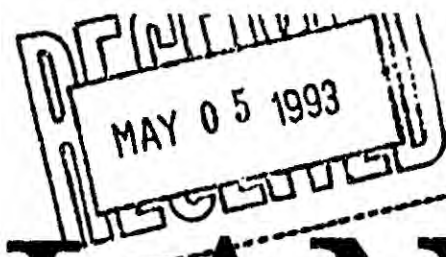


# HIGHLAND HERALD

Vol. 27 No. 11

McLennan Community College, 1400 College Drive, Waco, Texas 76708

May 4, 1993



MAYOR BOB SHEEHY and Jane Gamez, director of the MCC Library, have fun cutting the ribbon to officially open Global Fest.

## Graduation Diplomas due May 18

Graduation ceremonies will be held May 18 in Chisolm Hall of the Convention Center at 8 p.m.

About 350 students will be candidates for graduation.

Keynote speaker will be Athletic Director Ken DeWeese.

Bagpipers from the Dallas Caledonian Pipes and Drums will lead the processional of robed faculty members and students, and Larry Reed will sing the National Anthem.

Deborah Garrett, vice-president of student services, will preside over the ceremonies.

President Dennis Michaelis will give the welcome and

introductions.

Don Hay, chairman of the Board of Trustees, assisted by Al Pollard, dean of technical education, will certify the candidates for graduation. Hay and Michaelis, assisted by Registrar Willie Hobbs and Dann Walker, will present certificates and degrees to the graduates.

Christopher Longoria, president of Student Government, and Michaelis will make special presentations.

A reception will be held in the lobby of the Convention Center, courtesy of the MCC Foundation.

A brief rehearsal for graduation will be at 10 a.m. May 18.



Tammy Haddox

## Miss Hispanic Waco Pageant

By CARRIE WHITE

Leah Ann De La Garza, a 21-year-old Baylor student from San Antonio was the winner.

Two MCC students, Janie Rogers and Sandie Gutierrez, also competed in Saturday's third annual Miss Hispanic Waco Teen Pageant. Rogers was the first runner-up.

Besides just competing in the pageant, Rogers and Gutierrez helped found it in 1991, with the help of Henry Vera Cruz and Windy Seabolt.

"It is important for young ladies to have some kind of role models. Janie and Sandie are good influences for the younger girls. These pageants also give the kids a chance to represent their community and the Hispanic Youth in Action group, and gives them a chance to win money to further their education," Vera Cruz said.

The winners of this year's Miss Hispanic Waco Pageant

will receive a crown, trophy, bouquet of roses, and \$400. The pageant was held at the Heart of Texas Coliseum during Cinco De Mayo festivities.

Girls winning Waco competitions will be given the opportunity to advance to the Miss Texas World Pageant held in Galveston this August. Renee Ram6s, an MCC student, held last year's Miss Hispanic Waco title.

The Hispanic Youth in Action Group was set up by Vera Cruz, and was designed to keep young people off the streets. "Waco doesn't have very much to offer teens, and this gives them a chance to help out their community," Vera Cruz said.

In order to be a part of this community service group, students must maintain at least a C average, and know how to work with others as a team.

## Goddard named Volunteer of the Year by Central Texas Literacy Coalition

By MELANIE GERIK

Ernest Goddard, a volunteer math tutor at the Downtown Center, was recently named Literacy Volunteer of the Year by the Central Texas Literacy Coalition.

Goddard, a retired Air Force lieutenant colonel, volunteers 15 hours a week by working every weekday morning. Goddard said, "I just want to give a little something back. I'm not doing it for the recognition. I think any volunteer would feel the same way."

Lora Perry, general educa-

tional development instructor, said she is fascinated by his teaching techniques and his concern about the students. Goddard said he and other instructors try to find any training aids possible to help the students pass the GED exam.

Perry said Goddard starts where the students need help in mathematical areas including fractions, decimals, algebra and geometry. He works with any number of students and goes in depth in math in a separate classroom from other programs. Perry said that the students are com-

fortable with Goddard.

"They just love him to death," she said. "He does it from the heart."

Goddard said he feels that most of the hard work is done by the professional counselors and teachers at the Downtown Center. "I have the easy job. When I'm tired, I can go home. The professional people have to stay. They need to be recognized."

Perry said that because of Goddard, she can do a better job. "He's the motivator. He doesn't realize the effect he has on me."

## Homecoming Queen wants to be an accountant

By CARRIE WHITE

As an active member of the Gameroom Club, Tammy Haddox, MCC's Homecoming Queen, says she enjoys the friendly people she has gotten to know by being involved in school activities.

"I started school at Mary Hardin-Baylor, and I wasn't really involved in school activities, but here everyone is real easy to get to know," Haddox said. She said she started helping out in the Game Room Club, and is now amazed at how many friends she has made here.

A graduate of Temple High School, Haddox said she needed a change of scenery so she decided to give MCC a try. This is her first semester here, and she is majoring in accounting, maintaining a 3.8 GPA.

In her spare time, aside from commuting to Temple, she likes to water-ski, fish, and travel.

Haddox had only been here a month prior to Homecoming and says she never expected to be chosen as Homecoming Queen. She admitted her chances were "slim to none."

"When they called my name I didn't even realize it! It was an honor to be nominated, but a shock to be elected. This has been one of the highlights of my life," she said.

Haddox plans to go back to Mary Hardin-Baylor in the fall and work toward her bachelor's degree in accounting and CPA certification.

## Student Government

By ANN JONES

Sophomore Jenny Neff, a pre-law major, has been elected Student Government president for the 1993-94 school year. In other election results Shalonda Williams was elected secretary and Jeanna Rostockyj was elected treasurer.

Elections for the offices of vice-president, historian, parliamentarian and at-large representatives will be held in the fall.

The Student Government is sponsoring an end-of-the-year party for the entire student body and faculty. The party is planned Thursday from 5-9 p.m. in the swimming pool area of the HPE

building. Food, a disk jockey for music, lifeguards and security will be on hand for the festivities. Admission is free with student I.D.

In its final meeting of the year, the Student Government also voted to donate \$1,400 to the school to build a sand volleyball court. The site has not been decided.

Guest speaker at the last SG meeting was Antonette Montez, who thanked members of the Student Government for their participation in the "Adopt-a-School" program and for showing the Wiley Middle School students around campus.

## TASP test a necessary exercise

By ROBERT WHITE

The Texas Academic Skills Program (TASP) test is a subject that many students are concerned about. The test is designed to show the extent of reading, math and writing skills of students entering Texas public colleges and universities.

According to the TASP Registration Bulletin, the test must be taken if:

- You are entering or are enrolled in a Texas public institution of higher education as a full-time or part-time student in an associate or bachelor's degree program.
- You are a full-time or part-time teacher education student in either a public or a private institution in Texas.
- You are entering a certificate program that contains nine or more semester credit hours, or the equivalent, of general education courses.
- You are a student transferring from outside Texas or from a private Texas college or university. You are exempt from the TASP if:
- You received credit for at least three semester hours of college level work prior to fall 1989.
- You are entering or are currently in a certificate program that contains fewer than nine semester credit hours of general education courses.
- You are deaf or blind prior to Sept. 1, 1991.

The TASP must be taken before accumulating nine or more college-level semester hours or the equivalent. If you are a transfer student from a private or out of state institution and have not previously taken the TASP you must take it before accumulating nine college level semester credit hours at a Texas public institution.

The TASP is divided into three parts, reading, writing and mathematics. All three sections must be passed to pass the TASP.

If you choose not to take one or more of the sections, you will be required to participate in remediation for any section(s) not taken that you have not previously passed.

If a part is not passed, you may register again and take only that section or sections you failed.

English instructor Mary Taylor said, "The TASP is absolutely necessary. When I started teaching here in 1988, I would get students in English 311 who could not read a selection when called upon. After we got the TASP the students who could not properly participate were screened out and it gave a standard by which the class could be taught."

Student Emily Northrup said, "I put the TASP test off for too long. I finally got around to taking it two weeks ago, and I encourage those of you who have not taken it to go ahead and get it over with."

## 16-year-old MCC student making a difference in her community

By L. AUSTIN

At first glance, you may think you see a "regular" teenager.

You may even believe this young girl thinks like a "regular" teenager. You might think she does the same things that many teenagers are doing, like dragging Valley Mills or dreaming about prom night or checking out the cute guy down the street.

Not 16-year-old Connie Ramirez. This homeschooled freshman is busy-busy with her schoolwork, family, and church youth group.

Over a year ago, Ramirez became involved with an interdenominational outreach ministry called Mission Waco. "The organization focuses on inner-city neighborhood needs that include reaching out to the homeless and to young people in the area. The Teen Club, which Ramirez organized for her area, meets once a week at her home.

Many inner-city homes, unfortunately, are led by single parents, mostly women, who must work many hours away from the home. As a result, children become "latch-key" kids, having little or no supervision. "I saw the need to share with kids about Jesus. There was a need to keep them off the street. That's why the club meets after school," Ramirez said. "It also

helps me get to know people in my own neighborhood. I get to share of myself, and since I'm a youth, they listen to me."

"Ramirez said it is more than just having a club that meets at her home every Thursday. "I'm there for them always. They come and hangout at our house. There is always someone over."

Open to everyone, the Ramirez's spacious, Victorian-style home is located on 16th street near downtown Waco. The area traditionally has a high crime rate and low poverty level. "Living in this area is not a problem, as some would think. Jesus is our protection and covering. My calling is to minister to those who are down and out and less fortunate. Those are the type of people who would never set foot in a church, so I'm meeting them where they are," Ramirez said.

