

For every thing  
There is a season  
And a time for every purpose  
Under heaven

Ecclesiastes





## Santa's Season Rings— So Do Cash Registers

Coinciding with winter's arrival, a fifth season claims its heritage from the North. The "Season to be Jolly" erupted decidedly prematurely; no sooner had the Corn of Copia's fruitful supply been deleted, then the peal of St. Nick's laughter permeated throughout business establishments.

Christmas has become a holiday obscured by commercialism. The celebration, of religious origin, has exceeded its one day commemoration and has blossomed into a beneficial sales promotion for the businessman. It is estimated that 20% of a firm's yearly income is received during the pushed and frenzied campaign of the "only 22 shopping days left" countdown.

It seems rather ludicrous that the first inklings of Christmas' arrival come not by the guiding star of the North but by the blinking bulbs of manufactured displays and the bright red and white suits of hired Santas.

The whole personalness of the effervescent spirit of Yuletide good cheer is slowly dissolving with the popularity of retail stores' conveniences. No longer do any ornamentations or homemade food stuffs require preparation. With a few shopping hours and a credit card, Christmas can be bought from gift-wrapped packages to canned fruit cakes.

What has Christmas come to mean? Christmas traditions have degenerated Christmas' concept as a family celebration has lessened. Yet the business world cannot be fully blamed; it takes a willing public to permit and support commercialism.

The year's last national observance seeks good will on earth. The Salvation Army with their iron pots rings for charity to be given to the poor. Christmas Seals ask for donations for the handicapped.

Give your contributions for whatever motive, but why for so many does this kindness only appear as a Christmas effort?

## Drug Facts Speak For Themselves

Ninety-six percent of all Texas drug addicts started with "harmless" marijuana, pot, acid, or other supposedly "non-addictive" drugs.

No one arrested and charged with the felony of possessing, selling, or using narcotics has been acquitted this year in San Antonio.

A sufficient dose of marijuana is capable of producing all the detrimental effects of LSD.

After nearly twenty years of clinical research and 2,000 papers published in scientific journals, no medical use has as yet been found for LSD.

It has been calculated that New York City's addicts must raise from \$500,000 to \$700,000 per day to support their habits.

A person found guilty of the illegal sale or transfer of marijuana may be sentenced to not less than two nor more than ten years of imprisonment for the first offense.

A Northeast student may be expelled for any length of time for unlawful use, possession or sale of marijuana, barbiturates, heroin or any derivative thereof, sedatives, or any stimulatory or hallucinatory drug, or compound, or for the offense of being an accessory thereto, either on or off school property.

Less than two out of ten drug addicts ever make the long road back to complete rehabilitation.

This editorial is the first in a three part series designed, not to preach the pros and cons of taking drugs, but rather to present the facts and let the reader decide for himself.

There is a vast difference between ignorance and stupidity. Ignorance acts without knowledge of the facts, stupidity ignores them.

## Brahma Tales

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Senior Brahmadoras provide entertainment at the Blue and White Ball, held in the Mission Room at HemisFair Plaza, Friday night, December 13.

## '68 Spirit Awards Given At Blue and White Ball

Senior Football Captain Gary McCaffrey was awarded the title of "Mr. Football 1968", at the annual Blue and White Ball held Friday night December 13, in the Convention Center Mission Room, HemisFair Plaza.

Other awards for outstanding members of spirit organizations were also announced. The Brahma team captains announced Senior Head Cheerleader Pam Zito as their Football Sweetheart. Lassie Drum Major, Debbie Shaw, was named outstanding Lassie; Head Brahmadora Terrye Mischer was chosen Outstanding Brahmadora and Bairn, and Senior Twirler Nancy Rumble was selected Band Sweetheart.

The Ball was held in honor of the 1968 Brahma Football team, Band and spirit groups. Various members of each of these organizations participated in the Grand March, the highlight of the evening. It included: Lassie sponsor

Miss La Neal Tankersley, Bairn sponsor, Mrs. D'Ann Stall, Brahma Football coaches Vernon McManus, Jerald Martin, Wes Davis, Gene Smith, Bob Baker and Jim Smith.

Other highlights of the evening were the presentation of the gifts to Principal George H. Vakey, Mr. Sidney King, and the football coaches courtesy of the football team. Also, Miss La Neal Tankersley and Mr. John Pearson received a gift from the Lassies.

Senior Brahmadora members entertained the crowd of about 370 with a skit and dance, while Mr. John Pearson band, the Stuarts, provided music for the evening.

