Norwalk Man Seeks Data Concerning Trip To China

By LINDA BORNHUEFTER

Allen Dikeman, a resident of Norwalk, recently has requested extensive information concerning the trip to China made by 46 DHS teachers and students in mid April. He has sent two letters to Sen. Porter, superintendent of Darien schools, detailing the nature of his request. Mr. Dikeman characterized the China trip as a "pro-communist propaganda jaunt."

Some of the information requested by Mr. Dikeman has been given out by Dr. Porter. This includes a list of qualifications required by the students to take the trip, a list of the Board of Education meetings when the China trip was discussed, and a copy of all correspondence with Chinese officials pertaining to the trip and copies of informational bulletins to the students' parents were sent to Mr. Dikeman.

Dr. Porter has failed to turn over several of the ten items requested by Mr. Dikeman. These include mailing addresses of the parents of the students that went on the trip and a list of the names and addresses of everyone who contributed money to the China trip and the amount that each person contributed. Because Dr. Porter refused to reveal this information, Mr. Dikeman appealed his case to the Freedom of Information Commission.

In accord with the rules of the commission, the DHS program will be applied to unsupervised students. The DHS program will be applied to unsupervised students.

Continued on page 2

Doherty Describes D.C. Duties As Senate Page

By MARK CLOWES

"One of the reasons I went to Washington was to get closer exposure to a different political system," says Bob Doherty, the DHS junior who spent four months last year as a Senate page. He did spend four months in 1978 as a Senate aide. As a result of my stay, I learned more about how our government works and defined my goals."

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Bob's responsibilities as a Senate page included delivering mail, running errands, and answering phone calls. During his first two weeks, Bob spent his time learning the Senate's routine. He helped sent those who wanted to go around to all of the senators' offices and reminded them that they have a vote. When the Senate was not in session, Bob sat in the gallery and listened to the debates.

Sherry Dryden and Matt Nichols sing the song "Money" during the Music Department's Cabaret Night on May 24. Also performing were the stage band, choir, and the trombone ensemble. (Photo by Charlot Ras-Allard)

New Olympic Fitness Center Donated; Program Open To Interested Students

By GREG BURNS

The new Olympic Fitness Center, given to DHS through the efforts of a parent's group and a large anonymous donation, will be used in an improved, regular program of weight training.

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Low Attendance Shows Student Apathy

Recent activities at DHS, namely, Theatre '78's The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie, the junior class Pine Island concert, and the Activities' council movie, Dr. Zhivago, were poorly attended and their respective sponsors have lost money.

Theatre '78 was the worst hit by the lack of support. The first two nights brought in a gross total of about 100 people, and the following weekend's performance was attended by about 150 people. Certainly a small audience must be a disappointing sight for the members of Theatre '78, after all the hard work they put into each production.

The Pine Island concert had a meager attendance of under 200 people, causing the junior class to lose a good deal of money. Pine Island is a blue grass band, similar to the well liked Helium Brothers, so the music itself should not have been the main cause for the poor attendance.

The showing of the movie Dr. Zhivago was viewed by an embarrassingly small number of people. Fewer than 100 people showed up to see this "classic."

Even assemblies during the school day do not seem to attract DHS students. It is amazing to see the numbers gone from the parking lot and the small number of students attending the assembly.

The solution to the problem lies in two areas that relate to one another: better publicity and more student interest.

Publicity is easily improved by making it more inventive. Along with the standard array of posters around the school and basic news releases to the local newspapers, more unusual advertising should be going on. For instance, if Pine Island records were played frequently in between classes and in the cafeterias during lunch, or if cast members from The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie went to different classes and made short readings, certainly the interest in these productions would have increased. Also, while posters were around the high school, few posters were placed around town for any of the events.

If students were more interested in what they were doing, the activities would naturally be more successful. At this point, students do not care at all and are missing out on good things. When the student body gains an interest in the school productions, the world will get around about each event, and that is the best publicity. It is necessary to let the students know that there are more choices than just the weekly assembly.

Bearded Faculty Attached To Whiskers

Continued from page 3

It was a good decision by Mr. McCarthy to keep the beard, although he did claim that his beard really wasn't much fun. "(It's) a boring beard," he said. Mr. Herbert recalled a prank pulled on his beard. Once asked to narrate a military film to be shown before a lot of military brass, he was asked to shave off his beard. It was felt that a narrator with whiskers would be viewed dairly by the well-cropped generals. Mr. Dabhiy consented, but not until fifty dollars was added to his salary. "I got you good," said one of the generals, "we have a fifty-dollar beard," said Mr. Dabhiy.

