

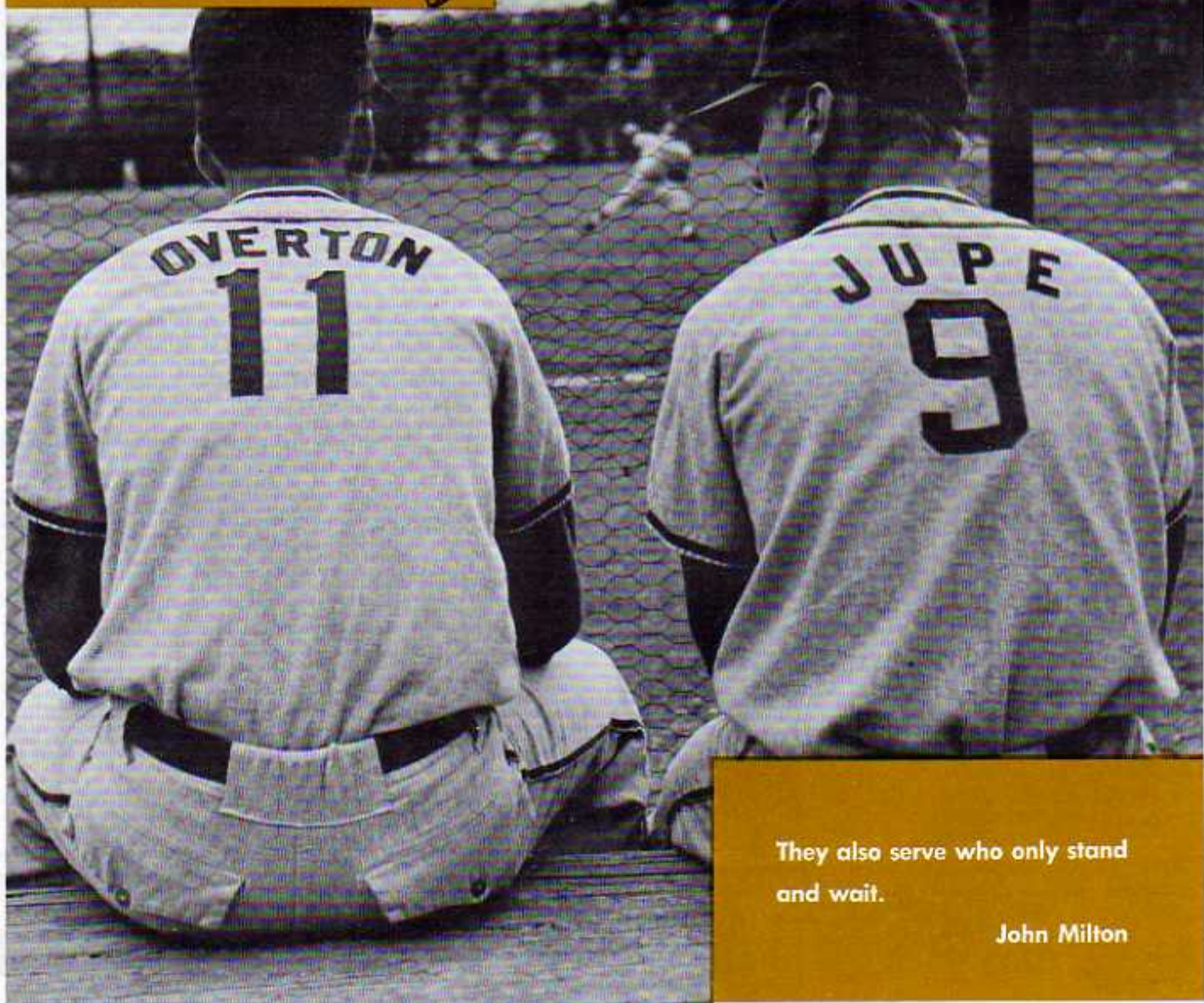
Brahma Tales



Douglas MacArthur High School
San Antonio, Texas

MAY 2, 1969

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They also serve who only stand
and wait.

