

FIRST

SPECIAL

ISSUE!

FTHS VISOR



CONSTRUCTION CLASS LAUNCHES PROJECT

Students working The World of Construction, a new course started this year, have discovered a way to improve the school grounds. This project, directed by Mr. Christopher and approved by Mr. Gleason, will be to beautify the area around the flag pole. This will be done by the students in Mr. Christopher's classes and any others who are interested.

The project will involve many steps. The first will be to build a short wall around the area so that it can be filled in and leveled. Then park benches, made in class, will be placed on the site. The final step will be to landscape by planting grass and putting in flower beds. This final landscaping should be completed by spring so that the plants will be blooming in June.

This type of project was developed not only as a benefit to the students in beautifying their environment, but also as a model of what

can be accomplished with student involvement in improvement of their school. The World of Construction classes hope that you, the Students of F.J.H.S., will use and respect this new area. Mr. Christopher would like any suggestions that might improve the project. If you have a suggestion, please write it down and give it to him in room 102.



the year of the rat

Chinese New Year is one of the world's most impressive times because it is not just one day but a prolonged holiday, and it does not start on January 1st.

Another fact that makes the New Year so unusual is that it is all tied to the lunar calendar and runs in 12-year cycles. This year it begins on February 15.

Because of the stretched-out time, the holiday is sometimes called a dragon-sized holiday. And the first grouping for the holiday began in 2697 B.C., so it shows that it will stay dragon-sized.

The different years of the grouping are given a different name. They are: rat, ox, tiger, hare, dragon, snake, horse, sheep, monkey, chicken, dog, and pig. This year, 1972 to us, is "The Year of the Rat".

Giving these names to the years is also like Western astrology. But just because you were born in the year of the rat does not mean that you are bad—though it sure doesn't sound good.

Days and gods

There are 10 days of merry-making and each have a special meaning.

The first day is sacred and is to be spent with the family.

(con't. on pg. 3)

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monitors

FASCHING '72

In the F.J.H.S. cafeteria, students sit at tables according to their homerooms. This is done to prevent a lot of confusion. Monitors usually do a good job of putting up chairs, sweeping, and wiping the tables, but the student should clean up his mess.

Trash, cups, trays, ice cream wrappers and everything else litter the cafeteria at lunch time. So as you can see, the monitors are being taken for granted.

They should only be sponging minor little spots and crumbs from the tables. Sweeping should be similar, after the diners have cleaned up the major garbage.

It would be a big help if everyone would pitch in and help the monitors. After all, we don't want the place to look a mess—or do we?

—Patricia Stringer

In Germany, Fasching starts the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month each year. It



on Rosenmontag to visit the parades that this was declared a host nation holiday for American personnel. The nearest parade is at Mainz, and is well worth seeing. Or, if you really want to live it up, go to a Fasching party. Not only does drinking, comedy, and eating go on, but many parties and parades contain subtle and hilarious political satire. These zany parties go on through to midnight Feb. 15th on the "Fastnacht".

Then people disappear, and the confetti and beer bottles are cleaned up. The celebration ends because of the very purpose for Fasching—Ash Wednesday, the 16th and beginning of Lent (and fasting).

—John Allanson

lasts until Ash Wednesday, February 16.

Although this signifies 4 months of celebrations, it does not get into full swing until February. Then the wild parties climax on Feb. 14—Rosenmontag.

Parades are held in big cities, and everywhere people are dressed in weird costumes. Munich, Mainz, and Cologne are the cities best known when it comes to Fasching, although many small towns have celebrations dating back 500 years.

So many students were leaving the school

...year of
the rat

(cont. from p. 2)

The next five days are for men to visit but the women must stay home. Also on the first day, during the evening, pictures of the god of Wealth are sold, for the second day is this particular god's birthday.

There is a worshiping of many gods. Three of the most important are the gods of wealth—Kuan Ti, Huan

(cont. on p. 4)



...YEAR OF THE RAJ

(cont. from p. 3)

Tan Shan Ti, and Tsai Shen—The latter being the god of riches and very special. Every home is placed under various gods for protection.

No one ignores Tsao Wang—god of the kitchen. He has been so since 133 B.C., and the first act of the woman of the house for New Year's is to clean the kitchen for him.

HONOR THY PARENTS

The children are not left out either. They must honor the parents especially on these days of the holiday, but their grandparents reward them by giving them money wrapped in red foil. This is tucked un-

der the child's pillow at night and it is to guarantee another year of life.

In the capital, Peking, it is traditional for children to go door to door, carrying posters that read, "We bring you a new god. Here he is under the money tree whose fruits are gold and its branches are laden with silver" (This event attracts many wide-eyed tourists and is good for the merchants' business.).

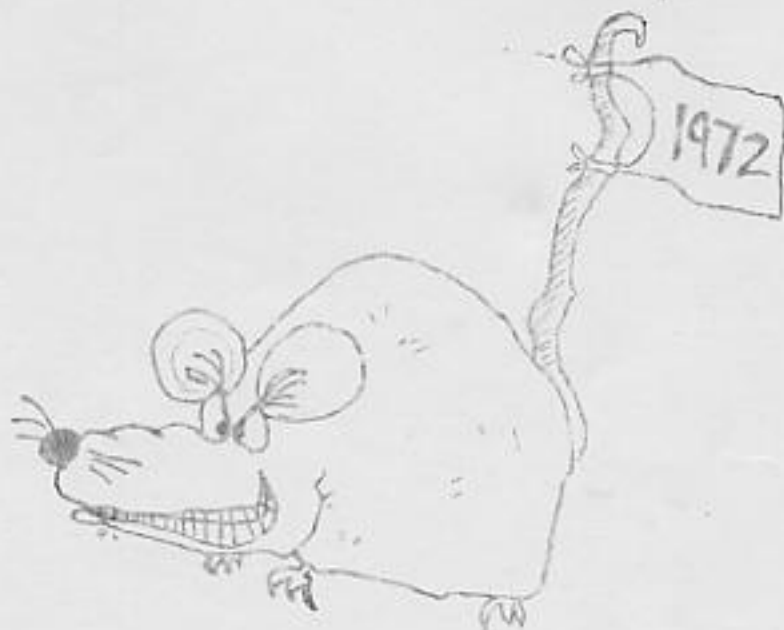
Another thing which is important is that all debts must be settled by New Year's or it is unlucky. An event is made out of this belief, too.

Creditors walk through the streets, banging on the doors of the people who are in debt to them. If it is agreed, a chase is begun and if the creditor cannot catch the man who owes him the money, then the person can start the New Year with a clean slate.

Last, at the end of the year, court yards are strewn with sesame, fir, and cypress. It is trampled and set on fire, and is to drive the evil spirits away.

As kids and kites lead the way of the many parades which have floats & paper dragons mingled throughout the crowd, we realize that this holiday isn't the same as last year or the year before. Even the "name" of the year has changed, and will keep on changing for twelve years.

—Adapted from
Soldiers magazine
by Patty Donovan



today has
been cancel-
ed due to
lack of in-
terest!