A DHS construction worker, who identified himself as "Bob," hard at work. (Photo by Cindy Tower)
To Improve DHS Climate

The following are excerpts taken from a letter written to the DHS faculty by William Currim and Donald Robbins:

Date: April 6, 1976

As a result of both internal concerns as expressed by members of the faculty and student groups, as well as external concerns as highlighted at a recent meeting with Dr. Porter, the Departmental Council agreed to the establishment of a task force whose representatives would be charged with suggesting positive ways to improve the educational climate at DHS.

The following are guidelines upon which a committee comprised of faculty, community persons, students, Board members, parents and administrators may direct their efforts toward developing a report which will suggest ways to improve the educational climate at Darien High School.

The Committee is charged to do the following:

1. Agree upon priority objectives which will be the focus of an improved school climate and indicate specific ways in which these objectives will be attained.
2. Consider the impact of the present schedule and attendance policy on the present school environment.
3. Review and evaluate pertinent school policies and recommend ways by which there will be more uniform enforcement by the entire staff of those agreed upon policies and rules.
4. Determine if a statement on "Rules of Conduct", if developed would be important in improving the school environment. If so, the committee should suggest the dimensions of such a code and its relationship to the school's philosophy.
5. The committee should consider the disenfranchised minority and its relationship to the school climate. Appropriate recommendations should be made.
6. The Committee might consider a school-wide performance objective or theme relative to an improved school atmosphere.
7. The Committee should consider the establishment of a representative committee of students who would act on themselves to the same topic — school environment — independently of the larger committee. This student committee would make recommendations, including some relative to student representation.
8. The Committee will make recommendations as to how parental support and involvement on a significant scale will be part of a different environmental emphasis at Darien High School.

Don Robbins
Hal Dayton
John Rolfs

At the April 7 faculty meeting, the faculty broke up into small discussion groups of about six or seven members. Each group recorded the key thoughts and / or recommendations concerning the school's atmosphere and a summary of all these discussions will be given to aid the yet-to-be-formed task force.

'396'r Probes Council Funding

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The Council has set up a committee to look into the funding situation and another one to make up a budget for next year.

'396'ne'd' C'airtin To Rise Soon

Nancy Schott is cast in the starring role of Mame, and Kathy Kiernan will play the part of her nephew, Patrick. Patti Malone will play the part of Agnes, Kathy Kiernan will be Vera, Frank Veneziolo will be Ito, and Beau will be played by Clark Porter.

The cast will include many speaking parts, dancers, and the high school chorus and orchestra.

Reserved seat tickets are available at $2.50 each and can be obtained by calling 655-3861 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

By DAVID BAUER

Show time is drawing near for the Darien High School Musical Theatre's production of Mame. The performances will take place on May 20, 21, 22, 23. Curtain times at the high school auditorium will be 8:15 p.m. for all except the Sunday, May 23 performance, which will start at 7:00 p.m.

Mame tells the story of an independent, free-spirited woman, who is forced to bring up her young nephew, Patrick. The show spans the period from the 1930's to the 1960's, from the time when Patrick is ten years old, until he is married and the father of his own ten-year-old son.

The musical is directed by Jon Edwards, an aide in the Special Education Department, with Tee Burkhardt, a teacher at Tokeneke Elementary School, as his assistant. Edward Jantoschi, Director of Music Education for Darien, will be the vocal director. Pamela Yale, a special education teacher, will handle the production duties.

Mr. Edwards commented, "We want to bring musical theatre, open to all students, to Darien High School.'
Compiled by SUSAN LANE and KAREN EUCKICH

Karl Fitz, Karen Montgomery, Alan Stevens, and Nick Toscano received recognition for their photography at the Scholastic Awards, a state-wide contest. Their work was hung in the Art Awards Show at the University of Connecticut at Hartford. Karl and Karen also received Gold Achievement Keys and certificates from the board of regional sponsors. Alan and Nick received place awards.

Pat Lombardo, Carolyn Toner, Beth Gargano, Marian Davis and Clark Porter are Darien singers who were invited to attend the Southwest Music Festival sponsored by Connecticut Music Educators. These students were chosen on the basis of their scores at the all-state audition earlier this year. The festival was held on Friday and Saturday in February, at the University of Bridgeport and was consisted of many hours of singing with a final performance given at the end of the weekend.