Michelle Perkins, a 16-year-old Waco High sophomore, lives a few blocks from Ramirez. Perkins has been a part of the Teen Club for about six months. She recalled meeting Ramirez and becoming instant friends with her. Perkins credited Ramirez for turning her on to God and the Bible and keeping her out of trouble.

She said many young people become a part of the club because of home problems. She attended church when she was

young, but she and her family eventually strayed away. "Most young people are interested in going out to parties and getting into trouble. Things are bad out there in the streets," Perkins said. She said she believes if young people had something to keep their attention — something good — then less of them would be involved in crime and drugs and teenage pregnancies.

Being a part of the "Teen Club is most satisfying," explained Shaynor Newsome, who recently helped organize a Teen Club at the Alexander Street Boys' Club.

"Through the club, you develop relationships with teens and expose them to the love of Christ through Bible study and being a part of their lives," he said. Newsome helps Ramirez on Thursdays. Ramirez and Newsome and their group met at the Boys' Club for the grand opening night.

Ramirez believes it is important to have the club meetings in the area because the youths feel comfortable in their own neighborhoods. She believes she would be able to reach most people wherever she lived, but not these young people. "These kids would never come to Woodway where I go to church. Here, they've gotten to know me and my heart. I'm not there to condemn them or look down on them



Photo by Mike Melton

**CONNIE RAMIREZ ...**  
"These kids would never come to Woodway where I go to church. Here they've gotten to know me and my heart."

and the conferences and the "lock-ins."

Ramirez said, "I hang out with them and their families at their homes, too," she explained, "because it takes relationships, knowing them on a one-on-one basis." She said some of them have opened up and gone to church with her, but "that took about nine months, a long process."

The Teen Club is but one aspect of Mission Waco that Ramirez is involved in. On Mondays she heads the Kings Club, a ministry for 3 to 12 year-olds.

On Wednesdays Ramirez and her mother host a ladies' luncheon at the Lighthouse on 16th Street. This ministry reaches out to ladies during the day while their children are in school.

Church Under the Bridge ministers to the homeless people in Waco. "We (Mission Waco) feed them and have church under the bridge (near I-35 and 5th Street). But even when we can't afford food for them, they come anyway."

Mission Waco also bought and renovated one of the old motels on Washington. They provide temporary shelter for the homeless until permanent homes can be located, either through individuals or church organizations.

Ray Austin, a member of the

same youth group Ramirez is involved with, often helps Ramirez with the Teen Club. He has also attended the church service under the bridge and helped serve the food. "It makes me appreciate what I have. I enjoy helping them and hanging out with the kids in the Teen Club. The whole thing is awesome — the church under the bridge, the lock-ins — I can't explain it. You just have to be there to understand," Austin said.

"Through the club, you develop relationships with teens and expose them to the love of Christ through Bible study and being part of their lives."

- Shaynor Newsome  
Teen Club leader

Vickie, Ramirez's mother, said she hardly ever sees her daughter. "I have to make an appointment to spend some time with her, but she's happy, and I'm thankful that she's busy for the Lord."

In addition to being involved with Mission Waco, Ramirez is also an active member of the Waco Christian Fellowship youth group. She expects to be accepted into the MCC nursing program. After graduation she plans to use her expertise on the foreign mission field.





# #1 'Landers win tennis regionals

By **KIMBERLY SUTTON**  
Winning the regional tournament April 25-26, the #1 ranked men's tennis team earned a spot in the national tournament in Corpus Christi May 23-30. Defeating Odessa College 8-1 in the final, this trip to the national competition will mark the 15th for the Highlanders.

"The men played well as a group and won easier than we had expected," says tennis coach Carmack Berryman.

**RESULTS**  
Shane Lamely, OC, d. Ash Ayers, MCC, 4-6, 7-5, 6-1  
Jose Gottschild, MCC, d.

Manuel Orta, 6-0, 6-2  
Matias Sansostri, MCC, d. Chris Redman, 6-0, 6-2  
Andrew Turner, MCC, d. Justin Cobb, 6-2, 6-0  
Mathias Sundberg, MCC, d. Eddie Dacuyan, 6-2, 6-3  
Javier Ruiz, MCC, d. Chris Henderson, 6-0, 6-2

**DOUBLES**  
Gottschild/Ruiz d. Lamely/Orta 5-7, 6-0, 6-3  
Turner/Catchings d. Cobb/Redman, 7-6, 7-5  
Ayers/Sundberg d. Dacuyan/Henderson, 6-1, 6-1



Photo by Mike Melton  
SERVING 'EM UP against Odessa is freshman Highlassie Jodie Gledhill. The women's tennis team will be playing in the national tournament May 16-21.

# 'Lassies bound for nationals

By **KIMBERLY SUTTON**  
For the first time in eight years the women's tennis team captured a spot in the national tournament by taming the Wranglers of Odessa College 8-1. The national tournament will be held in Plano May 16-21.

"I am pleased with the outcome. The ladies played excellent and won soundly," says tennis coach Carmack Berryman.

In the final of the regional tournament the ladies faced #1 Cooke County falling 1-8.

Marlene Greer, 7-5, 6-1

**DOUBLES**  
Hay/Burdick, OC, d. Bukowski/Smith, MCC, 7-5, 6-0  
HOLLINGSWORTH/MORRIS, MCC, d. ANDERSON/ZANT, 6-3, 6-0  
GLEDHILL/SUTTON, MCC, d. GREER/TASKIN, 6-1, 6-0

**MCC vs. COOKE COUNTY**  
KARLA GOLFIN, CC, d. JODIE GLEDHILL, 7-5, 6-4  
MONIQUE MALAN, CC, d. LIZ HOLLINGSWORTH, 6-4, 6-4  
JANA TURKOVA, CC, d. KIM SUTTON, 6-0, 6-2  
SHIRI MALM, CC, d. NICOLE SMITH, 6-2, 6-4  
HARRIET COTTON, d. JO ANN MORENO, 7-5, 6-0  
SHEETAL KHANNA, CC, d. MICHELLE MORRIS 7-5, 6-1

**DOUBLES**  
GOLFIN/TURKOVA, CC, d. BUKOWSKI/SMITH, 7-6, 6-0  
MALAN/MALM, CC, d. HOLLINGSWORTH/MORRIS 6-2, 7-6  
GLEDHILL/SUTTON, MCC, d. COTTON/KHANNA 6-4, 6-2

**RESULTS**  
MCC vs. Odessa College  
Jodie Gledhill, MCC, d. Kelly Hay, 6-3, 6-2  
Liz Hollingsworth, MCC, d. Michelle Burdick, 6-3, 6-4  
Kim Sutton, MCC, d. Molly Anderson, 7-5, 6-4  
Nicole Smith, MCC, d. Arzn Taskin, 6-3, 6-1  
Jo Ann Moreno, MCC, d. Jenny Zant, 6-2, 7-5  
Michelle Morris, MCC, d.

# Tennis takes Turner around the world

By **KIMBERLY SUTTON**  
Andrew Turner's tennis game has taken him across Europe and the United States, but this summer it will expose him to the world.

Turner, a sophomore from Auckland, New Zealand, will represent his country in the World University Games in Buffalo, New York, July 8-18. The World University Games are open to student-athletes from 17-28 years old, and are second only to the Olympic Games as the world's largest multi-sport event.

Chosen from a field of New

Zealand collegiate tennis players, Turner will join over 5,000 athletes and coaches from more than 120 nations in the competition. The Kiwi team will consist of two men and two women. Turner will play singles, doubles, and mixed doubles in the competition.

Turner has played in the junior French and Australian Open Championships and will play the satellite tournament tour in France this June. He is currently ranked 28th nationally in singles and 10th in doubles with partner Henning Wold.

# Preparing for the championship

By **KIMBERLY SUTTON**  
With both his men's and women's tennis teams playing in the national tournament, tennis coach Carmack Berryman has plenty of work cut out for himself and his players.

"The biggest thing in getting ready for nationals is increasing our physical conditioning and feeling comfortable. We need to be mentally ready to go as well," he said.

Berryman says the team is practicing as much as they can in hopes of reaching their peak at the tournament. "In both the men's and women's tournament, we'll be only one of many good teams. The key is who can peak the most and at the right time."

The men will play a preliminary competition with the top four teams advancing into a play-off for the national championship. The men begin play May 23 at H.E.B. Tennis Center in Corpus Christi.

The women will play a team format followed by an individual-flighted tournament. The women begin play May 16 in Plano.

## Capture top four team places

# MCC bowlers dominate tourney

By **MIKE MELTON**  
MCC teams dominated the Spring Central Texas Bowling Proprietors Collegiate Bowling Tournament was held at Action World Bowl in Temple last month and retain the rotating trophy.

Competition began with 27 teams from Temple Junior College, Central Texas College and MCC, and it was MCC which captured the top four team standings. Team "Strike'n To Please" captured first place with a total pin count of 3,248. The "Dead Pins" came in at second place with a total pin count of 3,207. The

"Pinbusters" shaved a close third place with a total pin count of 3,206 and the "Brooklyn Bums" edged out a Temple Junior College team by 12 pins for fourth place with a total pin count of 3,193.

MCC's David Talley had third highest men's scratch series of the tournament with 513 and also had the third highest men's average with a 171. Jason Patrick of the "Dead Pins" had the fourth highest men's handicap game with 265 and fifth highest men's handicap series with a 691.

