



Yuletide Greetings from the "White House"



"My Christmas wish for each of you is that you too may experience (the) philosopher's awakening."

In the annual dizzying whirl of Christmas commercialization marked by tense shopping hours, parties galore, trip planning, family reunions, special decorations, it is easy to forget the tremendous claim that gave birth to the Christmas Season. If true, no idea in human experience can be more exciting, for the claim that God became man in the person of Jesus Christ removes all uncertainty about life. This "divine invasion" into human history, if really believed, belongs at the very base of all educational development, for this conviction gives a perspective to life that removes the paralyzing forces of fears and doubts which constantly threaten us throughout our lives. What "idea" could be more educationally valuable??!!

A story is told about an old philosopher who lived many years ago. One cold, snowy winter evening, he sat before his fireplace thinking about the nature of life. As he pondered, he heard the sound of Christmas carols coming through the cold wintry air outside. He thought to himself, "If only I could believe as those Christians do -- that God became man. If I could believe that, then all my uncertainties and speculations about the nature of life would be removed. The answers would be found in that Man in whom those Christians believe. But I simply cannot intellectually accept the idea that God could become a person." (continued on p.3)

CUM LAUDE INDUCTS SIX NEW MEMBERS

by Edward Campbell

Similar to the Phi Beta Kappa Society in college, the Cum Laude Society provides the same recognition of excellence in scholarship at the secondary school level. The Admiral Farragut chapter of the Cum Laude Society annually inducts members from the top ten percent of the senior class at the beginning of the academic year and from the top five at the close of school.

On Fall Parents' Day of this year, four new seniors were inducted during a special ceremony held in Robison Hall. These four included Richard Byrnes, Thomas Martin, Lucian Pravati and Michael Williams.

Mrs. Eleanor Drummond and Mrs. Edvarda Vellucci were inducted as honorary members into the Society in recognition of their many years of distinguished service to the Academy.

In a solemn ceremony befitting the occasion, Captain Norman Reinhard, head of the Farragut chapter, presented those elected with their badges of membership.



AFA thespians (left to right) Lucian Pravati, John Roth, William Curran, Kenneth Marshon, and Charles McEwan in a scene from afternoon assembly production, "Dress Reversal."

FOOTLIGHTERS PRESENT TWO HITS

Recently, during an afternoon student assembly, the Footlighters of Farragut Academy presented two one-act plays. These plays, under the able direction of Mr. F.E. Wheeler, assisted by Mr. G.J. Coen, were generally well done and were well received by the corps.

The plays were totally divergent in nature and made for a balanced program. The assembly, following opening remarks by Mr. Wheeler, opened with "One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich" by Robert Bromé. The play is based on the work of the same name by Alexander Solzhenitsyn, winner of the Nobel Prize. The main setting for this tragic work is a bunk room of a Siberian work camp at 0500 on a January morning in 1951. The cast consisted of Brian Gieseler, Serge Obolensky, V. John Larsen, Charles Johnson, Cameron Parvaresh-Ghajar, George Miller III, John Klein III, Thomas Lindsay III, Mark Berg, Philip Rowe, William Norton and Steven Thomas.

The second presentation of the afternoon was a farce in one-act entitled "Dress Reversal" by John Gerber. This play was set on a relatively bare stage on a warm spring evening. Primarily, it was a play during which anything that could conceivably go awry does. The cast consisted of James DeMont, Lucian Pravati, Edward Philpot, Charles McEwan, Kenneth Marshon, Jonathan Roth, James Rinaldi, Simon Goldenberg, and William Curran. "Dress Reversal" provided the needed light balance to "One Day.."

Others involved in both plays were Ms. Cheryl Augustino and Ms. Karyn Hunt, make-up; S. Joseph Goble and Christopher Spada, lighting; William Estelle and Keith Sailer, lighting set-up; and Keith Whitehead, prompter.

Congratulations are extended to the Footlighters for an excellent presentation. We all look forward to their major production in May.

LOOK INTO JOURNALISM THE VOICE THE WORLD LISTENS TO!



