THE JAMES GANG TO PLAY AT D. H. S.

By Reuben Jeffery

The Darien Student Organization, under the direction of president Douglas Milne, will be holding its annual Fundraising Concert on March 7, 1970 at 8:00 P.M. in the auditorium. The featured act will be THE JAMES GANG, backed up by The Smurfs. Proceeds from the concert are to be donated to the scholarship fund.

In a recent BPI release the following was said about THE JAMES GANG: "And, so the separate parts of a technically precise puzzle were artistically assembled to form an aesthetically appealing picture. A picture of three interest young men participating in the rock sub-culture."

"THE JAMES GANG has been assembled. And, what an assembly! Performing with Led Zeppelin, Creedence Clearwater Revival, The Doors, Johnny Winter, The Who and the Rolling Stones couldn't go on. At every concert, the same reaction. A turned on audience, a style of their own. THE JAMES GANG. Peter Townshend, from The Who, stated, 'THE JAMES GANG is the best band in the country.'"

"THE JAMES GANG's first single album, YER ALBUM, on ABC/Bluesway started to happen from the first play, with major sales throughout the country. The members of THE JAMES GANG include Jimmy Fox, Dale Peters, and Joe Walsh. James P. Moore Jr. is the group's president, a graduate of the Cleveland Institute of Music, aside from drumming, one of the best drummers in the country, writes some of their material and plays violin, cello, sax, and bass. Dale, the bass guitarist, also writes for the group. His playing has been described as 'hard, fast, and soulful rock.' Joe, on lead guitar and vocals, has written many musical works for THE JAMES GANG. His major influence and good friend is Jimmy Page."

THE BPI report concludes as follows: "THE JAMES GANG creates empathy between themselves and the audience. They are not a manufactured group. The group is nonconformist in the sense that they are not into noise but Harmony and Music."

"As individuals, THE JAMES GANG, are like the separate pieces of a puzzle, so alike, yet so different. As a group they are the perfect combination of presence lacking its place to form the most exciting picture in the rock scene today."

THE SMURBS are an excellent group who have played extensively in the New York City area. Their latest album entitled 'This is the End of the Night' has been acclaimed and is frequently played on FM radio stations.

THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT WORKS ON EVALUATION AND ELECTIVES

The English Department at DHS, headed by Mr. Hufstader, is at present working on two major projects aside from teaching. Both are very important to DHS students and have entailed a lot of work.

The first of these projects is preparing for the coming of NEASSC or New England Association of Secondary Schools and Colleges. Each school every ten years formally evaluates its courses and determines whether it should be accredited. The English Department is working now on a complicated 16 page form that NEASSC sent them. The form asks questions on all aspects of the department, including such topics as their budget, the topics offered to students, and the English teachers.

The Department's second project is preparing a proposal to the Board of Education for elective positions for which English would be offered to students in the second semester. This is only tentative, and it all depends on the Board's decision on the proposal. At present there are three electives offered—two on Creative Writing, a one in Speech. Some of the new electives would be on drama, speech, and writing skills. Mr. Hufstader and the Department feel that these electives, if approved, would make a Senior's last year at DHS much more interesting.

Another thing that's coming up is the annual Sophomore and Senior trip to Stratford to see one of Shakespeare's plays. The option to go is being given to English classes now. There are three choices for this year: "Othello", "All's Well That Ends Well", or "As You Like It". The Stratford Festival has a reputation for enjoyment, and it's hoped that a lot of students will want to participate.

WELFARE WEEK AT D.H.S.

STUDENTS AGREE WITH DSO: BLAST MRS. HINES

On February 9, Mrs. Lynn Hines, an American Indian, spoke to the Board in conjunction with the Welfare Drive. The following day, officers of the Welfare Drive issued a statement: "We thought that other students have applied off with bids starting from $5.00. The single gives a good morale booster for the Welfare Drive and most likely will remain as an annual event.

SENIORS LEARN OF SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABILITIES

By Sue Sherman

The senior class assembled on Tuesday, February 11, to learn of the many scholarships which various organizations are offering to the students. A representative from the Kiwanis Club of Darien spoke of the availability of funds and of the students obligation to make use of them.

The different groups base their choice on financial need, citizen- ship, contribution to the school and various interests or studies in a selected subject. For example, the Secretaries Club is offering a scholarship to some person who is interested in pursuing a business career.