William Jay Jacobs, Social Studies Department chairperson, and Jonathan Schwartz, WNEW FM’s premier “disc jockey,” signed off the air one last time at 10:00 p.m. on May 31 — a damp, dreary Saturday evening.

Anyone who happened to tune to 107.7 WNEW-FM for the past nine years would have encountered the soft,rasping voice of Jonathan Schwartz. Jonathan’s “famous voice” (as he himself calls it) somehow this term does not suit the thoughtful breed of radio personalities present on prime-time stations ever since he joined WNEW-FM in November 1967, during the station’s period of infamy. Broadcasting in peak evening hours for the past several years, Schwartz has reached many listeners, a large number of whom must have been impressed by his sensitivity and conviction.

At this time, Schwartz has decided to move to the West Coast, where he will totally devote his talents to a writing career. Schwartz’s gift of expression was reflected in his programs. Speaking in tones which often measured just above a whisper, Jonathan was able to talk closely to those listening, as if he were merely recounting a story to a group of intimate friends at a party.

Perhaps you wondering who one should bother to take notice of this event. The reason? Here is a man who decided to start fresh — to begin a new episode in his life in order to keep that life from growing stagnant. So what? Well, for anyone very near the end of such an episode in life, high school juniors or seniors, for example, the concept of an uncertain future — a new life — is a very real thing indeed.

Perhaps it would be easier to try to recapture the general ambiance that surrounded that final program. Many factors, such as the dismal weather, contributed to the particularly melan-
Lobsters Slam Foes, Net Consistent Victories

The boys’ and girls’ tennis teams of Darien High School have set the pace again on their way toward fine seasons.

Girls’ Tennis

The girls’ tennis team has opened its campaign successfully, compiling a record of 7-1 while playing their toughest opponents early in the season. On Monday, April 18, the girls completely dominated Brien McMahon, sweeping them off the courts 9-0 in a warmup for the rest of the week. On Thursday, Darien edged a strong New Canaan squad 5-4. Libby Pierpont, playing #1 singles, defeated her opponent 6-3, 6-3, while Trudie ten Broeke completely outplayed her opponent 6-1, 6-1. Donna Burns chucked up another strong win for Darien, 6-1, 6-2, while Laura ten Broeke dropped a close match, 5-7, 6-2, 6-2. Nancy Spellbrink and Bebe Herbert won 6-1, 6-3, and Missy McMahon and Kathy Mullin trounced their opponents 4-6, 6-0, 6-2, picking up Darien’s only two doubles points.

In a preview of the County Championships, Darien dropped its first match in two years, losing to an excellent Greenwich team, 8-1. Despite the apparent wide margin of victory, 5 of the 9 matches were decided in three sets, with many tiebreakers. Laura ten Broeke was the sole winner for Darien, winning 6-3, 6-0, 6-4. Libby Pierpont played a fantastic match, barely losing 7-6, 7-4, 4-6 to a nationally ranked player.

On Monday, May 3, Darien toppled Andrew Warde of Fairfield, 8-1, sweeping all five doubles and three out of four singles. On Wednesday the girls defeated a reputedly strong Westhill squad.

Boys’ Tennis

The racketeers had served up six wins against one loss at press time.

DHS Tracksters

The DHS Track Team is running off to a strong start this year with a four-win, three-loss season at press time.

In the opening meet of the season with Ludlowe, Darien scored 107 points compared to Ludlowe’s 38. Paul Hendry placed first in the high jump with a jump of 6’7”. Tom Rollins placed first in the mile with his best time of 4:37.2. Mike Clark, Bill Bogardus, and George Garfield placed first through third in both the 120 high hurdles and the 300 intermediate hurdles. Steve Watkins placed a spectacular first in the 880 while Matt Maley and Tom Watkins placed first and second in the hundred-yard dash. Charlie Lehman threw the discus 129’1” for a first place. Joe Gorman also gained a first place for the track team by throwing the javelin 171’1”.

The Wilton vs. Darien meet was also a high scoring season for Darien. The trackmen racked up 108 points to Wilton’s 37 points. Charlie Lehman threw the discus 122’6” for a first place. Darien placed first in both the mile and the mile relay, with Tom Rollins winning the mile, and Garfield, Rollins, J. Vorwerk, and Bogardus in the relay. Greenwich best Darien by an 18-point margin with the final score of that meet at 811/2 to 63%. Some of Darien’s happier moments were the 880, in which Justin Vorwerk placed first, lost an early season contest with their toughest foe, which for the boys was New Canaan.

