Helping Promote Cafeteria Calm

By JAMIE MACKENZIE

One of several changes made at DHS this fall has been the institution of seniors to help monitor the large cafeteria during lunch and study periods. There are now seniors and a faculty monitor supervising the cafeteria every period.

Donald Robbigh, acting principal of DHS, said that he began the program in order to see how well the seniors can handle the responsibility and how students react to being supervised by other students. This is only a pilot program, Dr. Robbigh said, and if the results are successful he hopes to phase the teachers out and leave the entire responsibility to the large cafeteria to seniors. “I believe that the large cafeteria should essentially be monitored by students,” he said. “Maintaining the proper atmosphere in the cafeteria really should be in the hands of the students.”

The monitors are paid on a hourly basis for their labor and work the same period each day, except when that period rotates out of the schedule. Some teachers are more successful in his or her or her chair are main responsibilities. Although allowed to do homework, they are not permitted to leave the large cafeteria area. They are also responsible for controlling any possible disruption or loud noise.

All of the monitors agreed that the program was basically working well, with minor exceptions. Some thought that it was right now for the teachers to be phased out. “It’s not hard work,” said Randy Star, “but there’s a lot of responsibility.” Randy characterized the students in his period as “very cooperative,” and said that he has not had to report anyone. “Our job is to keep things calm — under control,” he said. Jim Reid commented, “It’s working out well. I think kids would rather have a student ask them kindly to do something than have a teacher tell them to do something. I don’t reprimand kids unless they’re making a mess.”

A faculty monitor described the

program’s success as “beautiful.” He said that the students are cooperating much more readily than last year, and that they appreciate the cleaner cafeteria. Rett Drugge had many things to say about the program. “I take pride in my work,” he said. “I keep them under my thumb.” Rett described several periods which he monitored with Jim Reid as “a sophomores too,” and said that he gets the impression that all the sophomores have eighth period study. “They probably thought they’d have an open end every day if they left eighth period open,” he remarked.

Rett finds his work enjoyable and often entertaining. “I get a lot of laughs,” he said. When asked about his motivation for working as a monitor, Rett maintained that it is the money. “I rather enjoy getting thirty-five smackers at the end of the month,” he said with a grin.

In contrast with Mr. Drugge, Justin Vorwerk said that he would do it regardless of whether he was being paid or not, because “Randy asked me, and it’s helping out the school, although I wouldn’t mind getting my first paycheck.” Justin has trouble getting along with the students in his period, except during lunch, and he finds it interesting to walk around and talk to the kids.

He sees a great improvement in the noise level of the cafeteria over last year, despite the fact that more seniors use the large cafeteria this year.

Gair MacKenzie likes his job as a monitor because, as he said, “I enjoy

Continued on page 4.
Talk-Study Atmosphere Improved

Thus far into the school year, Neirad has seen only good results from the student monitor program which our new acting principal has instituted. The general appearance of the large cafeteria is much more orderly than many of us remember from last year. Students using the monitored cafeteria have been obeying the rules more consistently since their peers have been added to the ranks of the installation of student monitors.

Someone to keep such a large room organized and under control. Although some may say that they would or would not oblige no matter who made requests to such actions may continue to show positive results.

No Longer ‘Just A Game’

The final seconds ticked away, and the whistle blew. After ten long years, Darien had finally beaten arch-rival New Canaan by the score of 13-12 in one of the most exciting games in DHS football history. Unfortunately, this memory will be marred by DHS is one of friendliness. She still remembers with appreciation the warm reception given to her and hopes to earn this favorable welcome. Perhaps an unfamiliar face to many this year, Sandra Drimal of the Work-Study program, is actually a veteran of the Darien Public School System. Although this year is the first that Ms. Drimal has spent as a Career Education specialist at the high school, she has devoted three previous years working in the same field at the junior high.

Ms. Drimal’s qualifications consist of a B.S. at the U. of Maryland and a M.S. at Stanford U., followed by a total of six years teaching experience. Her interest is in political science. She attended college at “Starksy and Hutch,” were hired as teacher aides to help keep peace and order on the high school grounds.

