

Santa  
Is  
Dead



Long  
Live  
Rudolf

# Power Students Active In Citywide Programs

Along with questioning, doubting and darkness, Power students have turned to altruism this year. This altruism, more widespread than in the past, has found a focal point in Brother MacNamara. Under his direction, the foetus of Power's student-teach er program has matured and developed.

There are three student after-school activities currently run by Brother MacNamara. There is a tutoring program for idealistic Power volunteers at St. Paul's after school. Some twenty to twenty-five Powermen teach interested students at St. Paul's grammar school. Working closely with Brother MacNamara on this program is Sister Marie Daniel. The classes usually last for an hour or more.

A tutoring-teaching program is also underway at Sacred Heart School. There are approximately ten Power Students involved in this program, which is aimed at helping the grammar school students help themselves.

The third activity is very different from the first two. Twelve Power students spend three days a week at Roosevelt Hospital. These students visit the children in the pediatrics ward. They talk, read, or do whatever they want to do. The students held a Halloween Party and plan a Christmas Party.

All these activities are in keeping with the "new emphasis", if not new point of view, of the Vatican Council. The Council has "re-emphasized" that the people do not exist to give obligatory support to their pastors, or to provide would-be shepherds with a flock. The Church exists to serve the people. These Power students are implementing one of the more important ideas of the Council, the theme of a church of service, a theme which many of the privileged clergy readily promulgate and readily ignore.

Another group of student teacher volunteers was begun this year at Power. It is "run" by Mr. Arthur J. Bressan and Sister Richard Marie. Approximately ten Power students teach after school at St. Francis deSales grammar school at E. 97th Street. These classes are held on Wednesdays, and last for an hour to an hour and a half.

These groups are mutually beneficial. The more the Power students put into them, the more they learn about others and about themselves. The same applies to the students at the various schools and the children at the hospital. With all the talk from opposing sides about alienation, darkness, and love, these Power students bring some light by acting.

## Augustine and Hayes Crushed by J.V.

The Power JV opened its 1966-67 season Dec. 3 with a crushing home-court victory over St. Augustine 67-19. Using a few set plays, but free-lancing most of the time, they simply overpowered what turned out to be an extremely weak opponent. High men for the game were Panthers Gregory Walker with 14 and Emile Gilbert who produced 13.

Searcy contributed eight while Butler and Padille each chipped in with 6 pts. Power controlled the backboards with Searcy (only a frosh) and Butler doing the bulk of the rebounding. The team demonstrated good outside shooting and used a fast break to great advantage. Every player on the 15 man squad saw action. Coach Kevin Reilly cited Rich Cairns as an outstanding ballplayer who provides the team with leadership, spirit, and enthusiasm. The coach stated that the boys still need to work on basic fundamentals and that there are some flaws in their defensive game. Also mentioned as the most improved cager was big 'Tiny' Aukhavin.

After a one-sided romp over St. Augustine, the JV travelled up to Cardinal Hayes for its first away game. The result was a 71-46 triumph over the Hayes stalwarts. With the backcourt keying their whole offensive attack, the panthers jumped off to an early lead which they never relinquish-

These activities are only beginning. The participation of more Power students would not only insure a greater amount of success this year, but would also show hope for the continuing success of these programs. All the students who profess Christianity have a chance for true Christian activity, and the rebels who scorn "Christian" indifference and passivity have a chance to do.

ed. High man for Power was Greg Walker with 17. Emile Gilbert poured in 12 and Butler and Searcy added 6 apiece. Once again Coach Reilly cleared his bench as every man logged time on the court. An excellent performance was turned in by playmaking guards Bendik, Sosa, Gilbert, Trimble, Cairns and sharpshooter Walker. The Panthers dominated the boards with Searcy, Padille, Alvarado and Small doing a fine job underneath. The JV showed accurate passing and fast breaking, an improved defense, and general all-around hustle. One of their biggest assets is the tremendous amount of depth they have on the bench. The starting jobs are never set but are determined by each player's performance in practice, so they are always working their hardest. Under Mr. Reilly's adept direction this team is destined to go far.

## Coming -- Pictures

.....  
OMITTED -  
The letter on Page 2 of our last issue was written by Leo Anthony Robles.  
.....

# Varsity Victors As New Season Starts

The 1966-67 basketball season started last week in typical Power fashion. It was marked by three victories over St. Augustine's (86-72), Cardinal Hayes (55-53), and Cardinal Spellman (73-65).

These three games, although not reminiscent of the wide-margin victories of past years, have nevertheless set a pattern of performance that may well bring the Panthers back to the City Championship.

In several outstanding cases, the players who were platooned in one position last season, have emerged as this year's star performers. A fine example of this is Harry Hart, who is cemented as a guard in the starting five each game. Against St. Augustine's, Hart was sinking shots from all over the floor. He rack-

ed up a remarkable seven-out-of-eleven shots, and was flawless from the foul line in four attempts. As expected, he went wild under the boards, bringing down seventeen rebounds. Hart gave a repeat performance against Spellman, going seven-for-ten from the floor, while hauling in fifteen rebounds.