John Milton

PROS AND CONS

The BT welcomes letters to the editor. All correspondence must be typed triple spaced and must not exceed 300 words. Only signed letters will be considered for publication.

Dear Editor,

Because of the recent student unrest on campus, the time has come for an honest re-evaluation of the issues by the students as well as the faculty and administration.

Several students have valid suggestions for the improvement of MacArthur. However, what began as a legitimate evaluation of existing conditions at school has mushroomed into an irrational movement. The original grievances which certain students presented have been lost in the heat of student hysteria.

There are problems here at MacArthur. But these problems can be resolved only through the co-operation of faculty, administration, and students. The Tuesday and Thursday morning meetings that have been initiated are good.

The students of MacArthur must prove their responsibility by rational and mature behavior in the concluding weeks of this school year. It's up to the students to reject the destructive element that has shown itself on campus and to concentrate on a constructive approach.

Jean Eby

Dear Editor,

Our paper is the major means of communication. I would like to suggest that a short critical or humorous essay pertaining to the problems on hand be included in each issue.

In addition, how about articles concerning the administration and faculty? Coverage of a convention attended by

Mr. Vakey to discuss student-faculty problems would be more interesting than details about a convention attended by five or six students.

Students are more interested in editorials, "File 13," and MacArthur's involvements in items other than sports and dances. It's not that we don't care about MacArthur's sports standings, but one gets tired of reading how many home runs Joe Smith hit or how the golf team placed tenth in a tourney.

Finally, the newspaper should be the communications link of the Student Council to the student body.

I, and many other students, feel that if the above things were added to the paper, less spathy would be seen among students.

Good mostly Diane Shisk

Dear Editor,

I am writing this letter to point out the problem of a lack of academic freedom in the teaching of the courses in this school. I feel that the teachers are forced to go along with the policies of the administration because they are afraid of losing their jobs. Can there be a proper exchange of ideas when one side is intimidated and forced to go along with the opinions of the other? I say no. Schools are institutions for the free exchange of ideas; without the freedom to do so, school becomes dull and boring, a dictatorship.

Teachers are also required to teach a set course. So much of their time is taken up in secretarial work that they do not have time to teach the course.

Obviously the teachers should be allowed more scrape way in their comments and course selections. As concerned students, we can at least show our teachers that they have our support and understanding. We may not be able to do much, but the little we do accomplish can be enlarged on by our posterity.

Steve Paulson

BRAHMA TALES

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Principal Deserves Thanks For Actions

Not everyone turned their thoughts away from school during the Easter holidays.

Apparently, Principal George Vakey repared plans to cement student-administration relationships.

Tangible evidence resulted in meetings scheduled regularly on Tuesday and Thursday mornings extending through May.

The establishment of this medium for discussion of any subject related to MacArthur has proven successful. The opportunity for students to present their opinions is a desirable innovation.

It is for this arrangement that Mr. Vakey deserves thanks. Even greater appreciation is accorded to him for maintaining a free and open environment for an honest exchange of ideas.

The measures adopted as a results of these meetings are, as yet, too early to judge.

If Mr. Vakey continues calling these sessions, there is little doubt that improvements in the communications structure will be evident.

The motivation of our principal to keep these discussions clear of impromptu lectures or tirades makes for an interesting and thought provoking period.

In consideration for what Mr. Vakey has instituted, he deserves the plainest of commendations — Thank you!

Annual Spring Carnival Provides Varied Fun

By Duzic Gordon

Hurry, hurry! Step right up and cast your eyes upon the most stupendous, colossal, the greatest show on earth!

MacArthur's annual Spring Carnival, held this year behind the girl's gym, will unfurl its supply of fun and games for the 1969 season on Saturday night, May 3.

From 5 to 10 p.m., busy vendors will attempt to entice innocent fun-seekers to throw rings, aim tomatoes, crush confetti eggs, and even toss would-be enemies into an inferno.

