Administration Changes At DHS:
Robbins, Matheson Appointed

By JAMIE MacKENZIE

Donald C. Robbins became acting principal of Darien High School this fall, replacing Salvatore Catania. Dr. Catania has taken up the position of assistant to the superintendent of schools in Darien. The Board of Education will name a principal sometime before December 1, 1976.

In an interview with Neirad, Dr. Robbins said that he will be a candidate for the position of permanent principal at DHS. When asked if his goals for the school are clear, Dr. Robbins explained that this past summer the administration and faculty of DHS drew up a list of goals for the school, with input from members of the Board of Education.

The objective that most directly concerns the students at DHS consists of improving "metacognition in a realistic examination as to how they might better contribute to the decision making process at Darien High School." "I don't think that student representation on the School Council and Activities Council is sufficient," said Dr. Robbins. "I would like to see greater student involvement in school activity, and a greater sense of student and teacher responsibility among the students."

Silent Study

Dr. Robbins explained the reasons behind his decision to create a silent supervised study area out of the Senior Commons. "I am committed to the idea that students should have a quiet place to study," he said. "Our goal is to have a sufficient area in the school for students to study...silently." At the present time, the small cafeteria is the only room available for a silent study area. When the library becomes fully operational, a section of it will be given over to silent study. The entire silent study program will be assessed, and a decision will be made on how much school space will be designated as silent study areas.

In making his decision to change the function of the Senior Commons, Dr. Robbins consulted with Pat Corrigan and Nancy Campbell, co-chairmen of the senior class, as well as several other class leaders. He held two meetings with this group of students over the summer in which no major objection to his decision was voiced. Dr. Robbins then suggested holding a large meeting of all the seniors that were available at that time in the summer and informing them of the planned change. This suggestion was discarded by the senior program committee, the large number of their classmates who were out of town, and instead a newsletter was sent out to all seniors informing them of this change.

History of Commons

Dr. Robbins also stressed the importance for students to understand the history of the Senior Commons. Originally it was the small cafeteria, used by all students. Several years ago a group of seniors petitioned the school administration, asking that the room be used as a special area available only to seniors. The school administration agreed to the request, and the room was dedicated as a special area for seniors. It was later named the Senior Commons.

Craig Matheson, acting dean of students, and Donald C. Robbins, acting principal. (Photos by Dan Gabula)

New Members Of Faculty Introduced

Among numerous other changes in the DHS environment this year, ten people have been hired to lend their talents to a particular department of the school.

Douglas Paulsen, who was a substitute teacher here last year, was appointed to teach sophomore English and Humanities. Mr. Paulsen is from Portland, Oregon, and lived on the West Coast until he graduated from the University of the Pacific, where he earned his B.A. in humanities. He also attended Brown University in Rhode Island, where he earned his Master of Arts degree in English. Before coming to DHS, Mr. Paulsen taught English at the International College to high school students in Beirut, Lebanon.

When asked about his feelings toward discipline at DHS, Mr. Paulsen responded, "I am very pleased to see Darien heading in the right direction toward higher standards and expectations."

Spanish / Latin

Another faculty addition to DHS is Mr. Miguel Coello. He hails from a community in southwest Spain near Seville. Mr. Coello is teaching Spanish and Latin here and hopes to teach students more about the Spanish culture. He also hopes to increase the Latin program here at Darien.

Construction Progresses On Campus

By JACK LOW

As the school year commences, students are getting a taste of the major renovation process that has taken place in various parts of the building. The first new sight one might encounter is the cafeteria, with a new cement block wall that acts as a sound barrier and sight saver from a condition that Mr. Cocolum termed "insignificant."

When asked about the cafeteria renovation, one student replied, "I think it's a lot closer. It is one thing having all these people in here at one time; it's another to be shut in with them. The cafeteria door on the south end has also stirred up some activity. The major complaint is that if someone barreling down the stairs and flings open the door, the person immediately outside of it might suffer the consequences of a busted head. The door, which was installed as a result of a fire ordinance, also contributes to congestion.

