

SMART

St Michael's Academy Rumours & Tales

issues 77-79

1980

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SMART T.V. SURVEY Continued

have'nt left their first childhood behind yet). One person (identity unknown) watches a strange programme called "Charles Angles".

Did you know that, between them, the third years spend 1642 hours per week watching TV! One of them alone - it must be the one who never does his homework - watches TV for 62 hours per week (more than 1/3 of his time!)

On average a 1st year pupil spends 24 hours per week watching TV.

Second year viewing ranges from 13 hours (congratulations on your restraint!) to 50 hours per week.

Saturday and Sunday are peak viewing days, but most pupils watch TV for at least a couple of hours every evening. No wonder so many are bleary-eyed in the morning!

Perhaps, though, we are being unfair to St Michael's pupils. After all, many of them may be so intelligent, talented and well-co-ordinated that they can do more than one thing at once. Jam stains on jotters testify to the likelihood of them sitting in front of the TV doing homework, eating their 'pieces' and occasionally having a snooze - all at the same time.

STOP PRESS: CHESS

ST MICHAEL'S 3½ - LARGS ACADEMY 2½

Last Wednesday, St Michael's Junior Chess Club set out for Largs Academy to maintain their record: undefeated away from home. After a bad start, the team found themselves trailing 2-0, F McGonigle and R O'Donohue being the victims. Then K Byrne salvaged a crucial draw from a seemingly certain defeat. S Rafferty and D Mason brought the scoreline to level terms leaving P Giffney to settle the tie which saw them leave with a one point victory.

D M - (107)

- This issue of SMART has been stapled by:-

Robert Wells, William Watters, Francis McGinty, Liam Byrne, William Kennedy, Thomas Watters, Gerald Taylor and Andrew Maxwell.

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SMART T.V. SURVEY

Now we know why there are so many 'square-eyes' in the school! In an attempt to find out the viewing habits of First, Second and Third Year pupils at St Michael's, Smart reporters carried out a survey which revealed some interesting facts.

54 1st year pupils, 90 2nd year pupils and 60 3rd year pupils took part - does this prove that 2nd years are the Champion Telly-Watchers of the year?

The survey asked pupils to name their favourite TV programme and to say how many hours per week they spent watching TV.

The results were as follows:

TOP PROGRAMME OVERALL	-	GRANGE HILL	(59 votes)
RUNNER-UP	-	DALLAS	(35 ")
1st YEAR TOP FOUR	-	GRANGE HILL	(20 ")
		DALLAS	(6 ")
		THE GOODIES	(5 ")
		MONKEY	(3 ")
2nd YEAR TOP FOUR	-	GRANGE HILL	(29 ")
		DALLAS	(15 ")
		TISWAS	(7 ")
		SOAP	(6 ")
3rd YEAR TOP FOUR	-	DALLAS	(14 ")
		GRANGE HILL	(10 ")
		SOAP	(7 ")
		SPORTSCENE	(7 ")

One or two admitted to watching CORONATION STREET - and even CROSSROADS, but all is not lost: one pupil confessed that his favourite programme was BBC2's production of Die Fledermaus, the opera by Strauss - culture is not dead in St Michael's! Another perhaps not so surprising find was that some of the third years have reverted to a second childhood and watch 'Play School' and 'The Sooty Show' (or perhaps they have'nt

(Cont. on Back Page)

SCHOOL MEALS

This is a complaint on behalf of First, Second, Third and Fourth Years. The last class in S1, S2, S3 & S4 at the end of the dinner-hour hardly ever get a choice of food, e.g. only chips and custard. There is no meat left, or cake. The price of school meals is up to 35p which is a bit expensive for a plate of chips and custard. I think something should be done about this.

