

The Observer

Volume 51
Issue 25

Dearborn High School

Dearborn, Michigan

May 9, 1969

Orchestra Overcomes Pending Barriers; Receives Outstanding Ratings at Festival

Despite conflicts among driver's training, college testing, and Heart Relays, Dearborn High's orchestra once again came back with a first division rating from the State Band and Orchestra Festival April 26 at East Lansing High School.

Running on a late schedule, because they were lost for a prolonged period of time in Lansing, orchestra members were forced to tune their instruments in the hallway seconds before they were scheduled to perform in the high school auditorium.

After the stage performance, the DHS orchestra then went to the sight-reading room where they played three movements by Handel. This was the only major area where the orchestra received a second division rating.

Orchestra members then tried to eat lunch as they anxiously awaited their ratings. When results were posted, DHS had an overall first division rating.

To top off the exciting week, scholarship winners were announced at the Spring Concert which was held April 29.

Sisson Interlochen Scholarships are awarded to four deserving students from every high school in Dearborn. This year's recipients from DHS are flutist Bridgette Erikson and oboist Ellen Sudia, both juniors.

DHS Instrumental Music Department Scholarships went to celloists Margaret Wright, junior, and Linda Richter, sophomore.

A new scholarship was introduced to DHS this year, the Interdepartmental Award. This is awarded to a student who participates in both band and chorus. This year's winner was Doug Smith, junior, who plays the french horn and sings baritone.

Choir members who received the Sisson Award were baritone Jerry Shader and soprano Nedra Tavitigian, both juniors.

The Choir Scholarships went to juniors Steve Mueller, bass, and Rich Zajac, tenor.

Partial Solution Reached

School Board's Boundary Change Curbs Enrollment

A partial solution to the space problem at DHS has been reached with Board of Education approval of a boundary line change. The change, recommended at the March 24 meeting by the administration, effects present ninth grade students who will be attending Dearborn and Edsel Ford next year.

All present ninth grade students boundary line, or living on either



Photo by Dave Jones

DOUG SMITH, junior, receives the check for a scholarship at Interlochen from Mr. Phillip Mark, center, and Mr. Anthony Russo, right.



DEBATING the controversial issues between the administration and the student body on Law Day, last May 1, are attorneys, Mr. Moore, left, and Mr. Archer, right.

Dress Code Controversy Heightens

All parents, as well as DHS students and teachers, will have a chance to express their opinions concerning the dress code in a questionnaire distributed by the Student Council this week.

If 51 per cent of the parents and students indicate a desire for a change, either liberation, a complete abolishment, or a stiffening of the dress code, the Student Council will take steps to make it effective.

Their decisions will not be without outside influence, however. A plea in a newsletter to parents was sent

side of the streets specified in the boundary line will attend DHS.

Students affected by the boundary line change who will have older brothers or sisters still attending a high school other than proscribed by the new boundary line will have the option of attending either school.

The new boundary now begins at Michigan and Outer Drive and follows a line south and southeast on

Seniors Bid DHS 'Aloha'; Two Bands Highlight Party

"Aloha"... a greeting, a farewell. The two contrasting thoughts together will signify the final meeting of the Class of '69 at the Senior party to be held after Commencement June 12.

As promised by class president Paul Vance last year in his campaign speech, two name bands will highlight the party. Chosen by members of the senior class through a home-room vote and tentatively slated to appear are the Frost and All the Lonely People.

This marks the first time two bands will appear at a senior party, as well as the first time members of the graduating class have had a voice in selecting the band(s) they'd like to hear. "We were glad to have the kids' opinions and ideas," commented Mrs. Virginia Balaka, chairman of the party planning committee.

Adding a Hawaiian accent to the party, the Redwood Room, courts and the front entrance will be decorated. Fountains will serve as punch bowls, an "erupting" volcano will give special lighting effects, and Hawaiian music will be played in the courts.

"The party should really be tremendous," predicts Mrs. Balaka. "We've had to sacrifice in every area in order to have two bands, and we've had wonderful cooperation with the parents making decorations and many generous donations, so we've been able to hold the cost at approximately \$4 per person. From the looks of the combination to the tropical island setting and the two bands, the whole thing should really be outstanding."

While the party is primarily a "fun affair", it is also intended as an opportunity for the entire senior class to be together for one last time. "I think 'Aloha' is an especially appropriate theme for this occasion," added Mrs. Balaka, "because it will be the final greeting and the final farewell before each grad goes his own separate way in the world."

