

The Highland Herald

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McLennan Community College

Wednesday, October 23, 1974

Veterans Submit Petition Alcoholic Beverages Wanted at Activities

By Cathy Sulak

When members of the Veterans' Club found out that, according to campus policy, they could not use the club's funds to purchase alcoholic beverages for an off-campus club party, they came up with a possible solution—Change the policy!

The Veterans were planning a dinner and cocktail party to celebrate the success of the dunking booth they sponsored at the Heart O' Texas Fair when they were informed of the policy.

The policy, as stated in the student handbook, says that, "All members shall refrain from indulging in . . . intoxicating liquors on the campus or during any school-sponsored activity."

"We decided it was high time, since the state law regarding adults was changed from 21 to 18 years of age, that the policy was changed," said Sam Wheat, sophomore vice-president of the club.

After contacting several administrators on the proper procedure to have the policy reviewed, the members drew up a petition proposing a change and began getting students' signatures.

The petition is as follows:

"We, the undersigned, as members of the Student Body of McLennan Community College, hereby petition the Board of Trustees of said college to make the following change in college policy:

To wit: To allow the possession, serving, and consumption of alcoholic beverages at off-campus college sponsored activities."

So far, 300 students have signed the petition.

The resolution was presented to the Student Government Monday for approval and passed 21-0. It was then forwarded to Dean of Student Services Joyce O'Rear.

Miss O'Rear said she will submit the resolution to Dr. Wilbur A. Ball, president, Friday. Dr. Ball will then introduce it to the Board of Trustees Nov. 5 with his recommendation for review.

"I think it's a very fine thing that they (the Veterans Club) are interested in the policies of the school," said Miss O'Rear. "If they feel a policy should be changed, then they have every right to have it reviewed."

Miss O'Rear said that since MCC is a community college supported by community funds the students would have to be careful not to offend their supporters.



Illustration by Gail Windham

"They are going about this the right way, working through the system," said Miss O'Rear. "I'm pleased to see someone was interested enough to say 'Let's get involved in something.'"

Don Bynum, director of student activities, said the recommendation submitted by the club is a good learning process about government functions.

The veterans have also written letters to other community colleges in Texas asking about their policies and views on allowing alcoholic beverages at campus sponsored activities.

"We would like to round up the full support of every club on campus," said Wheat.

Clubs backing the petition so far are Circle K, Circle K Little Sisters, Sigma Delta Phi, Afro Student Kindred and Student Government. Veterans Club members are now in the process of contacting all other campus clubs to ask for their backing.

"We should not have to put up with a petty rule that tells us what we can and cannot do with the money we worked for," said Wheat. "According to Dr. Hastings (academic vice-president), the average age of students at MCC is 25 years. That should show that we are well enough qualified to be adult and responsible."



Photo by Jim Mussen

SIGNING the petition being circulated by the Veterans Club is sophomore Glenn Cooper while veterans, from left to right, David Willis, Larry Payne and Sam Wheat, sophomores, look on.

Review

Say What You Mean

The language students have studied more than 12 years of their lives is threatened by subversives elected to offices in Washington, D.C. NBC newsman Edwin Newman documents this threat in a new book "Strictly Speaking: Will America Be the Death of English?"

Although most call a razor a razor, Gillette calls it a "Trac-II shaving system."

Mercury has a new "precision size" car which is either larger or smaller (the name does not give a clue) than the "personal size" Mercury.

Football and government experts talk about their games with similar contrived complexity and faked sophistication. Howard Cosell could build a political career on talks of a "relative paucity of scoring," for a "veritable plethora of field goals."

"The chief characteristic of language is self-importance," Newman said. Democratic Congressman Hugh Carey, hinting he will try to become governor of New York, said, "I am considering of-

fering my capacity for statewide leadership."

Academics like politicians, use inflated language to make banal thoughts seem profound, to make confusion seem like subtlety, and to disguise undignified self-promotion. Dartmouth College speaks of "a diverse leadership of schools" issuing a report containing "arresting conclusions of almost watershed quality."

Hampshire College declares that the "social structure should optimally be the consonant patterned expression of culture, and that higher education is enmeshed in a congeries of social and political change."

A government report says: "Highway development expenditures will conform de-facto to the efficiency criterion, and will

have their greatest initial impact on the periphery of Appalachia, where the more viable growth centers are located."

Newman translates: "Money to build highways in Appalachia will be spent where it will do the most good, and at first in the growing towns on the edge of the region."

Today, Newman says, boundaries are perimeters, parts are components, things are not equal but co-equal, signs are indicators, causes are exogenous variables.

The deterioration of the language has crept all too close to home. Recently some parents of Dallas grammar school children received codes and 28-page explanations called "Terminal Behavior Objectives for Continuous Progression Modules in Early Childhood Education." These were report cards.

Treasury Secretary William Simon, while he was still Energy Czar, declared that "one cannot ad hoc tax reform," and he urged us to avoid energy "wastage," which is a waste with a syllable wastefully added. He explains why developments along the "interface" between the oil industry and the government may require "end use allocation" (rationing).

Every word encourages replacement of the English language with Simonspeak. Yet, Simon cannot take full credit.

