New Principal Calls For Building Expansion; Finds ‘Prescription Policies’ Hard To Swallow

By TOM GAMMILL

I have inherited a good school," says new Darien High School principal Salvatore Catania. "I’m impressed with the students, the faculty, and the feeling of openness and trust we have here." Mr. Catania comes to Darien from Stanford High School, where he was principal for five years. In a recent interview, Mr. Catania spoke on many of Darien High School’s current policies, his experiences at Stanford High School, as well as thoughts he has for the future of Darien High School.

For the physical facilities, Mr. Catania feels Darien High School is more open and easier to get around than Stanford is. "The Stanford High School consists of three buildings with eight different floors, so you can imagine the hassle we had getting to and from classes."

Mr. Catania says the Darien physical facilities as "unbelievably inadequate." In Darien, he found being the least of an overcrowded building system in Fairfield County. Because of the nature of many of our courses as well as the size of the student body, our building needs expansion and renovation very desperately." Mr. Catania found very little difference between the students at Darien High and Stanford High School. "I guess you find the same type of kids at every high school."

"Prescription Policies"

I am not too comfortable with the current attendance policy, or any ‘prescription policy’ that tells you what you must do. These kind of policies are good for people who don’t want to take decisions, but I find them hard to work with. I think that the attendance policy will be changed.

The new principal is also bothered by the homeroom policy instituted by the students, which states that a student will be suspended from school for three days if he skips homeroom period five times. This is another ‘prescription policy’ I do not like. It would make sense to eliminate homeroom if it were at all possible. At Stanford we moved our homeroom from the beginning of the day to second time slot. Mr. Catania suggests that Darien High School should do the same.

I am in favor of the open end, which gives the student the chance to leave class at any time one hour after lunch. I am wondering, though, if the sophomores are ready for the unstructured time that is being given them with the open end. We had an open end policy at Stanford and it was primarily for juniors and seniors.

Community School Government

Mr. Catania is also concerned with the community School Government, and together with the School Council is currently rewriting some of the bylaws "to make the Council more flexible."

"You have to realize that the Council is an advisory board and not a government. I have to make the final decision concerning school policy; however, I hope I can work closely enough to the Council so that my final decisions do not come as a surprise."

Despite numerous rumors going around at the time, he is not going to be a tightening of the rules. Whether I like it or not, says Mr. Catania, "the rules are there to be followed."

School Dress Policy

"I want the students to be proud of their school. The dress code will be the courts. The dress code will be the courts. The dress code will be the courts. The dress code will be the courts. The dress code will be the courts."

Mr. Harper first came to Darien in 1966, and has been head of the Social Studies Department for seven years. He attended Oberlin College, where he majors in literature and earned a Master of Arts in teaching from Yale. He also received a Doctorate of Education from Teachers College of Columbia, and prefers to be called "Mr. Harper" rather than "Dr.

In his first ten years, Mr. Harper has been here at Darien; he has seen "a marked shift in efforts towards meeting the needs of a diverse student body. Many efforts have been made to meet the needs of students who are not going to college. As an example, he mentioned Harper, to the Darien Press, "I’ve been working very hard on the non-academic things that are not only of academic value but are significant to them. Early Darien was a semi-prep school—that either you made it or you sank."

Mr. Harper was upset concerning the recent "High School Principalship" letter in the Darien Review. He described the letter as a "low blow" and was especially disturbed over the anonymity of the letter. He is sure that the source of the letter were in some way ashamed and therefore felt they should be anonymous.

Mr. Harper felt the letter was "a personal attack, possibly in the guise of a criticism of things going on in the school," and also an attack on department chairmen and faculty members themselves. He remarked that it made all (continued on page 2)
NEIRAD

Portables Bring Back Old Days

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

BY MOOSE MALLARD

"Our purchase of the portables is just part of an overall effort being made to bring Darien back to a one-room schoolhouse method of teaching," explains Norman J. Gringo, Darien's Adviser on Public Schools.

"We'll be taking a fresh look at our past after the 'turn of the century' school system was done. This winter, for instance, we will be installing Franklin stoves in both the portables, and the heating system for these stoves whenever it's necessary."

Department Changes Kick Off Year

(continued from page 1)

to department chairman Tina Santella.

Freschlich, comes to DHS via Caranca, Venenzuela, where she was born and primary school teacher in Venezuela in 1961 after studying a year in Germany. She was a graduate of DHS. The well-traveled and experienced teacher attended Newton College and Stared High School.

Mr. Huerta is very interested in the field of Spanish and minoring in education. After graduating, she worked with the Eugene Ormandy Orchestras of Philadelphia and the Academy of Music in Philadelphia, working at a local high school and continuing a reorganization of the foreign sections and classes. After issuing extensive questionnaires to students last year, the Foreign Language Department decided to restructure different segments of language learning in the higher levels. For example, each of a semester or year course of French, German and Spanish will deal strictly with one segment of learning such as literature, conversation, grammar, etc.

