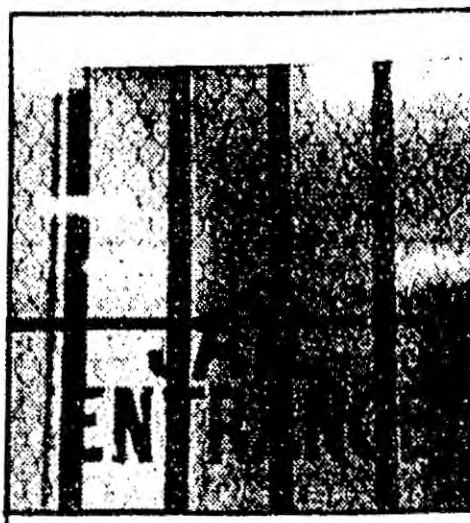




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Artwork by Scott Fagner



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McLennan County Jail



**New column**  
Nice people finish first  
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Award-winning quilt

# The Highland Herald

Vol. 17, No. 9      McLennan Community College      Waco, Texas 76705      Tuesday, February 8, 1983

## New Student Government reps elected

By PAM BRYANT

"The elections did not seem to be a personality contest. I feel that everyone appeared to have voted according to his or her conscience," said Bryant Burleson, Director of Student Activities. He was referring to the Student Government elections held in the Student Center Feb. 3-4.

The student body elected one historian and 10 representatives to serve in Student Government for Spring 1983. Steve Stanislav was elected uncontested to fill the post of historian. Representatives elected are Robert "Bobby" Lopez, Jane Martinez, Cindy Kilgo, Cheri Butler, Amy Cox, Monte Smith, Ronnie Connor, Debra Hayes,

Theresa Sloane Smith and Pam Bryant.

Many students turned out at the polls to vote. There were 305 voters. "This is an excellent turnout for a Spring semester. Because of this, I feel the people who were elected represent the entire college," said Burleson.

There were 18 candidates running for SG representatives. "We had 18 excellent candidates. Unfortunately, we had only 10 representative spots to fill," said John Schellenburg, SG president. Burleson added that he shares the disappointment with those who were not elected and encourages them to run again later.

Amy Cox, a sophomore computer science major, is one of the new representatives. "I feel that it is an honor to represent the MCC student body," said Cox. She is president of the Baptist Student Union and also is a member of a Phi Beta Kappa.

The new SG members were sworn in Feb. 7 at the Student Government meeting. SG meets every Monday during the 10 a.m. hour on the third floor of the Student Center.

"I would like to encourage any interested students to attend our meetings," said Schellenburg. "There is also a suggestion box located on the second floor of the Student Center for those with comments or complaints,"

Schellenburg added.

Burleson is proud of SG accomplishments. "Everyone works hard and has both the student body and college's best interest in mind." Burleson commented that the student body can rest assured that SG is working hard for MCC.

Elections were also held Feb. 3-4 for Homecoming Sweetheart nominees. The winner will be announced at the Homecoming games Thursday night in the Highlands gymnasium. The women's game will start at 6 p.m. and the men's game begins at 8 p.m. Name of the sweetheart will be announced at half-time during the men's game.

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Director seeks thespians for auditions

Auditions for the Spring production, *The Curious Savage*, are being held tonight at 7 p.m. in the Fine Arts Theater. There are openings for five men and six women. The play will be directed by Spencer Stenrod. Tryouts are also being held for *Happy Birthday, Irving*, a musical review of the music of Irving Berlin. Casting will be Wednesday at 7 p.m. in the Fine Arts Theater. Solo and chorus singers, as well as dancers, are needed, and all parts are open to the public.

### Corrigan Week in progress

So you ask yourself, "What's Corrigan Week?" Well, it's the reversal of roles. Women finally have the opportunity to ask out the man of their choice for a fun-filled night out on the town. (Or even the whole week, if preferred.)

Corrigan Week is being sponsored by Student Government and began Feb. 1. It ends Feb. 11 with a Valentine's Day Dance at Magic Music.

### Speech tourney involves 10 colleges

The MCC Speech Department will host the Phi Ro Pi Region VI National Qualifier Tournament Feb. 10-12.

Ten community colleges from throughout Texas will be competing in the tournament which originated at MCC in 1979.

The tournament will begin at 1 p.m. on Thursday and 8 a.m. Friday in the Liberal Arts building. Finalists will be announced Friday night and final rounds will begin Saturday at 8 a.m. in the HPE building.

The final awards assembly will be Saturday at 4:30 p.m. in the HPE Lecture Hall.

A schedule of tournament events will be available in the Highlander Room.

Speech Instructor Ann Harrell said the competition would be fierce. "I have watched colleges go home with nothing," she said.

Ten of Harrell's students will be competing in various categories. They are Elizabeth Allen, Joe Chapa, Robert Nading, Shirley Tucker, David Atkinson, Michael Lesko, Casey Curry Sonja Glauser, Karen Lary, and Deborah Laubert.

### High schoolers coming to compete

The music department will host a Stage Band Festival and Contest Saturday, Feb. 19 in the Student Center. Thirteen to fifteen high school stage bands are expected to attend. Willie Thomas, nationally acclaimed jazz musician, will act as clinician.

## Campus clocks make time stand still

By HAROLD MANNING

"... Time is the same in a relative way, but it's older, shorter of breath, and one day closer to death."

This phrase from Pink Floyd's "Time" might fit perfectly in describing a mounting problem on the MCC campus that has been plaguing students and faculty for some time now: the campus clock system.

The synchronized time system that currently exists in buildings around campus has slowly begun to fall prey to the very principle it has served in the past. There are currently nine clocks out of service and being repaired. The Physical Plant has had to send back two more.

Director of MCC's Physical Plant, Dee Toombs, explained: "The main problem is that the system itself is obsolete. Parts have become harder to find and all we can try to do is rebuild what we have."

The company that built most of the clocks in the system no longer makes the existing model, or parts for it. The Physical Plant has had to turn to a company in Minnesota, American Time and Signal, for what few parts are still available.

The time system operates off one synchronized master clock that controls most of the back-to-back hall clocks and wall-mount clocks around campus.

Each clock runs around \$125 and has a self-correcting mechanism. Age has caused a number of these self-

correcting relays to fail, and replacement for these has become close to impossible.

"We were able to find four (relays) at a little electronic shop downtown, and one has already been used," explained Toombs.

The time system currently runs off a 120-volt power source, and because of safety reasons, the normal 90-second correction cycle needed for each clock has been reduced to a 15-second cycle. The main reason for the system's correction cycle change has been attributed to heat build-up.

Ideally, the solution to the clock problem would be to get an entire new system based on the required 15-second correction cycle. Next to age and women, however, the biggest destroyer of all time is money.

"What we're hoping to do in the

meantime," said Toombs, "is get the existing system back up to standard and maintain it the best we can from there."

According to Gary Luft, Vice President of Business Services, "When it gets to the point in the future where we can no longer maintain the present system to standard, then a decision will have to be made on whether to buy a new system, or at least part of one, or go to separate clocks, independently run."

Toombs also said that it might be feasible to obtain part of a new system in the future, accommodate it to a few buildings around campus, and expand on it later.

For the present, however, students and faculty will have to occasionally put up with a faded blank space — the skeletal remains of time.

## 'Hot checks scarce,' says Luft

By CRAIG PALU

We have all heard the old joke about cashing a check.

Can I cash this check? Well, it depends on how high it bounces.

While this may be a joke elsewhere in the community, it's no joke at MCC; hot checks are virtually non-existent.

"During the month of January, we had approximately 3,000 checks," said Gary Luft, Vice-President of Business Services, adding that, "only 89 of those checks came back."

Luft, who has been at MCC for one year, says MCC's policy toward hot checks is one "that fits the situation."

Although MCC had been taking checks for registration, it wasn't until the beginning of 1980 that the bookstore began cashing checks for cash. For a 15-cent fee, the bookstore will cash a check for up to \$10. "There were so many requests, that we decided faculty and students could cash checks at the bookstore," said Luft.

"If you happen to make a purchase at the bookstore, you can cash a check without the fee, if the amount of money you want is equal to the amount of merchandise you pur-

chased," said Luft.

In order to cash a check at the bookstore, a student needs a valid Texas driver's license, and current MCC I.D. card. Only one check per day may be cashed, and it must be a one-party check.

For persons whose check may not pass for payment the first time, their checks are returned a second time. "What we will do is routinely run it through the bank twice," says Luft, "if it makes it through a second time, nobody says anything about it." "If your check doesn't make it through a second time, you are then contacted by the Business Office, and you'll be expected to pay for the check within five days, plus a \$5 service fee," explained Luft.

The final step in collecting a hot check is to turn the matter over to the Dean of Student Services. After that person is contacted by the Dean, and if the check is still not paid, an official, permanent hold will be placed on all of the student's school records.

If an employee of the college has an unpaid check, they will be contacted by the appropriate Administrative Council member.

If the matter happens a second time, "that shall disqualify the person from further check cashing privileges for anything at MCC again," said Luft.

According to Luft, "Since the middle of 1980, we've had three or four people on whom we've had to go through all the steps."

If a check is returned from registration, the procedure is basically the same, except that there is no collection fee if the bank returns the check a second time.

But if a check is not covered within five days, the Dean of Student Services nullifies the student's enrollment.

"Normally when that happens, if the student isn't going to cover the check, they've already quit anyway," said Luft.

In the case of a non-credit course, the steps are the same.

"If this happens to a student," according to Luft, "all records, grades and other official documents of students with unpaid financial obligations, will be held until such obligations are met, and such students will not be allowed to enroll without special approval of the appropriate dean," Luft concluded.

## Pollard leads Voc Ed activities

McLennan Community College has several activities planned to highlight Vocational Education Week, which began Feb. 6 and will continue through Feb. 12.

MCC had an exhibit at Richland Fashion Mall Saturday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Texas State Technical Institute and the Waco Independent School District also participated with exhibits.

The MCC "Image Plus" featured a slide show about campus life and literature about the various vocational programs that were available. Technical/vocational program instructors discussed their programs, and MCC catalogues, application forms and brochures were distributed.

The MCC dean of Technical Education and several program directors will be interviewed by Ralph Webb on KWTX's "Good Morning Central Texas," during this week. The show airs at 6 a.m. each morning. Discussing the MCC technical/vocational programs will be Al Pollard, MCC dean of Technical Education; Charles Afferback, director of the MCC Medical Laboratory Technician program; Imogene Scott, MCC director of Human

Services programs and Geraldine Carey, MCC Child Care program director.