The Student Council designs the framework for the annual carnival to supply the school's numerous clubs an opportune method for making money. This year, Senior Council member Terry Maxfield, deserves credit for blueprinting the arrangements and determining a fair allotment of booths to clubs.

Although many of the 13 booths contain popular past attractions, several new booths have been added. These include a Bunuelo sale, a make-up booth, a

pizza sale, an ice cream shop, mouse races, a dart throw with faculty members as targets, a booth for taking Polaroid pictures, and even a W. C. Fields movie in the auditorium.

The Student Council will provide the typical food and drinks in a centrally located booth on the midway.

Class of '70 Scores High On NMQT Test

1968-69 juniors scored higher in the National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test than any junior class in recent years at MacArthur.

Chris Vinklarock led seven students in qualifying as semifinalists in the scholarship test.

The other students qualifying were, in descending order of scores: John Boerner, David James, Hans Dahl, Russell Johnson, Candace Poppas, and James Sweet.

Finalists will be announced next year, and picked from one-half of one percent of the nation's top test scores.

Letters of Commendation will be given to the 17 other high scoring MacArthur students.



Miss MacArthur Lynn Cather receives a bouquet of roses at the Junior-Senior Prom. Senior Gary Caswell was voted Mr. MacArthur, but was not present at the prom staged April 19 at the Pearl Pavilion.

North East Welcomes 60 Foreign Students

The four schools in the North East District hosted 60 American Field Service students during the Fiesta weekend.

MacArthur AFS members hosted 25 of these students. The foreign diplomats arrived at MacArthur Park Thursday afternoon, April 24, where they were welcomed by their new San Antonio families.

Friday morning the visitors had front row seats at the "Battle of Flowers Parade." That evening was spent enjoying the many sights offered by a "Night in Old San Antonio."

The group explored the Witte Museum, Saturday morning while Saturday afternoon was devoted to a tour of San Antonio.

Roosevelt sponsored a dance honoring the AFS'ers Saturday night. The dance was an informal affair which gave San Antonio

students a better chance to get to know fellow students from around the world.

The weekend demonstrated again the lasting friendship which can be won by being an open and honest group of young individuals.

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File 13



By Brenda Speert

... Students desiring interesting and useful volunteer work during the summer months will be accommodated by the March of Dimes. The TAP office has numerous tasks to accomplish and needs volunteers. Interested persons should contact the TAP office at 734-6921 or 736-2401.

... Someone jumped the gun in last week's band concert preparations. The second major attraction never materialized. The promise of cool air, which was billed on the tickets as "Air-conditioned MacArthur Auditorium," failed to debut.

... Another MacArthur senior will be recognized at the Optimist Club's next regular meeting. Nancy Rumbel, whose musical talents have earned her many honors, received the latest Montgomery Ward Award featured in NAMUS magazine.

... Miss Augusta Boyle, in describing presentable dress for the National Honor Society Installation, stressed "modest" length dresses for the girls. In addition, she quipped that any unsuitable lengthed dress would have a crepe paper ruffle stapled to the hem.

... Principal George Vakey predicted that the mating season was near in response to the S. A. News' Hot Line question concerning marriages at MacArthur. Asked whether married students attend MacArthur now, Mr. Vakey replied, "Oh yes, we always have a few. I think there are two at the moment. But now that spring is here and the sap has begun to run, things will undoubtedly get livelier."

... A surprise visit by Col. Joseph P. Lydon to the fifth period ROTC class resulted in a hyper-quick impromptu house cleaning. An ashtray was stashed away in a convenient desk drawer.

... A mouse invaded Mrs. Reeves' first period English class. Apparently thinking the rodent would enjoy a different course, the mouse was transferred to the Biology class.

... Tom Cusick really hit a foul ball during the baseball game against Jefferson. The play was good . . . good for one broken window in a new Buick Electra. Amazingly, damages could be discussed in a home-like environment. The car belonged to his parents.

