

Kung Hei
Shing Toan

Merry Christmas

Joyeux Noel

Froehliche
Weihnachte

Pioneer

Buon
Natale

Southwest High School

Vol. XXXIX No. 4 December 22, 1975

A Christmas Carol?

By Jeanne Robinson and the PIONEER Staff

The Arsenal gates were locked tight, as usual, while a light snow fell on the esplanade. The school seemed deserted except for a sole man hunched over a desk scrawling cut slips.

Suddenly, a booming voice broke the silence.

"Bah-humbug, this Christmas stuff is a pain in the neck or my name's not Marvin O. Scrooge! Aren't you finished out there yet, Hatchet?"

Al Hatchet looked up from his work and said, "Almost sir, but couldn't I leave a bit early, Mr. Scrooge, sir? After all, it is Christmas eve. My wife, Mrs. Marilyn Hatchet, and my whole family are waiting for me, especially our darling son, Tiny Gary Josephs.

"Well I guess I could let you go on the condition that you make up the time later in study hall," grumbled Scrooge.

"Oh, thank you, sir," cried Hatchet grabbing his coat from the rack. "Merry Christmas to you!"

"Hogwash!" Scrooge yelled after him, but Hatchet was already too far away to hear him. An hour later, Scrooge was also on his way home. Scrooge briskly cut through the still night air until he approached his own home. Already at the door to greet him was his faithful housekeeper.

"Evening, Miss Beckham, I'll take my dinner in my room tonight," he said to the woman in a gruff tone.

"Get it yourself," she replied simply.

A roaring fire lighted Scrooge's large room as he sat eating a simple dinner of grilled ham and cheese. Putting on his best pair of p.j.'s, Scrooge then nestled himself in bed and read a worn copy of ROUNDUP.

It was then Scrooge heard the sound of footsteps moving slowly down the hall outside his room. They seemed to stop outside the door and Scrooge felt a chill enter the room as the door slowly swung open. Standing in the doorway was a tall bearded figure, garbed completely in white.

"Who are you and where's your hall pass?" asked Scrooge, trembling.

My name is Father Feick and my job is to visit all swamp turkeys who do not appreciate Christmas."

"But I don't understand why....," cried Scrooge.

"I can see you are going to be a tough one," said Father Feick. "To help enlighten you on the subject of Christmas, I'm sending three spirits. Listen to what they have to say, and there might be hope for you."

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Christmas Around The World

By Kathy Ortleb and Dale Tucker

December is a holiday month around the world. Different cultures celebrate in their own unique way. Canadians are excessively feeding their cats. Armanians are eating spinach at every meal, and Norwegians are firing pistols into the air before entering the house of a friend.

It began in the year 300 A.D. when Bishop Nicholas of Myra in Asia Minor became famous for his generosity to the people. It was thought that all special favors and gifts were brought about by him.

The people of the Netherlands chose St. Nicholas as their patron saint of Christmas. On December 6, a man dressed in rich robes visits the children and promises to return at night with presents if they have been good. The children leave cookies in their wooden shoes in exchange for the gifts.

The fame of St. Nicholas spread to Germany where he was sometimes accompanied by a devil who gave out coal to children who had misbehaved. Also in Germany originated the decorating of fir trees.

According to French teacher, Mrs. Anne Marie Medley, "The Christ Child distributes presents in France, but he leaves them under a *creche*, which is a manger scene, instead of under a tree."

This occurs on December 6, while December 25 is purely for worship and feasting. A yule log is lit and burns from Christmas until New Year's Day. The adults exchange gifts.

Mexico has a very religious attitude toward the holidays. There is a family procession from room to room through the house every night for three weeks. The children carry statues of Mary and Joseph which they place in a manger scene at the end of the procession. The statue of the Christ Child is placed in his crib at midnight on December 25. Also on this night is the *pinata* festival. A paper mache figure filled with candy and small gifts is suspended from the ceiling. One kid is chosen to be blindfolded and break the *pinata* with a stick. This old custom is also followed in Spain where there is also folk dancing in the streets after Midnight mass.

In Italy, the night of Christmas eve, the people hold a ceremony around the *Presepio*. This is a tiny scene of Bethlehem with miniature figures of the Holy Family, shepherds, and the Wise Men. The family prays while the mother places a figure of the *Bambino*, or infant Jesus, in the manger. Then, the Christmas



Continued on Page 6

Wage Law Influences Job Market

By Diane Ortleb

The Fair Labor Standards Act, designed to protect the rights of employees, declares that the minimum wage will be increased this January to \$2.30 an hour. The new rate will obviously benefit the employee, but it may also indirectly hurt one section of this nation's work force, the teenager.

The Act states that, "The rates must be paid, except where a specific exemption is provided, to all employees engaged in or producing goods for interstate or foreign commerce...." These jobs include work at schools and colleges, hospitals and other health care institutions, small construction firms, motels and restaurants, and motion picture theatres. Companies with an annual income under one million dollars are not required to meet these regulations, so not all employees will be covered by minimum wage.