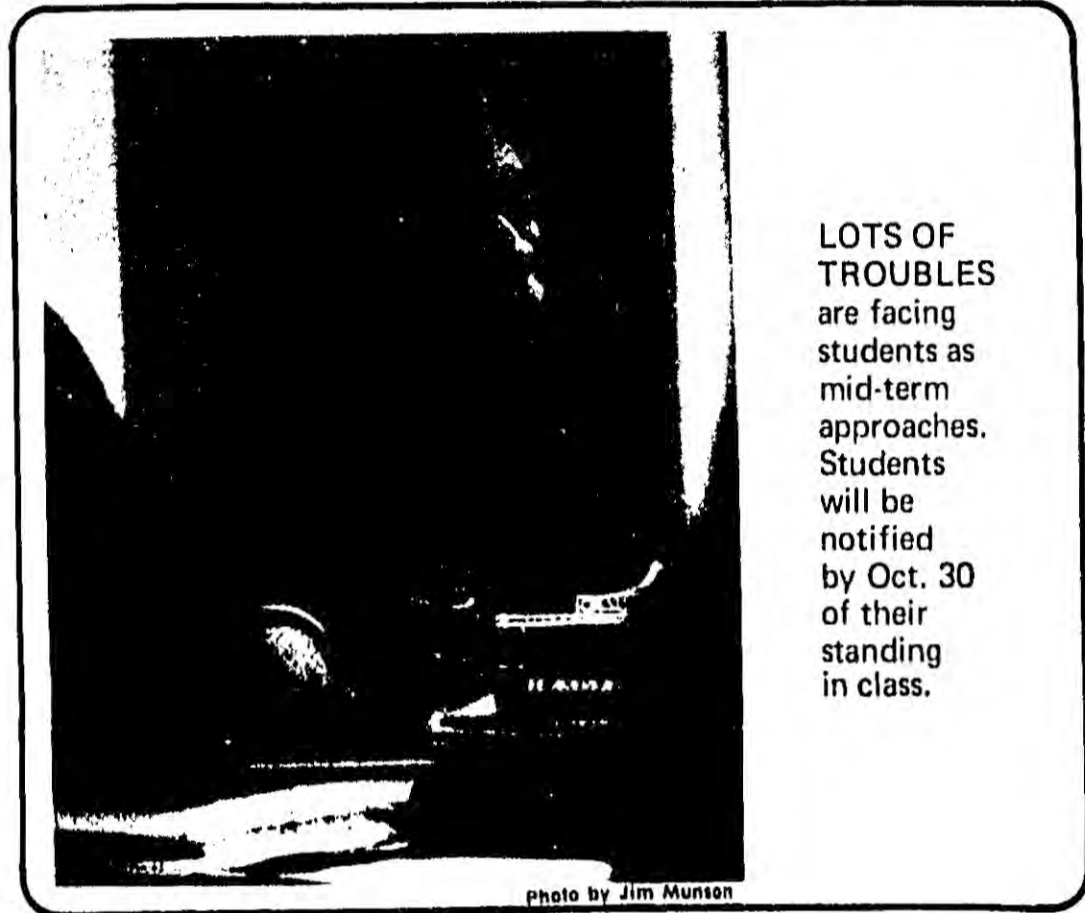


Photo by Jim Munson

LOTS OF TROUBLES are facing students as mid-term approaches. Students will be notified by Oct. 30 of their standing in class.

Correction

Bill Not Reached Ford

In the Oct. 9 issue of The Highland Herald the article titled "Benefits Bill Awaiting OK" was incorrect. The article said, "President Ford has a bill on his desk waiting to be signed that would increase benefits for veterans by 23 per cent....The general opinion is that Ford will sign the bill before Nov. 1 in order to gain veteran support for the upcoming elections." As pointed out by one reader, the bill raising veterans benefits will not reach President Ford until Nov. 18. When the President receives a bill and it sits on his desk for 10 working days while

Congress is in session, the bill becomes a bill without his signature. (Congress does not count Sunday as a working day.) If the President receives a bill the last 10 days of a Congressional session and does not sign the bill within 10 working days, the bill receives a pocket veto. Congress recessed Friday and will reconvene after elections. There is still some question if, when Congress recesses, a bill still on the President's desk can receive the pocket veto after the 10th working day. The Federal courts will have to answer this question.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I would like to compliment The Highland Herald for an outstanding Oct. 9 issue. Not only did it contain relevant facts about MCC, but it also had some human interest stories, something that it lacking in so many newspapers around the state.

The story "Babies Are Our Only Business" was an exceptional story for a junior college publication. It was covered thoroughly, as such stories are supposed to do. And there were also a couple of catchy, interesting headlines that grabbed my attention. Moreover, the sports coverage has been covered much better than last year. And since sports is the one common ground for all students to share in, it should have

complete coverage, especially since MCC has the best basketball, baseball and golf talent it has ever had. And the tennis ain't bad, either.

John McClain

Dear Editor,

I want to take this opportunity to thank the more than 150 who came to hear P.O.W. Nick Row Oct. 16 and were disappointed when he didn't arrive. I regret that he had car trouble and wasn't able to appear on campus. I am trying to reschedule his speech and will pass on the information as soon as possible.

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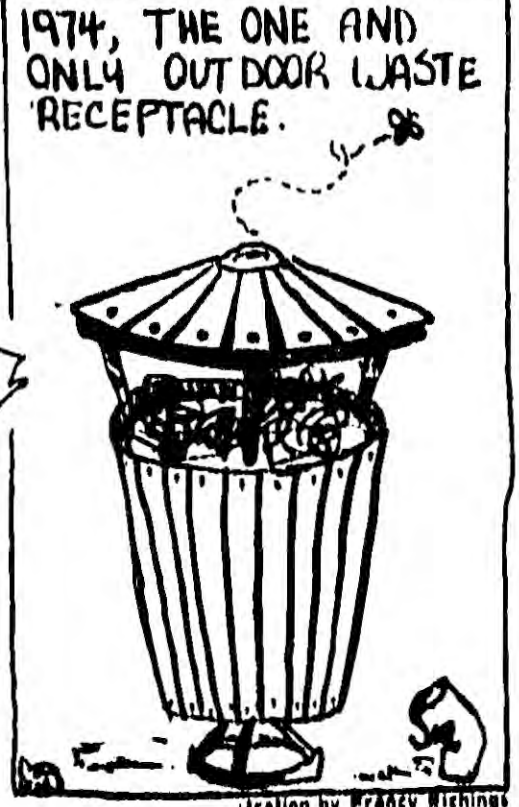


Illustration by Francie Richings

Blood Drive Aids Needy Patients

By Terry Goodrich

While students and faculty members donated 83 pints of blood Friday, Red Cross officials shuttled some of it to local hospitals to assist two hemophiliac patients.

