

SMART

St Michael's Academy Reliable Tabloid

issues 26 – 29

(editor's copies, so containing word counts and other notes)

Sept. – Nov., 1974

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The SMART newspaper was launched in November 1973 by

Mr John Kelly, Principal Teacher of English,

and was produced from 1974 to 1979 by

Mr Ian J Dickson, Principal Teacher of Classics

and the SMART team of reporters, staplers and sellers,

with further issues edited in 1980/81

by Mr Ricardo Lucchesi, English department

arriving at Sharnbury Youth Hostel. We spent our last evening walking through the town, wishing we weren't going home.

On the last morning we went to a fortress town and then spent a while in Coester, having seen its museum. We all thoroughly enjoyed it so much that we are talking of going away again next year..... (422)

Drama

This year the junior and senior drama groups will not be reforming in the school. However, those who are keen to continue with drama may like to join the Harbour Arts Centre Junior Section which will have a drama club. The play for this term, "The Rising Generation" by Ann Jellicoe, will be directed by Mrs Engrid Smith. Those wishing to join should contact Jackie Walton 34 (Chairman of the Junior Section) or Mrs Smith or Mr Dickson. (60)

St Joan of the Stockings

The trip for seniors (IV, V, & VI) to see the above play at the Citizens Theatre has been changed to Wed. Sept 23. It will be assumed that those who put their names down originally will still be going. The cost will be 70p. Please hand your money to Mrs Smith or Mr Cassidy by Friday. Anyone wishing to add their name should do so as soon as possible. (60)

The Knack

Borderline at the Harbour Arts Centre will be performing "The Knack" by Anne Jellicoe next week, September 11-14. Everyone is encouraged to go along and see this play - especially those who are interested in taking part in "The Rising Generation". (40)

Mrs Hastings says - any books overdue from last year to be brought in now.

SMART

No 26

9 September 1974

The staff of SMART magazine are taking this opportunity to welcome all newcomers to the school - you have our condolences - and also to welcome back older pupils to another year of your favourite mag.

To refresh old pupils' memories and inform the aforementioned innocents we have a few details regarding matters to be printed in SMART.

SMART will be out every alternate Monday and we would like ALL articles handed in at least the Wednesday before. We also wish to be informed in advance of any forthcoming trips, competitions (what about crosswords?) etc pertaining to the school or pupils.

If you want to get in touch with any of the SMART staff, names and classes are printed below. (Sorry, we had to omit 'phone numbers!)

In the next SMART (a bumper 8-page issue) there'll be details of a great prize competition and even more news from around our beloved school, so start saving now.

- 1st Year - Paul Murray and Colin Murphy
- 2nd Year - Rosaleen Rafferty, Anne Tonner, Chris Russell, Chris Walsh
- 3rd Year - Aileen Convery and Katie Reid.
- 4th Year - volunteers, please
- 6th Year - Shirley Stewart, Martin McAllister, Anthony da Prato.

Father Wynne's Last Words

I have already publicly expressed my feelings about St Michael's to the Staff and to III - VI year Assembly - my thanks, respect, happy memories and my farewell.

There are many others I would have liked to meet as well - past members of staff, past pupils and so many parents. I would hope that thr ugh SMART this message of good wishes might reach many of them too. (60)

Rencontre Franco-Ecossais '74

The summer of '74 marked the 27 anniversary of the Rencontre Franco-Ecossais. The five pupils and three members of staff who attended from St Michael's have claimed to have enjoyed it very much. The one hundred or so Scottish pupils from Ayrshire had their stay in France first. Visiting Paris and sightseeing places such as Notre Dame, Sacre Coeur, Les Invalides and, of course, the Eiffel Tower. Also trips were arranged to Thoiry Zoo and the Chateau de Versailles. After a hectic return journey consisting of one strike at Newhaven Dock and one train derailment, it was the Scots turn to play hosts. Trips were arranged to Culzean Castle, Girvan and Edinburgh. An atmosphere of tranquility and friendliness reigned through the weeks of our stay. Then we departed. To the tears of the girls and the echoes of the boys' laughter, we saw our French counterparts leave Kilmarnock Station on a typical wet Scottish morning. A successful Rencontre and a holiday enjoyed by all. (165)

Old Singles

WANTED - SINGLE RECORDS - recent or oldies. These records would be greatly appreciated for a newly-formed disco. Please search through your record collection, weed out any you could do without and hand them in to Mrs Ingrid Smith. All donations gratefully received! (40)

Roman England Expedition

On Wednesday 26 June, 10 senior pupils set off with Mr & Mrs Dickson on a 6-day trip to England. On our way to York Youth Hostel we visited Aldborough Roman Town. That night we stayed at York Youth Hostel.

On the Thursday morning we spent a good 3 hours going to York Museum and York Minster. These were magnificent sights. As we had spent so much time in York we were limited at Lincoln. On one occasion when we stopped in a lay-by to stretch our legs, one of the pupils tried to thumb a lift. Imagine his surprise when he had waved down a policeman. Fortunately he was an extremely nice person. That night, when we arrived at Ivinghoe Youth Hostel, which was the best one we visited, we were all told that one of our members had left his pyjama jacket at York Y H! We felt rather sorry for him as the rooms were not very well heated.

On the Friday we had a full day of sight-seeing, most memorably Piccott's End with its mediaeval murals showing various incidents in the life of Christ. We went to Verulamium (St Albans) which was a Roman town and had had a magnificent theatre. We also visited the museum at St Albans and were welcomed by about 200 schoolchildren all shouting different things, one of which was, "OH, LOOK AT THOSE SKELINGTONS."