Betterment Goal For New Group

What is SSA? Who belongs to it? What is its purpose? How do you become a member of SSA? These questions were among those answered at a meeting May 1, in the DHS auditorium.

Students for Social Action is a new organization of students at DHS. The purpose is bringing all sorts of students together to communicate with each other and discuss changes which might be made for the betterment of the school and students.

This group hopes to present to the administration the students' points of view, and in turn give the administration a chance to present its views. It does not plan to fight the administration, but to bring students and administration closer together.

This club was organized by Karen Henry, Karen Paulsen, and Jeanette Berkebile, all seniors, and Linda McCauley, a junior. Mr. Arthur Brown, science teacher, consented to be the sponsor.

An on-looker would probably say the meeting was a flop because of poor attendance. About 20 students showed up, seven of whom were from Edsel Ford.

These students belong to a similar group (People for Constructive Change) and are familiar with attendance problems. But now are proud to report attendance of as high as 200 people at one meeting.

"We're here to encourage this group and give a few helpful hints. We've already gone through the stage of development and therefore might be able to advise you in some of the problems you will probably be encountering," said Rich Osborn, one of the students from EFHS.

Topics discussed at the meeting included the dress code, overcrowded classroom conditions, and curriculum. No definite plans were made.

How can you become a Student for Social Action? Simple, just come to one of the meetings, which are held regularly and announced in the bulletin.



DISCUSSING the finer points of the game of golf in preparation for the tournament May 5 are (left to right) Mike Flegle, senior, Len Kryzaniak, junior, and Bill Marrs, senior.

Swingers Flock To Invitational Dearborn Clinches Fourth Place

One hundred players from 25 schools in the greater Dearborn area competed in the eleventh annual Dearborn Press Golf Invitational held Monday at Dearborn Country Club.

DHS placed fourth, putting it far ahead of all other city entrants.

Golf Coach Carl Flegle remarked, "It was the largest entry of high schools in the history of the invitational."

The breezy, sunny, 70 degree weather seemed to favor the four DHS golfers throughout the day.

Senior Bill Marrs swung in lowest for 18 holes with a neat 82, followed by junior Len Krzyzaniak, and senior Mike Flegle, both with 85; and senior Gary Field with 93.

Par for 18 holes at DCC is 72. With the season being half through, the invitational was a good marker to evaluate individual players and teams, according to Coach Flegle.

The team didn't feel discouraged Monday about losing to Ypsilanti in

the April 28 match 179-159, because Ypsi placed first in the invitational.

After being in the top fifth at the invitational, the DHS outlook is bright. Its record stands at present 3-2.

May Leads the Way

"Determination, lots of hard work and enjoyment of the sport" are elements needed to excel in any sport, says senior Bob May, co-captain of our cross country and track teams.

Bob's "hard work" consists of dashing about the city two hours a day, including Saturday and Sunday.

Being a hurdler in ninth grade at Adams Junior High marked the beginning of Bob's track days. As a sophomore, he was a miler, but in his junior year he became what he was meant to be--a half-miler.

At the Mansfield Relays, an international track meet, he broke his own record with a 1:54.3, allowing him to capture first place. Bob is the first city or area trackman to bring home a gold medal from that annual meet.

Also at the Spartan Relays at Michigan State, Bob ran a blistering 1:55.8 half-mile to lead Dearborn High to a record-breaking 8:04.6

Netmen Undefeated; Wayne Latest Victim

Supremacy reigns with the DHS tennis team. After playing seven matches, including league contests with Edsel Ford and Wayne, the Arthur Ashes and Pancho Gonzales' (and possibly the Robert Culp) of Dearborn are yet undefeated.

On May 1, the Wayne Zebras succumbed to Dearborn, 6-1.

Winning in the singles category were Brian Smith, junior, Jorge Lopez, senior, and Eric Ponds, sophomore.

Doubles teams of Bill Hammond and Jeff Ponds, Bill Valentine and Jeff Dupler, and Brent Bierwirth and Bob Hasse were also victorious. All boys are seniors except Jeff Ponds who is a junior.

Jim Curtis, senior, playing at the number one singles spot, accounted for the only Pioneer defeat.