From ALL pupils who take school meals

SUMMER EXPEDITION PLACES FILLED

There has been a very good response to the offer (for Fifth and Sixth Year) of an expedition round Roman and other places in England. The expedition will last nine days, beginning at the end of the summer term, and is organised by the Classics Department. The thirteen pupils and two staff (Mr Dickson and Mrs Anderson) will travel by school mini-bus and will stay at Youth Hostels. The good response means that all the seats will be taken up, so a roof-rack will have to be used for the luggage and two of the seniors will be responsible for making sure it doesn't fall off on the motorways!

ROMAN INTRIGUE

Thirteen classics pupils went to a drama production at Glasgow two weeks ago. The number seemed unlucky, but the pupils were lucky. The play, "The Eunuch", by the Roman author Terence (2nd C. B.C.) was very well done. It was set in the 17th Century: the stage was interesting, the plot was intriguing, with plenty of twists, and most of the actors were excellent, especially the cunning servant and the cadging parasite. The outing was organised by Mr Dickson and Miss McLaughlin accompanied us. The whole group thought it was a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

BOOKS GALORE

We interviewed the new Librarian, Miss Fawcett recently and the first question we asked her was, "What are your hobbies?" Her reply was badminton. (This game seems to be catching as a lot of teachers find this game interesting). Also knitting, touring the country and of course reading are among her hobbies. Her favourite kinds of books are sci-fiction and her favourite authors are Robert Hyndwell and Isaac Asimov, amongst others.

... We asked her if she took a book to bed to read. "Yes, but only small ones, as I tend to fall asleep over books. Usually I read the 'Readers' Digest', although one time I stayed up all night shaking with horror reading 'The Amityville Horror'.

In her opinion St Michael's library does not have a good choice of books but she hopes to do something about that in the near future. She finds St Michael's a pleasant school to work in - "Everyone has been helpful and friendly", she said. (Surely this can't be the St Michael's we know!) But she also said "My first impression of St Michael's was sheer panic!"

This is the first school library Miss Fawcett has worked in as she used to teach childrens literature. We also asked her if she still read Enid Blyton books, her reply was, "Well, because I taught childrens literature I had to read children's books, so I suppose you can say I read, then secretly."

by June & Kin

DRAMA CLUB

Rehearsals are going quite well for the Club's first big production, a one-act play by author David Campton called "What Are You Doing Here?". Some members of the club have parts in the crowd scenes and a few have technical parts. The Club (for third and fourth year) meets in the Assembly Hall (soon to be renamed the Theatre!) every Wednesday at 4 o'clock. New members are always welcome to come and join any Wednesday. The play will be ready at the end of March. More details will appear in the next issue of SMART.

DO WATCH OR NOT TO WATCH?

To watch or not to watch, that is the question. Should we sit glued to the domineering "box" in the corner or should we be doing something more creative with our time like reading or enjoying more hobbies or recapturing the magic of that fast disappearing thing called "The Conversation"?

Many people think that television makes viewers lazy. This is true to a certain extent, as all you need is yourself and a comfortable armchair - although, there are some people who need a source of nourishment eg a packet of crisps or a few biscuits, before sitting down to view. So disadvantage No. 1 is that a television addict could turn out very unhealthy if TV is taken in large doses. This is because there is no activity involved (tuning, vision and volume controls are not counted!) The TV addict could also get very fat from all this sitting with no exercise - so, should we abolish the "box" or should every TV carry a Government Health Warning?

What about the programmes - and the near-extinct conversation?

Programmes: We often hear people complain about these: "The telly was terrible last night, every programme was rubbish!" moans Mr A.

"What time did you start viewing?"

"About five or half past."

"When did you stop?"

"Well, when I was going to bed - about half eleven."

Mr A. has clearly not discovered the little black switch at the bottom of his TV marked 'OFF' and 'ON'!

Conversation: "Conversation in the family is dead, TV has destroyed it." shriek those people who are out to "save us from ourselves."

"We'll all be turned into morons, mindlessly watching the box square-eyed, brain-washed by soap-operas, comedies, plays, thrillers and advertisements," they yell. "Get rid of it before we're all turned into idiots whose only conversation will be to wonder - Does Daz really wash white? Will Bet Lynch really run away with Albert Tatlock?"

