



# Features

EDITOR: SUSAN GRANTIER



## Wish for 1991: Peace in the Middle East

By Meonne Blalock

To ease the ever increasing hostile situation in the Middle East, President Bush has offered to sit down with Saddam Hussein in order to have peace talks. This could not have come at a better time because as the intensity of a possible war increases, so do the sizes of the countries' armies. If war should break out a great number of lives will be lost on both sides and of course there will be no clear-cut winner. Concerning the peace talks, President Bush stated that this would be Saddam Hussein's final chance to back out of Kuwait before war is declared. This opinion could not be more wrong! To avoid a meaningless war, President Bush should first try using different tactics and approaches until his resources are exhausted and only then declare war-but only as a last resort. Bush appears to be going into the peace talks with a pessimistic attitude which will only hurt the proceedings and cause the meeting to be a total failure. Let's hope for the soldiers in Saudi Arabia's sake that George Bush quits trying to play hard ball and instead, work with Saddam Hussein so a peaceful resolution can be discovered.

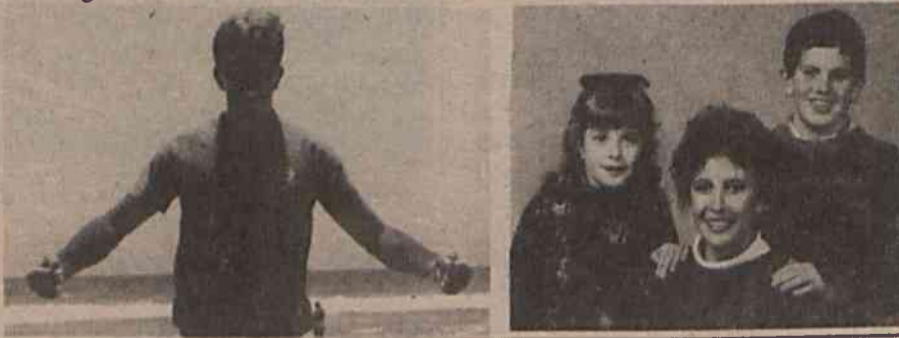
## Christmas Empty for Families with Soldiers in Middle East

By Sally Lowder

We all know of the conflict that presently exists in the Middle East and have heard of thousands upon thousands of fearless men and women who have been ordered by military command to Saudi Arabia. But seeing this on the news and hearing about it, usually doesn't seem to make a difference in one's daily life. When all of this conflict began, people had some fear of the situation, but nothing like they have now. It's really beginning to hit home, and what does a family do when a close member is sent off and is gone during Thanksgiving and Christmas? Many have suffered during Thanksgiving for the missed presence of their loved ones and will most likely once again suffer, on what is supposed to be the most joyful day of the year, Christmas.

One family out of the thousands this year that will feel this emptiness during the holiday season is the Hinson family, which includes Leslie Morgan, a student here at AHS. It is her step-father who was sent to the Middle East. When I was talking with her mother, Denise Hinson, I perceived she seemed to be taking the whole situation very well. She says that Tony is presently working in communications, which mainly deals with working on planes or radios that may need repair. He works a long twelve hour shift; that is, he goes in at 7:00 A.M. and leaves at 7:30 P.M. He is able to write letters, Denise says, and his once-a-week phone call is said to be the one thing that keeps them going. Along with Leslie, there are two other children. One is thirteen years old, whose name is Ryan, and the other, Megan, is seven years old. Denise said that Ryan really did have a difficult time with his dad leaving at first because they were so close. He's now beginning to understand it and is dealing with it pretty well. Megan, the youngest of the three children, seems to be very confused at times but for a child her age, she is coping with it very well. As for Leslie, she knows what's going on and understands the situation and is hanging in there. Denise naturally finds it extremely difficult for herself at times to keep in a happy frame of mind and struggles with the daily sadness of Tony's absence. She says that when she gets upset or feels depressed, she goes to her friends, who provide the support she needs during these troubled times. As for Tony not being able to come home for Christmas this year, Denise said that it just wasn't going to be the same, just like it wasn't this past Thanksgiving. She said that they wouldn't really, deep down, have their Thanksgiving and Christmas until January 5, 1991, when Tony will return, unless war should break-out. Should this happen, his time would be extended and they could keep him however long that he would be needed.

As we approach our holiday vacation, let's remember the lost days spent by the soldiers defending the freedom that has been ours in the United States of America.



### FULL MOON

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## "Madhouse" Revisited

By Susan Grantier

Ahhh ... holiday break is here. It's time to sit back and relax. Maybe watch some TV. After grabbing something to drink, I slowly walk down the hall to the family room. Closer ... I hear laughter ... the door swings open ... my eyes widen in horror. Sitting on the couch are vaguely familiar beings, stuffing cookies and potato chips into their gaping caverns, laughing hysterically at "Hee Haw". I have just entered THE HOUSEGUESTZONE. Aunt Martha. Grandpa. Cousin Joe. Uncle Bob. Imagine the horror!

