In the Music Room a corridor will be fashioned so that one does not have to walk through a class to get backstage or to one of the various offices or practice rooms in the new area.

As far as the athletics is concerned, there will be an entire new gym attached to the back of the current gym, and there is an alternative to clear an area for four new practice fields. This will provide needed practice space for many teams involved in inter-schools competition. Within the next two years, some classes will have to shuffle from one classroom to another. Team-teaching A and B as well as Senior Commons might begin to be used as classrooms.

Thus, the DHS community embarks upon a busy period of renovation and classroom chaos. Don't forget, we earned it!

By Susan Lane

To familiarize students with some Board of Education views, Neird interviewed two members about curriculum, spirit and discipline at Darien High.

"I basically don't feel people should sit in rows in the high school and have walls that separate them. I am an every minute of the day. You can walk down the hall in the most ordinary way. In the past Mrs. Danzberger has been the vice-chairman and chairman of the Board of Education on the negotiation and budget committees. She is not on any specific committees at present because the Board is working now more in the capacity of the whole, Mrs. Danzberger has a fellowship through the Institute for Educational Leadership in Washington, D.C. She is the coordinator of the Education

Susan Lane

Danzberger, Leonard Express Opinions

To the degree that there will be more "ALP" and those kinds of things. They [Darien Educators] will be more concerned with the non-college bound.

"Conservative Community"

The weaknesses aren't within the High School," commented Mrs. Danzberger about DHS's weaknesses and strengths. "There's a problem that this is a very, very conservative community, and we have a more conservative high school and have had, even when Dr. Bruno was here, than any in the surrounding communities.

"The strength of DHS is," Mrs. Danzberger pointed out, "the dedication of the teaching staff that have given their time to develop different programs. Mrs. Danzberger also feels that students are not unique individuals that do not put students in a set mold is another strength.

continued on page 2

Fred Piderit:

Alternative Learning Option 'Constantly Making Progress'

By Karen MacMurdy and Cindy Tower

If you are intrigued by the idea of earning credit for breathing pure air, running your own business or raising guinea pigs, you might be interested in Darien High's new Alternative Learning Program.

The Alternative Learning Program was first designed and presented by a group of teachers to the Board Of Education. It was finally approved by the Board and the principal in May 1976. By the middle of May, 1976, most science classes will have to shuffle from one to another location outside the Senior Commons. The main library area will be renovated and the Language Lab will be moved "bodily," students must therefore be moved on a weekly basis.

The program is composed of big boots upon the roof above. It was only a warning of the approximate 200,000 people who were stranded within the city. It was only a warning of the "back to basics" Mrs. Danzberger felt that "writing skills, speaking skills, and some appreciation for literature is built into the elective program," because of the requirement for each student to have a specific amount of writing, literature and speaking credits.

"You can learn a great deal in three or four hours if you're highly motivated and if your whole day is set to make sense to you," were Mrs. Danzberger's views on the effectiveness of the Alternative Learning Program and the Work Study Program. In the future Mrs. Danzberger also feels that there will be more "ALP" and those kinds of things. They [Darien Educators] will be more concerned with the non-college bound.

"Conservative Community"

The weaknesses aren't within the High School," commented Mrs. Danzberger about DHS's weaknesses and strengths. "There's a problem that this is a very, very conservative community, and we have a more conservative high school and have had, even when Dr. Bruno was here, than any in the surrounding communities. Anything that seems to go away with the way it was when we were in school is seized upon as the weakness of not doing something. Because of a town newspaper and because of the willingness of a minority of people in town to dwell on any weakness or anything, a negative context has developed which is very bad for the morale of the students and staff.

"The strength of DHS is," Mrs. Danzberger pointed out, "the dedication of the teaching staff that have given their time to develop different programs. Mrs. Danzberger also feels that students are not unique individuals that do not put students in a set mold is another strength.

