Homecoming Coordinators Sue Harrington, Lisa Emmons and Grace Bean.

By KAREN ECKRICH and CHRIS LEIGH

Homecoming time is here again. Organizers of this year’s Homecoming, scheduled for November 7-9, are hoping the annual event will be a successful rendition with a Bicentennial flair.

Preparations have started well in advance as invitations were sent out weeks ago to the DHS Class of ’75, Chairwomen Lisa Emmons, Grace Bean, and Susan Harrington have been scheming for weeks to get DHS into the Bicentennial swing.

It all begins on Friday, Nov. 7, when all students are requested to don their red, white, and blue for school. The action will really start at the “Ben Franklin Kite Flying Contest” Friday afternoon during X-period, where awards will be given for the most original and highest flying kite.

For those who have worked up an appetite, the Historic Coffee House has a special menu scheduled for that evening. In the gym will be decorated White House style.

The junior girls hope to match last year’s “Homecoming Hokeypokey” with a “Stars and Stripes Salute to Breakfast fast.” From 8:00 to 12:00, they will be serving pancakes, sausages, and orange juice, charging $1.50 for children under 12 and $1.75 for adults. Winding up the weekend will be the annual seniors versus junior girls’ football game. Kick-off time is set for 12:30 p.m.

Miss Emmons, Miss Harrington and Miss Bean are striving to involve the entire school by adding new ideas to what they hope will remain a lasting tradition. Says Miss Emmons, “We hope that by following a theme we will make this Homecoming more organized, making it a first and third year of the theme, which we will all remember, as well as the best Homecoming yet.”

Nostalgic Reporter’s Masquerade

By JACK O’LANTERS

In a nostalgic mood we three Neirdians strayed down the ever-present costume of yesteryear to go on a round of Tricks or Treats.

Our costumes consisted of a monochrome head made of paper mache. Named George of the Jungle, a jiving, geeting gent, it is enough to scare anyone, informal the weaver, who must suffer with having to peer through nostrils that are also used for whistling and eating. For the spats at heart, an “SS” glued to a blue sweat shirt and a red cap with the gleam of a movie Superman out front. Due to the lack of ghost sheets, we were forced to buy a Conan paper bag printed as a dog.

At our first stop, apples were dropped into our “Trick-or-Treat for Neirders” bags, and on to the car, George of the Jungle, eager to sample his mesquite, experimental his apple lodged in the noslier of the mask.

We had many Halloween scares maneuvering the WV. Curbs were run over and red lights run through because our navigator, G. Jungle, kept mashing his head on the roof of the car and it was only able to see through one noselier, the other being clogged by the apple.

On to Newport, to call upon our faithful faculty advisor. When we arrived, Superman, eager to get out of that car, caught his cap on the car door, ripping the back of his costume to shreds.

Realizing his cap was Superman flew his loop into some dusty bushes, cracking his Clark Kent glasses. After repeated knockings on the front door, we stood out from the next door neighbor, who was rebuking himself, the window, that our advisor had hurriedly moved. (Maybe he knew we were coming?)

Another stop on our excursion was Post 53, where the crew questioned our motives and sanity, insisting that we should be “taken away.” We protested, and they dejected a cold piece of pepperoni pizza in our bags and shoved us out the door.

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'Neirad' Defines Its Terms

It has come to our attention that there is a need to define the current editorial policies of Neirad.

Neirad wishes to provide an open forum for the diverse groups which encompass the school community. Thus, the “Viewpoints” column is available to all readers.

Neirad realizes the necessity for forum space to be shared in a reasonable number of opinions as far as feasible. Viewpoints do not represent the opinions of Neirad staff and are therefore given a byline. Topics of special interest to readers, which may not necessarily be “viewpoints,” may be dealt with in letters to the editor.

As the other hand, editorials represent the concerns and opinions of the Neirad editors. The editorials will be based on full a knowledge of the situation discussed as the writer, i.e., the editors-in-chief are responsible and must answer for all material which is run only as editorials.

