Newcomers Receive The Cold Shoulder

By JEANNE MUELLER

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Dr. Robbins congratulates Tracey Blackfield, one of the thirty DHS seniors who graduated on January 27. (Photo by Greg Reilly)

he is greeted by an aide who shows him around and introduces him to his friends.

As a solution, the School Council has proposed a newcomer's organization of student volunteers to help the new students adapt to the Darien High School community. According to this proposal, the volunteer will be a person whose interests are similar to those of the new student's. For a week, the volunteer guide would introduce the student to, classes and clubs, and give him information on the various clubs and sports.

The School Council has also considered the formation of a Newcomer's Club. This club would be like any other in that it would organize various activities. However, its main purpose would be for those new students to get to know one another. Then they would not have to worry about sitting alone at lunch with no one at whom to throw orange peels.

Guidance Argues No Counseling From Outsiders

By JAMIE MacKENZIE

A disagreement has arisen recently between the DHS Guidance Department and administration over the use of outside agencies in the school to supplement the existing staff. The issue arises because of the guidance department's objection to the "use of persons who are not certified, salaried and supervised by the Board of Education."

The specific agency over which the controversy has developed is Youth Options. This club is a component of the Drug Liberation Program in Stamford, and it is funded jointly by the towns of Darien and New Canaan and the federal government. According to Hap Dunne, director of the agency, he was invited into DHS three and one-half years ago by then principal Gordon Bruno to work with a group of students who had failed all their subjects in the first semester, and to set up a group counseling program in conjunction with school psychologist Judy Ulrich. Gerald Heffernan, chairman of the guidance department, states that Dunne was only called in for "short-term intensive counseling" exclusively with that group, and not to set up a counseling program in the school. The decision to bring in Mr. Dunne was made without the consultation or approval of the guidance department, however.

After counseling that initial group for two weeks, in which attendance was mandatory, Mr. Dunne and Mrs. Ulrich began counseling with other groups in the school. Since then they have counseled groups every semester, up to and including the second semester of last year, when Mr. Dunne brought in other members of his staff. Attendance at the sessions was voluntary and the students signed up on their own or were recommended to attend by their guidance counselor, with the exception of those groups affiliated with the work-study program.

The purpose of those group counseling sessions was, in Mr. Dunne's words, for the students to "get to know themselves better, to have a place where they could talk about their problems, to get help from one another, and to get help from us in terms of looking at alternatives to current behavior patterns." A wide variety of topics was covered. (Continued on page 2)
Guidance Contradicts Past Practices

The controversy, caused by our guidance department, over the use of outside counselors may not be totally justified. The guidance department has previously referred troubled students to an agency that was working in school, Youth Options, but now the department has decided that such an auxiliary agency should not be used on campus and is instead going to contract with the Board of Education.

What prompted the guidance department to object suddenly to the use of outside counselors, a system to which it had not objected before? The answer to this question is a crucial, but missing, factor that is necessary to determine the cause of the disagreement.

Uncertified people have worked here in the past without objection from guidance, but now they are being prevented from performing their special function in our school. It appears that the guidance department is contradicting its own previous practices. If members of the department have a valid reason for changing their minds after several years that would justify their position, it should be explained publicly.

One of the reasons that Dr. Dunne gives is that Youth Options specializes in the prevention of drug abuse. Mr. Dunne bases his argument on the fact that a good portion of the population is involved in drug abuse. Therefore, it is important to have a counselor who excels in this area of work. The guidance department feels that this type of counselor is necessary.

As far as we can see, Mr. Dunne provided a much-needed service and one that has been lacking in our school. We hope that the counselors that are making their way into our school will be as helpful as Mr. Dunne was during his time with Youth Options.

The guidance department should specify what, if anything, it objects to about Youth Options. While Youth Options worked in our school, it was able to provide counseling to the students who needed it. It is possible that the guidance department is out of its element by trying to control the work of a reputable agency.

As far as we see it, Youth Options provided a needed service and one that was lacking in our school. We hope that the counselors that are making their way into our school can make a similar contribution.

