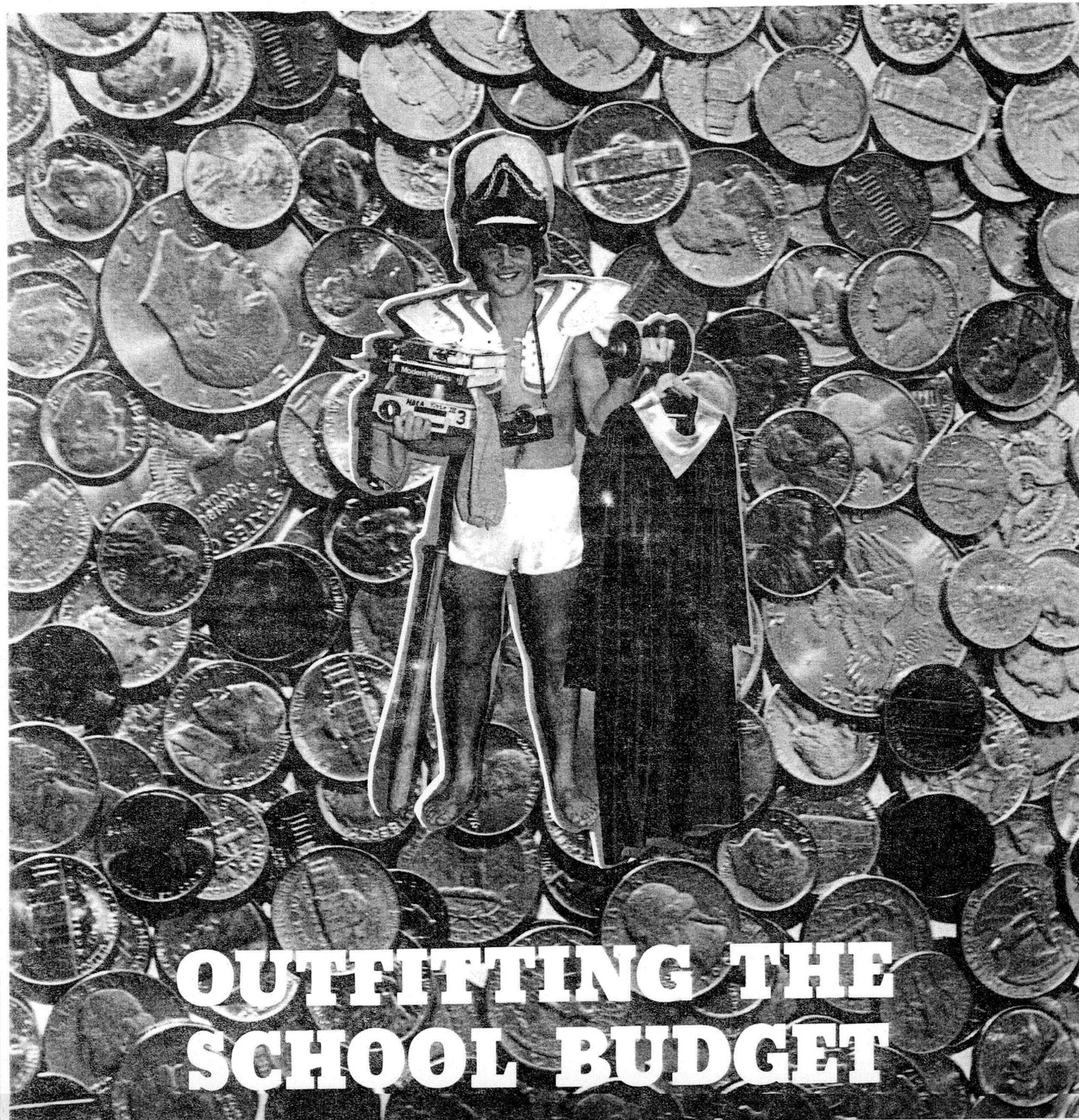


THE TORCH

The Kennedy Newsmagazine / 16 December 1976 / Vol. 12, No. 4

HEADLINES:

- Itemizing school costs (Cover Story, page 3)
- Three views of the holidays (Feature, pages 6-7)
- Finding confidence in tradition (Sports, page 8)
- Why play when you can buy? (Opinion, page 10)
- Looking at it ... beautifully (Photos, page 12)



OUTFITTING THE SCHOOL BUDGET



For some it was work, for others it was play
Left: Junior Dave Griffith sings with "Aire" at the Nov. 19 Sadie Hawkins. Right: Vicki Peacock and Bill Jansen.

Foreign Language Club officers enjoy a feast fit for a king
Craig Wiklund, Ann Beckstrom, and Julie Birkelo learn about French, German, and Spanish foods at a Nov. 23 club dinner.

NEWSLINES

Students unaware of Board influence

Of all the forces that work together to provide students with an opportunity for learning, the most influential is the Bloomington School Board. While many students may not even know that a school board exists, "if they found out what the School Board actually does for them, they would be just fascinated," said Karen Walker, Board member.

Every decision made by the School Board affects every student, directly or indirectly, according to Fred Atkinson, superintendent of schools. For example, the Board makes the final decision on the teachers and other professionals to be hired within the schools and sets up the budget priorities as it decides how much money will be spent on which items. "The decisions are not always easily reached, said Ms. Walker. Often a trade-off is involved. For instance, if the Board decides to hire more teachers, then to pay those salaries might mean that cuts will need to be made in other budgets.

From homemakers to doctors to bankers

Consisting of seven members who have been elected by the community, the School Board sets the policies that the schools are to follow when programs are set up. Policies which most directly affect students would be those covering curriculum (what is to be taught) and the budgets.

