

# IS THERE A SANTA?

(It was only September 1897, and Christmas was three months away. But Virginia O'Hanlon's concern was with an important problem that, to her, knew no season. That was why she wrote her letter to the New York Sun.)

"I am 8 years old. Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus (sic). Papa says, "If you see it in the Sun, it's so." Please tell me the truth, is there a Santa Claus?"

(The answer to Virginia's question, written in a moment of deep spiritual insight by Francis B. Church, stands even today as testament expressing two-thousand years of faith. It is reprinted in part because it will always deserve to be read again at the Christmas season.)

## MERRY

## CHRISTMAS

From the  Echo

Virginia, your little friends are wrong.... They have been affected by the skepticism of their skeptical age. They do not believe unless they see. They think nothing can be that is incomprehensible to their minds.... All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are small. In this great universe of ours man is a mere insect, an ant in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

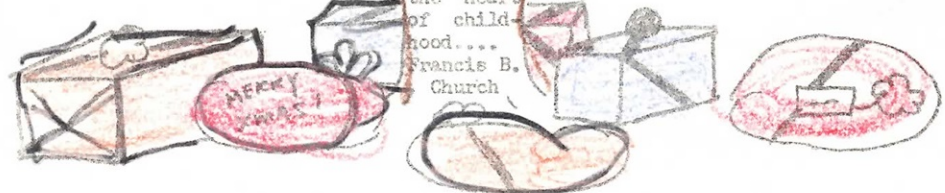
Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus... He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas, how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus. It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginia.

Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children or men see. Did you ever see the fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there.

You tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man nor even the united strength of all the strongest men who ever lived could tear apart. Only love, faith, fancy, poetry, romance can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernatural beauty and glory behind. Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else so real and abiding.

No Santa Claus! Thank God he lives. And he lives and lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay ten thousand years from now he will continue to make glad

the heart of childhood....  
Francis B. Church



# DECORATION HINTS!

Are you sick and tired of the same old decorations and ornaments? Here are some new ideas to inspire new holiday enthusiasm.

Instead of just setting the cards you receive on a table, get a long length of very wide ribbon and stick the cards on with double-faced scotch tape. You can hang the ribbon over the door. After the Christmas Season, save it for next year.

For a striking centerpiece get some big Christmas balls and place them on a silver tray, graduating them in size and keeping them secure with double-faced scotch tape. The reflections made on the tray and the interesting patterns it makes are well worth the trouble.

Now, here's a holiday treat:

Mash a box of vanilla wafers in a bowl and add two tablespoons of cocoa mix. Mix with rum to a gooey consistency. Roll balls of the mixture in confectioners sugar. These and a cup of hot eggnog can turn the coldest night into a pleasant experience.



Wish

You a

VERY

MERRY

CHRISTMAS!!

# "THE NIGHT BEFORE" ☆ KURISUMASU

'T WAS THE NIGHT BEFORE KURISUMASU AND ALL THROUGH THE UCHI NOT A CREATURE WAS STIRRING, NOT EVEN NEZUMI.

TABI WERE HUNG BY HIRACHI WITH CARE IN HOPES THAT SANTA-SAN SOON WOULD BE THERE.

KODOMOTACHI WERE SNUG IN FUTON DREAMING OF SUSHI AND ASAGOMAN.

HARA IN KIMONO AND CHICHI IN HAKAMA HAD JUST SETTLED DOWN TO REST THEIR ATAMA.

WHEN IN HONORABLE GARDEN I HEARD SO MUCH OTO I SPRANG FROM TATAMI, "WHASSA MATTAN THERE, SOTC?"

AWAY TO MY TANSU AS FAST AS COULD GO I PUT ON MY TANZEN AND CLINCHED THE HIMO.

STEPPING FROM HEYA, I GOT INTO ZORI AND CREPT TO THE GARDEN TO SEE WHASSA STORY.

AND WHAT TO MY WONDERING EYES SHOULD I SPY A RA MAA, WOW, TAIHEN BIKKURI SHITA.

HALF THROUGH THE GATE WAS A NINETY YEN TAKUSHI WITH A LITTLE OLD DRIVER, YOPPARAI ON SAKE.

