Doc Remains Principal, Ready To Accept Input

By GREG REILLY

Donald C. Robbins, former acting principal of Darien High School, has been named principal by Darien Public School Superintendent Joseph B. Porter and the Board of Education.

Dr. Robbins was recommended for the principalship of DHS by Dr. Porter at a regular meeting of the Board of Education on May 18. Immediately following the recommendation, the board voted and gave its unanimous approval. Dr. Robbins' position has been in effect since that moment.

The screening committee which picked three finalists from roughly one hundred applicants from all over the county was thanked and commended at the meeting by Dr. Porter for completing a job well done.

A few days after the announcement, Associate Superintendent Ralph Persichino, who was the chairman of that screening committee, admitted that Dr. Robbins had an advantage over the other candidates because the committee was able to observe him in the job. "We are impressed with the job done so far," he said. He also acknowledged that Dr. Robbins has gained the support of just about everyone involved in and around the high school. When asked why he feels this way, Mr. Persichino commented that Dr. Robbins took command immediately after his appointment as acting principal this past summer and worked well with the school's staff in developing objectives for the coming school year. Said Mr. Persichino, "He saw what had to be done and so far he has been successful in starting these jobs."

Dr. Robbins is pleased that he was selected to remain in the principalship, to which he adjusted very quickly while working over the summer. He feels that he is fortunate to have had the support of the superintendent, the board and the faculty, which allowed him to go ahead and start making changes that would help reach the goals that have been cooperatively established.

One of the goals to which Dr. Robbins has been dedicating himself is to have a greater student input into school governance. The all-school workshop which is scheduled for December 15 is Continued on page 2

‘All-School Workshop’ Planned For December 15

By JAMIE MACKENZIE

An “All-School Workshop” has been planned tentatively for Wednesday, Dec. 15 by Donald C. Robbins, principal, and the School Council, the advisory body made up of students, faculty, staff, and parents representing the entire school community.

The student body will be divided up into approximately eighty groups of fifteen each, with each group to be led by one or two students and observed by an adult faculty member or Darien citizen.

The purpose of the workshop is for the administration and the School Council to learn more about the students’ views on DHS policy and strengths.

The group leaders, who were nominated by the teachers on the basis of their leadership potential, though not necessarily their previous leadership experience, will lead their respective sections in a discussion centering on two basic questions: How can we involve more students in the decision-making process of school governance and activities, and what do students perceive as the strengths, needs, and priorities of our school?

Obtaining input from the entire student body on what kind of student government would best represent the entire school is a high priority for the discussions. "The administration and School Council don’t think there is enough input from the student representatives," said School Council Chairman Suzi Coates. "We hope to get a really good cross section of ideas."

The workshop will begin with an all-school assembly lasting approximately twenty minutes, in order to set the tone and purpose. The students will then break up into their groups to discuss the issues for approximately one hour and fifteen minutes, after which they will fill out a questionnaire. Both the group leaders and the adult observer will submit separate reports to the School Council, and the detailed results of both the questionnaires and these reports will be made available to the students. "I hope to gain some specific information about what a new student government could look like," Dr. Robbins said. "It’s important for me as principal to know how students view the strengths and weaknesses of DHS."

The group leaders and adult observers will have been briefed in meetings with Dr. Robbins prior to the workshop on how to lead a discussion group. Both Dr. Robbins and Suzi Coates stated that if the first workshop is successful, more such sessions may be held in the future. "If holding these small group discussion seminars works well, and the students find them productive, then we might be willing to do it again, dealing with other issues," said Dr. Robbins. "I am committed to the fact that we must have a student government which represents a larger number of students and a more representative cross section of the student body. Beyond that, I’m open to new ideas."

Black To Leave, Takes Greenwich Post

By LESLIE EVANS

"I leave with the mixed feelings of excitement and anticipation of future professional growth and challenge mingled with nostalgia for a past which was good to me and my family," commented John A. Black in his resignation letter to the Superintendent of Schools Joseph B. Porter.

Dr. Black has taught for the past five and a half years at DHS. His new post at Greenwich will be his first experience in a purely administrative position. When asked why he accepted this administrative post he answered, "I have been teaching for the past fourteen years, and I want a challenge that can always come back to the class room."

In addition to teaching three English classes, Dr. Black has the added responsibility of chairmanship. As chairman, it is his job to observe classes, to supervise teachers, and to provide leadership in curriculum. As a result, Dr. Black feels that he now has two full-time jobs. He believes that he could not put all of his effort into two jobs without sacrificing one for the other. For example, he feels that he was beginning to perform his administrative duties at the expense of his students. With this realization, he began to seek another job opportunity.

