An Evening With Santa
by Kevin Wright

In a recent interview, I had the pleasure of asking Mr. S. Claus a few questions on the modernization of Christmas. We met over a leisurely egg nog in his home at 7 Sunny-Roof Avenue, North Pole 32088.

"Tell me, Mr. Claus," I said, "How do you react to the commercialization of Christmas?"

"Call me Santa, Bob. Well, you know, in the old days it wasn't like this. Why, even old Ebenezer Scrooge wasn't commercial compared to today. I tell you, kiddo, the world is in a sad state of affairs when you slide down the chimney onto an electric yulelog. I mean, in the old days my better half used to get a bit singed, but still, the scent of burning wood made it seem worthwhile. Nowadays, I come sliding down chimneys onto these 20,000 volt yulelogs. When I'm all wet from the snow, it gets a bit painful, let me tell you!"

"Gee, uh, well how about artificial trees?"

"Don't get me started. Blue Eyes! You wouldn't believe the way I hate them! They either smell like raw rubber or Arid Extra-Dry! Next thing you know, the little kiddies will be hanging Sears Catalogs on my chimney!"

And the stuff those dear little monsters leave out for my no-good rotten reindeer and me! Cheer! If there's one thing I can't stand, it's putting up all that Christmas Instant Breakfasts! I'm getting along in years, you know, and an old man like me needs something to keep him warm on cold winter nights. Get the message, Vo?"

"I'm beginning to. What about your elves?"

"Lord love a duck, how they bug me, I tell ya, Clown, now they're on strike! Can you believe it? Santa's little helpers striking for a better working hours, a new pension, and more money. What do they want? They get room and board, they only work on the week before Christmas, and they have the supreme privilege of working with Dear Old Me. What's worse. Mrs. Claus, the old witch, has joined the Arctic Chapter of Women's Life! She wants to do half of the delivery work on Christmas Eve. Well, I'll let her do it, alright. Let her put up with all that malarkey! You hear me, Dumbo?"

And so it went that I left the home of Mr. Claus, while he sat in his chair belting down egg-nogs. It's bound to be some kind of Christmas this year. Have a Merry Christmas!

DARIAH HIGH SCHOOL, DARIAH, CONNECTICUT
December 23, 1970

BLACk COMEdY
by John Mucci & Nick Ney

On Friday and Saturday nights, December 11th and 12th, respectfully, Theatre 388 presented Black Comedy by Peter Shaffer. The play was indeed one such as Darien has never seen before, a bit risque in spots and altogether hilarious from beginning to end.

The hero of the play, Brindlesby Miller, a young sculptor, was breathlessly played by Phil Williams, who seemed to have just made it under the wire, considering the near-fiasco at dress rehearsal the story concerns his evening with Carol, his fiancee, well-played by Beth Ann Kennedy, whose father (played by John MacCammond, Marion Macchio, Angela Panaghides, and teaching a few new lines) was mistaken for the head of Brindsley's, a portly neighbor-next-door, is supposed to be a weekend trouper, but comes back in a good number of drinks. Brindlesby is trying to impress Carol's dad, and attempts to do so by stealing his

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December 23, 1970

DHS ACCREDITED

Year-long Program Successful

Committee Praises Students and Staff

By Craig W. Mason

In an announcement on the afternoon bulletin of Wednesday, December 16, Dr. Bruno announced the successful conclusion of one of the biggest and most important projects this school has ever undertaken. Evaluation by the New England Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools (NEACSS) states that the High School has been accredited for a full ten-year period by this association, Dr. Bruno emphasized that of thirteen other schools applying for this honor, only two others received full accreditation.

Summary of the Committee Report

The Evaluation Committee which visited the school on October 19, 20, and 21 has prepared a 43-page report which was sent to the school. Dr. Bruno has made 55 copies of the report, which have been circulated to department heads and to the NEIRAD. Other copies will be placed in the Library and other areas. The copies of the report circulated by Dr. Bruno include, in addition to the report, a letter from Dr. Bruno to Mr. Richard W. Mecham, Chairman of the Evaluation committee, questioning a statement in the report, and a copy of Mr. Mecham’s reply.