## Scholarship Message:

Recently P.M.A. awarded scholarship aid to eighty students - a record number. The large number was due to a change in the criteria for awarding scholarship money. Until this semester, applications lined up according to the previous semester's average, and the top grades got the money - five full and ten partial per year.

After much discussion with faculty and administration it was decided that grades alone should not be the only gauge for the giving of aid. School service as manifested through major school activities was suggested as one real way to judge a student worthy of a scholarship. This semester's list of winners mirrors the new shift in policy. Where students had high averages but no participation in a major activity only partial scholarships were given. This proliferation of partial scholarships enabled the committee to give students with lower averages but substantial school service the financial and Academic recognition that they also deserve.

Starting in January for the Freshmen only, a small confidential report will have to be turned into the bursars office with each Freshman application so that need and income will also play an important role in the distribution of funds. This facet of the program will continue starting with this year's Freshmen until uniformity of policy and treatment is assured throughout the years.

Chairman, Scholarship Comm.

For the past two seasons, Power's opposition has been plagued by Ed Klimkowski, who is also playing guard this season. In the first game of the season, St. Augustine's thought they had something in their favorite son, Phillips, who scored twenty-six points. But in the same game, Ed opened the season with a bang, with twenty-eight points. He also grabbed down eight rebounds between buckets. Even though he fouled out while playing a rugged defense against Spellman, he still managed to rack up twenty-two points as the game's high scorer.

At center position, we have about six and a half feet of Power in Tom Murray. Many shots destined for the hoop have been batted down by big Tom this year, and it doesn't look like he's going to break the habit. Playing a defensive game against Hayes, he grabbed fourteen rebounds and broke up several plays, while still finding time to put eleven points on the scoreboard.

Calling the plays up front is the familiar voice of Jackie Bruen. He picks his way through the defense and feeds the ball to the big guns. But Bruen can hurt you in more ways than one, as the opposition quickly found out this year. Jackie has a three game average of seventeen points.

Rounding out the starting five is Kenny Thompson. With the size of a forward and the jumping ability of centers, he has been able to dribble his way to the foul line and pop the ball over the hands of a startled defender and into the basket. Kenny put on a show for St. Augustine's when he sank five from the field and five from the foul line, all without giving an inch on defense.

Donald Kunhart has been coming off the bench every game to grab a needed rebound or score a vital basket, and he should become a familiar face by the end of the year.

Power's bench has a backlog of strength in Seniors Dan Regan, Charlie Powell, and Vinny Alberti. This year's success (and next year's!) is insured by juniors Frank Cortez, Roland Carpenter, John Gallo, Ronald Kenber, Bob Keenan, Bob O'Conner, and Harry Thompson.

(Continued on page 4)

## PURPLE AND GOLD

Published by the Students of  
POWER MEMORIAL ACADEMY  
161 West 61st Street, New York, N. Y.

Vol. XXII - No. 3      Late December, 1966

Editor: PAUL PETERSON  
Asst. Editor: JOHN HAGAN

Staff: A. Bernini, T. Colasuonno, H. Egan, M. Gentileco,  
J. Godzich, A. Guzman, J. Jedlicka, M. Mannion, D. Medina,  
D. Menagh, J. Molinari, F. Rienti, M. Ward, J. Wejchert,  
Myles McLoughlin, Earl Romero, Kenneth Hoch

Mr. A. J. BRESSAN  
Faculty Advisor

# Blank — mas

Christmas is a day. One out of three hundred sixty-five. After all the gift giving and singing, after all the praying and Midnight Masses, after Santa Claus' and Angels, one sobering fact remains — Christmas is nothing more than a holiday (or a Holy Day if it pleases you) on which people have decided to celebrate. What they are celebrating is a rather vague area into which few people wish to travel. Most prefer to think of Christmas as the social or spiritual highpoint of the year. Others look for some meaning. "Keep Christ in Christmas." Catchy? Yes. Christmas? No. People have spent the last twenty years crusading against commercialism. But, if they really had something meaningful to say or feel about Christmas, why should they care whether people make money on it or not. The answer (or question) to Christmas is not piped carols in a department store. Neither is it a two dollar Christmas candle that is guaranteed to burn in church for seven days.

Since the perennial admonition to rise above gifts and merrymaking during the Yuletide Season has been squeezed dry of any significance, we will not attempt to squeeze it drier. However, the point that seems to be overlooked by most people is that there is no "true meaning" to be found in Christmas; the only meaningful ideas we can ever learn are to be found in ourselves. December 25th possesses no magic. We cannot wait for "the spirit of Christmas to fill our hearts." The spirit of Christmas is a spirit of traditions and festivities which can never fill the void inside of us. In fact, the disillusionment with Christmas that strikes us when we no longer wait for the gifts on Christmas morning, when the songs become dreary, and when decorating a tree becomes a job, is only a sign that we won't find "the answer" in a Christmas card, even a religious one.