Donors barely missed reaching the 85-unit goal set by the Nursing Club, which sponsored the drive.

"Overall, I was very pleased with campus participation, especially compared with last spring," said Dorothea Lanoux, Nursing Club sponsor.

Last April, students gave 43 units.

We had set our goal kind of high this time," said Mrs. Lanoux. "There was a lot more participation among students and a kind of competitive spirit. I expect to do even better in the spring when we have another drive."

Thirty-seven of the 83 donors were members of some campus organization.

Circle K, men's service club, won the trophy for having the largest percentage of donor members in proportion to its enrollment. Thirteen of the club's 32 members, approximately 40.6 per cent of

the membership, donated blood.

"We're happy that we are becoming active this year, and we hope to stay a major club," said Harold Nolte, chairman of the Board of Directors of Circle K.

Director of Student Activities Don Bynum said that Alpha Sigma Phi, science club, had the second highest percentage of donors. Two of its eight members, 25 per cent of the club's membership, gave blood.

The Veterans Club was third in competition for the trophy, with seven of 42 members, 16.7 per cent, donating blood.

Other clubs with donor members included Afro Student Kindred, Circle K Little Sisters, Data Processing Majors Association, Delta Phi Beta, McLennan Singers, Nursing Club, Phi Theta Kappa, and Plaid Vests.

"Eighty-three pints is not as much blood as could be given by a college this size," said Bynum. "Thirty-seven out of 300-plus members is not a good percentage, but every little bit helps. I am sure that as time goes on, our blood drives will get more participation."



Photo by Jim Munson

LENDING AN ARM is one of the 83 students who donated blood Friday.

Sophomore Undergoes New York Surgery

Sophomore Sandy Anderson underwent a three and one-half hour surgery Tuesday that may restore speech and mobility disabilities caused by a birth defect.

Mrs. Anderson, a former member of student government and the McLennan Singers, has been in St. Barnabas Hospital in the Bronx, N. Y., for four weeks while doctors performed tests to determine the nature of her illness.

For more than a year, students and faculty at MCC had worked to raise more than \$9,000 to secure the innovative surgery. Total cost of the surgery and travel expenses will be \$14,000 to \$16,000.

Veterans Health Insurance through a private company will cover much of the cost. However, Mrs. Anderson could not have had the surgery without the outside help, said Carolyn Dodson, director of campus publications.

In a telephone interview Mrs. Anderson detailed what the doctors had found by tests.

"I don't have cerebral palsy. Can you believe it. They found out what part of my brain is affected, but they don't know what to call it," she said. All her life, Mrs.

Anderson's malady had been defined as cerebral palsy.

"They say I'll have the most improvement in my left hand and my leg. He can't say about my speech. That's the most unpredictable thing with the surgery," she said.

Since Mrs. Anderson's first visit to New York last October, surgeons have perfected the relatively new technique. What once was done in two lengthy operations on separate days will be completed during one morning.

Incisions are so small, doctors predict only a few days is needed for recovery from the surgery. Six days after surgery Mrs. Anderson will begin using the electric pace maker that will help her brain control her limbs.

"My friend left today (Friday). She came in when I did and now she's just perfect," Mrs. Anderson said.

The 24-year-old MCCer was accompanied to New York by husband Andy, also a student. While living in the hospital dormitory, he has shared time visiting his wife and operating a taxi service to the airport to earn part of the travel expenses.

The couple's four children are staying with his family.

The extent of the operation's success will not be known for one to three weeks. Research on patients having similar

surgery indicates correction of the disabilities continues for several months after treatment. Mrs. Anderson will have another three to six weeks in the hospital before returning to Waco.

Breast Cancer Film on Campus

The Health Services Department at McLennan Community College will present a film entitled "Breast Cancer: Where We Are" at 10 a.m. today in the Science Lecture Hall.

Sponsored by the American Cancer Society, the film is the first of six programs being presented by the Health Services Department, which is directed by Blanche Willis. Ideas for programs were taken from a random survey conducted this summer on campus.

Narrated by actress Jennifer O'Neill, the viewer is given information of what breast self-examination includes, the

contributions that mammography and thermography are making toward the early detection of breast cancer and the process of rehabilitation following breast surgery.

Throughout the film questions about breast cancer are answered.

The film is 20 minutes in length. It has been shown on national television, but this will be the first time it will be shown in Waco.

A local physician will be present at the showing to answer any questions asked. The session is open to the public with no charge.



PHI THETA KAPPA president Jerry Lynn, sophomore, left, explains the club's petition to President Ford to sophomore Jim Pikes and freshmen Honey Wolf and Dennis Thompson. The Phi Chi chapter of the junior college is asking the President to proclaim Nov. 19 as National Phi Theta Kappa Day.

'They're Real Tame'

Rats Find Home on Campus

By Terry Goodrich

Rats in search of winter homes have invaded the campus.

