

Brahma Tales



Douglas MacArthur High School
San Antonio, Texas

Vol. XII No. 5 October 30, 1969

CHAIN OF COMMAND



ARMY ROTC



The strength of a chain
is no greater
than its weaker link.
— Bernard Shaw

Unexpressive Students Frustrate BT Editor

THE SPACE YOU NOW ARE PEERING AT WOULD NORMALLY CONTAIN AN EDITORIAL APPLAUDING, CONDEMNING, CRITICIZING, OR SATIRIZING A HAPPENING RELATING TO MACARTHUR.

Instead, the topic of this article concerns the unproductive efforts of editorials. If this editorial space were left blank, the BRAHMA TALES would probably get more response that it has been getting from the articles printed.

The editorial writer wants response. Whether it be complimentary or antagonistic, opinions should be voiced.

As editor, I am flabbergasted at the inches of type that go unquestioned by readers. To me, this does not mean that my views have been accepted. On the contrary, student's silence suggests to me that I failed to effectively convey my point.

The reactions from my last editorial on the March of Dime's "Miles for Children" triggered this commentary. Since the past editorial had a flavor of disapproval for MacArthur's conduction of this campaign, I felt sure feedback would inevitably occur.

Two weeks have passed. No one at MacArthur approached me with thumbs up or down. (Meanwhile, by coincidence, a Trinity student in charge of TAP's public relations contacted me within hours after paper distribution.)

This campus definitely has people whose complaints and opinions comprise everyday gossip. Undercurrents exist too, as a newstip I recently received intimated the Student Council was disgruntled by my editorial. Yet, the few letters to the editor proves that Brahmas are relatively difficult to provoke to react.

In connection with my editorials, I want to emphasize that my views aren't necessarily the right views of a situation. My opinions are not validated because they get printed or because I am a member of the newspaper staff. Your views carry as much weight as mine; only I have managed to acquire a position where a communication's media is at my disposal.

Let me conclude by making one fact clear. The BRAHMA TALES is a student newspaper. I welcome letters to the editor, which will receive pre-emptory attention. The letters will not be criticized; a letter should have within its context the necessary potential to spur action.

Whether you have complaints, commendations, or suggestions for editorials, response is what the editorial writer desires.

Brenda Speert

BRAHMA TALES

Published bi-weekly by the Journalism classes of MacArthur High School, 2923 Bitters, San Antonio, Texas 78217

EDITOR Brenda Speert

ASSISTANT EDITOR Sara Jane Hawthorne

REPORTERS Judy Shafer, Suzi Baker, Duzie Gordon,

Laury Holden, Candace Klecka, Steve Williams,

Mark Mitchell, Pat Murphy, James Webster,

Ronnie Zimmerman

ARTIST Mike Murray

ADVERTISING Don Flowers

PHOTOGRAPHER Steve Bailey, David Kamperman

PROS and CONS

ROTC Needs Coverage

Dear Editor

I would like to point out an error of omission on the *Brahma Tales* part. It appears that MacArthur R.O.T.C. has been left out. At first, it appeared that something might happen when two reporters appeared at Corps Headquarters and started asking questions. The reporters wanted to know what has happened to R.O.T.C.

The previous copies of the paper left out a number of articles related to R.O.T.C. They are: (1) the formation of a brigade, (2) the publication of a R.O.T.C. newspaper, "The Leader," (3) the formation of a freshman rifle team.

People forget that the R.O.T.C. cadets are human and need a nod of acknowledgement and an occasional thanks for a job well done, such as the winning of a rifle match or a drill team competition.

R.O.T.C. is the only program in the school that trains students in leadership and citizenship.

Remember that the MacArthur R.O.T.C. supports the school so why doesn't the school support the fine R.O.T.C. program here?

Charles Wiatrowski

ROTC Not Unnoticed

Dear Editor

It has come to our attention that the morning flag raising ceremony is being improperly conducted. We have noticed that the honor guard salutes the flag as it is being raised. The honor guard is supposed to stand at attention. Also we have noticed that the flag is raised and lowered with equal speed. Any tenderfoot Boy Scout

knows that the American flag is raised quickly and lowered slowly. We mention this because we feel it is our patriotic duty.

