Assistant Principal Gerard Coulombe helps prepare for the upcoming Senior Class Christmas Tree Sale. The annual event, designed to raise money for senior scholarships, was set to open December 9 and will run until all trees are sold. (Photo by Richard Ferria)

**DHS Students To Visit Red China**

By TIM SELLEW and JOHN REICHART

Four Americans have had the opportunity to visit the lands within China's Great Wall. Yet through the efforts of DHS principal Donald Robbins, a group of thirty students and faculty members of Darien High School will have a chance to make that journey. Originally proposed last spring, the trip to Red China will be taking place in the latter part of the month of April.

On the itinerary will be a stop in Japan. The various cities the group plans to visit in China are Shanghai, Suchow, Nanking, and Peking. “These cities were chosen to give a representative view of China such as can be obtained in two weeks,” said Dr. Robbins.

According to Dr. Robbins, “the main purpose of the trip are 1) to visit the various Chinese schools, 2) learn about their work-study programs, 3) visit the cultural and historical places in China, 4) to observe a different form of government in operation, 5) share our experiences with the Darien community upon our return.”

Aside from students simply touring the once forbidden country, Dr. Robbins feels some sort of “cultural exchange” would greatly add to the value of the trip. Therefore, selected members of the boys’ and girls’ gymnastics teams will be joining the group with the expectation that they will be able to compete with some of their Chinese counterparts. Isadore Battino, 12-year mentor of the boys’ gymnastics team, is looking forward to the trip. He stated, “The members of the team and I are very excited about the trip, and I hope we can work out, give an exhibition or compete with Chinese gymnasts.”

The only sour note for the trip thus far is its price. Air travel and all other expenses included, each person may have to pay in the area of $2,000. Various fund-raising activities are being organized to bring the cost down. When you go to China, you obey their rules,” said Dr. Robbins. “Things that students are accustomed to here won’t be legal there. China has ‘shame boards’ on which the pictures of people who have done wrong are posted. That’s not something you’re likely to run into in downtown Darien.”

Mark Giarratana and Judy Cleaver accepting consignments from an unidentified donor before the recent Ski and Skate Sale, held on November 19. The sale grossed over $13,000, 40% of which will go toward the Senior Scholarship Fund. (Photo by Richard Ferria)

**Directors, Producers Explain Difficulties And Pitfalls Of 'A Showcase'**

By MARY LYNN SLATTERY and BILL WAGGENER

"In A Showcase, we basically attempted something that we did not have to pay royalties for, could make money with, and could back lossy with," Alan Edwards, Theatre 308 advisor, said in describing the reasons for trying something as diversified as A Showcase in DHS's opening theater production of the year.

As anyone who witnessed A Showcase could tell, a number of problems remained unsolved by opening night. The most important problem encountered by the troop was getting all 95-100 cast and crew members together for rehearsals. The first time everyone was together was opening night.

Mr. Edwards feels that students were "too involved in other activities to give all of their time to a show. Theater takes a back seat to jobs, sports, student government, and other commitments. We were constantly trying to work around these things. If the production had received complete dedication, it could have been good."

This was Kelly Black's and my first experience producing a show and therefore we had a lack of knowledge of procedures," Nancy Schott, one of the producers, said. "There was also lack of cooperation when we asked kids to help us out with publicity. They would agree to do things, but then they didn't come through with results."

The production also experienced some technical difficulties. The new sound system was a problem. "The play was performed on levels, to play into the microphones, which worked, but the location of the speakers (along sides and back of the auditorium) allowed those in the front and in the side aisles to hear, but those sitting in the middle section got nothing but muffled noise," according to Mr. Edwards.

"There were also certain misunderstandings between director and performers which created a possible dissunity and caused the show not to be as successful as it could have been," said Nancy.

"It probably would have been better if we had not used the records for accompaniment, and if we had not moshed the words. At some point in the play the cast was either too far ahead of the music or not in tune," commented Kelly, the other producer.

Some positive notes came out of A Showcase, however. Mr. Edwards commented, "The lighting crew did an outstanding job.

Pieces of every act contained some redeemable material, Mr. Edwards feels. As a whole, he considers the second act to have been the best, but parts of the third act were also good.

Mr. Edwards thinks that everyone learned something from A Showcase, and hopefully they will put this newly gained knowledge into use in the production of West Side Story, to open in March.

**Committee Studies DHS Schedule, Offers Findings To Board of Ed.**

By JAMIE MACKENZIE

A committee of DHS students, faculty, interested Darien parents and citizens has been working since early October on an evaluation of the high school's present schedule. The study was prompted by a concern among some townpeople and Board members that the present schedule is inadequate. "A concern has been expressed by certain Board members that our kids should not get less class time than comparative schools," stated Donald Robbins, DHS principal.

