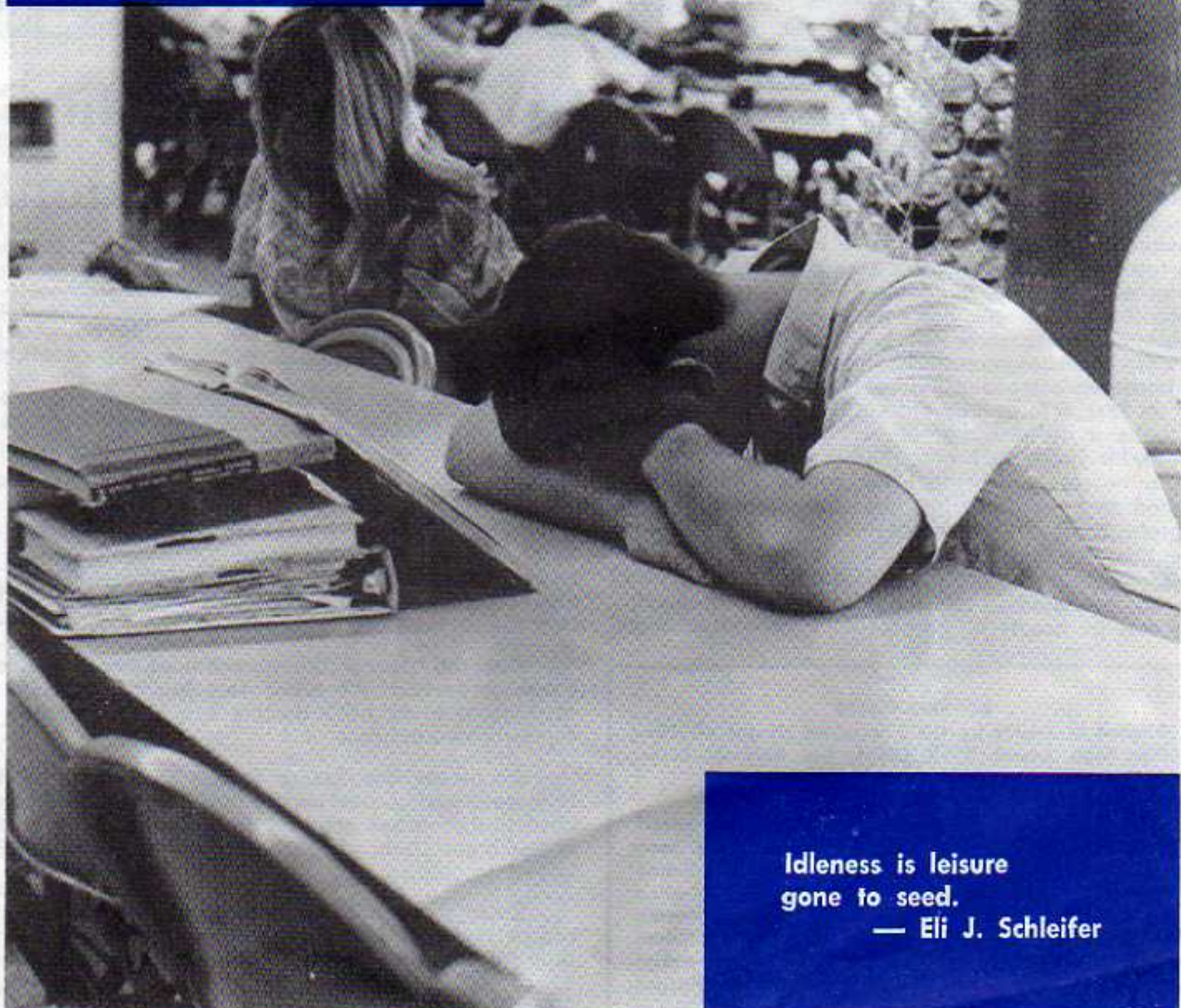


# Brahma Tales



Douglas MacArthur High School  
San Antonio, Texas

Vol. II, No. 9 Feb. 6, 1969



Idleness is leisure  
gone to seed.  
— Eli J. Schleifer

# Editorials

## Buy Now; Pay Later

"Hey, kid, where you going to college? Bet you wanna be a dentist like your old man. Or maybe even a lawyer. Heard they really rake in the dough. Well, what's it gonna be?"

The average student is bombarded with similar questions from the time he is old enough to imitate his favorite hero, be it Sherlock Holmes or Underdog.