Sense! These pessimistic people are stick-in-the-muds, scared of change and modernisation. If there was no TV they'd find something else to stick their necks out and

DID YOU KNOW? ! win a Viking badge

We usually think of Vikings as raiders. They sailed in from the open sea, attacked places like the coast of Ayrshire, and carried off valuables and women.

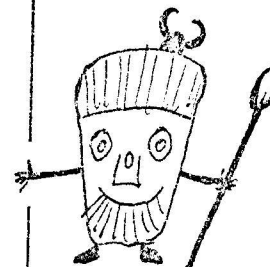
Often it did happen like that. But sometimes all the Vikings wanted was a safe harbour for the night. How do we know whether the locals attacked first? If you wanted just to stop somewhere for a night, wouldn't you get angry if you were told to get lost?

1980 is a Viking year. A 10-part TV series will start in March. A large Viking exhibition will open this week (Thurs. 14th Feb.) at the British Museum in London.

"The Sunday Times" and other newspapers will have articles about the Vikings. Twenty books about them will be published or re-published this year.



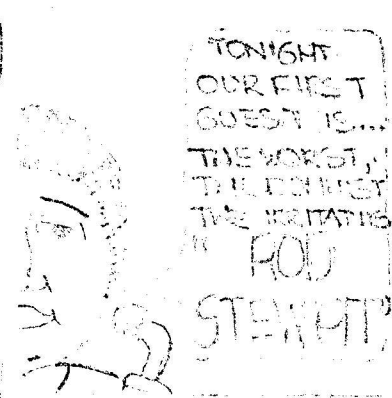
Why? Because archaeologists at York have discovered, in recent years, that Viking traders and craftsmen settled there in peace between 866 and 1066 (AD). York was called Jorvik by the Vikings. Their buildings were of wood. Only churches were of stone. The river Ouse connects York to the Humber Estuary so their ships went to Europe. Bits of their leather shoes, wooden bowls, cups, textiles, ironware, bone pins, etc. have been found. King Canute was a Viking (the son of a Danish king) - he told the sea to go back, to show that God was more powerful than a mere king. William the Conqueror was a Viking, descended from those who had settled peacefully in the north of France (Normans = Norsemen).



The first 15 SMART readers to go to room 26 at 10.55 a.m. or after and correctly answer five easy questions on the above paragraph will win "I Like Vikings" badges.

P.S. You could call your new friend by one of these famous Viking names: Erik Bloodaxe, Ubbi the Boneless, Svein Fork-beard, Harald the Hard-ruler, Ragnar Hairy-brecks.

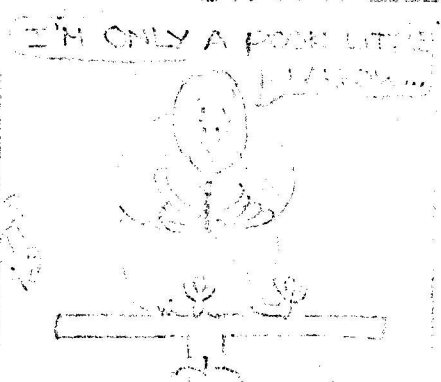
TOP OF THE
FLOP
Tony Blackout



♪ IF YOU WANT MA MONEY AND YOU THINK I'M SEXY...

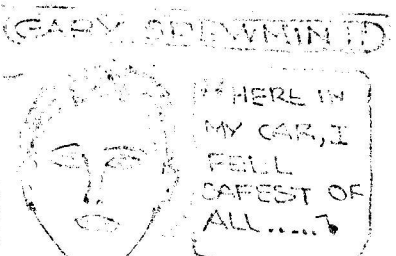


IF YOU THINK THAT'S BAD, WAIT TILL YOU HEAR THE NEXT ONE...
THIS WOMAN SINGS ABOUT SOMETHING THAT'S TERRIBLE...
IT'S A SONG ABOUT...

