care. Ronald Doo, well-liked member of the class, confesses, “I don’t give a hell about my grades. I’m into college, and all that bunk about outlining and restructured admissions is a lot of male poppy.”

The disease doesn’t seem to be stunting his growth. Ronald will be attending Havythews University in the fall if all goes well.

One reason Slumpo’s disease is thriving may be due to its presence in the heat of spring and of course, spring fever. “Senior slump” coupled with spring fever can cause some very perverse effects. “But coach, it helps me relax,” has been a popular excuse used by many athletes during the past weeks of disease desperation.

Students may be taking this ailment sitting down, but teachers sure aren’t. The faculty, in an attempt to combat “Slumpo withdrawl” plans to confiscate all frisbees, walk softly and carry a big yardstick, and put any student found in warm water if he thinks he can get away with a nap in class. Not all teachers are confident in the disease withdrawal plan. One teacher commented, “It happened years before and it will happen again.”

The disease has gotten way out of hand, and I doubt there’s a thing in the world that can cure it. I’m starting to get it! All I know is that I’m gonna get the hock cut here and head up to Mount Airy Lodge for a few weekends in the great outdoors.”

At the moment there seems to be a general agreement that Slumpo’s disease is without a cure. It grows freely, on or in any book, brain, or classroom. It is here to stay for awhile, so the best thing one can do is to take some traditional care-all advice: drink plenty of fluids, get plenty of rest and plenty of sunny days.

On prom night, she should love you for your body, Not your mind.

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Rackettes Rally For Wins
By LESLIE EVANS

Ever since the first signs of spring appeared, the DHS girls' tennis team has been conditioning and practicing for their up-coming season. The girls are striving to maintain their excellent record of last year. At the end of last season, the team posted a 12-2 record, losing only to the Greenwich team. In addition to their fine record, the girls also succeeded in winning the Eastern Division title.

However, many of last year's top-seeded players, competing both in singles and doubles matches, graduated last June. This year's team's hopes were further dimmed when their number one player and captain-to-be chose to attend private school this year.

In spite of the loss of many fine players, the future of this team is certainly not bleak. A welcome surprise to the team, sophomores Terry Fogarty, has emerged as the team's #1 singles player. Barb Hunter, who was on last year's team, is presently holding down the #2 position.

Leading the team this year, single-handedly, is Captain Bebe Hetzel. Bebe believes that this year's team is a strong one, and she commented, "We have no super-star this year as we have had in the past, but this year's team has good depth. We have a good chance of winning the division title."

Coach Rebecca Strominger agrees with Bebe and says that the team should be a strong contender for the divisional title if the team does not become over-confident. "We had many close matches last year, and we had to work for our victories. I'm hoping this year's team won't forget that."

Ms. Strominger went on to explain that the team's real strength lay in the doubles pairs. Bebe and Nancy Spalding are the #1 doubles pair; but positions 2-5 on the ladder are volatile. At this time, Christy Beckwith and Joan Morgan are in the #2 position; Gini Brown and Andrea Rizeta are third, Stacey Lavender and Eve Walworth are fourth, and Amy Cannon and Brooke Dillon are fifth. Ms. Strominger says that the doubles pairs are evenly matched up to position twelve. "I anticipate a lot of juggling of positions on the doubles ladder."

Softball Scrimmage Presages Successful Season For Girls
By PHILLIPPA BOWLEY

New Canaan's batting was fruitless against the ruthless DHS girls' softball team as they failed to get on base in the first three innings of the scrimmage last Thursday, April 7. "From the looks of that scrimmage we're going to do a lot better than last year," said Cindy Davis, a co-captain.

Westhill, the team's first competitor, is tough, but the DHS girls did well against them last year and hopseto make the same this year's first win said, "but not enough bats."

He hopes that the team will acquire some batters to race in, though they will probably practice in Sunfish.

John Shuttke pointed out that other schools have their own fleets with their own docking place.

The DHS Sailing Team's boats are privately owned and must be brought down to the beach for each practice. Frank Hammein is trying to persuade the Park and Recreation Committee to let the team use a little strip of beach owned by the town which is located between Weed Beach and Noroton Bay.

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Mittmen Open, Top Rams

By DAVID BAUDER

Pitching is the key element in the success of many a baseball team. In the case of the DHS mittmen, the uncertain aspect of the pitching staff makes it difficult to forecast whether or not they will accomplish their goal of improving on last year's 12-8 record.

"It's difficult to be confident when your pitching isn't proven," said Coach George Nelson, entering his fifteenth year at the helm. "By the time we get through the first five or six games, we'll have a better idea of our outlook."

