By MEG McGOLDRICK

A Congressional bill amendment, sponsored by Senator James L. Buck- ley, The Fairness in Standards and Privacy Act, went into effect Tues- day, December 19. This law allows students and parents to inspect all the contents of cumulative school folders. A student's school record contains informa- tion such as birth certificates, grades, test scores, attendance records, teachers' rating forms and recommen- dations. Students and parents are the only ones with access to their folders, with the exception of school staff members and courts with subpoenas. Students 18 years old may require written permission from their parents to see their school record.

The amendment, written by John Kwan, legislative assistant to Senator Buckley, was intended to protect the students from having un- true and slanderous statements on their records that might hurt their chances for college or a job. Buckley's amendment states: "Law Unclear.

Mr. Kwan's didn't intend the law to mean that recommendations be shown to students also, but that is how the amendment may be read. According to Gerald Heffernan, Guidance Department Head, the Buckley Amendment is unclear and leaves many questions unanswered. He added, "It can prevent help where help is called for." Because teachers, psychologists, and counselors know students can read what is written about them, they will not write a complete job as possible, he said. Teachers were more aware of their observations about students. Mr. Heffernan thinks that more in- formation will be gathered if a teacher and a counselor talking. He also fears that if a student reads a psychologist report, for instance, he might get a distorted picture of the problem and it could cause more harm than good. A student-teacher relation- ship could be affected by a student read- ing comments about himself.

According to Mr. Heffernan, as long as he has been here has students been able to see all of their school records except confidential statements. Mr. Heffernan said that very few students have asked to see their records since the law came into effect. This amendment will help students to recognize facts as far as test scores and performance go. They will know how they are seen by others." He encourages students to read them.

Darien has had definite guidelines on the handling of students' records. Although other schools were not so careful, Darien did not give information to any individual, the army, police or FBI without written consent from the student. But before that vote, this is now part of the new law.

Teachers' Recommendations

Mr. Heffernan said that when he came to DHS, the school records were a mess. "We were aware of a stage in the auditorium and all over the place," he added. The Guidance Department spent one year organizing and putting the records on microfilm. All active students are taken from a student's folder after graduation and Continued on page 4

Was Samson Scalped?

Yearbook Decision Stings Photographer

By JANE ADAMS

A minor "Photogate" or a simple misunderstanding? This is the ques- tion regarding the letters some seniors have written, in exchange for a reduced price of their yearbook pictures, for Steven Samson of The Darien Studio of Photography.

Says Mr. Samson's was pro­

Pictured preparing for the Senior Class Christmas Tree Sale, which will continue through Dec. 24, are: from L to R: St. Patrick's Pet- er Gilsenan, Chuck Hough, and Weldon Scotch. pictures, wreaths, and balsam firs are being sold. The proceeds will go to the DHS Scholarship Fund.

(Photograph by Jan Clark)
Neirad is published by the students of Darien High School on a bi-weekly basis. Letters and "Viewpoints" may be mailed to Neirad, Darien High School, Darien Conn. 06820. Annual Subscription rate, $4.00. All Neirad Texts Are Copyrighted © 1974.

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English Department's Action Laudable

Dr. Black's recent announcement of the English Department's reorganization and clarification of the elective system seems to fulfill the objectives originally hoped for when the program was introduced.

The program, when it was first presented, was well constructed and planned. The revisions will increase the effectiveness of the system.

The English Department's action of having courses which, when combined, constitute a traditional English program for a high school junior or senior, will be beneficial for those students who would rather not design their own curriculum. Of course, students will still have the option to choose their English classes if they so desire.

The special report cards for sophomores, another of the English Department's revisions, provides for more personal communication and guidance for a student who may not know which English courses would best suit his needs.

I do believe that the courses of the English Department will be more effective. Students are allowed to construct their own curriculum from the electives offered as well as being able to take more than one English course a year. This new elective system makes better utilization of the strengths inherent in the staff. It is fairly safe to assume that no teacher is a master of every aspect of English studies. In the elective program, teachers are taught by teachers who are genuinely interested in the courses they instruct.

We applaud Dr. Black, Mr. Sutton, the department in their attempt to improve communication between themselves and the community. The revisions provide more guidance for the students in their selection of courses and ensure that students will not pick "any old curb," but the ones that are best for them.
308 Does 'Vibrant Job,' Paints 'Our Town' Red

By BOB JEFFERSON

Review
For this year's fall production, Theatre 308 presented Our Town by Thornton Wilder at DHS on November 22 and 23. The play lends itself to a good production by almost any group; but Theatre 308's was truly exceptional. The production flowed with a smoothness like that of a musical.