... Evidence of another water-collecting spot has been found. The sidewalk extension in the front of the school has proven successful in creating a reservoir initiating in the corners and forging into the parking lot.

Zimmerman, Cook, Green Elected Class Officer Election Results Announced

The race for positions in MacArthur's student government has completed its second phase with the elections of class officers.



Next year's senior class president Ron Zimmerman delivers campaign speech.

The seniors of 1970 chose Ron Zimmerman to represent them as President. His total of 168 votes was followed by 115 for Jay Collins and 60 for Charles Cardenas.

Bron Burke broke the log jam for Vice-President with a 75-68 edge over second place Norman Thomas. Fabian Castillo was third and Russell Johnson was fourth out of eight candidates.

Kay Armstrong will assume the office of secretary next year after receiving 93 votes. Jenny Everett was second in the balloting with 62 votes. Janice Ruble was third.

Sandie Compton had the greatest winning margin of all candidates with 171 votes. She was followed by Brenda Speert's 96 votes and

Charles Somerville with 66.

One hundred and thirty eight members of the class of 1970 chose Judy Coon as Reporter-Historian. Competitors Jan Richardson and Shellie Bowman received 107 and 97 votes respectively.

Strong competition marked the race for the lesser office of chaplain. Clarence Gerfers will assume the post next year after defeating second place Patti Rullo 82 votes to 78. Third place Kathy Lott had 76 votes. Doug Axelrod, who received 66 votes, and Susie Henderson with 42 trailed in the voting.

The results for the class of 1971 are as follows: Bill Cook, president, Scarlett Boykin, vice-president and Bobbie Criswell as secretary. Other junior officers will be Loyce Bates as treasurer and for reporter-historian Susan Wright. Chaplain will be Lynda Dobrowski.

The spirit in the sophomore elections seemed the least impressive. In view of the fact that the sophomores had the fewest candidates of all the classes; those elected were relatively uncontested.

Hank Green will take over the position of President next fall with aid from Vice-President Connie Steves. The secretary will be Julie Jones, Treasurer Lori Ziegler and Chaplain Lisa Mann.

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Texas Very Different From First Ideas

By Odile Decomble

When I found out that I had been selected by the AFS to spend one year in Texas, you would not believe how excited I was!

I imagined myself on a horse, with a big hat, and a lot of cowboys, Indians, oil wells and guns around. I really thought I was going to live a western movie.

Well, you will agree that real Texas is a little different, in everyday life at least. But I was not disappointed at all. I discovered so many things new and different from what I used to know.

It is difficult to answer the question "what do you think about the United States?" because I have a lot of things to say, and I never know how to begin. But I'll try to explain some of the customs which surprised me the most in my American life.

The first word that could describe my stay here is "fast". How can the people be in such a hurry every minute of their life? I still don't know.

You have to hurry to get ready, hurry to go shopping, hurry to eat. In France, a meal can easily last one hour and sometimes two hours. The French people believe that eating too fast is bad for the digestion. They would think that all American people would have digestive problems.

Speaking of food, some Americans seemed strange to me at first. Corn, for instance, is used in France only to feed chickens. However, I got used to it and I