Ike Coutermash is the only hurler with varsity experience, and he is expected to lead the staff. "He's not overpowering, but he keeps the ball low and gets it over the plate," said Coach Nelson. Seniors Doug Simpson, Chris Spurlock and junior Brooke Styrer will also test their arms. Sophomore Randy Rosic is the number one relief pitcher.

Greg Dorrell and John Kratzky will split the duty behind the plate, and Randy Starr will be at first base. Seniors Peter Stanton and Mike Barrett will provide some experience up the middle, as they anchor second base and shortstop respectively. Craig Hufnagel will be the third baseman.

Captain Bill Waters returns his fleet foot and hot bat to centerfield. Bill hit .333 for last year's club and his speed is a definite asset both defensively and on the bases. Juniors Brock and Jim Yarish appear to have the inside track on the other outfield jobs.

Coach Nelson commented that "I have faith in the potential that we have. I'm not optimistic nor pessimistic. If we make winning important to us I think we can beat anybody on any given day."

"We don't have a great deal of varsity experience," said Captain Bill Waters, "but the talent is there. I think we've got a shot at the counties."

Opening day for the Wavers occurred at New Canaan's Mead Park on April 11 and was a happy start for the team as they edged the Rams, 4-2. Though three of the runs came as direct results of Ike Coutermash's kindly assistance from the New Canaan infield, the pitching performances of Ike Coutermash and Randy Rosic made the game a very positive one for Darien.

Coutermash pitched a strong six innings, allowing up only two hits and one unearned run. When he tired in the seventh and gave up two straight singles, Coach Nelson called on his freshman Randy Rosic. The sophomore showed exemplary poise by getting the side out safely and saving the win.

The only RBI hit for Darien was a long single by John Kratzky. The Blue Wave's first run came on a double steal and the last two came as a result of a double error by a shaky second baseman.

Mixed Results

By BOB FERGUSON

The DHS track team opened its regular season with a victory over Rippey and a loss to Westhill on Thursday, April 7, in frosty winds at the DHS track.

Lack of depth was a problem as the Wavers took first in nine events but had trouble accumulating other places.

The running events are Darien's strength. The runners took six firsts in the running events including Pat Jackson in the mile, sophomore Jim Satterly in the 330 intermediate hurdles, Matt Maley in the 220 and 440, Justin Vorwerk in the 880, and the mile relay team of Ed Cooke, Reg Jones, Jim Satterly and Matt Maley.

In the field events for DHS, Rhett Drages won the discus, Jim Satterly won the triple jump and Tom Lechek jumped six feet to win the high jump.

On Saturday, April 9, the boys' and girls' track teams travelled to the fifth annual James O'Neil Relays near Westport.

Tom Constable outduels David Epprecht to snare a pass during a recent scrimmage for the newly formed frosh team. (Photo by Steve Dunbar)

Gymnast Wins Title In National Meet

DHS junior gymnast Clay Moltz highlighted his young career Saturday, April 9, as he won the still rings competition at the National Boys Invitational Gymnastic Meet in Philadelphia.

Competing for the New Canaan YMCA, Moltz scored a 7.95 on the rings to defeat over 170 other gymnasts to win the title in the 15-16-year-old age group. Clay also accumulated 42.5 points in the six event all-around competition, which was good enough for seventh place.

"We didn't know until the banquet [which was held after the meet, and where the awards were presented] the other gymnasts' scores, so I had no idea of where I stood," Clay commented in reference to his victory. Moltz said that he was "stunned" when it was announced that he had taken first place.

Clay also stated, "I was very pleased with my all-around score, because it was six points better than my previous best." Moltz's top all-around total before the NBI meet was 36 points in the FCIAA Championships in November.

One of the most dedicated athletes in Darien, Clay works out for three hours every day (excluding Sundays) all year round. He is presently training for the U.S. Gymnastics Federation Junior Nationals, which will begin on July 16 in Boulder, Colorado. Moltz will be teaming with Mark Rosenbloom of Stamford and Dave Martinnelli of Greenwich in Colorado, as he did in Philadelphia. "This meet will be even tougher [than the NBI]," Clay related on the subject of the Junior Nationals, "because we have to score eighty points [total in compulsory and optional routines] to qualify. Because we have to qualify," he continued, "it will be an even higher caliber meet." Clay will attempt to qualify at a regional meet at West Point in June.

During the Blue Wave gymnastics season, Moltz won the Fairfield County all-around title, and was runner-up in three events in the State Championships, as well as in the all-around. Coach Isidore Battino will be attempting to guide Clay and his other gymnasts to a third straight state championship this fall. Clay will be captain along with John Reichert, Vinny Fenuzzi, a nationally certified judge and an assistant coach at Southern Connecticut State College (which finished third in the recent NCAA gymnastics championships), is Moltz's coach from December to August.

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