

SMART

St Michael's Academy Rumours & Tales

issues 73 – 76

Oct. – Dec., 1979

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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

PARENT TEACHERS ASSOCIATION - Report by Mrs Gray

The Committee felt that we should give you a short report on what it proposed for the coming Session. But first of all, the AGM was rather disappointing in that only 21 people were present and that included most of the committee and a couple of non-members!!! If anyone has any suggestions about how we could attract at least two-thirds of the membership please, please, let us in to the secret.

Proposed Programme

September 17	-	Mass and Coffee Evening
October 6	-	Autumn Fayre
November 23	-	Cheese and Wine Party
February 2	-	Burns Supper
March	-	Speaker or Panel
April	-	Dance
May 12	-	A G M

Obviously, some of these dates have to be finalised, but we will be sending out the usual circular in time for you to get your tickets.

With regard to the Autumn Fayre, the tearoom will be run by the PTA and so far we have about 4 volunteers from the 'parents' on the committee. We would welcome at least another 4 volunteers. We would also be grateful for any donations of homebaking for the tearoom and this should be handed in on the morning of 6 October if possible. If you would like to volunteer for this, please give your name to any of the committee members.

RUMOURS

- Janice Brien (S2) and Marie Huchon (S2) comb their hair every time they go into a class room.
- F. Murray is still crazy over Kenny McMillan.
- P.S. - Good luck Kenny!

ST. MICHAELS ACADEMY RUMOURS & TALES

NO. 73

15 Oct '79

2p

THE BRIDGE CLUB

For those of you who do not know what Bridge is, then I'm not going to tell you. If you do want to find out more about this sophisticated game of cards, you may be interested to know that there is a Bridge Club which meets in the school. The Club is organised by Miss Murphy and Miss Lennon. We meet in Room 27 on a Monday and Tuesday at dinner time and on a Wednesday evening after school. Anyone who is in Third Year or above and is interested in learning to play can either see one of the organisers or come along to any of the meetings.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN ROOM 10?

On Wednesdays at 1.15 pm the Rosary is said for the intentions of the pupils and the needs of the world. When Our Lady appeared to the children of Fatima she asked them to say the Rosary. If She asked this, it must be worthwhile. Why not come and join us?

SMART SUMMER ANNUAL

The Annual was a great success. The number of copies sold was 476, well over the 1978 figure of 474. Surprisingly, only one of the lucky numbers was obtained, even though they (and reserve numbers) were up on the notice board at the promised time, and I went to Karen Mitchell (204). There were 24 crossword entries, but a lot of mistakes. The three prizes went to Joe Smith (306), Dennis McElroy (404) and James Rooney (403).

MUSIC PASSES

At Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music piano forte playing and theory examinations held in June, the following pupils were successful:-

Piano Forte Playing

<u>Grade 4</u>	Anne McMillan	404
	Sharon Richardson	402

Theory

<u>Grade 1</u>	Stephen Bradley	302
	Paul McCutcheon	203
	John McMillan	204

<u>Grade 2</u>	Catherine Grant	302
	Allison Scott	208
	Robert O'Donoghue	106
	Pauline Hughes	103

<u>Grade 3</u>	Sharon Richardson	402
	Martin Griffin	305
	Anne McMillan	404
	Rosalind Caslaw	408

Stephen Bradley, Paul McCutcheon, and John McMillan, all 100%.

E. J. Baird

YOUTH CLUB

The Y.M.C.A. Committee in Kilbirmie have decided to start up a Youth Club on Wednesday nights from 7 pm - 9 pm for 11-13 year old pupils residing in Kilbirmie. Would any 1st or 2nd Year boys and girls interested please contact A Whyte (502) for further details - before next Tuesday (2 October).

GUITAR

If you have a guitar and are anxious to learn (beginners only) come to Room 10 on Friday at 1.00 pm.

DRAMA CLUB RESTARTING

There will be a meeting at an interval next week sometime to restart the Drama Club for this session. Miss McLaughlin and Mr Dickson hope that all those who joined in Third Year last year will want to come again, and that anyone interested from this year's Third Year will also come. At the meeting you will hear what the club will be doing this year, and you will also be able to choose which day of the week is to be Drama Club day. Watch out for a poster with more details.

AUTUMN FAYRE PROGRAMMES

More pupils have taken programmes to sell than did so two years ago at the 1977 Autumn Fayre. But not so many are racing to win top prize for selling most. Mr. Dickson says "thank you" to all pupils who are helping the Autumn Fayre in this way - RETURNS - R.26

THIS WEEK!!!

.....

THIRD YEAR CLASSICS TRIP

On Saturday 22 September a bunch of loonies (Third Year Latin and Classics Class) went on a day outing to the Antonine Wall and various other places.

At about 10 o'clock we arrived at The Hunterian Museum in Glasgow. We explored the section on the Antonine Wall and afterwards the rest of the museum. Then we headed for the Antonine Wall.

When we were out of Glasgow we were able to pick up more speed and there was more room to drive. Mr Dickson took advantage of this and accelerated to a steady 63 mph. At the side of the road was a Ford Granada belonging to "The Polis". Some of us admired the car but as we passed it, it pulled out from the side of the road and chased after us. Mr Dickson being a sook pulled over to the side. The policeman got out and explained that the speed limit for mini-buses was 50 mph. Mr Dickson said that he knew nothing about this (Aye, so he says), and the police let him off with it.

We then carried on with our journey. Our first stop was Castlecary where there was once a fort. This fort was one of two on the Antonine Wall which were made of stone.

We then went to another fort called Rough Castle. Although there was no fort you could clearly see where the Antonine Wall and fort had been. Also there was a big ditch to stop the barbarians from the north attacking quickly. We stayed at Rough Castle and had our dinner.

After dinner we carried on to "Watling Lodge" which was just another piece of the ditch. The only difference was this one was deeper.

We then went to Falkirk, where we relieved ourselves of something and then explored John Menzies. C.D. of course thinking about his stomach bought a hamburger.

When we left Falkirk everybody was looking forward to the next part of the journey, Hillwalking. The first hill to be climbed was called Croy Hill. We left the bus for Miss Cruickshank who drove the bus to the other side of the hill. On top of Croy Hill we could see for miles around. There was also a big ditch running up the side of the hill.

Wall visit story continued on later page . .

ANIMATION CLUB: New members welcome. Room 56 (Art hut).
Mon. 4 - 5 p.m. Details from Mr Smith.

CHESS CLUB: New members welcome. Room 56 (Art hut).
Wed. 4 - 5 p.m. Details from Mr Smith.

DRAMA CLUB: Stop Press! short meeting to start it will be on Friday 12th October in Miss McLaughlin's room at interval.

HECTOR'S CHALLENGE

On Sunday, 16th September a large number of St Michael's pupils took up Hector's challenge to Help The Aged.

Hector (alias Miss Caroline Baarsden, local H.T.A. organiser), helped by a group of senior pupils, issued sponsorship forms to everyone interested. All pupils taking part were promised a certificate plus a raffle ticket (for every pound collected) for a grand draw.

The Sponsored Walk took place at Irvine Beach Park Trim-track where participants were required to walk ten rounds and tackle three obstacles each round (just in case they got bored!). Three stout hearts who managed 20, 25 and 60 rounds were awarded richly-deserved medals.

Although all the money has not yet been collected the organisers expect a large sum which will go towards the various projects sponsored by Help The Aged. These include: the newspaper 'Yours'; medical and self-help projects in the Third World; construction and equipping of day centres, and swift action at times of sudden disaster.

RUMOUR: that Brendan Garry was voted SMART representative by all the girls in 107.

"Twelfth Night" by William Shakespeare comes to Irvine on Fri. 19th October at Harbour Arts Centre. Presented by T.A.G. (connected to Citizens Theatre). Tickets 50p (pupil price) from Mr Dickson.