Junior Karen Brents commented, "Our company, (Hi-Point Movie Theatre), can't afford to pay minimum wage. I only make a \$1.25 an hour. Us workers contacted the Better Business Bureau, and they said the theatre could only pay what they can afford. The government might give us a raise next year."

Tammy Nieters, a sophomore who works at Steak n' Shake, stated, "My tips are added to make minimum wage, but also the extra tips are subtracted so we don't make more than the minimum. They take out taxes on the tips so my check comes out to about a half of what it should be."

There were over one million U.S. teenagers unemployed in June, an alarming statistic that may be caused by the relatively high minimum wage rate. When employers are forced to pay workers a minimum rate for every kind of unskilled labor, it is not profitable to fill every job.

Managers may avoid the regulations of minimum wage by reducing the number of hours their employees work. The Fair Labor Standard Act maintains that full-time students may work part time at 85 per cent of the minimum wage if their working hours total under twenty.

The manager of a family restaurant that employs students from Southwest remarked, "We'd pay less if we could get away with it. What we do is hire more people to keep the cost down."

Consequently, the minimum wage may open up the job market as managers cut down the salary expenses per person. Two students may be hired to work twenty hours apiece, instead of one student working forty hours. By limiting the number of hours, several people will be on the payroll working for less than minimum wage, replacing the one person who worked at minimum wage over twenty hours a week.

Students will be able to determine for themselves in January if minimum wage is protecting the rights of employees.

Calculating for the Future

By Melody Noel

Why were many students in a college math class unable to finish exams?

The batteries in their calculators went dead!

This is one of the minor problems students must face with this increasingly popular new gadget. More important, perhaps, is the possibility that calculators will produce students so dependent on them that they will be unable to do the simplest of math problems.

Mrs. Edith Arensman, head of the Science Department, partially agrees with this point: "When students do not have to learn these skills in the elementary grades, it is bound to limit their ability.

As for high school students who should already have the skills, I think, it just improves their accuracy."

The primary question seems to be, "Does the student know what he's doing while using the calculator?" More emphasis must be placed on "What does it all mean?" and less on "How fast can I get it done?"

When Mr. Frank Merchant, head of the Math Department, attended a city wide meeting, it was decided that all schools would receive 10 calculators. Later, this plan was found to be impossible because of a lack of funds. Mr. Merchant, who teaches some of the more difficult math classes, has found little need to use calculations in his operations but explains that he definitely thinks that they should eventually be standard equipment.

Students feel that using the calculators has a certain appeal. Aside from being able to attempt more difficult or interesting problems, calculators make tedious math fun, fast, and accurate.



Pioneer

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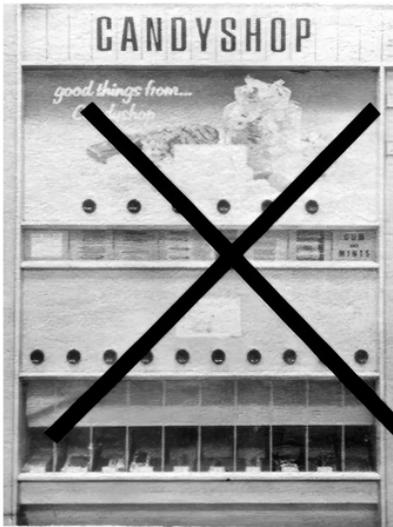
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Vending Machines not Likely for Students

By Kathy Crudden

Although most public places in Missouri have vending machines, Southwest and other public high schools do not.

Principal Marvin O. Koenig stated the reason: "It is a Board of Education practice not to allow vending machines for students. Even if it weren't their rule, it would be mine because students are always throwing their trash on the floor, and having vending machines would make the problem worse."

Mrs. Virginia Morris, cafeteria manager, commented, "The machines

could be broken into, or if something in the machine was stuck, a student might bang on it and break it."

Having vending machines could cut sales at the snack bar. Reduced snack bar sales could make it unprofitable for the snack bar to operate.

Alton High School, for example, has had vending machines for about six years, but the machines are only open before and after school — the rest of the time they are locked. Alton does not have a snack bar.

Some advantages of having a snack bar over vending machines are that the food is fresher and the buyer can see what he is purchasing.

Even though these reasons are substantial, many students would still like to have machines because they would provide fast service, a larger variety of snacks, gum, and a number of other items which cannot be obtained at the snack bar.



Divorce Needn't Be Traumatic

Divorce statistics are forever appearing in the papers. The breakup of prominent people and celebrities are often discussed during news broadcasts and talk shows. It seems as though the unit called "family" is rapidly disappearing. This no doubt has happened to many Southwest students.

Divorces are almost always thought of as grueling, almost warlike court battles with the former husband and wife bearing a deep-seated hate for one another. Of course, there are cases such as these, and the children, if any, are forced to take sides.

Fortunately, not all divorce cases are so animalistic and disruptive. With today's divorce legislation, it is possible for a couple to draw up a legal contract which states the manner in which the

house and domestic items are to be divided. In this manner the separation can be performed in a more peaceful atmosphere. The experience then is not quite so traumatic for the children.

The theory that a couple should stay together for the children's sake is ridiculous. Children need a harmonious atmosphere in which to grow, whether it be with one or two parents.

