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Project Angel Tree

Help needed in providing Christmas joy for children of prison inmates

"It's not a wonderful thing when you walk into a home and see the little children when they have no shoes or food. These children are not responsible for what has happened. I encourage you to come take an angel off the tree and help us provide the joy of Christmas to each and every one of these children." Sharon Eads.

By MIKE MELTON

Project Angel Tree, located in the Richland Mall, is a ministry of prison fellowship whose objective is to provide the joy of Christmas to the children of prisoners with the support of the community and its churches. It is the only organization authorized and accepted by the Texas Department of Corrections benefiting the children of inmates. The Picadilly entrance provides easy access to Project Angel Tree which is located in front of J.C. Penney.

Project Angel Tree begins with the chaplain in each prison handing out request forms to inmates each year in June. The inmates specify their children's sex, age and address. Waco Coordinator Sharon Eads then takes this information and begins contacting the families and children of inmates.

In the Central Texas area some 400 inmates and 700-800 of their children are served by the project annually. Eads said some of the addresses she receives are several years old and due to circumstances are sometimes "last known addresses." Applications for the project are kept confidential as inmates and their children reserve the right to privacy.

Working with the information



Photo by MIKE MELTON

PROJECT ANGEL TREE SUPPORTERS Bill 'Cap'n Kuyava, MCC Microcomputer Applications graduate Darla Pritchett, Angel Tree Coordinator Sharon Eads and motorcycle enthusiast Johnny reflect the success of last year's motorcycle enthusiast toy run and the joy of Christmas they provide for children of prison inmates. Project Angel Tree is located in the

Richland Mall near J.C. Penney and is the only organization authorized and accepted by the Texas Department of Corrections benefiting children of TDC inmates. Last year over 300 area motorcyclists participated in the Angel Tree Toy Run and more are expected this year.

provided, Eads will go to any length to contact the families and children. The children are given two or three wishes for Christmas and an angel containing the child's first name is hung on the Project Angel Tree Christmas tree located in the Richland Mall. The public then selects an angel from the tree, and the toys are purchased and returned to the tree. The gifts are then distributed to the children. "I am definitely set to help these children, I guarantee you. These children and their families will have their wishes and food for Christmas if I have to finance it out of my own pocket," said Eads.

This year 11 churches from all denominations in the greater Waco area are participating in Project Angel Tree. The churches provide volunteers to attend the

angel tree and sponsor many children by taking an average of 50 names off the tree. Central Freight Lines also provides generous support by delivering gifts to surrounding Waco area. The drivers enjoy their participation because they get to play Santa Claus for the children. "I would like to say a special thank you to all the churches and Central Freight Lines for their participation in making this project an annual success," said Eads.

Darla Pritchett, 1991 microcomputer applications graduate, spends most of her free time during the holiday season as a volunteer for Project Angel Tree. Pritchett distributes information and organizes sponsors for the project.

"Some of these children don't even have a warm house, a warm

coat, a warm meal or even shoes. As a former MCC student, I learned that jumping in and getting involved in the community is reward enough, just like getting an education, it's part of growing up and the real world," Pritchett said.

Local motorcycle enthusiast annually hold a "Toy Run" for Project Angel Tree. Each motorcyclist brings a toy and gathers at the local Harley-Davidson motorcycle dealership where they depart on a Christmas parade to the Project Angel Tree Christmas tree at the Richland Mall. Last year over 300 motorcyclists participated in the toy run and their contributions made Project Angel Tree an overall success. This year the local motorcycle organizations are having a benefit for Project Angel Tree

at Runt's on the Old Dallas Highway Dec. 11.

Many of the prisoner's families are in need of food at Christmas time and Eads encourages the public to consider food donations as well. Businesses or people wishing to donate food or special gifts are encouraged to call 753-5441. Also many families have teenage children who need coats and clothing with the same urgency as their younger siblings. Medium and large men's sizes and ladies size 10, 12 and 14 are needed so the teenagers in these families can experience the same joy of Christmas as their younger brother or sister.

"I'm asking everyone to think of their own family," Eads said. "Someone has probably been touched by some type of tragedy.

Whether they've had a family member go to prison or be killed in an auto accident, they have children that have been left behind. These children are not responsible for what has happened. I would like to ask you to please come help take care of these children, they need to be taken care of at Christmas. It's not a wonderful thing when you walk into a home and see the little children when they have no shoes or food."

Project Angel Tree provides the children of inmates the special chance to experience the joy and love of Christmas they might not otherwise be able to enjoy. Project Angel Tree also provides hope to TDC inmates and helps them turn their lives around in a positive manner with Christian ministry, fellowship and love.

Speech team ranked top among 2-year colleges

By ELISHA NIEMEYER

The MCC speech team was recently named the over-all top junior college at the Turkey Trot Tournament.

The tournament was divided into two portions. The first competition was held at The University of Texas at Austin and the second was

held at San Antonio College.

During the competition at UT, Morio Witt, sophomore, placed first in informative speaking, Carrie Spencer, sophomore, placed third in dramatic interpretation, and also placed fourth in informative speaking. Gavin Maasingill, the only freshman team member, placed fifth in informative speaking.

During the second competition at San Antonio College, Spencer placed first in informative speaking, fourth in prose, and sixth in poetry. Maasingill placed fourth in informative speaking while Witt placed sixth in the same competition. Barry Sullivan, sophomore, also placed fifth in informative speaking.

The team finished competing

for this semester, but it is already beginning to prepare for a busy spring semester.

In March, the team members will be traveling to Florida to compete in the Phi Rho Pi Nationals, and in April they will be competing in the American Forensic Association Nationals (AFA) in Kansas.

The AFA is the toughest competition to qualify for. MCC will be competing against all small colleges and major universities. "Students are soon at AFA and get scholarship offers from all over the United States," speech coach Linda Dulin said.

At the end of April, the team will be participating in the old-time speech contest in the country,

the Interstate Oratorical Association (IOA) in Anchorage, Alaska.

The IOA is a persuasive speaking contest. Each state is eligible to have two representatives competing.

This year Witt will be representing Texas. She placed first at the Texas Intercollegiate Forensic Association and qualified for this position. The second place representative is from UT, and MCC's Spencer placed third to qualify as an alternate at the tournament.

MCC will be the only junior college competing in the IOA in all of the United States. Last year both Texas representatives were from MCC.

"People who aren't familiar with the forensic competitions don't understand the work and time commitment that it requires," Dulin said.

This year's speech team won a sweepstakes award at every tournament it attended this semester.

According to Dulin, most of teams MCC was competing against were two to three times larger.

"The pay off is very big," Dulin said, "all sophomore students are receiving scholarship offers from major universities from all over the U.S."

Any student interested in trying out for the 1994-95 team should contact Dulin.

News Bites

14 named to 'Who's Who' in colleges

Fourteen students have been selected for the 1994 edition of "Who's Who Among Students in American Junior Colleges." They are Adelena Amaro, Carolyn Baker, Holly Devorsky, Hiram Ervin, Monique Moseley, Rachel Reasoner, Orlando Rodriguez, Merry Witt and Juanita Alexander, all of Waco; Gary Mach of Abbott; Rebecca Rudd of Hewitt; Lisa Sadler of Mexia; Julie Scorza of West; and Harrison Ward of Crawford. Campus nominating committees and editors of the annual directory have included the names of these students based on their academic achievement, service to the community, leadership in extracurricular activities and potential for continued success. A more detailed story on these students will be in the next edition of the *Highland Herald*.

Duncan, Schwarz to retire this semester

Two longtime instructors at the college, Jonnie Duncan, program director of interpreter training, and James Schwarz, biology department, will retire at the end of this semester. A reception for Schwarz will be held Thursday from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in the Science Building Lounge. He has twice been the college's nominee for the Piper Award for teaching excellence. Duncan has been an instructor here for 13 years but has worked in the field for 40 years. Duncan said she will still be available for teaching when the college needs her and will continue to support the interpreter training program because it is a quality program. She will also conduct workshops during the summer.

Orientation students to get lunch, prizes

A luncheon for students in orientation classes will be held Wednesday from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. in the Community Services Center. Janice Beran, director of developmental studies, said this would be a great time for such students to get a free meal, relax and perhaps win a door prize. "I tell my students this is our way of congratulating them for completing their first semester in college and a way to wish them future academic success since they are all 'Master Students' now," she said. Through the efforts of Nancy Silva about 50 door prizes will be given away including large hardback dictionaries (from our publisher), MCC t-shirts, food certificates, and movie passes. Call ext. 536 or 728 for additional information.

MCC's United Way gifts top \$14,000

Faculty members, staff and administrators contributed \$14,539.80 in this year's United Way campaign, according to Jane Gamez and Amy Fitzgerald, co-leaders of the campus campaign. Anyone who has forgotten and would like to make a last minute donation should contact Fay Gutierrez as soon as possible at ext. 501.

College prominent in Dec. 11 concert

The Waco Civic Chorus will sponsor its annual "Christmas Festival" at 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 11, at Waco Hall.

The concert, which has become an annual tradition, will feature the Waco Civic Chorus and the McLennan Community College Chorale, the Waco Girls Choir, the Waco Boys Choir, the Baylor University Men's Glee Club and the Midway High School Girls Choir.

Members of the Waco Community Band will play Christmas carols in the foyer prior to the concert.

Patterned after Robert Shaw's Christmas Festival with the Atlanta Symphony and Chorus, the program will feature continuous music with no pause between selections. The music will include selections from Handel's "Messiah," Christmas carols and a variety of traditional seasonal music. The audience will participate on several songs.

Conductors for the concert will include Jack Boyd, Renee Broome, Wesley Gilliland, Howard Thompson and Donald C. Balmos, Waco Civic Chorus musical director.

Public admission is \$5 and tickets will be available at the door.