As he read through the job description of the housemaster position, he was pleased to see that the candidate must "demonstrate his interest in education by teaching a class." Although he dis­agreed that the teaching position must be given priority, he feels fortunate that he will have the opportunity to continue to spend some time in the classroom. Therefore, Dr. Black believes that as housemaster, he will have all the responsibilities he now has as chairman, without the added burden of a mandatory teaching job which entails three classes and a building commitment.

Dr. Black has had an interesting
Administration Responsive To Students

Fortunately for our high school, Dr. Robbins is remaining as our principal. He knows the students and faculty, which is preferable to an outsider coming in with no sense of what things here are like. Because Dr. Robbins had this advantage, we anticipated that he would not hesitate to make changes or innovations that would help accomplish the objectives that have been established for the betterment of our school. It appears that our optimism was justified.

Dr. Robbins feels that December 15, the day of the all-school workshop, will be a very important day for him as well as the school. We agree with him. Our recently appointed principal is open and ready to accept fresh input from each individual member of the student body. He and the School Council have been dedicated to this workshop, as it is an attempt to get different people’s ideas and suggestions pertaining to DHS.

We hope that the students are ready to take advantage of the opportunity because Dr. Robbins has promised to listen and take into serious consideration the ideas and proposals suggested.

Seniors, in particular, should not be apathetic and feel that nothing will happen to make things better before they leave DHS. We are hopeful that this attitude is not predominant because chances are that Dr. Robbins will act as quickly as possible to put feasible improvements into effect.

In a year that has seen a greatly improved school atmosphere and a minimum of negative disruption, we feel that this all-school workshop has the potential to be yet another step in the right direction.

'Neirad’ Bids Dr. Black Farewell

We acknowledge regretfully Dr. John Black’s resignation from his post at HS which becomes effective on January 3, 1977. No teacher has been with the school for five and one-half years as both teacher and chairman of the English Department. He has held these two positions through some turbulent years for his department. He voluntarily upheld and fought for the retention of the “elective” system. Dr. Black leaves DHS with a feeling of pride and accomplishment. The Council of English has decided that the English Department “for excellence in its instructional program, as revealed by its contributions to the high quality of writing of its one or more students has been awarded the Achievement Awards in English.”

The School ‘Should Be Run’ For Students

Continued from page 1

designed to get the entire student body’s views on the strengths and weaknesses of the school, as well as proposed solutions to problems, ideas students view them. “This should provide us with data with which we can go forward,” said the principal.

The workshop program tends to support Mr. Perschen’s comment that “Dr. Robbins has shown consistent and honest. He follow through with what he says.” William Curnin, high school faculty member and chairman of the screening committee, cited reasons why he felt Dr. Robbins is a good choice for the principal. He believes Dr. Robbins has done well in whatever job he had at DHS, ranging from social studies teaching to assistant principal and now as principal. Mr. Curnin also feels that the way in which Dr. Robbins works with people is beneficial for a man in his position.

Dr. Robbins is optimistic that the students have a good idea of what the school is for and he hopes they realize that while the school cannot be run by students, it should be run for them. “I feel that it helped him to know students and faculty before he stepped into his new office.”

The school has now been awarded “DHS as a good school, the now official principal stated, “It can be better . . . I would like to be a part of taking the principal role of the school which is acknowledged as such.”

The Boy Friend, a 1920’s musical satire, will be presented tonight at 8:15 in the DHS auditorium. The setting of the story is a girl’s boarding school on the French Riviera in 1936, where the love affairs of the head mistress and two English schoolgirls provide an amusing story. The basic themes of the play are the complications of boy meets girl, boy falls in love with girl, boy loses girl, etc. Dr. Edwards is directing and choreographing the show, with help from assistant director, Elizabeth Grady. A total of 65 members on stage and 17 backstage will be involved in the production. The music provided by a “nine-piece” jazz combo under the direction of Tom Labe. Both the book and the music for The Boy Friend were written by Sandy Wilson.

Playing the major roles are Diane Pazio as Malause, Bill Gera as Bobby, Clark Porter as Tony, and Carolyn Toner as Polly. Three-quarters of the show is song and dance.

308 To Present 'The Boy Friend'

Continued from page 1

In Dr. Black’s former position, the foremost priority of his successor will be to present Dr. Donald Robbins, principal, with a proposal written and endorsed by all of the English teachers. The teachers have been working on this proposal for a year using the booklet entitled ‘Workload for English Teachers” by the NCTE as their guideline. The proposal concerns the current English curriculum. English teachers now teach five classes instead of four classes as is recommended by the NCTE. Under this proposal in place of the fifth class, the teachers would hold a documented conference with the student. At this time, students would be able to meet with their teachers to discuss their writing.

Dr. Black had nothing but praise for the proposal, saying “The teachers have worked hard on it. Everyone,” said Dr. Black when asked to comment about the proposal.

