

--Holiday Special--

The Purple Clarion

Harrisburg High School, Harrisburg, Illinois

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New state regulation could affect tracking

Our school categorizes degrees of difficulty in the English and mathematics departments. Yet, this tracking has no effect on the students class ranking or on their permanent records. Some students think it is unfair that a lower-tracked class should be equal in grade points to a higher one. A bill has been approved by the state legislature which should be brought to the attention of these students.

According to the bill, schools using a tracking system must identify the system when ranking students. Also, permanent records must reflect the system.

This bill was brought to the attention of HHS Principal William Lienesch. In his opinion, a system like this would be "fair to all students involved," even though it "would not be an easy law to put into effect, and nothing has been done in the Harrisburg district to implement it."

One reason for the impossibility of such a system is the weighting of classes. Who is to say what classes are "harder" than others? Also, honor awards should recognize the "hard-working" students who are working up to potential

Lienesch admits that our present method of honoring and ranking gives an advantage to the students taking classes that do not require studying, or classes based solely on talent.

Students have their own ideas about tracking and grading. Some students agree with Mike Butler who thinks "the system works as it is, so why change it?" Others, among them Kim Kane, believe that "people who have harder classes, and work harder for their grades should get more credit than the people who take

easy classes. There are even a few students who create their own tracking systems. For instance, Dallas Clemmons thinks that if a person in a Track II or Track III class deserves an A, he should get the A, but then be moved to a higher track."

Obviously, student opinion varies, but Emily Taylor expressed the feeling of the majority of HHS students when she said, "Lower tracked classes should not be equal in points to higher tracked classes."

Debbie Reeves
Ellen Collett

Happy Holidays...



...from The Purple Clarion





The Purple
Clarion / Editorials

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Do we deserve a longer lunch?

In the two months since this paper featured articles concerning the short-lunch situation, many events have taken place which might lead one to believe that HHS students do not deserve a longer lunch hour.

For instance, the same students who complained earlier about the lunch situation can now be witnessed during lunch hour in Bonnell Gym conducting "Vietnam War Games" exercises with jellybeans and playing "B-52" with basketballs, volleyballs, and the like.

Should Mr. Lienesch and the entire school have to listen to a student's entire verbal portfolio in the middle of the hallway? Do you think this student helps us in our quest for more lunch time?

It is up to the majority of students to quiet those who may have already lost us our precious time. Consider the consequences before you throw that candy across the floor! Think before you speak! Save your own face in this situation, because nobody else will do it for you!
 Jay Small

Once again it's Christmas time with all its festivities and excitement. We have all been running around trying to get our shopping done before the big day. Many of us have probably forgotten the real meaning behind this holiday. Now would be a good time for all of us to sit down and think about what Christmas means to us. It seems that so many of us allow events to go by year after year, not really experiencing them fully and so much of the joy and happiness do not occur. We try to turn Christmas into what it is not. It should be a time for good feeling whether it be religious or a closeness felt toward your family or feelings friends reflect upon each other.

We would like to thank Mrs. Ewert and Mrs. Garret for their efforts to make HHS look Christmasy. The contributions showed that our students do have the right spirit at heart. In closing, we wish each of you loyal readers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Letter to the Editor

Editor's Note

At times, the newspapers of many Southern Illinois high schools find themselves in an exchange of postal correspondence. Our own editor, John Doerge, recently sent a letter to the distinguished editors of the Centralia High School Sphinx concerning a cartoon in that paper. The cartoon, obviously an "inside" joke, lacked meaning to the Clarion staff, prompting this response from the Centralia publication.

Dear Mr. Doerge:

My most sincere apologies to you and your staff for the delay in replying, to your letter. We're always busy, as I'm sure you are, and our last paper just barely made the deadline!

I can see why your staff missed the point of the editorial page's cartoon--the "west vegetable" cartoon. May I explain?

Our superintendent is known for being quite verbose at times. One of those times was at the annual assembly for the first day of school. We just got a new student center which was located in a hallway of "T" building. Mr. Woodard, however referred to this hallway as the "West Vestibule of the "T" Building. Of course, few students know what a vestibule is. Hence the little joke.

I am glad that you wrote us; yours is the only reply we got concerning the cartoon. At least we know one staff is reading The Sphinx.

P.S. We've learned quite a lot from your paper. (Chuckle, Chuckle.)

