SAT's On Board's January Agenda; Local Citizen To Offer Presentation

By Bill Waggener

The Board of Education granted its approval to the November 14 meeting to allow discussion and presentation of facts on the decline of the newly announced Scholastic Aptitude Test scores to be placed on the agenda of their first public meeting in January.

A portion of the board meeting held at DHS was devoted to an audio-visual presentation by Assistant Superintendent Ralph Persichino on test scores in the Darien school system. In the scores released from last spring's testing, DHS scored one point below the average of seven Fairfield County school districts and scored under 500 for the first time ever.

According to Mr. Persichino, there are "many variables to be taken into consideration," when discussing the decline in the SAT's scores. One point that should be taken into account is the rise in the number of students who are taking the SAT in junior year. James Laughran stated, the effect is a "three-pronged approach."

In a memo dated Oct. 19, Superintendent Joseph Forst from Westport wrote a note to Mr. Laughran. Persichino and Laughran, three steps are stated: "Continue to restructure the way curriculum is taught. We are not testing students, but to raise the quality of the school system, the SAT scores can be raised if we are aware of the only one measure of quality. Mr. Laughran mentioned the report on Darien students' college acceptance record prepared by the DHS Guidance Department chairman Gerald Hefner as another factor of the decline in SAT's effectiveness. It is over all educational quality that is "the ultimate goal," said Mr. Laughran.

The request for further discussion on the score decline, made from the audience by resident Frank Cooper, was at first met with opposition from Board member Nancy Ambrose and chairman Dorothy Perkins. "We have spent hours (on the discussion of the SAT's)," said Mrs. Ambrose.

However, MacDonald Bauk argued that the Board has "no right to refuse a member of the public the right to make a presentation."

Bauk also mentioned the board meetings a "forum" for citizens to express their opinions.

Budd said that Mr. Cooper and his small group of concerned citizens, including Dr. Gerard Laroque, may only be able to present information that would be "repetitive" and "boring" but that their investigation may reveal new and pertinent information.

Aljo discussed at the Board meeting were class sizes and distribution of teachers. The overcrowding problem at Middlesex Junior High School, the decision by the Board to agree to add the non-music teacher to the high school.

Vandals On The Prowl

By Pete Croncato

A rash of vandalism has been reported this month. Dr. Donald Robbins, principal, said he believes that the problem lies in the irresponsibility of some students to others around them.

The vandalism has taken the form of several fires set in the trash containers outside the cafeteria. The custodians reported that the containers were set on fire with leaves and wood on fire during the day. Two escalator wire racks were taken from the A-wing darkroom and alarms were forced to gain entry to the cabinets. On the day after the fire, two boys' bathrooms were vandalized as partitions in the room were ripped out. Writing and painting on the school walls, inside and out, has also become a problem.

It is unknown whether the offenders are DHS students or outsiders. Dr. Robbins stated, "If students would attend to the problems themselves and would concern themselves with it, they could possibly solve it."

Dr. Robbins said he feels that it will be necessary to take serious preventive measures unless the problem is handled more responsibly and considerate. He said that two possibilities are to immobilize students so that they do not have the opportunity to wander through school and destroy property, or to improve privileges with the smoking area and free periods.

"The Word Is Out," a film dealing with homosexuals and their attitudes about themselves, was recently shown by psychol-

Thanksgiving Number 357

The Great Harvest Munch

By Glenn Heisnith

 Mouth-watering tender-roast turkeys, pies, pumpkins, and pumpkin pie will be served in homes throughout the three hundred fifty-seven family members and relatives will gather to celebrate the festival of Thanksgiving.

The first Thanksgiving, in 1621, was seen as an abundant harvest. Sufficient stores of food were gathered to celebrate the safety of the Plymouth colonists through the coming winter. Pilgrim women were the real stars of the day. They had to prepare food for about 41 individuals. The Indians showed up about two weeks after and since the pilgrims were outnumbered 2-1, they made the best of the situation. After all, who wanted to upset a hungry Indian? While the men were out hunting for turkeys, ducks and geese, the children were gathering berries, cherries and nuts. The Indians brought along five deer which, along with the turkeys, cakes, oysters, lobsters, and fish was enough food to feed an army.

