

The cause of this is easy to see; Sometimes the once-sacred holiday becomes over-commercialized and makes you feel like all the world is fake snow and plastic Santas. Shopping centers are too bright, salesmen too eager, prices too high.

The holiday season is at it's glorious peak now; Christmas isn't far away. But perhaps you're not feeling very "glorious". Lots of people seem to be grumpy and grouchy lately, you're certainly not alone! In fact, if you let it, all the glamour and glitter of this season can get you down.

But the solution is easy to see as well. Try to concentrate on the good things. Instead of being disgusted at a pushy shopper, notice the little boy helping his grandpa get around. See how the snow sparkles and the brisk air seems to crackle. You can do your part by being cheerful and forgiving both now and throughout the year.

These thoughts may sound trite but they're written with sincerity in hopes that your holiday season can be enjoyed to its fullest.



THE VOX

Marion High School

TO ALL

FROM THE VOX STAFF

Read This Article A Close Look At MHS' Needs Assessment Program

By Dave Nash

If you have been a student in the Marion School System lately, you have no doubt heard a phrase in the morning announcements resounding down the Marion High corridors. That phrase is, "Needs Assessment Program."

"Needs Assessment", is a program new to Marion Independent Schools, which is designed to identify educational priorities, and to list these priorities in rank order from most important to least important, as they concern our Marion Schools.

What kind of priorities? What types of things are actually being assessed? According to Mr. Edwards, our Curriculum Director, "There is a statement made up of eighteen goals developed by a panel of experts from across the nation. These goals are very general, but they cover everything that can be considered important on the educational scene today."

Following, is the list of eighteen goals that are being assessed. Keep in mind that there are many sub-divisions within these eighteen goals, but they are too numerous to list here.

1. Learn how to be a good citizen.
2. Learn how to respect and get along with people who think, dress and act differently.
3. Learn about and try to understand the changes that take place in the world.
4. Develop skills in reading, writing, speaking, and listening.
5. Understand and practice democratic ideas and ideals.
6. Learn how to examine and use information.
7. Understand and practice the skills of family living.
8. Learn to respect and get along with people with whom we work and live.
9. Develop skills to enter a specific field of work.
10. Learn how to be a good manager of money, property and resources.
11. Develop a desire for learning now and in the future.
12. Learn how to use leisure time.
13. Practice and understand the ideas

of health and safety.

14. Appreciate culture and beauty in the world.
15. Gain information needed to make job selections.
16. Develop pride in work and a feeling of self-worth.
17. Develop good character and self-respect.
18. Gain a general education.

Exactly who is doing this assessment? Who is deciding what our educational priorities are, as they concern our school district? There are three groups of people working on evaluating the eighteen goals -- faculty members, parents and students. These people were chosen by random sample from each of the three respective groups. In the month of November, the members of each of the three groups discussed the goal priorities among themselves and then rated each according to their importance.

What were the results? What were the top six goals selected by each group as being the most important to our educational Program? Here they are:

- Develop skills in reading, writing, speaking, and listening.
- Develop pride in work and a feeling of self-worth
- Develop good character and self-respect.
- Gain a general education.
- Learn to respect and get along with people with whom we work and live.
- Learn to examine and use information.

According to Mr. Edwards, "The groups later looked at our PRESENT program and identified the goals which our school system IS ACHIEVING and what goals need more emphasis. The groups came up with the following list of goals that should be given MORE attention in our present educational program."

- Here they are:
- Develop pride in work and a feeling of self-worth.
 - Learn to respect and get along with people with whom we work and live.
 - Develop good character and self-respect.

- Learn how to be a good manager of money, property and resources.
- Develop a desire for learning now and in the future.
- Understand and practice the skills of family living.

The above goals will be presented to the board of education for consideration and directed action.

Mr. Edwards said about the "Needs Assessment Program," "It was indeed a great feeling to have so many dedicated community members, teachers, and students give of their time towards helping their school system determine a course of educational action. It once again demonstrates that the Marion Independent School System has the rare distinction of having community members, students, and staff who can communicate with each other and are willing to work together for the common good."

Foot In Mouth

By Jennie Balcom

Recently I was sitting in my 5th hour class when suddenly I heard a strange, blaring siren. Immediately a large, collective moan went up from the school, and I feared for the ceiling. But a moment later the pitter-pat of little feet sounded from the hallway (with a lot of big feet, too) and I knew it was a fire drill. My teacher, sending poison-arrow looks in the direction of the office, hurriedly called "Through Room 22!" as we trooped out the door. Outside in the hall students were streaming out of their classrooms and heading for the nearest door in a more or less orderly fashion.

The freshman were in their usual state of bewilderment, giggling a bit with the excitement and talking loud and hard. The older, more experienced members of the student body were strolling along unconcernedly, glad to be out of class, but pretty well bored with the whole procedure.

As the cold air hit them, people began to wake up and complain. "Can I go back and get my coat? It's cold out here!" "We've had more fire drills this year than we have in the last three years put together!"

"Somebody'll steal my lunch!!!" Finally, after an eternity, (it was only 2 minutes) everyone was out of the building. We stood stamping our feet and blowing on our fingers to keep our circulation going, waiting for some teacher to start back into the building. Some brave soul made the first move, and there was a mass stampede to get back to the warmth (!!) of the school.

As we struggled back to the doors, a Coke Co. truck pulled into the school driveway. "Gee," someone remarked, "I didn't know the fire department bought some new equipment!"

Clubs

Dana Jeffrey

Several Speech and Thespians members once again traveled to Iowa City on Dec. 10 for the dramatic production of "A Streetcar Named Desire."

Tryouts were held the week of Dec. 9 for the one act play "A Phoenix Too Frequent". Tryouts for other large groups are also being held this week. Reader's Theatre "Mr. Noah and the Second Flood", choral reading "To Believe in God"

S.E.S.