Former HH staffers get promotions

Former MCC students who once worked on the staff of the *Highland Herald* have recently been employed or received promotions in area newspapers. Bruce Cummings was recently named publisher of *The Marlin Democrat*. Cummings, a 1991 graduate of The University of North Texas, worked his way up as reporter and then general manager of the *Democrat*. Learie Austin was recently named copy editor of the *Waco Tribune Herald*. Last spring he was the editor of the *Highland Herald*. Sam Allgood, another former *HH* editor, has been named assistant city editor of the *Temple Daily Telegram*. He graduated Magna Cum Laude in May from the University of Texas at Arlington. Jeff Calaway, former sports editor of the *Highland Herald* and the *Baylor Lariat*, is now sports editor of the *Lewisville Leader*. Sarah Wartes, editor of the *Highland Herald* in 1991, became editor of the *Burnet Bulletin* earlier this year. Mary Kujawa, another former *HH* editor, is currently on the staff of the *Battalion* at Texas A&M University. Kim Sutton, last year's *HH* sports editor, is on the staff of the *University Star* at Southwest Texas State University.

Miss Waco Pageant accepting entries now

The Miss Waco Scholarship Pageant is accepting entries for the pageant on Jan. 29. A part of the Miss America Scholarship Pageant includes a talent competition and an interview. Females from the ages of 17-24 may compete. The deadline for entries is Jan. 18. Call 776-1782 for more information.

Library extends hours for finals

The Library will extend their hours Thursday and Friday, Dec. 8 and 9 7:45 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Volunteers needed for toy drive

The Baptist Student Union is sponsoring a toy drive for children in Hillcrest Baptist Medical Center. The drive is also sponsored by First Baptist Church of Elm Mott. Volunteers are needed to donate toys and to deliver them. For more information, contact the BSU at 754-1989.

Volleyball tournament postponed

The League of United Latin American Citizens has postponed the volleyball tournament originally scheduled for December. The club plans to hold the tournament in February.

Clothing drive underway

The Intercampus Council is accepting donations for its clothing drive. Clean, folded clothes and blankets can be brought to the Gameroom. All donations will be given to the Salvation Army.

Jingle Bell Run Saturday

Student Government invites all students to participate in the Jingle Bell Run Saturday at Midway High School. Proceeds from the event will benefit the Arthritis Foundation. For more information, call 772-0303.

HOT Link Career Day attracts over 1,800 students from six counties

By KOLBY MEREDITH

The 1993 HOT Link Career Day was held on Nov. 10 at the Waco Convention Center. Local colleges such as Baylor, Texas State Technical College, Four C College, and MCC participated in the event.

The purpose of the HOT Link Career Day is to present all of the careers that are in demand

locally, and to help students to start thinking of what career they may want to pursue after they graduate from high school. There were also opportunities for the students to have some hands-on experience, such as taking a tour through an ambulance and the chance to help in the demonstration of some life saving techniques which

were given by the MCC nursing department.

This year the event was primarily focused on 8th graders from Freestone, Limestone, Hill, Bosque, Falls, and McLennan counties. More than 1,800 students attended.

Through the day, there were various presentations given by different departments of the col-

leges. The MCC nursing department did a presentation to demonstrate the different things involved in the nursing program at MCC.

"It was really good. I think it really got the students interested in what is available for them as far as education and college," said Mike Jones, director of student and community relations.

Nursing program claims another high mark in national test

By J. JASON ADAMS

Nursing graduates look to the final stage of their program when they take the National Council Licenser Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN) in February. The 44 graduates this December have a high standard to meet since last year's class passed with 100 percent.

"This class will be the last class that will take a paper and pen exam," said Alice Meyers, program director, Associate Degree Nursing. The May graduating class will take a new computerized test. They will make individual appointments at the Sylvan Learning Center in Waco instead of driving to the current test location in Austin.

"That's exciting because the results will be back so much faster. Now it's like six or seven weeks before the students get the results," said Meyers. "When they take the computerized test

they will have the results back in two to three weeks."

The class that graduated in May had 103 students take the NCLEX-RN with 101 passing. The December 1992 graduating class had 25 students take the exam and 25 passed.

This success is nothing new to the nursing program. The May 1992 graduates had 97 students take the examination with 90 passing. The December 1991 graduates had 16 students take the examination with all passing.

Along with the national computerized testing, the nursing program is also moving toward updating its learning lab.

An innovation in the nursing program is the use of interactive video discs, said Meyers. The lab has also received six new computers, she said, "that we're going to be using to begin to have students be actively involved in the learning process."

Toys for Tots still accepting donations

By KAY MEEK

The Toys for Tots drive will continue at MCC through December 15 and new, unwrapped toys can be donated at the game room in the second floor of the Student Center.

The toys will be delivered to the Marine Corps Reserves who

will donate the toys to Caritas of Waco. Caritas will distribute the toys to the needy children for Christmas.

Toys for Tots has collecting toys 43 Christmas's and last year they collected approximately 4,500 toys for children in Central Texas.

Nancy Ray Mitchell nominated for Piper Award for excellence

By ANNETTE BANKS

A management skills teacher is MCC's nominee for the Minie Stevens Piper Award for teaching excellence.

Nancy Mitchell was nominated for this honor by her peers. "It's a great honor to be recognized. . . I love teaching. I'm glad to get an award for something that I like and think I'm good at," she said.

Several outstanding teachers were on the ballot to be the college's nominee for the Piper Award, and Mitchell was elected for the honor by a faculty-wide vote.

Then came the task of preparing a packet of information to be sent to the Piper Foundation Selection Committee. This packet included letters of commendation from the administration and colleagues.

In April, the top 10 teachers of two-year, four-year and medical colleges in Texas will be picked. These 10 will each receive a gold pin and \$3,000.

Mitchell said she enjoys teaching at MCC "because of its diversities, and more students come by my office than in any other college that I've taught at."

Extraordinary gifts

(Continued from page 3)

It may have been one of the last photographs of my grandparents, and was taken shortly after my aunt and uncle adopted their daughter. She was probably the cutest little child in the world in this photograph.

As I left the house, the family was still enthralled with the memories of life, long ago. I had accomplished my goal. While returning to the highway, my heart decided to stop and pick up the cats, take them with me, and give them a good loving home. As I approached the area, I noticed a car on the side of the road. It was a young couple with two small children. They were picking the cats up and taking them home. My heart soared like an eagle. Merry Christmas to all.

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DARKROOM SINK for sale, fiberglass in good condition, 3 by 8 ft. \$50 or best offer. Call Tom Buckner, 750-3517.

VALENTINE just before Christmas? It's not too early to begin planning your special message to a special person for February's *Highland Herald*. This will be a great way to let someone know how much you care for just \$5 or \$10. A *HH* staffer will be contacting you.

Happy Holidays to everyone from the Highland Herald



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Memories become perfect, extraordinary gifts

By MIKE MELTON
Editor-in-chief

This time last year found me dealing with the annual task of deciding to whom to give Christmas presents, how much money to spend, and how much money to save. I realized that I was putting a price tag on each individual's worthiness as a friend based on importance of merit. Shame on me. Christian fellowship? Reality? How in the heck do you spread it out and spread it around?

I abandoned the aforementioned method of determination, took a step back and considered what each individual would want if they were a child again. I began considering the members of my family first. Inside my mind, the curtains opened to a movie screen which replayed various super-eight millimeter home movies. Remember how neat the color looked in old Kodak color movies?

The movie continued. Family members who are now deceased came to life in my memories. I remembered receiving some wonderful gifts from my relatives. It seemed that the most wonderful gifts were things that were simple and unexpectedly received. My parents worked hard for extra Christmas money, bought me expensive gifts and were probably disappointed to see my eyes glisten with these simple-unexpected gifts. After several brilliant deductions and clever conclusions, I decided memories, sincerity and spontaneity outweighed any price tag. I set out for a course of action.

I went in the attic storage area and started shuffling through boxes. Alas, I discovered my treasure. I found the box of old black-and-white 620 Argus negatives from old family photographs, proceeded to my darkroom and began viewing them. I was stunned. Here were photographs of my entire family, from the time they were young and dating through the time of the invention of the movie camera and the beginnings of their prospective families. These photographs contained timeless memories that were close to the heart of each individual, several even brought tears to my eyes. I had hundreds of great photos and a limited amount of dark-room materials. The hardest part of the job was editing which ones to print. What a perfect gift.

About 300 sheets of Kodak black and white photographic paper later, I wrapped all the presents and hit the road. I decided to make unannounced visits on Christmas day.

I first stopped in Valley Mills at my Aunt Jeanetta's house. I hadn't seen her since I was a toe-headed little boy, probably not in 20-25 years. The doorbell rang. I was shocked when she answered the door. I remembered this lady as being quite beautiful. She is 80 something, she had retained that same beauty. I insisted she open the present before I left. It was a photograph of her family when the children were still quite young. Her deceased husband had a wonderful smile and the family looked quite happy and full of spirit. Another photo was her and her husband before they had the family, when they were young and dating. This woman was at home alone on Christmas day. My gift made her happy in a special way. You can't buy that. After a tear and a hug, I said good-bye.

Northwest to Meridian for the next stop. The highway was untraveled and lonely. It was a cold day and the low cloud ceiling cast a strange light upon the land. While driving down the road, I scanned every beautiful green open field for deer. I reached the area where the fence line along the highway had a prominent tree line. What's that? I saw some little creature about 200 yards ahead of me. Too big to be a squirrel. I saw it again and slowed my vehicle down.

It was a mother cat and her four little kittens. Someone had dumped them on the side of the road. The cats were scrounging through trash thrown on the side

of the highway for food. Some people are heartless scumbags. My Christmas spirit was destroyed. I ripped open a present of Christmas cookies I was going to give to my aunt and slowly approached the cats. The mother cat hissed at me big time. She had obviously been abused.

I threw them pieces of cookies and won their trust. I succeeded in coaxing the cats into the woods on the other side of the fence. Here these poor wretched little abused animals had their faith in mankind momentarily restored while having their Christmas meal and a good back scratch away from the hazards of roadside life. My Christmas spirit was revitalized. Animals have brains, feelings and emotions and are generally forgotten on Christmas. I repeat, some people are heartless scumbags.

Back on the road, I arrived in Meridian, drove up and down the street where my aunt and uncle live, and finally admitted I hadn't been there in so long I didn't remember which house was theirs. I went to a convenience store, called them on the phone and got their address. They have a large family, say no more. They were as shocked to see me as I was them. I entered the front door and was electrified with the Christmas spirit contained inside these four walls.