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Bubble, bubble, tar and trouble as workers cook up a new roof. (Photo by Susan Lane)
Construction To Cause Confusion

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus, but those are not his tiny reindeer teetering softly on the ebbide.

In Santa's colossal bag of goodies, we find a new wing, an expanded library, an additional classroom and a new auditorium. However, the new auditorium rooms will not dance in our heads, as Santa’s “elves” will be lingering on throughout the Biennially Era.

We are most pleased to continue with their notorious school spirit throughout these trying times of civic construction. Eventually during this period of utter turmoil, all social studies classes will be transported to a new wing, which will be far removed from the bustling and turbulent of infamous intersection. English rooms will be moved down the hall and the Foreign Language Department will occupy a good portion of C-wing. Any alumni member who would plan to visit Dec Bob-bins will not find him in his office because it will not be there.

Christmas Eve is a time at which choruses glow in joyful expectation of happiness to come. The period ranging from Dec 19 through Feb 1, 1977 (the date on which all construction is scheduled to be terminated) will be something of an ex-tended Christmas Eve. We hope that Darien High’s prolific poinsettia will not dissipate into a case of the nasties; we shudder at the possibility of a mild-mannered math mentor and an aimless English teacher having a fist fight over who will use Team Building B as a temporary classroom.

Also, this is the price Santa must pay for his failure to foresee the needs of the high school community. As some of you may know, a far more practical plan had been originally proposed when this building had yet to be edified. However, the proposal was shelved, and thus we are left with this inadequate monument to our architecture.

There are enough Scrooges in the world; it is neither our purpose nor our desire to be ungrateful. But it is unfortunate that members of the DHS community will probably be greatly affected by a concentrated though fairly long period of building.

At the very least it will leave students in the dark as to what is going on—until this very moment, we have felt the soft patterings of their little hooves would have lost some of its charm after a few months. Even the sweet-scent of Christmas Eve would have turned bitter if it lasted for over a year. He he he. I’ve got to get on with my schedule.

Neirad

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GREETINGS FROM THE CRITICS

Board Of Ed Members Speak Out On Cuts, Curriculum Concerns

By BETSY ADAMS

"I am not at all certain that discipline is the biggest problem at Darien High School," Charles Leonard, Board of Education member, says. "For example, to go back, sometimes the halls of the high school and hear those four-letter words. That’s what I mean. Particularly when they don’t seem to be a necessity. To me, it’s a mark of immaturity. It’s not because of a remark possibility. It isn’t that the students don’t care, I think they do. It just bothers them that I am there. This is another example of the emphasis on pride that Mr. Porter would like to see a brightening of the values at DHS.

Charles Leonard is employed by American Airlines. His two sons, Kevin and Gary, have both been educated in the Darien Public School System, and both are graduates of Darien High. Mr. Leonard has been a member of the Board of Education for almost three years. He explains his and Bobben and when asked, he replied that he considers himself a "liberal traditionalist." Frankly, I am not a conservative. This does not mean that I am not willing to change when change is warranted, I will change."

Mr. Leonard does not feel that the budget cuts have affected the quality of education at DHS. "If they have, they shouldn’t have," he states. "I am not a member of the faculty or administration has brought to the Board of Education. The Board has always been concerned about the Board cuts, however, the Board and the administration must fulfill maximum education for a maximum number of students." Mr. Leonard contin-ues, "I am not certain exactly how this program which might provide a maximum education for a maximum number of students."

Mr. Leonard cited several reasons why the budget cuts were a necessity. Among them was the unemployment. "Unemployment in Darien High is probably at the highest it’s ever been. Because of this and other fac-
tors, reductions must be made somewhere. Courses which don’t provide a maximum education for a large number of students must be cut." Mr. Leonard continued, expressing his support of students voicing their complaints. "As you probably know, I had the Kelly Clough 'Viewpoint' read into a Board meeting with the sugges-
tion for all to attend. I thought it was interesting to listen to the response by Mrs. Gage and Miss Krebs. It disturbed me a little that it took two 'Viewpoints' and almost a month to complete one thing. A course which could have been taken care of at any time before last because these people are in contact with each other five days a week. I was impressed with the fact that one student feels strongly enough about something to voice an opinion. This is good. I was impressed with this fact partly because Keith Clark, another Board member, has been loud and clear about his desire to hear from students. Here, a student was presenting a problem. It is a very, very small reason. I am not teaching a private special education program which might provide a maximum education for a maximum number of students."