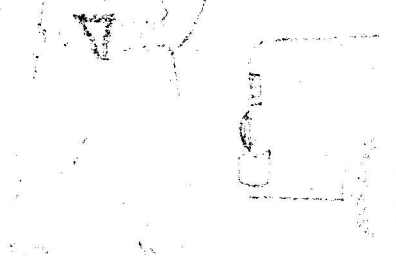
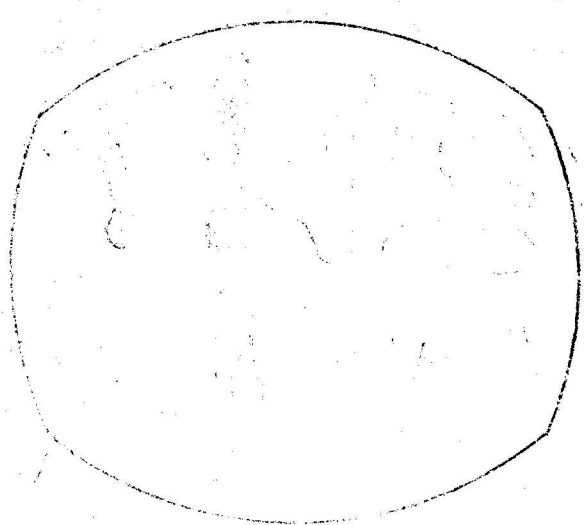


BANG!!

I THINK SHE'S THE DUMBEST I EVER SAW...
AND NOW, THE MOMENT YOU'VE ALL BEEN WAITING FOR...
THE BIG HIT OF THE YEAR...



WE WON'T BE SEEING MUCH MORE OF HIM...
THAT'S IT FOR ANOTHER EDITION OF...
...TOP OF THE FLOPS.



LORD OF THE FLIES

At 12.45 pm on Tuesday 29 January, 50 third years boarded a coach to go to Glasgow under the supervision of Mr Lucchesi, Mrs Fitzpatrick, Miss McLaughlin and Mrs Sharp. We headed down the Lugton road towards Glasgow.

When we arrived at the Glasgow Film Theatre we got off the bus and entered. Bouncers made sure that no-one left after entering.

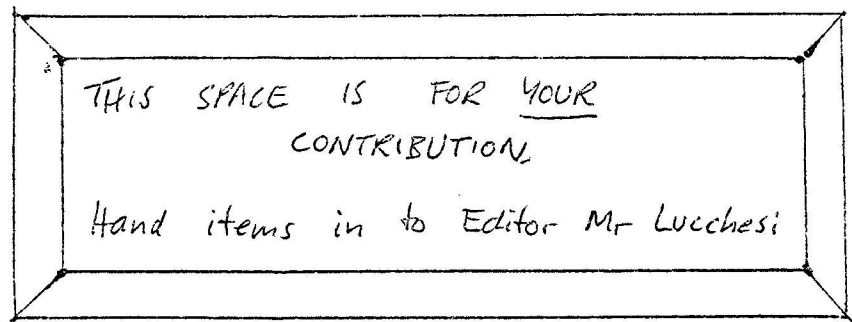
We sat down and the film started. A group of boys from a school in England had gone on a trip abroad by plane. But the plane crashed and the boys got out and onto an Island. One boy named Ralph met a friend. They blew into a conch and the other boys ran towards the beach. After a short meeting, Ralph was appointed chief. The boys are all friendly except Jack, a boy who wanted to be leader. The boys in Jack's charge went hunting pig, but on their hunt the fire went out and a plane flew over. Ralph started shouting at Jack and his mob, so Jack decided to leave them and turn native. Some boys followed him. They killed a boy by accident, thinking he was a beast. But this did not disappoint Jack. Then they killed Ralph's friend. Ralph was now alone. He was running for his life when so mysteriously he ran into a sailor. The sailor had come to save them. And so the film ended happily. Or did it?

Then, after wakening us all up one by one, Mr Lucchesi took us into the bus and off home.

I thought that the film was quite good.