Mr. Herbert and Mr. McCarthy were one of only two pairs of "Brothers" when both entered school one year after each other. Although Mr. McCarthy modestly claimed that his beard really wasn't much fun. "(It's) a boring beard," he said. Mr. Herbert recalled a prank pulled on his beard. Once asked to narrate a military film to be shown before a lot of military brass, he was asked to shave off his beard. It was felt that a narrator with whiskers would be viewed dairly by the well-cropped generals. Mr. Dabhiy consented, but not until fifty dollars was added to his salary. "I got you good," said one of the generals, "we have a fifty-dollar beard," said Mr. Dabhiy.

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The Prime Of Miss Jean Brodie
Outstanding Drama On DHS Stage

By JAMIE MACKENZIE

Review
Theatre 305 performed its annual spring dramatic production on May 11, 12 and 13 with an outstanding rendition of The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie, a drama in three acts by Jay Presson Allen. Director Jon Edwards deserves high praise for the production, which was dramatically superior to anything we've seen on the DHS stage this year.

The timeliness of this play is startling. The plot is essentially about the controversy surrounding, and ultimate firing of, a teacher whose teaching methods and personal style are in question and who is at odds with the school principal. The parallels to recent town events are numerous.

The play, originally staged in Edinburgh, Scotland, in the 1900's, a time when much of the world was racked by the Great Depression, memories of World War I were sharp in the mind, and fascism was on the rise. A small, traditional girls' boarding school is the setting. The play evokes powerfully the spirit of a bygone age when school discipline was strict and rigorously enforced, and recitation and role memorization were the standard teaching methods.

Against this backdrop of the energetic, opinionated Miss Jean Brodie, who proudly announces repeatedly that she is in her "prime," attempts to educate her class of young girls, not in the contents of textbooks, but in the ways of the world. Miss Brodie does not stick to the established curriculum, but deviates into various topics of interest, always adding her own personal sentiments to the instruction, which are usually pro-fascist and anti-Catholic.

While the controversy over her teaching methods rages, Miss Brodie becomes involved in affairs with two men. Teddy Lloyd, played admirably by David Guirlacci, is a painter with a wild and air of childlike, which does not inhibit him in the slightest from chasing every piece of female flesh he can get his hands on. But his infatuation for Jean Brodie eclipses his interest in his other lovers, to the point where every person he paints looks like Miss Brodie. Rip Hasbargen did a good job at playing Gordon Lowther, the ditferent young country gentleman who tries without success to win Miss Brodie's hand.

Despite the richness and complexity of the play's themes the production would have been worthwhile if only to present the acting of Beth Stringer. Her performance as Jean Brodie captivated the audience and made the story come alive with a vibrant, animated vitality that stays with the viewer long after final curtain.

Duffy O'Brien deserves accolades for

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** Displaying their whiskers are (top row, left to right) Joe Hajla, William McCarthy, Douglas Paulsen, David Herbert; (bottom row, left to right) Jack Dahlby, Gerard Coulombe, and David Hartkopf. (Photo by Richard Ferris)
Reflections From China

"The trip to China, more than anything else, strengthened my moral values as an American and made me appreciate the freedoms of choice, mobility, speech, and religion that we enjoy."

Luke Sabatier

"The communist revolution (or ‘the liberation’ as the Chinese call it) has achieved a great deal for the people. Everyone has a job, everyone is housed and clothed, and, most importantly, everyone is fed (in a country of 900 million these are no small feats). However, the Chinese have paid a severe price in terms of free thought and expression."

Clay Moltz

"Probably what impressed me most about the schools was the discipline of the children. There was much well-practiced recitation, but as the students got older, they did not acquire the ability to form rational arguments of their own. They could not think critically because they were constantly being told what is right and what is wrong."

Steve Nicandros

"Although the prospect of 1400 students responding simultaneously to command is a frightening one, it also has its positive aspects. Picture all students enrolled at DHS sharing the same experience every day no matter how simple the experience. Instead, we all go off in different directions."

Dr. William Jacobs
"To understand the Chinese system, one has to look at its values. Whereas the emphasis in the Western world is on the individual, in China, the individual sacrifices his personal freedom for the good of the whole society. Personally, I found their system alien to what I, as an American, believe in with respect to individual rights."

Clay Moltz

"It was awesome to see the masses of people going about their daily lives, so many doing the same things. They seemed to be programmed into a daily routine, yet never questioning the nature of that routine."

Steve Nicandros

"The most enlightening part of the trip was in participation (playing ping-pong, basketball, volleyball, and other sports with the Chinese). It made us see that people can be friends with other people regardless of ideological, cultural, or language barriers."

Luke Sabatier

"The Chinese people we met were basically ignorant of everything that is going on in the world. They knew only what they were told to know."

Steve Nicandros
Plight Of The Jayvees: A Puka Shell In The Varsity Blue Wave

By THE CUB

A much neglected facet of Darien High School athletics when it comes to school and community recognition and unfortunately, due to limited space, "pukas," are the nonetheless exuberant junior varsity teams.