The library addition is coming along, although its progress has been hampered by a strike of the sheet metal workers on the job. One worker known as "Bull" confidently claimed that the addition "will be completed in two weeks."

The intersection, along with the ramps (which will be tiled) are still incomplete. Many students are irritated by this incompleteness, feeling it should have been first priority on the completion agenda. "It's worse than last year," complained a student about the intersection, "it's such a hassle that I usually just go around the outside. The delay is due to a late delivery of glass for the connector, that is supposed to close in the sides of the building from weather. This congestion in convenience should be remedied by the expected delivery in the near future."

E-wing, an obvious but so far unrevealed structure, is also nearing completion. It will be the future habitat for the Social Studies Department, Special Education and the Learning Disabilities program. Besides classrooms, E-wing will offer such wide ranging facilities as teacher prep rooms, four conference rooms, bathrooms and a landscaped courtyard, which may be used for quiet Continued on page 2

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Opportunities Recognized by Neirad

The Neirad staff is proud to have the opportunity to present new, express opinions, and perhaps provide entertainment, all of which should relate to DHS in one way or another. Not only do we want to keep everyone informed about the most newsworthy items at the high school, but we would also like to remain sensitive to that which interests the community.

Neirad has always been a popular journalism project in our school. We will take advantage of our positions and strive to keep up, if not raise, the high standards set by our predecessors.

One of these standards gives everyone the opportunity to voice his or her opinion about any subject related to DHS in our "Viewpoints" column. We hope that many will take advantage of this offer and submit them to us. To take advantage of this opportunity and give us your reactions to this newspaper. You can be certain that members of this staff will work well with each other, the student body, the faculty, the administration, the Board of Education, and anyone else who is willing to work with us.

Constructive Steps By Administration

We applaud the Board of Education's choice of Dr. Donald Robbins for the position of acting principal. "Doc," as he is fondly called by many students, had previously been involved with many school activities during his term as vice principal. As acting principal, he must assume more responsibilities and duties, but it has not changed his attitude toward involvement in school activities. Dr. Robbins has thus far demonstrated that he will not use increased administrative duties as an excuse to circumvent school activities and does not wish to become a "closed principal."

We also commend the Board and administration's effort to increase the academic standards of the DHS community. Formerly, the gifted athletes or the actively participating students were awarded with special recognition for their contributions to the school. Academic excellence often went unrewarded. Now, with the reinstallation of the honor roll, students are once again rewarded for their academic accomplishments.

In the past few years, it became evident that there was a need for the clarification of school policies. Many students were either ill-informed or confused about certain issues, especially concerning absences and early dismissal. Dr. Robbins, together with the members of the National Honor Society, has coedited a student handbook entitled "The Around Guide." This book explains the policies and curricular activities of DHS. The purpose of the guidebook is to clear up any misconceptions that the students might have concerning school programs.

The administration has also sought to clarify the duties of each administrator since there has been a reorganization of positions. Enclosed in the September newsletter is a chart outlining the specific duties of Donald Robbins (acting principal), Gene Coleman (assistant principal for building management), and Craig Matheson (acting dean of students). We would like to praise the teachers at DHS who, in their Statement of Intent for this school year (see Viewpoint), have pledged to "re-dedicate themselves to raise the aspirations of our students through a demand for excellence." We feel that their demand for academic excellence is another example of concern for the improvement of the DHS community.

We believe that many affirmative steps have been taken this year to improve the climate at DHS. We hope that the administration, in accord with support from the student body, will continue to take constructive steps in an effort to make DHS a better school.

Robbins Sees Board As Cooperative One

Continued from page 1

seniors. The administration granted their request on two conditions: 1) that the seniors maintain it and keep it clean, and 2) that building conditions did not change, which would force the administration to use the room for some other purpose. Both conditions have not been met. The seniors were not keeping the room clean, and because of building construction, they were not always available to use the room's space more efficiently, according to Dr. Robbins.

