Pelletier Resigns; Reviews Darien Years

By ROGER HORINE
Superintendent of Schools, Daryl W. Pelletier recently announced his resignation effective Jan. 1, 1974. Jack A. Ferte, former principal of Mather Junior High School and recent candidate for first seatman, was named acting superintendent by the Board of Education Wednesday, Oct. 31. A nation-wide search will be undertaken by the board to find a permanent superintendent.

Dr. Pelletier told Neяд what his seven years with the Darien School System have neted, and gave some partning shots on the Review, the School Council, and the problems that Darien will face in the near future.

Darien Review?
While he said that he "wouldn't dignify" the Review's [editor's] editorial with a comment," he did say that the paper acts as a "negative force in this community." He added that it is "in-"

famous in molding public opinion and it's a shame that it is not more constructive.

He is lefthanded to have a second paper in town, though its impact is still hard to judge.

Despite the Review, Dr. Pelletier feels that he has been given "pretty much" support. "I accomplished about 90 per cent of what I set out to do," he said.

He is proud of the complete elementary library system that has been instituted, the computerization of the business department, the expansion of high school electives, and curriculum revisions.

"We have one of the best art programs in the county," he said.

School Council?
"An Opportunity."
The experiment is able to operate at the high school principal's veto in matters pertaining to the community government. When asked how he would rule if the principal were not a member of the council, the council's positions were placed before him and

replied, "I'm not sure I would mediate. Dr. Bruce is responsible for the operations within the school."

"I think it is a gross learning experience for those interested in society's works," Dr. Pelletier said. When pressed for an opinion on which interpretation of the constitution was correct, his comment was: "What an opportunity to work it out."

Lighting his pipe and getting serious, he added, "I don't know how it makes the teachers feel as he sees it. The constitution is not an official Board of Education document and council problems are administrative problems, not board policy. Dr. Bruce has the right to change anything—almost anything. I'm certain that the council can be resolved at the high school."

Four-year plans
The four-year high school program is unique for the citizens of this community. All the data I have been able to collect tends to indicate that the wisest choice was to continue on page 3

Committee Inspects Social Studies Curriculum
By TOM GAMMILL
The senior Contemporary Social In-

spection course may be revised and shortened to a half year, according to recommendations of the summer curriculum committee. The recommendations, encompassing all social studies courses offered in grades 10, 12, "are still being discussed and have not yet been reported to the Board of Education," Social Studies Department Chairman Richard Harper stated.

Mr. Harper, a participant in this program, told Neяд that the committee has come up with a number of concepts that would be essential to social studies. "We want our courses to move away from just covering material, and center more around ideas and concepts."

The committee, consisting of junior and senior high social studies teachers, has also suggested creating more elective courses for the data. Dr. Bruce would have signed this, but the council rejected it by an 8-6 vote. As "proof of" the good faith, Dr. Bruce introduced a bill for increased interaction between the council and himself. At the same time, however, he said, "I can't be bound by the council."

Dr. Harper said he would like to work with the committee to create the situation for and recommend further action for the council. As Chairman Tim Massad has said, "We'd like to resolve these problems for the future, but at the same time want to go on to other school issues."

Council Waives Confrontation

By BILL JOHNSON
The School Council has temporarily averted a crisis in its most recent meetings. At its last verbal showdown with Principal George Bruce, the council set the issue of legislative authority aside in order to get on with more pressing business. As member Edmund Higgins put it, for the moment the council "accept the reality that there are two policy-making bodies" in the school.

The discussion in the Oct. 24 meeting was solely concerned with the council's reaction to Dr. Bruce's veto of a bill making his homework policy expire on Jan. 11. Dr. Bruce could not accept this date.

Appealing the veto to the Superintendent or Board of Education seemed useless at the time. As Dr. Bruce pointed out, the "bill required us at some point to limit my power to have a council.

Richard Bohmke proposed that the policy be voted on, but the bill was passed without discussion.

Danish Visitor Observes

By MEG MCCOLLIER
Soeren Groenbech, a student of Roskilde University Center (RUC) in Copenhagen, Denmark, has been visiting Darien High School the past month and observing and participating in nearly every one of the English Department.