Photo courtesy of Asbury Park Press

Galleon editor James Westphalen discusses paper with financial columnist Jane Bryant Quinn during 11th annual journalism seminar at Monmouth College.

by Kevin Blair

As part of the continuous efforts to improve the Galleon, six members of the staff, Lucian Pravati, James Westphalen, Kevin Blair, James Crozier, Serge Obolensky and Charles Owens, and Mr. Taylor, the advisor, attended a high school journalism seminar at Monmouth College. Sponsored by the college and the Asbury Park Press, the seminar consisted of smaller group seminars and lectures by prominent journalists. The group discussions were in such categories as: Your Role as Editor, Basic Reporting, Feature Writing, Creative Photography and Reporting Sports.

The two guest speakers were Jane Bryant Quinn, a syndicated financial columnist, and Robert Rhodes, executive editor of The Home News in New Brunswick.

The seminar is held annually and is attended by many high schools in the central New Jersey area. The staff learned much from this seminar and we hope that this knowledge will show up in future issues of the Galleon.

a real cliff hanger

An exclusive true story as told by Jeffrey Charron to the GALLEON staff.

This summer, I and 43 fellow scouts travelled across country by bus to what the scouting program called "The Philmont Experience." Philmont is a huge working ranch located in Cimmaron, New Mexico; a ranch on which the hands are not cowboys, but rather Boy Scouts! A man named Wade Phillips owned this ranch and once entertained many high officials and celebrities with the fine hunting and fishing offered by this amazing wilderness. Mr. Phillips, the originator of Phillips 66 (the petroleum company), gave this immense ranch to the Boy Scouts of America because he knew this organization, which respected Nature, would take excellent care of it.

I cannot tell you of all my experiences at Philmont for there are just too many to recollect. For me, Philmont meant a wilderness which could be conquered without the progress of buildings and highways. What I mean by conquering Philmont's various mountain ranges is that I was able to survive 50 miles of rough terrain and come forth victorious.

I did, however, have one close defeat which almost meant the end of my life. It was our fifth day on the trail and we were all getting used to the trails and high altitudes. That evening, my friend and I were climbing 30 to 40 foot cliffs just for the fun of it. I was about 30 feet above the ground on a sheer stone cliff with one tiny ridge about 10 feet below me. I lost my grip and fell to the tiny ridge which didn't even slow my descent. After that, everything became a blur. And then, blackness. After I awoke, everyone was around me, eager to give me first aid and get their pictures in Boys' Life. Unfortunately, ...for them..., I had no broken bones. But I did have a sore body. I found out later that after I hit the ridge, I flipped over, went through a pine tree, and landed between a rock and a tree trunk with a foot to spare on each side.

All in all, Philmont was a unique experience and I would recommend it to any backpacker or outdoorsman. But, don't climb any cliffs without safety gear. It just ain't safe!!



JUNIOR MISS

In the fall of each year, Ocean County, along with other areas in New Jersey, holds a beauty contest in which the winner is eligible to compete in the state-wide competition for \$110,000 in scholarships. Entered in this year's contest were 12 young ladies from the neighboring towns and cities.

The contestants were graded in three phases of competition - poise, talent, and marching ability. After walking down the stage and being introduced, the girls offered a bicentennial act to demonstrate their marching prowess. They then individually sang, twirled, and performed dramatically.

Cadets from the Academy were selected to escort the 12 girls in certain events during the evening.

After a poetry reading, Margaret Hartley of Southern Regional High School won the title of Junior Miss of Ocean County. The other runners-up were Cindy Beres, Leslie Wieshaar, Lori Hopson and Karen Bartlett.

Our Staff



The Galleon

- Editor-in-chief. James Westphalen
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Glenn Whitehead, Serge Obolensky
- Faculty Advisor. . . . Mr. I. H. Taylor, Jr.





Joy to the World!

Cadets Wagner, Pravati, Quesnel, Susczynski, and Gieseler and dates at Christmas formal in Shepard Hall, Saturday, December 6, 1975.

CADET OF THE MONTH

EDWARD CAMPBELL

Cadet Edward Campbell was chosen as Cadet of the Month for December because, although he has been at the Academy for only a short while, he has already proven himself to be an exemplary cadet. Besides achieving the highest academic honors for two months in a row, Cadet Campbell has also taken an active and extensive role in other facets of Farragut life. He is a member of the Spanish, Scuba, Rocket and Bottle clubs and one of the managers of the JV Basketball team.