The high school schedule currently operates with a seven out of eight period day, the order of periods rotating daily and one period dropping out of the schedule every day.

After lengthy deliberations, the committee submitted three alternative schedule proposals to Dr. Robbins with detailed annotations explaining the implications of each schedule. Dr. Robbins will now study the alternatives and pass them on to the Board of Education on December 13 along with his recommendations.

In the course of the committee's investigations it has studied the schedules of fifteen other high schools in the Darien area. This research showed that although the length of the school day at DHS is longer than the average of the other schools surveyed, the average number of minutes in the classroom is approximately 7% more for these schools than for DHS.

Among the items considered by the committee when devising their alternatives, schedules were class time, work-study, extra-curricular activities, extra help from faculty, and several other factors. According to William Curnin, committee chairman, the members were not able to decide on one schedule to recommend to the administration because they disagreed on which of the above factors were most important for a schedule to accommodate. "This was our dilemma," stated Mr. Curnin.

Faculty members at DHS were surveyed to determine their preference for a schedule. Dr. Robbins did not feel that it was appropriate for Neirad to publish the results of this survey, as well as details of the proposed schedules, until they have been submitted to the Board of Education.

Although it is unclear what the outcome of the committee's report will be, Dr. Robbins stated that he feels "the high school schedule which is adopted should be based on an administrated recommendations. The issue of a schedule is in one way less important than what the schedule represents. In other words, a schedule is a means to an end, and the administration and Board must decide which schedule would be the best to achieve these ends. A good schedule must 1) provide for the proper instruction of the students, and 2) it must reflect other aspects of school life."
'Neirad' Gourmets Rate Town Eatery
IHOP Best Bet With Varied Menu

By MARK CLOWES, CHRISTOPHER PACE and DAVE WILK

Do you get tired of eating leftovers or your mom's "special" meatloaf? We, the Neirad gourmets, have sought out restaurants other than the fast food chains. We patronized the following establishments: Friendly's, Duchess Family Restaurant, Howard Johnson's, and the International House of Pancakes. Here's what we found...

Friendly's

Friendly's was the biggest disappointment. We arrived to find the only open table covered with debris. As the mess was being removed, one of the Neirad staffers was treated to some relief in the lap. To clean the table, the waiter used a good deal of water, and most of it failed to evaporate during our meal. The plastic menus were grimy and slippery. We ate amidst the clutter and clutter of piles of dirty dishes. There was a very limited selection of food and our appetites were already dampened by the atmosphere. The hamburger platter was skimpy and of mediocre quality; the hot dogs were rare and covered with an overabundance of relish; and as far as the fried clams were concerned—Mrs. Paul's could do better. They were half-cooked and greasy.

The dessert was a vivid contrast to the dinner. The Hot Fudge Royal and the sundaes were bountiful, delicious and relatively inexpensive.

Duchess Restaurant

Duchess Restaurant offers a wider variety than a McDonald's or Burger King at prices competitive with the two aforementioned establishments. The French fries were light but good, and the hot dogs with the works are the greatest that these gourmets have had the delight to detect. They came with chopped bacon and sliced onions.

As far as the desserts, cross the street (look both ways) and go to Friendly's, for the choice at Duchess is rather slim. With no tipping, and a home-cooked meal at a fast-food price, Duchess is well worth the visit.

Howard Johnson's

We entered the next palace of gourmet dining, Howard Johnson's, only to be told to wait at three different places by three different waitresses. The restaurant in general was mediocre, although the "all-you-can-eat" salad bar is a fine touch. The seating was private and the lighting very dim. The food was average, but... we recommend the flounder platter, which came in a large portion and was cooked to a golden brown. The French fries were crispy and light—the best of our restaurant tour.

IHOP

The International House of Pancakes (IHOP) was the best restaurant we encountered in our quest for dining quality. Despite what the name implies, IHOP does not just serve pancakes. The menu offered a wide selection of foods including omelets, chicken, and hamburgers in addition to the traditional pancakes. The chicken was crispy on the outside and tender on the inside.

The restaurant is crowded during the breakfast hours, but the atmosphere is relaxed during the dinner hours. The service was the best that we encountered. The seating is comfortable, and the atmosphere relaxed. All in all, you'll have a flapjackin' good time.

Finally, we tackled the DHS cafeteria. Although it's not the place to take your prom date, the DHS cafeteria is convenient and inexpensive. The senior commons is a definite step up from the plebeian gallery of the large cafeteria. As far as breakfast is concerned, any place that offers Twinkies and Dr. Pepper can't be too good, but the omelets and hot ham sandwiches are rather good.