Third place in the highest

scratch game for women went to Abby Brown of the "Old Head Pins" with a 192. Brown also got third in the women's high scratch series with a 487 and third place in the women's high average with a 162.3. Tae Beckling of the "Dead Pins" got fifth in the women's high scratch series with 470, fifth place in the women's high average with a 156.6 and fourth place in the women's high handicap series with 683. Mary Cabezas of the "Mixed Up Strikes" placed third in the women's high handicap game with a 262 and third place in the women's high handicap se-

ries with 685.

The high scratch game of the tournament was won by MCC's "The Old Head Pins" with 800 pins. "The Old Head Pins" also ranked first place in the high scratch series with 2,137. Highest handicap game went to "Brooklyn Bums" with 1,138. Highest handicap series went to "Strike'n To Please" with 3,248.

# Baseballers near title, play Collin

By **JEREMY PEDIGO**  
The Highlanders improved their overall record to 37-11 and 24-6 in conference play after sweeping Cooke County College this weekend in Gainesville. The sweep gives the Highlanders a two game lead in the conference with only six games left.

A sweep against Collin County College today in Plano will clinch first place for the Highlanders and an all important bid to the eight-team state tournament to be held at Blinn Junior College in Brenham. The winner of the state tournament will automatically qualify for the national tournament in Grand Junction, Colo.

In the first game of their sweep over Cooke County, Steve Ortiz ignited the offense early by slamming a two-run homer in the top of the first inning. Clay Hill then followed along in Ortiz's foot-

steps by hitting one over the fence in the fourth inning. Robert Dodd smoked Cooke County batters by striking out 11 in seven innings, including all three batters in the first and seventh innings. The Highlanders won 6-4.

In game two, Highlanders pitchers Justin Dorsey, Jimmy Ginnane, and Shawn Bartle stymied Cooke County batters by giving up only seven hits in seven innings, and the team capitalized on five Cooke County walks as the Highlanders won 5-3.

In the finale, the Highlanders exploited five Cooke County errors and were able to bring across five runs in the seventh inning off four singles, two fielder's choices, and a double. Tidwell, Ling, and Elliot combined on giving up only two earned runs as the Highlanders swept Cooke County 6-4.

# Recruiting heats up for baseball with some coming, some going

By **JEREMY PEDIGO**  
The Highlander baseball team has made continuous progress this season on recruiting for the future of the baseball team.

So far this year, MCC has signed four quality players from Texas high schools. The signees

include David Hopper, a pitcher out of Mansfield High School; Brian Adams, a pitcher from Dallas; and two outfielders, Keith Knoerr from Mesquite and Wade Davis from Garland.

The Highlanders have also had two players sign with four

year schools to continue playing college baseball. Shortstop Shannon Coulter signed with TCU, and outfielder-pitcher Senn Duncan signed with the University of Miami.

Coach Paul Miller said, "Others are weighing their offers."

## Final Exam Schedule, Spring 1993

DAY SCHEDULE		
CLASSES	EXAM DAY	EXAM TIME
<b>Mon. - Wed. - Fri. classes</b>		
6:55 - 7:50 am	Mon., May 10 Wed., May 12	*6:55 - 7:50 am
*(precludes uninterrupted exam time of 120 min.)		
8:00 - 8:55 am	Mon., May 10	8:00 - 10:00 am
9:05 - 10:00 am	Wed., May 12	9:05 - 11:05 am
10:10 - 11:05 am	Fri., May 14	10:10 - 12:10 pm
11:15 - 12:10 pm	Mon., May 10	11:15 - 1:15 pm
12:30 - 1:50 pm	Wed., May 12	12:30 - 2:30 pm
2:00 - 3:20 pm	Mon., May 10	2:00 - 4:00 pm
3:30 - 4:50 pm	Wed., May 12	3:30 - 5:30 pm
<b>Tues. - Thurs. classes</b>		
8:00 - 9:20 am	Tues., May 11	8:00 - 10:00 am
9:30 - 10:50 am	Thurs., May 13	9:30 - 11:30 am
11:00 - 12:20 pm	Tues., May 11	11:00 - 1:00 pm
12:30 - 1:50 pm	Thurs., May 13	12:30 - 2:30 pm
2:00 - 3:20 pm	Tues., May 11	2:00 - 4:00 pm
3:30 - 4:50 pm	Thurs., May 13	3:30 - 5:30 pm
<b>EVENING SCHEDULE</b>		
5:20 - 6:40 pm	MW Mon., May 10	5:20 - 7:20 pm
5:20 - 6:40 pm	TTH Tues., May 11	5:20 - 7:20 pm
6:50 - 9:45 pm	M Mon., May 10	7:30 - 9:30 pm
6:50 - 9:45 pm	T Tues., May 11	7:30 - 9:30 pm
6:50 - 9:45 pm	W Wed., May 12	7:30 - 9:30 pm
6:50 - 9:45 pm	TH Thurs., May 13	7:30 - 9:30 pm

**SATURDAY CLASSES** FINAL EXAMS FOR SATURDAY CLASSES WILL BE GIVEN AT REGULAR CLASS TIME ON MAY 8, 1993.

**DOWNTOWN CENTER (DAY OR EVENING)** FINAL EXAMS WILL BE GIVEN FOLLOWING THE ABOVE SCHEDULE.

**ALL OTHER OFF-CAMPUS CLASSES (DAY OR EVENING)** THE FINAL EXAM SCHEDULE WILL BE ARRANGED BY YOUR INSTRUCTOR. HOWEVER, EXAMS WILL NOT BE GIVEN BEFORE MAY 8, 1993.

ALL FINAL GRADE REPORTS MUST BE DELIVERED IN PERSON TO THE REGISTRAR'S OFFICE BY 12 NOON MAY 15, 1993.

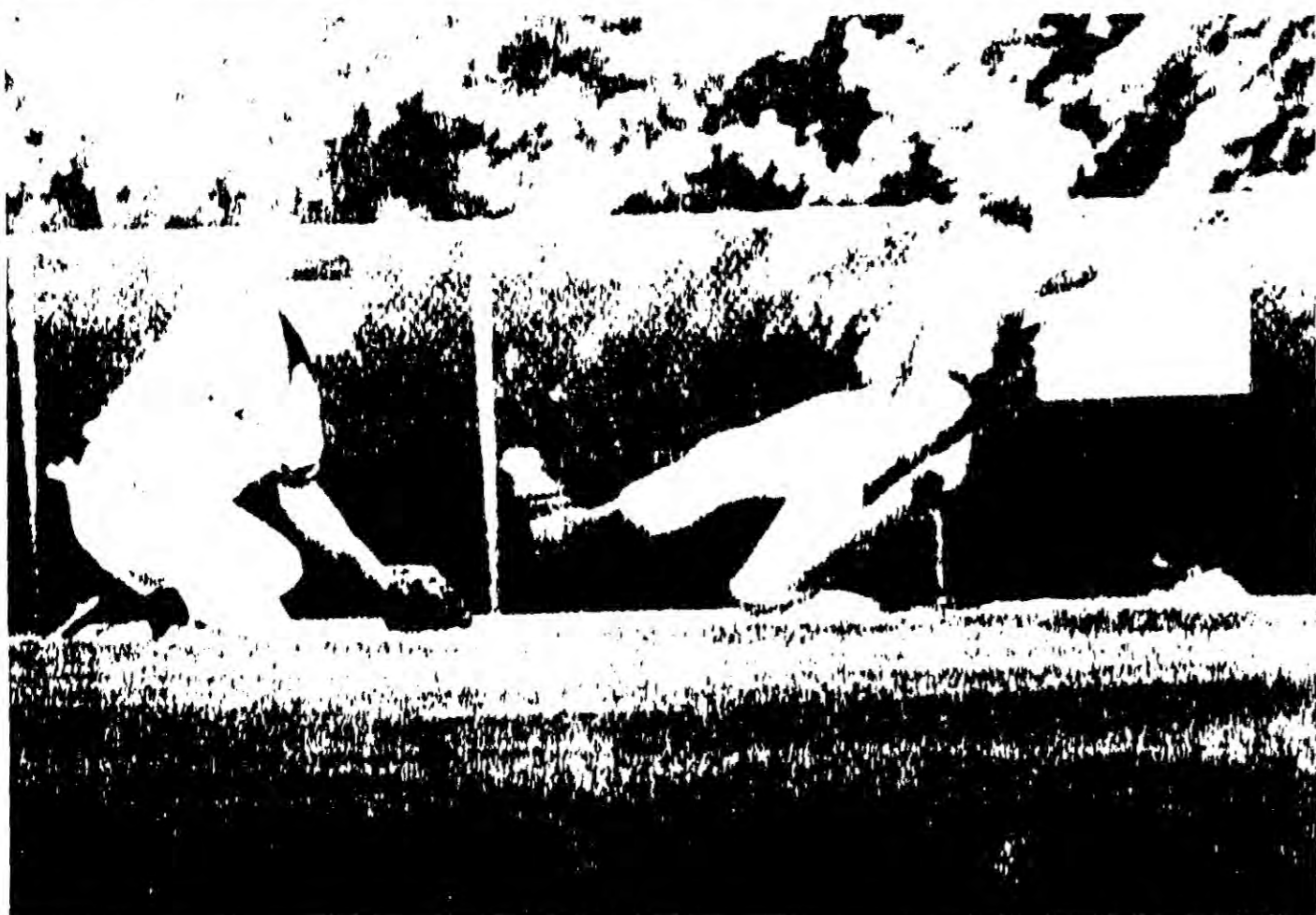


Photo by Mike Melton  
MAKING THE PLAY is shortstop Shannon Coulter. Coulter, a sophomore, is headed to TCU next fall.