Council sends envoys to School Board

The Harrisburg High School Student Council now has an ex-officio (non-voting) member on the Unit 3 School Board. In a short interview with one of two council members who alternate at attending the meetings, Kim Puttuck stated "I feel it will be a very good experience, and I'm really looking forward to it. I have attended one meeting, and the members are really very nice and very helpful." The other council member is Laura Logsdon. These two members give the student council's ideas and opinion on the items on the school board agenda. This is just one more way that the student council is working for the students of HHS.

Bubba Elkins

Library club

Christmas party

On Friday, December 14 the Library Club held their annual Christmas Party immediately after school in the Material Centers. Members brought home-made cookies and dips for refreshments. Afterward there were music, dancing, and games. Most all the members were present and everyone had a super time. Mrs. Wasson would like to thank everyone who helped in decorating the library and making the party a success.

Eugene Potts

Policy of the Press

The purpose of The Purple Clarion is to inform the students of current issues and to improve communications between students and teachers. The paper will try to publicize upcoming school events and past school activities and projects. It should meet the needs for publicity within the school community.

The Purple Clarion is a high school paper written by high school students. Editorials are signed and express the writer's opinion. It is hoped that they reflect the spirit of the school. Opinions of students, teachers, administrators, and parents can be expressed in letters to the editor. These must be signed; however, the name will be withheld upon request.

The opinions expressed in this paper are not necessarily the views of the administration of the school or Unit District.

Interviews

Hunsinger



Chuck Hunsinger

Choirs perform Yule concert

The HHS Choral Department, involving the Concert Choir as well as the mixed chorus, under the direction of Mr. Reeves and the assistance of Mrs. Johns, held the annual Christmas Concert on Sunday, December 16th. The beautifully performed concert was the result of many long, hard hours of rehearsal. The audience heartily enjoyed the concert. Some of the songs included a festive arrangement of "Jingle Bells," an inspiring piece entitled "Sing With Joy," a hauntingly beautiful rendition of "Shepherd's Carol" and the always popular "Silent Night." Many long hours of preparation resulted in a very entertaining and exciting Christmas concert!

It is not very often that an athlete from Southern Illinois receives national recognition. This month the Clarion has decided to honor the most outstanding athlete in HHS history and perhaps the history of Southern Illinois. This tribute is different from recent honors to athletes in our school, because he attended this high school from 1939 to 1943 as a student. The man of whom I'm speaking is Mr. Charles Hunsinger.

All throughout his high school years Mr. Hunsinger participated in football, basketball, and track. During both his junior and senior years he was named to the Pat Harmon's all-state squad in football. He was an exceptional basketball player, and won second place at the State track meet as a hurdler. In other words he was Harrisburg's answer to the "World's Greatest Athlete."

During football season his senior year, Hunsinger gained 1056 yards on running passes thrown and received from scrimmage of the 1655 for the team. He also totaled 618 yards rushing in 87 tries, an average of 71 yards per carry. As the 1943 Keystone states, "This was probably the most commendable record in the state." That was an understatement.

After graduating from HHS, Mr. Hunsinger entered the service and played football at the Jacksonville, Florida naval base, where he remained for 3 yrs. When his career in the service ended, Hunsinger entered the University of Florida at Gainesville and was chosen the all-Southeasterner conference halfback in '48 and '49. After the regular season was over he played in the college all star game at Soldier Field in Chicago. Mr. Hunsinger has the honor of being in the Florida Hall of Fame.

In 1950, he was the Chicago Bears No. 1 draft choice. He joined the Bears for 3 yrs. During his second year there, he was the No. 2 man in yards gained per carry and during his last year, he was the regular left halfback on offense.

Being offered a better deal with the Montreal Alouettes of the Canadian League, Mr. Hunsinger left the Bears. He enjoyed 3 yrs. of success with the Alouettes and after a winning season, his third year, the team played the Gray Cup, much like our Super Bowl. In the Gray Cup the winning team from Western Canada would play the winning team from Eastern Canada. During the Gray Cup Game, Mr. Hunsinger passed the ball, which was fumbled, the other team recovered, then had possession, and with only a minute left in the game, the East ran a touchdown play which won the game for them.

During that season Mr. Hunsinger had begun to think of retiring after the season, and after the Gray Cup he confirmed this decision. After announcing his plans and

interviewed

returning home, he received a telegram from Montreal that was 310 feet long. On it were the names of different Canadians asking him not to retire. He also received approximately 4000 letters and cards from his fans. He then decided to go back to Montreal for one more year and give it a try. After that season was over he retired from football forever.

