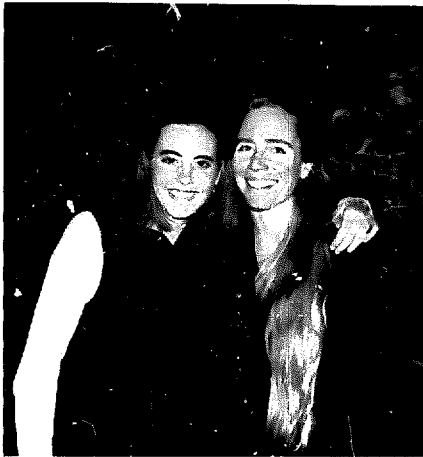


SILLARS LEAVES DEPOT AFTER SIX YEARS OF SERVICE

By **BOBBY DALY**

Feature Editor



Alicia with Brittany Martens, 1994-1995 Depot Pres...!

"I think that I'm an ear, a shoulder, a lap, and a hand," says Alicia Sillars, describing her role as Executive Director of the Depot, a post she relinquished on October 26, to a student body who bid her a sad farewell. Alicia was a symbol of the Depot and when one was in need of a friend one could always find comfort in her beckoning laugh and long blond hair. The Depot was a success because this determined young woman worked hard to make it one. Alicia made the Depot a second home to the youths of Darien, and her passage marks the end of a chapter in Depot history.

Alicia has seen the Depot change in many ways since that fateful May day when she arrived. She says, "I was hired in May of 1990 as the original director and I have been here the whole time except for six weeks during the summer of 1992 when I left for maternity

leave. The Depot and its patrons have changed a lot during my six and half years here. Physically, the Depot has grown in size. The dance floor is double the size it used to be and we gained the caboose, which was donated by Bertucci's. The teenagers have changed as well. There is not as much a compliance to be a 'Darien' person in the teen population the way that there once was. I think there is a lot more individuality out there. I have a much greater regard for teenagers than I ever had before. The high school teen years are a pivotal point in creating individuality. I am really impressed with the individuality and forthrightness, and the ability to challenge that is present in the teen community. I mean at some points it can be frustrating, but I really have a lot of respect for it."

Alicia has left a great impact on the teenagers and

See **SILLARS**, page 4

Amid Statewide dropoff:

DHS CAPT scores still comparatively high

NOREEN GILLESPIE

News Editor

Last spring, the Class of 1998 joined 10,000 Connecticut students statewide by taking the CAPT (Connecticut Academic Performance Test) exam during the month of May. While only 11.9% pass this exam statewide, the DHS group fared exceptionally well, with testing scores well above the average in neighboring districts.

The CAPT exam was designed by the state of Connecticut in 1994 with the primary purpose of setting high educational standards within the state of Connecticut. The purpose of the CAPT program is to promote student learning by setting high performance standards on a comprehensive range of important skills and knowledge, emphasizing the application and integration of skills and knowledge in realistic contexts, providing timely assessment data regarding students' strengths and weaknesses, and providing an expanded measure of accountability for all levels of Connecticut's educational system up to and including the high school level. The exam, which is taken by all tenth graders statewide in the spring of each year, tests in four major areas: Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and an Interdisciplinary assessment. By meeting the standards in each area, a student will earn a seal in each of the four areas, which appears on the high school transcript. If a student does not meet these goals, he or she has the opportunity to retake the area for certification in the spring of their junior or senior year.

Darien has traditionally scored high on the assessment, placing among the top five schools in the state. Although scores did drop off slightly from last year's results, the scores were still among the highest in the state and region, as scores statewide appeared to be lower than usual this year. "We have good teachers and good students," said Guidance Department Coordinator Dr. Jerry Seen. "CAPT doesn't ask what you know, but what you can do with what you know. The combination of our students and teachers puts us at the top," he said.

In the Mathematics assessment, the DHS group tested scored a 66 percentile ranking, down from the 72 percentile ranking posted the year before. The score set DHS in the top five schools, falling only to Avon, New Canaan, Ridgefield, Weston, and Wilton. DHS scored a 71 percentile ranking in the Interdisciplinary assessment, which requires

See **CAPT**, page 4

NEIRAD

Volume 58 Issue 3

Darien High School

November 1996

Trial after-school activity period implemented

By **JEN COSTA**

Staff Writer

Throughout the 1980s and up until the end of the 1994-1995 school year, DHS held an activity period. Memories of these activity periods will soon become a reality. At the first Community Council meeting this year, the students sent Mr. Hall a proposal for the return of the Activity Period which he forwarded to Central Office.

According to the proposal, Common Time will be moved to the end of the day every other Wednesday. This change will create an opportunity for clubs to meet from 2:10 to 2:45. The last period of the day would let out at 2:10. Students would go to their clubs, go wait for their buses, go directly to sports, or get an early start home. Since sports are not supposed to start until 2:45, students should have plenty of time to check in on what is going on with their clubs and get to their sports without any problems.

Mr. Hall believes that this ac-

tivity period, although extremely short, will give club members some time to catch up with their clubs. "What I like is that it doesn't take away from academic class time," remarked Mr. Hall. In the past, on activity day, shortened classes gave time to the activity period. This, however, wasn't well received by faculty because it took away from class time.

While awaiting acceptance from the Board of Education on the proposal, the first Activity Period was held on October 16 from 2:20 until 2:45, instead of the proposed 2:10 start, followed by the second Activity Period (still starting at 2:20) on October 30. The first few activity periods proved somewhat successful. Students seem interested in the many clubs offered. "I think we're doing alright right now, but to really establish an activity period we need the extra time Common Time will provide. Hopefully, Central Office can move on this proposal quickly because if the

time isn't there, the clubs won't be there," remarked Doug O'Malley, Community Council Vice President of Political Affairs.

Many students are excited about the prospect of an activity period. Sophomore Co-President Henry Kurth commented, "I think it will break up the monotony of the school day. I think it will be a success if they do a good job of promoting it." Henry, along with some other students, finds the activity period too short.

At the first Community Council meeting, a "shopping period" was suggested in which students visit clubs that they are considering joining. There are many clubs that are in need of members, as well as clubs that are just now forming. Many clubs are trying to get on the right foot, such as the History Club, the Ecology Club, Future Problem Solvers, and the Foreign Language Clubs. Dr. Sykes is reviving the

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

SPORTS: Volleyball takes the cake, snatching the FCIAC title

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ARTS & LEISURE:

The Local Scene explodes into action. Bands, Bands and more Bands. Also, Porno for Pyros reviewed.

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FEATURE:

Darien's own British invasion, Tim Bealer.



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OPINION

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Amid Human Rights Day controversy:

Workshops promote understanding

Over the last few weeks, a heated debate about a Human Rights Day workshop dealing with transvestitism has been raging in the pages of the *Darien Times*. The backlash has reprimanded the powers-that-be for allowing such a "deviant" topic to be presented to students under the guise of "human rights." These arguments strike a disturbing tone because they attack using well-worn stereotypes and reprimand attempted "tolerance" as an elaborate recruiting scheme. Yet the important issue is not really transvestitism or "transgendering," but gaining a better understanding of what we do not know.

Obviously, the reason this particular workshop has been brought into the spotlight is its electrifying nature. Darien taxpayers and high school parents expect Darien High School to educate its students about the basics of trigonometry, Shakespeare, and biology, and DHS does this very well, sending off a healthy percentage of its graduates to top-flight colleges every year. Parents and taxpayers do not expect DHS to be holding transvestitism workshops. So, of course, the structure of Human Rights Day will be more regimented so that there will be no more "unsightly" oc-

currences in the future, no more "detriments" to education. Yet, the very reason this workshop caused such a furor is because it attempted to educate.

This education is not what some observers would deery as a "how-to" manual of transvestitism; this was not some kind of recruitment tour with screaming banners. It was simply individuals trying to

NEIRAD

EDITORIAL

break down misconceptions of what stereotypes portrayed them as, and inform students and allow them to understand the presenters' lives. The students in the workshops most likely had stereotypes ingrained in their minds, and just by listening were able to understand the presenters a little better. The students obviously did not have to agree with the presenters' lifestyle choice—they were only asked to try to understand.

In a single word, this is what Human Right

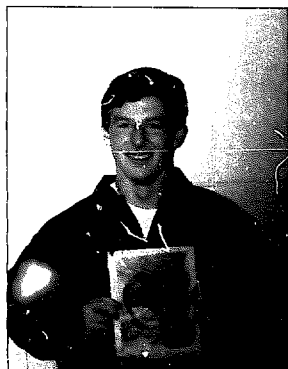
Day tries to promote—understanding. Understanding worlds that are unlike our own, understanding cultures that are unlike our own, and understanding people that are unlike ourselves. Human Rights Day does not demand that students alter their perceptions, it only gives them the opportunity to look beyond what they thought they understood and gain a new understanding of a topic, whether it be homeless people, people suffering from AIDS, battered wives, Vietnam veterans, gender bias, or transvestitism.

Some people continue to argue that education should remain strictly focused upon the basics and should not attempt to foray into any sort of social issues, even if only for a few hours on one day of a 180-day schedule, and it certainly shouldn't address cross-dressing. Education, however, should not concern itself merely with algebra and the American Revolution; it should attempt to prepare students to understand the world. Education should not rely on stereotypes, even now, at DHS—with its divided social structure and with racist comments scrawled through library magazines—stereotypes prevail. Education is more than ABCs.

ROVING REPORTER

What were you for Halloween?

Compiled by JEN RUSSO & MIKE HARRINGTON-HOWES



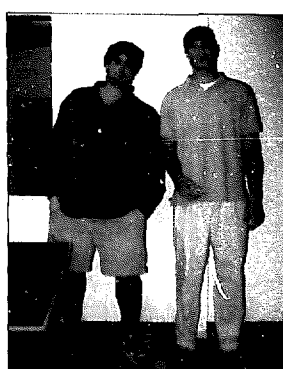
CONOR MCAULIFFE
SENIOR

"I went as the Unabomber. I had the hooded sweatshirt, the cheesy, dark sunglasses, and a manifesto copy in my pocket."



ROGER RENZI
SENIOR

"I went as a cigarette."



TODD MOSSA AND KYLE SZYMANCZYK
SENIORS

"Kyle went as Cinderella and I was his fairy godmother."



TODD SHUTTLEWORTH
JUNIOR

"I dressed up as Jason. I had the hockey mask and everything."

