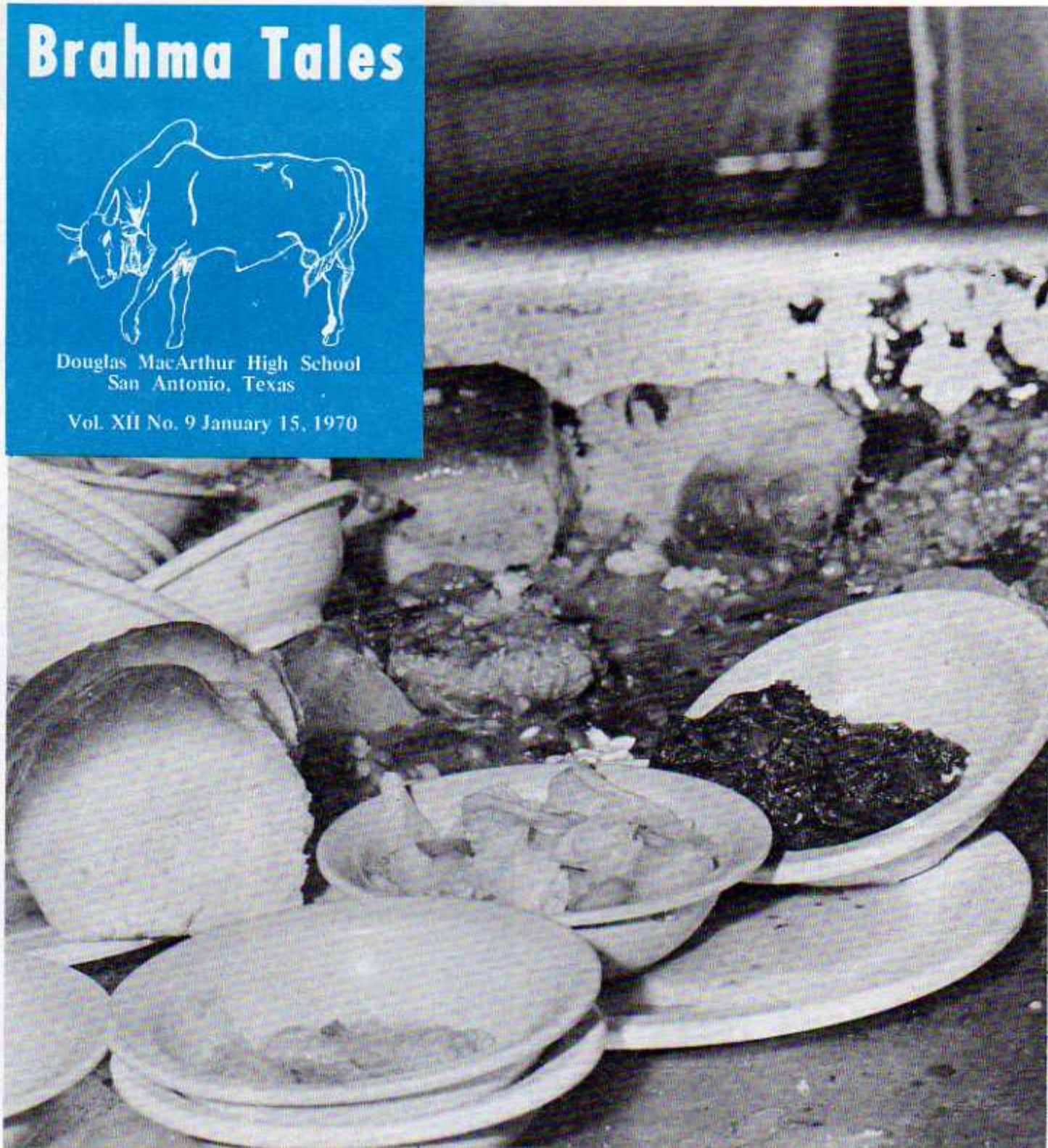


# Brahma Tales



Douglas MacArthur High School  
San Antonio, Texas

Vol. XII No. 9 January 15, 1970



There is enough wealth in the world  
to satisfy the needs of all men,  
but not the greed of one.

