Teachers To Lead Tours

Europe - A 'Great Escape'

Several members of the faculty have organized tours to foreign lands which are scheduled for April vacation and open to any student. Anyone interested in participating in one of these tours should get in touch with the faculty sponsor before February vacation.

Chrsti Anastasio of the Foreign Language Department will be conducting a trip to Germany and Austria. Mrs. Anastasio, who has traveled to Germany with organized groups before, feels this is one of the best tours for the money that she has ever taken.

Black Forest Included

The trip will begin in the tiny country of Luxembourg, with the first stop in Germany being Heidelberg. The medieval town of Rothenburg will also be visited, followed by Munich. From Munich, day trips will be made across the border into Austria to Salzburg and Innsbruck. A tour of the famed Black Forest is also scheduled.

The price of $390 includes air fare, hotels, continental breakfast, and land fare. Dinners are usually cheap in the area and run around three dollars. The group will leave on Saturday, April 19, and return on Sunday, April 27. The air carrier is Icendian Airways. People wishing to go on this tour should see Mrs. Anastasio before February 15. The trip was arranged through Angersbach Tours, Inc. of New Jersey, who offered it.

The tour is open to any student. Anyone interested in Latin is invited to join the tour. Presently five students have signed up. The itinerary includes a trip to Stratford-on-Avon for Shakespearean play, viewing museums, and attending some London productions.

Committee To Examine Options, Coordinate School Involvement

By SUE ALLARD

Open-ended morning, co-op teaching, alternative high school programs, final exams, and a pass-fail option for a sixth subject are but a few of the possible sub­jects open for investigation and action by separate committees under a new ad­hoc committee associated with the School Council.

"With imagination and co-operative effort we could get a lot of things done that we'd like to do," stated Salvatore Catania, DHS principal. This new system, a network of committees, was introduced at a recent faculty meeting. Many teachers have expressed a desire to become involved in different programs. This system is designed to try to get some objectives realized by providing "an effective mechanism to support and coordinate those ideas and integrate projects into the existing system of operation," according to Geraldine Marshall, committee chairperson.

Committees Open

Briefly, a series of committees, open to any interested school community members (students, teachers, parents, etc.), will be able to get an idea such as alternative high school programs and other serious curriculum revisions, organized and investigated as to their feasibility at DHS. Ideally, in an atmosphere of "shared enthusiasm" in which one is working along with others toward a specific goal, much can be accomplished for the school community.

This system centers around a Com­mittee on Options or Coordinating Committee comprised of staff members and students whose duty it will be to oversee the entire operation. According to Mr. Catania, members of the Com­mittee on Options will not necessarily do the work in individual committees. "It's our job to try to give overall direction and coordination to all activities."

In addition to Mrs. Marshall as chairperson of the Coordinating Com­mittee, other faculty members include: William Jacobs, John Rallo, James Nicholson, Donald MacAusland, David Hillink, Matthew Turrell, David Hartkopf, and Marjorie Rodemann. Mr. Catania will serve as an ex-officio member.

Four seniors and two juniors, from both the School Council and Neirad, will also serve on the Coordinating Committee. Student members include: Tom Gammill, Garry Leonard, Sue Neirad (from Neirad), Chris Popov, and Margaret Popov (from the School Council). Steve Hart, School Council Chairman, will serve as an ex-officio member.

The Coordinating Committee met recently for the first time and ant­icipates getting committees organized as quickly as possible. It must be pointed out again that those com­mittees are open to all those who are interested in participating. The com­mittees are open to any student who is involved with some of the 29 options already proposed. The Coordinating Committee will also welcome all new ideas submitted.

Carnation Day: Old Loves Bloom, New Romances Bud

By MISSY MCMAHON

Carnation Day, DHS's traditional way of commemorating St. Valentine's Day, will be celebrated for the fifth time on Friday, February 14. The pink, white, red and multi-colored carnations, accompanied by telegrams, will again come from Springfield Florist.

Last year the sophomore class, which customarily sponsors this event, sold 500 carnations and made $100. This year's chairman, Libby Forppont, who is assisted by Wendy McGloon and Polly Schellinger, hoped to sell even more.

The Dilemma

Every year, Carnation Day presents the dilemma, "Should I send a carnation?" or more importantly, "Will somebody send me one?" An DHS girl remarked, "A carnation received is considered a carnation earned.