HIS YUKATA WAS RED AND HIS GETA WERE BLACK A FUROSHIKI OF TOYS WERE SLUNG OVER HIS BACK.

A SUMO STYLE STOMACH, I SHOULD TELL YOU TOO, SHOOK WHEN HE LAUGHED LIKE A BOWL OF TOFU.

HE SPOKE NOT A WORD, BUT WENT STRAIGHT TO SHIGOTO SOON BACK IN KURUMA, PLAYING SONG ON HIS KOTO.

HIDARI THEN MIGI THEN RIGHT THROUGH THE WALL DASH AWAY, DASH AWAY, PEDESTRIANS ALL.

I HEARD HIM EXCLAIM AS HE GAVE A GREAT SIGH: "MERRY KURISUMASU TO ALL. OYASUMI NASAI."

# THE HOLIDAYS ARE HERE!

Well, here it is again! As of 3:05 today, we start two weeks of Christmas vacation. There are so many things you can do these two weeks. For instance, you can go skiing at one of the many slopes around Japan. You can go bear hunting in Hokkaido or, if you like, stay here at home and enjoy a merry Christmas with all the folks in Yokohama. Wherever you go or whatever you do, we of the "Echoes" sincerely hope you have a good time, and that you come back to school in one piece!

MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR!

The "Echoes" Staff

Dear Social Editor:  
In formal dining, can chicken be eaten with the fingers?  
Just Wondering

Dear Just Wondering:  
Definitely not! The fingers should be eaten separately.  
Social Editor



Dear Mr. Klein,

Dear Ed.,

Your argument in the last issue of the "Echoes" was well presented. I think, however, that you misunderstood those you criticize. By Vietnam War protesters, the Yo-Hi students did not mean sane critics of the war, but rather the lunatic fringe who march up and down streets carrying signs and shouting anti-war slogans, or who burn their draft cards in defiance of court orders, or who sit in droves blocking entrances to draft centers, or who send money and supplies to the Viet Cong, or who hurt rather than help our boys by telling them they are risking their lives for nothing.

Constructive criticism, like that of the well-known figures you mentioned, is not only accepted, but welcomed. However, those who resort to unlawful means of dissent, such as those above, only hurt their cause, and arouse the anger of those who might have agreed with their ideas.

Then, too, the person who said all protesters should be "lined up against a wall and shot" was one among 600. I am sure very few people agree. I certainly don't. From my knowledge of Yo-Hi students, I think I can safely say that though many support the war, an extremely small percentage are as radical as that person. Therefore, please don't generalize about those who support or accept the present war policy, just as you do not wish us to generalize about those who criticize it.

Janet Mays

Dear Ed.,

In an effort to clarify the position of the students of Yo-Hi for the benefit of Mr. John Klein I will write this letter.

Because we are sons and daughters of military personnel, we are placed under constant brainwashing as to the right and wrong of the war in Vietnam and the right to dissent. In Japan, living with the military, it is almost impossible to dissent and still obtain privileges needed to live. We are not allowed "by laws set up by superiors" to dissent or voice our opinions against these people; even in the mildest sense of the word. I hope you can understand the situation under which we are placed, it is through no fault of ours!

(I certainly hope that the staff of the "Echoes" finds it in their gracious hearts to leave this article untouched, and not to bend it to their own meaning.)

Fred W. Richardson



Jerry: Mary, I've been watching your little brother ever since you brought him to the party. He's been standing in the same spot all evening and hasn't moved once. Is something wrong?

Mary: Oh, this is the first time he's worn a tie and he thinks he's been tied to something and can't move.

A little girl, watching her mother put cold cream over her wrinkles, asked, "Why do you do that?"

"To make myself beautiful," the mother replied, and then proceeded to remove the cream with some Kleenex.

"What's the matter," asked the child, "giving up?"

In regard to the article on teamwork—"What's the Problem?"—written last Friday in the "Echoes," I feel that the general statement of lack of teamwork is true. However, I do not feel that it exists because the team players want it to exist.

I feel that most of the players on the team have been exposed to a different type of play than I stress, and, as a result, many times they resort to individual tactics rather than relying on someone else.

In all fairness to the boys, I would have to say they are learning a difficult system of basketball this year, one which they have never been subjected to before.