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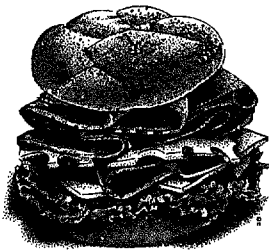
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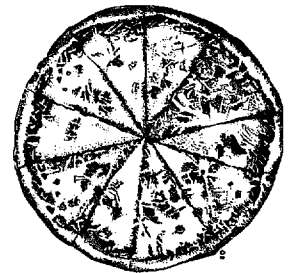
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Nine seniors garner National Merit honors

KATE GOLDEN

Staff Writer

Nine DHS seniors were recently recognized by the 1997 National Merit Scholar Competition. Brian Cameron, Kate Golden, Dan Mahoney, Brian Newman, Carson Schroeder, Dave Selkowitz, and Brian Stisser were announced as National Merit Commended Students, which means that they placed in the top five percent of the more than one million students who entered the 1997 Merit Scholarship Program by taking their PSATs in October, 1996. Conor McAuliffe and Douglas O'Malley were announced as National Merit Semi-Finalists, the top 15,000 scorers from around the country. They are now in competition for the 7,000 Merit Scholarship Awards, which will be announced in April. While the Commended Students are not eligible for competition in the Merit Scholarship Awards, a spokesperson for the NSMC said, "the young men and women named Commended Students have demonstrated outstanding academic potential by their high performance in the extremely competitive Merit Program."

Brian Cameron is an active member of the student body. He has been involved in student government for his four years at DHS. In fact, during his sophomore year, he, along

with other students, drafted the Community Council Constitution. Brian carries a very demanding course load, as he takes mostly honors classes. Kate Golden, a member of the National Honors Society, has a difficult course load as well. In addition to her classes, she is an Indoor and Outdoor Track Co-Captain. Dan Mahoney is also a member of the NHHS. He is taking extremely hard classes; AP Physics, AP Chemistry, AP Calculus BC, and AP English. On top of this, he is

of the Blue Wave swimming team, Brian enjoys water polo as well. He is also a member of Tudor Singers and the high school orchestra, where he can be seen playing the cello.

Doug is an honor student who is deeply involved in the student government. He was co-president of the sophomore and junior classes, and is currently the Vice President of Political Affairs. Doug is a member of the National Honors Society, and is co-editor of

"The young men and women named Commended Students have demonstrated outstanding academic potential by their high performance in the extremely competitive Merit Program." — NSMC

an officer of Safe Rides, Brian Newman is an officer of Safe Rides as well. Brian was a member of the crew team for two years. His course load is also difficult. Carson Schroeder plays soccer in the fall, and skis in the winter. He, like Dan, is taking two AP sciences. Dave Selkowitz is the co-editor of *Neirad*, a very demanding and time-consuming job. In his little spare time, Dave devotes himself to his tough classes. Brian Stisser is president of the National Honors Society. A Co-Captain

Neirad, Conor takes all AP classes, and is Co-Captain of the high school swimming team, and a member of the boys' lacrosse team. In addition to these extracurricular activities, he is an active member of Post 53.

Conor and Doug were among the highest scorers in Connecticut. Before they can be considered for some of the \$27 million in Merit Scholarship Awards, the semi-finalists must advance to the finalist level.

CAPT

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students to read documents and write an essay citing evidence from the documents which they have read. This score showed vast improvement from the ranking of 63 that was received last year. Darien fell second in the state, lagging behind only Avon, which scored a 75.

The Language Arts assessment, which entails two parts, one being response to literature and another portion of editing, also was a high scorer for the district, with Darien receiving a 71, behind Avon again. "Darien is strong as far as writing and literature skills," commented Dr. Seen. On the response to literature portion, a 71 was received as well, down from the 76 that was received by the class of '97. The editing score, however, shot way up, with students receiving a compiled score of 95, placing DHS behind Avon and Simsbury.

The only area of concern, however, was the Science portion, with DHS receiving only a 52 percentile ranking, falling behind several area schools including Joel Barlow, New Canaan, Ridgefield, Simsbury, Weston, Westport, Wilton, and Avon. "It's not that we have a lousy science program," said Dr. Seen. "The CAPT science assessment tests a lot of general science that was learned before or in the eighth grade. Many of the other schools that score higher on the science portion because they teach an integrated or earth science program in the freshman year. We're not going to eliminate the Biology program in our freshman year, because that would mean that kids couldn't take an AP Course. The CAPT is still in its infancy; we have to look at what is important," commented Dr. Seen. Plans are currently in the works to examine the science initiative in the middle school. Expectations are high for the class of '99 to follow in the footsteps of their predecessors, ranking high again when they test in the spring. "We don't have a lot of CAPT prep time," said Dr. Seen. "We try to infuse it in the curriculum, where some schools have months of prep, some with evening classes and practice tests. You can't prep too much; some kids will get panicked," he said. "What it comes down to is what you know. We are lucky to have such a great combination of great teachers and intelligent students."

ACTIVITY PERIOD

continued from page 1

History Club where students learn hands-on about history with field trips and historical movies. The Ecology Club, led by Mr. Durand, has been making a comeback with a strong core of AP Biology students, raising money to help environmental causes and trying to reduce paper waste in the school. Ms. Burton is trying to keep Future Problem Solvers going strong, as its members attempt to formulate solutions to the today's problems. The Foreign Language Clubs are available in Spanish, French, or Latin. In these clubs, students learn more about the culture of the language and its native countries than they do in the classroom.

There are also many new and reforming clubs. The Outdoors Club is one example. This club, run by Mr. DiPasquale (who is also running the Human Rights Day Club) and Mrs. Klein, is a club for students who enjoy orienteering and the thrill of nature and its beauty as one whizzes through it on a mountain bike. Senior Christie Davis has been trying to start a Writers Club where aspiring writers would meet and share their works. The Debate Team, although not a new concept, really just got its start last year. Although the team is lacking a faculty advisor, it's still attracted a lot of new members. Junior Christy Huntley is leading PROUD which is looking for students that are willing to

The activity period is not a new idea, but rather a recycled one.

set an example to others by omitting the use of drugs. PROUD found success last year and is looking to become stronger in the future. Mr. Dumais is getting pumped up for JETS (Junior Engineering Technical Society) and he's always looking for math whiz recruits.

The activity period is not a new idea, but rather a recycled one. During the '80s, the activity period was called an X-Period. On Wednesdays, periods would be shortened by six or seven minutes, so that the X-Period was the equivalent to a regular class period. The Board of Education decided to discontinue the X-Period in the mid-'80s because X-Period allowed a significant percentage of the school population to leave school each Wednesday, even though it allowed activities to flourish.

In the fall of 1992, Fritz Fitzpatrick, then Vice-President of Political Affairs, received Board of Education approval for a revamped activity period. Although this activity period was 50 minutes long, it occurred only monthly in the middle of the school day, dooming it to near failure because of its irregularity. The time was and frequency were whittled down to nearly nothing until last year when the time was eliminated from the schedule because of the massive numbers of students milling around in the cafeterias and the hallways.

SILLARS

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town of Darien and the Depot has become a rite of passage into adulthood for most of the high school's youth. Alicia explains her impact when she states, "I assumed I would always be associated with the beginning of the Depot and getting it over the hurdles it needed to clear in order to be regarded as a well-established, viable organization. I think that when we first opened there was a tremendous amount of support from the community, town officials, merchants, parents, and even the kids, but there was a definite sector of the community who was doubting whether the Depot would succeed. I would say that I would definitely be associated with eliminating those doubts."

Alicia's impact can also be felt in the many relationships she has formed throughout the years. She has been many things to many people, a big sister, a mother, a friend, a disciplinarian, and a teacher. "Someone once told me I was a broker," Alicia stated in defining her role at Depot throughout the years. "The reason they called me this is because I deal with so many different types of people." Alicia has formed many bonds with students and parents and she has come to cherish these relationships. The friendships, though a treasure, have at times been difficult to maintain. As Alicia says, "I also feel my role is to walk a fine line between being a friend and being an administrator, this can at times be difficult. I also have to interface with the adult population. I am a spokesperson for the Depot and a spokesperson for the kids. I probably know more about some kids' lives than some of their parents do."

The job of Executive Director of the Depot was filled with benefits and drawbacks for Alicia. She

stated, "The high points have definitely been the friendship: I have established here and continue to have. I am still close to kids that have graduated from college! I have friendships with parents who I might never have had the opportunity to know and work with. Some of the drawbacks have been that it is very physically demanding and draining. I often feel sapped of any energy. Some of the low points of the Depot itself were when I really felt I had to change the view of the Depot in the eyes of the teen community. There was a time early on when a lot of kids from other towns were hanging out in the parking lot and it became a really foreboding place for Darien teenagers to come. We had to really work hard to eliminate that stigma and restore a welcoming atmosphere to the Depot."

Alicia has a bright future ahead of her as director of the Youth Commission, and her experience as Executive Director of the Depot will serve her well in providing activities for a greater gamut of Darien youth. Alicia described her new responsibilities when she said, "The primary responsibilities are running the TOPS program, Weedstock, the summer camp, Weed beach concerts, Halloween parties for little kids, and other fun activities." Alicia is excited to involve herself in a larger portion of Darien's community and is brimming with ideas that she thinks will improve the Youth Commissions. "My predecessor has set up an amazing department, but I need to go in and see how things are done and see if any of my ideas can be considered and implemented."

Alicia has had many experiences at the Depot, and when she looks back, she will miss many things. She says with a twinge of sadness, "The thing I will miss the most is the people and the relationships. I love what I do here so much that I don't

think I could ever love another job as much as I love what I do here. I love how I laugh down here! Some of the kids make me laugh until I cry. That is what I am going to miss the most, the laughter. But there are other parts of it that I must take into consideration. My daughter is going to be five next year and she is going to be in kindergarten and if I work afternoons and evenings I will rarely see her and I would really like to have another child. Also I think that maybe it is for the benefit of the Depot if I move on."

"My words of advice for the students is to try to do the best that you can, remember who you are, be true to that person, and remember that everyone makes mistakes and that we grow from them. I am envious because you are at a very, very fortunate age in your life." Alicia has certainly helped to make that age a wonderful one, and Darien High School wishes her all the luck in the world as she departs for her new career.

The Depot was the brainchild of Carol Bishko, of CODA, and Ed Schmidt, of the Darien Historical Society. Mrs. Bishko had had three children who had gone through Darien High School and was constantly hearing that the community offered no alternative to the party scene for Darien teenagers. She and Mr. Schmidt spearheaded the Depot effort, and they went before town and declared the tremendous need for a teen center. The state had planned to tear down the building that is now the Depot and put in sixteen parking spots, but granted the lease of the train station to these two enthusiasts. Mrs. Bishko's and Mr. Schmidt's idea of a fun place where teenagers could hang out without the temptations of alcohol and drugs was instituted in the spring of 1990 and Alicia was hired to guide the Depot and make this dream into the reality which it has become.

FEATURE

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Bealer "heading" for bright future

By LESLEY ROXE

Staff Writer

His long, smooth strides carry him quickly down the field, dribbling the ball naturally at his feet as he continues towards the goal. Skillfully avoiding tackles he manipulates the ball into scoring position and rockets it past the goal keeper's hands and into the back of the net. His team rushes towards him with energetic cheers of congratulations. Such is the custom for the senior captain of the boys' soccer team.