The fund offers an assistance of 8000 dollars to students of DHS who have applied for financial aid from their college and strongly wish to further their education. There are many statewide offers of scholarships including the Golf Caddies award, various grants from government agencies and other assistance offered from the individual colleges.

Students interested in financial assistance should see their guidance counselors to obtain a full list of all funds. There is a single form to be filled out by the student which will be sent to the various organizations in which the student is interested.
NEIRAD

NEIRAD is published bi-weekly by the students of the Darien High School.

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Photography Miss Cathy Osborne
Faculty Advisor Ken Holmberg

Darien's Closed Circuit Television System Is In Danger Of Being Discontinued ! ! ! ! !

This possibility is the result of the new school budget submitted for consideration by Superintendent of Schools Darryl W. Pelletier to the Board of Education, from which the network's annual operating expenses of $46,000 have been excluded.

We consider such a cut-back a serious deprivation of an exceptional instructional aid—a loss which both students and teachers will suffer.

Organized almost five years ago and located in Middlesex Junior High School, the television studio had played a major role in the local classroom. Elementary classes have been able to break down into groups of varying ability and subject matter, yet learn simultaneously with the aid of television and wireless headphones. Closed circuit television has also enabled the taping of odd hour movies, plays, or educational programs that teachers might have them re-broadcast during class time. Why anyone would allow such a facility to slip through his fingers is beyond us.

Television will have an active role in future education, as demonstrated by its widespread use in neighboring communities and states. Furthermore, Darien will be including a television studio in its planned four-year high school system. But if the equipment is abandoned now, it will not have kept up with new technological developments and there will be few trained operators (especially students) to run it. Essentially, the TV circuit operates on a complex cable system rented from the Bell Telephone Company. The installation and maintenance of these cables is very costly. Should the TV circuit become obsolescent, the cable system will be removed, perhaps only to be reinstalled some day for a much higher cost. We feel that by abandoning the present system, five years of work will be destroyed, leaving us with deprived present, and nothing but expenses for the future.

$46,000 may seem like a very huge sum of money, but it is actually only one half of one percent of the entire budget. The TV studio should definitely be placed on the list of the "priorities" that have so foolishly ruled it out.

REHASHING OF A COMMUNITY PROBLEM

That drug abuse is a problem in many communities is an undisputed fact among many parents. But factors conducive to the existence of the "drug problem" are parent's lack of knowledge concerning drugs, and their refusal to discuss this topic or act on any measure of control.

This generation of students is much better informed than the previous one concerning relatively current social issues, such as drug use or abuse. In classes, study the problems of drug addiction, moral, physical and mental. Parents, on the other hand, do not often acquire such a comprehensive knowledge on this subject.

They might be frightened for their children's welfare by a few obviously biased and distorted reports or accounts fraught with "scarce tactics." As a result, they are overly protective and incur their children's resentment and rebellion.

There has recently been much discussion concerning drug education in the classroom for students. This is beneficial to a certain extent. However, education for the parents of the community would be more worthwhile. This might promote a better rapport between the parents and the student. Parents would be able to communicate with their children to discuss drug abuse and the difficulties entailed.

It is virtually ineffective to hold night seminars for the purpose of educating parents. The attendance at these meetings is very small. However, one suggestion which might serve to educate the parents would be to devise an informative fifteen to thirty minute program to be presented on the local radio station. This could be treated and presented by students of local high schools.

Also, a drug information center should be established which would dispense educationally approved material to parents as well as students of the community.

Drug education is a necessity if the town of Darien wishes to curb drug abuse in our community. It would be futile for parents to adamantly accuse their children of taking drugs, and constantly torment them and for their children to stubbornly and spitefully light up a reefer or swallow a pill.

YOUNG MEN

H. J. Fezell

Young men die.
Blonde young men
who look too bashful in gray uniforms and boots;
who drink Bourbon, and flirt with the ladies.
Richmond has fallen,
and the young men are dead.
Lying face down in the grass,
blonde young bodies heavy with lead.

Young men sleep.
Strong young men;
who seem so fearless, marching off to save the Union;
who go to battle with the din of bugles filling their heads.
Richmond has fallen,
and the young men sleep.
Sleeping in the grass,
cold young bodies piled in a heap.

THE STUDENT SHOP

Apparel for Boys and Young Men

1073 Post Road

Next to Darien Playhouse

Feb. 1970
STUDENTS SPEAK ON DRIVER EDUCATION COURSE

Chip Kaminsky
Bob McGoldrick

Now that DHS has a full-time Driver Education teacher, Neirad has polled both students and teachers to get their opinions of the course.

