

# The Observer

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Dearborn High School Dearborn, Michigan April 24, 1970

## Pilot Merit System Launched; Becomes 'Glorified Hall Pass'

What are the merits of having a Merit Pass?

Now that the long-awaited system has been in effect for nearly two months, many students are beginning to question it.

The purpose to the system is "to extend freedom and opportunities for greater responsibility to the students," according to Assistant Principal Thomas McLennan.

Some students feel the Merit Pass isn't working and is worthless because it doesn't give the holder any extra privileges. It's just something to make students think they've got something, they say. "It's a waste of time," Gary Mer-

vak, senior, said, "I didn't apply for one because there's nothing in it to benefit me."

Merit Pass holder John Aukee, junior, says the only thing the pass does is make less paper work for the teachers since they don't have to write out hall passes for holders. Another Merit Pass holder calls the little blue card "a glorified hall pass."

One teacher complained she hasn't had any experience with it because none of the kids use it. Even Mr. Mc Lennan wonders how it's been working.

"About the only time I ever hear about the Merit Pass is when someone abuses it," he stated. "and this has only happened twice." Of the 150 original Merit Pass holders, two have had their's taken away--one for smoking and one for skipping.

Although some students feel there's nothing wrong with the system, they don't think it's doing much good.

The current Merit Pass system, which began March 1, is a pilot program through the end of this semester. It will then be evaluated and either be discontinued or expanded.

Mr. Richard Welch, co-chairman of the Merit Pass Committee, commented about the future of the system "I'm concerned about where we'll go from here after we see how it's been working so far."

## Juniors Plan Flea Market

Saturday, May 2, will pose a typical French scene in front of DHS. The Junior Class is sponsoring a Flea Market to raise money for the prom.

Flea markets, otherwise known as junk or rummage sales, are open weekends in France. Their merchandise ranges from old nails to fine crystal chandeliers.

The Market will last from 9 to 5 and refreshments will be sold.

The Junior Class needs rummage of all kinds. If you have any, call Pam Bretz (561-8631) or Lynne Evans (565-2715) for pick-up.

## New Members May Become Self-Defense Experts

Do you know the ancient art of Moo Duk Kwan Tang Soo Do? Some day this art, better known as Korean Karate, may come in handy for both the males and females attending Dearborn High.

The idea of a Korean Karate Club was brought to DHS by students entering in the fall and the few DHS students who have been previously instructed in the art.

The Karate Club will not only teach the art of self-defense and the basic principles of Korean Karate, but it will also help develop confidence, coordination, and physical fitness.

As with most sports Karate does not promise success and ability without alot of work. Toning of muscles, agility training, and many exercises must be practiced before Karate can actually be beneficial.



NOT  
VANDALISM  
...  
KARATE

Showing his karate technique is (l-r) Gordon Hamilton, senior, helping are Mike Parsons, junior, and Leland Boone, senior.

## DSAC Strives for Revisions; New Dress Code Awaits OK

Dearborn Student Advisory Council (DSAC) has worked all year long on the revision of the dress code, and it appears as though their time has not been wasted.

Monday, the Dearborn Board of Education will vote on whether to accept a new dress code for a trial period effective May 1 until the end of the semester. The Board will then review the dress code over the summer, then decide whether they will permanently abolish, liberalize, or leave the dress code the same.

The dress code currently being considered was written by the DSAC. It was endorsed by the three high school Student Councils, and the three high school principals. On April 13, DHS Senior Andy Kokas presented the revised dress code to the Board of Education.

The only restrictions in the code are:

- Beards are not allowed, sideburns and mustaches must be neatly trimmed

• For boys, hair is to be clean, not impair the vision, and must not be worn past the ear lobe on the sides or past the collar of a regulation shirt in back

- Footwear must be worn (socks not mandatory)
  - Cleat and heel plates are not permitted
  - Sun glasses may be worn with a doctors' recommendation
  - Blouses and shirts must be worn unless designed to be worn out
- Although there are no clear rules on the subject, cleanliness and decency are stressed throughout the code.

DSAC members are confident that the reformed code will pass. Andy, DHS Student Council president, feels that the odds are about 70-to-30 in favor of the new dress code.

Even if the new dress code does not pass, DSAC still can say that they tried. And the student body will not be able to put the blame on a lax Student Council for the failure of the issue.