FIRST YEAR IMPRESSIONS OF ST MICHAEL'S

- * "I did not think it was so big, so when I came the first day I got a shock". (Alan McCormick)
- * "I enjoy lunch time because it gives you a chance to make new pals." (Peter Canning)
- * "On my first day it was good, but now it is not very good. I was scared in case any 3rd years pushed me down the banking." (Joseph Brennan)
- * "I felt strange on the first day, and alone, but then I met Alan and Trevor". (John McIntyre)
- * "I have made many more friends since coming to St Michael's". (Derek McAllister)
- * "When I saw how many pupils were in it, I knew that there would be no time for carrying on and that there would be stricter rules. I used to think that the teachers were real crabbit old witches but now I know that they only go mad if you make them." (John Thomson)
- * "You are not stuck in the same classroom all the time and most of the teachers are very nice. You enjoy your day at St Michael's better than primary school." (Paul Tumulty)
- * "I don't like the school meals especially in the queues where I get squashed and pushed around. The tuckshop is a squeeze too." (Ian McKenna)
- * "I used to think that St Michael's was full of teachers carrying big leather belts, but I have found that most teachers hardly use the belt." (David Mason)
- * "In St Michael's nothing is wasted, take for instance paper. In my old school you could get paper to draw on, and to work out problems on, but not here. The size of the school impressed me, and the facilities." (Eamon Fallon)
- * "I think that the dinners are very good but I don't like waiting as long as I8Ve had to." (Trevor Smith)
- * "I like St Michael's school. It is very exciting. I like big schools. Science is my favourite subject because I like to do experiments and things like that." (David McCafferty)

ST MICHAEL'S DERBY

There was only one race at St Mike's racetrack on Wednesday, the 1.00 p.m. (100 metres). Betting was allowed (on school premises!). Four horses had dropped out and two entered late, so the ten starters were:

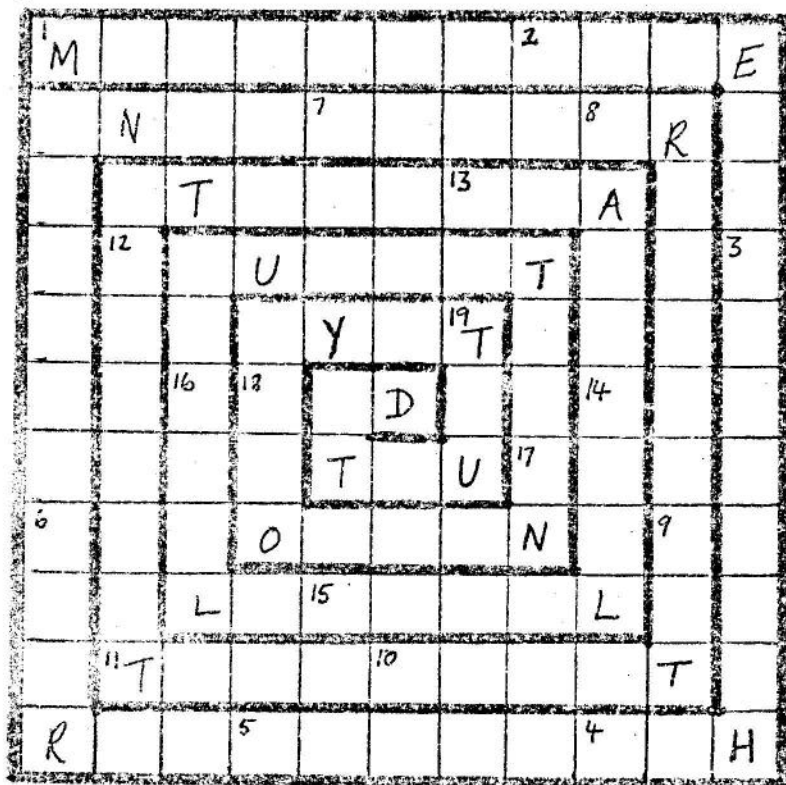
(in no particular order, as they're not well-trained)

Mr "Hidden Speed" Whiteside	Mr "Shakespeare" Cassidy
Mr "Chippie" Blair	Mr "2 and 2 is 3" Dorrian
Mr "Nu-lock" McNulty	Mr "Maps" Dorrian
Mr "Sky-high" Colgan	Mr "80 w.p.m." Farrell
Mr "Ski-high" Pentleton	Mr "1st yr rugby" Fitzpatrick

As crowds of punters gathered for the start, "Shakespeare" ended his 30 minute practice canter in the staff-room and "Art" Smith, keen but unathletic, stewarded the course. "2 and 2 is 3" 's casual gear caused a rumour that he thought he was coming to a golf- rather than a race-course. He and "80 w.p.m." (in smart blue track-suit) were outsiders in the betting. "Ski-high" appeared in Persil-washed dazzling white running gear. Several Derby runners, though snorting heavily at the starting-line, seemed in need of a dose of Epsom salts (- makes you run!). The favourite was "Chippie" and the second favourite was "1st yr rugby". A total of 305 bets had been placed on the runners.

The start was a total surprise: "2 & 2 is 3" was in the lead, but used up all his energy after the first five metres. The runners breathing down his neck overtook, with "Sky-high" and "Shakespeare" in the lead. "80 w.p.m." pounded along, proving that finger exercises aren't much good for improving racing speed. As runners suffered in the soft going, "Hidden Speed", who carefully reserves his speed for the football fields of Irvine, streaked ahead to gasps of astonishment from the crowd. He finished first in 11.4 seconds, followed by favourite "Chippie" and "1st yr rugby" Fitzpatrick, who commented later, "It wis fixed". "Hidden Speed" 's excuse for his 1 m. handicap was "I'm getting old." "Ski-high" (although training for 5 years) didn't make it a photo-finish and claimed that "the others had spiked shoes".

All "Hidden Speed" backers were in the draw, won by Mrs Lamb (Geog.) (£3), Gordon Scott (£2) & Raymond Kerr (£1). Profit of £9.25 went to the Fayre. A steward's enquiry is now being held to discover how a teacher, instead of one of the 1002 needy pupils of St Michael's, happened to be drawn for first prize. (BY 'EYES' MINOS)



Class:

Name:

tear along this line

PRIZE SPIRAL CROSSWORD

The last letter of each answer is the first letter of the next. (E.g.: the first letter of no. 2 is also the last letter of no. 1.) Hand your answer in to Mr Lucchesi (room 23) by 4.00 p.m. on Wednesday. Winners of cash prizes will be announced in the next issue.

- | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 A paper with stories & articles. | 11 Trouble |
| 2 What a 12 did. | 12 A person who enters |
| 3 Knocked to pieces. | 13 Disastrous |
| 4 Pattern. | 14 Babyish |
| 5 to tell. | 15 A gas lighter than air. |
| 6 to destroy entirely. | 16 to produce |
| 7 Precise. | 17 A letter container. |
| 8 A stick-on design. | 18 African country |
| 9 to go over again. | 19 Relied on. |
| 10 Explode. | |

By J. M.

THIRD YEAR CLASSICS TRIP (CONT.)

We then went back into the mini-bus and headed for Bar Hill. On top there was Roman Headquarters, a well, and a bath-house.

The next stop was a cemetery in Bearsden, with the foundations of the Antonine Wall.

Then we went to a place in Bearsden where there was a sort of Bath-house.

The next stop was the best place of all, a "chippy". It looked as if it was 2,000 years old, and the chips tasted as if they were the same age.

After eating chips, pizzas, black puddings etc, we returned home without any interruptions except from Romeo and Juliet up the back of the mini-bus.

J.J. (305)

THE BEACH

A tin, a stick, a rag
Lay on the deserted beach,
A lonely dog without a tag,
A beach-ball out of reach.

The waves come in, the waves go out.
All of a sudden there is a shout,
The dog runs over to a child
But the child turns him away

At last the night falls.
The dog goes to sleep
In a cave with very damp walls
And he dreams of the day to come.

Agnes Walsh

LEGION OF MARY

If you would like to start up the school praesidium of the Legion of Mary again, contact Sr Maura.

- This week's SMART was stapled by Thomas Watters, William Watters, Robert Wells, Liam Byrne, Gerald Taylor, Francis McGinty, William Kennedy, et al.

RECORD REVIEW

IT'S ALIVE - The Ramones (Sire)

Thanks to Joey's voice you either love or hate 'The Ramones'. They've been around for a while and have made four albums but if you've never heard of them, this is the one to buy. It was recorded live in London (which helps) and contains 28 tracks.

The old favourites are here in all their brilliance - 'Sheena is a Punk Rocker', 'Pinhead', 'Blitzkreig Bop' and 'Now I Wanna Sniff Some Glue.' But the lesser known tracks are even better. 'Rockaway Beach' is fantastic, surpassed only by 'I Wanna Feel Well.'

If You've got the other albums, 'It's Alive' is a waste of money, but if not - it's a bargain.