On Dec. 5, the S.E.S. members presented two films on education to the faculty: Report Card and The Improbably Form of Master Sturm.

The group is now selling concessions to earn money for its annual planned trip.

Nick names

Here are the answers to last month's nickname quiz. How many did you know?

- Mr. Bates. . . 13. Chester
- Dean Bliss. . . 22. Charlie Tuna
- Mr. Boquist. . . 17. Bo
- Darlene Collins. . . 25. Bubba
- Mike Crilley. . . 12. Emmett
- Ron Crouse. . . 2. Smokey
- Mike Grady. . . 19. Shady
- Scott Hendersen. . . (no number) Hindu
- Mrs. Hutchins. . . 18. Mom
- Mr. Madison. . . 3. Cupie Doll
- Mike Morgan. . . 9. Munch (Normal?)
- Beth Mork. . . 6. Porky
- Mr. Pickering. . . 16. Pick
- Jane Risk. . . 8. Munch (short)
- Mr. Risk. . . 4. Ranger
- Jim Roth. . . 15. Chongo
- Miss Russell. . . 7. Rusty
- Mike Ryan. . . 5. Rhino
- Tom Stalkfleet. . . 11. Bear
- Mr. Skilling. . . 26. Uncle Jerry
- Neil Sumner. . . 20. Goose
- Patti Weber. . . 10. Hot Hips
- Debbie Wood. . . 14. Stump

Christmas Vesper

By Denise Hunt

This year's Christmas Vespers Service, which was held on Dec. 8 at 7:30, offered a different but enjoyable time for all. Not only did the choir have a new director, Miss Russell, it had a completely different aspect. And because of this, the Vespers Service was handled in an almost opposite way.

The differences between this year and the previous years are numerous. The first and probably the most obvious is location. This year's was held in the gym instead of the auditorium as before. Right as you entered the gym, many more of the differences became apparent. Instead of being decorated with a Christmas Tree and the usual Christmas things, there were sprays of flowers and two groups of candles. There also was a set of drums off to one side and an electric piano in front.

After the processional, which was "The

Little Drummer Boy", Girls' Glee, Boys' Glee, and Mixed Choir sang several songs. The audience seemed to enjoy all of these groups. The band then played five pieces under the direction of Paul Wright. They did their usual good job and received warm applause from the audience. Next was a type of intermission during which the swing group, The "Patterns", sang three songs.

Another processional followed when the Special Choir entered. This was much different than last year's because the featured soloist was Miss Russell. The Special Choir then sang 10 songs ranging from the modern to the classic type. They had a guest conductor for two of their songs, Mr. Hoffman, who is the director of Choral Studies at Mount Mercy College. Their last song was the traditional "Hallelujah Chorus", but they left the risers in a different type of manner. Instead of the usual Christmas carols, they sang the Finale from "Godspell" into a hand clapping "Day by Day".

The audience gave all a standing ovation and from the comments I heard afterwards, seemed very impressed and pleased with the whole program.

CONGRATULATIONS CHOIR AND BAND FOR A JOB WELL DONE!

Happy Holidays



Freshmen-

By Lesta Moyer

After talking with freshmen, I got some idea of what they think of high school. Their likes and dislikes seem to be pretty common to all of the high school students.

Since the list of the things they LIKE is shorter, we'll start with it. Comparing it to the Junior High, the freshmen find high school a relief--not having four flights of stairs to climb. Also compared to the Junior High, our music department is doing more things and going more places. Some say that the teachers are very friendly, with a few exceptions.

Now for the gripes: Everyone has noticed the temperature in the building it's freezing! Unless of course, a student likes it 25 to 30 degrees fahrenheit.

Some freshmen have put their hard-earned coins into one of the lovely snack machines, pushed the button, and received nothing. Then the next person in line deposited his change and received TWO snacks plus your change. Although this makes them angry, the freshmen refrain from hitting, kicking or otherwise abusing those lovely snack machines?!?!?

A common complaint was that the halls



are too long to cover in the five minute period between classes. (There are two solutions to this problem: 1. Take bigger steps or 2. Don't mess around!)

An age old problem that the freshmen have voiced their opinion on is the lunch program. I'm sure most of us would rather eat at the Boar's Head, but I don't think you could get all you wanted for 50¢.

One thing that only the freshmen strongly complain about is the upperclassmen. They wonder how anyone could not like them, but when this reporter was a freshman, did we realize that the upperclassmen were setting an outstanding example? . . . No!

I would have gotten more opinions but one complaint really discouraged me. A freshman told me that he dislikes "nosey" newspaper reporters! Put up or shut up!



Christmas Is....

Finding more Christmas tree needles on the floor than on the tree. . .

Putting up all the decorations and turning them on just in time for a black out. . .

Giving your mother a gift that she gave you last year for Christmas. . .

Getting stuck sitting by Uncle Wilbur who THINKS he's Andy Williams. He's constantly singing, "DO YOU HEAR WHAT I HEAR?" And you wonder, does he hear what you hear?! . . .

Being greeted by all the relatives (whom

you just saw two weeks ago) with, "My, how you've grown!" . . .

Looking forward to all that mouth-watering food. But alas, by the time it reaches your end of the table all that's left are scraps for the dog!!! . . .

The Aunt Martha's who drink too much egg nog and then start to cackle (!!). . . (Get it?)

Christmas may or may not be one or any of these things, but when you think of the true meaning of Christmas you realize it's worth all the hassle!

By Sandy Nielsen

Put Out Your Embers

Written by Joyce Suchsland
It was a Christmas I'd long remember. My parents and I decided to share our holiday with someone who was less fortunate than us, since Christmas should be a time of sharing. We got special permission from an orphanage in our town to take a child (tender age of twelve, my age), home with us for Christmas. We had no idea that we would adopt her later in the year, but that is a different story.