'Never judge a book by its cover'

# A lesson in Brazil

By **DAWN LYNCH**  
I was staying at the Casa Branca Hotel in Sao Paulo, Brazil. I was there to show and train horses. This was the last show in a long hot season and I was looking forward to getting home, back to civilization.

My boyfriend and I were preparing horses for the next class when a man interrupted our work by asking for a beer or a cigarette. This request was made in Portuguese, the native tongue of Brazil. Paul, my boyfriend, offered him a cold one and a smoke, then sent him on his way.

The man was dressed in rags and was filthy. His hair, greasy and uncombed, hung in a tangled mass around his shoulders. His smile presented a mouth lacking many teeth; those that he possessed were little more than blackened nubs. I doubted that he had taken a shower or a bath in many months; his odor was unbearable. I was relieved when he staggered away.

That was not the last that I saw of the ragged man. Throughout the six days that we stayed at the show our little friend often returned to say hello to his "American amigos" and to beg

for food, beer or cigarettes. Within a short time Paul and the other Americans in the area began calling him "my man." We found entertainment in ridiculing him in English. His dirty clothes, filthy hair and persistent smell were all targets for our callous comments.

On the last night of our stay at the Augua Branca fairgrounds, Paul and I decided to have dinner at a small cafe. As our meal was served, our tattered friend showed up. Uninvited he pulled up a chair and sat at our table. As was his usual custom, he picked up an empty paper cup from on the ground and asked Paul to fill it with beer. His request was granted and we waited for our unwanted guest to depart. He did not. Instead he smiled broadly, slapped Paul on the back playfully and said "Amigo, meu amigo." I had the feeling that he really meant it.

"Tell him to hit the road," I said to Paul in English. Paul chose to offer him one last beer instead. As he slowly sipped his beer, the ragged man looked me in the eye and asked, "Does my presence encumber you?" I did not immediately realize that he

was speaking English. "What did you say?" I replied. "My dear, I simply want to know if my presence encumbers you," he stated with eloquence.

I was stunned and embarrassed, but the man seemed not to notice, or if he did he was polite enough not to mention it. "Where did you learn to speak English?" I asked. I doubted he had a formal education. In Brazil that is reserved for the rich. "I found a book that was in English when I was very young," he explained. "From this book I learned to speak your language."

"What book did you find?" I enquired. He sighed, "It was a book by Charles Dickens, about a war in France. Dickens is my favorite author. This ragged man had learned a foreign language by reading "A Tale of Two Cities" in English without the help of a formal education.

I learned a great deal from this tattered soul. I found that what we see is not always what is really before our eyes. It is a shallow misconception to judge a person's character by their wealth. I hope the man in Brazil remembers me as a friend, not as an arrogant American.

# Harrell concludes 21 years of coaching forensic team

By **EMILY NORTHRUP**  
The average time a teacher works as a forensic coach is seven years.

Ann Harrell, speech coach, has coached three times that long and decided to retire from coaching before she reached the 22nd year.

Her interest in speech was evident as early as the seventh grade when she decided to make that her major subject. From then on, Harrell said she was dedicated to speech as a student and later on as a coach.

After graduating from Denton High School, she moved to San Antonio to attend Trinity University.

She attended Trinity for one and half years, then transferred to University of Texas at Austin. At UT, she received her bachelor's and master's degrees.

Harrell grew up in Denton and described North Texas as a "home away from home."

"My whole family was wrapped up in college. Two of my great-aunts in the 1930s went to college and received their master's degrees and onto their Ph.D.," she said.

"I also met my husband at UT. I knew him from Denton, but we started dating there. It was funny, there was a girl on campus with the same name as me and I always got weird phone calls for her. So when he started to call me, it took him a while to convince me he was trying to call me, not her," Harrell said.

After she graduated, she was employed as an English teacher at MacArthur High School in San Antonio. After two years at MacArthur, her husband was transferred to Waco.

"I inquired about a position at MCC although I'd never heard of it, but I did some research," she said, "I was officially unemployed for one day, then MCC called me for an interview."

Harrell was asked to teach a class for the first summer session and half way through summer, she was hired for the fall. She made a lot of changes her first year at MCC.

Her first year here, she separated drama from speech, established a forensic club and started working on a travel budget for the forensic team.

When Harrell had her daughter in 1975, she continued to work as a coach. "When I was in the hospital after having my baby, the team was competing at Baylor and I coached them by the phone," she said.

She said as a coach, one of the most valuable things she has learned was how to recognize and develop talent in students. "There is not a single career that is not enhanced by speech," she said.

After 21 years of coaching, Harrell explained why she decided to retire. "I need a chance to explore other parts of my field."

Harrell has contributed a lot in the 21 years she has worked in the speech department at MCC, and as she continues her duties teaching speech and not coaching, nothing will change.

She said, "I think the roughest moment for me is going to be next fall when the team leaves for their first convention. I'm going to realize what has been a big part of my life that will no longer be a part of my life."

# Trustee Profiles

## Cox, a life-long MCC supporter

By **ANN JONES**  
Randy Cox has been a member of MCC Board of Trustees for only three years, but MCC has been part of his life for a long time. He attended school here majoring in business administration and still takes classes through the continuing education department.

Cox was born in Big Springs in 1953. He will be 40 this summer. When he was 6, his family moved to Valley Mills. Then when he was a sophomore in high school, they moved to Robinson.

He has been married to his second wife, Rita, for 13 years. They have three children, Greg and Ashley, both 17, and Justin, 11, who all attend school in Robinson. His daughter Ashley is planning to begin classes at MCC this summer, but she is still undecided about a major. His son Greg is also considering MCC.

After high school Cox went to work at Central Freight Lines in Waco. He has been employed there for 22 years. He worked his way up through various positions, and is currently the terminal manager.

He said that he decided to run for the board because of his love for MCC. He "felt that MCC

was a quality school—I would put it against any other college," and hopefully he could provide support for the school by serving as a trustee. He is also concerned with public education and said he feels there is not enough parental support in our public school system.

He attends Meadowbrook Baptist Church and is involved in several other organizations. He is a member-elect of the Board of Directors of the Rotary Club and served on the Board of the Family Abuse Center in 1990-91. He is also a member of Leadership Waco, a program of the Chamber of Commerce which promotes local business. He has served on the Robinson City Council.

He said he has grown a lot personally by serving on the MCC Board of Trustees. He has enjoyed it because of the diversity of the board members. They don't always agree, but, "They agree to disagree," he said. In his spare time Cox plays at golf, racquetball and guitar. He also pilots a plane which he owns.

The college course he has found most helpful in his career is business math. While a student at MCC, Cox said he was "Joe Average" and "just hung around the Student Center."

# Hay believes goals important

By **LEARIE AUSTIN**  
Don Hay brings many years of experience to his position as chairman of the MCC Board of Trustees, having served on the board of the Connally school district for 17 years.

Hay said some similarities do exist between the two boards. "Both boards are similar, except at MCC there is not much involvement on the parental level. The difference in the two systems revolves around the age of the student and issues like transportation and bus routes."

Hay received undergraduate and graduate degrees from Baylor University. He said even though his parents were farmers and were not fortunate to finish high school, education was always a big factor in his life. "I always wanted to go to Baylor. I didn't realize how expensive it was at the time, that's where I wanted to go to college." He said an older brother helped him financially between jobs, to pay for his education.

Hay has been the board chairman for the last three years. He said he is proud of the level of education students at MCC receive.

"This campus is the most beautiful campus I have ever seen. We are able to maintain a good quality education at an economic cost. The faculty in the delivery of education is the most important. We deliver a first class education at an economic cost."

Community colleges generally serve the edu-

cational needs of students with varying backgrounds and different age groups. "If you can get an individual to set a need of what they want, MCC carries lots of programs to meet that need," Hay said.

He believes students should examine what they want to do, "It's hard to learn something not of value. They should absolutely set a goal and not let anybody or anything deter them or make them think it cannot be accomplished."

The college has seen an increase in the number of students applying for admission. Hay said he does not see this growth continuing as rapidly next year. "As costs escalate at universities, as higher education costs go up, we have to stay in the midst or forefront of what community colleges are all about. Community colleges will play a bigger role in the problem we see in public education."

Hay said public schools, "take a lot of heat" about the way they educate youngsters. "These schools are working under adverse conditions. Society has problems with splintered families and other problems. In programs like OPTIONS, we need to be more innovative, and colleges are going to be on the cutting edge in educating these students," he said.

Hay and his wife, Beverly, an English teacher at La Vega High School, have three children. Melissa is 30, Sharla is 27 and Kristin is 24.

## News Briefs

**Regular hours during final exams**  
The Library, cafeteria, and MCC Bookstore will keep regular hours during finals week, May 10-14. Library hours are 7:45 a.m.-9 p.m. on weekdays and 9 a.m.-1 p.m. on Saturdays. Cafeteria hours are from 7 a.m.-2 p.m. and 5:15-6:45 p.m. The Bookstore stays open from 7:45 a.m.-5 p.m. on weekdays.

**Wellness activities next week**  
The MCC Wellness program will be having a National Employee Health and Fitness Day on May 12 at 11:30 a.m. It will include a Poker Walk and a Wellness party. The MCC Wellness Program also will be having a softball game May 22. For more information call Beth Lanning at 750-3684.

**Summer registration begins May 27**  
Express registration is over, but traditional registration for summer classes will begin May 27. Day and evening classes begin June 1. For more information, call 750-3520 or 750-3522.