COMMUNIQUE - Dire Straits (Phonogram)

Another year, another album but what a difference success makes. The band sound far more professional and only 'Lady Writer' is raw enough to have been included on the first album. Most of the songs have a menacing quality, conjuring up pictures of mean, dark strangers in 10 gallon hats. This effect is heightened by the opening number 'Once Upon a Time in the West' which doesn't actually have anything to do with the Wild West although you'd never guess it, just listening to the basic tune. The next track 'News' is equally compelling. Indeed the only bad song is 'Angel of Mercy' and I never really liked 'Lady Writer' either. Side One is much better than Side Two which does however have the two best tracks - 'Follow Me Home' and 'Single-handed Sailor'.

RUMOUR

There are two girls from 107 who madly admire Mr Dorrian. We think that he is the best teacher in the School.

by HIS TWO ADMIRERS

(Which Mr Dorrian?.....Ed)

S P O R T

U-13 FOOTBALL - St Michael's 4 - Irvine Royal 1

St Michael's started well, and were two goals up after 20 minutes. But then IRA began to come into the game, and came close to scoring 2 or 3 times, but St Michael's were still two goals up at the interval. In the second half St Michael's again dominated, but it was IRA who scored with 15 minutes left. St Michael's continued to dominate however and wrapped up the game with two late goals. St Michael's goals were scored by MacFarlane (3) and Diamond. Our best players were Brachaglia, J Monahan and McFarlane.

E Graham

U-13 FOOTBALL - St Michael's 3 - Kilwinning Academy 0

Early on the game was quite even but when St Michael's scored their first they began to dominate, and it was quite a surprise when we went in only one goal up. St Michael's stayed in control of the play and it was no surprise when MacFarlane scored to make it 2-0 10 minutes into the second half. St Michael's third came with 10 minutes left when a McCulloch shot which hit the bar and bounced on the line was tapped in by Ainsworth. St Michael's best players were McFarlane (who scored two goals) and Hart, who both turned in excellent performances.

E Graham

FOR SALE 4 pairs of boys skating boots.

Sizes 3 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ 12 9 (small)

See Mrs Nolan Room 13

Cassette for sale: "A Farewell to Kings" by Rush

Price: £1.99

(Along with free Rush poster)

See Robbie Foy 403

WORDCHASE:

O	R	H	O	R	A	C	E	Z	I	L	S	Q	Q	A
N	E	T	T	E	N	N	A	R	N	I	I	I	V	I
E	L	E	O	S	E	R	I	A	L	C	V	V	D	L
L	I	B	E	T	T	Y	X	E	N	E	L	L	Y	E
E	E	A	T	O	N	J	A	N	I	C	E	O	A	D
H	N	Z	U	N	O	T	A	A	N	H	O	J	I	I
E	B	I	Y	Y	P	E	R	N	E	S	T	L	C	R
T	S	L	O	A	R	R	D	E	V	I	L	O	I	G
T	S	E	L	M	A	A	N	G	E	L	A	R	R	N
O	N	Y	I	I	C	G	A	R	Y	M	D	N	T	I
L	G	I	A	R	C	R	S	J	N	D	N	A	A	R
R	I	F	M	I	A	A	I	E	F	T	I	R	P	E
A	N	Y	B	A	R	M	M	S	S	N	L	A	I	N
H	A	M	L	M	Y	V	O	N	N	E	U	H	K	E
C	H	A	R	L	E	S	N	Y	L	L	O	P	A	T

Find the boys' and girls' names listed below.

Elizabeth, Polly, Olive, Neil, Amy, Joy, Sid, Margaret, Marie, Angela, Craig, Edna, Selma, Miriam, May, Della, Rab, Pat, Jim, Nan, Leo, Irene, Gary, Sandra, Yvonne, Simon, Ernest, Linda, Jan, Janice, Terry, Ingrid, Cecil, Claire, Elvis, Nelly, Lynn, Horace, Betty, Gina, John, Annette, Helen, Charlotte, Charles, Colin, Patricia, Liz, Paul, Len, Lorna, Anne.

ST. MICHAEL'S ACADEMY RUMOURS & TALES

No. 74

29th Oct. 1979

2p



See inside : SECOND YEAR IMPRESSIONS OF FIRST YEAR.

THIS WEEK'S PRIZE CONTEST : DETAILS INSIDE :
LUCKY DRAW FOR "SMART" VISIT TO MOTOR SHOW.

2nd YEAR IMPRESSIONS OF 1st YEAR.

Most of the girls have crashed on teachers, eg. Mr Mc Ilroy, Mr Fitzpatrick. Some of the boys are just as bad.

Maria Pieroni 202

First years are a deadly weapon devised by the Russians to overthrow Margaret Thatcher.

Frazor Anderson 202

When I saw first years I was shocked to find how small some of them were. Most of them were like tailors dummies, with their uniforms, and looked very scared.

Martin Waldron 203

One thing I noticed about most of the first years was their size. They're tiny. One or two have huge packed lunches and lots of exotic containers to go with them.

Mary Cullinane 203

I think that they act big because they are in secondary school. Most of them are nice but some just go around the school as if they owned it. We were one of them. Ugh!

Heidi Douglas 203

They seem to be getting smaller every year. Some of them are actually SMALLER than M.O. 2nd year.

Carol-Ann Pillans 203

There are millions of them, all looking alike. How can they be so small? (Are they reducing dinner rations at the primary schools?) I must admit that there was the odd midget or identical twin here and there in 1st year last year, but this is ridiculous!

G Boyle 203

FAYRE PROGRAMME WINNERS - AND A LOSER

Programmes were taken to sell by 382 pupils, a hundred more than last time. (Of course, some didn't even sell them to their family. Mr Dickson and the school thank those who did, even if they sold only five: every bit of help mattered and helped to advertise the Fayre.

Out of a maximum possible sales total of 105, Josephine Anderson (107) was first with 85, winning £3. Second equal were Tracy Mullen (106) and Susan Taggart (304) (75 each). Next equal were Tracy Jones (103) and AnnMarie Mc Grattan (301). Consolation prizes went to Brenda Allen, Riccardo Angelini, Karen Mc Grattan and Tracy Arthur.

The total number of programmes sold at the time of writing (3 days after the Fayre) is 2,384, with a few more due to be paid for. After deducting expenses, the profit stands at just over £166.

At the Fayre, the Rector drew a winning number (1055), which, as far as the school knew, had been sold. However, today (Wednesday after Fayre) the lucky programme was returned unsold by Jim Cullinane (401). He was NOT of course given the £5 prize, which has been left as part of the programme profit. Thank you, Jim. If he'd sold it to his family, he could have shared it. If he'd returned it when supposed to, someone else could have won it!

SCIENCE CLUB

The Science Club, run by Mr Walsh, Mr Kearny and Mr Mc Clure will be starting again quite soon. The Science Club organizes visits to factories and other places of scientific interest. They also invite speakers to speak on subjects which they think would interest the 20 or so members. Another thing the Science Club does is show films at lunch breaks.

Unfortunately, the Science Club is on for 3rd years onwards because then the speakers will be able to know

Messrs McBride, McIntyre, Davis & Gilhoolooley (painters & decorators) Ltd

Recently SMART interviewed four boys who have made their mark on St Michael's - the only pupils who have painted on school walls without being in trouble - Alan McBride, John McIntyre, Michael Davis and Stephen Gilhoolooley, all 4th year. When Stephen saw our reporter, he bounded across the newly painted entrance foyer, exclaiming "Goody, goody, my name's Leonard da Vinci".

Over a month, the four have scraped, sized, papered and painted the entrance foyer. Their work was admired by many at the Autumn Fayre and the Rector said he was "absolutely delighted". As he passed, he picked up a brush and painted a foot or two (of wall, that is) and stopped to do more on his way back.

The four painters report that one pupil bit and kicked at not being let through their safety barriers. They don't know if they will get any danger money, and wouldn't tell you anyway. The prefects have not been obeying, and they are "sick of senior lassies going in and out of their room every period". Someone left a jacket mark by leaning on wet paint (who's got a punk jacket now). Two teachers, going "straight to the point" (of their noses), attempted face-lifts by slipping on something wet (the team strongly deny a trap). Mr F. has made lots of niggly criticisms, but won't take a brush to help. Mrs McL. offered help. Mr Cassidy thinks the paper is upside down.

