

AUTO BE A BETTER WAY

With an automobile operator's license having become a necessity for "today's" teenager, it would seem that a better method of obtaining a license might be arrived at. The hitherto careless method of parent-home training has been stricken by the law makers, in favor of an expensive, required, instructor-taught course. This new method has quickly been proven awkward for all, and quite impossible for many. The availability of the driver education courses in high schools is economically helpful; it provides a saving of up to seventy-five dollars. Both methods pose a problem, however, in that many students are unable to attend the classes because of some job, or extra-curricula demands on their time.

If an alternative method of instruction is deemed necessary, it would seem to lie on some middle ground between the rather carelessly taught home course, and the generally prohibitive school or instructor taught course. The keys to the instruction are experience and safety. A parent who has held a license for at least five years, without having sustained any serious violations, should be able to provide the experience, as well as an example of driving safety. A far more advanced manual than the one now available is called for. Both parent and student should be forced, by the make-up of the course, to take the program seriously; any possibilities to "cheat" should be done away with. The student's progress should be periodically reported to the Department of Motor Vehicles, and comprehensive records should be kept. With more restrictions imposed on an improved course, home instruction would become the most practical method of driver education.

COUNCIL CORNER

by Jon Bigelow

The election last week of Mike O'Neill as President, Nick Timbers as Vice President, Lynn Lynch as Recording Secretary, Anne Seagrave as Correspondence Secretary, and Pam Mills as Treasurer marks the beginning of the new Darien Student Organization in tangible form.

Although petitions for nomination for these offices were circulated before Spring Vacation, and campaign posters were artfully constructed during the vacation, this year's campaign crystallized at an assembly held on the morning of Wednesday, April 27. At that time, the present officers -- Dwight Timers (President), Sarah Campbell (Girls' Vice President), Leslie Martin (Secretary), and Conni Young (Treasurer) -- summarized what was involved in each of their offices, or the DSO equivalents, and each candidate stated in a short speech why he or she believed himself to be the best candidate. Most of the candidates were nominated by their campaign managers.

Some of the speeches proposed specific ideas for the operation of the DSO. For example, Jon Goodale, a Presidential candidate, pledged work for reinstatement of the smoking area; Vice Presidential nominee Jeff Pingpank proposed a program of monthly assemblies, and Treasurer hopeful David Sutcliffe came out in favor of a monthly balance sheet to show the exact financial state of the DSO.

On the other hand, many speeches stressed concepts. Among the many were those by Mike Sledge, who, running for President, stated that "wishing and hoping is not enough" to run the DSO. Nick Timbers, Vice Presidential candidate, who illustrated the need for capable leaders to build a foundation for the DSO, and Robin Risque, nominee for the office of Treasurer, who called for new faces in the DSO.

Most of the speeches were serious, some were amusing, but all were good. All of the candidates seemed

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staff

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April 19, 1966

To the Editor:

Re your editorial entitled "Sing Out" in the April 15 edition of NEIRAD: I would like to make some suggestions as to why there isn't and shouldn't be audience participation in the singing of the Star Spangled Banner and the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

People do not sing the Star Spangled Banner for one thing because it is a particularly lousy song and secondly, because people in general don't like to sing in public. Why should they have to? Why should we take at least five useful minutes out of each assembly to mindlessly repeat, in song and pledge, our affirmation to the good old U. S. of A.

Firstly, no one thinks about what they are singing or pledging. They just mechanically get up and playback what they have been taught by rote before they could begin to comprehend what it meant. But, even if they did think about what they were saying, of what value would it be to this school or this nation? Would it do this nation any good or help it in any way? Of course not.

But, not only do I think that this regurgitation of chauvinistic nonsense is a ridiculous waste of time, it is also a very destructive and unhealthy practice. The reciting of the pledge of allegiance and the national anthem are emotional and irrational expressions of nationalism. They are symbols, as is the flag, and symbols such as these are designed to evoke emotional, and therefore irrational, responses (e.g. Nazi Swastika and eagle, Communist Red Star and hammer and sickle).

Nationalism is one of the most highly destructive forces in the world today. It is preventing this world from uniting to avert its headlong plunge towards nuclear destruction or famine, disease, and the resultant war caused by our wildly exploding population. There is not one reason why a person should pledge his allegiance to a symbol, the flag, or even to a country. Man must pledge his allegiance to all of humanity.

Nationalism must be stamped out. These mindless, irrational, emotional traditions must be stopped, just as administrators who "will not tolerate any unpatriotic gestures" and band directors who reprimand people for exercising their right to keep quiet must be stopped. We must go out of our way to encourage dissent. We must constantly question our values and traditions. We must stamp out dogmatism.

I move that we eliminate the pledge of allegiance and national anthem from every assembly of any kind.

Respectfully Yours,
David Roper

NEIRAD

INTERSECTION

Pepsi's back, but where has it been?

With the coming of summer, flowers are blooming everywhere, even on automobile antennae.

Pam Mills gets an "A" for effort. Can you imagine putting all those little stickers on all those milk cartons?

Congratulations to Jim Van Haasteren on his acceptance to the Hayden Planetarium summer program, "Astronomy and Space Science." Jim's is one of only eighty requests accepted out of several hundred.

Anyone interested in attending the DePauw University Communications Arts and Science Summer Institute (CASSI), should write to Dr. Hugh Henry, Associate Director-CASSI, DePauw University, Indiana 46135.

Francis Hubbard, a DHS graduate, has been awarded an Amherst Memorial Fellowship to study English at either Stanford, Berkeley, or Minnesota, in preparation of a teaching career.

A suitable plaque is in the works to commemorate the "Millett-Van Sant Auditorium," located at Darien High School.

The DHS American Field Service branch announces that fees for the May 14 Work Day will be \$1.25 per hour and \$1.50 per hour for girls and boys, respectively. Darien residents may make their requests for workers by calling 655-3328, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., through May 11.

The Great Gurb has gone. He has left behind, however, the spirit and sense of India, a devoted following of Ravi Shankar, and an expanding cult of Gana Petit. His Indian Studies class of 4th period wishes Mr. Clark a happy reincarnation as Director of Far Eastern Studies at Columbia.

NEIRAD now knows that the name of the "Anonymous Sophomore Girl" is Gertrude Guggenhiem. In the event that we get really hard up, we'll publish her poem.

Congratulations are in order to the new Dariannus editors: Dan Leonard, Newly West, Cathy Bagnal, Don Wilks, Joan Harris, and Missy Lindsey.

Choir Blazers

by Diane Tirpack



DOUG RAY MODELS

Wearing their new blazers for the first time, the Advanced Choir of DHS sang April 15th for the Rotary Club of Darien.

These royal blue wool jackets are accented by an emblem applied in white on the left pocket. The emblem features a musical staff with notes representing "D", "A", and "C", the initials of the choir's title, in the key of "F" sharp. The name of Darien High is prominently displayed.

The blazers were worn for the second time the night the choir performed for the Married Couples Club of the Congregational Church of Darien.

The performance offered a selection from the choir's regular repertoire, which includes madrigals, folk and contemporary songs.

The design was made especially for the jackets by DHS's famous skater, Marian Spratt, in Mr. Wilfred Sheldon's Art Department.

The coat features gold buttons in front, and on each sleeve cuff. The jackets, though worn with regular skirts and slacks, give the choir a neat, uniform look. Each member of the choir has his own jacket number for identification. The blazers were paid for by money obtained from many preceding concerts.