Dean Pollard also will appear on KCEN's "Midday" news program at 11:30 a.m. today to discuss the trend toward education during hard economic times.

MCC has 22 two-year technical/vocational programs which lead to an Associate of Applied Science degree (AAS) and 14 one-year programs which lead to certification in the various fields.

Approximately 60 percent of the 4,213 students enrolled in credit programs at MCC this semester are in technical/vocational programs.

MCC health career programs have the largest enrollment in credit technical programs. The health career fields are Associate Degree Nursing (RN), Vocational Nursing (LVN), Respiratory Therapy, Nuclear Medicine Technology, Radiologic (x-ray) Technology and Medical Laboratory Technician.

The business programs, including computer technology/data processing, are second largest in enroll-

ment, followed by human services programs, cosmetology and law enforcement.

The program with the fastest growing enrollment at MCC is computer technology/data processing. The number of students taking CT/DP courses almost has doubled in the past one and one half years, from 430 students in the Fall 1981 semester to 857 students in the Spring 1983 semester.

Five MCC technical programs are nationally accredited and the other technical programs are approved by the Texas Education Agency and other various commissions. Nationally accredited programs at MCC are Nuclear Medicine Technology, Respiratory and Radiologic Technology by joint review committees of the American Medical Association; Associate Degree Nursing (RN) by the National League of Nursing; and the Mental Health program by the Council for standards in Human Services.

MCC presently employs 70 full-time technical/vocational instructors and 30 part time instructors.



(Photo by Phillip Monroe)

### Artists exhibit talents

Mae Zapata's painting above is part of the annual student exhibition currently on display in the Fine Arts Building through March 3. The art faculty made selections from 105 works submitted by students. Outstanding works were selected for "special recognition" by Patrick McCracken, Curator of Art. Students recognized for outstanding work are Wynona Troup, JoAnne

LeFever, Virginia McGraw, Ann C. Carretto, Lee Murphy, Sharan Khoury, Beverly Oxley, Michael Ramirez, Vivian Hall, Mae Zapata, Scott Fagner, Mary Robert, Debbie Roberts, Cherylyn Gober and Naomi Ledbetter. Many of the exhibits are for sale. The exhibition is open to the public 8:00 a.m. - 8:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. on Fridays.



# Campus and local news, features

## Is your canine on the 'most unwanted' list?



by WYNONA TROUP

ity traits. Barking dogs are frightening, but usually don't bite unless the master appears on the scene (it is not known if the dog feels braver with his master present or feels more protective).

A sneak attack warning may appear on the card to describe the dog most prone to biting, small dogs being the biggest offenders. Dog bites are more frequent during cold weather.

More than 6,000 carriers suffer dog bites annually. One postman died last year in Kaiser Foundation Hospital. A female carrier was badly bitten on the face by a St. Bernard in Texas City and had to be hospitalized, forcing her to be off work for four months.

Bites and related injuries cost the Postal Service about \$1.3 million a year in medical expenses and lost work hours. These costs are passed on to us in higher postal rates, according to Jim vanLoozen (a spokesman for the U.S. Postal Service).

A dog isn't put in the "line-up" on his first offense, but the carrier is not required to deliver mail to the house (or even to the block where a dog is loose that threatens his safety).

Does your dog have a criminal record on file at the Post Office? Not so? Well, maybe your dog hasn't told you everything.

Dog warning cards are filed to alert U.S. mail carriers where potentially dangerous dogs live. This information is a must for a new carrier. On the card will be the name of the dog (if known), the description and personal-

The only defense against dogs is the mail pouch (to put between himself and the dog), to climb on top of a car (as some have to do), or to use a harmless spray (but this often is blown back into the carrier's eyes). The spray is only effective to 5 or 6 feet.

If a carrier receives even a small bite that opens the skin, he will have to have the rabies shots, if the dog is not located. Waco doesn't have as bad a problem as some cities, but to the carrier that has been bitten, it is a painful problem.

At the safety meetings at the Waco Post Office, discussions show that dog-related injuries outnumber any other type of injury to carriers.

If a dog is a habitual criminal, the postmaster will write a letter to ask that the offender be confined during delivery hours.

Legally, mail does not have to be delivered to houses where dogs are a threat.

If you find that your dog is on the most "un-wanted" list, restrain him or her — or you may be your own mail carrier through "rain, sleet, snow, or biting mongrels."



## Campus news

### Bass fishing seminars begin tonight

MCC's Continuing Education Division will offer a four-session seminar on bass fishing techniques this spring. The seminar will be held from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. on Feb. 8 and 15 and on March 1 and 8 in the MCC Lecture Hall.

Techniques to be covered include selecting lures and equipment, knots, fishing, the jog and pig for lunker bass, spinner baits and crank baits, the "Flippin' Technique," locating bass during the four seasons, establishing bass fishing patterns, oxygen and PH, and fishing the jig and grub.

Registration fee is \$42 per person. To register, persons should go by the Continuing Education Office.

### Information on new tax laws offered

The Continuing Education Division of MCC is offering a six-hour course, "You and Your Income Tax," to explain the changes in the 1982 income tax laws and regulations. The course will meet on Feb. 8 and 10 from 6:30-9:30 p.m.

The course will be sponsored by the Central Texas Chapter of Certified Public Accountants in cooperation with MCC.

### Black substitutes for absent Beatty

Sheryl Beatty, counselor coordinator for Special Services, is now on maternity leave, and taking her place temporarily is Ellie Black.

Black is a former counselor for Displaced Homemakers, an organization dedicated to helping older students overcome problems in any area.

"I'm just here for maybe three weeks, until Sheryl returns. But I would like to encourage students to come by if they need to. I am here to help any way I can, whether by listening, or talking. I was a volunteer last semester for Displaced Homemakers, so I enjoy helping students with problems that arise. I just want to fill in as best I can," Black said.

### Greyhound relocates at night

Students who travel by Greyhound bus will need to take note that the bus terminal on 700 Columbus will no longer be open between 1 a.m. to 6 a.m. "Buses that arrive and depart during those hours will stop at Little John's Coffee Shop at 1515 Interstate 35."

For further information and schedules, students may call Greyhound during the day, or Little John's after 1 a.m.

### Faculty offers knowledge to public

The Public Information Office is mailing out a revised list of speakers and programs available through MCC for engagements at Central Texas organization and club meetings.

MCC faculty and administrators are available for speaking engagements as a public service to the community.

Topics include "Computers in Society," "Color Key and Personal Grooming," "Management of Time," "Aging," "Real Estate and You," "Wardrobe Planning," "Nonverbal Communication," "Heart Disease and Heart Health," "Sexuality," "History of Waco," and others.

Those who would like MCC Speakers/Program Bureau list can call 756-6551, ext. 220.

### Highlands site of UIL basketball

MCC will host the University Interscholastic League Region II, Class AAAA girls' and boys' basketball tournaments Feb. 25-26 and March 4-5.

Girls' team finalists will begin play Feb. 25 in The Highlands. The semi-final games will be played at 6 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. The final game is scheduled to begin at 2 p.m. Feb. 26.

Boys' competition also will be played in The Highlands beginning March 4. The semi-final games will start at 4 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. on March 4. The final game will begin at 7:30 p.m. March 5.

### Seminar attracts 200 participants

Over 200 people turned out for the first discussion seminar on the "Winds of War," Thursday night, Feb. 3. The seminar was held as a preface to the telecast of "The Winds of War" scheduled to be shown on KWTX Feb. 6-11 and 13.

The purpose of the seminar was to review and discuss the major historical events leading up to the beginning of World War II, and to briefly discuss the novel "The Winds of War," by Herman Wouk.

The discussion was led by government and history instructor Clyde Kouhno, who explained the geo-political and historical events and answered questions about the period.

A documentary film was also shown which outlined the growth of the dictatorships of Germany, Italy and Japan, the three members of the Axis.

The seminar provided a valuable perspective for those planning to watch the series.

A second seminar will be held by Social Service Chairman Dr. Mike White to answer any questions about the series or the period of time covered by the series. This seminar will be held in the Lecture Hall in the HPE building, Feb. 17 at 7 p.m.

## Bobby Hall lost sight, but gained new insight

By B.J. JENSEN

"I look at it this way. We all have handicaps. You can see mine more readily than others, but everybody in the world has handicaps. Some are just bigger and some are just smaller, and that's all there is to it."

Bobby Hall has been attending MCC for three semesters, and is the only blind person presently attending MCC during the day. If you were to spend a day with Hall, and go through the motions with him, you could get an idea of what it might be like to be blind.

What about getting ready for school?

"That was hard at first, of course. You have to start over like a baby doing things we normally take for granted — like shaving, or combing your hair. But I think the fact that I could see at one time is a big help. I know what things look like," said Hall.

Hall, who lost his sight 10 years ago in a gun accident, said that he is "still the same person as before, only a little less naive."

He added, "I like to try and find out why everybody ticks to a different clock, so I thought I might like to go back to school to do that. I have learned as much about people as I have about books."

If you happen to have classes in the

Liberal Arts building, then you have probably seen him. Hall has jet black hair, wears sun shades, and carries a brief case and cane. He is thinking most of the time as he makes his way to and from class, he said, but he likes greeting the people he knows with a "good morning."

Many people know him, and he likes it that way.

"I only know a certain way to certain places, but there is always someone around I know to offer directions, should I need them."

What about when you first arrive in the morning?

"A lady who lives down the road from me picks me up in the morning. She's very nice. She lets me off here at the Student Center. I've memorized how to get from the Student Center to the LA building, and all of my classes. But I'm going to have to start learning to go the library because I need to start going there on a regular basis."

The Bobby Hall you greet today wears a smile and has an energetic hello for his friends. But it has been a rough road getting here.

Hall is from Monroe, La., a city where the west side of town kisses the Mississippi River banks. He attended West Monroe High School, but has been in Waco for 16 years. He moved here with his parents.

"I had a scholarship for baseball at Navarro Junior College, so we moved. My sister went to Baylor at the time, and I just went to school to play baseball and drink beer. I didn't really care about school back then, but I had a good time," he said.

Hall doesn't talk much about his life before the gun accident that took his sight. He will tell you what he thought about, and about the books he read, but mostly, everything is post-sight loss, and positive.

"I got to reading psychology books about seven years ago about how the Chinese and North Koreans use techniques for brain washing. It's very interesting how a person's mind can be manipulated."