**Scholarship for West seniors**  
A scholarship has been endowed by Royce and Janis Berger in honor of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Monroe F. Kruse. Mr. Kruse attended a junior college and values the basis it provided and believes a similar experience is still available at MCC, according to Foundation Director Jesse Sawyer. Since Mr. Kruse is a former superintendent of the West Independent School District, the scholarship will be given to graduating seniors from West High School.

**Umplauf works in Art Center**  
The works of Karl Umplauf are on display in the Art Center through May 30. The Dixie Friend Gay display will run June 3 to July 11. Exhibits are scheduled throughout the summer and continue year round. Admission and parking is free. The Art Center, located on the north side of the campus across the pedestrian bridge across Highlander Drive, is opened Tuesday-Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday 1-5 p.m.

**PTK nominates Gwin**  
Sophomore Patricia Gwin was nominated by the Phi Theta Kappa chapter for the Academic All-American Team for Community, Technical and Junior Colleges. Although Gwin was not one of the 60 students selected to the team, she will receive a certificate of recognition for scholastic accomplishments and community service.

**Author lecture Saturday**  
Waco Writers and Artist Support Group will be sponsoring a lecture, "Journaling for Self-Exploration and Enhanced Creativity," by Susan Wittig Albert, author of *Work of Her Own: How Women Find Success, Fulfillment Off the Traditional Career Track and Thyme of Death*. It will be Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Waco-McLennan County Library on 1717 Austin Ave. For more information contact Jamie Graham at 753-7910 or Vickie Kinnas at 750-6000.

# McIntosh wants MCC strong

By **MELANIE GERIK**  
During his term on the Board of Trustees, Carl McIntosh has tried to make MCC a more vital part of the community.

McIntosh's first experience with the college was more than 25 years ago. His son, Carl McIntosh III, played basketball on a scholarship when MCC was located at James Connally Air Force Base. Over the years, his other children and grandchildren have attend the college.

McIntosh said he wants to keep the college strong and up-to-date while he is serving on the Board of Trustees. He said that the college has something for everyone in the community.

"The school has real strength as far as young people — something that everyone needs to be concerned about — because the future is in education."

He also said that the college is great for students who want to transfer to a four-year

university and for students who will finish their education with an associate degree. McIntosh also said he feels that continuing education should be used by more people. McIntosh and his wife Janis have taken bridge lessons offered by continuing education.

McIntosh retired from the U.S. Army Reserve as a brigadier general in 1983. Since then he has become involved in many community service activities including the Boy Scout Council and the Rotary Club. He also is chairman of Evangelia Settlement, a child care organization.

McIntosh was elected to the Board of Trustees from District 6 in 1990, and his term will expire in 1996.

He said he also enjoys flying his plane frequently. McIntosh became interested in piloting while in the Army Reserve, but now flies "as a sport." He flies twice a week to areas in Texas, Oklahoma and New Mexico.

# Uptmore, always there for MCC

By **SHERY W. EVANS**  
From Student Government president to a member of the Board of Trustees, Danny Uptmore said he has always been close to and supporting the college since he was a student here 25 years ago.

After graduating from China Spring High School in 1967, Uptmore enrolled at MCC, but he said he didn't really have any plans except to get a degree, get out of college and get a job.

"For people just beginning, there were lots of jobs you could get with just a high school degree and then retire. That is just not the case today," he said.

During his two years at MCC, he met future wife Vicki Miller and served as the Student Government president (1968-69). Uptmore continued his education at the University of Texas at Arlington and received a bachelor's degree in business.

Miller and Uptmore were married in 1971. After living and working in Dallas, he said he knew he wanted to raise his family in a smaller community. The couple moved back to Waco and Uptmore received a master's degree in business administration from Baylor.

During the spring of 1979, Uptmore was trying to start an ex-students' association for MCC graduates and said he was frequently around

campus when a board member died. Uptmore was temporarily appointed to the board but won the election for the position a few months later and has been re-elected twice since then.

Uptmore holds the District 7 position which includes Hewitt, Lorena, McGregor and the area west of the Bosque and Brazos rivers. He also serves on the MCC Foundation Board of Directors. Foundation Executive Director Jesse Sawyer said, "He is one of the very best when it comes to sharing kinds of opportunities with prospective donors. It carries more weight because he has personal experience and they know the value of it."

In 1980, Uptmore went to work for Unisys. He sells mainframe computers, mostly to financial and commercial institutions, in the Waco, Bryan and Austin area.

The Uptmores are active members of First Baptist Church in Hewitt. He coached son Marc's seventh grade Little League baseball team. Last season his son Scott was in second grade and had dad for a coach.

Daughter Melissa is a junior at Midway High School and is being encouraged by her parents to attend MCC. Uptmore said, "The faculty and quality of education at MCC is as good as you will find in the state of Texas—bar none for a two-year school."

The newspaper staff regrets that Board of Trustee member Cleoda Bables was unavailable for an interview because of his duties as teacher recruiter with the Waco Independent School District. The editors plan to have a profile on Mr. Bables in the first issue of the fall semester.



## Europe

CZECHO-SLOVAKIA



# 'Beliefs, Values, and Ethics: A Perspective of Our World'

Special section to The Highland Herald

McLennan Community College, Waco, Texas

May 4, 1993

This semester the English Department conducted an essay contest for ENG 301 students. Students could choose to write about the instillation of personal belief systems, the perceived crisis in societal and political values, or the ethical dilemmas encountered in the search for success. Here are the winning essays:

## A Person Who Shaped My Life

by William Oliver

Somewhere, sometime, all people reach a turning point in their lives. For me, this turning point came rather quickly and at a rather young age.

When I was seventeen, my grandfather, who raised me, was diagnosed with cancer and informed that he had not long to live. This news was too much for me to cope with at my young age. Instead of turning to God like my grandparents always had taught me, I went the other direction. For months I had a problem with smoking pot, thinking that it would relax me and make me forget—or at least not be as concerned about—what was taking place around me as my grandfather lay quietly in a hospital bed, only muttering a few words every now and then.

To change the scenery and hopefully to forget some of my worries, I moved to College Station, where I went to work for the Brazos Valley Geriatric Center in the spring of 1988. I had been working there only a few months when I met a fine young lady named Cindy. Cindy was the best thing that had happened to me in a long time. I was at work one day when a phone call came in that my grandfather's condition had worsened. Since Cindy and I had been dating for a while, I asked her to go with me to see my grandfather. Without hesitation she agreed.

We decided to stay at the hospital that night. After everyone had left, the nurses came in to give chemotherapy. I was standing beside my grandfather when they started. Not long after that he died while holding my hand.

It was very difficult for me to accept my grandfather's death. I began to abuse

heavier drugs, hoping to O.D. so that I could see him. I would get drunk and messed up on drugs and drive at very high speeds to see whether or not I would die. Cindy could not control me. She started talking to me about Christ. I went to church with her one Sunday, and afterwards I wanted to go again and again. I started going back to church, but before long I fell off the wagon again, this time worse than before.

I started back on drugs, staying gone all night, sleeping all day, until one day my mother called the police. They were sitting down the street, waiting for me.

When the cops pulled me over, they started asking all kinds of questions. They found nothing in my car; they just asked me to pour out my beer. The police intervention made me only more angry, so I went back to my mother's, got into a fight with my younger brother, and stabbed him. That was enough for Cindy to insist that I go to DePaul and get treatment or she would leave.

I committed myself to DePaul and recovered from my drug addiction and alcoholism. Now I go to school to improve myself and my family stability. I really enjoy this way of life much more than my past existence.

I think back sometimes, wondering how I lived through all the stupid stunts that I pulled. I cannot explain my actions then and still can't, but I can thank God for giving me my wife. Without her I would not be where I am today. I have a handsome three-year-old son who speaks German, Spanish, and English; a chance to do something with my life at MCC; and a wife who is beautiful, kind, and understanding. I love you, Cindy.

## Sisters

By Thelma Rangel

All the words in the world could never describe the love and admiration I have for my sister. I've never known a better friend in my life. My world would be desolate and empty without her encouragement and understanding. She has given me strength to endure the future, but most of all she has taught me how to love myself, how to love my daughter, and how to love other people.

Misfortune had always been a part of my life. As young children, we were never exposed to a caring environment; as a result, growing up was extremely difficult. Because of my background, solitude was the only feeling I knew. As an adult I discovered that I was not capable of sharing any positive feelings with anyone. This made me confused and miserable. Life seemed torturous at the time and neverending. That's when my sister asked me and Cynthia, my daughter, to live with her and her two daughters, Rosalva and Adriana. Although we had never been close to each other as children, she was willing to help me in my distress. My sister helped me to love myself, which was one of the hardest things I've ever done.

At the beginning, living with my sister was a totally alien experience. She did

(See 'SISTERS' on page 2)

## Recapturing Happiness

By Tammy Courtney

My experience with my grandmother illustrates that while elderly people may be frail and weak, they deserve just as much love and attention as people who are younger and healthier. Elderly people don't deserve to be thought of less because of their health and age.

At the age of eighty, my grandmother had her last bad fall, and after that her mind wandered free through time. One day when I arrived at her bedside, she was radiant.

"Feeling good today?" I asked.

"Why shouldn't I feel good today?" she replied. "Papa's going to take me up to Baltimore on the boat today." At that moment she was a young girl standing on the wharf at Merry Point, Virginia, waiting for the Chesapeake Bay steamer with her father, who had been dead for sixty-one years.