Nicandros, Sabatier Editing Sports Book, Hope To Publish Soon

By CHRISTOPHER PACE

The Frustrated Fan, a book written by seniors Luke Sabatier and Steve Nicandros, is an attempt by these writers to voice the frustrations and stories of various sports fans. Luke commented, "We are out to prove that by seniors Luke Sabatier and Steve Nicandros, is an attempt by these writers to voice the frustrations and stories of various sports fans. Luke commented, "We are out to prove that

The book is two and a half years in the making, and is filled with a wide range of topics concerning the fan. It contains both stories about Steve and Luke as fans and stories about other fans across the nation. Topics range from defeat and how it's taken by the fans, and snacking habits of fans, to many humorous stories about fans' experiences. It is humorous and satirical, but it can serve as a very valuable guide to the fan. The book gives many tips such as how to get good seats, how to get autographs, and how to get into stadiums, possibly the way the following fan did. Wilbur LaFae, a Wisconsin Green Bay Packer fan, had tickets to the Dallas vs. Green Bay playoff game in 1966. He arrived at the gate carrying alcoholic beverages and was denied entrance to the stadium. A pre-game parade complete with floats was soon to enter the stadium. A versatile 5'10", 267-pound fan, he jumped onto the Miss America float and rode into the stadium. After waving to all the fans, he jumped off the float where his section was located.

Another devout fan, Charlie Winkler, is the number one Nebraska U. fan. He attends all of their games and most of their practices and scrimmages, even though he lives 105 miles away from the stadium. Charlie does a lot of driving. He says that the way he wants to die is to have a heart attack at a Nebraska football game when Nebraska scores a touchdown. He wants to be cremated and have his ashes poured from a helicopter over Nebraska stadium.

His wife commented, "I have proof that all the fools in the world are not dead yet. I'm married to one." These are just two of the many interesting and humorous stories in the book.

Luke and Steve tried a year ago to get their 458-page book, published; by Doubleday. They were told the book was too long, and that it lacked a main theme. They are now working on these problems, and they hope to get the book published early next year.
Local Drivers Reveal All: Kids Fuss, 'Cuss' On Bus

By JEANNE MUELLER

Many of the bus drivers for the Darien school system seem to consider their job a unique experience. "Anything you can think of, kids have done it on a bus," said Atlas Howard who is a bus driver for Darien as well as other towns in Fairfield County. "Making out, smoking funny cigarettes, jumping out of the back of the bus, anything. Girls sometimes even take their clothes off to change their outfits. Junior high kids are the worst you can drive."

"Once in a while you get rowdy," commented Vito Mallozzi, "especially the junior high." When they get rowdy, "they throw paper clips around and curse a lot, but I guess today's kids aren't very common. Once in a while I have to look up, but most of the time I just ignore them."

One driver, who is also a policeman, does occasionally find a need to take disciplinary action against a student. "The girls are just as bad as the boys," he pointed out. When vandalism or smoking goes on in the bus, it is his practice to kick the kids off it. He said that he has been forced to kick kids off the bus in Stamford. "You're not supposed to, but I do because the schools really don't do anything to discipline the students," he explained.

"The kids never say anything because they're afraid of further discipline." Atlas Howard, who has been driving a bus in Fairfield County for nine years, feels that "in some schools, kids are nice; in some, they're crummy." Stamford, he feels, has crummy kids.

John Butler remarked, "If you tell kids in Darien not to do something, they won't. In Stamford, they will." He related some of his experiences in Stamford.

"One day I was driving on Long Ridge Road when kids started pelting snowballs at the windshield. I nearly lost control. Another time, some kids were throwing bottles in between my bus and another one. It was getting pretty hairy."

"Since September," Vito Mallozzi claimed, "there have been twenty-eight to thirty-two bus accidents in Stamford. Darien's fortunate. Stamford has these accidents because it is a more congested area. This can be seen by the fact that in Stamford they have 50 to 60 buses, while Darien has a total of 12."

Although John Butler has been bus driving for 10 years, not all of it has been spent in Stamford and Darien. "I started in North Carolina when I was fifteen," he said. Now, he drives a bus only part of the time. In between dropping the students off for school and picking them up in the afternoon, he works in maintenance for CBS.

"Most everybody's a part-time," said one man. "And for anyone who's thinking of working while in college, it's not a bad job to have."

New Talent Emerges From Disappointing Showcase

By JAMIE MACKENZIE and MARY LYNN SLATTERY

Review

Theatre 308 opened the drama season at DHS with a rather poor Showcase on Friday and Saturday nights, Nov. 4 and 5. Despite a basically uninspired collection of performances, marred by serious technical difficulties, some significant talent emerged.