Is Christ the answer, then? Is Mass and Holy Communion the true way to celebrate Christmas? Each individual could have his own answers to these questions. If he does not, then now is the time to start seeking some solutions. If religion has no meaning then one must be sure that he has found some valid statements for its rejection — and if the decision is rejection, then one must reject and not make a sham of his life, by going through the paces of a reflex religion. If Christ IS the answer then one must be certain that he is following the Christ of the Gospels and not the interpreted Christ who so often reigns supreme.

Historically, Christ was not born on December 25th. The date was chosen as a commemoration of his birth, at a convenient time of the year.

It is doubtful that Christmas will bring us any new insights of itself. However, it too is a convenient time in our lives to take a look at ourselves and our beliefs and see if we can fill in the blank that has been left for us.

## Letters

### Staff:

Perhaps what made the second issue funnier, though not better than the first, was Leo Robles' letter. Leo ("We are ALL intellectuals") Robles is an amazing person. He has successfully analyzed many people he has never met, labeling them "sub-conscious intellectuals," much as Holden Caulfield would label someone a "secret slob." Master Robles does not do it quite as well.

He does not stop after his tremendous destruction of the "sub-conscious intellectuals." He shows us the full delusion. Not only are the "intellectuals" deluded into thinking that they are intellectuals — deluded by their own delusion — but "the

average Powerman refers to them as so!" From the wilderness comes the prophet's cry: "Everyone is deceived!" Everyone except Leo Robles of course. Yet, how can the intellectuals be wrong in believing that they are intellectuals if, as Mr. Robles has so emphatically stated, "we are ALL intellectuals"?

Now come the poorer parts of his letter. Leo Robles, prophet incarnate, shall now preach. (ALL rise please.)

"Every single word bears me out on the intellectuality of man; and merely because they (they being the 'intellectuals', although he obviously intends "they" to refer to the newspaper staff, since the newspaper is the only "intellectual" scribbling at Pow-

er. Watch your pronouns, please) scribble a few words and expect you to take it at face value doesn't hold water with anyone who really searches for the facts." Is omniscient Mr. Robles to decide what is fact, and what, as he so "jithily" puts it, doesn't hold water?

Mr. Robles moves to his "ultimate," and perhaps most absurd dogmatic proclamation. The theater is a waste, he scribbles, "since everyone knows that the average Powerman has an extremely wide cultural background, and, therefore, any attempt such as this is futile." Does he expect the "average Powerman," whom Mr. Robles champions, to take that at face value?

Probably. "The College Choice" articles were superb, not only because they neither made a choice, or even seemed to make a choice, but also because they contained some of the most hilarious examples of pseudo-profundity and quasi-profundity that have ever appeared in the space occasionally dedicated toward the regular "airing of the two student opinions" on controversial issues.

Perhaps the best example of a sentence that only pretends to be a sentence is: "Despite geometric axioms, self-knowledge and not mathematics should be the primary reason for an education." The author brilliantly mixes reality with confusion, leaving us with his unique brand of absurd humor. It is obvious that the attempt at humor was conscious, and not accidental.

Leaving Mr. Guzman's ridiculousness, for the moment, we turn to Mr. Bernini's banality. He writes: "No student should tear apart a cardboard education." This is an example of Mr. Bernini's banality, when he is at his metaphoric best.

The award for "The Best, Most Effectively Sustained Inanity" belongs to Mr. Bernini. The sentence that won this award for him reads: "State standards are naturally present to guide the content of each subject, but the true education, the education that one obtains in campus centers and at beer hall conversations, does not have a Statewide format." This sentence "cuts right to the core of the conflict between Catholic and Secular colleges.

There is also a mystery in the article written by Mr. Guzman. He writes: "An organization that exists to maintain and propagate a doctrine simply can't control a university?" By not furnishing the source of his quotation, Mr. Guzman gives us a brilliant example of his wild, tongue-thru-cheek wit. It is an excellent satire on all fake college and high-school term papers. KUDOS, Mr. Guzman.

Although both students said nothing about Catholic colleges versus secular colleges, about "The School" versus "The Spirit," or even resolved anything, Mr. Bernini said his nothing better.

Ah! the cinema! Aside from the fact that, as one Judeo-Italian scholar has said, all of Mr. Hagan's reviews are the same, except for different names; aside from the fact that Mr. Hagan never says anything, but always almost says something, like "The Bible doesn't fail but its success is a small one;" aside from those facts. . . . Let's just leave it at that. All Powermen, being intellectuals, can see the "ever-so-subtle implications." Hopefully, next issue there will be "Fewer Words from Malone," an issue discussed by opposing students, and another brilliant editorial.

Michael Mannion, Senior  
Mr. Staff and Yourself,

I think that the Purple and Gold is a very good newspaper. I think it would be even better if I were on the staff. I dare you to print this in your rag!