The End

By Jed



TO WATCH OR NOT TO WATCH? (Continued)

and complain about! Don't they know that with the few faults TV does have, it also has a great many advantages that soon outweigh these disadvantages

It gives us up to date news from all over the world, educates us, helps us to read and write, learn a foreign language, provides us with entertainment and also fills a gap for lonely people who are not able to get out of their homes. There's not much wrong with that!

Television was devised by man for man's benefit - so use it to your benefit!

But if you're one of those people who insist that it's doing you harm, why not do us entertainment-loving, interested-in-the-world people a favour as you sit cowering in your arm-chair, unable to move under the evil eye of your television set. Why not pluck up a bit of courage, grasp the little black knob on the bottom, and

SWITCH IT OFF !!

Anne-Marie Kelly - Fourth Year

If you have any views on the TV Survey, or on television in general why not let other SMART readers know by writing an article?

Next issue - What are the Seniors' favourite programmes?
What do the teachers watch?

RUMOURS

- that Gerald Taylor has tomato soup for his lunch every day.
- that Michael Walsh is a Johnson's Baby.
- that Anthony Macdonald's (206) offer is still open to Miss McCourt for a game of badminton.
- When is a rep not a rep?
When the rep is Tom Tipping - 206
by Tom Tipping

NEWS OF THE FUTURE - 1999

Mr Michael Colgan, new world head of the much feared crime and punishment squad, G.P.A.R.A., (Governmental Punishment and Reprisal Agency), was interviewed on world-wide visu-speak today. Mr Colgan is quoted as saying that this earliest incentive for tough-line tactics on an international basis, was a direct result of his time spent as a young(ish) man in St Michael's Academy, Kilwinning.

"It was here I learned the value of infiltration, hostages, and reprisals, among many other useful tactics for forcing... I mean coaxing, information from individuals to help in my purges I mean inquiries!"

"I made many friends among the pupils and staff" continued Mr Colgan, "And there was never any truth in the rumour that Barbara Branley frightened me away."

Mr Colgan begins his new post on 4 February at a salary of £4,500,000 per week, exactly 19 years since he left his beloved St Michael's. His salary during his stay there was a little less than this figure.

MUSIC PASSES

At Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music pianoforte and theory examinations the following candidates were successful:-

THEORY

Grade 1 - Elizabeth Lundie - 107

Grade 2 - Stephen Bradley - 302
John McMillan - 204

Grade 3 - Kathleen Quirk - 204

Grade 4 - Sharon Richardson - 402
(Stephen Bradley gained 100%)

PRACTICAL

Grade 1 - Elizabeth Lundie - 107

Grade 5 - Rosalind Carslaw - 403 - (Merit)

E. Baird

MY VIEWS ON PACKED LUNCHES

In St Michael's at dinner time when you have a packed lunch there is nowhere to sit. The girls have benches but the rest have to sit on the floor. At Assembly we are constantly being told not to drop litter in the corridor. You have three choices: (1) You can break the rule and drop the litter on the floor, or (2) You put it in your pocket but at the end of the week you have a pocket full of papers, or when you go into your pocket to get something out you bring a whole load of papers, so you are back to square one, or (3) you can put it in the boxes that Mr Vernon occasionally has left from his Tuck Shop.

At dinner time the staff could open a classroom for the packed lunch people to have their lunch in, and it would keep most of the rubbish out of the corridor.

Mr Vernon told his Registration Class "I had a visitor in to see about the new extension we're hoping to get built. When I took him along the corridor I was ashamed by the amount of rubbish lying in the corridor". So if we had a classroom this would save the teachers taking visitors roundabout routes to avoid any corridor that has rubbish in it.

D Moriarty - 201

L. P.s

David Bowie L.P. - The Lodger
New - Never played - £4
Contact - Clare Paterson - 206

Clash L.P.

London Calling for Sid Sings
Contact - John Holmes - 204

PETS

Free to a good home - 6 month old tiger-striped cat -
housetrained, clean and very friendly.
If interested see Catherine Edge.