

Inside Today

- John Rasor recovers from heart attack. Page 3
- Plaid Vests dominates speech meet. Page 2.

More Inside

- Women hoopsters roll past SWCC. Page 5
- Concert listings feature top acts. Page 5

Monday night's basketball scores

- MCC 'Landers knock off league leaders, 67-64
- 'Lassies crush cross-town rivals, 91-55

Highland Herald



Tuesday, February 21, 1984

McLennan Community College

Vol. 18, No. 10

1400 College Drive Waco, Texas 76708

Matus reigns as 'Sweetheart'

By LYNDA YEZZI

"Very excited and happy" is how Student Government nominee Cecilia (Sissy) Matus described feeling after being named the 1984 MCC Homecoming Sweetheart.

"I couldn't believe it was me," said Matus, who was escorted by Butch Tussey. "It was a very shocking experience."

First runner-up was won by Angle White, who was nominated by student petition. Her escort was Cedrick Porter.

"I was surprised," said White. "It was a great experience for me."

White's duty as runner-up will be to take over if for any reason the sweetheart cannot perform her duties.

The Homecoming ceremony was held Feb. 16 in the Highlands Gym during halftime of the men's game. MCC Dance Company members started off the program by performing a dance routine to "Dead Giveaway." Director of Student Activities Bryant Burleson followed with a welcoming speech, and then turned

the program over to SG President Paul Yeldell and Vice President Lynda Yezzi who introduced the nominees.

Yeldell presented Matus with a bouquet of a dozen red silk roses. Laura Frazier, last year's homecoming princess, crowned this year's winner.

White received a bouquet from Yeldell, containing half a dozen roses. Each nominee also received a single, long-stemmed rose.

The rest of the nominees for Sweetheart include: Karen Kendrick, Psi Beta, escorted by Joe Capazoli; Rhonda Staas, Dance Company, escorted by Chappy Gresham; Cecilia Capak, Phi Theta Kappa, escorted by Clay Helm; Kathy Robinson, Management and Marketing Club, escorted by Pat Turner; Margaret Yarbrough, Pan American Club, escorted by Larry Griebel; Lori Beard, nominated by student petition, escorted by Scott Ayers and Peggy Hebert, Press Club, escorted by Danny Quinn.

"I think it is just great," said Matus. "But I think my escort was more nervous than I was."



Freshman Angle White (left) was first runner-up in the Homecoming Sweetheart elections. (Photo by C. Allin Means)



Freshman Cecilia Matus was crowned Homecoming Sweetheart during the Feb. 16 basketball games. (Photo by C. Allin Means)

'Back-to-basics' proposal elicits mixed reactions

By DANNY QUINN
and ANNE-MARIE KIMBELL

The Texas State Board of Education has tentatively approved, among other things, a new "back to basics" curriculum that would require elementary students to spend more time on reading, writing and arithmetic.

The Board also set in motion 20 regional hearings on a proposal that would restrict the time students can spend out of class on school-related extra-curricular activities.

A student choosing to participate in such activities would have to maintain at least a 70 G.P.A.

The new curriculum would also require elementary students to take five courses a day in basic subjects such as reading and math.

According to WISD Assistant Superintendent Norma Staton, this action has been under consideration for over two years. She said that the proposals are due for a third and final reading on March 10.

"The whole curriculum has been checked," said Staton. "They have been looking at every area in grades K-12."

Staton said that she expected no drastic changes in WISD elementary schools should the proposals be approved. "Most of what has been recommended, we're already in compliance with. I don't foresee any drastic changes," said Staton.

George Banda, principal of Connally High School, doesn't foresee many changes, either. "We have had an honors program similar to those (new requirements) on a secondary level," said Banda. "It won't affect us in that extent. We have had the 70 G.P.A. (requirement), but we have gone along with the U.I.L. for the three classes requirement."

MCC's Dean of Arts and Sciences, Gail Burrier, spoke highly of the changes. "I'm happy to see a returning emphasis on basic skills. I think our educational system is under closer scrutiny now than it has ever been in our history," said Burrier.

"I think that we'll see an increasing demand for accountability in our classrooms," said Burrier. "I think that the ball is in education's court. It's not just one responsibility. It's not just the public schools, community colleges or senior colleges. With all three segments working to-

"Particularly, vocational courses would suffer . . . unless they make some changes, the vocational courses are really going to bite the dust."

gether, we can improve our educational system."

MCC President Dr. Wilbur Ball agrees with the proposed changes. "Outside class activities have become too numerous. They have a negative effect on the primary purpose of school," said Ball.

"In the long run, it will affect the student's preparation to do college work. We spend a lot of money . . . in developmental courses at MCC," said Dr. Ball. "One reason so much developmental work is needed is because so many students didn't get the education they need in public schools. I am not talking just about local schools. These are general conditions all over the state and country," said Ball.

"There needs to be more emphasis on the basic," he said. "I am very

encouraged by the actions."

John Vasek, principal of Jefferson-Moore, sees a few problems with the proposals as they are, however. While saying that "a lot could change in the third reading," Vasek said that as it now reads, the changes could spell trouble for some elective courses.

Vasek said that if the proposals pass as written, ninth and tenth grade students would be able to take only one elective.

"Particularly, vocational courses would suffer," said Vasek. "Unless they make some changes, the vocational courses are really going to bite the dust."

Ann Harrell, speech instructor at MCC, felt that less emphasis on some extra-curricular activities could do more damage than good.

"First of all, I consider speech communication the most basic skill. All of the knowledge in the world is of no use if it cannot be properly communicated to others," said Harrell.

"When a person opens his or her mouth, they communicate how educated they are to others. And if they cannot speak clearly, elegantly, and confidently, they shine a very poor light on those who educated them."

"A student who is a product of Texas schools from start to finish is a window on our public education system," she said.

"When students go to speech tournaments, they are in class hour after hour. I call a speech tournament the ultimate learning-teaching experience or activity. They want to limit the number of classroom hours where a student is learning the most vital and basic skill in being educated," said Harrell.

An official of the WISD, who asked not to be identified, said that the proposed changes, as written, might be to the disadvantage of minorities. "It's going to be extremely harmful to the minority students. I'm surprised that the NAACP hasn't gotten involved."

"Take a look at Richfield, Jefferson-Moore, Waco High and the other schools where there are about 50% minority students. Punch into a computer the grades (to make a student eligible) and see how many of those ineligible are white and how many are black. I think you would have a lot of them (minorities) that would fall by the wayside."

He was referring, he said, to the proposal that not only would the student have to pass four out of five subjects, but would also have to maintain a 'C' average. He said that he felt that having to maintain a 'C' average would be unfair.

Regardless of the arguments over the new proposals, many seem to be seeing improvement in the educational system. Steps are also being taken on the college levels.

"In our Dean's group, we will be looking at the topic of our transfer students, and how well they are achieving at similar colleges," said Burrier. "(We are) looking at what kind of product we are turning out. Senior colleges already are increasing requirements for teacher certification. I think we will see an improvement at all levels."

Extras perform vital role

By C. ALLIN MEANS

Step right up! "Barnum," this spring's first theatre production, the largest single production in MCC's history, which is scheduled to run March 28 through April 1 in The Highlands, is rolling right along.

A production of this magnitude naturally contains a number of stars. The lead, P.T. Barnum, will be played by the play's director and director of the Fine Arts Department, James Henderson. Other names among the lead cast members include Les Stevens, Dobbie Davis, Neal Herring, Mark Blacklock, Paul Michalik, Kelly Cook, Richard Martin, Marlon Moore, Jeff Whit, Coby Anderson, and Ruthie Foster; many of which produced convincing performances as lead characters in this year's two previous plays, "The Shadow Box" and "A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum."