Chairperson of the group is Esther Allen, a housewife/homemaker. Other voting members are Ms. Walker, also a housewife/homemaker; Dr. Clifford Phibbs, a physician at Oxboro Clinic; Dr. John Hilborn, dean of students at Normandale Community College; Kurt Laughinghouse, a land sales developer; John Madden, director of Data-Network Operations for Honeywell, Inc.; and Richard Schneider, a vice-president of the Commercial Lending Division of Northwestern National Bank of Minneapolis.

When members make decisions, they obviously must rely on their knowledge of student needs and school situations, according to Mr. Atkinson. Members indicated that they get their information about the schools from reports by district personnel, by reading student newspapers, through letters and phone calls from the public, and by listening to their own and other neighborhood children.

In addition, the School Board recently assigned to individual members the task of personally visiting particular schools to get more information. Each member was assigned three to four schools for which he/she would be primarily responsible for on-the-spot program observation. Assigned to Kennedy was Dr. Phibbs.

"Communication is a big problem within the schools," said Dr. Phibbs. "There is a barrier between students and administration,

and that barrier must be broken before a student will express his/her honest feelings about issues within the school." When at Kennedy Dr. Phibbs said he makes a point of asking students he meets whether the classes they are taking are meeting their individual interests. He says he wants students to feel that they have direct access to a Board member.

Student interests limited to activities

The last time Kennedy students had any significant contact with the School Board probably was in the winter and spring of 1975 when students petitioned the Board to grant Kennedy "the privilege of open lunch," according to Dr. Phibbs. Otherwise, it seems that most students have little interest in what is going on in the schools beyond the realm of student activities, according to Mr. Atkinson.

"School is not a major focus for a great number of students," said Mr. Atkinson. "Their social lives, jobs, sports, or other extracurricular activities are more important to them. There are no leaders within the student body to get the students involved," he said.

Assuming that students do lack focus and leadership, then information-gathering visits like those made by Dr. Phibbs become all the more important if the Board is to have a working knowledge of what is happening in the schools. Dr. Phibbs claims that Board members do not come to conclusions about school needs solely on the basis of selected student contact, however. When members sense an issue is developing, they talk to students and in addition contact others in the schools, including counselors, administrators, and those staff members who openly express their opinions, said Dr. Phibbs.

Class assignment: School Board meeting

What frustrates Board members is that they often never see or hear from the public "until an issue comes up that they are upset about," said Dr. Phibbs. "Usually the only time we see students at the meetings are if they are forced to come as an assignment set by the teacher," he said. Meetings are open to the public and are held on the first and third Tuesdays of the month, at 7:30 p.m., in the Central Administration Building, 10025 Penn. Av. S.

"Each time a community member or a student expresses views on an issue, it is for their own good," said Mr. Atkinson. Dr. Phibbs emphasized that Board members want to create a better education for students, but that cannot happen if students don't tell them what they need or want.

-Brenda Anderson

\$2.5 million buys education for students

Money. Although it cannot buy happiness, it still buys important and essential things, including an education for Kennedy's 1946 students. This year alone \$2,552,133 is being spent to operate this school's total educational program.

Kennedy's budget is divided into five major areas: building maintenance, instructional costs, academics, athletics, and extracurricular activities. The Bloomington School Board makes all final decisions as to budget distribution, though on the recommendation of Fred Atkinson, superintendent of schools.

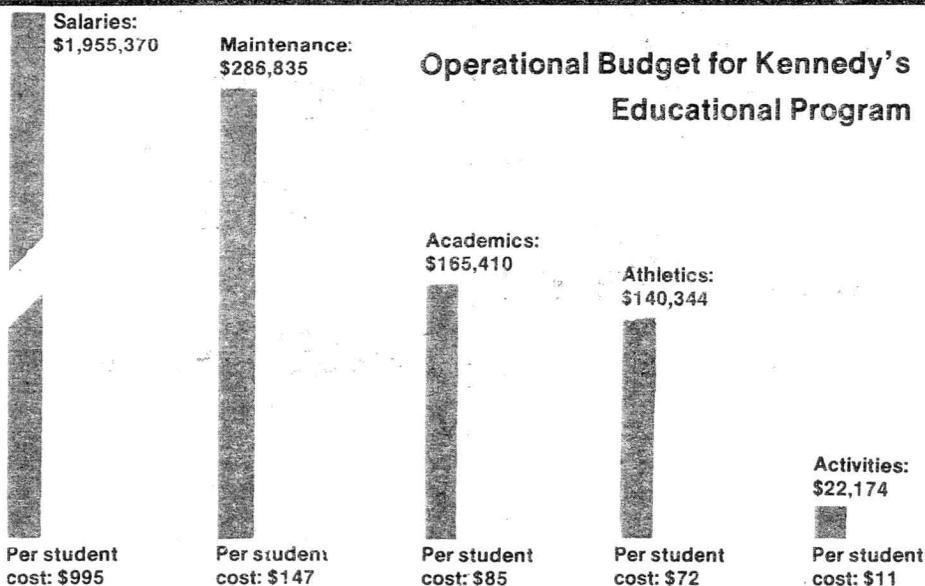
Custodial costs and general building upkeep will run \$286,835 this year, a budget item that figures out to be \$147 per student in the building.

To make the building a school, teachers, counselors, and administrators must be added, and at Kennedy, salaries for those people total \$1,955,370 or about \$995 per student. Academic costs other than salaries will run another \$165,410, or \$85 per student.

Academic Budget Allocation by Department

Art	5.5%	Mathematics	2.5%
Business	5.3%	Music	8.3%
Communications	10.8%	Sciences	5.3%
Foreign Language	2%	Social Studies	8.9%
Dr. Ed./Health	3%	Unallocated	4.1%
Physical Education	2.8%	Resource Center	13.4%
Intramurals	4.2%	Administration	15.1%
Home Economics	1.9%	Guidance	2.9%
Industrial Arts	8.5%		100.0%

This latter amount is the only figure directly controlled by Principal Donald Hasbrouck. The \$85 per student cost must pay for all textbooks, class supplies, printing, and equipment repair, according



to Mr. Hasbrouck.