To the Editor:

In the past few days, I have not enjoyed my student monitoring job very much. There is a small minority of students who seem to revel in the attention they receive while deliberately provoking or harassing me. It becomes a major status symbol to completely ignore, or do the exact opposite of what I ask.

The student monitoring concept was initiated by Dr. Robbins to provide for a gradual change in cafeteria study hall supervision; from control by the teachers to student control. Total student control would benefit both students and teachers, as the teachers could use the valuable time belonging to the school, and the students would not feel inhibited by a faculty "baby-sitter." In my opinion, we are a long way off from student control (and perhaps it will never be possible), but it is also an unfortunate reflection on the entire student body. It's the old case of the minority spoiling it for the majority.

It has been said that the appearance of the cafeteria is a reflection of the way we treat our room for the entire year. Last year, I tend to doubt it when I see plastic lunch trays on the floor, an assortment of cups, cans, and bags on the tables. Improvement should not be measured by comparison with last year, but with each successive day, I don't understand why it is so hard to throw away our own trash and push in your chair, or move to another table while others are not doing so.

The monitors must be given more respect, and this can only be accomplished by having each student assume more responsibility. Ask yourself, "Am I doing my part, or adding to the problem?"

Respectfully submitted,
Gail MacKenzie

Guidance Done With Ham Dunne?

(Continued from page 1)

discussed, for as Mr. Dunne puts it, "there are no taboo subjects" in his group discussions. This year Mr. Dunne was told that he could no longer use the high school's facilities until the guidance department and the administrative board had established guidelines for the use of ancillary agencies. The guidance department issued a policy recently which states its guidelines. It now "requires" the department's permission before any certified personnel salaried by the Darien Board of Education shall be permitted to work with students on a regular and on-going basis, and that opportunity should be provided to present their services to interested students in the school, but only on a one-time basis. The paper goes on to say that the members of the guidance department feel that treatment of the "seriously disturbed" does not belong in an educational institution, and that "it is an unessential labor practice to bring in outside personnel to perform functions for which regular personnel are certified, salaried and accountable." "This school is not a mental hospital or therapeutic institution," Mr. Heffernan said. "If there is a need for counseling which we can't provide (and the guidance counselors do give counseling for personal problems), then that type of counseling shouldn't be done in school anyw..." However, he stipulates that the emphasis of those wishing to improve the school's guidance facilities should not be on bringing in additional outside aid but rather on restoring the existing staff to its former strength.

The central administration has drawn up a conflicting pair of guidelines, which states that the absence of certification shall not prohibit a school from using outside ancillary services. This contradiction of the guidance department guidelines is likely to cause a problem if the school administration decides to call in uncertified outside personnel to relieve the guidance counselor. Dr. Robbins stated that as far as he is concerned, "appropriately outside agencies are welcome, but they shall not be called in if the need arises and we cannot meet that need with our own counselors." Mr. Dunne doesn't see a single session as being very effective, but he does not consider the need for building up the trusting relationship that he says is essential for group counseling. Despite the guidance department's repeated statements that they make referrals to Youth Options and other agencies when additional counseling is needed, Mr. Dunne claims that they do not refer people to his agency and says that (as of Jan. 11) he had not received one referral from the DHS guidance department this year.

At the present time Ham Dunne has no plans to return to the high school, and he has agreed not to attempt to begin any kind of formal counseling relationship with either his old group or any other group as long as the guidance department maintains its present position.

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January Graduates Work, Study, Travel

(Continued from page 1)

eventually plans to attend college. At the present time, she is working at the Norwalk Frame Shop in the temporary house that will be in Central America. She will travel to El Salvador to live with the Dunne family in Nina plans to attend college in the fall. Margaret Smith has decided to attend Harvard in the fall. Karen Harvey will work full time during the fall. She is thinking of enrolling in the U.S. Air Force. Bob Deleo and Sue Swanson are planning to work full time after graduation. Bill Christianson will return home in June from a year's stay in Denmark as a VIU student. She will attend High Point College in North Carolina. At the graduation ceremony Peggy Reilly accepted Miss Christianson's diploma. Some of the January graduates will begin taking college courses after graduation. Eileen Neeson will start classes at New Rochelle Community College and then transfer to a four-year college, where she hopes to major in sociology. Mike Dunne is attending Wilkes College in Pennsylvania. She started classes as a non-matriculated student at the University of Connecticut. He is working in a New York City, Shanon Carroll will work full-time until she enters Stone's School of Business in January. Hoping to find out whether she is suited for the occupational therapy field, Dottie Magano would like to find a job in a local convoluted center working with an occupational therapist. The guidance department has done what they can with the guidance department.