In an interview, Mr. Harvey Helm, the new Driver Education teacher, expressed the following opinions:

NEIRAD-Do you feel that the Driver Education course is of value?

MR. HELM - It's my desire that the Driver Education course will make the student a better driver. If the student listens, he will definitely change his opinions and attitudes.

NEIRAD-What do you feel is the main purpose of the course?

MR. HELM - I feel that it is to make safer drivers out of young people by three phases: Perception, Space-time relationship, and knowledge. In the sense of knowing what to do in different driving situations and applying their skills.

NEIRAD-How do you feel the course could be improved?

MR. HELM - I feel that there should be more time allotted for class and driving. Some driving simulations could be helpful in class, but money is not available. I also feel that credit should be given for the course.

Student reactions to the course were split: some thought that the Driver Education was a useful, worthwhile course, while others did think and feel that it was a waste of time.

One of the students, grudgingly admitted that he felt that it (the Driver Education Course) was worthwhile to me, but I did not enjoy it. Another said, "I learned some driving tactics, but at times it was boring." A third described the course as "Totally worthless, unless you have some driving experience that you can apply the material of the course to."

Some students made suggestions for the improvement of the course. One asked for more "behind-the-wheel" time. Another said that the course should be shortened, and a third suggested more "inter-class communication, such as debates."

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WRESTLERS FINISH 3-7
By John Burgess

The wrestling team finished its best season since it was organized three years ago. They have won two of their last three matches. First the grapplers conquered New Canaan 36-18. After a week’s rest they lost to Stamford, in many close individual matches 34-4 but came on to win the seasonender against Trumbull 25-19.

Co-captain Duncan Peters was an outstanding wrestler this season, with a 7-3 record at 165 lbs. He went on to become third in the county. 115 lb. Junior Chuck “J” Hunter, with a 5-2 record, wrestled well in the sectional tournament, but tore his left pectoralis muscle and had to forfeit a match, ending in fourth place.

Bruce “The Moose” manchon at 175 lbs. also with a 7-3 record, and Roger “Pussy” Beatty with a 5-5 record scored for Darien in the sectionals and both ended up fourth in their respective weight classes.

The big surprise came in “Lucky Chucky” Travers at unlimited. He had a 1-4 record entering the sectional tournament and through a lucky forfeit and a lot of good wrestling ended up second in the championship.

The women teampetite in the State Tournament the 21st of Feb.

These fine wrestlers, along with points gathered by other team members, combined points to make Darien 6th of 11 in the Section.

STUDENT-FACULTY BASKETBALL GAME

The Student-Faculty Basketball game, sponsored by the Welfare Drive, was held Wednesday night, February 11th. About 300 people showed up to watch and take part in the activities--strangely dressed students and teachers played volleyball, while more strangely dressed ugly men campaigned, using signs, cans, garbage cans and other standard campaigning equipment.

The results were:

The basketballers beat the senior girls, who beat the junior girls, who beat the sophomore

HOCKEY

Hockey squad beats White Plains 2-1 for Playland Cup!!! Thursday game against Norwalk needed for State Finals.

By Neal Conolly

Darien High School’s newest Varsity sport, Slalom Ski-racing, has begun with a big schuss, defeating the first three opponents.

For the first time, interscholastic racing in Lower-Connecticut has been organized with a regular schedule established between clubs, Prep. teams, and varsity teams. The teams include: Staples, Weston, Wilton, Ridgefield, Farmington, Fairfield Prep., Kingalty Hall, and Darien.

The Darien High School team is under the instruction of Mr. Ottavi. Members of the team include: Co-captains Frank Steinegger and Neal Conolly, three seniors, and Haik Kavoorian are the seniors; Bob “Red-Star” Geyer, Peter Halley—Juniors; Mark Conolly, Brian Lane, Jim Morgan, and Charlie Roome—Sophomores. The team practices at Birch Hill and Powder Mill Ski Areas, and weather permitting, the Country Club of Darien.

In its initial season, the ski team has been successful in its first three outings. In the first meet, Darien overcame Ridgefield by a score of 94-1 to 68-9. Mark Conolly took first, Bob Geyer second, and Neal Conolly third.

With slushy conditions, Darien defeated Farmington by a tight score of 93-3 to 88-6. Mark Conolly took first, Bob Geyer second, and Neal Conolly third.

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