You like psychology?

"Yes, I do. See, I really want to be a lawyer some day. But I know that learning psychology will help me in dealing with people, especially when they are angry, like they are when they're trying to get a divorce."

"It wasn't easy. I think weeks went by, and I felt sorry for myself, and didn't even get out of bed. I just didn't do anything."

How did you adjust after the accident?

"It wasn't easy. I think weeks went by, and I felt sorry for myself, and didn't even get out of bed. I just didn't want to do anything."

What did you think about?

"I really didn't think much at all then. I have to give a lot of credit to my Mother. She saw what I was doing, staying in bed, and all. So she came in my room and told me to get myself out of bed or else. Well, I didn't know what 'Or else' could possibly be, knowing it couldn't compare with what was happening then. But then I thought that yes, Mother could make it worse somehow; Mothers can always make things worse if they want to, so I got up, and have been ever since."

Does she still help you as much?

"Oh sure, but you have to remember I don't need as much help now as I did. She still helps out at home a lot, but the people here have been the biggest help. Becky Thornton, the lady that tutored me in everything last semester, went beyond the call of duty. She would tutor me over the phone, and she didn't have to do that."

What's it like getting ready for school in the morning?

"Well, the night before, I lay my clothes out on the valet. All my clothes have tags with braille in the pockets, so I just grab the ones I want."

What about studying?

"It does take me a lot longer on that. All my notes are on tape, and so are the books. I have my tapes arranged on shelves. When I want to hear a particular tape, I just pull it out. But when I want to hear a certain spot

on the tape, I have to go through the entire tape, so it slows things considerably. It takes me two hours to take an open book test."

How many people have patience enough just to sit still for two hours, let alone spend it taking a test? Listening to Hall, it's easy to forget this is the third semester he is at this. It's hard enough for most of us just making it to class sometimes, and then we wish we didn't have to copy things off the chalkboards. Hall has to listen to the chalkboards, books, and notes.

Do you have a favorite instructor?

"No, because they are all good. I've had Charles King (English) before, and I like the way he teaches, so I took him again. I like Jim Hail (Psychology) and the way he teaches. Plus he has had a good influence on my liking psychology. I like the way Doris Stevens (Sociology) teaches too, so I might take social problems just because I want to. But really, all of my instructors have been equally good with me."

Do you wonder or worry about the future?

"No, I used to do that a lot. I had six operations, and at one time I didn't have any face, hair, or nose, so I thought, what's the use? You know, I must've looked like a teenage Frankenstein or something. I used to watch all those old movies, so I know what he looked like."

Speaking of movies, do you still go?

"Oh sure I do. I think I get as much out of it by hearing as watching it. And I really like television."

Do you have a favorite TV show?

"Three's Company is probably my favorite. I watch it every night. I really don't have that much time these days to watch too much TV. School takes up most of my time. I love those old Humphrey Bogart movies though. They're the best."

Hall puts life into perspective if you ask him. "Everybody learns from everybody else. I help if I can, because I know I'm going to learn something. Everybody here helps me. The ladies in the cafeteria bring my food out. They don't have to do that. Special Services helps all time ... and really just everybody. And I'll tell you what I like about it. It's like a winning team. I've been on a losing team, and now I'm on a winning team."



Bobby Hall (Photo by Phillip Monroe)

## Two new members added to Dance Co.; former dancer returns

Marlene Rubio, Shelly Schmidt and Sheryl Castleberry are the newest members of the MCC Dance Company.

Rubio is a graduate of University High, where she was on the drill team. Rubio is now studying for an Associate Degree in occupational therapy, and hopes to receive a degree in physical therapy.

"I love being with friends," said Rubio, "and being in the Dance Company has given me a good chance to meet a lot of new friends."

Castleberry rejoined the Dance Company this Spring after being in the Dance Company last spring. "I really missed Dance Company a lot. It's the whole reason I came back to school," said Castleberry.

Castleberry is a freshman English major and plans to receive her bachelor's degree from The University of Texas in Austin. "I want to get a Master's so I can teach at a college," said Castleberry.

Schmidt got her start in dancing by taking lessons at a private studio. Schmidt also likes to work out with weights to stay in shape.

Schmidt is a freshman from China Spring and is enrolled in the nuclear medicine program.

"The atmosphere in a college drill team is a lot better than in high school," said Rubio. "The members are much more mature."

"Being in the Dance Company is a bunch of work, but it's worth it when we perform," said Castleberry.



(Photo by Daria Costello)

Left to right: Marlene Rubio, Sheryl Castleberry, (returning members from last Spring) and Shelly Schmidt are the newest members of the Dance Company.



# Features and entertainment

## Imperial returns

### Taff to be in Waco Hall

By KEVIN TANKERSLEY

Russ Taff dropped out of the recording scene after the Spring of 1980. But he's on his way back.

Taff is currently working on an album, planning a tour and working on arrangements to host a cable TV show.

Taff will be appearing at Waco Hall Feb. 14, along with Revised Edition, a Waco-based gospel band.

Taff will also be at Zondervan Book Store in Richland Mall from 5 to 6 p.m. on the 14th. Tickets, priced from \$5 to \$7, may be purchased at Zondervan and Good News Book Store, 625 N. 25th St.

In a telephone conversation from Los Angeles, the former lead singer of the Imperials said he and his group will probably start touring around the middle of the summer, and will start hosting a gospel music show sometime in the middle of the year.

Taff grew up as the son of a pastor in a Pentecostal church in Farmersville, just outside of Fresno, Ca. His mother listened to black gospel singers, such as Mahalia Jackson, and the church music Taff grew up with was what he described as "Jesus rock music."

Taff joined the Imperials, a Southern gospel group, in 1977. After joining, their sound changed from Southern gospel to a little more contemporary gospel. He left in 1980 at what seemed to be the height of the Imperials' popularity. They had just released one of their best albums, *Priority*, and were playing to sold-out concert halls across the country. He said tour-

ing as a single performer allows him to go in different directions, not just musically, but in ministering as well.

He said that now that he's by himself, he has more time to "minister God's word" to people, not just sing to them. He sees himself involved more in the ministry of "encouragement and uplifting."

Being on his own also leads to more responsibility on him. He said, "When I'm in concert, I can't just walk back and let Jim (Murray) play the cowbell." Murray played the cowbell on "Sail On," one of the Imperials' most popular songs. "Responsibility has caused me to really mature and grow in the Lord."

Taff said the people who come to see him in concert "aren't like a new crowd. They know me when I was with the Imperials and they come to see me."

"My music is geared mainly to the church. I know there are a lot of people at my concerts who don't know Jesus. If they come to one of my concerts, they're going to hear the gospel explained, and I present the gospel in a way that won't embarrass them. It's good quality music, and a good presentation of music. I love to play in concert and feel the Holy Spirit leading," said Taff of his live performances.

When he is playing in front of a crowd, Taff said he sings some of the same tunes performed by the Imperials. "A lot of the songs I wrote with the Imperials, I still sing." Among those are "Praise the Lord," "I'm Forgiven," "Eagle Song," "Oh Buddah" and "Be Still My Soul."

Besides *Priority*, Taff recorded four other albums with



(Photo by Kevin Tankersley)

Russ Taff will be in concert at Waco Hall Feb. 14.

the Imperials. Those were *Sail On* — *The Imperials Live*, part of which was recorded at the First Baptist Church of Waco, *Heed the Call* and *One More Song for You*.

Most of the songs on the album are written by Taff and his wife Tori, but others have contributed. The album will be produced by Michael Omartian, an accomplished gospel musician in his own right. Omartian and his wife Stormie co-authored some of the songs, as did James Hollihan, a former Imperials guitarist. Omartian will also contribute on keyboards and synthesizer.

When Taff left the Imperials, he was replaced by Paul Smith, a

graduate of Baylor University. Taff said he still keeps up with the Imperials, and often stops by their office to talk with Jim Murray. When asked what he thought about the Imperials' new album *Stand By the Power*, he replied, "I like it. Paul and all of them did a good job. I'm proud of them."

Taff has some advice for young people trying to break into the field of gospel music. "Sing everywhere you can; don't just wait for the big time. I still sing everywhere I can: funerals, weddings, churches. Also, follow Jesus. Every door that has been opened for me has been opened by Him. Everywhere I turned, He opened doors."

## Nostradamus: are prophecies coming true?

By MARK LEMENAGER

*"In the sixteenth century there was a French philosopher by the name of Nostradamus, who prophesied that in the late 20th century, an angel of death shall waste this land, a holocaust the likes which has never been seen. Now I ask you, do you believe this to be true? Angel of Death—Thin Lizzy"*

Rock and Roll songs and best-selling paperback editions of his works mark the return to the public limelight of Nostradamus, a man commonly called Europe's greatest prophet.

Although his remarkable predictions were first published in 1555, many verses name events and persons centuries after his death. As a result, global attention has focused on Nostradamus whenever a set of his prophecies seem applicable to the near future.

*Centuries*, the main body of Nostradamus' predictions, was originally published in a series of ten volumes. Each book contained 100 predictions, all written in poetic verse. To avoid charges of heresy or witchcraft from the Inquisition, Nostradamus wrote in a bewildering mixture of Old French, Latin, and allegorical symbols. This deliberate deception has led to some extremely creative interpretations by both the misled and the mischievous.

Dr. Joseph Goebbels, Adolf Hitler's minister of propaganda, used verses that named Hitler coupled with an ingenious mix of false predictions that "guaranteed" a quick victory for the Nazis. Of course, the allies were quick to counter with their own versions of Nostradamus' words.

When reading the cryptic poems of the 16th century French doctor for clues to future happenings, certain drawbacks must be kept in mind. Nostradamus was a Frenchman. As a result, the main center of world action may be of secondary importance to events in France. Also, as a sixteenth century man, Nostradamus had no words to describe many modern weapons and concepts. In many cases, the author uses unusual comparisons from the world of nature to paint a picture of his visions. For example, the following verse may be Nostradamus' way of describing a cruise missile launched from a submarine...

*"When the fish that travels over land and sea is cast up on to the shore by a great wave, it's shape foreign, smooth and frightful. From the sea the enemies soon reach the walls."*

Although the bulk of his verses remain mysterious to the uncanny descriptions found in the remainder warrant some degree of attention. Here are some of Nostradamus' predictions as they appear in Erika Chatham's *The Prophecies of Nostradamus*, one of the many "pop" versions of *Centuries* available today. Following the literal English translation is a short prose explanation. If these selections arouse your curiosity, look for Orson Welles' special, "The Man Who Saw Tomorrow" on HBO, or read some of the many books on Nostradamus at either the MCC or Baylor libraries.