He is here under the auspices of an exchange program between RUC and UConn (There are UConn students who go to Denmark in May.) Mr. Groenbech has recently been staying with the Fullers on Beach Drive and also spent part of his visit with the Jakob family of Stephanie Lene. Spending time with two families, he said, gives him the opportunity to gain wider experience in American life.

RUC is a very "new, untraditional university." The students work on independent study projects similar to the program for DHS seniors.

Mr. Groenbech is working on education. He hopes to become a teacher in Denmark.

In Denmark the liberation of young people is a much discussed subject now. Students don't speak of student democracy, but student power.

Mr. Groenbech has noticed that many DHS students are surprised by the fact that in Denmark the students have more freedom than here. Student in a Danish high school would not have to report to a homeroom. The school could not require a student to stay on campus during the day.

Most kids in Denmark go to high school, graduate when they are 18, go to work, or travel at least a year, then go back to school.

"Whether classes are strict or not depends on the teacher, the same as in the U.S."

Commenting on the General Seminars class, Mr. Groenbech said, "Personally I feel that seminars is the most important subject in the English Department because it gives the teacher the key to better communication." He has noticed that foreign languages are not emphasized as strongly here as in Denmark.

Many Danish teachers teach gym class as well as physical education. In gym the main sports played are soccer and handball. Mr. Groenbech is impressed by the outside facilities for sports here. But he says he must agree that "the physical education class is the key to better communication." He has noticed that the physical education curriculum is the same as in the Danish school program in a Volkswagen Agency.

Mr. Groenbech has found that there is a greater difference between schools in Denmark and Connecticut. "The main things are very alike."
The Review: In Search Of A Scandal

Another group that the Daron Review is a major force in this town would do well to read the lead editorial of Oct. 25. The simple resignation of the superintendent of schools has been warped and sensationalized to the extent that some townspople will believe that the Review has courageously discovered yet another scandal — possibly worse than that of Ted Agnew.

But really, what other paper would publish such unprofessional insinuations as: What kind of a contract did he have? Could he be hit by it...without penalty? Was the school forced to buy some real estate for what cause? Was he involved in some kind of scheme prior to school resolution in the framework of decency.

The Review doesn't stop there; however. They maintain that the administration has been "improved as a failure by the simplest and most easily determined test of all — isn't it true?" We don't recall seeing any test results that would substantiate a claim as wild as that. Apparently the Review didn't either for to documentation is given.

We are forced to admit that this town has serious problems, and that editors can be an effective way to explore answers to these problems. However, the Review's constant use of innuendo, wild speculation, charges of secrecy, and malicious gossip only serve to divide the town and instill distrust in those who should be given confidence and support.

No Dogs Allowed

The cafeteria is no place for man's best friend. The continued presence of stray dogs that beg and bark for food in the Student Commons is annoying, disgusting, unhygienic and illegal. Local, state and federal health laws prohibit dogs roaming without a leash anywhere on public property, and even restrained dogs are not allowed in areas where food is being prepared or consumed by the public.

Those who share a sandwich with one of the strays, or those who feel that it is better for a dog to have left food rather than the garbage can be just as guilty as those who allow their dogs to run free. If everyone was firm about not giving even the smallest scrap, the dogs would soon find DHS an unsustainable area to patrol.

The administration has an obligation to call both the dog warden and the Health Department. However, a mere verbal notice to the dog owners does not accomplish the desired objective; getting them to stay out. When dog owners are forced to pay a fine to get their dog, perhaps that will curtail them to buying some dog food and caring for their animal at home.

A Candidate For Progress

Daron has long been a town with strong partisan feeling. Jack Forte, the endorsed candidate for First Selectman who lost in the Republic Primary, said that he didn't hear how a Republican could lose in Daron. In the coming election, we hope that the voters of this town exercise their carefully the candidates for the various positions regardless of their party affiliations.

The office of First Selectman is an important one. The person holding it not only exercises a great deal of influence but also loses a large amount of power. As the highest elected position, it requires an able administrator with a knowledge of the workings of town government. We therefore support Carolyn O. Brotherton for this office.