— Harvey Wheeler

# Don't Be A Statistic

The onset of a new year renews campaigns involving statistical data. For the promotion of traffic safety, the curtailment of smoking, or the abstinence of indulging alcoholic beverages, the figures compiled do little more than alarm the public.

Besieging the public with these mounds of numbers fails to solve any problems. In the case of traffic accidents, the tabulations are not constructive information. Knowing that more fatal accidents occur at night proves nothing except that one should not drive at night.

With many organizations championing one cause, the public gets isolated facts. Deaths resulting from traffic accidents are publicized but the fact that this cause contributes to only 3% of all deaths in the nation is not mentioned. In fact heart diseases account for considerably more deaths, 39.1% in 1967.

One of the most emphasized statistics is the high rate of accidents involving youth. Yet, the conclusion drawn that youths are worse drivers than any other age group is faulty. Typical distortions are:

- \* Cars driven by under-25 year olds were involved in twice as many accidents as those driven by 40-49 year olds. (The comparison does not establish how many drivers there were in each group.)
- \* In 1968, 10.7% of drivers were age 20-24. They had 18% of all fatal accidents — the highest of any age group. (This fact could include accidents where another age group driver caused the accident.)
- \* Of 105 million drivers in the nation, 10.7 million were under age 20. These drivers were involved in 15% of all fatal accidents in 1968. (The possibility that this age driver travelled more miles than another age group's driver is overlooked.)

Worthy of consideration and not reflected in these counts are the number of accidents caused by defective cars or created by hazardous weather conditions.

Instead of using reams of statistics, these factions devoted to preserving life, a laudable endeavor, should employ a more rational method to realize their cause. Offers to provide transportation home for "happy" New Year's Eve celebrators by several hotels was a good example of a rewarding plan.

Brenda Speert

## BRAHMA TALES

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## PROS

Dear Brahma Tales:

I enjoyed tremendously your November 26th article on our great school's Brahma Spirit. I myself have noticed the lack of spirit and the unconcern for such a fine school. Why? Are we so unpatriotic and care so little for our school?

Spirit is a wonderful thing to have. It is (to me) a feeling of caring, loving, and believing in your school. It is showing that you care, love, and believe in your school. It is sticking by your school, no matter how many times you lose. It is picking yourself up proudly after being pushed down a million times. Spirit must come from inside, however - it must be displayed from the soul. No one can say he has school spirit until he has first felt it in his heart. And of course, Spirit is wanting to care, to love, and to believe.

I'm a senior at Mac-Arthur now; I've been here for four long years. And yet, I've never stopped caring about the Brahmas. I've never stopped loving my school. I've never for one minute stopped believing that Mac was - and is - the best school in all of Texas. I'm sure that many seniors feel the same way I do. At the Lee-Mac game I noticed that a lot of the senior Lassies were crying. . . as was I. Why? It was not because we had lost so gallant a fight; nor was it the heart-aching fact that we would never march together in another football game. No, it was Pride. Pride that swelled up inside us til at last we couldn't hold it in. We were proud of our Brahmas; proud to know a Brahma; proud to be a Brahma.

But just being a Brahma isn't enough. You must care about being a Brahma; you must love being a Brahma; and you must believe in your Brahmas. And last of all, you must want to be a Brahma. This, above all, is school Spirit. Being a Senior is so sad . . . . .

Michele Farnum  
Sr's. '70

Dear Editor:

When the idea for a "sounding-board" to facilitate student-Student Council relations was proposed, it was met with a great deal of enthusiasm. Here was the means to educate the Student Council as to the needs of the students. The glowing picture formed in most student's minds, including my own, was one of a student-Student Council meeting at which students could present their ideas. This is still sorely needed.

I have now realized that our sounding-board will be a 72 Dollar affair with categorical slots for "suggestions!" No allowance for free discussion, but pigeon-holed suggestions which are guaranteed to be looked at by real-live, actual student-council members. No doubt, when a sealed envelope is put into the proper slot, the board will sound by playing "The Impossible Dream."

It is my proposal that the kind of sounding board we really need is not a glorified suggestion box, but a straight-forward, equal time "get-together" between Student Council and students whose suggestions are taken under consideration.

Sincerely,

Douglas Axelrod

and

# CONS

## The Impossible Dream?

Dear Editor,

To me a senior girl has always been synonymous with beauty, matureness, style.— You could tell she was a senior because she held her head high and was proud to be a Brahma. I've seen many senior girls and their poise and grooming is a symbol of pride and not just in themselves but in their friends and school.

