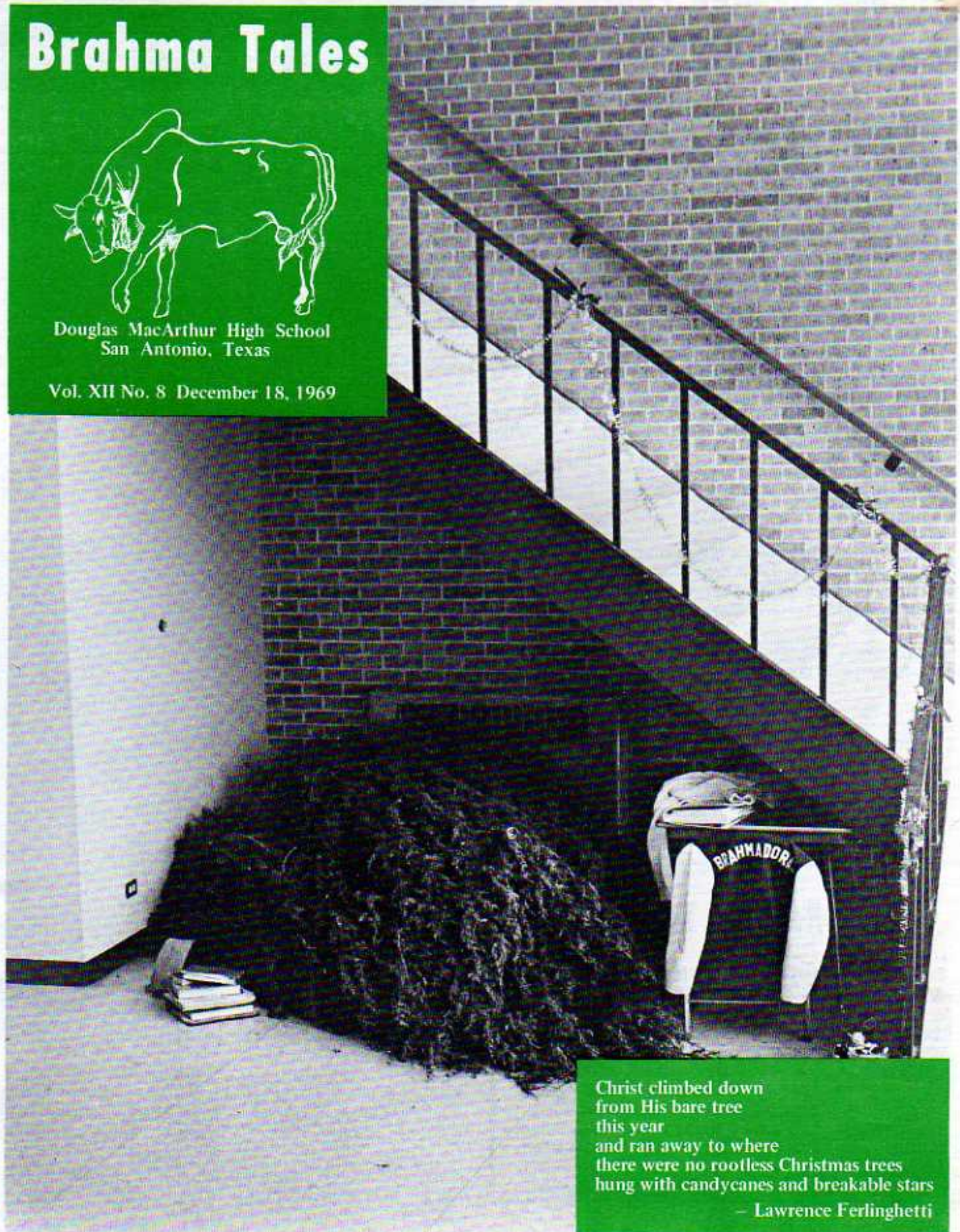


Brahma Tales



Douglas MacArthur High School
San Antonio, Texas

Vol. XII No. 8 December 18, 1969



Christ climbed down
from His bare tree
this year
and ran away to where
there were no rootless Christmas trees
hung with candycanes and breakable stars
— Lawrence Ferlinghetti

Success Of New Year Depends On Daily Goal

A year will soon expire, but no great impact will result from its close. Ushered in place of an extinguished year, an unspent year unwinds from New Year's Eve's introduction.

