

## "Counselors aren't disciplinarians"

by Mr. Lilburn Hoehn

"What did I do now?" is a comment counselors hear all too frequently when students are called in for a conference. The student who makes a comment of this nature is indicating a lack of understanding concerning the work of a counselor in a high school setting. Even though counselors expect their counselees to behave normally and to put forth their best academically, they are not disciplinarians, and a counselor wonders why such a misconception about counseling is common among high school students.

One valid cause for a conference comes from academic achievement below what the student wishes. In some cases the identification of the cause is fairly simple. In other cases the reasons are so complex that intensive counseling is needed. Sometimes a counselor cannot help a student even if the cause has been identified because the student refuses to help himself. When this occurs, the counselor considers it highly important to tell the student so quite frankly.

### Problems

Another reason for a conference arises from a student's inability to succeed in getting along with others. If a person is experiencing frequent clashes with parents, teachers, or friend, he ought to discuss the problem with somebody. Since a counselor is trained to work with problems involving conflicts with others, he seems to be the logical person to consult. A very important aspect in such a discussion is that the counselee feels free to discuss all points of the problem -- to be completely

honest with the counselor and himself.

### Occupations

A conference may concern the problem of occupations; the counselor is well-equipped to help the student. Since occupations differ in educational requirements, training, and perhaps even more important, temperament, it seems advisable that students do some serious research into the business world. A counselor is aware of general qualifications and is trained in assessment of personal qualifications in relationship to jobs. He also helps the student assess occupational literature.

### Colleges

Choice of college is high on the list of counseling areas. For many students the choice is not of whether to go but where to go. Counselors can help students select a number of colleges which seem to fit their needs. It is entirely possible for a student to be a good student at one college, average at another, and a failure at a third, but this possibility does not necessarily relate to the ability of the student or the reputation of the college.

In general, counseling is a person to person relationship in which those involved focus on the needs of one or more within the group. Sometimes there is a specific problem to be attacked and the method is clear. Counseling then becomes exploratory--that is, the counselor and counselee work jointly to define the problem and suggest solutions.

## Senior lounging greatly improved

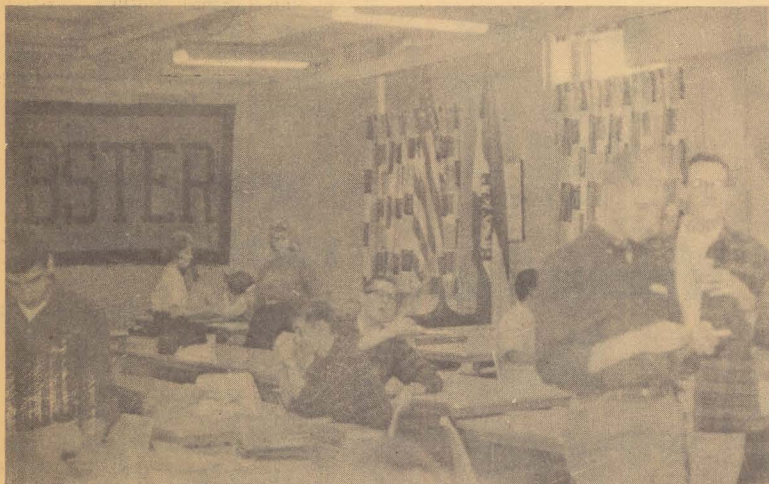


Photo by Dempster

In an atmosphere of new curtains and flags, seniors enjoy their lounge during lunch period.

As a result of the efforts of a committee headed by Neal Losse, class president, the senior lounge has been improved.

During the hectic bustle of semester tests and during the semester break, the Senior Lounge and Privilege Committee, co-chaired by Judy Feldman and Susie Sperber, devoted their spare time to redecorating the senior lounge. Industrious workers such as John Stocke, Rick Smith, Kathleen Passanisse, Jack Davis, Dave Cloud, Pat Wight, Charles Edmunds, Oliver Richards, Tim Swank, Pam Wilson, Everlean Franks, and Dave Corgeat helped in the campaign.

The Senior Lounge is a relatively new privilege. Located near the senior entrance of the school, it was once used as a storage room. After seeing the success of student lounges in other schools, Mr. Robert K. Smith decided to try the idea at Webster. He gathered some tables, chairs, and enthusiastic students.

Recently the lounge was closed because a few students abused their privilege. One of the candy machines, which frequently failed to give correct change, was booted into action with a kick. The broken machine then discharged candy bars at a jackpot rate. Students also wrote on the walls and melted chocolate on the chairs.

Feeling that students would respect the lounge if it were improved, a group of students attacked the room with a few paint brushes and a lot of imagination. Office secretaries Miss Ruth Ridgeway and Mrs. Louise Kuehn handled decorating problems such as draperies and furniture. Paintings by seniors were hung on the walls and potted plants were arranged. Shop classes are building a coffee table which will become a permanent record of senior signatures. Cost of improvements will be covered by lounge donations from past Senior classes.

## Bread-baking Santa really Mr. Coon

The white-haired man with the small brown bag which is not his lunch, but a loaf of bread, is not Santa's twin, although in appearance and temper menthe could be. He is actually Mr. Lloyd L. Coon, accompanist for the modern dance classes and for the Youth for Christ Club.

### Musical interests

Mr. Coon has played the piano for the modern dance classes for the past year and a half. According to Mrs. Suzanne Bushey, modern dance instructor, he is "a valuable asset" to the classes. He is "always there when he is needed and is always very cooperative." Mr. Coon enjoys working with the girls because it is not only "promoting a life-long hobby," but because he enjoys working with children and young adults.

