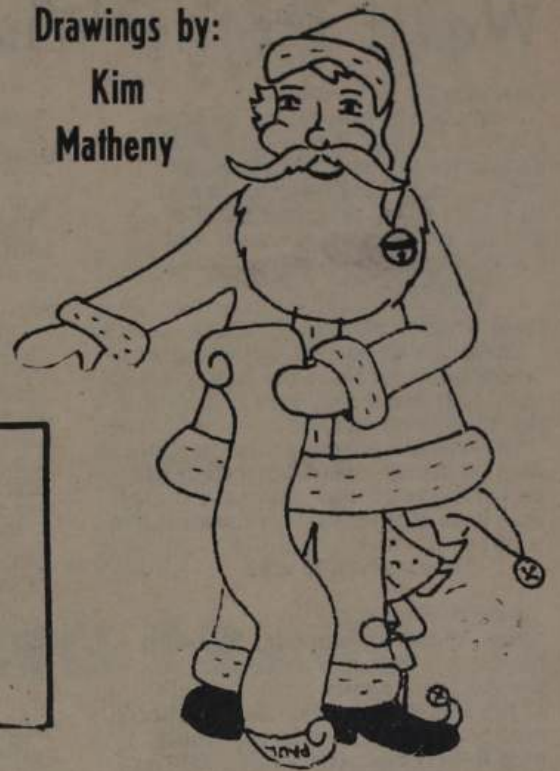




MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR

Drawings by:
Kim
Matheny



Swedish Christmas

By Birgitta Sundstrom

Christmas is Sweden's longest and most elaborate festive season.

December 25th and 26th are public holidays. After New Year's eve, Christmas finally ends with another holiday on the thirteenth day of January. According to certain old sayings, however, the Swedish Christmas does not end until Knut's Day which is the 14th January.

Swedish people do all they can to revive the customs and procedure of the old-fashioned rural household, chiefly in the food and lighting.

Gingerbread is made in honor of the kitchen-baked bread of the past. Boiled or roasted ham, spare ribs and pig's trotters are three of the principle Christmas dishes. Old-fashioned sausages and jams are equally popular at this time and on at least one of the days the "lutfisk" ritual is observed. "Lutfisk", dried split cod which is subsequently soaked and boiled and then eaten with a special white sauce, is probably a relic of the Catholic fast days around Christmas. On Christmas Eve a lot of families go through the ceremony known as "doppa i grytan", which is eating bread which has been dipped in the water in which the Christmas ham has been boiled.

The Christmas tree, a spruce, occupies a central position in the Swedish home. From the home it seems to have spread to the church and the school, and today illuminated Christmas trees are even used to brighten the December darkness in gardens, parks and public places.

For children Christmas means Christmas presents in Sweden. Christmas presents in Sweden have been handed out at Christmas Eve by a sort of Father Christmas figure known as the "jultomte" or Christmas gnome. The "tomte" himself, a little fellow, usually lived somewhere among the outbuildings and was regularly given a blob of porridge at Christmas. Now when the father or grandfather of the house dresses up as a Christmas gnome and hands out the presents, he is somewhat on the large side to really convincing, though fortunately children are generally pretty broad-minded about these things.

During the present century, it has become customary for people to visit the cemetery and decorate the graves, often with candle lights.

THE VOX

Marion High School

December 12, 1979

Throughout the entire month of December most of the main streets of the towns are brilliantly illuminated and decorated.

Since New Year's follows so closely upon Christmas, its celebration is usually regarded as a part of the customary yuletide festivities. In Sweden the January 1st is a public holiday while on the December 31st it is customary for offices and shops to close early in the afternoon.

After the final stroke of twelve midnight, factory sirens and ship sirens hoot furiously and crowds gather in the streets.

Sweden, meanwhile, has created one special New Year tradition all its own. Skansen, in the heart of Stockholm, is the world's oldest open air museum. Here every New Year's Eve a special ceremony is enacted. These solemn proceedings were first instituted in the 1890's and the climax of the event is a reading of a poem. For almost half a century, the well-known Swedish actor, Anders de Wahl, has recited Tennyson's poem, "Ring out, Wild Bells", an appropriate and moving theme for the few minutes preceding the moment when all the church bells of the city begin to peal.

Now the television has largely taken over the radio's role and this reading has long since become an integral part of the Swedish people's New Year celebrations.

In certain circles, New Year's Day is a formal visiting day: county governors, bishops and senior officials receive, traditional visits from certain of their own subordinates and from other dignitaries.

By the "twentieth day of Christmas", January 13th, the festivities should be over. For now the Christmas tree is danced out. Shorn of its decorations and plunder of its small presents and bags of sweets, specially put there for the occasion it is cast out into the snow.

This is the time of children's parties. Day after day they dance out each other's trees and return home clutching their prize package of homemade sweets.

And at last the Christmas is over.

Tradition of Christmas Tree

The tradition of the Christmas tree branched from the old custom of the "yule log". A log was brought home Christmas Eve, where it was burned in a fireplace. People sat around the burning log, drinking cider and telling ghost stories.