Yet why must it be only senior girls?

It seems to me, underclassmen, especially girls, don't respect anyone else's senses or interests. Some of these girls look as if they only had 30 seconds to dress in the morning.

Many girls take advantage of the short skirt fashion and try to wrap their monstrous limbs in one and a half feet of circular material.

I speak up because I've been at this school for four years and I love it. I want to be proud of my fellow students. I can't change any hem lines by mere words. I just wanted to tell the underclassmen girls I go to this school too. — granted she has to look at my ugly face but I can't change my looks — she can!!!

Scott Felty

## Gunga Zeke

You may speak 'o fish and chips  
Or o' tests some helpful tips  
But when it comes to journalism  
No one nears dear Gunga Zeke.  
Now in our fine learned clime  
Where we for twelve years spent our time  
In 'aughty 'opes 'o gaining' wisdom  
O' all them barefaced crew  
The finest man ere' I knew  
Was our football reporter Gunga Zeke.  
I shant forget the night  
When I dropped to the sidelines out o' the fight  
With 'ere first down where ours should o' been  
I was chokin' mad with thirst

An the man who spied me first  
Was our good ol' grinnin' reporter Gunga Zeke.  
'E lifted up me 'ead  
An' smilin' to me 'e said  
'So what's the score, already?''  
Silly, blinkin' silly Gunga Zeke.  
'Eres' a beggar wi' 'es girls for support  
Fiddlin' 'round wi' 'es sports report  
An' not a line set down.  
'Elpful, our 'umble Gunga Zeke.  
Though I've belted you and flatted you  
By the livin' Gawd that made  
I wished ya'd told the truth, Gunga Zeke.

Brahma Tales



## Legs - Fat Or Covered?

As told to Sara Jane Hawthorne

"What on earth is that contraption on your tail, Percy?"  
"Prudence knitted it for me," he explained. "It's called a slack. The principle is the same as the nose sock's. I don't want a fat tail - - - so unattractive."

"I'm afraid I don't follow - - - what does wearing a slack have to do with fat tails?"

"Didn't you read the 1968 Fall issue of Columbia Journalism Review? Research by a government health organization discovered that any part of the body, when exposed to cold - - - even for a few days - - - begins to build up adipose tissue or fat cells. The research concentrated on women's legs as they are usually the most consistently uncovered area of the human body."

"When warm weather returns, won't the fat cells go away?" I anxiously asked.

"No, just like all fat, it must be exercised or dieted off. But I needn't worry - - - I've got ear muffs, my slack, a jacket, a scarf, a nose sock, boots, and long pants."

"How about me? I can't wear long pants to school. And I won't, I WON'T, have fat legs like" - - - groping for an appropriate apposite - - - "like a COFFEE TABLE!!"

"Well, some girls are wearing slacks to school," he helpfully offered.

"And being sent home to change just as soon as they arrive," I despaired.

"There's always dependable knee socks," he countered. "Fat knees don't look so bad - - - they're kind of cute, like" - - - groping for an appropriate apposite - - - "like door-knobs," he consoled, neatly dodging a flying copy of Columbia Journalism Review.

"Maybe ankle length dresses are the answer. They've become rather popular among my girlfriends. Of course they can be expensive if you don't sew."

"NO, NO, NO"

"And to what do we owe this violent explosion?"

"Long skirts are so - so - long," he finished feebly. "It's like watching a gargantuan billowy sail sweep down the walkway. One has to sit and hope for an upwards vertical breeze just to glimpse an ankle and there's not many such breezes around."

# GET OUT NOW!

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by Mark Mitchell

The Vietnam war has been longer than any other war the United States has ever had to fight. It has cost over a hundred and fifty billion dollars, and over half a million American casualties in dead and wounded. It has devastated Vietnam and has initiated bitterness within the United States. The following is a portrayal of the latest expression of bitterness and the soonest forgotten — the moratorium.

The basic motivation for youth protest concerning Vietnam seems to be immorality. One needs only to glance at history to find one justification for concern.

