Planners, Faculty See Possible DHS Design

Architects have submitted a preliminary design for the proposed four-year high school to the Building Committee, a group of citizens appointed two years ago by the Board of Education.

The plan by Russell, Gibson, and Von Dohlen of West Hartford would consist of renovations of some of the present facilities and the addition of others. Included in the additions is the, as yet, rough design, will be a two-story wing connecting the gymnasium and the present "B" wing. Also proposed are an audio-visual room, a choral music room and an art facility, in addition to a new cafeteria and shop area.

More physical education activities, including an optional swimming pool, are to be built if the plan is approved, as is a lecture room near the math and science wings.

The estimated cost of the design to the town is $2.5 million after state aid and not including the cost of the pool.

The Building Committee, members of the Board of Education, the principal and high school department chairmen have reacted to the architects design and the architect is to revise the plan for presentation to the town.

Supporters of the project maintain that present facilities are inadequate to house a "steadily increasing population in a town that state that present facilities are deficient in climate control, lighting, storage, and corridor systems.

Supporters of the proposed design project population growth figures, object to the possible cost of the project and point to the fact that one elementary school (Baker) has been closed.

According to Dr. Bruno, if the town acts favorably on what has been proposed, ground could be broken this spring and the converted high school could open by the fall of 1974. Dr. Bruno has stated he is "satisfied in favor" of the four-year conversion.

Observers expect that a town-wide referendum will be held on the plan and the separate financing proposal.

The total enrollment at Darien High School has increased from 1122 students last year to 1188 this year.

Each class has had a change in its enrollment. The junior class is the only class in which enrollment decreased—from 385 to 378 students. The sophomore class increased from 378 to 409 students; the senior class from 358 to 401 students.


ewpage

German Exchange Student Begins To Feel At Home

By Neil Lucado

Joachim Elhers is this year's A.P.S. exchange student from West Germany. Joachim arrived here in the middle of August and is staying with this year's A.P.S. host family, the Arnebergs. He is an enthusiastic, seventeen-year-old who has made the time to form an solid opinions about life in Darien or the United States.

Joachim comes from a closely knit family of seven which includes his three sisters and one brother. They spend a great deal of time together often taking all day walks through the beautiful countryside of West Germany. When asked if he is at all homesick Joachim says he feels quite comfortable with the Arnebergs and wishes that his stay in the states might be longer.

Joachim sees a few similarities between the two life styles of Darien and West Germany. In both societies there is a great deal of importance put upon comfortable living conditions, an avid interest in the social life, and a good education.

Joachim's biggest surprise came from the differences in our educational systems. In West Germany at age seven, all children must attend elementary school for four years. He calls this "a feeling out" period where the teacher decides upon the students ability to learn. From here they are sent to one of three secondary schools according to the child's talents.

Joachim attends the "gymnasium" which is the most prestigious of the three. He compares the Gymnasium to D.H.S. though he feels it is more modern and not including the cost of the pool.

Joachim is beginning to feel at home here in which enrollment decreased from 385 to 378 students. The sophomore class increased from 378 to 409 students; the senior class from 358 to 401 students.

continued on page 2
New Voices To Be Heard

In Proposed School Government

Last year the Darien Student Organization failed. Students were beginning to realize that their government should do more than just run activities. To this end, a group of students and faculty worked over the summer to write a constitution for the proposed Darien High School Community Government.

We have proposed that Darien High School should no longer essentially have the students running the activities and the administrators, non-professionals, and parents should do both.

I feel that the new government can work better than the D.S.O. and the Department Council, because a select, unrepresentative few will no longer be making decisions that will affect the entire school community. For the first time, Darien High School teachers, non-professionals, students, and parents will have a voice in their government.

It is a new relationship that by no means a panacea. It cannot immediately solve all of the problems of D.H.S., but it has the capability to change and implement policies to fit the wants and needs of the Darien High School community.

It makes a definite "bang," it can be only as good as the people make it, but it applies very strongly to the new government. Anyone can sit back and take advantage of the products of this government, but someone has to take the initiative for anything to get done.

Being on one of the councils is not the only way to get involved. Members of the school community can attend the meetings and present proposals, and come to the "speak-outs" and voice their grievances. This must be done if the new government is to function effectively.

