

MCC dancers may venture to Hollywood

By MELANIE BURNETTE
The MCC Dance Company is headed for the "Big Time."

Sandy Hinton's troupe of dancers is reportedly being considered for a performance on the Barbara Mandrell Show shown on Saturday nights.

Hinton was contacted at the beginning of the Spring semester. The Mandrell Show wanted to know whether the Dance Company's uniforms were of western appearance. The show also expressed interest in the types of routines the girls perform.

The Company has been working hard on Country-Western style routines. So, if they are contacted to perform

on the Mandrell Show, they will be ready.

The Dance Company has also had another pleasing offer. They have been asked to perform at the National Junior College All Star Basketball game this semester.

To be a Dance Company dancer is not that hard to accomplish--tryouts for the Spring semester will be held in the small gym of the HPE building on Saturday, January 30. It is important to either wear comfortable shorts and shoes or leotards and tights. A short routine will be taught followed by practice time and tryouts.

Anyone interested in dance is encouraged to tryout.



Members of Sandy Hinton's 1980 Dance Company are: (bottom row, left to right) Captain Gay Dedson, Lannette Porter, Jamie Salazar, Lannette Hamard, Lieutenant Cindy Skelton; (middle row, left to right) Ann Foote, Ruth Anne Winkelmann, Belinda Hernandez, Karla Kaska, Marty Cotto, Debra Comtois and Suzanne Lehman; back row, left to right) Sandi Skonge, Jamie Dennison, Julie Jernigan, Angie Pavelka, Karle Clevenger, Jo Beth Baylor and Jodie Trevino. Not pictured: Janet Bishop and Kelle Garner.

Student enrollment increases slightly

By DAVID JOHNSON

"As of January 20," stated MCC Registrar Willie Hobbs, "we received some 3828 students for the spring semester. Although this is an unofficial report on the registrants, I believe it is very close to accurate."

There were 3735 registrants, 91 continuing education students, 2832 day and 994 night students. Part-time students numbered 2046.

There are 2384 females to 1452 males at MCC.

Registration figures have increased slightly this Spring over what they were last year at this time, according to unofficial tallies.

"We had very few problems with this semester's registration," said Hobbs. "However, it seemed as if everyone waited to pick up their packets at the very last minute, thus causing a very overcrowded registration building. Remember, if you get the chance to pre-register, by all means do it."

"We aren't equipped to preregister everyone yet. As of now only the night students have been able to. We soon hope to have an automated system that will make registration go much faster and easier," said Hobbs. "With automation, preregistration would be accessible for much of the student body."



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Council to vote on zoo proposal

By DAVID JOHNSON and TIM ISAACKS

Waco's City Council will vote on the proposed move of the Centex Zoo to Cameron Park in a meeting scheduled for 1:15 p.m. today at City Hall.

Zoo Director Tim Jones feels such a move would be beneficial to the zoo as well as the city of Waco, for numerous reasons. "It would be more accessible for the local community, and would help advance tourism in the Waco area. Also, the hilly terrain of the Green Lake section of Cameron Park is more like that of many of the animal's natural surroundings," Jones said.

Jones said that the present zoo, constructed in 1955, was not really designed with the animals in mind. "We were just a bunch of kids who didn't know what we were doing. They'd pay

us two bits and we'd work all day. We did the best we could, but we didn't know what the future would demand. This new location would enable us to construct up-to-date quality facilities suited to the animals' best interests."

One of the controversies over the more populated Green Lake area has been the possibility of odors. However, Jones said, "In a modern zoo you just don't have that bad smell."

Jones envisions earth pens with walk-in observation areas. "Instead of wire mesh pens, many of the animals will be located on isolated islands, or behind plexi-glass observation booths."

The Green Lake area would also be convenient to local bus routes. "I've had many elderly people tell me they would love to visit the present zoo, but they

have no ride, and the buses don't come out this far.

Therefore, these folks could enjoy the facilities they pay taxes for in the Cameron Park location."

In addition to the zoo, Jones said they would create an improved educational section. One that would include an expanded zoological library. "We have students who are working on their degrees that come to study our animals. For research, we allow them to come in after hours, and observe the animals' behaviour patterns. We encourage any type of research that doesn't endanger the animals."

"I believe the Cameron Park move would be beneficial for the whole community," stated Jones.

"In complement to our exotics, we plan to have the greatest collection of native Texas animals in the world. We would like people traveling through Texas to stop in Waco and see our zoo. Our collection of Texas animals alone should attract many out-of-state tourists."

If the City Council votes "yes," Jones speculates it would be three to four years before the completion of the new zoo.

Waco Transit System reschedules routes

By TIM ISAACKS

Beginning Feb. 21, the Waco Transit System will initiate its "Cross-town-Richland Mall-MCC" bus route, in hopes of better serving Waco's West Side and students in need of transportation to MCC.

According to Deborah Goodrich, marketing director at Waco Transit, two buses, L-1 and L-2, will be in service Monday through Friday, one every hour beginning at 8 a.m. L-1 starts at K-Mart Shopping

Center, New Road and Waco Drive at 7:42 a.m., while L-2 starts at Richland Mall at 7:24 a.m. L-2 will be the first bus at MCC every morning. Both buses will then use Fourth Street and Austin as their starting points for the rest of the day.

Said Goodrich, "This new schedule is much better than the old Park Lake bus. It was on campus by 35 minutes after the hour, and didn't handle the west side of town at all."

As an added incentive for riding the bus, Waco Transit System is offering a B.E.A.R. pass (Be Energy Efficient And Ride). A B.E.A.R. pass sells for \$15 and yields unlimited rides for a month.

"Cross-town-Richland Mall-MCC" route has several advantages, in that it goes near both hospitals and many doctor's offices. "Also, riding the bus allows the student more study time for that big test," she added.

inside today

- page 2 Speasmaker returns
- page 3 Sydow: ad man
- page 4 animals talk about zoo
- page 6 crash diet
- page 7 Butler to assist

Speasmaker relates journey

By JUDY LUNA
Westminster Abbey, St. Paul's Cathedral, Buckingham Palace and Carnaby Street are just a few of the British highlights Marion Speasmaker visited on her first trip to her motherland in 34 years.

Recruiters seek nursing students

Recruiters from over 30 health institutions and agencies will be in the Health Careers building on Jan. 30 from 10 a.m. until 1:30 p.m.

All LVN and ADN students and others interested in a nursing career are invited to stop by and meet with recruiters.

'Free' tickets for students

Family night at the MCC Basketball Game will be Monday, February 2, when MCC plays Weatherford. Game times are 6 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Students may pick up "Free" tickets for family members at the office of Student Activities between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., or from 5 to 8 p.m. at the registrar's office.

Girls take lead

Student Government has designated Feb. 8-14 to be Corrigan Week. For this week, females court males.

Comic Strip Writer Al Capp, famous for Sadie Hawkins day and the aviator "Wrong Way Corrigan," established this tradition that reverses the ways of dating.

Country band coming Jan. 30

The "Country Critters" will be entertaining students during the 10 a.m. hour at the Student Center Friday, January 30.