It was Christmas eve, around 12:00 at night. Whoever wrote that the "children lay snuggled asleep in their beds" didn't know what he was talking about, because we were wide awake, and were having a delightful pillow fight. We were really tearing our pillows apart when my friend stopped beating me, and raised her finger in a warning. We stood shockstill, straining to hear the noise that she had heard.

I heard sleigh bells.

I looked at my friend. I gulped. "Do you hear what I hear?" I asked in a very shaky voice.

"Well," she said in a very unusual tone, "If you hear bells, then you hear what I hear."

"Let's look at the window!" I said excitedly, and we both dashed to the window. I saw just a flash right above our heads, and then we heard a raspy sound, accompanied by some clipp-clopps. The noise stopped.

We lived in an older home that was quite large, and that had a beautiful brick fireplace in the living room. We both ran from the window and then tried to sneak downstairs quietly. Our house was so arranged that the entire living room could be seen as we were coming downstairs. We sat, concealed by the bars of the handrail on the stairs. Again we heard a muffled noise above us, sounding like footsteps. Our eyes were as big as fishbowls.

A new sound reached our ears. Something

was coming down our dirty old chimney amidst many grunts and muffled noises. Then, before we knew it, two small velvet pants showed themselves in the fireplace. The legs moved furiously, trying to get the rest of the body out of the wedge it was in. Then, I heard a clatter in the fireplace, there were several coals lying there from the evening's fire. Before I could cry out a warning, the intruder became unstuck, and had his boots in the fire place.

"AHHHH!!!" we heard a painful cry, then we heard mad scrambles up the chimney. Then we heard some frantic scrambling around on the roof. We waited to see anything more would happen. Suddenly, some brightly wrapped packages came down amid the coals.

We hurried over to the fireplace and rescued the smoldering presents. We had to drown two under the kitchen faucet, because they had started to flame. We neatly arranged the presents under our Christmas tree, and crept upstairs once more. We talked about our adventure the rest of the night.

The next morning at 6:00, my friend and I ran downstairs to open the presents. My father was down there, and he opened as he watched us tear into our gifts.

"Hey, did you kids hear Santa Claus last night?" Dad said, as we carefully looked at the charred pieces of paper from him.



Too Shy To Write Santa!

Dear Santa,

We, the VOX staff, have found that many people around the school wish to write to you and request special gifts, but they are too shy. So we will write and ask for them.

Mr. Bates is secretly wishing for a "handle bar" mustache. So please bring him one, if it's at all possible. Mr. Kramer needs a new, psychedelic ten foot necktie. Mike Benedict desperately needs eight 4.0 psychology papers. Brad Hutchins wants RED, yes RED, graduation announcements. The Swing Choir needs a sound system and the band is striving for a trip. The senior class is wishing for a permanently signed "skip card". The junior and sophomore classes are hoping and wishing for a snow storm (big enough to close school) on the day Christmas vacation ends. The freshman class wants some special way in which to get even

with the upper classmen for all the ridicule and teasing they've gotten from the sophomores, juniors, and seniors. The basketball coaches (girls and boys) would like to have four hundred baskets, followed by two hundred and fifty rebounds. The wrestling squad wants one hundred quick pins. The cheerleaders are wishing for a ready-made locker sign kit. And the whole school is wishing for a long Christmas vacation, with little homework, followed by a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Please deliver as many of these "gifts" as possible. Send them in care of the VOX staff.