The Christmas tree became popular as the cities grew. The custom is German, reportedly beginning in the eighth century when St. Boniface dedicated a tree to the baby Jesus. However, the most popular legend insists that the first Christmas tree was cut down by Martin Luther, who decorated it with candles to imitate "the starry skies of Bethlehem."

Although Christmas trees were introduced to America with the waves of German immigration, the first national recognition of the custom came in 1856 when Franklin Pierce decorated one at the White House.

By the first World War, community trees were erected. A ninety-foot Norway spruce at New York's Rockefeller Center in 1948 was the tallest many people had ever seen, but it was dwarfed by Seattle's 212-footer in 1950.

Tall or short, Christmas trees continue to remain one of the most popular holiday traditions.



Quill Pictures

By Rick Larsen

Seniors, there is only a few weeks left before the deadline for senior pictures for the QUILL. The deadline for pictures is Friday, January 11.

The required specifications are: 2" -3" black and white glossy. Plain background or outdoor no black backgrounds. Front or 3/4 face view no profiles, 1-1/2" head size.

Mrs. Carlson, head of the Quill thanks you for your cooperation and wishes everybody a good year here at MHS.

PEACE ON EARTH

When we were born, the most important people in our lives were our parents. They taught us how to count and tie our shoes, our abc's and what life's about.

As we grew older and started spending more time outside of the home, our parents were still always to be counted on, but another group of people started influencing decisions on just about anything we did. Those people are, of course, friends.

Face it, it's hard to get through school, much less life, without friends. That's why these people are so important.

Teachers of the Month

By Janet Fortner

December's Teachers of the Month are Charles Boquist and Rosa Rowen.

Mr. Boquist and his wife Lois have one son, one daughter, and a dog named Spike. When asked if he wanted to mention anything about his family he commented, "I wish my wife would raise my allowance!"

If he had to choose another career, he felt that he would choose to be a conservationist "to be near the great outdoors while we still have one."

Mr. Boquist feels that his most rewarding experiences are, "the continuous student contacts made each and every school year and those made after graduation. Nothing is more rewarding than to see and hear of the successes students have made for themselves because of the educational opportunities they have benefited from at MHS. It makes you feel good to have played a small part in their development."

Mrs. Rowen the second teacher of the month has been teaching at MHS for the last 13 years.

She enjoys knitting, sewing, reading, motorcycling, and eating.

She enjoys working with young people and states, "teaching is a new experience everyday."

Mrs. Rowen comments that if she had to choose another career or give up teaching then it would be "retirement" for her.

PRESTON LOVE

By Tracy Zier

Preston Love visited many classes Dec. 3-7, sponsored by the Iowa Arts Council.

Preston Love is a famous band musician and an orchestra leader from Omaha, Neb. Preston is often referred to as a, "One Man Chamber of Commerce for Omaha."

Preston is an internationally recognized saxophone and woodwind player, and a lifetime hona

lifetime honorary member of the European Jazz Society based at Zurich, Switzerland. He is also secretary of the American Rhythm and Blues Hall of Fame.

Preston is considered an eminent authority on jazz, having printed in music publications throughout the world.



Cure Vacation BLUES

By Penny Parsons

"Hey! Christmas vacation is coming. I can't wait."

That is a statement that is taken back soon after vacation begins and replaced by, "I wish school would start. I'm so bored."

Instead of being bored this Christmas vacation, here are a few suggestions that will help everyone overcome boredom.

Dye your hair a bold new color like hot pink or seaweed green (you could even mix some colors).

Get your nose pierced.

Fly to Jamaica on a cold winter day to warm up.

Count the flavor crystals in a Certs candy.

See how many flushes it takes to make the tiddy bowl man seasick.

Go out and buy a car. How about a limousine?

Count the number of hairs your dog/cat has on its back.

On Christmas Eve build a fire in the fireplace and see if Santa has a flame resistant suit.

Also put tacks on the roof and listen to the sound of reindeers in pain.

Decorate the house as a large Boston fern in the morning and when your parents return home from work watch them turn the most beautiful crimson red when all of the neighbors start laughing and pointing (if they get mad at you tell them you are doing a research project for science. Topic: Do parents get extremely embarrassed).

Have a conversation with a monkey.

Call your pen-pal in Norway. Talk for an hour and charge the bill to Mom and Dad (call after five and on the weekend, it's cheaper).

Go shopping at Fredrick's of Hollywood for a new school wardrobe.

Learn to disco standing on your head.

Now remember, these are only a few hints to help you overcome your boredom. You may use these or make up your own but the thing to remember is have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Though it's fine to have many friends, you're lucky to have one really close friend; someone you can trust, who is forgiving and someone you can always turn to.

The only thing to look forward to is four months of sub-zero temperatures, icy roads, . . . and Christmas.

Without Christmas there would probably have been 500 world wars. There's a certain air about us. It makes you smile and have a good attitude about everything.