It took the winners of the First World War fifteen years to realize that they had lost it. It took the victors of the Second World War only five. Unfortunately, these recent lessons of history were not learned, and the American government did not realize that they had lost the people of Vietnam before the war's launching.

After studying the past, many moratorium supporters advocated pacifism. Although a concept worthy in itself, it does not lend itself to the realm of backroom sub-table international politics. The youth who tried to understand the political side asked for a justification for the conflict, and were promptly answered with a form of a Joe MacCarthy communist BugaBoo on the international scale.

The moratorium has been indicted as an anti-American movement consisting of "communists" and "dirty hippies."

Why? The moratorium has not provoked violence by its cause. Its followers have not advocated the overthrow of the American Empire. It has simply served as an outlet for concerned liberal thought.

"Liberal" meaning one dedicated to the maintenance of open thought in America — not a communistic country, not a state consumed in anarchy, and not one filled with over zealous, radical youth.

Unfortunately, liberalism has been connotated to mean an idea contrary to the national interest, and in this way, the government has helped quiet the pleas of the moratorium. Many people fail to distinguish a liberal from a radical, and until they do, the liberal and the moratorium will suffer.

Another reason the moratorium has become silent, is that it is now "old." At first the bandwagon was brimming with concerned Americans, wanting to speak about our Asian involvement. But the attention span of concerned America has now elapsed. The war now has declined to fourth place in status; behind stu-

dent unrest, inflation, and football.

The moratorium has fallen victim to an American institution — the fad. What was once a public display of bitterness and revulsion, becomes publicly uncomfortable. The few true believers are left, and their cause is fading.

However outwardly subdued, there is still a group of individuals, whether right or wrong, that are furthering American heritage through free thought and spirit. These persons, their movement seriously eroding and being exploited by other fringe organizations, are still more constructive than the American who would suppress change and protest in the name of a false patriotism.

## Debaters Clash At UT Classic

The first Annual Orange and White Classic High School Debate Tournament at the University of Texas was held January 9 and 10. Sixty-two schools from three states competed, entering one team each in Championship Rounds. MacArthur, Edison, Alamo Heights, and Keystone were invited from the surrounding area.

Three teams from MacArthur attended. Alicea Fletcher and Peggy Chesson competed in Varsity Debating, winning four rounds and losing two. Norman Thomas and Jeff Harmon won two and lost four. Mark Mitchell and Ron Zimmerman competed in Varsity Competition. They won four and lost two.

Mark Mitchell received fifth place speaker, out of 248 speakers. Mark had 156 out of a possible 160 points, the fourth place speaker also had 156 points.



### GOOD NEWS!

### Elisabeth Weir flowers

### Offer a Discount to all MacArthur students

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\* WEDDINGS  
\* BIRTHDAYS  
\* PARTIES

# Students Prepare For Annual UIL Contest

Do you have a good mind for figures? Are you a persuasive talker? Or do you work well with your hands?

Although several months away, students are now preparing for University Interscholastic League areas of competition in one-act play, literary and academic events.

MacArthur is hosting the annual U.I.L. contests, scheduled for the weekends of April 11 (one-act play), and April 18 (literary events).

Faculty sponsors are eagerly searching for talented students who want to participate in the twelve areas of competition. Anyone interested should contact the following:

Mrs. Pat Gartman-poetry and prose interpretation, persuasive and informative speaking; Mrs. Mary Tyson-spelling; Mrs. Virginia Peak-ready writing; Mr. Jack Jensen-typing; Mrs. Marjorie Ecord and Mr. William Keils-number sense and slide rule; Mr. Cyril Firgins-science; Mr. John Milligan-shorthand; Mr. Norm Hitzges-journalism.

For those who do not understand what University Interscholastic League competition involves, U.I.L. begins in the fall with football and throughout the year almost every area of the high school program is involved. This includes basketball, tennis, swimming, baseball, track, band, choir, and the competition which this article is about — literary and academic events and the one-act play.

Points are awarded for first, second, and third places in the different events, and the total points for each school result in the winner.



**BUT WHO'S GOT THE KEY?** — Student Council President Ted Alexander presents the long anticipated Sound-Off Board to the student body in an assembly January 13. The purpose of the Board is to convey student complaints and suggestions to the administration. Submitted suggestions will be kept under lock and key until council action.