The concept of A Showcase was basically sound, the idea being to give a large number of people the chance to act and sing in major roles, as well as expose the audience to a variety of dramatic styles. This broad range of performance also served to detract from the show, however, by eliminating any sense of continuity. It is difficult for the audience to appreciate fully a scene excerpted from a long dramatic work unless it is familiar with the context from which the scene was taken.

Duffy O'Brien's rendition of "Welcome To The Theater" was an excellent opening number, but from then on it was mostly downhill. "The Toy Shop," an excerpt from TV's Laverne and Shirley, suffered badly from low volume and a lack of evident humor. Most of the punch lines were monotonously delivered and the participants seemed to be giving a half-hearted effort.

The show picked up considerably with Liz Peterson's portrayal of Nunice in "The Family" from The Carol Burnett Show. Liz looked and acted exactly like Carol Burnett, skillfully imitating her accent, appearance and movements.

Throughout Act II the actors and actresses were required to maintain motionless poses before and after the scenes they were in, a very effective but difficult undertaking which the characters pulled off well.

Sherry Dryden and Desiree Taylor have admirably done one scene from A Streetcar Named Desire. Duffy O'Brien sounded much like Katherine Hepburn in her portrayal of Amanda in Tennessee Williams' The Glass Menagerie. The characters in this scene are very difficult to portray, but Duffy, Kip Hashagen, and Lucy Marshall did an excellent job. The feeling of the mother's desperate desire to marry off her daughter and the hopelessness and confinement of the family's situation was conveyed well to the audience.

Act III was a collection of musical pieces from Broadway shows. This section of the program included both the high and low points of A Showcase. Carrie Rich opened up well with "New York, New York" after getting over her opening night jitters. Tomma Olsen did a good job singing "The Sound of Music" despite the fact that the lighting made her look like she was covered by the green blob. This song was a poor selection by the director. Had it come in the midst of a scene from the musical The Sound of Music it would have been more appropriate, but it was out of place by itself in the midst of scenes from musicals which included both acting and singing.

The songs from Gypsy were sung well, with good strong projection by Ene Pranko.

The major drawback to Act III was the fact that the musical ac-

compainment was primarily done with records, to which the actors and actresses were supposed to mouth the words. This gave an appearance reminiscent of a junior high school talent show to several of the acts, and in many cases the people on stage did not even bother to sing or mouth the words along with the record.

A Chorus Line, probably the best scene in the entire show, was badly marred Friday night because Bebe Squadrilli and Sherry Dryden were forced to do solos in lip sync. The use of records led to other problems, such as the timing of the dance movement to the music, and at one point on Saturday night the wrong record was played. We suggest fuller use of live accompaniment next time, and where this is not possible, at least the singers should sing instead of mouthing the words.

A Chorus Line was by far the best part of the show on the whole. Bebe Squadrilli's solo "Nothing" was outstanding, and Sherry Dryden danced exceedingly throughout the entire scene. The dancing done by the entire company was well choreographed, but there were some problems synthesizing the gestures made with the dance.

Despite several drawbacks A Showcase displayed some great talent and effort by many of those involved. Working on the first show of the year with a lot of new people was doubtlessly challenging, as were the problems with musical accompaniment. We are looking forward to an excellent West Side Story in March, and we hope that this show will signal a return to the previous standards of Theatre 308 productions.

The Male Room

The New Store for Men

Values at unbelievable prices

Crew neck sweaters $11.90
Flannel shirts $6.90
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Lee corduroys - denim jeans

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Darien Thrift Shop
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With this coupon of Noroton Heights welcomes DHS students

5¢ off small or large soft ice cream cones
10¢ off any large sundae

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December 14, 1977
Church Leaders Discuss Youth Involvement

Compiled by Jamie MacKenzie

In an effort to investigate more deeply the religious climate in Darien and how it affects teenagers of high school age, Neirad conducted interviews with several clergyman of local congregations.

Virtually all of the churches in Darien have some form of youth group (see story page 5). Since many of these groups’ activities are primarily social, membership numbers do not give a complete indication of how many teenagers are interested in and committed to religion. The general consensus of opinion among clergyman is that although they would not characterize Darien as a “religious” community, they each have a significant number of youths committed to religion in their congregations.

When asked whether or not he thinks religion affects young people in Darien, the Reverend Dale Paulsen, assistant minister of the Noroton Presbyterian Church, responded, “I don’t like the word ‘religion.’ We have to remember that the Pharisees, the bitterest enemies of Jesus, were very ‘religious.’ I find the young people at Noroton Presbyterian very interested in the person of Jesus Christ and I think it means he can be a follower of Him. I think this is a new concept for them to have better lives, set up, people raise their arms. It’s the phrase ‘we are the people who have悔eded.’”