At the age of two, senior Tim Bealer laced up his cleats and started playing the sport that has dominated most of his life. Now, at the age of seventeen, he is the sole captain of the Darien High School boys' soccer team and an outstanding player.

Born in England, Tim Bealer moved to France and then came to Darien when he was in fifth grade. Faced with adjusting to a new culture, new people, and a new way of life, he struggled to fit in and turned to soccer. "My dad encouraged us all to start playing soccer," said Tim about the start of his soccer career. "When I was really young he presented me with a soccer ball and I started to kick it around. I think that's what got me to where I am presently."



Still today, he is most comfortable on the field, amidst the action and controlling the play. As two time captain of the Varsity soccer squad, Tim has his work cut out for him. "It's an honor being captain, but it's definitely a lot of work. We've got a young team this year with lots of energy and tons of po-

tential," he said of the '96 varsity squad. "Once the team gets its chemistry together we'll be really good."

Off the field, Tim's on-field ability to make quick decisions and formulate plays is essential. He has

See BEALER, page 7

Benton: "a rose of many petals"

By BOBBY DALY

Feature Editor

Vincent Van Gogh, Kathleen Battle, Meryl Streep, Gertrude Stein, and perhaps one day Rosemary Benton will be included in this list of famous artists. Rosemary is involved in every facet of the art world. She is as talented with a brush as she is with her voice. As Helen Keller once stated, "One can not be content to creep, when they feel the urge to soar." Rosie, as she is known by her friends, has certainly felt this urge.

Rosie is best known to Darien High School as a character actress. She has had roles in both *J.B.* and *The King and I*, but is probably best known as Bloody Mary in last year's fall musical, *South Pacific*. Rosie added both a melodious voice and a comedic stage presence to the production. She has an intense affection for acting and explained this when she stated, "I like being on stage because it's fun and because it's good time with all the kids being able to sing and act. It is so exhilarating to have a crowd right there in front of you and having your friends and parents in the audience. Performing is probably one of the best parts of my life."

Rosie finished the show to a bouquet of roses from her parents and rave reviews from the audience. This was a just reward for the hard work and determination that she



dedicated towards her part. Many obstacles stood in her way the final night, and she had to suppress vomiting and overcome a 101 fever in order to perform. Looking back she laughed, "The last night of the show I had the flu, and I still went on. It was really scary and sort of fun."

Rosie will be featured in this year's musical, *Guys and Dolls*, as General Cartwright. "I am really excited for this year's musical. We have a really good cast and good characters. The new director, Sharon Capnow, is a really terrific person. She seems very enthusiastic."

Though Rosie's true love is acting, she spends as much time pouring over Webster's dictionary as Shakespeare's dramatic collection. Rosie is a member of the brand new writers' club and of *Current*. As editor of *Current* it is Rosie's job to see that the publication is error free and that the content is both interesting and well written. In describing her work as editor, Rosie stated, "*Current* is an amazing magazine. This is not because of the editors and the people who work on it, but because there are so many talented writers at

See BENTON, page 7



Coffee talk with Monker

By EMIL CORSILLO

Staff Writer

Walk into Coffee Tree after school and you'll either be served by a 23 year old burnout named Rusty or a seventeen year old, aspiring employee-of-the-month named Monker. I walked in one day and had the pleasure of meeting the latter. So, I decided to do an interview for a new feature story.

"Hey, Monker, ya want me to do a feature on you?" "O.K."

Monker (abbrev. for The Minty-Funky-Chunky-Monkey) is not the typical Darien High School student whom one would expect to be the focus of a NEIRAD feature. He is not the star of any athletic team. He isn't going to be valedictorian. He isn't even the president of Community Council. But this is a kid who can make one heck of a latte!

With coffee shops being the most recent trend of downtown Darien, integrity is often lost among the beans. This cappuccino craze has caused many coffee shops to "sell-out" in an attempt to compete with the "big boys." Big companies like Starbucks (coming soon to Darien) have sacrificed taste, personality, and uniqueness for high-speed production and a big name. However, one coffee shop has risen to the top of the foam and floats above the rest. Coffee Tree, with the help of one very special employee, has managed to escape the grind of corporate Darien. In the coming months, with Starbucks set to invade and taint our downtown scene, the pressure will be on for Monker and the Coffee Tree family to stand-up to this competition.

"I owe all my success thus far to Kel," Monker said lending insight. "But if Coffee Tree is going to survive the crunch, I'm going to need a prom date!"

When Monker is not hard at work, he can usually be found driving around town looking for action. He is hard to find when he's not at work because he is sort of a nomad. "When you're looking for Monker, you can never find him," comments Senior Casey Ackerman. "But, I always seem to bump into him in the weirdest places! I remember one time when I was shopping at Grand Union with my grandmother, and I came around the corner of the frozen vegetable aisle to find Monker hiding in there with the vegetables! Well, he wasn't really hiding—you know, 'cause those doors are glass and I could see him pretty easily."

Everyone is very impressed with Monker's daily activities and ambitious lifestyle, but I wanted to find out what the future holds for DHS's renaissance man.

"Now, Monker, you can't work at Coffee Tree for the rest of your life, right?" I asked. "I mean, you don't want to end up like Rusty, do you?"

"No, Emil, this Monkey is getting an education! I'm gonna go to college and get a real job when I graduate!" Monker told me. "I can't make coffee forever. I'll probably wear a tie to work and be serious and stuff, you know."

"A tie? Monker in a tie?" I inquired. "I can't picture you at a real job!"

"Shut up, Emil."

Well, Monker is very serious about succeeding in life. He is going to miss the smell of fresh beans, the Depot, Darien High School, and Kel, but I think Monker realizes that there is a better place for him and that one day he'll be even happier than he is now. So, as our interview inevitably had to come to a close, I wished Monker good luck and left with a large cup of steaming hot mocha cappuccino.

Kappler returns from year-long Atlantic voyage

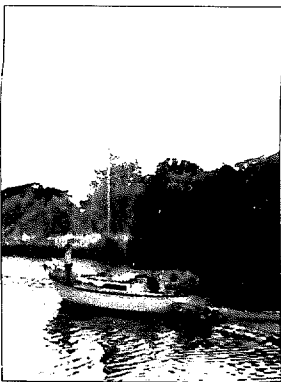
By NOREEN GILLESPIE *News Editor*

"It's always been sort of an ideal delusion of mine to sail around the world," Mrs. Kappler-Hall explains, sitting at her desk in the library, work buried by photo albums and journals from her trip.

What Mrs. Kappler is explaining is the year long voyage that she and her new husband took during the course of last year. Mrs. Kappler, who now goes by the name of Mrs. Kappler-Hall, was married on August 5 of last year to her beau of seven years in a small ceremony attended by their children and close friends. On September 30, 1995, Mrs. Kappler, on a leave from her position in the DHS library, left on what she and her husband call their "honeymoon voyage," which entailed sailing along the Atlantic coast from September 30, 1995 until May 15 of this year.

The two left from Stamford Harbor in the twenty seven foot C & C sloop that was to be their home for nine months. They left with few belongings: their clothes and personal belongings folded in hammocks that hung in the boat, a few Bob Marley tapes, and stocked with canned goods, one burner stove, and enough water for three or four days. After that, it was up to them to find out what was for dinner next. "We ate a lot of conch salad," she says of her meals. "We would free dive for lobsters, spear them, and collect conch to use for the salad. You can hammer open the shell and mix the conch with lemon juice to make the salad. We ate that a lot."

The first stages of the trip took the couple



This twenty seven foot C & C sloop was Mrs. Kappler-Hall's home for nine months.

Freshman Prodigy:

Kilanowski reaches for the stars

By TRACY SMITH

Staff Writer

He reaches for the stars. This fourteen year-old freshman, like the other 219 in the class of 2000, began the school year struggling with challenging new classes, a bigger school, and Seniors. You've seen him walking down the hallway. You probably thought that you were seeing a walking backpack coming towards you. Actually, there is a boy under the thirty or so pounds of books and paper that he is required to lug from class to class and home and back. That walking library is the one, the only, Fresh Genus. Even though you must be thinking a title like that is the biggest oxymoron ever invented, there always is an exception to that rule, and Philip Kilanowski is just that.

Now, a few weeks into the school year, Kilanowski, is just about settled into his new surroundings. He has a tiny locker, which probably can't fit anything besides some loose paper. He eats in the freshman cafeteria, a place where it's harder to find a chair than an order of french fries, and he's got a schedule, just like any normal student. But Philip is

much more than just ordinary. He carries almost all accelerated classes, with the exception of Latin and Western Civ. In 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade he took Algebra and Trigonometry. Now this freshman is taking BC Calculus, the highest math course in DHS!

Kilanowski began his education at Ox Ridge School, in Darien, which was a K-2 school. He never thought that what he knew in the lower grades was anything special, just that he understood things right away. In 3rd grade, he switched schools and began attending King Low Heywood where he took in-school tutoring in Algebra 1 and 2, and Trig. King Low Heywood is split up into K-2, 3-5, and 6-8. Since he was a bit advanced for his age group he began to take independent class during school. After taking two and a half years of these classes, in 6th grade, he took Geometry, and in 7th and 8th he took AB Calculus.

Since he is in the highest math course at the high school, it is unclear as to what his choices will be for the duration of his education. "Well, what I've told everyone else that has asked me that question is that I might take

to St. Simon's Island, where they docked and flew home to their children for the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. In January, the two flew back to St. Simon's, where they left and headed for Florida. On February 16, the two entered the next stages of their voyage, leaving Hillsborough to cross the Gulf Stream to go to West End and Grand Bahama Island. After these stops, the two spent approximately eight weeks sailing in Abaco, visiting several of the small islands and stopping to anchor in secluded coves.

"The most amazing thing about Abaco was that about six miles from land, there were about five dolphins that swam right up to the boat and wanted to play with us," she remembers. "The water was absolutely beautiful...it was the perfect shade of crystal blue. The dolphins weren't inhibited at all, they just came up right next to the boat. At about 5 a.m. we heard a whooshing sound, and walked out to see the dolphins playing with the light coming from the boat. It was incredible."

Mrs. Kappler talks about several naturalistic elements similar to the dolphin incident that for her, were "the most important aspect" of the trip. "We saw everything from herons to pelicans," she explains. "The animals were great. There was a little bird that came onto our boat and just sat down and rode with us for a few hours, taking a rest. It was really funny."

"Once, when we were snorkeling, we saw starfish. They were huge, kind of humpy looking...but they had the most amazing geometric designs. It was absolutely beautiful. It really stirred up a desire to know more about the biological world around us," she says. "It was also frustrating because I was so far from my library and I couldn't look anything up," she says, going on to explain that the only reference materials she brought for the voyage were a birdbook, a dictionary, and a marine life book that she proved "not very useful."