Concerning curriculum, he com-
mented, "I don’t feel that curriculum development has been all that it should be. I think that we need a five or ten year curriculum development plan. This plan would lead you through a cycle of planning wherein, as America States, would have been planned far in advance." He said that academic programs running through the various levels of the school system must be consistent and related.

Mr. Leonard states that he was against the original English curriculum at DHS where there were over 100 electives. "I felt that 100 electives on a subject that could have been taken care of at makes me wonder why such habits are fostered to such a great extent.

I don’t like to see the same people together all the time, much less in the same place. I don’t think it should be dependent on each other and pick up each others habits, slowly becoming less open with other acquaintances. It is very possible that the reason a person sits on the ground is because he or she saw one of her or his side-kicks do it, so what he doesn’t do can be any worse than the previous occurance.

 Cliques Activities

Depending on your preference or cli- que, one may be found smoking, gaming, graphing, studying, playing games, wearing leather jackets, etc, or others, not because any pleasure is derived from it, but because he wants to be on the same level as his companion.

Some "members" of cliques avoid "members" of other cliques because they only see how superficially different they are. It is one thing to dislike a person, but another to dislike their clique completely. For example: "the football team"

I who happily consider myself free of a particular clique, see a person more clearly when he or she is separated from an individual. Why? Because when this is the case, there is nothing to blame for his liking or disliking the person from being the invidual that he is.

Ettiger Expresses Warm Wishes

To the Editors:

It was great being back for Homecoming, just to see you all enjoying yourselves. I know I did. It made me realize how much I miss you all.

I am now teaching a private special education program which might provide a maximum education for a maximum number of students. It is very hard work involving very long hours. The school is located in Riverdale. It is a very Happy New Year. Bye for now.

Best wishes,

Emily Joy Ettiger

Out of the Classroom: The Huddle

The DHS boys’ football team has been1975 Neirad. Readers are invited to turn in their views in editorials submitted to the Neirad box in the front office. Submission of a column does not guarantee publication, but we will attempt to print as many worthy "Viewpoints" as possible.

By GREY REILLY

I walked through the cafeteria snapping my fingers, or could I say clicking my fingers? A few wide-eyed people looked at me and may have been thinking, why don’t I click for enjoyment or because I have a song in my head. I click as I saw a clique? I click hoping that someone will ask why.

Although it may seem like human nature for people to change or act differently when they see with different people, something natural inside me does not like to see people limit their social expansion or conformity.

"Retreat To Same Place"

If anyone is not sure what a clique is, let me walk you through a pressed by the spirit at Darien High."

"Nothing is printed at the Board of Education."

"I think that what we need is a five year plan which might provide a maximum education for a maximum number of students."

"I am not certain exactly how this program which might provide a maximum education for a maximum number of students."

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Students Design Own Programs Through ALP

Continued from page 1

New Year's resolutions, Mr. Piderit commented that practically all the feedback from the faculty has been "very warm, supportive, and helpful... They think we’re doing an important job." He objects to the occasional remark from some students outside the program that the A.L.P. participants are not getting credit for "nothing." "We expect the same work from people here as we do in the regular program. People who don’t do anything, don’t get any credit..." As a professional, I couldn’t run a program in which people weren’t doing anything and get good grades."

Mr. Piderit felt it is important for the entire school community to know that the American Studies Program exists because of the sacrifices many teachers have made to make the program possible. He supported the principal’s decision to assign three teachers to work in this program, the English and Social Studies Departments, in particular, have been willing to increase their already heavy course loads so that the Alternate Learning Program could be offered.