The number of carnations sent to a single person varies. The majority receives one, however, last year George Nelson, DHS math teacher and girls' basketball team coach, was the uncrowned "Carnation King" as he received 13 from his girls.

The messages on the telegrams provide much interest and are often very intriguing. Written in Spanish, French (Je t'aimes) and English, some are conventional ("Carnation are red, Violets are blue, Happy Valentine's Day, I love you"), some are humorous ("Kewy g00, Georgia?"), or, from a student to a teacher, "I love you madly, madly, diversely, safely and run away with me") and some, unfortunately, are cruel. (As chairman of the event, I was required to transfer the messages from the order forms onto cards.) The ones I found most amusing were those which would list a telephone number, and then sign "Your secret admirer.

The ways in which the messages are signed are also fascinating. Besides the conventional "Love, John" or "Affect­ionately, Mary," others include: "Adolph Hitler," "From the Pit," "From the Big Man on Campus," "MR. X," and often, "Guess Who?" or "Your Secret Admirer.

Carnation Day is one of the most en­joyable and colorful traditions ever established at DHS. As one message said last year, "A flower is a gift of sunshine for all your cloudy days."
Teachcrs. Students To Globe-Trot

Continued from page 1 have signed up to go, most of them be­
ing from Mr. Leon's Latin classes. In preparation for the trip Mr. Leon has been teaching the students some Italian phrases. The Latin that they have been learning here will be useful on an alternate year basis. Although he is dealing with the selection of the trip, including his kid brother, Grandmas, and the dog. Anyone else applying to the same schools is stood up categorically (G.P.A., SAT scores, extra-curricular activities) in the face of such blunt competition, past friendships bite the dust. Even life-long buddies look at each other with one thought: "He's out to get me!"

Change For The Better?

According to Principal Salvatore Catania, a new attendance policy will be an­ncounced within a week. Again, the decision on the policy will be a "unilateral" one.

The School Council and the faculty will be consulted during all stages of planning, Mr. Catania says. However, they will not vote to determine the final outcome. It is unfortunate that the Council and faculty do not have the power to vote. Hopefully, this time Mr. Catania will listen more closely to them.

Neirad commends Mr. Catania's efforts to bring about a more satisfactory policy. Since Mr. Catania has had quite a while to work on this revision, it should be both helpful and satisfying.

The attendance policy will be reviewed again at the end of the third quarter and if necessary, revisions will be made again. Any change for the better is welcome.

'Neirad' Wants You

With the start of the second semester, Neirad would like to take this opportunity to solicit letters, articles, or viewpoints from any member of the school community.

Photographers are also needed to illustrate sports, news, and feature stories. Please submit any material to the Neirad box in the office within one week after the previous issue has been published.

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.

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Porter Budget Seeks Personnel Cuts

By SUE LANE

Next year's students may find class­
croom couter and teachers busier due to a personal reduction at DHS because of tight budgeting. However, these may be the only adverse effects if the school system's budget, drawn up by Joseph Porter, can remain intact through the town's legislative proceedings.

The proposed budget, which reflects a 7.9% increase over the previous year, was drawn up by Dr. Porter and a sub­committee of the Board of Education members who consulted school administrators. The budget was sub­mitted to the Board of Education on January 28, where it must be finalized and submitted to the Board of Finance by February 28. The Board of Finance will either accept or reduce the budget and submit it to the RTM, which must also accept or reduce it by the first week in May.

The increase, a $9,876,551 budget as compared to last year's $9,211,850, doesn't truly reflect an increase in buy­
ging power due to inflation and the cost of living raise in teachers' salaries. As far as staff reductions are concerned, Salvatore Catania, principal of DHS, feels that they will work out through "natural attrition." By this he means staff retirement, resignation (for the purposes of returning to graduate school or to accept another job), moving, marriage, pregnancy, and the loss of those members whose contracts were only for the 1974-75 school year. Mr. Catania also feels vacancies in any of the other Darien schools could be filled by DHS staff.

Along with personnel reduction come larger classes and teachers teaching more courses. Mr. Catania is contemplating offering some courses on an alternate years basis. Although this will not enjoy a cut, Mr. Catania feels "we can live with the reduction presen­tly contemplated.