Athletics, an important area for many students, is allotted \$140,344, or about \$72 for every student in the school, whether or not he/she is an athlete. Included in this figure are coaching salaries, equipment, uniforms, supplies, etc.

Receiving the smallest portion of the total Kennedy budget are other extracurricular activities, including publications, the danceline, plays, speech contests, intramurals, and music groups. These groups are allotted \$22,174, for a per student figure of \$11.

Often, comparisons between academic and athletic activity budgets are made which are misleading. To say that only \$85 per student is spent on academics is not really true, for instructional salaries must be added to that figure. The cost of educating a student then jumps to \$1079, thus deflating the argument that the school spends only slightly more on academics than extracurricular programs (\$85 per

student for academics, vs \$72 and \$11 per student for athletics and activities, respectively).

Activity figures, meanwhile, may also be misleading, for they represent a total per student cost, and not a cost per participant. In 1975-76, only 597 of the roughly 1950 Kennedy students went out for athletics, bringing the per student cost up to \$235. Participants in other extra-curricular programs totalled 1220, making that figure \$18 per student.

Clearly, the programs which bring the arts or culture into the school's programs are the biggest bargains in the total budget. Over 600 more students participate in activities other than athletics, yet those programs operate on \$118,170 less than that given to sports.

Even so, sports receives only 5.5 percent of the total Kennedy budget, for education above all should — and does — get the primary emphasis when administrators decide how dollars are to be spent.

—Paula Blumke

ONCE AROUND THE SCHOOL

Making bread with fruit

The Kennedy Bands and Flag Corps conducted a fruit sale for the second consecutive year. Approximately \$5,000 was raised in the two weeks of door to door sales. A spring trip to Washington, D.C. is being planned for all of the students involved.

You should be dancing

This year the Kennedy Orchestra is sponsoring the Winter Formal dance on Jan. 28, from 8:30 to 11:30 p.m. This semi-formal occasion will cost \$1.50 for singles, and \$2.25 for couples. A new addition this year will be the crowning of Winter Royalty during the dance.

Dates to Remember

- Dec. 17—Winter break begins
- Jan. 3—School resumes
- Jan. 7—Kolleens pepfest 1:50 p.m., in the gym
- Jan. 14—Field trip day
- Jan. 20—All City Concert; auditorium
- Jan. 21—First semester ends

Jan. 24—Teachers workshop; early dismissal at 11:30 a.m., lunch will be served.

Jan. 27—Wind Ensemble Concert; 7:30 p.m. auditorium

Jan. 28—Winter Formal; 8:30-11:30 p.m. in the cafeteria

Don't touch that dia.

On Christmas Day the Kennedy Concert Choir will perform a holiday show to be seen at 1 p.m., on KMSP-TV, channel 9. The program will be pre-recorded on Dec. 7, and will include highlights from the choirs' Holiday Show.

PACESETTERS



Patty Meyer, senior, has been chosen "Youth of the Month" by the Exchange Club of South Suburban Minneapolis. "Patty was chosen because of her contributions to her community and school," said Elwood Lindberg, counselor. Patty will be honored with an award at a Dec. 9 luncheon.



John Gorski, junior, was the top salesperson in the bands' fruit sale. In two weeks, he raised \$650. John, who is a member of the Concert Band, was also the leading salesperson in last year's fruit sale. Profits from the sale will be used for the bands' trip to Washington, D.C.

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WEDNESDAY	LADIES FITNESS	8:30 - 9:30 a.m. Lessons	9:30 - 12:00 noon Regular Skating	Adm. \$1.50	Baby Sitting .50/child	Skate rental \$.25
	DISCOUNT NIGHT	4:00 - 6:00 p.m. Adm. \$.75	6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Adm. \$1.00	8:00 - 10:00 p.m. Adm. \$1.00	Skt. Rental Incl.	Extra Session \$.50
THURSDAY	PRIVATE PARTY SESSIONS					
FRIDAY	OPEN SKATING	7:00 - 9:30 Adm. \$1.50	9:30 - 12:00 Adm. \$1.50	Skate Rental \$.75	Extra Session \$1.00	
SATURDAY	ALL DAY SKATE	10:00-4:30 Adm. \$1.50 Skts. \$.75	10:00-12:00 Adm. .50 Skts. .50 Extra session 1.25	12:00-4:30 Adm. 1.50 Skts. .75	7:00-9:30 Adm. 1.50 Skts. .75	9:30-12:00 Skts. .75
SUNDAY	OPEN SKATING	1:30 - 6:30 Adm. \$1.50	FAMILY NIGHT 6:30 - 9:00 Adm. \$1.00	Family rates: \$2.50/family (Limit 6 -.50 ea. addl. person)		Skate Rental - \$.75 Extra Session - \$.75

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- Q.— If I join the Navy and sign up for a certain job, would you turn around after I'm enlisted and send me somewhere else?
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- Q.— What sort of schooling could I get during and after active service?
- A.— During service, advanced job schooling is possible as well as any off duty schooling you want. After service, use your G.I. Bill benefits for any V.A. approved program.
- Q.— What does the Delayed Entry Program have to offer?
- A.—
1. Job guarantee now for after graduation.
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(The questions were answered by recruiter Mike Nelson)

If you would like to have these plus more, see your local Navy recruiter, Mike Nelson, 9304 Lyndale, and discuss with him what you want out of the Navy.