Mary Cantrell, director of the mental health associate program, was one of the first to notice the overabundance of rats on campus.

"My office used to look directly out on the honeysuckle (adjacent to the Faculty Office Building). When I meditate, I look out the window. Last summer, there were two field mice who played together," said Mrs. Cantrell.

One day, instead of the field mice, Mrs. Cantrell saw a rat "probably six inches long, not including his tail. The question is, were the little ones I saw playing in the sunshine the baby form of the big ones we're seeing now, or did the big ones eat the little ones?"

Daniel Paniagua, Spanish instructor, said the rats run back and forth between a drainage grating and the honeysuckle bushes beside the FOB and have worn two paths in the grass beside the grating.

"They're real tame and will cross in front of you," said Paniagua. He also said the rats are "sort of chubby."

Wendell Chaffin, superintendent of the physical plant, said that many rodents are now hunting for protected places to spend the winter.

"There was quite a bit of rainfall, and it was probably a good year for them to multiply," said Chaffin. "There's nothing unusual and nothing to be feared in the situation."

Orkin Exterminating Company has been contracted to solve the rat problem for MCC. Frank DeRosa, Orkin manager, said that the company has received "a tremendous number of calls complaining about rats this year, especially from people near the riverbank area."

Kathi Kuehl and Pat Pollard, student work-study secretaries, whose offices are located in front of the honeysuckle bushes, have named the rats.

"There are three of them," said Miss Kuehl. "We've been studying Beowulf in English, so we named the biggest rat 'Hrothgar', after the king in Beowulf."

Miss Kuehl said that Hrothgar has a girl friend or wife--she is not sure which--that she and Miss Pollard have named "Allison."

The women also have seen a small rat which they believe to be Hrothgar and



Photo by Jim Munson



Photo by Jim Munson

HROTHGAR almost overlooks a piece of cheese (the photographer's bait) in the picture above. But below, he catches sight of it and makes a getaway with the goodie--cellophane and all.

Allison's baby. They have named it "Sir Gawain."

"We don't want them killed," they said. Paul Holder, government instructor, called the rats "our friends." He said, "I enjoy watching people's reaction to them. I kind of hate to see them killed, but then I hate to see anything killed."

Scott Adams, history instructor, said "There is one little character who's almost a mascot. He's probably building a nest, because he's nearly run over me rushing by with grass in his mouth."

Adams said that he and other instructors call the rat "Major Kennedy's rat" after Charles Kennedy, government instructor, who first pointed out the rat to the other instructors.

"I suspect that Major Kennedy brought him to campus and released him," said Adams. "The only thing that disturbs me is that Major Kennedy doesn't put his pet on a leash."

Nursing Funds Approved

MCC recently received \$18,805 in loan and grant funds from the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. The funds will be distributed to nursing students.

Emory DeRose, financial aids director, said that the \$5,489 in grant funds will be given to students who had received scholarships before June 30.

The remaining \$13,316 is being distributed to nursing students and those accepted for enrollment in the nursing program.

Part or all of the loan repayment may be canceled if a graduate works in a non-profit agency or shortage area (area determined by HEW to have a shortage of and need for registered nurses).

Course to Discuss Marriage, Sex

The determining family and sexual roles course is designed for a person who wants to explore others' attitudes toward marriage and sexual relationships, as well as their own.

This course will consist of four sessions every Monday and Wednesday at noon starting today. It will meet in the Conference Room of the Health Career Building.

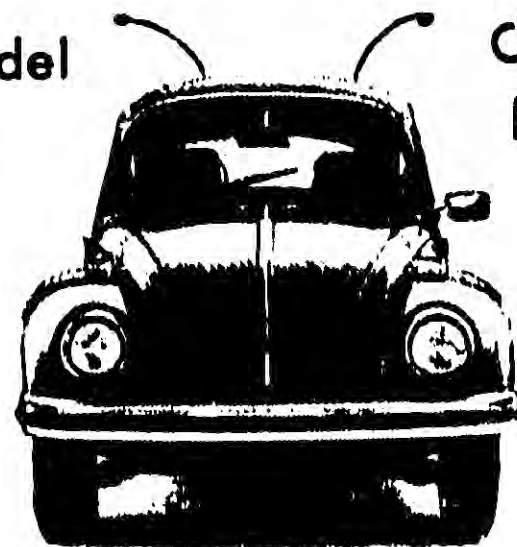
The purpose of this course is to let people explore their own attitudes. Some topics

that will come up in the course will be the raising of children, marriage contracts, financial assistance.

Some topics concerning the sexual roles will be premarital sex, the gay liberation and different types of life styles.

There will be a limited number of people who can enroll in the course. Applications are available on the first floor of the Student Center.

Little One Stays Down

New Model
OutClose Out
All 1974
Models

1975 Flu Bug

Available Anywhere

George Bugg Fluwagon

Beat the Bug!

A new model of the flu, imported from England, will soon be available in Waco. Before it arrives, athletes and students and faculty over 35 are advised to get flu shots in the First Aid Room on the first floor of the Student Center. Cost is \$1.50.

But Organized Church Loses Youth

Old-Time Religion Comes Back

By Terry Goodrich

Astrology, the Maharishi Mahesh Yogi's Transcendental Meditation, Zen and Nichiren Buddhism, Guru Maharaj Ji's Divine Light, witchcraft and satanism—these are some of the religious movements that can be found on many college campuses today.

Many professors, clergymen, and sociologists agree that personal frustrations and recent social upheavals have combined to cause many people to return to old-time religion as well as new faiths.