If, by May 1, the budget is reduced from what is proposed now, Mr. Catania may have to resort to more dramatic options: curtailing after­
school activities (nonacademic and academic), elimination of some courses (the more specialized and advanced ones), larger classes, and teachers teaching in areas where they have ex­perience outside their regular departments in addition to teaching in their customary areas.

Overall it is proposed that three of the previously stated goals will be cut from the budget. The first is to drop the junior highs, and eight at the elemen­
tary level.

Through all of this, Mr. Catania in­dicates his prime concern is that for the human element. Either securing present or finding new jobs for teachers will be dropped, with maintaining a high level of quality.
As the skiier heads north, visions of a foot of powder on the trails and a clear blue sky come to mind. To make this dream a reality, Neirad has sought out accommodations that will satisfy the skier. Right next to Okemo Mt., there is much action. Eight units at Okemo is a small restaurant-bar called Dad's. There is a julep box with fairly good music and for the bargain hunter Dad's is the place to be. Between 4-7 p.m. they serve hot dogs for 25 cents while beers remain constant at a reasonable 30 cents. Moving down into the center of town brings the Post Belly Pub into focus. Formerly the Green Mt. Inn, the Pub is your basic rustic home style bar. There is a very friendly crowd that ranges in age from about 18 to 40. Excellent entertainment is provided by two folk singers. This seems to be one of the best places to spend a quiet evening.

For therowdler customer there is the Chopping Block located in Ludlow. The swinging teenage crowd usually hangs out here because they always have a good band and dancing. The prices are a bit high with a drink for $1.50 in addition to the two dollar cover charge. Beer is 70¢ a mug. Traveling south in Manchester, Vt., on Rt. 11 past Bromley you can find a fine spot known as the Roundhouse. It boasts a large dance floor with a tremendous bar around it. They collect a cover charge of a dollar that is usually well worth it, for they get some fine bands. As for the drinks, they are strong and reasonable. A mug of beer costs 50 cents.

If you don't know somebody who has a condominium in the Stratton-Bromley-Okeno area, there are a few places to stay available at low rates. Ten minutes from Stratton on Rt. 6 is Fiddlesticks, which provides basic, clean comforts but few fringe benefits. Dormitory style rooms are available at $6.50 per night. No meals are served.

If you're planning on spending a week in Vermont, Worthy Inn on Rt. 7 in Manchester offers a ski vacation plan. Regularly, a room, breakfast, and dinner is priced from $14 per person.

Mount Snow and Haystack Mountain and Haystack are within ten minutes of each other in Southern Vt. Mt. Snow, famed for its 700 room lodge and an outstanding pool, is a huge commercial mountain always crowded on weekends and holidays. Haystack is a lot smaller and the atmosphere is more easy-going. Between these two mountains are several cheap lodges. The Snow Den Lodge in W. Dover, only five minutes from Mt. Snow, costs $6-$12 with breakfast. At the Motel on the Mountain, a modern chalet high on a mountain in Wilmington, you have a choice between an M/P or European plan at a range of $6-$16. The Abroad Motor Inn's accommodations range from deluxe motel to dorms. The rates are $6-$12 with a special M/P ski week at $37.50-$50. This motel in W. Dover gives the greatest bargain rates in the area. It has an indoor pool, sauna and public restaurant. Fifteen minutes from Haystack on Rt. 9 in W. Wilmington, is the Vintage Motel. The room price range from $7-$11. Each unit has a bath. There are several inexpensive bars and restaurants around. The Side Door and Poncho's Wreck, across the street, are good choices. The Roundhouse-bar in Wilmington. The Red Mill, washed up in town, has a cocktail lounge and dinner room. For something a little quicker and cheaper go to Papa's II. They serve hot dogs, pizza, Fat City, discotheque, on Rt. 100, the place to go for entertainment and socializing. It also serves sandwiches