Phillip Spicer
Doug Kirk

Junior Discrimination

Dear Editor

The recent Student Council decision concerning the separation of the Juniors and Seniors in the cafeteria has finally spurred me to register an opinion through this, the only media open to me. I realize that this act is the result of an attempt by the council to reward certain privileges to the Senior class. On the contrary, I feel this decision has resulted in a form of discrimination, primarily because the Juniors are the only group no longer permitted to use the new student center during lunch. If this is really to be a student center, all MacArthur students should be considered in any decision concerning its use.

Not only do I resent the fact that this rule has been imposed on us, but also that it violates the duty of our student council representatives whose job it is to sound out the opinions of those students who elected them. To my knowledge, the students were never asked for an opinion on this matter. Perhaps such a poll would be in order.

If, indeed, the majority of the students demonstrate a favorable response towards the Council's decisions, then I will of course submit my personal feelings to the will of the majority.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to express my opinion.

Peggy Chesson
Class of '70

Transfer Students Compare MacArthur To Former Schools

By Tricia Murphy

"MacArthur has less freedom than my former school."

"We weren't allowed to do anything on our campus."

"There was a lot less freedom at my other school."

Comments varied on this and other subjects when several transfer students compared their former schools to MacArthur.

The main difference from most schools is that the dress code is more lax in schools such as junior Marilyn Miller's former school in Monterrey, Mexico. There are even less formal dress rules in Oahu, Hawaii, the former home of junior Mark Beaulieu. Shorts or pants are normal attire for girls.

In Hawaii, classes run from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Even-number classes are held one day and odd-numbered subjects are the next day. This lets the teachers give more homework because students have two nights to do it.

Approximately a thousand more students attend the Hawaiian school on a campus about the same size as MacArthur. The campus is divided in half, with one half eating first on the open campus. When the second half comes to lunch, the first people do not have to go to class, yet. The schedules switch after

half the school year and the second half gets a longer lunch.

The subjects, says Mark Beaulieu, were more varied. They included courses in psychology, Japanese, Hawaiian, and a class in Polynesian instruments. Agriculture is a very important course and several green houses are on the campus.

Football games are social functions and it is not uncommon for 10,000 people to attend football games. However, Mark notes that students have no real "school spirit."

A 75-student American high school in Monterrey, Mexico was Marilyn Miller's school for three years. The school is based on the Texas education system. 93-100 is an "A."

Pre-primers to senior high school students are together at one school. The cafeteria food is very bad; few students will eat it. A lax dress code and more campus freedom were two other differing points of the school. The quality of teachers was not as high and subjects offered were very similar to those at MacArthur.

Advisories meet once a week, with seven 45-minute classes scheduled daily. Many students own cars. Students are not allowed to smoke on campus.

Joan Lawlor, Baltimore, Maryland, found MacArthur completely different from her former school. There was little freedom and no open campus. Students brought their lunches. Newspaper, choir, and band are clubs and there are no classes for these.

In looking at schools closer to home, Dallas had fewer differences from MacArthur. Senior Cindy Mousett says that her former school had a great amount of school spirit, partially attributable to the football stadium being on campus.

Curriculum differences are small, though the Dallas school requires four years of physical education.

The 1200 students have a Student Improvement Committee which every student could attend. It is presently attempting to provide a smoking area for students.

The school, though smaller than MacArthur, had 19 National Merit Finalists. It is a closed campus with no more freedom than at MacArthur.

The transfer students comparisons point out several differences in schools. Most differences concern dress codes, curriculum, school spirit, and open campus. In general, MacArthur compares favorably with other schools.

again for student pictures to be taken.

Photographer Fred Harding will be on campus November 10, 12, 13, and 14. Tuesday, November 11, is a holiday.

Monday, Nov. 10, seniors' pictures will be taken. Juniors' photographs are set for Wednesday, the 12th. Sophomores' pictures will be taken Thursday, the 13th, and Friday will be Freshmen and makeup pictures.