However, there are numerous performers who don't get top billing, yet whose presences are vital and necessary nonetheless. These are the dedicated theatre people who spend most of their afternoons and evenings building sets, practicing dance routines, polishing musical numbers or . . . all of the above.

Tickets for 'Barnum' may be purchased beginning March 14 from Denise Montgomery in Fine Arts. Reserved seating will be \$5 and general admission will be \$3. Scholarship night admissions will be \$5.

One such "additional actress" (i.e. "specialty dancer/singer") is Sarah Mohundro, a freshman theatre major from Waco. She is categorized under "all of the above."

"This is going to be a real big production, so there's got to be tons of people who are coming on and off stage all the time. Crowds, people who come to the circus, clowns, people going to the museum, are all people like that. I'll be in the crowds, sometimes I'll be dressed as a clown and sometimes I'll be dressed as a townspeople," said Mohundro.

"We're up there (building sets in the shop) most of the time, putting our hours in," added Mohundro.



Drama instructor James Henderson is ringmaster of the upcoming musical, "Barnum," in more ways than one. In addition to directing the production, he will also play the lead role of P.T. Barnum. (Photo by C. Allin Means)

New SG reps take office

By LYNDA YEZZI

Swearing-in of the newly elected vice president and representatives was the first item of business at the Feb. 13 meeting of the Student Government. The new members were elected during student elections held Feb. 9-10.

The new vice president is Freshman Lynda Yezzi. Representatives elected are: Shirley Slavik, Janna Hatfield, Lowell Adkins, David Nino, Heather Levins and Kathy Robinson.

"The new group of representatives will do a fine job," said Bryant Burleson, director of Student Activities. "I feel that Lynda Yezzi's election as vice president will pay off later this spring because of her experience as a representative this fall."

Reports were also given on several SG sponsored activities that were held during the previous week. The lack of voter participation at the elections was discussed, along with a summary of the clock petition that was signed by students at the voters table.

One hundred twenty people were in favor of repairing all the clocks

on campus and synchronizing their time, while only nine people voted to dispense of the clocks altogether. The SG has sent a summary of their findings to the administration for further action.

"I was really surprised at the number of signatures on the petition regarding the clocks," said Burleson. "I hadn't realized that it was such an issue."

SG members also heard a report on the car caravan that went to Hill Junior College Feb. 9. It was reported that about 50 people went to the game. Also discussed was the turnout for the SG sponsored Valentine's Dance held Feb. 10 at Magic Music.

New business discussed included the possibilities of holding a Spring Foyer Dance later this semester and it was decided to feature a rock band at the mini-concert scheduled for March 9.

The decision was also made by SG to run for Texas Junior College Student Government Association Region II President and State Vice President. This year the SG is Region II Vice President and also the State Treasurer.

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

2 Campus news

Briefs

Trustees add MCC police officer

Mrs. Cullen Smith, who has served on the McLennan Community College board of trustees for the past six years, announced Tuesday during a regular session she would not seek a second term.

Smith made the announcement following a motion by the board to set a trustee election April 7. Two other board members, C. Ray Perry and Mrs. Norma Podet, who also have served one six-year term, said they will run for re-election. Perry has served as past president of the board.

Also during the meeting, trustees voted to purchase carpet in a tartan pattern for two floors of the student center.

Evelyn Walden was commissioned as a new peace officer. Walden attended the MCC Heart of Texas Regional Police Academy in 1983 and received the Texas Basic Certification for Peace Officer. A resident of Waco, past employers include the Lacy-Lakeview Police Department and the Waco Center for Youth.

Prior to the meeting, trustees heard a report on foundations from Dr. Chester Hastings. No action was taken during the session.

Geology, HPE combine in course

Beginning May 14, a concentrated study of Physical Geology (Gel 411) and Camping and Canoeing (HPE 127) will be offered at MCC. The course will last three weeks and students will receive five semester credit hours — four in geology credit and one in HPE credit.

The geology study in the course will include classroom study and eight days of field work in Central and West Texas. On-the-scene studies of wind erosion and deposition, river development and ancient volcanic activities will be conducted at Big Bend National Park. Students will also travel to the Caves of Sonora where they will study ground water activity in the formation of caves.

Students will study the basics of canoeing, care of camping equipment, first aid, map and compass work, and basic rock climbing.

No special equipment will be required for the course, but students should know how to swim and be in good health.

"They (the students) will learn and have fun at the same time. I think it's an interesting approach," said James Burroughs, Chairman of HPE.

There is a limited enrollment for this course. Registration dates will be from April 30 - May 4 in the registrar's office from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday and from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday.

A \$25 lab fee will be charged to the student in addition to the appropriate tuition and fees.

Pre-reading class to begin Feb. 28

Continuing Education will host "Preparing Your Preschooler for Reading" beginning Feb. 28. This four-week course, designed to help parents discover how language development can help their children prepare for reading, will meet Tuesdays from 6 to 8:30 p.m.

Parents will learn how language development is related to learning how to read, how parents can provide the language experiences and how reading aloud can be more effective.

Demonstrations of language activities will be included. An optional text will be available to provide a list of read-aloud books for parents.

Registration fee is \$11. For more information, contact Continuing Education at 756-6551, ext. 217.

Students being recruited to tutor

As part of its continuing effort to serve the community, MCC's Department of Special Services is attempting to recruit students who are interested in tutoring area high school students.

Those interested in applying should be proficient in the field in which they desire to tutor, should provide recommendations from instructors in that field, and should provide a high school and college transcript. These students should also have a "B" average and have had taken upper course levels in the field of study that they wish to tutor.

Those qualified will be included in a list of names that will be sent to area high school counselors. Hours and salaries will be arranged by the parents of those being tutored.

For more information, contact Eleanor Taylor, Special Services counselor, at ext. 404.

Federalism is subject of workshop

Federalism and its implications for education will be the subject of a workshop Feb. 24 from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the Lecture Hall.

MCC, in cooperation with Baylor University and the Midway PTA, received a grant to conduct the workshop by the Texas Committee for Humanities, a state program of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Dr. Michael White, chairman of MCC's Social Sciences department, and Dr. Gayle Avant, associate professor of Political Science at Baylor, are directors for the project.

White will speak on federalism and education while Avant will address the constitutional rights of students. Avant is also scheduled to present a survey on local text book selection processes.

Laura Tynes, president of the Texas PTA and member of the State Board of Education, will discuss textbook selection in Texas.

This workshop will be open to the public. For more information, call 756-6551, ext. 312 or 230.

LA 101 to hold researchers session

The English Department will sponsor a two-day research paper workshop Feb. 27 and 29 at 10 a.m. Workshop activities will be held in Liberal Arts Room 101 and are open to all MCC students. Students may attend one or both sessions. If a student is unable to attend, the student may stop by the Writing Lab for tutoring and/or handouts concerning the material covered.

Topics and speakers for the Feb. 27 session will be "Selecting and Narrowing the Topic," presented by English Instructor Randy Waller; "Source Gathering and Note Taking," presented by English Instructor Cheryl Bohde; "Drafting and Revising the Paper" and "Giving the Paper Form," presented by English Instructor Lassette Carpenter.

Topics and speakers for the Feb. 29 session will be "Handling Quoted Material and Avoiding Plagiarism," presented by English Instructor Travis Loper; "Documentation Forms," presented by Chairman of Language Arts Susan Smith; and "How the Writing Lab Can Help," presented by Writing Lab Teaching Assistant Erna Watkins.

For more information, contact the Writing Lab or any MCC English Instructor.

Campus protected by veteran force



Campus Police Supervisor D.C. Chambers is pictured at left with Officer Jim Gallihar. (Photo by David Nichols)

By KELLEY MUDRA

Anyone who has received a parking ticket here at MCC knows about the campus police, but few have had the opportunity to actually meet the people who make up MCC's police force.