Mortality Reaches 10,000 a Day; Biafra Weakens With Malnutrition

By Vicki Grose

Picture the scene: two, small, black boys with bloated bellies and spindly arms and legs are walking along a dirt road. In ten seconds, one will drop dead.

This is Biafra. Here, 40 per cent of children under 10 die of malnutrition, while the mortality rate for children under four is reaching 100 per cent. At last count, the death figure for the nation had reached 10,000 per day.

Exact figures for deaths in Biafra is hard to determine, since many of the people have evacuated their homes and now live in the bush country or on the road. If someone dies on the road, he is buried immediately due to the intense heat and no death registration is filled out.

Nigeria is 72 times larger than Biafra which is about the size of Connecticut. Biafra has been blockaded for two years and it has been shrunk to less than one-fourth its normal size. However, despite Biafra's lack of airpower, efficient weapons and food, it has stalemated the war. Purely through self-determination have many of the Biafran people survived.

What is the U.S. doing to alleviate the distress of the Biafran people? So far, nothing. Small religious organizations have been making

meager attempts to send food relief services to the people, and the Red Cross is making a slight effort to relieve the plight of the Biafrans.

However, the government has made no major move to help the starving people. Why? Sources claim that since Great Britain has been in favor of the Nigerian cause, the U.S. is reluctant to start a hassle with its long-time ally. So for this reason, the U.S. remains relatively neutral.

Another reason, which America may be rather reluctant to admit, is that billions of dollars are being spent on space explorations.

It's too bad that the lovely prayers of the astronauts, as they were riding in space, could not have been uttered by some Biafran child over a small bowl of gruel.

Biafra is a nation in distress. Isn't it about time the people of the United States displayed some of the brotherly love they've been talking about? Isn't it time to quit saying the deaths of millions of people is none of our business?

Any student who wishes to contribute money or receive more information on the Biafran plight may write to:

Biafra Relief Services Foundation
777 United Nations Plaza
New York City, New York 10017

Skillful Senior Star Shows Spectacular Speed

victory in the two-mile relay.

Aside from his track work, "A trackman has to have an exciting social life so that he doesn't get bored with track," exclaimed this six foot guy with a grin just about as big.

But that's only half the answer to keeping track interesting. A great guy for a coach is also necessary, and Bob feels Mr. Robert Bridges is just the man.

"The track team admires him, so they want to work harder for him," commented May.

Bob said that Coach Bridges is one of his biggest inspirations. "I don't think I could have gotten this far without his helping encouragement."

As you might expect, this fleet-footed athlete has been offered an all-expense paid scholarship to Michigan State.

Besides possessing the ability of

speed, Bob's outstanding personality makes him an all-around guy. He added jokingly, "I guess running came easy for me because of my Charles Atlas type body."

Pioneers Down Edsel Batmen

Dearborn's nine batted up another victory as they ousted Edsel Ford 4-1 in a close-knit game April 30.

Terry Harrison, junior pitcher, racked up his third win in three starts.

Bill McKinley, senior, knocked out the first Pioneer hit of the day with a single. He stole second base but was held there by Edsel's tight defense.

The second Pioneer hit was made by Pete Cravens, sophomore, with a single in the fifth inning.

But the game was still scoreless in the sixth inning when Mike Kovachevich, senior, pounded out a triple. Al Jones, junior, then walked putting men on first and third bases.

It became apparent that Edsel's pitcher was losing control when he hit Ken Hastedt, junior, thus loading the bases.

Larry Swistak, senior, became the hero of the game when he let go a grand-slam homerun, making the score 4-1.

Terry was relieved in the last inning by Bruce Campbell, junior, who finished up the day's superb pitching.

Track Men Breeze By Wayne; New Sophomore Marks Made

DHS track men ran away with the meet last Thursday against league rival Wayne. The Pioneers dominated scoring with a lopsided 79-39 victory.

Impressive performances were given by sophomores Tom Higgins and Gary Sartor. Tom set sophomore record of :52.9 seconds in the 440 Gary established his mark in the pole vault with a height of 12'

Another record was set by Tom May, junior. Tom ran the 2 mile in 9:59.9 minutes.

Wayne managed to score firsts in the 100 and 220 yard sprints, pole vault and high jump.

The victory was the fourth straight this year for the pioneer track team.

After yesterdays meet with Melvindale, the team will tackle the Schafer relays tomorrow at Schafer.