That night, after arriving at Portsmouth Youth Hostel, we decided to visit Portchester Castle which was a Roman and Norman Fort. One of us even managed to fall down a Norman moat.

After mass next morning we proceeded to Fishbourne Roman Palace which was beautifully housed and preserved. In the afternoon we went to Stonehenge and then drove on to Bath. This was regarded as the highlight of our holiday because of the vastness and the history of the Roman Baths at Bath. We arrived that night at Severn Bridge Youth Hostel in Chepstow in which there was a games cellar in the basement.

The next morning we set off for the remains of a tribal capital and a fortress. We then visited a very interesting museum and also Chedworth Roman Villa, before finally arriving/

TWO POEMS

ALONE by Annette Johnston

Alone, no visible friend,
My world turned to darkness,
No one bothers,
No one cares,
I am in a world of my own,
My fantasy world.
Where trees and flowers, and grass,
Are black,
And all I have are sounds.

PERMANENT BLINDNESS by Patrick Harrison

After the crash
The ambulance dash
He may die
Glass in his eye
A cut in the chest
Let's hope for the best

Sitting in the waiting room
Here they come
Will he live
I cannot give
A promise
For Thomas

The operation is done
The battle is won
But bear in mind
He is permanently blind

Though his life was saved
He has to be brave
He needs lots of love
Especially from above

His thanks to the surgeon
Myself and Uncle John
Will he regain sight, Never!
The lights are out for ever.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Sept 30 (tonight) - first meeting of Parent-Teacher
Association

Oct 12, 13 - Classics trip to Hadrian's Wall (4th Year)

Oct 19 - mid-term holiday week

SMART

No 27

30 September 1974

This issue is a lucky number one. Prizes are a 50p record token, 20p Tuck Shop voucher, and probably one or two consolation prizes. Keep your copy safe till the winning numbers are put up on the main notice-board (either late this afternoon or tomorrow). If you are a winner, bring your copy of SMART to Room 26 not later than Tuesday at 4.00 pm.

YOUR LUCKY NUMBER

CAPTAINS AND VICE-CAPTAINS

Unfortunately, at the time of going to press we can give only three names:-

School Girls' Captain	- Barbara McGrath
" Boys' Captain	- Michael Donnelly
" Vice-Captain	- Martin McAllister

Next issue of SMART: Monday 14 October: all the regular news and views, with a SMART exclusive on our new huts.
All for 1p.

How First Year feel about St Michael's by Colin Murphy
and Paul Murray

This is a report on what the people in first year think about the system at St Michael's. Here is the result of the survey about which is best, changing periods every thirty-five or forty minutes or having the same teacher all day. 75% prefer changing classes, 15% don't know, 10% would rather have the same teacher all day. Most of the people we talked to say that we get too much maths and some think we get too much French. They think that we don't get enough Classical Studies, PE or History. We noticed that the subjects we get too much of are the most unpopular ones. The subjects we get least of are quite popular. Our friends say that there should be a choice of meals, the only choice just no is take it or leave it. (125)

Miss Dempsey interviewed by Rosaleen Raffery and Anne Tonner

"Oh, they're okay," that was the comment made by the latest member of the female PE staff, Miss Dempsey. (Where did she get that idea?)

The comment was about the girls and the school itself, Miss Dempsey from Northern Ireland, joined the staff at the beginning of the term.

To pass her time Miss Dempsey, now living in Irvine, plays tennis, volleyball and enjoys swimming.

Her aim this term is to do well in the hockey season and with Miss Dempsey behind us we should do well. (Well, anyone can use their imagination!) (90)

Hidden Talents Wanted

The Senior Debating Society welcome all seniors to their weekly meetings. In the not too distant future there will be an inter-school debate with IRA and the teams of the Daily Express Competitions and the ESU Competition will be chosen soon.

Everyone is encouraged to com. The discovery of your hidden talents could result in your inclusion in a team for these national competitions.



SMART needs :-
Your news
your sports news
your reports
poems
short stories
cartoons
crosswords
competitions
letters to the editor
book reviews
news of forthcoming events

Hand items in to members of the SMART team
or Room 26. Next issue: 14th October.

Send in items as soon as you can.

OAP Departure (reported on by Martin McAllister)

A few weeks ago the school's only pupil OAP left St Michael's to take up a post of responsibility with a very important newspaper. The Largs and Millport Weekly News will surely benefit from the experiences of life which Ian Lundy has learnt at our school.

Ian was interviewed while he calmly sipped a cup of coffee oblivious to the hubbub of conversation in the VI Year Boys' Room. When he was asked for his feelings on his departure he replied that he naturally felt sad after being at St Michael's so long (the "so long" being stressed not only by Ian.) Ian said that he would miss all of VI Year boys (he had to say that - we were bigger than him!) but that his new job as a reporter would, he thought, be very rewarding. Ian said that the highlights of his school life had been "The Doomsday Show" and, of course, his career with the school football team.

I, on behalf of SMART, wished Ian every success in the future and SMART, of course, recognises the value of having contacts in the National Press.

(18c)

Next Stage in a Dramatic Career by Shirley Stewart

Last Friday Mrs Smith left St Michael's after 2 years and 4 weeks. After a very revealing interview we have an exclusive report of her opinion of St Michael's.