Student Projects

Jean Hayward is working on the Iroquois Indians. This will count as a double credit course for English and history students. The project includes joining a group called "Friends of Indians," and setting up an exchange with an Indian girl from the Ontario reservation. Keith Griffin is studying the Apalachian Trail, also a double credit course. His study will include five weeks’ hiking on the trail, hopefully covering 250-300 miles.

Mandy Geyer is interested in developing a new education model which might be used as another division of ALP. Miss Geyer has been teaching special education classes, and plans to study other high schools’ alternate learning programs. She has already visited Andrew Wauke in Fairfield.

When asked what the best thing is about ALP, one student answered, "There’s no classroom competition. Last year I used to cram up because I was afraid someone would put me down. Another big difference is that I’m truly doing something because I’m interested. I’m enjoying accomplishment, and I feel good about myself. There are good teachers in ALP and they make me want to do well."
Do Students Have ‘County,’ Red & White Blues?

By TOM CROTTY

As the month of November gives way to a cold December, students begin to think of the fun that these long-awaited events—vacation, skiing, Christmas, New Year’s and most importantly, The Red and White Ball and The County Assembly—will bring. The County Assembly and Red and White dances, for juniors and seniors respectively, are the honorary worry of the month. For those of you who don’t know what I’m talking about, they are formalgirl-ask-boy dances held on the seventeenth and eighteenth of December. Darien, along with Fairfield, Westport, Weston and Wilton, attends the dances, this year being held at Longshore Country Club. The money from these dances goes to various charities in the area.

In late November, the invitations go out to the eligible girls in town. This is when the fun, or not so much fun begins. For the next two weeks, all the girls can be seen hiding in corners gossiping about who asked whom, and which guys are left. Meanwhile the boys either congratulate, or mourn their fellow classmates. These two weeks are a time when boys either stand eagerly awaiting that special phone call, or spend all their time at a friend’s house so they can’t be reached. The girls have to summon up the courage to go to the phone and accept the call. Usually most of the inviting is over in a flurry. Now comes the stage where girl A finds out girl B asked the same person she was going to ask, and they never speak to each other again. Soon boy A becomes jealous of boy B because B’s going with the girl he wanted to go with.

Then comes the week before the big dance. All the boys go in gangs to Zumiez or Serpessa to rent a tux, and the girls drive over to White Plaines to buy a beautiful new dress. Plans are formulated for dinner, where you’re going to go, and with which other couple.

Jamaican Reggae Rock Moves

By DAVE BROWN

Immediately upon seeing the cover of Bob Marley and the Wailers’ latest American release, Natty Dread, one can see that the band has made some progress since their last record. Of course Marley occupies the driver, but, for once, he is not smoking a spliff! Some reggae lovers might have trouble recognizing Marley without a 5” marijuana cigar clenched between his teeth, but he hasn’t changed. He is still the reigning king of Jamaican music, and this album reaffirms his title.

The lack of a spliff on the cover is indicative of the new approach the Wailers are taking to the American music scene. The band on reggae in Britain and the steadily growing U.S. market for the stuff has allowed the band to abandon its attempt to relate to us on our own terms. Marley no longer tries to show us that, deep down, these reggae rock moves are for those with untrained ears, along with a certain degree of anarchistic political content. The alien superlative standards. The backup vocals, however, are greatly improved from the low they reached with “Catch A Fire.”

Bob Marley and the Wailers are taking to the American market, tunes to make Dad twitch and the steadily growing U.S. market for the stuff has allowed the band to abandon its attempt to relate to us on our own terms. Marley no longer tries to show us that, deep down, those reggae rock moves are just like the rest of us; smoking dope (and up to their usual than sermonized. The music

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Faculty, Students Make News

Bette Adams, senior, was named recipient of a 1975 National Council of Teachers of English Achievement in Writing Award, placing her among the best student writers in the country. Over 7,000 juniors were nominated last spring by high school English departments, and only about 130 were chosen to receive the award. Bette submitted a history project entitled "CCO: A Worthwhile Proposal" and then did a one-hour essay assignment entitled "The American Dream in 1975." The DSH English Department also received a special certificate of commendation from the NCTE.