Robert Mannion, Freshman

# La Bibliotheque — Revisited

Power is not a school with unlimited physical capabilities; the cafeteria and the stairs make that point clear. However, where there is room for improvement, the best possible effort is being made for the betterment of Power, and to obtain the most superlative facilities available to Powermen. One of these facilities is Power's library, which, under the direction of Br. McMullen, has gone and continues to go under a program of welcomed renovation.

Mrs. Caruso, the librarian, who is ably assisted by Miss Fortuna, has been given a free hand by Br. McMullen to do what is necessary to make the library into a useful facility at Power. Accordingly, the program of renewal, which began earlier this year, had, as its first step, the elimination of some books from the library. It is important to understand why this move was made.

In years past, the library had accumulated a great number of books. These books can be roughly categorized as falling into one of the following three groups: good, useful books; old, out-of-date books; books which, in themselves, are good, but which ceased to serve a purpose, to be of real value to Powermen.

The removal of these books might seem like a drastic move to some, but it is important to remember that space is limited, and that the incoming books will have no place on the shelves if those shelves have in them books of a lesser value. It is the intention of Mrs. Caruso that every book in Power's library be a good book, as well as having a purpose. As she explained, books were deleted to make room for more serviceable books; good books were replaced by better books.

This excision having been completed, the next step went into effect, and this step is the one on which the library is presently working. It is the reorganization of the many volumes remaining. Extensive time and work is being put into making sure each book in the library is properly catalogued, without which books become impossible to locate. While there are those who complain that they want the library ready now, it is necessary to explain to them the difficulty in such reorganization. It was only recently that the recataloging of the fiction section was completed. Multiply the time this action took by the number of the other sections, add the time necessary to recatalogue new books, and include time for all the other things which the library must take care of, and you have some idea why the library isn't ready now. In fact, anybody aware of the situation in the library will easily acknowledge that a phenomenal job has already been done.

To speed things up as much as is possible, the library, while still in the throes of reorganization, has already ordered some of the new books which it will offer, and a number of these have arrived. To make Power's library as real a library as it can be, the head of each department has made a survey of those books pertaining to his field, recommended which books were no longer useful, and submitted a list of books he wishes to order for the library. Thus, when completed, the library will represent the latest knowledge in Mathematics, Science, etc., as well as being up to date in Language, History, and above all, Literature. The library is also getting the most recent reference books available, and included in its possessions will be a wealth of other library materials, notably pamphlets, magazines and audio-visual aids.

There is, as was stated, the matter of time. A cursory deletion and reorganization could have been made, and some new books obtained at random, and the library would probably be ready now. However, it is Br. McMullen's wish that Power's library be not only good, but excellent. If this must take time, that is unfortunate, but it is well worth it. To be a real library, it will take time, and it will never really be complete, for there is always something new to be obtained. The work is going as fast as it can, and that is the most we can expect.

When the library is ready, it will be an admirable one. Being both a lending and reference library, it will employ the use of open shelves, so that the students themselves will be allowed among the books, and will be able to obtain what they will. Such is not always the case in other libraries.

In the future, the library will no longer be a study hall or a homework room. If a student wants to use library books, fine, but not if he wants merely to read one of his own books. In time to come, the library will be used once more as a library.

# DRINK! DRINK! DRINK!

## No! No! No! The Issue Now! Now! Now!

All teenagers want to be accepted as adults. That's only normal. But some teen-agers may use drinking to hurry the process, to force others to consider them adults. They may have the mistaken notion that drinking proves them sophisticated, or that their rebellion against parental authority shows independence and maturity.

Teen-agers who are fairly mature emotionally realize that these aren't good reasons for deciding to drink. They know that such a decision should be based on facts and personal values. It should not be an act of defiance against parents or school.

Teenage drinking is a serious, growing social menace in the United States.

Europe may be exemplified as an argument against teen-age drinking. In Europe, where drink is introduced to the teen (and often earlier), alcoholism has its greatest percentage. In ratio to the U.S., Europe has 8 alcoholics to our 1. This is explained by the so-called "drink education" introduced to the teen-age European. Most teen-agers do not have a drinking problem, but rather a problem with drink. The difference lies in one's capacity for drink.

The arguments for teen-age drinking are few and ill-thought. It is thought a man's virility is increased through drink. Does incoherent speech, swaggering, and a short feeling of elevation make a "MAN?" Alcohol portrayed as a stimulant is another popular misconception. Alcohol is medically considered a depressant, an anesthetic, and a drug. Like so many drugs, alcohol can be poisonous in large quantities. Alcohol dulls the senses. The expression "feeling no pain" is derived from this. The impression of its stimulating effects is a result of the temporary "lift" in the blood sugar. This "lift" is followed by a sharp decline. The slow ruination of health is the product of drinking whereas the "lift" is merely the immediate by-product.