Even though the relationship between the individual and his parents changes, a deep respect develops for them because they have made the divorce as easy and as dignified as possible.

When parents make a split in this manner it becomes easier for the younger members of the family to deal with and accept.

Piece
of
Mind



Dear Editors:

In your article, "Euthanasia — Who Has the Authority?" your editorial writer brought up several interesting and controversial points.

He stated that people on life-support machine are inanimate and their brains are barely working. The key word is *barely*.

Even with today's vast amount of medical knowledge, no one knows the full capabilities of the brain. When a person is hooked up to these machines, doctors are not "playing God;" they are trying to save a life in the only way they know how. When doctors take this course they are not "egotistical glory-seekers;" they are just human beings taking the only course open to them.

The writer defined "being alive" as being a useful and happy member of society, but there have been cases of people who were hooked up to these machines and *did* return to society in a normal capacity.

In this country, are patients to be un-hooked when they go into a coma, or will they be given a change to *live*?

Paul Kavanaugh

Allman Bros. — Win, Lose, or Draw?

By Mark Brueggenjohann

Win, Lose, or Draw is the Allman Brothers Band's first album in two years and in many ways you can certainly tell.

The band's usual tightness is somewhat lacking in places and with the exception of "High Falls," the old style is nearly gone.

Gregg Allman and Richard Betts stand out in the album as is usually the case, however, Richard Betts makes the best of the showings by his works which are on the album. The band attempts a try at blues but slightly bomb out, with the country-western sounds of Richard Betts pulling the album through.

If this album is to be a winner, the Richard Betts' tune, "High Falls," will do it and no other tune will sell this album.

Written much in the style of "In Memory of Elizabeth Reed," "High Falls" is outstanding on the album. "High Falls" is totally instrumental with no vocals and a steady theme with little or no variation.

It is a subtle blend of rock, jazz, and country-western, a strange but nice sounding mixture. This tune will be the major factor in the selling of this album and final determination if it is to be a winner, loser, or a draw.

Vandals Slash Wires

The stereo speaker wires in the smoking lounge were slashed on November 24. The lounge had been wired for radio music only several days before the incident.

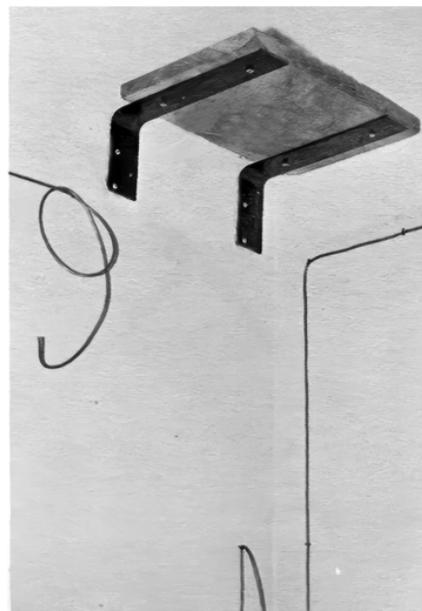
The Smoking Lounge Committee, headed by senior Mark Skinner, spent many hours after school wiring the stereo speakers.

Mr. Pat Meloy, sponsor of Student Congress, said the wires will have to be spliced back together. However, this can't be done until special windows are installed. The Board of Education is paying for the installation of a type of window with chicken wire inside, to be put in all shop classes and the smoking lounge. The installation of these windows is intended to prevent vandalism and theft.

Secretary of the committee Sharon Conin, discussed the situation: "Every time people try to do something for the school, immature people mess it up. They push and push until they go to far, and then they wonder why they have no rights. They act like little kids and that's how they should be treated."

The stereo was bought with the profits from the Mama's Pride concert. The speakers and cabinets were made by the committee, using students donations to pay for the parts. The new wires are paid for by the profits from a bake sale held on November 26.

The committee will try again for the benefit of mature students. "We're not discouraged," stated Mr. Meloy. "All we ask for is a little student cooperation. It's their school, too."



Cut stereo speaker wires symbolize the vandalism which occurred November 24 in the Smoking Lounge.

Strike Possibility in Question

A lot of students have been wondering if there is a possibility of a teachers' strike this year. PIONEER has talked to a number of teachers in the school to try and determine what the chances are for a strike.

Mr. Glenn Bush, Communication Skills teacher and a active representative in the Teachers' Union, said that he thinks that many teachers are a solid force and will stand up for what they want.

"No one really wants to strike," he added. "They're afraid of losing money, anti-strike or losing their jobs."

Mr. Gerald Mueller, Communication Skills teacher and also a member of the Teachers' Union, said that there are more black Union members who show up for meetings and vote, whereas about 90 percent of the SLTA (St. Louis Teachers Association) are white and the Union has angered many teachers of the Southside high schools.

On December 3, the teachers voted to see which group, SLTA or the Union, would represent them in bargaining with the Board of Education.

"If SLTA wins in collective bargaining with the Board of Education, who is to say they wouldn't make the same mistakes as the Union?" asked Mr. Miller.