*"A captain of greater Germany will come to deliver false help; King of kings; to support Hungary His war will cause a great shedding of blood."*

This verse and the following both give good descriptions of Adolf Hitler and his unscrupulous methods of achieving power. The "beasts" may represent the German "Panzer" (panther) divisions on their early advances.

*"Beasts wild with hunger will cross the rivers, the greater part of the battlefield will be against Hister. He will drag the leader in a cage of iron, when the child of Germany observes no law." "The London premier through American power will burden Scotland with a cold thing. Reb the king will have so dreadful a leader who will bring them all into the trouble"*

This is one of Nostradamus' strange and frightening verses. The beginning implies possibly nuclear deployment in Scotland, leading to conflict with a fearful foreign leader.

The last two quatrains are from a series that imply a future world war begun by a powerful middle-eastern ruler.

*"From Fez the kingdom will stretch out to those of Europe. The city blazes, the sword will slash; the great man of Asia with a great troop by land and sea so that blue, perse, he will drive out the cross to death. "With fire and weapons, not far from the black sea, he will come from Persia to occupy Trebizond(Turkey). Pharos and Mytilene tremble, the sun is bright, the Adriatic sea covered with Arab blood."*

## Valentine's Day approaching

### Have you thought of the perfect gift?

By LISA DAVIS

Candy and flowers: what else could make a Valentine's Day any better? A sweetheart, perhaps?

February 14 — a day many have come to adore and a day many have come to dread every year as it rolls around.

The coming of this day brings happiness and pain. The joy of having someone to share it with and the sorrow of being alone.

Originally, Valentine's Day was a time for honoring sweethearts. The custom goes back to Roman times. A special festival, Lupercalia, was held every Feb. 15. On that day, all young girls put their names in a box and each young man drew out a name to pick as his sweetheart for the next year.

During the Middle Ages, Feb. 14 was the date when people believed birds found their mates. So the day was set aside to honor all lovers. The people found new ways of celebrating the day. For example, they used to kiss the "first-met." The first young woman whom a young man happened to meet on that day, they would kiss.

By chance, this special festival for sweethearts came on St. Valentine's Day, a day that honors several Christian saints named Valentine. But the idea of honoring sweethearts has nothing to do with the saints for whom the day is named.

Valentine's has also come to be an expensive holiday. A dozen roses can cost as much as \$50. There's always the box of candy that can run anywhere from a few dollars to as much as you want to spend.

Then there's the unique ways to honor a sweetheart. A bouquet of helium balloons delivered by a cuddly cupid or a sexy guy or a special heart shaped message printed in the local paper.

Extravagance seems to be a major factor in preparing for this special day. What ever happened to the statement "You can't buy love?"

Apparently, whoever said it had an understanding sweetie. There are always comparisons being made as to what was received from a sweetheart.

"Well, I got a dozen roses and a ten pound box of chocolates and what did you get?"

"Er... I got... um... a real nice... um... colorful um... card." A simple, sweet message on a thoughtful card just doesn't seem to stack up — although it has a lot of meaning to it.



It was so nice in elementary. Everybody gave Valentine's cards — even those of the same sex! The idea wasn't who you got a card from, just how many you got!

Out of those questioned at MCC, 13 received flowers last year, 16 got candy and one received a bouquet of balloons. The majority didn't receive anything.

Flowers seem to be a big seller though. Chere Morano, a salesperson at Flowerama at the Richland Mall, said "We'll sell about 12 or 13 dozen roses a day. Right now, roses are the number one seller, and carnations are second."

Maybe Valentine's will be even better this year. Who knows, maybe you'll receive a dozen roses.

Or better yet, maybe you'll get true love.

## Silva Band 'represents MCC'

By ERIC DAMM

"You know, in a way, we're representing MCC. The next time we play, I'd like for more people from school to come out and see us," said Joe Silva, leader of the Joe Silva Band.

A second semester commercial music major, Silva formed his band last year with other students from the commercial music program. All currently enrolled in the program, the band features Mark Peoples on guitar, Warren Connors on drums, and Dwayne Hagar on bass. Ruthie Foster, winner of last semester's Dazzling Review, sings lead vocals.

Silva speaks highly of Foster and says he can easily see her succeeding as a professional. "She is really a great writer, and she's got such a wide vocal range she can sing anything from country music to Aretha Franklin." Silva plays lead and rhythm guitar. He describes the band's musical

interests as varied. "I don't like to categorize the type of music we play because we play a little of everything, but mostly we do pop and rhythm blues."

A Waco native, Silva has played throughout the five-state area and, last summer, helped record an album as a session guitar player. Describing his musical history Silva said, "I've been playing guitar since I was 10. When I turned 15, I started playing for money. I played all through junior high and high school, and now I hope I can stick with this band and maybe turn it into something big."

Although a semi-accomplished musician already, Silva believes his schooling at MCC is important for future success. "Knowing music theory is what sets you apart from the musicians on the street. It gives you a much stronger foundation."

Along with classes in music theory, Silva studies piano and voice, and

plays with the stage band. He confides that he is at school for an average of seven hours a day. He also tries to rehearse with his band at least nine hours a week. "We're a working band now and we want to start doing two or three shows a week, if we can."

It's a tough schedule, but the rewards are worth it to him. When he takes the stage with his classmates, the long hours of practice pay off. "What I like about playing for a crowd is being able to change their attitude. When you play a happy song that makes them get up and dance, you know you've made them feel better," Silva explained.

At the last performance the Joe Silva Band played, the Water Works, several students from MCC were in the crowd. Judging from the applause after each song, they all enjoyed the show and were all proud to cheer for "their band from MCC."

## 'Nebraska' proves winner as an album

album review  
By GORDON OWEN

There's a message in boredom. Bruce Springsteen does it again — in words. This music may put you to sleep, but if you appreciate good lyrics, mellow music and Springsteen ballads, "Nebraska" just may be the album for you.

Most songs on "Nebraska" are about a poor boy forced into crime by

hard times. He is always a loser and must pay for his crimes. Two of the songs, "State Trooper" and "Open All Night," end with the same quote, which is the main theme of this work of lyrical art, "Driver Me from Nowhere."

"Open All Night" is the only song on the album that has any real pop to it, which may be a good thing. By the time you get to it, you may need a little waking up so you can last through

"My Father's House" which comes up next.

The album is a collection of ballads and is a good album. If you like this type of music, Bruce Springsteen's "Nebraska" cannot be beat. If you are looking for a continuation of "The River," which was Springsteen's last record, then you may find yourself, as I did, waiting for him to kick off on another "Hungry Heart." He won't.



(Photo by Wynona Troup)

### Club elects officers, plans trip

Alpha Sigma Phi met to elect officers and make plans for a three-day field trip in Nacogdoches. Pictured are (left to right) Tom Cruz, Pat Norton, Randall Klein, Charles Dugal, Bob Ford, Kathy Bower, Beth Bach, treasurer of the club, Scott Whitt, vice-president, and Monte Smith, president.

## 'Tootsie' shows difficulty of acting

movie review  
By RANDALL HILL

In the movie world, some pictures just seem to come and go, but one that caught my eye was the recent MGM release *Tootsie*. It gives a lasting account of how tough it is to get a break in the acting world.

*Tootsie* stars Dustin Hoffman in a role that fits his personality perfectly. Hoffman plays the part of a struggling actor who just can't find a part to fit his acting needs. So he decides to go undercover as a woman, to get a part on a local soap opera. Not only does he fool the directors with his award-winning act as a woman, but he also leaves his friends a little confused. Hoffman gets the part and that's when the comedy really begins. With a counterpart like Bill Murray as your room-mate, how can you go wrong?

The movie has been rated as one of the hottest features for the up-coming year, and is already on its way to uphold this reputation. So if you get a chance to see *Tootsie*, the money will be well spent. I hope you get as big a kick out of it as I did.



# News and features

## Former drug addict finds help from inner self

*"Generally, people start from somebody starting them. They don't start in on it by themselves."*

By **ABBY POSTON**

The jail door clangs shut. A life is turned around. This is a true story. No names are mentioned. It could be anyone. This person is lucky. Others are not.

Q: How old are you now?  
A: I'm 21 years old, almost 22.

Q: Tell me a little about your family background.

A: My parents are well-educated, professional people, religious. Now I respect them very highly. I have four brothers, three older and one younger. We moved a lot. My dad was in the service and we were stationed here and there. I wanted to make new friends everywhere, but didn't rush into it. I sat back and waited to see what kind of people would come to me. I never really knew how to deal with girls so I mostly ran around with the guys for fellowship. Mom worked nights. Dad worked daytime. You couldn't get a two-sided opinion. That's a big problem with working parents on opposite shifts.

Q: Was anybody at home when you came in from school?  
A: Not usually.

Q: Were your parents strict?

A: No, they were pretty lenient on us as to being home at a certain time. They didn't want to know exactly where we were or what we were doing. Although they did ask us sometimes but they wouldn't pry and keep trying to find out exactly what we were doing. They would take any type of an answer that we would give them.

Q: As you look back on this now, and if you had children of your own, what would you do?  
A: If I had kids, I would be much more observant of their activities.

Q: More strict?

A: Not strict, just more knowledgeable of their whereabouts and their friends.

Q: Then you don't think strictness is a problem?  
A: No, but you must know who they are running with.

Q: How did you start on the marijuana habit?

A: Generally, people start from somebody starting them. They don't start in on it by themselves. My influence was from an older brother.

Q: Were all three of your older brothers into drugs?

A: Yes. I was in the seventh grade, about 12 years old.

Q: Have your older brothers quit smoking now?

A: Oh, mostly. I would say they smoke occasionally.

Q: Is your youngest brother smoking?

A: Yes. He's 15. He started by seeing us. We did it, so now he's doing it.

Q: You say you were in the seventh grade when you started smoking. How old were you when you started dealing?

A: Back then I only started smoking. I didn't deal any until I was in high school.

Q: What size school did you attend? Do you think size makes any difference?

A: Yes, I think it does. In my senior class alone there were over 500 people. In rural areas there may not be

500 in the whole school. So, the bigger the school the more groups there are within that school. In the small school you can only have one group, maybe two groups.

Q: Why did you start in the first place?