“The first Congregational Church gauged the consensus of opinion among the young people who attend the church participate in the group. ‘About one-half of the high school people in the church are very much into religion,’ stated Mr. Buist. Like most of the other clergyman interviewed, the Reverend Samuel Fogle of the First Congregational Church gauged the commitment of the youth in his church by their participation in the church’s youth activities. Of the approximately 35 youths that attend his church, 33 are members of the youth fellowships, and they are all, in the words of Mr. Fogle, ‘dedicated and involved kids.’

Mr. Buist, youth minister at St. John’s Catholic Church, has seen a dramatic growth in the participation of young people since his arrival at St. John’s four years ago. At that time, according to Mr. Buist, there were only about half a dozen high school kids interested in the youth group. By the end of the year there were twelve members, and since then the ranks have swollen to the point at which there are now seventy to eighty kids involved in the youth group’s activities. Mr. Buist feels that all of these people are seriously committed to religion, although not all of the young people who attend the church participate in the group.

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Youth Groups Strive To Give Students Christian Experience

By JOHN REICHART

For those of you who were sentenced as mere tykes to a one-to-five year stretch in a maximum security Sunday school, some of the following information may surprise you.

Here in the "Charismatic Capital" (as our serene community has been often referred to in religious circles) we have a potent youth ministry serving from fifteen to a hundred-and-fifty students in its various organizations.

Four churches—the Noroton Presbyterian, First Congregational, United Methodist, and St. Luke's Episcopal—all have basically the same structure in their youth programs. A typical itinerary would include community work projects such as leaf-raking or helping out in a convalescent center, to attending films and participating in field trips. Speaker nights, coffee houses and Bible studies help pull together the "basic Christian truths" that these organizations are trying to present.

Some of the more noteworthy methods for achieving these goals can be seen at St. Luke's, where the students are producing a modern-day version of selected books in the Bible, and in the Methodist group, which has "adopted" a group of mentally retarded children from the Southbury Training School. Other unique programs are used by the Congregational group, which presented a series on death and dying, and the Noroton Presbyterian group, which sponsored a retreat to Stony Point, New York, in September.

Youth groups which pursue activities with a particular spiritual emphasis can be found at St. John's and St. Thomas More Catholic churches.

Through such things as Bible studies and open discussions, these groups attempt to satisfy each person's hunger for spiritual food. Students at the St. John's group are involved in working at the Thomas Merton House soup kitchen in Norwalk. Each week, students help serve the free meals that are available to the poor, elderly, or "anyone just coming off the street." St. Thomas More youth group director, Mrs. Louise Pinover, summed up her objectives as to "develop a viable high school program that relates the Christian experience to the student's everyday life.

Young Life, which is a non-denominational Christian youth group, has enjoyed growing popularity during the past three years under the leadership of Dean Blank.

It appears that the relaxed and friendly atmosphere of the weekly club meetings, break- fasts, and Bible studies has succeeded in extinguishing the "Sunday school" image most often associated with Jesus Christ. The most publicized event in Young Life's seventeen years in Darien took place this past Halloween night. It was then that one hundred teenagers swept down with Herculean determination to demolish a most extraordinary banana split. What made the snack unique was the fact that it was a hundred feet long with 500 scopes of assorted parlor favorites. The feast was a world record, and yes, has a good chance of being published in the next edition of the Guinness Book of World Records.

But behind the zany skits, songs, laughter, and cross-country adventures, Mr. Blank's message is, "The Christian faith is not a religion; it is a relationship."

Looking at the overall picture, one must consider the surprising fact that over one-fourth of our high school population attends some kind of Christian youth group. Most of the youth ministers feel they are getting through to these students, but judging from the weekend night life of many, one must wonder just where those dedicated men and women went wrong. Director of the St. John's youth group, Jim Buist, feels the problem may be that "our young people need a living proof that Christianity is possible." Other youth ministers point toward peer pressure as one of the obstacles for the high schooler. As one student stated, "It's easy enough to believe in all the ideals of religion, but when it comes to turning down that joint all your friends are passing around, you've got a different story."

Keeping in mind all the opinions, goals, numbers, and achievements of these youth groups, one can safely say that religion is having an impact on the high school population in Darien. Yet as Dean Blank stated, "It takes a period of time to assimilate anything new into someone's life and our best hope as youth ministers is that some of the actualization of what's been heard and seen will get through."

A decade, wayward high-schooler and the same teenager after receiving religious guidance. (Photos by Richard Ferriss)
Poll Results: How Important Is Religion?