It is the duty of this newspaper to report the facts, regardless of their possible controversial implications, and to favor neither party. Viewpoints on facts when appropriate. It is also the responsibility of this newspaper to provide equal space to those who wish to rebut editorials, Viewpoints or letters.

Make Your Feelings Count

Once again, the voters of Darien are faced with a decision as to whom to elect for the position of First Selectman. In the coming election we urge the voters of this community to examine the candidates for the various positions carefully, regardless of the party affiliations of those candidates.

When Carolyn Brosherton recently appeared at DHS, she impressed us with her candor dealing with the issues at hand. Her concise and direct approach banishes an impression of women in society, thereby debasing women. She is candidly rational, whereas Mr. Patrick failed to grasp the tangible effects of such an issue to the quality of education in Darien, as Neirad's interview with the candidates reveals.

Ms. Brosherton is a true conservative in her commitment to preserving that which is good for the town of Darien. She recognizes the realities and limitations of our present system of government.

Neirad feels Ms. Brosherton will spark a movement with far more creative innovation in a town which has been relatively stagnant in the past. Thus we ask the people of Darien to examine and decide for a person, not a party.

Corps Agrees To Change Its Name

Continued from page 1

At last report, there was not much response among the male community.

At the last meeting the issue was tabled on which Mr. Marshall made the end of her letter, Mr. Catania commented thusly . . .

The first point which dealt with the actions of the Dance Team regarding use of the girls’ “Pom Pom,” has already been addressed over the P.A. in which he welcomed any all band who wished to join the drill and explained that the group was in the process of finding a new name, which, as Mr. Catania stated, would be “more appropriate.”

The second point called for the inclusion of curricular which would increase the interest of students in the stereotypes pertaining to women in society, thereby raising the consciousness level of the student body.

Mr. Catania commented on the second point. “It makes an assumption that a girl can’t be a cheerleader, that she can’t correct . . . a very strong assumption that the consciousness of our students is so near a zero level . . . I don’t know that I agree with it.” He felt that Ms. Marshall should pursue her point in

NEIRAD

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VIEWPOINTS

Pom-Pom Corps: Discrimination?

By GERALDINE MARSHALL

Department of English

1976 is International Women’s Year. On November 15 various organizations in Darien will hold a full-day conference at DHS honoring women and informing the public of women’s achievements in their struggle for equal opportunities. The Equal Rights Amendment is on the verge of ratification. State and Federal trials, such as Title IX, have assured equal educational opportunities for women students in all areas including physical education programs. Textbooks are being rewritten to eliminate the sexual stereotyping of Dick as the aggressive, strong, active type and Jane as the passive, weak, perpetually clean and pretty-starched Speculator. Presumably all girls and women are education such as Yale, Harvard, and may now be admitted and welcome women students.

And television has revealed: women share the same roles as men. Secretaries, detectives, athletes, editors, nurses, teachers, doctors, lawyers, aerospace engineers. Women are taught how to play the Game.

Girls Only

One might assume therefore that in 1975 the present public education system is not aware of the problems of sexual inequality and has begun to address these terms with it. Thus, when I first heard of Darien High School’s Pom Pom (sic) Girls, I thought it was a joke. When further investigation convinced me of the seriousness of the matter, I realized that the same group might be a semantic oversight; possibly we were not creating literature for girls and it is only partly restricted to girls.

The name was promptly modified to Pom Pom and Pom Pom. The most recent issue of the DHS Newsletter to date mentions Pom Pom but not the title. However, the description of the group in that issue states: “members are mainly junior and senior girls who enjoy pom pom dancing and would like to invite all girls to join . . . The girls will be uniformed . . . They will then learn Pom Pom dance and field routines. The Corps will be active year-round in support of the Pom Pom. Some mothers have volunteered to help. However, the girls need someone with experience to teach them the Pom Pom routines.” (Italics are mine.)

The skirted uniforms have arrived. It seems quite clear that the organization was intended specifically and solely for female students.