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA), an organization larger than some religious sects, deals with the rehabilitation of the alcoholic and the reconstruction of the man. Alcoholics Anonymous treats alcoholism for what it is — a disease. In *The Alcoholic and Alcohol*, the author James Coffman stated that 47% of all alcoholics began drinking "moderately as a teen-ager", 71% drank to

be "sociable," and that 12% were born alcoholics. There are four million alcoholics in the U.S., and alcoholism is the fourth largest problem of the country.

One of the more serious arguments against teen-age drinking is the illnesses directly connected with drinking. The more serious being Hypoglycemia, Arteriosclerosis, enlargement of veins, fatal damage to the central nervous system, "wet brain", a slowing of the functioning of the kidneys, Korsakoffs psychosis, cirrhosis of the liver, and a reduction of sexual performance and capacity (even though alcohol tends to give free expression to sexual desire).

The teen-ager who is insecure emotionally may use alcohol as a means to security, a way of showing off, of getting attention, or as a means to suppress their own impressions of themselves. Teen-age drinking is due chiefly to the rapid social changes and increased emotional tensions in their lives, coupled with easier access to liquor. Many teens depend on alcohol so they can enjoy themselves. This dependence on the bottle is a lacking within themselves. It is a sign of an unhealthy state of mind and body when the ability to enjoy life—or even to function well — depends on alcohol. The mark of a man is his sobriety.

If a teen-ager feels insecure about his relations to himself and to others, the tendency is to escape. He takes his refuge in drinking. When a teen becomes emotionally excited over any thing that happens, he is in danger of losing control. It is under these circumstances that the "user" of alcohol becomes the "abuser". Peace of mind is sought and the key is thought to be drink. The emotionally mature find their peace of mind in self-discipline, and that doesn't cost

In today's world, and especially in a city like New York, the problem of student drinking much resembles the problem of public drinking during the prohibition years. The question is not essentially "Should people be allowed to drink?" but rather, "Are the people who drink justified in doing so?" It is common knowledge that any teenager who wishes to indulge may do so without much trouble. Even with a law over their heads, teenagers, like adults, face that all important decision as to whether they should or should not be "social drinkers" (or "social drinkers" as the case may be).

The adult world claims that it is protecting its young people from a vice of sorts. The teenage world claims that it is being discriminated against and that it is just as capable of handling alcohol as any other group.

Is alcohol so great an evil that teenagers should be protected? And if so, why not protect adults as well? Are teenagers incapable of handling liquor? Are adults any more capable? These are the questions raised by two Powermen in this issue of the Purple and Gold. The readers' answers are welcome.

as much as the former.

The teen-ager who thinks he can drink moderately because others do, should examine further fearful examples to be found in the streets of every city. If the person succeeds in keeping within the limits of "moderate drinking", his example is unfair to those who are unfortunately not so strong willed.

The teen-age drinker is in danger because he is using alcohol (Continued on page 4)

The rumor that liquor is intrinsically evil (like communism?) has long since been dispelled, and, as amply evidenced by many of the clergy and laity alike, "drinking" has been discovered to be not only quite "unimoral," but moreover, oftentimes quite beneficial; many a faculty member is aided by an "occasional" drink to get him through that never-decreasing pile of uncorrected test papers. Certainly, there is nothing wrong with this action, and we will even hasten to encourage it. God bless the little buggers.

Now, quite in the spirit of the "aggiornamento," and with a touch of indignation at unrestricted authority (viz. divine right) we have become convinced that it is almost always extremely foolish to grant privileges to one segment of society on the mere supposition that that segment, because of its more advanced age, is more mature, and capable of correctly conducting itself "in moderation" than a younger segment which, more often than not, will surpass its elders in maturity, intelligence, and self-discipline, as has been proven on numerous occasions. Granted, there should be some restrictions on drinking, and I am in no way advocating revealing in debauchery — bacchanals take notice! But drunkenness, a danger to the common good of society, as well as a detriment to the individual himself, is just as dangerous whether it be a teenager or a one-foot-in-the-grave who is drunk. So, we welcome restrictions, if they pertain to all, but to reserve these restrictions to the youth insinuates that it is only the youth who will get drunk, and we know that this is just not the case. Likewise, if there are to be no restrictions on the rest of society, we too demand freedom from them. For those who will control themselves and not drink excessively, there is no need of limitations, and such limitations can only serve to thwart the well-intentioned, self-disciplined youth who is forced to abide by them. As for those who are determined to get drunk, there are many ways to get around regulations, and for them, restrictions have no effect. Thus, in both cases, when restrictions are placed on teenage drinking, no good results, and, in the first case, the effect can actually be insalubrious. Hence, the biggest opposition to a teenager's drinking, his immaturity, can be ruled

out as a cause for restrictions. Another big argument for restriction is the health of the teenager who drinks. Excessiveness withstanding, (Everything in moderation!) there is no proof that alcohol causes sickness, disease, or even the common cold, in any age group. Too much alcohol is admittedly dangerous, and often fatal, but moderate "imbibing" has never been known to be harmful, and, as many will wholeheartedly affirm, its medicinal abilities have, over the years, seemed to work numerous miraculous cures. (Bread and wine, anyone?) Actually, the intake of alcohol, especially for teenagers, is adequately proven in the Mediterranean countries, where wine is consumed in place of water. Little children are raised on wine, and live a lot longer than Americans. It has even been suggested that drinking at an early age might inoculate people against any possible detrimental qualities of alcohol. In addition, there has never been found a more effective and harmless stimulant than alcohol to be given to people who are in need of being revived. Thus, the health of the teenager is no restriction to his drinking, provided it is not excessive.