The Report Includes:
- A list of committee members, all professional educators;
- A summary of the purposes of the Evaluation;
- General Comments on the school, a report from Dr. Bruno, filed shortly after the start of school this September; a report from the School and Community Committee, filed one year ago, in December, 1969; the school’s Philosophy and Objectives, as outlined by the school, together with the committee’s evaluation; the Curriculum, with a breakdown into individual departments, with each section containing Commendations and Recommendations by the Committee.
- The last part mentioned is by far the longest part of the report, totaling some 28 pages. The report closes with evaluations of the Student Activity Program, Education Media (Library Services, School facilities, and School Staff and Administration).
- The Conclusion on the last page expresses the thanks of the Committee for its reception in Darien, citing the “special and personal interest shown by all last year involved in education in Darien.”

The report is the last phase of a process starting with the report of the School and Community Committee, which finished its project one year ago. The report outlines objectives of the school that the Visiting Committee considers when it makes its report. The report states that “It is a fundamental tenant of the Association’s evaluation procedure that visiting committees evaluate schools in accordance with the school’s own set of purposes.” The Association does not impose outside standards; rather the Visiting Committee listens to the school’s description of itself and its activities and then tries to evaluate the degree to which the school is serving its own purposes.

The Committee then begins its formal report, emphasizing the high morale and “relaxed and purposeful” atmosphere of the school. They then commended the staff on its dedication, and the freedom which has been given to the classroom teacher and the responsibilities the individual teachers have shown in response to this freedom. While the committee feel that community support for education is more than adequate, they suggest that this support is unevenly applied, with too much money going to salaries. However, they later state that the relatively high teacher salaries are still lower than the average income in Darien, making it difficult for teachers to live here.

In regard to the school’s physical plant, the Committee states that it seems to have been built at “exactly the wrong time,” since “developments in education and society since 1966 now render the plant obsolete for everything except a very strict, book-oriented, college preparatory program.”

College-Oriented Program Questioned

While approximately 95 per cent of the students of this school go on to college, the committee questioned the college-oriented program of the school, saying that it was “difficult to decide whether this orientation is fact or myth.” The committee suggested that possibly as many as 35 per cent of the students are not “appropriately aimed at further education.” The copy of Dr. Bruno’s letter enclosed in the report requests clarification of these statements from the Committee.

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Committee Praises Academic Freedom

In its section of general comments, the Committee summarizes the problems it found in evaluating the school, such as a “Natural habit of pointing out weaknesses despite its optimism. They further state, “Much that we do that is good in education is taken for granted, while our weaknesses and shortcomings are subjected to considerable publicity and analysis.”

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Reports on Individual Departments

Since this section is long and difficult to summarize, only the most provocative commendations and recommendations for each department will be quoted. While this is subjective, space does not allow NEIRAD to print the full text of each report.

Art

Commendation: "The Department has well trained and energetic teachers who are also skilled artists."
Recommendation: "That an adequate Crafts Room be provided. At present, space permits very limited activity."

Business Education

Commendation: "The introduction of instruction in Data Processing which has attracted forty-two students."
Recommendation: "The addition of a second PRINTING KEY-PUNCH to provide more hands-on experience in the Data Processing Lab."

Distributive Education

Commendation: "The instructor and the Guidance Department for their excellent rapport and mutual interest in the work-study phase of the program."
Recommendation: "The addition of another classroom to an adjoining school store. (This would enable the students to put the principles of distributive education into practical use on a daily basis)"

Driver Education

Commendation: "The facilities and equipment presently available."
Recommendation: "That appropriate credit be offered for Driver Ed. credit."

English

Commendation: "The mutual respect and admiration shown between students and faculty."
Recommendation: "That a full-time reading teacher be employed to conduct a program in developmental and remedial reading and "That a well-equipped reading laboratory be planned and installed."

Foreign Language

Commendation: "The use of the target language almost exclusively in the classroom."
Recommendation: "That increased space be created for lounge areas in the language resource center."

Health Education

Commendation: "The Board of Education for their support of the Family Life Education program."
Recommendation: "That Family Life Education be increased from 3 periods per week to 5 periods per week with credit given to participating students."

Home Economics

Commendation: "The development of one-semester courses which meet the needs and interests of students and which can be adapted to the curriculum, is a plan worthy of fuller implementation here."
Recommendation: "That a full-time reading teacher be employed to conduct a program in developmental and remedial reading and "That a well-equipped reading laboratory be planned and installed."

Industrial Arts

Commendation: "The varied and challenging student projects."
Recommendation: "That increased space be created for lounge areas in which Family Life Seminars could meet."

Mathematics

Commendation: "Extra help and individual assistance is available throughout the school day in the math resource center."
Recommendation: "Additional space be provided for the student resource center and computer work area."

