Teachers Endorse Evaluation

By BILL JOHNSON

Amid mounting vandalism, student apathy, frustration and distrust in the school community, DHS principal Gordon Bruno is expected soon to deliver a "State of the School" message assessing conditions and plans for the new school year. Bruno has been frank in his assessment of conditions and has promised to take action to improve them.

There is another part of the school government, one which receives less attention than the School Council. This is the Activities Council, responsible for fund-raising and the like. Bruno sees some interest in council among sophomores. Overall, the Activities Council is "sort of dormant" for a few years in a student's educational career.

The five levels to which a staff member may be assigned are as follows: (1) Below Average, (2) Poor, (3) Fair, (4) Very Good, and (5) Outstanding. The first four are rated as "incomplete" and the last is "most valuable." Donald Robbins, head of the School Counseling Department, said, "The concept [performance-based evaluation] has value as an educational objective, but it doesn't lend itself as an evaluative instrument in teacher training. The reason is that it is so difficult to measure student input as measurement of the objective.

Dr. Bruno commented that this new plan that a group of forty staff members has been working on for a year, was, under review and then approved on March 1, 1973. Dr. Bruno said, "Given enough time to implement the system, we're going to have a more realistic system." Donald Robbins, another administrator, expressed some concern. "I feel that performance objectives are a very valuable educational objective, but we have reservations about linking them to raises," he said.

Richard Kronkower of the Social Studies Department said, "The concept [performance-based evaluation] is good for business and industry, but for the most part it doesn't lend itself as an evaluative instrument in teaching. The reason is that it is so difficult to measure student input as measurement of the objective."

Will Your Teachers Deserve Raises?

By MARY MCGOLDRICK

Director Craig Matheson shows cast members Stuart Duke (seated), Julie Hufferd, and Scott MacKinnon how to react in a big catch in the form of Stephen McMaster for Theater 308's production of Story Theater to be presented March 15 and 16. (Photo by Chris Cox)

308 Menagerie To Tell Tales

By ROGER HORINE

Carnival To Bloom As Equinox Nears

"We hope this will start a new DHS tradition," high school Council Chairman Lorraine Ludwing of the first spring Carnival to be held on Saturday, March 22.

Cultural affairs chairman and student council chairman, Mr. Matheson said that he has had to work on the political aspect. "Parents don't want to do it themselves," he said.

When asked whether students will play a part in the evaluation, the reply from Principal Gordon Bruno was "no," not when it comes to the amount of salary the teachers will receive, but he also commented on the fact that the school council has already passed a rule requiring all teachers to have some type of evaluation sheets filled out by all students, and the performance objectives teachers prepare may include some form of student input as measurement of the objective.
**Braun's Cause of Council Problems**

The depressing tone of the “state of the school” analysis on the first page of today’s Neirad is only indicative of the depressing mood at DHS itself. At least in part this is due to the pathetic fumbling of the School Council in actually dealing with the problems of the community. It is a pity that the School Council, once considered the sole policy-making body of the school, is now regarded by the administration as no more than a “legitimate source of influence.”

The School Council can hardly be blamed for its failures when its members are forced to work with such a man as Gordon Bruno. He not only refused to allow them to carry out provisions of the constitution which he approved and expressed a willingness to support, but, instead, held up the entire process of understanding that the constitution would only work if he were willing to relinquish some of his power. Today it is obvious that he did not have a clear understanding of his role and of his obligations to the administration. As to the problems of student government at the high school, Dr. Bruno will reconsider his stand concerning the School Council.

**Citizens’ Committee Decides Again**

The Citizens’ Committee on Schools’ recent study in the Darien Review (Feb. 14) is but another attempt to deceive the taxpayers in town.

The Committee claims that what they are not able to increase in the number of courses is tied to the 12.5% increase in cost over the period of time from 1965-66 to 1974-75. The Review takes this claim further by tying this increase in courses to the need for more space, saying, “At this rate of proliferation there is hardly a building in the whole State of Connecticut large enough to accommodate our classes in the next few years.”