Some reasons for teachers wanting to strike are restoration of benefits, higher wages to keep up with inflation and better working and teaching conditions.

Other teachers who are not members of either group said they don't want the strike because it would only hurt the teachers and it should only be used as a last resort.

Mr. Joseph Martin, business teacher and a non-member, thinks if it's the only way to get better education, bring it on. He also said, "If we could have gotten better conditions three years ago, you wouldn't have to worry about it."

Concert Choir Carols

Concert Choir has been performing various concerts, with many under the auspices of the St. Louis Christmas Carol Association.

Caroling took place at Miss Hulling's Restaurant, Executive Building, the Pet Milk Complex downtown, and in Southwest's halls.

Operetta excerpts were added to the traditional Christmas songs for the Parent-Teacher Congress meeting, Missouri Pacific Men's Club Party, and organizations at Musial and Biggies and the Chase-Park Plaza.

This also was the first time in many years the music department has put on a holiday aud, last Friday.

Notes & News

DISTRICT WINNERS of the Missouri Bicentennial State Contest have been chosen from Southwest. In the grade 9 Class II division for poetry, Sharon Dopuch was the winner; in essay, Paru Sebalja; and in oratory, Bonnie Scott.

In the 10, 11, and 12 grade Class II contests, junior Carol McElvenney won first place in art; second was senior Louis Lovera; and third, senior Tammy Murray. In music, the winner was sophomore John Riddle; poetry, sophomore Donna Gurley; and in essay, sophomore Mark Meier.

The winners will now complete in the Congressional District contest in February. Then, they will go to the state finals in Jefferson City for cash prizes.

VERNA PORTER placed sixth for freshmen girls, Anne Mangelsdorf placed seventh for junior girls, and Martha Crusius placed seventh for senior girls in the JFK High School Math Contest, sponsored by Saint-Mary-Of-the-Woods College on November 22. Twenty-one schools competed in the contest.

SOUTHWEST's Scholar Quiz team won its quarter-finals match with a 218-143 win over Aquinas, November 23, on KMOX-TV.

The Southwest team advanced to the Fall Finals by downing Ritenour, 215 to 178 last Sunday. This was the first team in 5 years to advance to the finals. Yesterday, the SW scholars competed against Edwardsville for the Fall Championship.

What's Happening

December

24 Christmas holidays, no classes

January

5 Classes resume

6 PTA Board meeting, 1 p.m.

13 Semester finals, pds. 2,4,6

14 Semester finals, pds. 3,5,7

15 Martin Luther King's birthday, no classes

16 Semester finals, pd. 1

SW Establishes Honor Chapter

Due to the efforts of Principal Marvin Koenig and our newly formed National Honor Society Faculty Council, Southwest will have its first chapter of the National Honor Society.

Mr. Koenig has requested the adoption of a NHS chapter here at Southwest since his arrival here last year. "There are many deserving students here at Southwest, and I believe that an Honor Society should be started here so they may be recognized," stated Mr. Koenig. "This is my reason for wanting the chapter established."

"The purpose of the National Honor Society is to create an enthusiasm for scholarship, to stimulate a desire to render service, to promote leadership, and to develop character in the students of American secondary schools. The SW Chapter is visualized as a service-type organization," explained the council.

The council will select eligible students for evaluation. Students will be evaluated by members of the faculty who have had them as students. Eligibility is based upon scholarship as measured by gradepoint average and year in school. Only juniors and seniors are eligible, and the council will decide whether to use the mandatory minimum average or set a higher average. Evaluation by faculty is to rate leadership and character of the eligible students.

The council, chaired by Mrs. Marie Markowski, plans to induct the first group of SW students into the society this February. The other members of the council are Miss Bonnie Burgett, Dr. Rosemary Kline, Mrs. Martha Kuhn, Mr. Calvert Lecuyer, Mrs. Edna Morris, Mrs. Martha Ryan and Mr. Ralph Sneed.

Could Be Last Christmas Aud

Student Congress is sponsoring a Christmas Aud to be held tomorrow during period 6. Because of the numerous complaints from the student body of the lack of aud sessions, SC has decided to sponsor this aud on a trial basis.

If the response to this Christmas aud, called "Christmas Downtown" and written by seniors Tom Belgeri, Marie Soest, Barb Burns, Roger Morris, Lesa Morris and Margaret Barro, is unfavorable, then aud sessions will be considered outmoded.

The aud will feature a young family out on a shopping spree and the antics they encounter. On the other hand, if the students display a favorable attitude toward the aud, SC will continue sponsoring audits.



SOPHOMORE MERRIE PERRY pets a rabbit, which is one of many animals recently donated by SW students. The animals, used in experiments for biology classes, are housed in Room 108. Students who donated the animals will take them home at the end of the year.

New Reps in Congress

New Student Congress representatives were elected in advisories on November 19. "The election was held in hopes of broadening the students' ideas of different groups," said Mr. Pat Meloy, sponsor of SC.

The SC officers began to think they weren't receiving representation from the entire student body because they weren't getting enough new ideas. The reps were placed on inactive duty until January, which was decided by the officers and approved by the reps themselves, according to Mr. Meloy.