For 40 days and nights (sorry, wrong story), the new settlers lived like kings. After dinner, tales were told and athletic contests were held. The only consolation for the Pilgrim teacher Carolyn Krebs. According to Dr. Donald Robbins, principal, a student's parent called the school to complain about the showing of the program because her daughter was "upset" by it.

Before the movie was shown the students were given the option to stay or leave if they felt they could not handle the subject. "It was somewhat difficult to watch," said Miss Krebs. Dr. William Jacobs, chairman of the History Department, said that the movie had been shown on television's Channel 13 a number of times. He felt that because it had been shown on educational television it would be appropriate to show in the classroom.

"We thought that there was no major problem with Part One of the film, but we did feel that Part Two got sensitive. After a long discussion we came to the conclusion that Part Two would be shown on a voluntary basis. There would also be a psychology present to answer any question with Miss Krebs," commented Mr. Jameson assistant superintendent of curriculum and instruction.

"I didn't think it was offensive. It was just trying to show that homosexuals are people too," said a psychology student.

For Homecoming, see page 5.
Students Needed on Board of Ed

Two hundred and some years ago, the American colonists screamed "Taxation without representation is tyranny." Today the students of Darien High School are not receiving fair representation on the Board of Education.

Though hardly as drastic as the colonists' revolution, the fact that Darien High School remains without a student representative to the Board of Education is hardly less surprising. For those of us who are tired of comparing DHS to New Canaan High School, NCHS has had two student representatives to the Board of Education for the past seven years. They attend each meeting and report back to the school's student council government.

Everyone knows that Darien is one of the more conservative towns in the state, but is it being too radical to ask the Board to allow the students to be given fair voice when the affair deals with them directly? 

Certain townspeople are sure to argue that students can get their opinions across to the Board by showing up at a meeting, at which time they may be heard. At the meetings, where matters of concern to the DHS community are on the agenda. This is true. However, if the school were to have one or two students serve on an off-site basis, in an advisory capacity, the Board would be able to hear an alternative reference for student opinions before they are at their ready disposal, if they care.

There are schools as certain to say that high school students don't know enough about the standard procedures at a Board meeting to make any real contributions. We would like to say that we feel that having students advise the Board on certain matters would be beneficial to the Board, the high school student body and, perhaps most importantly, the town. There is a strong communication gap between the high school and the townpeople. This unfortunate bit of reality could be remedied if...

Vandalism: A Rising Problem

According to Dr. Robbins, "Vandalism is not as bad this year as it is in the past," but NCHS believes that more and more students are being affected by the irresponsible behavior on the part of some students.

If it would do any good to single out just who these culprits are, the local teenyboppers would have a tough time. Many of these aesthetic doing the damage. Any NCHS staff member could tell you in a second that the last thing on his or her mind, after weeks of the stress and tension of school, was to come into picture to tinfoil and to leave them strewn across the room.

Every time this occurs when someone felt that the year's room at the intersection was not public enough to the partitions between the facilities were ripped off the walls. Another example of needless destruction affecting innocent students.

How does one explain to a sophomore who has worked hours each day for two months, why some student could simply remove the wallpaper and rip apart the drywall, without any consequences following, the first 14 months, and then... just walk away.

This kind of damage can not be sacked off like spray-painted walls, put out like trash cans, or be replaced with money, as can the bathroom vandalism. As far as NCHS is concerned, these people probably had nothing to do with the damage. As far as any other sophomore who has worked hours as their former teammates and the remaining fresh passengers, all in a matter of seconds, and then... just walk away.

Dear Editor:

Homeroom has become a use- less time consumer this year. It no longer seems necessary to take attendance in homeroom since attendance is taken at the start of each class as a part of the main office. Homeroom is not needed to make announcements because the daily bulletin is posted in various places throughout the school.

In the past, homeroom has been the time for some students to keep track of who is out of school unexcused. Under the new homeroom attendance rules, the 10 students must submit the list of the homeroom staff at the end of each day. All necessary phone calls are made that day, thus completing the the attendance check.