Thank you,
Sincerely,
The Trivia Editor
Christy Boots

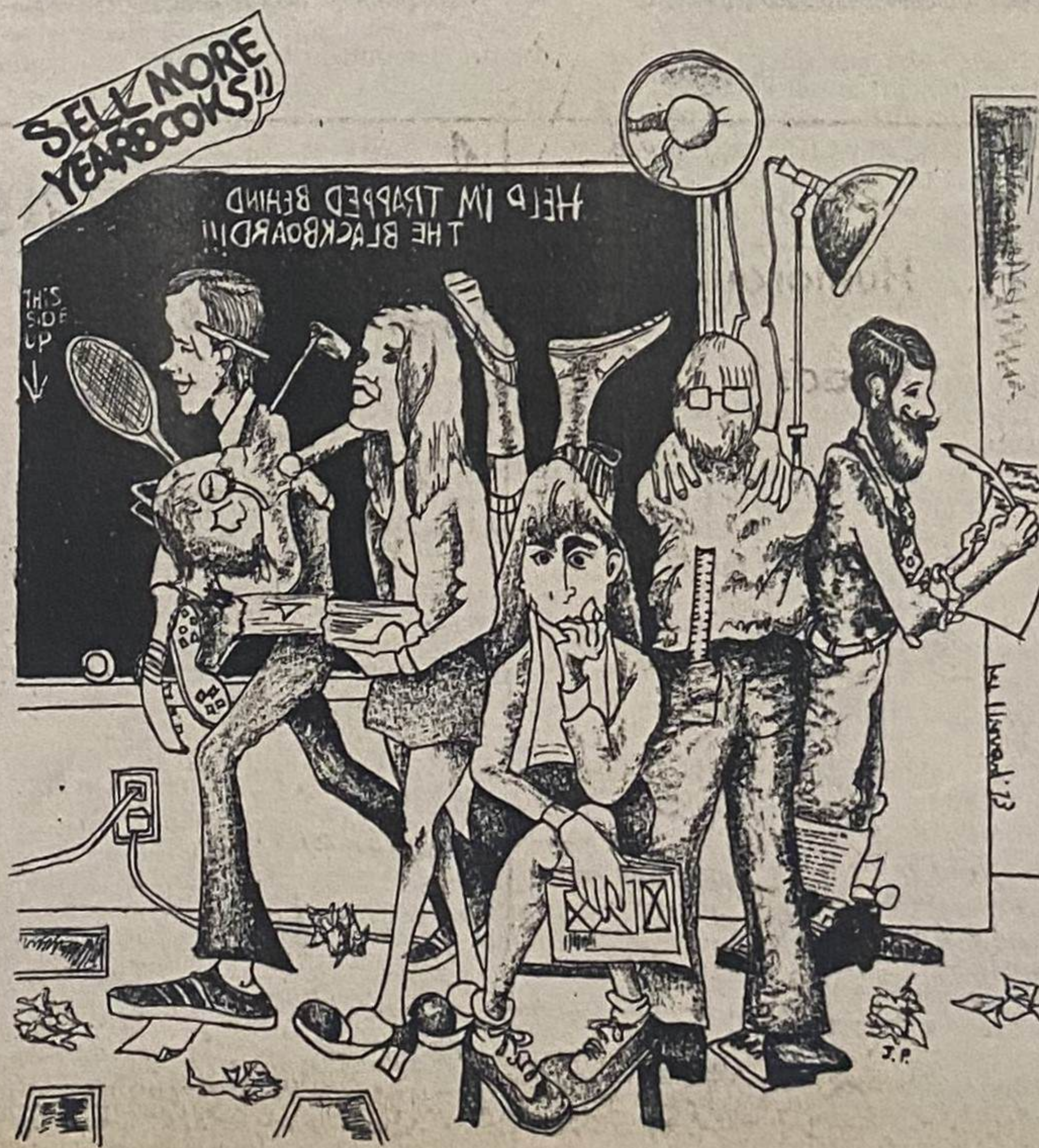
Quimby's Troopers Battle Deadlines

By Dana Jeffrey

In its 56 year history, the Quill has never been put together by such a unique staff. Any time of the day you may walk past Quimby's (Quimby is the mascot) door and find yourself wondering if your head has possibly been turned upside down and the marbles allowed to roll out. The reason for your temporary psychosis is the sight of what seems to be a person walking around the room quacking or possibly a group of carolers singing Christmas songs to an ice-cold register trying to trick it in to working. If you aren't lucky enough to happen upon the door to this nursery (?) at the stroke of the clock when these things happen, don't lose faith. Mr. Bates will soon be in to screw light bulbs into somebody's ears to help the situation.

Seriously, the Quill staff is a hard working group of students with the desire to produce the best yearbook possible. With the critical eye of Mr. Pickering and Mr. Bates, the staff is trying out some new and different techniques to meet this goal. With the addition of color throughout the first signature, new layout styles, and a personalized faculty section, the book is taking on an appealing new look.

By the way, if you wish to recover the marbles you lost when you peered into Quimby's chambers, beg Santa to buy a Quill for you (the order form is in this month's issue of the Marion Independent Report which was sent to your home), or, if you feel Santa has already depleted his wad, buy one when they go on sale in the office in January.



When deadlines are near, publication staffs (such as the yearbook staff) feel the pressure increase. The staff room becomes polluted with piles of papers, pictures, and people. At times it appears that chaos runs rampant. The continuous chatter of students mingles with the business-like tone of the advisor and his two chief editors. The above drawing exemplifies any typical yearbook staff, and here are some of the "normal" noises that drift for room 58: MHS's yearbook headquarters:

- The click of rulers hitting the table
- The slam of file drawers
- The squeaking of chalk on the board and the heater in the back of the room.
- "Where's the person that's supposed to be in this picture?"
- "Turn up the radio!!!"
- "Where's the cropper?"
- "Would you get your sandwich off my layout?"
- "Somebody put Shorty back into the trash can."

At times the work being done seems like chaos, but in truth this group is a well organized crew. Few students realize the great amount of time and hard work that goes into a successful QUILL.

Support your local yearbook staff--they deserve it!!!