A: Peer pressure from a brother. Besides, when I tried it, I liked it. He gave me my first joint and sent me and my best friend up on a mountain. We had the time of our lives. We were killing time. That's all we were doing. In a higher altitude, it's more effective.

Q: So you got started because it made you feel good?

A: I had a good time under the influence. I felt secure. But I didn't accomplish anything as I was doing it. I was wasting my time. And wasting myself.

Q: What do you mean?

A: Instead of out playing and learning through life to fall, get up, and start again, well, we weren't doing that. We were like... I don't know how to explain that part.

Q: When you were 12 you did it for the thrills, it made you feel good, made you feel big?

A: I had a sense of feeling. I felt grand, I felt happy, I felt secure. It also made me hungry.

Q: Did you realize that you were wasting your time in the seventh grade?

A: No, but I do six years later.

Q: How did you feel when you went to school? Were you under the influence at school all the time?

A: Not until I was in high school. In junior high, I would go to school, then come home and spend all the spare time possible on my habit.

*"We were killing time.*

*That's all we were doing."*

Q: How did you support your habit then?

A: I had an allowance. I didn't have much of an allowance. But you rotate. It might be my turn this week, your turn next week with friends in your group. If one guy's got some, everybody smokes.

Q: There's so much controversy about marijuana becoming habit forming. What do you think?

A: Only that you want it to be a habit. You can become dependent upon it individually, thinking you have to have it because you're fooling yourself.

Q: Your body doesn't really crave it?

A: No. It is a drug; therefore, it alters your image, your reality.

Q: How much were you smoking?  
A: Moderately. Which means I was getting high daily.

Q: Your parents didn't detect this high?

A: I avoided my parents. I would sneak, then go off into my room.

Q: You're mother's a nurse. She didn't know?

A: She was at work. She would come home at eleven at night and then I would be asleep. She'd be asleep the next morning when I was going to school.

Q: What did you do on weekends?

A: I was gone. From sun-up to sun-down. I was always gone. My mother let the Lord take care of us. She knew we were doing something wrong, but she couldn't do anything about it. My parents are from a religious background. We were brought up on religion. There was always a friendly atmosphere. No hate. Friendly competition.

Q: Besides smoking, what else did you do?

A: I began to drink some. I popped a few pills, but not many. I didn't have a car until last year so I didn't get into hard drugs. So, I became a dealer (distributor). From my best buddy. He knew this guy who was supplying him.

Q: What do you mean by supply?

A: This one guy would have a pound. He would break it down into ounces and distribute those ounces among others in any way possible for the profit. Profit was over 100 percent, sometimes over 200 percent. I knew friends who were asking for it, so I said to my buddy, "Give me a couple and then I'll take it to three or four people I know. I'll bring it (the money) back to you." Later, I overdid him, and I became the dealer. Actually, I was the dealer but I never purchased or accepted money for much profit. I never really bought it for profit.

Q: How did you make your money?

A: By charging \$5 extra from somebody I didn't like. See, the guy who bought it only wanted a certain amount from me. So I could charge over or under from the people I preferred. That's how I got the money I had. I would sell so many (ounces) and he would give me a whole one. That would be my supply, my stash. All the people I knew were my friends.

Q: Why didn't you go ahead and charge?

A: I was too honest of a person. I was trying to become more and more honest with myself. I had a conscience.

Q: You were now 16 years or so, a junior in high school. This went on for how long?  
A: Until I graduated.

Q: How did your lifestyle change as you got older?

A: It (smoking) altered my grades. I didn't even want to look at books. It lowered my opinion of myself, and my study habits.

Q: Did you ever feel guilty about it?  
A: Only under my parents' roof.

Q: Could you have stopped if you wanted to?

A: No, I wanted to be like my friends. The people who didn't do this were looked upon as "dorks." I felt I didn't measure up to their standards... I had already established an edge toward the other side; therefore, if I changed it would have taken a lot of pain. There was more pain already going on. A lot of doubt. People get into this mess because they get tired of being told what to do all the time. Do this, do that. So, I rebelled. I guess I rebelled because I had it so good. I wanted a challenge. I had a good thing. Why DID I get into this!

Q: You got into this because you wanted to become a part of a group — to be a part of something.

A: One of the basic human needs is to have a feeling of belonging. It's a horrible feeling to feel that you do not belong. My dad used to come home and sit down and read the paper. It was hard for us to approach our father. I didn't get the support at home that I was looking for. Drugs and alcohol aren't respecters of family or how much money you have.

Q: What were your feelings when you smoked?

A: A sort of a build-up of emotional anxiety. A positive side. The feeling begins with a numbness, a sense of wanting, a waiting for something to happen. There's a detachment of your mind, of realization. Your mind wan-

ders, deepening into the subconscious. Between that and the numbness, there's a comfortable feeling. Then it goes up to a disorientation, relaxation. You laugh at things that aren't funny; you come back to a mellow feeling. You laugh more. You think you're happy. (It's no big deal, to tell the truth.) This levelling off could be anywhere at the top from 3-4 hours, sometimes eight hours, depending upon the quality of the stuff, and what part of the world it comes from. On the way down, you continue laughing. You get a headache. You get hungry. You have a sense of security. You crave food.

*"I was a public drunk.*

*I was 20."*

Q: You mean a real stomach-gnawing hunger?

A: Yes. Lots of people get overweight because of this. You're giving yourself something that nobody else is giving you. Coming down from the hunger you get very sleepy, a headache. You feel drained, very exhausted. If you had to get up and go to school at that moment, you would not be worth the time and effort involved. You can't function. You make mistakes.

Q: How long does it take to come down?

A: It's not near as long as the going up and levelling off at the top. A couple of hours. It seems like it is quicker to come down than to get up and stay up.

Q: Did you or anyone around you ever become hostile under the effects?

A: Well, maybe a little hostile — but not against people themselves, just inanimate objects. You have spurges of violence, aggression. You just try to get things out of your system that have built up. Mischievousness.

Q: Were you ever mischievous?

A: Oh, yes. We looked for excitement.

Q: Then you could compare the high as being drunk on alcohol.

A: Yes.

Q: If the high lasted as long as 12 hours, then you could be in the presence of your family and they still might not realize it?

A: It's kind of hard to control yourself. We would go off and do this by ourselves. Too, there is an aroma. A powerful smell of burning rope.

*"I would struggle to get somewhere I could pass out."*

Q: Do you feel that alcohol is on the same level of marijuana?

A: Yes. Except that one is legal and one is not. That's the main difference. With alcohol you are much drowsier and relaxed. But with smoking, I always maintained a sense of alertness because I knew it was against the law. You must remain alert to not get caught.

Q: Did you ever pass out on alcohol?

A: Yes. I wasn't in control. I didn't pass out where I was, I would struggle to get somewhere I could pass out. I have a low tolerance for alcohol.



(Photo by Mark Rose)

*"When that jail door clanged the last time, and I saw that the key was on the outside and I could n't get to the other side, I was scared."*

Q: Which one were you more afraid of — drugs or alcohol?  
A: Alcohol.

Q: Why?

A: It's easier to get, cheaper, legal. I'm more afraid because you cannot control yourself as much. I hope they don't legalize marijuana. If they do, the wasters and stoners will be everywhere. They need to have harsher penalties for drunks, too.

Q: What is a stoner and a waster?  
A: Someone like myself who gets high daily.

Q: How do you spell waster?

A: We never spelled it. We just did it!

Q: The authorities say that marijuana leads to cocaine, that leads to something else — hard drugs, heroin, angel dust, etc. Each costs more money. What happens to the kids who don't have the money?

A: The first step is alcohol. If you don't have the money to go cocaine, you stick to alcohol; it's cheap. The next step is more money. Then you do what it takes. You'll steal to get it. Or even knock somebody in the head to get it.

Q: You never got caught with marijuana?

A: No. I was passing the merchandise in the parking lot at school, in the halls, in front of the school, at my locker. I would only have the stuff on my person for a very short time.

Q: You really didn't begin to drink until after high school.

A: Right. But I was jailed three times for drunkenness. When that jail door clanged for the last time, and I saw that the key was on the outside and I couldn't get to the other side, I

was scared. I really felt scared when the judge told me that I was a "public drunk." I was 20. I told myself that I wasn't. I wasn't about to be. My father bailed me out. Again. I then realized that my parents wanted me to become something. To be a success, besides being a successful drunk. I told my dad that I would pay him back. He loved me.

Q: If you had children what kind of advice would you give them?

A: Tell them to read the Bible.

Q: Would you say that you're a born-again Christian?  
A: Yes.

Q: Does it embarrass you to admit that? Many kids don't want to admit it or talk about it.

A: No. It's getting to be more of a tradition to go back to the Bible.

Q: You think there's a trend back to the Bible?

A: The kids in high school are going to turn away. It's not the macho way. It's not cool. People my age and older, the trend is back to the Bible.

Q: In other words, your life has changed?

A: Yes. I have inner happiness, more security. I rely upon myself instead of illusions.

Q: What advice would you give to parents?

A: The key is communication. Keep informed. Encourage the kids.

Q: You think parents should spend more time with kids?

A: It's not the amount of time so much, it's the quality — how they spend the time.

Q: Do you ever have the temptation to go back to drugs and alcohol?  
A: Sure, but I have a debt to pay.

## Crisis angels intervene

### Medical technicians can help in time of need

By **BOBBYE BROWN**

It's 2 a.m. Your husband is having a heart attack. You pick up the phone and call for help. The person who arrives may not be the doctor, but this may be the person who saves your husband's life.

From a profession that began just 10 years ago, there are now 23,000 registered emergency medical workers. Waco has one emergency medical service, Daniel Medical Services. Daniel Services do not yet have full life support, but they are expanding.

Their 21 workers are divided to work 24-hour shifts. These shifts are from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. They receive an

average of 30 calls a day.

"The majority of these calls concern heart attacks," said paramedic Dusty Graf. The large number of calls stems from the fact that Waco's population has many elderly people. When a call is received, a team is ready to administer pre-hospital care that may include CPR or the control of bleeding — but we get the victim to the hospital as quickly and in as stable a condition as possible.

According to Graf, "The job is tiring. But the self-satisfaction of saving a life is worth it."

Graf is married and has two children. Salary is based on an hourly rate, in

a middle-income bracket. "I don't hear any complaints," said Graf.

To become a technician, Texas law requires a minimum of eight hours of training in advanced first aid. To be an emergency care attendant requires 40 hours of training, and to be an emergency medical technician requires 100 hours of training. Paramedics must complete 350 hours of training.