Dr. Black had nothing but praise for the DHS for the way the students at DHS are “the nicest kids” he’s ever worked with. According to Dr. Black, the administration and faculty at DHS are “the most dedicated and thoroughly professional staff I have ever seen. This year we have added the secondary or college level.” He concluded by saying that the Board of Education is “extremely cooperative and sensitive to the problems of DHS.”

Dec 1

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"Have it! and n who ask last w inex pecting col ling aren’t The situa tion reach silly ing it Good You a speed ford t, :hour and a That’s the first c and speed sid es a first sect ion int you a miss ing e right how then, you happy
Did You Hear About...?

By BILL BLABBIT

Scandals within the councils, the nurse stocking B.C. pills... dope deals in toilet stalls... car accidents and B.O. and P.U. — inexcusable... will a certain teen-aged alcoholic be able to save a rocky romance... what will become of the affairs between teachers and students and two members of the same sex? Just what goes on here anyway? It's gossip mania. It's no secret that with the '70's came a steady decline of morals and manners. Everyone seems more fascinated than ever by behind-the-scenes glimpses, now it can be told, revelations, and personal details. The new openness, frankness, and truth of the century was followed by gossip and lies. Just how much of the talk is lies you can never tell, and that's what leaves us vulnerable, pulls us in. That's why gossip is such big business.

Rona Barrett and Hollywood Scene, The Star, People magazine, The Enquirer, all thrive on gossip. And so the latest craze has hit Darien High. Everyone's guilty of it. But gossip is irresistible... and alluring... I wait with breathless anxiety to report who's wearing whose jock jacket, or who just broke up, or who was just busted for pot. Or who's on the gossip and be the source of a rumor is a powerful feeling.

Monday seems to be the best day for gossip. Having collected a vast storehouse of juicy tidbits this weekend, Deep Threat, Darien High's own gossip queen, goes to work. Do you sometimes wonder how everybody knows what you've been up to? Deep Threat... That night, telephone wires were sure to tingle. Can it be true? Did he? Are they? Will she? I gather my gossip at parties, in bathrooms, locker rooms, and by general observation. Deep Threat...

College Bound

Following Due's good advice, you "walk right in" to bump into a 6'2" football player standing in his "Fruit of the Loom" holding a Playboy in one hand and a Schilte in the other.

"Oh, my God, I... well, you see... Dad said this was... only I guess... oh, no... maybe this isn't the admissions office... is it? ... Not exactly, honey, but if you need someone, say, here's a clue, I'll see what I can do myself."

Morals #2 look before you leap into those "red brick buildings." Don't be discouraged, most of you will make at least one interview, and now it's your chance to express yourself. Yup, after a 30-minute quiz session on what your credentials are, you get two and one-half minutes to ask questions.

In my opinion, this is a great opportunity. I'll be one of the lucky few who found a legal park to park your car, it may not be towed away the next morning.

So just remember during these last few precious months of high school — you'll never again have it so good. If you don't believe that do you? Just as one returning former DHS senior said, "College is the ultimate in good times. It's great place to live; I just wouldn't want to visit all over again."

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The secret's out! Gossip is on the rampage. A school is only as good as its gossip, and judged by those standards, DHS is the best around. And remember... you heard it here first...

December 9, 1976

Neirad Page 3
Blue Wave Teams Combine For 52-38-4 Record

By DAVID BAUDER and MARY ELLEN NEUGING

One state championship and three other winning teams highlighted the fall sports season at DHS. A capitated summary of the eight teams follows.

Gymnastic Team

The boys' gymnastic team has traditionally been one of the finest squads in the Darien High School sports program. In the ten years that Darien has had a team (it's traced by Isodore Battinno) seven state championships have been won. This year's team continued in this tradition by sweeping all of their meets to top the state crown. Anthony DiSilvestro, Peter Nolan, Clay Moltz, Ken Holmes, Josh Moltz, and Peter Francescon all gained honors for the jobs they did this year.

Volleyball

Facing the expected drawbacks of a new team, mainly being inexperience and competing with already established strong teams, the girls' volleyball team managed to finish with a 4-8 record this year. Coach Deborah Billington noted that the girls put forth "a good effort" and some very close and disappointing games, but were often commended and well received as a new team.

The team was led by senior and co-captain Bebe Herbert and co-captain Cathy Scholtz, who along with Cindy Davis, turned in consistent play throughout the season. Because the squad was composed entirely of juniors and sophomores this year, Coach Billington is looking forward to a stronger, more experienced team next year.

Soccer

After a slow start, the Blue Wave booters were the hottest team in the FCIAC during the second half of the season. The offense had some trouble scoring goals in the early part of the year, but they recovered and joined the consistently strong defense to rip off seven straight wins to close out the season. Two of those wins were against New Canaan and eventual league champion Brien McMahon.