"We live in a world characterized by change and uncertainty. It seems to me that the conservative religions are making a comeback because they have all the answers."

Dan Walker

"Beer busts and pot parties still abound, but collegians also are more seriously confronting basic questions about the meaning of life," said Robert L. Cleath, associate professor of speech communication at California Polytechnic State University, in the May 24 issue of "Christianity Today".

"Although social thinkers of the past predicted that scientific advances would scuttle religious concerns, spiritual interest in many forms, both orthodox and bizarre, is flourishing on campus."

Cleath claims that involvement in "bizarre" religion is minor compared with the interest in evangelical Christianity. He cites such organizations as Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship, Campus Crusade for Christ and the Navigators as some of the largest campus religious clubs.

Dr. Kees Bolle, head of an interdepartmental program in religion at the University of California in Los Angeles, said that many people are looking for personalized experiences that are "evangelical in zeal, fundamental in doctrine, and stern in their call for total commitment. There is a lack of interest in traditional religious issues today."

Despite the revival of interest in religion, only 36 per cent of the population has confidence in "organized religion," according to a January Lou Harris poll of 1,800 persons across the country.

People expressed more confidence in medicine, higher education, the military and local trash collection than in organized religion.

"What can I hang onto?"

Dr. J. Wesley Robb, professor of religion at the University of Southern California, said that the "Jesus movement" is in part a response to the rejection of organized religion. He commented, "They (members of the Jesus movement) simply say 'Christ is the answer,' or 'The Christian way is the way.' It's not very sophisticated theology, but that is what many want today."

MCC faculty and students expressed a variety of views about the revival in interest in religion.

"I think there has been a turning on the part of young people to religion," said Dr. Dale Hughes, religion instructor. "I am not convinced of its permanent character. I do think it represents a genuine desire on the part of mankind for some spiritual depth. It may be to some degree a response to some of the violence."

Dr. Hughes said that, for most students, the high school years serve as a time of experimentation, but by the college years, "Many of the problems involving morality are resolved, and students begin to give themselves to concrete answers."

Dan Walker, philosophy instructor, said that while there is a religious resurgence, there is also a trend in the opposite

direction. He said that part of the renewed interest in religion, including the occult, astrology and demonism, is based on a disillusionment with science and technology.

"We live in a world characterized by change and uncertainty," said Walker. "It seems to me that the conservative religions are making a comeback because they have all the answers."

Walker, who recently spoke to a group on the topic "Technical Change and the Generation Gap," said "Afterwards, many people came up to me and asked, 'What can I hang onto?' They're looking for security."

"Christians are the most blinded people in the world. It's like everyone in the world is in the electric chair and we know the governor who can pull the switch. And we just don't say anything."

Beth Shanks

Larry Bethune, director of the Baptist Student Union, said he believes that many students are worried about physical and mental growth that they forget about spiritual growth.

"There are ultimate questions about death, sickness and frustration that many people don't know how to deal with," said Bethune. "We (the BSU) don't want people

to get into an emotional experience, but into an experience that will meet them at every level of life. Through our relationship with God through Jesus, we have found meaning in life, a way of facing problems and something solid to hold on to."

Some students said they felt that many people have an apathetic attitude towards religion.

"The way I look at it, most people aren't interested and don't care about religion," said Charlie Burch, freshman. "It's not affecting them now and they think it never will. I don't know what they substitute for it or how they satisfy the longing they feel, if they feel one. I myself feel a need for worship, for the spiritual being within me, for Jesus."

"Christians are the most blinded people in the world," said Beth Shanks, sophomore. "It's like everyone in the world is in the electric chair and we (Christians) know the governor who can pull the switch. And we just don't say anything."

Liz Norwood, sophomore, said, "A person will go on searching for God until he finds Him. It's just the way we are made."

Robert S. Ellwood Jr. of the University of California summed up the total religious revival in his book "One Way":

"It has at least held a generation of evangelical youths to their churches and made this style (church-centered) of Christianity a live alternative again. The Jesus movement is a classic example of survival Christianity, in which people may find religious stability despite social turmoil."



Photo by Jim Munson

LUNCH ENCOUNTER--Freshman Jane Hansen, left, and sophomore Liz Norwood, right, enjoy sharing views and lunch at the Baptist Student Center. The BSU serves lunch for 25 cents every Wednesday from 12 to 2 p.m.



Illustration by Cathy Sulak

Sweet Tooth Problem

Candy Bars Grow Smaller While Inflation Gets Larger

By David Davis

Students grabbing a snack between classes are getting less and less while paying more, but that does not seem to have stopped them any.

Chocolate manufacturers are making candy bars smaller as inflation grows larger.

Presently, Americans consume an average of 18.6 pounds of chocolate per person. This is down from the all time high of 20.2 pounds in 1966. But the drop in consumption appears to be due to smaller candy bars and not a lack of popularity.

In January, a 1.26 ounce chocolate bar cost 10 cents. Today a 1.2 ounce bar costs 15 cents.

The prices of cocoa beans, sugar, milk and paper affect the prices of the chocolate bars at the local supermarket. At the present, the price of cocoa is at its highest level in modern history.

Personnel Director Dick Gwozdz of the M & M Mars Company in Waco said, "In terms of our business posture, sure, our raw material prices are going up in an astounding way."

Rising milk prices also play a part in the chocolate market. Gwozdz said, "...you can also think about milk when you are talking about major items in candy,

especially chocolate. Milk is very important."

Gwozdz said that the chocolate industry would continue to make the adjustments necessary to "stay in the business world."

Chocolate will continue to evoke positive responses from the public, Gwozdz said. "If you take a look at chocolate, it's been one of those items over the last one hundred years that's been important to people."