It took Graf two years to become a paramedic. "All workers go back for training every four years. I guess you could say we're continuously going to school. But the key to learning is experience. Experience is the number one teacher. Experience is our best tool," said Graf.

Graf said the workers care about the people they serve. "It's not uncommon for a medical technician to cry after discussing an incident," said Graf. "We're human, too," he added.

"Delivering a baby has to be the biggest triumph. I was on 'cloud nine' for three days," said Graf. "Medical technicians rarely see the bright side of life, but there are moments that make it worthwhile," Graf added.

It's not unusual for medical technicians to follow up on the condition of their patients. Graf recently visited a little girl who was a victim in a car accident. "I found out she had asked to see me," Graf explained.



Wayne Blade is a technician with Daniel Medical Services. (Photo by Bill Mitchell)



# Sports



Rita Martin, MCC freshman, soars upward to bank a shot off the glass during last Thursday's win, 93-69, over Hillsboro. (Photo by Jaci Kenney)

## Coaches react to death of 'Bear'

By TRACEY THOMPSON

The late Paul "Bear" Bryant served as an inspiration to coaches, athletes, and sports enthusiasts everywhere; and he had his share of fans among the athletic instructors at MCC as well.

The winningest coach in college football history, Bryant died of a heart attack Jan. 26 at the age of 69.

MCC tennis coach Carmack Berryman described the "Bear" as being "the symbol of excellence in athletics. He showed what a dedicated person can do. His records will probably never be equaled."

"His accomplishments leave me in awe," Berryman continued. "All coaches would like to think that we could give the same contribution to our players as he did for his," said Berryman.

Athletic Director Ken DeWeese said, "I admire the man. He was a winner, but he won with class. He kept the game of football and his life in a good perspective. He was the epitome of college athletics today."

Bryant won 323 games and lost 84 during a career that began in 1945. He coached at Maryland, Kentucky and Texas A&M before moving on in 1958

to the university where he would gain his fame — Alabama.

During his 25 years at Alabama, Bryant compiled a 232-46-9 record. The Crimson Tide won four national championships, 11 Southeastern Conference titles, seven perfect regular season records, and played in a record 24 straight bowl games.

Bryant retired this past season after defeating Illinois in the Liberty Bowl, 21-15.

He was admitted into Druid City Hospital in Tuscaloosa on Jan. 25 after complaining of chest pains. The next morning he suffered a massive coronary and died.

Alabama Governor George Wallace ordered all flags in the state to be flown at half-mast.

Bryant was born Sept. 11, 1913, one of 11 children on a small farm in Alabama. He earned his colorful nickname in high school after wrestling a bear for a dollar a minute in an Alabama theatre.

He went on to play college football for Alabama where he was the "other end." Don Hutson, one of the greatest receivers in football history, was then starting at end for the Crimson Tide.

Bryant was famous for his teaching

of football techniques and theory. There are 16 active head coaches who either played or coached under the "Bear." Some of the more notable names: Jerry Claiborne of Kentucky; Danny Ford of Clemson; Ray Perkins, formerly of the N.Y. Giants, now head coach at Alabama; Bum Phillips of the New Orleans Saints; Herb Schellenberger of Miami University; Jackie Sherrill of Texas A&M; and Steve Sloan of Duke.

Baseball coach Rick Butler said he admired Bryant for his "... courage to deal with athletes fairly but firmly. He ran a program where each player had to adhere to the rules for the whole team."

What Bryant meant to the majority of people is probably best summed up by women's basketball coach Charlotte Mason. "From what I've heard of him, he was a very honest, sincere, down-to-earth man with very high morals and a heart probably as big as a basketball."

Something I really admired about him was that when his team won, he gave his players all the credit, and when they lost he would take the blame. That takes a lot of character. It tells you what a very unselfish and generous man he was."

## Highlassies hang the Rebels

By WYOMA KIRVEN

"Physical" describes the game between the MCC Highlassies and the Hill Lady Rebels. From tip-off to the final score, the court was filled with the roughness of football action. The 'Lassies ran into trouble with the Rebels early in the first half. The awesome playing of Hill forward Penny Lewis didn't let the 'Lassies speed or press stop her.

MCC kept the lead until the clock reached the 13-minute mark. The Lady Rebels pulled ahead by two (14-16), but the 'Lassies didn't let that upset them. Instead they poured the juice on, making fantastic passes and a number of steals. Debra Degrate showed her talent by swishing in three consecutive buckets.

Power rolled in as the 'Lassies took the lead 27-17 with eight minutes and 50 seconds left in the first half. The Lady Rebels guarded the land heavily, forcing the 'Lassies to go for their outside shots. Sophomore Dana Locke, not letting the tight zone defense upset her, made sly movements in the

lane to collect points, bringing the half-time score to 'Lassies 47, Rebels 34.

During the second half, controversy fell on the court. With 18 minutes left on the clock, a misunderstanding between a Highlassie and a Rebel caused difficulty. Coach Charlotte Mason didn't agree with all the extra physical contact on the floor. She stated to one of the referees, "You're the one who caused them to act like this. If you'd been calling the game right, it wouldn't be out of control."

This statement caused Mason two technical fouls, which sent the Lady Rebels to the line for two. In spite of the confusion on the court, the 'Lassies kept their heads. Phyllis Cleary's slick passes and Carolyn Sneed's aggressive movements inside kept MCC alive. Although the game was rough and tough, the Highlassies still took home a victory, 93-69. The leading Highlassie scorers were Rita Martin with 17; Locke with 16; Jackie Benson with 12; and Cleary and Degrate, with 10. The Lady Rebels' lead scorer was Penny Lewis with 26.

Vickie Gentry said, "I think we could have beaten them by more than we did. The game was so physical and it was very frustrating. The officials did a great job calling the game. We are still undefeated in the conference and that means a lot to us."

Kathy Bryd commented, "It was a very physical game that kind of got out of hands. I think we kept our composure considering the rough action of the game. I feel we'll go undefeated in the conference. We're going to the Regionals Playoffs no matter what. But I really feel strongly about going undefeated."

The MCC Highlassies lead the conference with a record of 11-0. Their victory over Cisco (one of the toughest teams) in the second half of conference play really kept the boat rocking for the 'Lassies. There are three games remaining in the season: Grayson to be played Thursday in the Highlands, and TSTI and Southwest Christian to be played away. The Highlassies played Cooke last night, but a score was unavailable at press time.

## HPE not required next Fall

By JAMES JONES

Health and Physical Education will not be required for full-time students next fall. However, even though HPE isn't required, it is a suggested course by Coach James Burroughs, chairman of the HPE department.

"If a student learns respect for his/her body at an early age, he/she can carry it (respect) throughout their lives," Burroughs said.

The MCC staff is one of the best, according to Burroughs. "The staff tries to work in a positive way toward the students. Staff members feel they've let the student down if the student doesn't grasp the course."

Many new courses are being considered for future semesters at MCC. The new courses will broaden degree plans for physical education majors as well as offer more interesting courses for the non-PE majors. Suggestions

are accepted for new HPE courses and should be given to Burroughs or his secretary in the HPE building.

The HPE building is open Monday through Thursday from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Friday 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. The swimming pool is open for student and faculty use on Monday and Wednesday 2-4 p.m. The dressing rooms are equipped with hair dryers and a sauna in both the men's and women's areas.

## Highlanders rock Rebels, 66-57; Everett, Williams provide thrills

By TRACEY THOMPSON

If basketball and boxing are your kind of sports, the Highlands was the place to be last Thursday night. While hysteria was breaking loose in the stands, the MCC Highlanders were slowly pulling away from the Hillsboro Rebels, 66-57.

If you could possibly tear yourself away from the rights and lefts being thrown in the stands, you may have seen a perfect example, on the floor, of the "good shall overcome."

The Rebels jumped out to an early 20-12 lead. Waymond Brown was grabbing rebounds off the boards and cashing them in for two, scoring 11 of Hill's first 16 points.

Jerry Everett then took control for the Highlanders. After Monte Wainwright had canned a jumper from the

*"If you could possibly tear yourself away from the rights and lefts being thrown in the stands, you may have seen a perfect example, on the floor, of 'the good shall overcome'."*

corner to pull the Highlanders within six at 20-14, Everett hit a double pump lay-up to bring it to four. Then he brought the house down with a pretty, juking move inside to make it 20-18 Hillsboro with 9:12 left in the half.

MCC kept it tight for the next five minutes. Then with 1:10 left, Everett ripped a jumper to give the Highlanders their first lead of the game, 30-20.

A Calvin Carrier lay-up and an Arthur Williams free throw sent both teams into the locker room at the half with MCC on top, 33-29.

Supposedly, half-time entertainment consisted of the MCC Dance Company doing a routine, but the Dance Company was upstaged by a few unruly females who decided that

negotiating wasn't the solution to their argument. The outcome of the scuffle is uncertain, but the two young ladies did miss the second half — by no choice of their own.