They promise that they will not sign you up right there in the office. But you'd better hurry. The present G.I. Bill ends Dec. 31.



'Tis the season. .

Of commercialism | Of Christmas and H

There once was a time when Christmas came on Dec. 25, but no more. On Nov. 8, Dayton's opened its Mary Poppins' Village, Santa's elves began herding the masses into the old gentleman's lap, and Willy Wonka started his Chocolate Factory operations. Southdale had announced to all the suburbs that, indeed, Christmas had already arrived.

"Christmas had nothing to do with 'Christ'-mas anymore," said the Rev. Gerald Tarman, of Wooddale Baptist Church. "People go through the season without thinking about it. They don't think about the events that happened; they just think about the gifts," he continued.

So it is that the traditional meanings associated with Christmas and Christmas customs have faded into a blur of commercials and promotions. For instance, "people now think of the star on top of their Christmas tree as a pretty decoration that they spent money for instead of thinking of thanking the star in the sky over Bethlehem," said Pastor Craig Osborne of Hope Presbyterian Church. "People get so wrapped up in the commercialization of Christmas," he said, that they come to think of the season as somewhat of a "drag." The competition between the selling of products during the Christmas season and the teaching about the birth of Christ "is frustrating, but not surprising," Pastor Osborne said.

"Christmas should be a time of personal and family renewal," said Pastor James Schwartz of Christ the King Church. "Now Christmas has gotten too complex. I'd like to see a simpler (kind of) Christmas where people give of themselves," he said. Instead, most people are caught up in a rush to the stores so they can give the latest and finest in trains, sweaters, stereos, or calculators.

Giving gifts at Christmastime has become a tradition. According to Rev. Erwin Grandt of Emmaus Lutheran Church, "Gift-giving is intended as an act of love. It is a custom that may have developed over 2000 years ago from the event of the wisemen bringing gifts to Christ."

That religious tie to gift giving has been largely lost, however. Now Christmas offers an excuse for buying gifts for individuals and not for the church or anything related to it. According to a Dayton's spokesperson who refused to be identified, "Christmas is a time for giving needed gifts. It's the time when the bicycle that has been wanted since summertime is now bought," she said.

Displays, such as those done by Dayton's personnel at Southdale, have no religious significance whatever. Instead, the spokesperson estimated that as many as a quarter million people will be entertained by a display of Willy Wonka and his Chocolate Factory. To accommodate that many people, the store finds it necessary to open the display in early November.

Even so, some religious emphasis is still retained in a season that seems to have largely been taken over by shopping and entertaining. "Throughout the Christmas season there is a certain element that creates a spiritual experience through Christmas," said the Rev. Erwin Brandt of Emmaus Lutheran Church. The Rev. Gerald Tarman of Wooddale Baptist Church said that to most of his parishioners, "Christmas means God came down to earth in the form of a man, with a reason to save men from sin, and to establish a pathway for His people to follow."

Not all clergymen agree, however. While he admits that there is still a religious connotation to the Christmas holiday, Father Howard of St. Bonaventure Catholic Church maintains that "the religious aspect of Christmas is a jump behind all the commercialization."

-Dana Michel

Growing up in a community that is nearly 100 percent Christian, Kennedy students have clear ideas about what it means to be Christians during Christmas. For many families who sent students to another Lake Conference school, St. Louis Park, Christmas has little meaning at all, as about 35 percent of those students are Jewish.

"When I was younger, I didn't understand why everyone got presents on Christmas Day and got to go and sit on Santa's knee," said Judy Levin, a St. Louis Park sophomore. "But now I understand. Being Jewish at Christmas time doesn't bother me anymore," she said.

Part of Judy's adjustment stems from the fact that she lives in an area with many Jews with whom she can regularly associate. For those Jews who live in largely non-Jewish areas, however, conflicting pressures can have an effect. "Before we moved here (St. Louis Park), I used to live in Minneapolis. There were about three other Jews in the whole school, and I hated it," said Peggy Ovenstein, a Park sophomore.

Harry Hanukkah and the Jewish holiday

One of the Jewish holidays, Hanukkah often falls during the Christian Christmas season. This year, Hanukkah is Dec. 17 and the celebration of it continues for the seven days. The holiday doesn't have anything to do with the idea of Christmas; it just occurs during approximately the same time.

Some Hanukkah traditions closely resemble Christmas traditions. Gifts are given during that time, and families will have Hanukkah cookies, and outdoor house lights as decorations (blue and white to symbolize the Israeli flag). The idea that Jews have Hanukkah bushes (like Christmas trees) and Harry Hanukkahs (like Santa Claus) is just a joke, according to Peggy.

"I think both Hanukkah and Christmas are too commercialized," said Judy. Peggy added, "Not everyone realizes the true meaning of Christmas or Hanukkah. It's just a time to get off from school and to get presents."

If being Jewish at Christmas doesn't cause Jewish students major problems, being Jewish on a Friday night during any week of the school year just might. For Jews, the weekly sabbath (Shabbat) runs from Friday night at sundown to Saturday at sundown. A religious Jewish student may decide that he/she should not participate in school activities during that time, which would prevent a student from playing football or basketball, or from going to parties or dances.

Not every Jewish student will let the Shabbat interrupt his/her school participation, however. It depends on how religious he/she may be, according to Judy.

For those Jews who do observe the Friday night Shabbat, however, that night offers experiences largely unknown to Christians. To get an idea of how Shabbat is observed, I spent one Friday Shabbat with the Sidney Levin family in St. Louis Park. After we exchanged greetings, we were

invited into the dinin

Celebrating the Jewi

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When the main co brought in the des: cake). After storing on our way to the syn services.

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A young boy's Bar Mi

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Hanukkah | Of merry times

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 ue for their final services
 eligious Jew is not unlike
 e ways than most realize.