Bob Walker of the Ponca Wholesale Company in Waco agreed that prices are rising rapidly. He said that the weather can also affect the supply of chocolate.

"You start with the cocoa bean. There were some crops destroyed down in South America by hurricanes," said Walker.

Walker said that Wacoans are consuming almost as much chocolate as ever. "I guess you could say everybody has a sweet tooth."

There has never been a large surplus of cocoa beans, but the supply may become more plentiful. The cocoa tree is a native of South America, but it is being grown in increasing quantities in Africa and Asia.

This could mean a steady supply and stable prices for chocolate lovers the world over.

Plays Drunk, King

Comedy Actor Turns to Nursing

By Gail Windham

The glamorous movie star who dashes in and out in a burst of glory has faded. Enter Ellis Fortune. This comedy actor pretends to be no one but himself.

"I play a drunk better than a sober person. My wife says I've had plenty of experience," said Fortune, sophomore nursing student and part-time actor.

He performed countless "Guzzler's Gin" comedy acts in the Army in which he pours a bottle of gin over his head, in imitation of the typical drunk.

His entertainment career began in the service, when he joined the Army eight hours before the end of World War II. Fortune served in the Medical Corps for nine years, during which he performed in traveling shows throughout Europe.

The show he did in England, "On Target," took him 1500 miles in three weeks, with 50 shows to his credit. This show also featured actor Larry Hagman of the television series "I Dream of Jeannie."

Since giving up his acting in 1960 to work in a hospital, Fortune has acted at the Waco Civic Theater in such plays as "Harvey," "40 Carats," "The Odd Couple" and "You Know I Can't Hear You When the Water's Running."

His favorite play was "Catch Me if You Can," a murder mystery in which he portrayed a police chief.

"The first two rehearsals were done without the last 12 pages of script so we wouldn't know who the murderer was either," said Fortune.

Although he has made films as well as live performances, Fortune prefers plays



COMIC ACTOR Ellis Fortune, sophomore, turns on his talent.

because "they don't depend on the weather." Fortune played a drunk in a film once and had to wear an overcoat, a hat, and carry a shotgun while trying to jump in the back of a truck.

"It was supposed to be cold weather in the film, but it was hot where we filmed it. I kept falling off the truck, and they finally had to stop and just let me get in it," said Fortune.

He said the easy part of filming was that he did not have to memorize his lines. He simply read over a few lines at a time between sets.

Fortune will be acting in "Medea," a film of the Greek classic which will be made this fall and winter.

"I play the part of King Aegon, who is a nice guy. I guess I got the part because I'm robust and happy and looked like the king would have," said Fortune.

Another talent, displayed in his nursing profession, is the patch he designed that is being used to represent the vocational nursing program this year. Nursing is now his chosen field, but he believes he has an equal aptitude for acting as well.

"All I want is a chance once or twice a year to get acting out of my system," said Fortune.



Photo by Jim Munson

BETWEEN CLASSES--Sophomore Dale Hughes purchases a snack of candy.

At Opossum Hunter's Antics

Beady Eyes Peer From Woods

By Louis Haak

A lot of outdoorsmen have more opossum hunting experiences than I do, but I can match any of them in one category. Not many people around here have spent more time searching for opossums, and probably very few have a poorer batting average at finding them.

Success in this sport, however, is not easy for just anybody, and it has become increasingly difficult in recent years.

To find an opossum these days you have got to be willing to put in a lot of time looking, and you have got to be lucky.

I first learned of opossum hunting from Mark Mayfield, a student at La Vega High School. Mayfield said that the essentials needed for a successful hunt were the following: a good stereo in your car (opossums seem to be attracted to heavy-metal rock music such as Pink Floyd), a musical banana (used as a opossum call), a real banana (used as bait), a picnic lunch (since the time required to spot a good specimen is usually three hours), a special opossum brush (used to put the opossum to sleep) and a large sack (used to put the opossum in after capture).

"I don't object to opossum hunting, it's the finding that I don't like."

Jerry Scarbrough

Mayfield said that most people look for opossums in the wrong places, such as wooded areas and old rubbish piles. Mayfield said that he has found that the opossums usually stay near country roads in hopes of getting scraps of food dropped from passing cars.

