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Volume 52
Issue 3

The Observer

Dearborn High School Dearborn, Michigan October 3, 1969

Student Apathy, Dress Code Blasted by Council President

"They've all got good minds and good ideas, but when it comes down to the actual carrying through of those ideas, most of them just don't give a damn."

With those words, Student Council President Andy Kokas summed up his current frustration about the lethargy that seems to have engulfed the majority of Council members.

One of Kokas's gripes concerned the poor turnout of Student Council members to help with Homecoming preparations. "Every night the same three or four people would show up to work," he said.

When asked why the problem exists, Andy stated that he is afraid that some members are not on the Council for the right reasons. Some look upon the position as one of status rather than of involvement.

The DHS Student Council is by no means inoperative this year, however, since a number of Council-concerned activities and programs are in preparation. A computer dance is being planned involving Dearborn High, Fordson, and Edsel Ford. The computer forms will be mixed together to provide for inter-school dates.

The Council is also working out the details of the new proposed Honor Code. They are now working on selecting ten nominees, six of whom will be picked by Mr. Thomas McLennan for the selection committee.

The Honor Code would have emerged last spring, but due to Mr.

McLennan's involvement with the dress code debate, a delay resulted.

Regarding the "new" dress code, President Kokas commented, "I'm very disturbed that a dress code even exists. I've talked with several other council presidents and they also consider codes absurd. The three months we spent talking with the administration last spring could have been better spent discussing Dearborn High's curriculum. We used to be rated first in the state in curriculum, now we are thirty-first. There should be more concern with what's between a student's ears rather than what's hanging over them."

But Andy made it clear that since these and other restrictions do exist, they should be abided by until they are changed. Mr. McLennan is paid to enforce the present rules, so he is not the person to blame for their existence.

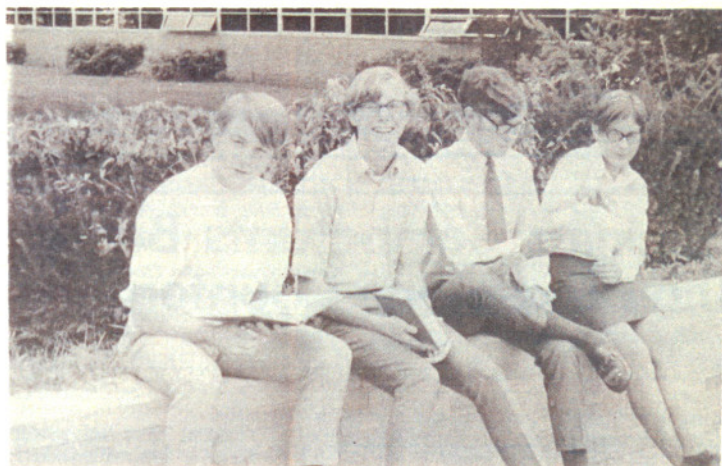
"There could really be a lot of good things accomplished at Dearborn High if the students, Student Council, and faculty would just start working harder at it", Andy declared.

Three - Part Proposal

Board Requests Millage Increase

When the millage was turned down in Livonia last spring, some grades were forced to go on half days. Soon voters in Dearborn could make a similar decision.

The Dearborn Board of Education has set a special millage election for



BOOKS IN HAND, anticipating the upcoming competition as finalists, are (l-r) Dan Secrest, Richard Huff, Mark Jansma, and Patricia Mann, seniors and winners in the National Merit Scholarship.

Rated High Nationally

Five Achieve Semifinalist Rank

Compared to three last year, five DHS students, out of nearly one million high school seniors, nationally, qualified as semifinalists in the National Merit Scholarship Program. Seniors, Larry Fox, Richard Huff, Mark Jansma, Patricia Mann and Dan Secrest are all eligible to advance to finalist status when they will be eligible for National Scholarships.

Finalists are chosen on the basis of the students' test scores, which

must be verified by taking the College Board SAT in November. Besides their test scores, their character, extracurricular activities and their creativeness are also important.

Although few students receive monetary awards, the National Merit Scholarship Test scores reveal to the student how he rates when compared nationally, in English, math, social studies reading, natural science reading and word usage, so it is valuable test experience for many students.

Juniors who wish to compete in the National Merit Scholarship Program, which will be given on Feb. 14, 1970, will be notified this winter by the counseling department.

Receive Honors

Congratulations to the sophomore senators. They are Wendy Adams, Brenda Channell, Tom Clark, Steve Clifton, Jeff Jones, John Kotlar, Brad Preston, Tom Price, Steve Rupe and Duff Schad.