The Social Studies Department this year is introducing one new teacher and some new courses.

A former teacher in East and West Hartford, Mr. Sam Housza has been head of Connecticut Kidney Foundation for three years. Mr. Housza will pick up all of Mr. Richard Peruculski's classes and it is the fact that Mr. Peruculski has taken over Mr. Timothy Otto's classes. Mr. Otto left DHS and now operates a restaurant in West Hartford.

Courses presented this year are: Anthropology, Psychology and half-year courses in Selected Topics: International Relations, Ethnicity in American Life, World Perspectives, and National and Individual Issues.

Cafeteria head Bees Nichol has cooked up a new program for local preschoolers. A breakfast menu, consisting of pancakes or French toast, orange juice and a choice of coffee, tea or milk is being offered to students every morning from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. The cost of $1.50 per child also includes such delicacies as fried eggs on a hard roll, scrambled eggs on a hard roll and an apple or a peanut butter sandwich, which consists of a fried egg, ham, peppers, celery and onions.
Exchange Students Express First Impressions Of DHS

By RICK AINSWORTH
GALILEA LEONARD
Four foreign exchange students have come to Darien High through various exchange programs. They are Lindy Fenousy, Xandra Van der Molen, Kristina Johnson, and Roy Martens. Xandra is from South Africa, the Netherlands, Sweden and West Germany, respectively. All four students arrived just before the advent of school and will remain here until the end of school in June.

Lindy Fenousy

Lindy Fenousy came to America courtesy of the AFS (American Field Service) program from Barberton, South Africa. She is staying with the Wilkes family and her host school is Darien High School is Sandy Wilkes. Lindy enjoys school at DHS and commented that the atmosphere here is more relaxed, and the students more at ease. She cited the smoking area and the dress code as two examples of this. In her South African school the students are more restricted and are required to wear uniforms.

Harper Resigns; Defends School

(continued from page 1)

the department heads out as "yes-men," and insulated them that they were department heads because of this.

Mr. Johnson and Roy Maritsa battle contained "a lot of things that were incorrect. It also distorted the reasons the school was doing many things. For example, not having regimented study habits, but the study at the high schools in Fairfield County which have them. The letter made Darien seem unique — although most other schools are similar.

"There's a misunderstanding by many people in this town about what happened in this school. The high school was trying to give the students freedom to exercise more responsibilities. Critica often turned that into permissiveness.

When you compare DHS to other schools you find it very well behaved. The morale among the faculty is also extremely high compared to other schools. Darien is very supportive of its schools, in all respects and I've always felt this support. However, one of the big problems in this town is communicating things you're doing in the school and why you're doing them.

"Dr. Bruno was very open and fair in working with me. He worked very hard for such good ideas. He sometimes got himself into trouble because of a failure to communicate accurately what he wanted.

Mr. Harper felt that Dr. Bruno was "very supportive" in visiting the School Council, but that it turned out that "it had more power than he had ever actually wanted it to have."

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The foreign exchange students at DHS this year from left to right: Lindy Fenousy, Xandra Van der Molen, Roy Martens and Kristina Johnson (Photo by Peter Hoover)

same way. When she gets home from the United States, Xandra will either go to work or continue in her studies.

Apeldoorn, Xandra's hometown, has a population of 27,000. It is located in province Gelderland, near the center of the country. The country itself has 15,000,000 inhabitants, which Xandra feels is too many.

Kristina Johnson

Kristina Johnson is an exchange student from Umea, Sweden, who comes to America via the Rotary Exchange Program, and is with the Genoveses.

Kristina, in her first three weeks in the United States had already been to New York City, which she said is one of the first things that comes to mind when America is mentioned. She saw the traditional sights of New York such as the Statue of Liberty and the Empire State Building and was impressed with the size of the buildings as well as the fact that the eight million people who inhabit Sweden are equal to the population of New York City alone.

Kristina cited several differences between her high school in Sweden and Darien High. The main difference is that in Sweden she carries ten subjects as opposed to five here and the school day is about one hour longer than that of D.H.S.

Roy Martens

Roy Martens arrived in America from Hamburg, West Germany, also on the YFU program, and will be staying with the Gilman family as his hosts.

The first difference Roy noted between his school in West Germany and Darien High was in the length of the day. Contrary to Sweden the school day in West Germany consists of only six periods, which are of shorter duration than our periods, making the total school day one hour shorter. As a result of this shorter day, lunch is not served in school and the students are allowed two twenty-minute recesses as a result.

Language as well as other academic requirements are more strict in West Germany. Roy began the required study of English in fifth grade, and commented that the academic program in general is more standardized with less opportunity for electives.