Crime Busters

Greg “Starksy” Collins and Erik Hedegaard-Schou, more widely known as 250 applicants. Some other colleges Mr. Lalime attended are: Southern Connecticut, Springfield, Appalachian State and George Peabody University; the latter two are in North Carolina. Mr. Lalime is currently a doctoral candidate at New York Uni. Mr. Lalime’s job is to help out in the effort to improve the more efficient library. He also will try to buy films, tape recorders, projectors, filmstrips, etc., to take advantage of the new space created by the building expansion and assist the teachers.

Roselle Asars joins the Family Studies Department this year. She graduated from Herbert College in the Bronx with a B.S. in family and consumer sciences. She is in her fourth year teaching, and so far has found DHS students extremely friendly, and the atmosphere relaxed. She enjoys cooking, as well as bicycling and paddling tennis.

Bettie Ann Kerrigan has become the school nurse at DHS this year. She has worked previously in a hospital and for the last five years as a school nurse at Mather Junior High School. She became an R.N. at the Bellevue School of Nursing in New York City. Mrs. Kerrigan is currently enrolled in Pace University in Pleasantville, New York, working to make a B.S. in nursing. She has traveled in France and England and enjoys reading.

Teacher Aides Among New Staffers

Neirad continues its interviews with new members of the faculty and staff.

Mrs. Derenzo, mentioned in the last issue of Neirad, is a member of the English department. Her impression of DHS is one of friendliness. She still remembers with appreciation the warm reception given to her and hopes to earn this favorable welcome.

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High School Heavies Haunt Halloween Hobgoblins

By JACK LOW

Darkness descends over the leaf-strewn ground; a cold October wind whips through bare trees, an orange full moon ominously fills the black sky. The air reeks of anticipation, for in a short while, gobkins, spooks and trouble-seekers will proceed to sow wild oats.

Yes, halloween, it's Halloween! But wait a minute. What does a mature high schooler do on Halloween? If you were a kid, you would be up to your pointed ears in shaving cream, toilet paper, fireworks and other trouble-making paraphernalia. But those devious days of youth are over. Not everyone is poised to snuckily and up your allowance with UNICEF. Oh no, that's strictly for nippers. You have graduated from the rank of trick or treaters to the rank of troublemaker, and it seems that Halloween is the one night when everything is legal.

The more spirited, matured trouble-seekers devise ingenious ways to terrorize unsuspecting kids. A haunting dummy replica of a neighborhood groveling lamb around a tree branch provides for some good scares. Even more effective is the use of audio equipment, rigged from the dummy's mouth to a sufficient hiding place. When the bell dings, the street starts to paint your metallic blue Fiat black, make the old cool come alive with eerie howls, moaning noises, or have it say some choice, filthy words.

A favorite Halloween trick of high school pranksters is to carefully set a jack-o'-lanterns out in the front yard and take cover in a nearby shrub. When the dilettante vandals see this delectable sight, an insurmountable urge of passion fills his pumpkin glowing pupils and he can't resist! It's like watching National Lampoons try to restrain from poking fun at Richard Nixon. When the frenzied youngster inevitably crowns his pitiful pumpkin into pumpkin pie, you casually spray him with the garden hose, or maybe jump him with a suf- fice. For the mature, forward trick or treater who feels his vandal vexing days are over, there is always the pleasure of having a few beers while handing out sweets to the grabby gobkins. If you're the hard-to-satisfy type who is downright frustrated with the whole Halloween scene, you can always seek refuge in a nearby pumpkin patch. If you're really a die-hard, take a chance. See if you still can't get a couple of candied apples and a handful of can-dy corns by digging up an old Jim Nabors mask and feeling a few old people. Bag the roy on the boat. And just for the hell of it, litter up that nuisance of a French poodle who always leaves an annyoing present in your vegetable garden) with a full can of Raid Shave. That should teach him a thing or two about poop etiquette. If you play your cards right, you can get a free ride to the bathtubs. To wash your guilty yolk-covered hands, and the next day, boast about all the revengeful deeds you pulled. Well, on second thought, you'd better keep it to yourself, Junior.