I handed my aunt a heavy present which contained what seemed like a hundred or more black and white photographs. The entire family soon gathered around and were amazed with the memories. One photograph had my aunt at a youthful age sitting on an old motorcycle. My uncle was hiding behind and peeking around her side. The grandchildren thought this photograph was so hilarious they probably doubted its authenticity. The clincher was an 11-by-7-inch family portrait. This photograph is truly a one-of-a-kind moment in time.

Continued on page 2

'Trash,' panties on the tree, and other holiday traditions

By SHERRY W. EVANS
Senior Associate Editor

Most of us had a traumatic moment in childhood when we had to ask ourselves, "Is there really a Santa?"

After Thanksgiving, when I was in third grade, I decided it would probably be impossible for a fat guy in a red suit to make billions of toys and deliver them all over the world in one night.

I asked my mom about the big bags of "trash" hidden in the closet and trunk of the car, but I never got up the nerve to ask if there really was a Santa. Questioning was the same as disbelieving, and in our house if you didn't believe - you didn't get presents.

By the time I reached middle school, I thought I had things figured out but kept humoring my mom and dad. So they were a little strange at Christmas time.

No big deal, just pretend like you believe and get presents.

Even when I was a senior in high school, I put out a snack and left a note for Santa requesting gifts on Christmas Eve upon my parent's insistence. They said I might wake up to a stocking full of switches if I didn't change my attitude. I was sure they had eaten one too many rum balls, but I didn't want to risk it. They were definitely Christmas fanatics.

Tradition seems to be the big thing with my parents. The note was absolutely necessary for them and Santa always puts Pez in my stocking, hangs panties on the Christmas tree and leaves an enormous box of Whoppers (which I don't even like but are favorites of my Dad).

The first Christmas after my

son was born, my heart was bursting with a new type of love and I figured out how my parents must have felt all these years.

Christmas is more than just exchanging presents and eating a big dinner, it is something wonderful that happens in your heart. Santa Claus leaves gifts in our home to share his joy and excitement about Jesus' birthday. It is the height of the joy our family shares throughout the year.

I believe in the spirit of Santa Claus and I find myself acting kind of crazy this time of year. The only thing I've never figured out is the relationship between Baby Jesus and those panties Santa hangs in the Christmas tree every year.

Rick Powell



EDITORIALS

Don't give up, only seven more days left!

Now is the time for all good students to come to the aid of their studies.

Less than two weeks are left in the semester. You have made it past the many tests. You have made it past the drop date. You have passed the point of no return.

But the most dangerous part of all still looms ahead: final examinations.

Finals probably are the toughest part of any course. Six months' worth of information you thought you would never see again comes back to haunt you as you study for a two-hour exam.

But don't fear. After all, as soon as finals are

over, you have one month to forget about school, forget about tests, and concentrate on the important things in life, like taking back all those Christmas presents you do not want.

Right now, give yourself an early Christmas present. Focus your time on studying for your finals. The Library will have study sessions called "The 11th Hour." The Library will stay open until 11 p.m. on Wednesday and Thursday for students to do last-minute studying.

Find a study buddy and go to the Library. Remember, only seven more studying days are left in the semester.

Salvation Army offers meals, toys to poor

With the holiday season upon us, it's important to remember those less fortunate.

With just a small donation to the Salvation Army, you can help ensure that fewer families in Central Texas will go through this Christmas without a decent meal or without toys for their children.

The Salvation Army has kicked off its annual "Christmas Cheer" campaign. If the Army is able to meet its goal of \$205,000, it will provide food for more than 1,500 families and toys for approximately 4,000 children age 10-and-younger.

As part of its campaign, the Salvation Army will also conduct a "Toys For Kids" drive. You can

donate new, unwrapped toys at the KJNE or WACO-100 studios, Sam's Wholesale Club in Bellmead, the Olive Garden restaurant or at the William Booth Garden Apartments, right around the corner at 4200 N. 19th St.

If you would like to make a cash donation, mail it to the Salvation Army at P.O. Box 242, Waco, Texas 76708 or drop it by its office at 500 S. Fourth St. The Army's kettle stands will be located at both malls and most major department stores where donations will also be accepted.

Please give to the Salvation Army and help make this holiday season brighter for families throughout Central Texas and for yourself.



Have a safe and happy holiday season.
See you next semester!

The Highland Herald Poll

Is there really a Santa Claus?



Todd Gooden
education major

"Yes, because as long as there is hope and good will in the spirit of Christmas people have to believe in Santa. Santa Claus is the idea of giving!"



Jeff Brown
business major

"No, because my parents told me there wasn't a Santa. My house has a chimney, and I've never seen him come down it before."



Donald Hooks
education major

"No, because when I was young I stayed up on Christmas Eve to see Santa and he never appeared. Santa was only in the mall!"



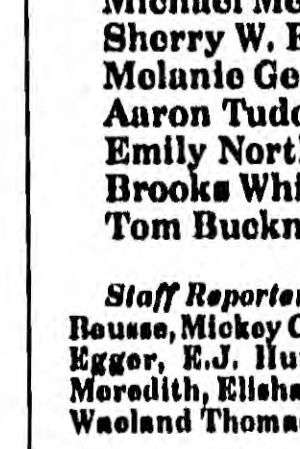
Brian Denman
accounting major

"Yes, there is a Santa Claus because I saw him at the mall."



Mason Miller
agriculture science major

"Yes, because so many cultures and young children really look forward to going to see Santa."



Kirk Muhl
business major

"Yes, there is a Santa for all those who believe the spirit of Santa will always be there."

The Highland Herald Staff

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Teams hot before long holiday break

Landers win 7th straight, Temple next

By AARON TUDOR

The Highlanders ran their record to 11-1, sweeping through the Mr. Gatti's Invitational and downing Collin County in their conference opener.

The men opened the Mr. Gatti's Invitational with a 76-62 win over Panola. Kenneth Benton led the Highlanders with 17 points, while Roderick Monroe scored 16 and Marcus Moss added 15.

In the second game, monster efforts by Moss, Monroe, and Marco Brown helped the Highlanders down Navarro 101-85. Making his first start of the season, Brown responded with 30 point and nine rebounds. Moss scored 15 and added 14 assists and 6 steals, while Monroe chipped in 14 points and 13 rebounds.

The Highlanders opened conference play by defeating Collin County 97-82. Moss led the scoring with 24 points and also dished out nine assists. Brown added 21 points and Monroe scored 19 and pulled down 11 rebounds.

Despite being down late, the Highlanders came back to beat Fort Sill 83-82 Saturday in a non-conference game. A steal and lay-up by Brian Green with five seconds left sealed the victory. Green also led the scoring for the Highlanders with 22 points. Moss had 11 points and 10 assists and Brown and Norman Williams chipped in 15 points apiece.

The key to the Highlanders success this season has been balance. "There's no one or two people you can shut down to beat us," assistant coach Richard Kilgore said. "We've got seven or eight people who can score 20 points on any given night."

Next up for the Highlanders is conference rival Temple Saturday in Temple. "Temple always plays us tough, especially in their gym," Kilgore said. "They play an up-tempo game with lot's of pressing and fast-breaks, and that type of team is always more effective at home."

After the Temple game, the Highlanders take off for the Christmas break and resume play Jan. 4 at Lee College.



OVER THE TOP - Lisa Brown tries to penetrate the tight defense of Blinn here Friday in a nip-and-tuck battle that saw the visitors coming out with an 85-82 win. In the foreground is Pam Gonner. Blinn moved the Highlassies into a 4-6 mark, but the MCC women are perfect in conference play with

a win over Collin County and no losses. Coach Wendell Hudson's team will try to make it 2-0 in the North Texas Junior College race win they travel to Temple Junior College Saturday evening.

Photo by Brooks Whittington

Lassies beat Collin Co. in NTJC opener

By DANA MASON

The Highlassies will be looking to head into the Christmas holidays on a winning note this Saturday when they meet arch rivals, the Temple Leoparquettes, at 6 p.m. in Temple.

The Highlassies (4-6) missed a chance to even their record Friday with their 85-82 loss to Blinn. Top scorers for MCC were Tracie Graves with 28 points while Yong Tran had 17. Ivory Asberry was the top rebounder for the Highlassies with 10.

Coach Wendell Hudson said the team is looking forward to getting off to a good start in the Northern Texas Junior College Conference against Temple. "It's an important game because Temple is a big rival and it's our second conference game," said Hudson. "If we could be 2-0 in conference, it would be great."

MCC won its first conference game by crushing the Collin County Express 99-51 Wednesday night in Plano. Yong Tran led the team with 19 points while Tracie Graves added 17. The Highlassies out-rebounded Collin County, which fell to 0-7 in conference, 52-21.

The Express kept up with MCC early in the first half until the Highlassies went on a 20-2 run. MCC led 51-24 at halftime and Collin never got close in the second half.

Yong Tran leads the team so far this season in assists with 5.2 per game. Ivory Asberry averages 14 points per game as leading scorer while Lisa Brown is averaging 13.3 points. Brown is the top rebounders with 11.6 per outing.

The Highlassies will still practice during finals week, but will then take off until the beginning of January to prepare for a non-conference game. On Jan. 6 they will get a shot at revenge against Blinn in Brenham at 8 p.m. Their third conference game will be Jan. 8 against Weatherford College at the Highlands at 6 p.m.

Champions hold 10-year reunion

By BROOKS WHITTINGTON

On October 12, 19 of the 21 players who were on the 1983 championship baseball team met to celebrate the 10 year anniversary of their victory.

Both players who were absent, Jay Buhner, a major league star, and David Turner, were not there because their wives were expecting babies during the time of the reunion.

The reunion began on the MCC baseball field, and ended on Saturday with a banquet and golf tournament.

The 1983 season was one of the Highlander's best ever. They won 58 games, and the season ended on a wonderful high when the Highlanders beat Middle Georgia College with a score of 15 to 5 in the championship game at the National Junior College Athletic Association World Series in Grand Junction, Colorado, according to the *Waco Tribune-Herald*.

Many of the former championship players are leading successful lives.

In case you missed it . . .

