

## Nine Hour Day and Early Graduation Possible With Proposed School Plan

As the 3:30 bell rings, students leave their ninth hour classes and head for home.

This situation may exist in only two years if a proposed new school day plan is ratified and put into effect.

Although several plans have been submitted, Principal Len Mazur is the author of the system from which the following information was taken.

Mr. Mazur cited two reasons for his proposal. First is the psychology of learning. Most students become bored with the 55-minute classes. The new system would call for 40-minute classes so students' attention might be maintained throughout the entire period.

The second reason is because of the various pressures students find themselves under. With this system there would be more room for electives allowing students to follow their interests.

Early graduation would be possible although requirements would remain basically the same. Each student would have six classes per day, but could elect up to nine courses. The only real change in requirements would be that all three grades would have a study hall each semester.

Classes would be required in blocks of six, although not necessarily first hour through sixth. Schedules would overlap as some students would come in second hour, third hour, etc. Zero hour would be eliminated and first hour would start at 9 a. m. Co-op students would also have to take six courses with their jobs as extra electives.

By blocking the classes, students could also take a course such as gym for two hours straight, two or three days a week.

Teachers would also find many changes in this type of school day. Although they would be assigned to six classes a day plus a study hall, giving them more students, they

would also have more time. The schedule would work out so they would have certain "office hours" where students could come in for extra help. Including the study hall period, teachers would then have 115 minutes of free time instead of their present 50 minutes.

# THE OBSERVER

Dearborn High School

Dearborn, Michigan

March 19, 1971



IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO conquer pollution? Not in the eyes of seniors (l. to r.) Debbie Crocker, Barb Ramsey and Gary Preston as they examine their collection of bottles in an effort to help in the fight for ecology.

## Senior Enjoys Capital Experience

Acquainting students with the processes and workings of government is the goal of many social studies courses at DHS. Senior David Hallissey had the opportunity to view first-hand some of these governmental functions when he visited Washington D. C. Feb. 27-March 6.

Dave traveled to the capital on a program called the Presidential Classroom. During the week he and 310 other students from the United States and some foreign countries visited government buildings, talked with Congressmen and other dignitaries and participated in seminars which were conducted four times daily.

The effects of various governmental departments were topics of discussion in morning and afternoon seminars. Evening sessions featured as main speakers: George Reedy; press secretary to former President Lyndon Johnson, Senator Philip Hart who discussed problems of the Senate, Admiral Zumwalt; chief of naval operations who talked about American foreign policy and Senator Hubert Humphrey who spoke of the need for involvement of young people in politics.

Dave's active schedule also included having lunch with John Dingell, representative from the 16th Congressional district in Michigan. Observing a session of Congress at which the Apollo 14 astronauts were received and meeting General Westmoreland, Walter Cronkite and Senators Edward Kennedy, Eugene McCarthy, George McGovern and Ed-

## Forensic Team Sweeps Tournament; Hopes for Success in Season Competition

After only two tournaments the DHS Forensic Team can foresee a successful season. Under the training of Mrs. Claudia Nickel, students will be traveling to weekly tournaments competing in different events against students from schools all over the state.

Saturday, Feb. 27, the team traveled to Bay City where they competed in their first tournament of the season. Senior Sue Halwachs' multiple reading, "No Exit", took first place. Seniors Mary Beth Glaub and Candy Pytel, took first and third places in Oratory. Respectively Senior Ann Spielman received third place for her serious reading. In the category of Humorous Readings, Sue Halwachs placed second.

A week later on March 6, the team competed in the Edsel Ford Invitational. More than ten high schools from southeastern Michigan were involved.

Many Dearborn High students received awards in their events. Again, Sue Halwachs was successful as she took first place in the Humorous category. Seniors Mike Kirk and Carl Gagliardi took first and third places, respectively, in Boys Extemporaneous. Lois Dilloway, senior, was awarded third place for her serious reading.

"No Exit" placed third among the multiple readings. Marcia Rimal and Linda Gagliardi, sophomores, took first and third places in Declamation, respectively. In Oratory, Junior Kris Shelly captured third place.

Mrs. Nickel is very pleased with the team this year. She commented, "Quite a few new students have come out for forensics this semester, which is good. From our showing at the last two tournaments it looks like we'll do quite well."