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By MARY ELLEN KIGGINS

The Darien High School girls' gymnastics team suffered its first loss of the season to a strong Greenwich team on Thursday, January 27, by a score of 86 to 93.5.

The disappointing loss broke the gymnasts winning streak, which they have held since last year. Senior co-captain Ann Votava was the leading point scorer for Darien, earning a total of 38.3 points and placing first in the all-around competition, which includes balance beam, uneven bars, vaulting, and floor exercise.

The meet increased Greenwich’s record to 4-1 while Darien maintained a 5-1 record. “In the last four meets we’ve had no competition,” sophomore Joni Fetta explained, “but when the competition came along, we weren’t ready for it.”

Beginning with their first meet on January 10, the girls seemed headed towards another undefeated season when they went on to down Westhill, Andrew Warde, Danbury, and Roger Ludlow.

The team has been led by the outstanding performances of senior co-captain Ann Votava and sophomore Mary Matayer. Ann, who is described by Coach Mary Fedyn as a “strong all-around gymnast and a hard and determined worker,” held an impressive record in the first four meets, capturing first place in every event and remaining undefeated in the all-around competition.

Mary Matayer, who is only a sophomore and should prove threatening in future years of competition, placed second in the all-around competition in the first four meets.

The team has suffered from various disadvantages this year that may have affected its overall performance. The girls are forced to practice in the foyer of the gym and have not been able to fully set up floor exercise mats and practice routines from beginning to end.

Injuries have also plagued the team’s performance this year. The team misses the strong performances of Coach Donna Smith, who has been in- jured since before the season’s first meet took place and whose absence from the balance beam and floor ex- ercise departments has weakened the team’s depth in those areas.

However, Coach Fedyn commented that she is thrilled with the improvement from meet to meet and that although last year they had an all-around stronger team, the girls’ team’s depth and improvement are all a coach can ask for. “It’s not an undefeated record or a state title that shows how good a team is,” commented Ms. Fedyn. “It’s how much they put out.”

Skiers Work To Support Team

By GREG REILLY

Darien High School’s expanded ski organization is now in full swing. Erik Hedegaard-Schou, teachev aide, has taken control of a ski club with approximately 60 members and from this club is chosen the varsity ski team on a rolling admissions basis, which allows the team to choose different skiers each week.

The organization rents a bus and takes close to 15 members to each prac- tice. Any or all of these skiers may be timed and the ten best times are taken to amass the varsity team for a particular week while the same procedure is carried out to amass the varsity girls team for that week.

Extra skiers are taken (a few of whom have to pay) for $3.00 (due to limited budget) to the weekly meets, which are usually held at Big Birkie or Woodbury ski areas. If necessary, they will be used as substitutes or foray or are else they will be allowed to ski on their own for the duration of the stay, which is around three to three and one-half hours.

Captain Jim Reid feels the idea of rolling admissions is good because “it gives different people a shot if they want it.”

The system has proven successful, although more so for the girls than for the boys. The girls, led by Jenny Doble, Lyndell Robou, and Liz Handley, have shunned past all opponents thus far, remaining undefeated after the first four meets.

Frank Hammell, Rick Armstrong, and Mark Handley are leading the male skiers through an even record of two wins and two losses.

Enthusiasm has dwindled from the initial meeting when 100 people showed up to hear the exciting plans in store for the Ski Club. But the fact that the members have to raise money for their organization probably disheartened those 80 who did not return to help sup- port the group.