A referendum on the proposed Darien High School Community Government is planned for the near future. It is very important that every member of the school community understands the proposal before voting. One who votes in favor of the new government should not do so because he thinks that "anything" is better than D.S.O. but rather because he agrees with and will support and get involved in this new government. If this is the philosophy behind every "yay" vote, and the new government is established, I can assure you that the Darien High School Community Government can become a popular and effective means of school government. It has exciting possibilities.

Bis Flanagan

Neirad- A Fresh Start

As you may well know last year's Neirad was plagued by financial problems and came to a premature end. Since then, however, changes have been made and we hope that the newspaper is no longer in jeopardy.

A new course, Journalism, has been formed and has taken over the responsibility of publishing the newspaper. This course, open to all students, is taught by Mr. Davis. His duties are to teach the class principles of journalism and to act as faculty advisor to the paper, which the students run by themselves. In order to give all the students a chance to participate in the actual production of the paper, Neirad will have a rotating staff for the first few issues. This new set up will enable the newspaper to have a better trained and a more organized staff.

We believe we will escape the financial difficulties of the previous years. This year we plan to give the newspaper out to all the students and faculty free of charge. We have given our students a chance and hope to make additional money by soliciting advertisements and selling copies of the paper at a nominal charge to the Darien townspeople.

Neirad's purpose this year is to provide the students with in-depth features on the background and facts of the contemporary issues and events in our school and town. It is taken three days from time of submission of the articles until time of distribution, we will not be able to provide up-to-the-minute coverage on a day-to-day basis. Ripple, the school's new "daily" newspaper, does cover such news items. Therefore, by cooperating, Neirad and Ripple will be able to give the students with all the news.

We are trying to make this year's Neirad open to the students. As always, readers can express their opinions through letters to the editor. In addition to this, we have created a new column, "Neirad," in which the students can express their opinions regarding current school issues. Anyone who wishes to write about any issue concerning the school or the town can submit his editorial within one week after the previous issue comes out.

We are trying hard to write about what the students want to read. If there is any dissatisfaction about what you read or about something you think should have been printed, let us know. It is your newspaper and you can help it.

Neirad is published by the students of Darien High School. Staff for the first issue:

Editor: John Clinton
Managing Editor: John Goodman
News Editor: Mary Ferrara
Feature Editor: Charles Gaitan
Boys' Sports Editor: Steve Seyfried
Girls' Sports Editor: Karen Devito
Art Editor: Chris Simon
Copy Editor: Cindy Savage
Entertainment Editor: Dave Zockoll
Photo Editor: Eric Eaton
Business Manager: Duncan Huff
Circulation: Neil Loctaro
Faculty Advisor: Mr. Robert Davis

Editor's note: The ideas expressed in this column do not necessarily represent the editorial positions of Neirad. Readers are invited to turn in their views in editorial form to the Neirad box in the front office within one week after the previous issue comes out. Submission of a column does not guarantee publication, but we will attempt to print as many worthy "viewpoints" as possible.

By Roger Horine

The administrators of Darien High School have taken a giant step backwards in terms of modern education procedures. As can be seen in virtually every facet of our society, the trend is toward more freedom—freedom not only in the physical sense of where you are and where you should be, but freedom to express yourself, and try new ideas. The new attendance policy has given us no new freedom, but taken away almost all; it tries to pacify some of us by giving a student one "free cut," and somehow even this doesn't seem so free when we consider that days preceding or following vacation days or holidays are illegal cuts, or if a test is being given. In fact even if you are able to find a day when you think it is "legal" to leave for a period (excuse me — "leave" is also illegal as we don't have an open campus) you are apt to find out that the teacher has indicated that the preceding day was "an occasion when the allowance will not apply." (It might be added that ten percent of my five teachers stated at the beginning of the course that the free cut allowance will never apply!)

So if you are lucky enough to be in a course where you do have the "privilege" of one "free" absence, and can find a day when it is "legal," and the teacher has said that it was all right to leave, the process of notifying what seems to be almost everyone of your unauthorized but still legal cut begins. (Keep in mind that this is only your "first offense") Memos are sent to the administration, guidance counselors, and your parents by the student's teacher. Somehow it seems an awful lot of quasi-total funding around for something that is in essence, legal.

The second absence is "illegal," and the notifying process starts again, this time with a warning attached. The third absence results in a one-day suspension with various conferences with parents, teachers, counselors, and administrators. The fourth class absence—and you have, for a semester, failed the course.

A common practice is for students to go on a vacation for two weeks, one week encompassing four of five days before or after mid-winter recess or the spring recess. A student would fail every one of his courses if as little as four days are taken.