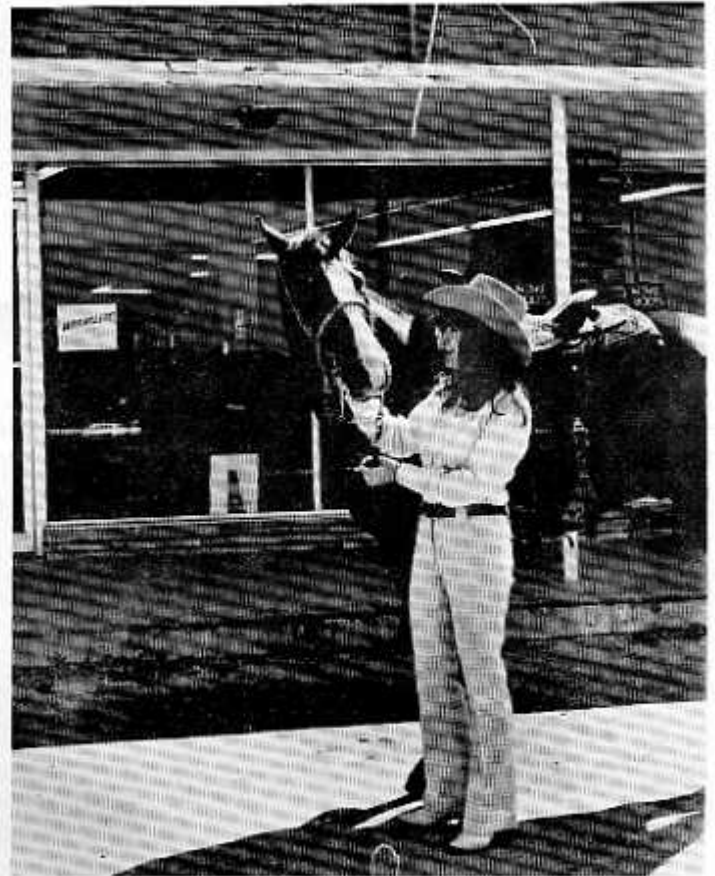
like it. Besides, I love hamburgers and marshmallows, and I think your ice-cream is just great!

During the year I have been very impressed to see how patriotism and religion are really a part of the life. Although most French are Catholic, nothing about religion is ever said in public meetings. Here, almost every PTA, every game, and even the House of Representatives in Austin, begins with a devotional. It's the same with patriotism. We don't have any pledge of allegiance. We don't raise the flag in the schools. We don't play the National Anthem for the games between the schools. (Only for the games between the countries.)

In France, although we have the feeling, we don't express them. I think it is really great that with so many different religions and backgrounds, people still can say together the same words.

What I probably like the most here is the "American welcome." The people are so warm and so friendly! When they say "make you feel at home," they really mean it. They would do anything to make you happy and they succeed! I feel so much at home here that it is going to be hard to leave!

I tried here to give you some of my impressions about my year in San Antonio, even without Indians. I'm sure I spent here the most wonderful year of my life. But with my new Cowboy outfit, I'll have a hard time explaining to the French people, what Texas is really like!



Foreign exchange student Odile Decomble models the Texas "country look" attire, which was given to her jointly by Hamy's Western Wear and AFS.

Brahma, Brahma Tales Editors Chosen At Journalism Banquet

Amidst roars of laughter, plentiful jokes, and dubious individual honors, next year's Brahma and Brahma Tales editors were announced at a Journalism banquet Wednesday, April 23.

Junior Judy Moore, new Brahma editor, and junior Candy Poppas, new assistant editor, will head next year's annual staff. Juniors Brenda Speert and Sara Jane Hawthorne will be Brahma Tales editor and assistant editor, respectively.

The Banquet, sponsored by Mr. Norm Hitzges, Journalism instructor, proved to be an enthusiastic success as the 50 students and guests enjoyed a steak dinner at The Steak Cellar, beginning at 7:30.

Eighty-three marked the start of the awards program, with at least one award for each staff member. Honors ranged from a month's pass to the girls'

restroom to a live, jumping gold fish. Mr. Hitzges and senior Ann-Lynn Shackelford, 1969 Brahma editor, decided the individual honors and conducted the program.

In addition to the combined Journalism staffs, the evening's guests included Assistant Principal Mr. James Davis and his wife, Mary Lou, English teacher, Mrs. Marilyn Jones and her husband, Harvey, and junior partner of Southern Pabst Engraving Company, Mr. and Mrs. Marlin Trost.

When asked to comment on information gained from the staff banquet, Mr. Davis replied, "Very interesting."