Tradition marks this annual occasion. Though the transition from one year to another stands as the point where a slate of activities lies clean and resolutions are drafted, a year actually indicates little more than the beginning of a standardized measure of time.

The infallibility of assuming that January 1 will erase the undesirables accompanying the past year is founded in the majestic commemoration of the new year. If every day of the year was greeted with an equal amount of enthusiasm, there would be 365 great days in history.

Meanwhile, the novelty of the new year becomes deaccentuated with the realization that fiscal years, religious years, and school years overlap.

The holiday season leads MacArthur into the halfway point of the year, but 1969 cannot be taken lightly. The vacation from school does allow one reconnaissance of his goals for the remaining semester.

Each person has the prerogative to make the best of the year, the best of each day.

PEACE

Brenda Speert

BRAHMA TALES

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

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PROS

BT Defended

Dear Editor,

"The reason that your editorial drew no response from the student body here at good ole Mac seems obvious to me," begins George Carver in his letter to the Editor in the November 26 issue of Brahma Tales. I question not only his first statement, but the entire article. What does he mean, "your editorial drew no response"? What does he call his letter, isn't that a response to an editorial? George goes on to say, "Your editorial, like the rest of BRAHMA TALES, provokes nothing what-so-ever of interest to us." Who is "us"? Certainly George doesn't mean the student body, for I'm a member of the student body and Brahma Tales Editorials provoke my thoughts, but of course they may not provoke anything of interest what-so-ever to George. His thoughts may not be worthy of his own interest.

But why should I be concerned with petty things like George Carver's thoughts? I should come to the point that there is nothing objectionable about Brahma Tales. It is true many students don't read the paper but then again, many do. It is suggested that "more participation from the whole of the student body" would be the method of increasing Brahma Tales circulation. This seems like a good idea. George has suggested it, now let's see him make the miracle come about.

George seems to dislike the idea that the Brah-

ma Tales is written by a minority group known as the newspaper staff. I won't be so brash as to assume that George is offering his services to help publish the paper, for I'm not at all sure he realizes that the Brahma Tales staff works hard and uses what would be many hours of spare time in the publication of the Brahma Tales.

I'm in no position to speak for Brahma Tales but I think I can safely say that it realizes, contrary to George's statement that "there are more people than just football players and club members who attend, "Mac". That is why in seven issues, Brahma Tales has mentioned 29 clubs, news of the Northeast District, Mac, the Student Council, the student body (Pros and Cons), and has had at least one student interview with Mac's Danish Exchange Student.

George says he admits some students thumb through the Brahma Tales and later says "Give us something to respond to (other than football games and club data)! Maybe, if George would read Brahma Tales instead of thumbing through it and cutting out coupons, he might find something to respond to, but then again, reading takes a certain amount of intelligence!

In support of Brahma Tales,
Doug Kirk

and

CONS

BT Criticized

Dear Editor,

It is with great concern that I must retort to the track article of the November 26 issue of the *Brahma Tales*.

Although the 1969-1970 Brahma Cross Country showing may seem poor, despite the fact only one trackster placed first, several others placed high in the top ten. This accomplishment was not matched by any other track team.

While several members of the squad did not show for the 1969 Northeast cross country meet, the attendance for the Sam Houston's 3,000 meters was quite impressive as 26 of the 32 man squad did attend.

The tracksters failed to show? No, the *Brahma Tales* just failed to see.

Phil Babel

Education Third?

Dear Editor:

Sure MacArthur is a great school — great if you are on the football team or have no desire to express yourself through longer hair or sideburns.

Having a father in the military, I have attended schools in Virginia, California, Tennessee and Japan. MacArthur is the first one in which sports are rated first, haircuts, belts and shirt-tails in second, and your education third.

If we are such wonderful "Brahmas", as we are called, won't we have

enough respect for MacArthur to dress and groom ourselves accordingly? Doesn't the administrative board think their wonderful, proud, and true-blue Brahmas are mature enough to decide on a reasonable length of hair and a suitable style of dress?

Sure, you say, a few will let it get out of hand but what about the rest of those dissatisfied "Brahmas" out there?