Homeroom is helpful in making school-wide announcements provided students can actually hear them. The noise raised by having senior homerooms in the auditorium allows no audible communication to take place. Communication would be through this means that either the student must take the time to read the daily bulletin or go about the day uninformed.

Homeroom is used as the time when conducting elections in the student body. However, since voting is confined to the first 14 months of school, voting could then be eliminated.

Homeroom is the time for students to arrive at their classroom to be able to take the time to read the daily bulletin or go about the day uninformed.

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Dear Editor:

The junior-senior girls' foot- ball game again Homeroom is coming to an end and the game was exciting, straining, and more than a few girls' 'guys I've seen and played in. Unfortunately, the game again had its share of un- called penalties and injuries, Cres of "Hit 'em where it hurts," and "Can't play dirty too!" (not to mention lines of explosives that made several vest- ers of the guys' locker room that were watching on the side- lines. But that is far from the reason I am writing this letter. The day after the game I saw not less than three girls who had played in the game hobbling around on crutches. The total number of "guys" flashcards can be easily guessed at. (I didn't actually see all of them.) I'm not going to say the game should be called off, as it was a few years ago. I do oppose that perhaps tackle football, without any sort of padding or protection, is dangerous, very dangerous. Wouldn't a flag foot- ball make a little more sense? So far the board has been lucky that nobody has been seriously injured or maligned in one of these games. I'd hate to see a group of girls spend their spirit and enjoyment of Homeroom be broken down by a needless injury.

14 Something Mama

Dear Editor:

Every morning the top two parking lots at DHS are full. In addition, most of the football field lot is full. Clearly, we need more parking outside our parking lot. The School does it. It is very obvious that many of these cars belong to students, the faculty and that some cars are essential to some members of the faculty. The majority of automobiles are not parked because those who drive should start making that long walk to the school bus stop.

Dear Editor:

Grades have become so impor- tant for Darien students that they have become overly competitive with their peers.

Recently, the honors classes, students were given a three-week period of time to complete an assignment on a book that was available in the library. The books on reserve would have been available to any class members who wanted to use the assignment was due and the students did not return the following week. This is a period for them for an extended period of time.

The library fine of $1 a day has little effect on the price of the book. The only alternative left to a student who lose the book is to borrow it from a friend who has one. Unfortunately, the only time the friend was willing to part with the book was on the Saturday night before the assignment was due.

It is hoped that in the future that the administration will concern themselves with the grade point averages of the students.

Pam Drugg

Dear Editor:

Any student participating in JV or varsity sports was excused from school classes through the 1976-77 school year. During this time, the number of members could be excused from school classes for the first term the junior high school senior year, seniors are the only group which is excusable to be F.E. excused athletes.

The number of 1979 is still slightly ineligible from being excused for, varsity and JV sports. Though there is no effect for large number of DHS students. I speak on behalf of the senior varsity cheerleaders against this unnecessary change.

Athletes are excused from gym because they spend many hours working out, which does not allow sufficient studying time. Also, because they get thoroughly creased with P.E., but how much exercise do you get during the classes per week, some of which do not include physical education? and change in gym attire?

When athletes are not practicing, they are cheering at games, which is not comparable to football, soccer or most other sports, it severely, demands physical exer-

Dear Editor:

Cheerleading was removed from the excluded P.E. program because it was not considered competitive enough. If the reason for last year's budget was they are not competitive to eliminate the P.E. excluded athletes because instead of improve gym class competition, the athletes would be more likely to be taking the classes.

Varsity Cheerleader

The school buses arrive at school on time and most of the students have to wait in line for a long time distance of a nearby bus stop, but that is not much of a problem since they are degrading to be seen with those sophomores who do not have enough money for the buses, so why not use them for the high price for gas. The exercise in the morning might wake students up for early morning classes.
News Briefs

Orders will be taken for the traditional candy cane sale, a major fund raiser for the Junior Class, throughout the week of December 4, outside the cafeteria during lunch shifts.

The maids, who will be sent to keep the seniors’ rooms clean, and the Junior Class, who keep the seniors’ rooms tidy, will help the seniors get ready for the Christmas party.

The Senior Class Officers have decided to sell candy canes instead of the usual cookies for their bake sale.