The play concerns the town of Grover's Corners, New Hampshire, at the turn of the century.

Stage Manager
Some humorous and sometimes very surprising dialogue was delivered by Frances Venetis as the stage manager. She kept the audience totally immersed in Grover's Corners while narrating the gaps between scenes. Julie Hufferd played an equally convincing Mrs. Gibbs. While some of the leads had trouble projecting their characters to the audience, Miss Hufferd was Mrs. Gibbs and played her role with easy precision and poise.

Chris Popov portrayed the often-foreboding George Gibbs, a touch that gave the hero a real hero's character. His acting style was thoroughly believable to say the least, but often his facial expressions and hand movements were his most striking devices. Mr. Popov did a fine job in combining the two to create his total character. Barbara Gray and Brian Donofre also excelled in bringing forth their total characters to the audience.

Mae Gray did exceedingly well in her monologues, which came at moments which would otherwise have been dull. Mr. Donofre's drunken antics and blunt comments to his choir were a treat in themselves.

All of the leads seemed to outshine the lesser roles for the most part. Other exceptional leads were: Robin Young as Mrs. Webb, Steve Taylor as her philosophical husband, Sue Signore as the town's minister, Debra, and John Gibson as Mr. Gibbs. These actors and actresses not only performed their own parts believably but complimented one another. Other major roles were played by Erica Van Wagner as Emily Webb and Charlie Worthington as Wally Webb.

Imaginary Sets
A real tribute to the cast was the way they handled themselves on their imaginary sets. Doors, windows, and the like were never out of place so the audience had a real visual image of the scenery, especially during Act I.

The cast as a whole was alive and vibrant, and best of all, they kept the audience involved during moments that might have been bland. Audiences both nights must have been quite an inspiration in size.

This production of Under Milkwood last year, should be a good omen for productions to come.

This Year Give The 'Let-Me-Entertain-You' Gift

Depending on the receiver's taste and your budget, there are many shows, concerts, sports events, and special interest events to which you can get admission tickets for or gift subscriptions to.

For those with a musical bent, this rock 'n' roll musical transports us back to the time when teenage characteristics were becoming stronger all the time. This production has a cast showing manic enthusiasm.

For plays on a more dramatic level there are several which have received good reviews. The most successful gifts would probably be Equus, Sherlock Holmes, or Lutece (a musical). Mom and Dad might enjoy a nostalgic play painting "Our Town" in Grover's Corners while narrating the gaps between scenes.

Harry Nilsson has a terrific new album for good music is the new Loggins and Holden. Another idea might be Harry Chapin's new release, "Grease" a musical. Mom or period is a terrific gift.

If you know that a friend or relative scale. Posters of many other subjects can be purchased at several places for quite low prices.

C.S.I. STUDENTS!
Our up-to-date Category Index will direct you to the information you need facts and all shades of opinion on contemporary issues are at

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Santa takes time out from his busy schedule at the North Pole to pose as Peter Hoover. (Photo by Jim Clark)

‘Neidard’s’ Santa Gets His Jollies

By PETER HOOVER

Second in a Series of George Plimpton-esque Features

As an undercover reporter for Neidard, I was assigned to disguise myself as Kris Kringle. Without any regard to my health or welfare, I threw myself on the mercy of the little kiddies in the midst of Darien's own Stoliers. There I was, a person with no more significance than a single grain of sand on a beach. Within minutes, I would attract the little folk from far and wide, with a brilliant red suit and flaming white hair.

I just sat and talked with Paul, a little boy who was so polite and so charming that I gave him a handful of candy canes. His mother came back with him five minutes later. "For God's sake, Santa, the boy just stayed home from school today for having a stomachache," and she attempted to give back the candy canes, at which time Paul started to cry. I could not stand to see such a charming boy cry, so I said to his mother, "Now, that's not being a good girl is it?"

A Visit With Santa
From all directions I was surrounded by kids. "I want a Cadillac," "Gimmie a 'Planet of the Apes' tree house," "Can you get me a Barbie Doll?" Toys, bikes, models, cars, planes, construction sets, art sets, this and that. Just as soon as I would write down their orders, two more would pop up. I was being driven nearly to the brink of insanity!!!

Finally, things began to quiet down. I was alone there, sitting in my chair, taking a well-deserved rest. At last, when I thought it was all through, a little blonde-haired boy walked up to me. He said: "Did you just put those whiskers on to fake everybody?"

"Why no, I'm the real Santa Claus." "If you're real, take off your hat and let me see the rest of your white hair."

