

# Coming of the new year calls

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It seems like only yesterday I started off a column by saying something like, "1972 is a New Year. What does it hold for us? The New Year is what we make it!" That was January 8, 1972, a full year ago. Tempus fugit, or what!

Oh, well, 1972 is over, there's not much we can do about that. The year was not unprofitable. We learned that Burt Reynolds is not as uninhibited as Helen Reddy and many others prob-

ably would like him to be. We learned that Santa Claus can be both a cop and Gene Hackman, and that The French Connection can win Oscars. We learned that more Canadians want to watch Team Canada than want to vote for prime minister (but what if Phil Esposito had been a candidate). Let's hear it for the number one song of the year American Pie! But, despite all the great things about 1972, it's part of the past, and it is time to forget all of that and concentrate on 1973.

At school, any school, this is not easily done. This is because, obviously, the school year does not end at the same time as the calendar year. We have to remember our first term, if only to write the second term exams. The student body doesn't change at New Year's: we still have the same classes, the same little cliques to wage undeclared and unspoken war upon each and isolate the loners among us, the same organizations, clubs, activities and system. Has anything changed, or is 1973 simply a

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## for assessment of attitudes

### Coda for 1972?

Perhaps, but students, as individuals, have an opportunity to change. The holiday break gives us this opportunity. This is every person's chance to, in the words of the poet, turn over a new leaf. What do you intend to turn 1973 into?

The break served to allow us to assess our position. We had the chance, first, to ask ourselves if we are satisfied with the way the school year is progressing, and second, to either resolve to do something about it if we

are not, or to keep going if we are.

Too many people ruin this wonderful opportunity for self-assessment by turning the break into a brake — and ultra-long weekend in which to throw our responsibilities to the wind from Dec. 22 to Jan. 3. Certainly partying recreation and time-wasting have a place, but there is a limit. The break leaves plenty of time left over.

It is no time to stop and stand still. There is probably no worse way to start off the New Year by not having any purpose to the holidays. Don't say there wan't anything to do. The bas-

ketball coaches had the gyms in use every day they could. There were a couple of drama rehearsals. And, beyond the school, the community was quite alive; the arenas, for instance were open often for public skating. There was no need to waste the break.

Like Joe Sparty says, "Let's get rolling."

One of the best ways to start is by donating to the Red Cross Blood Donor Clinic being held for senior high school students Friday. Westlane blood will be collected at 11 a.m.