A student who would normally have a grade point average (GPA) of 3.76 (A-) at the end of the fifth semester would instead have one of 2.86 (B to D). This student who would normally be in the top decile of his or her class would be in the third decile! This is especially deplorable because the fifth semester GPA is the one that the colleges rely on for the basis of admissions.

Many students are not getting into college. This year 43 percent were admitted; rather the second or third—these people are sure to get into college—but not if they are shoved from the second tenth into the fourth, or from the upper third into the lower half.

A small vacation is not the only way to do yourself out of college. If you are not present at a class more than eighty percent of the time you fail, through field trips, suspensions, class meetings, meetings with college admissions representatives, trips with parents visiting college campuses, or sickness.

It becomes obvious that unless this new attendance policy is radically changed many good students will not be able to get into any college. If you are not present at a class more than eighty percent of the time you fail, through field trips, suspensions, class meetings, meetings with college admissions representatives, trips with parents visiting college campuses, or sickness.
College Profile

Hampshire Wants Students to ‘Shape’ Their Own Education

By Chip Harrington

Hampshire opened as a co-educational liberal arts college in the fall of 1970. It is a unique cooperative venture with Amherst, Smith, and Mount Holyoke colleges, as well as the University of Massachusetts.

The institution is to serve as a model for the survival of the private college. Hampshire’s goal is to allow each student to shape his own education. The evidence of this can easily be seen by the emphasis put upon field work and interdisciplinary studies. The students are given access to courses on four other campuses all within fifteen minutes of Hampshire College. They organize their studies into three broad fields of inquiry which are represented by Hampshire’s three schools: the School of Humanities and Art, the School of Natural Sciences and Math, and the School of Social Sciences. Additionally, there is a program in Language and Communication that provides an opportunity to reach out into a new field which combines the study of language, logic and computer science.

Hampshire’s students progress through three divisions: Basic Studies, School Studies, and Advanced Studies. To move to the next division the student must satisfactorily complete a written or oral examination. With the graduation from each division a greater importance is put upon independent study. This divisional system has replaced the traditional freshmen through senior pattern, in order to allow each individual to progress at his own rate.

No courses are required in any of the three divisions. There is no fixed number of credits or hours in the classroom necessary for graduation. The only requirements that must be met are the successful completion of three division exams and one advanced project.

The fall and spring terms last twelve weeks. A student takes three courses or goes on an independent project during each term. The January term allows every student to put all his efforts into one project (or a month).

The enthusiasm of both the students and faculty is exemplified by this quote from a student. “The first years were hard for a lot of us, but this is the only place I know where kids feel ‘this is my school’.”

New Teachers

(continued from page 1)

By Chris Kresge

ROY BUCHANAN - SHAKESTIRCHERS

Roy Buchanan is a fine guitarist who has been around for years and it doesn’t appear as though anyone knows who he is. Buchanan’s guitar is comparable, if not better, than that of the great Eric Clapton and he has a voice like nobody else. His compositional work is excellent especially in “The Man Who Will Come Again.”

There is one thing, however, that upsets the consistency of his work. Buchanan has a group of very fine musicians “backing” him. But, they are overpowered both by his guitar and his voice.

Aside from these minor oversights it is a very good album and well worth buying.

LION RUSSELL — CARNEY

This is definitely not one of Russell’s better works. His piano is excellent as usual but the compositions leave a lot to be desired. The theme song of the album, “CARNEY” is lightly go lucky kind of thing. The rest of the album is hardly comparable to any of his past works, such as his previous “Shelter People” album.

The musicians backing him are basically the same but then again they too are lacking something from their past efforts. All in all, it’s not that bad an album if you deeply appreciate Leon Russell and her M.A. at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, New Jersey.

Mrs. Willard is married and her interests include sewing, handicrafts, travel, and culture.

Ms. Fahey, a new English teacher at Darien High School, recently graduated from the College of Notre Dame, Maryland, with a B.A. in English.

Ms. Fahey has been a Darien resident for most her life and graduated from Darien High School. Her interests include Chinese checkers, water polo, and cruising in the Mediterranean. When asked how long she’s going to teach at Darien High, Ms. Fahey replied, “A long time, I hope.”

Mr. Searles, a new English teacher, comes from Ulica, New York, where he was teaching at a public school. Before that he taught in a private school in Wilmington, Delaware, and Poughkeepsie, New York.

He did undergraduate work at Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana, but obtained his B.A. and M.A. at the University of Illinois.

