

# Brahma Tales



Douglas MacArthur High School  
San Antonio, Texas

Vol. XI, No. 10

Feb. 25, 1969

WOME Boo the Faculty

WE  
50¢ WANT YOU FEB. 26 at "BIG" the GAME

Student-Faculty Game

Age does not make us childish, as some  
say; instead, it finds us the true children.

—Goethe



# Editorials

## Congress Considers Volunteer Army

Definite actions are finally being taken to seriously consider the establishment of a volunteer army, at least in times of undeclared war.

Such a system would force Congress to either officially declare war in such places as Southeast Asia and Korea or to completely rely on volunteers to man the army.

The proposal has caused numerous arguments.

Naturally, much of the support comes from young people who would be affected by its adoption.

Supporters of the plan feel a volunteer army would be more efficient because of the lower turnover rate, as the army becomes a career for professionals.

The plan would also eliminate the uncertainty that hangs over young men until they are age twenty-six and the inequities of drafting some and deferring others.

On the other hand, there are some very strong disadvantages which apparently cannot be overlooked. Most dominant is its inability to secure manpower.

Estimates of the cost to induce volunteers run as high as seventeen billion dollars according to The Department of Defense. Even then, realists seriously doubt that any amount of money could tempt young men to place their lives in jeopardy. Another important factor is flexibility, the ability to enlarge or shrink rapidly to meet changing needs. Without functioning draft machinery, it is difficult to imagine amassing a large army quickly. And finally several hold the unsupported fear that such a force would become mercenary, loyal to the highest bidder.

The American public may never have to make this difficult decision. For recently, General Lewis B. Hershey, head of the Selective Service System for many years, crushed the hopes which might have been stirring in the hearts of eighteen year old boys with his words, "The draft is here to stay."

### BRAHMA TALES

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## Vandal And Viewer Are Equally Guilty

If you have ever:

- 1) marked walls,
- 2) punched holes in the ceiling,
- 3) shattered school windows,
- 4) doodled or carved on desk tops,
- 5) removed the red lights controlling the second hands of the 200 wing clocks,

You are a vandal.

If you have ever seen a person:

- 1) marking walls,
- 2) punching holes in the ceiling,
- 3) shattering windows,
- 4) doodling on desk tops,
- 5) damaging public property, and did nothing to stop him,

You have accepted just as much guilt for the vandalistic act as the vandal himself.

There are few ways to prevent vandalism before its effect is seen.

Yet, the fact remains that this senseless destruction frequently is witnessed. The onlooker should act in some way to prevent the destruction. But for some reason, this has not been the case.

Vandals are guilty of committing a crime.

Observing vandals in action and not taking action to curb them is a concession of approval. It is a kind of guilt by omission.



Brian Taylor, chosen Outstanding Musician at Brownwood, was featured soloist in "Here's That Rainy Day" and "Mission Impossible".



Scott Spencer took the drummer's spot in the All-Star Stage Band at Brownwood.



Stage Band trumpet players await their entrance during "Serenade for Bass Trombone".



John Pearson directs the Blue Knights during a practice session after school.

## Blue Knights Judged Best In Southwest

Story and Photographs by Richard Bayse

Douglas MacArthur High School left a permanent impression at the 18th Annual Brownwood Stage Band Festival Saturday, February 15, as the Blue Knights, MacArthur's stage band, captured the class AAAA title.

The title signifies stage band supremacy in the four state area of Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, and New Mexico.

Under the direction of John H. Pearson, the Blue Knights put on a lavish performance for the packed auditorium of some 750 people and four judges. John LaPorta of the Berkeley School of Music in Boston, Mass., Clem DeRosa of Comack, N.Y., Leon Breden of North Texas State University, and Harley Rex of Sam Houston State in Huntsville, Texas judged the competition.

The Blue Knights opened with "On a Wonderful Day Like Today" to immediately capture the attention of those present. During the number, Steve Spencer played a drum solo that won the respect

of the judges and the drummer spot in the All-Star Stage Band.

For a change of pace, MacArthur slowed things up a little with a piece titled "Serenade for Bass Trombone" which featured Ross Johnson as the trombone soloist. For his performance Johnson was chosen for lead trombone in the All-Star Stage Band.

The Blue Knight's version of "Mission Impossible" rocked the auditorium. Brian Taylor, chosen outstanding musician at the festival, set the audience abuzz when he interjected his solo of "Norwegian Wood" into the "Mission Impossible" theme.