Officers made the decision with Mr. Meloy's and Principal Marvin O. Koenig's approval. Some reps have expressed dissatisfaction toward the officers for the decision.

Hello Day in October, Spirit Week the week before Christmas, etc. are repeated year after year. The officers of SC were looking for new social event ideas, and they think the second group of reps will broaden their range of ideas and help support the first group, according to Mr. Meloy.

"Most of the reps from the first group have been reps since their freshman year, and it's hard to get new ideas from the same reps year after year," Mr. Meloy said.

In January, a decision will be made on whether or not to add the second group of reps to the first group or to keep just the first group.

The second group of reps have been meeting at least once a week. The meetings are held during a different period each week, so the students won't miss the same class all the time, since they all do not have period 5 free.

Why weren't the officers put on inactive duty? "I would not allow them to be inactive," said Mr. Meloy. He also said that the officers were elected by the entire student body and they made campaign promises which they are obligated to carry out to the best of their ability.

If the decision in January is to add the second group of reps to the first group, when the SC Constitution goes through the process of being rewritten next semester, a change or amendment may take place. Every year the Constitution is rewritten by each new set of officers. A committee is formed and the Constitution is rewritten and changed if necessary.

"The biggest change since I've sponsored SC has been the change in having SC reps in every advisory," said Mr. Meloy. As of now there are no real changes to be made.

A Christmas Carol?

Continued from Page 1

"I don't want to see any spirits!!" Scrooge yelled, in rising panic, but Father Feick had already vanished and Scrooge was alone. Suddenly he heard a voice saying, "Marvin O. Scrooge," over and over. Confused and terrified, Scrooge hid his head. When he finally open his eyes he saw a small gray-haired figure standing where the light had been.

Christmas Past

"I am the spirit of Christmas past," said the spirit, "but you can call me Uncle Woody. I'm here to take you on a short journey."

Suddenly, Scrooge was in the study hall of his old grade school. The room was deserted except for a small boy weeping quietly at the back of the room.

"It's Christmas eve," said Uncle Woody gently. "Do you recognize the child?"

"It's me!" said Scrooge in astonishment. "I was deprived of independent study for no reason!"

"Oh, I think writing 'Santa is a fink' on a bathroom wall is a pretty good reason."

"Well, you'd think Santa was a fink too if all you got for Christmas was a subscription to PIONEER!"

The bitterness of his past overcame him, and Scrooge buried his face in his hands. When he looked up again, he was back in his bedroom and a second spirit was coming into focus by his bed.

"Don't tell me," Scrooge sighed wearily, "you're the spirit of Christmas

present and, say, you look amazingly like a colleague of mine, a man by the name of Carlisle."

"You catch on quick," replied Christmas present.

With these words Scrooge and the spirit were transported to a small modestly furnished room that Scrooge recognized to be 32A. Al and Marilyn Hatchet seemed to be having a serious talk about something so the spirit signaled Scrooge to listen.

"But dear, without more money, what are we going to do?" said Mother Hatchet anxiously. "The termites have infested the house, and I'm afraid Tiny Gary's crutch is next on the menu."

"It's just a shame that the Orkin man doesn't accept credit!" sighed Al Hatchett wistfully.

Christmas Future

Scrooge felt a heavy burden of guilt as the scene faded out and he was back in his own room. Suddenly, a flash of lightning lighted the sky outside, and a violent wind picked up, knocking small branches against the windowpane. Scrooge trembled in fear and glanced nervously around the room. A tiny shadow on a far wall was growing and taking the shape of a small man with a moustache. Before long the shadow stepped from the wall and took the form of the spirit of Christmas future.

"I am the spirit of Christmas future but the chicks call me Pat. I usually make these visits with my helper, Matt the

Buha, but he had a Spirit Council meeting and couldn't make it," the spirit said casually.

"You seem friendly, spirit, but I still fear you the most," said Scrooge.

In the wink of an eye, Scrooge found himself in a dark and dreary graveyard with dirty, rundown tombstones. The wind howled unmercifully, and suddenly Scrooge was being led towards a shiny rectangular object in the distance.

"This is where I leave you, Scrooge," said the spirit, straining to be heard above the wind. "Just keep heading towards that thing."

Now alone, Scrooge felt a strange compulsion drawing him towards the object. Soon, he could make out some sort of clip on the top of the object and he could see that a name was printed on it. Finally, he knew what it was and a horror that he had never known filled him.

A hole had been dug, big enough to accommodate a person, and in front of the hole was a large I.D. with the name "Marvin O." on it.

"Sir! Sir!" cried Mrs. Beckham, "You've been having a terrible nightmare. You were screaming just now!"

"Oh, Beckham," said Scrooge joyously. "It's so good to be here! There are going to be a few changes at school! We'll change the school colors to red and green, replace the Alma Mater with Jingle Bells, all teachers will dress as elves, and I'll dress as Santa. ..."

Christmas Around The World

Continued from Page 1

gifts are brought in and distributed from a large crock, called the Urn of Fate.

Italian legend has it that *La Befana*, a kind of aged fairy queen, comes down the chimney with gifts for the children on the eve of Epiphany, January 6. Magi cakes, made of fried eels, chicken, and pork, are the holiday treats.