Stephen has since been lumbered by his parents with decorating the hallway at home. The best thing about the job, they think, is "missing classes" (especially History and Arithmetic). The whole operation was organised by Mr Blair. Messrs McBride, etc, Ltd, are willing to take on any painting and decorating job - provided the pay is right.
(report by Minos)

JOKES John McCourt 303

Boys Have you got a donation for the new swimming pool in the town?
Aberdonian Aye! Here's a bucket o' water.

SPORTS REPORT

U-13 FOOTBALL (printed in wrong order)

ST Andrews B 2 St Michaels B 8

The score in this game was helped for us by the absence of the St Andrews first choice goalkeeper. We dominated the whole game and scored 3 goals in the space of 15 minutes, but lost a goal, so went in 3-1 up. We were always in control in the 2nd half except for one moment when Paul Giffney passed back into his own goal leaving the goalkeeper stranded. The final score was 8-2. Our goals were scored by Houston (4), Ross (2), Monaghan & Donovan. Our best players were McCarron, Ross, Houston, Monaghan and Giffney (despite his momentary lack of concentration).

Kilwinning Acad. 4 St Michaels 4

We started well and were unlucky to be only one up after 20 minutes, but it was then that Kilwinning scored their first goal. Then, however, we dominated for the rest of the half and went in 3-1 up. It looked as though the game was sewn up, but we lost two silly goals, so this Ayrshire cup tie went into extra time. We scored in the first half, but lost a goal in the final minute after a continuous spell of Kilwinning pressure, so the game will be replayed. The goals were scored by McGure, McFarlane, Smith and McCulloch. Best players included Walsh and Diamond.

Ardsrossa acad. 3 St Michaels 7

We started well in our first away match of the season and were 3 goals up after 15 minutes, but lost two goals before half-time. In the first 10 minutes of the second half the game was quite even and each side scored (PTO)

one goal. Then, however, we began to dominate and scored another three goals. Goals were scored by Smith (2), McCulloch (2), Ainsworth & McFarlane.

Kilwinning Acad. B 4 St Mike's B 4

In the first part of the game we dominated, but our efforts were rewarded with only one goal and we lost a goal with 5 minutes of the half left. We did not start the second half well and were 3-1 down with 20 minutes left. We scored 3 goals in 5 minutes to make the score 4-3. Unfortunately a last minute attack by Kilwinning caused a goal to make the score four-all. Our goals were scored by Walsh (3) and Ross. Our best players were McCutcheon, Simmons and McNab.

(reports by E Graham)

The week before the Autumn Fayre a group of pupils from 305, and Mr Colgan, washed some teachers' cars. The money raised was for buying bottles for the bottle stall. (J.J. 305)

CLASSICS PENS and PENCILS are in again, from Mr Dickson at registration or change of periods only.

1980 DIARIES (with season ticket wallet and information pages) are now available from Mr Smith at 25p each, in black, green or blue. First come, first served.

Win a place for you and your pal on the SMART visit to the Scottish Motor Show on Wednesday 14th Nov. in Glasgow during the evening. Fill in this slip and hand in to

Mr Lucchesi by TUESDAY at 4.00 p.m.. Six names will be drawn (for twelve pupils). Not advised for 3rd years: your exams start that day.

Name

Class

MOTOR SHOW LUCKY DRAW

RECORD REVIEW

JOIN HANDS - SIOUXSIE AND THE BANSHEES (POLYDOR)

This album has the same sense of tension and frustration as 'The Scream' but somehow, something is missing. Siouxsie's ice cold image has finally caught up with her and she has lost all contact with her audience. The best track is 'Poppy Day' an emotive song about the First World War graveyards in Flanders. It is followed by 'Regal Zone' a claustrophobic noise and then 'I can which is just a remix of an old rock and rhythm. Side two is terrible - its only redeeming factor is the inclusion of 'Playground Twist' the recent single. Along with 'Poppy Day' it saves the album from total failure. But unless you're a devoted fan - save your money.

AXEL

JOKES John McCourt 303

How do you get two elephants in a match box?
Take the matches out.

What do you call an Irishman with half a brain?
Gifted.

What did Tarzan say when he saw 20 elephants coming over the hill with sun-glasses on?
Nothing, he didn't recognise them.

Jokes by Colm McHugh

A group of soldiers had a fight in a pub and caused a lot of damage, they were all taken to court and the sergeant was asked to explain.
"Well sir" he said "Private McPherson called private McDougald a liar and Private Scott punched Private McPherson over a table. Three of Private McPhersons mates piled on top of Private McDougald and Private Paterson took out his dirk and cut off a slice of Private McPherson's leg. One thing led to another and then the fighting started".

NEWS OF THE FUTURE

Dateline: 29 October 1999

Miss Templeton, former catering manageress in St Michael's Academy, who is now head of "World Food Resources" based in Kilbarrick, said today that the world's chip consumption must go down and that she would personally supervise a rapid return to the five-chip meal. While in St Michael's, Miss Templeton was fondly known as "The Dentist", - one out at a time.

It appears that for boys long hair has finally gone out of fashion although earrings, bracelets, and chunky brown leather handbags are still in evidence, and interesting trend which began around the last quarter of the century. It is felt that this new "boyish" image will do much to alleviate inter-group quarrels etc. occurring in dance places where boys are often mistaken for girls.

Now that smoking is completely banned throughout Britain, St Michael's Academy, Kilwinning have raised a small brass plaque at what used to be "Smokers' Corner", situated just beyond the P.E. wing and round the corner. Many youths who took advantage of this corner are of course dead now, but St Mike's Rector Mr Green dug out a few diatribes to sign the plaque. A M Lang now suffering from cancer of the bottom lip; B Keenan apparently well but unable to run for a bus etc; and he hopes it will serve as a reminder that the days of smelly children and sickly adults are now, thankfully, gone.

Spiral Crossword

There were nineteen entries for last issue's prize crossword, eighteen of which were correct. The lucky winners in the prize draw who each received 50p, were: Gerard Mc Groony 306, Mark Jamieson 208, Jim Duffy 103.

Science Club (cont.)

what age group they are addressin. Mr Walsh told us "When the 5th and 6th years have left there will be no one to keep the Science club going. I would like to see a better attendance at lectures from invited speakers because it can be highly embarrassing when you invite someone along and discover there are only 6 people to talk to." All areas of Science are explored by the Club.

Susan Donachie and Marie Hodge S2

2nd Year Impressions (cont.)

The first day here, and they're all clean, starched and sparkling. Then they gradually get dirtier and grubbier.

Paul Mc Mahon 203

I think that first years are all the same. They are so small, and it is difficult to tell one from another. The school is littered with them, and everywhere you go, first years are there.

Graham Teaz 203

"I'm not impressed"

Mark Kolodziej 203

Some of the first years are nice to talk to. Most of the girls are nice. But the 2nd years are better than the 1st years.

Anne Marie Hart 202

We were the same, and we changed - so they can as well.

Jean Gilheany 202

STOP PRESS: seen with Fr Moore, singing on the front page of last week's "Irvine Times": Pauline Mann (and sister Marie), Violet & Anne Marie Hillis, Linda Brawley and others

RECUBA (cont)

Then Recuba's slaves found Polydorus, Recuba's son dead. So Recuba knew that Polymestor was to blame. But Polymestor was a friend of the family. Recuba invited Polymestor to her house. She killed Polymestor's sons and pulled Polymestor's eyes out.

My impressions on this play are difinately not the same as Mr Hickson's. He thought the play was good. But I thought that it was boring until it came to Polyxena being killed. After that it was rather interesting. But I thought that the actors played too many different people in the play. This make it hard to follow. I didn't think the play was very good.

By JED 3rd year

Smart trip to the Motor Show

On Wednesday 14 of November Mr Dickson and his wife conducted a party of 12 to the Motor Show. On the way in F McG threw a snowball and Mrs Dickson obligingly rubbed his face in the snow. There were many famous names in motoring and among the highlights were Rolls Royce and Mercedes. BL had about the largest selection of cars. Triumph had a large selection of motor bikes and gave out brochures and posters. On the way home F McG started telling poor quality jokes as a result of which many of us were relieved to get out of the mini bus.

Anon (LG)

Rumours

AK (203) and DM (204) actually got some question wrong in a test.

That McC (209) and Mr McN both use the same hairdresser - both got a refund for haircuts.

Lucky Numbers

Winning numbers will be put on the notice-board on Wed. and in the daily bulletin on Thursday morning. Prizes: 50p each.

