

February 8-14, 1970

By Tom Bodle

It was crosses and hearts the second week of February, 1970. Wednesday would be Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the solemn Christian season of Lent. At week's end, a celebration of friendship, romance and love would be embraced on Valentine's Day.

On Ash Wednesday, St. Joseph students were signed with a cross of ashes, a symbol of repentance and recognizing our mortality. Special attention was paid to our need to seek forgiveness of our sins throughout the forty days of Lent, in preparation for the celebration of Christ's Resurrection at Easter.

Valentine's Day fell on a Saturday this year. Throughout the week anxiety could be heard in conversations in the Viking halls. Those in relationships tried to decide the best way to celebrate with their special someone. Others who were shy or not in a dating relationship debated as to send a card, candy, flowers or another sign of affection. Still others just wanted to meet with friends at a dance. In anticipation of student needs, the Student Council Dance committee and Special Activities committee came up with an event to satisfy a variety of students. The Special Activities committee, chaired by Evan Zupancic, titled Saturday February 14th, "The St. Valentine's Day Massacre." Beyond being a mixer, the night would be a parody of a Chicago gang war. On Valentine's Day, 1929 there was a confrontation between Bugsy Moran's north side mob and Al Capone's southside pack. This event became a historic memory of the mob violence in the "Roaring 20's." Attendees were encouraged to dress in period outfits. Decorations and banners proclaimed the day. Refreshments were beyond the normal cola products served at a mixer. The Student Council created an event that appealed to those wanting an inexpensive evening with their special someone as well as to the many who simply wanted to celebrate at a dance and meet friends. It was on par with the successful Halloween and Christmas parties held previously. As happy attendees left the dance, the 5 degree temperature chilled their bones, but perhaps their ears would warm them up as they





listened to the hot sound of Sly and the Family Stone's number one hit "Thank You" as they headed home.

Weather related news took the forefront on the world stage this week. Mount Washington, the highest mountain peak in the eastern United States, was used as a major weather gathering center. On February 10th over 26.4 cm of precipitation blanketed the 6300 foot mountain, a new record for a twenty four hour period. That same day, an avalanche in the French Alps took the lives of forty youths climbing in the area. Tragedy of another nature had taken place in India, north of New Delhi. A tiger had been attacking humans for several weeks. Commerce and travel had to be restricted in the region. Schools were closed. Forty-eight deaths were attributed to the one "man eating tiger." This week the tiger had been hunted and killed, ending the scare. Of another note, the space race became more crowded this week. Japan became the fourth country to launch a satellite to circumnavigate the earth.



The high school regular winter sports season was coming to an end this week. Our Viking hoops and mat squads had a lot for which to be proud. In its final contest, coach Bob Straub's basketball team hosted Gilmour Academy. The end of the season found our Vikings number one in most area polls and co-champions of the Crown Conference with Padua. In a 60-40 downing of the Lancers, our hoopsters completed a 16-2 campaign and was poised for the post season tournament.



Coach John Storey's wrestlers also had a memorable season. A season ending confrontation against Senate power Collinwood on February 13th was all that remained. The Railroaders showed their prowess in the match. After the first seven matches, Collinwood held a 17-6 team lead. Not to be outdone, the Viking's next four wrestlers garnered a 19-19 tie, with three wins and a tie. The heavyweight contest would be decisive. Two undefeated wrestlers, our Jeff Myers and the Railroaders John Violi entered the circle and the referee signaled to wrestle. Myers took his opponent down on his back. The whistle blew, the refs hand slapped the mat. At 1:56 into the match Myers had won with a pin. Exuberant team mates jumped on the mat greeting Myers, undefeated for the season. The team victory raised the overall record to 8-2-2. The wrestlers were overwhelmed with joy. They had completed their "most successful season" in school history.