This concert is being sponsored by the Office of Student Activities. "Country Critters" is a group of Air Force Band members and is reported to be very good.

Course on fire licensing offered

A non-credit course on "Fire and Casualty Agent Licensing" will be taught at McLennan Community College from Tuesday, Feb. 17, thru April 2.

The continuing education course will meet each Tuesday and Thursday from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. and on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The cost for the seven-week course is \$67.

This course meets education requirements of regulations regarding fire and casualty agent licensing.

For more information, contact the MCC Continuing Education Office at 756-6551, ext. 217.

Speasmaker, sophomore, stated she "seemed to float on a cloud" her entire time in England.

Her long awaited journey home started right after the fall final exams. On December 17, Speasmaker stepped onto a Boeing 747 bound non-stop for London. She explained that the eight-hour flight time took them by jet stream over the Arctic Circle. Arriving in London at 1 a.m. CST contributed to the weeklong drudgery of "jet-lag" experienced by Speasmaker. "By the time I was revived and ready to get going, it was time to go back," she said.

Speasmaker's separation from her homeland started in 1944 when she received a letter from an American soldier, who had been asked by her cousins in Cleveland to look up Mrs. Speasmaker. Philip Speasmaker received a note from his wife-to-be with directions to her home.

Speasmaker explained she was hesitant about meeting this American because at the time she "wasn't keen on Americans." Her opinion of Americans was based on viewing the rowdy, whiskey-drinking soldiers in the streets from her office window at the Diamond Corp., where she was employed as a diamond sorter.

The Speasmakers were married about a year later at the same church where her parents had married. Three days after the wedding, Philip Speasmaker was shipped home because of a war injury.

Speasmaker was finally able to travel to her new home in February 1946 and became a U.S. citizen in 1949. They reared a family of one daughter and four sons while traveling to various military installations in the U.S. and abroad. Mr. Speasmaker has now retired.

MCCOPA meets for makeovers

The McLennan Community College Office Personnel Association (MCCOPA) held its regular monthly meeting on January 20, 1981.

The program was presented by Jan Blackburn, coordinator of Advanced Cosmetology, here at MCC. She showed a slide presentation of some of her students and a staff member in both before and after Makeovers.

A small business meeting preceded the program. MCCOPA's next regular business meeting is February 3.

Course cures income tax woes

Having trouble with your income tax forms? MCC is offering a course called "You and Your Income Tax."

Classes will be held Tuesday and Thursday, January 27 and 29 from 6:30-9:30. The course costs \$1.50 and will help on

from the military and works as the Text Book Manager at Baylor University, of which he is a graduate. Two of their sons also attend Baylor and Mrs. Speasmaker plans to transfer to Baylor in the fall.

The drama major has been studying theater and explained everyone must "find an expression for yourself." She stated that after Baylor she "might try teaching" or "write for theater."

Speasmaker found many surprising changes from the England she left in 1946. She commented that Britain's highways are "tremendously improved." Also, "London is clean," she said. "There's no smoke coming from London's well-known stacks and they don't have the fog they used to." The Diamond Corp., where Speasmaker had been employed, is now a large complex. She commented, "I was quite amazed how the business had grown."

While visiting her relatives in London she took in the long-running play Oklahoma. She commented that the scenery was arranged on overhead tracts, enabling smooth, quick set changes.

Speasmaker visited many spots that she had passed every day when living in England, but explained she just didn't "take time to look at those places. They're too close to you."

While visiting Buckingham Palace, Speasmaker viewed an exhibition of paintings from the Royal Collection by Antonio Canaletto.

During Christmas, Speasmaker took part in the English traditional Christmas cake and pudding, but explained that the holiday was "getting more Americanized."

Speasmaker also commented on the prices of goods in England. She explained that everything is priced double its price in the U.S., plus a "value added tax," which leaves London off the list of places to visit for bargains. She advised anyone planning to visit England to "know money values" and to spend more time seeing historic landmarks than buying souvenirs.

Speasmaker stated the visit brought her family in England closer and she learned things she hadn't known about her family background.

During her stay, Speasmaker did all the things she had wanted to do, but added, "The visit whetted my appetite to go back again." Speasmaker feels proud of her native land, but admitted, "I'm glad this is my home."

forms 1040 and 1040-A.

This class is sponsored as a public service by the Central Texas Chapter of the Texas Society of Certified Accountants.

Deadline for registering is Tuesday, January 27.



Marion Speasmaker, shown here with Tigger, relaxes after her trip to her native England. (Photo by Judy Luna)

Clubs drop names for Sweetheart

By JEANNE GAUNTT

All nominees for Homecoming Sweetheart are asked to turn in their nominating forms to the Office of Student Activities by Friday, January 30.

Each campus organization is entitled to one nomination for Homecoming Sweetheart. A petition with 25 student signatures, with Student ID number, may be submitted to nominate a candidate from the student body. All nominees must be full time students at MCC.

A sweetheart will be elected by the Student body during student elections on February 5 and 6.

The Sweetheart nominees will be presented during halftime at the Homecoming basketball game Thursday, February 12, and the 1980-81 Homecoming Sweetheart will be announced at that time.

Starting the entertainment will be the MCC Homecoming Dance at Magic Music, Feb. 11,

from 8 to 12 p.m. All students enter free with their MCC ID card and their driver's license.

Essay contest awards money

An essay contest is being sponsored by the office of Student Activities, the Highland Herald, and the Science Club as part of the "ENERGY 80's," a special emphasis week March 9-13.

All students are eligible to enter the essay contest by writing an essay of 500 words or less on the subject, "What I can Do To Conserve Energy."

The winning essay will be printed in the March 10 issue of the Highland Herald. Cash awards of \$25, \$10 and \$5 will be awarded to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place finishers, respectively.

Entries must be turned in to the office of Student Activities by Wednesday, February 25.

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Ad teacher puts experience to use

To be a good advertiser one must have a creative mind, a desire to work long hours and effectiveness in dealing with people.

This is the first lesson learned in Richard Sydow's Advertising Class. The lesson is not learned from a textbook; it comes from Sydow's 15 years experience

and his creation of several thousand ads.

"I don't teach from the book as much as some instructors," said Sydow. "There doesn't seem to be an ideal text in advertising. Sometimes the only difference between an effective ad and a 'bomb' is a minor change." Sydow has had

both in his career as he has won numerous advertising awards and also felt the impact of a few 'bombs.'

Sydow's advertising career began after he graduated from Baylor University with a M.B.A. He became general manager of a retail store and decided to do his own ad-

vertising. Later, he turned everything else over to an assistant and concentrated on advertising. As Sydow explained, "You can't separate advertising from marketing; the two are synonymous."

The start of Sydow's teaching career began as a result of marketing, by conducting seminars for industry. "I found that I enjoyed teaching, so I began to teach part time at MCC." In January of 1979, he became a full-time member of the faculty.