It would take a million years to sit down and write about all the themes of Christmas. That's why I chose to write on one that most people can agree on, but should practice more, and that is: Peace on Earth, Good Will toward Men.

What I'm trying to say is that life's too short to carry grudges. If you've had a falling out with anyone, especially a close friend, be the bigger person and say to him, "Merry Christmas, forgiven and forgotten?" Chances are, they have as much pride to swallow as you do, and would like to be friends again, too.

2 Word To the Wise



Dear Word To The Wise:

I just thought I'd tell you about the guy you told me "might think I was getting too serious, so he cooled it." Well, I confronted him and he said he wasn't trying to ignore me and that he didn't know his cousin told me so. So we are friends again. Thankx.

Dear Word to the Wise:

There is a sophomore girl who goes to school here and I'd really like to get to know her, but the complication is that she has a boyfriend.

The question is should I ask her on a date on the off chance that she might be willing to go on a date even if she does have a boyfriend? Or should I give it up?

To ask or not to ask?

To ask or not ask?

Boy! That's a tough one, by asking her out you could be putting her on the spot. Our advice would be talk to her and be nice, but don't ask her out. She'll know (just by you being nice to her) that you "kinda" like her. Good Luck!

Parking Problems ?

By Rick Larsen

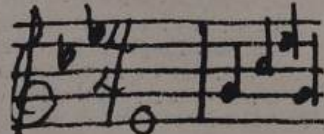
The parking problem has been an issue for sometime. Everyday Dr. Wise gets a list of about 15-20 cars that have been illegally parked or have not been registered with the school. If the students have more than one car, they should get all of the cars registered.

Dr. Wise said, "If the parking lot doesn't shape up parking fees will have to be put into effect."

Over crowding will be a problem this winter with the snow in the lot. About 50 car spaces will be taken up for snow removal. Car pooling will be a must. Putting 350 cars in a lot meant for 300 won't work, therefore, 3 to 4 car poolings will have to be sufficient. Dr. Wise said, "With a school of 800 students, 300 cars in the lot is too many cars."

In future years to come, some solutions to the problem will be parking tickets, fee for registration, and losing parking privileges.

MUSIC



NEWS

By Sue Bennett

The Marion High School swing choir appeared on the T.V. 9 Morning Show with Denny Frary on December 10th.

Inspirations (our swing choir) demonstrated jazz techniques they learned from the Preston Love workshop.

Preston Love, a jazz musician that worked with Count Basie, conducted a jazz workshop for the Marion choirs.

The swing choir performed Christmas carols and jazz.

By Tracy Zier

December 15, Swing Choir will perform at St. Paul's Methodist church.

December 16, The vocal and band department will display a variety of song at the Christmas concert. Songs including, "Glory to God in the Highest," "selections from the Gloria," and "The Christmas Song." The audience will join in the "sing-a-long" while the band plays and the choirs roam through the gym singing.

That same day, Swing Choir will be performing at the Perpetual Savings and Loan.

WORKSHOP ELVES



Dear Word to the Wise:

I really like this guy that's younger than me, but I can't understand him. The thing is I don't know what he feels and no matter how hard I try, he won't tell me. What can I do?

Signed,
Unsure

Dear Unsure:

Pressuring him won't help you find out how he feels. Some guys just keep their feelings to themselves about this type of subject. Give him time. Maybe after he gets to know you better, he'll come out of his shell.

Dear Word to the Wise:

I've often heard it's okay for a girl to ask a guy out but I've also heard a girl shouldn't be pushy. How do you ask a guy out without being pushy?

To Be or Not To Be

Dear To Be or Not:

The trick is to be subtle. If you want to go to a movie ask him but don't be hurt by a rejection. Some guys are not used to forward girls.

VOX NEWS

By Sandra Long

The editors for the December issue of the VOX are Janet Fortner, Tami Herb, and Sandra Long.

The VOX staff would like to encourage more student involvement.

An editorial section has been added to the newspaper. Letters to the editor should be given to Miss Boots. Students should be sure to sign their full names and grade level.

Letters to "Word to the Wise" should be placed in the box in the office window.

HAVE YOU NOTICED

By Rick Hartl

Have you noticed the graphics on the wall by the library?

This reporter asked M.H.S. students if they liked the graphics and all responded, "Yes".

One student said, "Yes, but maybe the colors shouldn't be quite as bright."

Over all, the students of Marion would like to see more graphics on the walls of the school.

If you would like to comment, please feel free to write to the VOX.

GRADUATION

By Chris Fox

The 1980 graduating class has chosen their announcement in style C. This announcement will be in an ivory shade with gold lettering.

Red and gold was chosen as the class colors.

The seniors feel that the motto that fits them best is "Yesterday is in the past, today is reality and tomorrow is in our dreams."



MERRY CHRISTMAS

Sagittarius

This is your month! ➡

By Tracy Zier

Sagittarius (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) This is your month for money and romance.

Have a Merry Christmas.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 20) Timing is very good this month, especially if you were born on X-mas.