Chief of Campus Police D.L. Chambers, a native Wacoan, has been working at MCC since Dec. 27, 1983. Before coming to MCC, Chambers worked as a criminal investigator for the district attorney. Prior to that he worked for 13 years at the Waco Police Department.

Chambers said that the major problem at MCC is parking. However, he went on to say, "It's not as bad this semester as last."

Chambers said he likes working at MCC. "There's a good working atmosphere. (There are) good people working here," he said. When he's not policing the campus, Chambers enjoys fishing and sports.

Another member of the MCC police force is patrolman Jim Gollihar. Before moving to Waco, Gollihar lived in Graham, Texas. He has

worked in law enforcement since 1972, with the exception of one year in which he tried his hand at insurance. When asked about the amount of theft at MCC, Gollihar stated there was "no more that what would be expected for a campus this size." He agreed that the biggest problem is parking. When asked how the students acted towards the police officers, Gollihar stated, "We've got some of the most courteous students," going on to say that, for the most part, they were "nice kids."

Linda Moore, another officer, has been working at MCC since August. Prior to coming to MCC she worked for the Lorena Police Department. When asked about the night activity at MCC, Moore replied, "Normally just routine stuff to do."

She also said she likes working at MCC. "They're going to have to run me off with a stick," she said. In reference to the students on campus, Moore said, "I love all of the students. I have a blast out here." When not patrolling the campus, Moore attends classes full-time here at MCC.

Plaid Vests take honors in regional meet

Plaid Vests Speech Squad took top honors at the Phi Rho Pi Region Six National Qualifier held on campus Feb. 9-11.

MCC competed in the final rounds of every event except NDT (National Debate Topic) team debate and NDT Lincoln/Douglas debate, which the squad did not enter.

Out of 14 events, MCC received awards for 11 events. Members of the squad winning awards in individual events were: Robert Nading, second place in impromptu speaking, third place in extemporaneous speaking, and second place in communication analysis.

Also Ruth Heldreth, second place in informative speaking; Lewis Payton, second place in dramatic interpretation; Joe Chapa, second place in entertainment speaking (mixed genre), first place in dramatic interpretation, and second place in oral interpretation; and Sonia Glauser, second place in extemporaneous speaking and first place in communication analysis.

The duet team of Glauser and Chapa also won first place in duet acting. This award is Glauser and Chapa's third first place award.

MCC debaters closed out all positions in CEDA (Cross Examination Debate Association) debate.

Debate team members Liz Allen and Robert Nading won first place in CEDA team debate and fellow debaters Mike Lesko and Tim Havis won second place in CEDA team debate.

Liz Allen placed first in Lincoln/Douglas CEDA debate. Fellow team mate Robert Nading placed second in Lincoln/Douglas CEDA debate.

Team members Glauser, Chapa, Mollie Marsh, David Atkinson, a

Payton took second place in Readers' Theatre.

This year MCC earned 163.5 points for a total of 296 sweepstakes points. Therefore, on the accumulated point system for the sweepstakes award, MCC was the 1984 winner. Next year MCC will begin regional competition at zero points. MCC first won the sweepstakes award in 1981.

On Mar. 8-10, the Plaid Vests Speech Squad will be traveling to Baytown for the Texas Junior Speech and Theatre Association Meet.

Illiteracy leads to difficulty for many local residents

By JACI KENNEY

A young girl in Marlin goes grocery shopping with her mother because her mother can't read the labels on the groceries.

This incident is true. There are more horrifying examples such as these. This is just one incident of adult illiteracy.

There are over 26 million illiterate adults in the United States today. That's more than one-half million people who can't read or write in each state.

"We have people all ages, all

walks of life, both sexes, all ethnic backgrounds, who come in the office and want to learn how to read and write," said Suzanne Ensey, coordinator for the Adult Literacy Council.

"The older ones want to learn to read the Bible," added Ensey.

Waco is one of the three cities given a grant by Texas Education Agency to help the literacy rate climb. The grants last one year. The current grant will end June 30. The Literacy Council serves McLennan, Falls, Hill and Bosque Counties. It also serves Temple, in Bell County.

There are a large number of illit-

erate adults in Central Texas. One survey showed that 7,142 people over the age of 14 and not in a school have a sixth grade education level. It also showed 10,119 people, not in school and over 14 years old, have a ninth grade education level, and 58.6 percent over 24 have no high school education at all.

"The Literacy Council is a free program taught on a one-to-one basis — tutor-student and no classroom," commented Ensey.

Texas is really slow in starting the literacy program, according to Ensey. South and North Carolina,

Tennessee and Kentucky have large literacy programs. President Reagan has announced Adult Literacy Initiative. He and Secretary of Education Terrel H. Bell are encouraging students in work/study programs to tutor adults as their work.

There are tutoring sites in many Waco churches. The Adult Education Center is located at 805 S. 8th. Free training is given to would-be tutors. Tutors teach twice a week for one to one-and-a-half hours. For more information, contact Ensey at 753-1546.

UT at Dallas offers honors scholarships

By LISA WALL

The University of Texas in Dallas is seeking outstanding students who will be entering as Juniors during the 1984-85 academic year. The UTD is an upper division graduate institution. It recently has established an Anson L. Clark/UTD Presidential Scholarship.

Each year a scholarship of \$2,000 will be awarded, with a supplement of \$500 for travel to a conference in the student's field of study. If the student continues to show an excellent academic record, the scholarship will be continued during the senior year. Another award of \$2,000 will be awarded to the outstanding UTD senior to be used against the student's first year of graduate study at the University.

Students wishing to apply for the scholarship should have at least a 3.5 grade point average and plan to pursue graduate studies. Applicants need to write a letter outlining their educational plans and their qualification for the award. The student should have three letters of recommendation and a complete transcript forwarded to the Office of Financial Aid, The University of Texas at Dallas, P.O. Box 830688, MS MC 12, Richardson, Texas 75083-0688. Deadline for applications is March 10. Announcement of the awards is expected by May 1.

If students have any questions, they may contact Dr. Nancy Cluck, The University of Texas at Dallas, P.O. Box 830688, MS JO 31, Richardson, Texas 75083-0688.



MCC students Jump for Heart

More than 50 students jumped rope in the Student Center Feb. 14. Jump For Heart is held nationwide to raise money for the American Heart Association. Pictured above during the event are freshman Renae Thomas and sophomores Jonathon Smith and Mimi Kennedy. (Photo by David Nichols)



Waco High School Senior Renee Littell is currently enrolled in MCC's early admissions program. (Photo by C. Allin Means)

Early admission provides incentive

Early admission is available to eligible high school students who have completed the junior year in high school.

Eligibility requirements include: the student must lack no more than four high school credits; the student must have a grade average of "B" or higher; the student must have the approval of the high school principal, the parent or guardian, and the Dean of Student Services at MCC; and the student may enroll in no more than two college credit courses per semester and may not have a total course load which exceeds 16 credit hours.

According to Dr. LaVerne Wong, dean of Student Services, the early admissions program is designed for those students who achieved scholastically in high school. It is an attractive program for students who wish to complete their bachelor of arts degree in less than four years.

The early admissions program also allows students to explore many of the options open to them in college. It allows them to examine the different opportunities that are offered on the campus.

One student involved in the early admissions program at MCC is Renee Littell, a senior from Waco High. She is currently enrolled in a tennis class, as well as an English class in the evening.

On Mondays and Wednesdays, Renee walks to MCC during her lunch hour to attend her tennis class, and then returns to Waco High at the end of class. She attends her English class on Wednesday evenings.

When asked why she decided to begin college early, she replied, "I thought it would be easier to start at a community college before going on to a university." When asked about friends, she said, "I spend more time with my friends from high school."

But some of the people at MCC went to high school with me, so I know them from there." She said she likes it here at MCC and she likes the teachers.