David Carver

Two Standards

Dear Editor:

I have a growing concern with the double standard our administration shows for our students. From my own experience of watching actions taken by the administration, I have found a definite bias toward certain students.

There are certain rules of dress, behavior, etc., which are supposedly the rules of MacArthur High School. I have observed that if a student wins honors for the school in some way, then many of these rules are "overlooked" in the case of that student. Other, more average students may be harassed for the same things that these "honor" students are not bothered with.

My question to the administration is: Is this right?

The above is strictly my opinion based on my own observations.

Bonnie Tadlock



All Dressed Up- No Place To Go

"Trouble is, I can't find a place that rents a tuxedo my size. Guess it's my broad shoulders."

"What's the occasion, Percy?" I asked.

"The Blue and White Ball is only a week away and at this rate I'll have to wear a tie with my dark pajamas!"

"But Percy, are you on the varsity football team?"

"No, but"

"Is your girlfriend a Lassie or a Bairn?"

"Are either of you in a band?"

"No, but . . . but . . ."

"Then you can't go . . . no buts about it."

Percy tugged at his whiskers in concern, finally bursting out, "I've gone to all the football games, cheered my loudest at pep rallies, wore my blue and white sweat-shirt on Fridays, and bought spirit ribbons and I want to be there when they crown the Football Sweetheart, and announce Outstanding Bairn and Lassie, and Mr. Football and . . . everything," he finished miserably.

"The people who consistently worked hard to make the football season successful deserve a reward," I explained.

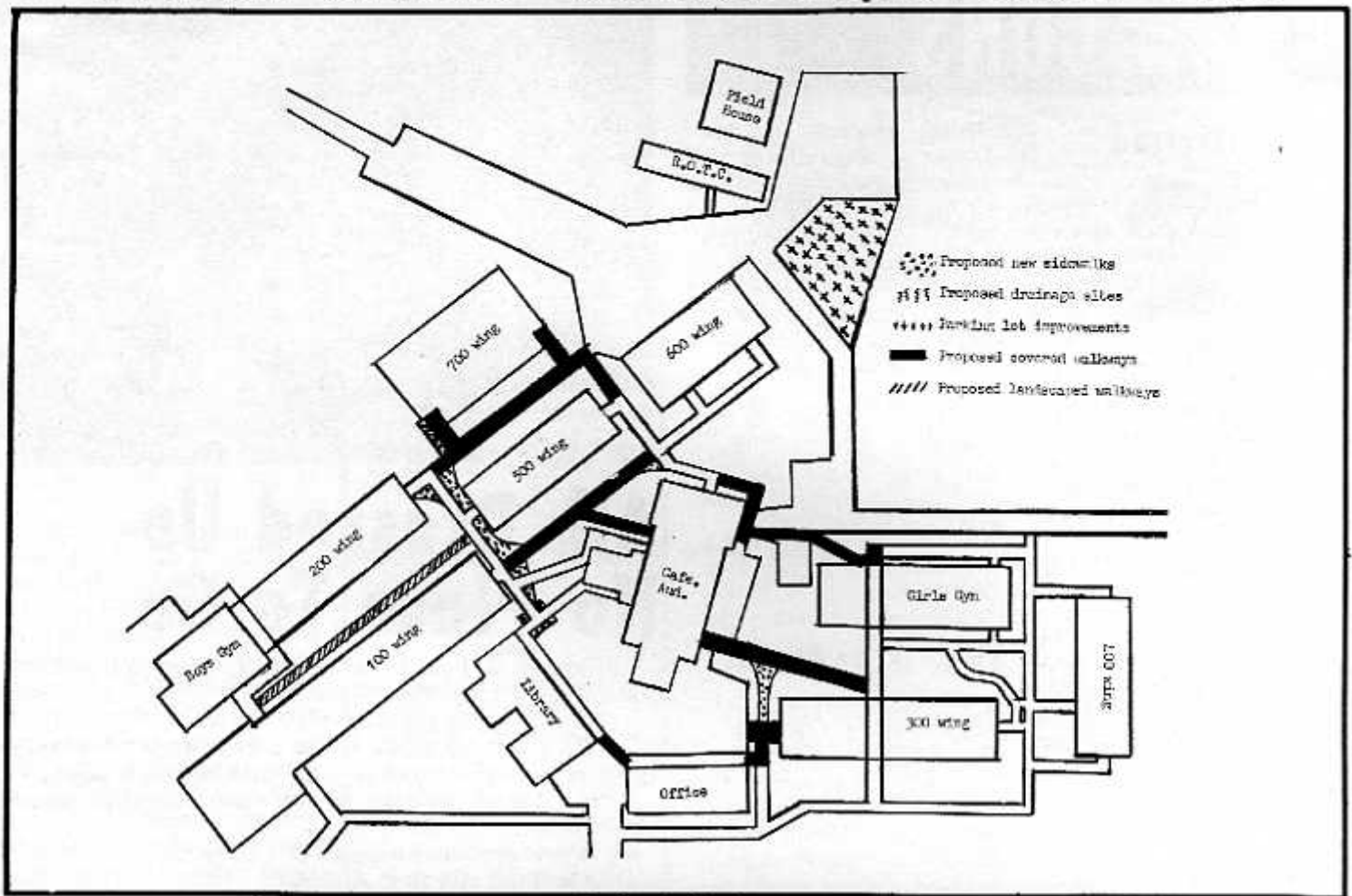
"Yeah, but these students receive recognition because they are in a group and most are getting a course credit for their efforts. I think the fans — like me — who continually supported the team without the distinction of a uniform ought to be able to attend the formal dance which bestows the football awards."