Neirad Discloses Results Of Political Poll

By PIPPA BOWLEY and MARIAN DAVIS

"Some more concern and confidence on the part of the faculty, which I find reflected in the attitude of the student, which reflects on the climate of the school." Social studies teacher Charles Burwell's comment suggests the general feeling of improvement in atmosphere and discipline at DHS that Neirad found after interviewing several students and faculty.

All of the teachers and the majority of the students interviewed believed there has been a definite change for the better in atmosphere and discipline at DHS. Mr. Burwell said there had been a distinct improvement and the almost perfect attendance in his classes shows the students' responsibility and concern. David Herbert, a French teacher, noticed a lot less littering this year, and Isadore Battino, gymnas-tics coach, feels there is a more com- patible atmosphere. There are three general trends of feel- ing as to the reasons for improvement. Some feel the change is due to a well-organized faculty and administration. According to others, the enforcement and clarity of the rules inspired the change; but still others said the new construction work was the root.

"The teachers care more, so the students do too," commented Mr. Burwell. He felt that Dr. Robbins' summer meeting of the teachers really helped matters. They got together, planned the school year, and wrote a statement of intent. Coach Battino notes that the meet- ing organized the teachers and made the opening of the school smoother. He says he enjoyed the kids' responses to Dr. Robbins. He thinks the kids really like "Doc" and they know where they stand with him. "The kids really enjoy the principal because they know he is fair," Coach Battino commented. "A new guy would have to prove himself."

"It's not the rules, but the en- forcement of the rules that has made the difference," says Mr. Herbert. Mr. Burwell agrees that consistent en- forcement is important. "Regulations are meaningless unless they are clear, consistent, and enforced," he states. He thinks Dr. Robbins is one of the best organized men around.

David Hartkopf, a social studies teacher, believes that the behavior has changed, not because of any rule change, or tighter administration, but because of the structural differences in the building this year. He says new rules don't help, that student behavior ac- cording to their environment. If the situation changes then the behavior does also. As an example, Mr. Hartkopf talked about the cafeteria. He said if that many people are put in a closed area they can only stand a certain amount of noise and the noise level goes down. He feels that the areas around the cafeteria are much cleaner because it is easier to confine the food in a closed area.

Change In DHS Climate?
Monitors Find New Jobs Enjoyable

continued from page 1.

working with young people." When asked whether being a monitor cuts down on his free time (Gair is now working two periods, because one monitor dropped out), Gair remarked jokingly, "Not really; school's not that important to me." Gair agrees with Robbi Bragg and Jim Reid in that the sophomores are the most unruly class.

"It's a drag when the sophomores and juniors give me a problem," he commented. "I get a lot of flak from sophomore studs and junior girls. One reason why the sophomores are so rowdy is that they have come from schools where they were very struc-tured into a school where their free time is barely supervised." Gair finds student naivete to be his biggest problem. "Kids should be neater," he said "They're slobs... they leave all their junk on the table."

Dr. Robbins stated that the program is being given an on-going assessment, by himself and the rest of the ad-ministration and faculty. Periodically he holds meetings with senior monitors to discuss how the program is working out. Although presently the monitors are all boys, Dr. Robbins is interested in getting girls involved. If any senior boy or girl is interested, he or she should see Dr. Robbins.

Hot In The Lot

'Spirit Of '56' Rusting But Running

By DAN GRADY

If you drive into the school parking lot, you may encounter a hunk of metal, rubber, and rust squared by none in character. This, as you may have guessed, is Bob Pankosky's pickup truck, "The Spirit of '56'.

The so-called pickup, a 1956 Ford, is proof that the 50's are here to stay. Originally it was used as an all-purpose truck for the town of Greenwich, but after a good many years of use it became the possession of Bob's uncle. Three years ago, his uncle decided to concede the pickup to the junk yard. Bob, seeing the real value in the machine, talked the junk-man out of prematurely ending the truck's career.

Righ under Bob's favorite feature, the hood, lies a spunky six-cylinder engine just waiting to show you what it's got. "The thing is reliable," stated Bob. "It starts right up, every time. It's only been in one race, against a mini-school bus, and it proved quite formidable. The truck would have done a lot better if the hood had not flown up and cracked the windshield. The glass has been left cracked in memory of that great event. When riding in the aged Ford, you can't help but notice the persistent rattles. Part of the reason may be explained by the ever-present empty beer bottles banging around in the back."