Mrs Smith said she thought that everyone's attitude to work, new ideas, leisure activities and especially drama were rather backward and that for these reasons her first impression of St Michael's was one of shock. Now, however, she CLAIMS she loves everyone in it, staff and pupils alike.

Mrs Smith, who has in her time arranged many outings to see dramatic works, is now going to the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama in Glasgow for three years and is looking forward to student days again. To quote "living on bread-line, out every night and generally skiving."

For her this is the realisation of a lifelong ambition (studying drama, that is) and asks everyone to look out for her name in connection with youth theatre as a director, playwright, TV producer or just a famous woman, leading women's libbers into action.

As a last comment Mrs Smith added the message: "Fight-on" to other aspiring libbers in the school.

(18c)

A Trip to the Opera

On Wednesday 18, a group of 11 pupils plus Mr Connolly and family went in the school mini-bus to the Pavilion in Ayr, to see the opera "Il Trovatore." We arrived in good time, sucking mints, and all the girls went for a cup of tea (and coffee, and coke, and chocolate biscuits on gantry (?)). No one asked where the boys went! By 7.30 we were in the hall and the opera had begun. Although we had slight difficulty in hearing the singers above the orchestra, we managed to follow the story and generally we had a very good time.

The star of the night, however, was Mr Connolly and we would all like to thank him very much for kindly driving each of us as near to our doors as possible.

A Trip to the Festival

On Saturday 7 September a party of pupils from St Michael's and Irvine Royal Academy went to the Edinburgh Festival accompanied by Mr Dickson, Miss Wilson and Mr Lennox to see two Greek plays. The first play, Euripides' "Bacchae", in the Assembly Hall, was performed by the Actors' Company including Mark McManus (Sam) and Windsor Davies. The actual play was followed by a pantomime (Jack and the Beanstalk), in contrast to the "Bacchae". The second play, "King Oedipus", by Sophocles, was in the Lyceum Theatre and performed by the Abbey Theatre Company of Dublin. The three performances were thoroughly enjoyed by everyone in the party, partly because they were three very different productions.

(11c)

SENIOR BADMINTON CLUB

Thanks to Miss Dorrian so kindly devoting her precious time to supervising badminton enthusiasts, a senior badminton club has started up on Wednesday nights in the girls' gym. Already 42 members have enrolled and for a modest fee of 30p (which includes a badge) you too could be entitled to arrive home one and a half hours later than usual.

Everyone who attends will be assured of a game (or even two!) and later a team will be picked to play other schools in challenge matches.

Anyone belonging to the aristocracy, ie having 30p, is welcome to join - contact Miss Dorrian or any committee member.

We would also like to bring to your notice that to PLAY on Wednesdays you must give your names to a committee member before 4.00 pm on Tuesday.
Committee: D M Grath (capt), J Valerio, S McAuley, S Stewart, J Forbes.

HOCKEY SEASON RESTARTS

Wednesday 11 September once again heralded the beginning of the hockey season. St Michael's fielded a 1st XI and a 3rd Year XI against our opponents Irvine Royal. Sadly both our teams did not get off to a flying start, but in the case of the 1st XI, this was due to a lack of senior girls willing to play. We hope in future matches to have more success, but this really depends on the girls of the school. We therefore appeal to any girl interested in playing hockey to watch the noticeboard for details of practices, etc.

On Thursday 19, the two second year hockey teams were beaten 5-0 and 4-1 against Ravenspark. The third year team, which was playing at Ravenspark along with our first eleven lost 4-1. The first eleven drew after a very good match. The first year team lost.

A word or two from Mrs Hastings - Report by Aileen Convery and Katie Reid)

There are some new magazines in the library - Guitars, Music in Education, Blanco y Negro, The Sunday Times, Car Mechanics, Ideal Homes, and last but not least Nature. There are also a lot more new fiction books and there will be more delivered throughout the year.

Mrs Hastings also requests that pupils should keep to their own days. If this rule is not kept she will have to see that the opening hours of the library are cut shorter.

Mrs Hastings has spent a lot of time during the summer holidays sorting out books and rearranging the library. The library office desk has been moved from the door to next to the Careers' Room. The chairs and tables have been moved about so that there are more places to sit and more space to move about.

St Joan of the Stockyards

On Monday 23 September a party of St Michael's staff and pupils visited the Citizens Theatre in Glasgow to see the play, St Joan of the Stockyards by Brecht.

The scene was set in the late twenties in Chicago and dealt with the meat crisis of that time. Joan, a charity helper, aided the stockyard workers. She was a modern day version of Joan of Arc who voiced her convictions and finally died for them.

Though it was highly stylised it was very easy to understand. Many remarked that they enjoyed it very much but for some it was just beyond their scope and appreciation. All in all a very educational trip.

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MR REILLY by Chris Walsh and Johnny Walsh

Before Mr Reilly, who lives in Stewarton, came to St Mick's he ~~was~~ a teacher at Kilmarnock Academy. He liked teaching there but he thought it was too big.

When we asked him whether the pupils in St Michael's get enough PE periods he said, "No. I think the periods should be double instead of single." Mr Reilly will be taking the first year football team and he said that about 50 of the boys had turned up for trials. His favourite sports include football, volleyball and swimming.

"The dinners aren't bad, in fact, they're quite good," that's what he said about the school dinners.

We noticed Mr Pentleton was doing his kit for sport in St Michael's and we asked Mr Reilly what he thought about him and he replied, "He is doing fine but he cuts too many corners."

We welcome Mr Reilly and wish him luck with the first year team. Let's hope that it does better than last year's.