However, to tie the number of sections offered with the number of students seems to be more of a spiral than a committee’s failure to do its homework. By counting only the number of courses, they do find more, especially in English and gym where in 1965-66 there were 4 and now 47 and 3 and 28 respectively.

The Board of Education’s attempts to secure a reasonable building program at the high school have been continuously thwarted by both of these groups, even though both support the current practice of listing the exact class standing of each student. But both the Darien Review and the Citizens’ Committee fail to take into account factors which affect the number of courses. Both the increase in the student population and the number of sections of any course are not taken into the study. By counting only the number of courses, they do find more, especially in English and gym where in 1965-66 there were 4 and now 47 and 3 and 28 respectively.

The need for more space at DHS, it isn’t at all schools. In fact, a spiral is the key. The Citizens’ Committee is puffed up by the system and the Board of Education is puffed up by the system. The Citizens’ Committee has caused a great deal of trouble. Can you name me even one time when someone else raced to the Administration in trouble? I don’t think there was faculty or student help even in Alta, Utah, when Gordon Bruno, a man who was not a teacher, was being run over by an earthquake; and no one has come out of that thing with their flag high. They will come out of this thing with their flag high. And when they do, they are entitled to tell their story in the newspapers, while the people in Alta, Utah, have to go through the same thing and not be able to tell their story. I hope Neirad is not one of them.

**Tell Colleges Where We Stand**

By A DHS STUDENT

(Name withheld by request)

The current practice of ranking and reporting the academic standing of students by taking the decile is indefensible. The guidance department should return to the old system of listing the exact class standing of each student, which was used before 1972.

The explanation that accompanies the announcement of the senior class’s fifth and seventh semester Grade Point Average (GPA) states: “Until 1972, each student was informed of his precise class rank and his precise class rank was included on all transcripts he requested to be sent from this school. However, because it seems indefensible to assume that the student, whose GPA is four one thousandths of a point higher than another is the ‘better’ student, precise rank has no longer been reported. Instead, rank is reported in tenths.”

I happen to have received the lowest possible GPA to be included in the top decile. I could be anywhere in the first tenth, as far as the college to which I have applied knows, and I am indeed happy that I am in that decile. Yet, by the guidance department’s own logic, it would be “indefensible to assume” that the senior who is four one thousandths of a point below the student who is in the second decile is the poorer student. So while I am no better a student, he is listed as a member of the decile below me.

It would seem that GPA average college admissions officer, Dr. Bruno, when ranking two virtually identical seniors, would accept the student who is in the first decile. At the most he would consider the student who is in the second decile. For the purposes of comparison, the admissions department would accordingly consider the second decile student as being ten per cent below the more academically than the first decile student.

The guidance department also sends a list of the cut-off points to the colleges, so theoretically, the admissions officer could find a close approximation of the rank of the student by linear interpolation. If, by some chance, a college did go to the trouble and time to trouble to estimate the student’s rank, he would be told that the cut-off point was 3.60, but the reason for not exactly reporting the exact rank of the student is completely nullified. While the guidance department provides a method for ranking students, it is in the interest of the student to be reported the exact rank so that the student can meet the admissions officer’s standards. This system is not only indefensible, but it also provides the very method for the colleges to do it. Few college admissions officers would only be able to arrive at a loose approximation, perhaps as high as the student’s estimated GPA.

If the admissions officer looks at the decile ranks and the listed GPA, the information could lead him to believe that the second student is poorer than the first because while a 3.076 may be in the second decile at DHS, it is not at all schools.

It is clear that I had been the top person in the second tenth, I would have little chance of having my opinion counted, being labeled as a second B. However, I am a new winner. I have nothing to gain if the system is changed to report my exact standing.

The present system promotes the feeling that the class rank is a game, compete with winners and losers. In each tenth, if a student sees that his exact rank would be lower than the average in that tenth, he is a winner. If his GPA is higher than the mean score within the decile, he is a loser. If the guidance department system is left as is, the student who must rank the students, is not only losing this battle but also not gaining the full advantage of the system. The system is changed to report the exact rank so that the great inequities among the students can be noted. If the administration doesn’t want to fight it, they shouldn’t bother to report it at all.