I asked Mr. Hunsinger why, of all the places he'd seen and been, he had come back to Harrisburg to live. His reply was simply, "It's my home."

Mr. Hunsinger also told me in our interview that of all the places he has been and of all the things that he has done, his biggest thrill and his biggest disappointment both occurred when he was in Harrisburg High School, the disappointment being, at the state track meet when his foot caught on a hurdle, causing him to lose his stride and come in second instead of first in state. The thrill was at the annual Harrisburg-Eldorado rival game on Thanksgiving, 1943. On the opening kickoff, he returned the football 86 yards for a touchdown. He said that he'd never forget looking down the field as he was running for the goal and seeing principal Taylor jumping up and down at the end of the field.

I asked Mr. Hunsinger what he thought of the Bulldogs this year, and he replied that we had had a good team, the best in awhile, and he enjoyed the season. Then he gave advice to the boys that are going to continue with football: "It's a full-time job and you have to be dedicated." This statement wasn't made by just a spectator, but by one who has perhaps more experience than anyone in these parts.

I personally feel that HHS should feel very proud to have someone like Mr. Hunsinger teach at our school. We should also be honored that he did decide to come "home."

Liz Saunders

Juniors order rings

One of the highlights of the junior year is ordering class rings. This year, juniors faced an even more difficult decision than usual, what kind of ring to get. It was harder because there were so many choices. Instead of having the traditional entrance to HHS on the side of the ring, if you wanted, you were given the choice of having an emblem that would represent one of your clubs, sports, or one of a "freedom of choice" selection. There were other options such as special gemstone decorations such as fireburst, starflame, and a protected emblem. You could get your full name engraved in side your ring or you could get a sculptured palmside to keep the ring from wearing. There was quite a large selection of different types of metals for classrings -- futurium, sterling silver, polara plus, quasar plus, or yellow and white gold. So with such a huge number of choices, everyone was able to buy the ring that he liked the best, provided, of course, that he could afford it. The cost has increased as much as the variety.

Rhonda Gates

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Clarion / **Features**

YAG travels to Springfield

The Harrisburg Youth and Govt. delegation travelled to Springfield on Dec. 15 to attend Pre-Leg II, the second and final "Pre-Legislature" session before the Youth Legislature in March.

During this meeting, the club members gained an insight into the feelings of Youth Senators and Representatives from all over the state. Also at the meeting, the delegates nominated candidates for Governor, Lt. Gov., Sec. of State and other state offices. They then received input on their individual bills.

With this meeting complete, the club members are now working at concession stands and looking forward to the "Bis Weekend" and the Illinois Youth Legislature in March.

David Jolly

Clubs

Key Club has been engaged in another service project this month. Each club member was required to donate two cans of food to be distributed to needy families before Christmas. Collection boxes were placed in front of Bonnell Gym so that everyone in school could participate if they desired.

Dear



Anonymous

Dear Anonymous,

I have a very serious problem. I've liked this guy for about two months now. We've gone out once and he really acted as if he liked me. But since then he totally ignores me. How can I get him to notice me again?

The Desperate Dreamer

Dear Dreamer,

Since he's ignored you, he obviously was acting. Are you sure you want his attention? If he really cared you'd know by now.

Dear Anonymous,

I really want to go out with this one really foxy girl, but I don't know how to ask her. She's a senior and I'm only a sophomore. I see her at all of the school activities. When I see her, I go wild!! What can I do??

Bashful

Dear Bashful,

Talk to her and get to know her as a person instead of just dreaming. Once you know her, it will be easier to ask her out. Good Luck!

Dear Anonymous,

I have a terrible problem. I feel obligated to buy all or some of my best friends Christmas presents, but unfortunately I only have enough money for a couple of them after I buy presents for my family. What should I do?

Worried

Dear Worried,

Get your friends to draw names and you'll only buy one gift. Or maybe make each one something simple that they could really use. Above all, don't worry! A friend who is a real friend will understand your problem without explaining.

Dear Anonymous,

I am having trouble writing.

Un-Wordy

Dear Un-Wordy,

You certainly do have trouble writing---maybe you could send me a telegram.