Despite the decision he has made, Dr. Robbins sees a need for a student activity center. "I am very concerned about the seniors," he said. "I would very much like to have a common area for them to use."

Dr. Robbins sees the construction of a student activity center several years ago when a building committee made up of townpeople was investigating the possibility of creating a four-year high school in Darien. He made this suggestion again when the present building renovations were being discussed. In response to the many DHS students who feel that too few students were consulted before the decision regarding the Senior Commons was made, Dr. Robbins said that he tried to contact as many seniors as possible, and the use of rooms in the school is an administrative decision, and not a student decision.

When asked whether he planned to increase the discipline at DHS this year and change what some feel has been an overly relaxed and permissive disciplinary environment, Dr. Robbins stated that the accountability of students, teachers, and administrators for follow-through on these matters will be emphasized this year. Dr. Robbins views the current Board of Education as a cooperative one. "I am very pleased with the Board and their willingness to work with us toward these objectives," he said.

Dr. Robbins sees students as having an important role to play. "I see the major changes in his new job as having students, teachers, and administrators change what some feel has been an inexcusable additional burden and not a student decision."

The expansion of intellectual abilities, however, is inexcusable from emotional, social, and physical growth. Thus, these aspects of personal development are also an essential concern of our school. We shall strive to create a purposeful educational climate which provides both a needed structure and a program which can respond to individual differences.

As we rededicate ourselves to raise the aspirations of our students through a demand for excellence so must we seek to raise our own educational levels and commitment in all areas of school life. The achievement of our educational aspirations will require the active involvement of parents, Board of Education and its responsibilities to better meet the perceived needs of teachers, students, and parents.

In conclusion, the Board, administration, the faculty and the majority of the students, parents, and community members will be continued in the next issue of Neirad.

Staff Welcomes New Teachers

Continued from page 1

faculty member, is from Waterbury. Ms. Gallagher attended New York University and Fordham University, receiving her B.S., M.A., and M.S. degrees from these schools.

Ms. Gallagher is teaching Reading, English II, and is participating in the Special Education program. She has had a number of years of experience both at the elementary and high school levels. Her most recent teaching job was in Brooklyn, N.Y.

When asked about what she hopes to accomplish at DHS, Ms. Gallagher said, "As a reading teacher I would like to involve the students in developing their own abilities to broaden their reading skills."

One of the busiest persons in Darien High School must be Mrs. Erna H, new member of the English staff. There are several reasons why Mrs. Deraney can be considered an extremely involved person. Not only is she a full-time assistant English teacher at DHS, but she also holds several other offices. Mrs. Deraney is a certified Justice of the Peace, the Director of Neirad. She is a member of the League of Women Voters, and a concerned Friend of Kulman Preserve in Norwalk.

The introduction of the new faculty members will be continued in the next issue of Neirad.
Musicals Set For '76 - 77

By MARIAN DAVIS

"This should be one of the best years Theatre 308 has ever had," according to President John Gilson. The first meeting of the year was held on September 18, and thirty-six prospective members attended — many apparently inspired by last year's May production of Mame.

Back by popular demand of both performers and audiences will be two school musicals. Mr. Jon Edwards, Theatre 308 advisor and director, hopes to put on a musical in the winter and in the spring. The winter musical will be The Boyfriend. The production will be done independently of the music department because Edward Jantschi, music director, will be busy working on the annual DHS Christmas concert. The music accompaniment will be a small combo instead of a full orchestra.

Plans for the spring musical are still in the elementary stages, but some ideas are Bye Bye Birdie, Guys and Dolls, Half a Sixpence, and Hello, Dolly. Suggestion from members are also being considered. Both of these musicals will involve a full cast and crew, and are open to all interested students. The spring musical will have a full orchestra.