What, in particular, is discriminatory about the creation of an auxiliary cheerleading corps called pom pom girls, in girls’ high schools? It is the auxiliary cheerleading corps exist only if in a real and specific way it is open to both sexes; and in a real and specific way it is open to girls in Darien High School. Secondly, an effort must be made to include in the curriculum sufficient study of women’s role in society to raise the consciousness of our students from its present near-zero level. Thirdly, that the newly created booster fund will set aside some of its money for scholarships for young women who plan to prepare for a profession open to only one sex.

The issue is brought into sharp and summary focus in the latest comment by Mr. Marshall, who has seen a significant push between the institution claims as a function and gender, that is between the demographic function and the functional function must be: ‘If we are truly dedicated to equality, the ability and character to fashion a satisfying life in a rapidly changing society’ (DHS Newsletter, same time nurture a self-image which promotes a positive contribution to a society that no longer exists.’
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keeping the mill rate the same was more important than the educational quality, and I think that we were probably going to have to look very carefully at the educational programs to be sure that we are not damaging it so much that our children are not getting the kind of education we want for them. After all, costs continue to go up; I'm certainly not advocating a zero increase in the budget, but I think that we may have to go up a little bit just to keep what we have.

HOW WOULD YOU EXAMINE THIS TALKING TO TEACHERS?

Yes, and looking at class size, which is certainly something that I've been hearing about from my daughter and her friends this year, and from the teachers. It's very difficult, I know as a teacher myself, to do an adequate job, to feel as if you're doing justice to the students if you have 35 and 40 in a class, and you have that many papers to grade.

DO YOU THINK THERE IS A NEED FOR A YOUTH CENTER?

It depends on the kind of youth center. I felt that the Barn was quite successful. The Baker Teen Center tended to serve a very limited group of students. It depends on the whole atmosphere that's set up, and I think that if it really depends on the way it's organized.

Not all kids are going to go to any youth center, but if there's a need for even one substantial group then I certainly think it's worth doing... The Barn was, as I remember, fairly well self-supporting.

EXACTLY WHAT IS BEING DONE ABOUT THE CENTRE STORE PROBLEM?

Well, Centre Store's functions, as far as the bar-line have been taken over in rather a different way; it is not a peer group hot-line, and, in fact, there was some feeling that there was some danger in the way this was being handled because you need more professional people to handle the calls. And with the transfer of this function and of counseling, youth counseling, to the youth options program, I feel very confident that we have professionals involved in this sort of thing. I think I like the idea of the group meetings which Hop Dune is going to be setting up, hopefully at Cherry Lawn. We have reached an impasse on this, or at least we have come in an obstacle because the Planning and Zoning Commission feels that they must hold a public hearing in order to issue a special permit for this to go on at Cherry Lawn. In the original meeting on this subject last month, there was the question whether this should be referred to Planning and Zoning. Mr. Patrick and Mr. Lukas chose not to consult with Planning and Zoning on this, and I feel that this was a mistake because now we are faced with another delay. We haven't met, and neither of us have been delayed long enough.

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE OPTIMAL LEARNING PROGRAMS WE HAVE HERE AT THE HIGH SCHOOL?

I'm very much in favor of them. I think anything that can interest students in education is for the good. I'm encouraged about what I hear. I really don't know what the enrollment is in these programs, but if anything can make education more relevant to the kids, then I'm in favor of it.

HOW WOULD YOU ANSWER THE PEOPLE IN THE TOWN WHO DON'T WANT TO SPEND ANY MORE MONEY FOR EDUCATION, WHO THINK EDUCATION IS TOO COSTLY?

I would say that this is one of the areas in which we might be spending too much and important and we can't afford it, we can't afford not to spend money on education.

WOULD IT HELP YOU?

- To be able to read a book in an hour that now takes you a week?
- To comprehend the material better?
- To finish most of your homework during school study periods?
- To be able to have fun doing what you enjoy?