Recently in the library display areas have been the entries in the Creative Woman Contest sponsored by the Parent Advisory Council in recognition of International Women's Year. First prize was won by Lisa Bemis for her embroidery, while the runner-up were Kathy Mahon, Jean Bankowski, and Diana Algire.

Kathy Dorr, senior, recently received an honorable mention in the Nancy Thayer Poetry Prize Contest, sponsored by Pomfret School. Her poem entitled "Boston Common." Her poem, although it did not win one of the top prizes, reveals an "educational consideration" for the final prizes out of a field of thousands.

Hilary Freese, English teacher, spoke at the Mianus Regional Conference of Teachers of Family Studies, at Long Lots Junior High School recently. The topic Ms. Freese discussed was the application of general semantics principles to consumer education, the language of advertising, and child development. "The lecture's purpose was to inform interested teachers of what general semantics could offer to their programs," stated Ms. Freese. William Jacobs, DSH Social Studies Department chairman, is in the final stage of writing a biography of Harry S. Truman. He completed work last summer on a biography of Mussolini. Both of these books, along with his book entitled Hitler, Stalin, and Churchill, will all be published in December by Benzer as part of a series on twentieth century leaders. Also, in January, Dr. Jacobs' Women in American History will be published.

Michelle Klas, senior, was recently named recipient of the Daughters of the American Revolution Good Citizenship Award. The award is annually given to a senior girl for community service, dependability, and leadership ability, chosen by faculty and seniors.

Craig Matheson, English teacher, was recently a consultant participant in a career education conference at the Ohio State University. He participated from all fifty states, Washington, D.C., and Puerto Rico to develop a "recommendation for concern" on the nature and substance of career education. Ms. Matheson was invited to speak to the Connecticut State Drama Association on Teachers' Preparation Programs. This nine-week successful secondary school drama program is about to travel. Hopefully, you will have taken a deep breath of fresh air and still will be able to stand up after the second view. Also, it's not advisable to lean out over the cliff to look down at the trail, for you might end up being a landslide.

There is more to skiing than just expenses, views, and injuries, but not much more. Probably the greatest feeling for a new skier is knowing that he has mastered a trail (no matter what degree of difficulty). After conquering a trail, the skier is able to "ouch" down it, which makes him a changed skier to bystanders. And no doubt as one goes down the trail one's feelings, look down at the trail you're on, the slopes.

Michelle Klas (Photo by Tower)

Library Implements Heavier Fines

By SUSAN LANE

"Reserve materials must be returned on budget restrictions of equal importance, snow, sleet or personal discretion;" warns the library's yellow sign on the library's front desk. It is part of the stricter overdue book policy the library has implemented this year.

Two-week books now carry $5 a day overdue fines as opposed to $1 fine last year. Reserve books, magazines, and records are 25¢ a period or one dollar a day overdue fine, same as last year. Another change is that there will be no "amnesty day" because George Emerson, head of the library, explained, "It's self-defeating especially when after two years people [with overdue books] come back and ask when they can have the books." Library Rationale On Reserves

The rationale for heavier fines on reserve books is that only a few books are available to a large class as opposed to no fine last year, or owe an exorbitant amount of buying enough copies for everyone," explained, "You really have to work to get on this list." Mrs. Rodemann explained about the Library Obligation List. People who have books overdue since the due date are charged a small amount of money to the library have their names put on this list. These are not hard core cases commented, Mrs. Rodemann. People on this list are not allowed to check out books in the library. They are instead given the alternative of reading them in the library or not at all until they pay their fines. If the debtor can't pay his fines, he can work off his debt. By donating a book or shlewing books, the debtor is given $2.00 an hour toward his debt. "I had a $3.00 fine. It's no sweat working it off," commented one rebound debtor. "The only problem is that it's so eneavouring walking around shlewing all those books.