"The most important thing that I realized through [nature] was how insignificant man is compared to how significant nature is. That is really what made it the most important aspect."

However close Mrs. Kappler became with her surroundings, she did miss home and her family. "We would call every week, and write lots of postcards and letters," she says, "but one of the huge problems was finding a place to mail them. Often what we would do is communicate through a radio network that a lot of the people who were doing the same type of thing had together."



Mrs. Kappler-Hall has returned to her library desk after a year-long Atlantic adventure.

"There was such a camaraderie among these people," she said. "Some people sold absolutely everything to do this. We met so many people...the boats give out boat cards, kind of like business cards, with the name of the boat, the crew, and where they live. We kept in touch with a lot of the people we met. One was an artist, another a man and wife, one a professor at the Maritime Institute in Boston."

The trip, however, wasn't all scenery and meeting new friends. When sailing, much of the itinerary and travel plans were governed by the weather, as optimum winds and currents were needed in order to travel. Much of the time, a storm would set plans back or move them ahead, according to when the time was right to sail. "They call one type of storm a rage," Mrs. Kappler explains. "It hits the islands quickly, and the waves were so high they went right over the island. There was this incredible wall of white splash and spray that went right over us." As far as being scared, however, the only concern that was ever an issue was the weather. "There were some rough seas off the Spanish Keys, with winds close to sixty miles per hour. Going into Marshharbour, it was raining so hard that the boats broke loose and everyone gathered from the docks to watch us anchor. It was a little scary because the year before, four people and a boat disappeared. People can really get into trouble when they have schedules that they have to make, because then they sail in weather that they shouldn't," she says.

"Typically, we sailed about fifty miles in about ten hours, and that would be it for the day. We were going very slowly, and probably could have walked it faster. We had a year, though, so we took it slowly."

The last night of the journey was spent anchored underneath the Whitestone Bridge in NYC. The following morning, armed with wool socks on their hands to shut out the wind and rain, the two docked at New York Harbor.

The trip back to Stamford took about four hours from there, and upon seeing the lighthouse that meant they were home, Mrs. Kappler describes an adrenaline rush that overtook her. "All I could think was, 'I did it!' It's such an amazing accomplishment. I definitely learned respect for what I could do and what I can't."

Since being home, she says that the hardest thing to get used to is the sense of scheduling. "The first couple of weeks were hard, with all the noises, cars, and such a bombardment of choices about everything," she says. Everything is so complicated, and after going from such seclusion, and from a place where everything is about survival, it's hard." She would, however, do it again. "We'd like to sell the boat and possibly do it again, maybe to South America with the children," she said. Until then, she is considering living her journey over again through the possibility of a children's book. "I brought a teddy bear along with me, and he saw everything that we did. If I can find an illustrator, I'd like to write about the experience for children."

a math course over the Internet from the Distance College in Baltimore," remarked Kilanowski. Since he has already taken the required courses in math for high school, he might get some college credit for some different courses.

With all of the homework that we think we have, it's unlikable to compare it with the hours that he spends, every night, for all of his classes. Since his weeknights are pretty much shot, except for the occasional glimpse at the TV, what does Philip do in his free time? "What free time?" laughed Kilanowski. With all of his homework and studying, he hasn't got much time to do many of the things that he likes to. Philip is really into rockets. He has many model rockets, which he assembled by himself. He likes to take them out on the weekends and watches them soar. He also always manages to fit in some astronomy in his tight schedule. It's really a relaxing activity that he can do anytime at night, because he has a telescope in his room with which he watches many stars. To continue his learning, outside of school, he attends a weekly class on astronomy at Sacred Heart.

Although he is far too busy to join any sports teams himself, he'd love to play on a baseball team here at DHS. He loves to watch football and baseball, so you can bet that when he can, Philip will be at the high school, in the stands, cheering all of the sports teams onto victory.

Kilanowski wanted to tell everyone that he's just a normal kid, and math isn't the only thing that he's into. He takes Spanish, Latin, and Art Foundations for his electives. He loves sports and enjoys talking on the phone, once in a while.

Carson Schroeder, a Senior in his BC Calculus class commented "Philip is a pretty cool kid. He tries really hard. I was really surprised that he was actually as smart as everyone had been saying."

Kilanowski plans to try hard throughout the year and hopes to do well in all of his classes. Since he is so young, he does not have many plans for the future. He would just like to take things one day at a time. With all of his eagerness to learn, whatever field he decides to go into, he is sure to succeed.

Senior friendships to last a lifetime

By AUDREY DROESCH

Staff Writer

"Lend me your ears and I'll sing you a song/
I will try not to sing out of key."

These words, from the famous Beatles song "A Little Help From My Friends", flickered through my mind as I sat down at a table at Baskin-Robbins to interview Kate Golden, Kate Watts, Kate McGuire, Liz Merrit, and Marisa Saur (Jenny Behars and Alex Bisset were at volleyball practice and were unable to come), seven of the most dedicated and caring friends that I had ever come across, as they attempted to tell their story. Everyone at DHS has seen them together - in the halls in twos or threes, eating lunch at the picnic tables outside, whispering in the library - yet few know just how deeply these girls are connected to each other.

I listened intently as they described to me the particulars of their friendship, exactly what part each one is to the whole.

"Marisa", offered Liz, "is the angel. She'll give you a backrub in a fancy restaurant." Everyone smiled, because it was Marisa who was at the moment receiving a backrub from Liz, but as anecdotes poured forth from the girls' mouths, it became clear that there was something angelic about her. "I first became friends with Marisa during indoor track my sophomore year," said Kate Golden. "She wrote psycbe letters and brought candy for the girls on the team on the day of a race. You could tell that she was

really generous and friendly."

"Marisa and I have been best friends forever, and so when I began to move in this circle, she joined me," Jenny later commented. Needless to say, it was much to the delight of everyone involved. "Sophomore year, Jenny and Marisa and I were all on cross-country together, and the next year, when Jenny and I did volleyball, I really missed having Marisa as my teammate," added Alex. "She's so much fun to be with," said Kate Watts of her. "And she's so sweet."

But it was Kate whom everyone said was the most giving. "When I was named as a National Merit Commended Scholar, Kate made me a hat that said 'Congratulations'," remembered Kate Golden. "And for Christmas, she gave us all champagne bottles decorated with pictures and filled with homemade bubble bath."

"Kate Watts gives you a present every month," said Liz, as Kate grinned sheepishly at all the praise, but not without a hint of pleasure at this acknowledgement of her generosity.

"One time, when I was at Mt. Orford (a Canadian ski resort) and couldn't do anything, Kate (Watts) and Kate (Golden) came to my room and brought me games and coloring books and entertained me," said Kate McGuire. "I was so glad that they were there."

Kate McGuire emerged as the "character" of the group. "Once, during sophomore year, Kate (Golden) was afraid to talk to a librarian about her Western Civ paper, so since we look so much alike, I went in and did it for her." This



From left to right: Kate Watts, Kate Golden, Kate McGuire, Jenny Behars, and Liz Merrit.

story was remembered by everyone, and accompanied by torrents of nostalgic giggles. Her thoughts reveling in memories, she asked, chuckling, "And Kate (Golden), do you remember our Kate song from eighth grade? 'My name is Kate/ My name is Kate too...'" The rest was lost in laughter as the focus shifted to Kate Golden. "Yes," she said, "and do you remember when we used to sing 'Confrontation' (a song from Les Misérables) and I would be Jean Valjean and you would be Javert?" Kate Golden's wallet lay in front of her, stuffed with pictures from years gone by, and it became evident that she was the oldest friend and the one who

brought these girls together.

"Liz and I are neighbors, and so we've known each other since I moved here, which was in second grade," Kate told me. "When we were little we put up a string between our houses so that we'd always be connected." This was greeted by a chorus of "Aww's." "In middle school I was friends with Liz and Kate (Watts), but then we got on different teams and I became friends with Kate (McGuire)."

"And Liz and I were so jealous!" interrupted Kate Watts.

"Yes, but then we all became friends, and Jenny and Alex and Marisa soon followed. So I was the one who brought us all together,"

she finished, proudly looking around at the group.

It seems to me that no matter who brought these girls together, they will never be pulled apart. Soon they will leave here and go out into the world, and years will come and go, and change them; and each will love and hate and gain and lose in her life, separate from the others; but they will all come back, like the tide comes back, and the seasons and flowers come back, different but always the same, because they will always have their memories together, the common trunk from which the different branches will grow, and it will always connect them, like the string between two houses, simple, but strong.

BEALER

continued from page 5

a tough academic schedule including such courses as AP Chemistry, Calculus, French 5, World Lit, Law and Government, and Senior Comp. "I carry a heavy course load for a senior, I guess," said Tim about his schedule. "Especially considering the fact that senior year is when you're supposed to relax!"

Not only does this senior make his presence felt on the soccer field, but on the track as well. Captain of the boys' indoor track team this winter, Tim competes in events such as the high jump, the 4x375 sprint relay, the 300m, the 500m, and the 4x225 relay. "Track used to be a joke to the guys on the team because not much was expected from me," commented Tim about the track team. "But last year people learned when to take things seriously and when to have fun. It's that mentality that led to our success last year."

"Running, for a lot of people, is the worst part of a sport," Tim added. "But I run for myself because all of the sports that I compete in have running as the basis - like soccer."

Elected to the homecoming court by his peers, accentuated the fact that Tim takes his energy and spirit off the field with him. "If you were to ask anyone in the senior class who the friendliest and most amicable person was Tim Bealer's name would be the first to come to mind," said Senior Cindy Evans. "He's an awesome person on and off the field."

BENTON

continued from page 5

the high school. The magazine is an awesome opportunity for people to express their feelings."

The Current staff is presently rather small and Rosie wants to encourage students to involve themselves in the wonderful experience that the magazine provides. "The magazine started in October and those interested should talk to me or Ms. Sorenson. Also, Jason Oda is very involved in the magazine."

When Rosie is not on stage, or in the

"I snowboard a lot. It is one of my favorite things. The sport is a total release. I used to ski and I never really enjoyed it, but when I got a snowboard it was so awesome."

writing center, she can be found on the dance floor. Rosie has many interests in dance and she is involved in not only classical styles like ballet, but also more modern dance. "I love dancing! I'm going to take ballet this year and I am taking a modern Jazz class."

Like her heroes, Madonna and Michael Jackson, Rosie enjoys singing as well as dancing. Her Junior year she was member of Tudor Singers. She stated, "Tudors is a great group and we were all really close. It was so fun to sing and dress-up and entertain people with our voices. We were like bards of old. This year I am the queen in the Madrigal Dinner.

As the queen I dress-up like the queen of England and I host the Madrigal dinner and I have a substantial acting part and I have to dance as well."