Music

Commendation: "The development of courses that meet the changing needs of individual students."
Recommendation: "That appropriate credit be given for all choirs."

Physical Education

Commendation: "For offering a variety of sports and activities in the in-school and after-school program."
Recommendation: "That the number of class meetings be increased with some time being allocated for classroom work. An increase in the number and variety of in-school orientation sessions and the provision of emergency showers, fire blankets, and the removal of the stairs between A-10 and A-11."

Science

Commendation: "Provision for two and three double period laboratory sessions per week in the science courses."
Recommendation: A number of recommendations concerning classroom safety were made, including the implementation of emergency showers, fire blankets, and the removal of the stairs between A-10 and A-11.

Social Studies

Commendation: "The degree of academic freedom which exists and the extent to which issues are examined."
Recommendation: "That clerical help be provided for the department."

Special Education

Commendation: "Utilizing a competent team of professionals for the purpose of identifying students with special learning disabilities."
Recommendation: "Professional diagnoses be made of those 100 students reported to be experiencing social and/or emotional maladjustments to determine the nature and extent of their problems."

Independent Study

Commendation: "The varied and challenging student projects."
Recommendation: "That the program be given an adequate budget for supplies, materials and associated costs of operation."

Student Activity Program Discussed

The Visiting Committee praises the establishment of the student faculty assembly committee but says that student government should involve more of the student body. They also encourage an attempt to "execute the student activity program during the school day to include space which has been utilized but is not available after school," and suggest that "Crash program be instituted to increase involvement by students, faculty, and parents, in support of student activities." The Committee strongly emphasizes that funds should be "secured to help student activities without injuring the already existing program."

In regard to the Library, the committee reports that it meets national standards for excellence, but that "lighting is so poor as to be a health hazard and should be corrected at once."

Referring to the buildings, the Committee suggests that safety and health hazards be corrected, notably in the Science Department, that storage space be added, that a preventive maintenance program be instituted, that lighting be improved, and that the heating plant be evaluated.

After complimenting the extremely high quality of the staff, the Committee suggested that more paraprofessional and clerical help be employed to aid teachers. Other suggestions were: "That a full-time learning disability teacher be hired. That the needs of uninterested students be met by electives reflected by student suggestions." and that "The proposed building expansion program be implemented at the earliest possible date."

While it will take years to evaluate the full impact of this report on Darien's educational system, there can be no doubt that this evaluation will have some far-reaching repercussions. Many of the ideas contained in it are already in operation at other high schools, and will probably make at least an experimental appearance here. Certainly the emphasis on tailoring the curriculum to fit the student, rather than the student to fit the curriculum, is a step worthy of fuller implementation here.
Mr. Daly expressed his feeling that if the party ticket was put together right, depending on the economy, the Democrats could win in 1972. His personal candidate for the Presidency is Birch Bayh of Indiana, whom he feels is more "electric" than others. He said he would support Sen. Edmund Muskie of Maine if he were nominated. In regard to this past election, he felt that the Democratic gubernatorial wins were significant.

In getting back to the state, Mr. Daly felt that there will be a state income tax no matter what and that Meskill will probably blame it on the Democratic State House. Mr. Daly said that the State Chamber of Commerce came out for such a tax, along with several other Republican business organizations. He went on to say that the campaign of Meskill emphasized reduced welfare and reduced payrolls, but that now the budget is expanding.

Ski, Skate Sale a Success

Despite the snow and ice on Dec. 12, the DHS Ski and Skate Sale attracted crowds of people; many of them arriving hours before the scheduled 9 a.m. opening. By 1 o'clock that afternoon, $9,189 worth of ski equipment and skates and sleds had been sold. Mark Rodman, chairman of the sale, said that although the amount brought in was a lot, it probably could have been better under weather conditions. The leftover articles are being sorted, and will be returned to their owners or donated to the Salvation Army. Sixty percent of the price of an item that was sold will be returned to the consignor.

Betsy Amner

Robert Graham

Gypsy Record Review

Gypsy (Metromedia Records M2D-1031), a new group, has a FANTASTIC double-record album out. This album is the most innovative sound that I've ever heard.

Gypsy's sound is created by the many styles which they have perfected. Gypsy has combined light and airy music with rock, and the result is a provocative, smooth-flowing, style that evokes GREAT musical vibrations. To put it bluntly, Gypsy makes damn good music.