The Junior Class Officers have decided to sell candy canes instead of the usual cookies for their bake sale.

The Seniors Officers have decided to sell candy canes instead of the usual cookies for their bake sale.

The Juniors Officers have decided to sell candy canes instead of the usual cookies for their bake sale.

DHS Trackers Jogs With Author ‘Running’ Fixx

By Mark Blackwell

We are running in the chill of an autumn afternoon beside Long Island Sound. The sun has turned color and have begun to clutter the path we follow through the sand dunes. My running companion, Jim Fixx, has a few words for everyone we meet. "Hey, you're supposed to run up the hills, not down," he says to a woman who is struggling to keep pace.

Our run continues on the trails that wind through Old Greenwich Beach. Many of these runners are running because of Jim Fixx. A letter that Fixx sent them, a letter in their newspaper, a letter of recognition. They will all smile at the faces of many of the runners.

He is wearing an old, faded, grey sweat suit, equally old brown running shorts and blue running shoes. It is difficult to recognize that many of the things he wears are found during his runs.\n\nIn fact, we come across a runner who is running in a suit which he regrets only because he believes he has no mistakingly left behind. He could afford to buy an expensive running suit for every day of the week, but prefers to use the things he has.

James Fixx is a natural. He is also the author of his own bestseller, The Complete Book of Running, which has received widespread acclaim and remained on the bestseller's list since it was released a year ago.

Fixx says that his life has not changed much since the release of his book. He does travel more, but his regular schedule is not much different. Writing is his life. Basically, he writes all day except for his daily ten-mile runs.

He began running ten years ago after sustaining a leg injury while playing tennis. At the time, he weighted 200 pounds. "I don't know why I started running. It was something to do. He didn't have much running experience; he had only participated in Army basic training. Because this was his only exercise with the sport, he began joging in a pair of heavy boots.

Daily, at age 46, he weighs 160 pounds. He has run in more than thirty marathons, including seven Boston Marathons. He has won the Connecticut 10,000-meter championship in his age group.

Fixx was born April 23, 1932, in New York City. His father was Calvin Herman Fixx and his mother was Marilyn Fuller. He graduated from a small private high school in New York where he graduated at the top ten percent of his class, although "I should have graduated at the top four or five." His participation in high school tennis was limited to the tennis team.

Mr. Fixx attended Oberlin College in Ohio where he majored in English. He received his B.A. degree in 1957. His first job was as a reporter for the Saratoga (N.Y.) Journal. He held this position in 1957 and 1958. He then decided to go on to graduate school at Columbia University where he received his M.A. degree in 1960.

Mr. Fixx has been married twice. He was divorced from his first wife, Mary J. Durling, in 1973. He married Alice Joy Rayn in July of 1974. He has four children—Paul, 20, John, 17, and twins Elizabeth and

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Blackwell Jogs With Fixx
continued from page 3

Stephen, 15, makes his home in Riverside, Connecticut. When asked whether he had bought The Complete Book of Running, which takes an in-depth look to research and write, would be the great success it has been, he replied, "I remember thinking that I might be the only one who ever reads it." Mr. Fixx said that he did "do the best job I know how to do" in writing the book. He decided to write The Complete Book for two main reasons. The first is his great love for running. He also wanted to spend more time writing and less time magazine editing. Today his only connection with magazines is a puzzle column which is run in four publications.

Mr. Fixx understands that he has little time for anything except writing, traveling and running, but he does enjoy other hobbies. He is a woodworking enthusiast, and he keeps a small workshop in his basement. His other pastime is reading. He especially enjoys the classics. Currently he is rereading some of the classics he read in high school and college, "because I'm only now beginning to understand them."

Although many people attribute the current running craze to his book, Jim Fixx is not that certain. He believes it is possible that his book just might have happened to occur at the same time. If this is true, he certainly has great timing.