Continued from page 5
to worship and grow spiritually, or that they think it will do them some good. Sixty-four percent of the Methodists gave these reasons, 56% of the Baptists, 50% of the Lutherans, and 43% of the Episcopalians, Presbyterians and Congregationalists. Thirty-two percent of the Congregationalists attended church primarily because their parents wanted them to; 28% of the Episcopalians attend primarily for this reason, 27% of the Lutherans and Presbyterians, 25% of the Baptists, 23% of the Christian Scientists, and 18% of the Methodists.

There were some significant disparities between the different denominations in the responses to question number 15, "How large a role does religion play in your life?" Eighty-three percent of the Baptists responded either that religion is very important to them, or it is important, but not the most important thing. Seventy percent of the Christian Scientists gave these responses, 64% of the Lutherans, 54% of the Episcopalians, and 37% of the Presbyterians, and 26% of the Congregationalists. Sixty-eight percent of the Congregationalists responded either that they think about their religion occasionally or it is not important to them. Fifty-five percent of the Presbyterians gave these responses, 46% of the Episcopalians, 45% of the Methodists, 45% of the Episcopalians, 38% of the Lutherans, 30% of the Christian Scientists, and 16% of the Baptists.

The response to question fourteen, "Do you think prayer can help you live a better life?" corresponded closely to the responses to the previous question. Eighty-four percent of the Methodists stated that they feel prayer can help them live a better life, 70% of the Christian Scientists, 51% of the Methodists, 45% of the Lutherans, 41% of the Episcopalians, and 34% of the Congregationalists. A large percentage of the students of every Protestant denomination that did not answer yes to this question were uncertain about whether or not prayer was beneficial to their lives.

Fogal Desires Youth Groups To Develop Into A 'Social Force'

Continued from page 4 thought of as a tool that can be used by the individual to create his or her own beliefs." Mr. Fogal does feel, however, that in addition to serving as a foundation on which the younger generation can build their faith, their church provides them with a sense of belonging. The congregation, he said, is very interested in what its youth are doing and will do almost anything to help them reach their goals.

Father Botton of St. John's feels that religion is affecting "a minority" of young people in Darien, "not a majority."

Those that are affected "have become very communicative to other people and very committed to Christ, very willing to give of themselves," according to Father Botton. "It also helps to get involved with younger kids."

Mr. Sanford of the United Methodist Church feels that religiosity is affecting some, but by no means all, young people in Darien. Those who are affected, he feels, show its influence by their concern for things outside of their own lives, particularly the experiences of others.

Mr. Paulsen of the Noroton Presbyterian Church found the question, "Do you think religion affects young people in general in Darien?" a difficult one to answer. "I think many young people in Darien are aware of a church in one way or another," he stated, "but the 'religious' aspect of people's lives in Darien is not a major part of their lives."

Reverend Fogal had much to say on this subject. "Religion," he said, "is touching the lives of a lot of kids today, and for that I am thankful, but I feel that something is still missing." He went on to say that in spite of the growing youth groups, there is a large amount of alcohol and other drug abuse in our community. Mr. Fogal is the head of the Task Force on Teenage Alcohol Education in Darien.

Mr. Fogal is tired of hearing teenagers complain that "there's nothing to do in Darien" because it is his belief that they have the power to do something to change their situation, and that "power" is the youth groups. He would like to see all of the groups join together and become a real "social force" in Darien to right the wrongs as they see them.

Mr. Buist feels that St. John's has a definite impact on those young people who attend it. He stated that he has seen several of the kids that he has worked with in Darien that have gone off to college, and he finds that they are still very religious and still consider religion important in their lives. Mr. Buist stated that he feels "the town of Darien is not, in terms of faith, very religious on the whole, but across the board all types of people in Darien are beginning to get more religious." He is optimistic about the future of religion in the community. "In terms of getting together and observing the forms of religion, and I make a distinction between this and religious faith, the town of Darien has always been rather religious."

Mr. Sanford feels that Darien has a substantial amount of religious involvement, citing the large amount of activity and interest in religion among its congregations and others in the community.

Father Botton says that like young people, a minority of adults in Darien is religiously committed. "Again, I go back to a minority, because to the majority, religion is Sunday school."

Mr. Fogal looks upon Darien as a whole much the way he regards the situation with the town's youth. "I know that there is great excitement in the churches because more and more people are going to them, yet it is my opinion that there is more to being a Christian than sitting in church. To me, Christianity means engaging in other things, working for the common good: alleviating poverty and bringing justice to the world. I would like to see more of this attitude in Darien."
Pam Rich, dressed in her official riding habit, practices with her horse, Duke of Windsor.