The predominant theme throughout the impressions expressed by the exchange students was one of appreciation and eagerness to learn about America, not only in the classroom but through day-to-day living as well.

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Soccer Team 1-1-1

By BERRY JAMES

After five years of building a solid soccer program at Darien, William Benton has stepped down from his coaching position and left the reins of the team to James Quigley.

Coach Quigley, a physical education teacher at Stony Creek School in Darien, hatched a great deal of soccer experience during his lifetime. In college he was a two-time All American at Springfield College. Mr. Quigley later returned to Springfield to coach the freshman team. He also played semi-pro soccer with the Connecticut Wildcats and is now presently playing with the New Haven City team in the premier division of the Connecticut State Soccer League.

The Darien soccer squad opened its 1974 campaign by splitting its first three games. They scored an impressive overtime victory against Branford, played Westhill to a tie, and lost a close one to Wilton.

Branford 2-1. After trailing most of the game 1-0, Sal Ferraiani tied it up with just six minutes remaining in the second half on a low drive which passed through the Branford goalkeeper. At the end of regulation time, the score remained 1-1. In overtime the Wavers mounted an offensive attack which resulted in a penalty goal. Matt Ammer received a centering pass from Co-captain Sal Ferraiani and slammed it into the lower left hand corner.

Westhill 2-1. After a rather poorly played first half of five minutes, the score was tied at 0-0, but when Westhill scored, the game was decided by the score of 2-1. The lone Darien goal was scored by Sal Ferraiani on an inside shot which beat the Westhill goalkeeper.

In the second half, the Darien defense tightened up as Coach Quigley substituted Ferraiani. Mike Friese sparked the offense with a tip-in on a cross from Sal Ferraiani. The two five-minute overtime periods ended in a deadlock.

Wilton 0-2. Darien suffered its first defeat of the season by losing to a surprisingly strong Westhill team. Despite controlling much of the midfield play, the Blue Wave offense failed to capitalize on many scoring opportunities. Meanwhile, two costly defensive errors resulted in two Wilton goals.

Blue Wave Gridmen Whip Westhill, Nip Norwalk

By TODD BURGER

At the beginning of the 1973 football season the question Darien fans were asking was, "Will this finally be the year the Darien fans have a winning team?" At the end of the season the fans were pleasantly surprised to see something they had not seen in years - the final standings next to Darien; more wins than losses.

The team's record of 5-2-2 was the finest winning year in five years. They had the number one defense in the FCIAC. Unfortunately, with the ending of that season as ended the high school careers of twenty-two graduating seniors, and the question, "Darien fans were asking at the beginning of this season, was, "Can the team repeat the success of last year's squad?"

With only a handful of lettermen returning, the chances did not look very good. In fact, they looked bad, with an unusually high number of retirements this year, which was thirty-three at last count.

But head coach Jack Himbebauch was determined to field a winning team with the players he felt really wanted to play football. To the surprise of many, including Mr. Himbebauch, the Blue gridiron after their first two games are 3-0.

Defensively under the coaching of Del Maulis and Mike Stuhagen, the team is keeping up with last year's success, shutting out two opponents, and holding Norwalk to six points.

Offensively the team is also keeping up with last year's success, which is bad.

In the opener against Westhill at Boyle Stadium September 14, Darien constantly moved the ball up and down the field but penalties hurt the Wave and a goal line stand from Westhill kept the score at halftime 0-0.

In the second half, the Darien offense finally moved, and it became a punting contest until the fourth quarter when, with four seconds remaining, Westhill attempted a field goal from the ten yard line. The Wave defense, which played excellently throughout the entire contest, saved the day when Eric Eis (34) blocked the kick. Bill Bogardus picked up the ball and ran eighty yards for the only score of the game, enabling Darien to win 6-0.

Blue Mermaids' Coach Aquamistic

By MISSY McMAHON

The girls' swim team will start its season with a meet against Trumbull Wednesday, Oct. 2.

Elizabeth Dunne, an English teacher at Master Junior High, is the girls' coach. Ms. Dunne has high hopes for her team, especially under the leadership of her two co-captains, Cindy Fair and Kathy Bramerer.

"A lot more sophomores have come out for the team and it seems that this year there is a larger number interested in diving," said Ms. Dunne. "The sophomores especially seem strong in this field. The team will be stronger than last year's team; we only lost two seniors and the ability of the new students is tremendous."

The swim team is starting its second year with optimistic feelings. "Our biggest rival is New Canaan, which was first in the states last year, and they will be tough to beat. New Canaan is only a second year team as we are, however," Ms. Dunne commented.

The team's record last year was four wins and three losses. Two of the three losses were to New Canaan, the other to St. Mary's which was not in Darien's league. Ms. Dunne feels this shows how strong the team was and will be this year. "The girls finished seventh in the states and I think we can do at least as well this year."