When not involving herself in some artistic endeavor, Rosie can usually be found relaxing in one of the big booths at the Depot. The Depot has become a second home to her over the years. When Rosie is at the Depot she does not direct all her energy at relaxing, but works to improve the teen center through ideas and brute labor. "The Depot is great. We all have so much fun down there. I am on the Depot Board and am co-chair of publicity and I also work at the Depot when I am free on week-ends. It is really the perfect place to hang-out," explained Rosie of her interest in the Depot. The Depot also brings a bitter sweet tear to Rosie's eyes when remembering the Former Depot Executive Director, Alicia Sillars. "I can't tell you how sad I was about her leaving. It is really hard to go down there and not have her standing there ready to talk to you or laughing about something. That has really been the hardest thing about my work at the Depot," said Rosie.

Rosie had to make a lot of sacrifices in order to excel at the arts. Though she regrets none of her decisions, she had to give up her work in Post 53 and her athletic career. "I'm glad that I was in Post and I am glad that I became an EMT," she comments. "It was really exciting that I had those experiences, but I found that there were things that meant more to me and Post takes a great deal of time. I enjoy sports and played field hockey, basketball, and crew my freshman year, but I had to sacrifice these activities in order to fully dedicate my time to other interests that I enjoyed more." Although she is no longer on any teams, Rosie remains

active in sports. The environment in which she performs them is no longer the playing fields of DHS, but on the mountains of Colorado and Vermont. "I snowboard a lot. It is one of my favorite things. The sport is a total release. I used to ski and I never really enjoyed it, but when I got a snowboard it was so awesome."

Rosie believes that her greatest accom-

"Last summer I directed the musical Oliver, and I directed the plays Our Town and The Dining Room. It was a great learning experience"

plishments in the arts was achieved last summer at camp Buck's Rock in New Milford. Rosie explained, "Last summer I directed the musical Oliver, and I directed the plays Our Town and The Dining Room. The plays were all really great. It was such a great learning experience to work behind the scenes and be able to see a different aspect of theater."

Rosie is loved by her friends for her comedic, almost cartoonish personality. Andrew Piddington explained this stating, "The thing I adore about Rosie is that she is always on. She is always ready to have fun and she is always laughing!" If Rosie could be any cartoon character she would be Velma from Scooby Doo. If one remembers it was Velma who always had that intuitive instinct and desire to solve the mystery. Rosie also wants to solve the mystery, but her puzzle is not who killed old man Whetterspoon, but what field of art to pursue.

ARTS & LEISURE

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Porno for Pyros rocks on

By **BLAKE POLETT & KIMI HODGES**

Arts & Leisure Editor Staff Writer

As we arrived at the Porno for Pyros show, crowds surrounded the Capitol Theatre in Port Chester, New York. The line stretched around the block. All kinds waited together: preppies, freaks, hippies, drag queens and even some who looked like they missed the turn for the Dave Matthews Band Concert that same night in NYC. All ages was the name of this game. A family with a seven year old named Tuesday mingled with some club kids as new-found friends shared cigarettes in the cold night air.

We waited from seven till about eight, and then the line was split: age 21 and over on the right, age 21 and under on the left. A number of pre-teen wonders, one dressed as Super Woman, one as Alice in Wonderland and various other Halloween-esque costumes, emerged from the masses. We went straight to the front. We positioned ourselves just right of center against the steel barricades that separated the crowd from the stage. We knew that there would be a debt to pay for



Perry Farrell dances into the night.

this priceless vantage point, but it's always worth it.

We waited for about an hour and a half and at 9:30, the opening band, Johnny Firecater, came on stage. They were entertaining, but all their songs sounded the same.

They continued on for about thirty-minutes. Gradually things started getting a bit tighter in the mosh-pit. More and more eager beavers crowded in as the sound and light

See PORN FOR PYROS, page 10

The Tune Inn's Fourth Anniversary Shindig:

"6 bands, 6 bucks, 6 um...yeah"



Casualties rock on

By **KIMI HODGES**

Staff Writer

In the tradition of legendary punk acts from the late 70's, early 80's. The Casualties stormed onto stage with sky-high red and green mohawks and spiked hair sharp enough to draw blood. The crowd, with imilar hairstyles, yelled in harmony with the band, while slamming their fists in the air and throwing fellow punks around the room at The Tune Inn in New Haven, Connecticut. I have seen The Casualties several times at different venues (before Sub-Zero closed) but this was definitely the best I've heard them play. Actually, the entire line-up of this fourth anniversary shindig was overall good.

It started with Connecticut band RGMD, who were basically a more punk and less political Kage Against the Machine, also very similar to The Beastie Boys, minus the jazz. They had a preppie, skater look and

were far from spectacular. Although their music was OK, the highlight of their set was when the lead singer ended by jumping on an uptight guy with a mohawk and plaid pants who was about person number three in the room, because it was only around 7:45 when they

THE LOCAL SCENE

started.

The next band, The Pissed Officers, rocked. They consisted of three normal, yet almost dorky (in a cute way) looking guys who were probably only around 16 or 17 years old, but that only added to their appeal. Before The Pissed Officers started, they passed out sheets of really funny lyrics which included insults to cops, skate punks, yellow #5, and, basically everything else you could and couldn't think of. In the song *Parking Violation* some of the lyrics include: "When I write a ticket I get all warm inside/ And when I call the tow trucks in/ I glow with parking police pride/ Hey, I'm a parking cop!" and in another song, "You retarded skate punks won't get the best of me/ If you weren't so big and mean, I'd kick your butt!" They definitely have the funniest lyrics since The Descendants' "I Like Food." There was also a sign with the name of the song they were playing balanced on an amp, so you could sing along. And regardless of the fifteen songs they played, their set only lasted around fourteen minutes because they played so quickly... now that's punk rock. (Also, I definitely recommend buying *Abstract* their split 45 with Gerty Farish immediately after you read this.)

Infamous Connecticut punk rock band, The Injections, played next and were as good as they always are. They are less hard core than The Casualties and have more melodic tunes that appeal to a lot of people because of their radio-friendly sound.

Kitty Badass, composed of two guys and two girls, came soon after. Contrary to popular belief, females can play fast and tough guitar. Singer Jeannie both captivates and intimidates all who listen to her and guys yelled "I love you," more than once that night. The band reminded me of Black Flag with a female voice, they were complete with group vocals and an in your

See 6 BANDS, page 10

THE LOCAL SCENE

Kitty Badass:

Not just some band

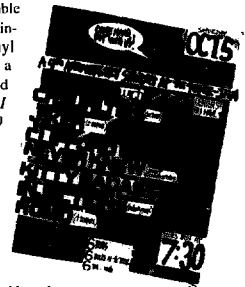
By **BLAKE POLETT & KIMI HODGES**

Arts & Leisure Editor Staff Writer

As we arrived at the Tune-Inn, located on Center Street in New Haven, we were greeted by a friendly woman who informed us that it was, "six bucks for six bands." We were really there to see Kitty Badass, but were pleasantly surprised to see that The Casualties and The Injections were also playing that evening.

Kitty Badass is a punk-rock band comprised of lead singer, Jeannie Fry; lead guitarist, Jen Blauvelt; Bassist, Jason "Jay" Mones; and drummer, Donny Vanak, who is also lead singer of The Fudge Daddy-os. Kitty Badass has been together for about two years. Their sound could be described as a mixture between L7, Babes

in Toyland and maybe even a little Hole, but that's our humble opinion. Previous recordings include, a seven inch split vinyl with the Fudge Daddy-os; a tape entitled, *Metalbox*; and they appear on a compilation, *I Can't Do Anything With 50 Cents*. A new vinyl is in the works, to be released on Eugene Records.



Kitty Badass went on at ten-o'clock and played a stunning set which included, *Little Mosquito* (Blake's fave) and *Drool Cup* (Kimi's fave.) The crowd loved

every minute of it, and it was easy to see why. Jeannie eats the stage and takes both moshers and listeners alike for a wild ride. The moshing seemed to intensify as soon as the band ascended the stage. Since we sat on the stage we had a great vantage point from which to view the amazing performance; a perfect spot right between the moshers and the band. We listened intently through cries of, "Jeannie you're a Goddess!" It is not hard to imagine this band becoming big one day, but not commercial or sell out big; this group will stay true to their ideals and to their fans, much like Porno For Pyros. It's no secret that Kitty Badass does not relish the idea of becoming "corporate rock stars."

AN INTERVIEW WITH THE BAND



Left to right, in back are: Donny, Jeannie and Jen. On the right is Donny's girlfriend Rachel. Blake and Kimi are in the front.

After the bands set, and after the small group of autograph seeking fans (one of whom compared Jeannie's voice to Courtney Love's) dispersed, we had a chance to interview Jeannie and Jen. Jen, a lot of moshing took place tonight, what are your feelings towards moshing? "Girls need to get in there (the pit) more. Better yet, girl's need to get on stage more!" Jeannie, what is your advice to kids who want to be in music? "Start your own band as soon as possible." Jeannie, who are some of your influences? "Jen is my influence!" Jen, who are some of your influences? "Jeannie's mine too!" Jeannie, what's in your stereo right now? "A band called Spiritualized." Jeannie, what's your earliest childhood memory? "Learning how to walk. I remember being lazy and not wanting to walk at all." Was high school "the best years of your life" as we all hear so often? "No. Don't believe people when they say that. Life

See KITTY BADASS, page 10

Nirvana's newest: *From the Muddy Banks of the Wishkah*

By **BLAKE POLETT**
Arts & Leisure Editor

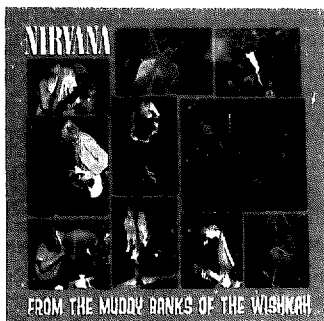
As I listen to Nirvana's *From the Muddy Banks of the Wishkah*, I am reminded just how much I love this band. The very first CD I bought for myself was Nirvana's *Nevermind*. The year was 1992, and I was twelve. Little did I know then that this band would captivate me for years to come.

The latest addition to my Nirvana collection is no exception. This rekindles a flame lit long ago when Nirvana was nothing more than a couple of guys from Aberdeen, Washington, who played local gigs and practiced in one-room garage apartments. I thought this flame died with Kurt, and for the most part it did, but this album brings it back, if just for a while. Also, for those out there who are not Nirvanaphiles, the *Wishkah*, is a

river near Aberdeen, Washington, where Kurt Cobain and Krist Novoselic grew up.