For a time I could not accept the inevitable. As I sat by my grandmother's bed, my impulse was to argue her back to reality. The doctors diagnosed a hopeless senility. Not unusual, they said. "Hardening of the arteries" was the explanation for laymen. I thought it was more complicated than that. For ten years or more the ferocity with which she had once attacked life had been turning to a rage against the weakness, boredom, and absence of love that too

much age had brought her. Now, after the last bad fall, she seemed to have broken chains that imprisoned her in a life she had come to hate, and she seemed to have returned to a time inhabited by people who loved her, a time in which she was needed.

Gradually, I understood. This was the first time in years I had seen my grandmother happy. I realized that I'd had a childish faith in the eternal strength of grandparents, a naive belief that age and wear could be overcome by an effort of will, a feeling that all she needed was a good pep talk to recharge a flagging spirit. My ideas were such foolish, innocent ones, but one thinks of grandparents differently from other people. Other people can become frail and break, but not grandparents. I soon stopped trying to wrest her back and instead tried to travel along with her through those fantastic swoops into the past.

Some people take the elderly for granted. Some think that they exist to take up space or that they are just there when we need help and there's nowhere else to go. We might be surprised about what an influence they can be. All we have to do is reach out and give them a helping hand, listen, and let our hearts take over. The elderly don't need to be ignored simply because of their age.

## America, the Land of Lost Values

By Frances Newald-Andrews

Family values are becoming progressively less important every year. However, family values are very important in a society because the existence of a large number of people without high moral standards can destroy a nation. For example, the Bible talks about the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, which God destroyed because of the immorality, such as the homosexuality of its people. It is said that if there is a lack of Christianity, people lose their values; however, values in my life have been carefully nurtured.

I was born and raised in East Germany, which was governed by a communistic dictatorship. Every East German citizen had to do what the government demanded from him or her. For someone to say a word against the East German government or the Soviet Union was a crime for which the offender would be

unaware that Christianity was banned from the country right after the foundation of East Germany in 1949. Like Hitler, the East German government wanted to be the god of the East German people. If someone confessed to being a Christian, he or she was escorted to court. For instance, one day I wore my necklace with the cross of Jesus in class. The teacher demanded that I take it off, and I refused. Of course, afterwards the teacher gave me so much trouble that I finally was forced to acquiesce.

Nevertheless, the people in East Germany used to have a high standard of morality and values, and so did my family. Even though the people had no chance to attend church on Sundays, parents were teaching important morals to their children. People lost Christian faith since the Catholic church supported

(See 'AMERICA')

# The Ethics Taught by My Father

By Sarah Truett

As the lady walked in and caught her husband with one of the female employees, the movie screen lit up and all the audience was filled with excitement—all, that is, except for me. I was reliving a nightmare. During the movie the couple had been having an affair, but now they were caught. The audience couldn't wait to see what happened next, but it made me sick to watch. How could these people be excited about such low ethics?

While I closed my eyes and hid my face, my friends kept saying, "Watch; look." They did not realize I was visualizing a horrible time in my life. The only scenes dancing in my head were the ones of my father and his girlfriend the day I caught them together. When the

man kissed the woman, I saw my father's face and cringed. Do these men believe they're accomplishing something by having another woman on the side, and do the women think the men will treat them with more respect than they treat their wives?

Because of my experience, I can't understand how the sight of extramarital affairs can excite people, but I'm sure they don't understand why such scenes frighten me. If they had been there and had felt the pain of a loved one leaving, especially a father, because he had found someone else to love, they might be more sympathetic to my view.

I may be lost or just not too smart, but what makes women involved in affairs believe that they will not ultimately face the same consequences as the men's

wives? Don't these women realize that people will talk about them just as much as, if not more than, the men? I know they will because I've seen this scenario happen to my father and his girlfriends many times. He had one paramour after another, and he played it well. His only mistake was getting caught by my mother.

Although my father and I no longer speak, he taught me some good, valuable lessons in ethics. No matter how bad I want to succeed, I will not do it by practicing low ethical standards. When I reach the top, I want to know I did it on my own. He also taught me that when you are married, you're committed to one, and that is the one to whom you are married and who you cherish. No, my father did not teach me these ethical standards through his words. I learned them through his actions, and for that I thank him.

## AMERICA

(Continued from page 1)

Hitler and his party during World War II. My parents taught me to be always obedient, polite, and kind to others. I have been raised very strictly and see that, without parental authority, children do what they want. My parents also taught me that good people always tell the truth, never steal or cheat, and never say nasty and ugly words to one another, and they instilled positive values in me.

Generally, families in East Germany always stayed close together to support each other in times of need. Everyone knew that having good values is the only way to keep peace since many people still remembered very well the hard times during and after the war. Later, my family escaped to West Germany to become free people. Although we lost just about all of our possessions, we realized that family togetherness was of paramount importance.

In West Germany I met my future husband, who is an American. One year later we moved to the United States, the country which I had dreamed of all my life. I had believed that America was a great Christian nation where freedom exists for every person. But I have discovered that America has changed. In the short time that I have been living here, I have found that many American people are manipulated by television, have very little time for family life, and are extremely materialistic. Americans have lost many of the morals which they had years ago and, therefore, this country has been a great disappointment for me. Even though I know that American ways sweep over to Germany very easily, I do wish to return to my home country. Since West Germany has been greatly influenced by Americans over the last forty years, East Germany has lost a variety of its values since the unification.

My husband and I attend a Baptist church every Sunday, and we are trying not to get involved with the "American way of life" too much. We always stay close together with our friends from church, and we strictly follow Christian morals and values. Although our life is full of problems, we believe that having a high value standard is the only way to keep happy, and where a nation is concerned, high morals and values are the most important attributes to a peaceful country. Deep down inside, I have the feeling that someday I will go back to Germany because Germans will still remember for a long time the difficult times during which family values are so important. Americans, however, do not possess a true relationship to hard and troubling times. Perhaps those times still have to come in order for Americans to turn back to Christian values.

## About My Mother's Truth and Faith

By Nancy Lawson

The person who influenced me most about God was my mother. She taught me that God looks upon the heart and not upon the outer appearance. Mom always said that religious people think they have to be good enough to get saved but that spiritual folks know they're bad enough to need God. She always stressed to us children that at the foot of the cross we all look the same.

Prayer was a very important part of our lives while we were growing up. Mom had a way of making everything fun and meaningful. She taught me that I could actually sing my prayers to God. I really enjoyed doing this, and praying in the form of a song set me free to express my true feelings. Ever since I was a small child, I have loved to sing. My father was a musician, so music was a big part of our family. Mother read to me the story about David, who as a shepherd boy wrote songs to God. These songs are now called the Psalms and are recorded in the Old Testament. Today churches call this kind of praying "praise and worship"; we were doing praise and worship twenty years ago in our one-bedroom apartment.

Since my father was in the entertainment business, we were not sheltered from sin. It was not uncommon to see a drunk at my dad's piano bar. Painted ladies were also a part of the atmosphere. Loud chatter and smoke filled the air like a thundercloud. So when Mom used to take us to church on Sunday and the preacher talked about sinners, I had an idea of what he was referring to. My mother's attitude toward my father impressed me a great deal. Although she did not live the kind of life my dad did, she loved him anyway and behaved like a Christian in a sin-infested world. Because of my mother's faith, my dad accepted Jesus two years after she died of cancer.

Mother was never shocked by people's problems or the wickedness of the human heart. She knew humanity's need because she knew her Savior. We would help drunks, drug addicts, and rejects whenever the opportunity arose. Mom might cook a good meal for them or wash their clothes. Sometimes she would babysit. Many of these people whom she helped also believe in Jesus Christ because of her life, which spoke louder

than her words. She was the epitome of the Christian life.

Today, in my own life, I have a deep faith in God, and I thank my mother for her dedication and faithfulness to what what is right. I still love to praise the Lord with music and songs. I am on the worship team in my church. My daughter has a beautiful voice, and she also loves to praise God and sing. I am hoping I can be an example to my children the way my Mom was an example to me. Someone asked her one time, "Simone, how do you stay so peaceful and happy?"

"It's just Jesus," she replied.

## SISTERS

(Continued from page 1)

many things that I couldn't understand, such as always hugging her daughters and telling them how much she loved them both. Her behavior bewildered me because not only did she treat her daughters with respect and kindness, but she also treated everybody she met with these same characteristics. I felt lost as I began to evaluate the way I treated other people. Believe me, my actions and reactions were not attractive: I was mean, angry, very short tempered, and always in a bad mood. My two nieces didn't want anything to do with me because they feared me, and at the time I was glad. I felt that I had my own daughter to nurture, and that's all I wanted to do. But my sister never gave up on me. What she did give me was inspiration to be kind to others. She knew somewhere inside of me was a different person than what I appeared to be, and she was right.

Together we struggled for many years to put peace in my heart. Now my life is different. I have a very close relationship with my daughter due to much patience, love, and understanding. My two nieces don't fear me anymore. They know that I love them; they also know that I would do anything for them. I can't say that I'm a great person yet, but I can say that, due to my past experiences and all the struggles I've gone through and endured, my daughter has the advantage of a better future than I had. My sister and I are always together. We do everything in unison in order to help each other in any way we can.

Misfortune was a big part of my life, and it only took one person to change my life around. Even though we were both reared in the same surrounding, my sister managed to harbor love in her heart instead of bitterness. Thank you, Ermalinda, for making this life truly beautiful because I love me now, and that makes it possible for me to love others. Thanks to you, my life is different; I'm not alone anymore.