I looked up at Dave Lemmons and Karen Ferrari who work there and motioned to them to get this kid away from me. They both stood there.

"Cmon, Take it off, you faker." "I haven't got the time," was my only reply as I was still motioning to Dave to get rid of the brat.

"So long faker!!!"

All the other children began to turn their heads. Finally, I spoke up to the boy: "Come here, I want to talk to you." I squeezed his arm and whispered in his ear, "Look kid, if you don't shut up, I'm going to let you ride piggyback on a buzz saw." He opened a nine-year-old boy run faster than he did.

Santa Retires
I thought this was so good a time as ever to make my exit. I got up, walked down the aisle, slumped into the back room and got out of my costume. I was Peter Hoover again. I walked out of the store into the December night air. I turned around, smiled now, and facing the north said to myself, "Santa, wherever you are, God help you."
Biology

the bay. "All in all, I'm very happy," he

Adams visited South America in February, Europe in October, and have

dlio, CI,

bod.

Gordon Bruno, former principal, left Darien High School last year for a
doing. CI,

ministrators. Currently I am working on an evaluation program with ad-

ministrators and teachers in New York and New Jersey.

New Act 'Helps More Than Hurts'

continued from page 1

destroyed, so it won't be on his permanent record.

Teachers were given back their ratings of current students shortly before high school grades were mailed into effect. Mr. Hefferman said that some teachers did rewrite their ratings before returning them. These ratings are given to colleges upon students' re-

quests. Currently he said that some counselors are counselors for writing recommenda-

tions.

Selective colleges are worried about losing teachers' and counselors' cand
id opinions. Donald Robbins, assistant principal, said teachers will have to write more skillfully recommended recommenda-
tions. They will have to check out the facts. Unfortunately, they may not

receive themselves so fully. Although a teacher has to make a few critical observations about a student, Mr. Robbins predicts that more positive points will be written.

Nursing, and served as the school nurse before she started teaching full time, moved

in the home. She enjoys her job but admits: "Now that I'm back in nursing,

I realize why I went into teaching! I miss being around young people all day - the

challenge of teaching a difficult lesson. I miss the striving to rewrite and present

challenging ideas to people." Mrs. Hare foresees no immediate changes in her future

plans at this time.

Dr. Richard Harper, former Social Studies Department head through this Oc-

tober, is now Coordinator of Social Studies K-12 for all of Stamford's public schools.

In reference to his new position, Dr. Harper commented, "I'm enjoying it more

than I thought I would." He cited the challenge and the opportunity he has had to

meet a lot of different people as some of the favorable aspects of his new pursuit, but

added that it is too bad that he has not had a lot of contact with students.

Concerning the differences and similarities between the Stamford and Darien

School Systems, Dr. Harper said, "You observe many ..." He noted that the high

school in Darien is more informal than those in Stamford. "The teaching relation-

ship is more informal ... student freedom and flexibility are much more marked in

Darien." Dr. Harper noted that there was "a good spirit in Stamford about trying to im-

prove the system as a whole." He mentioned that Stamford has a staff development program which in-

volves opportunities for teachers to learn of new techniques in teaching, for example.

Dr. Harper foresees changes in plans in the near future.

Formerly of the Math Department at DHS, Joan MacDonald is presently attend-

ing the University of Wisconsin, working toward her Master's degree. She left DHS last June, as she was only hired as a one-year replacement for Mr. Nicholson, who was on sabbatical leave. In January, Ms. MacDonald plans to teach at Exeter Academy in New Hampshire, where she has been offered a permanent position.

She noted the difference in teaching in private and in public schools, commenting,

"There are a lot of hassles in public school." "Greater opportunities appeared on the horizon," responded former DHS faculty member Timothy Otte to a question concerning his departure from the high school.

He said he misses his associates a lot and "I occasionally miss the students, too,

but at this moment does not regret his move. When asked if he had heard anything about disputes at DHS, he replied, "Yes, and I'm glad I left." He had no comment on the present cut policy other than that he would oppose it if he were still at the high school.

Mr. Otte, a social studies teacher last year and for three years preceding 1973-74, taught U.S. History and CHS. He practiced an independent classroom situation.

Now, he runs a restaurant in Hartford, Connecticut called Timothy's and has returned "it my baby." According to Mr. Otte, the restaurant is doing well and though there is always the option to go back to teaching, he prefers at this time to stay with the res-

taurant for a while. He said, "It's a new experience and I've learned a lot. I really en-

joy it."