-Jan Lindstrom

Bells are ringing and children singing, while all the world is merry and bright. The holiday season has begun as Santa sits at the local department store ready to greet the kids. The reason for celebrating the holiday season for some is the birth of Jesus, while others are busy with the celebration of Hanukkah, but for some, religion is not a part of the holiday season at all.

Out come the wreaths, Christmas tree lights and ornaments, little manger scenes with carved wooden figures, boughs of holly and mistletoe, and racks to support displays of the hundreds of Christmas cards that fill the mailboxes daily.

For those who consider themselves agnostics or atheists, the holiday season takes on a different perspective. "It is a time to celebrate the 'peace on earth and goodwill to all people' idea," said a student.

One aspect of the holiday season that seems to be prevalent among many families is the exchanging of gifts. This idea is one that needs no religious background to fulfill. It also gives many a chance to help others make their year a little brighter, through such organizations as Santa's Anonymous. This idea of helping others during the holiday season is one that shows through in the agnostic or atheist viewpoint.

Spritz cookies or turkeys in the oven also seem to be important features in celebrating the holiday season, as most families plan a traditional feast. A person without religious background has no trouble joining in festivities of eating traditional Christmas foods since most seem to be based on cultural rather than religious background.

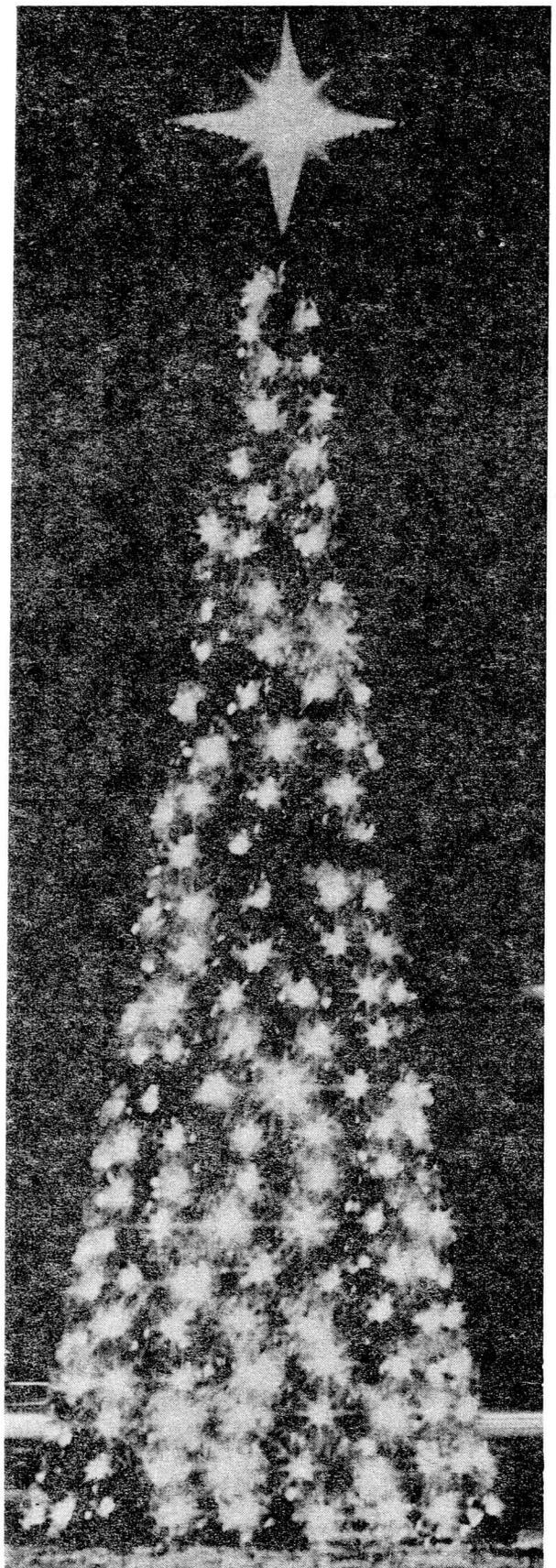
According to one agnostic, Christmas is a time when all people have an excuse to join together to meet new friends and rejoin old ones. This idea may have been the original basis for starting to send greeting cards. Although some cards do proclaim religious messages, many cards just wish the recipients peace and a Happy New Year.

During the holidays the number of parties seem to increase, but for the most part there is no religious connotation to them. "Except maybe for Christmas Day all other parties during the holiday season seem to be for the sole purpose of having a good time, so how could I feel left out of their religious holiday, when it is they who have forgotten their own holiday?" asked one agnostic.

Whether Dec. 25 is actually a real holiday is questionable because it was the religious officials of earlier times who arbitrarily chose that date for Christ's birth to accommodate their other festivals which also fell in December.

The celebration of Christmas for those who are agnostic or Christian, is similar in many respects except that one belief feels a need to attend church to fulfill their holiday obligations. For both of their beliefs, however, Christmas is a time for the celebration of life and mankind. One student summed this idea by saying, "Christmas is a time for loving."