"I see what you mean. I suppose the dance could still be held in the special group's honor, even if others were allowed to buy bids."

Percy's ears twitched in agony. "Humph — and the theme is 'An Old Fashioned Christmas'". Some Christmas spirit that only permits a very select few to come. Lucky for them Christ didn't make such a limited guest list."

I agreed but thought perhaps he had stretched his allusion a bit far. Percy has a tendency to become over emotional.

Council Unveils Grounds Improvement Plan



By Duzie Gordon

The onslaught of mud, slime and water that appears regularly with every rainy day, may soon disappear from the MacArthur's sprawling campus, along with other physical problems.

The Student Council, led by Grievance Chairman David Janes, has been working to secure such campus improvements as covered walk ways, more book shelves in the cafeteria, and landscaping.

Utilizing interviews, questionnaires, comments from teachers and photographs, Janes has compiled a towering list of improvements (see map).

Covered Walkways

"There should be some way for students to go from the west side of the campus to the east part of the campus without getting wet."

The most extensive area of improvement concerns covered walkways,

emphasizing the breaks between the 700 wing and 200 wing, and from the main offices to the 300 wing.

Drainage

"The drainage problem should be worked on before we worry about planting trees!"

By black topping and constructing a new drainage system, the accumulation of mud and dirty water could be almost totally eliminated.

Sidewalks

"It would be a great help to put sidewalks where students have made paths since this indicates where they walk."

Muddy feet and slime filled shoes may soon exit if sidewalks are extended

to areas where they are needed. Another innovation may be rounding and enlarging sidewalks in well-traveled areas where grass is trampled to death.

100 Wing Entrance

"After multiple fractures, bruises and sprains from trying to monitor the door in the 100 wing, I feel qualified to give an expert — yes! — to the question concerning the congestion in the 100-500 wings."

By widening the entrance to the 100 wing, 20 inches on each side, traffic congestion can be reduced to a minimum.

Landscaping

"I would like to see more landscaping similar to that in the area

between the 300 wing and the girls' gym. Emphatic Yes!

The area between the 100 and 200 wings would be ideally suited to landscaping similar to that presently between the 200 wing and the girls' gym.

Miscellaneous

"I am glad to see the Student Council attempting to solve not only the major problems, but the small individual complaints of the average students."

Students' requests for book shelves and added parking space in the field house parking lot may soon be filled.

All proposals suggested are illustrated in the above campus map.

Draft Lottery System Appears Fairer Method

By Mark Mitchell

Howard Beyer is unlucky . . . so is Tim Collman, Les MacMillan, and Robert Moer.

They join six other MacArthur seniors in the dubious distinction of being the most liable for America's armed forces in a relatively new fashion: the lottery!

