(Tripp Photo)

'Today' reporter Paul Cunningham, right, interviews Hyde headmaster Joseph Gauld

Philosophy Of Bath School To Be Featured On 'Today'

Philosophy Of Bath School To Be Featured On 'Today'

By VERDI L. TRIPP
District Correspondent

BATH — The Hyde School's philosophy that character building is more important than academic achievement has caught the eye of NBC-TV's Today program.

Reporter-at-large Paul Cunningham and a Today camera crew visited the college preparatory school to learn more about the unusual educational theory promoted by school officials.

Cunningham said the 10-minute program on Hyde School will be aired on the Today program sometime in June, and possibly in the next two weeks.

Cunningham and his two-man camera crew arrived in Bath by car Friday morning and will remain today to film the graduation, which begins at 10 a.m.

THERE WERE NO classes at the school Friday, and under the bright skies the cameras caught most students relaxing.

Cunningham wandered around the spacious campus with his crew, stopping occasionally to interview students as they watched a student-faculty softball team.

"This is the type of story we are always looking for on the Today program," the reporter said. Chatting with students beside the picturesque Hyde Pond, he seemed highly interested in what they had to say.

"These are the most mature youngsters I have ever talked with," he said.

Hyde School was established in 1966 when headmaster Joseph Gauld brought a new philosophy of education to Bath. The school has grown since, and in 1971 became coeducational.

Thirty-five Hyde students will graduate in ceremonies set for the sunken gardens at 10 a.m. today.

TWO MAINE students will receive the highest honor given at the school, the Hyde Award. They are Jane Shaw, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Shaw of Belfast, and Laurie Gauld, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gauld of Bath. A third Hyde Award goes to Donovan Farwell of Gig Harbor, Wash.

Receiving honors today in the graduation ceremonies will be Dennis Burke of Middletown, N.J.; Philip Smith of Westboro, Mass.; Gaye Lemay of Laconia, N.H. and Peter Hendley of Passaic, N.J.

Gauld said, "Both the Today Show and Channel 7 in Boston made plans to do a story on our school. Channel 7 did not want to conflict with the Today Show's program so will do their show sometime later in the year."

Gauld said that the Hyde philosophy of education is becoming known throughout the country. Feature stories have been done of the 9th through 12th grade school in the Chicago Daily News and the New York Times, the headmaster said.

THE CONCEPT OF developing character in students is most important for this country, Gauld said. "We have been giving this Hyde philosophy away to other schools for several years now," he added.

Gauld transferred some of his administrative duties this year to director Ed Legg. This frees him for forays into the country to discuss the Hyde concept of education with other school officials.

Gauld believes it will be only a matter of a short time before the Hyde philosophy is accepted in the public schools of this country.

He said there are tentative plans to expand the Hyde School programs into Texas and areas of the Midwest. "We would like to establish model schools throughout the country," Gauld said.

"We are the only school accredited for character development of students. We believe that with character, academic excellence will follow," he added.

"What's going on in Bath, Maine, can happen anywhere in this country," Gauld insisted.

The headmaster writes a weekly column on his educational ideas which appears in the family section of the Maine Sunday Telegram.

GAULD, JOSEPH W.

NBC-TV's Today program to run an educational feature which will include interview with Joseph Gauld bringing out his philosophy that character building is more important than academic achievement.

Portland Press Herald.
May 31, 1975. P. 1 & 8