**Swimmers, Spikers, Field Girls Fare Well In States**

"With a little hard work, hopefully we can do it again next year," said Coach Deborah Billington, referring to her girls' volleyball team. The team ended the season with a dual meet record of 7-5, a third in its pool in the state and third in the FCIAC match.

The girls' performance improved as they played their way through the season. Although Greenwich best Darien in both games of the dual meet, Darien turned around and beat Greenwich in both games of the state match.

The state match consisted of twenty-two teams. They were divided into four pools with five or six teams in each pool. Darien played against New Canaan, Ludlowe, Greenwich, Westhill, and Maloney. Each team played the other teams in its pool twice. Darien went into the states in seventeenth place out of twenty-two teams. After the time they finished, they had won five out of ten games, giving them third place in their division and ranking them as one of the top twelve teams in Connecticut.

"This was the best season ever," said Dave Reilly, coach of the Darien High School girls' swim team, still smiling as he had been ever since his team started to win. The coach had a lot of smiling to do as he watched his team improve last year's 5-5 record to 6-4, unhold its fifth place in the county, and place third in the State Class "L" championship.

Darien was not able to equal last year's second place because of the arrival of Cheshire High School to the "L" division. Second place Cheshire beat Darien by 39 points while Darien conquered fourth place Wilton by 53 points. The results were similar to the county meet results, each girl improving her rank by one or two places, except for Sue Dunne who moved all the way from eighteenth to seventh place in the 100-yard butterfly race.

Coach Reilly says his philosophy of working hard the whole season and never resting for a meet until championship time has definitely worked. One can see that by looking at the times. The other teams equaled or swam slower than their seeded times while in almost all cases Darien's times dropped tremendously with each succeeding championship meet.

The Darien High School Field Hockey team began state tournament play by upsetting twelfth-ranked Sheehan High School of Willington, by a score of 23-1 on November 18. The Wavers then advanced to the second round of play, meeting fifth-ranked Staples High School, which was soon to end Darien's Cinderella campaign by a close score of 2-1.

Staples evened until, with a minute remaining in the game, Staples scored, chalking up a 2-1 victory.

In the first round of play, Darien (ranked twenty-first in the state) met a heavily favored Sheehan team. "We came out fired up and ready to play," said Diane Kirkley. Jassey Daik, playing right inner, scored early for Darien. To open the second half of play, Karen Deegan scored an unassisted goal from her right wing position to give Darien a 2-0 lead.

Sheehan came back to score but their attempt proved futile as the strong Darien defense shut down Sheehan for the remainder of the game. "It was one of the best games the team played all season," claimed Karen Deegan.

Darien, which had tied fifth-ranked Staples in the regular season, came into the state game against them confident of victory.

After a tough first half during which no goals were scored, Jassey Daik recorded the first goal for Darien early in the second half. However, this was to be the only score for the hockettes. Staples came back to tie the score midway through the second half. Staples continued to press Darien but failed to put anything together. The game looked as though it was going into overtime when suddenly, with only one minute remaining, Staples pulled the victory with a desperation shot.

**Athletes Excel In U.S.**

By PHILIPPA BOWLEY

This is the first of a two-part series on outstanding girl athletes at DHS.

It requires much time, hard work dedication, talent, patience and love for what one is doing to excel at a sport. Several girls at Darien High School have met these requirements and have attained a special excellence.

**Swimmer Gina Layton**

Gina Layton, ranked second in the nation and eighth in the world in the 200-yard backstroke, says swimming is the hardest sport there is. But, because Gina practices daily with the Stamford AAU team at St. Mary's High School pool in Greenwich.

Swim meets are held in different YMCA's and universities throughout Connecticut and the rest of New England. The furthest Gina ever traveled was California, where she earned her national and world ranks.

She will travel to East Berlin in December for a dual meet between East Germany and the United States.

Gina feels that swimming is the hardest sport because it is done in an unnatural environment. The swimmer can't breathe when he wants to and has to teach himself to swim, whereas the runner just works hard at something that comes naturally.

To further prove her point, Gina adds that a swimmer must swim three times as long to cover the same distance as a runner. She also says that swimming is the best sport for getting your whole body in shape.

Gina will definitely swim while she attends college, where she will start long-term training for the 1980 Olympic Games.

**Student Rides In ‘Garden’ Competition**

Pam Rich recently went to Madison Square Garden with her horse Duke of Windsor and took sixth place, showing her horse against many other leading junior exhibitors (those under eighteen) of the United States.

Where did it all start? When Pam was six years old her father bought her a horse. She used to ride the horse and practice jumping. The few years she has had five different horses and has changed to showing her horses instead of jumping. This year she started showing horses two years ago and liked it and decided to stay with it.