Methodist Home thrives under Daniels' administration

By PEGGY HEBERT

Drugs, crisis, recession, inflation and the threat of war. What effect do these problems have on the family unit?

More families are breaking up. When the questions seem overwhelming, many have turned to a last hope. For the 200 people who live there, the Methodist Home of Waco is that last hope.

The 130 acres of land owned by the Methodist Home includes 18 home units where abused and troubled kids of all ages can live until reunited with their families.

Administrator Jack Kyle Daniels knows the importance of the Methodist Home to its residents. Daniels has been involved with the home since he was two-and-a-half years old. Once a Methodist Home resident, Daniels left his junior year of college. After studying at Baylor

Daniels and Methodist Home residents are on a one-to-one basis. He has a good idea of each resident's personality and background.

and SMU on scholarships provided by the Methodist Home, he was employed at several jobs, mostly working with children. Then, in 1963, he returned to the Methodist Home as

a public relations man and religious educator. He left, and then returned in 1973 to become administrator.

"I am responsible for everything that happens at the Methodist

Home," is Daniel's simple description of his job.

"There are three people who answer directly to me: Joe Bailey, Tim Brown and Tom Strother," said Daniels.

Bailey is in charge of financing. Brown is assistant administrator and in charge of child care. Strother is in charge of assistant administrative development and public relations. Together they make up the heartbeat of the Methodist Home.

Daniels and Methodist Home residents are on a one-to-one basis, he has a good idea of each resident's personality and background.

"I get to know each one by their admissions report," said Daniels.

The Methodist Home, established for 93 years, is owned and operated by the seven annual conferences of the United Methodist Church in Texas and New Mexico. It is financed by endowments and interest collected from the endowment.



MCC library director John Rasor, recuperating after a heart attack, works on his 1984-85 budget proposal at home. His "able assistant" is Prince Michael Danilo. (Photo by C. Allin Means)

Strange feeling awakens Rasor: heart attack hinders holiday joy

By ALLISON HOLLIER

On Dec. 29, John Rasor, director of the MCC Library, was lying in bed at his sister's home in Denton. He was visiting his family for the Christmas Holidays.

About 4 o'clock in the morning, he woke up with a strange feeling in his chest. He thought it might have been a bad case of indigestion from overeating the day before.

It wasn't. The strange feeling in Rasor's chest was the effect of a mild heart attack.

"It wasn't at all like I had heard a heart attack was supposed to feel. I just knew it was a strange feeling, and it kept getting a little more severe and a little more severe. In about 10 minutes, I woke my sister up and told her we'd better get to a hospital and that something was going on. Fortunately, it turned out to be extremely mild, with minimal damage to the heart," said Rasor.

In the past few years, there has been a strong indication that heart problems can be passed from one generation to the next. Rasor's maternal grandmother, her two sons, and Rasor's brother all died of massive heart attacks. "There's been a specific pattern in my family."

"In a way, you might say that I owe my life to Carolyn Rodabough, the campus nurse. She did a little

"It wasn't at all like I had heard a heart attack was supposed to feel. I just knew it was a strange feeling and it kept getting a little more severe. . .

health risk profile last spring and she talked me into coming over and taking it. The blood test for that profile indicated that I had a higher triglyceride level than I had when I went to Scott and White for a check-up several months before. It also indicated that my cholesterol level was higher than it should have been," Rasor said.

As a result, Rasor began a diet and exercise program that may have saved his life. He began walking three miles a day and eating properly. "The cardiologist at Scott and White told me that was really the only thing that kept the heart attack from being so severe."

"There was quite a coincidence involved with my heart attack. I had just finished reading *The Healing Heart*, by Norman Pleasant when I had my heart attack. Pleasant had a heart attack in 1980, but instead of surgery, he decided to heal his heart through exercise and diet. However, due to my family history of heart problems, I felt that I needed to go ahead and have the surgery

done," Rasor said.

Rasor underwent a double coronary bypass surgery that involved taking an artery from the leg and replacing the blocked aorta artery to the heart. Rasor had a 75 percent blockage of cholesterol in the aorta arteries where they joined.

"They didn't even want me to ride back from Denton, because even the slightest clot that developed would have resulted in a massive heart attack," said Rasor.

Currently, Rasor is walking a half mile in the morning and in the afternoon. By doctor's orders, he must keep his salt and sugar intake down to a minimum and watch the amount of fatty foods he eats.

In addition, he must stay in bed and rest for at least 30 minutes a day.

Rasor plans on coming back to his job here at MCC in the beginning of March. "I feel real good. I still get tired, though. I'm ready to come back to work now, I miss it. They just won't let me come yet. I guess it's for the best."

Concert Calendar

HIGHLANDER HIGHLIGHTS

LEE GREENWOOD and SHELLY WEST	Feb. 21-25	Malachite Showroom, Dallas
ANNE MURRAY	Feb. 25	State Fair Music Hall, Dallas
LARRY GATLIN and CRYSTAL GAYLE	March 2	Billy Bob's Texas, Fort Worth (Waco Dillard's Ticketron)
YES	March 15	Reunion Arena, Dallas

For more information, call the Q102 Rainbow Ticketmaster (Dallas) at (214) 263-6102 or (214) 263-0037. Austin listings are available at (512) 471-7744

For tickets, call Waco Dillard's Ticketron or Dallas Ticketmaster outlets at (214) 369-9000 or (214) 373-8000