To have teamwork, you must have faith in the system used. Since our system is so difficult at this stage, it is very hard for the boys to have faith in it since they can not do well at it. Thus, they revert to individual tactics.

I believe they can overcome this hurdle if they will accept the fact that this system is hard to learn, that they should have patience, and that once the system is mastered the result will be the improvement of oneself for the ultimate goal of the team—the championship.

It is now up to them, whether they will go with the system, or away from it and remain individuals. In order to make a basket, you must get the ball. You get the ball from a teammate. One person is never responsible for a team's victory.

Mr. Clumpner

★ JOKES ★ 

Jim: I hope you scolded your brother for the way he imitated me.

★ Tom: I did. I told him to stop acting like a fool.

## HOLIDAYS IN JAPAN

Have you ever wondered what the Japanese do over the upcoming Christmas and New Year holidays? We are going to try to explain a little on the subject. (Most of our information was obtained from a young Japanese girl by the name of Yumiko Ishikawa.)

To begin, Christmas is much the same as Christmas in the States to about half of the families in Japan. The children of these families, usually varying from the age of comprehension to about six years old, all believe in Santa. Their description of Santa is the same as ours, a short, fat man, with a cherry nose, with rosy cheeks and a large white beard and a red suit. He enters the house through the chimney and rides in a large sleigh filled with toys. The sleigh, like ours again, is drawn by eight tiny reindeer.

Hearing this you can well imagine that that the Japanese have Christmas Carols, the same as ours. They have the same words and meaning but are translated into Japanese. For example, White Christmas, Rudolf the Red Nosed Reindeer, Jingle Bells, and Silent Night are all in Japanese.

The decorations of the house are very simple and easy. They decorate a small tree, much the same as we do. Some people also hang decorations from the ceiling. Most of these families are of Western religions. Some families decorate the front gate by pulling a couple of branches from a pine tree and putting them on each side of the gate.

Most of the people stay home. They believe this time should be spent with their own families. They very seldom go out visiting.

The traditional dinner is a roasted chicken and a large cake, called a "Happy Christmas Cake."

Therefore, you can see that their Xmas is much the same as ours.

Now for more unfamiliar types of celebrations, we take you to the Japanese New Year. We shall first try to explain the Japanese meaning of New Year.

The Japanese try to go into the New Year with a clean slate. The reason for this is to try to make the new year a little better than the previous year.

Most of the festivities start at midnight when all the people have gathered in different temples. At the large temples there are large bells which at the stroke of midnight, are rung 108 times. The traditional ringing of the bell has lost most of its meaning through time. But the ceremonies are still practiced.

After the ringing of the bell, the people celebrate as they await the rising of the first sun of the New Year. After this is over, they all return home for a quiet day with their families. The following two days are spent with friends and relatives and attending festive events such as parades and social gatherings.

At the conclusion of these three days they return to their routine of normal living and hope for a better year to come.

## Christmas Around the World

Yes, it's that joyous time of year, and as the "Echoes" gift to you, we will take you on a tour of Christmas around the world.

As long as we're in Japan, let's take a quick look around. Christmas here is a borrowed holiday, and has no religious meaning. However, one can see beautiful yuletide decorations adorning shopping centers. It is a commercialized affair and most Japanese exchange gifts.

After a smooth sleigh ride south across the Pacific, we arrive in Mexico. Being predominantly Roman Catholic, Christmas has a deeper religious meaning here than in the United States. The Three Wise Men, rather than our jolly Santa Claus, bring gifts for the children. The "nacimientto" (nativity scene) takes the place of the Christmas tree in the Mexican home. Most Spanish-speaking countries have similar customs.

The Finns, because they believe the evergreen to be a sign of mourning, use straw for Christmas decorations, and spread it on the floor to sleep on in remembrance of the manger.

In Czechoslovakia, St. Nicholas descends from heaven on a golden cord.

It is in Germany that the tradition of Christmas trees and many of our favorite carols originated.

As you can see, customs vary widely. However, the message of Christmas is universal—peace, goodwill, and joy to all men.

Go—Feliz Navidad, Joyeux Noel, Mele Kalikimaka, Christmasu Chedeto, and a very merry Christmas to all!