The interior is quite a sight: wires are everywhere! The electrical system is modified to Bob's own personal taste, but occasionally something goes wrong. One night while driving, he turned on the high beams and the whole system shorted out. Flash plastic covers the floor, and the seats are upholstered with a worn, but elegant, material. The bump and doors are not overly stylish; almost all the handles and knobs have been tastefully removed.

As for the paint job, none can compare. The beautiful, artistic confection of green, black, red, and grey primer bears the term "rainbow swirl." "The Spirit of '56" is a real prize during the dry summer days, but lack of several windows and an abundance of rusted out holes makes it a little bit un-comfortable in rainy or cold weather. If you drive it through a puddle, the water gushes right through the cavities and soaks you. Vision in the rain might be a minor setback; there is none. This problem could and will be remedied by the installation of a set of windshielit wipers.

All in all, "The Spirit of '56" is an excellent piece of workmanship that is not only durable, but desirable. It is second to none in the DHS lot, and Bob predicts at least ten more years of life in it.
Hockettes Still Hope To Make States

By LESLIE EVANS

The girls’ field hockey team has had its high points and low points this season while still hoping to qualify for the state championships in November. The team opened its season September 30 against a strong Wilton squad, losing 1-0 in a hard-fought battle.

As the game began, it appeared to be a contest between two evenly-matched teams. Darien’s offense seemed to be strong with senior Gill Grimes leading the attack. However, the Wilton defense continued to rush at Darien and finally scored in the first half. Darien fought back in an attempt to tie up the game, but did not succeed.

Not to be outdone is the strong line of defense for which Darien teams are noted. Kelly Ryan and Co-captain Eve Walworth played spectacularly well on defense, and goalie Betsy Seel should be proud of her great saves throughout the entire game.

The team played a fine game against their Wilton opponents, outshooting them 20-30. Mary Metayer scored Darien’s lone goal, assisted by Jasie Dauk and Patty McKenna.

Saturday, September 25, members of the DHS team travelled to Rye Country Day School in Rye, New York, to participate in the Bayview Schoolgirl Playday. Teams, representing schools from various geographical areas, played games continuously from 9 a.m. to 12 noon in a round-robin fashion. Darien placed against a strong Wilton squad, losing 5-3, and losing only to Bronxville and Greenwich Academy. Another highlight of the Playday was the selection of outstanding players from various schools. Gill Grimes and Co-captain Eve Walworth were chosen from the DHS team.

Darien hosted Rippowam on October 1 with high hopes for a victory. However, sophomore Patty McKenna was the only Darien player to score, and Rippowam was able to match this by scoring one goal also. Darien’s offensive attack improved over the previous game and the defense played well, especially Joan Consiglio. The J.V.’s outcome of their opponents by the score of 4-0. Mary Cavanaugh made two goals for Darien. Julie Lindenburger and Carol Bothwell also scored with assists from Carol Bothwell and Sue Ward.

Stamford Catholic played on Darien’s field on October 5 in what proved to be a contest of two teams. Darien did not win. “We were pounding away at that goal,” Co-captain Nancy Campbell scored Darien’s two goals.

The team traveled to Stamford on October 7 to play a terribly aggressive Westhill team. Darien tried to hold ground against Westhill, but pulled away from the game with a 6-0 loss. The J.V.’s were able to keep themselves in the game, but their attack was weak. Thus, the J.V. game resulted in a 6-0 tie.