"JOE EGG" by Robert Cochrane

Last Tuesday (1 October) a party of 12 Higher English pupils went to the Harbour Arts Centre to see "A Day in the Death of Joe Egg". Although we were going to the play to get an idea of how productions are done on stage, the ulterior motive was that Mr Cassidy and Mrs Ingrid Smith were both performing. After the first act in which our hero and heroine had not yet appeared, there was a short interval. It was then that the highlight of the evening occurred, when of the male members of the party went for a trip to the LADIES toilets. "All in all, we enjoyed the play and the two members of the cast whom we knew, both put in good performances."

SMART

No 28

October 1974

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Be Smart - get SMART - the best school newspaper at the lowest price.

Next issue - 4 November 1974

Lucky No Winners

Theresa McLean was last week's lucky number winner with the 002 copy. So far she hasn't used her record token. Her favourite group is Paper Lace and she said, "I will probably buy their latest single." Paper Lace just now are in the charts at number 17. Theresa's hobbies are swimming and hockey.

The second place number was 248 but it was unclaimed. Francis Chambers had the third position copy but as copy 248 was unclaimed he got second prize a 20p Tuck Shop Voucher.

GREAT IDEAS COMPETITION

Your Chance to Shine

Enter SHAPE own Short Story Competition

Prizes: cash and record tokens

SECTION: JACOBSON (IV, V, & VI pupils)

Either (a) Write a short story which forms a suitable ending to the one printed opposite.

or (b) A travelling circus is on its way to perform at a small village in Europe. Heavy flooding has stranded them. How can they make use of their special circus skills to reach the village in time and stage their show without some of their equipment which had to be abandoned.

Length: 300 to 400 words (the story opposite is about 500 words)

SECTION: JACOBSON (I, II, & III pupils)

Either (a) Tell what happened to the two men in the story printed opposite and whether they are saved or not.

or (b) An expedition to discover a legendary lost city in the depths of the Amazon jungle fails to report their progress by radio to their base camp. What is happening to them?

Length: 200 to 400 words (the story opposite is about 500 words)

PRIZES: First prize in each section - 50p; record token
all other entries printed will receive 10p cash

ENTRIES should be handed in to Room 28 (Mr. Cassidy) or Room 29 (Mr. Dickson)

FRIENDSHIP by Peter Magee

"Gale force winds are approaching the east coast, and are likely to arrive in several hours." The weather forecast anticipated gloom yet again, and subjected us to its immutable spell.

We were only going to Cuba, and from the east coast of Mexico to Cuba took only two and a half hours. Arrival there before the winds was therefore presumed, and the ship set sail at 9.30 am.

For me, this was a business trip, and was quite routine. If one sits on deck, it is possible to study those rich old spinsters who strut from side to side with an air of aloofness, those inquiring children, those hen-pecked husbands and those faces which paradoxically manifest honesty.

Being on deck, the change of weather was also noticeable. About 10.25 am, a fresh breeze started playing with my hair, and the shadows of greying clouds set the scene with a dim character. By 11.00 am, the winds were of gale force eight and huge waves began assaulting the bow. The captain announce that we would have to return, and put on life-jackets as a safety precaution. After this announcement, panic was minimal, but as the ship steered round to head back, suddenly one almighty wave caught her side on and heaved her decks perpendicularly towards the new engulfing sea.

People were flung everywhere. Bags and suitcases were thrown open. Deserted children shrieked as their parents were knocked overboard by the raging sea. The use of lifeboats was futile, and as I found myself plunged headlong into the icy terror, I grabbed hold of a cabin door and a sinking passenger at the same time.

I have no idea what followed, but I awoke to find beside me the companion I had "stolen" from the sea's clutching hands. He was unconscious. I recognised him as the aristocratic gentleman who had hired a private berth next to my own. Hours later he began to revive with a muffled groan. His body was thrown into convulsions, and had I not held him, he would have "convulsed" us both into the now calm sea. His excruciating pain was apparent, but eventually the groans subsided/

subsided and he fell asleep. There was darkness everywhere, but sleep would not come to me.

Towards dawn, I sighted a small islet to the north-west. I broke a piece of wood off from the door, and used it as a paddle. My arms ached as the raft made landfall on the gravel sand of this curious islet. It was probably only about half a square mile in area, and there were little caves along its shore which served as ideal shelters. Luckily, my companion woke as I was about to carry him to one of these caves. I am sure he must have weighed about fifteen stones.