Sydow teaches advertising in a condensed class that touches on every form of the craft. Students must create ads and do a television commercial during the semester. Even the controversial issue of Subliminal Advertising (subconscious suggestion) is brought up. Asked whether he condones subliminal techniques, Sydow replied, Subliminal Advertising has been around for a long time. Only recently has it been brought to public attention. I feel it can be used in a more positive manner; for instance, to help stop smoking. After all it is with us. As far as condoning it, I put it this way. We teach about World War II but that doesn't mean we agree with it.

Advertising is only one of the ways that Sydow shows his creativity, he is also a musician. He plans three instruments, the trombone, baritone and piano. He spent several years with the Air Force Band while in service. "Music has always been a

hobby of mine," he said. "At first I was planning on making a career of it." Sydow's other hobbies include just about all sports and current events.

His plans for the future are to continue teaching. "It has been a major part of my life; I love it."

Group counsels traumatic events

By MARY SALAZAR

MCC will co-sponsor a special series of educational programs this Spring. The series of "I Can Cope," ranging from divorce to career conflicts, will be offered to benefit people dealing with these major concerns.

"I Can Cope With Cancer" will begin tonight at 7 p.m. This course, which is co-sponsored by the American Cancer Society is designed to help cancer patients and their families increase their knowledge about cancer, increase the control they have over their lives and decrease the anxiety they feel about their lives. There is no charge for the course and persons will receive continuing education credit.

For more information on "I Can Cope With Cancer" call the American Cancer Society at 776-3600.

Other "I Can Cope" series include: Single Parenting, Career Problems and Conflicts, Guilt, Singleness, Tension, Death and Dying and Depression. Persons wanting more information should contact MCC at ext. 237.

Cinema treat a real sweet

By SUSAN SMITH

Foreign Correspondent

Among the most satisfying entertainments available in England is the theatre. Every city of any substantial size has its own playhouse and attending plays is a popular pastime.

Tickets for the performances can be as much as eight to ten pounds, especially for what is called the "dress circle," usually the balcony. The "stalls" are more reasonable in price, about five to six pounds, but there are a couple of schemes for even cheaper tickets.

Students can pay half price for tickets by going to the theatre on the night of the performance and waiting in line for the unsold seats. Recently, another half-price scheme was introduced in London, whereby hargain-hunting theatre-goers queue at a kiosk (a booth) in Leicester Square, located in the heart of London's theatre district, on the day of performance.

London is by no means the only place to find excellent theatrical productions. Although the original Globe Theatre (where Shakespeare originally produced his plays) has long since ceased to exist on the south bank of the Thames in London, the Royal Shakespeare Company flourishes in Stratford-on-Avon. The village of Stratford is somewhat spoiled by the tourist-ridden atmosphere of huge parking lots for buses and countless souvenir stands selling "The Bard of Avon" t-shirts and "I've

theatre is a very modern concrete and glass building on the banks of the River Avon and has a large auditorium and a very unusual stage that can be altered to fit various plays and styles of performances.

I was recently taken to what was described to me as a typical theatre evening in Stratford. We drove from Leicester to Stratford on what was originally a Roman highway called the Foss Road. We arrived in Stratford in time for an early dinner at a restaurant down the street from the theatre, quaintly called "The Dirty Duck." The restaurant was filled with other theatre-goers, and I was very happy to hear some familiar American accents; Stratford is a very popular place for tourists of all nationalities, but I am told that Americans are the most enthusiastic visitors.

After an excellent dinner of roast beef and Yorkshire pudding, which is not really a pudding at all but a kind of pastry, we walked to the theatre and saw a really fine performance of Hamlet. Seeing Hamlet in Stratford is probably among every English teacher's list of top ten wishes, and I am no exception. I was thrilled by the setting, the actors, the performance, and the evening.

Leicester has its own Haymarket Theatre, which also produces some outstanding plays. The theatre is so popular in Leicester that it is difficult to get tickets, and even though students can wait in a queue for half-price seats, I have never been able to obtain tickets in that way because the performances are almost always sold out. Since I have been here, I have seen The Importance of Being Earnest, Hedda Gabler, and (illegible). I know that I have

seen more plays this year than I have in a long time. The English seem to prefer the theatre to the cinema, as they call it.

Going to the cinema in Leicester is not nearly as attractive as going to the theatre mainly because there are relatively few movie-houses as compared with Waco, and because there is consequently a very limited choice. I went to see The Elephant Man and found the cinema to be a rather different experience here than what I am used to. There are differently priced seats available, and I paid approximately three dollars for a balcony seat. To my surprise I sat through an hour of previews, advertisements, and documentaries before the feature film began. Perhaps the greatest shock was that the English put sugar on popcorn instead of salt; I will never forget that first mouthful.

London is a classical music lover's dream; there are ten symphony orchestras in the area, and the papers are full of concert listings. The tickets are not expensive; before Christmas I attended a performance of The Messiah given by the London Philharmonic in the Royal Albert Hall, a hall that has been the site of concerts since 1857. Some American friends and I sat in our own box, through which we entered by a private door. For this luxury we paid only three pounds each, a small price by English or American standards.

'Follies' showing

From the Office of Student Activities comes a videotape showing entitled "NFL Football Follies."

The Follies are variety and slapstick, confusion and comedy. It is a collection of the weirdly absurd plays that are a part of pro football.

Show times are between 8 a.m. and 12 noon, starting January 28 continuing through the 30 at the Student Center Bridge Aron.

McNair, Damm place third in tourney

Several MCC students attended the Midwestern Speech tournament in Wichita Falls, in which 32 schools from 5 states competed. The debate team of Danny McNair and Victor Damm won third place, defeating teams from Abilene Christian, Henderson County, Oklahoma Christian College, and Cameron University of Oklahoma, before being

defeated by the University of Houston. Damm was also selected as the top debater of the tournament.

Also deserving recognition were: James Dean, who placed fifth in impromptu speaking; Cheryl Cooper, seventh in prose reading; and Danny McNair placed sixth in extemporaneous speaking.

malfunctioning equipment, among other measures.

For future conservation actions, the Energy Conservation Committee (ECC) will be reinstated. The ECC, consisting of eight representatives from the faculty and staff and chaired by the Director of Administrative Services, makes recommendations concerning energy conservation. The committee met regularly from 1973 through 1975, but met only sporadically in 1976 and again in 1979.

Under the ECC, each building will have building monitors, who will ensure that all conservation measures possible are being taken in his or her building. Also, most of the buildings will receive added insulation.

Through these and other measures, such as installing high efficiency motors to the air conditioning systems, Luft hopes to reduce utility consumption by 10 percent in 1980-81, a savings of \$28,000, based on today's rates.

In other action, the Board of Trustees approved the employment of three new personnel. They are Cyndie M. Davis, child care instructor; Volma DeLeon, secretary for counseling; and Rudolph A. Martin, custodian.

Student Services Council discusses four-day week

By JEANNE GAUNTT

The Student Services Council meeting was held in the boardroom of the administration building on Jan. 20. Various topics were discussed including Student Government elections.

Student Government president Chip Hoji said there was a possibility of improving certain areas of Student Services. Don Hynum, Director of Student Activities, announced major activities for the Spring semester.

Several members commented on the heavy traffic during the morning hour, the noon hour

and during the afternoon. Dr. Lavern Wong, Dean of Student Services requested recommendations for traffic control during the noon hour. A motion was made and seconded for this.