## SEEN HER?



### Deneice O'Connor

Deneice is seen on campus as a member of the Student Council and as a member of the Lassies.

Deneice 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 '70 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.



4123-25 N. McCullough

## Karen Andrews FHA Queen

To the soul sound of the T-Birds, the FHA honored 13 MacArthur students at its annual formal.

Midway through the ball, held January 9 at the Sheraton Motor Inn, senior Karen Andrews was crowned FHA queen. Her court included senior princesses Connie Cox and Petra Shafer, junior duchesses Theresa Burgess and Kathy Cody, sophomore duchesses Beth Hooker and Patti Cox, and freshmen duchesses Mac Rhyme and Laurie McCrimmon.

The FHA beaus were also announced. Senior Jay Collins, junior Brian Kies, sophomore John Ballatine and freshman Danny Armstrong each received the respected designation.

## ROTC BALL

The Army Reserve Officers Training Corps will present their second annual ball, February 7 at the Ramada Inn, from 7:30 to 12:00 p.m.

The ROTC will present the ROTC Sweetheart and present commissions to the present corps of officers.

A band from Lackland Air Force Base will play.

# TEXAS STATE BANK

"The Bank with a Heart"  
811 W.W. White Road  
ED 3-6210

# File 13

By Brenda Speert



... "Carousel," the drama department's next production, will debut January 29-31. Apparently, for the dramatists, this date seemed premature since rehearsals began on January 5. The mere three week interval was prompted by the orchestra's notification that they could only perform the musical on the announced dates. For the actors in "Carousel," the play may be an un-merry go-round.

... Singers for "Carousel" are still needed. Any student, preferably male, interested in joining the chorus should contact Mrs. Carroll or Mrs. Flood.

... "File 13" extends its congratulations to the Student Council for realizing the creation of the "Sound-off Board." In addition, this column wishes to clarify to the Student Council why the impatient advocates of this idea found fault with them. To these people, the "Sound-off Board" was interpreted in the same sense as the Board of Trustees, which is a group of men to which all questions and comments about the district are referred. The misinterpretation led the students to believe that the "Sound-off Board" was the name of a group responsible for reviewing students' comments rather than the name of a wall of board. Thus, the time length for its formation was incomprehensible. Yet, knowing now that they have a wall to speak to will comfort many.

... MacArthur's National Forensic League has been encouraging involvement in speech activities for four years. However, it appears that the communication between the parent organization and the MacArthur chapter epitomizes the "Do as I say, and not as I do." The national office has parleyed for four years notifying MacArthur that their charter has been approved.

... In the past weeks, MacArthur received publicity which was not generated by student activities. Principal George Vahey, representing not only MacArthur but also the District, testified as a witness in a case questioning whether the Alamo Heights Independent School District's dress and grooming rules were in violation of the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. Principal Vahey spoke for the defendant AHISD and asserted that a definite relationship existed between length of hair and the state of discipline in a school. This Monday, he will again be a member of a group expounding expertly on another controversial subject, "Codes of Behavior-Communication Between Parents and School." The program will be held at 7:30 p.m. on the Garner High School campus.

... Technological confusion is descending on the computer system. With Miss Sobrino's marriage transforming her last name to Milam, and with the departure of several MacArthur teachers, the computers undoubtedly will emit a befuddled grunt.



COACHES BOB BAKER AND DICK TAYLOR - "trip the light fantastic" at the Blue and White Ball, as seniors Guy Davenport and Ted Watson slowly groove. John Garner was named Mr. Football at the spectacle.

## 23 Band Members Place At McCollum

MacArthur Band members competed Saturday, December 13 in the first individual competition of the season: District Band.

At the tryouts, which took place at McCollum High School, MacArthur placed 23 musicians in the band, more than any other school in the district.

Those students placing high enough in the District

Band qualified to go to the next step in the competition: Region Band. Thirteen MacArthur students qualified: Douglas Axelrod, Cliff Bates, Ronnie Carroll, Mike Craddock, John Gordon, Mary Isom, Ross Johnson, Mary Mitchell, Louis Mizell, David Moore, Katie Papas, Diane Shisk, and Keith Valone.

Seven of these band members placed in region, but only Douglas Axelrod, John Gordon, and Ross Johnson qualified to go to State tryouts to be held January 24 at Alice, Texas.



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