Pressure is exerted upon the student to decide on his vocation early in order to get a head start. The frustration of indecision can only be paralleled with that of a child in a Howard Johnson's Ice Cream Parlor with only one nickel.

Jobs in all fields are becoming increasingly specialized thus requiring more extensive training. For although grandfather may have been able to get by with a high school diploma, the same position two generations later demands four to six years additional study. But what if the student finally arrives at his destination and discovers it's not the place he wanted to go after all? At that point very few are willing to go to the foot of the class and start over.

Then obviously the time for reading the travel brochures and shopping around is before one leaps on the train. Even the box car bum needs to know the towns with the best handouts.

In other words, don't purchase your ticket way ahead of time for fear the best seats will be taken. In a rapidly changing world today's easy chairs may be tomorrow's wooden benches.

In fact, it is usually not necessary for the student to make a definite decision on his career until as late as his junior or senior year in college. Of course this is not to belittle any fine young man who has wanted to be a sea-going pirate ever since he read Captain Kidd. It is merely meant to bring to his attention the fact that in a few short years pirates have changed from one-eyed swashbucklers to clean shaven men selling used cars. The art of fencing may not be nearly so helpful as a disarming smile.

### BRAHMA TALES

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## Giving Up Smokings A Personal Decision

It's your life.

The American Cancer Society's campaigns, studies in Health classes, and the warning bulletin on each cigarette pack should reduce cigarette smoking.

Yet, it appears that smokers are not concerned about inhaling fumes damaging to the lung's cells for people still patronize the tobacco industry. Even MacArthur's smoking area has not suffered a loss of business.

Students seem unperterurbed about the possibility of shortening their life span or becoming disabled from cancer possibly because they are unable to visualize their healthy bodies racked with disease. This fate seems inconceivable.

Has the Cancer Society's humanitarian concern gone unappreciated? Since the Society's attack on smoking, a mere 1.8% decline has been recorded in cigarette consumption.

As far as the Cancer Society's attempts to discourage smoking, one must admit they certainly have tried to discourage smoking by utilizing every means of communication. Unfortunately, smokes cannot be forced to stop.

Twenty-two million dollars has been invested in cancer research, and findings have repeatedly shown that smoking can be hazardous to your health.

It's your decision.

# UIL Sponsors Search For Varied Talents

Now is the time for all Mac students to prepare for participation in the Interscholastic League's District 30AAAA spring meet. Students interested in pitting their talents in any of 14 areas against others from district schools can qualify as an entrant by conferring with MacArthur sponsors.

For science lovers, Mr. Cyril Firgens and Mr. Japes Schorp will coach entrants for the science division. Mrs. Majorie Ecord will direct mental path calculators for number sense while sliderule manipulators will receive Mr. Frank Birmingham's guidance. Typists and shorthand enthusiasts can be representatives in their fields by contacting Mr. Jack Jensen and Mr. John Milligan, respectively.

Seeking ready writers are Mrs. Virginia Peak and Mrs. Pat Barlow. Mrs. Mary Tyson will supervise spellers. Students desiring competition in Journalism should see Mr. Norm Hitzges.

Divisions offered in speech are Boys and Girls Debate, Extemporaneous, Persuasive, Prose and Poetry. Mrs. Pat Gartman will make final selections for entrants. The one act play is directed by Mrs. Pat Baca.

Though the contests are not occurring until March 29 and the play will not be presented until April 12, Mr. Ken Miller, assistant principal, has urged that preparations begin now. He concluded that it would be ideal for MacArthur, the 1970 Director General of the meet, to be not only host next year but defending team champion as well.

Winners in district will progress to Region competition where those acclaimed winners will vie in state competition.

District entrants must not have reached the age of 19 before September 1. Highlands High School is the host for the 1969 district competition.



The MacArthur building program is heading down the backstretch. Last week, the new was library opened and the transfer of books from the old library is nearing completion.

## March of Dimes Stages Annual Walk-A-Thon

by Debbie McClure

The MacArthur Student Council participated in the March of Dimes Walk-a-Thon on Saturday, February 14, to raise funds for the March of Dimes fight against birth defects.

The Walk-a-Thon began at 8 a.m. Saturday morning and continued until 5 o'clock that evening.

All of the "walkers" began at the Josephine Theater, on Josephine Street, and proceeded toward HepisFair Plaza, the goal. This covers a distance of almost four miles. Walkers moved 1 foot for each 10 cents collected. A total of \$2,000 was needed in order to reach the goal.