Brian Taylor, on the electric flute, was the featured soloist during MacArthur's fourth number titled "Here Is That Rainy Day."

The Blue Knights, clad in their new white pants turtlenecks and blue Nerhu jackets, ended their performance with a mixture of two numbers—"Dot-Dash" and "Snake Dance."

Sophomore girl drummer Karen Greesen delighted the crowd with her performance. MacArthur's "soul chorus" composed of Wayne Seipel and Douglas Axelrod offered their version of the "soulful strut." Trumpet players Mark Schultz, Kort Ogden, Don Johnson, Dave Childress, and Tom DiFronzo made the piece swing with their brand of soul. Brian Taylor got another ovation from the crowd as he tackled a brief ending onto the song.

Other members of the Blue Knights who perform-

ed at Brownwood were: bass guitar, Mike Loring; trombones, Mike Luke, David Moore, David Bechtold, and Louis Mizell; rhythm section, Pat Parr; Saxophones Robert Wallace, Gary Larogue, David Lucke, Terry Overton, and Keith Valone; and Richard Carnes on the piano.

Other 4-A stage bands that competed were from Big Spring, Fort Worth, Pasadena, Arlington, Dallas, Greenville, Denton, and Tulsa, Okla.

The Blue Knight's received one of the highest honors a high school band could get. They are the first high school stage band to play for the Texas Music Education Association's all-state convention. The Knights played Saturday, Feb. 22.



# File 13

By Brenda Speert



... First period World Culture classes taught by Coach Bill Moseley, Mrs. Edith Speert, and Mr. Glenn Wichardt, had heart Valentine's Day. In celebration of the occasion, the classes gave Coach Moseley and Mr. Wichardt each a pair of heart-imprinted under-shorts.

... At the Brownwood Band Festival, drummer Doug Axelrod had intended to play "Mission Impossible" with four tympani. Doug had to double up when he found however, there were only two tympani at Brownwood.

... The frenzied campaign of teens against polio resulted in MacArthur finishing seven out of 30 competing schools in the annual Walk-A-Thon.

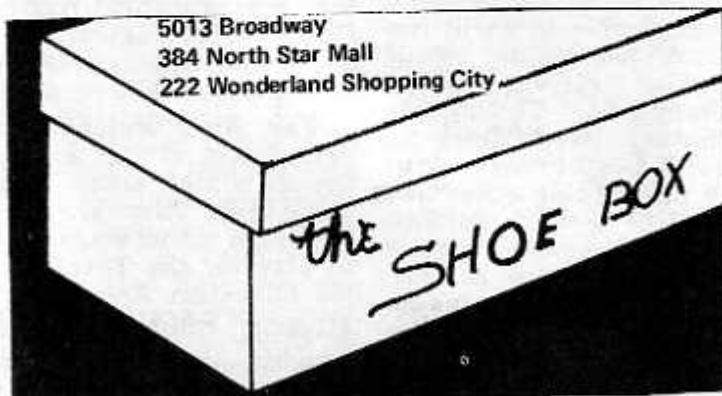
... Meanwhile, fund raising perseverance of Freshman Hank Green remained unnoticed by the campus but not by the police. Having begun his travels before he obtained proper TAP credentials, Hank received a visit from the Terrell Hills police.

... The Walk-A-Thon standings failed to reveal the status of one of Mac's sister schools. Unfortunately, disqualification was the only feat this school accomplished.

... Chagrin was the only sentiment of duet actors Steve Williams and Richard Bayse at the recent Alamo Heights speech contest. In preliminaries, the judge rated their presentation excellent in all categories. Boosted into the finals by this commendable review, the pair, upon noticing the same benevolent judge presiding over the acting division, felt secure in this next competition. Yet, the second critique contained no sweet comments. The judge criticized their choice of selection, delivery, and in short, the whole act. The incongruity of the two evaluations was solved only by the sudden presence of another familiar judge. Identical twin judges offering different opinions were the cause of the problem.

... The 1968 anthology, TAURUS, merited an All-State rating for superior accomplishment at the Inter-scholastic League Press Conference.

... Students who drew income on a 1968 payroll can get back all or part of the tax withheld by filing a return before the April 15 deadline.



Karen Greesen, first instrumentalist in "The Blue Knights" stage band and the only girl drummer, plays in the school assembly, held in the auditorium, Friday, Feb. 14.

## Girl Drummer Admitted To Mac's Blue Knights

By Sara Jane Hawthorne

It's a MacArthur first.