000421

ST. MICHAEL'S ACADEMY RUMOURS & TALES

No. 75

3rd Dec. 1979

2p

Well Done!

St Michael's pupils have been upholding their reputation for hard work and care for others as two recent news items have shown.

Wideawake readers of the Irvine Times will have noticed five familiar faces in a recent issue. They are Katrina Burke, Stephen Burke, Anne Marie Hillis, Violet Hillis and former pupil Christine Paterson. Christine has receiving, on behalf of the Pegasus handicapped club, a cheque for £49.70 from our intrepid four who had raised the money in "odds and ends" sale.

Congratulations also to Donna Cuthrie, 4th year, who in a national examination set by Kraft Foods Ltd won a Certificate of Merit for achieving "a commendable standard of work for her age".

Rumour

That Mr Dickson was King Minos's right hand man.
by a pupil in 103

That Drew Walsh 103 is crazy on cornflakes.

U - 14 BASKETBALL

For the first game of the season the team had to travel away to Girvan in order to play Girvan Academy. St Michael's were slow to start off. When they eventually got the hang of the game, Girvan were well ahead. The final score tells who were the better team at the end of the day.

Score: Girvan 65

St Michael's 22

St Michael's: Gallacher, Kolodziej, Davidson, Brawley, Jardine, McDonald and Jennings.

U - 14 VOLLEYBALL (Girls)

So far the team this year have played three games. Our first was against St Andrews who easily beat us. Secondly we played Kilwinning, the easiest of the three teams to beat, but we lost. Thirdly, we played IRA, the team that beat us last year. We sought revenge and won.

Now the league has started and our next game is against James Hamilton of Kilmarnock on Wednesday 28 November.

GOOD LUCK GIRLS!

by (Mo)

Christmas S M A R T

The next issue of SMART will be a special Christmas issue and we would like lots of articles with a festive theme. So, please get busy with stories, poems, articles, news, puzzles etc. with a festive theme and give them to Mr Lucchosi or Mrs Sharp.

RIDDLES

Q. What is grey, has four feet and is found in Alaska?

A. A lost camel

Q. Which travels faster heat or cold?

A. Heat, you can catch cold.

Q. When is cricket a crime?

A. When there is a hit and run. Kimberley Manners 104

OPINION - One Man's Viewpoint

Remedial

Remedial is a word hated by most pupils in the school. If you are in a remedial class everybody thinks you are thick, but you are maybe in remedial for only one subject which you find difficult to get a grip of. People in remedial permanently don't mind this much because they need the help given to them by the remedial teachers. So when someone says they are in a remedial subject don't laugh at them, it could just as easily be you.

Derek Kerr 201

If you have strong feelings about any topic why not express your opinion in an article for SMART?

Miss McCourt

You may have noticed that there is a new teacher in this school, who teaches Spanish and French. She is the daughter of Mr McCourt. Her birthday is on the 12th September. Before she replied Miss McCourt had to think as she tries to forget about it. Her hobbies are going to the pictures, and she likes comedies and films about people. Her other hobbies are playing badminton and reading detective and thriller stories.

We asked Miss McCourt (to her disapproval) where she was born. She answered after a bit of persuasion "I discovered last year that I was born in Glasgow", she added "Govan actually".

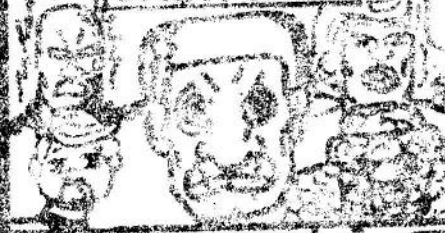
The primary she went to was St John's Stevenston and as for the Secondary - well you may have guessed, yes that's it St Michael's! Her favourite subject was Latin and was taught by, you've guessed it again, Mr Dickson. You may be interested to know that Miss McCourt did not like Spanish or French when she was at school but decided to become a teacher because she had nothing else to do, she said it interests her.

We asked her if she had taught anywhere else, she said "I have taught English in France, but I have never taught

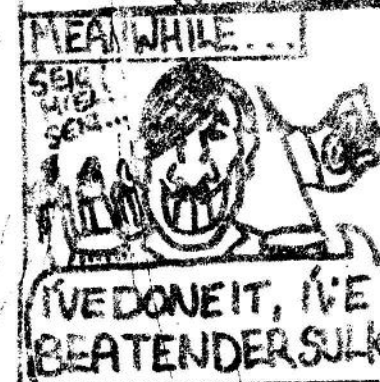
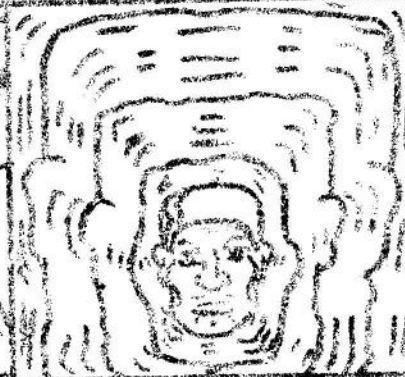
ANYTIME THAT HE KILL
IS BORED OR FED-UP, HE
CHANCES BECAUSE OF
GLOOMY RAYS INTO...

"THE INCREDIBLE SULK"

LAST ISSUE... A BOY
THE INVINCIBLE GIRL
THE HUMAN MATCH
AND THE THING MUST
DEFEAT THE GIANT
CRUNCHER



LOOK OUT! HE'S BEEN
HYPNOTISED BY DOG
DASTARDLY!



Home From School

Walking downstairs was so stuffy,
Though joyous I felt, and relieved,
The rain beat down fast,
The lightning flashed,
The weather you wouldn't have believed.

I really meant to take my umbrella,
I didn't think the weather was too bad,
I rushed along the pavement,
and over the road,
Now I know why my mum was so mad.

She said, "You'll get soaked in that weather,
your head will get wet, you'll catch a cold,
your feet will get wet in puddles of rain,
you'll get rucky,
AND DON'T BE SO BOLD".

I walked into the square where I lived,
Number 10, it was just straight ahead,
I walked up the path,
and along the grass,
and then I went in and got fed.
by Tracy Mullin (106)

Book Review (Write a book review for SMART)

Khazan - The Horse That Came Out of the Sea

By Joyce Stranger

'Khazan is about a man who owns some horses and decides to buy another. He buys an Irish horse called Khazan, and while he is taking it over the sea by boat there is a storm and the ship has to be abandoned. Khazan breaks loose and swims for about 20 miles to shore. Debbie finds him and nurses him back to health. Then all the excitement starts.

I liked this book because it has a lot about Show Jumping

June McMahon

(This book is available in the School Library).

Interview (cont from Page 3)

anywhere else in Britain. She likes St Michael's. The only thing Miss McCourt has against it is, "I have no room".

FOR SALE

PLEASURE PRINCIPLE - Gary Numan £4.00

EAT TO THE BEAT - Blondie £4.00

see Russell Waldron 403

1 cute 'n' cuddly rabbit.,

To anybody who could give it a good home.

Contact Margaret Orr 208 or Linda McGettigan 208

6 lovely fluffy kittens need a good home

See Cathering Jones.208

HECUBA by EURIPIDES

and adapted by Stewart Conn

Mr Dickson gave 3rd year, 4th year, 5th year and 6th year a chance to go to a play in Irvine Harbour Arts Centre which was called HECUBA. It took place on Saturday 27 October at 7.45 pm till about 9.00 pm. Tickets were 50p for school pupils.

The play opened as 4 women and 1 man entered in single file onto the stage. All of them wore black capes. Hecuba went into the middle of a circle and dropped to her knees and bowed down.

As it got into the heart of the play Hecuba found out that Agamemnon, the king of Mycenae wanted to sacrifice Polyxena to Achilles. Polyxena was the daughter of Hecuba. Achilles was killed in the battle at Troy. But before Achilles died he said that he would have her as his mistress. Hecuba did not want this to happen. But it happened, Polyxena was sacrificed on Achilles' tomb.

ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS IS

Teachers were asked what they would like most for Christmas:

The Rector - A school uniform for every pupil in St Mike's
Mrs McIntyre - A mink fur coat
Miss McCourt - A 5-month holiday
Mr Dorrian - Life-size cardboard cutout of Mr Reid or outbreak of silence
Mr Dickson - Daleks to control pupils in the corridor
Janny - 1984 Cortina
Mrs Nolan - A blank cheque
Mr Campbell - No pupils, unless with IQs of 140+
Dinner Ladies - Goodwill towards men on earth
Mr Whiteside - Natalie Woods
Mrs McDonald - A good carol concert
Sr Bernadette - Some more Christmas spirit - but not of the alcoholic kind
Mr Dewar - Christmas spirits
Mrs Brown - A new hubby
Mrs Anderson - A telephone in the huts
Mr Scullion - A B.M.W.
Mr Blair - A distillery
Mrs Fitzpatrick - Would like to be a millionaire
Mr Mellan - A Lamborghini or new S.S. Uniform
Mr Johnston - To retire!
Mr Walsh - A 50 ft Motor Cruiser
Mrs Barkey - Free Time
Mr Gill - My two front teeth
Mrs Dorrian - Robert Redford
Mr McKinley - Peace on Earth
Sr Maura - A scooter
Mr Cassidy - A Flame Gun
Mr Monaghan - A case of brains to give to 106
Mr Pentleton - A month's diving in the Caribbean
Mr Fitzpatrick - Peace from pupils
Mr Maxwell - A pool table
Mr Barr - To appear on T.V.
Miss McLaughlin - A fluffy teddy bear
Sr Dominic Savio - A Mass
Mr Vernon - A Games Hall
Miss Lennon - Happiness for everyone

...---oOo--- S M A R T ---oOo---

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS ISSUE - NO. 76 - PRICE 2p

---oOo---oOo---oOo---oOo---oOo---oOo---oOo---oOo---oOo---

CHRISTMAS THOUGHTS

Last year a boy told me that neither he nor his family would be at Church on Christmas Day. When I enquired why, he replied that they would all be too busy preparing the dinner. I asked him what they were having a special meal for and received the obvious reply, "because it's Christmas". He and his family are only one of so many where this central feast will be just a matter of eating, drinking and watching T.V. But which of us can say we are really ready to celebrate this day unless:-

You are willing to forget the hurt that people have caused you and remember only the good they have done for you?

Does this morning greet you with the joy and delight of a child? Did you look behind the tinsel and the lights to a world beyond the darkness where children face a December day of starvation and want? Did you hear the cries above the Christmas carols of the forgotten of this country who huddle in their misery and loneliness and still wait for their Christ under the appearance of the flesh and blood of a caring Christian? Because you left your Christian footprints on the earth this year:-

Did the blind see a little?

Did the deaf hear a word of hope and encouragement?

Did the cripple manage with only one crutch?

Did the poor feel the world wasn't a bad place after all when they got good news?

Are you willing to make a new world in a new year???

THEN CELEBRATE THIS CHRISTMAS DAY

Happy Christmas! - Fr Walsh

FOOD PARCELS

Sr Dominic Savio reports that this year's appeal for parcels for old people is progressing well with many donations of groceries and £170 in cash. Don't delay - donate now!

MISSIONS

Since October this year, some R.E. teachers have been encouraging their pupils to give generously to the poor, deprived and hungry of lands less fortunate than ours. As a result, Mrs McKinley, who collects this money, has sent £100 to the Rector who decided where the money would be best distributed.

£50 was sent to the Sacred Heart Missions and £50 to the Diocesan Mission Fund.

LUCKY (?) NUMBERS

No one claimed the 50p prize for last issue's Lucky Number Draw. Either we have a lot of affluent pupils in the school or some people are very careless and don't treasure their precious copies of SMART as they should.

There will be no prizes this issue since we are selling a BUMPER size SMART for only 2p!

SINGLES FOR SALE

ANGELIC UPSTARTS	- "I'm an Upstart"	70p
BLONDIE	- "Dreaming"	"
"	- "Sunday Girl"	"
LENE LOVIDGE	- "Lucky Numbers"	"
CLASH	- "English Civil War"	50p

Contact - Francis McGinty - 206

This issue was stapled by Robert Wells, William Watters, William Kennedy, Francis McGinty, Liam Byrne, Gerald Taylor, Robert Henderson and Michael Donovan -

all Second Year

We thought some of the Smart Readers would like this. We found it in a 1977 copy of the St Michael's Magazine.

ONE MORE INCIDENT

'Right! One more - just one more incident, like this - and you'll all go to the back of the queue!'
The momentary pause before it registered, then the unanswerable of derisive laughter. Nothing for it, but to laugh with them. I'd blew it.
Another teacher had bitten the dust.
'Hi sir, we've tae get in first fur five-a-sides !'
'Note?'
'Here-it-is-sur-fra-Mr Mousley. Am McDowell - he's Connell, he's Duffy and that yin there wi' the yella jersey's McCallum.'
'Sur, whit about guitars?'
'Guitar pupils go in afterwards.'
'Sur, the Camera Club?'
'After the guitars !'
'Sur, the Debating Society.'
'The what?'
'Only kiddin!'
'Sur, Ah washed my jeans last night - !'
'Excellent Johnstone - keeps you off the streets.'
'Ah bit, ma dinner ticket wis inside them '
'Sur, Ah furgot my tickot.'
'No ticket, no meal!'
'Sur bit that's no fair, so it isnae.'
'True, but that's the way it is.'
'Sur Ah'll bring the money the-morra.'
'Right, I'll enter you among my debtors.'
'Sur, he skipped!'
'Who did?'
Chorus of female voices: 'Sur, him!'
Him: 'Sur, Ah did nut! It wis him!'
'The pair of you to the rear! I feel like Sergeant MacKay in "Porridge".'
They depart, looking daggers at the female informers who smirk triumphantly. Mr Gray, the janitor, retrieves his bunnit for the umpteenth time as I squeeze past him to see the younger generation dine.

One More Incident (Cont.) -2-

'Sur, the salt went all over my cheese the top came off'
'Hey is-there-ony-water-in-that-jug-you?'
'Close that window! - You girls, move right up! Single file! There's no need to squeeze one another like that!'
'Sur, there's no spoons.'
'All plates back, please! Don't leave any behind!'
'Sur, Ah took na plate back!'
'Mr Maxwell, that boy's been up twice for chips!'
The sound of breaking crockery, followed by a general cheer momentarily interrupts the activity.
'Girls, don't sit at those tables now. We're trying to clean them. Move over to the centre.'
'Sur, canah a hae a slip, please?'
'Any money?'
'Yes sur.'
'You can have a slip. I never say no to money!'
The pressure is easing, so I'm waxing humorous.
'Plates back! Who's soup plate is that? Yours?'
'No, Sur!' with righteous indignation. 'Ah hate soup!'
'Who put that link into the glass of water?'
Chorus at table: 'Oh gads'.
'Will I take it away or does anyone want it?'
Chorus at table: 'Aw, sur!'
'O.K. I'll leave it - Girls, you were told: Keep away from that side!'
'Sur, it wisna us'
'Oh, move anyway'
'Sur, can Ah have a slip?'
'Any money?'
'Sur, I'll bring it in the morra'
'I don't know Donnelly, your credit's running low'
'Sur, Ah will. Honestly'
Mrs Quinn or Mrs McIntyre and Helen are stacking chairs, glasses, plates, jugs, pupils shouting all the while
'Why are you girls always last?'
'Sur, we forgot'
Slowly the tide ebbs, the pupils disappear, the chairs get stacked; our band of helpers push the trolleys round collecting the glasses, salt cellars, table cloths, abandoned cutlery

OPINION - "Christmas Morning"

On 24 December everybody is excited because according to the little children Santa Claus is coming. At ten o'clock everybody rushes upstairs to bed and hangs their stockings up. Just after they fall asleep Santa comes down the chimney with his sack of toys. On Christmas morning all the children rush down the stairs and open their presents.

But there's one thing that's wrong; you ask people what Christmas is really about and 99% of them will say Santa Claus and giving presents. Only a few will say "It's the time when Jesus was born". It's sad to think that many people forget about that.

Julie Matthews - 202

Commercialization of Christmas

I think that shops and factories take advantage of Christmas. They make presents and gifts sound lovely, but when you open the box or try it, it is broken in about two days. Some gifts are just thrown together and wrapped up beautifully in a nice fancy box - and some people are silly enough to believe the adverts.

Tracey Anne Carroll - 202

J O K E S

Two Irishmen in an aeroplane with no roof. Paddy said to Mick "See if this plane turns upside-down, will we fall out?" Mick said "No, Paddy, we'll always be pals."

Knock, knock -

Who's there?

- A wee guy who cannae reach the doorbell!