Photography Class Displays Talent

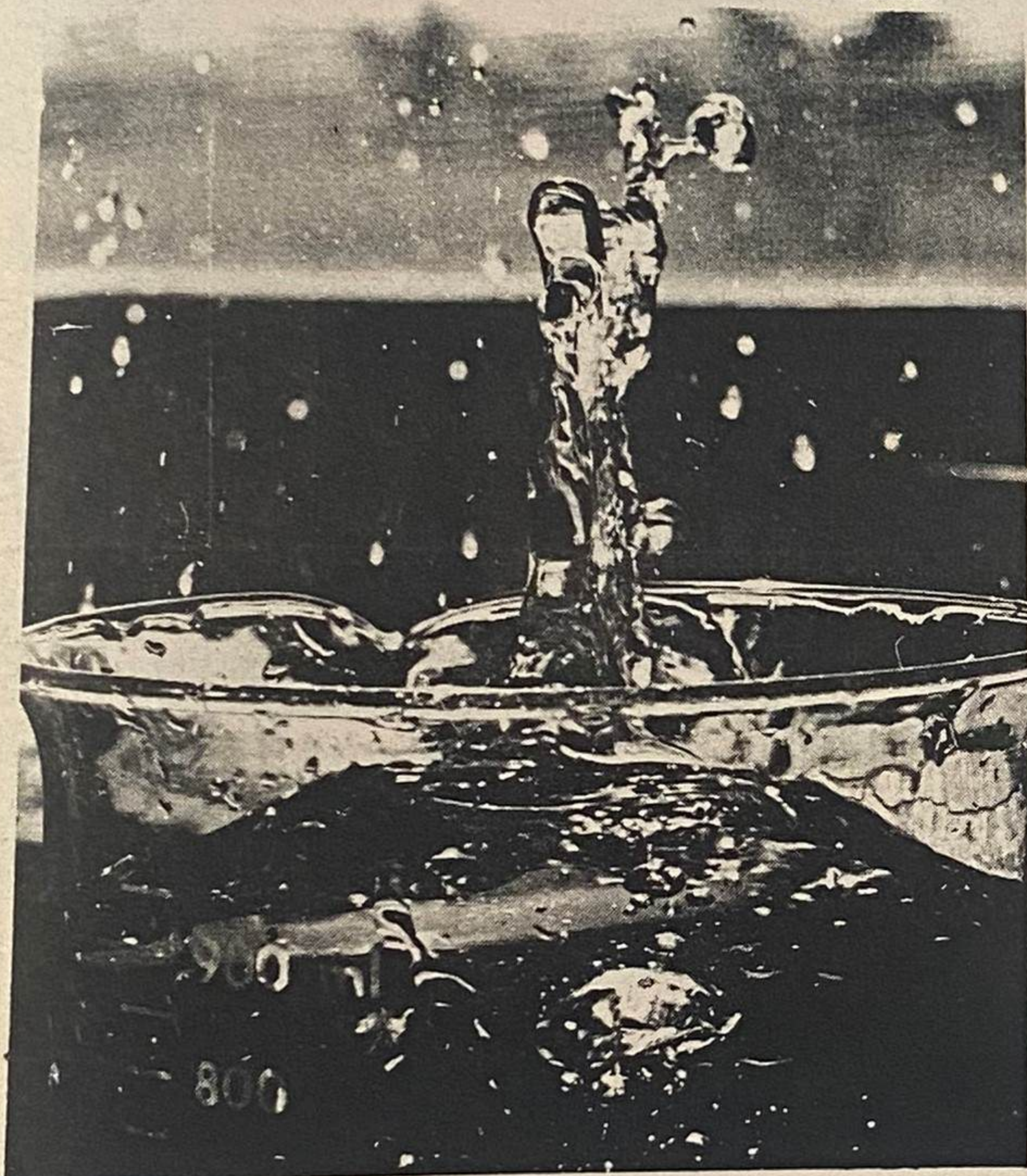


by Rick Kruger

BUILDINGS AT NIGHT

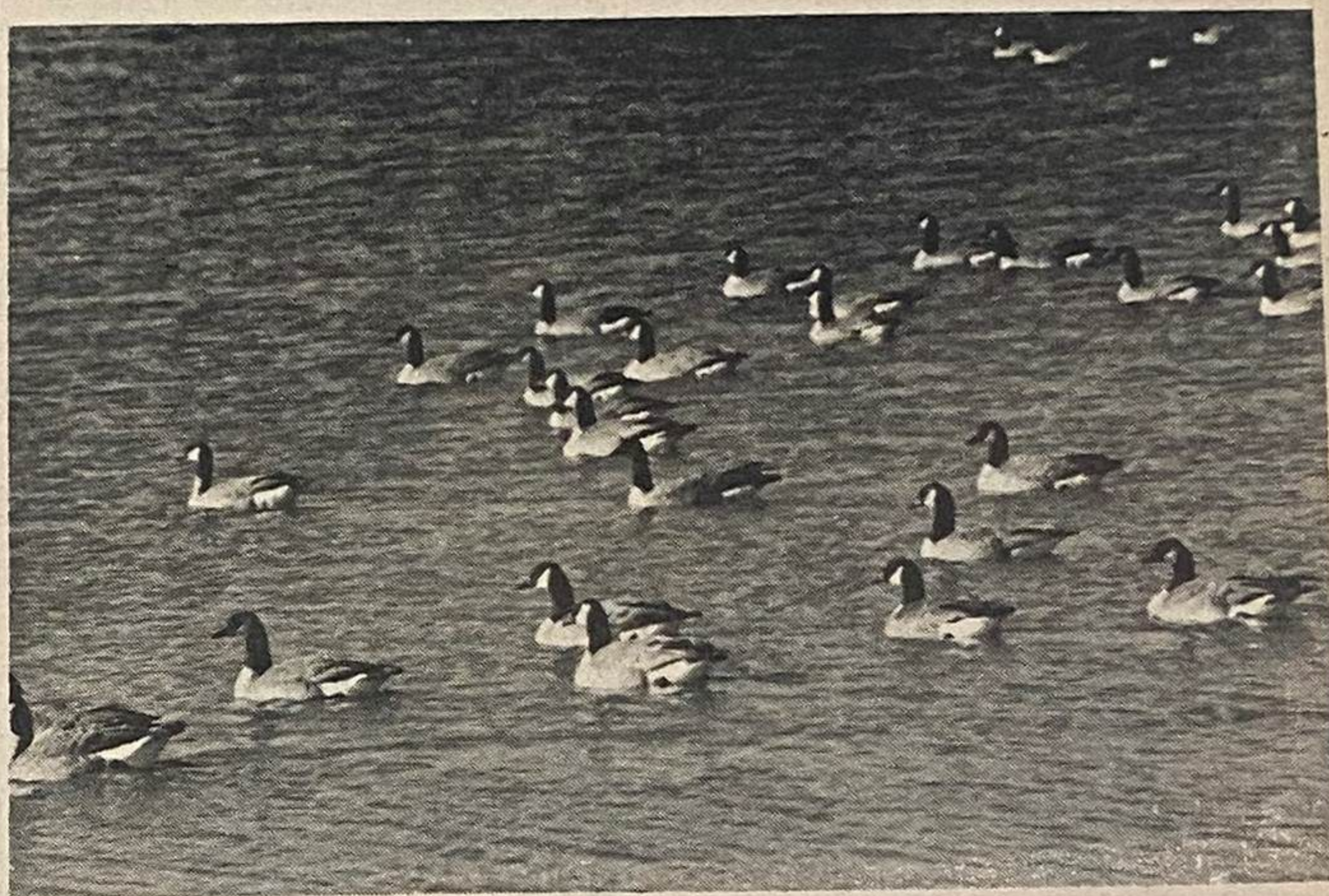
by Jeff DeYoung

SPLASH



by Ron Crouse

GEESE



A CREATIVE PAGE ...

POEM OF PRAYER
Written by Joyce Suchsland

God, . . .
People
are hurting me.
Some
don't mean
to hurt me,
but
they do.
I thought
I had learned
to live
with them. . .

but
I haven't.

People
hurt me
more than
help me.
Some
don't mean
to be cruel,

but
they are.

Telling me
to keep
my chin up
when life sours,
wearies me.