Theater 308's first production will be You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown, a musical musical involving each actor to sing with a simple accompaniment. The dates are set for October 29, 30, and 31, with a matinee on the 30th. The cast is for six persons, and will therefore be double-cast, with one cast doing two performances, and the other cast also doing two performances.

Other plans for the year include a three-act musical spring, a play with a simple accompaniment, and a musical review of such current shows as Godspell and Grease. A one-act play will be chosen for the State Drama Festival, where theater groups from all over the state meet to be reviewed by a board of judges. Possible plays include Last Play, Best Actor, Best Director, etc.

Theater 308 will not be having scheduled meetings once production begins. "308 is an open organization. If you want to join, just come on," Mr. Gilson explained. "You cannot estimate the number of inducted members for this year, and stresses that membership "depends on interest and who shows up to work diligently." All members will have the opportunity to become a member of the International Thespian Society by a point system devised by the Theater Board. This year's board chairmen are John Gilson, president, David Elliott, vice-president; Erica Van Wagener, secretary; and Denise Hill, treasurer.

Students, Faculty Report Unusual Summer Travels

During the summer, many students and faculty members participated in unusual, interesting activities. The following is a sampling of a few people's experiences.

French teacher David Herbert spent five and a half weeks this summer kayaking around Prince William Sound, Alaska. He planned his trip through the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS) and the Outdoor Club and anyone interested in attending this trip spent separate weeks in Washington, D.C., this summer under the Connecticut Intern program. David Bauder, Marian Davis, Stephen Bellis, and Connie Hufferd stayed at Georgetown University and were lectured by various Congressmen and agency representatives at Capitol Hill.

Mr. Herbert's trip began in a small town of Whittier, a village with the population of 80, on Prince William Sound. Upon his arrival, Mr. Herbert realized that he was to start a back-pack expedition. Much to his surprise, he found out that he was to spend the next five and a half weeks kayaking, something he had never done before. However, he also discovered that the two-man kayak was "easy to maneuver."

The last five days of his trip were "survival days." The group leaders left Mr. Coulombe rates as a close second to the main office faucet, has also been installed.

The anticipated date of building completion is February. Is construction progressing on schedule? Mr. Coulombe says, "We are way ahead of schedule. I think it will be finished before Christmas." Forman Marty Martikainen, praised by Mr. Coulombe as "a very good foreman," says the gym should be ready by the middle of November.

Students are being removed for safety purposes. Laboratory work used to be done facing the wall, inviting fire hazards by putting students close to wood cabinets, in addition to promoting glass rebounding. Now some lab rooms have "islands" where lab tables are away from the wall and together to permit more working area and safety. When asked to comment on the new arrangement, a senior science pupil said, "I feel a little safer, but there isn't that much difference. It's still science class.

Building Progress Continues

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The group 70 miles away from Whittier and told them to find their way back to Whittier. The group was forced to find their food for those five days also.

Mr. Herbert plans to show his slides of the trip, including a shot of a 50-foot whale that rose near his boat, to the Outdoors Club and anyone else interested in attending this trip spent separate weeks in Washington, D.C., this summer under the Connecticut Intern program. David Bauder, Marian Davis, Stephen Bellis, and Connie Hufferd stayed at Georgetown University and were lectured by various Congressmen and agency representatives at Capitol Hill.

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Hockette Plan: Back to Basics

By MARY ELLEN KIGGINS

The Darien High School Girls' Field Hockey Team lost its first game of the season with a score of 1-0 in a close game against Wilton on September 24.

The team, under the leadership of co-captains Nancy Campbell and Eve Walworth and Coach Rebecca Strominger hopes to better its 3-5-1 record of last year and try for a place in the state championships. In order to get ready for the upcoming season, ten girls attended field hockey camp in Pennsylvania in August while seven other girls attended a hockey day camp at the Convent of Sacred Heart in Greenwich at the same time.