Aquarius (Jan. 21-Feb. 18) Accidents are your bag this month, be careful.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) Working is going to be hard for a while. After the holidays things should be easier.

Aries (March 21-April 20) Wedding bells are ringing. Keep your eyes open and your head clear.

Taurus (April 21-May 21) Romance has finally budded to a fresh start. Merry Christmas.

Gemini (May 22-June 21) Take care to watch what you say this month.

The walls may have ears.

Cancer (June 22-July 22) Wishful thinking finally comes through. Keep up the wishes.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 23) Love is a confusing thing!! Hang in there and everything will turn out all right.

Virgo (Aug. 24-Sept. 23) Walking around you'll observe things and love which you took for granted.

Libra (Sept. 24-Oct. 23) This is a good month for you, nothing anyone can say can hurt you. Keep your head up and have a positive outlook on life.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) You'll do good this month to party less and study more. Even if it is Christmas.

POWER of SPEECH

By Sue Bennett

Well, Marion, the trial and triumphs of Competitive Speech have begun once more!

The hardy souls ready to brave the rigors of 7:15 a.m. practices and mid-night bus rides are:

Choral Reading: Dave Luzum, Mark Butler, Rich Panek, Bob Strempeke, Tom Bennett, Colleen DeWees, Jane Trimble, Cindy Everts, Carolyn Peters, Ann Werning, Karen Regal, Lynette Anderson, Robin Ridenour, Peggy Hopson, and Wendy Stuelke.

Readers Theater: Kevin Thomas, Linda Folkers, Lisa Nove, David Durivage, Pat Grady, Matt Miller, Lisa Stuelke, and Laura McComas.

One Act Play: Julie Smith, Pat Grady, John Stuelke, Jeff Plummer, Jenny Carstens, Joni Hebert, Todd Schmitz, and Martha Balster.

Solo Mime: Kevin Thomas; Mary Bright.

Group Mime: Michelle Tibodeau and Cathy McLaughlin; Jane Trimble and Colleen DeWees; Jane Esch, Mary Taylor, and Sue Bennett.

Duet Acting: Julie Smith-Chris Shihanek; Terri Bjornsen-Tami Herb; Chris Pribyl-Mary Bright.

Good Luck, Guys!

College Acceptances

By Penny Parsons

The VOX would like to congratulate these following seniors who have been accepted into the college of their choice.

Martha Balster-Iowa State

Linda Chalstrom-Kirkwood

Julie Smith-Iowa State

Leslie Zimmerman-Kirkwood

If a senior has been accepted into college and has yet to inform the guidance office please do so.

G Lunchroom S S I P

This is the first of what is to come. A new column "Lunch Room Gossip" will be printed every month. So be on your guard.

While Iran and the United States are in such turmoil it seems that the first lunch cycle has easily conquered the problem!

Second cycle can't seem to understand why the seniors are so worried about the draft Carter is proposing, while they're worried about who's going out with who or should it be said who isn't going out with who.

Obviously third cycle has the most unsolvable problems of all. . . they eat third. It's hard for the problem solvers of first and the worriers of second to imagine the antagonizing hour the under fed third lunchers must sit through.

This is only a sample of what lies ahead, so be on your guard and watch what you say.

NEW YEARS

By Janet Fortner

America's second most celebrated holiday, New Year's Day, is rapidly approaching as the old year quickly fades. However, many people fail to realize the trials that New Year's Day has gone through to become the celebrated holiday that it is today.

Each year millions of Americans excitedly await the arrival of the new year. In California, the celebration lasts for three continuous hours as residents impatiently sit before their televisions and watch relatives in New York milling around Times Square having a good time. Form the time the witching hour of twelve o'clock arrives in New York the celebrations seem to roll their way across the U.S.

In many areas of the U.S. New Year's Eve is celebrated seriously as many churches conduct Watch Night services or midnight masses. At these services Americans turn their thoughts to the real meaning of the closing year and to the responsibilities and opportunities they will face in the coming months.

On the other hand, if we go back in time we will see that New Year's celebrations were once frowned upon. Pilgrim Fathers in New England were so strict in their observance that they believed it was unChristian. They even refused to call the month January by its name, they felt it would be a sin to do so since the name had come from the Roman god Janus.

January was spoken of as "The First Month". As time went on and other colonists came the situation changed. When the fun-loving Dutch came and settled in New York, they brought with them the custom of holding open house on New Year's Day. Callers were welcomed at all hours and punch and cake were served.

Later when George Washington came to New York for his inauguration, he was introduced to open house. Washington liked the idea and adopted it for his and Mrs. Washington's New Year's receptions.

Since January 1, 1934, the custom has nearly disappeared. It was at this time that President Franklin Roosevelt found it interfering to stand in line in order to greet his callers.

Immigrants and other settlers brought with them favorite customs from their homelands. Swedes brought to America their custom of eating baked ham on New Year's for good luck, the Brazilians designated January one as "The Day of Universal Brotherhood", and the English brought with them the custom of dressing in costumes to celebrate. Immigrants played a very large part in establishing America's New Year's traditions. Today the settlers are very much American and celebrate New Year's the American way.