Last Monday and Tuesday the team began competing in the local tournaments. They hope to follow with district, regional, and finally state competition.



CO-CAPTAIN TOMSZUBA, junior raises the State Championship trophy as the DHS swim team captured the State title March 13. See related story on page two.

mund Muskie were other highlights observed by Dave. Getting to know so many different high school students was also quite an experience.

Ten seniors were nominated last October by the Senior Council for the honor of participating in the Presidential Classroom. From these names the Student Council chose Dave and paid \$270 for his expenses.

When asked his thoughts on his experience, Dave commented, "It was a worthy experience deserving continued support from Student Council."

## New Idea Planned For Senior Party

Plans for the Senior Party are once again underway with a new idea being considered for the theme.

The original plans suffered a setback when the Senior Class decided they did not want to "Follow the Yellow Brick Road", the theme adapted from the "Wizard of Oz." Parents quickly rallied under the direction of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Guinn, committee coordinators, and voted on a new idea from 35 suggestions.

The major concern now is the size of the budget the committees will have to work with. Letters have been sent to all parents of seniors asking that their \$5 be paid before March 31. Admission fee for the party will rise to \$6 after that date.

Any seniors who have not received letters should immediately contact Mrs. Norman Gregor at 521-7762.

## Girls Ask Guys To 'Pair-A-Dice'

With the sweet sounds of the band, "Natural Gas," filling the air, the Senior Girls' Sponge Dance will be under way when three hours of dance entertainment begins at 8 p. m. on Friday, March 26.

Slot machines, a roulette wheel, red carpeting and draperies will add to the mood as the Redwood Room is converted into a gambling casino. Also undergoing a transformation is the cloak room, entitled "The Purple Kangaroo."

Refreshments will be found in the teachers' cafeteria, which will be transformed into the Casino Royale for the evening. A selection of drinks and cookies will be served in this lounge.

Tickets will go on sale March 22, and are priced at \$2.50 per couple. Dress is set as semi-formal.

The theme, "Pair-A-Dice," will be identical to the favors.

# DHS Tankers Capture First Big One - Now State Champs!



For the first time in history, the Dearborn swimmers captured the State Class A Swimming Title for a climatic conclusion to an undefeated season.

The Pioneers were crowned state champs d'owning runner-up Birmingham Groves 161-137. Defending champion Ann Arbor Huron finished third.

Dearborn snatched four first places including a double victory by Junior Tom Szuba who won both the 200-yard individual medley and the 100-yard butterfly. Szuba's 52.54 seconds in the fly bettered the oldest standing record in the high school books. Sophomore Kevin Dunworth took third behind Szuba.

One of the most outstanding events of the afternoon found Juniors Paul Foster and Alan Gaiefsky finishing first and second in the 100-yard backstroke as Foster topped his own state record of 54.67 set in the Friday preliminaries with 54.41 seconds.

The final Pioneer victor was Sophomore Norman Semchyszen who grabbed the first spot in the 400-yard freestyle event with a time of 3:56.93.

A fine display of sportsmanship was shown by the Ann Arbor Huron fans as they hoisted a sign congratulating the Pioneers on their victory. Just two weeks ago, the Pioneers downed Ann Arbor by one point to break an 18-meet winning streak.



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"The boys did a superb job," commented Coach Jack Johnson. "They did what we thought they could and then a little bit more. We're real proud of them."

Mr. Johnson received two awards himself for his dedication to the sport. He was presented with the "Coach of the Year Award" for the best high school coach, and the Matt Mann Award given by the Michigan Interscholastic Swimming coaches for contributions to swimming over



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a period of years. Since Dearborn High became a Class A school some 30 years ago, only two other state championships have been won, both in golf. The last championship occurred in 1963.



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## Muse Due in April Best Entries Chosen

After six months of preparation, MUSE will finally be ready for distribution after Easter vacation.

Dearborn High's creative arts magazine will feature a new format and more art work this year, plus the usual prose and poetry written by Dearborn High students. The price is still 50 cents.

For the last two years, \$10 prizes have been given to entries judged best by the staff in literature, art, and cover design. Winners this year are Danielle Beauvais, poetry; Marlene Miller, prose; Marcia Makowski, art; and John Ebert, cover design. All are seniors.