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out of it was that we do need some kind of a mini-bus system, a mass transit system, some way for the kids who are under 16, who are too young to have drivers' licenses. The mobility of this group is so limited. Now my first reaction was well, for heaven's sake, they're young, they can walk, or they can ride bicycles, but what I had overlooked, and what I had learned as a result of their work, was that you go to Weed Bench and have fun down there at 11:00 at night. There's no time to be riding a bike home, particularly if you don't have the proper lights or reflectors. Therefore, what I learned from that board was the need for some kind of transportation to be developed, whether it be a van service, handled by a volunteers group or what. I'm not sure what the answer is, but I don't think it should be anything funded by the town.

...Other things I learned were from the DYA, the need for more and more playing fields, baseball fields. I found that when you're having league games, that you still don't have room for the other teams to practice. I hope that we can do something at Cherry Lawn. We're going to do something at Baker; that's already started. Another thing that was new to me was the need and desirability for basketball courts and half courts to play on. We've all seen in the courts and over garage doors the nets for home practice, but that doesn't provide the means for the group action.

DO YOU FEEL THAT THE DARIEN HIGH SCHOOL FACILITIES ARE ADEQUATE?

I've had mixed feelings about the high school facilities for years. When I was a first-year graduate from high school I had to use the gym. Believe me, I had the last seat on a steaming hot night and that was terrible. When my daughter graduated, it was in the new auditorium, and I was just delighted to find the comfort and what a terrific place that was. The famous crossroads, though — sheer disaster. You call it the intersection — that is a disaster. I don't know what we get architects that design the school buildings or design the school buildings we seem to come up with. I hope that with the building program that's underway, we're going to correct and overcome these deficiencies. In fact, it was only this week I signed four of the contracts; we have the fifth one for the high school coming up. The bids are in; the contract will probably be signed within the next few weeks. The other week we did this past week was sign the 53 bonds for $5,820,000. I said bonds — they're an

Carolyn O. Brotherton (Photo by Alan Stevens)

Patrick

I'm Willing To Listen

Willian H. Patrick (Photo by Lane)
Hockettes Hit Slump, Meet Defeat, Say Farewell To State Ambitions

By SALLY O’CONNOR

The Girls’ Varsity Field Team wrapped up its season with a tarnished record of 3-4-3. This was an unusually short as well as disappointing season for the team because it did not qualify for the state tournament, which extends the season for an extra week or two.

Darien encountered its first loss of the season against a strong Ludlowe team in an away game on Oct. 18, losing 0-3 and the j.v. ‘s also being defeated.

This defeat was a real disappoint-ment for the team, because it lowered their chances to enter the state.

Darien hosted New Canaan on Oct. 20, losing 1-2. New Canaan brought forth an exciting and close battle for Darien. Speed and aggressiveness were on Darien’s side as well as the eagerness to score. Sally Campbell executed a spectacular assist, while Liddy Pierpont scored the goal for Darien. Although this game was a loss for Darien, the fine performance was cited by Miss Strominger as “excellent.”

Greenwich topped the varsity in an away game on Oct. 20, Darien losing 0-1. Darien played a good game but lacked the ability to score. Page Kennedy highlighted the game with a penalty flick.

The j.v. ‘s also experienced a loss, losing 1-2.

‘Pag’, Totilo Spark Gymnasts To Wins

By JOHN C. NELSON

The Darien High gymnastics team, after defeating Hamden in a recent meet by the score of 93.9 to 71.4, took on East Lyme High School, October 21, on home ground. Darien easily defeated the East Lyme team by a margin of 42.4 points. The Darien team simply outclassed their weak opponents with great routines and, at times, almost perfect execution on the apparatus.

Co-captains Joe Faglarzolo and Anthony Totilo alone collected enough points to beat the East Lyme gymnasts. “Pag” scored first on high bar, still rings, parallel bar, and vaulting, while Totilo earned second place on floor exercise while Anthony D’Silvestro placed first in side horse even though he fell of and landed on his head at the end of his routine.

Darien was ahead from the start and dominated the meet the entire way. The East Lyme squad seemed out of Darien’s league although they had a few good performances on the floor. On the balance beam, the team was really unspectacular during much of their routines.

The Darien team has great depth and, with only two seniors, they rely on strong junior performers Anthony D’Silvestro, Peter Stanos, Josh Moltz, Ken Holmes, and Peter Francescato for those extra points that are needed to win the big one. Support will also come from sophomores Clay Moltz and John Reitich and, of course, Coach Iadra.