-Lisa Beckstrom

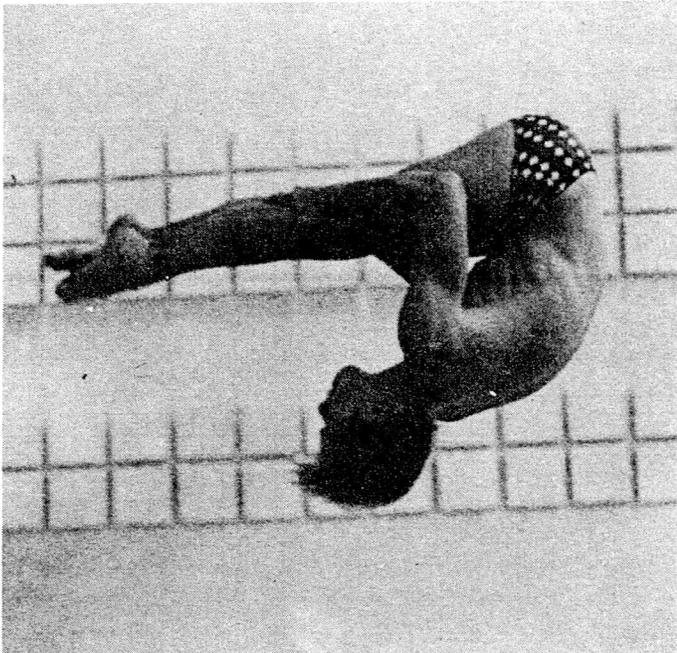


What began as a Christmas symbol of everlasting life ...
 Has become yet another commercialized decoration

Pucksters seek to uphold tradition

"You can never underestimate the tradition of a fine hockey team," said hockey Head Coach Jerry Peterson as Kennedy prepared to start their season.

The team is very optimistic about being able to maintain the tradition that has developed over the years at Kennedy. Kennedy has been able to replace the graduating seniors throughout the years, and Coach Peterson feels that the individual talent is present in the players who will be replacing the graduated seniors of last season. Now the players need to learn to blend well as a team.



Senior Joel Olander demonstrates his piked-position dive
Eagle swimmers prepare for first meet of the season

Swimmers dive in early

When it's 5:15 in the morning, where are Kennedy's students? Are they: (A) sound asleep, dreaming about where they'll be in two and a half hours; (B) just getting in from ... who can imagine where; or (C) getting out of bed to go for an early dip in the pool? For the majority of the students the answer is (A), but for anyone on the boys' swimming team, (C) is the correct answer.

The swimmer's day begins at 5:45 a.m. at the Oak Grove pool. There he'll find his coach, ready to put him through the usual 4,000-yard workout. Practice is over at 7 a.m., about the same time most students are recovering from their nightmares.

Each morning after he arrives at school, the swimmer makes his way directly to the cafeteria for three cinnamon rolls, orange juice, and milk, his hair still drying while he eats. In preparation for practice after school the swimmer eats two lunches. The second practice, involving 8,000 yards of swimming, lasts for two hours. By 6 p.m., the swimmer is home, with nearly seven miles of swimming behind him.

Dan Wellumson, team co-captain, has been through this routine for the past two winters. Wellumson says he has a good time being on the swimming team. "The time and the workouts pay off" during competition, he said, "but encouragement from team members also helps during a meet."

Even though Wellumson and the other swimmers have to get up early in the morning to practice their sport, Wellumson said they wouldn't have it any other way.

—Scott Sjoström

As the team prepared for the season, Coach Peterson made sure that his team would be in top condition for their opening game.

According to Peterson, the team's success will depend on condition as well as motivation and execution. "We feel that the motivation is there. There is a lot of pride involved when the players put on a Kennedy hockey uniform," he said.

Coach Peterson said he stresses execution and conditioning during practice. "We work hard in practice, but we realize it will pay off in the games," said Captain Dave Dillon. The team does realize that without the proper execution, the team cannot have a successful season, according to Dillon.

The team lost nine graduating seniors last year, but there are some excellent players returning. Dillon and junior Todd Buelow compose, according to Coach Peterson, potentially the finest pair of center icemen in the state. Assistant Captains Brad Carlson and Garth Weiss will also be counted on to provide leadership for the team. Other players who are returning from the State Tournament team of last year are seniors Tom Barry and Mike Bauer, junior Jeff Andrews, and sophomore John Wilharm.

Maintaining the tradition at Kennedy will not be an easy chore this year. "Everybody is capable of beating you in the Lake Conference," said Coach Peterson. Nevertheless, last year's State Consolation Champions should have the personnel necessary for another strong season.

—Dave Roberman

Cagers rise in height

While the annual scene at most Kennedy basketball games in years past usually pictured Kennedy players as being dwarfed by opposition, this year's scene will be different. With four players between 6'2" and 6'5", the team is optimistic about having the height to do well this season against other perennially-tall opponents.

Having a tall team should coincide with the new rule change which allows dunking during high school basketball games. However, height is not the only factor needed for dunking; ball handling is another. "We are close to being able to dunk but, we need more work on handling the ball," said basketball Head Coach Steve Strommen.

Another change for this year's basketball team is a shorter season. The Title 9 federal regulation, providing for equality in boys' and girls' sports, changed the boys' season to be shortened to match that of the girls. "The shortened season will mean more games in a shorter period of time and less time for practice. However, game situations are the critical areas that the team needs work on, and this will give us more game experience," said Captain Craig Larson.

Although the team doesn't have to battle a height problem, it has others to contend with. Filling the positions left by last year's team is one. Two of the best guards in the conference, (Bob Graden and John Sorenson) graduated, leaving some big shoes to fill, according to Strommen.

"Three boys are back that played well in Regions, but the real key to this year's success," according to Strommen, "is the filling of the fourth, fifth and sixth positions."

Speed, a factor usually taken for granted in years past, will be another area which needs attention. "We have the height, but quickness is a problem this year. We gave up a little speed for a little height," said Larson.

Despite these problems, the team is a unit. "The team has a willingness to work. If one person does well, the rest of the team shares these accomplishments and will be inspired to work harder," said Larson.

—Vicki Mertensotto

Matmen hope to top record setting season

Reviewing previous records in a sport does not necessarily have any bearing on how a team will do in the coming year. This is the case, however, for this year's wrestling team.