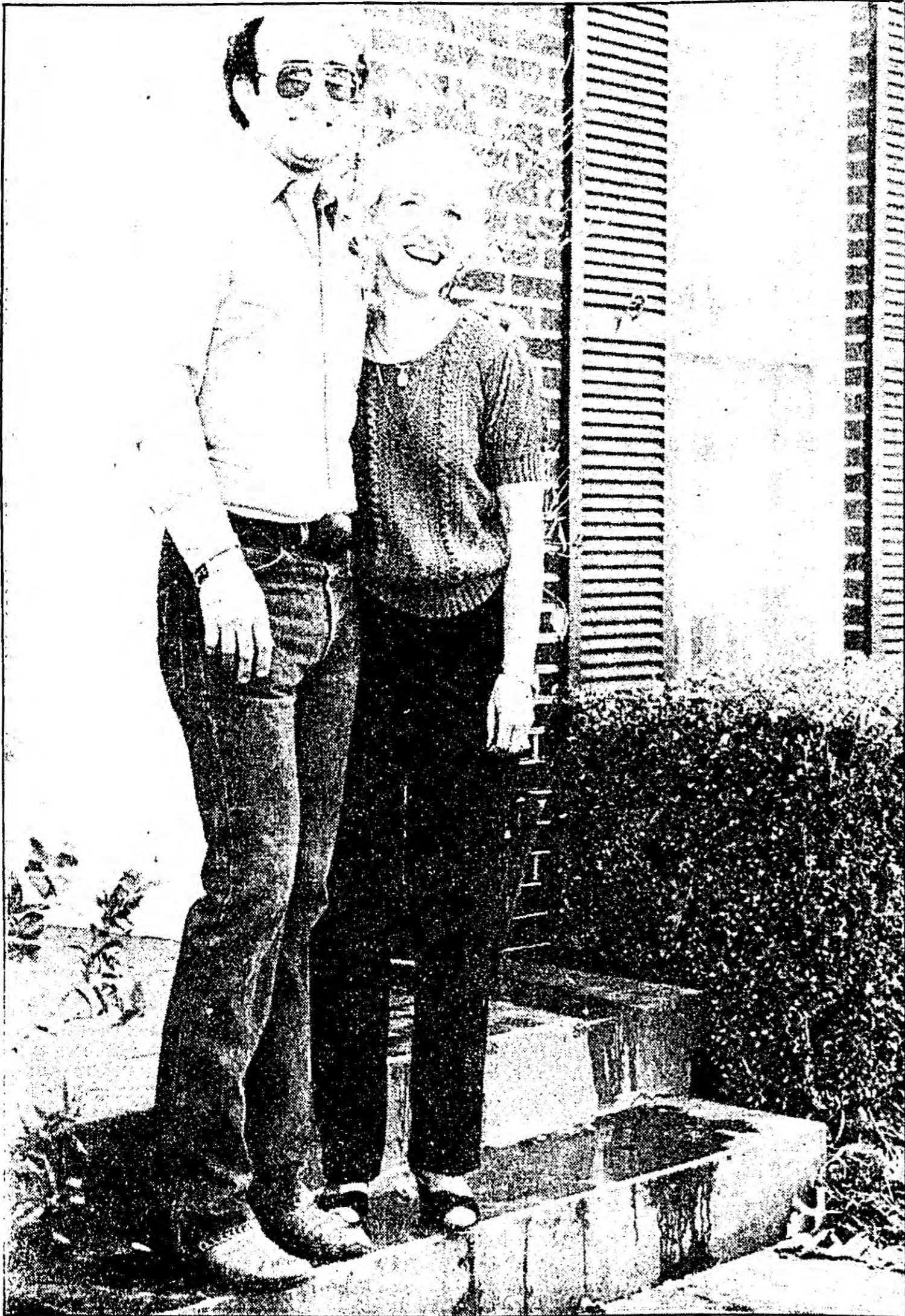
LOCAL APPEARANCES

LEON RUSSELL	Feb. 24	Loadin' Chute, Temple
PETRA	Feb. 27	Waco Convention Center
MERLE HAGGARD	Feb. 28	Waco Convention Center
RUBY WEIR	March 3	Loadin' Chute, Temple
JOE STAMPLEY	March 9	Loadin' Chute, Temple
SHELLY WEST	March 28	Mr. B's
MOE BANDY	March 30	Loadin' Chute, Temple
LACY J. DALTON	April 4	Mr. B's
GARY STEWART	April 5	Melody Ranch
BRENDA LEE	April 28	Cowboy Western Club, Mexia
CHARLY McCLAIN	May 15	Mr. B's

McLennan Community College
Commercial Music Program
First Album

Now available
at
Fine Arts and MCC Bookstore

4 Feature/Reviews



Ken Mueller has maintained an optimistic attitude through all traumas. Also pictured is wife and Baylor Professor, Kay Mueller. (Photo by C. Allin Means)

Quick-thinking son, microsurgery save Mueller's left hand

"We went into Hillcrest. The first guy off the bat said 'amputate.' Kay screamed, 'No! No! No!'"

On Sept. 27, Ken Mueller was working at the site of the Village Towne Apartments, 824 North Sixty-second. He was operating a power-miter saw. Mueller said he had "a bad mental attitude." It was a little past 11 a.m. He had a noon meeting and a bank meeting later.

"I was rushing, and that's a no-no when you're working with machines," he explained.

Mueller was trimming a piece of wood with the electric saw, when a resident of the apartments drove by in an old pick-up which had a tendency to backfire.

"I heard a pop, and I just kind of glanced up a little bit. When I did, I brought the saw down and nicked my hand. That would have been no problem. It just would have been a quarter-inch cut. But when the saw hit me, my reaction jerked my arms up. The saw just took my hand right off."

His hand was severed at the wrist. There was no one immediately near, although his son, Kirby, and a paper hanger were working in the area.

"I walked out to the parking area and sat down and calmly said, 'Help!' said Mueller.

The driver in the pick-up heard Mueller's cry and came over. "Then I had to keep him from passing out," said Mueller.

Neither the paperhanger nor Kirby had heard Mueller, but they both came out of the building about the same time and saw Mueller. "I told her (the paperhanger) to go call the ambulance, and right after that, Kirby came by. I just saw a streak. He didn't even stop. He just went straight for the hand."

Kirby's actions are probably the

difference between Mueller's having a hand or not. After locating the hand, Kirby called the hospital to learn the proper procedure for preserving it. He placed the hand in a plastic bag and put it on ice.

Mueller was taken to Hillcrest, where doctors told him they planned to amputate. But a plastic surgeon, skilled in reattaching fingers, happened to be in town. Kay, Mueller's wife, called the surgeon, asking him to come to the hospital. "He immediately grabbed the phone and called Dallas, and that was it. If he hadn't walked in, I wouldn't have a hand," said Mueller.

Mueller was transferred that evening to Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas. After a 26-hour operation, Mueller's hand was reattached. Three days later, he went under the knife again for 13 hours of bone work.

The operation was so successful that slides of the procedure will be used to teach medical professionals about microsurgery.

A business instructor at MCC for 12 years, from 1968 to 1980, he said, "I was in on MCC when it was really growing. I think I had 11 different office spots in my 12 years there."

Mueller's wife, Kay, is a sociology instructor at Baylor.

"I loved teaching," said Mueller, "but I always had interests outside

of teaching. An opportunity came my way and I took it. I'm basically an entrepreneur. I look for an opportunity, take advantage of it, and develop it."

Mueller said he loved teaching at MCC, but was too much of a free spirit to stay in teaching. "You have all that free time, but it's predetermined by someone else. Sure you can go skiing. When? Spring Break. Now I can set my own schedule. That was one of the reasons for leaving. The other was income."

During Mueller's 15-day hospitalization, he continued to pursue business. "My business-related telephone bill for 10 days in the hospital was roughly \$400."

Mueller will undergo more operations this summer. It is not known how much use he'll have of his hand. But at the moment he's ahead of the recovery schedule.

"I go to Dallas regularly for therapy. They give me exercises and then I do them myself at home. My time is too valuable for me to sit up there and have somebody walk me through things," said Mueller.

Mueller's positive attitude hasn't wavered. "I've gone through financial crisis, teaching crisis, family crisis — and I don't think that this is anything more to overcome than anything else was. I've had more frustrating experiences.

Friends start medical expense fund

Friends of Ken Mueller and his wife, Kay, have initiated a plan to raise \$10,000 by March 5 to help defray their medical expenses.

Athletic Director Ken DeWeese said, "Ken has helped so many people when they didn't ask for it, and he has been totally unselfish. This is our way of paying him back."

Gifts from \$25 to \$100 have already been received, according to Committee Chairman George Allen. To contribute, contact DeWeese, History Instructor Henry Apperson or Coach Rick Butler. Contributions can be mailed to: Ken Mueller Fund, c/o Dr. David Sibley, 3600 Chateau, Waco, TX 76710.

Huey Lewis turns out serious rock 'n' roll in Sports

REVIEW

By C. ALLIN MEANS

I'll admit it — I went into *Sports*, the latest from Huey Lewis and The News, with a bad attitude. But not without good reason. When Huey was "Working For A Living" and asking "Do You Believe In Love?" on his *Picture This* LP, I said, "Sure, you bet. I believe in love."

Frankly though, I had trouble believing in Huey and The News. The fellows meant well, but it was just too much of a pop effort, with pop undertones, and overtones. Huey and the News Brothers were out to sell records — which is exactly what they did.

But it was hard to take them seriously.

Not anymore. Hugh has turned out some serious rock 'n' roll in *Sports*. I figured on having to play the album two or three times in order to remove myself from my

"Neg-Huey" outlook — to put myself back into a non-biased frame of mind. I was considering it a challenge. No problem. About half way through the album's first tune, "The Heart Of Rock & Roll," I was turning up the volume and scrambling for a lyrics sheet so I could sing along with Huey and the boys.

It's an entertaining tune with a simple format and a stomping beat. No doubt "... the heart of rock & roll is still beating." Johnny Colla whips out a swinging sax, as he does throughout the album, and visions of a background brass ensemble swaying in unison comes to mind.