The only girl ever admitted to stage band is none other than sophomore Karen Greesen. And what's more, she plays the drums.

During talent show try-outs two weeks ago, Mr. John Pearson, MacArthur band director, saw Karen playing the drums with "The Thirteenth Hour". Although she was already a member of "A" Band, he was so impressed, he asked her to join Stage Band. Karen's uniform, with white pants and shirt, is the same as the boys', except for the blue jacket which is styled more along feminine lines.

Because of her class schedule, she is unable to practice seventh period with the others in the band. Instead, she stays after school three days a week. In all, she practices about four hours weekly on the drums alone, not including time spent on her clarinet which she plays in the "A" band.

Such a strenuous schedule usually limits outside activities, but Karen also manages to perform with

the musical group mentioned previously — The Thirteenth Hour. Again she is the only girl in the group which includes six boys. During the recent Battle of the Bands at Teen Canteen, The Thirteenth Hour tied for second place. They have since played at parties and school dances such as the Sock Hop at Garner Junior High.

A look into her more personal life reveals some interesting facts.

Karen started playing the drum four years ago to imitate her favorite Beatle, Ringo Starr. As for instructions — she taught herself!

"I was just a typical teenybopper", she quips. She plans to go to San Antonio College, which her older brother is currently attending. She also has a sister, who is a senior at MacArthur.

# NESD To Sponsor Career Week At Lee

By Zia Gipson

The North East School District is sponsoring Career Week March 3-7.

The week will begin with a career conference Monday, March 3, at Robert E. Lee High School. The theme of the conference will be "A Look-In at Careers" and will concern three areas vital to students' futures: careers, area job opportunities, and training.

The conference will begin at 7 o'clock in the Lee Auditorium with a general session welcoming students and parents. A short ceremony will dedicate the new vocational and science facilities at Lee. Further information and the schedule of the night's activities will conclude the assembly. At approximately 8 p.m., the three 25-minute sessions will begin.

The first phase of the program, careers, will concern specific career opportunities. Thirty-five representatives from such varied professions as medicine and welding will offer information. Talks will deal with basic segments of the profession including training needs, pay scales and future opportunities.

Speakers in the second area, job opportunities, will be representatives from local agencies which employ large numbers of local people. USAA, Texas Employment Commission, City Public Service Board, Joske's and many others will present talks dealing with their specific employment fields. Southwestern Bell and the armed services will be represented to help students interested in these careers.

Training facilities will be the focus of the third area. This department will have agents from San Antonio College, St. Phillips College, South West Texas, Texas A & I, and other colleges. Speakers from Community College and the Baptist Memorial Hospital will also be on

hand.

Discussions in these areas may also reveal opportunities for summer occupations.

Mr. Roy Gabryl, vocational counselor at MacArthur, disclosed that the rest of MacArthur's career week will be filled with teacher discussions in their particular fields.

Mr. Gabryl emphasized the importance of the role that teachers play in student decisions. "Twenty-five per cent of the students," he said, "are significantly influenced by classroom activities and discussions."

Incidentally, homework should not pose a problem. Teachers have been urged to keep studies light so attendance can be sizeable.

## Students, Faculty To Tangle In Basketball Wednesday

MacArthur's Junior class will sponsor the annual Student-Faculty basketball game Wednesday, Feb. 26, at 7:30 p.m. in the boys' gym.

The faculty boasts such stalwarts as Coach Vernon McManus, Coach Wesley Davis, Coach Bill Moseley and Mr. Norm Hitzges, to name a few. But the steady march of time has taken its toll. Several former faculty stars have decided not to participate in the grand event this year.

The student team will consist of members of the Brahma football team.

Each team will be cheered on by its own pep squad.



The French Club played cupid on Valentine's Day, February 14, by delivering carnations. Here, French Club members Nancy Rumbel and Kathy Couser present a carnation to Laurie Langston from her beau.

## Sweetheart Ball Set For March 8

"Moonlight and Roses" is the theme for the Sweetheart Ball set for La Villita Assembly Hall on March 8 from 8 p.m. to midnight.

The Sweetheart Ball is an annual affair sponsored by the MacArthur senior class.

The evening's highlight will be the presentation of the 1969 MacArthur Sweetheart and her Court. Members of the Court include:

freshmen—Claudia Irving, Courtney Lepick, and Lisa Shackelford; sophomores—Sharon Braddock, Denise O'Conner, and Terri Temple; juniors—Sandie Compton, Duzie Gordon, and Cindy Jacobs; and seniors—Lynn Cather, Kathy Couser, Julie Ketchum, Kristy Short, and Anne Whitmore.