Any other objections which are posed against teenage drinking can only be negligible; if either maturity or health is a reason for restriction, there certainly can be no cause greater than these that is relevant. Since there is no real reason why a teenager shouldn't drink, there only remains the question, "Why should he?" The attributes far outweigh any possible objections, and to make a few should suffice:

Drinking (not being drunk) is "fun." It lightens spirits, takes one's mind off the banalities with which it is forced to contend, enables one to be a bit (Continued on page 4)

## Lukewarm: Fahrenheit or Centigrade

In his "Journal", written about a year ago, director Francois Truffaut says: "*Fahrenheit 451* is not going to be a propaganda film, only a film about books." Well, Truffaut was wrong. *Fahrenheit* is propaganda and a film about books, and a few other things, among them a semi-successful picture — but not a work of art.

*Fahrenheit 451* is based on Ray Bradbury's sci-fi novel, deriving its name from that temperature at which book-paper burns. It is the story of a society in which it is forbidden to read and to possess books. The firemen — who once put out fires — are responsible for confiscating books and burning them on the spot. One of them, Montag (Oskar Werner), on the point

of being promoted to a higher position, influenced by meeting a young woman, Clarisse, who questions the order of things, begins to read these forbidden books. His wife, Linda (both women are played by Julie Christie) informs on him, and eventually Montag is brought to the point of burning his Captain (an odd and splendid performance by Cyril Cusack), and running away to a colony where the men and women living there have each memorized a book, in an attempt to assure literature's permanent survival.

Knowing the plot beforehand doesn't matter, really. *Fahrenheit* is not an exciting film in the conventional sense of the word, nor is it basically concerned with being such. During the

first scene, for example, you are not expected to become so enthralled in the man fleeing the firemen, that you don't realize he had been reading *Don Quixote* (which is an icky symbolism). Nor can you miss noticing that the first book which Montag reads begins with the words "I am born." This certainly is a film about books — in more ways than one.

The abolishment of literature isn't the only thing wrong with this mythical society. Everyone (except the book-lovers, of course) is either very selfish or very stupid — and often both. Are we to believe, then, that books are responsible for the selflessness and basic intelligence of a person? People like Montag and Clarisse are the freaks of this society: those who search for

something in life. As we are told, Clarisse "is special" — she doesn't own a TV set! I began to suspect that Truffaut was putting us on. Then I realized what all the critics meant when they said that *Fahrenheit* is a "dull movie." The characters and situations are so one-dimensional, you're almost willing to accept anything — no questions asked.

The scenes in the book colony show *Fahrenheit's* satire at its purest and sharpest — and its best. These people have become what they cherish: books. It's amusing to see twins who "have become" *Pride and Prejudice* — Volumes I and II. But it's also fascinating, and moving, to think of a group of people willing to sacrifice, in a sense, their own lives so that

others, someday, can enrich their lives with this literature.

There is also a brilliant scene in which an old lady refuses to leave her books and stays to burn with them. Seeing her standing amidst the flames and then seeing the books slowly crumble up, you momentarily experience the horror which Truffaut spends nearly two hours trying to express.

It is scenes like this which give *Fahrenheit* its value. But is it enough? *Fahrenheit 451* is probably worth seeing, but it isn't nearly the movie that it might have been: that it should have been. At best, it can be said to be a minor victory. Yet, in this case, is that a victory at all?

JOHN HAGAN

# Coleman's Party: Ferrer, Ferry Make Christmas Chaos Chargers Champions

The spirit of Christmas reaches every one at some time. For some it comes on that special day when the holiday actually arrives. Others "get the spirit" after Christmas, when the bills begin to appear. But for Francis C. Coleman, own our daffy Dean of Studies, the spirit arrived a few weeks ago. The rest is history. . .

It all began in his home, after an especially gruelling day of school (IMAGINE WORKING FOR 2 HOURS!). Sitting in his easy chair (which plays "Mother McCree" when you jump on it), "Willa" Coleman started to meditate on the Christmas spirit. Finding that he had a bottle of it in his cubby hole, he kept on meditating, and meditating. The whole thing came back to him now — his childhood, and the parties. . . THE PARTIES! He remembered the big one on reaching puberty — he was only 30, young for his age, everyone said. IT WAS A MASQUERADE PARTY! Then it was settled! HE WOULD GIVE ANOTHER MASQUERADE PARTY! Becoming high with jubilation, he knew that it couldn't wait. The party must be given IMMEDIATELY. But there was so much to do: invitations, decorations, costumes. THE CHRISTMAS MASQUERADE PARTY WAS UNDER WAY!