Watch out for Leon

By AARON TUDOR

I'm sure the question on the minds of most Cowboys' fans these days is "Why is Leon Lett still around?" I was wondering the same thing the day after Thanksgiving. You can imagine my shock when I picked up that day's paper and saw Lett still had a job.

Most Cowboys' fans are well aware of Jimmy Johnson's intolerance for players who make mistakes. He has no problem releasing good players who slip up. Ask Curvin Richards. Two fumbles during a blowout win over Chicago last year earned him his walking papers. How about John Roper? He fell asleep during a special teams' meeting. See ya' John. Try the Canadian Football League.

Roper and Richards were both good players. Compared to Lett's goof-up, their mistakes were small. Plus, there's Leon's super-blunder in the Super Bowl. That's two huge mistakes. So why is Lett still a Cowboy while Roper and Richards are waiting for the World League to start up again? It all comes down to one thing: talent.

The fact that Johnson has stood by Lett can only mean that he thinks Lett is going to be something special. Sure, Roper and Richards were good players, but the key word is *good*. The reason Lett is still a Cowboy is that Johnson thinks he has the potential for *greatness*.

That's why Johnson has kept him around despite his mishaps. And that's why he got a huge pay raise at the start of the season even though he's still unproven as a player.

So watch out for Leon in the future, not to make big mistakes, but to make big plays. Johnson doesn't make many bad personnel decisions, and for him to have so much confidence in such a mistake-prone player says something about Lett's ability.

Ruiz brings winning ways from south of the border

By RACHEL SIMONETTE

Javier Ruiz is from Mexico and started playing tennis when he was 8 years old. His family belonged to a country club, and it was there that he was exposed to the game. He said he liked the game and therefore he continued to play. Ruiz won his first tournament when he was 10.

Since then he has won numerous awards. He was a first team National Junior College Athletic Association All American last year. His record last season was 17-3. He and teammate Jonas Andersson won the Rolex ITA Small College Super Bowl earlier this year.

Ruiz was offered a scholarship to attend MCC. Other schools, such as, University of Texas in Austin and University of New Mexico also offered him scholarships. Ruiz said he chose MCC because, "They have a good reputation." He also said that English is his second language and going here would allow him

to improve in the language.

Ruiz's goal is to play professionally. He has played in the junior U.S. Open and has played some professional tennis before coming to MCC. His favorite tennis player is Stephan Edberg.

Ruiz said that when he is playing tennis he has to concen-

trate only on the game. There is usually a minute break when he puts a towel over his head and concentrates. Ruiz said his strong point is his serving volleys. "It is my weapon."

The next tournament for Ruiz will be in February at the Indoor Rolex Championships in Dallas.

Men's Basketball

Dec. 11, Temple, there
Jan. 4, Lee College, there
Jan. 5, Blinn, there
Jan. 8, Weatherford, here
Jan. 12, Cisco, there
Jan. 15, Hill, here
Jan. 22, Grayson, there
Jan. 26, Ranger, here
Jan. 29, Grayson, here
Jan. 31, Collin Co., here
Feb. 2, Temple, here
Feb. 5, Weatherford, there
Feb. 9, Cisco, here

Women's basketball

Dec. 11, Temple, there
Jan. 8, Blinn Classic, there
Jan. 8, Weatherford, here
Jan. 12, Cisco, there
Jan. 15, Hill, here
Jan. 22, Grayson, there
Jan. 26, Ranger, here
Jan. 29, SW Christian, there
Jan. 31, Collin Co., here
Feb. 2, Temple, here
Feb. 5, Weatherford, there
Feb. 9, Cisco, here
Feb. 12, Hill, there

MCC sweeps bowling tournament; Stricke'n Please, Underwood win

By RACHEL SIMONETTE and REBECCA TREVINO

MCC retained the traveling championship trophy by winning the Collegiate Bowling Tournament recently in Killeen.

Three MCC teams took first, seventh and 11th places among the 23 teams from four Central Texas Colleges.

First place winners were members from the team "Stricke'n to Please" with a total pin count of

3,327. Members and their scores were Keith Pierco-566; Michael Turner-476; Kevin Sullivan-458; Brian Tindoll-379 and Nicole Barnes-273.

The MCC team "Brooklyn Bums" finished seventh, scoring a total of 3,024. The scores included Danny Crocker-562; Jennifer Monroe-342; Brooke Bass-332; Krista Guentt-314; Stacy Dameron-200.

The "Mixed Up Strikers" finished in 11th place. Mike Underwood rolled a 659 series to take the top individual honors in the tourney; Randy Oxner-497; Sunny Graham-388; Lannie Geo-302 and Kay Geo-198.

Temple Junior College finished second place with a total score of 3,124.

There will be another tournament in April.

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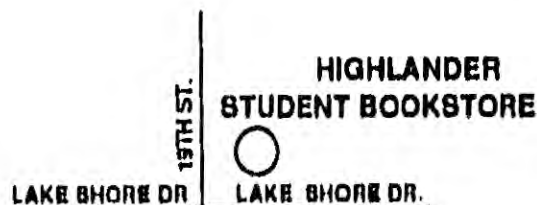
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Humor effective tool for student, author



Lana Robinson

By MELANIE GERIK
She balances life on the farm, family, a career in journalism and school work all with a sense of a humor.

"The Best of Little Spouse on the Prairie" is a collection of student Lana Robinson's humorous "Little Spouse on the Prairie" columns published in 1991 and 1992 in *Texas Agriculture*, the bimonthly newspaper of the Texas Farm Bureau.

Last Saturday, she held a book signing at B. Dalton in Richland Mall for her new book, "The Best of Little Spouse on the Prairie."

Lana works full time as the assistant editor of *Texas Agriculture*. She began her career as a free-lance writer in 1980 and her articles have been published in *Texas Highways* and *Southwest Art* magazines. She was the assistant editor of *The Clifton Record* from 1989-1991 before joining the information and public relations division of the Texas Farm Bureau in Waco.

"I got the cart before the horse and am only now working on a journalism degree," Lana said. She has taken six to nine hours here each semester since 1989 and maintains a 4.0 grade point average.

"Not bad for a 44 year old woman, huh?" Lana said.

This semester, Lana is taking British masterpieces, Business and Professional Speaking and Logic.

Lana's British masterpieces instructor, Linda Hatchel, said, "It's daunting (to have an author in class), to say the least." Hatchel said that she wishes she could say she taught Lana everything

"but unfortunately, she's and has a sonality."

Lana said transfer to versity after summer ses-year. "My 30 school re-1997 and my have my de-then," she Lana com-

"I got the cart before the horse and am only now working on a journalism degree."

mutes from her farm near Cranfills Gap, 50 miles away, each day to work and school. Life with her family on the farm is the source of many of her "Little Spouse" stories.

"Little spouse" the title refers to is Lana's husband, Melvin, or "Mel." In the book, Lana complains about Mel's affection for his worn-out truck, "Ol' Green," and the "virtual hardware store on the dash." She also writes that "Mel's gone haywire!" because of his many uses for the wire left over from baling hay.

She said that even though it seems like she's always picking on Mel, "he's a great fan of mine." She said that he is responsible for "prodding" her to write as a career long before she began free-lancing in 1980.

Lana's son, Eric, is also the subject of some her columns. In the book, Lana said she tried to "indoctrinate" her son on the rules of fashion etiquette, such as "felt hats are for winter, straw ones for summer . . . heavy caps for winter, mesh ones for summer."

Lana said that most of her ideas for her columns start by someone calling her, writing her a letter or mentioning something in conversation that will trigger a memory.

"Writing a column is different than any other type of writing," she said. "I have to be in the right mood and think a situation is humorous, or I have to try and find a way to make it humorous."

Lana said her next column for *Texas Agriculture* might be about a recent pecan-picking outing with her husband. "There he was, a 240-pound guy, in the tree limbs, just to save a few dollars," Lana said. "While this was happening I was thinking, how am I going to write about this?"

Copies of the book are available at B. Dalton or can be ordered from Bedford House, P.O. Box 210726, Bedford, Texas, 76095.

Hanging on to Santa Claus

The following story is from Lana Robinson's book, "Little Spouse on the Prairie." Reprinted with permission from the author.

I was in the fourth grade before I found out there was no Santa Claus. It was a devastating experience because I got into a tangle with my teacher over it.

I loved my teacher, you understand, but she assumed a great big kid like me knew there was no Santa when she shouldn't have. (Obviously, she'd forgotten how long it took me to learn to tell time.)

At any rate, I was the last in my class to know and fought it tooth and nail and argued with her until I was blue in the face.

Not that I had never any doubts. After all, you couldn't help but have a few if you'd seen as many six-foot-tall, one-hundred-and-twenty-five pound Santas with black horn-rimmed glasses standing on street corners in downtown Fort Worth as I had. But Mother assured me those were just Santa's helpers—not the real Santa Claus, who was extremely busy back at the North Pole. And I bought it.

That never worked with Eric. He would ask penetrating, provocative questions about Santa. Sounded more like a prosecutor than a little kid, with questions like "If Santa and his elves built this truck in his workshop, how come it says Tonka on it?" and statements like "If those reindeer had really landed on the roof, their hooves would have damaged the shingles." (The little skeptic.)

Anyhow, after the showdown with my teacher, I confronted my mother and grandmother. The two of them insisted that I had been right and that my teacher didn't know what she was talking about.

To validate Santa's existence, Granny told me how Saint Nick had paid an unexpected visit to her house once when she was a little girl. She said he threatened to take her little sister away unless she and Aunt Kat voted to be good and Uncle Carroll quit being so naughty. Well, I knew Granny wouldn't

story to me, so I went straight back down to the schoolhouse and had it out with that teacher all over again. (Since the rest of those cowards in my class wouldn't speak up, I knew it was all up to me to defend Santa's good name.)

Me not into a scrap on account of Santa once, too. When he was a little guy (many years ago), his older cousin stole his Santa Claus letter, climbed to the top of the windmill tower and stuffed it into the end of a pipe while Melvin stood below crying and yelling at him to bring it back.

After he was done gloating and showing off for all the other kids, the rascally cousin decided to come down. But every time he got close to the bottom of the tower, my husband, who was five years old at the time, awaited the teenager across the back of the legs with a piece of chain. Finally, Lynn went back to the top of the tower and retrieved the letter.