One senior girl will be chosen from this group to be Sweetheart at the Ball. Each member of the Court was nominated and voted on in advisory two weeks ago.

The 1968 Sweetheart, Nancy Reed, will be on hand to crown the new Sweetheart.

Dress is semi-formal and bids are \$2.50 each. Tickets are now on sale in the foyer of the auditorium. All seniors who paid dues are admitted free.

Music will be provided by "The Ebony," a ten piece soul band.



## ANTHOLOGY NOW TAKING MATERIAL

The staff of MacArthur's anthology, *The Taurus*, is now accepting material for its May 15 publication. Poems, short stories, essays, artwork, and photographs should be submitted to any English teacher or to journalism instructor Mr. Norm Hitzges.

The deadline for turning in material is March 15. Final selections will be made by the Creative Writing Club, *Taurus* editor Sara Jane Hawthorne and the co-sponsors, Mrs. Marilyn Jones and Mr. Hitzges.

Other activities of the Creative Writing Club include forming a junior chapter to the Poetry Society of Texas in San Antonio with the aid of Mrs. Alice Hall, president of the San Antonio chapter of the Texas Poetry Society. As members, club members will be eligible for the various contests offered by the club throughout the year. Membership fee is \$2.50.

The National Poetry Press Contest, now underway, is open to all students with prizes awarded in the categories of poetry, essays, and art work. Those interested should contact Mr. Hitzges.

## ROTC Cadets Get Arms

MacArthur's ROTC unit received a long-awaited shipment of arms last week.

The weaponry consisted of 60 M-1 rifles and twelve .22 caliber target rifles.

The M-1 rifles will be used in ROTC Drill Team maneuvers and classroom instruction, but are not able to fire.

The target rifles are for use by ROTC classes and the MacArthur Rifle Team. The rifles are fired on the 50-foot long target range housed in the ROTC building.

Twenty M-1 rifles were used previously by the ROTC in teaching the use and maintenance of a rifle.

However, these weapons were kept at the Roosevelt High School ROTC building, because MacArthur's facility did not provide adequate security for gun storage.

The Army requires that bars be installed on all windows before guns are kept in the building. The guns will be kept in the Armory's arms room which now has the necessary security.



Two of the 17 acts which qualified in the Talent Show auditions held last week were Stuart Schuetz (left), singing Scottish folk songs, and a girl's quartet, Janice Marks, Donna Patterson, Paulette Gibson and Kay Marks.

## 17 Acts Accepted For Talent Show

MacArthur's 1969 list of the most talented entertainers has been compiled after a week of talent try-outs.

Seventeen qualifiers, screened by faculty judges, have been chosen for the Talent Show scheduled for March 21.

The Student Council has not decided on a definite theme for the show, but the 17 acts include: five guitar and singing sequences, three comedy skits, six songs or musicals, and three dance acts.

Students performers and their acts will be: Judi Sanders and Mary Reed, guitar and sing, "Hey Little One"; Debbie Stewart and Nancy Fletcher, comedy skit, "The World of Henry Orient"; Steve Williams and Richard Bayse, duet acting, "The Odd Couple"; Janice Marks, Kay Marks, Paulette Gibson, and Donna Patterson, four-part harmony, "Sentimental Journey"; Stuart Schuetz, Scottish folk song; "The Blue Notes, three-part harmony.

Also on the program are: Yvonne Navarro, Flamen-

co dancing; Mary Pollock, guitar and sing, "If I Were a Carpenter"; Marti Cardenas and Mark Karpel, guitar and sing, "Both Sides Now"; Randy Dietz, comedy filler; Pam Sholund, "My Favorite Things"; Donna Patterson and Mark Karpel, guitar and sing, "This Land is My Land"; Richard Carnes, piano concert; Brahmadoras, dance routine; Dolores Dixon, dance routine; Kerri Kamperman, song with piano accompaniment; and a hard rock band, "The Sons of Bach."

Judges for the auditions were choir director, Mrs. Virginia Flood, Journalism instructor, Mr. Norm Hitzges, and Student Council sponsor, Mr. Sidney King.

Mr. King, commenting on the acts for the March show, stated that they had both "quantity and quality." However, he declined to say which of the two should be stressed.

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