Aspen If you have the money, definitely head to Aspen, Colorado. Aspen during this time of the year is beautiful, and the snow is excellent. There are not too many hotels to stay in at Aspen. Most skiers rent condominiums. But one inexpensive board house within walking distance to Ajax is Dormez-Vous. Another cheap accommodation is the Hotel Jerome. Because it's further out of the way, it's 10 to 15 minute walk, it is cheaper. The only drawback to nightlife in Aspen is that the legal drinking age is 21 years. The legal age is strictly enforced. Since Aspen is a compact town right at the foot of the slopes, everything is within walking distance. Free buses run to all the areas every 20 minutes, night and day. For a quick cheap meal go to McDDS (similar to McDonald), Danny's Delicatessen, or The Plant Factory. These A-frame buildings are popular to each other. Pico-neohick is a cheap pizza, beer, and sandwich joint. Also, for $3-$5 one can get a satisfying meal at the Village Pantry. At Andree's you can get a cheap pizza drink and maybe catch a glimpse of John Denver. Andree's is especially good for breakfast, while dinner can be at the Grange. For entertainment on money that has to go a long way, either try one of the three movie theatres in town or visit the basement of Little Nell. Downstairs there are cheap drinks, no cover charge and a good band.

Neirad hopes that these few night spots of the north will aid the dedicated skier in the pursuit of good times, on and off the slopes. At a price that will send you back for more.

February 11, 1975 Neirad Page 2

How To Hot-Dog With Much Relish, Little Bread

By BRIAN HUBER and BOB JEFFERSON 1974 was an outstanding year in movies, a year best remembered as the year Hollywood made a great deal of money — but not much of anything else. The emphasis in movies lately has been so greatly thrust toward special effects, that details such as acting, plot, script, and characterization have been virtually disregarded. This has resulted in a new low in American filmmaking — however profitable it may be.

So, as the end products, we have Airport 1975, Earthquake, and The Towering Inferno. These three have a startling amount of qualities in common, which include lack of plot, muddy screenplay, and stars who don't use their talents to the fullest.

A terribly shabby foreshadowing of the current trend is the latest batch of sci-fi/fantasy films. These three have a startling amount of qualities in common, which include lack of plot, muddy screenplay, and stars who don't use their talents to the fullest.

A terribly shabby take-off on the earlier success of Airport is Airport 1975. What sets this movie apart from its sister superepic in the fact that the effects are terribly underpar, and that the scriptwriters seemed to go out of their way to make the situation unbelievable.

The plot of one chooses to call it that centers on the collision of a 747 and a Piper Cub plane. The flight crew has been either killed or mortally wounded, leaving the head stewardess (Karen Black) to fly the plane under certain speakers at different times. Although actually "flying" the earthquake is not quite the word for it, the system is a fine added dimension.

The downfall of the film is the poor character development. The earth- quake tremors and many pointless scenes of minor actors and actresses whom we see once or twice take away needed dialogue among the main characters.

The Towering Inferno is much like its contemporary super epic, but manages a halfway believable script, great special effects, and a fast-paced plot. The excitement never drops throughout and the photographic effects over San Francisco are chilling as well as beautiful.

It is really too bad that the script is so shallow when there are so many golden opportunities for intelligent drama. When times appear like, "Did you leave a cigarette burning?" as a fire rages in the next room, one wonders what will follow.

It is amazing to think that all of the safety systems (alarms, sprinklers, etc.) should all fail apoplectic in a building which cost as much as this one. Not half so amazing, though, as the fact that Faye Dunaway managed to keep a cigarette burning? as a fire rages in the next room, one wonders what will follow.

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Gymnasts Capture County Crown

By LARRY CUSACK

The Darien High Blue Wave gymnastic team has done it again. On Friday, Jan. 31, Darien captured the FCIAC crown for the third year in a row.

The first two events were the floor exercise and the high bar. Greenwich proved that they were strong in the floor ex. taking first and third places with average score of 8.25 and 7.60. High for Darien was Dan Hoffman with a 6.30 average and John Mills with 6.00 score. At the high bar Stu Goldstein of Stamford took first with a magnificent 8.90 average score, second place went to Greenwich's Bill Wales, third place to Greenwich. So after the first two events the team standings stood with Greenwich on top with a score of 43.10 points and Darien second on 34.90.

With Darien behind by a big nine point going into the next two events, the pommel horse and the still rings, Darien had to do something to get back into the meet. That they did. In the pommel horse Don Hofmann and Anthony DiSilvestro took first and second respectively. At the still rings event Darien again took first in this event as Joe Pagliarulo came up with a fantastic routine and scored high with an 8.30. Darien closed the gap tremendously and so after four events Greenwich was still in first with 66 points, but Darien was right behind with 67.75 points. Stamford was still third with 50 points.

