**Special Ed Button Business Booming**

The Special Education Department has launched a very successful button sale during lunch periods in the hopes of adding pizazz to the school. This sale is incorporated both into their business class, in which the students review their balances — losses and gains, and in their work period, in which they construct these buttons themselves.

The business course and the work period are part of the Special Education Department which is new to D.H.S. this year. Under the supervision of Delores Mckee, John Edwards, and Pam Yale, the students study mathematics, English, and business in room B8. Some of the students are enrolled in general classes such as childdevelopment, typing, art, gym, and some shop courses.

They have joined the D.H.S. student body through the Planning and Placement Committee, made up of the school social worker, psychologist, teachers and counselors, who hope to make the best opportunity for a good education available to all youths in Darien.

**Principal Observes:**

By SUE ALLARD and
MATT CHETTON

Innovations in curriculum and scheduling are partial reasons for an evolving atmosphere at D.H.S. in a year marked by changes. Despite some larger classes due to last year's teacher cuts, Salvatore Catania, D.H.S. principal, stated in a recent interview, "The whole school seems to be starting out on a positive high. If it's like high school used to be.

New Options

Alternate learning is being offered this year. It is a program designed to operate equipment and to work in the Audio Visual Department.

Mrs. Willard has come to us from Fairfield University, where for the past two years she taught audio visual techniques to faculty and students. She also produced and directed in house productions in Fairfield's television studio. Mrs. Mathurin holds a certificate of advanced study in educational media. Previously, Mr. Mathurin taught math at Manxapla Prep School, and he attended Eastern Connecticut State College before serving in the Navy.

**Foreign Language**

"I really like Darien High: I've had some good experiences here and would like to stay longer," says Susan Willard, German teacher. Mrs. Willard is teaching for one semester in replacement of German teacher Christl Anastasio, who is on maternity leave.

**Audio Visual**

A new audio visual (AV) man lurks behind piles of catalogues, machinery, and in the selfie of his new friend, Jean-Henry Mathurin, and he is trying to develop greater use of media within the school. Mr. Mathurin is available to help students and faculty develop audio visual aids to assist in their teaching. He is also looking for volunteers to learn to make AV tapes.

**Robbins Raps About Marriage, Goals, Sports, School**

**By MISSY MCMAHON**

Donald Robbins, fondly called "Doc," by most students, is a familiar figure to probably all of the D.H.S. community. His office, appropriately located in the Student Activities Office, is almost always open to students, and Novos decided to seek him out.

Doc was born and raised in Stratford. He later attended and earned degrees from Allegheny, Yale, Univ. of Bridgeport, and Univ. of Kentucky. He first came to Darien in 1965, as a teacher of U.S. History and C.S.I., and became Director of the Independent Study Program, and in 1970 Assistant Principal.

Doc is a person of many interests. He has a strong interest in sports; he can be found running about every other day, and tries to run a total of 25-30 miles a week. Besides feeling that athletics can be a very important part of school education, he believes that they should "like learning, be significant after a student leaves school." In his first years at D.H.S he coached track and cross-country, and regrets that because of a lack of time, he is no longer able to coach.

Doc's personal tastes are varied — he likes semi-classical music best, although Rachmaninoff and Tchaikovsky are his favorite composers. As for food, he claims he's "not very fussy." However, he does profess a weakness for a thick slab of roast beef, and admits he is a "tabulistic." He absolutely detests stewed tomatoes, a dislike formed when his mother went on a canning "binge" when he was a young lad.

Dr. Robbins was married last June, spending the first part of his summer vacation motoring up from Florida, stopping at Sea Island, Ga., Hilton Head, R.I., and Charlotte, N.C. So far he finds marriage a "pleasant, rewarding and challenging experience." He has found that the transition from bachelorhood to married life is "much easier than I anticipated." He plans to meet "as many people as possible in as many places as possible." He has promised each other as friends so well before we got married." He added, "I think this is important, because often it is not the lack of love but the lack of friendship that makes unhappy marriages." For his friend and former fellow bachelor, Mr. Davis, he noted that "marriage and bachelorhood are both equally wine and equally foolish.

Mr. Catania said that Dr. Robbins is a "very bright and perceptive guy. He is tremendously well-organized and very active in the Student Activity aspect, which is a key strength." With a smile, he added, "Before he got married he put in a lot of time at the school."

Continued on page 3
Is It Great To Meditate?