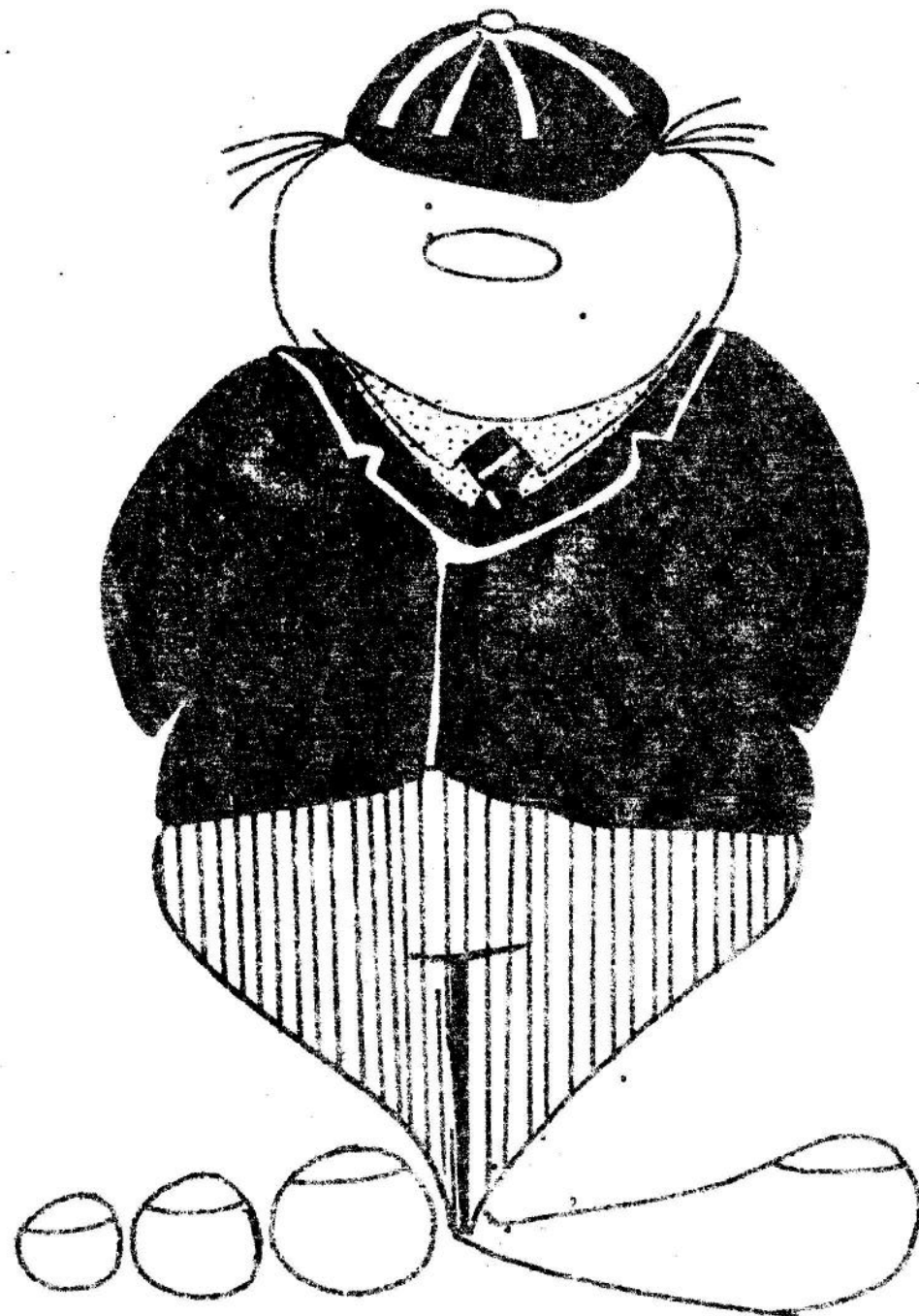
I left him to search for food, only to return an hour later with nothing more exotic than a few coconuts. I split one open with a boulder and gave the milk to my grateful patient. He had told me about his recurring coronary thrombosis, and that salt was very bad for him. The pain eased after he had taken the milk. On reflecting, we realised that we would probably never, in other circumstances, have spoken to each other. Ironically, therefore, together we watched the sun go down. Not afraid, we sat in silence, sharing.

SEND YOUR ENTRY IN
FOR OUR COMPETITION -
START WRITING NOW!

The First Meeting of the PTA by Colin Murphy & Paul Murray

On Monday 30 September, the first meeting of the PTA was held. It began with a mass at 7.30 pm. After this everyone proceeded to the Dining Hall where there were tea and cakes (much enjoyed by the parents) or lemonade and crisps on sale for the kids. During this "feast" the parents were told they could go and speak to the teachers, who included Mr Maxwell, Mr Mellan and Mr Scullion.

It was a very successful and enjoyable evening.



A HUT-LARIOUS TALE by Shirley Stewart

Now that we have been back at school for a few weeks we decided to ask a few teachers what they thought of the additions to the school - the huts!

First there was Mr Maxwell who teaches Economics, Typing and in his own words, "Religious, for my sins." He prefers the huts as they are warmer, quieter and more pleasant working surroundings. He says there is plenty of seating room and has only one complaint: one of the taps could not turn into the sink and therefore could only pour onto the surround!