## Values: Something to Think About

By Ella Marie Wallace

Most people consider values of vital importance for positive contributions to society. Values (e.g., standards, beliefs, traditions, etc.) are important as guidelines for living a healthy, normal life. These values are applied in everyday living and are recognized when put into action. They were extremely significant to me while developing my perceptions of right and wrong. Personally, I value being honest, loyal, and considerate to others.

For instance, I believe honesty is the best policy. Honesty can be described as telling the truth versus telling a lie. Actually, being honest should come easily to all of us. Everyone I know can tell the difference between being honest and dishonest. During my youth, I became aware of the relevance of values and of the importance of knowing when to appropriately apply them, and I found the results of using those values quite fulfilling. In the early stages of my life, I may have been too honest with friends. I may have told them I felt strongly against something they were doing that was harmful to their well-being. For example, I just could not believe when some of my friends were talking about using marijuana and vividly recall scolding a dear friend of mine when I heard that she, too, was experimenting with drugs. Some might say during my youth I was

naive. Quite frankly, maybe I was. However, accompanying that naiveté was a strong will to do the right thing.

I also value the meaning of the Golden Rule, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." This rule implies that if one is courteous and respectful to another, the treatment will be reciprocated. During my senior year in high school, I received the "Golden Rule" scholarship. The name actually derived from the name of a club. Being a member of "The Golden Rule Club" and the following year being elected as its president truly helped me to be a better person and to have the drive and desire to help others. On many occasions, members of this club would visit residents in nursing homes and participate in local charity functions for needy children.

I remember discussing with my friends how sorry we felt for those people because they were unable to help themselves. The club's motto, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you," was quite simple, yet was very powerful in its meaning.

I wish to thank the members of society who share my thoughts on the importance of values and who use them routinely. My greatest hope is that society, as a whole, will actively participate in the rejuvenation of a value system. For me, having values as a guideline has certainly lifted the burden of wondering "Did I say or do the right thing?"



# The Importance of Those Family Ties

By Naoko Koizumi

In America, it has almost become a fact of life that we will be placed in a nursing home when we reach a certain age or when we lose certain capabilities. On the other side of the Pacific Ocean, in Japan, traditions regarding the family elders are quite different.

Many American children send their parents to nursing homes when the parents are no longer able to care for themselves. But is this showing parents love and respect? Most Americans live apart from their parents when they get married. In addition, once they are married, the grown children become more concerned about their new family than for their parents. In America, older parents live alone and can't depend on their children even when they have a bad health condition. So some of the

elderly go to nursing homes. In contrast, many Japanese children take care of their parents when they have a bad illness. Some of them live together with their parents in order to treat them. I took it for granted that the care we show for our elders in Japan would be the same in America, so I feel bad about sending parents to a nursing home.

I think that the ties between parents and children are permanent and strong and should be honored by the children. Caring for parents is a very important responsibility of the children.

Because I am far from my family in Japan, I missed them more than ever when I was sick. I hardly thought of them until then, but once I was ill, I could think of nothing else but my family.

I imagine that if I were placed in a nursing home due to sickness that I would miss contact with my relatives even more so.

Besides the strain on the mental health caused by being away from loved ones, there may be more pain caused by inadequate living conditions. Recent television news programs have shown how bad conditions can be. For example, nurses overdose the residents to make them not move because they don't want to have additional work. Of course, the state has taken measures against those who operate the nursing homes in such a poor manner, but the suffering by those entrusted to the care of the home was quite severe.

Americans have forgotten that the

most genuine members of the family are the elders, who with their experience and wisdom can help the younger members of the family in many ways. To Japanese parents, the children are always children, and the parents desire the company of their offspring and wish to watch the family as it grows.

A nursing home is a poor substitute for the warmth of a loving home, and being sent there is a terrible strain on the mental and emotional health of those who are forced into living in one. Although the nursing home may provide necessary health care, the people who place their family members in nursing facilities should never forget to provide them with the support they can only get from a loving family.

## My Husband, My Best Friend

By Becki Thornton

Being an adult today is not an easy task, but having someone special in your life makes it easier. My special friend is someone I admire, look up to, and can always depend on. My best friend is my husband, David. I respect my husband in many ways, for his kind heart, his willingness to put others before himself, and his hard-working nature.

David has always been there for me no matter what the circumstances. Regardless of the time of the day or night, he is always willing to help. There is no problem which David will not tackle; he simply enjoys helping others. If he cannot find a solution to the problem right away, he will be there until one is found and the problem is solved. He is a very kind-hearted man when it comes to being there for people.

Being a caring man is not my husband's only asset; he also has a warm heart. David has always been there for me and my son, Timothy. He is always placing our needs before his own, and there is not a day that goes by in which we do not feel blessed to have him. David has given us all the love and understanding for which we could ever hope.

David is also a hardworking, dependable, and loyal person by nature. He has been on his own periodically since he was a young man. He learned as a teenager that nothing is handed out for free in life and that a person must work long and hard for just rewards. When challenged, David will always rise to the occasion and illustrate his competence.

In conclusion, I believe my husband is a very special person who has many wonderful qualities to pass on to others. Through his kind heart and hard-working nature, he has the ability to do anything he wants in this life. He will always be respected for his never-ending hunger to learn as well as for his capability to conquer and move on. By watching and learning from David and by observing his way of life, I have learned much.

## Ugly Duckling

By Nancy Green

The tale of the ugly duckling reminds me so much of myself because at one point in my life I was a hopeless case. I was a displaced homemaker who had no goals, dreams, ambitions, or priorities, and I had no desire to better myself. Church was the furthestmost thing from my mind. What others thought of me did not concern me in the least. However, I met a beauty consultant from Mary Kay Cosmetics who taught me three important principles: living by the golden rule, setting my priorities, and remembering always where I came from.

The first important principle which was taught to me was how to live by the golden rule. When I first met Melody, she treated me very specially. When she was around, I felt important, and she made me feel good about myself. She was kind, courteous, and respectful and told me that God had planted seeds of greatness in every human being. Although she knew my many shortcomings, Melody never judged me or looked down on me. She lived by the golden rule seven days a week—not just on Sunday.

Not only did she teach me about how to live by the golden rule, but she also taught me about setting priorities. Melody was sincere about her priorities, which were, "God first, family second, and career third." God was very important in her life. She was faithful to her church and loved her family and spent much time with them. She let her family know that their happiness would not be sacrificed by her career. Her life was in harmony because she believed that her priorities were of the utmost importance.

Finally, the most important principle Melody taught me was to remember always where I came from. After a facial, she would have me stand in front of a long mirror and ask me to visualize myself becoming what I would like to be. After I gave my answer, she would say, "Nancy, you are a special human being inside and out because you are a very humble person. As you succeed in life, never judge anyone or think you are superior to others. Always be sincere and sensitive to the needs and feelings of others."

Today my life is like a puzzle; the pieces are being put together slowly but surely. I am currently enrolled at MCC majoring in the medical field. I have a full-time job. My priority is "God first, family second, and career third." I am a member of the First Assembly of God in Waco. My goal in life is to help others feel good about themselves. Most of my decisions, when I deal with people, center around the golden rule: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."

## What My Parents Taught Me

By Shirley Morgan

Looking back over the years when I was a little girl growing up in a small town east of Waco, I realize that my parents played a very important part in my beliefs and throughout the hard times of my life. There were thirteen in my family, excluding my parents. We lived in a three-room house with no inside bathroom. Times were very hard back then, but with the grace of God, my parents managed to feed and clothe us.

I admired my parents for what they did because I knew that the task was not easy. My father worked on a farm to support us. He would plow in the fields from sunup to sundown just to make a living for his family. When that job played out, he worked at the oil mill; the pay wasn't much, but it kept us with a roof over our heads and food to eat. It took a strong man to pull a load like he did. He always told us to "trust in the Lord, and He will make a way," and I believe that. My parents would get down on their knees every night and pray. It was those prayers that kept us going.

But as time went by, life got harder. My parents had to start pulling cotton for a living. That was not enough to support us, so the older children would go after school and pull cotton until dark. When

the summer came, the whole family would spend the summer pulling cotton; that is how my parents bought clothes for us to wear to school. We didn't mind working because we knew times were difficult for my parents, who were trying to support 13 children.

Even though life might be hard and we might not have many material possessions, we thirteen children had more love, understanding, and joy than anyone could ask for. We were brought up not to lie, steal, or cheat; this was my parents' golden rule. They believe in the Lord, and he hasn't failed them yet. I admire my parents for they taught me about life by the way they raised me. Through hard times I've learned how to manage and make it in life.

I admire my parents for what they taught me through difficult times. Upon leaving home after marrying at age 19, I knew how to survive no matter what occurred. Growing up in a family of 13, I had been taught well. I admire my parents for their hard work and suffering so their children would have food to eat, clothes to wear, and a house in which to live. By prayer and God's grace, we made it through those hard times, and now we are just one big, happy family, on our own and doing fine, thanks to the Lord.

## Ageless Friendship

By Teresa Drahn

Many people have touched my life, but the one who has influenced me the most, both as a child and as an adult, is my grandmother. She has taught me many wonderful and useful lessons. She has shown me, by example, the values of being frugal, the proper manners a young lady should display, and importance of always being true to myself.

The lessons of being frugal were sometimes hard for me to understand as a child. Now that I am grown, I understand all too well why some things happened as they did. For example, while visiting with my grandmother one summer, my brothers and I were given delicious meals that included a different dessert each night. Grandmother always said that we could have all we wanted as long as we ate all that we took. On one such night, we were given jello with whipped topping. Since jello was one of my favorite desserts, I made myself a great big bowl. For the next three evenings, I ate jello and whipped topping while my brothers ate ice cream, cake, and chocolate pie. Believe me, I learned my lesson well. I have a difficult time throwing out leftovers to this day.