The ABC's of the lottery system and what they will spell is of concern, not only to unlucky ones now, but to those whom the cruel hand of fate, in this case Uncle Sam's, will deal with in the future.

The December 1 ceremony effects only those males born between January 1, 1944, and December 31, 1950. Thus, the student who will turn 19 in 1970, is not liable in this first drawing. His lucky number will be drawn next year, when another drawing will be staged.

Each local draft board will select men according to the sequence of the lottery drawing. The first birthdate drawn was September 14, and every youth who is 1-A physically and was born on this date is most likely to go. The further down the list a birthdate is, the less likely it is that person will be called.

Draft knowledgeable estimate that men without deferments, and with birthdates in the first third of the dates drawn, 1-122, should expect to be called for duty.

In the next third, 12-244, it is uncertain whether these men will be taken. And the probability of the last third, 246-366, being selected, is almost nil! The merits of the new system are subject to debate.

Deferments-medical, occupational, and student — were not altered under the switch to the lottery system. A student may obtain a deferment for college for four years, providing he is in "good standing" in the grade department.

Dependency deferments will not be changed under the new system either. The important fact to remember is that an individual will KEEP the priority number he receives when he turns nineteen throughout the time of his deferment. After his deferment expires, he will be placed in his ORIGINAL position on the draft priority list.

At least now, when your number is drawn, you are sure of your fate, whether it be service, deferment, or exemption. The liability of service in the lottery is only one year, as opposed to the Selective Service System, of 8 years of uncertainty.

The system will probably be fair for the majority of your Americans, although it is possible for a

professional to be drafted, and a beggar to stay home, because of random sample.

Alleged discrimination of local draft boards should be eliminated since a national directorate will be overseeing the lottery.

The degree of fairness, certainty, and lack of discrimination make the lottery appear a more desirable system to our draft conscience society.

Here by calendar order are the draft priorities:

Date, Draft Priority:

Jan. 1, 305; 2, 157; 3, 251; 4, 715; 5, 101; 6, 224; 7, 306; 8, 199; 9, 194; 10, 325; 11, 329; 12, 221; 13, 316; 14, 238; 15, 17; 16, 12; 18, 140; 19, 58; 20, 280; 21, 184; 22, 337; 23, 118; 24, 57; 25, 52; 26, 92; 27, 353; 28, 77; 29, 349; 30, 164; 31, 211.

Feb. 1, 86; 2, 144; 3, 297; 4, 210; 5, 214; 6, 347; 7, 91; 8, 381; 9, 358; 10, 216; 11, 130; 12, 68; 13, 152; 14, 4; 15, 897; 16, 212; 17, 189; 18, 292; 19, 251; 20, 302; 21, 363; 22, 290; 23, 57; 24, 236; 25, 179; 26, 363; 27, 265; 28, 299; 29, 285.

Mar. 1, 108; 2, 29; 3, 267; 4, 275; 5, 293; 6, 197; 7, 122; 8, 213; 9, 317; 10, 323; 11, 136; 12, 300; 13, 239; 14, 354; 15, 129; 16, 164; 17, 33; 18, 332; 19, 200; 20, 239; 21, 304; 22, 283; 23, 228; 24, 258; 25, 343; 26, 170; 27, 268; 28, 223; 29, 362; 30, 217; 31, 20.

Apr. 1, 37; 2, 271; 3, 83; 4, 81; 5, 269; 6, 253; 7, 147; 8, 312; 9, 219; 10, 218; 11, 14; 12, 349; 13, 124; 14, 231; 15, 273; 16, 169; 17, 260; 18, 90; 19, 306; 20, 345; 21, 62; 22, 210; 23, 245; 24, 2; 25, 357; 26, 347; 27, 74; 28, 262; 29, 197; 30, 308.

May 1, 330; 2, 298; 3, 40; 4, 276; 5, 284; 6, 155; 7, 35; 8, 321; 9, 197; 10, 45; 11, 37; 12, 153; 13, 295; 14, 178; 15, 130; 16, 55; 17, 172; 18, 278; 19, 75; 20, 183; 21, 250; 22, 302; 23, 319; 24, 31; 25, 367; 26, 357; 27, 256; 28, 304; 29, 226; 30, 100; 31, 313.