A shop had a bomb-scare, and a policewoman was searching everyone. A man came along with a parcel. "What's that?" asked the police lady. "It's my piece", he replied.

"But it's ticking!" she said.

"No, it's turkey" he replied.

Who invented fire? -

Two wee bright sparks.

CHRISTMAS EXCITEMENT

The alarm clock bell begins to ring,
The radio begins to sing,
People excitement everywhere,
Joy and laughter fills the air.

Papers rustle, presents galore,
Excitement bubbles even more.
Off to mass with a happy face
Giving Jesus all our praise.

Happy Birthday to Jesus our King
All the little children sing.
Mass is ended we all rush home
Through the snow as white as foam.

Christmas dinner here we come,
Turkey and trifle for everyone.
Then everyone at the end of the day
Puts their lovely presents away.

Tracey Carroll

One More Incident (Cont.) -3-

Then everything goes quiet, except for the ladies washing up in the kitchen and the fading voices of the helpers retreating along the corridor with their hard-earned bit of cake. Another day, another little miracle, another incident

Hamish Rhinaboot

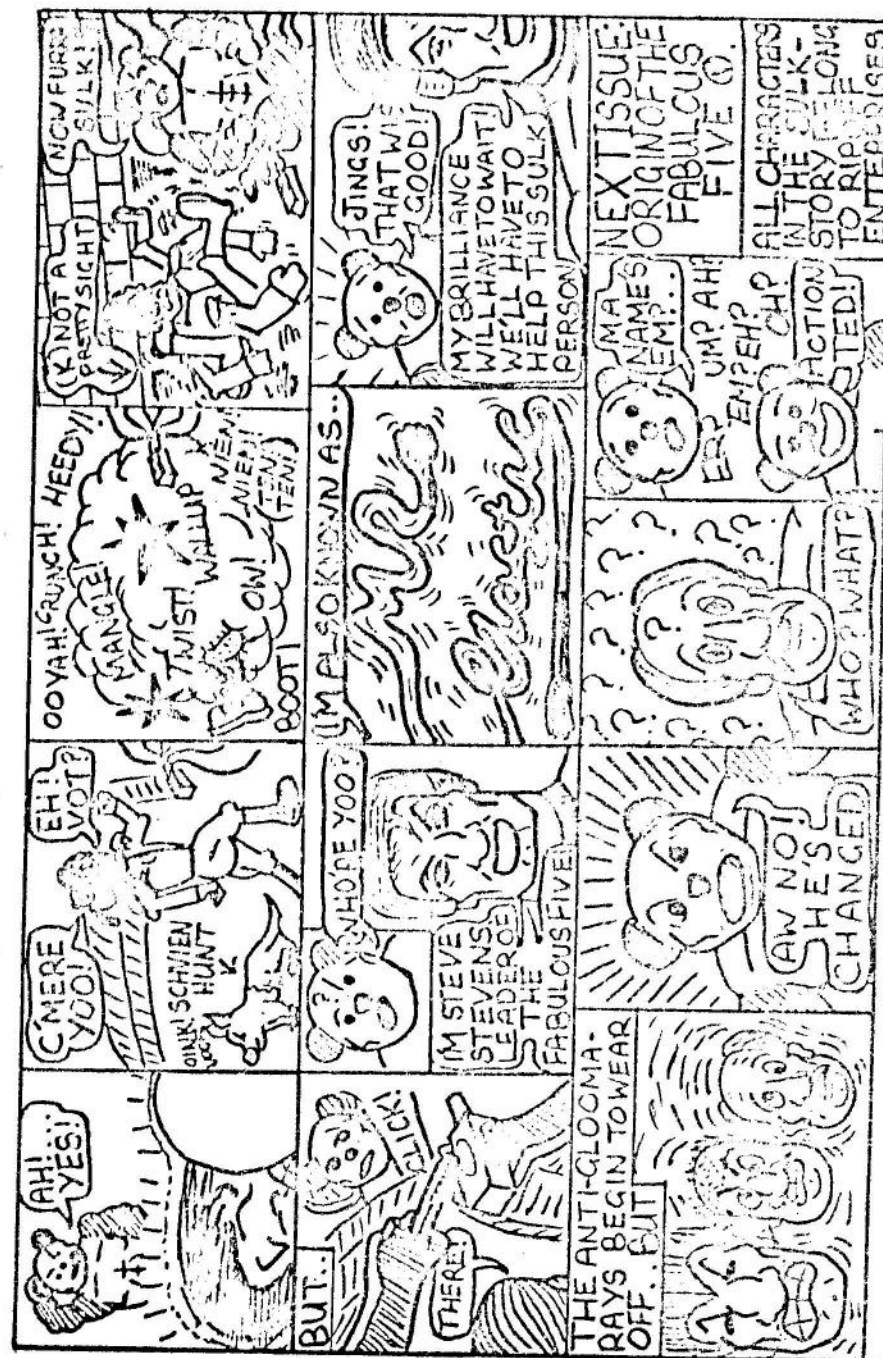
SITUATIONS VACANT

Since I came here to St Michael's there has always been a beginners' Guitar Class, so why can't there be a class for those who are advanced enough to go on further? I think that it would be a most worthwhile pursuit for those concerned. So come on teachers - we want an

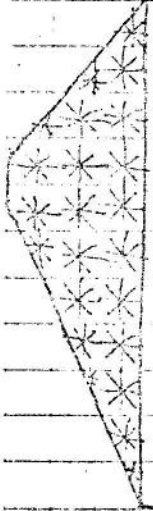
ADVANCED GUITAR CLASS!

RUMOUR -

- that Mr Scullion won't let 405, 406 boys get dancing in case they damage the girls' toes.



PM McMahon II



CHRISTMAS TIME

W - I - N - G - E - L - B - E - L - L - S - R - E - Z - A - E - A - R - E - T - R - E - N - E - L - P -
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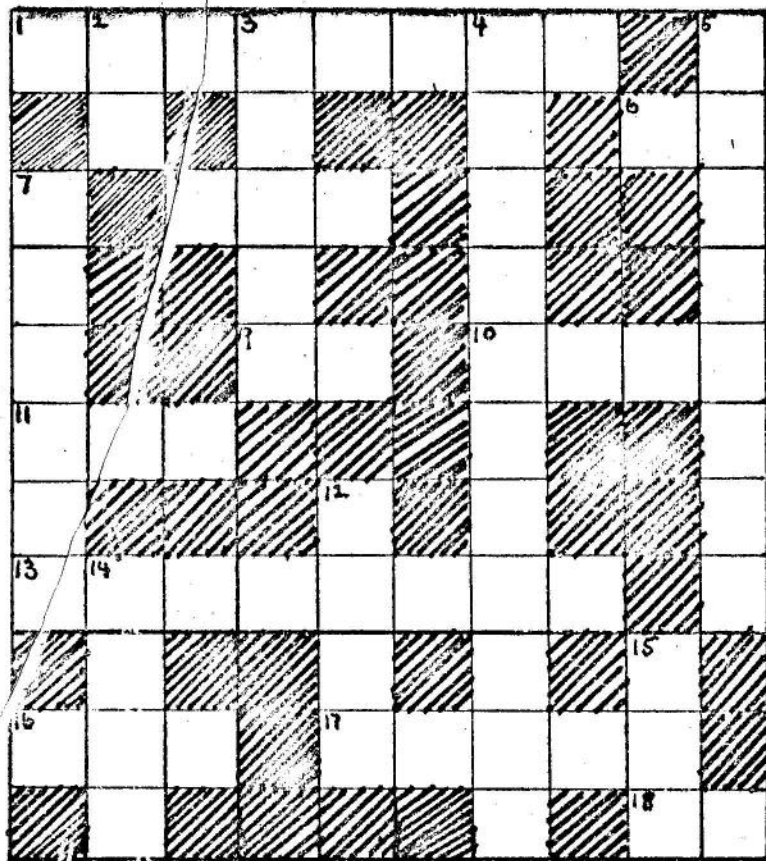
editor's note: Don't get caught out by words that sound the same. Watch your spelling. He's clever!

By Alan Priest 408.