The boys' junior varsity baseball team had a fair season after getting off to a tremendous 12-4 start. The team finished at 15-7 under first year coach Jeff Brummeier.

Ron Yarath led the outfield in center and as a hustling leadoff hitter with a .391 average. He was flanked by the dependable, hardworking Chander in left and Steve Wright in right.

The infld did not play as consistently but nonetheless effectively. Tom Sablons had a team high .396 batting average and a usually reliable glove at first base. Harish Bhandari played the best of the infielders and hit .352 besides. Dave Rusotto, though not likely to be a gold glove, exhibited strong leadership at shortstop. Doug Marchesi handled the catching and improved as the year progressed and developed into a fine all-around catcher.

Jeff Turner did not make a designated hitter before undergoing elbow surgery late in the season.

On the mound, Bill Wagner headed the staff with a 5.2 record and a 1.48 earned run average.

Chris Robinson (3-2 record with a 2.12 ERA) pitched well both as a starter and reliever and was the winning pitcher in Darien's exciting 12-11 extra-inning come-from-behind, last-game win over Rippowam. McDonald finished with a 4-5 record. Wright and Chris Murphy both pitched well, though not as often.

At the present time there is no JV softball team and this is too bad, according to head coach Deborah Billington, "There just is not enough interest there," remarked the coach.

"There are no cuts from the track team so those who might not be the best runners don't come out for softball.

There is no feeder system for softball and that causes many problems. When the girls come up to the team, they have no experience.

The tennis team has what could be called an intramural junior varsity team. Players earn their way to the varsity team by working their way up the singles and double ladders. Some promising prospects for next year on the boys' team include Frank Birley and Chris Lindsay.

The girls' varsity tennis team already has a solid nucleus of younger players centered around sophomores Joanne Knowlton and Susie Harrington.

The track team has no specifically designated junior varsity team, but head coach Douglas Rubin did the best he could and likely have one. We have some good sophomores that might be classified as JV's." This specifically includes Doug Hart and Trey Van Nostrand in the javelin, Ken Kiensfelter, John Penrose, Jeff McKeel, Chris Flynn, and Mike Koenig. Some juniors who should make a contribution next year who could also be classified as jayvees would be Mark Andrucki, Scott Montgomery, George Zenge, Tony Derbyshire, and Jim Conigliaro, who has worked very hard, according to Coach Rubin.

The golf team's junior varsity teams have been a bit disappointing, but junior John Marton and several sophomores have shown some fine promise of things to come.

Without these junior varsity teams, or at least designations, the varsity teams that everyone goes out to watch and cheer for would hardly be up to standard, as all or most of the "stars" got their start in high school at the junior varsity level of competition. These teams provide for the development of talent and a feeder system that is absolutely necessary in the success and advancement of today's high school athletics.

Racquets Wrap Up 12-2 Season

By GAIL BRUGGEMEYER

The Darien High School girls' tennis team, led by co-captains Laura ten-Brooke and Barbara Hunter, ended their season with an admirable record of 6-1.

The highlight of the season was the match against arch-rival New Canaan. Rebecca Strominger, coach of the Wavers, was especially pleased with their 5-4 victory because it gave the team second place in the Eastern Division. Last year New Canaan defeated Darien and pushed them to a third place standing in the Eastern Division, but this year the Wavers got their sweet revenge.

The only losses that the team suffered were at the hands of Ludlow and Greenwich. Miss Strominger felt that the match against Ludlow was one that was filled with tough competition for the opponent; the Wavers lost by a 7-2 margin. On the other hand, the Greenwich match proved to be one of a lack luster loss. However, both of the matches went on to three sets instead of the usual two. Although the girls lost, Miss Strominger was very pleased, because it was the first point that Darien has earned against the powerful Greenwich team in three years.

Seven seniors, two juniors, and eight sophomores made up the varsity squad. Each match consisted of four singles and two doubles contests. The team is selected by a ladder, which gives the girls a chance to challenge and move up.

Sophomore Joanne Knowlton held the top singles position. Sophomore Susie Harrington, senior Kathy Scholtz, Sandy Wimschef, a sophomore, and junior Julie Hess held the following four spots respectively. Senior co-captains Barbara Hunter and Laura ten-Brooke held the top doubles position throughout the season. Senior Brooke Dillon and junior Kim Cannon were the number two team.

May 11 was the Class L State tournament. The Wavers were up against Greenwich, Ludlowe, and New Canaan. Miss Strominger said, "We have high hopes, but we know it will be tough." (Both of our wins were not available at press time.)

Miss Strominger is confident of next year's squad. "I think we are capable of an undefeated season because a lot of kids will be returning and we'll have that much more experience behind us."

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