What does Christmas mean to you? This question was given to a number of Yo-Hi students and here are their answers.

EBBIE BUSS—"A little happiness."

LESLIE YOUNG—"Homesickness"

"SKI"—"Food, money, presents, snow, parties, and no school."

RONNA SCOTT—"A time for giving, receiving, eating, and, best of all, having a good time." (SW)

MARSHA FOSTER—"A time for rejoicing, happiness, and giving."

OSWALD RUSSELL—"Beaucoup."

PAULA MAESNEY—"Fun, money, food, and no school."

DANNY GOOD—"Fun, money, presents, skiing, no school, and lots of sleep."

AARNEY UNDERKOFER—"Lots of presents!"

TUKIKO TAKARA—"Receiving and giving; fun and extra sleep."



# CULTURE CORNER Japanese New Year

To the people of Japan the new year is not merely the start of another year. It has much greater meaning than just starting on a new calendar. The new year, because of its meaning, has to be celebrated both seriously and joyously.

On the morning of New Year's Day, the family, in their best kimonos, sit down in the best room of the house. They say, "Shin-nen omedeto gozaimasu," meaning "A Happy New Year."

Then "toso" (special rice-wine for the occasion) is served. Following this comes the eating of "zoni" (soup with toasted rice cakes). "Osechi" (special New Year's food) and rice-cakes are consumed also.

There are many New Year's games that the children play. Some of these are "hane-tauki" (a game like badminton), "tako-age" (kite flying), "koma-mawashi" (top spinning), "karuta" (cards), and "fuku-warai" (a game with a lucky face).

Usually, the first seven days are spent for the New Year celebration. Of the seven days, the first three are the most important. Most offices and stores are closed for these three days. School starts on the eighth. During the seven days there are many events such as "hatsu-mode" (first visit made to the shrine on New Year's day), "kakiyome" (first writing done on the second day), and "dango-mashiki" (New Year demonstration by firemen which is usually held on the sixth day of the new year).

## PHRASE OF THE WEEK:

Because you have learned about how the Japanese celebrate New Year, we decided that this week's phrase would just give you the translation for "Merry Christmas" and "Happy New Year."

Although there are many ways of saying these phrases, we have chosen the ones that are the most used.

Merry Christmas--Ku Ri Su Ma Su O Me De To  
Happy New Year--Ak E Ma Shi Te O Wo De To  
Go Zai Masu



## Christmas Weekly Favorites

Couple of the Week--Harry and Kathy  
Boy of the Week--Wayne Tharrington  
Girl of the Week--Marty Witherby  
Color of the Week--red and green  
Place of the Week--home  
Event of the Week--getting out of school  
Smile of the Week--Larry Moore  
Teacher of the Week--Miss Donahue  
Song of the Week--"The Jingle-bell Rock"  
Group of the Week--The Hollies  
Album of the Week--"It's Christmas Time"



## Good Food

Goodies for Christmas from Foreign Lands:

France: Stasbourg (liver) pie and black pudding; Germany: roast geese; Finland: a special St. Stephen's day porridge and cookies; Great Britain: Brown breadcheese, roast peacock, boar's head, and mutton pies; Italy: Magi cakes (small wafers) with fried eels, pork, and chicken; Sweden: lutfisk (fish) with a special sauce and Junlgrot--a pudding made of rice and milk; U.S.: turkey, chicken, duck, ham, or goose, potatoes, sweet potatoes, gravy, green vegetables, dressing, cranberry sauce, nuts, fruits, fruitcakes, plum pudding, pumpkin or mince pie, ham, mmm, mmm, mmm....

## Senior

Paula Everitt, our first senior for this week, is from Brunswick, Georgia. She has been in Japan for two years.

Paula likes peanut butter, fast cars, Snoopy, folk singing, winter, R.A.F., and white rabbits. She dislikes rain, waiting, restriction, and homework.

She says, "Yo-Hi is a great school, but it doesn't seem the same without the 'Old Ones.'"

About the "Echoes" she says, "With all the kids on the staff this year, could it be anything but exceptionally good?"