As a result of recent state legislation all public schools are required to set aside a period for meditation, as of October 1. Neirad shoulders at the possibilities ... Figure if you will a five-year-old kindergartner sitting placidly in the lotus position awaying to the delicate vibrations of Ravi Shankar plucking his sitar.

Seriously, a problem arises in this recently passed amendment. Lunch when meditation is construed as a form of prayer. A Supreme Court ruling holds that prayer in public schools violates the principle of separation of church and state. We feel if pressure was to be asserted to the administration to pray during this period, it would undermine respect for the law; however DHS has done nothing of the sort. Mr. Catania has made it clear that students are free to do what they wish during this time period as long as they silently respect the rights of others.

We feel this law, despite the way our school regards it, will cause far more trouble than it is worth.

Write On For Neirad

Neirad is open to all students. While edited ostensibly students enrolled in the Advanced Journalism course and bolstered by those in Introductory Journalism, any community member is welcome to submit articles, ideas, letters for publication and, most of all, opinion pieces for our "Viewpoints" column.

Photographers are needed to contribute to our sports pages and to help illustrate news features.

Other news stories and features may be written for publication in Riggs, DHS's supplement to Neirad, edited by those students in Introductory Journalism.

Those interested in submitting material for the next issues of Neirad should do so within one week after the previous issue has been published. Due to the time delay needed to set the type, paste up and print the paper, generally six or seven days are required from the story deadline to the actual distribution of the publication.

Principal Sees Changes Sparking Newspapers

continued from page 1

Student members of Post 53, Darien's emergency editor-in-chief, are offering a first aid course for credit to other DHS students this year.

Community Action is a program which will provide credit for students motivated in the service of the local community who otherwise may not have had enough time to get very involved.

Darien High is also the site for special education classes for some of the town's students. These students, who in the past have gone to neighbor schools, have contributed to the school community and spirit thus far. They were instrumental in the production and sale of the "Beat Westhill" but some plant improvements, e.g. painting, paving, etc. needed to be done by upperclassmen who do not have first period classes.

According to Mr. Catania students, for the most part, have proved themselves "responsible and cooperative" in dealing with homecoming this year.

At the beginning of homecoming, a 20 to 30 second period of silent meditation had been added, in compliance with a state law.

Building Improvements

New bleachers have replaced the rather worn ones which were used by fans of visiting teams. There were also some plant improvements, e.g. painting, paving, etc. made last June. These actions were made by the Board of Education, which had some money left over from last year's system-wide budget, which had to be spent by the end of that fiscal year.

The Board of Education also donated $2000 toward new computer systems in math, business, and guidance.

Pep Rally: Chaos as Therapy

Editor's note: The ideas expressed in this column do not necessarily represent the editorial policies of Neirad. Readers are invited to turn in their views in editorial form to the Neirad 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 SUSAN LANE

Many have criticized the school's return to the pep rally, but these are a short-sighted few who do not realize the full implications of a pep rally. Its purpose is to protect against student restlessness and discontent, which left unchecked could give students neuroses in later years.

The primary tool of a pep rally is confusion. One has to appreciate the long hours of advanced planning and staging needed to create the desired effect of chaos, which is achieved through permanent hand playing, while gymnasts are tumbling and cheerleaders cheering. Other mind boggling is produced by observing tens of thousands of students being drilled on the spelling of "Darien" by Mr. Catania, dignified principal of Darien High. The ultimate mental confusion is achieved by attempting to understand what athletes need helmets, shoulder and thigh pads, and the rest just to pass through a hoop covered with tissue paper. On returning to class after this elaborate extravaganza, the now totally bewildered student can only feel relief and content to be back in his sane, monotonous world.

The students at Darien should be grateful to the administration for their sensitivity and taking the time necessary to produce such needed therapy.

Next week the pep rally will feature the girls' field hockey team doing the highland fling over a set of crossed sticks while the swim team will demonstrate some of their best aquatics.

Last Will, Testament Of '75 Alumni

The Darien High School Class of 1975 has taken upon itself the responsibility to expand and uplift the cultural and physical aspects of Darien High to a height never attained before.

To do so it has been decided to raise the sum of $600 to construction of a trophy case, for the benefit of the school community.

Also the sum of $1000, to be used to build a picnic area outside the large cafeteria. It is to contain four (4) cement picnic tables and eight (8) benches. In addition, shrubbery is to be planted in order to enhance the aesthetic qualities of the immediate area.