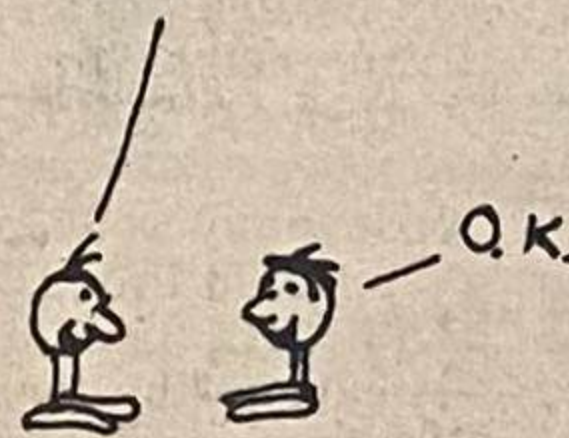
Just let me talk. . .

Humorous Heads

by Pat Blin

1.

Let's see how good
you know your
nationalities.



2.

There's this little house on
top this hill, and there's one
path going to it on one side
of the hill and there's another
path leading away from it...



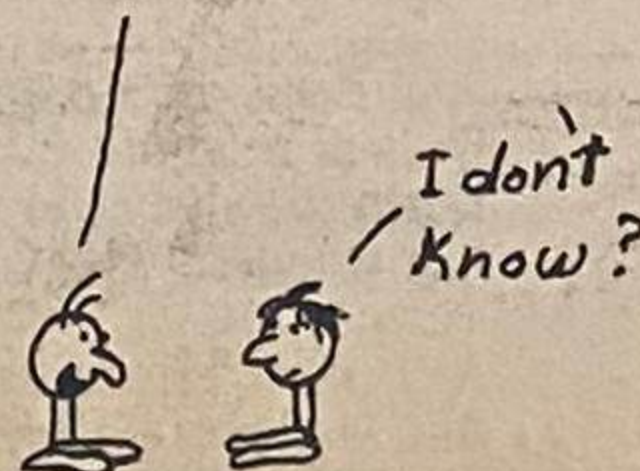
3.

There's one man walking up
the path going to the little house,
there's one man inside the
little house and there's one man
walking away from the little
house...



4.

Now, what's their
nationalities?



5.

The one going to the house is
Russian. The one inside it is
Himalayan. and the one
walking away from it is Finnish.



Pat Blin

WRESTLING PRIDE

By Tim Polk

Even with a string of 30-plus consecutive dual meet victories over the last three seasons, Marion's head wrestling Coach Loyd Shaffer refuses to believe that things will be getting any easier from here on out. "You know the answer to that. No way!"

In fact, competition may be even tougher for the Indian wrestlers this year, particularly within the Wamac Conference. "Independence, Anamosa, and Manchester will all be tough this year," Shaffer noted.

It was a tough Independence squad that fought Marion for a share of the conference championship last season, both teams com-

piling 6-0-1 records in Wamac competition. Both Anamosa and Manchester have recorded conference wins already this year, and according to Coach Shaffer "Anamosa is the toughest right now."

Don't get the idea that the Indians plan a reversal of their winning ways, as long as Shaffer is at the controls. "We expect our wrestlers to work on quickness and strength on their own. All we work on is knowledge and conditioning, building toward a good competitive attitude," Shaffer related, reflecting the ideas that have made Marion the Wamac champs for the last four years. "Building toward a positive attitude builds confidence, so that we feel that any time we go out on the mat we can win."