One danger Mr. Fixx finds in running is that some runners tend to look at running as almost a religion, and these same runners see themselves as better than "regular" people. "Running does not make you a better person and runners are not better people." Mr. Fixx is characterized by his casualness. Although he wore a coat and tie to work every day during his editing career, he says that now he is just as likely to wear a t-shirt and jeans into the city. In fact, he often wears a couple of summer suits. "If I had to attend some formal event during the winter I would have to go out and buy myself a suit." What is in the future for this bestselling author? Writing more books. Currently he is working with his publisher on another book. The subject is a secret, but he did assure me that "No, it won't be another book on running."

JAMES THE COMPLETE BOOK OF RUNNINGFixx

808 Production

Although the exact date and location for the annual state demonstration has not been set, drama director Jon Edwards and his production team have already made preparations for what is expected to be a full staged production of "The Best-Even:" theater calls, the "best-of!" theater pieces, European style plays, and even some plays from Colorado authors.

The play, which started with Richard Bumby of Broadway, is the complicated story of a 17-year-old boy and his psychological problems. In an outburst, the boy bludgeons his father to death and is afterward allowed to proof himself to society. The psychiatrist is Dewson Wilchich, the boy, Martin Houdin, and their mother, Magie Pearson; his father, Kip Hackenburg; Jill, Lisa Harrison, and Hester, Liz Peterson.

Senior Attends Convention
Ellen Ryan, a senior, was selected to attend the National Girl Scouts Convention in Denver, Oct. 22-26.

Every three years Girl Scouts council send a delegate from each state to attend the convention. Ellen is the president of her council troop in New Canaan. She was the only girl chosen to go from the western Connecticut Council. The trip was paid for by the local Girl Scouts, and the had the opportunity to see the sights of Colorado for several days.

A total of 10,000 delegates from throughout the nation attended the meeting. Mr. Walter Montgomery, her future husband, was guest speaker. They discussed issues concerning the raising of their dues, chafing of the uniform, and the future of the property they own and the social uses of the property; the national Scout symbol, the "crusader," "We felt our emblem was too similar to the Boy Scouts. The sew Girl Scout theme of 'Challenging and Choice' and the new symbol will strive to express that."

Ellen is also a Mariner Scout who spends a lot of time at Mystic Seaport. The girls have returned to their home town of New Canaan Sound and have also gone to Bermuda raising the money themselves.

The Latin Club with faculty advisor Miguel Crespin plans an Easter vacation trip to Italy as a high-light to the year's activities.
HOMECOMING - A TIME TO REMEMBER

Daren High School’s Homecoming ’78, “Disco Inferno,” was a great success! The weekend, chaired by Linda Crawford and JoAnne Kelley, started off with a Pep Rally on Thursday morning when the Homecoming Court was introduced to the school. Members of the court included Susie Snell and Paul DiSilverstro, sophomores; Lizzie Rodriguez and Jay Chandler, juniors; Keith Dayton, Irene Soulier, Jim Cress, JoAnne Kelley, Peter Criscota, Diane Kirkley, Jeff Grady and Linda Crawford, seniors.

Hush-Hush Day was also held on Thursday. Darin Anderson, the boy with the most tags at the end of the day, won the title of “Mr. Irresistible.”

Thursday night was the “Night Fever” coffee house and senior nuts and vats featuring the band Gunnip and Press.

Friday night the “Burn Baby Burn” bonfire was held in the lower parking lot. Lots of people turned out to cheer and keep warm by the blaze.

Saturday, the main day of the weekend, began with a parade originating from Goodwives’ Shopping Center. Floats were judged and prizes awarded before the parade. The parade also featured the Homecoming court, cheerleaders and pom-pom girls.

During the football game half-time, the winners of the float competition were announced. The sophomores came in third with their float “Disco Duck.” The juniors were next with the theme “Boogie Fever.” The class of ’79 came in first with the theme “That’s the way I like it.” This is the third year that the Class of ’79 has won the float competition setting a new school record.

Announced during half-time were the Homecoming King and Queen, Peter Criscota and JoAnne Kelley.

Saturday night featured the “You Should Be Dancing” disco dance, with DJ’s Gary Peters and Jim Kerr. The lighting was by Scott Thurman and his co-workers.

The senior and junior girls held the lead throughout the junior-senior football game and went on to win with a score of 18-6.

“Disco Inferno” was an active and very successful weekend.