Tumblers: High Rollers

Pictured at the Woodbury Ski and Racquet Club are ski team boys’ co- captains Rick Armstrong, Jim Reid, Coach Erik Hedegaard-Schou, girls’ co-captains Jenny Doble, and Lyndell Robou. (Photo by Kevin McGloon)

By DOUG STEVENSON

The DHS wrestling team got off to a slow start this season. They finished last in the Westhill Christmas Tournament and did not break into the win column until a victory over Andrew Warde on January 14. However, these facts are deceiving. The underlying reasons for these early losses are the lack of men to fill the weight classes.

The team lost its opening meet of the season 36-19 to Westhill. The irony of that meet was that out of the matches wrestled, Darien won 19-18. But three forfeits handed the Vikings 18 points. In a meet against Norwalk, Wednesday, Jan. 12, Darien came up with a 24-04 tie, again due to the forfeit of two weight classes, which accounted for twelve points. Chris Krakty said, “We are going to need more pins to make up for the weight classes we are forfeiting.”

However, things started to look up for the Blue Wave when they downed Warde, 40-21. Darien wrestlers pinning opponents were Joe Augustus(86), Chris Krakty (123), Frank Palmer (119), John Krakty (112), and Dave McDonald (145). The matmen notched another victory, over Stamford Catholic, by a score of 37 to 34. The team’s efforts were led by four men who all took pins in their weight classes: Jack Humphrey (132), Dave McDonald (130), Scott Savage (140), and Dave Adams (111).

However, Darien went on to drop two meets, to Staples, 41-11, and to the number one team in the state, Brian McMahon, by a score of 64-6.

This year’s team is centered around a nucleus of six men: Jack Humphrey, Scott Savage, and Chris Krakty, who took third in the Westhill Tournament; also, Dave McDonald, who took second in the tournament, Keith Dayton, who finished fourth, and John Krakty, who took second. Co-captain John Krakty said, “We’ve got some good wrestlers but if we don’t fill the empty weight classes, we are going to have a tough season.”

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Bole Bogardus attempts a shot on goal during the hockey team's recent 2-1 victory over Westhill. (Photo by Scott Bauer)

Streaking Iceemen Bidding for Playoffs

By MARK CLOWES

The Darien High School hockey squad is the team to beat in the Eastern Conference of the FCIAC this season. The Blue Wave are sporting an impres­sive overall 10-1-2 record as of this writing, including victories over Brien McMahon and New Canaan, the former conference leaders.

After two regular season victories, the first official Waver loss came January 3 at the hands of Greenwich. The Cardinals defeated Darien 5-1 at the Byram-Greenwich Ice Rink. Frank Carter scored the lone goal for the Wave, who were clearly outmanned. When one of the Darien skaters was asked what the team did wrong, he answered puckster lamented, "What didn't we do wrong?"

Darien bounced back from the loss, however, with a hard-hitting 2-1 victory over Westhill. With the score tied 1-1, Dan Grady evaded a Westhill counter and went in alone against Roger Ludlowe. Brian McMahon, foreseeing as one of the Wave's toughest competitors, was the next victim of the Wavers. Darien bent them 4-2 in a hard-hitting contest at the Darien Ice Rink on January 19. Bill McGill and John Williams scored in the opening period, but the Senators also picked up two goals.

In the second stanza, John Williams scored what proved to be the winning goal with Craig Sinclair picking up the assist.

What will probably be considered the highlight of the season came on Saturday night, January 22, when the Blue Wave defeated arch-rival New Canaan 4-3 to gain first place in the FCIAC Eastern Conference. The thrilling 4-3 victory took place in front of a capacity crowd at the Darien Ice Rink.

After New Canaan had jumped out to an early 2-0 lead, Darien cut the Rams' margin in half when Doug Howard beat the New Canaan goalie with a slap shot from about fifteen feet out. Boie Boier and Co-captain Mike Barrett assisted. Barrett was making his first appearance since his knee injury sidelined him six weeks ago.