Pam practices only once a week because the barn where Duke of Windsor stays is one hour away. She competes once or twice a month during the show season from May until November in places such as Ohio, Kentucky, Vermont, and Madison Square Garden.

Pam says she never gets sick of horseback riding. She rides because she enjoys it so much, and because her father shares her big interest in horses and riding.

**Aquarius Designs West**

Darien, Conn.

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Darien, Conn.
Gymnasts Win Everything

By CHRISTOPHER PACE

The Darien boys gymnastics team swept away with both the FCIAC and state championships in its post-season meets. This closed out an impeccable undefeated season and left the gymnasts with their third consecutive state title.

The team scored a spectacular 116.25 point total in the FCIAC championship, leaving other teams far behind: Greenwich (102.9), Stamford (75.9), Westhill (69.65).

DHS co-captain Clay Moltz performed brilliantly in capturing first place in five of the six events. He compiled a huge 66.05 point total, showing again that he is the best all-around state high school gymnast.

Junior Tom Kratky placed first in his favorite event, vaulting. He also took third place in the all-around. Clay and Tom led the way for a totally inspired team effort. Co-captain John Reichart, Sal Abbate, and Gary Eckrich added the rest of the team’s points. DHS scores went as follows:

- Floor exercise: 1) Clay Moltz 8.05; 2) Brian Mixon 7.6; 3) Tom Kratky 7.6; 4) Gary Eckrich 4.45.
- Pommel horse: 1) C. Moltz 6.5; 2) Clay Moltz 6.5; 3) T. Kratky 6.45; 4) T. Kratky 4.1.
- Rings: 1) C. Moltz 7.9; 2) T. Kratky 5.95; 3) Sal Abbate 4.85.
- Vaulting: 1) T. Kratky 8.65; 2) J. Reichart 7.8; 3) C. Moltz 7.05.
- Parallel Bars: 1) C. Moltz 7.8; 3) T. Kratky 5.55; 4) J. Reichart 4.75.
- High bar: 1) C. Moltz 8.1; 3) Tom Kratky 8.1; 4) Jeff Metzger 4.75.
- Parallel bars: 1) C. Moltz 7.8; 3) T. Kratky 5.55; 4) J. Reichart 4.75.
- Horizontal bar: 1) Clay Moltz 8.1; 3) Tom Kratky 8.1; 4) Jeff Metzger 4.75.
- Floor exercise: 1) Clay Moltz 8.05; 4) John Reichart 7.8.
- Rings: 1) C. Moltz 7.9; 4) T. Kratky 5.95; 5) Sal Abbate 4.85.
- Vaulting: 1) T. Kratky 8.65; 4) J. Reichart 7.8; 5) C. Moltz 7.05.
- Parallel Bars: 1) C. Moltz 7.8; 3) T. Kratky 5.55; 4) J. Reichart 4.75.

More than half the team graduated in June. Second team All-County goalie Brian Woples was among them. To add to this misfortune, the team’s leading scorer last year, All-State forward Tom Holland, and second team All-County defensman Frank Carter have moved away. Thus leaves Captain Boie Bogardus, who was All-County last year. Forwards Tim Appleton, Jeff Metzger, and Doug Hart will also help the pucksters, according to varsity coach Jim Widmer.

The only returning senior with any varsity experience is center Clay Colbath, and he played mostly JV last year.

Coach Ericson will be trying to avoid getting off to the same kind of start as last year. “We started out 1-7, and it’ll be tough if we have the same thing this year.” But then we bounced back and won five of the last six,” says Ericson. Summing up the possibilities for this year’s hooper’s, Ericson states, “We have a lot of potential.”

Wrestling

The goal for this year’s DHS wrestlers, according to varsity coach Jim Girard, will be to “Finish at or above .500 and make it to the FCIAC’s.”

Last year’s record of 5-9-1 should be improved upon, and if everyone wrestles up to his ability, the team should reach the county championship meet.

But before the county championships, Darien must outrace several very tough teams in Staples, Wilton, and Trumbull. “The entire Eastern Division is going to be real tough this year,” adds Girard.

Co-captains Chris Kratky (123, varsity won-lost mark last year) and Scott Savage (77-1) should compete in the 121-pound and 147-pound weight classes respectively. Frank Palmer (75-5-1) will also be returning to the varsity and wrestling at 132 pounds, as will Keith Dayton at 157, and Joey Augustus (69-13 last year) at 165 pounds.

Some promising talent up from the JV squad, coached by John Nimock to a 1-2 record last year, will be Ron Ferreire at 128 pounds, Dan Brax at 140 pounds, and Mark Hoffman, a sophomore who wrestled with the JV squad as a ninth grader and compiled an 11-2 record. Hoffman should wrestle at 144 pounds.

For Good Winter Sports Season