Mr. Searles is married and has one son. His family have quite a few pets as they are animal lovers. His main interest is the theater, but he also enjoys music, camping, and travel. Mr. Searles was a newspaper advisor in two schools, but decided that the theater is his first love and will direct productions here.

Mr. Charles Burwell, a new social studies teacher, was born in Millwood, Virginia. He got a B.A. from Harvard and also studied at the Sorbonne in Paris.

Prior to beginning his teaching career, Mr. Burwell had an important business which he sold last year.

Mr. Burwell has studied Sociology and government at the New School for Social Research in New York, and is currently studying for an M.A. at Fairfield University.

He lives in New Canaan, is married and has two children. His interests include history, racing pigeons, and gardening.

Mrs. Bender, a new French teacher, lives in New York where she taught for five years in both a prep school and a public school.

Mrs. Bender earned her Bachelor’s degree at Fordham University, her Master’s from Hunter College, and is now working on the thesis for her Ph.D.

Her many interests include music, especially from the pre-baroque period, and cooking, particularly French foods. She is also an avid fan of the New York Knickerbockers.

Exchange Student

(continued from page 1)

By Chip Harrington

go out for the ski team this winter. Joachim is taking C.S.I., chemistry, calculus, and U.S. history. He works very hard in Dr. Hailey’s Reading and Vocabulary class because he loves the English language and spends most of his spare time learning more about it.

When asked about dating Joachim said with a twinkle in his eye, “I like it and would like to find a girl who could take me out on the weekends.” (A.F.S. students are not allowed to date.)

Joachim feels that the student body is quite warm and encourages people to approach him, introduce themselves, and ask him questions or just talk. He really enjoys talking to people and feels it will help him master the tricky English language.

A referendum on the proposed new school government is tentatively set for October 1st. The plan, devised by a group of students and faculty over the summer, is designed to give representation to the larger school community including parents and non-teacher members of the staff.
Second Half Sinks Wave

Darien opened its 1972 football season by losing to two of the top teams in the state. Stamford and New Canaan. They proved that they are capable of beating anyone by their tremendous performances in the first halves.

Stamford 8-26. Stamford wasted no time in showing Darien why they were number one in the county last year as they scored on a 25-yard pass in their first drive. Darien failed to be intimidated as they put together a scoring drive of their own. Tommy Croft started things off with an interception on our own 34-yard line. On the following play, Steve Seyfried, behind some excellent blocking, dodged his way 30 yards downfield. Three downs later Seyfried hit Scott Harrington on a sideline pass for a 21-yard touchdown.

Darien's defense, led by captain Jim Fisher, was stubborn throughout the first half as they prevented Stamford from getting anything started. It took a Darien fumble on their own 21-yard line to set up Stamford's second touchdown. Darien again came right back. A 63-yard return of the ensuing kickoff by Scott Harrington put Darien in good field position. Kevin McAuliffe blasted his way to the two in the next two plays, but a holding penalty set Darien back out of range.

The second half was all Stamford, as they ran all over Darien. They dominated play and chucked up another 14 points. The weak performance by Darien in this half may be traced to their lack of depth. They have eight JA JV players going both ways (playing both offense and defense) and they might have been tired both physically and mentally.

New Canaan 20-22. A capacity crowd at Darien Stadium witnessed a heartbreaking comeback as New Canaan edged Darien. The gridmen gave the fans something to cheer about, though, as they completely dominated play in the first half. Continuously using the triple option play, Seyfried, Harrington, Ludwig, and Byler followed the gaping holes opened by the offensive line. Darien moved the ball at will as New Canaan was baffled by the deceptive ball handling of Darien's backfield.

Darien's first touchdown came when Roger Smith scored on a 15-yard run. Darien moved the ball on yet another drive and Mike Ludwig, with good second effort, scored Darien's third touchdown. Roger Smith added two more points when he caught Seyfried's bootleg pass. Scott Harrington's interception set up a last second field goal attempt from the 24-yard line, but it was just short.

Darien couldn't muster much of an offense, and brilliant passing by New Canaan's quarterback produced 3 touchdowns and the Rams led 22-0 at the half. New Canaan's quarterback, Don Robbins, scored 3 touchdowns and the Rams led 22-0 at the half. New Canaan ran out the clock.

Darien opened its 1972 football season in the end zone. Stamford and New Canaan. They proved that they are capable of beating anyone by their tremendous performances in the first halves.

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