No doubt about it. Melvin said he was prepared to wallop him to death with that chain, if that's what it took, even though Lynn was twice his size. You see, tampering with a kid's letter to Santa is plenty serious business.

When Mel had the opportunity to play Santa in Clifton once, he had more fun than the law should allow. He flew into the municipal airport and rode into the town from there on a fire truck—alright blazing—to a local business where the children had gathered.

Afterwards, he was telling me of his various encounters with the kids, their reactions and expressions . . . and some of their unusual requests. I noticed a twinkle in his eye as he paused to admire his costume in the mirror, and I fully expected he was about to tell me one more tale of some cute little boy or girl climbing up on his knee and making some adorable comment.

Instead, Mel smoothed his beard and sighed. "You know, I've always wanted to ride on a fire truck," he said. "And today, I finally got my chance." Some kids never grow up.

GREAT BRITAIN

Study tour offers a closer look into literature

By SHERRY W. EVANS

She only needs to drink 179,200 cans of Pepsi before the plane takes off for England next summer.

Jennifer Buchanan, business/computer major, collects cans for recycling to earn money for the Great Britain study tour. She lacks \$1,600 of the \$2,950 tour price. "My parents offered to help pay, but I wanted to do it myself," she said. "I definitely drink more Pepsi now."

Jennifer has a "shed-full of cans" ready to recycle after the holidays, but said she has no idea how much it will be worth. The first load of cans only yielded \$3, so she said she wanted to let them accumulate and get more money at once.

Her mother, Lea Ann Buchanan, is the administrative secretary for liberal arts. She placed a box in her office for cans, put boxes in the Science Building and posted signs around campus. "We take home a load every day," Lea Ann said.

Jennifer is not depending solely on recycling to earn the remaining \$1,600. Other income includes a job at Mervyn's, a family garage sale, Christmas and birthday money, and her IRS tax return.

Having signed up for both literature courses, Jennifer said she is anxious to share her views and hear what others have to say about the places they visit. "I've always wanted to go there (Great Britain) and I love literature, especially Shakespeare," she said.

The trip

The Great Britain Study Tour, which can be taken for transferable college credit or for fun, will include overnight stays in London, Bath, Stratford, the Lake District, Edinburgh and York.

The credit courses include four evening classes on campus, readings and lectures at various sites, a tour journal and a final writing assignment after arriving home. Students can enroll in one or both British masterpieces courses, but will participate in activities for both courses.

British Masterpieces I, English 2322, will be instructed by Cheryl Bohde. The tour includes the homes of Samuel Johnson, Milton and Shakespeare; the Beowulf manuscript and the Magna Carta in the British Museum; Canterbury Cathedral, destination of Chaucer's pilgrims; and Stratford, home of Shakespeare, and a performance at the Royal Shakespeare Memorial Theatre.

Also included in British Masterpieces I will be Hampton Court Palace, home of Henry VIII; Bath, center of 18th century life and literature; Hadrian's Wall, symbol of Roman influence on the English language; London sites including St. Paul's Cathedral and Westminster Abbey.

British Masterpieces II, English 2323, will be instructed by Carol Lowe. The tour includes the home of Keats; the Elgin marbles at the British Museum, subject of Keats' poetry; Canterbury Cathedral, historical site of T.S. Eliot's "Murder in the Cathedral"; and Wordsworth's Tintern Abbey.

Also included in British Masterpieces II will be the Lake District, Wordsworth's Dove Cottage and Grasmere Church; Yorkshire and the moors of Bronte's



Photo by Brooks Whittington

THROWING A CAN into the box, student Jennifer Buchanan adds nine-tenths of a cent

"Wuthering Heights"; Robert Burns's Edinburgh, Scotland; Stonehenge and sites of Thomas Hardy's novels.

The \$2,950 tour price includes airfare, hotels, two meals per day, tips, transportation and admissions. Also included are theater tickets in London and Stratford, a boat tour in Lake District, and a Scottish banquet and overnight stay in Lumley Castle.

A \$300 deposit is due by Jan. 21 and final payment is due by March 21. Contact Bohde at 750-3637 or Lowe at 750-3427 for more information.

Going Back

The study tour taken two years ago by a former MCC student impressed her so much that she is returning to England next semester through an exchange program at Baylor.

Anneliese Lillie, secondary education major at Baylor, will attend Westminster College at Oxford from January through March and earn 13 hours credit in education. "I never would have even considered looking into this at Baylor if I hadn't gone on the tour with MCC," she said.

"Reading Wordsworth's poetry on the grass at Rydell Mount (Lake District) helps you understand where his poetry comes from," she said. "It takes you a step up."

She said she was also impressed by the visit to Canterbury Cathedral. "You are standing in the same spot that millions have tracked through . . ." Lillie said.

to her recycling fund. She is saving money for the Great Britain Study tour next summer.

"It's something, the steps are worn down and you can really picture the pilgrims climbing up."

Lillie said the trip added to the study of literature, but was just fine as a trip because they stayed in fancy hotels and ate great meals. "Just to experience another culture is fabulous," she said. "They have a respect for age and history we don't have."



Foreign exchange student Czech'n out Texas

By CLINTON EGGER

With the Iron Curtain drawn, many students from countries formerly held in thrall by the former Soviet Union have been able to visit the United States. Among those are foreign exchange student Radek Havelka from the Czech Republic.

"One of the main reasons I came to the United States is to improve my fluency in English," Havelka said. "I also wanted to learn more about the culture and environment and to share my experiences with my friends and family when I return home."

But in order to be able to come to America, Havelka had to win

a difficult competition conducted by the Masaryk University English department in the Czech Republic.

"It is very hard to win the competition because you must have high grades and be able to leave your family for a long period of time," Havelka said. "You also must pass a dialogue test in which the instructors listen to how well you speak English."

Havelka has plans to eventually become a teacher of either English phonetics or biology in his own country and is currently an assistant to biology instructor Winfred Watkins.

"Teachers are paid less every-

where, no matter what country you're in," Havelka said. "You'll never get rich so they must love the profession. It must be a passion."

While living here, Havelka has had many new experiences. "I have gained a lot from coming here," Havelka said. "Not only have I learned more about the language, I have made many friendships and have become more mature. There is an amazing number of Czechs here so I am not alone and my name is not that unusual."

Havelka already has plans for an extended stay.

"I plan on staying here for a year, but if I am able to get a scholarship or a donation, then I will try and stay two years," Havelka said. "That is, if I don't get really homesick."

Although English is Havelka's second language, he has not had many problems speaking it.

"I have had people think I was from different parts of the country," Havelka said. "One girl even asked me if I was from New York."

Although Texas is great, for Havelka there's still no place like home.

"I'll always like my mother country better," Havelka said, "but if I had to live somewhere else, I'd like to bring my family and live in Texas."

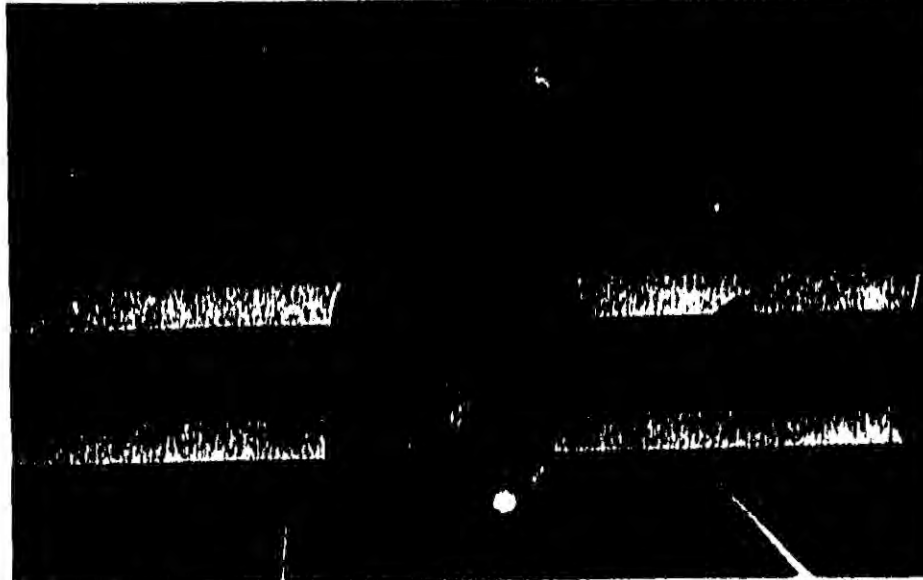


Photo by Brooks Whittington

TAKING A BREAK from work in the biology lab, foreign exchange student Radek Havelka plays a game of ping pong in the game room.

Bits and Pieces

By

Editor-in-chief
MIKE MELTON



River Phoenix 1970-1993

River Phoenix, youthful star of the 1986 film "Stand By Me," collapsed outside of a West Hollywood nightclub Oct. 31 and died. He was 23.

Phoenix was filming the movie "Dark Blood," a Fine Line Features film, which was nearing completion. He made his 1985 film debut in "The Explorers" and gained popular stardom in the 1986 Rob Reiner film "Stand By Me." He also appeared in "The Mosquito Coast" (1986), "Little Nikita" (1988), "A Night in the Life of Jimmy Reardon" (1988), "Running on Empty" (1988), "Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade" (1989), "My Own Private Idaho" (1991) and Robert Redford's "Sneakers" (1992).

Phoenix was named after the river of life in Hermann Hesse's book "Siddhartha" by his parents, John and Arlynn Phoenix, who met while hitchhiking. He spent most of his childhood in Venezuela where his parents became missionaries for Children of God. Most of his childhood was lived on the move in Oregon, Mexico, Puerto Rico, South America and Florida. Phoenix also sang with the band Aleka's Attic.

Cherry blossoms, history & art

Are you a art and/or history lover? Do you want to take a vacation/tour and get the most value for your dollar? The Art Center is sponsoring a trip to Washington D.C. during the cherry tree blossom season to explore the city's historic and artistic treasures as well as its beauty. The trip will be April 6-10.