Mrs. Brotherton has had years of experience in town government, both as a selectman and a member of the RTM. More important, she represents a progressive spirit in a town where progress needs some forward movement.

Will this particular Republican candidate, seen rather unaware of the needs of the town. This is surprising as he has served in town government for thirteen years. In a recent League of Women Voters' candidates' meeting, Mr. Patrick failed to answer completely any of the questions asked. We really do not know where he stands on the issues.

Therefore, we hope that Mr. Forte is wrong and the voters of this town spend some energy and elect a person rather than a party.

Editor's note: The ideas expressed in this column do not necessarily represent the views of the editorial page. Readers are invited to turn in their views in editorial form to the Review box in the front office. Submission of a column does not guarantee publication, but we will attempt to print as many worthy "Viewpoints" as possible.

By A DHS GIRL

The "liberated" seniors at DHS are carrying their "liberation" all too far. The school is plagued with girls bouncing down the corridors wearing pants-like clothing. When females cruise to be like males in every way, the whole concept of the "girl" is distorted.

I applaude the "natural look." Make-up is not necessary; hair length doesn't matter as long as it complements a girl, but when girls clothe themselves as neatly as boys' clothes, or their cleanliness matches the boys' locker room, or their language is as coarsely as theirs — a re-examination of the "girl" is in order.

This problem is hitting not only DHS, but every school in the state. Some girls are trying to stand out and make a point that they're equal to boys. They are intellectually equal, perhaps, but not physically. The point they're trying to make is lost, who cares anymore? The first thing that attracts a boy to a girl is her appearance. Girls can change minds, but as for their appearances — this could be the reason there is so little dating going on at the DHS. It's like dating another guy.

Make Exercise Optional

By BOB JEFFERSON

There is not a long list of courses in the DHS curriculum which a student is required to take to graduate. But there are some "mandatory" and unfortunately, one of those is gym.

Granted, the juniors and seniors have a choice of what gym classes they may take, but gym itself works a hardship on those who would rather take a different course in their place. Even picking one's phase of gym sometimes becomes frustrating. Usually, in considering his more basic classes first, a student will find a very limited and generally very unappealing selection of gym "electives" left open to him.

The majority of the student body should, by now, be adult enough to decide whether or not they are going to exercise and to what extent. Why make those, even if they are in the minority, go through the ordeal of taking gym if they feel they do not really profit from it? And remember, they are the only minorities that gym courses would not suffer from too great a lack of students.

They gym courses themselves would thrive on a new light. No longer would there exist an attitude of being forced to do something that is not considered to be "productive" or "elective," students would perform better because they have to, but because they want to.

Editor's note: We couldn't agree more with Bob's position. Another practice is being forced to accept what you didn't ask for. The course descriptions in the catalogue and the listings in the master schedules given during registration do not dictate what indoor activity is paired with the main outdoor activity that they have to take. The terms "electives" are identified as being for summer sports or for winter sports. The gym courses are listed for intramural activities. One could perhaps be basketball, volleyball, handball, indoor track and wrestling.

A Call To The Summit

By RICHARD SHU

I agree with the ideals of community government as set forth in the Daron High School Constitution. However, I feel that the realistic look at the current controversy reveals that, regardless of what the Constitution says, the School Constitution has no legal right to exist. The Constitution itself has no legal basis. In Mr. Coulomb's words, "you (the Council) exist solely by the permission of the principal." It is obvious that the School Constitution is too vague and Dr. Bruno clever for the Council's interpretation of the Constitution to be accepted. Dr. Bruno maintains that he believes in the Constitution as he interprets it. The past two months have failed to bring about any sort of compromise. It is evident that Dr. Bruno will not turn over sole policy-making power, neither literal nor nominal, to the Council.

The options of the Council, in my opinion, are:

1) An out and out impeachment of the home room policy and subsequent appeal of any vote. If the Bd. of Ed. denies an appeal, dissolution of the Council or its recommendation to an advisory board.
2) Immediate dissolution of the Council or its reduction to an advisory board.
3) Continued attempts to attain a compromise, which has been doing for the past two months.