Also brought up by Dr. Wong was the possibility of a four day week for summer students. This recommendation has not been approved but is suggested that opinions be voiced by all. Although the classes on the four days would be longer, there would be no classes on Friday. It was said that this proposal would be an advantage to the working student.

Imaginary interview reveals 'beastly' opinions



Photo by David Johnson

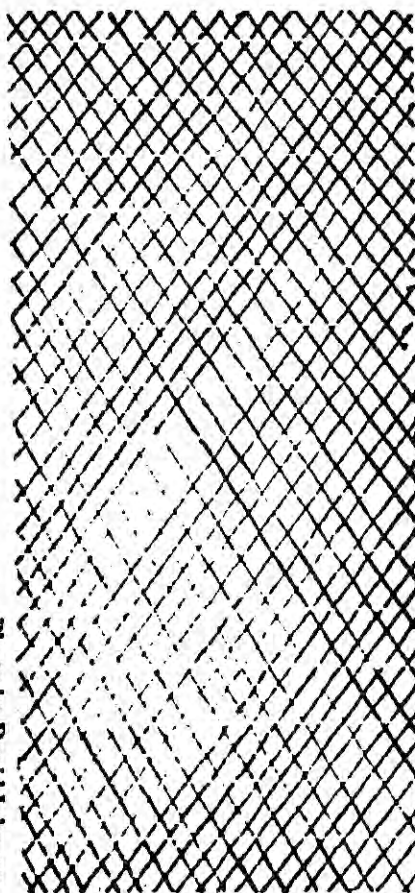


Photo by David Johnson



By DAVID JOHNSON and
TIM ISAACKS
Editors

News Analysis

(A semi-fabricated story)

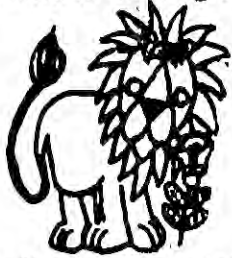
Relocation of the Central Texas Zoo has been kicked around like a ball on a soccer field.

News articles, editorials, political discussion concern the proposed move. Zoo officials seem pleased with their plans, but has anybody even bothered to ask the animals what they think?



We spoke with some of the inhabitants of the present Centex Zoological park, and they had this to say about moving to the city.

We went to the king of beasts



himself, Leonis Lion, who stated, "My subjects and I must hold court in more posh surroundings. And besides, I like to be closer to my adoring public."

Pervis Peacock flourishing

his tail, screeched, "How can people admire my beautiful body if they can't even get out here to the boondocks. If we don't move oh, oh, I'll scratch your eyes out, you brutes. I have rights. I demand to be seen!"



Fannie Fox, while sunning herself in her new string bikini, took time to say, "Oh really darling. This ol' place is really quite out-dated, if you can imagine. My coat has been getting so ragged out; I really think the change of scenery would do me wonders."

Then we passed by Larry Leopard, who was busy

changing his spots, who said, "Oh, you see, I just don't know. I've been here so many years. Moving means you have to pack all of your things. What if the movers drop something? Oh gosh, the new place would be so nice. It's prettier and there are hills and a river. More people could come to see us. But, you know what Thornton Wilder



said: 'You can't go home again.' But this place is really old, and out there we would have nice modern buildings and a library. You see, I just don't know."

And finally, we spoke to the wise old Owl himself, Professor Barn Owl, who lectured us for a full hour on the do's and don't's of zoo moving. The gist of his speech was that he approved of the move.



"In my opinion, the proposed transcendental move of my zoological society will stimulate the cultural activities of urban Waco," he concluded.

Well, there you have it folks. The completely unbiased and uncoached remarks of Marlin Perkins' cast from Waco's Wild Kingdom."

REVIEW

'Seems Like Old Times': not bad, but not great, either

By MELANIE BURNETTE

Seems Like Old Times isn't a great movie, nor is it a horrible movie. It is just one of the many films showing in Waco that isn't worth the four-dollar admission-unless, of course, someone else is paying.

There is nothing specifically wrong with this Neil Simon venture; it just isn't anything world shattering. But who expects Goldie Hawn and Chevy Chase to be in something that is thought provoking? So, for what it is, Seems Like Old Times is a fun flick.

Goldie Hawn is adorable with her priceless expressions. She plays a kind-hearted lawyer who deals with some hilarious small-time criminals. One of the funniest things in the film is Goldie's collection of dogs. In one scene all the dogs are sprawled luxuriously on Goldie's bed when her husband (Charles Grodin) says, "Why is it I am always the last one to get in bed with you." Of course, the audience takes that line all wrong!

Chevy Chase plays Goldie's ex-husband. He plays the same part he portrays in most of his prior films: a bumbling, easy-going, laid-back guy who doesn't take one second of life seriously.

In every comedy there must be a straight man, and in Seems Like Old Times Charles Grodin plays a great straight man. Grodin is Goldie's husband, and throughout the whole movie he maintains a perfect balance between the one-liners that Goldie and Chevy throw around. He is good-looking, intelligent and normal.

The plot is a variation of the old theme: "Divorced guy wants old girl back, but girl is torn." But Neil Simon makes it light and funny.

Chevy robs a bank (kinda), and he goes to Goldie for help. The main part of the movie follows Goldie's trying to keep Charles Grodin from finding out, and that little plot makes for some highly entertaining action.

One good thing about Seems

Like Old Times is there never is a dull moment. There is even a pretty good car chase scene and plenty of bed scenes, although the action usually takes place under the bed.

So if you are in the mood for some light-hearted, fast-paced comedy and don't mind shelling out four dollars for a less than superior flick, then this movie is for you. But if you're like me, you'll probably wish for the "old times" when movies cost what they were worth.



Peace Pilgrim to appear at MCC

"Peace Pilgrim," a silver-haired woman who has walked 25,000 miles "for peace," will speak at MCC Feb. 6 at 10 a.m. in the Lecture Hall.

Peace Pilgrim has been walking for peace since 1953. She is known by no other name and her origin is also unknown.

The lecture is being sponsored by Retriels Un Nol, an

MCC club for handicapped students.

"I shall remain a wanderer until mankind has learned the way of peace, walking until I am given shelter and fasting until I am given food," she said. Peace Pilgrim is not affiliated with any organization. She feels that "This is a crisis period in human history. We who live in the world today must choose

between a nuclear war of annihilation and a golden age of peace."

"She walks as a prayer and as a chance to inspire others to pray and work with her for peace," said a news release announcing her visit.

While in Waco, Peace Pilgrim will also speak at the Church of Religious Science, 525 N. 10th at 11 a.m. and at Unity Church, 6614 Sanger at 5 p.m. Feb. 6.

European Christmas shows traditional customs

By NATALIE WEST
English Instructor

Finals and grade reports were soon forgotten last semester as my husband and I boarded a 747 to spend the holidays in Germany. The moment I looked down to see Frankfurt covered in snow I knew Christmas 1980 would be super-special.

Although I spent most of my time with Americans in Europe, I observed some customs and ways of celebrating Christmas and New Year's Day which impressed and delighted me.