Going into the last two events Darien was only behind by just one-quarter of a point. It looked as if Darien would win it as they took a second in the long horse vaulting, an first and third in the parallel bar event. In the parallel bar event Darien's John Lummis and Anthony DiSilvestro took first and third places respectively. So it went down to the final tabulation and Darien came away with their third FCIAC crown in as many years.

Sports In Brief

Girls' Gymnastics: North Haven, Darien won, 71-62; Mamaroneck, Lakeland won 73.9-73.6; Foran, Darien won 74-23-9.

Swimming: Ward, Darien won 44-34; Cotter, New Canaan won 52.5-79.5; Stamford, Darien won 102-67.

Track: Darien won Eastern Relays.

Swimming: Ward, Darien won 44-34; Cotter, New Canaan won 52.5-79.5; Stamford, Darien won 102-67.

Boys' Basketball: Danbury, Danbury won 79-75; Ludlowe, Darien won 40-12; Rippowam, Darien won 74-65.

Girls' Basketball: Trumbull, Trumbull won 68 points, but Darien was right behind with 60 points as the team got into the game. It was Darien's day. In the final game Darien's John Lummis and Anthony DiSilverstro took first and third respectively as they continued into the season.

The Explosive Effort was good enough for the Blue Wave to raise his season prospect for the shot put, fired out a 3.80 meter midway through the second period but managed four consecutive goals to hand Ludlowe its twelfth loss of the season. Hock Hough and Dan Grady, a sophomore, led the Blue Wave with two goals each as Craig Sinclair and Bill Helman each added one goal to the winning cause.

Darien qualified for the State tournament after defeating Roger Ludlowe.

DHS Dribbling Dames Holding Strong

The first three games of the second half of the season have been "outstandingly superior" to any of the earlier games, noted Coach Nelson.

The Wavers, playing a strong defense, whipped Danbury 71-41 on Tuesday, January 24. Darien played an exceptionally good defense during the second half of the game and everything fell in place. High scorers were Mari McCurdy with 26 points and Julie Hendrickson with 14.7. With the highest the girls have ever scored in a single game in three years.

The girls' next win was against Ludlowe in an excellent game on Friday, January 24. Darien played incredibly well, winning 60-37. "The Ludlowe game I thought was our best team game of the year, partly because we started strong in the first quarter and adjusted very well to the change of defense in the second half," explained Coach Nelson.

Darien came to battle next with a very strong Weston team in the first night game in the history of DHS girls' basketball on Monday, January 27, losing 33-49.

Darien was playing well all the way through the first half, trailing only five points. During the second half Weston pulled through with a lot of fast breaks and good rebounding. This is what broke the game open.

The Wavers came to duel in a close game against Rippowam and lost on January 31. Both teams played good defense making an extremely low scoring game. Darien made many efforts to get shots in but just couldn't pull through. The fourth quarter was especially exciting with Darien trailing only by two points against Rippowam and the chance to tie it up, but the team just wasn't able to score and lost 28-30.

Three Foes Victimized By Pucksters

By A. BUCKO

The Blue Wave hockey team won three consecutive games over Norwalk, Roger Ludlowe, and Rippowam to give the girls' basketball team, has high hopes for the girls as they continue into the season.

John Lummis demonstrates agility on parallel bars in meet against Greenwich. (Photo by Jim Clark)

The Frozen Wave defeated a weak Ludlowe team 6-2 at the Wonderland of Ice in Bridgeport on January 29. It appeared that Darien was going to run away with the game early as Steve Franklin scored just forty-eight seconds into the first period, but Ludlowe temporarily halted the Blue Wave attack by tying the game a minute later. Darien then scored four consecutive goals to hand Ludlowe its twelfth loss of the season. Hock Hough and Dan Grady, a sophomore, led the Blue Wave with two goals each as Craig Sinclair added the other tally.

Darien travelled to the Terry Connors Rink in Stamford to meet the wireless Rippowam Warriors and earned an unpresumptive 6-1 victory. Darien had only 2.1 of a second left over a team that has never won a game, but the Blue Wave netted four goals in the final period to avoid humiliation. Matt Clinton and Jeff Taylor led the Wavers with two goals apiece while Craig Sinclair and Bill Helman each added one goal to the winning cause.

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