The argument that with the system of exact ranking, the student is a “better” student is the only reason that the system is changed to report the exact rank so that the great inequities among the students can be noted. If the administration doesn’t want to fight it, they shouldn’t bother to report it at all.

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Booze In The News  Neirad Staff (Over 18) Goes Bar Hopping

By THE STAFF

Newhart Show. They laughed at all the straight lines and were rather somber at the jokes.

"I never saw one of those before," the strange old bartender commented at the draft end of one of our staffs. Little priding did he realize that it was indeed a draft card — but the matter was not settled yet. He read the registration number for the date of birth, and said that "it wouldn't work." Which is true, but that the writing of the number did look like a numerical date, the third pair of numbers was 05, so the bartender had taken that.

"That's not the birth date," our staffer informed "Ah! December! That just makes it worse, doesn't it?" the bartender replied.

After several minutes had elapsed, the man seemed to stop, although he was still apparently not grasping that any month in 1965 translates into two of these lines.

The bartender came amidst. "Are you wearing dungarees?" the man asked us "I'd say that any month in 1965 translates into two of these lines.

"That just makes it worse, doesn't it?" the bartender replied.

"If you go there, it's probably all right to go, but we don't see it either," he says that we're supposed to be setting an example for the student. Maybe it would be a good idea to wear a coat and tie and work those lines.

"The Cause"

Mr. Yokstas has been involved with several consumer action suits. When asked why he conducted so much litigation, he replied, "Oh, that. That's doing my bit for The Cause."

"Nowadays you no longer can go ahead and make a verbal agreement and expect the job to be done the way you had intended verbally that it should be done," he said. He illustrated his point by recounting the trials we could hear the strains of music from a bar that suits your taste and wallet, the Moosehead Bar is a good place to drink.

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The Brawny Blue Wave Hockey Team posted its post season play like its finished its sad season, in a losing way. Darien’s final record was 12-8-1, a sight down from last year’s team total.

The pitrous pucksters play-off berth was diminished on Friday, Feb. 16, in a 1-0 dice-down victory at the hands of the Westport, Thehashawg/Universities got the end of the scoreboard, and Staples was playoff bound.

Staples upped the scoring on a power play goal with Eric DiSelvestro in the box for interference. Darien answered the goal ten seconds later when Jim Grout slapped one past the Staples goalie. The Burly Blue took a two goal lead at the end of the first period when Hark Hough and Grout tallied for one apiece.

Darien powered up in the second period only to be shut out and let Staples tie it up, Locker room talk in between the second and third period board players saying; “They’re tired; we’ll kill ‘em on this period,” only to hear coach Dan Doolittle say, “Don’t; we’ll see who’s tired after the game.”

The Baby Blue fell behind early in the third period, couldn’t get back on the track, and sank to Staples 7-3. With the energy crisis and gas shortage upon us the only thing Coach Doolittle could conjure up was, “It was as if their feet were glued to the floor,” commented Coach George Nelson of the Blue Wave.

Darien’s defense moved well and the offense handled the ball confidently. In the end, the offense was the heart of the team. Jamie McElroy, who were the heart of the team.

The State meet will be held at the University of Connecticut this Saturday, March 9. The team finished the season with 199 points, placing them second in the country.

The 200 yd. medley relay team of Jay Byler, Mike Amaya, Tom and Peter Craig qualified them for post season play. Byler setting a new school record in the 100 yd. butterfly, and Mike Amaya setting a new school record in the 100 yd. breaststroke. Jay Byler placed first in the 50 yd. freestyle, third in the 100 yd. freestyle, and second in the 400 yd. medley relay.

The Blue Wave set three new records in the meet with, Joie Byler (17 lbs.), Mike Amaya (16 lbs.) and Tom Craig (15 lbs.) setting new records.

Next meet for the Darien Blue will be the New England meet held at the University of Rhode Island. Those who will compete for the Wake will be Jay Byler, Mike Amaya, Peter Craig and Tom Craig.

Discover Darien By Ski Touring (Maybe Next Year)

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