Dear Anonymous,

My last grades weren't so hot. As a result, I've got nothing but flack from my parents for the last week. Everything is beginning to build inside of me and I'm ready to burst! What can I do?

Oncoming Explosion

Dear Explosive,

Don't blow your stack at your parents; that will make things worse. If you have a friend who will listen, great; if not, find a way to release your anger, like breaking pencils

Dear Anonymous,

Can I take the strain? After paying several hundred dollars for a nice stereo component system, some un-filtered and unthoughtful side-band radio operator detonated my transistors with a resounding "Breaker" through the speakers. This happens continuously, sometimes all hours of the night. However, now it's a case of actual damage to my property. What utterances of humble anger should I bequeath to the person I think is doing this?

Eardrumless

Dear Eardrumless,

First of all, be sure you know who it is. Then tell him what he's been doing. If he doesn't seem to care about your transistors, take it to a higher authority, the police. Sue him if all else fails.

Anonymous

Inquiring reporter asks...

What do you want for Christmas?

The Inquiring Reporter has learned what the following want for Christmas:

Jody Givens - A new car for my dog

Andrea Flemming - V. M. with a blue bow

Mr. McClusky - a new boat named Liki Tiki

Debbie Beal - T. K. gift wrapped

Patrice Molinarolo - Something warm, cute, fuzzy and cuddly

Jchni Potter - K.D., special delivery

Mrs. Clemmons - A trip to Nassau, but instead I'm going skiing

Darci Allen - Terry Wilson with a red bow around him

Brenda Harris - M.L. under the mistletoe

Don Gat - Meow, meow, meow

Mr. Gajewski - Cheryl Ladd

Mrs. Ewert - A new case of peanut butter

Mrs. Boyer - A couple of 6

Band plans for Washington trip

In November, the Band Parents Association met with the school board requesting that the Harri-sburg High School Band be permitted to take a trip to Washington, D.C. The request was granted. Plans for a trip in April are now underway. A similar trip to Washington D.C was taken by the band in 1975, which was the last trip taken by our high school band. There is much business to be accomplished between now and then including some money-raising activities. All those who appreciate the band at football and basketball games, now have the chance to say "Thank-You" by giving them your cooperation, support, and enthusiasm!

Cammy Cox

foot athletes
Kelly Coffee - J.W. in my Christmas stocking
Mr. Butler - A desk of my OWN in the women coaches' office
Penny Graham - R.B., special handling
Coach Harre - A new waist-line
Debbie Mitchell - #50 on the Hardin County basket ball team
Lisa Lawrence - Tony Frese with a red bow

The Purple Clarion / Sports

Herrin honored

Junior Brent Herrin, the Bulldogs most consistent golfer, was rewarded for his effort recently by being named to the Southern Illinois Coaches Assoc. Golf Team. The nine members were chosen by area golf coaches. Freshman Bobby Pavelonis, son of the HHS golf coach, received honorable mention in the same polling.

Cagers rule Eagles

There weren't any, touchdowns, quarterback sacks, or blocked punts in Duff-Kingston Gym Nov. 30, but the basketball contest between the Bulldogs and Eldorado Eagles was hardly an exciting kickoff to begin the 1979-80 roundball season.

The game featured some weight-throwing and a display of low percentage shooting, but nonetheless, the Canines emerged victorious, 55-41.

Harrisburg connected on only 19 of 67 shots from the field and only 17 of 31 from the stripe, but offset those statistics with multiple offensive rebounds. Twenty-six turnovers didn't help the Eagles' cause. The Bulldogs committed 21 turnovers, but many came late in the contest and were all unimportant, as far as the decision went.

Dean Furlong and John Wright spearheaded the Canine win, as both seniors tallied 13 points. Randy DeMario and Brad Horton each chipped in 8 pts.

The Bulldogs led all the way, opening up a 25-18 halftime lead, and finally mopping up by 14.

John Roark

Clarion has gala sports contest

Announcing the greatest contest in the history of the school, we here at The Purple Clarion want all of you amateur "Jimmy the Greeks" to try your hand at predicting the top three basketball teams in the South 7. If HHS is not one of your three choices, place the Bulldogs in the spot where they will finish in the conference. The rules are as follows: You have 2 weeks in which to enter your predictions; the deadline is

Jan. 11. Enter only once please. In case of a tie, a winner will be picked from a hat, with the luck of the draw deciding.