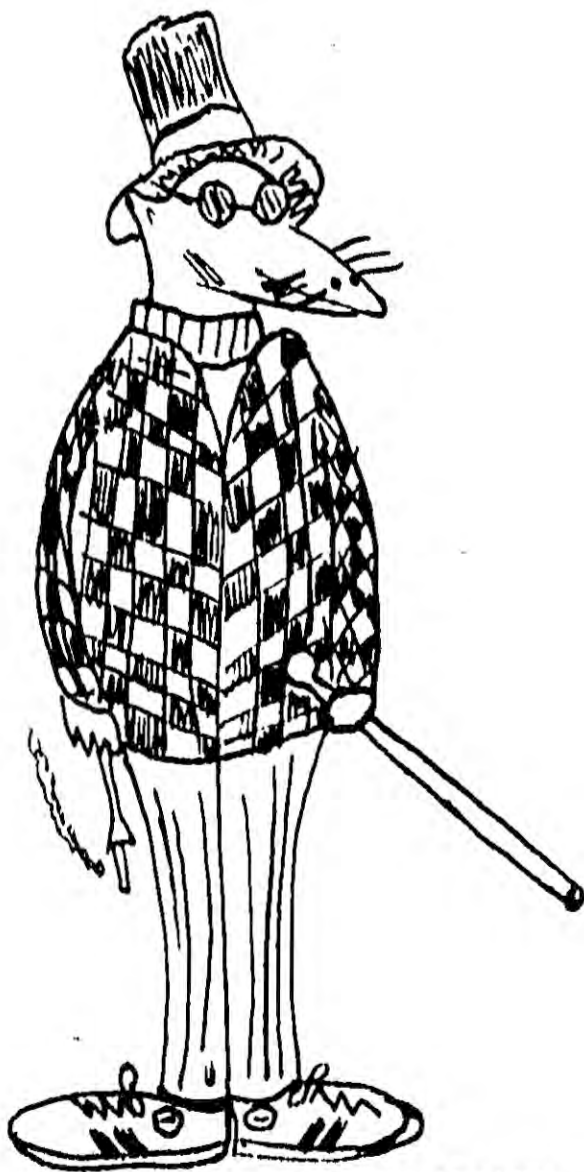


Illustration by Louis Haak

YOU HAVE HEARD of Fritz the Cat. Now meet Orville the Opossum.

Mayfield said that the rise in opossum hunting can be attributed to the fact that anyone can participate in the sport. The sport is fun for young and old people and is also a good form of relaxation.

Mayfield's mother said that if Mark could catch a live opossum that she would sew a checkered sports coat and a pair of pants to match for the opossum.

Mayfield said, "If she could make the clothes for the opossum, I would get a leash and collar for the opossum and then take it for a walk around town."

A professor of opossumology on Johnny Watkins recently said that he had captured opossums by using the musical banana method. He said that opossums are very imitative of humans and that upon seeing a human playing a musical banana they would try to imitate this action.

The hunter must, in advance, place a real banana on a string hanging just high enough in a tree that the opossum can not reach it. While the opossum is trying to reach the banana the hunter sneaks behind the opossum with a special scratching brush.

This brush is used to stroke the right flank of the opossum. This stroking causes the opossum to fall asleep. The sleeping opossum is then easily placed in a large sack for transporting.

Opossums can be domesticated and kept as pets. They have almost human traits and can be very humorous if trained properly.

Kathi Kuehl, sophomore, said, "I think that opossums are cute." Miss Kuehl said that she had been hunting for opossums with her father when she was a child. "The opossums are hard to find, which makes it more of a challenge," said Miss Kuehl.

Joe Ingram, biology teacher, said, "The opossum developed the technique of playing dead because no one cared about them." He said that if you will notice, the opossum's closest relatives, the kangaroos, live in Australia. He said that it seems that the kangaroo family sort of banished them from the continent. "If you had a pouch you'd probably be discriminated against too," he said.

"Opossum hunting is the ultimate sport."

Edward Ramirez

David Chisum, sophomore, said, "They are tricky and even the trained eye of an expert hunter, such as myself, can be fooled by their technique of playing dead."

Jerry Scarbrough, head of developmental studies, said, "I don't object to opossum hunting, it's the finding that I don't like."

Travis Loper, English coordinator, said, "I feel that opossums have been discriminated against. They can not help it if they are greasy. They should not, in all fairness, be forced to associate with nothing but sweet potatoes."

Vicky Deville, freshman, said, "I've never had any personal experience with them. In fact, I've never even known one."

Pat Pollard, sophomore, said, "I didn't see an opossum on my last hunt, only his two beady eyes staring at me from the top of a tree." Mrs. Pollard said her husband tried to get the opossum down from the tree by throwing rocks at it. Mrs. Pollard said, "Needless to say we couldn't get the opossum down. We finally just said good-bye to the opossum and went home."

Don Reeves, history instructor, said, "I had a small opossum when I was a teenager. It would hang on my finger by its tail." Reeves said that he was not exactly sure what happened to the opossum.

Forrester O'Brian, sophomore, said, "I had one that I found in a tree. I kept him about a year and he was as good a pet as any cat or raccoon." O'Brian said that even after he let the opossum go free it would come back to the house to eat.



Illustration by Francy Richings

THE AVERAGE American opossum hunter.

The opossum, a somewhat shy animal, seems to resent the sudden invasion of his privacy, though he seems flattered that someone cared enough to finally notice him.

This revival of an old sport is growing every week, with more and more people turning out on weekends to search for the peaky creatures.

As the tale of the opossum grows, it is being taken up by local merchants. The Possum Gardens Club is a

product of this growing interest in opossums. The proprietor, Oscar Rager, said that he hoped to obtain a live opossum for his customers to watch.

Edward Ramirez, sophomore at TSTI, said, "Opossum hunting to me is the ultimate sport."

"They'd be cute if they didn't have that tail."

Ruth Helpert

Because this form of hunting opossums requires no gun and causes no harm to the opossum in any way there is no need for a hunting license.

The actual capture of an opossum can sometimes cause a problem, so unless you have proper facilities for caring for an opossum, it is suggested that you do your hunting with a camera. This will be difficult though, because opossums are nocturnal animals and hunting must be done at night.

Johnny Holub, freshman, said, "It's a great sport as long as you don't go hunting late at night." He said that the opossums seem to get pretty mad when awakened in the middle of the night.

Ruth Helpert, freshman, said, "They'd be cute if they didn't have that tail."

Cooke Tourney to See Action

The tennis team will play in the Cooke County tournament this Friday and Saturday in Sherman. Other junior college teams that will be participating will be Grayson County, Cooke County, Weatherford, Hill and Vernon.

These tournaments will be a fall preview of the conference tournament this spring, with most of the conference teams being represented.

MCC's team played in the Navarro Tournament on Oct. 11 and 12 in Corsicana.