The Constitutional reform when the school government would be in a new flowword but in cold reality there is still a lot of definitions.

5) The establishment of an arbitrator who will interpret the revised Constitution.

The previously presented arguments ex either option I have been discussing. We consider the strength of idealism of all who are close to this vital issue precludes consideration of the second option. Second option has proved option 3 to be unfeasible. By elimination, we are left with option 4.

To expand on my proposal, there is a definite need for some sort of guarantee of the Council's status. I, therefore, urge the Council to draw up separate by-laws of Bd. to meet in order to devise a mutually acceptable form of school government. This meeting could be open to interested members of the school community. Hopefully, the Board of Ed. will guarantee the revised Constitution so that the Council may begin to operate again in security.
Homecoming: Tuna To Touchdowns

By ANDY WALWORTH

This year’s Homecoming was more traditional than last year’s, but no quieter. The three day event was co-chaired by Sally Genet and Beth Seelen.

On Friday night, Oct. 26, the Homecoming Dinner was held in the DHS large cafeteria. I attended both the meal and the music. The dinner that was set before me was, unfortunately, stone cold. Have you ever eaten tuna fish or banana ice cream? The salad was bleue, but edible, and the bread and desert were above par. The meal cost only twenty-five cents above the admission price, so you really can’t complain.

The band, featuring Ray Smith and Bill Bac, two top notch artists, both originally from Darien, was something of a disappointment. Bill Baccon’s drumming was far and above standard fare for local talent, yet it did not measure up to his playing with the band Road Apple. Ray Smith’s singing was tight and pure, especially on “Moon Dance,” yet his guitar work was sloppy at times. It was obvious that the three-piece band had not played together much, so they ran out of material a half hour early and had to repeat their opening numbers.

Homecoming Queen Helen Bullock and her court in their finery. (Photo by Moira Gehring)

The half time show at a Darien Homecoming game is always an experience, and this year was no exception. First the DHS Marching Band treated the fans to some fancy footwork, led by the Music Man himself, Christopher Deney. Then the Homecoming Court and their escorts strolled onto the field. This year, secrets for the Homecoming Queen were chosen from among the captives of various teams. No one I talked to could give me an explanation for this, and it seems to be a foolish and unpopular rule. I mean, just how does one Queen can’t kick or swim or skates doesn’t mean you can’t walk fifty yards without falling over.

By PETER HOOVER

There are a lot of funny-looking, weird-looking cars in the DHS parking lot, and I’m pretty sure the beauty is no exception. It’s a 1963 Chevrolet Belair station wagon.

Jay’s car is very unique — it’s too efficient. For instance, his windshied wipers, while they work when it rains, also work when it shines — they don’t turn off, that is unless you know the procedure. First, put the wipers on high speed for about two miles. Stop the car. Turn the windshield wiper switch to off, reach your hand out the window and keep the wipers pressed down — and pray that they’ll stop. Jay says that this method works about 80% of the time.

The car has 198,000 miles on it, and still has the original shock absorbers. If you do pass Jay’s car in the parking lot, and see some yellow marks on his tires, those marks show where the tire might “pop” at any moment — the canvas shows through.

Now, I’m sure of many you have had the desire of getting into the trunk or the back of your car. Jay doesn’t have this.

I Can’t Get No SATisfaction

By MARIE SMYTHE

The rigors of the SAT’s are but one of the many things a college-bound student must endure. These three-hour tests demand not only a knowledge of English and mathematics, but also a command of at least half of the contents of the Oxford Universal Dictionary. A few years of Latin cannot be injurious either. Saturday, we sat down to this grueling test of our abilities.

After a week of spending my studies in the Math, Music and Art Rooms, I was prepared. With my vocabulary lists from Dr. Haller, I decided to take Friday evening off and watch television. Also, it was to be no event. My services were shot and I could concentrate but for brief periods on the excitement generated by The Brady Bunch. Instead, I was kicking myself for not taking Speed Reading and Vocabulary and for sleeping through several hours of the SAT’s.

Reiterating after this most exciting event, I found that sleep was the one thing that escaped me. I could rite the definition for “addie” and remember all the math formulas I had crammed in back last week, but sleep I could not.