To you future seniors, Paula has this to say: "Study hard! Don't goof around and waste time like most of us did. It may not be easy, but you'll be glad you did."

## Spotlights

Next, from Greenwich, Connecticut, we have Ken Schmidt. "Kraut" has been in Japan almost eight years.

Ken says that the "Echoes" is "pretty fair."

He comments on Yo-Hi: "Because I've been here since the seventh grade, I'm used to it, and I wouldn't like any other school."

Some of his interests include water sports (skin diving, fishing, boating), guitar playing, motorcycles, and hating things(?).

To future seniors, the only thing he can say is, "Good luck after we (the present seniors) are gone. The way the world is these days, you'll need it."

Joe: Yesterday I went into the tunnel of love.  
Moe: Did you have a girl with you?  
Joe: Why should I take a girl with me? I'm not afraid of the dark.



# École Franco...

Last Wednesday, we, the students of Mr. Wahrman's French III and IV class (and several students from his French II class), took a field trip to a French school in Tokyo.

Mr. Wahrman and twenty-five students left school by bus at eight o'clock. Two hours later, after a little difficulty with the traffic and directions, we finally reached the school (Ecole Franco-Japonais). We were greeted warmly at the entrance by the director of the school. (Any self-confidence we had in our ability to speak French was quickly drained because of the facility with which the students spoke.)

We were divided into three groups and each was taken to a different class. The manner in which the classes are taught are a little different from American schools. In each class there are between six to thirty students. High school math is taught on a college level, and, although it was a little over our heads, it wasn't too difficult to follow.

In the science classes the students were dissecting clams. At twelve-fifteen, the lunch hour began. Everyone was seated at a table. On the table were hors-d'oeuvres and baskets of French bread. Next there was a salad, veal cutlets and French fries with gravy. Coffee was served at the end. The meal was something that you would order in a restaurant, not in a school. This was perhaps the best part of the day.

After lunch we got ready to leave. The directors and the students invited us to come to a party at their school last Saturday but because of transportation problems, it would have been difficult to get there. We thanked the directors of the school for inviting us and told them what a wonderful time we had. We then boarded the bus back to Yokohama.

## Bah, Humbug!!

Stan Freidberg made a recording a number of years ago dealing with the commercialization of Christmas. Though it may be considered only funny and cute by many, like most of Freidberg's recordings it is a sharp satire.

Using Dickens characters, Scrouge and Gratchet he presents the two sides of Christmas and how the original conception of the holiday is slowly being lost.

Scrouge is a sharp business man who thinks Christmas is a time for more profit and advertising than any other time of the year. Most of his associates agree. Only Bob Cratchet disagrees and tries to promote the idea of the simplicity and purity of Christmas. Unlike in Dicken's Christmas Carol Bob Cratchet loses.

The story ends with a song demonstrating the advantages of using the Christmas Story as a means of advertising. They sing a song of "The Twelve Days of Christmas," using certain companies' products sold by Scrouge's associates. (An example is "Tiny Tim Chestnuts.") The song ends with the ringing of a cash register.

Sad as it seems to some people, this is what Christmas is becoming, a money-making institution. Fighting such an attitude toward Christmas is almost impossible.

## Now that we're old...

What's that unearthly noise? You bury your head in the pillow to get away from it and then you suddenly remember that it's Christmas. That noise is the kids on their way to the living room.

You jump out of the bed and run out of the door. Just before you reach the living room, you slow down to a fast walk because you remember that you have to act your age. So you step aside and let the little kids run past before you saunter into the room. After exchanging season's greetings with your parents, you grab a package that has your name on it and rip it open. Good grief, it's that 16 ft. long muffler that your girlfriend knitted for you! (She would have knitted a sweater but it would have been two years before she finished!) You wince at the thought of having to wear it but you gather up your courage and say, "Just what I've always wanted! A muffler!"

You untie the strangler's knot from the muffler and get on to the other goodies. There's a pair of long handled underwear from your grandparents. They're nice people so you tell yourself to wear it for them when they come for their visit in July.

Your aunts and uncles have sent you clothing that looks like it was designed during the 19th century. But you beam and express your delight.

Then comes the biggest surprise of them all. Your father introduces you to the Honda that's sitting out in the garage. (You wrecked the old one by letting your girlfriend try to drive it. It took you hours to pull it out of the branches of that tree!)