Huey's voice, rugged, hoarse and hard-hitting, makes you listen. The sandpaper sound rubs right into your "Heart And Soul."

The "News" is capable of some blues, too. Huey blows the harmonica while his backups harmonize the "doo-wops" to produce a toe-tapping

"It's basic, fundamental, straight-forward sing-along, dance-along rock 'n' roll."

pool hall blues piece, and one of the album's best cuts, "Bad Is Bad."

"I Want A New Drug" sort of says what everyone feels at one time or another. Destined to be the second big one released, it's simple and to the point. "I want a new drug... one that won't make me nervous / wonderin' what to do... one that makes me feel the way I feel when I'm with you." It's an easy song to relate to.

Next up is a rockin' tune with a serious message to voice (there's that word *serious* again). It's "Walking A Thin Line" and it vaguely tells the tale of a Nam vet's hassles adjusting to civilian life — and the hassles related to being adjusted to by

those around him. "Blinded by a memory / Afraid of what it might do to me / And the tears and sweat only mock my desperation. Don't you know me I'm the boy next door / The one you find so easy to ignore." The lyrics are clear — and they make you think. Serious stuff.

But then it's time to lighten up. "Finally Found A Home" has no real impact — just an easy-going rocker with no important message. It has a message, nonetheless. "I finally found a home here in a song." Yep, Huey's right there. In an album where *good 'ole rock 'n' roll* is the norm, "Honky Tonk Blues" doesn't fit. It's a re-make of the 1948 Hank Williams classic. It was a classic

then, and it still is, in the country world, which is where this tune should have been laid to rest. This down home, good ol' tune is... well, it's certainly old.

"You Crack Me Up" says everything that we've all wanted to tell someone at one time or another. It has some great morning-after-a-hellacious-party lines like "Underneath that ghostly pale, is that you? Someone in your shape shouldn't be driving. Someone in your shape shouldn't be doing anything at all... You crack me up, you twisted wreck." It's a laughable, danceable, smart-alecky tune with some interesting bass playing.

Let's see, what songs have we left out? "Heart And Soul" and "It This Is It." One is an overplayed pop tune flashback to the pop charts Lewis of albums past; the other is lifeless and takes no chances. So why mention either? Why dwell on a couple

of dull fillers and an overplayed teen pop "hit" when there's almost an entire album of good music here? After all, even the "artists" of the music world need a mass applier such as "Heart And Soul." That's how they get rich — and that's how they catch an album on.

All through the album, Huey's getting to the people — singing the lyrics people want to hear and provoking responses like "Yeah, I can relate to that," mixing country, blues and rock, and perfecting the sound that is Huey Lewis and The News.

It's basic, fundamental, straight-forward, sing-along, dance-along rock 'n' roll.

It's the kind of music you play before you go out on a weekend night. These guys are some serious musicians with a relaxed, casual sound — and Huey's for real this time — seriously.

Scenic Hawaii sets stage for 'Most Beautiful Girl in the World' (?)

REVIEW

By C. ALLIN MEANS

Monday, Jan. 30, produced what just might have been the funniest show ever aired on network television. Was it *Newhart*? Nope. How about *AfterMASH*? A definite nope.

It was *The Most Beautiful Girl In The World* pageant. Oh no, not another beauty pageant. But wait, it wasn't supposed to be a comedy was it? I don't know, but it sure kept me laughing — for nearly two hours.

Here's the deal. A "panel of experts" supposedly went to 21 countries across the planet in order to find the 21 most beautiful "girls" in the world. And from that, the most beautiful woman in the world was to be chosen "by you, the viewing audience."

How exciting. A 1-800 telephone number was set up for vote-casting and relayed across the Pacific to "beautiful, scenic Hawaii" where the contest was being held.

Of the three finalists, narrowed

"These beauties had trouble walking across the pier with 'beautiful Hawaii' as their backdrop."

and selected through the course of the program by a panel of judges comprised of such experts as Don Ho, a winner was chosen and crowned "The most beautiful girl in the world." Contestants were supposed to be judged on "grace, carriage, poise, personality and physical beauty."

Did you say grace and poise? Well, that would give the ax to at least half the field. These beauties had trouble walking across the pier with "beautiful Hawaii" as their backdrop.

A couple of plastic (and very appropriate) hosts rounded out this comedy's cast — David (Knight-rid-er) Hasselhoff and Jayne Kennedy.

If you noticed the list of requirements, talent was not among them, just as grace and poise shouldn't

have been. Thank goodness, talent was excluded. The closest demonstration of "talent" was the — are you ready for this? — aerobic dance competition.

In this segment those contestants who could dance, did. Those who couldn't (i.e., the majority) just bounced around the stage — a certain crowd pleaser. Have aerobics now reached Swaziland? Have they even heard of aerobics in Swaziland?

Swaziland. Where is Swaziland? I want to know how they find these girls. Did one of the brave "experts" drive across this country in his zebra-striped Jeep until he found his beauty? Or was she a New York model who, when asked where she was from, may have said "I was born in Swaziland." Then the ex-

pert said, "You be our Swaziland girl."

Honestly, aerobic dancing competition? I was just waiting for the wet T-shirt contest and the mud-wrestling competition. Amazingly, none managed to stumble into the plastic fountain which cluttered center stage.

Thank goodness the contest took place in beautiful, warm Hawaii. Most of the contest took place in bathing suits (two-piece, of course).

And with the sound Michael "Maniac" Sembello in the background — the Muzak version — the "finalists" strutted and stumbled across stage yet another time in, of course, bathing suits.

Air Supply and Engelbert Humperdinck provided the live music

throughout the show. Personally, I preferred the Muzak version of "Maniac." Air Supply, jamming from the jungles of Hawaii had obviously plugged their electric guitars into coconut trees.

And while the 10 minutes allotted for "you, the viewer" to cast votes were ticking away, good old Engelbert sang what has to be the most worn out "beauty pageant" song of all time. That's right, you guessed it — "You Are So Beautiful To Me." Dull tune, Engelbert.

The woman from Great Britain finally took the crown by a whopping 63.5 percent of the tallied votes, and gorgeous she was. She could probably win a *real* beauty pageant.

Incidentally, Miss Swaziland didn't make the final three.

"Air Supply, jamming from the jungles of Hawaii, had obviously plugged their electric guitars into the coconut trees."

And what did second and third places receive? First place took back to Britain more than \$100,000 total in cash and prizes (including a diamond ring and a trip around the world). Second and third received \$7,500 and \$2,500 in cash, barely enough to fly them back to their own countries. (It may not have been enough for a trip back to Swaziland).

Show some respect. After all, they wore the second and third most beautiful women in the whole world. Is that worth only a tenth of the big prize.

Those who weren't tuned into *Newhart* or *AfterMASH* should have been — unless they *really* needed a laugh.

The beauty from Britain was certainly an appropriate winner. She actually displayed a little grace and poise. But after two hours of viewing (our black and white only picks up one channel), all I could manage to say was — big deal.

I've seen better women at South Padre.

6 Editorial/Opinion

Editorial

Leave abortion an individual choice

By HIGHLAND HERALD STAFF

The editorial policy of the *Highland Herald* usually requires signed editorials from individuals. In this respect, this editorial is unusual because it reflects the opinion of the *Highland Herald* staff.

On Jan. 22, 1973, in *Roe v. Wade and Doe v. Bolton*, the United States Supreme Court affirmed a woman's constitutional right to choose, after consulting with her physician, whether or not to have an abortion — the termination of a pregnancy. The debate had raged for many years and has continued, becoming more heated as the years progress.

The Court's decision was a correct and just decision and a victory for individual rights in the U.S.