The Polish people at their Christmas feast leave a vacant chair for the Christ Child. They spread straw on the table to remind people of the stable where Christ was born. They also make small wafers,

have them blessed, and exchange them much like we exchange cards.

In Greece, the people fast for 40 days before Christmas. During this fasting period, they are to have no meat. They then go to their homes to feast. At this feast a pig is usually served.

At midnight on New Year's Eve, the Greeks go to church to get blessed water to use in their homes. They also try to carry a candle from the church to their homes without the flame going out. This is done for good luck. On New Year's Day, the priest comes by to bless the homes. The first friend to enter your house on this day will be good luck to you all year long.

A big cake called a *pita* is prepared for the holiday. One coin is hidden in the batter. A piece is cut for everyone in the family and for everything treasured by them. Whoever gets the coin will have good luck.

Copying Western Ways

Christmas has been celebrated in Japan only for the past twenty years due to the

fact that there are so few Christians there.

"Everybody knows Christmas, but not everybody knows the meaning. Young people like to copy Western ways, so they have parties to celebrate the holiday. Before the day was celebrated, there were end-of-the-year sales and now Christmas gives department stores an excuse to sell more products," states senior Makito Masaki, foreign-exchange student from Japan.

Immigrants from many foreign countries brought their holiday customs to America when our nation was beginning to develop. The idea of an all-good character who distributed gifts to children was contributed from many countries. Specifically, St. Nicholas was contributed from the Netherlands, Christmas trees by the Germans, chimneys from Norse legends, plum pudding by the English, and reindeer by the Russians.

A minister, Clement C. Moore, took all these ideas in 1823, and formed the Christmas ideal we recognize today in his immortal poem, "The Night Before Christmas."

Something Different!
DANIEL S. TODD
~ Magician ~



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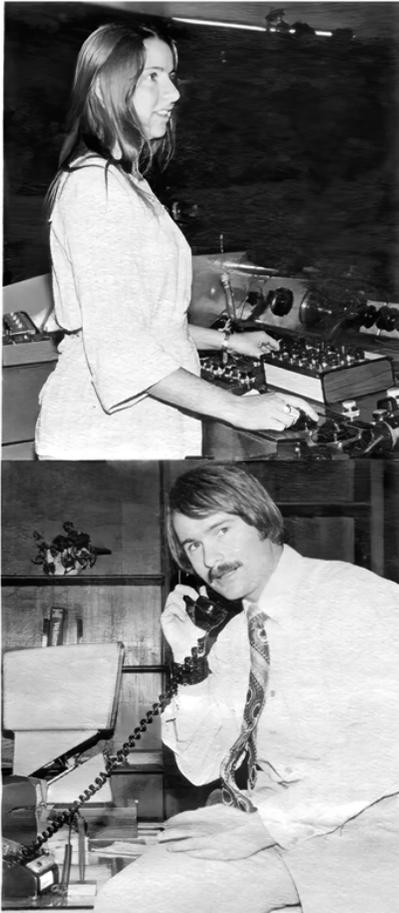


photo by Henry Voges

Rohde Protects

Officer Richard Rohde, police liaison counselor to Southwest, will be leaving today to become a Special Agent in the U.S. Secret Service.

Mr. Rohde came to Southwest to act as a counselor to students who are involved with the police.

In August, he applied to the U.S. Secret Service. His background and character were examined all the way back to his birth. After passing this record check, Mr. Rohde went to Washington D.C. to take a Treasury Department exam. He met all requirements and will begin his career in the Secret Service today.

After training, Mr. Rohde goes to Washington. His main duty in the Secret Service will be to protect President Gerald Ford and other candidates in the upcoming Presidential campaign. When not protecting the President, Mr. Rohde will be working with counterfeiting cases.

Why did Mr. Rohde leave the Police Department after ten years of service? "I felt that I could grow stale here," said Mr. Rohde. "I wanted to broaden my experiences in law enforcement, and I think this is a good opportunity."

Diane Projects

As you take your seat to watch the Laserium Concert, you sit back and wait for something weird and exciting to appear. All of a sudden, senior Diane Palmisano walks in.

Diane operates the console which flashes the stars on the white dome of the McDonnell Planetarium. Seventy to 80 per cent of the work required to put on the show is done manually. This allows the show to vary from time to time. However, according to Diane, "The show is basically the same each night."

Only one person may control the console at a time and Diane is one of three people who has that privilege.

Laserium is a thrilling illusion of light mostly in three-dimensional geometric

figures. These figures change and flow with the sounds of contemporary and classical music.

The show usually lasts for an hour, unless something breaks down. "Last week one of the circuit breakers broke down twice during my show, so I asked the audience if they'd like to sing camp songs until it was fixed," Diane said with her usual good humor.

"It's interesting work and you meet a lot of interesting people, like comedienne Lilly Tomlin, who made a surprise appearance one afternoon.

Diane is a remarkable person with many talents. Even though she is interested in the Laserium, her career plans are toward dance therapy and its use in helping the physically and mentally handicapped.