Aside from his musical interests, Mr. Coon has two hobbies. The first is baking bread. He very often has a loaf of "Coon's Crunchy Crust Bread," that he has baked specially for some friend. His second hobby is babysitting. As his wife puts it, "He even asks

## Foreign pen-pals aid in languages

"It's fun to write to somebody not living in the United States. Besides, it helps my Spanish to be able to read what a teen-ager has written rather than just things out of a textbooks," said senior Nancy Woods, who is a correspondent in the Student Letter Exchange program.

From her penpal, Jose Luis Garcia Vidal of Onteniente (Valencia), Spain, Nancy has been able to learn many of the interests and customs of Jose and his country. Jose told Nancy that at Christmastime they have six fiestas and don't receive their presents until January 6, at the Festival of the Wise Men.

Bill Wilert, senior, has been writing to Lidia Berriel, a girl from Uruguay. Like many of the penpals, she expressed a wish to know the United States and its people better. Lidia also said, "I'm very sorry about the great loss of President John F. Kennedy. I tell you this from my heart."

Tim Ellis, junior, also has a penpal in Uruguay. She is Alicia Cerfoglio, a senior, taking 12 subjects which include physics, philosophy, chemistry, and French.

Another correspondent, Jean Merrick, a 15 year old girl from Wolverhampton Staffs, England, told Paula Buck, sophomore, that she would like very much to live in California.

These students participate in a world-wide activity which not only creates friendships, but also creates a better understanding of other countries.

## It's Leap Year!

Leap Year is commonly defined as any year divisible by four and having 366 days, with February receiving the extra day. The only century years that leap are those divisible by 400. Julius Caesar introduced the Leap Year into his calendar as a means for making the 365 day year closer to the solar year.

Leap Years are excellent for such special events as Presidential Elections and Olympic Games. But they are also a time for the male populace to beware, for by custom, women may propose marriage. In 1288, a law was passed in Scotland legalizing proposals by women, and Genoa and Florence followed suit two centuries later.



Photo by Paul

With only a twinkle of a smile, Mr. Coon enthusiastically accompanies the modern dancers.

if he can babysit," and with nine grandchildren he has ample opportunities.

### Many talents

Mr. Coon is a man of many talents. He wrote the music to the song "My Son" taken from Edgar Guest's poem, and has written an autobiography, The Adopted Son. When his four children were little, they enjoyed stories of his childhood so much that he put

these stories into book form so that his children and grandchildren could enjoy them.

For twenty-six years Mr. Coon was an employee of the Security Trust Company of St. Louis. Part of that time was spent as the assistant Vice President. At the same time he was a member of many music circles in the area and played the organ in many St. Louis County churches.

For the past two years Mr. Coon has been the organist at the Echo Coronation and will perform in the same capacity this year. He has also played for the past two spring programs of the Modern Dance Club.

Perhaps his most unusual performances since his retirement were at Christmas time the past two years. The Modern Dance Club Santa Claus both years was Mr. Coon.

## Nooks and lofts reveal oddities

The girl paused a moment in the semi-darkness and aimed her flashlight at a series of numbers scratched on the wall. "It's the combination," she hissed to her companion, then deftly unlocked the metal gate.

In spite of what you may think, she wasn't leading Zorro to his secret cave, or even descending into the Paris sewers. She was simply entering the choir loft behind the auditorium wall--one of Webster's little-known nooks and crannies.

To the casual observer, Webster seems to be a straightforward, typical high school, but if this observer looks hard enough, he will find several hidden rooms with interesting contents tucked in out-of-the-way corners.

Take the choir loft, for example. The first thing the dedicated nook and cranny explorer notices is a Chinese pigtail draped artistically across a storage shelf. There is also a large box of turkey feathers for angel wings (they have mites, though), a regal purple robe, and a golden harp.

The band room also offers possibilities for investigation. If the explorer passes by the mural of cavemen beating on drums and goes up one flight of stairs, he will find storage rooms full of rolled up flags and extra Marching Statesman bow ties.

And if anyone is feeling especially adventurous, he can always wander backstage to the costume room of the Little Theatre and poke his head into the cubbyhole through the trap door in the ceiling. All he has to do is follow the iron-runged ladder.

## National Theatre offers fine plays

Theater is for everybody," proclaimed Mr. Robert Jennings, a press-agent for the National Repertory Theatre, in an interview with St. Louis Globe-Democrat "Spotlight on Youth" reporters February 8. "Everybody" includes impoverished students and people who can't afford weekly trips to New York to see professional productions. In the atmosphere of the gilded American Theatre, Mr. Jennings defined repertory theatre and discussed the goals and purposes of the National Repertory Theatre, which was established two years ago.

Mr. Jennings explained that in repertory theatre, one dramatic company produces a series of plays, performing a different play each night. Now on tour in three big moving vans and one-third of a passenger jetliner, the National Repertory Theatre, a non-profit organization, will present three plays in St. Louis to commemorate the Bi-Centennial Celebration during a three-week run starting March 2.

Farley Granger, Eva Le Galliene, Denholm Elliott and Anne Meachem will star in "Ring Round the Moon" by Jean Anouilh, "The Crucible" by Arthur Miller, and "The Seagull" by Anton Chekhov.

The National Repertory Theatre wants to interest students in live drama. "Plays were written to be acted by professionals on a stage, not to be read in a classroom," Mr. Jennings said. Through arrangements made by the Greater St. Louis Arts and Education Council, student groups of ten or more will be entitled to half-price tickets and a post-performance discussion of the play by one star, one supporting actor and one producer.

Besides sparking a dramatic appreciation in students, the National Repertory Theatre is fanning an interest in repertory acting among professionals. Mr. Jennings explained that a Broadway actor becomes stale playing the same role every night for several years. But in repertory, an actor, in different plays each night, will retain his freshness by the time he returns to a certain role.