Many proponents of legalized abortion provide sound arguments. Women who are raped are able to abort a baby neither planned nor perhaps even wanted. Unwanted children suffer numerous physical and psychological abuses. Adults unfit for parenting subject children to many of these abuses.

Many unwanted children end up in the streets, abortion proponents add, without a good home or guiding force. These children grow into adult criminals, many times

By making abortion illegal, the government would infringe on the rights of other individuals to express an opinion.

through no fault of their own, but through the fault of being unwanted and neglected. An aborted fetus is spared a life of this kind of suffering.

Proponents also cite the horrors of unsafe and unsanitary abortions, performed in secret before abortions were legalized. These proponents feel that criminalization of abortion would cause a return to these clandestine operations.

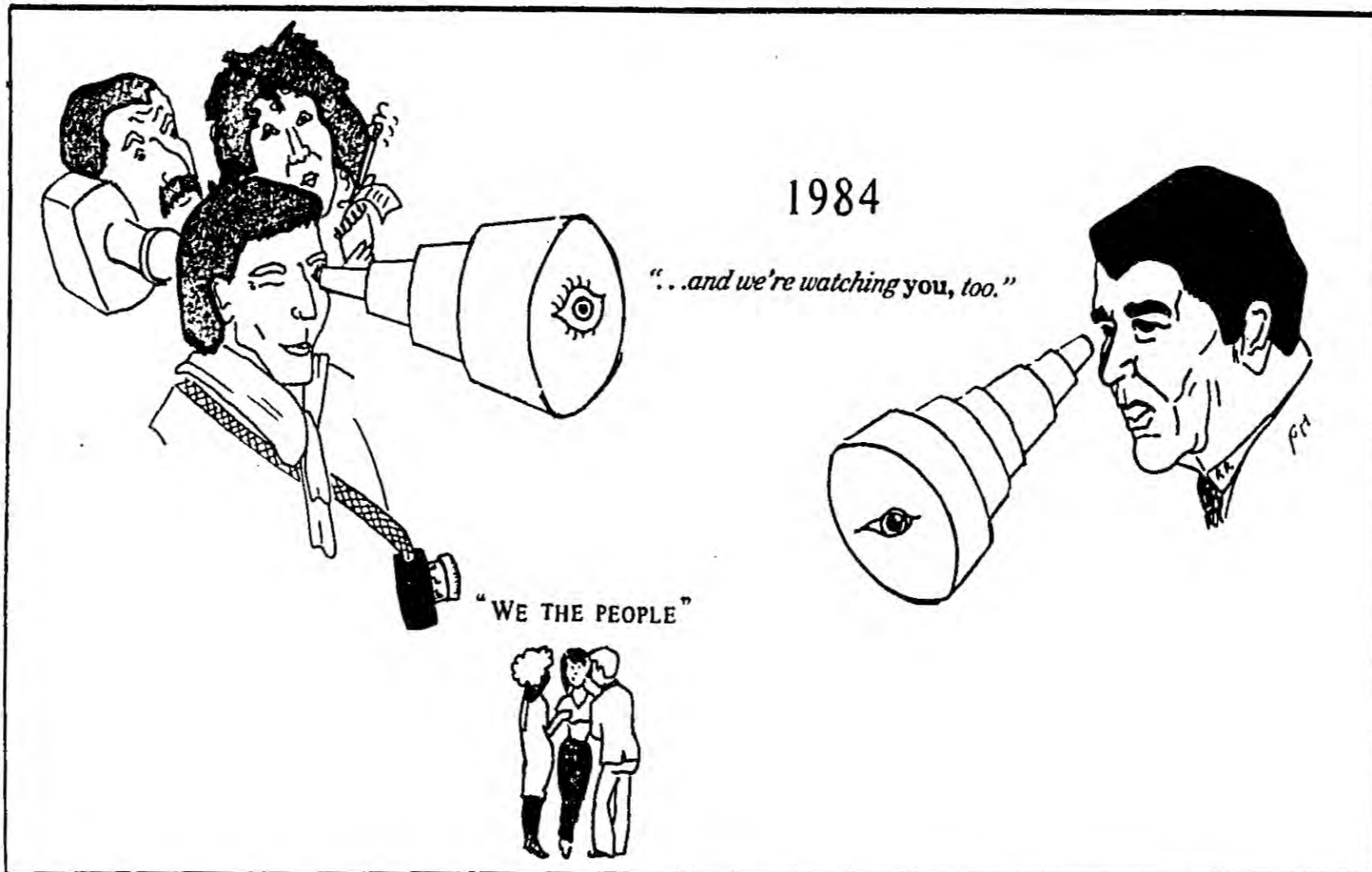
Other factors include the health of the mother, and the effects of the completion of a full-term on a mother. Also considered are conditions of the fetuses. Some fetuses have a high probability of being severely deformed or mentally retarded.

Opponents of abortion cite the moral and religious aspects. They say that abortion would be murder, much the same as killing an already born baby would be murder.

The central legal question seems to revolve around when life begins. Does life begin at conception, which would legally make abortion murder, or does life begin at birth? The courts have not made a decision regarding that question.

Perhaps that is the answer in itself. The opinions vary from person to person. We feel that any law making abortion illegal could only be based on individual opinions. By making abortion illegal, the government would infringe on the rights of other individuals to express an opinion. Such a law would restrict the woman's right to choose for herself whether an abortion was for her well-being or not.

Regardless of moral, religious, health or any other aspects of the pros and cons of abortion, the central question is whether the opinions of some of the population should restrict the opinions of all the population. Let abortion remain an individual decision.



Columnist alarmed as 'Mikees' cult grows

Thousands gather around him whenever he goes. Millions worship him. At the mere sound of his voice, hordes become hypnotized under the power of this idol.

Is he the Anti-Christ? Jerry Falwell may think so. The thousands who gather around this prodigy have formed a powerful cult.

Yes, Bible-totin' Granny Gumdrop, to the People's Temple cult, to the Hare Krishna, to the Moonies, add yet another crazed group of entranced people — Mikees.

As in Michael Jackson: pop star, idol of millions, winner of every award that Tiny Tim ever coveted.

This superstar business has gotten a little out of hand. As I was checking out a customer where I work I heard a shrill scream. The stabbing cry uttered "Michael Jackson!"

Not sure of whether the star himself was making a special appearance at my store (seeing as how it was rush hour, he would have had quite an astonished audience) or another Mikee was going into an emotional, religious convulsion upon seeing The Master on another magazine, I quickly reached for a Pepsi bottle, hop-

ing the sight would send the screamer running in terror.

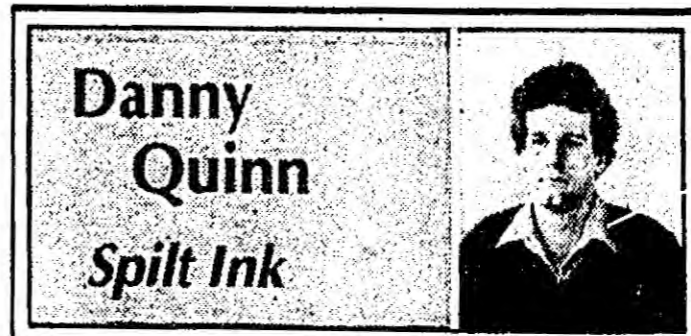
About that time a girl ran from the magazine rack. "Mommy!" she screamed. "It's Michael Jackson on the cover!"

I slowly set down the Pepsi bottle. There had been no use for it. But I keep it with me now. Mikees are everywhere. An elderly lady went on and on about how Jackson should sue Pepsi. As she strutted out the door, tunes from "Thriller" seeped from her Walkman ear-phones.

Magazines have plastered his face on so many covers that Moral Majority is planning a massive magazine burning to fight this rapidly growing cult.

Jesse Jackson seems to be gaining ground in the race for the Democratic Presidential nomination. He's been claiming that he "is somebody" for so long, everyone is beginning to think that what he is is Michael's brother.

