Hollow Tree School students react to recent local elementary school closings. The DCHS group has also performed for the 60 Plus Club and the Noroton School.

Future Teacher Loss Disturb Black

By SANDY WARD

Over the last few years, the school board has experienced a number of budget cuts which have affected the size of the professional staff in the system. This year, a decision by the central administration and the Board of Education to maintain the same number of staff members next year as this year has effectively cut one teacher from the English Department.

The reason for this cut, according to Principal Gordon Bruno, is that approximately 100 students are taking English classes next year, whereas there were 105 this year. The Board has decided to reduce this number to 100, and this reduction will require one less teacher in the English Department. The teacher who will be cut is due to retire in the English Department at the end of this year, the teacher was drawn from that pool. "I feel sympathetic with him," Dr. Bruno's new teacher for a growing department. "I'm just sorry he got it from us," said John Black, English Department chair, about the decision. "This reduction has required that, instead of teaching English classes, as they now do, will teach four and a half hours."

But Dr. Black is obviously upset by the decision even though he understands Dr. Bruno's position. "He does do some good things with electives and it's sort of like throwing cold water on something red hot," he stated. "he means that there will be less time for teachers to talk to kids, more pressure on teachers, less time to run off steam and for teachers to collect their thoughts."

He also felt it would have a negative effect on the volume of the resource center in C-6. He explained that on April 26 (the day when all English classes were cancelled to allow for senior prom and a special evening) there were over 100 students taking next year's electives with teachers, almost all of whom do not have the book of Dr. Bruno's. "It just shows that kids and teachers to talk to each other outside of class time. More classes for teachers will mean less time for them in C-6."

The decision may also affect students who wish to take more than one elective course. "We are not making a large number of changes to do so," Dr. Bruno believes that his first concern is to those students who indicated they had less course as their first choice in the pre-registration.

Regardless of the decision, the English teacher, there has been some talk that the Board of Ed. would prefer to hire less experienced teachers, i.e. those in their first or second year because they are less expensive. Dr. Bruno stated, that "there is not enough substance," but added that it did not affect the existing staff because "I have never taken account salary, but a decision of whether or not to retain a teacher.

Seniors To Sink Or Swim In Play

By TOM GAMMILL

Despite numerous disasters and obstacles, the senior class of Darien High School is working on a program to bring several courting pressures in their rehearsal of Woody Allen's comedy Don't Drink the Water. The show will be presented by the seniors on May 24 and 25.

Originally planning to present Pelleor's Play, a series of one-minute plays, director Ralph Mastronagllo and the students felt they did not have the rehearsal time for the many people and scenes that the play required. The show also contained episodes that they thought might be offensive to some of the audiences.

Instead, the seniors voted to present Don't Drink the Water, a play that they think is more enjoyable and funny, and requires fewer scenes. A new cast was created from the former participants in the show.

Much of the humor in Don't Drink the Water revolves around the slapstick dialogue and characterizations Woody Allen is famous for. The cast includes Rick Pierson, and his daughter Susan (a special case for seniors).

Geraldine Marshall of the English Department advises that the script should not be treated differently, but has some ambiguity on the whole subject of the show. Most students she has had, explained, perform predictably on exams. She asks, why put kids through exams when they are already fairly certain how they're doing in course?

Apparently Dr. Bruno and some faculty fear there is no need to read the exam policy. Seven years is a long time, and many students will agree that the times they are a-changing.

"It's a ADA up and down the course, to everything they get," says Mike Pierson, assistant principal and aspiring actor Gerard Coulombethen took on the part. "It can be a great asset to us," said Barbara Earle. "It's to 'pull together' according to the Board of Directors, should take approximately four or five months."

But Dr. Bruno believes that the school is not as good as Centre Stone to expand its services into the 60 Plus Club and the Noroton School.

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Senior Finals: The Rituals Remain

By MARY ANN JOHNSTON

Commentary

Why should seniors have to suffer through final exams during their immediate future when they are already fairly well-educated? For that matter, why should anyone have to put up with one week of cruel and inhumane punishment when only a couple of hours spoil the page?

Seven years ago, Principal Stewart Atkinson appointed a faculty committee on exams to decide whether the then policy of final exams was better than a mid-year and final exam policy. Principal Designate Gordon Bruno was called to break the deadlock that had been long been controversial. Every spring at least one proposal concerning exams is brought up before the Board of Education. A bill was passed. The Council's exam bill, signed by the then-superintendent, took time to determine "the nature of final evaluations."