The trip will include tours of the Phillips Collection, the State Department's Diplomatic Reception Rooms, the National Portrait Gallery, National Museum of American Art, the White House public rooms, Dumbarton Oaks Gardens and Museums, Tudor Place, National Gallery of Art, Washington Cathedral, Embassy Row, U.S. Capitol, Freer Gallery of Art and Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden. This must cost a fortune, right? Wrong.

Cost is \$1,342 per person, double-occupancy, which includes airfare from Waco, hotel accommodations for four nights, four lunches, one dinner and admission fees. Fill your palette with this more for your dollar exploration of Americana. For more information, call 752-4371.

Julia's hall of fame

Julia Child was recently inducted into the Culinary Institute of America's hall of fame. Child is the first woman to be inducted. The 81-year-old Child began a series of cooking shows on PBS in 1963 and has written seven cookbooks. She exposed the pleasures of cooking to Americans and has influenced millions of food enthusiasts as well as professional chefs. Her current cooking show "Cooking With Master Chefs" features the finest and trendiest master chefs from around the world and airs on PBS Saturdays at 5 p.m. She's really cooking!

Sterno's Private Parts

Anyone who has ever been camping knows what Sterno is. Sterno is a pink-flammable-gelatin type substance that turns into a little ball of geeky stuff when it burns out. It was also the only reason the elderly alcoholic in the movie "The Andromeda Strain" survived the germs from outer space. Perhaps this best describes Howard Stern(O)'s latest best-selling book "Private Parts." He will burn out and turn into a little ball of geeky stuff but he won't survive space germs unless he takes some of his own medicine.

When you were a child and your parents took the belt out, spanked you and told you to keep your mouth out of the gutter, they were referring to keeping your mouth out of the Howard Stern. Stern is by no means the father of outspoken gutter-mouths, but he is certainly the current resident of the spotlight. He speaks his mind on any subject with abandon leaving Rush Limbaugh's razor-sharp tongue in the third row of sedate choirboys.

America loves tasteless humor that reflects the idiotic idiosyncrasies of reality. Is this obsession replacing romance novels on the best seller list or baseball and apple pie? Who needs Stern in order to be outspoken and have a bad attitude about everything? Anyone can be that way. Who talks openly about the intimate details of their sex life with their spouse on radio, television and print? Someone who is trying to make a lot of money so they can retire and hide-away before someone puts a bullet in their head.

Luke and Laura

A friend of mine I shall passionately refer to as "A Soap Opera Junkie" twisted my arm and told me about this remarkable piece of soap opera history which was well deserved to be printed in this column. I gave in, popped the pop corn and here it is.

"General Hospital" must have gotten a bigger budget because the daring duo of Laura and Luke returned to the show on Oct. 29. The parents of a 10 year old boy are still on the run and the episodes contain explosions, fire, car chases, helicopters, parachutes, mobsters, catacombs, a deadly waterfall all filmed on location in upstate New York, oh yea, and more fire.

Sounds like the writers of Beavis and Butthead are influencing prime time soap. Fire, fire, fire. This video would be cooler if it had maybe....more fire or something.

MacGyver

He can take a roll of duct tape, box of matches, soda can, plastic drinking straw, paper clips, rubber bands and a Swiss army knife and build a space shuttle but you'll never catch him being called by his first name on the show.

A friend who is a dedicated fan of the show asked me what MacGyver's first name was. I was puzzled, but I habitually set the timer on my VCR. I looked through my tapes and discovered the final episode to the series. So what is his first name? My friend didn't watch the last episode on ABC closely. In case you didn't his first name is Angus. Now we know why they only used his first name in the last episode.

Texas Chainsaw Massacre

Twenty years ago a guy named Toby Hooper working with an almost non-existent budget created the prototype for the modern-day horror movie. He took the film to Austin and the rest is history. "The Texas Chainsaw Massacre" chills audiences today with the same intensity it possessed 20 years ago. The movie was recently restored and re-released. The new release is uncut and uncensored and was a treat for connoisseurs of gore on Halloween. Aren't you glad this movie never had audience participation like the "Rocky Horror" Show?

Smokin' in the country

Dolly Parton, Tammy Wynette, Loretta Lynn, Grandpa Jones, Carl Perkins, Ricky Skaggs and Ronnie Milsap were recently filming a video for the song "Silver Threads and Golden Needles."

A scene during the video required a special-effects smoke machine to produce a fog effect. The performers and production crew were ushered outside by security guards because every fire-smoke alarm in the Jackson Hall of the Tennessee Performing Arts Center went off when the smoky fog was produced. The men were on hand in the hall for cameo appearances.

Soul bridge

Residents of Steamboat Springs, Col., recently competed for a \$100 savings bond by submitting names for the newly constructed bridge over the Yampa River. The \$1.5 million 220-ft. span was named "The James Brown Soul Center of the Universe Bridge." How did they get all of that on a simple road sign?



Remember, Santa Claus is watching you!
Study hard for all your finals.

Faculty members perform at chamber jazz recital

By REBECCA TREVINO

The Faculty Recital Series presented its Chamber Jazz Concert last Monday in the Ball Performing Arts Center. The Chamber Jazz Concert was one of several recitals sponsored by members of the faculty this semester.

"The concert itself went very well and held a good crowd," said David Hibbard, program director of commercial music.

A series of melodies were performed by Hibbard and commercial music instructor Bill Howard. Pieces included "Canto Africano" composed by Clare Fischer; "Waltz for Dave" composed by Chick Corea; "Gunda Din" composed by Stanely Turrentine; "Circle" composed by Miles Davis; and "You Go To My Head" composed by Coots/Gillespie.

Other performances were "Fortune Smiles" composed by Keith Jarrett; "Thou" composed by Denny Zeitlin; "Motel's Swing" composed by Benny Moten and "The Sound of Music" composed by Rogers/Hammerstein.

Other concerts earlier this month were "Amahl and the Night Visitors" by the Opera Workshop and the Wind Symphony Concert.

Final exam schedule

DAY SCHEDULE

CLASSES	EXAM DAY	EXAM TIME
Mon. - Wed. - Fri. classes		
6:55 - 7:50 am	Fri., Dec 10 Mon., Dec 13	*6:55 - 7:50 am
*(precludes uninterrupted exam time of 120 min.)		
8:00 - 8:55 am	Fri., Dec 10	8:00 - 10:00 am
9:05 - 10:00 am	Mon., Dec 13	9:05 - 11:05 am
10:10 - 11:05 am	Wed., Dec 15	10:10 - 12:10 pm
11:15 - 12:10 pm	Fri., Dec 10	11:15 - 1:15 pm
12:30 - 1:50 pm	Mon., Dec 13	12:30 - 2:30 pm
2:00 - 3:20 pm	Wed., Dec 15	2:00 - 4:00 pm
3:30 - 4:50 pm	Mon., Dec 13	3:30 - 5:30 pm

Tues. - Thurs. classes

8:00 - 9:20 am	Tues., Dec 14	8:00 - 10:00 am
9:30 - 10:50 am	Thurs., Dec 16	9:30 - 11:30 am
11:00 - 12:20 pm	Tues., Dec 14	11:00 - 1:00 pm
12:30 - 1:50 pm	Thurs., Dec 16	12:30 - 2:30 pm
2:00 - 3:20 pm	Tues., Dec 14	2:00 - 4:00 pm
3:30 - 4:50 pm	Thurs., Dec 16	3:30 - 5:30 pm

EVENING SCHEDULE

Mon/Wed or Mon only classes which begin between 5 and 5:45 p.m. will hold final exams on Monday, December 13, beginning at regular class time. The exam period will meet for 120 minutes.

Monday only classes which begin after 5:50 p.m. will hold final exams on Monday, December 13, beginning at 8:00 p.m. The exam period will meet for 120 minutes.

Wednesday only classes which begin after 5:50 p.m. will hold final exams on Wednesday, December 15, beginning at regular class. The exam period will meet for 120 minutes.

Tues/Thurs or Tuesday only classes which begin between 5 and 5:45 p.m. will hold final exams on Tuesday, December 14, beginning at regular class time. The exam period will meet for 120 minutes.

Tuesday only classes which begin after 5:50 p.m. will hold final exams on Tuesday, December 14, beginning at 8:00 p.m. The exam period will meet for 120 minutes.

Thursday only classes which begin after 5:50 p.m. will hold final exams on Thursday, December 9, beginning at regular class time. The exam period will meet for 120 minutes.

SATURDAY CLASSES FINAL EXAMS FOR SATURDAY CLASSES WILL BE GIVEN AT REGULAR CLASS TIME ON DEC 11, 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 DEC 9 FOR EVENING CLASSES OR DEC 10 FOR DAY CLASSES.

ALL FINAL GRADE REPORTS MUST BE DELIVERED IN PERSON TO THE REGISTRAR'S OFFICE BY 12 NOON DEC. 17, 1993.

We want to hear from YOU!

Write a letter to the editor

SPECIAL PEOPLE, SPECIAL NEEDS

Supplement to the Highland Herald

McLennan Community College, Waco, Texas 76708

Dec. 7, 1993

About this special supplement

We all know that our communities are filled with people who have special needs and whose problems need to be recognized. The students in our English 0301 classes recently contemplated this situation. They were asked to select a group that had special problems—a group with which they had actually had some experience—and to write about the difficulties that group faced. The following essays were selected from this assignment.

These essays, written with the voices of experience, will, we hope, make all of us more sensitive to the problems and needs of some very special people.

Our thanks go to all the English 0301 students who participated in this project, to the English 0301 instructors and Writing Lab instructors, to the contest judges, and to Tom Buckner and his staff.

Disposable Children

by Janie Casper

Children growing up in homes such as the Methodist Home or state homes or foster homes face many struggles. Even if the homes are good and the foster parents are loving and caring, there are many emotional struggles that a child must overcome.

As a child growing up in the Methodist home, I faced many of these struggles. I remember that when I was first put in the home, I felt abandoned, and even though I shared a house with sixteen other girls, I still felt alone. I knew it was a better place for me to be than my natural home, but I still couldn't help feeling sad and lonely. I know from talking to other kids in the Methodist Home that they felt the same way.