Jun. 1, 249; 2, 22; 3, 301; 4, 20; 5, 28; 6, 110; 7, 85; 8, 364; 9, 335; 10, 206; 11, 134; 12, 277; 13, 69; 14, 356; 15, 180; 16, 274; 17, 73; 18, 25; 19, 104; 20, 360; 21, 65; 22, 247; 23, 109; 24, 358; 25, 127; 26, 27; 27, 64; 28, 222; 29, 353; 30, 309.

Jul. 1, 93; 2, 350; 3, 115; 4, 219; 5, 188; 6, 377; 7, 50; 8, 13; 9, 277; 10, 284; 11, 248; 12, 15; 13, 42; 14, 331; 15, 322; 16, 120; 17, 92; 18, 190; 19, 227; 20, 187; 21, 2; 22, 153; 23, 172; 24, 23; 25, 67; 26, 303; 27, 259; 28, 88; 29, 270; 30, 287; 31, 191.

Aug. 1, 111; 2, 43; 3, 261; 4, 145; 5, 54; 6, 114; 7, 168; 8, 28; 9, 106; 10, 21; 11, 224; 12, 142; 13, 307; 14, 798; 15, 102; 16, 44; 17, 154; 18, 141; 19, 311; 20, 344; 21, 291; 22, 339; 23, 116; 24, 36; 25, 286; 26, 245; 27, 352; 28, 347; 29, 61; 30, 333; 31, 11.

Sept. 1, 225; 2, 161; 3, 49; 4, 232; 5, 82; 6, 6; 7, 8; 8, 184; 9, 263; 10, 71; 11, 158; 12, 242; 13, 175; 14, 1; 15, 113; 16, 707; 17, 255; 18, 246; 19, 177; 20, 63; 21, 204; 22, 160; 23, 119; 24, 194; 25, 149; 26, 18; 27, 233; 28, 257; 29, 151; 30, 315.

Oct. 1, 359; 2, 125; 3, 244; 4, 302; 5, 24; 6, 87; 7, 234; 8, 283; 9, 342; 10, 220; 11, 237; 12, 72; 13, 138; 14, 294; 15, 171; 16, 254; 17, 288; 18, 5; 19, 241; 20, 192; 21, 243; 22, 117; 23, 301; 24, 196; 25, 176; 26, 7; 27, 264; 28, 94; 29, 229; 30, 36; 31, 29.

Nov. 1, 19; 2, 34; 3, 348; 4, 266; 5, 310; 6, 76; 7, 51; 8, 97; 9, 60; 10, 222; 11, 45; 12, 46; 13, 126; 14, 127; 15, 121; 16, 107; 17, 143; 18, 146; 19, 203; 20, 185; 21, 156; 22, 9; 23, 182; 24, 230; 25, 132; 26, 309; 27, 47; 28, 281; 29, 99; 30, 174.

Dec. 1, 129; 2, 328; 3, 157; 4, 165; 5, 56; 6, 10; 7, 12; 8, 105; 9, 43; 10, 41; 11, 39; 12, 314; 13, 163; 14, 26; 15, 370; 16, 96; 17, 304; 18, 128; 19, 240; 20, 131; 21, 70; 22, 53; 23, 162; 24, 95; 25, 84; 26, 173; 27, 78; 28, 123; 29, 16; 30, 31; 31, 100.

AFS Needs Family For 70-71 Year

The American Field Service Club reports difficulty in securing a host for next year's foreign exchange student.

A family of a MacArthur student who is preferably a junior must volunteer to house the exchange student before the middle of January or there will be no foreign student in the 1970-1971 school year.

The volunteering family should want to have a student in the home and be willing to bear the financial burden of an extra person for the AFS does not provide a stipend. The nationality or name of the student will not be known until sometime in May or June when the New York office has received and approved final applications. Any interested student can obtain further information from Mrs. Pam Jucknies in room 208.

The AFS Club will begin raising money for the tentative exchange student by selling bonds. The bonds will display photographs of past foreign students at MacArthur and express the Club's appreciation for the donation. The bonds will go on sale during January in hopes of raising \$850 in two to three weeks.

GOOD NEWS!

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File 13

By Brenda Speert



. . . The Girls Recreation Association's plans for playing basketball have been bowled over by the freshman basketball team's takeover of the girls gym for their practices. The reversal of this court's application pins down the GRA to bowling or soccer activities.