## Dearborn Press Donation

## Print Shop Gains New Press

On April 11, the print shop acquired a new member. Mr. Ray Andrus, superintendent, and Mr. Robert Smith, publisher of the Dearborn Press, jointly donated a Miehle Vertical U-45 printing press.

According to Mr. Ray Smith, print shop teacher, the Miehle Vertical is "100 times better for vocational training than the Kelly." The Kelly Press was used before getting the Miehle Vertical.

Even though the "new" press is 30 years old, it is very similar to newer presses commonly used now.

On April 4, Mr. Smith sold the Kelly

to the Diamond Drill, a newspaper in Crystal Falls, Mich. Then, because a new machine would cost \$10,000, he put an ad in the Michigan Press Association Bulletin asking for a donation of a machine. Fortunately, for DHS, Mr. Andrus read the ad.

Mr. Smith hopes to use the machine to print the Honor Assembly and Commencement programs, and possibly the next concert programs plus use the machine for student project work.

## Kotlar Wins Award From Optimist Club

We have an outstanding orator in our midst at Dearborn High, sophomore John Kotlar. John recently received first place honors in the annual Optimist International Boys Oratorical Contest.

Speaking on the official topic, "Youth, Full Partners in a Better Tomorrow," he was chosen as one of six finalists to speak at the Dearborn Inn on April 15.



JOHN

After walking away with top honors John must now look for competition at the District contests, with finals being held June 28, and at the International convention in Los Angeles, July 2.

"Mrs. Claudia Nicol (speech teacher) got me interested in this and helped me greatly with my oration and speaking techniques," John commented, "She really has been a great help."

Editorial

# Spring Lull Breeds Disinterest

BY PAULA LEONE

Spring is here, bringing with it a slow-down in school activities and student participation. Student apathy has been expounded upon for years with no real solution. But there are several aspects to be viewed before deeming some apathetic.

Every year at this time there is a considerable decrease in spectator events, contrasting the great turnout at football and basketball games and leading to the opinion that "nobody cares anymore." Granted, there are spring sports at DHS. However, it is not easy to sit for two hours on the side of a wet, muddy hill which has been generously donated for baseball viewers or stand uncomfortably outside the fence of the tennis courts or cramped along the sidelines during a heated match.

Meager interest has caused concern in other activities. Student participation on floats and decorations for the dance was so poor as to warrant threats of the cancellation of Homecoming.

When asked for their suggestions for the Senior Trip, the response was amazingly low. The question now must be left to the judgement of the same small group of interested seniors responsible for other such decisions.

DHS need not be only a place to hang your coat or store books. Student interest is the lifeblood of productiveness. Senioritis afflicts only a portion of the school and is not so deadly a disease that it cannot be contained.

Activities and games are scheduled to the last day of school. They will be worthless without the added support of the students.

The Senior Class is having a car wash tomorrow which needs all the help it can get. Funds are desperately needed for the Senior Prom and Trip.

Many opportunities remain to combat apathy and become part of Dearborn High as an active participant as well as an interested bystander.

## Controversy Rages

### Should He or Shouldn't He?

"They see him here,  
They see him there.  
His clothes are loud  
But never square.  
It will make or break him  
So he's got to buy the best  
For he's a dedicated follower  
of fashion."

When this rock song was written in 1967 by Ray Davies for The Kinks, it was news for a man to make a career of caring about his fashion image. Little did this British composer dream that inside a short three years high schools all across the United States would be teeming with just such "Dedicated Followers of Fashion."

As these fashions become more and more flamboyant, the question arises whether or not they detract from the masculine image. What do the girls of Dearborn High School think?

Opinions of girls interviewed range from the feeling that the situation hardly exists to the conviction that it's only a matter of time until you won't be able to tell the boys from the girls without a program:

--"No, the guys at Dearborn High aren't that radical. They don't go in for ruffled shirts and stuff," observes Cecilia Eilenfeldt, junior.

--"They've taken our long hair, our ruffles, our cologne, and our bell-bottoms. What next? Maybe our make-up!" laments Chris Moryc, junior.

--"No, the guys at Dearborn High are great!", is the unqualified opinion of Terri Huckabone, junior.

--Of a similar outlook is Peggy Parker, junior: "No, they're still men inside."

--Darcy Dean, junior, is a bit more philosophical: "Compared to the way styles used to be, they would be considered dressed femininely, but I don't think they are feminine now."