FIND:

- | | | | |
|------------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------|
| 1 ANGELS | 9 GREETINGS | 17 NOEL | 25 SLEDGE |
| 2 BALLOONS | 10 HAMPER | 18 PARTIES | 26 SNOWMAN |
| 3 CANDLES | 11 HATS | 19 PRESENTS | 27 STABLE |
| 4 CHRISTMAS TREE | 12 JESUS | 20 PUDDING | 28 STARS |
| 5 CRACKERS | 13 JINGLE BELLS | 21 REINDEER | 29 SURPRISES |
| 6 DECORATION | 14 MANGER | 22 HORSE | 30 TINSEL |
| 7 EXCITEMENT | 15 MERRY | 23 SANTA'S | 31 TOYS |
| 8 FAIRY LIGHTS | 16 MISTLETOE | 32 SANTA CLAUS | 32 WISE MEN |

CROSSWORD



CLUES: ACROSS:

- 1 Is it a bird? Is it a plane? No! It's . . . (8)
- 6 Opposite of stop (2)
- 8 Furrow (3)
- 9 Father (2)
- 10 Skin disease (4)
- 11 Fluid for writing (3)
- 13 Figure with 4 angles and 4 sides (8)
- 16 Part of mouth (3)
- 17 Banishment (5)
- 18 Opposite of yes (2)

DOWN:

- 2 Opposite of down (2)
- 3 Supply (5)
- 4 Fear of open spaces (11)
- 5 Keepsake (8)
- 7 Floating free (6)
- 12 Freshwater fish (4)
- 14 Way out (4)
- 15 Foxes' home (3)

ALONE I STAND

Alone I stand
Lost and dejected
In a world that's not for me.

Alone I stand
Rejected by mankind
Those plastic people
Called friends
Hiding behind themselves.

Alone I stand
In a misunderstood world
That's trying to do good
But failing to succeed.

Alone I stand
In a world
Where corruption is the fashion.

Alone I stand
The hypocrite
Who tells herself she is good
But deep inside
I know it is a lie.

Alone I stand
Understanding myself
But yet, not fully.

Alone I stand
Among millions
Who think so differently
Yet I know
Someone, somewhere, understands
And will help me understand.

Alone I stand
Contradicting myself
And still not fully understanding.

Alone I stand
Different only in features
One of those plastic people,
Myself.

A TALE

Christmas approacheth (just in case you've been meditating in Tibet for the last six months). Prepare for a cataclysmic production of megalithic proportions, based on a popular best-seller (that'll keep you guessing!) starring flocks of first-years (hint), cherubic sixths (dig-dig), a crowd of Roman heavies with a tendency to tough up Israelites and various vegetables (sorry! animals) - swallow this one, Floyd. We've got a camel.

The producers (vigorous applause) by gentle persuasion (the doctor tells me the whip marks should heal by summer) suspect the show could be fit for under-fives, physics teachers and domestic animals by Monday 17 December for the bargain price of 30p including free Readers' Digest gnu-spotting guide.

H.R.H. The Shah of Iran
(Well, he's got to do something in his spare time!)

DANCING PRACTICE

One dull day in November, Second and Third Year pupils grimly entered the hall to start dancing for the festive season.

We commenced with the Not So Gay Gordons. As tall girls were chosen by small boys, this dance was made rather difficult, and we saw some strange contortions. Mrs D and Mr S however, paired off nicely and showed us the proper way to do it.

After dancing for a while we were told by Mr S that the 'Big Three' was to be attempted. Groans echoed around the hall, but exhausted as we were, we did our best. Girls find this dance very difficult, especially with boys like B.W. (who runs) on one hand, and T.T. (who walks!) on the other.

That graceful dance 'The Pride of Erin Waltz' proved not quite so graceful by 205 and 206, and as for the 'Blue Bell Polka' - it proved far too fast for our slow minds.

Second Year Girl

O U C H !

"Be there before 6 o'clock" said Mr Pentleton. "You must be there before 6 o'clock. The mini-bus leaves at . . . 6 o'clock!" About quarter to six, everyone arrived and expected to leave for the ski-slope about six. The only person not to arrive, however, was Mr Cairney who eventually arrived at ten-past-six, after worrying some people into thinking about walking it. Finally at quarter-past-six we set out for Newmilns. After picking up a couple of folk at Castlepark we lost the Fallens and didn't find them again until we reached the ski-slope, which is just past Kilmarnock in the Irvine Valley.

About 7 o'clock we finally donned our skis, boots and mitts and climbed the slope. At first the ski-ing seemed quite easy as all we did was point our skis straight ahead and ski down the hill. Then, we started doing the 'Snow Plough' which is when the front tips of the skis are pointed inwards next to each other and the ends of the skis pushed out with the heels. After learning how to do a good Snow Plough we learned how to turn. To turn, you lean to the side opposing the way that you want to turn. One thing that you aren't told about is the sudden stop when you leave the slope and reach the grass. However, I soon found out about this "sudden stop" - (ouch!) Another "sudden stop" was when the skis decided to go in the opposite direction than the one that they should have gone - (another ouch!)

One hour, (and a lot more "ouches!") later, a break was called - (no! not someone's leg!) and most of the others went into the small hut which houses the ski equipment, ski-putter-on place, and most important of all, the drinks machine. The only other 'extras' were the toilets. Another hour (and even more "ouches!") later, we all handed in our skis and moaned and groaned all the way to the mini-bus. (Guess who kept quiet so that no-one would remember about a certain bent ski-stick?)

Paul McMann

LONELY

Jack stood looking out of the dusty window. He thought about the times when he was young when Christmas was the most important thing in the year. "Ah well," he said aloud and began to walk through to the other room. His shirt was dirty and had a big hole in the side of it. His trousers were wrinkled as he had hardly ever taken them off not even when he was going to bed; he never saw the need to.

He was seventy-six come his next birthday and the years had begun to take their toll on him. He sat down in the old brown chair and closed his eyes. The wrinkles on his face were beginning to groove more deeply, and, his grey hair was pulled to the back of his head where it hung in knots. He had combed it once since his wife had died and that was nearly two months ago.

After about an hour he stood up and walked slowly back into the kitchen. He had not eaten for three days. He filled the rusty old silver kettle with water and put it on to the gas. He sat down on the wooden chair next to the window. He put his feet on a small box which was lying nearby. His slippers were red. His wife had bought him them for his Christmas the year before....

The kettle gave out a gush of steam and he quickly emptied it into the teapot sitting on the shelf nearby. He did not bother to empty the remains of tea which had been left from last week. He dragged a cup out of the small pile of dishes and rinsed it out. He had no milk or sugar so he had to drink it right from the pot. He carried the cup of redish brown tea through to the small living-room. He placed it on the side-board and sat down. He looked around the room at the dirty old carpets and chairs. He noticed the picture of his wife which was sitting straight in front of him on the mantelpiece. "You're a braw piece," he mumbled to himself and then drank his tea.

After tea he decided that he would listen to the radio before he went to bed. He sat watching the radio as if he could see a picture in it. "Happy Christmas everyone", the disc-jockey said happily. Jack smiled to

LONELY (Cont.)

himself and switched the radio off. He stood up and walked over to the picture of his wife and studied her closely, her dark, straight hair with small specks of grey here and there and her bright, jolly eyes lovingly looking at him. He placed it back on the mantelpiece disturbing the dust.

He walked through to his bedroom where he felt the cold air surround his body. His teeth knocked together causing a clicking noise. He lay down in the double bed and closed his eyes. He was getting old he told himself. "I'll soon be with my wife," he said dreamily. He let out a long sigh and his whole body just lay there.

In the morning some children came to see him. They had talked to him and his wife in the park a few times. They had come to wish him a happy Christmas. One little girl called Marie reached the handle and turned it. The door opened slowly. The four girls Marie, Carol, Linda and Amanda walked in slowly aware of the stale fumes and the dust making them cough slightly. Carol the eldest walked into the bedroom and looked at the old man lying on the bed. His face had a smile on it and she knew why. She left the room, closing the door behind her. Amanda looked at her and said, "Jack all right? Is he in there?" Carol, with a smile said, "No he ain't in there Amanda, he's away for his wife to spend Christmas with her."

Janice McDougall - 306

RUMOUR

- that S.K. can't stop boasting about Tommy.
- P.S. - WE'RE HINTING
- that Captain Caveman (J.B.-4th Year) combed his hair with his fingers, 47 times in one Religious period.
- that Anthony McDonald (206) wants a game of badminton with Miss McCourt.
- that Mr Mr Fitzpatrick won't go to the 3rd Year Party unless he is asked by J.McM-305.
- that Drippy and Dozy are still going strong.
- that Mr D's pet is F.G.-201 - has a special leash for him.