My two favorite songs on the album were definitely *Been A Son*, and *Sliver*. I found myself sitting in my room repeating, "Mom and dad went to a show. Dropped me off at grandpa Joe's. Grandma take me home. Grandma take me home. After dinner I had ice cream. Fell asleep and watched T.V. Woke up in my mother's arms. Grandma take me home. Grandma take me home." all over again, as if I'd just heard *Sliver* for the first time. One could call this album a remnant, piecing together live bits from concerts all around the world. But what's a band who's lead singer/

songwriter/founder is dead to do? I hope I speak for all Nirvana fans in being very happy with this unex-



pected patch-work. The version of *Lithium* (re-

corded live at the Paradiso in Amsterdam, Holland, November 25th, 1991) which appears on the album is one of the best I've ever heard. It beats the bootleg of Nirvana in Rome in '94 (their last concert) that I've got, and it has more depth than the polished, refined *Nevermind* rendition.

Even the very first Nirvana song appears on this recording. As Krist Novoselic writes in the album notes, "*Spank Thru*," this version having been recorded on November 19, 1991 in Rome, was actually the first Nirvana song."

This album spans Nirvana's entire career. From the hopeful beginnings of *Spank Thru* and *Sliver* to the later songs like *Scentless Ap-*

prentice and *lourette's* (yes, it's supposed to be lower case). From the early years with drummer Chad Channing and then to Dave Grohl, now lead singer for Foo Fighters, *Wishkah*, can be looked at as a sort of live history of Nir-

The *Wishkah* is a river near Aberdeen, Washington, where Kurt Cobain and Krist Novoselic grew up.

vana. Nirvana goes back to their roots as a live band for this exceptional collection.

When you're tired of all the new stuff and wannabe bands, turn up some Nirvana, and you'll be reminded what music really is.

Doin' That Thing You Do

By **JACQUELINE SMITH & BLAKE POLETT**

Staff Writer Arts & Leisure Editor

Tom Hanks is one of the biggest stars to come out of Hollywood. He usually plays smart, funny, nice guys. Earning himself two Oscars and starting in more than a dozen films, why not direct like many other actors seem to be doing lately. In *That Thing You Do*, Hanks does just that, and the result is a true delight. Incidentally, Hanks also wrote the script for the film.

The movie centers around a smalltown band in 1964 Erie, Pennsylvania. In the movie, the bands drummer breaks his arm on the day of a talent show, and a replacement is needed. The band consists of, Jimmy (Jonathon Scheck), Lenny (Steve Zahn), and Steve (Ethan Embry). Luckily, a friend, Guy Patterson a.k.a. "Sketch," who works for his father at the family-owned appliance store, happens to be a great drummer. He goes to the garage and they prac-

tice, and come up with a name, "The Oneders," which is supposed to be pronounced like "The Wonders". Guy, portrayed by Tom Everett Scott, does a better job than the other drummer. The song that the band is to play at the talent show is where the title for the movie came from, and *That Thing You Do* is a snappy, catchy tune that makes you want to get up and dance, even if it does make you feel cheesy in the process! Originally, the song had been practiced slower, but Guy speeds up the drums at the show and the whole crowd gets on their feet, and starts hoppin'. The lead singer, Jimmy, gets mad but sings along anyway. It is because of Guy that the Oneders win the trophy. The owner of a local diner and dance club, Villa Piano's, sees the Oneders, and hires them to play at his club. They go and play there, and make a good amount of money. They become pretty popular locally, and even gain some groupies. Soon they record their hit song, *That Thing You Do*, and it sells well at the club.

Everything seems to go very fast

for the Oneders. Soon they get a small-time manager, radio airplay, and in what seems like no time they are playing in Pittsburgh. It is in Pittsburgh that they are introduced to a manager from Playtone Records, Mr. White, played by Tom Hanks. White leads the band members on the ride of their lives, and their song climbs to a top 100 spot on the *Billboard* charts. The spelling of their name is changed to "The Wonders."

Unfortunately, this rise to fame, had it's costs. Jimmy's two year relationship with Faye (Liv Tyler), is ruined. Mostly because Jimmy would not commit and gets very cynical toward her. She is lovely and sweet and Guy sees this in her. Throughout the movie I was wishing they would get together. You'll have to go and see it to find out if they did.

That Thing You Do gets seven stars from me, because it was so engaging, and the general consensus from those who have seen it, is that it just makes you feel good. So go, feel good, and see *That Thing You Do*.

Dolcetti's does it for us

By **NICK FERRER & BRIAN DIMENNA**

Staff Writers

We were cruisin' down the post road on a typical guys night out. The car, a 67 Chevy convertible, the girls, swarming us. We were both starving for a night of fine Italian delicacies. Then in the distance, like a mirage, appeared Dolcetti's, a Rome-like restaurant in the heart of Darien. Neither of us could resist checking out this quaint-looking little "ristorante." So we pulled away from the chicks and headed in.

As soon as the maitre d' saw what good looking guys we were she seated us right away. At that moment we knew we were in store for a fine meal. The aromas of the freshly baked bread, and exquisite Italian sauces drifted under our noses and tickled our fancy.

The waiter spoke surprisingly good English for an Italian named Jeff. He brought us a couple of cokes, since Brian's fake mustache

did not convince him we were over 21. Perhaps the only flaw of the evening was the first round of drinks which were unflatteringly flat. However, after Nick hinted that we were in fact the well respected *Neirad* reviewers that we are, the second round tasted as if Mr. Coca-Cola had made it himself.

We then proceeded with the customary ordering process. The menu seemed to cover all areas of Italian cuisine. We started the evening off with Dolcetti's world renowned bruschetti. The bread was so soft and delicate, the tomatoes so plump, and the dressing, oh the dressing, was like nothing either of us had ever tasted and will probably never taste again. With our pallets left begging for more we began with our main course.

Nick ordered the linguini with red clam sauce, for a more sophisticated taste. He was completely satisfied beyond his wildest fantasies. The linguini was cooked to perfection, and the clams tasted like they came

right off the boat. It was good enough to satisfy even the pickiest Italian grandmother. It left Nick smiling for the rest of the night, much to the delight of all his female fans.

Brian decided on the chicken parmesean. The chicken was so delicate and plump, and the parmesean that topped it tasted finer than all the cheeses in Europe. And the marinara sauce tasted as if Ragù himself had cooked it. Brian would not stop talking about it until the next morning.

We tried to savor our meals as long as we could, but finally, the time came; it was time to pay the bill. The expense was fairly high, but at the same time extremely reasonable considering the quality of the delicious Italian food.

After apologizing for the magnetic effect we had caused at the window, the mob of beautiful fems, we decided it was time to move on. "Fairwell, oh fine Dolcetti's," we hollered from outside, "until we meet again."



Kate & Kate

Mesmerizing memories: Favorite Sitcom Friends

Have you ever watched your favorite sitcom and asked yourself what it would be like to be friends with a character on the show? We asked ourselves that very same question, and came up with a list of ten characters we would most want to be in our circle of friends.

At the top of our list is Chandler Bing, from the hit NBC show, *Friends*. His mix of witty sarcasm, as well as the ability to make fun of himself make for a winning personality which we all know and love. Plus, he's just cool. In a close second is RayAnne Graff from the canceled ABC drama, *My So-Called Life*. RayAnne epitomizes the loyal friend. Who can forget the time she approached Jordan Catalano at the pool table to demand acknowledgement of his love for Angela? Her spunky personality and independent nature add to her irresistible charm. Third is Mike Seever, whose *Growing Pains* made us yearn to be part of the Seever clan. Mike is the all-American boy, in that he makes mistakes, lies about them, gets in trouble, and eventually learns from them, all the while making fun of Carol. Plus, he watched over Kate Golden's childhood crush, Luke. In a close fourth is Charles from *Charles in Charge*. While his hair leaves something to be desired, his maturity and wisdom compensate for his barber. Charles is dependable, honest, and a good buddy to Buddy Lembeck. In fifth place is Will Smith from *The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air*. He is funny, talented, and cool. Plus he can dance and play "B-ball outside of the school." In sixth place comes Elaine from *Seinfeld*. Her wit, humor, and zany conversations make you wish you were her neighbor. In seventh place is Jamie Buckman, from *Mad About You*. Helen Hunt has come a long way from her movie debut as Lynn from *GIRLS JUST WANNA HAVE FUN* (our fave!!) Although Jamie is not quite as cool as Lynn, she is down-to-earth and level-headed, important qualities in a true friend. Number eight is Kate from *Kate and Allie*. Of course, we may be biased because of her name, but Kate McKartie is definitely a cool person. She put up with Ali and her pearls, had decent clothes for an eighties girl, and took everything with a grain of salt and a laugh. Ninth is David Hogan, from the *Hogan Family*. We know he would be a good friend because of the way he takes care of his brothers. He makes us laugh, and he deals with Mrs. Poole, so we know he would be able to deal with Kate (Waits.) Lastly, Norm from *Cheers*. We'd know where to find him, if we ever needed him. These characters would be ideal friends because of their humor, loyalty, and independence. However, since these characters do not really exist, we advise getting to know us, because we are just as cool.

PORNO FOR PYROS

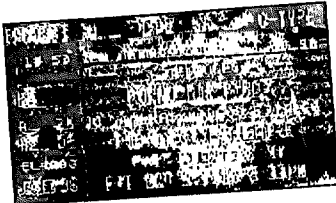
continued from page 8

checks became more frequent.

Lights began to flash and just then one of the security guards informed us and all others in the front that, "If you are being crushed, we will pull you up and over the barriers. You probably will be squashed." With that said, some of the girls next to us asked the guards if they were serious. The guards replied, "Yes, you will be jolted once the moshing starts." We knew this already and had every intention of staying right where we were, never more than five feet away and sometimes as close as two feet from Perry Farrell. As the crew prepared the stage for the Pyros, bouquets of orchids, yellow roses, and callalilies were placed on each of the speakers. Then next to each of the microphones roadies places one bottle of spring water, a beer, and a towel. Near Perry's mike a nice bottle of red wine was waiting. White gauze draped over all the light stands, and incense filled the entire area with tranquil scents. At about 10:30, the drummer, Steven Perkins, came out first, and then the keyboardist, followed by the guitar man and bassist Mike Watt, of several other bands including Firehose and The Minutemen. But more recently a successful solo career. Watt went on tour with Foo Fighters, then a little known band. Last to dance his way on stage was Perry Farrell. The enigmatic lead singer was wearing beige linen pants, an old corset-like garment, a top hat, and a red, navy and beige leisure coat (which he took off); he also had white dots speckled around his face. Farrell's kind face and calming presence set the tone for the evening. "We're here because we love you," he said genuinely. "We call ourselves, PORNO FOR PYROS!" With that the crowd was set in mo-

tion, and the moshing began. Boot clad folks flew over head and Airwalks held down into the depths of the pit. All hands helped to move the adventurous moshers. Perry screamed, "PORNO," and we chanted, "FOR PYROS." This went on until the first song started. Then some girls jumped the barricade and kissed the security guards. They pleaded to be let on stage, but the guards forcefully told them to go back out. They whined and pushed and then, as would happen again and again that night, Perry pulled them onto stage himself.