Creative Magazine Needs Your Talent

By submitting their work to Muse, Dearborn High's literary magazine, talented students have the opportunity to win \$10 awards in poetry, prose, art, and cover design.

Any creative and original work will be accepted, according to Senior Editor Joe Hallissey. If it is good, it will be printed.

More poetry and short stories are wanted, but one-act plays, sketches, and literary criticisms are also needed.

"This year we will try to make it more open," says Joe. Many do not realize that Muse can use material from students in all departments of the school.

Those interested in homemaking could submit their own designs, language students might attempt original translations, or an ambitious drafting student could design a house. Photography and art work can be used.

Entries should be submitted before Christmas to Mrs. Marie Mitchell, advisor, in A-3.

Assistance is needed in screening and selecting of the articles, copyreading, and typing. Art screening, publicity, and sales are also jobs for those willing to work.

"All are welcome to join, including sophomores," says Joe. "We want sophomores to get the feel of what it is like."



THIS YEAR'S EDITORS, all seniors, plan for the year ahead. They are (l-r) Kurt Odmark, Pioneer; Joe Hallissey, Muse; Mark Lien (standing), Observer Staff Two; and Nancy Lenhart, Observer Staff One.



Observer

Editorial Comments

"I may disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it." —Voltaire

Feminine Combatants Better Than Masculine Counterparts

by Ann MacLean

"You'll never catch me in an army uniform!" is the cry of many American women. Yet everywhere a male turns these days, he is confronted by militant females demanding--and receiving--equality.

The girls use impeccable logic in insisting on their rights. And they should have all the equality they want--in the college classroom, graduate school, and career fields. But let them take on some of the male responsibilities also, such as being drafted.

Thousands of men in the armed forces are behind the lines, doing jobs women could handle just as well. Why should only boys be drafted to be cooks, clerks, coders, and chauffeurs when there is a huge supply of girls who are just as qualified for such jobs, and, in many cases, better qualified?

On the average, females are better typists than males, and by their record in schools and careers, girls would be just as efficient at such work as writing press releases, making up military manuals or using elementary math to solve problems in logistics.

Drafting women would help not only the Free World, the nation, and the males of America, but it would have specific advantages for the female draftees themselves. Special college courses would be available to them just as they are to service men today.

Some, in ordinary circumstances, might never get out of the town or the region where they were born. For such a girl, being drafted might mean the chance to see some of the exotic places she had always yearned to visit. Wouldn't many girls rather work in Washington or Tokyo than in Akron or Brooklyn?

Another benefit is the unparalleled opportunity for finding husbands. The military affords a pool of eligible young men who are eager to meet girls.

In a survey taken among Dearborn High girls, the general opinion was: "This is the girls' country just as much as the boys' so they should be just as willing to serve it." There were few who rejected the idea entirely.

Many boys, of course, prefer not to interrupt their future plans by being drafted. But the Government says a draft is needed. Women then should feel just as obligated to serve their country as the men.

Apple Machine Strikes Again

by Gary Warren

How many times have you trustingly, put your faith and your dime into the apple machine--only to receive nothing but a blank stare? No apple. No dime.

First reaction is to push one of the little buttons, located so conveniently next to each of the four bottomless slots. The prospective buyer patiently presses down, keeping in mind that his coin probably just didn't catch, and that by pushing only once, his dime will surely return and a new--this time successful--attempt will be made.

After pressing patiently for the 14th time though, he begins to wonder--and to hit. A simple slam on the side should retrieve the dime. But after a few simple slams, and still no results, the student reverts to the ultimate: the kick.

Just one good wallop to the base of the monster should not only free today's dime, but also the four he lost last week and a few apples besides!

Seemingly, it is always at this point that the bespectacled little custodian, wielding his broom, looms out of nowhere, demanding an explanation.

"Nothing, just gettin' the gum off my shoe," offers the yet-dimeless student weakly.

Now, the final signs of surrender loom. The apple machine's latest

victim picks up his books and shuffles out of the janitor's sight. As he moves away in defeat, he hears the not-too-familiar plunk of the machine, and the all-too-familiar crunch of the custodian.

Homecoming queen elections have been mocked, complained or laughed about by students more frequently each year. Yet it still remains as an honor "never to be forgotten" to the five finalists, and especially to the queen herself. Therefore, students should take more care in voting for a queen.

Discussions by students about nominees have been similar to the student government elections--that is all one big popularity contest. Unfortunately, this is a large part of it.

Ten semi-finalist nominees are chosen in five-minute decisions by the senior class. No senior can think of the three best-looking girls he knows in that amount of time! The



OPEN END

DO YOU THINK THAT SEX EDUCATION SHOULD BE TAUGHT IN THE SCHOOLS?