--More specific about her tastes is Jacque Blagg, junior: "I like the long hair and I love the plaid pants, but the ruffled shirts have to go."

--"I think they look like girls," is Jan Mitchell's, junior, conclusion.

--Suzan Lee, junior, states her opinion simply, "I think blue jeans and a t-shirt are good enough for everyone. But then, I don't care what the clothes look like, it's what's inside that counts."

--Perhaps representing the majority in her attempt to be cautiously non-committal is Marilyn Don, sophomore: "I would tell the truth and say some of them are kinda' sissy, but one of them might hit me with his purse!"

# Spring Production Proves Students Have Ability for 'Heavy' Drama

Deeply moving, thought-provoking, sometimes funny, sometimes sad, "Inherit the Wind" tells of the struggle for free thought, of a man defying a law he feels is wrong.

As Dearborn High presented this play last Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, one could see that DHS students are adept not only at performing lively musicals such as "The King and I." Serious dramatizations are also well-enacted and brought to the stage with as much interest and enthusiasm.

Seniors Andy Kokas and Jon Taub lost their identities as Dearborn High students for a few hours and were transformed into two elderly lawyers. Andy, as the defense attorney Henry Drummond, and Jon, as the prosecuting attorney Matthew Harrison Brady, brought alive the the dispute that took place in Tennessee more than 40 years ago when a teacher contested the right for a teacher to read Darwin in school.

Supporting players Seniors Gary Mervak, portraying the teacher Bertram Cates, and Jan Gaiefsky, cast in the role of Rachel Brown, also lent to the authentic sense of atmosphere. Junior Mike Kirk, as E. K. Hornbeck, the cynical reporter whom one didn't know whether to resent or pity, presented his lines with realistic force and sarcasm.

Amid a well-constructed and cre-

ative set, effective lighting, and authentic costuming, Mr. Don O'Hagan directed the students as only an outstanding play could be directed.

From the beginning to the emotion-packed ending when Jon died, Dearborn's production of "Inherit the Wind" was poignantly entertaining. As relayed by the applause throughout the performance of the drama, the audiences realize true talent in DHS actors.



Dearborn High will once again host the Sacred Heart track relays tomorrow afternoon at 1 p.m.

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Tony Washington, 1967 DHS graduate and football, track, and basketball star, has been named co-captain for Iowa State's football team next fall.

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Two juniors, Peggy Tomka and Stephanie Longuski, took 9th and 10th place in their events at the State meet in tumbling.

## Money Pours In for Lisa Lossing Donations Come from Various Groups

Nine-year-old Lisa Lossing is a victim of cerebral palsy. At the death of her father, Mr. Eldon Lossing, the Math Club, with the help of sponsor Mr. Bon Marshall, established the Lisa Lossing Fund.

The Fund, which originally had a

goal of \$1,000, has now grown to nearly \$1,800. Overwhelmed with the response, Mr. Marshall commented, "It looks like we're going to reach \$2,000."

The money will go for therapy, corrective shoes, braces, etc. as they are needed.

Other contributors, besides the students and faculty of DHS, include Edsel Ford and Fordson High Schools, HFCC, Dearborn Federation of Teachers, and Mr. Lossing's bowling league. Former students reading of the fund in the local papers have also donated.

Contributions to the Lisa Lossing Fund may still be made in the general office.

## OPEN END

ARE YOU A BASICALLY HAPPY PERSON? WHY OR WHY NOT?



HEATHER

"Yes, because I have nothing to be basically unhappy about."  
Laurie Gordon, junior.

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"Yes, because all the serious problems in the world are too complex for me to solve."  
Heather Sell, junior.

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"Yes, but I'm only happy when the people and the things around me are happy."  
Kaye Gilchrist, sophomore.

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"Yes, because I can finally go to a college of my choice without Phys. Ed."  
Dale Blasier, senior.

\*\*\*\*\*

"Yes, because I'm an idiot."  
Margaret Breeden, junior.



DALE



MARGARET

## Did You Know?

Man is filling the air with more than 800 million tons of pollutants per year. Scientists believe that the resulting dust particles cause increased formation of clouds and rain.

Charles L. Hosler, dean of Pennsylvania State University's College of Earth and Mineral Sciences, says, "There may be a threshold beyond which small changes in the weather could bring about major shifts in the earth's climate."

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