Take home tests, oral examinations, traditional two-hour-written tests or any option the teacher can devise which eliminates the semester's work and measures a student's achievement are allowed. The policy does limit the maximum value of a final evaluation to 1 / 5 of the semester grade.

"It came as a complete shock to us because we'd done everything the Board of Finance wanted us to do," says Mike Palombo, Director of Centre Stone, regarding the recent decision by the Board to eliminate its funds for next year.

The Board of Finance had originally decided to completely cut Centre Stone's budget from that of the town, but later added $7,000 in matching funds which Centre Stone refused because it felt they were merely a gesture.

In a recent interview, Mike said, "We have decided, since there are two months before the town funding runs out, that we're trying to take the advantage to solidify the program." Centre Stone will try to raise the $29,000 necessary for the operation of the program over the next year, independently through contributions, etc. "We have a year to get it in," said Mike. "But it's not pleasant to run from month to month," he added. He also explained that it would be nearly impossible to get any grants from agencies as half or five. According to Dr. Bruno, this was important.

The aim of the organization is to become a not-for-profit, private corporation. That, according to the Board of Directors, should take approximately four or five months.

Despite the fact that they have no money for next year, Centre Stone does not view its future as dark. "It can be a great asset to us," said Mike. "Being a private corporation will allow Centre Stone to expand its services into other communities such as New Canaan and Norwalk. This would, according to its director, increase the number of calls Centre Stone receives, possibly doubling them. It will also broaden the base from which volunteers can draw. The expansion decision may make it possible to begin a program to tap state money, a situation which Mike considered virtually impossible before, because of Darien's reputation as a wealthy town. He feels it is also possible now because Centre Stone would be a not-for-profit, private corporation. The expansion will also allow Centre Stone to draw its Board of Directors from other towns to continue to monitor and run some community obligations such as personal representation.

"The hotline has been put in a healthier place," said Mike in conclusion, "nothing has been affected internally" by the Board's decision.
Finance Board Exceeds Authority

The Finance Board has exceeded its budget for the 1987-1988 school year. The Board of Education approved a budget of $1,200,000 for the year with an additional $100,000 for contingencies. The actual budget for the year was $1,300,000, which included an unexpected increase in the cost of materials and supplies. The Board plans to make adjustments to the budget for the next fiscal year to ensure that the school remains within its financial limits.

Our Humble Apologies

We, the staff of the Darien High School newspaper, would like to apologize for any errors or omissions in our recent issue. We take our responsibilities seriously and strive to provide accurate and informative content. We appreciate your feedback and will work to improve our coverage.

Willie Smith

Editor-in-Chief

Managing Editor

Assistant News Editor

Features Editor

Sports Editor

Art Editor

Business Manager

Counselor

Faculty Advisor

The first D.H.S. Spring Carnival kicked off with a bang and was one of the most successful fundraising events in the school's history. Over $3,000 was raised, which will help to support the school's athletic and extracurricular programs.

With Robbins To Russia

Over April vacation, approximately 20 students went on a trip to Moscow as part of the Soviet Union. This trip has left some very distinct impressions in the minds of those who went.

1. I found traveling in Russia to be almost like being in another world. I was really surprised at how many things I take for granted that I had to do without while there: simple things like water, music and an electric razor that works.

2. Two weeks in any country cannot even begin to show the amount of the country's culture that it needs to understand it. Personally, I've lived here for a month and haven't even seen what I would like to see. Two weeks in another country merely scratched the surface of understanding. My two weeks in the U.S.S.R. were, exactly what abroad, this mere scratch was full of many impressions.

3. The U.S.S.R. seems to be a state with a difference. I felt that the pace of the country is a lot slower than ours. The main difference is that each individual plays a part in the advancement of the country, not only the state. This is where the U.S. could really benefit: you matter what form of government a person live under, one will always find good and bad points to it.

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5. The Soviet people are very concerned about their work and the physical plant. There are a great many aspects of American life there that I think the Soviet people would find interesting. Some very interesting questions we will be as compared with those who returned. Those of whom are in high school have never visited the world, some believe. Russia customs and culture vary considerably from other places I have visited.