We had seen



the pre-teen wonder posse talking to a lady with a camera before the Pyros went on, and we didn't know what to make of it. Little did we know that these middle-schoolers would get on stage! Well, that was enough to make the masses around us fighting mad. Cries of "Why should those teeny boppers get up there!" could be heard from all directions. Oh the irony and the sweetness! Perry loves all his fans, new and old, whether they were the most dedicated Jane's Addiction (Perry Farrell's band prior to forming Porno For Pyros) fan or if you just melt upon hearing that song, *Tahitian Moon* on the radio. Their new album, *Great God's Urge*, has received a substantial amount of air play. It is the lyrics

from *Tahitian Moon* that captivate the audience. Farrell sang smoothly as the crowd followed in unison, "I don't know if I'll make it home tonight. But I know I can swim, under the Tahitian Moon."

The music of Porno For Pyros can be described as mellow, tribal sounds, while at the same time coming across as aggressive rock. Exotic, hippie rhythms are driven by punk roots.

Knowing that Jane's Addiction is one of the mostly highly respected alternative rock bands, and that Perry Farrell has earned much acclaim as the creator of Lollapalooza (he has since sold the enterprise), we expected a good show, but the man went through the roof. Phenomenal does not begin to describe the sounds coming from the stage. Awesome vocals combined with a synthesizer created a contagious rhythm that we won't soon forget. Each song had a melody and hard guitar riffs, and the combination was perfect for listening or moshing. Another highlight of the evening was when Farrell handed out flowers to those of us close enough to reach. A sprig of purple orchids found its way into the hand of a certain Darienite. Farrell's unforgettable kindness will be remembered.

This other-worldly, utopian experience lasted until about 11:30, when the band thanked everyone for coming and moved off the stage. We begged for an encore, and they came back out to play *Mountain Song*, the classic Jane's Addiction tune. It was at this time that we snapped some photos—made possible because a certain security guard looked the other way. The crowd swayed back and forth and held onto that last moment of pleasure. Then the band left, but still many people stayed near the stage, including us. We wanted to see it we could get one of the

band's empty beer bottles or a towel—anything of theirs. Some of the security staff kept an eye on us, but half of them left. However, a small stage boy pushed all items out of reach. Everyone tried to reach the stage, which was little more than an arms length away.

We had just started up the aisle to leave when we saw some friends. After we got through the whole, "Oh my God! I didn't know you were coming," we asked them if they liked the show, and they received it with the same enthusiasm that we did.

We went to look for a phone to call our ride, and happened upon our friend Jeannie, lead singer for Kitty Badass, the band we would see the next day. Unfortunately, we did not know she was there before this moment, because she spent a good part of the evening backstage, but she did drive us home.

For just over an hour, we had swam under the beautiful *Tahitian Moon* also known as a Porno For Pyros Concert. Since the band was formed, Porno For Pyros has had to live up to Jane's Addiction. We've all heard or said, "I like Porno For Pyros, but Jane's Addiction was definitely a lot better," at one point in time. Heck, people who have never even listened to either band say it. The phrase was immortalized in the movie, *The River Wild*. This might be the year people will be forced to admit Porno For Pyros is one of the best bands around, regardless of how good Jane's Addiction was. This was definitely proven to us at their show. We, too, were among the sad millions who had the strange misconception that Farrell could never top the almighty Jane's Addiction record, *Ritual De Lo Habitual*. We are happy to be disproved. Catch the Pyros whenever you can; run to buy the tickets if you have to. The experience is unforgettable.

The Spitfire Grill ignites flame

By BLAKE POLETT
Arts & Leisure Editor

In an age when sex, violence, and scandals are common in real life, *The Spitfire Grill* offers a refreshing change. This movie is like a breath of fresh air.

Set in a small rural town in Maine, the film, starring Ellen Burstyn as Hannah, and Marcia Gay Harden as Shelby, relates the fate of Perchance "Percy" Talbot, realistically and sympathetically portrayed by Alison Elliott.

As a waitress and cook at the Spitfire Grill, Percy, a recently released convict attempts to rebuild her shattered life. Her essential goodness, honesty, sincerity and vulnerability are gradually revealed. She has a positive influence on the character of the entire town. Her sweet demeanor, eagerness to help, and desire to belong, are endearing. Percy boards in a room at Hannah's old house. When Percy is not at work, she cleans and does chores Hannah, a feisty elderly lady. As the movie progresses, Hannah and Percy become good friends, especially after Percy finds Hannah on the floor, having fallen from a chair she was using to reach a closet shelf. Percy gets her to the hospital and doctors said, had it not been for Percy, Hannah would not have had much hope. Hannah comes home to recuperate and Percy takes care of her, waiting on her day and night. It is during this time that Hannah's nephew Nahum's wife, Shelby comes to help out at the grill. Shelby teaches Percy how to cook while Percy teaches Shelby how to stand up to her verbally abusive, be-

littling husband. They trust each other and become good friends much to the chagrin of Nahum.

Hannah had tried to sell the Grill for years but nobody made an offer. Percy told Shelby that she had read about an innkeeper running an essay contest in which each applicant sends in one-hundred dollars with an essay stating why they should be awarded the establishment. If 2500 essays are sent in, then Hannah can pick the one she finds most worthy. The ladies put ads in newspapers through Percy's friends who are phone operators for a tourism center in a Maine prison.

Percy, a recently released convict, attempts to rebuild her shattered life.

Large mail bags of essays begin arriving at Hannah's and the girls spend many nights going through the letters and bonding in the process. Shelby's self-esteem blossoms.

Unfortunately, the detestable Nahum is always lurking. The money that is collected from the essay contest is put in a safe at Hannah's house. Nahum, who handles some affairs for Hannah, knows the combination. He goes to her house one night and puts the money in a sack. Hearing Percy approach, he hides, leaving the sack with the money on the kitchen table. Each evening this sack is filled with canned goods by Hannah or Percy, and placed near the wood pile for a

mysterious mountain man. The mountain man is actually Eli, Hannah's son, who came back from Vietnam unable to function in society. All the townspeople think he died in the war, only Hannah and Percy know he's alive. (Hannah did not want Percy to know this, and became angry with her when Percy discovered his existence.) Nahum hides and watches as Percy puts some cans in the sack and brings it to the wood pile. She is unaware of the 200,000 dollars inside. Percy, accused of taking the money, relates the story of the mountain man but few believe her. A manhunt is launched for her "accomplice" and events begin to race to a conclusion.

Hannah, regaining her trust of Percy, breaks her out of jail and sends her to warn her son. What happens next makes this film a classic as Percy struggles to stay ahead of the dogs and pusses while Nahum tries to intervene. A tidy American ending is not in the cards as tragedy occurs for one of the main characters. Unfortunately, several story lines are tied together and you leave the theater with tears in your eyes and warm feeling a quiet satisfaction.

The setting of the film is so realistic, the characters are skillfully developed and portrayed and the entire story is so believable that this film ends up my "Must see" list. You care about these people. You want them to make it. You need to have their dreams come true. This is the way movies must have been in some "Golden Age" of film-making. Viewing *The Spitfire Grill* is time well spent.

KITTY BADASS

continued from page 8

gets much better after high school." Now, for the question that so many inquiring minds (not particularly us) here at DHS want to know: Jeannie, do you like Dave Matthews Band? "Yes, actually, I think they're pretty good." Jen, where's Kitty Badass playing next? "We will be at the Globe in Norwalk on November 29th."

Kitty Badass is a strong, thoroughly talented band. Their captivating stage presence and unparalleled sound make them one of the hottest groups on the local scene.

Tapes and vinyl are available at all live performances, *The Vinyl Solution*, in Port Chester, New York, and at the Elevator Music Shop, located at the Tune Inn in New Haven.

6 BANDS

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face attitude. The only disappointing point was that their set seemed all too short in order to make way for the Connecticut/New York ska-punk sounds of Jiker.

Well, my personal opinion on the whole ska-punk thing is that punk is good enough without mixing other types of music with it, especially ska, but that's just me. Although I did not enjoy most of Jiker's music very much, I can definitely say they put on a show. This is on the basis of their total Kiss-type personalities. They were loud, in touch with the crowd, and were spitting bright red blood everywhere. I also was impressed by their cover of "The Young One's" theme song. "The Young Ones" is a hilariously disgusting television show which aired in the early eighties in England, and later on a young MTV (as if you didn't know that). Sadly, it is not on the air now although it might be brought back to Comedy Central in the future, but that is merely a rumor in the future.

Finally, we come to The Casualties. Brace yourself for a little speech.

We all long for pureness in our lives, free from all that is fake and excess. To fulfill this need in our souls some seek religion, some sell all material possessions to "give off the fat of the land," and others listen to punk rock. Not the punk that a bunch of corporate suits try to sell you on the television and radio, but the stuff that's completely honest. These people are the ones who see The Casualties. With their defiant songs that question both authority and society they are the purest form of punk. Their music is basically composed of fast paced bar chords, a drummer who pounds so hard you would think he had a personal vendetta against the drum kit, and an aggressive lead singer with an authority problem. And all of them have a killer look that completely rejects conformity. A band this good is definitely worth seeing, and since they play Connecticut so often there's no excuse not to. So whether you like punk or just want to see what punk is, I count on seeing you at their next show, it's definitely an experience you shouldn't miss. After all, what's the worst that could happen to you if you went? Well, besides physically...

X-COUNTRY

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Rick Weismiller, Jeff Robertson, Jeff Zarilli, and coming out of nowhere freshman Scott Finlay. Of the performance by the two freshmen Timmons said, "The freshmen have been improving all year. They really work hard."

The reason for Grambling's exclusion was that he had missed too many practices. The news came as a real shock to Grambling himself who said of the news, "He told me while I was mentally preparing for the race, I knew something was up since he doesn't usually bother me during my meditation. I was really crushed."

Still stunned by the defeat by New Canaan, Darien limped into the last meet of the season and came out with two defeats. Danbury and Fairfield proved to stren for a Darien team with bruised morale. They did however beat Staples and finish the season with a 12-5 record, one of the best finishes in recent memory. Again the Wave received a boost from Poli who won the race, but the rest of the team was shut out of the Top 10 and is heading to FCIAC's in a bit of a slump. Jay Grambling said of the team's state of mind, "The last few races we haven't been pumped, that's really important in racing."

**RECYCLE
THIS
NEWSPAPER**

GIRLS' SWIMMING

Swimmers end season with 5-3 record

By **NOREEN GILLESPIE** News Editor

The girls swim team rounded out their dual meet season on Wednesday, October 23 with a 129-60 virtual destruction of Fairfield, as the girls won all of the events they swam. The girls finished up in 5-3, with their only losses to Wilton, Greenwich, and New Canaan.