Students, Administration Initiate D

The Events

By Debbie McClure and Cherie Stratton

In the past two weeks MacArthur has awakened from a year-long lethargy to reveal a student body eager to bring about reform.

Prior to mid-April, apathetic students made no effort to revise traditional standards. Progress is finally becoming apparent with the number of student-administration held in an attempt to unite the campus.

Prior to mid-April, apathetic students made no effort to revise traditional standards. Progress is finally becoming apparent with the number of student-administration meetings held in an attempt to unite the campus.

The first of the meetings began in the auditorium during senior advisory period two weeks ago. Senior Class President Gary Caswell presided, and opened discussion on senior week, senior picnic, and the class gift.

Later in the same week, another meeting took place during senior advisory period. Senior Class Vice-President Glen Perkins presided over a discussion on senior week. It was decided by a majority vote of the students that senior week be abolished this year because the privileges of dress for the occasion were so limited.

Among other topics discussed at this same meeting was the senior class picnic. Since the majority of the students were undecided about where the picnic should be staged, and because arrangements were limited by certain restrictions, a committee was formed to find a solution.

The committee was composed of seniors, Glen Perkins, Gary Caswell, Jeanette Evans, Jenny Jacckle, Susan Hamilton, Ann-Lynn Shackelford, Pat McClure, and teachers, Mrs. Marilyn

Jones, and Mr. John Milligan.

The committee has chosen Brackenridge Park for the picnic site and scheduled a tentative date of May 14.

Another meeting was also held last week during the Junior advisory period. The purpose of the meeting was to inform the juniors of the changes being made and to explain to them the importance of their cooperation.

Two other important meetings have also taken place in the past week. These meetings were held in the 500 wing.

The purpose of the meetings was to enable the students to voice their opinions, suggestions, or solutions, and ask questions about situations on campus.

The first of these meetings covered censorship in the school newspaper. Attending this meeting were approximately 125 students and six faculty members.

The second of these meetings took place the following Thursday with an attendance of approximately 200 students, six parents, and 10 teachers.

The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the scheduling of future meetings and future topics.

At this time, it was also decided that representatives from each of the advisories would be elected to make schedule and topic decisions.

The Students

By Zia Gipson

The most conscious generation in the history of the United States has begun to challenge the former standards of American life.

Religion, politics, and the educational system have come under the scrutiny of the young generation.

As the 1968-69 school year draws to a close, MacArthur students have launched discussions aimed at finding solutions to what they feel are pressing school problems.

However, before progress can be made, the issues must be clarified. With the disruptions of the last two weeks, the students may be classified into one of three factions.

The first faction just does not care. The current points of discussion are no different to them than any of the many other areas they have ignored all year long.

The second group is composed of students who follow the bandwagon, those who dissent because dissent causes excitement. Many of this group attempt to bring personal grievances into the discussions. Often making irrational demands, these students concern themselves with less important matters of school policy such as hair and dress regulations, open campus, and senior privileges.

The final group consists of those students who hope to bring about openminded discussion of what they feel are important school issues. This faction sincerely wants new and extended student privileges and responsibilities.

Within discussions among these concerned students, certain concrete improve-

ments have been suggested.

General topics of major concern among the students are curriculum, communications, and the more efficient use of advisory periods.

Curriculum suggestions of more elective courses, especially among the social sciences, pass-fail courses, and non-credit mini-courses head the list.

Communications improvements could be the most easily instituted. Reforms would call for more direct, more frequent discussions among students, faculty, administrators, and the Student Council. Steps to remedy the existing information gap are already under way.

Another area of suggested reform centers around the current lack of use of the advisory period. Students feel that the advisory period provides a chance for further programs of wide variety not now touched upon within the curriculum. Speakers and discussion groups are just two of the students' suggestions for better use of these 25 minutes each day. The possibilities are many and varied.

The first steps on a long road have been taken. The wheels of progressive change have begun to move. At this point, students must remind themselves that effective reforms take time and that energies must be channeled toward change and not destruction.