And so the arrival of the New Year is greeted across the U.S. in many different ways. No matter how it is celebrated or at what hour, the underlying thought is still the same as Americans greet one another with the sincere wish of "Prosit Neujahr", "Bonne Annee", "Feliz ano nuevo", or "Happy New Year".

ALL - METRO FOOTBALL

By Dennis Burns

All Metro Honors went to ten Marion football players for the 1979 grid season.

First team picks were Jim Benson (offensive tackle), Scott Chapman (defensive back), and Mike Woodward (defensive linebacker).

Coaches of the metro area also voted Vaughn Klopfenstein (offensive back), Chris Shilhanek (offensive end), and Brian Touro (offensive guard to the second offensive team).

Ken Adams, Jim Armstrong, Mark Mohwinkel, Tony Perkins, John Warner and Kenny Waters all received honorable mention nods.



Gymnastics

By Penny Parsons

Gymnastics started at the first of November. Gymnasts work out each day for two hours. Each does weightlifting on her own time.

Coach Thorton has "been building the gymnasts" since she started. Due to this, Thorton has "great expectations" from her team.

There are 14 total gymnasts, the seven varsity are Doreen French, Leslie Gibson, Beth Grannan, Jane Spear, Lisa Techau, Lisa Vigness, and Val Watson.

The seven freshmen are Lori Brown, Dawn Daves, Michelle Mehlberger, Marsha Miller, Kathy Turner, Nancy Vernon, and Marcie Vigen.

The first meet is January 5 with Jefferson at 1:00 at Vernon Middle School.

STAY IN SHAPE

By Karl Raue

Attention athletes! Starting next January, there will be a group of out of season athletes getting together to run.

It is not an organized practice, and there will be no coaches present. But it is recommended, though, that if you only want to jog, that you do it on your own. Most people will probably be running for track.

Ralph Werner, an avid runner, will be involved. So if you want to run, and do it with someone else, ask him about it.

STOMP-TROMP

By Dennis Burns

Stomp, tromp, crack are the sounds of footsteps.

Footsteps that travel through snow-covered cornfields and wooded gulleys.

Footsteps that stomp and tromp miles to get a chance to run.

When the steps start running one feels the crack of pain from freezing feet.

But the joy that a hunter feels when he succeeds in shooting on target and killing his prey is undecipherable and makes it all seem worth while.



M.H.S.

Weight Room

By Rick Hartl

I believe that Marion has one of the finest weight rooms of any high school in the state of Iowa.

At the end of the school year last year, the school purchased two 300 pound Olympic weight sets, two Olympic bars, one Olympic curling bar, three weight and belts and many other weight machines (like the neck machine and leg machines).

So, if your feeling a little weak or would like to get in a little better shape, just head down to the weight room, and get something done.

WRESTLING 79-80

By Karl Raue

The 1979-80 Marion Wrestling team had its varsity try-outs Saturday, November 24. The varsity team positions were all filled as were the junior varsity.

At 98 pounds, Steve Brighi fills the position for the second year in a row. He is one of five wrestlers on the squad who has wrestled varsity since they were a freshman.

At 105 pounds John Foege is making his varsity debut as is Craig Canavan at 112 pounds.

Greg Hoffa at 119, is another wrestler who has wrestled varsity since his freshman year. Pat Freilinger returns to 126 this year also.

Robby Bolyard at 132, is the third wrestler who has wrestled since his freshman year, and is also a senior this year.

Curt Hall and Kent Mahurin at 138 and 145 are also new to varsity.

Ken Waters at 155 is another of the wrestlers who was on varsity as a freshman. He, too, is a senior this year.

Vaughn Klopfenstein is new at 167 and at 185 Jerry Nibeck is the last of the wrestlers who wrestled varsity as a freshman.

At HWT Mike Woodward returns in his senior year. And at super HWT, the new weight class this year, Dave Supple is going to try his luck in his first year.

There are seven returning lettermen and four Wamac champs this year, so the season looks very promising.

RICHARD

L.T. DOLITTLE

By Rick Hartl

Well, soon to be here are those ever loving white flakes. No, I'm not talking about dandruff, I'm talking about the snow, and at M.H.S. that means things will begin to pile up.

Let me explain, it's last year and it's winter. The alarm goes off and I arise from bed to look out my window, but I couldn't see a thing because the window was covered with snow. So with great thought, I get out of bed and turn on the radio, just in time to hear, "All schools will be closed except Marion High School."

One hour later, I'm off to school, but, not before shoveling my car out of the garage.

Ten minutes later I arrive at the "none other", Marion high school parking lot. Loved, of course by all students and known for its plentiful parking.

Knowing I have approximately five minutes before class, I flip the wipers to high speed, and the defrost to hot. I began to advance forward. And what to my surprise, I see a small opening of nothing but white, I was not able to tell if it was empty, or if there was a white car, (because the snow was coming down so hard and fast). I decided to get out and look, but what to my surprise my door was frozen shut, so I decided to use the other door. To my astonishment there was a white car in the parking spot.