## Teachers Vote Makes Christmas Vacation Longer

Joy to the World!

Christmas holidays this year will consist of 16 days. This is six days longer than last year's vacation.

The holiday extension was approved last month by the Northeast District school board, who voted on it, along with the district Teachers' Association.

In order to fulfill the required amount of working days, the teachers will come to school and work two Saturdays, January 18, and May 31. At this time, they will take care of semester grading and reports.

School will be released on Friday, December 20, at 2:30 p.m., and students will not return until 8:30 a.m. Monday, January 6.

The purpose of the extended holidays this year is to enable students and faculty to enjoy the occasion more, by having ample time to travel out of town or state, for visiting relatives, and friends.

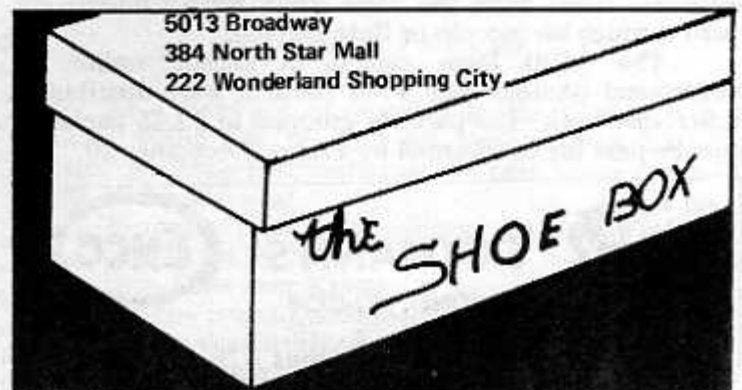
Mr. Ken Miller, assistant principal in charge of instruction, commenting on the holiday extension, stated that, "The decision to have more time off for the Christmas vacation is a wise one, because a lot of MacArthur students and faculty go out of town or state, on holidays."

## NEISD Phase I Nears Completion

As of November 18 the field house and science wing at MacArthur have been officially accepted as completed by the district. The student center, new library and administrative suite are expected to open by the second week in January while the ROTC building will hopefully be finished by the first of April.

These are but a few of the North East Independent School District improvements provided for by the bond issue passed in October, 1967. Phase I, consisting of reconstruction and air conditioning will be completed by midterm. Also included in this phase are the building of three new elementary schools—Camelot, Clear Spring and Regency Place. The main purpose of Phase I is to furnish all secondary schools with carpeting, air conditioning and library centers.

Phase II will see the construction of two new middle schools; W. W. Jackson and Ed White. Both should be ready for occupancy in 1970. Churchill will receive twenty classroom additions upon the receipt of Federal funds. The majority of the additions will be vocational technical units.





# File 13

By Brenda Speert



... The nature of an unannounced inspection by Central Office staffed ROTC Brass confounded several soldiers in a MacArthur platoon. Upon reviewing the uniform group, a question was issued by the inspectors concerning the identity of the school principal. Immediately, several unbecoming responses to the shouts of "Mr. George Vahey" were voiced for Mr. Jim Davis, assistant principal of student services. It can be concluded that many of these promising cadets have been familiarized with the reprimands of Mr. Davis.

... Senior Robert Williams displays his glass-blowing talents during the yuletide season at McCreless Shopping Center. The next two Saturdays, Dec. 21 and 28, and the following Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 29 and 30, will feature Robert at sessions beginning at noon.

... The volunteers equipped with walkie-talkies for prevention of car thefts may not share their pre-enlistment enthusiasm. The rain and cold must have dampened the 55 minute vigil's excitement.

... The regularity of change shortage by publication packet Master of Ceremonies Mr. Norm Hitzges has come to a nostalgic termination. But the 1062 packet possessors still have the benefits of a half semester of newspapers, an anthology, and an annual to come. Capital, supplied not only by the \$3876 pledged advertising, substantiates the efforts of advisory presidents Steve Paulson, senior; Karen Norville, junior; Gary Fischer, sophomore; and James Hetherington, freshman. Mr. Keiser's senior advisory paced the 313 senior-claimed packets with 28 sales, while 20 packets out of the 250 junior packets sold were purchased in Mrs. McSwain's advisory. Of the 247 sophomore packets sold, Mr. Hardin's advisory led the statistics with 24. High-point freshman advisory listing 22 of the 252 freshmen packet-owners was Mr. Speier's.

...Band members Nancy Rumbel and Brian Taylor qualified for the All State Symphony Orchestra. For Nancy Rumbel, senior, the honor marks her third year in the orchestra while for Brian Taylor, junior, the All-State naming is a second year occurrence. Nancy's musical resonance floats from the oboe while Brian's talents are heard through his piccolo or flute playing.