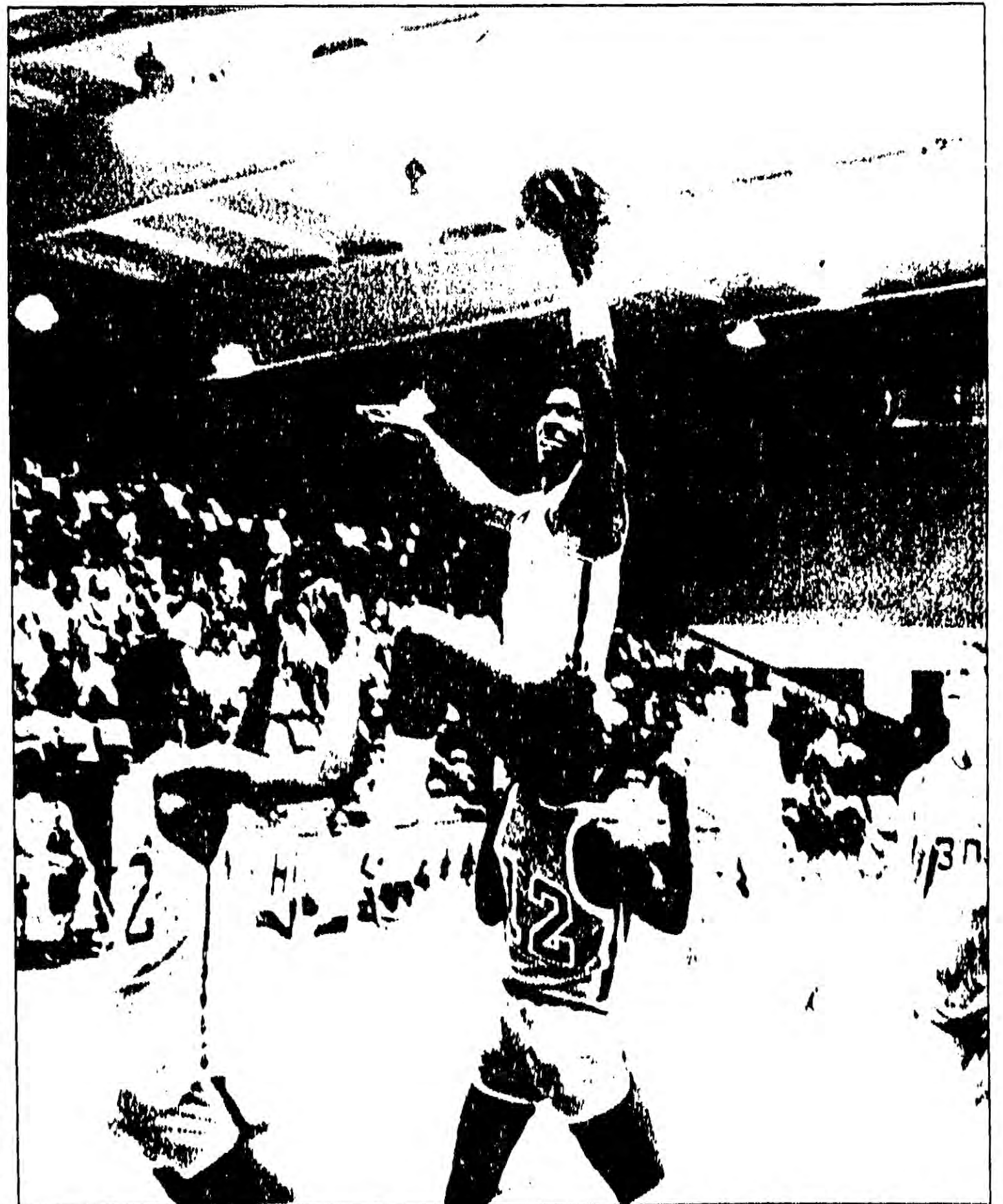
What they failed to witness were nine unanswered points by the Highlanders early in the second half who broke free from the Rebels, increasing their lead to 48-35. Williams and Everett set the pace, with Williams swishing a 15-footer and then stealing a Rebel pass and taking it all the way to the hoop. Coach Ken DeWeese attributed the breakaway to his defense, "We applied a lot of defensive pressure in the second half, and I think that they just finally succumbed to it."

From then on it was the old "horse race syndrome," with the Highlanders staying just far enough ahead to keep it comfortable, ultimately securing another one in the win column.

Everett and Williams led MCC in scoring with 21 and 13, respectively. Waymond Brown led the Rebels, and all scorers, with 20.

Over the past two weeks, the Highlanders have beaten Southwest Christian, Weatherford, and lost to Cisco Junior College. They are now in first place in the North Texas Junior College Athletic Conference play with a 9-2 record. MCC's overall record is 10-5.

The Highlanders played Cooke County College last night in the Highlands, but a score was not available at press time. The 'Landers play at home Thursday night against Grayson.



MCC Sophomore Rod Belcher skis through the lane for two points while two Hill defenders watch helplessly during last Thursday's 66-57 MCC victory. (Photo by Bill Mitchell)

### McLennan Community College Basketball Statistics

As of February 2, 1983

	Games*	FGA	TGM	%	FTA	FTM	%	REB	AVG	TO	AVG	T.PTS.	PPG
Vincent Green	Total: 23	354	189	.53	104	83	.80	172	7.5	50	2.2	459	20.0
	Conf: 10	161	86	.53	63	52	.83	75	7.5	17	1.7	222	22.2
Jerry Everett	Total: 23	340	179	.53	90	67	.74	216	9.4	76	3.3	423	18.4
	Conf: 10	175	87	.50	48	36	.75	98	9.8	37	3.7	210	21.0
Monte Wainwright	Total: 23	124	68	.55	62	43	.69	73	3.2	33	1.4	170	7.4
	Conf: 10	85	37	.44	18	13	.72	31	3.1	10	1.0	57	5.7
Bruce Hudlin	Total: 23	119	62	.52	41	23	.56	101	4.4	40	1.7	153	6.7
	Conf: 10	63	27	.43	17	10	.59	38	3.8	15	1.5	63	6.3
Rodney Belcher	Total: 23	79	34	.43	35	28	.80	37	1.6	48	2.1	96	4.2
	Conf: 10	23	6	.26	13	10	.77	21	2.1	20	2.0	26	2.6
Calvin Carrier	Total: 23	117	56	.48	28	28	.93	60	2.7	21	0.9	138	6.0
	Conf: 10	30	20	.67	13	13	100	24	2.7	13	1.4	63	6.3
Brian Mattson	Total: 23	74	38	.51	90	75	.83	0	0	35	1.5	150	6.5
	Conf: 10	20	11	.55	42	34	.81	0	0	15	1.5	56	5.6
Arthur Williams	Total: 23	122	52	.43	69	52	.75	0	0	33	1.4	156	6.8
	Conf: 10	64	28	.44	38	20	.53	0	0	19	1.9	85	8.5
MCC	Total: 23	1411	667	.47	514	371	.72	790	35.0	346	15.0	1757	76.4
	Conf: 10	605	289	.48	251	182	.73	383	38.3	156	15.6	782	78.2
Opponents	Total: 23	1395	638	.46	433	375	.87	815	35.0	465	20.2	1599	69.5
	Conf: 10	600	280	.47	276	186	.67	380	38.0	206	20.6	680	68.0

\* Games played column shows both total for season and conference games





A self-portrait by Wynona Troup

## Nice people to know

# Two personalities enhance campus

By **ABBY POSTON**

The quiet ones will surprise you sometimes.

WYNONA TROUP is quiet and on the shy side. She's also full of surprises.

Troup is one of those MCC students who's being seen more and more frequently on campus, the adult learner who decided "to go back to school for the fun of it." Now she's serious about her schooling and has decided to pursue a major in photography.

How many people do you know who can paint and draw, make quilts, win awards in flower arranging, teach classes in decoupage and needlework, have poems and ballads published, and win photography contests while a first-year student? (She gives MCC photography instructor Barney Fitzpatrick a lot of credit!) She's also had several photos published in

magazines and has exhibited in WFAA Radio's home decorating show at the Dallas fairgrounds. Did I mention that she's also a mini-expert on gardening and houseplants?

Troup's Bicentennial quilt has won her honors. As a result, she's taught "Quilting with a Twist" in MCC's Continuing Education Division. She's given quilting demonstrations at the Heart O' Texas Fair, and her quilts have been on display at the Waco Public Library and Lake Air Mall.

Still another area of Troup's versatility is puppetry and painting and building stage props for churches, banquets and plays. She's in demand as a speaker at civic clubs and gives demonstrations on arts and crafts, particularly candlemaking and waxing flowers.

Is there anything else she likes to do?

"Yes, I love to read. I like the "deep" stuff. And I want to try every-

thing," Troup said.

Troup and her husband, Bill, moved to the Waco area from Abilene about 14 years ago. Bill is a laboratory technician for Texas Power and Light Company. They have a son and daughter. Troup is very close to her children and said, "They are my best friends." She misses her daughter and two grandchildren since they moved to Wiley. She tries to have lunch with her son every chance she gets just to spend "a little special time with him."

Troup's children were graduated from MCC, and married MCC graduates. Troup feels she has "to keep up the MCC tradition."

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Someone else nice to know on campus: VILMA DeLEON, secretary for Counseling Services. Vilma was elected the first 1983 classified "Employee of the Month." She's kind, gen-

tle and patient. She has a way of making visitors to the counseling office comfortable. DeLeon participates in the campus classified personnel organization, MCCOPA, and graciously serves on many committees. The classified "Employee of the Month" is chosen by nominations to a committee of five appointed by Dr. Wilbur Ball, president of the College. When the employee is chosen, he/she is presented a framed certificate by the Administrative Council member over his/her department. A photograph and a plaque is put on display in the Administration Building. A new employee is chosen each month.

Editor's note: This column will be a regular feature of *The Highland Herald*. If you know of someone you would like to see recognized, please let us know.

# Sexually abused children suffer

editorial  
By **GORDON OWEN**

There's a crime wave in this country that often gets sluffed off as a social problem. This crime causes some children to grow up sad, and they often become psychologically unstable as well. And in too many cases, the criminal may not even be punished.

It is time to make tougher laws against child abuse.

This editorial is about the sexual abuse of children. In the same country where a man can go to prison for stealing food to feed his family, a man can rape a nine-year-old girl and a six-year-old boy and get off the hook. That's because Texas law generally considers children the property of their parents.

Bonnie Riddle, secretary at the Department of Human Resources in Waco, said that in 1981 there were 59 sexual child abuse cases reported in McLennan County involving 128 children. These numbers do not include incidents where the perpetrator was a non-family member.

According to District Attorney's office clerk Jenice Lange, of those cases that went to trial in 1981, 15 defendants pleaded guilty. One defendant pleaded not guilty but was found guilty by the jury. Nine defendants received confinement and nine received probated sentences. Three cases were dismissed. Five cases were left pending.

In other words, less than half of the cases ever went to trial.

Statistics for the number and disposition of cases going to trial for 1982 will not be available until March, but Phil Weaver of the Department of Human Resources said that there were 73 cases of sexual child abuse reported in McLennan County during 1982. These cases involved 176 children. "This does not include cases where the perpetrator was outside the family. Those cases are handled by the D.A.'s office," said Weaver. He continued, "These figures are only the cases that were reported. We have no way of telling how many cases of sexual child abuse actually occur," said Weaver.

The second February edition of 20/20 reported that there were an estimated 500,000 cases of sexual child abuse in the U.S. in 1982.

When statistics are used, it's often easy to pass them off as nameless numbers. So consider the case you are about to read as an example. Some of the facts have been changed to disguise the identities of the people involved. However, the situation you are about to read is based on a true story.

The crime started about seven years ago in Waco. A woman married a man much older than she. She had one child at the time of the marriage and soon gave birth to another. The man was a good provider and acted like he loved her, her daughter and their newborn son, so she allowed the man to adopt her daughter.