Former Interior Secretary James Watt's home has been bombed by Mikee extremists for saying that Jackson has "given Pepsi a bad name." Prodded by his wife Nancy, President Reagan castigated Watts, and told reporters, "Michael Jackson is a fine and talented musician who has done only good for Amer-



Lynda Yezzi Outspoken



Old habits die hard; smokers die quicker

I thought long and hard before writing this column. The subject I want to write about is controversial and all too real for me.

Let's talk about smoking. Not smoking in general, but the long-term effects smoking has on the person doing it.

I started to smoke once. It was in the seventh grade. Two of my friends and I decided it would make us look cool. We looked great, all green and gagging in a little circle. After we stopped swooning, we figured that if we didn't inhale, we wouldn't have to worry about turning colors.

We finally decided to quit, though. It

wasn't worth all the packages of Dentine and all the bottles of Binaca. It also wasn't worth 70 cents a pack.

I've been around people who smoke all my life. Some of them didn't make it. I never actually went into the room of one of my relatives or friends when they lay wasting away with cancer, but I did manage to make it through the funeral services. But I don't know how many more I can take.

This column is dedicated to my father. He is 42 years old and still alive, but he has started to smoke again. I remember

when we found out he had emphysema.

We all sat around the kitchen table and cried because of the way he had shortened his life. He gave up smoking then — for a while.

But he started again. And he got pneumonia. I remember going into my room and praying that he wouldn't die, because he was coughing and wheezing so bad. The doctor made him give up smoking after that. My Dad said he never wanted to see another cigarette again "as long as he lived."

Now I want to say, "Daddy, if you won't quit for yourself, would you please quit for me?"

Letter to the editors

Critiquing the 'Highland Herald:' notes to and from editor

To the Editors:

MCC has established a newspaper that very well may be comparable to the likes of the well-respected *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, and *National Enquirer*. The balance of noteworthy journalism and campus gossip makes the *Highland Herald* so intriguing that many puppies and parakeets may find it difficult to defecate.

The vast amount of sports news will certainly keep the campus jocks well informed, assuming they can read.

The highlight of the *Herald* is undoubtedly the "Spilt Ink" column written by the co-editor, Danny Quinn. Mr. Quinn obviously put a lot of deep thought and preparation into his article. After ten paragraphs of saying absolutely nothing, one wonders why Mr. Quinn isn't a political science major.

One thing can be said in defense of the *Herald*. It is printed on quality paper

David Bentley

Editor's note:

Dear Mr. Bentley:

As Andy Rooney said in a letter to the editor printed in the *Washington Journalism Review*, "Considering how many character flaws I have, I'm always surprised at how surprised I am that someone hates me. God knows, I've got it coming. As a matter of fact, I agreed with many of the terrible things the writer (you) said about me."

Then Andy Rooney quoted Robert Benchley: "It was 20 years," Benchley said, "before I realized I didn't write very well, but by that time I was too rich and famous to quit."

P.S.: Political Science is my minor. And with your excellent writing ability, you should consider signing up for Journalism 351. I would enjoy being your editor.

D.G.

Tracey Thompson joie de vivre



Extraordinary fashion sparks lasting friendship

Friendship is a weird thing. The first time I laid eyes on Larry Hauk was in the lobby of the Twin-60s Inn in Dallas.

Journalism students from throughout Texas had gathered to partake of the fruits of our annual Spring convention.

For this annual rite of passage we had decided to dress as weirdly as possible without being thrown in jail or offered money to perform strange acts.

I had the gall to think that maybe we'd be able to spark a few career changes in the minds of those who didn't belong — to make them think that journalists were twisted and decadent, that we had no compassion for those who didn't have the courage to make fools of themselves in public.

We felt that getting a few hundred of our competitors to change majors would be a great coup. Not that these mindless vegetables from such places as Bee County College or East Texas State would ever go anywhere — it was just the principle. (And at this point, we sincerely hope these mindless vegetables have a sense of humor.)

Anyway, back to the lobby of the Twin-60s. Our attire was stereotypical of those who have long and frequent residence at state hospitals. Former Associate Editor Harold Manning and I had decided to dress like our guru, Mr. Gonzo Journalism himself, Hunter S. Thompson.

We wore flowery Hawaiian shirts and fishing hats, complete with fly hooks. We wore dark sunglasses to protect our eyes

I was demoralized. We had been out-weirded. But I should have expected it.

from the glare of dimly-lit corridors. We thought we were cool. Pretty hot stuff.

As we were kicking back on one of the plush couches in the lobby — reveling in the fact that everyone was avoiding us with obvious disgust — we heard shrieks from men, women and pseudo-journalists everywhere.

I shot out of my seat, fishhook in hand in case things got nasty, and broke through a tight ring of people. That's when I saw Larry Hauk.

He was swaying back and forth on one foot, spilling his beverage into the face of a nun who lay unconscious at his feet. (In the interest of truth, there was no nun, but there should have been.) Hauk was babbling incoherently — (something about Dan Rather's pullover sweaters).

There was no doubt about it. Hauk was wonderful in his awfulness. He was wearing a prehistoric SWTSU band uniform that, no doubt, had once belonged to an itinerant trumpet player. It smelled strongly of moth balls and stale beverage. But that wasn't the worst of it.

On former occasions, the uniform was purple and white. But the purple had bled into the white and the white had bled into the purple, so that the uniform now resembled a junior high school student's first attempt at abstract art. You know, a tube of white in one hand and a tube of purple in the other and get-the-heck-out-of-the-way.

I was demoralized. We had been out-weirded. But I should have expected it. A former MCC journalism student himself, the damage on Hauk had been done before he transferred to SWTSU.

Things got progressively worse. I discovered that Larry had outfitted the whole SWTSU staff in similar uniforms.

We decided the only way to cling onto any shred of dignity was to take on these purple pagans in a game of "touch" football.

The game was close until former MCC staffer Randall Hill picked off an errant pass and began to gallop on a straight path to goal line glory. SWTSU sportswriter Burt Henry, relaxing on the sidelines, had other ideas. He sprang onto the gridiron and began to pursue Hill. He tackled a stop sign instead of Hill.

Henry was rushed to the hospital, where he received a basic lesson in what it's like to be a piece of fabric.

We assumed we had finished SWTSU off for the remainder of the convention. No such luck.

Henry arrived to the formal awards banquet with a big, white turban on head. Hauk sported a turban on his head. And the entire SWTSU staff had white turbans on their foreheads. Later, we glumly packed away our flowery Hawaiian shirts and put on white polos. We admitted defeat. We just couldn't compete.

Hauk is now gainfully employed by a newspaper in Laredo. We visit him as often as we can. He's still perverted, twisted and sick. His normalcy is only an act.

But Larry taught me a valuable lesson that day in Dallas — a lesson that Hunter S. Thompson once summed up perfectly — "When the going gets weird, the weird turn pro."

Highland Herald

McLennan Community College

1400 College Drive Waco, Texas 76708
Phone 817/756-0551

EDITORIAL BOARD

Editors Greg Pedro
Chief Photographer Danny Quinn
Adviser Al Means
Cassy Jordan

POLICY STATEMENT

The *Highland Herald* is a publication of journalism classes at McLennan Community College and is published every other week from September through December and January through May. No off-campus advertising is accepted.

The campus newspaper is printed by the *Waco Tribune-Herald*. Opinions expressed are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the views of the MCC administration.

The *Highland Herald* is a member of the Texas Intercollegiate Press Association and the Texas Community College Journalism Association.

LETTERS POLICY

Letters are welcomed. We reserve the right to edit all letters. Letters must be signed before they can be considered for publication. Deliver letters to the *Highland Herald* office on the third floor of the Student Center.