The sitting fee is \$1.00 for which two poses are taken. One week later, copies of both poses are returned in advisory. There, students can choose one of the poses.

Students ordering the ensuing picture packet for \$2.25 will receive in two weeks two 3 1/2 x 5 pictures and ten wallet size photographs.

Faculty members may come anytime during the week and no sitting fee is charged.

Senior boys are to wear coats and ties, with white or pastel colored shirts. Girls should wear a dark dress. Juniors, sophomores, and freshmen boys should wear shirts and ties. No tee-shirts are allowed.



TUXEDO RENTALS

All Styles

Free Parking **\$7.50** Phone: 736-0611

Stern's 2003 N. Main

Across From The Night Hawk Restaurant

OAK PARK FLOWERS

*Flowers Whisper
What Words
Can Never
Say ...*

QUALITY FRESHNESS
ARTISTIC DESIGNS

LOUIS A. OEHL
1975 Macogoches Rd.

... American government teacher Mr. Frank Sitton has finally won his case. Though legislative motions to shield his classroom from nature's light during audio-visual productions was slow, Mr. Sitton, through many appeals, has been awarded white curtains for his room.

... The Office Education Association of MacArthur reports that its 1969-1970 executive officers are President Denise Ashbacher, Vice-President Maria Monte, Secretary Debbie Self, Treasurer Allison Waldov, Reporter Cindy Via, Historian Penny Mobley, Assistant Reporter Robin Kuneth, Assistant Historian Sharon Collins, Parliamentarian Mike Reed, and Sargeant-at-Arms Debbie Martin.

... Unrealized by many is the fact that many tournaments and contests Brahmas participate in, offer the winner the prospect of receiving a more than beneficial award. As an example, the top debate performer at the Belaire Speech Tournament will receive a free trip while other contests make winners eligible for college scholarships.

... Was it coincidence that on National Moratorium Day the male seniors at MacArthur were required to attend an armed service assembly?

... Greener pastures will be found at this year's Blue and White Ball. The Christmas dance will be corralled at the Blossom Athletic Center and carry the theme "Christmas at the Cow-Palace."

... MacArthur's "Mr. Fix-it" man Mr. Andy Stewart possesses an interesting skill, fluency in the Russian language. Recent indication of this talent was noticed when he wrote on the blackboard a greeting for Miss Joyce McIntyre, student teacher who also knows the language.

... Swimming has been a cool activity lately at the district pool. The absence of functioning heaters in the pool has made the water near freezing but has not made the team's practices freeze.

... Noted on a 100 wing girls restroom notorious for being regularly filled with smoke, was this sign: CAUTION! This restroom may be hazardous to your health.

... Pompeii! Troy! Angkor! Knossos! Babylon! Chicken Itza! Mythical places? Wrong. These are six cities scientists unveiled as lost historical spots. To discover history unfolding, try Lost Cities and Vanishing Civilizations by Robert Silverberg in your school Library.



GERMAN GINGERBREAD - - -The MacArthur German Society's booth sold Gingerbread men at the Octoberfest on the San Antonio River, Oct 24 - Oct 26.

Photo by Dave Kamperman



THE IWC LESSON PLAN!

Sound simple?

Yes, but it has taken us 86 years to develop it meaningfully. Learning to care for people and the future is more than a blackboard exercise. It's a way of life.

The IWC plan is a highly individualized approach to higher education. No getting lost in the crowd. No non-involvement. It's all or nothing.

No matter what you want to do with your life, IWC is ready, willing, and able to help you plan for the future. That's what caring is all about.

Care to give it a try? Just contact the admissions office at IWC. We'll take it from there.

Incarnate Word College
san antonio, texas
a college that cares



GOOD NEWS!

**Elisabeth Weir
flowers**

**Offer a Discount to all
MacArthur students**

4116 Blanco Rd

- * WEDDINGS
- * BIRTHDAYS
- * PARTIES

Thomas Paces Speech Team At Jefferson

Led by the best speaker of the tournament, Norman Thomas, MacArthur placed third in the Jefferson Speech Tournament, Oct. 17-18.