MCC students on 'Who's Who' list

By DAVID JOHNSON
Associate Editor

Six of MCC's outstanding campus leaders have been selected for the 1981 edition of "Who's Who in American Junior Colleges."

These students join an elite group selected from more than 600 institutions of higher learning in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and several foreign nations.

"Who's Who" has been announcing the names of honored students in their annual directory since 1966.

MCC students chosen for this honor are Charleton Robert Bass, Victor Damm, Robyn L. Ford, Debbie Glatter, Damon Patterson, and Rhonda Spradlin.

MCC sophomores, Robert Bass and Victor Damm, commented on their selections. Bass said, "I'm really honored, and I think they made a wise choice." Damm stated, "You mean all this work paid off? I'm grateful."

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 future potential. Congratulations Highlanders!

Outdoor decorations are as popular throughout Germany, Switzerland, and Austria as they are here, and customarily they are left in place until January 6. In both large cities and small towns, they are quite beautiful -- in some cases spectacular.

The idea of the Christmas tree originated in Germany, and brilliant trees are in abundance -- in front of houses, on tops of tall buildings, on the balconies of apartments, high up on a hillside or mountain top, and on the main streets of towns. Nearly all of these are lighted with frosted white lights rather than with the multicolored ones which seem more popular here in the States. In Mullheim, a twinkling 18-foot tree was the central feature in the small downtown area. In West Berlin the entire downtown area was glowing and festive with thousands of lights on many, many trees.

Unlike most German cities, Berlin has wide streets, and the main boulevard through downtown is divided by wide grassy islands. All along these were huge Christmas trees, about three to each block.

At night they were brilliant with lights, and by day they were fascinating because each was decorated in a different way. One had Christmas packages tied all over it; another was covered with enormous toys cut out of styrofoam and painted appropriately. Another was covered with huge shiny red balls; still another was decorated with large hearts. Another was strung with tinsel ropes.

There must have been at least 30 such trees, each with its own motif. Climaxing them all, in a huge square was a tremendous tree covered with 3,000 lights (the tour guide gave us the number). In addition, on both sides of the street, the living trees which bordered the boulevard had lights on the lower branches.

Downtown Berlin is ablaze with neon signs anyhow, and the hundreds of Christmas lights added to the glow so that the effect was spectacular. Our hotel room overlooked part of this thoroughfare, and I was constantly standing at the window enjoying this beautiful sight.

There were other types of decorations also. Towns and cities decorated streets much as we do with large outlines of stars, trees, bells, or some other design associated with Christmas. Basel, Switzerland, was exquisite -- that is the only word for it! Three of the main streets downtown converge in a triangular fashion so that at one point we could see all three simultaneously. One was decorated with large modernistic quadrangles hung above the narrow street, the second was decorated with enormous lighted stars, and the third was arched over by double archways ending at each end with a sunburst effect. It was an unforgettable sight.

Many shop windows added to the beauty of the Christmas season. I wish I had taken pictures of some in Munich. One store had featured gold and purple in all the windows. Packages wrapped in metallic paper and tied with huge bows of ribbon were arranged dramatically in the center of each window along with carefully chosen luxury items one might be tempted to purchase as suitable for such wrappings.

Driving along the roads and the autobahn, we noticed that truckers were celebrating by decorating the cabs of their 14-wheelers. We saw windshields outlined with holly, Christmas balls, tinsel, and even glowing lights! Some had miniature lighted trees centered on the dashboard. We think this is a great idea.

Another festive part of the Christmas celebration is the Christmas markets. These are carnival-type temporary booths

set up in the central part of the towns and cities to offer all kinds of Christmas items. We went to Freiburg the day after our arrival, and the people were milling about in the market. Some booths or stalls sold decorations; others featured toys; still others had candles of all sorts and shapes. There were also booths selling foods -- cookies, cotton candy, candied apples and cherries, and (my favorite) hot roasted chestnuts. The wood carvings featured in several booths were beautiful.

Most of these were religious and centered on the birth of Christ. All types and sizes of the traditional nativity scenes were available, from small manger scenes to large elaborately carved and painted figures of the stable, the holy family, angels, wise men, shepherds, and farm animals. In addition there were many sizes of rotating scenes, circular in shape, which turned when candles were lit at the base and paddles above received warm waves of air. These usually had Biblical figures also featured on the tiers, topped by the holy family figures.

The largest market and the most beautiful one that we saw was in Munich. I was so amazed, I simply could not concentrate on purchases. In West Berlin, the Christmas market was close by the famous Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church (ruins from World War II bombings) and the modernistic new cathedral. Berliners had added a few carnival rides for children and shooting galleries with prizes for adults. Everyone seemed delighted with the special holiday atmosphere in each market we visited.

Europeans take their holidays much more to heart than we Americans do. They close all businesses at noon Christmas Eve and these remain closed through December 25 and 26.

There are no 7-11's for emergencies -- and probably no one would agree to man them if



some enterprising American tried to introduce the idea. Christmas is a family time, and folks in Germany and other countries choose to spend extra time with the family instead of with customers in a store. In Salzburg (Austria) we were shopping for sweaters at noon on Christmas Eve. The shop owner was restless and finally said in English, "I'm sorry, but our families are waiting for us, and we must close the shop. Do come back another time."

The family indoor Christmas tree is not decorated until Christmas Eve. The guide in Salzburg drove us by the Christmas tree market, a large square in the city, and explained that the entire area had been filled with trees only that morning; now only a few remained. We noticed that many had candies on them, and we were told that many Europeans prefer these to electric lights.

One needs to find his own entertainments through both the Christmas and New Year's Day holidays, for no one is interested in travelers or tourists. Hotels and their coffee shops remain in operation reluctantly. When we drove over through the countryside in France on Christmas Day, the border patrolmen simply nodded us on, looking somewhat annoyed that they had to be on duty on such a day. The French villages were very quiet -- seemed to be totally deserted.

We had planned to tour an old castle above a lovely French village, but the road was blocked; no one shows castles on Christmas Day! Back in Mullheim, we found that only restless Americans were out seeking diversions. We were sure that some shops would be open the day after Christmas, but not a one resumed business. On the Saturday after this long holiday, grocery stores were filled with frantic shoppers because the stores always close at noon on Saturday, holiday or no. This meant that housewives had only three or four hours to catch up on depleted supplies. No one complained, for shopkeepers need holidays, too. Christmas in Europe is a special memory for me. As the church bells were ringing in Mullheim just before midnight on Christmas Eve, I felt a close kinship with Christians all over the world united at this season by thoughts of love, sharing, worship, and peace.



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She also writes music, plays guitar

Garcia puts special personality into counseling



Josie Garcia explains the responsibilities of being a counselor. (Photo by Marvin Clyach)

By CHRIS BANKS

Josie Garcia, one of nine capable counselors at MCC, said "We feel that people are most important. We want students to reach their greatest potential as individuals and as members of the community.

"One of our main concerns is to make the transition into college life at MCC and any future transition smoother."

Garcia, a native of Edinburg, who received a bachelor's degree in psychology from Pan American University, and a master's degree from Texas Woman's University, is in her third year as counselor at MCC.