"There should be some sort of sex education, combined with courses in family living and planning. By the time you're in high school it's too late. It must be started early."--Art Franke, senior.

"Sex education should be introduced in grade school, not high school. By then it's too late to start. It should be started though."--Guy Taflinger, junior.

"The failure of most parents to offer enlightened guidance in sexual matters plus the increasing difficulties in communication between parents and teens makes sex education an absolute necessity in our pluralistic society."--Mr. Nick Pappas, English teacher.

"I feel that sex should be taught when you are old enough to understand it, not when you are in elementary school, but in junior high. Elementary school-age children, I feel, can't catch on to the correct meaning of it."--Joe Jelasic, sophomore.

"A little late by high school. If done correctly it could be helpful."--Mr. Robert Dietzler, drafting teacher

"Shouldn't be taught at any level in the schools."--Barb Baetz junior

"Should have sex education in the schools. Started in the fifth or sixth grade."--Carol Moga, sophomore

"I got along all right without it, and these young kids are supposed to be a lot smarter than I was."--Mr. Paul Lukasik, former DHS parent.

"It sure would have saved me a lot of problems and worries if I'd had it."--Mrs. Mary McCann, DHS parent.

"I think that it is a fine idea as long as it is part of an organized plan, and not just up to the individual teacher, because many of them are not qualified to talk on the subject. It is not something that can be started at any particular time; it is a very gradual thing that begins at an early stage in childhood."--Mrs. Edna Burkhardt, school nurse.

Letters to the Editor

main qualification of a homecoming queen is to be a pretty girl with a good reputation. Many students cannot choose this way because they have no idea who these girls are. The common vote goes to the girl "whose name sounds familiar" or the "I saw her in the hall twice" girl.

The solution to the problem lies in the student body. Many suggestions can be made. Here are some:

* Seniors should be allowed more time to pick ten semi-finalists

* Semi-finals should be held a month before final election

* Semi-finalists should introduce themselves to sophomore and junior homerooms.

Every year at DHS there are several Varsity Club initiations. During a two-week period, the dubs must succumb to the wishes of a master as part of the initiation.

On September 11, during the splash lunch hour, a dub was ordered to read "The Cat in the Hat Comes Back," writings children's favorite by Dr. Seuss. This seems like a harmless joke, but one of the school guards thought otherwise. The dud was thought to be causing a disturbance and had the works stopped.

School officials should acquire proper perspective on what is really causing a disturbance and what is just a bit of fun.

Jim Souby, Senior

A Senior Boy

Varsity Club Adds New High Spirits

Peculiar events have been going on in halls of the school and the cafeteria. Songfests and carton races with poses were all part of the initiation of new members into the Varsity Club.

Why would someone want to go through these embarrassments in order to enter this club? He simply wants to participate in a club that is designed to promote fellowship between athletes, regardless of what sport he represents for Dearborn High.

The basic requirement for joining the club is earning a varsity letter in an interscholastic sport. The new member then must go through a two week initiation period before induction.

The Varsity Club's purposes are:

- * To create school spirit within the student body, and throughout the stands during athletic contests

- * To handle any profit-making functions at games by selling programs, buttons, confetti, etc.

- * To aid in the clean up campaigns, by painting the bleachers, planting flowers, or simply cleaning up after a game

The club's main goal is to keep students interested in the school's sports, and fill the stands at all of the games.

As President Steve Bachorik, senior, commented, "I feel that the Varsity Club adds a great deal of spirit to our games, because no member likes to see the sport he participates in lacking attendance."

The club's other officers include Andy Kokas, vice president; Jim Kinzel, secretary; and Dale Blasler, treasurer, all seniors.



STANDING IN A trash can, Doug Dinkelman, junior, shows off his physique to anyone who will watch.

Dedication Follows Through

Youth Spends Summer Helping Others at Missions

Summertime for many is a time of rest, but for others who care about what's going on in the world, it's a time for dedicated service.

Paul Christenson, senior, decided to spend his summer doing volunteer work in Appalachia. Paul first became interested in mission projects when his First United Methodist youth group visited Henderson Settlement and Redbird Mission in Kentucky.

Impressed by what he saw and wanting to really help, Paul sent a letter to Redbird Mission June 29 and was immediately transferred to an outstation of the Mission. There he was put to work painting the minister's house, revarnishing the church floor and painting lines on the basketball courts. With this work

completed Paul went back to Redbird Mission.

There he worked with the maintenance people wiring the director's new house, putting in light fixtures and heaters.