6. I found the Russian people most interesting and I often caught myself observing their behavior and trying to understand it. As to how different they are, as to what should take its place makes him inexcusable.
Booze In The News Part III:

"Neird' Has One For The Road

BY THE STAFF

With this, the third and last installment of "The Devils Den," the big job is over for our Neird staff. Special reimbursement for out-of-pocket expenses from the Board of Education, only a few coke and cigarette stains on our blazers bear silent witness to our near fill of the town taverns. Here are the final evaluations:

Post
To many under 18, the Post represents the watering spot for the newly enfranchised high school set. Unfortunately, this does not seem to be the case. The Post, located near the intersection of Mansfield Ave. and the Post Rd., "...to be putting less and less alcohol in their drinks. Of course, this is partly compensated by the rising drinking prices. In fact, not only do the average prices on the rise, but merely in the course of an evening, the price of a small rum and coke can jump from $8.50 to $1. And as the growing season progresses, the argument over $1.25 will usually result in the $1 charge, but the unsuspecting (i.e. drunk) customer might easily be ripped-off rather badly. Other Post patrons Neird talked with told similar stories about the steadily rising prices.

Aside from the mixed drinks, the tavern is not unattractive. Beer can be reasonably $0.50 a mug for a mug that is approximately 12 ounces, or 65 cents by the bottle. The general atmosphere is nowhere near as ever-crowded, is very pleasant. Old relics of just about anything and everything are tumbled, draped, propped or hung from the walls, ceiling, doors, windows, tables or bar. An old New Haven Railroad "Domino" sign seems to both set the tone and sum up the Post. We rate it with three and half cocktail glasses. YYY.

Tally-Ho Lounge
Apparently every successful restaurant has a manager that sooner or later feels that "establishment needs a change to survive."

And to keep up with the Howard Johnson's and Holiday Inns in the neighborhood, they are planning and finding variety, though it is not unattractive. Beer can be $1.25 at the Plankhouse. With those prices, your best bet would be to get tanked up before you get there. Then buy one drink, pick up some popcorn, sit back in the comfortable easy chairs, enjoy the all-night movie house in town. Don't be put off by the (inaccurate) $0.90 price, which is not unattractive. Beer can be $0.50 a mug for a mug that is approximately 12 ounces, or 65 cents by the bottle. The general atmosphere is nowhere near as ever-crowded, is very pleasant. Old relics of just about anything and everything are tumbled, draped, propped or hung from the walls, ceiling, doors, windows, tables or bar. An old New Haven Railroad "Domino" sign seems to both set the tone and sum up the Post. We rate it with three and half cocktail glasses. YYY.

This concludes Neird's survey of virtually all local bars. We recognize that many of our readers' views will naturally differ from those that we have presented in these pages. We would welcome letters expressing opposing opinions to present a more balanced look at the local establishments.
By SUE ALLARD

The Girls' Tennis Team made a smashing start for the '74 season as it defeated a good Norwalk team 6-2, 6-1 in its first match of the season, giving Darien its first victory of the year. The team came from behind several times and scored a total of 10 points, with one loss and a victory in the doubles. The team scored four all, thus making the team score four-all. The team as a whole "didn't play badly considering the doubles team of Missy McMahon and Ellen LaBanca, juniors, as seniors Kathie Reilly and Debbie Carella both hit home runs. The Linksters now stand at 3-2.

Blue Waver Scott Harrington swings against Andrw Warde. (Photo by Jerry Clark)

By LARRY CUSACK

The Darien High School Baseball team is halfway through the season so far and their record stands at 6 wins and 3 losses. On April 22 Darien traveled to Danbury to meet a tough Hatters ballclub. Darien took the early lead with runs in both the first and third innings. But Darien came back with a run in the fourth. The Wave went ahead 4 to 3 in the fifth, but then fell behind 5-4 in the sixth. In the seventh inning the Wave tied the score. The seventh inning proved to be the last. The game ended in a tie at nine innings, with the Wave winning 5-4. The record stands at 6 wins and 3 losses. Senior Don Whiting, playing number one spot, faced John Lazzare. Whiting was one of the two players on the team to win a set. He lost 6-2, 3-6, 6-2. Other single losers were John Dahl 6-3, 6-2, Steve Franklin 6-2, 6-2; and Chase Ashley 6-4, 1-6, 6-2.

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Walsh Women Lose

In its first game of the season, against Norwalk on April 29, the Blue Wave Softball Team lost a 16-14. Although Darien was leading by two runs in the final inning, Danbury, through a combination of luck and Darien errors, managed to score three runs in the bottom of the seventh inning to win the game. Coach Joan Walsh commented that the game was "a total loss. I think we really have to consider it was the first game,” with the World Series approaching, and Julie Mattingly "very, very well."..." added Miss Strominger and won handily in the third set. Their final score was 6-7, 6-4, 6-1, giving Darien a 7-0 victory.

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