Faculty Faces Fickle Future

By Steve Carroll and Ray Hawk

A crack staff of PIONEER reporters, by means both legal and otherwise, were able to fathom out the true aspirations of certain members of the Southwest faculty for the coming year:

Mr. Anton promises that he and Kojak are both going to have better seasons next year.

Mrs. Connors wants to set a new record for evicting students from the library next semester.

Mr. Forrest says that he will dig up at least one more relative from the Revolutionary War for his history students.

Mr. Wallach resolves to get a new paddle next year, but only if the one he's got is worn out by then. Come on, guys, keep trying!

Mr. Ashley has decided to get a new pair of tennis shoes next year.

Mr. Graham has accepted the FAA

proposition that the new St. Louis airport be built atop his head.

Miss Siegel promises to raise the Siegel Sub after its disastrous sinking during her last test.

Mr. Merchant has decided that he must first get his own attention before addressing himself.

Mr. Koenig will try to convince the student body that there are principals involved in the administration of the school.

Mr. Ecker doesn't promise anything because he lives from day to day and so do those students who visit him once too often. And *once* is too often.

Mr. Forti promises that coffee will be the only thing put into his thermos next year.

Mr. Zapf will continue his advocacy of Polish Power and resolves never to forget the key to his bicycle again.

Mrs. Arensman hopes to draw more blood next year.

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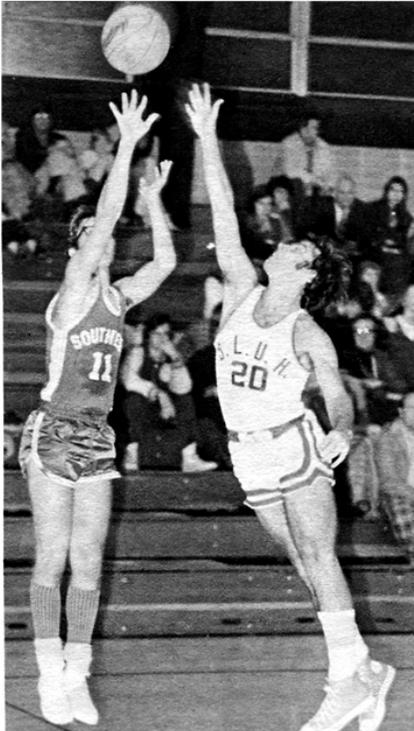
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photo by Martin Millman



SENIOR Guard Steve Melton shoots successfully over the out-stretched arm of a SLUH defender in the Longhorns 69-59 triumph in the opening round of the SLUH Tournament on November 28.

Cagers Face Rough Schedule

"The ability is always there. The outcome of a game depends on the desire and determination of the players."

This is the way Coach Robert Vogel evaluates the success or failure of the 1975-76 Southwest basketball team.

Through the first four games Coach Vogel's theory has been proven right.

The Longhorns opposed Central on December 4. The Red Wings number one in the area and number seven in the nation, defeated Southwest, 82-57. The Steers were leading after the first quarter, 12-9, but then Central began out-rebounding Southwest on both the offensive and defensive boards and the Longhorn cagers never saw the lead again.

Senior Guard Steve Melton's strong floor game and the accurate shooting of forward Greg Croson were two bright spots for the Steers.

The S.L.U.H. Tourney was an up-and-down affair for Southwest. The up came when the Longhorns downed the host team, S.L.U.H., 69-59 in the opening round. Seniors Dave Adams and Greg Croson paced the Steers with 41 points between them. The down came in the championship game. Sumner, who beat Northwest the night before, stopped

Southwest, 78-60. The Longhorns had 21 turnovers in the disaster. Guard Dave Adams led the Steers with 16 points.

Southwest opened the season on November 25 with a loss at the hands of Madison, 77-62. The score was tied after three quarters so the game was much closer than the final score. Center Howard Richards contributed 22 points in the losing effort.

Co-captain Dave Adams stated, "We play many of the toughest teams in the area, but if we can get it together and work as a team we should present the school with a winning record."

The Longhorns continue their season over the Christmas holidays when they play in the Chaminade Tournament, December 26, 27 and 29.

Lew, Mark Win Awards

Linebacker Lew Rolan and running back Mark Sutherlin were honored at the annual fall Awards Banquet, December 10. Rolan took home the *Most Valuable Player Award* while Sutherlin received the Tim O'Neil Award.

The MVP Award is given to the Longhorn whom the players themselves feel was the most valuable to the team.

The Tim O'Neill Award is presented twice yearly to the players who show athletic excellence in football and track. Tim O'Neill gained eight letters through these two sports while he attended Southwest.

Swimmers Sure of First Place

After capping off a successful season by placing second in the PHL last year, Mr. Dennis Whitworth, coach of the Boys' Swim Team stated, "This year's team is going to be even better than last year's, and should have contention for PHL." He also said that the toughest competition for this year will be Sumner and Roosevelt.

Senior Tony Torrente is confident in his team, adding, "The PHL is certain this year with hopes that Roosevelt will come in second place with Sumner following in third." Torrente is one of the most important swimmers on the team this year, swimming the breast stroke.