Former Superintendent of the Darien School System Daryl Pelletier, is present-

ly in charge of the West Islip, Long Island schools. He left Darien last year, after

eight years of service here, feeling that that was a long enough time to spend in

one community. He said, "I left to take on a bigger job. This new one is more

than twice as big." The West Islip school system has 13 schools. Dr. Pelletier says he is involved with a wide

umber of committees. He added, "I'm enjoying it very much."

As for extra curricular activities, Dr. Pelletier plays tennis twice a week, sails in the summer and has a house on the bay. "All in all, I'm very happy," he commented, although he does misses all of his good friends in Darien.
Gymnasts To Defend State Title

By LARRY CUSACK

The 1974-75 Darien High School Gymnastics Team this year has a great task to achieve, that is to defend their 7974 County and State Championships.

Last year's squad was perhaps Darien's finest team in its history. The team just put it all together as they went undefeated, won the county championship over a strong Greenwich squad, and then went on to take the state title, again over Greenwich, who came in second.

However, this year's team has a lot to overcome. Graduation has hit the team seriously. Darien lost the four most talented gymnasts ever to come from Darien. They are Walter Dorrell, Kim Bailey, Mickey Vitti and Steve Infante. Dorrell and Bailey both shared the Connecticut State All-Around Championship, while Vitti took the parallel bar title, and Infante placed a third in the floor exercise championship.

Although the team undoubtedly has less talent, the seniors in the program, Sal Ferraina and Andy Schofield, are back for their second year. The matmen have already been in the conditioning phase for practice for weeks.

The matmen of Darien, minus one captain and top wrestler in Jamie Baillor (who moved), and another letterman in Steve Hart (who chose not to go out), have begun the tedious work of getting into condition. Under the leadership of captain Sal Ferraina, the Wavers hope to improve on last year's mediocre record of 7-7.

Despite the loss of McEvoy and Hart, Ferraina believes he has a more balanced team this year with the returning lettermen plus a crop of sophomores coming up from the junior high ranks. He also feels that juniors David Sisk and increment McAuliffe will contribute much to the team.

The Wave already has most of its weight classes filled up with experienced veterans, leaving only a few spots open to newcomers. So far, the team looks as follows: Ferraina will hold his 147-pound class without too much competition. Sisk finished last year with a 132-pound record; he was fourth in the states in his weight class.

and he was also chosen to the All-County team. Senior Scott Park feels they are trying to improve on his 7-7 record of last year in the 125-pound division. Senior John DeCesare will try to nail down the 114-pound division after completing a disappointing 8-8 record last year, and junior Joe Lombardo, whom Ferraina has high hopes for, will return for his second season at the 100-pound class. Sal feels there are still some gaps, especially in the upper weight division but is impressed at the amount of new talent. Ferraina is hoping that second-year-man Lou Procaccini can nail the 114-pound class, Gary Scholen the 100-pound class, and Tom Dephin at 134 pounds, with rookie Sisk at 105 pounds, McAuliffe at 140 pounds, and sophomore Tom Krasky at 121 pounds.

The team will take on the Norwalk Bears at 6:31 at home on Dec. 30 in their season opener.

Blue Matmen To Grapple With Norwalk In Season Opener

By JIM CLARK

As the winter segment of DHS's sports program rolls in, all teams have already begun tuning up for their oncoming seasons. Not to be excluded from this group are the Blue Wave Wrestlers who have already been in the conditioning phase for practice for weeks.

The team just put it all together as they went undefeated, won the county championship, and Infante placed a third in the parallel bars, a balance beam, and a new springboard, which is shared with the boys. The long needed equipment has added much to the girls' routine, and the uneven bars have allowed new moves that were impossible on last year's bars.

The coach has hopes that the girls will have a good season with the returning juniors and seniors along with a few very strong sophomores. Two of these, Donna Smith and Karen Arneberg, will add their talents to the betterment of the team. Injuries have befallen the team with one co-captain out with broken fingers, a sophomore affected with a troublesome knee and pulled muscles, with shin splints and bruises affecting others.

The coach feels that the girls will do well this year but might have trouble against the Greenwich team, which has a reputation for being strong. "The girls have to throw their best routine and give it their all if they want to make it to the States. Out of 24 teams it's tough to make fourth place, which is what you have to do to make it into the States as a team." It will be tough for the girls to even match their last year's record of third in the Regional and first in the States.

The girls' first meet will be held at home at 7:30 p.m. January 8 against Stamford. This year's co-captains are Ellen Francesconi and Winky Ward.

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Female Gymnasts Show Optimism

By SALLY BILLINGS

The DHS girls' gymnastics team has started practicing for this year's season. However, the program has varied a little from last year's. The girls will have nine meets plus Regionals, States, and FCIAC's, compared to last year's total of nine meets all together.