Francis C. "the Jackie Gleason of the dead set," considered his plans to the Principal the next day. And to his surprise, "our lusty leader" responded jovially, saying that, because of our hero's unfailing generosity to "his dear students" throughout the many, many years, he could HOLD THE PARTY AT PMA! "Faithful Francis" was so delighted that he released the Freshmen who were being broiled on his new "DATAMATION COOKER." With overflowing gratitude, they jumped down the hall singing "Halleluiah!" in perfect unison.

Well, the big event finally arrived. All of our "Fantastic Faculty" arrived on time, all attired in their remarkable costumes. Mr. Gonzalez appeared as Paul Bunyan (with Bro. O'Connor as Babe, the Blue Ox). "Hubcap" Greenslade came as the Marquis de Sade. Mr. Coppolino dressed as Lady Macbeth and Mr. "happiness is being a Math teacher" Cooney dragged his clown costume out of the closet once more.

The happy host greeted them all at the Gym Door, beckoning them to enter for an evening of Yuletide Merriment. But an argument soon resulted. It seems that Mr. Coleman wanted to play his favorite game "PMA is falling down." The saintly Brother McMullen, quite disturbed, suggested that they play his favorite game: "Hide and Seek." To settle this riot, "Lonesome Leavey" appointed himself Master of Ceremonies and insisted that there be a uniform plan of activities. Mr. Heelan promptly agreed, comparing this noble plan with the fundamental ideas of the Marxist Theory.

"All settled then," said the Crazy Commodore. The first activity was to be placing of the angel (which bore a remarkable resemblance to Mr. Grimmeyer) on the Christmas tree. This came to an end when Mr. Gonzalez, the "Spanish Cyrano," who had begun to climb the three foot tree, denounced this sport as dangerous, ". . . and perhaps even immoral!" chirped in Bro. Longobardi.

A look at Power's magnificent stage convinced everyone that a play was in order, at which point Mr. Ott pulled one out of his pocket, "just happened to have it handy." This masterpiece of artistic literature happened to be a modern version of "A Christmas Carol," Bro. O'Connor's favorite story. The plan fell through, though, when Mr. Duchesne refused to play Scrooge — with "the Brain" Coppolino as that poor child, "Rabid Ricky." Just in the nick of time, Jim Walsh who was given the job of butler for the night, announced that "DINNER IS SERVED!" All of the grotesque guests promptly pranced over to the Cafeteria for the expected goodies. To increase business, Power had introduced toplevel waitresses. Mr. Burns, using his all-purpose orange silk tie, grabbed a pretty waitress and dragged her into the kitchen. Using her quick wit, though, she escaped by hitting him over the head with a Christmas Cookie. In the corner of this "Risqué Restaurant" stood Mr. Schminke, mixing his famous "Schminke Drink," that potent brew designed to turn your hair red. He was joined by Mr. Ott who, donning a chalky black gown and pointed hat, assisted him in a recital of the Witches Scene from "Macbeth," while singing "It Came Upon A Midnight Clear" (no easy feat!). Bro. Peterson, taking a sip of this Holiday Potion, turned into a bat and flew away to haunt the Book Store — as usual. Amidst this havoc, one of the waitresses tried to speak with MR. YUN behind the Candy Machine, tempting him with his favorite food: CHINESE PEANUT BRITTLE. But enough of that.

The Chargers, a strong Senior aggregate, rolled over the Trojans in an easy 24-0 victory to take the intramural championship at Sheep Meadow, Central Park on Nov. 14.

The championship game was the culmination of a month-long round robin play which saw the Chargers cop the Senior-Junior division while the second year Trojans were winning the Sophomore-Freshman section.

In the title fray the Chargers were led by the accurate passing of Steve Ferrer who hit Dan Haren and Jim Ferry for long bombs in the first half for TD's.

In the second half Ferrer hit paydirt again with a short pass to Joe Young.

The Trojans came into the championship game undefeated and unscored upon had a difficult time getting an attack going. Tom O'Rourke, the Soph's talented quarterback was hit repeatedly behind the line of scrimmage by the blitzing Chargers.

The Chargers gained the right to play in the title game by defeating the Jets, 20-14, in the Senior-Junior playoff game. This game, played in mud and rain, was the best game of the intramural tournament. The contest was decided by a long TD pass from Ferrer to Ferry with eight seconds left on the clock.

Both teams were tenacious on defense. The Chargers first score came on an interception by Tom Bria who went all the way for six pts. William Nally put the Chargers eight points up by hitting Vinny DiPilato in the Jets' end zone for a safety.

The Jets scored on a pass from DiPilato to Pat Tier-

ney, an interception by Mike Errichello, and a safety set up by John Gori.

The Vikings, a freshman ball club, was the surprise of the tournament finishing as runner-up in the Sophomore - Freshman section. The Vikings led by Walter McNicholas, John Boggio, and Michael Esobedo finished the season with a 6-1 slate.