Darien closed out the second stanza, John Williams tied up the game on a one-on-one-against-the-goalie shot. He rushed the New Canaan goalie with a super shot. "We skated aggressively and we kept the puck in the offensive zone. We had a helluva time scoring, that's all," commented Phil Clark, the Darien coach, on his team's performance. He termed the defensive play "super" and he said that goaltender Tom Christin played "very well."

Darien lost the victory over Westhill with an 11-0 massacre over Roger Ludlowe.

The end of the third period was the most exciting part of the game. New Canaan was pressing in the Darien end and Mike Barrett got possession of the puck. He raced the puck all the way into the New Canaan zone, where he found himself with Phil Clark and John Anthony. He rifled the puck into the upper right corner of the net with Craig Sinclair picking up the assist.

Dan Grady ripped the puck into the upper right corner of the net with Craig Sinclair picking up the assist.

In the second stanza, John Williams scooted to the winning goal with Craig Sinclair picking up the assist.

The Wavers then hosted Andrew by the way the rest of the team picked up the slack when the Crusader defense shut off playmaker Bob Harford.

The second game was against the Vikings of Westhill. This one, however, was not so encouraging as the first. "I thought our effort against Westhill was poor," commented Co-captain Tom Larkin in recalling the 57-47 defeat.

After a 75-47 non-league loss to a talented Stamford quintet that was more of less expected, the Darien road show moved on to Rapha, where Rob Hartford broke out of a shooting slump to lead the Blue to their 64-53 win.

The first home game was a shootout against Norwalk High, and the Bears proved to be too much for Darien in gaining an 83-73 victory.

Co-captain Bob Allen, last year's Most Valuable Player, took over the team's leadership for this year. Allen is a big part of the scoring potential this year. He is the team's best all-round athlete and he will be counted on to give the team a spark.

The team started out the season with a non-league encounter at Stamford Catholic. The Wave lost, 76-62, but had to be encouraged by the way the rest of the team picked up the slack when the Crusader defense shut off playmaker Bob Harford.

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Swimmers Seek Class L Title

By KELLEY CLOUGH

As the hockey players don their skates in the early hours of each morn­ning at the Darien Ice Rink, another group of athletes is taking an equally tough test of dedication.

Every morning and afternoon, the DHS boys' swim team is either working out in the weight room, or making waves in the pool at the Darien YMCA. With this effort of dedication proved effective for Coach Michael Sangster's aquamen? They will try to match last year's team, which had a dual meet record of 11-1, and won the championships of both the FCIAC Eastern and State Class L divisions.

"Most definitely!" exclaimed Coach Sangster when asked if he thought his team would rise to the challenge. "We definitely have the physical potential. The fact that last year's good crop of seniors last year will apparently have no effect on our performance. Our returning lettermen, along with our new talent in the sophomores, will make up the difference.

The returning potential will also make a difference. One of this year's co-captains, Bob Allen, was last year's Most Valuable Player. "The return of Bob Allen and the Notre Dame an­chorman appears to teach in a virtual tie, but the call was awarded to N.D., giving them an 86-85 victory. All of the other meets have been relatively easy for the Wavers.

Looking ahead to the more important championship meets, Co-captain Larkin speculates that they "should have no problem in the Class L title again. Considering we're one of the stronger teams in the state without a pool, we'll make a fine showing for ourselves."

Hoopsters Stumble Off Starting Mark

By DAVID BAUDER

Costly mistakes and the simple lack of experience needed to be consistent winners in the FCIAC have made this season a disappointing one so far for the Darien hoopsters. Some good in­dividual efforts and occasional flashes of solid play have kept the Wavers afloat.

"I'm not fully satisfied," explained Coach Richard Ericson when dis­cussing the team's performance after six games. "I'm pleased with the progress but we need more if we want to win consistently."

The team started out the season with a non-league encounter at Stamford Catholic. The Wave lost, 76-62, but had to be encouraged by the way the rest of the team picked up the slack when the Crusader defense shut off playmaker Bob Harford.

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Maybe Tom Larkin is right. The Wavers stunned first place Trum­bull with a 76-72 victory on Feb. 1. The big upset lifted Darien's record to 9-5.