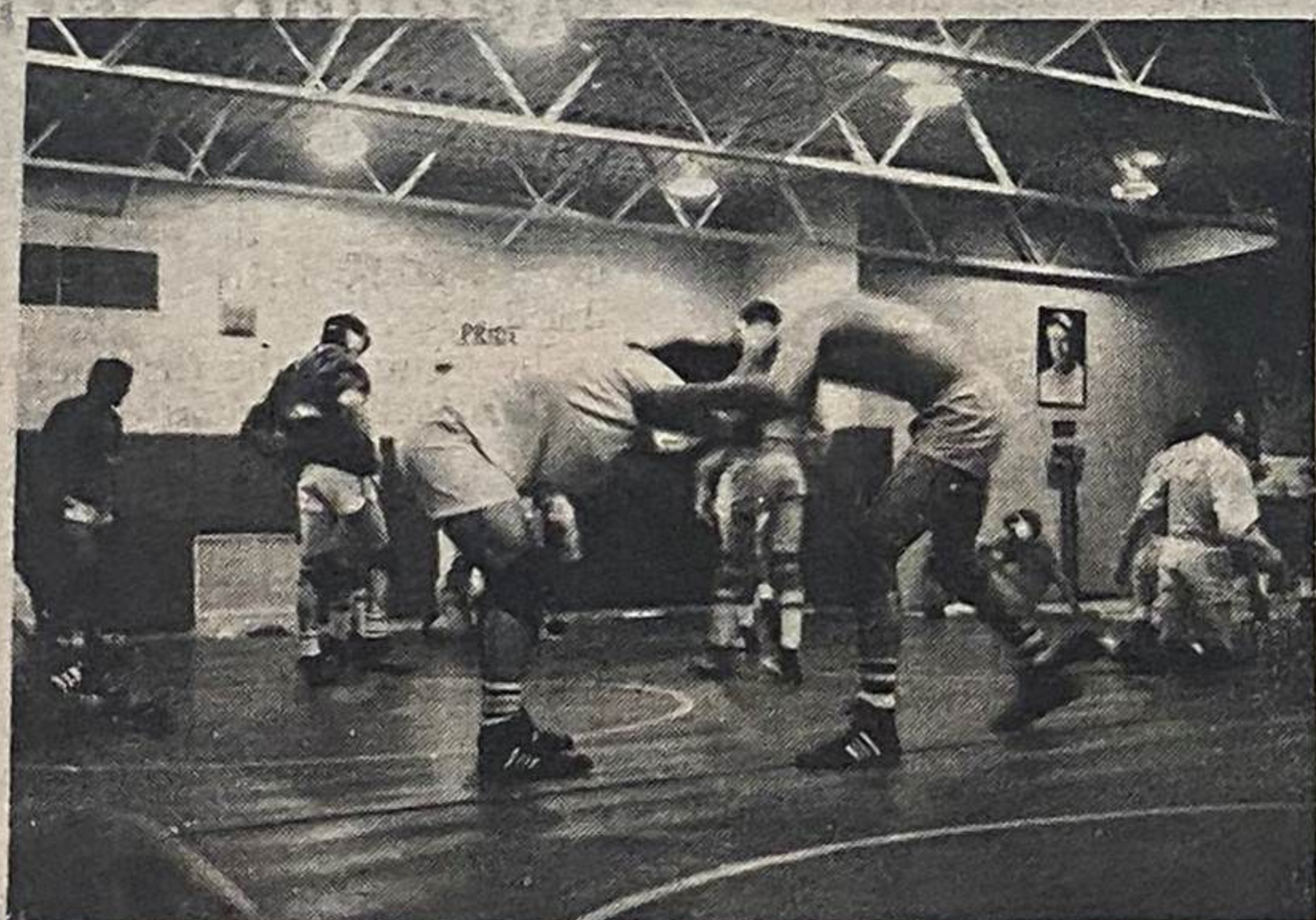


12 Good Reasons For Confident Spirit

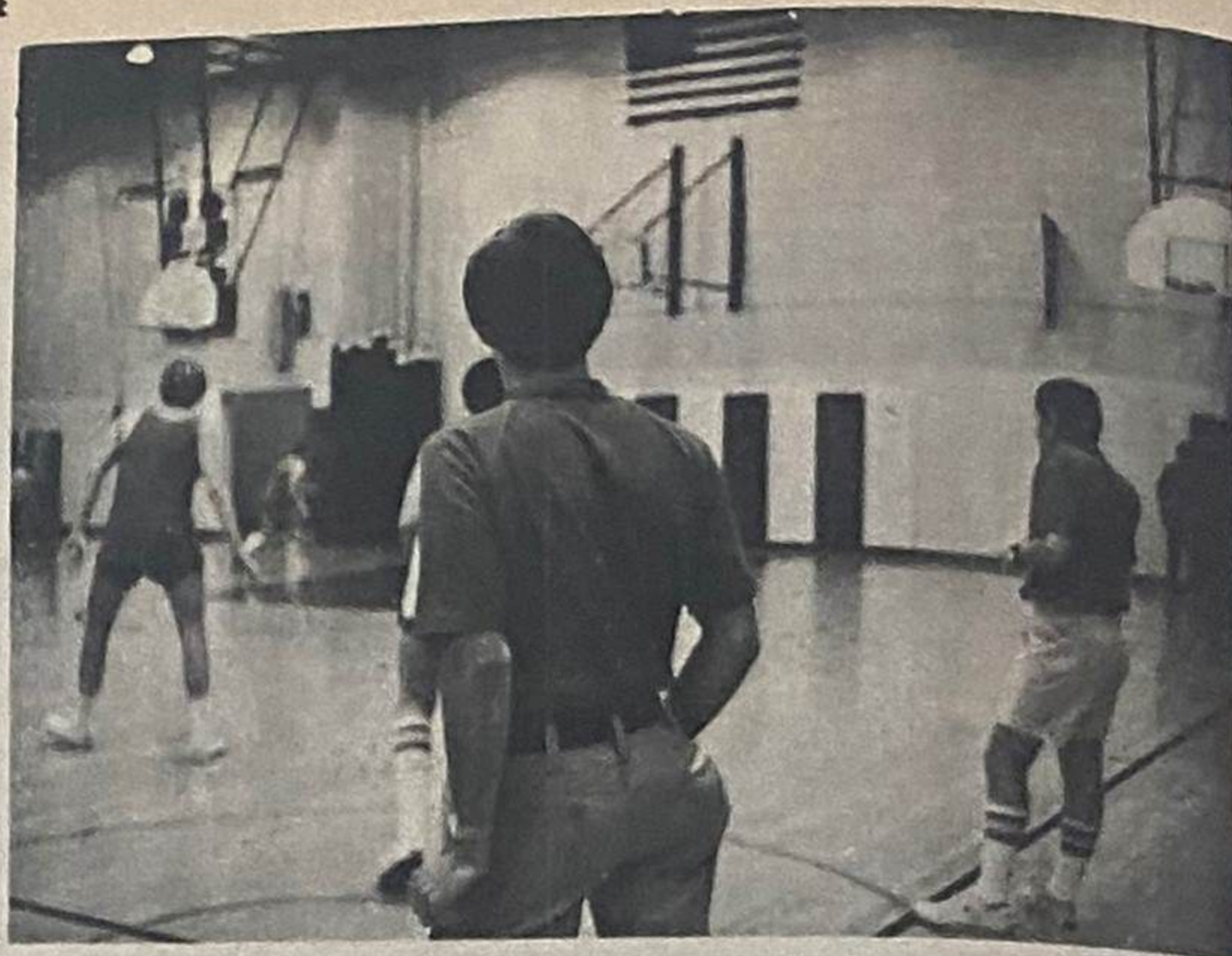
There are at least 12 good reasons for the confident spirit at Marion--12 returning lettermen from last year's championship team, nine of which are in starting positions for the Indians. These are Jim Kray, Mike Ford, Tim Carter, Mark Moeller, John Edwards and Tom Stalkfleet at 98, 105, 112, 119, 126 and 132 pounds respectively. Marty Carter returns at 155, Tom Borst at 167, and Tim Burgess at 185 pounds. Rounding out the starting roster are Mark Henderson at 138, Troy Hames at 145 and Brian Mohwinkle at heavyweight. Returning

lettermen Tim Ford, John Arjes, and Perry Anderson provide excellent back-up strength.