"I firmly believe that MCC is the best college of its type in Texas. I am totally committed to my work here, and to the students," she said.

Garcia stated that counseling

is her first love because she enjoys the people-related work.

The average day of a college counselor is not as structured as one might imagine. There are, of course, the regular appointments that are kept, but, said Garcia, "If a student comes in and needs to talk to someone right away, and I am free, I'll say 'Sure, come on in.' And of course, all conferences are confidential.

"We have a top-notch staff that does personal, academic and vocational counseling. We visit area high schools and present information on career choices and college opportunities available to the students. You do not have to work at selling a fine product. MCC is outstanding and its many advantages are clear-cut," Garcia informed.

Garcia has also been involved in workshops called "growth groups." These workshops are regular meetings with a limited number of people who get together to talk or share experiences and feelings.

"The groups are small, 10 to 12 people. We limit the number of participants to make it easier for the members of the group to get to know each other. We are very informal. I always have

some kind of activity planned for each of the sessions. The whole idea is to learn more about ourselves and others and to learn and practice more effective communication with our peers," Garcia said.

The growth group for this semester will meet on Wednesdays, 1:15 p.m. to 3:15 p.m. The starting date and place will be announced later. Interested students may sign-up in the counseling services office.

Garcia revealed that teamwork produces the best results, and a counselor will often work together with an instructor in contacting a student that is either in academic trouble or has been absent excessively. "Sometimes we get the reaction from the student that, 'hey, someone cares enough to contact me, I'm important enough for someone to be concerned.' Just a phone call will sometimes give the student the initiative to try harder," she said.

Garcia is not only an accomplished and successful counselor, but she also finds the time to play guitar and to write music. She has recently written several songs that will soon be professionally transposed onto sheet music for publication.

There is a little sign displayed on the book shelf in Garcia's neat, simply decorated office that reads, "Pray to God, but row for shore." This is a testament to her unique personality and is a reminder of the old adage, "God helps those who help themselves."

Garcia said in closing, "Whenever I can help someone, I get a tremendous personal satisfaction from doing so. I feel very privileged to be at MCC."



As a counselor, Garcia spends a lot of time on the telephone. (Photo by Marvin Clyach)

Holiday feasting causes crash dieting

By CAROLYN RODABOUGH
Campus Nurse

Are your jeans getting harder and harder to button? Is it becoming more and more difficult to conceal that roll at your waistline? Are you convinced that someone sabotaged your entire wardrobe by a mass shrinking attack? Could it be that you are losing "the battle of the bulge"?

If so, you are among the twenty million Americans who are overweight. Isn't that an astounding figure! Although

you may think of obesity as a problem of only middle-aged and older adults, that is not necessarily the case. A recent study showed that as many as one-fifth of the nation's high school graduates are overweight.

What causes such a widespread problem? (No pun intended.) Very simply -- calorie-rich meals and inactivity. We all hate to face up to that fact. It is really so much easier to blame those extra pounds on heredity or glandular

problems. We don't want to admit to overeating and underexercising. Neither do we want to believe statistics that relate an increased incidence of heart attacks, diabetes, arthritis, hypertension, kidney disease, gall bladder problems, and thus shortened life span to obesity.

Nevertheless, the verdict is in and many of us are already serving the sentence of living with health problems, lack of self-esteem, or just by not being able to enjoy life more fully in a

variety of ways due to being overweight.

What can be done? Well, if you go to the nearest bookstore or drugstore you will find enough diet books and plans to boggle the mind completely. Once in a while, someone actually finds some truly helpful information in some of those books, but in reality, the only successful way to lose weight is to modify eating habits and increase activity.

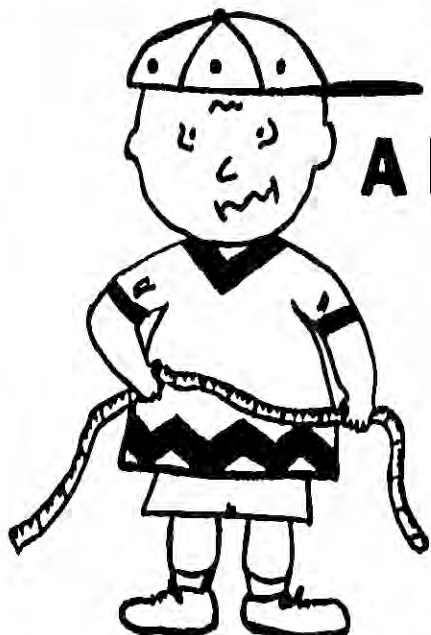
Here are a few hints that may help dieters to trim away some of those unwanted pounds and inches:

1. Write down everything you eat. Learn where, why, and what you eat.
2. Drink a glass of water before each meal.
3. Eat at specific times and places. Always eat three meals a day. Be aware of good

nutrition. Remember that constant snacking is definitely a cause of excess weight.

4. Eat slowly. Avoid rushing through meals.
5. Use a salad plate for your servings, and never take a second helping.
6. Cut out all desserts except fresh fruit.
7. Look at yourself naked in a full-length mirror at least once a day.
8. Stay busy -- don't give yourself time to eat out of boredom.
9. Become more active -- jump rope, walk, swim, jog, or begin bicycling.
10. Avoid eating anything after 7 p.m.
11. Train yourself to leave something on your plate at the end of each meal.
12. Brush your teeth after each meal to signify the end of the meal.

DID YOU ENJOY THE HOLIDAYS A LITTLE TOO MUCH?



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Butler chosen to assist team in overseas plays

MCC's head baseball coach Rick Butler, was recently selected to serve as assistant coach for an American all-star baseball team.

The team will be traveling to Japan and Korea this summer to play a series of seven games against both countries' all-star teams.

Coach Butler said the game will be part of the annual international competition sponsored by the United States Baseball Federation.

The series will last for one month with one game played each day.

Butler leaves June 14, along with three senior college coaches, led by head coach of the University of New Orleans, Ron Maestri.

Butler was chosen from a select group of 24 coaches. This will be his first association with the American team which is comprised of 20 players from colleges around the United States.

Tom Chandler, former head

of the federation is coach of the Texas Aggies.

Games against the Japanese all-stars are scheduled to begin on June 20, with the Korean series slated for early July. The games will take a month to complete.

Butler steered the 1980 Highlander team to third place in the National Junior College World Series last spring in Grand Junction, Colorado.

MCC compiled an impressive 45-11 season record, the best in the school's history.

In his 11th year at MCC, Butler has directed the Highlanders to three conference championships and two regional titles. He was named Coach of the Year for the N.J.C.A.A. South Central Region by the Texas Junior College Baseball Coaches Association.



Jack Allen (left) from Ranger, Texas, presents MCC Coach Rick Butler with the Junior College Baseball Coaches Association "Coach of the Year" award for 1980.

MCC Lassies victorious over TSTI 88-63

By JENNIFER STONE
Sports Staff

Returning to the court after nearly three weeks of Christmas vacation, Coach Charlotte Mason's 13 Lassies lost no time in retaining their victorious momentum established earlier in the season.