Advancing on to the next row, I saw a couple of openings, down at the far north corner.

Pulling into one of the parking spots, I turned off the car and attempted to get out the door. Forgetting it was frozen closed, I then went to the other door, and what to my surprise that door had frozen shut too.

Beginning to get upset, I gave the door a swift kick and it came open.

Knowing I was probably late, I walked to the snow bank and stopped dead in my tracks, wondering if I should attempt the climb.

Deciding to, I started the twenty foot adventure. Arriving at the top, I could see for miles.

Then much to my surprise, I slipped and fell twenty feet down. That was not all bad because I was finally at the front of the school building.

SCOOTER & BERNIE

(BY: DENNIS BURNS; CHRIS FOX; RICK HARTL)



Who IS Herky?

By Chris Sondag

The University of Iowa's athletic nickname "hawkeye" became a tangible symbol in 1948 when Richard Spencer III, a journalism instructor, created an impish hawk, later to be named Herky.

The name Herky was acquired through a state-wide contest staged by the university's athletic department. John Franklin, a Belle Plaine alumnus, suggested the name.

Since his birth more than thirty years ago, Herky has symbolized Iowa athletics and epitomized University life. He even donned a military uniform during the Korean War and became the insignia of the 124th Fighter Squadron.

During the mid-1950's, Herky came to life at a football game as the Iowa mascot with a black leather head and gold felt feathers. Since then, Herky has become a familiar figure at Hawkeye athletic events.

POLICE CHIEF ZIER

By Tracy Zier

Police Chief, Robert Zier, ventured to Washington, D.C. this past summer to attend a special training for police officers.

When asked why he was chosen to go Chief Zier replied, "This is the ultimate training academy in the world. I guess you could say they pick the 'cream of the crop' to attend. You are usually on a waiting list for about two years."

Chief Zier was one of three policemen from Iowa and Nebraska chosen to go.

Some class topics were: Swat teams, fire arms, and social psychology.

The Minister of Interior from Egypt, Inspectors from Scotland Yard, Australia, and Canada were present to compare foreign police techniques to U.S. procedures.

Zier said, "It was hard and demanding but worthwhile. After living with some men for 11 weeks you get to know each other. If I ever need information from, say, California, I can call up the man I met from there. He'd drop what he was doing to help. We'd do the same for them."

Chief Zier left Iowa July 1, and graduated September 14.

The government paid for the trip. The city paid for two trips to visit home. Zier has been a police officer since February of 1956. He has been the Chief of Police since November 1, 1977.

When asked what his plans for the future were Zier stated, "We need more programs to protect the community and to serve the citizens."

Poetry

By Todd Roehr

Listen my children and you shall hear
About the pressure received from your peers.
Of the assinine things you're made to do
In order that you remain "cool".
Be careful for those who don't conform
They're not really part of the norm.
Everyone says, "He just ain't too neat."
As he wiggles around and squirms in his seat.

Even though he's just trying to stay warm
When he gets to college he'll get his own dorm.

After he becomes a gigantic rock star
He'll have no privacy in his own lair.
He'll be successful, get lots of cheers
All because he's not like his peers.
Go listen carefully, see what I meant.
The "weirdo" could become President.



GIRLS BASKETBALL

By Kim Matheny

Vinton beat the Marion girls basketball team in a score of 54-44, November 24.

Marion lost to Washington in the Metro-Toumey November 17, 44-35 in the Linn-Mar gym.

Marion's captains are Michele McAreavy and Roxanne Jackson.

Powderpuff Football

By Janet Fortner

On Thursday, November 15, a large crowd turned out at the Marion Athletic Field to cheer on the newly formed Powderpuff football teams.

The Senior-Freshman team won with a 6-0 score over the Junior-Sophomore team.

The two "Blind Mice", Mr. Dan Tassar and Mrs. Larry McLaughlin, refereed the game.

4

VOX Staff Editorials

Marion High School may be one of the highest ranking schools in English, but the English system should be changed so that the English classes are leveled.

In the Cedar Rapids School District, but not in Marion, the English classes are divided into three levels from the start of first grade. The three levels are high, middle, and low. The students are divided according to their ability, and every student has a good chance of improvement.

At Marion High School, the English system is designed for the average student until the senior year when it no longer makes much difference. When the English classes are leveled, the students with a higher aptitude in English are not held back by students who are slower. On the other end of the scale, students who are slower are not forced to compete with students who are not as slow. A student who is very good in English should not be held back by a slower student, and the slow student should not be punished with bad grades.

When the English classes are not leveled, students do not receive the individual attention they deserve. The students who should be in a high level just sit bored in class, while the slow students struggle to survive or do not try at all. On the other hand, when the students are with other students with the same abilities, they do not feel like they are different from the average student. It gives the teacher a better chance to focus in on the students' abilities.