After brezing past three hapless teams, the Waveriders’ undefeated hopes were rudely halted by the Rams in a 6-1 thrashing at New Canaan. Despite the lopsided score, the Blue Wavers came very close to upsetting their rivals as all the matches were close.

The netters then regaining their composure soon enough to ward off two strong upset threats by Greenwich and Westhill in home encounters. Darien needed the services of its doubles teams to get by the stubborn teams because it failed to clinch the contest after the five singles matches. The teams of Chris Fenichell and Bob Harford along with a combination of Jonathan Dahl and Bill Banks sewed up the 5-2 Greenwich victory. Then Bill Holman and Ted Deswelting took the decisive match in the 4-3 squeaker over Westhill.

Darien then destroyed a weak Norwalk team. The racketeers have been led by their number one singles player, Chris Fenichell. Fenichell’s powerful serve and groundstrokes have helped make his team an almost automatic one. Bob Harford’s steady groundstrokes and his impressive doubles play, has proven to be a factor in the Wavers’s success.

Jonathan Dahl, playing in the number three slot, has argued his way into a 6-2 record. Despite his occasional flare-ups with his opponents, he is expected to continue his winning ways.

The only succor on the team, Bill Banks, has a deceiving 3-4 record. The number four man has had to battle off illness along with his foes. Healthy now, Banks, who also has looked sharp in doubles play, may win the rest of his matches.

Last but not least is Captain Dwight Collins, who has won four against four losses at the number five position. Collins has overcome his inexperience in varsity competition problems so he should be able to up his record.

The DHS Golf Team has had its ups and downs this year, but Tony Zangrillo, a varsity linkster, still is hoping for a birdie on this hole. (Photo by Cindy Tower)

Batmen Slide Into Victory

By DAVID BAUDER

After a slow start, the Blue Wave Mittmen have begun rolling with a winning streak that put them into second place in their division. Rick Horan smashed a grand slam home run and Dave Chandler had a solo shot in a 6-4 conquest of Westhill that was Darien’s fifth win in a row, and increased their record to 8-3.

Darien’s record was only 3-3 after the first six games, causing Coach George Nelson to comment, “The team has to remember that everything is done one thing at a time.” He said that they have to prove to everybody that they’re the best, and that they have to get over the bumps. Nelson also said that the correction of this was one of the factors that caused the upswing in Darien’s fortunes.

The Wavers won three out of their first four games. Paul Sellew and Bob Marchesi combined to no-hit Norwalk and, after a close loss to New Canaan, twoousing wins over Staples and Greenwich gave Darien a 3-1 mark. After this, Wilson broke open a tight game in the last inning, and went on to a 6-2 victory over the local rivals.

The most curious game of the season followed at Stamford High School. Darien’s hitting attack was in gear, and they quickly leaped out to a seemingly safe 8-0 lead. Pitcher Paul Sellew suffered a spate of wildness in the third, and was replaced by Dave Catino, with the lead shrinking to 8-6. Darien brought that margin up to 12-6, but Stamford stormed back and the thunder-stroke Wavers struggled home with an eight-inning, 13-12 loss.

After this brush over with the hitting performance, the hurlers made an abrupt turnaround with Bob Marchesi, Dave Catino, Paul Sellew, and Peter Stanulis combining to spin a no-hitter and the Wavers, in their most impressive performance of the season so far, clobbered McMahon, 120.

Marchesi and Catino pitched a second straight no-hitter, over Trumbull, but it was not easy going as the hitters took the day off, the only run in the 1-0 game being unearned. The Wavers next took on Danbury, and quickly moved out to a 6-0 lead then blew it completely. A two-run double by Bill Waters was needed to pull out an 8-7 win. Another tight game was played with Andrew Ward. But Peter Stanulis’s ninth-inning squeeze bunt gave Darien a 2-1 victory.

Coach Nelson has been pleased so far with the pitching and the fielding, and described how the team has worked to beef up its hitting attack. “We’ve spent more time working on our hitting than anything else. It’s helped, but we still have a long way to go. Certain individuals need more determination, confidence and aggressiveness.”

The Wavers’ streak was halted last Friday in a 2-1 heartbreaking loss to New Canaan.

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