The Class of 1975 has also decided to set aside the sum of $300 to be utilized in an attempt to obtain the Class in The Year of Our Lord Nineteen-Hundred and Eighty.

The Class of 1975 would like to thank Darien High School for all the help and support it has given us over the years.

Sincerely,

The Class of 1975

John M. McGee

Henry Dickson McIntyre

New Faculty Members Join DHS

Continued from page 1

Another addition to our faculty this year is Pam Yale, who is working in the new Special Education Department.

A graduate of Connecticut State College and formerly from the Learning Disability Department at Greenwich High School, she feels that D.H.S. "is better hands down over Greenwich."

Miss Yale, who hopes that the enthusiasm gets together in this school, is also co-advisor of the cheerleaders along with Mrs. Roobach.

An accomplished musician, Miss Yale plays the oboe, English horn, piano, and many other instruments. She enjoys handling needlepoint and is a horseback riding enthusiast.

Delores McKeel has also joined the Special Education Department at D.H.S., after having taught at both Hindley and Holmen during the past six years. She has also taught elementary school in France, California, Arizona and Illinois.

A mother of two boys at Mather as well as a teacher, Mrs. McKeel spends her free time playing tennis, bowling, and reading.

Neirad is published by the students of Darien High School on a bi-weekly basis. Letters and "Viewpoints" may be mailed to Neirad, Darien High School, Darien, Conn. 06820. Annual Subscription rate, $4.00.

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DHS
In anticipation of a long Indian summer, Neirad ventured to Westport in search of the ideal ice cream parlor, and what could be more ideal than The Ice Cream Parlor? Within the startling pink walls one finds old-fashioned wire chairs and marble-topped tables, surrounded by “roll-em” movies and candy jars. The ice cream “menu” is larger than that of most restaurants in town and boasts such high prices as $7.09 for the infamous Pig’s Trough, a 10 gallon treat given free to any individual who can polish it off in one sitting (defined as being less than three hours). The “largest parfait in the world” can be purchased for only $29.95, a true bargain!”

Such frivolous flavors as Red Licorice, Ore Cookie and Iced Tea are among more than 50 different flavors that are outrageously high prices. After sampling some of the delicious, and staying away from the exotic (Turkish Bath, Casey Jones, Kiddies Clown Delight), we decided that the quality of the ice cream was superb. We stuffed our gullets to the brim and then cleaned the place to go for fantastic ice cream. Friendly’s ice cream is not only of great quality, quantity, taste and texture, but is also about the cheapest around. A DH$ swain and his sweet sample a soda at the Ice Cream Parlor. (Photo by Cindy Tower)

Robbins Abandons Singles Scene

continued from page 1

Mr. Coulombe commented that Dr. Robbins cannot be solely responsible for a school cannot successfully take place outside the school’s walls,” he emphasized that “very important things can and should take place outside the school’s walls,” including that one does indeed pay our gullets to the brim and then cleaned the place to go for fantastic ice cream. Friendly’s ice cream is not only of great quality, quantity, taste and texture, but is also about the cheapest around. A DH$ swain and his sweet sample a soda at the Ice Cream Parlor. (Photo by Cindy Tower)

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Hockettes Find New System; Driving Toward Many Goals

By BETSY ADAMS

"This year promises to be interesting," says Coach Rebecca Strominger, "because of a new system which we are trying, a soccer style formation. The new line-up consists of four forwards, two links, three backs, one sweeper and a goalie."

Under the new system the forward line will have four strong offensive players with two offensive-defense players immediately following the forwards. This will increase the scoring action of the offensive line and hopefully the number of goals.

Coach Strominger believes that the team's drive and very positive spirit will pay off and Darien will have a great girls' field hockey season.

The team scrimmaged against Greenwich Academy September 18. Varsity was defeated by a score of 4-0 while junior varsity triumphed 1-0. Coach Strominger felt that the scrimmage was good practice for the hockey team.

The official season began on September 18 with victories over a strong Ridgefield team. During second half play, a goal was scored by Libby Pierpoint with a spectacular shot from outside the penalty area.

This year's squad will be spearheaded by returning letterman Tom Crotty, Matt Clinton, Matt James, Paul Hendry, Vinnie Ferraina, and last but not least, Ted "Booter" DeSelding. Other players who will have an important role in this year's squad are John Trautlein, Bobby Brady, Peter Martin, John Williams, Dwight Collins, Rob Murdoch, Bill Banks, Paul Grabfield.