Still in your pajamas, you hop on, start the 'cycle and drive it out with your housecoat flapping in the wind. Only thing is that it snowed last night! The 'cycle skids madly and wraps around a telephone pole.

You trudge back into the house feeling like a fool for going out in your pajamas. On the way in you apologize to your bawling father. (Ever seen a grown man cry? It's spooky!)

All the other kids are busily wrecking their toys so you start cleaning up the mess that they leave behind. As you pick up trash, you keep telling yourself that it's been a great Christmas. Only, Christmas is different the older you get, maybe.

"Immeuble" is the French word for "real estate".

Thomas Becket was appointed Archbishop of Canterbury by his friend King Henry II.

Today's "isms" include Communism, Fascism, Capitalism, Socialism, among others.

Frederick the Great increased Prussia's strength.

When Jeff awoke, he thought of the blackness. He looked around in the small green room. It had no windows or doors, and no furniture other than the bed he was lying on. He reached up and felt the bump on his head, beginning to realize his predicament.

Suddenly, he became aware of a loud, steady noise. He remembered the "machine" he had seen, and instantly he was wide awake. The panel in the wall slid open, and the proprietor stepped in.

"Well," he said, "you had to meddle in an affair that was none of your business. You'll learn." With that, the man disappeared behind the panel.

What did he mean by "you'll learn" Jeff thought. An hour later, the panel of Jeff's little room opened again. Through the opening, Jeff could see the proprietor at a desk, which was situated to the left of the machine that Jeff had seen before. The old man turned from his desk and said to Jeff, "This machine will revolutionize the soft-drink industry." The man was actually serious! But Jeff couldn't imagine what was going to happen.

(To be continued)

## GOSSIP... GOSSIP...

...Expensive cab rides seemed to be popular with the Deans two Saturday nights ago...

That really was a cab ride, huh, Robert Dean? Tell 'em the Silk Hotel next time, not the Prince... And how about you, Dean R.; ten dollars on cab fares? WOW!... Hey, Dale, how was your party? Did the little man finally run out of "water"?... Do Finn's parents always trail ya, Mike? They only came for a pizza, you say?... All he wanted was a cup of coffee, not a manufacturing plant!... You shouldn't trust your little brother with little boxes, Baby John. He might be late.

So you're going to be a hair stylist when you grow up, huh, Terry O.? Bill Sims has left us for the "land of the big PX." We wish him the best of luck in the future.

## WEEKLY FAVES...

Funny Personalities (?) of The Week.

Bill Olson: Boxer

Sande Hawkins: Mexican Hairless

Darrell Nelson: Irish Setter

Bill Bryant: Sheep Dog

Jo Ann Gyax: Cocker Spaniel



## Stuffed Information

Are you the gourmet type? Do you like to try different and interesting new foods? Will you try anything once? Read on:

On Motomachi there are some exceptionally good restaurants that cater to American tastes. Try Ciel Bleu for a scrumptious charcoal broiled steak or a steaming dish of chili con carne. If you like pizza, try Pizza by Miki. It's good, and not too expensive.

There's always Kikuya's for the Japanese dish you like. For German delicacies try the German bakery. Their pastry is exceptionally good. Cliffside, mainly a nightclub, serves delicious food too.

For Chinese food, try any of the various Chinese restaurants in China Town (bars not included). Tung Fats is especially popular with the "gaijin" of Yokohama.

For "expensive" Italian food drop into Paolo's in Yamashita. They serve anything from pork outlet to pizza. It's good food but a little on the expensive side.

Of course, for those yummy Japanese dishes, you can stop in any of many Japanese restaurants spread throughout Yokohama.

For those "stay around the PXers," there are always such places as the Rickshaw Room. It serves good food, and has a romantic and likeable atmosphere.

Also try "Matusba" in Kominato for an inexpensive, good hamburger or a dish of curried rice.

All of the above mentioned places are all right as far as the Shore Patrol go. They have fine reputations, and serve the "real stuff."

Go to them and HAPPY EATING!

HA - HA - HO - HO - HA!