As the final crowning event of the intramural season, a game was played between the championship team and members of the faculty. With Mr. Schminke and Mr. Gimmeyer waddling their way towards oblivion, the faculty members didn't have a chance. The Chargers slaughtered them in a battle which left no one in the same condition in which they started, and many (especially the 'older' ones) were much the worse for it. Ah! the glories of youth.

P.S. The Purple and Gold received this note from a certain white phantom as we were going to press: "The Seniors are reminded that the faculty and I are waiting anxiously to crush their feeble softball team and to once more reign supreme throughout the land." Ah! the folly of age.

At that moment an announcement came over the P.A. stating that "BULLMOOSE HUNTING SEASON HAD BEGUN!" Led by Mr. Morra, the group set out to capture this most wicked of animals. But when they reached its cave, all to be found were signs saying such things as "ST. AUGUSTINE FOR PRESIDENT!" and "JONATHAN EDWARDS LOVES YOU TOO!"

The revered Dean of Studies then announced that the BIG MOMENT HAD ARRIVED! First, he gave everyone a piece of CHRISTMAS CAKE (containing Power Yum — Yum Burgers and the remnants of those students who refused to obey "Corrective Action"). Next, he returned AS SANTA CLAUS, wearing a fluorescent costume, veiled of old tuition bills and moldy detention slips. Sitting on his throne of Purple and Gold, our St. Nick disclosed a huge bag of gifts for everyone. Bro. Binkley was given a two-headed teddy bear; Mr. McCutchen a collection of French post cards; Mr. Grimmeyer was presented with the Booby-prize and Mr. Burns received a tie — for a change.

"SANTA CLAUS" then took each of his "spiritual children" on his lap, asking them what they'd like to be when they grew up. Bro. McMullen showed a desire to be a monk; Mr. Morra: a tuba; Bro. Leavey: a sailor; Mr. Considine: a "Monarch Review Note"; Mr. Cooney: loved, and Mr. Gonzalez: a little bit bigger. "Santa Coleman" then tried to complete the festivities with a jolly "HO! HO!" — but the best he could do was an occasional burp.

His Holiness, Heelan I, joined by the sainted Blessed Leavey, proceeded to lead this group of "dedicated and brilliant men" into the Chapel to pray before the new statue of St. Critter, patron saint of social diseases. Their voices rose in unison as they begged this holy saint: ". . . to bless our holy Dean of Studies during this special holiday and keep him in your care for many years to come!" The statue was then seen to laugh uproariously. . . and, really, who can blame it?

## No!

to escape from his problems. This keeps him from really facing up to things, and eventually the teen-ager finds himself as a mis-placed adult. The teen-ager also loses the chance to gain real respect and admiration by learning to do one thing well, by developing his talents. Looking for a "way out" does not lead to maturity or happiness.

The teen-ager should also consider that even alcohol enters the picture, it affects everyone as a public health concern, it affects his family, his work, his employer, his status as a man, the individuals sense of judgment is lost along with his capability for decision.

A person sins by excessive drinking when it becomes harmful to health or it deprives the person of the use of reason. The malice of drunkenness consists essentially in this that without sufficient reason a person deprives himself in a violent way of the use of the noblest of his faculties — his intellect. Some young people in an impulsive desire to try something out, go off the deep end and take alcohol. Their physical immaturity makes them a prey to drunkenness. The virtue of sobriety should be carefully cultivated, especially by the teen-ager. It aids them to check their passions and develops self-control. Sobriety is a virtue regulating man's desire for the use of alcohol. It is a distinct virtue having for its object the moderate use of alcoholic drinks. It is a virtue most necessary for an upright moral life.

The right or "privilege" to drink comes soon enough. We mustn't seek it out.

Douglas Menagh

## Now!

more "friendly" in meeting new people, is a socially acceptable method of offering and receiving/hospitality, and, as one of my libidinous Druid friends phrased it, "It tastes good!" It often makes living just a little bit easier.

The point is this: drinking is not injurious to the teenager, and he is often more capable of knowing "when to stop" than his "elders"; this fact brings us to the following questions:

Is the teenager to be deprived of his right to enjoy himself? Is he to be forced to conform to a set of rules made by people who do not themselves conform to it? Is he still going to be crushed by a parental need of power, a tyrannical enforcement of the medieval "Father knows best" theory of government? Are the restrictions against his drinking for his own good, or do they merely reflect a selfish desire on the part of the "social presbyters" to retain privileges only for themselves?

If a teenager wants to drink, he should be able to, without fear of recriminations. After all, contrary to popular belief, the teenager is a people too, you know.

Michael Gentilesco

## Varsity Vectors

The team has one final asset. Mr. Kunherth has devoted countless hours in building a tightly knit unit from the individual talents of his players. Through his efforts, the Panthers play as a team and not just as five people who know how to play basketball.

There can be little doubt that this year's team will measure up to any other team in the city, and when the playoff games are held, The Panthers will prove it.