The Booters opened up their 1975 season by gaining its first victory of the season by downing the Greenwich Cardinals, 9-7. Greenwich had been unbeaten in 33 games in a row and is the defending Fairfield County champion.

From the beginning of the game, Darien looked to be "fired up" as the defensive unit forced a punt after Greenwich could manage only six yards in three downs. The Waver griddiron blocked the punt and gained possession in Greenwich territory, only to have the play whistled back because of a roughing penalty. Greenwich was again stopped and punted to Darien.

Darien's powerful running game continued to dominate the game behind overtime loss to Branford, and a disastrous defeat to Wards.

After a rather poorly played first half, the DHS Booters trailed Branford, 1-0. Bill Moorhouse tied the score early in the second half on a head ball taken off a Ted DeSelding corner kick. Branford scored the winning goal on a disputed play in overtime.

Next the waggish Waves traveled to Fairfield and got thoroughly beaten by the score of 51 against a modestly skilled Warde team. Despite controlling much of the game, the Waves simply could not capitalize on scoring opportunities. Defensive errors were responsible for several Warde goals. In fact, the only thing favorable that can be said about this game is that there were no injuries.

Gymnasts Tumble Towards Winning Season

By JOHN NELSON

The Darien High Gymnastics Team defeated Buckley High and Hartford Public in a "paria-contest" meet on Friday, Sept. 19.

In this first meet of the season an exhibition display was put on by the Darien team. Co-captain Anthony Totino alone collected 28.7 points with two first places and three second places. First places also went to Co-captain Joe Papilirko for the high bar event and still rings. Anthony D'Silva won three events on side horse and Peter Stanion for long horse vaulting.

The opposing teams managed only to win two third places the entire meet. Buckley High was the runner-up in the meet with a final score of 35.9. Darien obtained a staggering 93 points and Hartford Public had 25.1 points.

Last year the Darien team was the league-champions and were runners-up in the state championships, posting an 8 win, 1 loss record.

Coach Isidore Battino commented, "The team looks very good this year. We have a very good chance at the state. I think we are definitely in it..."

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Booters Kicked In Openers, Start Off on Wrong Foot

By BERRY JAMES

The Darien Blue Wave Soccer Team is looking forward to its fourth winning season in a row under the regime of sophomore coach James Quigley.

Coach Quigley has installed a new type of offensive attack into the DHS program this year. It allows the team to perform as a unit instead of individual players. This newly developed offense is marked by many overlaps, allowing the Cardinal's potent offense to establish a tradition of winning.

Despite a 40 yard gain by Bob Marchesi, and long runs by Pete Bonnano and Tom Watkins, the Blue Big couldn't put points on the board.

In the second quarter the Waver offense came alive, as Nick Toscano, corner Paul Hendry tied the score for over 30 yards, and Wiggy McAllister connected with Bill Bogardus on a flanker pass for a touchdown, the extra point failing. Meanwhile, the defense, anchored by John Horne, Scott Randow, Rick Houran, Art Vancohen, Jeff King, and Dave Chandler, was being very stingy, allowing the Cardinal's potent offense only three first downs.

Darien's powerful running game continued to dominate the game behind their effective offensive line. Penalties, however, continued to hurt them, killing many potential scoring drives.

Greenwich finally managed to score late in the fourth quarter, and converted the extra point to take the lead, 7-4.

Temper started to flare as the tough game went on. Darien had trouble mounting a final scoring attack, but with about three minutes left in the game, gained possession of the ball. They moved the ball to Greenwich territory, but were stopped at the eighteen yard line with a fourth and eight. Coach Mauri called on junior Randy Starr, who with 18 seconds remaining lined up on the 40 yard line goal good through the uprighths for three points and the game. Darien held on to the margin and ended the longest winning streak in Connecticut, with perhaps starting the new.

Coach Mauri, in his first year as head coach, has very high hopes for his team. He feels that if "the guys do their jobs" the new offense he has installed will be "virtually unstoppable." He spoke of his offensive line highly, commenting that they are "one of the better blocking lines I've seen in a long time," evidenced by their performance in the Greenwich game.

He experienced backs are the strength of his team, which boasts eighteen returning lettermen. He has a young defense, but feels that they're "going to get stronger." He also feels that the biggest job this year is to establish a new tradition at DHS, a tradition of winning.