Two other outstanding swimmers this year are freshmen Doug Finley, who swims all strokes, and Norbert Kembitzky, freestyle and breast stroke artist.

The main qualification for being on the swim team is knowing how to swim. Some students tried out without knowing how. Making the team involves swimming every night for practice at Forest Park Community College.

Although there are 25 members on the team, not all compete in every meet.

Southwest students are allowed to attend all swim meets this year. There is no charge to watch. Anyone wanting

information pertaining to the swim team may find it in the Swim Team case located just outside the general office (Room 201).

The next swim meet will be on January 7 and 4 p.m. The team will be swimming against Oakville at Mehlville.

The first league meet will be January 8, against Beaumont at Forest Park Community College.

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JEFF KRAUSE (17) breaks in on right wing as the Oakville goalie prepares to come out to cut down the angle. The Hockey Steers won the regular season opener at Ice Palace, shutting out the Oakville team 11-0.

Girls' Basketball Not Experienced

"With only three players returning from last year, our team is very inexperienced but has the potential to win the Public High League," said Miss Bonnie Burgett, Girls' Varsity Basketball coach.

The three returning players from last year, sophomore Laura Dengler, junior Cindy Psaris, and senior Kathy Weber, are the most probable starters for the team. Along with these, the team is also relying heavily on freshmen Myra Heckel, Kathy Kiefer, and Laurie McNamara who have improved greatly since the team began practicing in early November.

Though there are nine schools in the PHL, this year's league consists of four games, starting on January 17 against Vashon at Beaumont. Central, Roosevelt and Sumner are the other schools Southwest is scheduled to play. This, however, will be changed next year so that each team will have the opportunity to play all PHL schools.

Other team members are Kim Reed, Gina Harrison, Vanessa Jones, and Maureen Sutherland. Laura Dengler commented, "I think our team works well together, and I hope our efforts show when our games begin."

Hockey Excluded from PHL

By Bruce Zauf

What is the purpose of the Mid-States Hockey Association?

The Mid-States Hockey Association was formed because hockey is not a school-sponsored sport, being excluded from the high school sports program. If hockey were supported by the schools, there would be no need for an association to organize teams to form a league.

Some of the major reasons hockey is excluded from being a school sponsored sport are: it's too expensive, six city high schools would have to organize hockey teams before the schools would support a league, and ice time is not available at a reasonable hour, explained Coach Steve Warmack.

Most of the reasons are obsolete. Hockey is an expensive sport, but it would be less expensive than other sports like football. In hockey the players would continue to buy their own equipment even if the school sponsored the sport, because most of the hockey players who play for the school have at one time probably played for another team and own most of their own equipment.

As for the six city schools needed to have a PHL sport, it would be almost impossible to schedule all six for games and practices. Ice time is hard to get. The hockey team now holds practices at 5:45 a.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays as proof of the lack of availability of ice time at a decent hour. They will have to play the majority of their games around 9:15 p.m. on Saturdays this season.

One major reason hockey should not be excluded from being a high

school-sponsored sport is that 20 hockey players are willing to put out \$150 to play for a team that represents their school, and a coach is willing to coach without pay.



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Matmen Pin Hopes on Title

The 1974 wrestling team was like an inexperienced miler. It had a fast start but a slow finish. Their PHL record was 5-4, and only one wrestler made it past districts.

The 1975-76 squad has been doing a lot of running and are in top condition. For the first time, Coach Wallach required that each wrestler run a six-minute mile. Nearly all of the team has returned, as only four starters were lost to graduation. It seems this team is destined to greatness, better than a fourth place finish in the PHL.

Junior co-captain Glen Hearold agrees: "We've been training hard, and we want a better finish than last year. This team believes it can challenge Northwest and Central, and I'm confident we'll beat them."

No one can count Southwest out early this year. Though inexperienced in the weight classes below 126 lbs., the cream rises to the top after that.

Junior Carl Faulkner holds down the 126 lb. weight class, with class. He is a force to be reckoned with this year. The Golden Greeks, Chris Dubis and George Kirkou, are the 132 lb. and 145 lb. grapplers, respectively. Sandwiched by the Greeks is 138 lb. senior co-captain Greg Noonan, a smooth, well-conditioned athlete.

Senior Del Covington is a solid 155

pounder, while junior Tom Coslet is a capable matman at 167 lbs. The flamboyant Hearold holds down the 185 lbs. division, and the heavyweights seem to be senior Bruce Walden and junior Dave Campbell.

On December 12, Southwest opened its season at Beaumont. Faulkner and Noonan scored pins, as Southwest lost only one of the final eight weight divisions. Ahead 27-24 going into the heavyweight match, Bruce Walden avoided a pin against a much heavier opponent to help the team gain a 27-27 tie.

The next meet is the December 30-31 Christmas Tournament at O'Fallon Tech. Sixteen teams will compete for individual as well as team medals. Southwest could certainly up its season by finishing high in the team standings.



JUNIOR Co-captain Glen Hearold has fellow co-captain senior Grey Noonan near the point of conceding with this well-applied full nelson. Hearold is the first non-senior co-captain in some time.

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