Council members acting as "walkers" were Tommy Snider, Rick Alexander, and Steve Beck.

The distance walked depended on the amount of donations received or pledged.

MacArthur was in competition with the rest of the city high schools, in an attempt to raise the most funds. Results were not known at press time.

The Walk-a-Thon program was announced over KTSA Radio all day Saturday.

Major organizations around MacArthur were also conducting fund raising activities, striving to reach the \$2,000 goal.

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# File 13

By Brenda Speert



... To all those Seniors who have found the last three and one half years unbearable, a senior class meeting to discuss graduation invitations indicates that the end is near.

... Lately MacArthur students have won several little publicized honors. Richard Carnes and Nancy Rumbel took first place and runner-up respectively in Joske's Piano competition. At the Area IV D.E.C.A. Conference held Feb. 1 at Harlandale Jinny Singleton and Gidget Dixon received first place honors in advertising and Job Interview contests. In addition Bob Tober received Honorable Mention for display.

... It took only horsesense for Mr. Cyril Firgen's Biology II class to prepare the materials for an experiment. One morning's task required each student to peel the husks from 70 oats.

... Springtime fresh are Mrs. Virginia Flood and Mrs. Virginia Peak. Each has modified her hairstyle.

... What is study hall without the lengthy rows of cafeteria tables? Ask the first period study hall teachers who had difficulties assembling students Jan. 20. What could have caused this predicament? Ask the Football Banquet sponsors who were late in returning the tables to the cafeteria after the banquet the Saturday before.

... MacArthur earned sixth place in the TAP Hold-up in late January.

... Have you noticed that since the new patio area has been constructed we no longer must slosh through the mud during those rainy days? Now, travel through stagnant water puddles greets the student during those wet days. Drainage of water on the concrete area is non-existent.

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# MacArthur Captures Alice Sweepstakes

MacArthur took Sweepstakes in the annual Alice Speech Tournament at Alice, Texas, January 31-February 1, by winning two firsts, five seconds and four thirds.

Night Owls must have been surprised to see students assembling in the school parking lot at 4 a.m. Friday morning. Was it a student riot in the making? Dropouts trying to break in perhaps? No, just 40 speech and drama students boarding the bus for a small town 250 miles away.

Arriving in time for scheduled individual events and duet acting, contestants shuffled from room to room to meet deadlines, as some students entered as many as seven events. An hour and a half for lunch and then back for semi-finals and finals. Winners were announced in the awards assembly at 8 p.m. Friday.

A rousing cheer greeted the commentator whenever he called MacArthur's magic number "21". Even third placers received a standing ovation. At the close MacArthur was posted as leading with the ultimate result hinging on the debate results.

All, except the unlucky debaters, slept late Saturday morning. But despite the early rising, Pat Carlson and Zia Gipson got out of preliminaries into semifinals and finished third in finals—clinching Sweepstakes for MacArthur.

Finalists who placed first were Peggy Chesson in Bible Reading and James Webster in Poetry. Second placers were Zia

Gipson - extemporaneous, Rick Railsback—poetry, Judy Schafer — dramatic interpretation, Jeff Harmon — Impromptu, Claudia Irving - prose. Third placers were James Webster in dramatic interpretation, Norman Thomas in oratory, Pat Carlson in impromptu and Nancy Hamby and James Webster in duet acting.

In addition, those getting out of preliminaries and not previously mentioned were Richard Bayse, Stan Crawford, Debbie Stewart, Nancy Fletcher, Steve Williams, Sara Jane Hawthorne, Joetta Hall, Gail Lawson, Greg Mogford, Lynn Lewis and Dave Olson.

The speech and drama students' next outing will be at Cole High School Feb. 15 and 16.

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Mr. James Terry, left, goes through a "warm-up" exercise with a student of the Men's Physical Fitness Class offered by the Continuing Education Program of the North East Independent School District.

# Northeast To Offer 40 Adult Courses

by Debbie McClure

The North East School District is offering a spring program of continuing education in 40 course areas for those adults wishing to enroll in non-credit evening courses.

Registration will take place in the new MacArthur library on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, February 11 and 13. Classes will begin February 11 and 13. Classes will begin February 18 and 20.