Working with electronics is Paul's main interest. He has looked forward to using his talent and the opportunity did arise. One day he rode into the Settlement just for an over night visit that turned into a month long stay.

Henderson is starting a volunteer fire station. The building, which will house two engines and an ambulance, was completed and Paul was needed to do a few odd jobs, such as installing a conduit, insulation, and a breaker panel.

The last day before his return to Redbird and eventual return home Paul has an all night work-a-thon to try to finish the station, but by 3 a. m. he was still not finished. He was to leave for Redbird at 6 a. m. He left the job undone, but with a feeling of accomplishment.

have been sold. Anyone who would still like to go should contact Mrs. Marianna Fisk. Names on the waiting list will be used to fill any cancellations.

An orientation will be held for the Stratford-bound students next Tuesday. A brief summary of the play will be presented, along with other important information concerning the trip.

Sophomores and juniors who wish to go on the trip next fall should buy their tickets this spring.

Involvement Key To Political Club

Where would you find Republicans, Democrats and members of other political factions all in one room? Where else but a Political Club.

Dearborn High's Political Club was formed last year during national elections. Under the direction of Mr. Al Harris, the club sponsor, members worked for their candidates, and even had a few in school to talk to students.

As Paul Christenson, interimpresident said, "We are not necessarily just a political club. We deal with anything controversial. We're probably the most fluid club in the school."

In following with their versatile suggestions for any activities for the background, members will entertain for the club to follow. The last meeting found them arranging for Senator Lorraine Beebe to talk to them on the subject of the grape boycott. Also under consideration is another trip to Lansing, such as they took last year.

"Member participation decides the way this club will go, more so than any other club in the school," reports

by people such as Paul, who is also President of the local Teen-age Republican Club.

Anyone looking for a club that can promise an interesting year, look for the Political club. And it doesn't matter what party you root for.

Graffiti Filled Boards Flick Finger at the Establishment

Only from the minds of babes could flow such uninhibited, straightforward, and naive anthologies. Given a leisure hour of study hall and a Bic pen, many students vent their urge to create. The result of this creative drive is 26 marred drawing boards in the auditorium.

At first glance, the language used seems only barbarous, gutter-born, and foul-minded. But perhaps it goes deeper than that. It is true that the writings do have an unrelenting emphasis on sex, but apparently the authors felt that this was necessary to properly present their views. Could and had the works represent a pungent social comment on today's society?

It is unfortunate that journalism ethics restrict the reprinting of many of these works. The dynamic style of these balladeers and would-be poets should not pass unnoticed, however.

One student (assuming that it is solely students and not the teachers that make these boards what they are) warns his peers of possible misfortune (a modern proverb, if you will), "Don't drink while you drive. You may hit a bump and spill it."

Another proverb taken from the boards proclaims, "Ban the chastity is its own punishment."

Averaging about ten minutes a side, about five hours of pure, unabridged, unadulterated, and uncensored reading is available in all. Unfortunately, there are no plans to enable students to check out these boards overnight.

Scrawled in the corner of one board was this last quote. It is probably the simplest and undoubtedly the most ironic of all the statements, "Blessed are the pure of heart - for they shall see God."



Reserve the date of Friday, Oct. 24 for the Red Cross dance to be held in the Redwood Room.

All girls can join the new Homemakers Club. Meetings will be held on Wednesdays after school in E-10. Mrs. Helen Markey is the sponsor.

Anyone interested in being a DHS volunteer should see Miss Johanna Bielecki in conference room 7. The volunteers will be working with underprivileged children from Salina.

The OBSERVER welcomes all signed letters to the editor. Names will be held upon request.



PLAYING AT THE Homecoming Dance is the Underground Wall; a folk-rock band.



FALLING SHADOWS ON the new turf of the DHS football field are created in the final moments of the game. The tie game (14-14) was played against the Wayne Zebras on September 26.

Homecoming Excites Crowd . . .

Spirits Soar



SECURING THE ENTRANCE as policemen with billyclubs in the spirit of the Gay Nineties are seniors Dean Breest and Jeff Pepper, flanking a security guard, (l-r).



RECEIVING THE TRADITIONAL kiss from Student Council President Andy Kokas is the 1969 Homecoming Queen, Katie Flynn.



TRAVELING BACK IN time to the days of root beer, cream, and pretzels are chaperones Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Stapleton.



THE SENIOR FLOAT collapsed minutes before half-time. The float originally extended upwards almost 20 feet before complications such as an unexpected downpour, a too-early Homecoming, and last minute assembling.



SECOND TO NONE in the junior float category is the first attempt made by the American Field Service at a float in years.

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