The regular season ended with a 9-3-2 record. The booters suffered a tough loss in their first game of the state tournament against Watertown. After four overtime periods could not break a 1-1 tie, the two teams had to decide it with penalty kicks. Co-captain John Williams, Bill Morehouse, Mike Barrett, Vinnie Ferraina, Bob Brady, Co-captain Ted DeSelding, and Tony Fletcher were just some of the many players who turned in fine performances this year.

Girls' Cross Country

A pleasant surprise in the girls' fall sports line-up this year was the performance of the newly established girls' cross country team, captured by Chris Bonomo, Toni Brown, and Molly Kolb.

Coach Steve Norris commented that he was "pleased" with the girls' 7-6 record and their performance in the FCIAC girls' cross country championships, where they finished second and also in the Class M State Sectionals, where they finished sixth.

The team is expected to do well next year with all of the top seven returning, including strong performers Molly Kolb, Kathy Kanning, Claudia Bowlin, Toni Brown and Jeanne Mueller.

Boys' Cross Country

The boys' cross country team was one of the finest in the state this year, and ended up with a record of 3-5. It was a strong performance by the team, which was led by a trio of seniors, including strong performers Mollie Kolb, Kathy Kanning, Claudia Bowlin, Toni Brown and Jeanne Mueller.

Field Hockey Team

Failing to bear their 3-3-5 record of last year, the girls' field hockey team's hopes of qualifying for the state championships were not fulfilled when they scored enough goals and ended up with a 3-2-6 season.

Football

The gridmen ended their season on a positive note by stopping Staples, 7-2, in a ferociously played defensive struggle. Strong performances were turned in by Tony Todd, Randy Wyckoff, Rhet Drugg, and Jeff King, as well as the entire defensive unit.

The team, led by graduating Tri-captains Starr, King, and Lapinacci, finished with a record of 2-7. If just a few of the close games this season turned around, especially the opening day heartbreaker against Greenwich, the season's complexion might have been entirely different. The scoring leader was Dave Tuttle, who will return.

Swim Team

The Darien High School aquamaids also failed to make a winning season this year and ended up with a 3-5 record, which is only one meet better than last year's 2-6 record.

Led by Tri-captains Jane Haselton, Kelly Clough, and Cappy Craig, who are all strong performers, the girls did, however, place second in the Class L and sixth in the state championship meet. In the state diving competition, the aquamaids finished impressively, with Cappy Craig copping first, Karen Geist third, and Donna Smith sixth. Cindy Atkinson, Nancy Wetmore, Sue Dunne, and Carol Hilariche were also state performers who will be returning next year.

Pucksters Promise Positive Results

By PETER PUCK III

Blue Wave hockey fans will have something to look forward to this season. The hockey team, coached by Phil Clark, features nine returning letterwinners and figures to be tough to beat.

Although this year's club, with seven sophomores, is smaller and has less experience than last year's team, Coach Clark believes that it has as much speed and talent. He commented, "I expect the team to be a contender for the FCIAC [Championship]."

The key to Darien's success will be, according to Clark, a very aggressive offense which will be employed. Clark described the team as having depth in the forward position. Among this year's Waver forwards are Mike Barrett, Dan Grady, Brian Hathaway, Tom Hallard, John Williams, Doug Howard, Boie Bogardus, Bill McGill, and Jeff Grady.

Although the team's record was worse than she expected, Coach Rebecca Strominger noted that she was not too surprised since this year's team's strategy was to go for the wins rather than the ties, which unfortunately resulted in more losses. She also noted that they played many close games against teams she termed as "all quite good," and many of which later qualified for the state final.

This year, strong performances were turned in by departing seniors Gail Grimes, Betsy Seel, Sue Walthen, Joanne Capasse, and Kelly Ryan, along with many talented juniors and sophomores.

"The defense is not as deep as in past years but is strong," commented Coach Clark. The defense includes Craig Sinclair, Pat Corsiglia, Frank "Mad Dog" Carter, and Dave Wulmer.

The netminders are Brian Peoples, Tom Christie, and Harrison Norris. Clark added, "The goalies are less experienced than last year's but are talented." The pucksters will be starting off the season with a few changes, most of which are cosmetic. Face masks must be worn by the players' helmets on the state tournaments and Coach Clark wants the players to get used to them during the season, so they will be used. New uniforms will be worn by the players. Also, a school pep band may be playing at the games to psyche up the Darien fans.

The start of the season will be very tough for the Wavers. They opened against Greenwich on Saturday, December 4, and then play Norwalk, New Canaan, McMahon, and Ridgefield, all proven winners. But with an aggressive offense and a strong defense they could easily start off the season winning, and stay out of the "sinbin" (penalty box).