Seniors Susan Shepard, Erin Stinchfield, Kate Watts, Lane Shriner, Dana Himmel, Michelle Zarilli and Martha Jones were honored with flowers in a special tribute to celebrate their last dual meet in their DHS swimming career. The all-senior medley relay of Shepard, Himmel, Jones, and Zarilli began the meet with a first place finish to set the tone for what was to be an afternoon of fast swimming.

Lauren Dudley, Katherine Thelin, and Noreen Gillespie swam the 200 free for first, third, and fourth place points; while Whitney Hooper, Lyn Cocchiaro, and Danielle Claibourne pulled in first, third, and sixth place finishes in the 200 Individual Medley.

In an all-senior 50 freestyle effort, Himmel won the event with a season-best time, as Shriner finished in fourth and Watts in fifth, also a season best.

When the swimming action halted for the diving, Katherine Mattison awed the crowds again with another first place finish, while freshman Megan McKenna scored a second place finish. Stinchfield placed third, and sophomore Casey Danleavy saw her second day off the boards for the season, finishing with a season best score.

Katherine kept the trend going in the 100 butterfly, with a first place finish. Christine Rongoe and Jones finished in fourth and sixth. Zarilli scored another first place finish in the 100 free, followed

by a second place swim by Lizzy Boyle and a fourth place swim by Christine Sheperd.

The 500 freestyle saw swims from Hooper and Gillespie, who placed first and third. Himmel, Zarilli, Hooper and Boyle swam to another first in the 200 freestyle relay, as Shepard, Dudley, and Christine Rongoe swept the 100 backstroke with first, second, and third place finishes.

Himmel and Cocchiaro scored first and third place points in the 100 breaststroke, followed by Ana-Katrin Hildebrandt.

Hooper, Boyle, Dudley, and Thelin scored the last first place finish of the day in the 400 freestyle relay, with an all-senior effort of Zarilli, Shepard, Jones, and Shriner coming from behind for second place points.

As of the conclusion of the dual meet season, the girls have had a significant number qualify for the Class S State Championship meet on November 9. Seniors Himmel, Zarilli, and Shepard have all posted state times, as juniors Katie Hawes, Boyle, Cocchiaro, and Gillespie have all made the cut as well. Sophomores Dudley, Hooper, and Thelin have qualified. McIntyre and Claibourne have qualified for the freshmen.

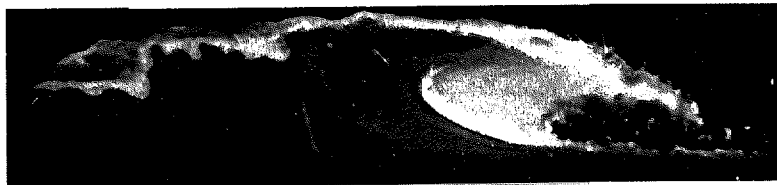
"I am extremely excited for the championship season," said team captain Kate Watts. "We have some tough challenges ahead, but the team has come to a point where we have bonded and together we can transcend those challenges."

FOOTBALL

Wave off to 7-1 start



Sophomore quarterback Andrew Davidson drops back to pass in a recent game against Greenwich which resulted in the Wave's first loss of the season. Following the loss to Greenwich, Mike Sangster's squad has responded with a 25-21 victory over then undefeated Harding and a 42-6 annihilation of Wilton along with a 20-0 pounding of Fairfield. Playing exceptionally well for the Wave have been Senior tailback Ryan Damon and tackle Todd Mossa, and Junior quarterback Tom DiMenna along with Junior Defensive Tackle Justin Finnegan.



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SPORTS

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VOLLEYBALL

Volleyball squad catapults towards century mark

By JEN COSTA

Staff Writer

The Darien Girls' Volleyball team continues to hold onto the past. Undeclared in the last 95 matches, the Wave is well on its way to the century mark. The team will only reach this plateau if they make it all the way through FCIACs, States, and win the first game of the season. So far, they are accomplishing this goal.

The team faced a very difficult task in the FCIAC finals. The Wave was facing a very grim fate after the first two sets. In the beginning, the team was down 2-0 against Stamford. The sets that went to Stamford were lost 9-15 and 13-15. In the third set, the Wave almost met the death of the streak. They were losing 14-8; the end nearly came after a ball was hit out of bounds. To save this set, Josie Weymann ran to the player bench to snack the ball back over the net. The Wave came back to win this match 3-2, with game scores of 9-15, 13-15, 17-15, 15-7, and 15-11. This match is now known as the biggest comeback in FCIAC history.

One of the biggest games this season was against Darien's arch rival, New Canaan. New Canaan's request was denied. The match was won 3-1. The team brought in scores of 15-3, 6-15, 15-14, and 16-14. The second game was only the second loss for the Wave.

The Wave headed into FCIACs after two 3-0 wins against Danbury and Harding. These wins were the last of the regular season. For their 93rd win, the team crashed down on Staples. This match proved to be easy for the Wave. The team won 3-0. In the next FCIAC game, Darien faced Trinity Catholic once again, at New Canaan High. The Wave beat Trinity 3-1 with scores of 15-11, 15-4, 10-15, and 15-9.

Once again the Wave will suffer with the loss of Senior varsity players to college and Roberta to Brazil. "It's going to be hard for me. I've never gotten this close to any team. I feel lucky to be a part of this team," said Tri-Captain Jenny Bearhs. However, the team now holds many assets for the future. There are already two freshmen on the varsity roster for States and FCIACs. These two talented freshmen are Alice



Junior Roberta Palma and Senior Tri-Captains Jen Bearhs and Alex Bisset receive a cake commemorating their final season of Blue Wave Volleyball (Roberta will be leaving for Brazil in February).

Mesedahl and Jessica Leutzinger. "Alicia Mazurek has a lot of heart," said Bearhs of upcoming players. Julie Schotknecht added, "Our whole bench has shown that they are great players."

To prepare for upcoming games,

Coach LaRusso watches every game that other teams have played in the past. She critiques the plays and re-lays the information to her team. The team practices these weak points and continues to work on the stronger areas of their game. "In every film I see

strengths and weaknesses," said Coach LaRusso.

The team continues to work on its weaknesses and improve with each practice. They have a "never-say-die" attitude, that will continue to pump the Wave toward victory.

GIRLS' CROSS COUNTRY

Girls' cross-country making strides

By AUDREY DROESCH

Staff Writer

The girls' cross-country team got themselves off to a running start, establishing themselves as a force to contend in the Eastern Division and vaulting to the position of second place team (they were defeated only by New Canaan in a heartbreaker meet on October 9) in this highly competitive league. At the FCIAC meet at Waveny Park on October 18, the girls managed a seventh place finish overall out of 16 teams, in a large part due to the stellar performance of Junior wunderkind Jen Bosich, who placed seventh in individual competition out of a field of over 200 runners. Co-Captain Bosich was exceedingly modest and humble. "I think that the success of the team is paramount, and I am glad that I could contribute to that success," she stated.

Thanks to a challenging summer mileage schedule and the persistence and dedication of all the girls, especially Bosich, Senior Co-Captain Marisa Saur, Juniors Vanessa Fjellidal, Nina Henderson, and Dana Currier, and sophomores Kate Crowley and Jessica Calvey, the team enjoyed an exceptional 1996 season. Highlights included a victorious tri-meet against Trumbull, Bassick, and Harding and an enviable 2nd place team finish in the Wilton Invitational. In Trumbull, the Blue Wave drowned out the competition, capturing first, second,

and third place thanks to the valiant efforts of Co-Captains Bosich and Saur and Henderson, respectively. Currier, Calvey, Fjellidal, Crowley, Juniors Audrey Droesch and Linzy Howe, freshman Elizabeth Anderson, and sophomore Erica Pardo, following close on the heels of their three teammates, capped off the victory for Darien.

On October 5, the team travelled to Long Island to compete in the St. Anthony's Invitational, a prestigious varsity/freshmen race involving teams from as far away as South Carolina. There, the team placed a very enviable 7th out of 22 of the best varsity teams on the eastern seaboard.

"The course was definitely challenging," said sophomore Jess Calvey. "There are two very steep and foreboding hills. But it is far from impossible, because there is, of course, a due amount of recompense. If you push yourself up the hills during the first half of the race, the rest of the course is downhill. Maybe that is almost a metaphor for the entire experience of cross-country," she added, after pausing to reflect. "If you can make it through all the hard work and frustration, you will eventually arrive at the indescribable satisfaction and sense of self-esteem that goes with knowing that you succeeded at something at which not everyone would be able to succeed, something that, as Disraeli said, is for only 'the few and the very few'."



Junior Vanessa Fjellidal.

Junior Dana Currier, a three-year veteran of the sport, summed up the regular season with these well-chosen words: "As an enthusiast of both cross-country and track, I couldn't have wished for a better team or a better season. The camaraderie, paired with our extraordinary successes, made for an unforgettable experience that I will long treasure."

BOYS' CROSS COUNTRY

Poli powers boys' cross-country

By BRIAN DIMENNA

Staff Writer

The boys' cross country team has revived drastically from last season; as the group entered the final meet of the season, the chance for an FCIAC title was in sight. Cross country finished last year with a 9-8 record, but after the first four meets Darien headed to New Canaan boasting a 9-2 record and a chance at wrapping up a title. Darien had already posted wins against teams including Trumbull, St. Joes, Ridgefield, Harding, Bassick, Wilton, Westhill, McMahon, and Norwalk. All they had to do was defeat archrival New Canaan in the second to last meet of the year.

This year's team has relied heavily on senior Ken Poli, who has had three second place finishes, and one victory. Poli gives Darien an advantage in almost every meet. Also, the solid performances of co-captains Jay Grambling, and Rick Weismiller have really sparked the team. Both of whom are almost always in the top 10. Other contributors have included James Weldon, Joe Vaccaro, and Jeff Robertson, and not to mention the extremely talented freshman Jeff Zarilli. Also aiding the squad has been the performance of improving sophomore Greg Grambling who has continued to improve after earning a spot in the varsity lineup. However, he was forced to sit out the last meet due to disciplinary reasons. This had a dramatic impact on the race.

With the title on the line, Coach Steve Timmons urged his team to realize the importance of the race. "This was the biggest meet of the year, I wanted the guys to know how important winning this race was," commented Timmons. "Winning the east would be a very special thing for this team." Unfortunately, things did not go Darien's way. Despite Ken Poli winning the race in "Poliesque" style, and a career best performance from co-captain Jay Grambling the Wave fell to New Canaan by a single point, 28-27. They did however, defeat both Greenwich and Stamford which was a pleasant surprise. "At first it looked like we had New Canaan beat," said Timmons, "but I thought Greenwich had us."

The top finishers behind Poli and Grambling were Joe Vaccaro,

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