. . . A more notable incident in basketball occurred during the varsity game against Kerrville. Kerrville's squad consisting of seven members, degenerated to four by fouling out. Eliciting the aid of spectating J.V., Members the Kerrville team ended up sporting different uniforms and earning a technical foul.

. . . It didn't take long for MacArthur's military corp to act upon the advice of an Information Officer. Col. George Weiner spoke on the purposes of the Reserve Officers Association of the United States the evening of December 9. A chapter evolved that same night placing C/Col. Eicher as president and C/1st Paul Suhler as secretary-treasurer for the 1969-1970 school term.

. . . There is nothing inhumane about the military either. The Turkey Shoot, conducted by the ROTC since December 8, allowed a sharpshooter to compete in one of six divisions for a 10-12 lb. turkey. The two highest scorers in each category aimed for the comestible prize only figuratively. A target rather than the animal itself received the volleys.

. . . Apparently homemakers are not encouraged to be teachers or vice versa. Students interested in both occupations must make a choice because the meetings of each organization coincide on the first Tuesday of each month.

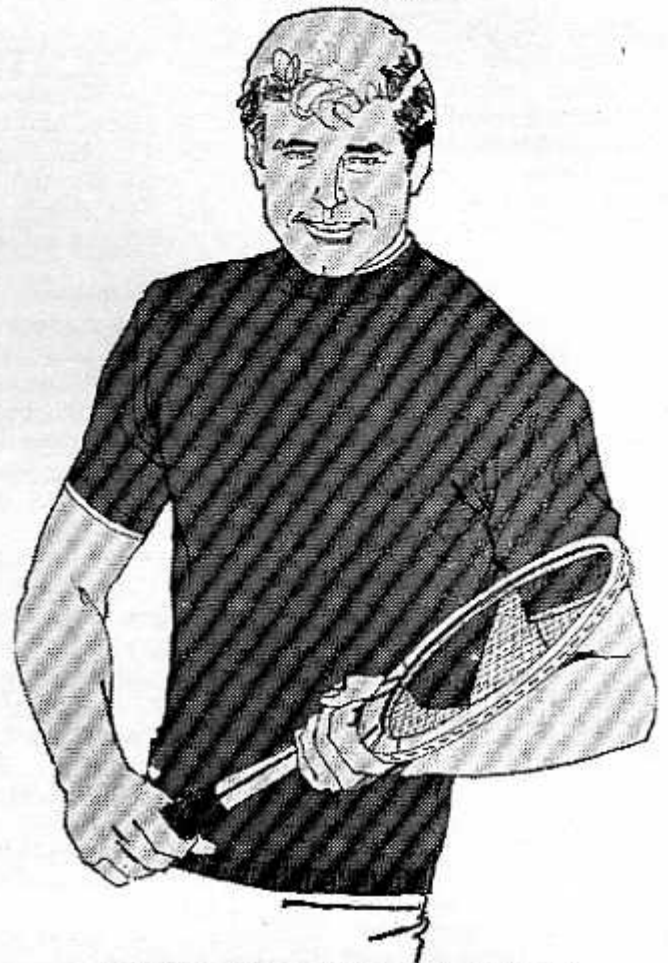
. . . Posters plastered around school in early December promoting a Wild Goose Chase have been connected with the Youth for Christ Club, of which MacArthur students Marilyn Adams, Paul Alex, Texie Bender, Ronnie and Nancy Duvall are members. In the recent directive about the authorization of activities, a question should be raised concerning promotion of clubs before they are affiliated by the school.

. . . The TAURUS staff has readily made use of poetic license. Written on a box designated for the submission of materials to the anthology is the label "Taurus Entrees." At least this sign suggests a tasty description.

. . . There is yet another new development within MacArthur's military regiments. A booster club has permeated the ranks of the drill team and rifle squad. Similar to the spirited clubs backing school sports, the ROTC Booster Club will provide parental moral and financial support for the troops.

. . . Mistletoe was once called Allheal, for the double reason that it was used in folk medicine to cure many ills, and was the plant of peace, under which enemies were reconciled in ancient Scandinavia. Facts like this and others can be found in books on Christmas in the library.

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