Just when I thought it was safe to go back into the water. Relaxing vacation? Forget it! First of all, Grandma is stationed in my room, her dentures soaking on my nightstand and her nightgown hanging on the back of the door. While she's taking her daily nap, I creep quietly into the room in hopes of retrieving a tape from the stereo. If I could just get the tape and get out of there before she wakes up. "SUSIE?? IS THAT YOU?? WHERE AM I? GET ME SOME WATER!" Great. Trapped.

After obeying Grandma's every wish, I stumble to the bathroom, hoping to find some peace and quiet. In your dreams, babe. It appears that a small tornado had passed through recently, leaving death, destruction, makeup, dirty towels and drying pantyhose. My obnoxious fourteen year old cousin, Barbi, is applying her third layer of orange pan-cake makeup to her face. She's got her radio plugged in, along with a hair dryer, curling iron, and facial steamer. "Get out," I

threaten, brandishing the red hot iron at her. "Like, oh my gosh, man. Like, I still have to apply my iridescent baby blue eye shadow!" Barbi finally realizes that I mean business, and flees down the hall, screaming "LIKE, MOM! SUSAN JUST, LIKE, KICKED ME OUT! I'M SURE!"

Peace and quiet, at last. Suddenly there's a knock on the door. "Whoa! Heads up! Grandpa needs to get in there. I should have known better than to have a second helping of that six bean casserole. Let me in!" Reluctantly, I give the bathroom up to Gramps. With the *National Enquirer* in hand, he stomps through the door and shuts it with a bang.

Where to go? Outside? No, Dad and Uncle Charlie are out there comparing leaf blowers, trying to determine which has the more awesome power. The kitchen? No. Mom, Aunt Polly, and Great-Grandma are crowded around an evil looking crock pot, stirring its mysterious contents. Just like the Three Witches. Scary.

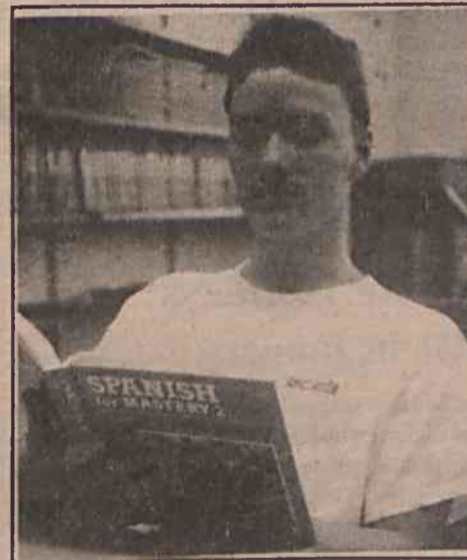
Every year it's the same thing. Your house is taken over by relatives and friends of the family. There is one last place. I grab a blanket and run upstairs. After some struggle, I arrive at my destination. The view from up here on the roof is actually kind of nice. I sit back, watching the sunset and contemplating the "joys" of Christmas. There's nothing in the world like houseguests.

## Look Into My Crystal Ball . . .

By Kristi Johnson

As you all know New Year's is coming up as well as Christmas. At 12:00 December 31, the apple will drop in New York City and 1991 will begin! This is the time when people decide they are going to set their mind to a New Year's Resolution. Predictions and resolutions are always there to make fun of because none of these things ever happen. They may last a week or so, but it soon evaporates into thin air and all old habits come back to haunt you. This year, try your best to stick with 'em! In the meantime this December I, Kristi Johnson, shall leave a list of predictions for AHS students/staff in the 1991 year.

- Coach Wicker will finally hit a growth spurt!
- Sally Lowder will pass a test in Algebra 1!
- Andy Johnson will bench 500 pounds!
- Richie Myers will develop mouth cancer!
- Jeff Hogan will become a Spanish major in college!
- Josh Cates will get his car fixed!
- Jennifer Floyd will cut all of her hair off!
- Lynn Graham will have a healthy baby!
- Another V cheerleader will get hurt!
- Gas will rise to \$5.00 a gallon!
- Mr. Holt will become a body builder!
- Mrs. Hathcock will finally give her 4th period a test they like!
- Susan Grantier will leave a pony tail in a whole day!
- Jason Hazlett will finally get to leave to go sell an ad in Journalism!
- Jason Isbanioly will be brutally murdered by a Peanuts lunch box!
- Mr. Shaw will give up fishing for the study of English literature.
- Michael Laton will be the first person to arrive in third period English.



Learning those Spanish verbs, Jeff?



Scissors-hands Floyd goes after her own curly locks.