Coming off last year's finest season in Kennedy wrestling history, along with having a powerful JV squad returning, the team expects to improve on last year's performance. "We want to do at least as well as last year and hopefully better," said Head Coach Dave Arens.

Arens, who coached the team through its record-setting season last year in his rookie

season as Kennedy wrestling coach, is now in his second year along with Assistant Coach Tom Sowles.

"Now that we know what Coach Arens wants and expects, we should be able to develop faster and be fully prepared by our first meet," said Tri-Captain Tom Cherrey.

One factor contributing to this positive outlook of improving last year's record is the loss of only five seniors to graduation. Despite this fact, according to Coach Arens there will be only a maximum of five seniors on the team this year.

"We will have to rely heavily on

underclassmen to help carry the team," said Tri-Captain Pat Arens.

Junior Craig Wiklund, who finished third at Regions in the 167 lb. weight class a year ago, will be counted on to pick up some of the slack of having few seniors, according to Coach Arens.

To help alleviate the problem of limited varsity experience for some underclassmen, Kennedy's schedule has been toughened up, according to Coach Arens, so that there will be no pushover meets against weak teams

"Cooper is one of the toughest teams in the state and we must beat them before we can have a successful season," said Tri-Captain Mike Pribble.

While underclassmen will undoubtedly play a major role in the Eagles' success, according to Coach Arens the real key to a winning season lies not only on the tri-captains and beating Cooper, but also on the two seniors, Scott Kranz and Ron Davis, who are not captains.

"These two people will play a major role in how successful a season we will have," said Coach Arens, "because if they can fill in at the open weight classes, it will mean a more stable line-up."

-Mike Bauer

Experience asset for girl cagers

With six returning letterpersons and a second-year coach who built a winning record last year (9-7), the girls' basketball team has reason to look forward to another winning season.

Head Coach Dale Welter feels the biggest difference between this year and last will be experience. "The girls have a higher skill level, and it should enable them to place higher in the standings. I am very optimistic about the coming year," said Welter.

Compared to last year, Welter believes that "the team will score more and allow less points, because the players have worked hard to increase their abilities."

Fan support may be very important to the success of the team. According to Welter, fan support should increase this year, because "interest in a sport grows with skill, and the girls are getting better as the number of years the sport is in the program increases." Remembering the poor attendance at games last year, Coach Welter kidded, "We are almost sold out of tickets, but we will have standing room available."

Leading the team on the court this year

Moore confidence

Enthusiasm and experience will be the key tools which girl gymnasts will be using as they enter this year's gymnastics season.

"The girls have been very enthusiastic towards practicing so far in the season," said new Coach Ken Moore, dean of student services. "They are all outstanding and experienced athletes. They have been willing to work hard on their own and are always trying to improve," he said.

Team members have adjusted well to having a male coach, according to Moore. He said he feels very comfortable and confident coaching the girl gymnasts.

His plans for this year's team include greater attention to polishing or perfecting routines. He said he "would prefer to have the girls add to their routines and master them before going on to other routines."

He would judge success for the girls individually, based on how fully each gymnast develops her talents according to her ability.

are senior Captains Stacy Godwin and Kathy LaBerge, both letterpersons from last year. Other returning letterpersons are senior Julie Christensen, and juniors Cathy Clark, Wendy Godwin, and Robin Knudson.

These girls will have to compete against such tough teams as "Eisenhower, Richfield, Minnetonka, and possibly Wayzata, because they all finished high last year and have many players back from last year," according to Welter.

-Glen Broemer

CAPSULE COVERAGE

WRESTLING

Begin season with Anoka Invitational ... **Craig Wiklund** wins at the 167 pound weight class ... **Chuck Vavrosky** also wins at 180 ... Kennedy has nine runners-up in meet.

GIRLS' SWIMMING

Defeat Fridley ... Lose to Cooper 71-101 ... **Jody Henseler, Vivian Gould, Marilyn Gould** and **Sue Phelps** lead 200 medley relay to a record-breaking time of 2:90 ... Lose to Wayzata 64-108 ... Henseler breaks record in 100-freestyle with a time of 1:01.8 ... Phelps ties record as she also gets a time of 1:01.8 ...

BOYS' BASKETBALL

Open season with impressive win over Minneapolis West 67-51 ... Eagles dominate the board while out-rebounding West 61-33 ... **Craig Larson** leads all scorers with 18 points ... **Rick Bergien** gets 16 points. **Jim Landes** scores 12 points ... **Lee Krueger** adds 9 points.

BOYS' GYMNASTICS

In Bloomington Invitational **John Tabone** takes

first places in floor exercise, vaulting, high bar, parallel bars and all-around ... **Joe Boeser** takes first on high bar, vaulting, all-around ... **Scott Alman** places first on rings and parallel bars ... In Lake Conference Invitational Tabone places fourth in all-around and fifth in vaulting ... **Mike Ford** places fifth in vaulting ... All-Conference is decided by taking the top three averages in an event, in Lake Red Conference Competition ...

Receiving All-Conference are Ford in floor exercise and Tabone in all-around and parallel bars ... Tabone also receives Outstanding Region Gymnast honors on parallel bars ... This award is decided by the highest scoring average on the event in the region ... **Don Bartosch** was injured with a separated sternum but returned for Regions.

FOOTBALL AWARDS

Marty Peterson receives All-State award from the **Bloomington Sun** as wide receiver ... **Kurt Schuster** receives All-State honors from **St. Paul Pioneer Press** as line-backer.

FACES IN THE CROWD

Kathy LaBerge, senior, is co-captain of the girls' basketball team. "She not only has talent," said Coach Dale Welter, "she also has an excellent attitude and works very hard." Kathy was the leading rebounder on last year's team. She also participates in track.