English is a very important and basic skill, and every student deserves the best possible chance of mastering good English.

In regard to the 65° heat maximum in public facilities, I regret to think that the public school is one such place.

Why is it that the home is permitted to have a warmer environment than the school? There are several sound reasons pointing out the fact that both temperatures should be equalized. Just to name a few, they are:

1. The average student spends 6-7 hours per day at school.
2. Students involved in extra-curricular activities spend 7-10 hours per day at school--going home only to eat and sleep.
3. Tests have proven that it is essential for students to be within a comfortable environment in order to achieve at least average grades.

Was it not once said by our late great president Theodore Roosevelt, "If you can't stand the heat get out of the kitchen?" But in these circumstances will it soon become necessary to, "get out of MHS if you can't stand the coldness?"

By Tami Herb

The commercialism of Christmas has been the topic of discussion for the past years. Granted maybe Christmas has lost something due to all the hustle and racing around.

When you say Christmas to a child the first thing he probably thinks of is presents. There is nothing wrong with giving gifts, but many get carried away. Many actually think they can win or buy love with a material object.

This is a joyous time of year, and we need to spend time with our families and friends. Christmas is a time of giving and caring.

We need to stop and reflect on what Christmas is all about and try to impress this on the young.



Principals

By Birgitta Sundstrom

I have now find out that principals are not the same in all schools.

The two first days at MHS I thought "principals are principals".

But now after nearly three months, I know that principals can be different. In Swedish schools, I usually never saw my principal. I saw him three time each year, first day at school, Christmas and graduation. Each time he had a speech and talked for about 20 minutes.

I never saw a Swedish principal walking around in the halls talking to pupils. Our assistant principal on the other hand, was always walking around and talking to us like he was one of us.

To see our principal in our classroom, it must be something special. Like if the whole class skipped a class, he comes in and asks us why we did it and that we can't do it again.

night before

By Dave Starr

'twas the night before trial, when all through the jail, not a prisoner was stirring. They were all out on bail. The stockings were hung by the window with care, 'cause they'd been worn, and they needed some air. The prisoners were restless in their smelly old beds, while visions of Playmates danced in their heads. When out in the yard arose such a clatter, I sprang from my bed to see what was the matter. I went to the window to open the sash, I tripped over the bed and fell in the trash. When to my wondering eyes should appear? but a miniature truck full of cold "Coors" beer. As I was turning around, the warden came in, he snuck up behind me and poked me with a pin. He gave me a frown, and said some bad words, he punched me, kicked me, and called me a jerk. And rotating his finger inside his nose, he stepped on my feet and broke all my toes. He tried to sit down, but suddenly jumped and whistled, for he had sat down on my 'reserved for the warden' thistle. But I heard him exclaim, as he hobbled out of sight, "Guard, go in and handcuff him. And make sure they're TIGHT!"



"What do they think we are penguins?"

The year approaching, 1980, for those of you who have lost track, promises to be filled with many new inventions and advancements in technology, even at our own MHS.

Many changes are already taking place, especially on the walls. It is my prediction that by the end of next year 329 students will have acute phobias of circles. Yes, these students cringe and run at the mere mention of these configurations (Of these 329 252 will have completed, or are in the process of completion, Mr. Hanson's Geometry class).

In one room at MHS there seems to be a teacher who enjoys one snack in particular. This teacher now averages two packages of these fattening treats a day. (His room, I might add, is in the part of school where food and drink are forbidden.)

I'm talking of Mr. Bates and his Reeses Pieces. I predict that by this time next year, Mr. Bates will have accumulated 419 wrappers. (Will the poster of Carl have to go on the ceiling to make room for the wrappers he so delights in saving?)

Hey, Mr. Bates' sophomore writing classes ought to get together at the end of the year and get him a couple tubes of Clearasil, tinted of course.

One main reason for this sickness of one dot in particular. It's huge, dark, sits high in the cafeteria to watch every move, and spews forth cold air. I'm talking, of course, about the BLUE DOT!!

What can be done about this dreadful thin? One group of people wanted to take sledgehammers and bash the dot to pieces but there was only one thing wrong with that idea. The group of people were pygmies.

The only think left to do is either sacrifice someone to the blue dot or wear 19 layers of clothes.

LEAP YEAR

By Karl Raue

Leap year is the year with 366 days in it. It occurs every four years and 1980, the next year, is a leap year. It is necessary because the time taken by earth to orbit the sun is not a whole number of days.

So every year, a quarter of a day is left over. And, every four years it adds up to an extra day.

It was in 46 B.C., under Julius Caesar's directions, that we had our first leap year.

And, although, it solved one problem, it created another. Persons born on February 29, the extra day, only had a birthday every four years.

So that prompted an English law under King Henry VIII that persons who have birthdays on February 29, shall have their birthdays on the 28th during non-leap years. Another English law from the 13th century makes February 28th and 29th same day for legal purposes.

Similar statutes are present in many U.S. states today.

So when February 29th rolls around next year, remember it's only left over pieces made into a day.