Another factor that has helped the girls is that the coach, physical education instructor at Mather Jr. High Sandy Oldham, will be returning for her first full year of coaching.

The girls received a set of new uneven bars, a balance beam, and a new springboard, which is shared with the boys. The long needed equipment has added much to the girls' routine, and the uneven bars have allowed new moves that were impossible on last year's bars.

The coach has hopes that the girls will have a good season with the returning juniors and seniors along with a few very strong sophomores. Two of these, Donna Smith and Karen Arneberg, will add their talents to the betterment of the team. Injuries have befallen the team with one co-captain out with broken fingers, a sophomore affected with a troublesome knee and pulled muscles, with shin splints and bruises affecting others.

The coach feels that the girls will do well this year but might have trouble against the Greenwich team, which has a reputation for being strong. "The girls have to throw their best routine and give it their all if they want to make it to the States. Out of 24 teams it's tough to make fourth place, which is what you have to do to make it into the States as a team." It will be tough for the girls to even match their last year's record of third in the Regional and first in the States.

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GRANOLA

Bill Vernon (no. 8) winds up for a defender in the pucksters opening play against New Canaan. (Photo by Jim Clark)

**Icemen Face Off Season**

By PETER PUCK

After blazing through their exhibition schedule with an unmatched 3-0-0 record, the pugnacious Darien pucksters opened up their "74-75 campaign with a disappointing 2-0 loss to perennial county champ and archrival New Canaan, a 10-0 victory over the Vikings of Westhill, and a 7-4 win over the Ludlow Tigers.

The frozen Wavers are led by co-captain Steve Franklin and Bill Vernon, who are joined by Hunk Hough to make up the first line. The second line is centered by Charlie Hartigan, with Jeff Taylor and Burch Baylor skating alongside him. The defense is bolstered by lettermen Eric DiSilvestro and Matt Clinton, along with Craig Sinclair, Jeff Franklin, and Carl Grimm, Bob Allen, Jack DeVito, Carl Grim, Bob Huse, Chris Layton, and Peter Craig, who was third in the state in diving, both were All-State, and Peter Craig, who was third in diving, both were All-State. Both came in the first period when Bill Panella of New Canaan got open in front of the cage and slipped the disk past a sprawling Ashbaugh.

**Blue Netters Hoping To Improve On 3-17 Record**

By TODD BURGER and LARRY CUSACK

It's a brand new season for the DHS hocksters this year and Mr. Richard Percudani, entering his third year as head coach, seems optimistic about the upcoming season:

"From the first practice to now, I think the team is potentially better than last year's. They perform the fundamentals better and are sounder on offense and defense than last year's team."

Mr. Percudani is hoping on an improvement of last year's dismal record of 3-17, which in itself is misleading as the team and school and the state and country and world and school was the best team. This year's seniors who were an integral part of the team and as Coach Sangster put it, "We lost a lot of talent and only picked up seven more this year."

Co-captains Mike Amaya, who was the best breast-stroke swimmer in the state, and Peter Craig, who was third in the state in diving, both were All-State selections. Both will have their work cut out for them, as there are only three other returning lettermen besides themselves on a team that only has sixteen men.

The other three lettermen are Kern Frederick, diving, butterfly, and breaststroke, and Jim Shannan, versatile.

Sophomore looking to help the team are Bob Allen, Jack DeVito, Carl Grimm, Bob Huse, Chris Layton, and Pat Murphy.

Due to the space turn over, Coach Sangster feels that "lack of depth will hurt us in dual meets." He continues evaluating the schedule by saying.

"There are no weak spots on our schedule until near the very end of it. We have a tough schedule, and it won't be easy for us."

The team opened with a home meet against Newfalk Dec. 11, a team Coach Sangster says is a "much improved team and should be tough this year."

(Results were not available at press time.)

So while things are not perfect for this year's swimmers, I have a feeling that the team will come through by capturing their third straight State Championship in the Class L Division, and give Coach Sangster his fifth winning season in a row.

Mr. Percudani says is a "much improved team this year's team. I have a feeling that the players he has will be able to develop on them for their scoring and leadership if they are to have any chance for a winning season."

Mr. Percudani says that this year's team will be a running team and will be pressing full court. He feels that the players have he has to do is change that situation a little bit and give them a little bit more room and a little bit more "give." He feels that the league on the whole will be more evenly balanced and that there is no really strong team this year in the league and that the team that has developed so far, giving Darien a better chance for a winning season.

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