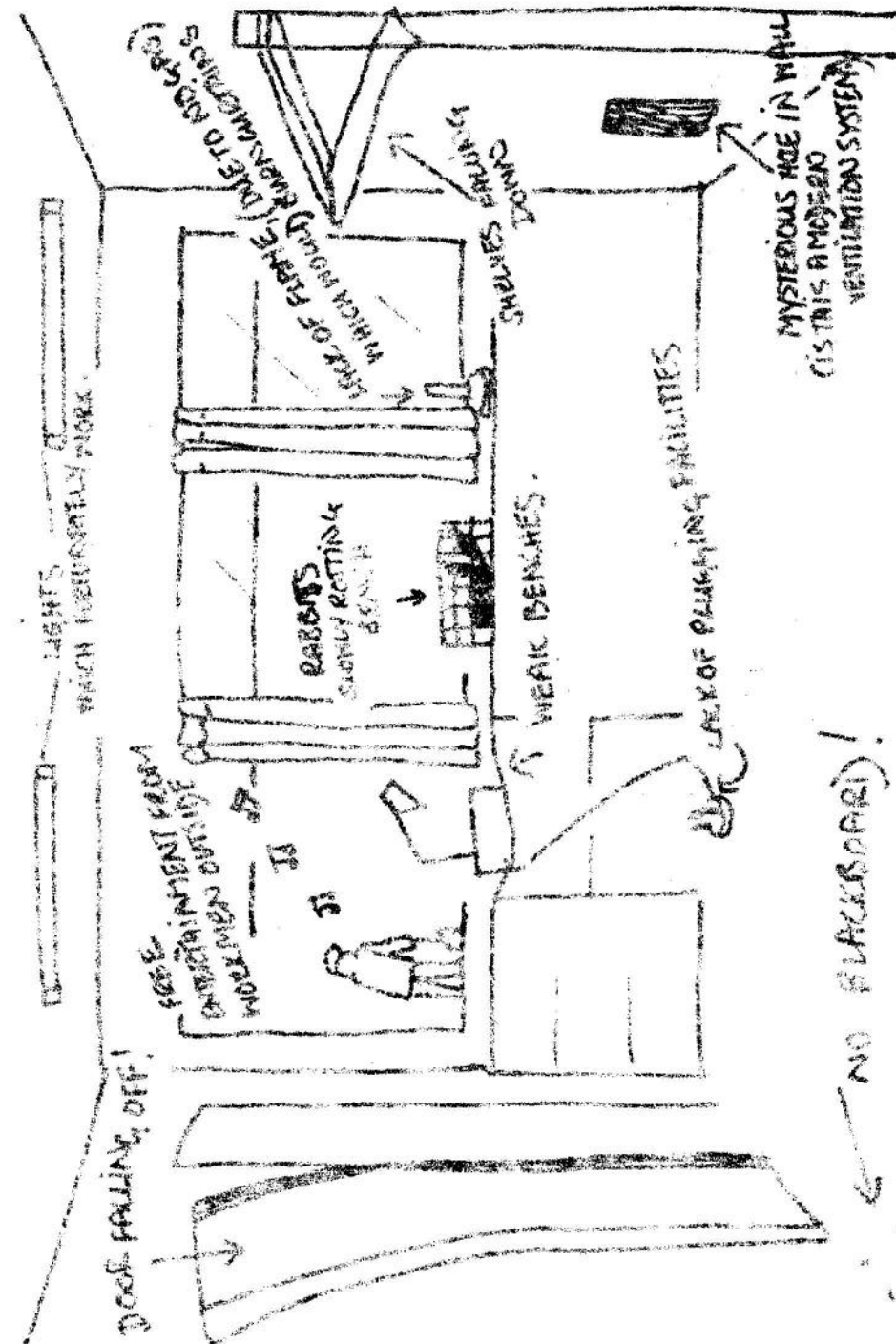
Miss Collum gave Mrs Anderson's and her own report together. They have a LONG list of complaints. The shelves are falling down, they have no blackboards, no plugs, no gas, weak benches which bend when apparatus is placed on them, shelves which give skelves and will rot underneath the animals and the front door fell off. Besides all this they are well ventilated, (holes in the walls) and they are entertained by the workmen who whistle and sing. Apart from the danger of fire as the bunsens (when the gas comes) are very near the curtains, both like and even prefer the huts to the main school building.

The Art Department are to have the use of a room EVENTUALLY. Even after all these weeks, there is no room ready for them yet. Mr Prodie said that it will actually be used for art craft eg welding, pottery, enamelling, jewellery making, etc. and added that if they had wanted it badly designed they could have done no better. The poor scul only has 3 plugs!

Mrs Barkey did not have a single good word about the huts. She also has no gas, and the cookers had no insides. Cupboards have no shelves and there are no plugs in the sinks. Her own opinion is that one feels isolated from the rest of the school.

These are the opinions of the staff. Perhaps if any pupils have an amusing story about life in the huts, they would hand it in to a member of the SMART team and let the WHOLE school laugh.

OPPOSITE: A HUT-LARIOUS CARTOON by Sharon Stirling



Departure of Mr Dawson by Elaine Busby and Jackie Waites

On 18 October, Mr Dawson, Head of the Business Studies Department, left to go to Queen Margaret in Ayr, where he will take up the same post as Principal of the Business Studies Department.

To start his successful career, Mr Dawson went to Belmont in Ayr, where he won first place in the Business Studies Department. Mr Maxwell, who was a year behind Mr Dawson at Belmont, said that Mr Dawson was a very hard working person who deserved to do well in his career.

Mr Dawson came to St Michael's ten years ago and started the Business Studies Department. St Michael's is indebted to him for this and his undivided attention to the pupils. His strict manner has helped many girls to pass their exams.

Mr Dawson has always enjoyed a quiet life. His special interests are quiet holidays in the Highlands or at his favourite Guest House in Girvan.

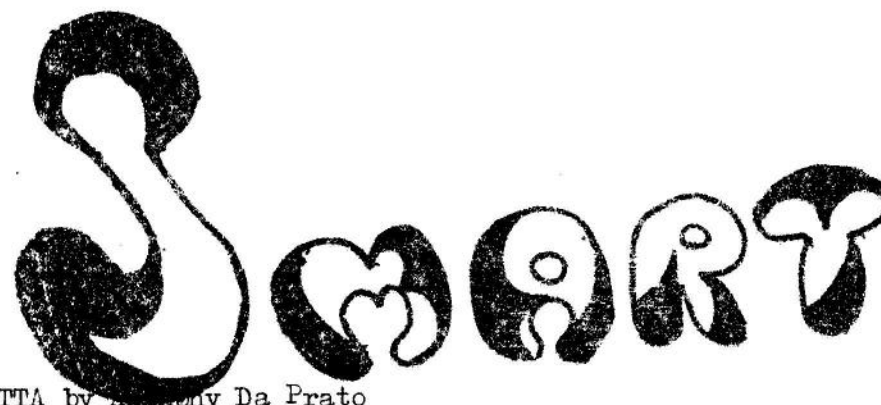
The staff said that they were sorry that he had left because he was a very good teacher, and also a good friend to them. They said they will miss his friendly and helpful manner. As one teacher said, "He was decent, friendly and hard working bloke."