Sorry Clarion staffers, you aren't eligible to enter. Of course, you might want to know what you may win. Five hard earned American dollars for your use and/or abuse. Good Luck to all. Just make your predictions, sign your name and give the entry to John Doerge or Bill Allen.

JV cagers lukewarm

The sophomore cagers had the first defeat of the year at the hands of Eldorado, who beat them 57 to 53 on November 30. This loss shows a lot of talent but also a lot of temper. At half-time the pups had a twenty-point lead which dwindled to a loss when four of the five starters fouled out. Even though we have very capable ball

players on the bench, the momentum then disappeared. The team might want to blame the referees, but they have no one to blame at all. They played a great game until the fouling got out of hand, and they do deserve a big congratulations for their effort.

Bill Allen

JV grapplers win

The J. V. wrestlers opened their season Nov. 29th with a decisive win over South Seven power Carbondale. The final score of the match was 44-20 with several impressive efforts coming from freshman Scott Ellis & sophomores Eric Hefner, Mark Miller, Jack Potter, Ed Miller and Deon Newcomb.

Here is the J.V. starting roster:

Scott Ellis	98
Tony Bosecker	105
Bubba Elkins	112
Tim Hyers	119
Eric Hefner	126
Mark Miller	132
Roger Teal	138
Jack Potter	145
Ed Miller	155
Greg Denbo	167
Steve Dowdy	185
Deon Newcomb: Heavy Weight	

It looks like the J.V. is going to have a very impressive season so how about coming and showing the dogs you care?

Mark Bittle

Deer Season A Success Standing in the shadows

This year students in the Unit 3 district got to participate in possibly the best deer season yet in Illinois without using a personal day to miss school. Illinois deer hunters bagged tremendous 14,300 whitetails during the first weekend of the state's firearm season.

The leading county in deer harvest during the first weekend of hunting was Pope County with 884 whitetails, followed by Pike with 573; Adams, 517 Johnson, 482; and Hancock, 427.

Luckily only one hunting accident was confirmed in association with the season, and conservation police officers issued 797 citations and 38 warnings for various deer hunting violations.

Among H.H.S. students killing a deer were Paul Lane, Paul Dammers, Roger Teal, and Brad Wathen.

This year's varsity Lady Bulldog team is going to be playing in the shadow of one of the best seasons in the history of our girls basketball program.

It is true that the girls do not have a lot of height, but if they work at their capabilities, the season should be a good one.

Coach Butler commented: "We have a good nucleus from last year's team with two returning starters playing now and with the addition of the varsity substitutes and some of the JV starters we hope to have another good season. Since we do not have very much size and we have a full fourteen game conference schedule, it will be very difficult to match the 18-7 record of last year."

The rest of the season will be a challenge for the girls to meet.

Varsity wrestling underway this month

So far our varsity wrestlers are off to a good start. The HHS wrestlers were the only team with a 4-0 record up till their loss against Marion Dec. 4. Their first match was wrestled here against Carbondale; there was a good turnout, with the HHS

varsity team defeating Carbondale 33-30. Sat., Dec. 1 was a big day for our varsity wrestlers. In a four-team tournament, HHS pulled through, defeating all other teams. The scores were as follows: First, defeating Carmi 57-9, second, defeating Ben-

ton 45-15, and finally defeating Mt. Carmel 59-8.

Tues. Dec. 4, was the wrestlers first away-game and also their first loss, losing to Marion 27-35. Dec. 6, the wrestlers were up against the Pickneyville Panthers.

Kelly Falter

'The Stranger'

"It's cold! I'm freezing, and I can't go on. Things are bad enough already and now this weather. New York is not my idea of a great town to be stuck in without friends. It's the holiday season and I've got no place to go. I shouldn't have left home. I thought that they liked me there, but one little argument and WHAM! I wish I was home. I wish I was warm. Two million people and not one person to help. The only people who would understand couldn't take me in anyway. What a mess. I'd give anything for a place to belong."

"Are you serious?"

"Huh?"

"I said, 'Are you really serious?'"

"What do you mean?"

"You claim your life has no meaning. Whose fault is it?"

"I don't know! Who are you anyway?"

"I am alien to you; it is none of your concern who I am. You left your place where you belong. On your own, you should face the consequences."

"But. . ."

"I can help you, but first, explain your 'holiday season' to me. I can't comprehend it. Your people say you are supposed to be happy, but look at you. You are the fif-

teenth person in this position I've seen tonight. Explain."