...The 1600 faces caught in angelic smiles by professional photographer Fred Harding were distributed earlier this week. The pictures grouped in \$2.25 packages must be paid for or returned by Friday, December 20.



One of Mac's Senior Outstanding Teenagers of America, Gary Caswell receives his award from Mr. Davis during student assembly. (as Brahma Tales staff photographer Bill Spence looks on.)

## Outstanding Teenagers of America Awards Presented At Assembly

Gary Caswell, Cindy Dobbs, and Ken Pearce received Outstanding Teenagers of America Awards for 1969 at the junior-senior assembly Dec. 13. The three were nominated for their honors on the basis of ability and achievement, by the school, and will compete for State and national awards later in the year. The annual sponsor of this contest is the Outstanding Americans Foundation. The program is guided by a distinguished Board of Advisors representing major youth organizations and educational institutions.

The awards were presented by Miss Hull, senior counselor, and Mr. Vahey, MacArthur principal.

The three will compete with other state-wide winners for the Governor's Trophy, awarded to the outstanding teen of Texas. Each of the fifty winners will be eligible for one of the two National Outstanding Teenagers of America awards and college scholarships.

The National Merit Commended Students for MacArthur were also named at the assembly and presented certificates. They are Jean Eby, Joseph Fulton, Paulette Gibson, David Griffis, May Langridge, Vincent Leyendecker, Ken Pearce,

Rick Railsback, Thomas Sickmann, Lee Ann Tindell, and George Williams.

National Merit Finalists will be announced at a later date.

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## NFL Speech Students Unwind After Successful Fall Season

The Churchill Forensic Tournament held December 6 and 7, where MacArthur took Best Speaker, a first place, a second and two thirds, highlighted the close of MacArthur's National Forensic League initiation week.

Celebrating with a party Saturday evening, initiates claimed full membership along with appropriate nicknames and the customary handshake from the NFL president, Jeff Harmon.

During the week, all initiates were assigned a "master" and subjected to whatever devilish punishments their leader could devise. Typical tasks were selling a roll of toilet paper piece by piece or bible readings a penny per verse. Proposals of marriage to Mrs. Pat Gartman or serenades of "You Are My Sunshine" to total strangers were spectacles the student body became accustomed to as good natured initiates cheerfully carried out their orders.

The contest began Friday after school for the debaters, while individual competition and duet acting preliminaries were Saturday morning. Names of the finalists were posted in the cafeteria by 2:30 that afternoon and winners went on to compete. Suspense built up the entire day until the awards assembly at 8 p.m. At that time trophies and plaques were presented for first, second and third place finishers.

Kathy Couser received Best Speaker for her second place in dramatic interpretation and third place in girls' poetry. Gay Gilmer took first in girls' prose reading for her reading of "Brer Rabbit and Tar Baby". The duet team of Pat Carney and Elizabeth Lockhart received third place. Finalists who did not place were Norman Thomas, Judy Schafer and Michelle O'Connor in prose; Rick Railsback and Jean Eby in poetry; Peggy

Chesson and Zia Gipson in oratory. Peggy Chesson also made finals in extemp. In duet acting finals were the teams of Michelle O'Connor and Jeanie Cox, and Ronnie Zimmerman and Nancy Hamby. Debate finalists were Jaime Biery and Judy Schafer.

After the contest, the group gathered at Judy Schafer's house for refreshments and a look at the judge's written critiques. The formal initiation ceremony was opened with a prayer by Zia Gipson, NFL chaplain. The blue and white cake was then cut by Jeff Harmon who generously stuck a rose, along with his thumb, into the slices of honored members. Licking their fingers, the party trooped to the front room where Stan Crawford swore initiates in and dubbed the new members with affectionate and not so affectionate club names. The new joiners ecstasy was shortlived though, for the enterprising president, amidst groans announced "As new members, you are now obliged to fork up the \$3.00 membership dues."

Initiates were Jaime Biery, Ann Bragg, Peggy Chesson, Doug Coffey, Alicea Fletcher, Gay Gilmer, Sara Jane Hawthorne, Bob Johnson, Laird Markland, Mark Mitchell, David Olsen, Lee Petersen, Barbara Riley, Judy Schafer, Debbie Stewart, and Norman Thomas.



"It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas"—as decorations all over MacArthur show the holiday spirit, including the door of the Counselor's office and Christmas wreaths being made in vocational IBM.

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