Finally, Darien played their toughest game of the season against the mighty Staples team, reported to be in top contention for the state title. Darien and, Rippowam were able to match this 0-0 tie at the half. However, Darien’s defense weakened somewhat and

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By MARY ELLEN KIGGINS

“It’s the best girls’ sport going; they should have had one [a team] years ago.” So said Ms. Strominger, the interest of several girls, and also Title IX, which ensures equal opportunities for girls and boys in sports, that helped in developing a girls’ volleyball team. However, there hasn’t been an interscholastic girls’ volleyball team being considered for several years before Darien High School had ever had an interscholastic girls’ volleyball team. The idea of having a girls’ volleyball team was being considered for several years before Darien High School. The first year, Joanne Scholtz, who is the only Darien player to score, and Rippowam was able to match this

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Wavers Wham Rams, Torn By Tigers

By DAVID BAUDER

As the semester neared the halfway point, the Darien football team has shown peaks and valleys in compiling a 1-3 record. The high point of the season has been, of course, the exciting 13-12 victory over the New Canaan Rams on Saturday, October 2. It was the first time in a decade that Darien has beaten their arch-rivals.

The Wavers started the game in high style. Randy Starr tossed a 47-yard touchdown pass to Mattaley on the first series of downs to silence some of the critics who were apprehensive about the team after their poor showing against Wilton. Tom Lechak's kick made it 7-0. The contest reverted to a defensive struggle until, with only three seconds to go in the first half, the Rams quarterback threw a long pass up for grabs that was hauled in for a touchdown. New Canaan went for the two-point conversion but Darien's defense held to keep a 7-6 halftime lead.

Early in the third quarter, Justin Verwuer ran a punt back to the Rem's ten-yard line. After two short runs, Randy Starr found Gary Wyckoff open in the end zone for a five-yard TD pass. It was a pancake block in front to protect the 13-6 lead. After New Canaan recovered a fumble on the Darien 30-yard line, a fantastic rush pushed the Rams all the way back to their own 44. The Blue Wave "back pack" got the Rams running back. Ridgefield ripped through a undefeated Darien to take the lead. After Newington were dissolved in a forgettable second half, the Rams converted touchdowns and a successful two-point play to silence some of theriors. Ridgefield continued to score with a first half, the Rams took it 20-14 but victory hopes were dashed when Co-captain Ted DiSilvestro came up with a first on rings, long horse vaulting, and parallel bars and came in second on floor exercise, horizontal bar and pommel horse. Peter Stanton captured first on horizontal bar, tied for second with Moltz in floor exercises and tied third on parallel bars and vaulting. Anthony DiSilvestro came up with a first on pommel horse, second on still rings and parallel bars and third on horizontal bar. Senior Ken Holmes took first on floor exercise while Peter Francesconi placed third on pommel horse. Sophomore Dave Garetti and Frank Manosic placed second in vaulting and third on still rings respectively.

In the first home meet against Waterford on Oct. 8, the Blue Wave scored 105.3 to Waterford's 46.0 and again swept all six events. Clay Moltz, Peter Stanton and Anthony DiSilvestro again took the lead in scoring.

On Oct. 12 Coach Isidore Battino took four Darien all around men, John Reichart, Clay Moltz, Anthony DiSilvestro and Peter Stanton, to St. Bernard High School for a tri-meet with St. Bernard and East Lyme High Schools. The four Wavers combined to sweep four of the six events and had a final score of 96.75 to East Lyme's 64.3 and St. Bernard's 60.40.

The Darien High School Girls' Swim Team followed tradition as they drowned the McMahon team on Friday, Oct. 8 by a score of 128-38.

The girls swept the meet, with a win in every event but one. Both medley relay teams left McMahon's one team far behind. Linda Bornhuetter and Liz Duff kept the Blue Wave rolling with a first and a second, respectively, in the 200 freestyle event. Lynn Hammond brought in a second in the 50-yard freestyle race.

The divers followed the example of the swimmers as they took first, second and fourth, even without the help of the co-captain Cappy Craig, who was crutches.

In the 100-yard butterfly, Kelley Clough flew to an easy victory, while Robin Bennett pulled in a second. The 500-yard freestyle event gave Linda Bornhuetter a second and Jill Rooney a third.

The 100-yard backstroke event brought victory to all who entered. June Hamilton, Erik Rombaut, and Shelby Stiens all swam into a first, second, and third place, respectively. Breaststroke was more of the same as Linda Barton and Tina Bray took first and second.

"The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing!"

Edmund Burke (1729-1797)

Vote November 2

Darien Republican Town Committee

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