MUSE represents the combined efforts of many. David Hallissey is the editor, assisted by Ann Loranger, both seniors. Marcia Makowski is art editor. They are aided by a staff of 12, with Mrs. Marie Mitchell as the advisor.

MUSE was conceived in 1966 under the direction of Mrs. Louise Schlaff, now journalism instructor at Henry Ford Community College. The magazine is printed by the Dearborn High graphic arts department. In 1968, it earned a first place in the DETROIT NEWS Michigan Industrial Education Awards.



ANXIOUSLY AWAITING RESULTS in the State Swimming Meet at MSU are (l. to r.) Coach Jack Johnson, Swimmer Tom Szuba, Coach Jeff Longstreth, Swimmer Kevin Dunworth, and Coach Jack Dunworth.

## Reenactment

Fifty-five seniors signed up for the new pass-fail elective. They were able to choose any elective on this basis except math.

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Congratulations to all who participated in the District Solo and Ensemble Festival sponsored by the Michigan Band and Orchestra Association.

## Hootenanny Starts Exchange Weekend

Guitars, banjos, and voices will tune in the beginning of the American Field Service (AFS) Exchange weekend tonight at 8 at the AFS-sponsored hootenanny. This will be the first of several activities to fete the 25 visitors during their three-day stay in Dearborn.

Hosts and hostesses signed up to house exchange students for this weekend, and upon arrival of the foreigners today, they will meet their hosts. After pairing up, the students will take a tour of the school.

Although foreigners to Dearborn, the AFS members have been residing in Michigan since the beginning of the 1970-71 school year. Switzerland, Honduras, Norway, and many other countries will be represented.

Among the Saturday activities scheduled are a tour of Greenfield Village and the Henry Ford Museum, a potluck dinner at the First United Methodist Church, and a party held only for the exchange students and their hosts.

On Sunday it is up to the host families to return their visitors to their real American homes.

"The purpose of International Weekend is to show exchange students areas of the state different from their present homes, and we hope they have a pleasant visit here," said Senior Mary Elwart, AFS President.

## Activities Blossom For Junior Class

Spring is just around the corner. That means it's time for more class activities, and the juniors are no exception.

For those who like the wet side of things, there will be three car washes before school is out in June.

For the students who like the thrill of the road, the juniors have plans for you, too. Cars should be revved up and ready for the road rally to be held in late April.

The money earned from these activities will be used not only for the Junior Prom, May 14, but also for next year's homecoming and other senior activities.

In the past, there has been a lack in class interest and as Steve Rupe, junior class president stated, "What I don't understand is all the juniors who run for Student Council or for class office don't even turn up for the meetings. We need more support."

## Editorial

# Marijuana Laws Need Revision

BY JAMES NELSON

A law that has too harsh a punishment to fit the crime has no place in today's society. Dr. Margaret Mead, a noted anthropologist, says, "We are damaging our country, our laws and the relations between young and old by (marijuana) prohibition. This is far more dangerous than any overuse."

John Kaplan, author of the book Marijuana--The New Prohibition, contends that if there are any benefits of laws regarding pot--and he can discern few--they are far outweighed by the damage they have done to American society. We agree with Dr. Mead and Mr. Kaplan in their contention that the prohibition of pot and the harsh penalties included are harming society more than efforts to keep the drug illegal are helping.

According to "U.S. News & World Report," as of December 1970, 42 per cent of students polled had tried various drugs. Dr. Stanley F. Yolles, former director of the National Institute of Mental Health, has estimated the number of Americans who have tried pot at least once may be as high as 20 million. The Pentagon says at least 30 per cent of the U.S. troops in Vietnam smoke it, and most observers consider the estimate conservative.

Currently 40 study programs related to grass are in progress under the auspices of the U.S. Government. An additional 200 or more of similar kind are being researched privately. Until the study programs can produce conclusive derogatory evidence concerning pot, we feel that the present laws should be liberalized on a national scale. Marijuana laws are outdated and should be put in the wastebasket alongside the Salem witch hangings and the laws against teaching evolution. Many cities, Dearborn included, have lessened the charge of possession, first offense and in some cases second offense, from a felony to a misdemeanor.

Disrespect for law is growing rapidly among all ages and time to restore respect for it is now. This will come only if bad laws are eliminated and better laws replace them.

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