Aquamoids Notch First Victory

By MISS MCDONALD

Despite a lack of five varsity swimmers, the Girls’ Swim team picked up their first win of the season by defeating Brien McNamara of Norwalk on Friday, October 27, by the score of 105-64.

Darien captured first out of six in the eleven events. First place finishers for Darien included the 200-yard medley relay team of Carolyn Toner, Tina Bray, Stacey Johnson, and Diana Battino, whose good guidance and winning record is known to all.

At the beginning of the season, Darien was the team to beat and has remained so for the duration of this season. Having already defeated Greenwich and Hamden, Darien has a very good chance of going undefeated and winning the state championship in November.

Continuing their winning ways the Darien gymnasts defeated Waterford High School by an overwhelming score of 105.15 to a weak 52.0 points on October 27. On October 30 Darien faced a tough Stamford High School on their last regular season of the year.

(Heads of the Stamford meet were not available at press time.)

Grindem Rip Crusaders, Tigers

By BILL HELMAN

The football team continued its winning ways by edging Stamford Catholic, 19-16, in a night game held last Friday, October 17, at the Stamford field. It was the third game in a row that Coach Del Monte and his Blue Wave had played in the mud, for it rained off and on throughout the game.

It was also the third “mud” win for Darien, and their second in a row, as they give them a 4-2 record and good standing in the East Division of the F.C.L.A.C.

The Stamford Catholic Crusaders looked as though they were going to run the Wave to the ground, so they returned the opening kick-off kick-off of 55 yards, setting up a touchdown. Five plays later, the Crusaders punched in the score, and also converted the extra point.

Blue Wave quarterback Bob Marchesi got his offensive going again as they rolled to the Catholic 20 before being stopped. But, they gained the ball back again, as Darien’s stiff defense held and Rod Walters blocked a Crusader punt. Rich Goran recovered the loose ball deep inside Catholic territory, and Marchesi scored, cutting Stamford’s lead to 6-5.

Just before the half ended, Catholic managed to move the ball inside the Wave five, but the Blue’s “pride line” held the Crusaders for four downs, and the ball rested on the one-foot line as the half ended.

Fixed up after the team’s defensive exhibition, the offense came back and scored first in the second half. Marchesi, on a fourth and three, swept the left end for twenty yards, and Dave Chandler scored on a two-yard burst.

After two fumbles and a Catholic interception, the Wave defense stopped the Crusaders cold, and forced them punt. Darien gut excellent field position, and drove towards the goal line, after Marchesi put the game out of reach, as Marchesi scored his second touchdown on a five-yard sweep.

Darien then defeated the Ludlowe Tigers, 28-18, at the Ludlowe field on Monday, October 27. The win lifted Darien’s record to five wins and two losses.

Finally, the Wave scored on its first series of downs. Marchesi hit Bogardus for 25 yards on the opening play, and scored the first touchdown himself on a two-yard plunge. Ludlowe bunched tight and scored to cut Darien’s margin to 7-6.

Chandler had an interception in the second quarter, and Art Van Struyve recovered a punt fumble, but Darien, placing sloppy, gave the ball right back on three fumbles and an interception. Justus Vorwerk fumbled a quick pass and Marchesi fumbled twice, one of them coming late in the fourth quarter and giving possession to Ludlowe deep in Darien territory.

Darien also scored on a 75-yard kick-off return by Wagy McKisic and a 35-yard interception run back made by John Stevenson on a great play. Nick Toscano scored on a 16-yard sweep, carrying a drive highlighted by a 54-yard kick to McKisic’s pass.

Peter Bonanno was the leading ground gainer with 65 yards and Marchesi hit on eight passes for 190 yards. The Wave, many of the Blue Wave drives were halted either by turnovers or penalties, as they were penalized for over 65 yards.

Goalie Vinnie Ferrante stands alert as fullback Paul Hendry deflects away a shot on goal. (Photo by Joe Shannahon)