Now we have a post vacant in the Business Studies Department that we hope will be filled quickly with a teacher as good and as conscientious as Mr Dawson.

Dynamo boost total points to 0 - exclusive report from J H Stevenston Dynamo who play in the Under-18 League had lost 75 goals and scored only 5 until Saturday 26 October when they ran riot. Chepper scored 4 magic goals while McMillan Toss and Hume kept the score down at the other end. Murphy was substituted as he was playing his usual rubbish. Due to a mistake in team lines Stevenston had a total of 2 points but they put this right by beating Castlepark 4-2 and boosting their total up to 0. On Saturday they play the Scottish Champions, unfortunately, at Kilmarnock.

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4 November 1974



OPERETTA by Anthony Da Prato

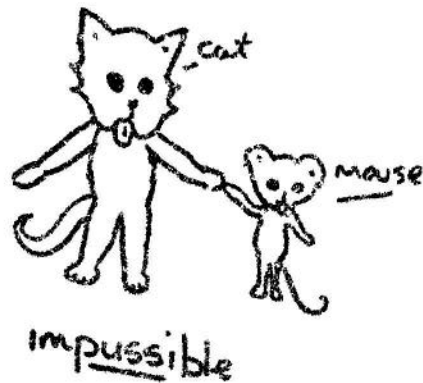
This year the school has decided to break with the tradition of performing only Gilbert & Sullivan Operettas. It has, in fact, decided to put on "Fiddler on the Roof" by Bock and Hamick. Rehearsals have been going on since the beginning of the new school year, even though the performances will not be until next summer, and the principal parts have already been chosen. A full list will be given in the next issue of SMART. The Music Department has been a hive of activity in the past few months getting the principals and chorus well acquainted with their various parts.

Since the beginning of the week Mr Cassidy has been trying to improve the diction of the principals - not an easy job. In the near future the whole thing will really start to move and many other departments in the school will be becoming involved in the Operetta.

The SMART team wish everyone involved in this enterprise the best of luck and hope that this production will be as good as the previous ones.

THE
SMART
CAT-ALOGUE

by R.H. and friends



Message from the Head Girl by Barbara McGrath

Having been back at school for a number of weeks now and having been elected head girl within that time, I have been asked to write a few words on how it feels, for our favourite school newspaper, SMART. It's difficult to explain exactly, and when juniors ask, "What did you do to become head girl?" I have no ready answer. The fact that the sixth year girls themselves chose me as their head girl makes me feel a certain responsibility towards them as well as towards the school, and it also makes me feel very proud. To my knowledge, I did nothing out of the ordinary to ensure me of their vote except perhaps to maintain a healthy interest in things which happened to them and to be a friend. I think, perhaps, juniors especially regard, not only me, but all the prefects as people set apart from them, either to be feared, hated, or made a fool of. On behalf of everyone, I would like to remind you that we represent you, the pupils of this school and our aim is not to put you down but to establish better contact between everyone here and that includes the teachers; and so next time you say or hear someone say, "We hate the prefects!" I would ask you to remember that we do have a difficult job and need your co-operation to do it well.

Junior Badminton by Marie Louise Miller, Bernadette Morgan and Marie O'Donohue

On the past Tuesdays some first years have been going to badminton. Three or four of the prefects take us. It is a very good way to spend our dinner break and we have learned a lot about the game so far. We don't think it is fair that IB, IK and IF cannot go because of the dinner sittings. The prefects who take us are very nice and teach us a lot. Before going to badminton we did not know a thing about the game but now we have learned some of the rules. We hope to improve and continue our club.

Hadrian's Wall Trip by Catherine Cherry

On Saturday 12 October a party of fourth year pupils with two fifth years set off for Hadrian's Wall. The pupils were accompanied by Mr Dickson and his wife.

The mini-bus first invaded a town called Brampton where we first of all had lunch and then looked around for ten minutes. On Saturday afternoon the highlight of our excursion rose before us as we saw the Hadrian's Wall. After climbing, stumbling and crawling over part of the Wall we returned to the mini-bus. Afterwards we investigated other Roman architecture such as Chesters and a few (?) milecastles. We had our shopping spree in a town called Corbridge.

We comfortably spent the night in Once Brewed Youth Hostel in Northumberland. After breakfast next morning, we set out on a small (!) trek across another part of Hadrian's Wall. Later we attended mass in St Wilfrid's in Haltwhistle. While visiting Vindolanda that afternoon we had our lunch. Then we walked along the wall to Housesteads Fort, where a kilted Scotsman whom we met at the Roman Soldiers' loos turned out to be folk singer Gus Russell. Afterwards we set home rather sadly. A very enjoyable time was had by all.