This year, instead of using the soccer style formation that was initiated last year, the team will try the old style of playing field hockey, which consists of people utilizing more open spaces and staggering the front line more than they did last year. More interchanging will also take place between the forward and back lines.

Coach Strominger also noted the factors necessary for a strong team. "First skill, ability, speed, and intelligence and then everyone working together would help towards but not guarantee a winning season. A definite leader on the field is also needed," she commented.

Coach Strominger feels that the girls have a fairly positive attitude right now, although it is early in the season to predict anything. She noted that the absence of this year's co-captain Libby Pierpont was "a big loss" but that "everyone has been working to fill capacity."

Barrett, Brady Boost Booters

By JOHN C. NELSON

The Darien High School soccer team lost their opening game of the season against Norwalk High School by the score of 2-0, but came back and defeated Stamford High School by the score of 2-1 on Tuesday, September 21.

The first Waver goal was scored by Mike Barrett in the first half with an assist from Bob "Spunky" Brady and captain John "Jug" Williams. Stamford came back in the second half applying pressure on the Darien goal and finally scored to tie it up at one all. Darien countered with an attack of their own and Brady scored off a pass from the right side by John Traultine to go ahead and win the game.

Head coach Jim Quigley stated, "This year's team is better than last year's team and almost as good as the 1974 team. What we have is many good soccer players and not any real standouts. I have been stressing individual performance and gain to the game. It is ten good soccer players, not just a few winners."

"We're not playing in the past weeks. What I want to predict anything. She noted that the girls' soccer team this year, instead of using the soccer style formation that was initiated last year. Darien got the ball back on the Cardinal halfback Joe Cabrera rumbled in on a 26-yard touchdown run.

Soon after losing a fumble on the Greenwich seven-yard line, Darien got the ball back on the Cardinal 28. Two rushes by Randy Starr and one by Brad Schottz put the ball on the one-yard line, where Greg Dorrell carried it in to make the score 7-6. The two-point conversion try was no good.

The meaning of the statement, "So close...yet so far," became apparent to DHS in the second half. Darien held the ball on the Greenwich two-yard line after one drive, but they coughed it up and another opportunity went down the drain. In the fourth quarter they had the ball with a first down on the Cardinal one-yard line. It seemed they couldn't get the ball over the goal line if they used a helicopter. After three stops at touchdowns, Randy Starr booted a field goal that looked good to almost everybody in the stadium...except the referee.

Even in the face of such adversity the Wavers didn't give up and again maneuvered the ball into field goal position. With less than a half minute to go, Randy Starr lined up to make the kick. It would have been the perfect case of deja vu as last year, in virtually the same situation, Starr kicked a field goal to beat Greenwich, 9-7. There was no instant replay this year.

Neirad learned at press time that Darien was whipped by Wilton in their second game, 28-0, on Saturday, September 25.

Aquamaids Afloat Despite Early Losses

By PHILIPPA BOWLEY

"We'll make top five in the state," said Dave Reilly, coach of the DHS girls' swim team in a recent interview.

The team has doubled in size since last year. And, according to Reilly, this depth, along with the superior spirit, the girls have always shown, should make a really great season.

As promising new swimmers, Reilly discussed Gina Layton, a national caliber swimmer; Nancy Wetmore, who swam in the Y.M.C.A. nationals last year; and Linda Barton, a junior, transferred from Amity High School, who was on the All-Hosaccian team. Reilly also mentioned that there were three or four other new girls who can make this team "a great success instead of just a success."

Kelly Clough, a co-captain of the team, commented, "This season should be the best we've had. We've got a lot more depth this year." Miss Clough stated that the win-loss record is not fully relevant because the best teams in the state are right here in Fairfield County. Although the DHS team's record was 1-6 last year it came in fourth in the state. She says the team does really well compared with the rest of the state.

In their first two meets, Darien was beaten by two of the toughest teams on their schedule, Staples and New Canaan.

But, with a little determination and a lot of hard work, the girls hope to reverse and drown their opponents in all the remaining meets.