

January 4-10, 1970

By Tom Bodle

“Entering at the west end of the gymnasium, the St. Joseph High School marching kazoo band, under the direction of Mr. Norman T. Dingle.”

On the evening of January 7th, our senior class sponsored a fundraiser featuring a basketball contest between the Viking faculty and the “Hoolihan and Big Chuck All-stars.” Bob “Hoolihan” Wells and “Big Chuck” Schodowski hosted a popular local television show on Channel 8. They integrated skits with the showing of movies as a regular late Friday night staple. Their “All-stars” provided opportunities for many local schools and organizations to raise money for their causes. Our senior class officers procured the “H&BC” team to take on a team comprised of our faculty. At halftime, adding to the fun of the event, was the first (and last) performance of the Viking kazoo marching band. Kazoos had entered Vikingdom, largely thanks to the class of 1972. A music store on East 185th Street sold kazoos. Some sophomores began to play them in cheering sections at football games, then later at basketball contests. Kazoos became contagious. Seniors taking up the kazoo thought the faculty game would provide the perfect opportunity to display the musical talents achieved on these wind instruments. Thanks to some band members, the marching band’s performance ladder and pieces of the director’s outfit were borrowed. Jim Guy (Mr. Norman T. Dingle) donned the outfit and proudly called his troops to order. Marching from the stage end of the court, drum major John Kloos led the 28 member contingent onto the floor playing “the Saints.” The kazoos then wowed the capacity crowd. Forming a circle in the shape of a basketball, with the precision of a fine oiled machine, the band bounced around the court performing “Sweet Georgia Brown.” Also at the half, a blueberry pie eating contest was held, pitting the best pie devourers from each class. In the allocated time of 5 minutes, junior Paul Devito took honors, as he scarfed down three whole pies. The evening was an artistic and financial success. The



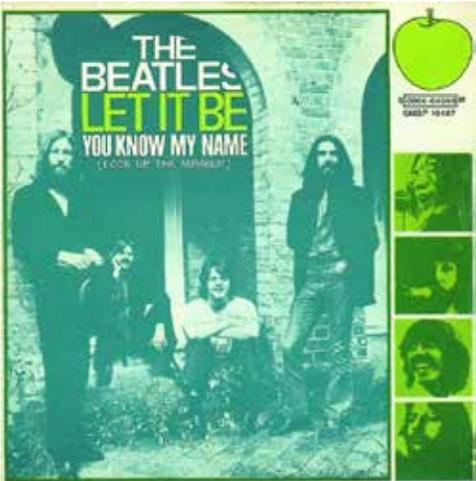


senior class raised close to \$1100 on this night. Unfortunately, the faculty fell shy of a victory. Relinquishing a 13 point lead, our valiant teachers succumbed to the “H&BC All-stars” 66-65.

The first Sunday of the new year was the date of the final NFL and AFL football championships. The two leagues would merge in the autumn of 1970 into one. Our Cleveland Browns represented the Eastern Conference against the Minnesota Vikings from the West. Cleveland travelled to the frozen tundra of Minneapolis’ Memorial stadium, where an 8 degree temperature and below zero wind chills greeted them. Joe Kapp was the “workman like” quarterback he had been all season long as he led his Vikings to 24 points in the first half. Minnesota’s “Purple People Eater” defense ate up the Brownies, creating 3 turnovers and shutting them out until a meaningless fourth quarter touchdown was scored. The Vikings would take the final NFL title 27-7. In the AFL championship, Kansas City defeated the Oakland Raiders 17-7. The Chiefs and Vikings were poised to match up in Super Bowl IV.



In the entertainment world this week: ABC premiered its daily soap opera “All My Children;” the Disney Corporation opened its “Preview Center,” the first building on its Orlando property which would evolve into the Disney World theme park; and most notably, the Beatles held their final recording session as they completed the soundtrack for their “Let It Be” album.



Completing the week at the Viking Village, both the basketball and wrestling programs continued their winning ways. The roundballers hosted the newly created Cleveland Central Catholic. In its first year, the Ironmen represented the consolidation of three smaller parish schools, St. John Cantius, Our Lady of Lourdes and St. Stanislaus. Central tried to mimic the tactics of the hoopers’ four previous opponents, that was to play “slow ball” and try to frustrate the up tempo game of St. Joe. Once again the talented Viking line up thwarted the stalling techniques, leading to a 61-31 triumph and a 9-2 record. The wrestlers met Shaker Heights, upending the Raiders 28-16. At 4-0-2 in dual meets, Jeff Myers, Mark Hummer, Bill Montana, Brian Swetlin and company were about to clash with St. Edward for Crown Conference bragging rights.