Ed comes to us after having lived about five years in the area of France known as Normandy. Although he speaks fluent french, Campbell originally comes from Houston, Texas.

He left Europe and came back to America because he wishes to pursue a naval career and, after graduating from Farragut, would like to attend the Naval Academy at Annapolis.

We on the Galleon wish Cadet Campbell our best for continued success

Choosing a cadet for Senior of the Month is always a difficult task for the Galleon staff. Many things are taken into consideration: Is the person in question well-respected and does he respect others? Does he possess those high qualities of courage, honor, and leadership? And, of course, scholarship and service which are necessary to the preservation and protection of the fundamental institutions of the Academy, are always considered.

Obviously, it is a tough decision on our

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Suddenly, he heard a whirring noise outside the window. He looked out, and there he saw a flock of birds struggling against the snow storm. "If only they had started south sooner," he mused. He went to the door of his cabin, opened it, and attempted to direct the birds inside where they would be warm and safe. But the birds did not understand his efforts, and they continued their helpless flying about. He put on his coat and muffler and went outside to the great barn where he opened the hay mow door in an effort to get them to fly into the barn. Still they did not understand. He then got a ladder which he raised to the large opening and put crumbs on the rungs, hoping that they would follow up along the ladder until they reached the top at the entrance of the barn. Still they did not respond to his safety efforts.

He sadly returned to the house and slouched into his chair, feeling sorry for the birds who he knew would not be able to survive the storm outside. "How could I have saved those birds?" he thought. Suddenly an idea flashed into his mind. "The only way I could have saved them was to have become a bird myself, for then they would have recognized my form and they would have followed me to safety."

As the old philosopher thought about this idea, he once again heard the distant singing of Christmas carols. Minutes passed, and suddenly he jolted from his chair with the impact of another thought that ran through his head. "The only way God could save men from their storms in life --- fears, uncertainties, disappointments, failures --- was to become a man himself. Then he could show people everywhere what God is like and how life is to be lived."

The old philosopher sank back into his chair, his head nodding in belief. "Now I understand," he thought. "Over the centuries God had tried to speak through the prophets and leaders of Israel, but men would not believe. The birds would not believe me nor did they understand. God in his goodness and love for his creation became man to reveal himself fully to all mankind."

My Christmas wish for each of you is that you too may experience this philosopher's awakening.

Norman C. Farnlof
Capt., AFA, Headmaster

SENIOR OF THE MONTH

BRIAN FISCHER

In fact, one would almost believe that a person answering such descriptions could walk on water!

Although he has yet to demonstrate that he can indeed walk on water, Brian Fischer has demonstrated over the years the other qualities we seek.

This year's Battalion CPO is one of the finest seniors in the class and is truly an asset to the Academy. This opinion seems to be shared by the AFA Alumni Association also and they made him the recipient of the Petty

Officer Award last year. Brian also holds a varsity "F" in baseball and has been one of the mainstays of the team in past years.



Sports

Pigskin Review

by Kevin Blair

Ten years from now, the only thing left from the 1975 Middies will be their record. This record, 1-6-1, does not tell of early injuries when for the first three games Farragut lost as many as four valuable starters at once. That record does not tell of the freak plays that helped Valley Forge tie Farragut and Newark beat the Middies in the fourth quarter of both games. A fumble and a 60-yard pass play would have changed the season to three wins and five losses. One good indication of the Middies was the final game against Hun. The first two times Farragut got the ball, it was immediately fumbled away deep in their own territory. Other than these and one other fumble, the defense was excellent and the offense had some good gains. Had the Middies not fumbled, Hun would not have such a good lead in the first quarter and Farragut would not have had to play from behind and would have had an excellent chance of beating the prep school state champs.