Favored to repeat as kings of the conference, Coach Shaffer has even bigger goals in mind for his Indians. "We'll work more toward winning state this year. That may mean resting some of our starters early in the year so we'll be ready later on." Like any coach, Shaffer wants to win "the big one". And with the talent he has at Marion this year--why not?



Pride and Individual Sacrifice Make a Winning Team



The Basketball Coaches Watch Intently as the Varsity Squad Works

Varsity B. Ball An Interview

By Steve Herreid

Here's a quick test for all followers of the 1974-75 Marion basketball team. Select the best response to the following..

The Marion cagers of this year will be characterized by:

- A. A talented, veteran front line.
- B. A guard corps which is inexperienced but potentially dangerous.
- C. Classy pinstripe uniforms and warm-ups.
- D. All of the above.
- E. None of the above.

Ready for the answers? If you selected A, you're right. Both of Marion's returning lettermen (Brian Kiburz and Neal "Goose" Sumner) play on the front line, and both were starters last year. Kiburz stands 6-5 and Sumner is 6-6, and head coach Larry Perkins figures that the duo will make his forward court one of the strong points of the team.

What's more, Sumner was an all-conference pick at center last year, so he should be a menace in the middle once again. Perkins revealed why.

"Neal is excellent on the boards. He gets a lot of scoring there. He is a good overall shooter, and can move away from the basket and shoot well.

"His quickness is a big asset. He can lead the fast break and, at 6-6, not many big people can keep up with him."

Both Sumner and Kiburz, who is a junior, were impressive in the opener against Linn-Mar. Sumner poured in 24 points and garnered 25 rebounds, while Kiburz added 20 points and raked in 11 rebounds.

The third starter on the front line is senior Dean Bliss, who is only 5-11 but can jump like a frightened kangaroo.

Top reserves in that category include junior Tony Jensen, who is another leaper, and senior Paul O. Garlinghouse.

And now to choice B. If you picked B, you're obviously aware that the Indians lost the likes of Jerry Crowley and Tom Bice through graduation. And you're obviously aware that Monte Krehbiel is the only returnee who had any game experience at all last year, and he missed most of the season with a leg injury. And you're right.

But a number of promising newcomers have blended with the seniors to give Perkins something to count on.

"Our depth at guard is positive, but we don't yet know how good they're going to be," he stated. "However, they're bound to be better once they've gained some confidence and, eventually, I think the guard court could be one of our strong points."

Currently, Krehbiel and Gary Fickel (remember him from football season?) are the starters. Heading the substitutes are Jeff Stolze and the scrappy Brad Ciha, but juniors Brian Bennett and John Murdoch are "very close to those four", according to Perkins.

On the whole, Perkins believes his team must begin hitting from outside. This was one of the primary problems in a 52-39 loss to Vinton in the Wamac loop opener.

"We have to start forcing teams out of their zones," he commented. "I think we've got good shooters, if they'll learn to relax a bit and not hurry their shots. We shot 45 percent against Linn-Mar

which is not bad for an opening game."

When asked about the conference race, Perk said, "Right now, it's a tossup. Last Friday (Dec. 6), as far as I'm concerned, there were four upsets in the Wamac. So I guess anything can happen."

Perkins also voiced praise for the junior varsity squad, which has gotten off to a surprising 3-0 start. "We're very happy with the way they're playing," he said.

Finally, back to the quiz again. C is definitely true (chic!), but that makes D the correct answer. Grade yourself, and don't be too lenient.

'Twas the night before Christmas...

'Twas the night before Christmas
And our house was quite pat;
Not a sound could be heard,
'Cept maybe one rat;

The stretch socks were all placed
By the chimney with greed,
In hopes they'd be filled
With goodies indeed.

The kids were camped out
In their beds for the night,
While dreaming of presents
And things out of sight;

And my wife soundly slept,
With snores once or twice,
As I lay there awake thinking,
"Sleep would be quite nice!"

When out in the yard
There came such a blare,
That I fell out of bed
Trying to see who was there.

Quickly to the window
I flew like a flash,
Tripped on a chair
And fell with a crash.

As I soothingly rubbed
My swollen big toe,
I happened to spy
A strange object below.

What to my wondering
Eyes should I see,
But a short, little man
Behind our Elm tree.

The little old dude
Was so lively and zippie,
He had to be Santa
Or maybe a hippie.

More rapid than reindeer
He set up a ladder,
And climb to the roof
Without even a clatter.

And then, in a moment,
He was ready to climb
Down our dirty old chimney,
Just smeared with black grime.

As I moved from the window,
And was turning around,
He slid down the chimney
With a bound and no sound.

And there at the base
He stopped to take pause,
I thought to myself,
This can't be Santa Claus!

He was dressed in red clothing
White beard and the lot
Yet something about him
Said, "A Santa he's not."

A large burlap bag
He had flung on his back,
And he looked like a beggar
Just opening his pack.

The stump of a cigar
Dangled down from his face,
And the smelly old smoke
Drifted all over the place.

He had a thin face
But his belly was big,
And it bounced when he moved
Like an old butcher pig.

His appearance was more
Than my emotions could hold,
And I started to giggle...
My presence was told.

To my sudden exposure
He showed little care,
'Cause he pulled out a gun
And said, "Sit down in that chair!"

Now from my new site,
I resigned and sat back
And watched that fake Santa
Fill up his own sack.

He spoke not a word
But went on a spree;
Swiping all of the presents
From under our tree.

After cleaning out all
Of the treasures it bore,
He said, "Ho, Ho, Ho!"
And walked out the front door.

But I heard him exclaim
'ere he moved in his flight,
"Don't make a move
'til I'm clear outa sight."

So I watched him escape
From the spot where I sat,
And yelled after him,
"Merry Christmas... you Rat!"