Elaine Kocian, freshman, won her first three matches in singles, and lost in the quarter finals. Her opponents were from TCU, Stephen F. Austin, Tyler Junior College and Navarro Junior College. Her

opponent in the quarter finals was from Chile and played for Navarro.

Sadie Pack, freshman, drew a bye in the first round, won her next two rounds and lost in the quarter finals to the number one seeded player. Her opponent was from Sweden and plays for Mary-Hardin Baylor.

Miss Pack and Miss Kocian lost in doubles in the quarter finals to a Mary-Hardin Baylor team which was seeded No. 1 in the tournament.

They won their first match against Stephen F. Austin and had a default over TCU in the next round.

"I am very proud of the competitive spirit Sadie and Elaine showed," said Coach Don Tatum. "Elaine had to play ten

sets, and Sadie had to play nine sets on Friday. Toward the end of the day they were very tired but still were playing good tennis. They both beat some good players in some close matches."

Freshmen Anne Sprain and Lisa Lockridge both lost first round matches in the tournament.

Miss Sprain and Miss Lockridge also lost their doubles match to a team from Richland Community College.

Bob Cervenka, sophomore, won his first round match over his opponent, a player from Tyler Junior College.

"Bob really played well in this tournament," said Tatum. "Bob is the No. 3 player on the MCC team, and if he continues to improve, it will add a lot of depth

to our team."

Randy Essenburg, freshman, won his first round match over his opponent from Vernon Regional Junior College. He lost in the second round in a close match to the No. 1 seeded player from Tyler Junior College.

"Randy almost upset a very strong player. He was playing very tough tennis. He lost one set in a tie breaker," said Tatum.

Dennis Dougherty, sophomore, lost his first round match to a player from Tyler. The match went three sets.

Steve Hirth, freshman, lost his first round match to a player from Tyler.

Both men's doubles teams lost their first round matches.

Pre-Retirement Classes To Be Offered Soon

Pre-Retirement and Continuing Education (PACE) courses will be offered on campus to persons 55 years of age and older.

Each program will be different, containing educational services, volunteer services and services of a general nature.

The Pre-Retirement Planning Center has been divided into two different sections. "Planning for the Rest of Your Life" will be held in seven two-hour sessions designed to aid pre-retirees and retired persons in preparing for and coping with retirement. It will help the adult population prepare for retirement.

Sixteen programs of this type will be scheduled in various locations for the six counties of the Central Texas area and will serve about 500 persons. There will be no charge for persons 55 years and older who take the courses which will be offered at different times through June 30, 1975.

"Helping People Plan for the Rest of Their Lives" will be a three-day seminar designed to familiarize and assist

representatives from local businesses, institutions and organizations in counseling retiring employees. The seminar will also plan, coordinate and conduct pre-retirement planning programs for employees.

Dr. Chester Hasting, vice-president in charge of program development, said that five seminars of this type will be scheduled and that 100 key persons from organizations within the Central Texas area will attend. No charge will be made.

The Continuing Education Division will offer a series of non-credit, short-term courses for persons 55 years of age and older. It will be developed with the advice of persons in that age bracket and will be offered at suitable times and places within the Central Texas area. No charge will be made.

Dr. Hastings said that about 30 courses serving some 750 persons will be offered.

These sessions will deal with the legal and financial aspects of retirement.



Photo by Jim Munson

HIGHLANDERS Paul Lamb and Ivan Gordon are the only returning sophomores on Coach Johnny Carter's basketball team.

Pipeline

Underwater Photography

Dr. and Mrs. James Murphy will be on campus today from 10 to 11 a.m. with a slide presentation on the waters around the Bahamas and the Florida Keys. The presentation will be conducted in AC 203.

Mrs. Murphy, a scuba diver, taught Dr. Murphy, a photographer, how to scuba dive. They have done most of their research for the presentation along coral reefs which are constructed by live animals building their homes on top of each other.

Animal life such as corals and fish will be the central theme of the Murphys' presentation. "Anyone is welcome to attend the program," said James Schwarz, science instructor.

The program is entitled "Underwater Photography and Aquatic Life" and is sponsored by the science club, Alpha Sigma Phi.

Board Meeting

New construction, repair and additional furnishings were discussed during the October board of trustees meeting.

Plans for fencing, concrete walks and asphalt drainage for the baseball field, additional walkways behind the Health Careers Building and a stone wall at the circle behind the Student Center were presented by Hal Stringer of Stringer-Raso Company.

Mel Post, director of administrative services, gave a report on the damage of the ruptured water main under the concrete slab in front of the HPE Building and reported that the estimated repair cost was \$6,000.

Vet Casualties

Two broken toes were the souvenirs that John Mangum, freshman, took home from the Heart of Texas Fair. Mangum was one of the targets in the Veterans Club's Dunking Booth during the fair.

Sherry Price and Sue Aeri received cuts on the feet as they took their turns on the board. Ron Smith, director of veterans' affairs, said all three students are in good condition and are limping about campus.

A profit of \$455 was made during the five day operation of the booth at the fair and 5,000 balls were thrown. "The money will be deposited in the club coffers and used for future social and charitable activities," said Smith.

Sports Capsules

The Highlanders golf team finished second in the Sam Houston Invitational Tournament Saturday. Sam Houston won the tournament with a team total of 800 thirteen strokes ahead of MCC which finished the event with a total of 912.

Individually the Highlanders John Foster, sophomore, took fourth place with a 54 hole total of 225. Mike Hagen, sophomore, finished at 226 with sophomores Gil Freeman at 231 and Tom McConnell at 234.

The order of finish behind the MCC linksters was Wharton, San Jacinto and Lee College.



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