Gypsy's greatest achievement comes with their ability to mash up rock, folk, Latin rock, rhythm & blues, and classical styles. This is evident in every song, many of which utilize violins and other stringed instruments as effective channels for all the forms mentioned.

Another reason for Gypsy's imminent success is their ability to create a strong mood which comes out, whether the approach is soft or hard.

The final element in Gypsy's creativity is an order and rhythm which has had to come from many hours of practice and classical study. Some of these characteristics are inherent in many of today's hits, but I can assure you that Gypsy is unique.

The whole album consists of nothing but GREAT cuts, which are designed so that, no matter what your musical preference, you can enjoy them all. I had trouble restraining myself from choosing "Young", "More Time", and "Dead and Gone" all have the arresting sound which only Gypsy could give birth to. Any group that can do all the things which Gypsy can do, effectively, is worth all the praise possible. Gypsy is effective no matter what mode of music they happen to be playing.

You can look forward to hearing Gypsy in the future, but why wait? Go out and buy their album before it's sold out.

Robert Graham

Photos by Eugene Myers

Black Comedy
SKATERS EARN TWO MORE

by J. A. Vitri

Down Eastchester and Sleepy Hollow.

The Blue Wave skaters of coach Bud Dolittle found it very appropriate to come home with a pair of victories from their last two contests at the Playland Ice Center. The Playland Admirals have come to fear the Darien game, with their wild display of board-banging by the non-professional members of the squad, and the condition of some of the other Eastchester fans, namely the Rowdy Bunch. The Darien skaters have been warned by the Admirals to stop getting Hat Tricks, because of the problem of crowd control, and the fact that the Zamboni was not designed to clear Knobie Bros. paint balls from the ice.

Surprised by Eastchester

The Skaters were surprised at an unusually strong Eastchester club and came through on the top, but only by the slim margin of 2-1. The fans were very disappointed in the second period and a half trick of the season and a few more cuts for his barren. Rick did not completely disappoint the fans as he found time to hit the twine in the second period assisted by the brother of Swede Hanson. But then Rick was not the only one to score on Eastchester that night, picking up four goals and an assist in the first period. Hutch Gervais showed his stuff by scoring on Eastchester’s second line and putting the puck past the goalie unassisted in the third period. But Eastchester has a lot of firepower in their lineup and the Blue Wave were a little better than the Byrdmen, Rigby with his goal and a few bars behind 49-46. During the fourth quarter the Wavers regained the lead twice but lost it. As the final buzzer sounded, the score stood at Greenwich 72, Darien 67.

High scorer for the Wave was Larry Hart who dropped in 36, followed by Dave Hieronymus with 11, Pencilhead with 10, and Herbie and Bugle with five apiece. The Hooper’s second contest took place in Stamford against the Black Knights. The Wavers looked very sharp in the first quarter, as they played good defense and ended the quarter ahead 21-20. In the second quarter, the Blue men widened their lead by one point, to go ahead at the half 33-31. Stamford’s full court defense held the Wavers to 11 points in the third quarter while the Knights picked up 34. Stamford led at the three quarter mark 50-46. During the fourth quarter Stamford defense throughout the quarter continued to smother the Blue Wave. The Wavers picked up 10 points and Hieronymus forced two points as the final score. Stamford 65, Darien 54. High scorer for Darien was Pencilhead Ed Maher with 16 points, as Larry Hart contributed 6 and Mac Taylor with 8. A trip up to Danbury to engage the Hatters proved fatal for the Varsity, but saw the Jayvee pick up a victory.

In the JV contest, with seconds left to play, Roger Smith, the star rookie from Middlesex, stole the ball from a Hatter and tied the game up at 60-60. Then another star rookie from Middlesex, Kevin Fitzpatrick, was fouled with two seconds remaining in the contest. He stepped up to the line and put in the second of two free throws to put the Wavers ahead 61-60, victors at last.

Again, in the varsity match, the Wavers started out strong, leading at the quarter 14-13. Shazzy falling, quick plays, and finding the open man put Darien in full control in the second quarter as they decided that was the way to go. But Danbury came back strong in the third quarter and knocked off Darien’s lead after only two minutes of play. The Wavers kept the Hatter’s lead margin to four points until the quarter when the Hatters surged ahead to lead by 12 points 59-47. Danbury was in control for the remainder of the game, the final tally stood at Danbury 69, Darien 59. High scorer of the game for the Wavers was Larry Hart who basted in 23 points, followed by his co-captain, Eddie Maher with 13, and Steve Voboril with 8.