Scheduled classes include typing, shorthand, public speaking, reading improvement, Spanish, sewing, decoupage and papier mache, art, investments, physical fitness, golf, computer programming, writing for publication, data processing, welding, basic plumbing repair, basic television repair, furniture repair, furniture refinishing and antiquing, automotive tune-up, air conditioning and refrigeration, and small appliance repair.

All courses cost \$16 for a ten-week session, except some vocational courses which cost \$22 for the semester. A special twelve-week course on air conditioning and refrigeration is being offered for \$47. It will explain in simplified terms repair techniques.

Late registration will be permitted in most courses. Advance registrations may be mailed with tuition payment to the dis-

trict office. Those wishing additional information should contact the Continuing Education Program secretary between 8 a.m. to 12 noon at 655-3061, or Bob Wood at 655-4210, between 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

The purpose of the program according to Mr. Alfred Pieper, director of the Continuing Education Program, is to help adults develop new vocational and technical skills in the area of their interest.

Vocational - Technical subjects will meet one night a week from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., with the exception of air conditioning and refrigeration which will meet twice a week.

A variety of enrollees is anticipated from businessmen wanting to learn how to fix air conditioners to housewives looking for creative hobbies or prospective careers. Between five and eight hundred people are expected to enroll, but most classes are limited. In the event that not all prospective enrollees can be taken, residents of the North East District will be given priority. The majority of the instructors are teachers from the North East School District.

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# Argentiniains Adjust To American Life

by Sara Jane Hawthorne

Two boys from Argentina are visiting MacArthur's campus for approximately six weeks. They are Francisca "Pancho" Iglesia and Fernando Carara, who are staying with the McCall and Nauschutz families, respectively.

The two are part of a group of ten boys and three girls from Argentina who are now in San Antonio. All are taking regular courses having already graduated from high school. Before returning home, they will take a tour of Washington, D.C., New York City, and Miami, among other cities.

Members of the host families have discovered some interesting differences and similarities between life in Argentina and life in the United States. Besides climatic contrasts, which allows South Americans to have summer vacation in the middle of our winter, and vice versa, there is a variance in eating habits.

An Argentinian child grows up with wine served in the home although he cannot legally purchase liquor until he is eighteen years old. Also, because the main portion of the boys' meals back home consisted of meat, they have had a slightly difficult time adjusting to the numerous kinds of vegetables offered at the American table. One of

Argentina's favorite beverages is mate, a brew somewhat like tea and frequently served in the late afternoon. Dinner is not eaten until after 9 p.m.

Like 84% of the Argentinians, both Pancho and Fernando are Roman Catholic. So dominant is the religion, that the country's constitution requires that the president and vice-president be Roman Catholics.

From age sixteen a boy is thereafter considered a man although he does not have full citizenship rights.

In comparison, the boys attended more parties in Argentina. However, this can be attributed partly to the fact that the pair belong to the upper class and would therefore have more time and money. Their parents are paying the cost of the trip to America.

Entertainment of the celebrations is usually supplied by guitar or other musical instruments such as piano. As for the Argentinians opinion of our psychedelic music and hippie dress — they love it! One of Poncho's favorite songs is Ina Gadda Da Vida by the Iron Butterfly. Both like the Beatles.

The purpose of the student exchange program is to curb propaganda about United States Imperialism. By seeing what life in America is really like and returning home to tell others, it is hoped to promote understanding between nations.



Fernando Carrara, one of two Argentinian exchange students on campus, catches a few minutes of study before class.

## Numerous Activities Planned For AFS Week

AFS Week, sponsored by the American Field Service Club, will last from February 17-21 and will feature various activities highlighted by many foreign visitors. During the week, the AFS club will host a group of men from various countries who are studying English while staying at Lackland Air Force Base. These men are in the United States to learn customs and language of Americans and will be observing U.S. teaching techniques and living conditions. Every AFS member will escort a "Lackland Student" to each of his classes.

Another planned activity of the week is a panel program featuring MacArthur's foreign exchange student, Odile Decombe, and the foreign exchange students from Lee and Roosevelt. The student body will be given the opportunity to direct questions about different customs in each country to the guests.

Odile Day is the climax of AFS week. Odile will speak about her country and will present slides on her country and its cus-

toms. An Austrian Folk Group is also expected to be on campus to present a program.

The AFS Club also announces that Pirjo Laitinen, a foreign exchange student from Finland, will visit San Antonio and MacArthur from February 8-15. She will stay at Kathy Palmer's home and will be attending classes at MacArthur during her stay.

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