Three dollars is the maximum fine for any one offense. On reserve material or a regular book, when a fine reaches $3.00 it will not go any higher, unlike a public library where there is no upper limit." "Since I owed $9.00, I think it stinks," commented one disgruntled student about the new fine policy. "People take out books for other people, then those people forget to bring the book back and the people who took the books out are in trouble.

In the final stages of writing a biography of Harry S. Truman, Mr. Matheson completed work last summer on a biography of Mussolini. Both of these books, along with his book entitled Hitler, Stalin, and Churchill, will all be published in December by Benzer as part of a series on twentieth century leaders. Also, in January, Dr. Jacobs Women in American History will be published. Michelle Klas, senior, was recently named recipient of the Daughters of the American Revolution Good Citizenship Award. The award is annually given to a senior girl for community service, dependability, and leadership ability, chosen by faculty and seniors.
Theatre 308 Goes A-Caroling

By JULIE BROTHERTON and MELANIE JANICKIE

Scrooge and Tiny Tim came alive once again in Theatre 308’s production of Charles Dickens’ ‘A Christmas Carol’ on December 12 and 13. The staging of this Christmas classic, an independent study project conceived by Pamela McLean, the who’s who, and director, proved to be a seasonal success.

Jeff McLean, in the role of Scrooge, performed his character’s transformation from miser to philanthropist convincingly. Although he tended to overdue dramatic gestures, McLean was especially effective both in his confrontation with Marley’s Ghost (John Gilson) and in his penultimate awakening.

The story teller, played by Prakash Mirchandani, brought the audience into the atmosphere of nineteenth-century England with understated elegance. The costumes, the responsibility of Marley Gandy, also enhanced this period effect.

Each of the actors who played the ghosts of Christmases past, present, and future (Eileen Foulds, Jeff Allen, and Greg Brzoska respectively) was extremely well suited to his or her part. Eileen Foulds added the right touch of childhood innocence to her character’s haunting presence. Jeff Allen captured the jovial character of his role, while Greg Brzoska reflected the ominous appearance of the ghost he played.

As the whole of the staging of the play ran smoothly, in keeping with the character of Dickens’ story. One scene, however, was disappointing. The Fezziwig’s Christmas party, a scene from Scrooge’s past, lacked the gaiety and charm Dickens had intended, but the part was subsequently fixed on such an occasion. Although Frances Venezio played tiny Scrooge with appropriate youthful optimism, the slow, soppy waltz music dominated the party detracted from the entire atmosphere of the scene.

Otherwise, the production carried on successfully, with the support of the many minor characters, among them Michele Blasco as Young Scrooge’s fiancé, Jeff Harre as Bob Cratchit, and Melanie McGoldrick as Fredrik, Scrooge’s Niece. And, of course, A Christmas Carol would never be the same without Tiny Tim’s (Sue Siganore) classic ending line: “God bless Us, Every One!”

Reprint Sights Wild DHS Amazon

By SUE ALLARD

Recent problems concerning graffiti and vandalism in the girls’ rooms have caused many serious discussions — and wise-cracks. “How can this be?” I pondered. “Women are perfect: We don’t start wars; we don’t lie. Lipstick graffiti? That’s ridiculous!” Garbed in a borrowed Ms. magazine t-shirt and Gloria Steinem aviator glasses, with a butterfly net and Feminine Mystique in hand, this indigent reporter traipsed up and down the Amazon.

I had been warned of this terrible beastie’s great strength; it has the power to bend and emulsify metal with implements into crushed powder. Ever since these incantations, I have beenelli, practiced my Kung Fu routine. If you didn’t want to get kicked or bucked, you had to be seated on your ass. This player had to be sweet-talked into the donkey’s ear. Whether or not I was cheering for a friend or foe we’ll never know. These Bucking Buckyes hauled up to their names. To earn two points, a basket had to be made, with one catch, the

just before she strikes again, an amazon is captured in the act by a dedicated staff photographer, who is currently recuperating at a local hospital.