Twice-a-day practices were commonplace from January 7 to 12 as the girls received a cram course for getting back in shape from experienced tutor Mason.

"I think it showed what the team was made of because they kept coming and did not complain. They realized it had to be done," she said.

The numerous practices paid off as the Lassies began the crucial second half of the season with a decisive 88-63 victory over T.S.T.I. on January 12 at the cross town rival's gym.

A very successful full-court zone press led by Nadine Horne and Tracy Rector completely frustrated the Lady Tornados into committing many turnovers. Horne, who is from Robinson, led her team with 22 points.

McLennan's first home game of 1981 was equally successful as Hill County Junior College succumbed to the orange and black machine on January 12, by a score of 87-55.

After a sluggish first half, the Lassies broke the game open due to valuable contributions from all 13 players.

"The T.S.T.I. and Hill games were very beneficial," said Mason.

"We got to work on our 1-2-1-1 press. We gave up some easy baskets but were still able to improve on it for future games," she explained.

Saturday, January 17, proved to be the most challenging contest for the young Lassies. They met this challenge by continuing their winning streak at the expense of the previously-undefeated Cooke County Lady Lions. Coach Mason had reason to worry in the first half as her

normally tenacious man-to-man defense proved to be far from perfection.

"We stood around; we had no reactions and were very sluggish. I don't think it was what they were doing to us, it was what we were doing to ourselves. We were not anticipating anything," Mason said.

'Best ever' team waits for Spring

By GERALD SCHROEDER

Coach Berryman's MCC tennis team should create quite a stir in this year's title chase. Berryman said the Highlanders will be in a challenging position with pre-season favorites Cooke County and Grayson.

Berryman said, "This year's team is one of the best ever and is real competitive."

The team this spring consists of Jack Shuehy, a Waco sophomore, who is regarded as the best player in fall workouts; John Gillis, a sophomore from Canada; Mario Rauch, freshman from West Germany; Tommy Adams, freshman from San Diego; Eric Sorenson, Shelton, Washington freshman; Brad Clark, freshman from Garland, Texas; Richard Tatum, Waco freshman; and Jimmy LaRoe, freshman from Terrell.

This year's women's team consists of Tammie Kelley, Shreveport, freshman; Elda Salinas, freshman from Sabinas; Donna Nobinger, sophomore from San Diego; and Melissa Moody, a Dallas freshman.

The women's top player this fall is Tammie Kelley.

Both team's first match will be in February. The women open play at Southwest Texas on the third, and the men on the fifth of the month against University of Texas in Austin.

The first home matches for both men and women's teams will be February 23, against Sam Houston State.

Behind 40-38 at half time, the Lassies fought back in the latter part of the contest by outscoring Cooke 41-29. An aggressive 1-3-1 zone and effective substitutions were the key to the comeback in the 79-69 victory.

Houstonian Jackie Jones, recovering from a recent knee injury, sparked the Lassies on both sides of the court. Jones finished the game with 11 points and was superseded by Tracy Rector and Jan Wilkes, who scored 16 and 14 points, respectively.

The team's offense demonstrated more maturity and patience, much to the pleasure of Coach Mason.

"We added some more movement on the baseline. We're getting off cheaper shots due to more effective passing. We play all 13 kids and still average 70 points per game. We come off the bench real well."

Boasting a 5-1 conference record, the Highlanders then traveled to Ranger Junior College on January 19 to enjoy yet another victory with a score

of 75-56.

Characteristically, McLennan began the contest with a full-court zone press and a concentrated man-to-man rotation defense.

Numerous substitutions provided for a very even score production among the 13 young women. Freshman Felice Lewis from Baytown earned high point honors with 16. Complementing Lewis were Nadine Horne and Tracy Rector, both with 11, and Debbie James with 10.

"This equality of performance is very important," said Mason. "It shows the balance on our team. It's a characteristic of our team. It's exceptional to have several players in double figures. However, I don't emphasize point averages, but feel that overall team performance is much more important."

The goal of the team to become conference champs has been established. They are halfway there; it is now highly possible.

Landers out roar Lions 77 to 74

By MARK EDWARDS

Saturday, January 17, nationally-ranked Cooke County traveled to MCC in search of another victory. That was their first mistake. The Highlanders came up with a great upset, defeating Cooke 77 to 74.

Coach Ken DeWeese was not only happy because his team played well, but because they defeated a team ranked number eight in the polls. "When we

needed the points, we got them," said DeWeese.

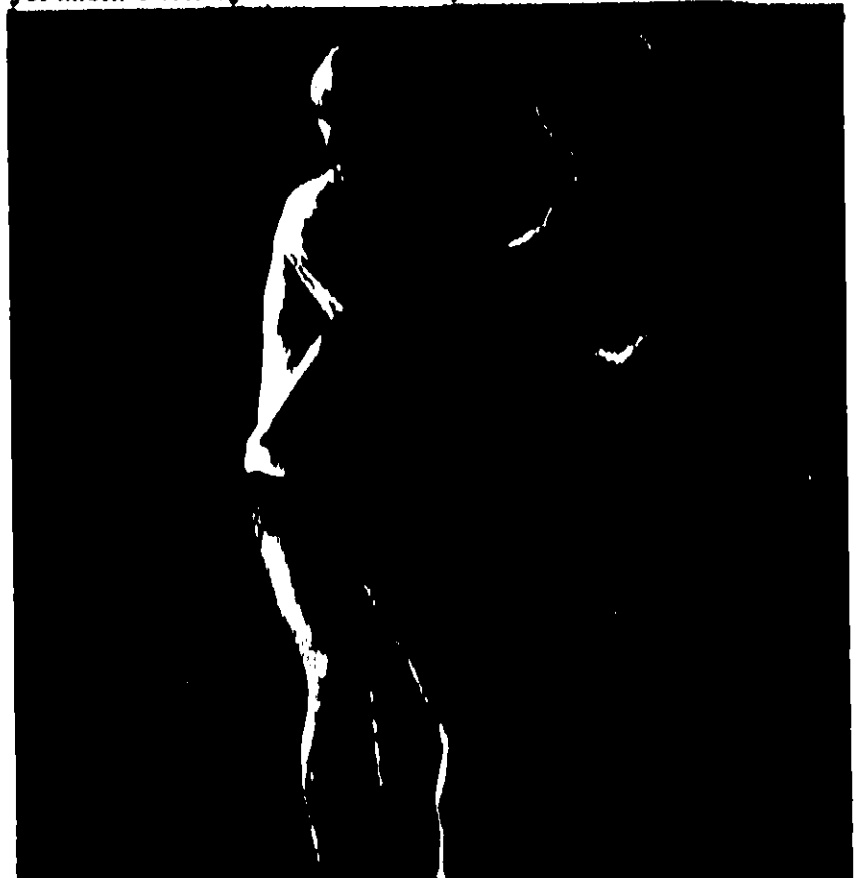
It was a great team effort with the ball being passed to Chuck Hall to help him get 25 points, and to Daryl Baucham with 17. The Lions were 14 and 2 before meeting with the Lan-

ders. Both the Landers and Lions were 5 and 0 before Saturday's game.