Question: What do you get when you cross an elephant with a jar of peanut butter?  
Answer: You either get peanut butter with a good memory or an elephant that sticks to the roof of your mouth.

Question: Why is a porthole round?  
Answer: So that the water that splashes in can't hit you square in the eye.

Question: What is the most tiring month for soldiers and marines?

Answer: March  
Question: What can you hold without touching?

Answer: Your breath  
Question: What color can be sung?

Answer: The blues  
Question: Why are your clothes wet?  
Answer: The tag said wash and wear.



# Should Physical Ed. Be Mandatory?

There is no doubt that at least one time during every school year you have heard a student comment that he thinks it should not be mandatory for any student to take physical education. I know that I have heard this many times. The people who make this comment quite often say, "Since you can't get any credit for physical education after the first year, and, since physical education really isn't necessary, then why not substitute it with a class which is more useful toward your later education."

Physical education, no matter how you look at it, is necessary. The general physical education classes have several definite and important contributions which will aid you in the years to come when you are out of high school. Among the major things P.E. does:

- A) It develops physical strength and stamina through exercise which probably wouldn't be done if P.E. weren't offered. This strength will undoubtedly help you in years to come, depending on how much you exercise and engage in physical work and activity.
- B) In P.E. you usually learn some of the skills and rules of various sports. Possibly this introduction to a sport in P.E. arouses your interest to such a degree that you want to develop this sport into a lifetime activity. (Through physical education students often learn about new sports and develop interests in them.)
- C) Physical education also is a period of the day when one can forget about the tests, books, and teachers and literally "let off steam." It eases tension and generally breaks the monotony of the day by adding something different.

Obviously there are many more essential benefits in physical education than these. I think that many people never actually realize how valuable and important physical education is.

My curiosity aroused, I went and asked some Yo-Hians just what they felt about mandatory P.E. classes. These were their answers to the question, "Do you think P.E. should be mandatory, and, if so, what benefits do you see in it?":

Steve Bulgarelli - Most definitely. If we haven't any mandatory exercises, none of the people would ever do any voluntary exercise and the whole world would get fat.

Bill Longino - YES, I think it is necessary and a lot of fun. It's better than taking six periods of regular classes a day.

Richard Bernard - P.E. should be mandatory because it is enjoyable. Besides, it makes the day complete.

## IT'S HARD TO EXPLAIN!!

The quiet boy was heart broken. It was Christmas Eve. He had just found out that there was no Santa Claus.

"Billy, I know you feel sad, but you can't go on believing there is a real Santa Claus. You are sixteen years old. We were very dismayed when you started a fight with those nine year olds when they said Santa Claus was dead. You have to face the facts. There are no tooth fairies either."

"But, Daddy, there will be nothing left for me to live for." moaned Billy. "I look forward to Christmas and Santa every year. I don't mind not having a tooth fairy. I've lost all my baby teeth already."

"There is one thing, Billy," explained his father sympathetically, "Santa Claus lives in the hearts of millions of people, so he is, in a beautiful way, still alive."

"O, goody, goody. What is he going to bring me this year?"

"No, no, no. Santa Claus isn't real."

"But you just said he was--"

"I know, but you don't understand. What I mean is... Well..." He was grasping for a straw, looking across at those broad, muscular shoulders and powerful, bulging arms--it seemed hopeless. He just couldn't explain to his son about Santa Claus.

"Okay, Billy. Let's go down to the department store and see Santa Claus."

"Oh, goody, goody, goody. I'll tell him I want a truck, a train, a basketball, a bat, a...."



A few weeks ago I heard some interesting comments made on the radio by the famous sports personality, Bill Veck. He was speaking on the subject of tennis, and I strongly agreed with his comments.

One disadvantage, Veck stated, of the sport of tennis is that spectators do not cheer during a volley for fear of upsetting the players' concentration. Veck believes that if the crowds at a match were to cheer anytime they felt like it, it would not affect a player's concentration.

Veck said that in future matches, he hopes that crowds will cheer whenever a good shot is made. He feels that this would do away with many people's ideas that tennis is a snobbish, gentleman's game. His ideas could certainly improve the spectator appeal of the sport of tennis.

Richard Bernard

# HAPPY Holidays!!