(Photograph by Susan Lane)

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Emerge Unbuckled

Senior Blue Team 6-4. The sophomores then challenged the juniors in a close match. High spirited cheerleaders chanted “Let’s Go, Sophomore Class!” You can beat them on your A’s! with tails swinging from their behinds. The sophomores won 6-5.

The final score was 6-5. The Sophomore class not only scored a victory in this competition, but managed to whelp the seniors 6-0, a true upset. The event’s profits of about $600 will be split between the senior class and the football team.

The success of last year’s performance called for an encore this year. Doherty Basketball just may prove to be a tradition at Darien High School.
Running on the track and out of breath is trackster Annette Spivey, (Photo by Susan Lause)

Star-Spangled Sports Banquet Scintillates

By BETSY ADAMS

Commentary

The well-attended 1975 Fall Sports Banquet was held on December 4 at DHS and the all-team meeting started at 6:15 followed by a hot dinner and an all-team meeting.

At the individual team meetings — cross country, field hockey, football, gymnastics, soccer, and action with a scrubmage against a strong Weston team, losing 38-28. Coach Billington explained that this was only a practice game and that, despite the loss, she is very pleased with the team's performance. "Everyone played very well," she stated. "We have a strong team, although there is a great deal of room for improvement." Coach Billington feels that the team's only weakness is its lack of height. "Ex- ecution is good enough to overcome this height problem," she added optimistically.

The varsity and the j.v. squads practiced separately a good deal of the time. From 2:35-4:30 the varsity team practiced in the gym, and from 5:30-6:45 the j.v. team practiced at the New Canaan High School. The boys' basketball team is not using the gym, girls' gymnastics team this year, there are other teams who are being deprived a fair amount of gym time. Ms. Billington stated that the girls' gymnastics team is forced to practice in the lobby until 4:30 when they can share the gym with other teams, using the alley where the bleachers are usually pulled out.

This year's captains are Beverly Flowers and Page Kennedy. Both cap- tains are pleased with the team's performance thus far and are looking forward to a good season.

The hoopsterettes took on Staples Gymnastics: By WINIFRED WILLIAMS

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Will Basket Babes' Hopes Dribble Away?

By BETTY HOPP

The girls' basketball team has opened its season under the direction of Coach Deborah Cameron and, according to Coach Cameron, "is working hard!"

The team, consisting of six seniors, four juniors, and twelve sophomores, started practices on January 9th. The coaches discussed each individual player. The basketball team had a particularly elaborate program, highlighted by a slide show, picturing the departing senior players in action.

One special feature of the dinner was the DHS football team raffle. Over two thousand tickets were sold. All profit going towards the purchase of a school TV. The DHS large cafeteria was packed as what was reported as the largest crowd ever assembled for dinner and there is still plenty of opportunity for improvement." Although there is a practice program for the girls' basketball team this year, there are other teams who are being deprived a fair amount of gym time. Ms. Billington stated that the girls' gymnastics team is forced to practice in the lobby until 4:30, when they can share the gym with other teams, using the alley where the bleachers are usually pulled out.

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Hoosters Knock Off Knights

By DAVID BAUDER

Another basketball season is upon us and fourth-year Coach Richard Pereudani and his team are looking forward optimistically towards a successful season.

The Wavers, who haven't exactly been burning up the league in recent years, finished with a 4-12 ledger last season. Coach Pereudani cites experience as a basis for his optimism. "We have a good nucleus of returning players," he said. Seven varsity basketballers are returning.

Senior center Paul Selway, who will captain the team, is looking forward to repeating his performance of last year, when he led the team with a 7.4 scor- ing average and a total of 128 rebounds. Impressive statistics for a junior.