Monday, January 19, the Highlanders were upset by the Rangers 83-77. The top scorers for the Highlanders were Chuck Hall with 21 points, William Boatwright with 16, Ronnie Smith with 15, and Daryl Baucham with 10.

The game against the Rangers was disappointing, according to Coach DeWeese.

"The team did not have intensity or enthusiasm. It was the fourth game in seven days for the Highlanders and that's tough on a team mentally." Coach DeWeese stated that his team "played hard right down to the finish."



Jack Shuehy, MCC's number one tennis player. (Photo by David Johnson)

EDITORIAL

Theater abandoned

By SUSAN COLE

Once upon a time, outside of Athens, an outdoor theater called the Greek Colosseum, was the center of lively activity. Gradually, the center began fading to a lonely existence, and is now a part of the Ancient Greek Ruins.

Halfway around the world, in Waco, a catchall for dead leaves and broken concrete exemplifies a similar lonely existence for a McLennan Community College \$88,000 project, the marina-amphitheater.

According to MCC Vice-President Dr. Chester Hastings, when the project was built in 1972, "The plans were for it to be used by the HPE, music, drama, and all departments."

The project is now used as a fishing spot, or for an occasional picnic. It appears that the marina and amphitheater are practically ignored by the majority of people on campus.

According to Gary Luft, director of administrative services, actual building cost was \$88,231. In 1976, MCC's Consulting Mechanical Engineer, William Johnson, proposed a lighting plan that entailed putting up three lights and electrical outlets estimated cost \$7,900.

Luft reported that, in October, a newsletter was distributed to department heads. Replies were received, but there is no decision yet as to when, or if, improvements will be made.

The HPE department is the only one using the facilities regularly. Original plans were for canoeing and sailing classes to be taught at the marina.

PE Instructor Ray Murray said of the sailing classes, "If you don't know what you're doing, and 99 percent of the students don't at first, the river's narrow width can cause difficulties." Sailing classes were moved to Lake Waco where they have a wider area, said Murray.

The HPE department offers a canoeing class each semester, and it is taught at the marina. The canoes are kept about 20 feet away from the top steps of the amphitheater.

Ann Harrell, speech instructor, held Halloween productions for about three years at the amphitheater. Due to poor lighting, uncertain weather conditions, and lack of security, this practice came to an end, she said.

Harrell stated, "My personal feelings are that it would be nice if we had more scheduled things there, such as concerts, dramatic productions, et cetera."

The drama department has never used the area. Drama Director James Henderson said, "The drama department was not consulted when the amphitheater was built. We cannot use it because there is no stage, no dressing area, and not the proper lighting; the area would have to be completely rewired. I think an amphitheater would be great for MCC, but since we weren't asked, it wasn't built to meet our needs. I see no future use of the area for the drama department."

Instructor of Psychology Jim Hull, said, "We were all informed we could use it, but it's so far from the campus that you'd have to announce it one class period in advance." Hull recalled that the faculty held a barbecue there one year, and also boarded the Brazos Queen from the marina.

The marina and amphitheater now are seldom used, and in many cases never seen, by people on campus. When asked if the needed improvements would be made to the project, Luft replied, "If there were a greater demand for the use of the facility, then there would be a higher priority for upgrading it."



Steps leading down to the MCC amphitheater reflect the lonely atmosphere of the abandoned project. The amphitheater, built in 1972, has remained virtually unused for several years. (Photo by Consuelo Arriola)

THE BARGAIN POST

By MELANIE BURNETTE

Are you sick and tired of trying to keep up with run-away inflation? Then don't.

Look for a bargain. It isn't hard to do, especially with this column to help.

First of all, there are a couple of hints that make it easier to get a better deal anywhere. Always decide what you need before you buy. Don't buy on impulse; it will murder your budget.

Another important factor: compare. Go to several different places before making a purchase.

Also, when you are looking for a certain item, make a phone call to see if it is available and what the price is.

January offers a whole lot of marked off merchandise, from Cadillacs to pillow slips.

Car dealers are desperate right now to get their 1980 stock off the lots, so if you have that extra \$5,000, then by all means get a car. Cars are always cheaper at the end of the month because most car salesmen want to keep their jobs.

A great and cheap place for lunch is Kitok's. Located at 1805 N. 18th, they offer American and Oriental food for

reasonable prices. The Oriental Fries are their drawing card; you can get a whole plateful for only 95 cents.

All shoe stores are having great sales, so if you are looking for a good buy on shoes, you should find one.

The book store wants to make a correction...the \$10 paper weights are not \$10; instead, they are \$8.

Next month, I'll show you some more bargains and give some tips on how to get more out of your car.

letter to the editor

Dear Editor,

On Thursday, November 20, I lost my watch in the vicinity of the Administrative Classroom building. With very little hope of recovering the watch, I reported my loss to the Student Activities office. On Monday, Nov. 24, I received a call that

the watch had been found.

The identity of the person who returned the watch was not revealed. I would like to take this opportunity to extend my thanks and appreciation for the honesty.

Shirley Holder

the staff box

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LETTERS POLICY

Letters to the Editor of the Highland Herald are welcomed. We reserve the right to edit all letters and letters must be signed to be printed. Deliver letters to the student publications office or the Highland Herald mailbox in the Student Center.

from the Editor's desk...

By TIM ISAACKS

While the motion picture Urban Cowboy may have much of the country longing to don cowboy boots, live on the plains, and say "Ya'll" a lot, we Texans sometimes like to saddle up our "horses" and ride West into the setting sun, generally in the direction of mountainous Colorado and New Mexico.

We flatlanders are finally finding out what the Swisss have known for centuries: snow-skiing is fun!

Within the past few years, names like Taos, Red River, Purgatory, and Estes Park have practically become a part of the vacationing Texan's dictionary. Many people, including yours truly, have come to regard a mid-winter skiing vacation as an unblemished cord to maintaining sanity.

You'd think that this winter would be no different. That

after working hard all semester we'd be entitled to a little R&R; a little reward for not tossing fire bombs around campus upon publication of our grades.

Reward! Hah! Are you kidding?

We may have legends forming on our noses here in Texas, but out west they're in the middle of the biggest heat wave since the Creation.

In Colorado the biggest skiing sports wardrobe is tennis wear.

Just think of all those classic ski personalities we're missing: Those adorable little brats who glide down the slopes on their first attempt shouting, "Look Ma, no hands."

And the beginner who doesn't quite understand that side-to-side motion helps to keep speed from building beyond his control. This unwilling speed demon impresses everyone as he zooms down the slope,

screaming like Mick Jagger all the way. Only when the other skiers pass the mangled clump on the next corner do they realize that he really was screaming.

And what joy as you watch the ski patrol bring down another casualty. What a feeling of accomplishment spreads through your being as you realize "I survived Break-neck Pass."

So much for the thrill of flying over the cliff and the agony of under-sized ski boots.

If the ridiculously warm weather doesn't chill pretty soon the western tourist states are going to be in their own version of the Great Depression, while we here at home will be forced to invent variations of "Russian Roulette" for amusement.