Movie Review

By Leslie Holm

If you have the attitude that JESUS is only for religious freaks or square people, see it.

If you're sick of gory, smut-filled movies, see JESUS.

If you like beards and want to see a different kind of movie, see JESUS.

The movie doesn't try to convert anyone into, or from, anything, it simply tells of His life, mainly from age 30 up to his crucifixion and ascension into Heaven.

Taken straight from the Gospel of St. Luke, JESUS begins with God-sent Angel Gabriel telling the Virgin Mary of the son she will conceive.

There are several scenes of Jesus' boyhood. It then jumps to when Jesus is 30 years old and begins his ministry. You meet his disciples, who help him spread the scriptures. He tells of the Word by putting it into stories because it's easier for common man to understand.

The crucifixion scene took a little less than half the movie, but it was well worth it. (Did you know that Jesus did not wear a crown of thorns?)

The Genesis Project, producers, did a fine job of following the Gospel. It was easy to understand. Brian Deacon, an English actor who played Jesus, did an excellent job in a hard role to portray. Because five years of research went into the movie, costumes were very real. The movie was shot entirely in the Holy Land, making the movie even more realistic.

Although the movie isn't action-packed, it sure packed in the people, even on a weeknight.

Santa's Coming

By Kim Matheny

Have you ever wondered how it would be to be a little kid again sitting on Santa's lap, telling him what you want for Christmas?

One reporter asked the Kindergarten class at Starry Elementary, what they wanted Santa to bring them, their replies were:

A Big Wheel, race set, Drum set, Cradle walk baby, toy train, doctor set, real blender, match boxes, Barbie doll and Ken doll, Tonka truck, kiss doll, light saber, C3PO, space ship, stuffed Hobby Owl with trees, and Kiss records.

The VOX staff wants to wish the Kindergarten class a Merry Christmas.



(Kindergarten class at Starry)

Merry Christmas

From the
Vox Staff . . .



History Rewritten

By Sue Bennett

Imagine yourself back in time, back, back, to the time of the Gettysburg Address. I am going to show you the way the Gettysburg Address really happened. . . .

The town of Gettysburg is ready and waiting for their president to give them one of his "marked-down-for-posterity" speeches.

But wait! Something has gone wrong! Abraham Lincoln has come down with a terrible cold, and his publicity agent has said that he won't be able to make it.

However, the agent has said that they'll send a substitute. But (the agent assured the mayor), the man knows exactly what is going on, and is a great speaker. His name-Abraham Ferguson.

The speech was scheduled for 12:45 p.m. At 1:00 p.m. the substitute still hadn't come, and the people were beginning to get restless.

Finally, at 1:15 p.m. a horse, panting heavily, raced up to the already-assembled platform. The rider dismounted quickly, and raced dramatically toward the platform.

He also tripped dramatically. He got hastily to his feet, his face bright-red.

As he approached the podium, a silence fell over the crowd. They were expecting a fabulous speech.

He cleared his throat. Three times. The audience waited tensely.

"Uh-you-know-well-" He blushed a deep red. "O.K. Four score and well-seven years ago, I guess, our fathers brought forth on this, uh, chunk of land, a . . ."

The speech took two hours, all twenty-three lines of it. It might have been helpful had he not forgotten the speech and lost the napkin it was written on.

Slowly he finished the speech, word by word (by word). His face still resembling a lobster, and rode away in a cloud of dust.

The leading reporters in the town looked at one another closely.

"You know," one said, "We can't tell the American people what really happened here."

"No," the others agreed. "We'll just say Lincoln came and reword the speech a little."

So they did. And after they did, a little boy approached them.

"I heard," he said, "that this has happened before on one of Abraham Lincoln's speeches."

"Oh?" The reporters said, "Was Abe Ferguson the substitute?"

"No," the boy said. "The other speaker was twice as bad."

The reporters shook their heads sadly. "Did they catch the man's name?"

"They tried, but they couldn't understand him when he talked."

"Why not?" The reporters asked.

"Well," the little boy said, "It seems his mouth was full of something called Reeses Pieces. Later they found out his name was Abraham Bates."

Christmas Greetings

Reflections of you

By Sandra Long

The dawn arises with a light that's strong
'Til darkness of the night is safely gone.
The newborn day is slow to continue.
Its carefree way's a reflection of you.

Crystal-clear water bubbles over stones.
As I sit dreaming by a spring alone.
I find memories flowing with the blue.
The mirrored light's a reflection of you.

A morning shower comes with pouring rain,
But Summer's sun quickly comes out again.
The warmth that's revealed in the rain-bow's hue
Is gentle love, a reflection of you..

MRS. BORST

By Holly Hapgood

Mrs. Shirley Borst is the newest lounge supervisor at Marion High. She applied for the job through Mr. Dollinger.

Mrs. Borst likes to be around students, and having four boys, she's had a lot of experience.

She really likes the supervising job and hasn't had any problems so far in lounge.

"Almost all of the students are polite and nice to be around," said Mrs. Borst.