Pat Arens, senior tri-captain of this year's wrestling team, is in his third year on varsity. Last year, Arens' personal record was 18-4-3, placing him third highest in team scoring. Pat also played on the soccer team and is a section editor on Profiles.





Senior Gregg Paschke
With his skiing letter

Should pride be purchased?

When the 2:25 bell rings students file out of classrooms into confused and crowded hallways. Many students rush to their buses to go home. For these, the school day is officially over. However, some students rush to their destiny, the gym and perhaps for these the day is just beginning.

Soon practice begins and the athletes drill, condition, and scrimmage for nearly three hours to prepare for upcoming games. Amid the steam of the hot showers after practice, the sweaty, exhausted, and sore athlete may question the purpose of this torture. However, the excitement of victories along with cheering fans and finally the thrill of earning a letter makes the effort worthwhile. The letter symbolizes the hard work, dedication and accomplishments of an athlete throughout the season. Perhaps the one thing all athletes desire is the pride and honor awarded with the letter.

Why then, if athletes work for hours, every day of the school week, and in return earn letters, do some students in the school wear unearned letters? Is it right for these people to go out and buy the honor and pride it may take some athletes three years to earn? Does it seem possible that money can buy the honor that is awarded with a letter?

General Sports, a local athletic supplier, is selling girls' letter jackets with letters already sewn on. An arrangement was made with the jacket supplier to sew letters on all jackets ordered, because in the past jackets were being sent back to the supplier, sometimes one at a time, to have earned letters sewn on.

Perhaps the intent was to buy only the jacket. However, the unearned letter should have been removed. The unfairness of this to the athletes should be enough to take some action to stop this practice. We, **The Torch** staff ask the assistance of the administration in dealing with this problem.

Wearing of unearned letters should not be allowed and there are mixed emotions of allowing non-letterpersons to wear the traditional letter jacket. Perhaps a jacket could be established as a school jacket, as students wearing these jackets show school spirit. However, the right to wear the letter should be reserved for only those who have earned it.

The Torch suggests to the administration that some kind of an arrangement be made with General Sports to cease the selling of jackets with letters to those who have not earned letters. Perhaps it is possible that General Sports request that a certificate of lettering be presented before one is allowed to order a letter jacket.

Athletic letters are intended to symbolize athletic achievement. Because of students being able to purchase letters without having earned them, the value of the letter has been lessened at this school. Action must be taken to insure that letters will only be available to those whose athletic efforts warrant them. Athletic administrators should be dealing with the retailer who sells the letters, and athletes in the school should be applying enough peer pressure against non-letter winners so as to discourage those students from even thinking they can wear unearned letters in public.



Senior Laura Hill
Earned hers in track

PILOT LIGHT / All I want for Christmas is...

I've tried almost everything. Praying, brown-nosing, offering sacrifices, even practicing. No matter what I do, it just doesn't seem possible to earn that one big high school status symbol: the letter. Some people acquire a letter as naturally as they learn to walk. I didn't learn to walk 'til I was six years old. Matters are also complicated by the fact that I've been cut from one sport, and the coach in my other sport refers to me only as "no-mind." But being desperate, and wanting a letter so badly, I decided to try one more thing.

I felt quite foolish sitting on Santa's lap. Looking around me, I appeared to be the only high school senior there. All the other customers were about potty-training age, give or take a diaper. I felt pretty stupid standing in line with them. Their mothers thought I looked pretty stupid too. They all seemed fairly amused seeing somebody almost a foot taller than Santa Claus sitting on his lap. Santa didn't.

"Merry Christmas," the poor man gasped under my weight. "And what would

you like in your stocking on Christmas Eve?"

"A Letter."

A quizzical look came over his face. "What do you mean, 'a letter'?"

"You know. An athletic letter. For playing a sport. The thing you wear on your jacket that attracts all the women."

"What grade are you in, son?" he asked.

"Twelfth."

The old man stared at me in disbelief. "You mean you haven't lettered yet?"

"No."

"But everybody letters."

"Not me," I told him. This is what happens every time I mention not lettering. Everyone looks at you like there's something wrong with you. "Even my brother lettered, and he's a *sophomore*." one girl told me — right before she turned me down for a date.

"Haven't you even tried to letter?" Santa asked me.

"Of course. I try to play basketball, but it just doesn't seem to work out." I explained how my mom handed me \$10 for the user's fee and said, "here's your bench rental." And how my little sister told one of her

friends, "I'd have a heart attack if my brother ever got in a game." And how my other sister decided to stay home and watch TV on the night of a game. "But you've already seen that show," I argued. "Big deal," she said. "I've seen you sit on the bench before, too."

The old man shook his head. "It's really that bad, huh?"

"Yes. I tell you, Santa, you're my only hope left. I want a letter more than anything else in the world. Won't you *please* give me one?"

Santa Claus patted me on the shoulder. "I'm sorry, son, but I'm afraid I can't help you. That's something you'll have to earn yourself. Just stick with it and try your best. Work hard and you may get your letter yet."

I got off his lap with a nice warm feeling inside. I felt pretty good for a change. As I was walking away I heard him tell the next little boy in line, "See that big kid over there? He's a senior and he hasn't even lettered yet." They both got a big "ho ho ho" out of that.

I hope all his reindeer die.

—Chris Keprios

Black and white beauty

As student photographers moved into the cold of winter, they focused their cameras on black-and-white scenes seldom noticed by the untrained eye. Top left: An unusual view from Post Road was captured by Terri Maus and Scott Sjostrom during a night-time photo expedition. Top right: Kris Mestad gives a different perspective to a photo of the Virgin Mary and Baby Jesus by applying a high contrast effect to the picture. Lower left: A design created by broken panes in an old barn window attracted Tom Cherrey's eye. Lower right: Shawn Ferrin turned a regular photo of an airplane into a dramatic photo smear.