I realized that it was imperative that I see some film, but the more I informed myself of that, the more difficult it seemed. Finally, as the first rays of light shone on the horizon I closed my eyes to what was not to be the most restful sleep I had ever had.

Arriving at DHS around 8:20, I was starving, more I think from the four cups of coffee I had consumed than from hunger. I am sure I slept awake only from the fear of falling asleep during the test. The first few sections went quite well, but by the time we hit the last one, it was purely guesswork on my part as any eye

Pelliterre Reflects...

continued from page 1

He predicted that within 10 years it will be necessary to duplicate facilities for ninth graders in two additional schools," he said.

Dr. Pelliterre was the one to cut from the district's budget the television studio and its cable system linking all schools. "The expense was exorbitant, and the system wasn't paying off," he said.

The largest disappointment," Dr. Pelliterre reflected, "is the inability to build anything. We've just outgrown our present facilities.

He said that portables are a good way of stretching small physical plants, but he added that eventually a point of diminishing returns is reached — then it is time to build.

Philosophy Change

"There are changes coming about — there are forces that don't want a quality school system. There are also large numbers who care little, but are taxed and apathetic. There is a growing number of people who don't value education. A college education is not as respectable as it once was," he said.

He noted that there is generally a three-year time lag before the effects of this type of thinking are noticed.

Looking Ahead

Dr. Pelliterre said that “it will take a magician to contend with the out-programmed space,” as he speculated about the problems that the next appointment will face. He also testifies that it will be hard to deal with the “non- spending” philosophy.

He stretched back in his chair and thought of Darien’s growth over his years of life. He remarked: “I have directly, or indirectly, affected 7,000 kids. That makes me feel good.”
Gridmen Ride High In Homecoming

By TODD BURGER

The Darien Blue Wave Football team continues to play hard, close football games. On Saturday, Oct. 21, Darien faced a large, tough team in the Trumbull Eagles. It was a defensive struggle throughout the entire contest. The Wave defense completely shut off any offense Trumbull had. The score of the game was 0-0 going into the fourth quarter. With only minutes remaining Scott Harrington ran around left and ended up with a Darien Drive and score. The extra point attempt failed. Final Score: Darien — 6; Trumbull — 0. Darien's next opponent was Andrew Wardle, played at Darien Saturday, Oct. 27. It was the homecoming game for Darien. The defense as usual played another excellent game recording their second shutout in a row, and became the best defensive unit in the FCIAC.

In a surprise performance the Darien offense came alive and scored 21 points, the most points Darien has scored in a game this year.

Scott Harrington ran the offensive superbly, mixing his running and passing plays, and drove the Darien offense down to the 9 yd. line where he ran the final yardage and scored. Darien attempted a two point conversion but failed.

The defense held and scored a record of 11-4. Thursday, the team traveled to Hubbard Heights Golf Course in Stamford to compete in the Crown Point Classic at the end of the season. All thirteen teams are represented with their top seven Varsity runners. A Junior Varsity race is also run.

Footsteps Fizzle As Year Ends:

By MEG McGOLDRICK

Darien Field Hockey Team beat Greenwich at home 3-0 on Thursday, October 28.

The game started out slow, but Darien kept the ball down at the attacking goal most of the first half. Left wing Debra Gans scored a goal from a scramble inside the circle. Later the Greenwich goals' fingers fell on the ball and a penalty was called. Center forward Julia Hendrickson and the goalie balled inside the circle. The goalie hit the ball and fell down. Hendrickson saved the ball and scored an easy point.

In the second half Sherry Macay scored off a short corner. The Darien defense held Greenwich scoreless. The JV team won 2-0. The two goals were scored by Cindy Towne.

Darien's record is now 7-0-2. They are tied for first place in the WPLA league with Staples and they are qualified for the State. The team will play their first regional game today. (The location of the game and the opponents were not known at press time.) The tournament is single elimination.

Coach Rebecca Strenginger is hoping

Strom's Stars Make State Tourney

Inex Marascuccillo (plaudits) playing a game against New Canaan, Oct. 24.

RING'S END

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