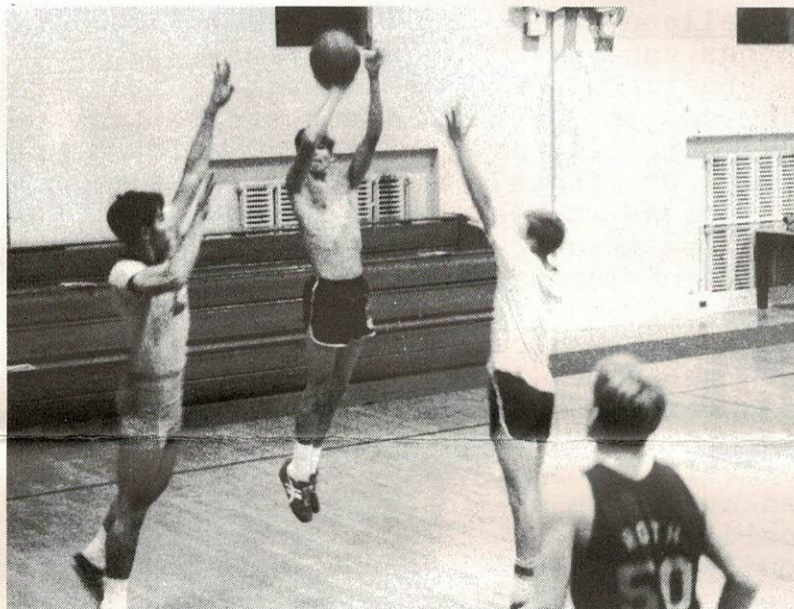
There was a lot of work put into the Middies, starting with double sessions two weeks before school started. At times there were too few people to even hold the dummies. These were the hottest days of the year and once the team got through those two weeks, they anticipated a good season. The season was good in terms of hard playing and experience. The team experienced humiliating defeat, a last quarter defeat, a last quarter tie, and a great win. With this experience, the twelve returning underclassmen should be well prepared for next season.



varsity

The practicing season is very young now; however, already there is much to be said about Farragut's basketball team. There are six from last year's team returning and four moving up from the junior varsity. Ken Hauser, a post-grad, is new to the team this year but is expected to help the team greatly. Mike Harris and Kevin Powell started at the guard positions last year and are expected to do the same this year. Tom

Martin and Art Munson were valuable last year and will probably get much of the playing time this season. Joe Dyas, a good rebounder with great jumping ability is another solid returner to the team. New people on the team include Jim Norton, Rich Creange, Bill Sarafin and Tom Berg.



junior varsity

Last year it would have been easy to write off the JV team at the start of the season. It won't be so easy to do that this year, however. There are a few strong points which right now give the team an optimistic outlook. Junior center John Roth is providing solid offensive muscle and is an excel-

lent shot blocker on defense. Keith Sailer is returning from last year's team with good dribbling and the ability to pick up points with his outside shot. Mark McGrath has potential and is expected to reach it in the near future. As a new member of the team, experience will soon help Mark to become a more valuable

asset to the team. Dan Paras and George Banning are two more new starters, neither having played last year. Both have a tremendous ability and through the course of the year will improve greatly. The JV is primarily a very young team and under Coach Frick hopes to take large steps toward a successful season.



Glenn Whitehead practices one of his holds on fellow teammate Cliff Schardein.

Grapplers Prepare for 1975-76 Season

by Kevin Blair

The wrestling season is now underway and prospects are bright for this year. The team has several varsity members among the returnees. Among the expected starters are Mike Williams at 129, Glenn Whitehead at 108, Chris Spada at 115, Ed Philpot at 148, Bob Cox at 188 and Chuck McEwan at the unlimited category. There are also some excellent newcomers; among them, Rusty Blanchard was district champion in his school in northern New Jersey and Ed Compton starting at 101. John Ferguson and Rudy Intelisano are competing for the 141 posi-

tion. John Heidbreder has taken over the competition at 135 and Phil Rowe has done the same at 122. Jim Rinaldi has been working very hard and has won the tryout at the 170 position.

Of course, there are numerous positions open being that it is so early in the season. At this point, there is no telling who will be starting at many of the other positions. Coach Pulley is optimistic at this point and looking forward to the season. The team is relatively young and is expected to produce many wins for Farragut in the future.

Roundball Season Begins



Junior Varsity starters include Dan Paras, Keith Sailer, George Banning and John Roth.