After being put in the home, I became angry and hateful. When my home parents tried to get close to me, I would shove them away. I remember when my home parent Pat tried to tell me she cared about me. I screamed at her and said, "No, you don't. You're just doing your job!" I hurt her very much.

I was mad because I felt so unloved and so uncared for. I felt like a disposable child. I started to resent everyone and everything. I would not talk to anyone, and I would not participate in any activities. I wanted to crawl into my bed and sleep. When I was in that situation, it was easy for me to let myself get down and depressed. It was a big struggle for me to keep myself focused on the good things in life and the hope for a happy future.

When I lived at the home, we attended public schools. Being around

other kids that came from "normal" homes was hard for me because I felt inferior to them and because they could be so cruel. I remember the time when we were getting off the bus at school and the other kids made two lines for us to walk through. As we walked by, they hit us on the head and chanted, "Orphan, orphan." Another time they stood by the bus, and as we got off, they made up cruel reasons why our parents didn't want us. Those words reinforced the feeling of being disposable. I hated being different from other kids; I wanted to have a mother and father and a loving home just like everyone else. I desperately wanted to be "normal" or at least be what I thought was normal. Feeling inferior, unloved, and disposable is why many kids that grow up like I did find it hard to open up to others and to show love toward others.

People who grew up in foster homes often have trouble with self-esteem and have a very hard time finding their place in life. They are usually searching for something in their lives to fill the emptiness they felt as children, but with help and counseling many of the struggles can be overcome. Then they may lead a happy and successful life.

As we walked by,
they hit us on the
head and chanted,
"Orphan, orphan."

For Sports Fishermen in Galveston

Some Problems, Some Answers

by Rex Bolack

The fish population in Galveston Bay has declined drastically over the past ten years. Sports fishermen in the Galveston area are finding it harder and harder to catch their limits. Pollution and overfished bays are some of the factors causing the decline. Consequently, only a select few fishermen can still reach their limit with the knowledge and techniques they learned from older experts.

Ten years ago a fisherman could fish in the Galveston area and catch the legal limit of game fish like redfish, flounder, and speckled trout in half a day. Today a person is lucky to catch half the limit. A large part of the problem is the overfished bays. Houston's large population is the main reason for there being more sports fishermen than ever before. Another factor is the large number of foreigners who fish in the Galveston area. A lot of them know fishing only as a way to support themselves, and they find it hard to abide by the strict limits set by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department in order to stop the declining fish population. A third factor is the area's pollution. Along the Houston ship

channel one third of America's gasoline is produced, and large amounts of pollutants from them are being illegally dumped into the salt water.

Nonetheless, the serious sports fisherman who has taken the time to listen to the old techniques can still have successful fishing trips. One of the techniques I have learned from an old fisherman, my grandfather, is gigging flounder. To do this, the fisherman has to know where the tide comes in clear over a sandbar at a knee to waist depth and when the wind is only five to ten miles per hour. Then he walks with a gas lantern over the sandbar looking down on the bottom for two little dots surrounded by the silhouette of a fish. This is a flounder sanded up hiding while looking for a meal to pass over. After he has spotted it, he takes his gig—a four to six foot pole with a spike on the end—and sticks it behind the eyes—the two dots—and then he has a flounder.

For sports fishermen in the Galveston area, or anywhere the fish population is threatened, following the limit law set by the Parks and Wildlife Department is the best way to restore the game fish population.

Problems Faced by SSI Recipients

by Wylie Barrington

Millions of people receive money from the Social Security Administration in the form of Supplemental Security Income (SSI) checks. While these checks are very helpful, these people are not without their problems. Some of the difficulties they face are not having enough money to make monthly expenses, not being able to find employment, and having society look down on them.

Many of the problems that SSI recipients face stem from not being able to meet their monthly expenses. Like the rest of society, they must pay for rent, car insurance and gasoline. Their checks often do not pay enough to cover their everyday expenses, so meeting additional bills is very difficult.

Many SSI recipients go without some of the necessities of life, such as gasoline, and are consequently unable to get out to do the things that they must do in order to function as an active part of society.

Another problem faced by recipients of SSI is the difficulty of finding work. Many people on the checks supplied as part of the SSI program are physically disabled. While these people are able to do some jobs, employers are hesitant, and sometimes unwilling, to hire them because of their disabilities. I, as well as many others I know who are receiving SSI checks, would rather work for our money than sit at home and collect it. However, the unwilling-

(Continued to page 4)

Problems Ex-Offenders Face

by Teresa Coutret

Ex-offenders face many difficulties as they integrate back into society. Drugs, employment, and stereotyping are three major problems ex-offenders face. Because I am an ex-offender, I know they exist.

Mainly because of my drug addiction, I was sentenced to five years in prison. Unfortunately, when I regained my freedom, I still had the problem of addiction. Ex-offenders with the disease of addiction face the same problems when they get out of prison as

they did when they went to prison. If they are to overcome this problem, ex-offenders must decide they want help to arrest their drug addiction. I, for example, attended Narcotics Anonymous meetings and worked regularly the twelve steps of Narcotics Anonymous to remain drug free. As a result, I have been drug-free for two and a half years.

Ex-offenders also have a hard time finding employment. One obstacle I faced was trying to find a job I wanted. On job applications I answered hon-

estly the question about whether or not I had ever been convicted of a felony. As a result of my honesty, prospective employers would not hire me. Therefore, even though I was qualified for a management position, I had to accept a position as a waitress.

Stereotyping is a third major problem ex-offenders face. Society tends to stereotype all ex-offenders as bad people who are a threat to society. I blame the media for a lot of this attitude because the media has focused on crimes committed by ex-offenders like

McDuff and, consequently, has instilled in the public's mind the notion that all ex-offenders are a threat to society. Needless to say, people should not stereotype all ex-offenders based on one person's behavior. I am living proof that ex-offenders can reform.

In conclusion, ex-offenders face many difficulties as they integrate into society. Avoiding drugs, finding employment, and encountering stereotyping are among these problems. However, I know that ex-offenders can overcome these obstacles.

The Sacrifices of Large Families

by Nancy Dennis

My large family of seven had all the signs of being one big happy family from the outside. Some of my friends were envious because they wished they had a big family like mine. There are a lot of happy memories from my childhood. However, while my friends were envious of my large family, they didn't realize all the sacrifices we had to make.

One disadvantage of being from a large family was there wasn't enough room. I never had my own room, and until I was about twelve, my sister and I shared a bedroom with two of my

brothers. My other brother shared a bedroom with my parents. I could not have any friends over because there wasn't enough room. I can remember crying for hours after my mother told me my best friend could not spend the night. We had already made plans, and her mother had already given her permission to come for the night. Regrettably, I had to call my friend and tell her my mother had said she couldn't stay. Besides this, we had only one bathroom, and we always had to "hurry up" when it was our turn in the bathroom. When we traveled anywhere in the car, we were always

cramped for space, and we didn't have an air-conditioned car for quite some time. Therefore, most our trips were miserable.

The main disadvantage of being from a large family was the financial difficulties we experienced. With five children, my mother stayed at home while my daddy had all the burden of providing for us. We didn't have extra money to go to the show like most kids did. We didn't get weekly allowances, and I was always embarrassed when my friends discussed their allowances. I felt like I wasn't a normal kid. We did not go to the dentist as my parents did

not see this as a necessity. Since I've been grown, I have had a lot of dental work done, and I feel this could have been prevented if my parents had been financially able to take me to the dentist as a child.

Looking back on my childhood, I can see that being from a large family has taught me a lot about sharing and having patience. It has made me really appreciate all that I have today.

However, the problems of being from a large family are real, and we should be more sensitive to the feelings of anyone who is from a large family.

Our Neglect of the Elderly

by Mary Harbert

The old people in our society should not be forgotten. They are the ones who have sacrificed so that we would have a future. The elderly should feel safe and secure in their golden years, but instead of having security, the elderly are being faced with many kinds of neglect.

Physical neglect is common in our elderly people. There are people that withhold basic needs from them. For example, a young couple was supposed to be taking care of their grandmother, but the granddaughter and her hus-

band spent the grandmother's check instead. One day the grandmother was rushed to the hospital. She was covered with bedsores, some as large as a hand, and the sores were infected. Social services then found out that her basic needs were not being met. The granddaughter was not giving her grandmother nourishing foods or fluids, and the sores developed because the granddaughter would not turn her.

Many elderly people also face emotional neglect. They live alone with nobody to see after them. Some have only a TV or radio to keep them com-

pany. For example, Mrs. Allen does not have any family that cares about her. She is usually alone waiting for meals on wheels. Mrs. Allen enjoys the balanced meals, and she looks forward to a conversation with real people. At age 65 she does not always feel like cooking. She is emotionally upset at times because she thinks nobody cares about her or her situation. Her friends call, but they are too busy to take her to the store or to the doctor's office.

Many elderly people cannot get jobs because companies often think they are too old. For instance, Mrs. Hill has

worked for a company fifteen years. She applied for a manager's position that had opened. Mrs. Hill was passed over because of her age, and a young person was hired instead.

One does not have to be poor to experience neglect. Society tends to neglect the elderly and to treat them like second-class citizens in their own country rather than considering them assets.

Our older citizens should feel wanted and needed, and it is appalling to hear about all the neglect our elderly people receive.

Understanding the Child of Mixed Races

Name withheld on request

Understanding your history can really be a mind-twisting situation. But what if you are from a family that comes from two totally different ethnic backgrounds? What if a child has a mother of one race and a father of another? Where does that child belong? Society has a real problem with accepting children of mixed races. I go

through it everyday with my boyfriend. He is a child of mixed races, and we hear all sorts of comments about his being a so-called "half-breed." It's hard on him to go through life not knowing which ethnic group to belong to or which group will accept him.

It is difficult for any person to fit in and feel comfortable in society. But when people start out with two strikes

against them because they are of mixed races, life is even harder. Society sees the child as an outcast.

Being with my boyfriend for as long as I have, I look at things much differently. I see the troubles he faces trying to fit in. When he is with one group of friends of one race, he tends to act differently than he would if he were with friends of another race. He wants

to fit in and be accepted by everyone. However, he shouldn't have to act differently around different people. The sad thing is that he feels that he has to order to fit in. He is no different from you or me. He wants to be accepted, loved, and cared for just as you do.