When it comes to proper manners, my grandmother is exemplary. She uses, and believes everyone should use, terms such as "yes, sir," "no, ma'am," "please," and "thank you." Once while I was visiting her, she bought a new purse. I wanted her old purse desperately, but because I would not say "please," she would not let me have it. I cried all the way from her house to mine. You can bet that from then on I always said "please," especially when I was dealing with my grandmother.

My grandmother was never one to worry about what others thought of her. She is more concerned about what she thinks of herself. Doing the best you can do is a trait she passed along to me. No matter how poorly I performed, if I did my best, she made me feel that I had done an A1 job. Her praise has helped me to have the confidence and courage to attempt any task.

Many of the lessons my grandmother has taught me have been hard ones. Through them all, I never doubted her love for me. I only hope she never had a doubt of my love for her. Age has never come between my grandmother and me; we share an ageless friendship.

# Old-fashioned Values Handed Down by My Grandparents

By Coy York

In today's society there are so many people lacking family values and morals. Most people try to do unto others before others do unto them. It seems like a dog-eat-dog world. People take advantage of the elderly and poor. For example, not too long ago a man roofed my great aunt Rene's house. The man told her he'd roof the house for whatever the insurance company would pay. But instead he charged her well over \$3,000.00. She is over seventy years old. What's really bad is that the roofer did a very poor job; the roof's been leaking ever since whenever it rains.

When I was a small boy of about six years of age, I started living with my grandparents because my mother couldn't take care of me. We lived on a fairly large dairy farm. My grandparents have always stressed the importance of having good morals, and they always told of the importance of family unity. My grandparents had ten kids of their own, so I was raised with many of my uncles, cousins, nephews, and nieces.

Every time we all went to town, it seemed like we were part of the armed forces because there were so many of us. My grandfather would always tell us grandkids and other neighborhood kids about being honest and truthful no matter what. My grandfather could

always get along with just about anybody, but there were two types of people he couldn't stand, liars and thieves. If he'd catch any of his kids or grandkids in a lie, he would correct them with either a razor strap, belt, or two-by-four paddle. I can personally tell you that it didn't pay to lie.

My grandfather would also tell us to stand up for ourselves. If we got into a little fight in school and got beaten up, when we got home we'd get another whipping. This would happen every time until we learned. He'd always tell us kids that you had to learn to be tough in today's world because there are too many people out there to hurt you and take advantage of you. That was about the time all those boys started disappearing back in the early '70's. We were also taught never to take candy

from strangers.

Both my grandparents believed in helping others. They never turned a hungry person or anyone else in need away from their door unless the person was suspicious. My grandparents could talk to somebody and tell if he or she was good or bad. They always instilled in us kids the importance of being helpful to others and to always, no matter what, be kind to the elderly and handicapped.

I remember one morning going to town and seeing an old man going down the street. He was mentally ill. All of us kids thought the man was just drunk or trying to be funny, so we laughed and made remarks about him. When our grandparents came back out to the car, we all went straight home and took a huge dose of politeness in the form of spankings. We learned never to make

fun of anyone who is less fortunate.

My grandfather passed away on January 9, 1980. He was laid to rest on my twentieth birthday, January 12, 1980. My grandmother is still living and still tells all her kids, grandkids, and even her great-grandkids, that giving advice and handing down what she was taught when she was small is what being a mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother is all about.

I will always love both of my grandparents. While my grandfather was alive, he ruled the roost, but my grandmother always ruled the rooster. I'm very glad they were able to teach me to do what's right. I hope I will be able to do the same thing for my son. Maybe one day society will go back to what it used to be, and the world will be a much better place in which to live.

## Mom, On Values and Beliefs

By Laura Leach

The person whom I admire and who has influenced my values and beliefs is my mother. She lives in an old wood house in a small town called Sims, North Carolina, with the backyard covered with large tobacco and cotton fields.

My parents were blessed with three wonderful children, and I am the only girl. One sunny day Mom received the tragic news that Dad had been killed in an automobile accident and that my oldest brother had suffered a minor head injury. I was five years old when Dad died; I remember him vaguely. His death was a turning point in my mother's life.

Soon after Dad died, my grandma moved in with us to help Mom and give

her a little support. Grandma knew the tragic accident had put a toll on her daughter for she realized that Mom had to rear three small children alone. Knowing she had to further her education, she took some courses at a nearby technical college and worked two jobs. As years passed, we were getting older and learning to be responsible. Grandma's health began to fail, and she was admitted into the hospital; she later died. I can remember Grandma's last words to Mom: "No matter what you have to do, keep your children together."

Several nights I watched Mom cry. She would talk to me as if I were her big sister. She felt upset because we lacked things which children dream of having for Christmas or for special occasions.

The most important experiences Mom went through were the high school graduations of her three children. Tears of happiness rolled down her cheeks each time one of us graduated. "What else could a mom ask for?" she would ask. I am glad that she stood by us and kept us together as a family.

I am now married with two children. I would not wish to go through the pain and sorrow which my mother did. She has been pleading with me to go back to school; therefore, I am attending college. I really admire my mother's fulfillment of Grandma's wishes. I now realize that no matter what the situation may be, life goes on. However, it is never too late to improve yourself or to establish good examples for your children.

## My Mother

By Charla Teague

When I was growing up, I had a wonderful mother whom I loved dearly. But, like most children, I took for granted that Mom would always be there for me whenever I needed her. At the end of my junior year in high school, my whole life changed when a single bullet ended my mother's life, and for the longest time I thought that I had died as well. But now, as I go through life, I realize that she still lives through me because she influences my beliefs in compassion, respect, and love for other people.

The greatest thing my mom taught me was to have compassion for everyone. She said everyone has feelings, so I should treat people the way I would like to be treated. She also told me to put myself in the other person's place and be thankful for all I have because some people have much less.

Respect is another thing that Mom taught me. She said people should respect the differences in other people because these differences make everyone special. She once told me that even if I didn't like some people, I should still have respect for their feelings.

Mom also knew much about love because she showed it to me in everything she did. She was always there to support me in anything I wanted to do and gave up things she could have had so that she could get something for me. She still loved me even if I didn't do the right things all the time. But, most of all, my mom was like a big first aid kit that made everything better.

To this day I look back on all the things Mom taught me, and I am proud to be her daughter. I realize that, although she is not with me physically, she will always be in my memories because I learned so much

## The Influence of My Father

By Bart Yoder

The biggest influence in my life is my father. He has bestowed upon me many qualities, such as physical toughness, mental toughness, and spiritual toughness. I can see many of these same qualities in my father's own life. Through all the breaks my dad has faced in the past, he has always been there for me.

The physical toughness probably resulted from the many sports in which my dad watched me participate. If I were having any kind of trouble (like with my batting), he would help me to the best of his ability. My father was also behind me 100% in my sports, and he did not push me into anything I did not want to play. Even if he had to be late, my father was always at my games, cheering for me. My father taught me

physical toughness during my senior year when I played nose guard in football. He taught me that if I played on the line, I would have to be the toughest out there. At 5' 8" and 175 pounds, I was the smallest guy out there and had to develop my work ethic in the weight room.

Another quality my father taught me was mental toughness. He encouraged me to clear all the distractions out of the way and to get done what had to be done. My father had a good background in this area; serving in the army had given him the self-discipline he needed. And having to pay for everything during his teenage years had developed the quality of mental toughness which he passed on to me. Another reason my father is so mentally tough is that he has faced many difficult circumstances during his adult years,

such as dealing with my brother and changing jobs.

Lastly, my father did a good job of teaching me to be spiritually tough. My first test was dealing with the death of a good friend who was killed last year in a drunk driving accident. My father knew my friend as well, and we helped each other through it. Another incident was having my cousin almost die in a car accident this year. This accident seemed almost to tear my father apart, but he was strong.

My father is my hero—not some superstar athlete or a movie star, but my father. He brought me into this world and gave me all the love he could. My father has not taught me everything, but I am still learning from him whenever I see him.

## My Mom

By Angela Tomecek

My mom has been truly inspirational to me throughout my life. Part of her inspiration was the example she set for me. When I was younger, the motivation she had as a single parent was unbelievable. Even with all of the downfalls I have had in my own life, she has never once lost faith in me or stopped supporting me. Sometimes I wonder if she knows it, but I really do love her with all of my heart.

To the best of my knowledge, when I was three years old, my mom quit her job as mail girl at the Amicable Building and moved us to Arlington. There she commuted to Ft. Worth and Dallas to work and went to school at night to get her degree. I may be exaggerating, but it seemed to have taken her ten years or more to get that degree. We didn't have any family or anyone we knew there, so she was our

sole source of care. My mom is a CPA now and supervisor over the Dallas firm for the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

I, myself, quit school while making straight A's when I was fifteen years old and was having babies by the time I was sixteen. There were quite a few major downfalls for me after I dropped out, many of them so bad I choose not to discuss their nature. My mom helped me to enroll and paid my tuition to beauty school twice and to nursing school twice, but I made no attempt to succeed. My first child is seven years old already, but I am finally making something for myself. I have obtained a license to practice vocational nursing, and I am presently working on an Associate Degree.

My mom drives from Arlington practically every weekend to check on me and to visit with my children. I know that I will never be able to repay her for all that she has done for me. She is truly a great mom.