"This is the time of our year when we celebrate our prosperity and express our affection for each other."

"Look at you."

"I'm not happy. I am alone in this world."

"Explain."

"No one cares. I can't go on."

"I am a solitary creature. I cannot understand why being alone bothers you."

"We are social creatures. Help me."

"I can only give wisdom. You abandoned your home and blamed it on your people. It's not only they you hate, it's you. You are your only enemy. All you want is self-pity; all you need is faith and someone to share it with and you will survive. Farewell!"

With that, the large and chubby man wheeled, blew on his rosy hands, and wrapped a festive green and red scarf around his neck. He adjusted his spectacles, brushed a bit of sleet from his pure white beard, and strode away. A faint ringing of sleigh bells was heard as the Stranger turned the corner.

Bill Dammers

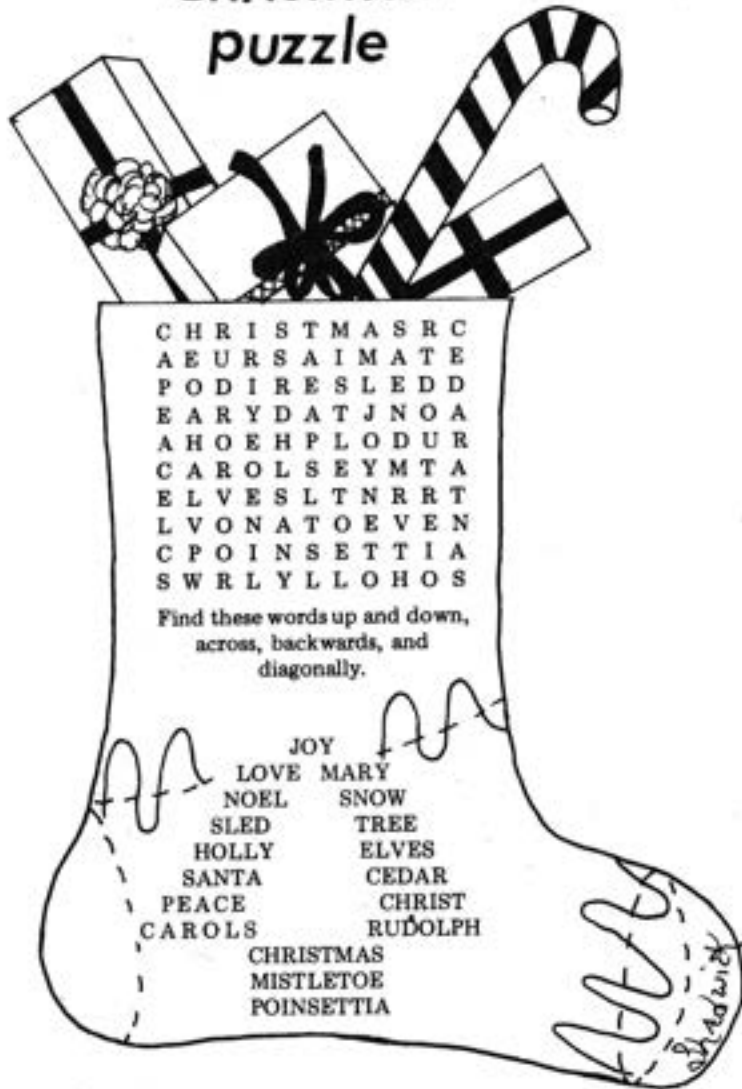
Keith Sewell

Christmas Thoughts...



May peace be your gift at Christmas

Christmas puzzle



*Happy Holidays
from
The Staff.*



FHA Involved in project

Hi-Tri delays Sadie Hawkins

The Sadie-Hawkins dance which was originally scheduled for November was postponed because of the playoff game in Charleston. It will be a spring dance, sponsored by Hi-Tri and the girls will be allowed to ask the boys.

FHA had several community service projects. For example, in November F.H.A. took part in the mental health drive. In December the club sponsored a food drive beginning on Dec. 10 and lasting a week. FHA has recently made gift boxes of food, and with the aid of Ill. Child and Family Services they will deliver them to

needy families before Christmas. There was a competition between home-rooms, and the club will treat the winners during a club period in the near future. FHA will also recognize the individual who brought the most food items.

Lisa Barton



Best Wishes for a Happy Holiday!

Art by Lynda Whitlock