Lee took first place, followed by Alamo Heights in second.

Seven MacArthur students placed at the tournament, including five first place winners: Doug Coffey, first in impromptu speaking; Debbie Stewart first in dramatic interpretation; Norman Thomas, first in original oratory, first in prose, and best speaker of the tournament; Jeff Harmon, second in extemporaneous speaking; and Claudia Irving, third in prose.

The debate team of Mark Mitchell and Ron Zimmerman walked off with a first in debate. They debated approximately 11 hours, or won seven straight rounds to win the title.

Seven other MacArthur students made finals, but did not place: James Webster, poetry and dramatics; Debbie Stewart, prose; Joetta Hall, dramatic and impromptu poetry; Nancy Hamby, dramatic; Kathy Kinley, oration; Sara Jane Hawthorne, impromptu speaking; Joetta Hall and Reynee Pressly, duet acting.

The speakers next see action at the Belaire Speech Tournament, Oct. 31 and Nov. 1, in Houston. Approximately 36 people leaving early Friday morning by bus are entered in the tournament.



October Opportune For Campus Peddling

By Sara Jane Hawthorne

The hardest word to pronounce in the English language is NO.

However, thrifty MacArthurites have had plenty of practice lately.

The beginning of the school year seems to be the most opportune time for fileting students from their hard earned summer pay.

Those who arrive Monday morning, nickels clutched in sweaty hands, will be urged to cross a fellow student's palm with silver in exchange for wares ranging from fruitcakes to Tom Watt's kits.

Presently Lassies are selling spirit tags for a dime. Also on sale during football season are the Bairn's game programs for a quarter and the FTA's decorated mums for \$3.75.

For those more culturally inclined, the drama department sells 50 cent student tickets to their Midsummer Night's Dream production.

Outgoing gregarious types will want to purchase the German club's \$1.25 box of note stationary depicting colorful Texas scenes. The Senior's 50 cent Student Directory promises to improve telephone communications and no informed person is without a \$10.00 publication packet.

Christmas time should bustle with FBLA promoting Tom Watts' Kits and the Acappella choir enticing students with \$4.25 fruitcakes. Other clubs will sell Christmas cards and \$3.00 boxes of six laminated plastic place mats.

But the penny pinchers, be ye not disheartened. A look back at the fast talking salesmen already gone by may be heartening.

ROTC has just finished the sale of chocolate candy

and the Band has concluded its annual magazine sale. Bairns have stopped selling shoe spray and the Student Council coke stand has closed. Seniors may breathe easier having resisted the purchase of senior class pins and pictures.

All are worthy causes, but sometimes there's just not enough money to go around. For, if a student were to buy one of everything on sale now or very recently on campus, it would cost approximately \$40.00.

Frosh Form Spirit Group

"Spirit, pride, ability: We're the class of '73."

In the spirit of their yell, MacArthur's freshman class has at last succeeded in beginning MacArthur's first freshman spirit group.

Under the direction of class President Debbie Green and Administrative Assistant Mr. Sidney King, the co-ed group began organizing about three weeks ago.

Previously unable to take an active part in school spirit activities except as spectators, the approximately 250 students, composed almost equally of boys and girls, will attend swim meets, baseball and basketball games, and track meets. Presently, they will be concentrating on attending freshman, junior varsity, and varsity football games.

Until the pep squad obtains uniforms, they may be pinpointed by their daily blue and white attire.

FHA To Attend State Convention

The MacArthur chapter of Future Homemakers of America (FHA) will attend their state convention November 8 in Austin.

Club officers will attend workshops on subjects varying from flower arranging to the art of managing the home. All members interested may register in the Homemaking Department no later than Friday, November 7.

SEEN HER?



JODY MAST

Jody is a member of the Art Club, the Lassies, and the W. S. E. Club.

Jody can be found on the campus of MacArthur High School this year and you can bet her wardrobe for back-to-school wear is from Terri Jr.

The outlook for campus wear '69 is the young colorful witty look that is shaping things to come this season. For fashion know-how drop by Terri Jr. and see the cool selection of styles for wear on the sport scene.