She didn't know that the love he had for their children was sexual. After seven years of marriage, the love she had for him soured for other reasons. The couple was divorced.

The mother was granted full custody of the children, but she allowed them to visit her former husband — sometimes for several months — because she didn't feel it was fair to make the children bear the brunt of the divorce.

However, when she learned that her son had asked one of his friends to join him in some indecent sexual activities, she was shocked. When she questioned the youngster he said he had learned such things from his father.

This led to the mother's questioning of the daughter, who told her that her father had been doing sexual things to her ever since she could remember.

Upon investigation, the mother learned that to get a conviction, the children would have to make statements to personnel at the Texas Department of Human Resources. Then she would be required to take that information to the District Attorney's office in the town where the incidents last occurred (not Waco). She did.

Children giving statements must describe each detail of the crimes committed against them. And, as in many cases of a similar nature, the son refused to testify against his father. However, the daughter did.

After several months, the father was arrested, only to be released on the same day without a cent of bond. Recently the D.A. of another city contacted the mother of the children, telling her that she should "make a deal" with the father because "he will probably get a probated sentence, anyway." After all, it's only his first offense.

And Texas law, in this case, could have assessed no more than 10 years in prison.

This is a disgrace. There are riots in Washington, D.C.'s streets against the nation's policy on agriculture, nuclear power or foreign policy. However, no one has taken to the streets to protest the fact that the victims of this crime don't always get proper protection.

According to the National Center of Child Abuse and Neglect, only a fraction of sexual abuse cases are reported. However, there were "at least 100,000 cases in the U.S. in 1978." There are more than two children in this country who have ugly memories that they will never forget, while the perpetrator of the crime walks the streets — perhaps getting another chance to give more children the same bad memories. Something is wrong with a judicial system where this is the norm.

The protection of rights — even those of a criminal — are vital in the preservation of a Democratic system.

But we, as Americans and especially as college students, may need to re-evaluate some of the laws that govern us. It will be up to us to decide which of the laws of the past are serving a useful function, which of them are truly just, and which of them are harmful to the well-being of the nation's people. Perhaps those laws that over-protect the wrongdoer to the point of victimizing the victims are bad.

They should be changed!

## OPINION



### Cownover's Comments

## Can we let them die?

By **DEBBIE COWNOVER**

They used to roam on islands. They use to be only with each other's company. They used to be free. But now they are gone.

The Dodo bird was once a free creature, like a dog or cat. But now the only place a Dodo bird can be found is in the encyclopedia.

Dodos were large birds that resembled a modern-day turkey. If you remember Alice in Wonderland, it was a Dodo bird that talked to Alice as she climbed out of the pool of tears. The Dodos once lived on islands in the Indian Ocean, not far from Africa. When the traveling sailors started inhabiting the islands, the birds soon provided hearty meals for hungry men. By the beginning of the 17th century, the birds had vanished.

"Man alone, though often in combination with his livestock, is destroying the natural environment of the world."

— Kai Curry-Lindahl

Hundreds of animals such as the Dodo have become extinct over a relatively short period of time. This can be attributed to the large mass of big-game hunters which has evolved through the centuries. It's just another plaque on the wall for a hunter. These "hunted" have become "endangered species." And later, extinct.

In some countries, more laws have been passed prohibiting the selling of meat, skin or other parts of endangered animals.

In the 1890s it was believed that the whooping crane treaded the borderline of extinction as the Dodo bird had.

However, in 1936, a scientist named Neil Hotchkiss discovered four cranes in the marsh lands of Texas. As more were discovered the United States Government decided to purchase a section of land to build a wildlife refuge for endangered animals such as the crane. This park is known as the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge.

"Those who wish to pet and baby wild animals 'love' them. But those who respect their natures and wish to let them live normal lives love them more."

— Edwin Way Teale

Remember that cute little stuffed Koala bear you saw in the store last week? How would you feel if you knew the stuffed animals were the only ones left?

The Koala bear is the Australian version of the "teddy bear." The small Koalas were also on the endangered species list once. Because the Koalas are slow moving animals and spend most of their time feeding in the eucalyptus trees, they became an easy target for hunters. Many Americans, along with Australians, wanted to save the Koalas. President Herbert Hoover ordered the halt of Koala skin imports into the United States during his term in office. Soon after this the government of Australia passed laws forbidding the hunting of Koalas. Thus, they were saved.

Now the whales face the same fate the Koalas did. It's hard to believe that man can endanger something as helpless as a Koala or as massive as a whale, but it's true. Will man one day become an endangered species?

## Editor's Notebook

# Cruel alarm clocks cause rude awakening

By **AMY NEAL**

When you combine the next two words, they have a startling effect on people all over the world.

Alarm clock.

See, didn't you jump just reading the words?

These mere words can elicit a clutch at your heart and a screaming peal in your ears.

We've all been there too many times. You're in a sound sleep, probably the best you've had all night. Suddenly, you're awakened by a brutal ringing close to your head. You fumble in the dark, trying desperately to destroy the buzzer. However, it takes you quite a while to turn the inhuman thing off.

By that time, your day's ruined and

you have a splitting headache.

For something I hate so much, I spend a lot of time worrying about whether I've set the alarm clock. As I get in bed, I check the clock four or five times — just in case I've forgotten. Usually, I end up with that horrible thing on my pillow and we sleep — hand in hand — together.

Saturday morning can be worse. You finally get to sleep late. And what happens? A late worse than death. You accidentally set the alarm the night before. You're awakened by that shocking bell, which does irreparable damage to your rest.

I'm a connoisseur of alarm clocks. There are chimes, bells, music, a recorded obnoxious laugh, a loughn and the tender tones of a bugle. But by far, the worst variety of the beasts

is the repeating alarm. It goes off for a minute and then comes back on every five minutes until you go crazy. This has to be the most aggravating. That dreaded sound is horrible enough to hear once every morning, but for it to continue its repulsive ring every five minutes is a little more than I can handle at 6 a.m.

Another experience that's far from fantastic is mistakenly setting your alarm clock an hour early. After the bell has done its damage and scared you into reality, it takes you 50 minutes to get back to sleep. And the nightmare soon begins all over again.

The only thing worse than an alarm clock is having someone else be your alarm clock. Your precious sleep is disturbed by a bright light turned on in

your eyes and a loud voice that bel- lows, "Rise and shine."

I want to be physically ill when I hear this cute little phrase so early in the morning. Face it. Morning is not the greatest time for me, and to be awakened by someone who is ecstatic over the chirping birds is a cruel and unusual punishment.

So far, I have not been able to find a satisfactory way of getting up in the mornings.

So here's my fantasy. The sun peeks through the window. Dewdrops glisten on the leaves of an old oak tree outside. A cardinal begins his song, gradually reaching a mild crescendo.

The perfume from a vase of fresh cut flowers reaches my nostrils.

The day begins perfectly. And I can sleep until noon if I want to.

## Rx from Rodabough

# Herpes still torments many unwarned victims

By **CAROLYN RODABOUGH**  
MCC Campus Nurse

Herpes is caused by a virus and has been around for at least 2000 years. Ancient Romans suffered from "an epidemic of oral lesions" during the reign of the Emperor Tiberius, and during the 18th century in France, genital herpes was common among prostitutes. So it's not a new problem, but one that has become widespread due to societal changes in sexual behaviors.

There are two types of herpes — I and II. Type I occurs primarily on the lips. These are the common cold sores, often called fever blisters, that occur frequently in many individuals. Herpes type II typically causes the genital lesions, and are also blister-like sores.

The two strains are not easily distinguishable from one another in appearance and do not necessarily stay in their own territory. Researchers have found that the herpes cold sores can be transferred to the genitals by fingers or mouth and become a "so-called" venereal disease. The increase in oral sex in today's society may be a factor in the increased spread of both types of herpes.

Symptoms begin with a tingling or itching sensation, followed by the eruption of blisters within two to 15 days after invasion by the virus. Headache, fever, swollen glands, and muscle aches may also occur. The shallow, fluid-filled blisters are very painful, especially during the first occurrence. The severity varies from person to person, and the first episode lasts on the average for three weeks. The virus then journeys up nerve fibers along the spinal column and becomes inactive for periods of time ranging from a few weeks to a lifetime. Recurrent bouts with the active form of the disease produces another crop of the painful blisters. Recurrence is not inevitable; however, 70% of herpes victims will suffer another attack within nine months of the first one.

Besides the physical symptoms, many herpes sufferers also experience emotional side effects. Often they withdraw from social relationships and feel angry, guilty, and depressed.

The Herpes Resource Center, a non-profit organization, has a program for herpes sufferers based in Palo Alto, Calif. This group provides support through group meetings and

patient information. There is not a group in our area at this time, but one could be formed by interested persons. They would need to contact the Herpes Resource Center, Box 100, Palo Alto, California, 94302.

The most common way to contract herpes is through sexual intercourse. Someone who has the virus is contagious from the time the first tingling sensation begins until after the blisters are totally healed. Someone who has a cold sore on the mouth may transmit the virus through kissing. Drinking after someone who has an active lesion could also be risky. There is controversy over whether or not the virus can be spread by contaminated towels and toilet seats, and until the final verdict is in, it would be advisable to practice good bathroom hygiene and avoid sharing towels.

Genital herpes can cause a serious concern for pregnant women. An infected birth canal during delivery may prove fatal for newborns. Women should always tell their physician if they have ever had the disease so precautions will be used when the pregnancy has reached full term.

It is also important for females who have herpes to have regular check-

ups for cervix cancer. Several studies have shown an increased risk for this type cancer.

At the present time, treatment for herpes is limited to treating the discomfort of the active lesions. A drug, Acyclovir, in cream form, has proven effective for initial episode of herpes. It is less effective on recurrent lesions. A number of compounds are currently being tested that look promising and should be on the market in the near future.

Herpes is not curable, but there is hope for improved courses of treatment. In the meantime, individuals not wishing to join the 20 million Americans who have genital herpes should consider ways to avoid it. Numerous sexual partners and "one night stands" will definitely increase the risks of contracting herpes. A small degree of protection may be provided by the use of condoms (rubbers) and these certainly will help protect against other venereal diseases.

Persons who have herpes should be under the care of a doctor. Locally, women may also be treated at Planned Parenthood, 511 Ross Ave. Men will need to see a private physician for treatment.

# The Highland Herald

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

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