The team will be led by Bob Waters and Paul Hendry, both of whom saw duty in the starting lineup last year. Both are rugged rebounders and are hoping to take some of the scoring burden off Selway's shoulders.

Darien noticed that they were for real as they surprised Stamford with a classy 72-65 win on Tuesday, Dec. 9. Balancing scoring and tough defense were the main ingredients in the opening game victory.

Behind the hot shooting of Bob Harford, the Wavers' strongest first-half effort, and tough defense the second quarter was rather quiet, but Darien maintained a lead of 31-25 at the half.

Midway through the third quarter, the Blue Wave executed a seven-point burst, with Allen Kirkley netting five of them, but they couldn't put it away as Stamford roared back with nine in a row.

When the Knights pulled to within two points early in the last period, the tiring Darien defense took over and clutch foul shooting led the win.

Bob Harford and Paul Selway led the scoring with 15 points each. Harford displayed a good shooting touch and exceptional ball handling for a junior with little previous varsity experience.

The backcourt did an excellent job. Along with Harford, Allen Kirkley put in nine points, even though he was foul trouble most of the game. Tom Watkins came off the bench to pour in 11 points.

Frozen Wave Drops Two, Ices Catholic

By PIERCE PUCK

The Wavers dropped over their Catholic, 6-2, at Darien Ice Rink on December 10. It was the team's first victory of the season. Following their loss to New Canaan and one to Norwalk.

The Waver played New Canaan at home to open up their season. Rookie mentor Phil Clark was looking for a Blue victory over the Rams, who had lost most of their team to graduation. New Canaan dominated the game and won, 5-3. Dwight Collins, Burdine Baylor, and Dan Grady scored goals for Darien, but it simply wasn't enough to overcome New Canaan's potent defense. John Horne and Jeff Taylor also had assists. The Wavers went crazy at home毕业.

The forwards for this year's squad are expected to be our deep point, as we have many quality swimmers. Allen and Shaneson returned last year with being potential record-setters. "We should demolish over the school records," Sangster boasted.

With new rules concerning scoring in dual meets, depth of the team has become increasingly important. No longer can two swimmers carry a team to victory. And depth seems to be a problem for Darien, as Sangster can barely find enough able bodies to fill the openings. Two new students, Mike Bowley and Andy Wetmore, should help relieve the load and Sangster looks for big things from these youngsters.

Coach Sangster also mentioned the lack of depth, and if several key performers are lost, the team may not win any meets.

The Waver's coach, Jim Girard, commented, "The team this year will be made up of Dick "The Bulldog" Brewer and the Black Jacks, the Darien matmen will take on Jonathan Law High School, December 18, at 4:00 p.m. on home territory.

The wrestlers have been holding practice after school to get in shape for the season by running, lifting weights, and wrestling. The team will try to better last year's record of 6 wins 8 and 8 losses with help from co-captain Joe Lombardo, in the 117 weight class, and 147 weight class contender Dave Sisk. Support will also come from John Stevenson (169 pound class), John Nimock (134 pound class), Lou Procaccio (121 pound class), and John Kratky, wrestling in the121 class. New to the team this year are Jack Humphrey, who will wrestle the 147 pound class, and John Nimock (134 pound class). Sophomores contributing are Chris Kratky (100 pound class), Doug Stevenson and Scott Sadow, who will both be in the 147 pound class.

The wrestlers' coach, Jim Girard, commented, "The team success this year will depend on the wrestlers getting down to their proper weights and the team members staying healthy." Last year the team lost some close meets due to illness but this year Coach Girard stated, "We have much better depth this year in case of illness during the winter months."

A few of the team members stated that the team looks very good this year and that they are looking forward to a successful season this winter.

The teams who will be the tough challengers this year will be Staples, Westhill, Trumpbull and Wilton, who are all expected to have some successful seasons.

Coach Girard and the team members are hoping for a good turnout for these key meets and for all the other meets during the 1975-76 season.