HOMECOMING CORONATION—Dr. Robbins announces Pete Criscota and Joanne Kelley as the Homecoming King and Queen.

(Photos by Charlot Ras-Allard)

“DISCO DUCK”—The Sophomores keep with the theme pulling a strong third.

SENIORS—"We go together-remembered forever—that’s the way it should be... We’re one of a kind-our names are signed-We’ll always be like one.” The class of ’79 has an unprecedented winning streak of three years.

Junior Class boogies to second place.
Gymnastics Champions

By Mark Sevy

The Darien boys' gymnastics team downed Westhill, Stamford, and an ensemble of seven schools on a fourth straight FCIAC Championship.

Tom Kratky anchored the victory for the Wave by winning five gold medals and racking up 43.05 points. For the first time in two years Kratky did not achieve first in vaulting.

Wave Dave Garrett jumped for first in vaulting (8.35) and rolled up second in the floor exercise. Gymnast Rob Scott pulled in a bronze medal in the same event. Both the parallel bars (4.75) and the high bar (4.95) were owned by Westhill captain John McCurdy in a silver in the high bar (5.75) and third in vaulting (8.65). Garrett also thrilled in third in the floor exercise (7.7). Stamford captain Dave Vodola tied for first with Garrett in parallel bars.

Head coach Isidore Battino said, "I think the main reason for our success is our co-captain, Tom Kratky, who is the only dual meets except one took first in vaulting. Dave Garrett has also impressed me, including in the floor exercise. Abbate is outstanding in the high bar and the rings."

Quarterback Jay Chandler accelerates past defenders in recent action. (Photo by Charlot Ras-Alarid)

Joggers Finish Second In FCIAC

By John Marion

Undaunted until losing to their last two opponents at the end of the season, the Boys' Cross Country Team finished the season in a strong fashion, only to end disappointingly in the State Class L meet.

The Harriers arrived at Danbury for their last meet to run against undefeated New Canaan and 11-2 Danbury. The team ran a fair race, but New Canaan showed amazing strength and Danbury proved that they were tough on their home course. Darien lost to New Canaan 17-46 and Danbury 23-36 to finish a very respectable season at 13-5.

The team then competed in the Class L Championship Meet and did exceedingly well. The Harriers finished second in place behind New Canaan. This was the best finish for the Boys' Cross Country in the Counties since 1970 and the best season since head coach Bob McCarty became coach.

Jeff Mercer, Mike Kolb and Steve Vorrick finished well and all were named to the Class L All Tournament teams. The results of the FCIAC Championships are as follows: Jeff Mercer (4); Mike Kolb (6); Steve Vorrick (14) and Scott Montgomery (21); Jeff Mercer (4).

The team did not do as well as they had hoped in the State Class L Championship Meet. The Harriers finished 11th place. One bright note was Darien's finish at the sixteenth place finish by Jeff Mercer that qualified him for the State Open Championships Nov. 9.

The future looks bright for this team as our team by prospect Jeff Mercer, Darien's Most Valuable Player, will be back next year.

Boomers Eliminated In 2nd Round

By Gail Bruggemeyer

The DHS soccer team moved into second round of action due to the loss of the state championship. The Aquanauts ended their season with a 2-0-2 record and second place in the double 1 state competition. (Photo by Charlot Ras-Alarid)

The final score was 4-2 and the loss eliminated the Aquanauts from the state competition. Despite their loss, the Wave had one of the best seasons in the history of the DHS soccer team. They concluded their season with an 8-4-2 record.

Girl TrackKers Twelfth In LL

By Pam Dragg

The girls' cross country team placed twelfth in the LL division of the state meet, Nov. 2 in Waterford.

Sophomore Karen Brogley led the team, placing 40th out of about 140 runners in the meet. Other runners for Darien were co-captain Jane West-71, Pam surgeons-85, Mary De Cola-83, co-captain Ann Tufte-100, and Karen Choper-130.

The toughest competition came from up-state schools, in particular first-placed Conard. The team placed 5th with a 3:10:02 record. The team is looking forward to a good season next year, as one team member stated, "It was a good year, but we can be a great help to us next year, since we have such an asset in her first year."