Society often forces a child to choose between groups and this shouldn't

(Continued on page 3)

The Painful Decision

by Debbie Pierce

We cannot sometimes understand the reasoning behind the thinking of elderly people. My family had this experience with my grandfather. In some cases, the elderly person really may not be capable of thinking rationally. In other cases, such as in my family's experience, the family just doesn't understand the elderly person's way of thinking.

My grandfather was the sweetest and most loving man I ever knew. From as far back as I can remember, he went out of his way to help people, not just family members, but mainly the underprivileged. He provided clothes, medical equipment, and Christmas gifts to needy children.

My grandfather also entertained many people in his life. He led an orchestra that played together for years. I'll never forget seeing him and his orchestra as a teenager. I was so impressed with the band's performance and my grandfather's happiness.

At age seventy-five my grandfather was diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis or ALS, a form of muscular dystrophy. There is no cure.

For five years we really saw no sign of this disease progressing. Then it finally started forcing my grandfather to slow down with his activities. This was hard for him to accept because he was used to such an active life.

As time went on, his condition worsened. The last year of his life he was totally dependent on my grandmother. The disease started in his neck area and proceeded down into his shoulders and arms. He lost much weight over time because he had lost the muscles in his throat that enabled him to swallow, and he could have only liquids. It also became hard for him to use his arms, and his breathing was shallow at times.

When we visited my grandfather, he seemed to be his happy, cheerful self. I never saw him sad. I know he wanted his grandchildren to remember him happy, and I do.

There came the point when the family knew the disease was progressing rapidly. At this time we disagreed with my grandfather's way of thinking.

The doctors told us that he could be put on feeding and breathing tubes in order to enable him to stay alive. For a year my family struggled with my grandfather trying to convince him to have the tubes so he could stay alive longer, and for a year he totally disagreed with us. I could not understand why he chose not to stay with us because, even if he had the feeding and breathing tubes, he would be with us. He told us that he had had a great, full life and he did not want to be alive that way. I was hurt with his decision, but here was no changing his mind.

At age eighty-three, he had the final decision to make. The night he left us he was sitting in his chair when he started having trouble breathing. My grandmother wanted to call 911. All my grandfather could do was raise his index finger from his armrest and move it right to left to say no. He knew if he was taken to the hospital the tubes would be inserted. He lived through this episode only to fall asleep peacefully that night and never wake up again.

He had a wonderful funeral where the kindest of words were spoken about him. I missed him dearly but still did not understand his decision.

About seven months later, I opened the newspaper one day. On the front page was an article about and a picture of a man with ALS. This man was much younger than my grandfather, and the disease attacked him much faster. It wasn't so much the article as the picture that affected me. In this picture was a man capable of little movement with a tube for eating and a tube for breathing. Then I realized why my grandfather made the decision he did. He wanted us to remember him healthy and alive, not like the man in this picture. I wanted to say, "Grandpa, I'm sorry I was thinking so selfishly. You were right." He knew he would not be happy, and he chose to be in peace.

When a hurtful decision must be made, it is awfully hard to understand both sides. I now agree with my grandfather's decision because he is comfortable and happy. I miss him dearly but will remember him the way he wanted me to.

Hardships of Kidney Failure

by Vastine Peel

I used to be a nurse's aide at the Methodist Central Hospital in Dallas, Texas. This job was a real challenge for me because of the difficulties that the patients had to endure. I worked on the Kidney Transplant Dialysis Unit, which was a critical care unit for kidney failure patients. These patients were hospitalized for long lengths of time, and I learned about the many hardships of these patients who suffer from kidney failure.

First of all, one of the most common hardships that kidney failure patients have to endure is being put on dialysis. In the dialysis process the machine acts as the patient's kidney and filters the blood. The patient has to be put on dialysis at least every other day, and the procedure can take hours to complete. It can also make the patient sick.

Fortunately, dialysis is not the patient's only option; the patient can also have a kidney transplant. Although kidney transplants sound like the ideal plan, organ donors are hard to locate. Patients sometimes wait for years to find a kidney. Furthermore, although kidney transplants are the next best thing to the patient's own kidney, patients sometimes receive a kidney that won't function properly or that the body rejects.

Another hardship for kidney failure patients is being in and out of the hospital. This alone can be depressing to patients because they are not able to live a normal life. Some kidney failure patients go through unbearable depression and stress. I can remember when a seventeen-year-old boy was brought in with a punctured liver. He had been hit in the side during a football game. He was put on dialysis and had to quit football and other sports. He couldn't believe what happened to him because he was so young. He couldn't accept the fact that he had to give up everything and be put on a machine. He began to get very depressed about the situation and eventually ran away from home. Finally, his parents found him, but it was too late. He was brought into the hospital in a coma. There was nothing that the doctors could do for him. He died about three months later.

As I worked at the hospital, I found out the importance of organ donors. I also know it's important to stay healthy by eating right, exercising, and having regular checkups from the doctor. I also thank God Almighty for good health and his protection around me.

The need for understanding

The Child of Mixed Races

(Continued from page 2)

happen. I have people come up to me and ask me why my boyfriend's name doesn't fit his race. He doesn't look as if he is of mixed races; it's his name that shows he is. I have people ask me why I would want to go with a "half-breed." All I can say is that love sees no color. That's the right way. Society has to change its way of looking at other people before we can all have a better

way of life.

If people were to really dig into their history, they would see that everyone has some sort of mix in his or her blood. Few people are of only one race or ethnic group. We are all together, belong together, live together, and learn together. So now it's time to love together. Let's start right now and work together for people to be loved as they are.

We hear all sorts of comments about his being a so-called "half-breed."

Alone When We Are Elderly

Name withheld on request

I think that elderly people feel very lonely. If they are married and their spouses are still alive, then they are better off, but I think that those who have lost their spouses and who live alone are very lonely.

For example, my grandmother's husband died many years ago. She lives in the same house that they both used to live in, and I feel that the memories she has of him must make her feel extremely sad and lonely very

often. She is visited by me and other members of her family from time to time. However, those visits are sometimes few and far between, and I wonder what she does to pass the time. I think of myself and how I'm always doing something or hanging around with my friends or my family. My activities seem just the opposite of what she must do every day. I wonder if she just practically lives for the rare visits she receives from her family.

At times, when all the family is

together, she might be a little rude. For example, one time we had a family reunion at my aunt's house, and after my aunt told my grandmother about something, my grandmother replied that she really didn't care about what my aunt was saying. Also, sometimes my grandmother will tell one of her daughters one thing and tell another daughter a totally different story. I don't blame her for these things, though. There's no telling how I might act towards my family if I felt very

lonely and they rarely came to visit me.

Writing this paper has made me really think about how lonely my grandmother, as well as many other old people, must be. I think I'm going to try to visit her more often and encourage my family to do the same. Someday I will be old, and I hope that my family will visit me more often than my grandmother's family has visited her.

Challenges for New Students

by Loretta Villanneva

Bobbie sat in a seat at a street corner. She remembered what her father had said. "If you get on that bus to register for college, I won't help you!"

Bobbie knew her father's negative feelings toward college, but she pictured herself with a bachelor's degree and a master's degree sitting in an office. She could hear people call for her help. "Mrs. Vasquez, we need to see you in the board room." She also pictured herself at the college with some books in her hand going to her classes with a smile.

"Are you getting on?" the bus driver asked.

"Yeah."

Bobbie got on the bus although she had few financial resources. This was not Bobbie's only problem; adapting to a new environment and deciding upon a major were other challenges that lay ahead for her.

Most college freshmen encounter financial problems when entering college. Although some might have a scholarship, others have to find another way to get help. Loans are what most students try to receive to help pay for college. Other students try to

get Pell grants.

Adapting to a new environment is also a challenge. New students like Bobbie notice the size of the college campus. It is unlike the smaller high school campuses they knew, so trying to find classes becomes very frustrating. When he or she finally finds the class, this new student may arrive late, causing the instructor and the others to stare at and then to ignore this embarrassed student.

Deciding what to major in is very difficult and is a problem by itself. Many students trying to decide on a major are confused since they may

have limited career opportunities in certain fields.

For example, a student may first think about the variety of possibilities and then select one. However, what happens later when, after majoring in that field, the student finds a shortage of jobs in that career? After all that work, he or she may not have a job.

Being a college freshman has many challenges. Among them are meeting financial problems, adapting to a new environment, and deciding upon a major.

Facing Life in Old Age

by Lori Weber

At what age are we considered old? For some it's just wrinkled skin and gray hair, for others it's 65 and being eligible for Medicare. There really is no set age for becoming an old person, but there are many characteristics.

Most old people are very lonely. For some the only companion is a television, a radio, or a pet. No one ever visits, so they end up talking to themselves. Many older people are considered burdens by their families and are neglected. They face life, day after day, alone.

Some old people are physically unable to take care of themselves. Their bodies are brittle, and they can neither sit nor stand for a long period of time. Old people get to the point where they can't see or hear, and their hands shake so badly they can't even write. Doing the easiest tasks is impossible. This situation is evidence that full-time attention is needed.

That condition often brings them to the nursing home. To the elderly, a nursing home is the biggest fear, the end of all ends, a place to die. Once they're in a nursing home, they're just one of many people humming to themselves, wheeling their chairs up and down the hall, wetting their beds, and annoying the nurses.

Being old is not pleasant, and we will all be old some day. However, if we eat right and take care of our bodies, maybe we can avoid some of these agonizing conditions that go along with aging.

SSI Program Recipients Facing Many Problems

(Continued from page 1)

ness of employers to hire someone with a disability is a serious barrier to our finding employment.

A third problem that SSI recipients encounter is knowing that many people in society look down on them as a collectively lazy group of people. This opinion is not entirely true.

While some recipients are content for the government to give them their money, the majority would like to get off of SSI and probably would live better if they could. However, if society doesn't change its way of thinking, the check recipients will never get out of the program.

In conclusion, the SSI program is very helpful but has its problems. These problems might be solved if society as a whole would overcome its negative feelings and work together with the SSI recipients to help them to have a better life and to contribute more to society.