Message from Head Boy, Mike Donnelly

Being honest, I must admit that I was very much surprised when I heard that I had been chosen as school captain. The effect of this initial surprise was the same as that of the well-known vodka, shattering. However, this initial feeling soon gave way after a small period of time. In its place this feeling was replaced by a feeling of pride. I became proud and felt honoured in thinking of myself as school captain. I can now assure you that I have recovered from this momentary lapse in my usual humility - I also feel a little disconcerted about the mindless minority who persist only in attempting to disrupt the smooth functioning of the school. These people are unfortunately an anigma of the 20th century.

I now, along with the prefects, have specific duties to perform. I hope I will be able to carry these duties out to the best of my ability without any hinderance. These duties, like any job, are made a lot easier by co-operation of all parties concerned. It is necessary in order to allow the school to function efficiently and fairly that we gain each other's mutual respect. I cannot emphasise enough how much can be done through co-operation and once mutual respect and trust have been gained by all.

The Capitaliser by J M

At one time or another, almost everyone has felt an urge to 'play the market', the Stock Exchange. Now, with the advent of the Capitaliser, this has become possible for a select team of sixth years, specially chosen from the materialistic intellectual faction of the senior school (and the Higher Economics class). The competition, sponsored by the Bank of Scotland, allows each participating school a hypothetical £10 000 to invest in shares. Depending on the fluctuations of the chosen shares the school either makes or loses money. Investments can be changed each month.

In the first month of the competition companies chosen by Maureen Northcote, Mark Piacentini, Ricardo Togneri and John McArdle under the impeccable and infallible (?) direction of Mr Maxwell have made a very creditable profit of 10%. Continuation of such progress should ensure a place among the winners for St Michael's, a great achievement and fitting tribute to the money minds and market wizards at the helm of St Michael's financial transactions. Unfortunately, however, security policy forbids publication of the group's assets.

The author wishes to retain anonymity for reasons of personal safety.

PRIZE CROSSWORD

First Prize: 50p record token

Second Prize: 30p Tuck Shop Voucher

Third Prize: 20p Tuck Shop Voucher

Entries must be handed in to Room 26 not later than 4.00 pm on Wednesday. All entries handed in by then will have a chance of winning. Do not hand in the whole newspaper. Tear off the back page only, along the dotted line. If you wish a replacement copy of SMART, please ask for one when you hand in your entry.

CLUES - Across

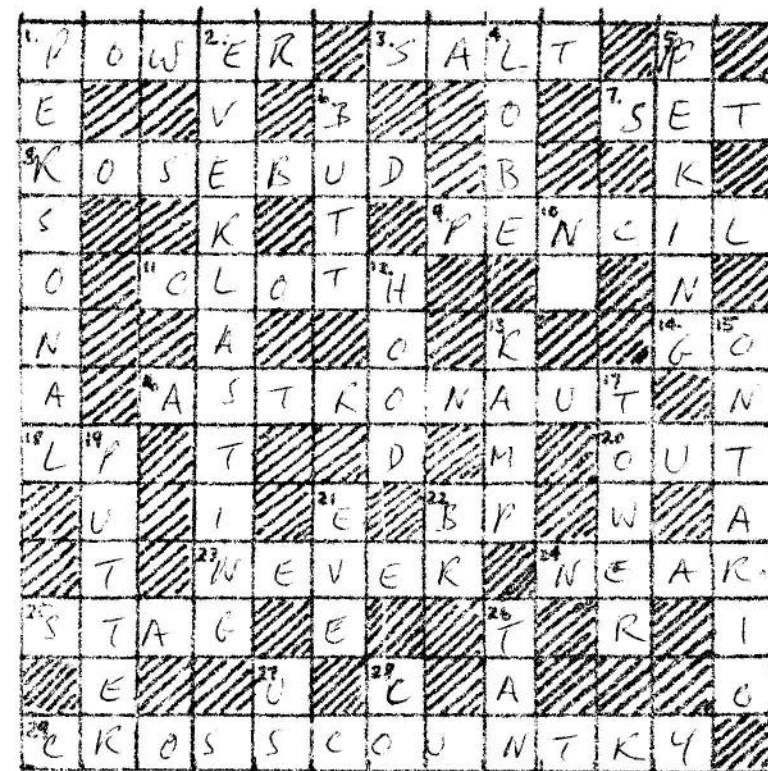
- 1 Source of energy
- 3 A sea mineral
- 7 A group
- 8 Part of rose
- 9 Writing implement
- 11 Used for making clothes
- 14 Don't remain
- 16 Man who ventrues space
- 18 Long playing
- 20 Opposite of in
- 22 British Petroleum
- 23 Adverse of always
- 24 Not far away
- 25 Male deer
- 29 Athletics sport

Down

- 1 Belonging to oneself
- 2 Never ending
- 4 Part of the ear
- 5 Capital of China
- 6 The tail end
- 10 Adverse of yes
- 12 Head covering
- 13 Hoist for a car
- 15 State of Canada
- 17 Part of a castle
- 19 Part of a golf set
- 21 First woman
- 22 British Rail
- 26 Sur burn
- 27 United States
- 28 Care of

"It's a cheat" says Mr Maxwell

"SMART is unfair to teachers. I was cheated of my Tuck Shop voucher." This is what an angry Mr Maxwell said after he had been refused second prize in the lucky number competition last month. His lucky number was 002, and had to be claimed by the following day. SMART was asked why his number had been rejected, and said, "Mr Maxwell didn't claim his prize till a week later. It is Mr Maxwell that is unfair to SMART."



Name _____

Class _____

Tear along dotted line

This crossword was composed by "Sulla".
Answers and names of prize-winners will
be given in the next issue on 12th Nov.