



The McPherson College SPECTATOR

Friday, Nov. 2, 1990
Volume LXXV, No. 4
Scholarship, Participation,
and Service—
for the 21st Century

Thanksgiving fast for Oxfam planned

Mac pounds nails for the shelter-less

Lisa Lauver

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to travel for an hour just to end up pounding nails into flooring for the rest of the day? On October 27 the McPherson College chapter of Habitat for Humanity spent the day in Wichita working on two houses for the organization.

Habitat for Humanity is an international organization whose philosophy is that everyone in the world should have adequate shelter at a reasonable cost. The organization builds and buys houses through donations and volunteer work.

The trip to Wichita was part of the college chapter's volunteer service to Habitat. Currently the Mac chapter is assisting in the construction of two houses there.

The Mac group has lent a hand to mixing cement, putting up dry-wall, laying insulation and flooring, and digging post-holes.

"We don't know what kind of work we'll be doing till we get on site," says Tahnee Carlson, one of the coordinators for the Mac chapter. When the group arrived at the site last Saturday (Oct. 27), they were asked what kind of skills and experience they had. Neither are required, but the Habitat director at the project tries to match volunteers to tasks.

The Mac group has lent a hand to mixing cement, putting up dry-wall, laying insulation and flooring, and digging post-holes. They report that it's hard work, but as

It's hard work, but "knowing that you're doing some good is a lot of compensation."
—Tahnee Carlson

Carlson puts it, "Knowing you're doing some good is a lot of compensation."

The Mac chapter has another work-day scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 3. Anyone interested in contributing to the effort is invited to sign up on one of the lists posted in the Student Union or to contact Tahnee Carlson at extension 341.

Transportation is provided for volunteers, but since the chapter's budget is tight, contributions towards buying the gas aren't discouraged. If you are on Food Service, a sack lunch can be arranged; otherwise volunteers have to bring their own meal(s). The group leaves for Wichita at 8:00 and returns to McPherson around 5 or 5:30.

This is the first year that McPherson College has had a Habitat for Humanity chapter. It is sponsored by David Valeta, our Campus Minister.

Thanksgiving fast

Mr. Valeta is also overseeing a Thanksgiving fast to benefit Oxfam. The fast will start on Wednesday, November 15, and continue through Thursday the 16th.

Shanna Kirchner, who is helping to arrange the event, says, "We are hoping for a lot of student involvement in both the fasting and in the 'alternative

programming' that's scheduled during the usual meal-times."

During these times (supper, lunch, and breakfast, too) there will be informative video presentations for students who participate in the fast. Beverages will be provided.

Melia Dell, who helped out in last year's fast, says, "I hope to do it again. My only regret is that the fast was for only one day."

More information about the fast will be posted in the Student Union. Interested students should contact Dave Valeta (office in the SU) or Shanna Kirchner (2 South, Dotzour).

"I hope people understand that all these religious groups on campus are open to everyone. We don't aim to drive anyone off!"
—Dave Valeta

Mr. Valeta encourages students to take part in these and other religious activities at Mac. "I hope that people understand that all the religious groups I oversee here at the college are open to everyone. The Brethren Identity Group isn't aiming to exclude people who aren't Brethren. The FCA (Fellowship of Christian Athletes) isn't going to run off non-athletes!"

"The aim of all of this is to encourage students' spiritual lives," says Valeta.

Some of the other religious organizations on campus are Oasis, the Bible-study groups, and Peace Awareness.

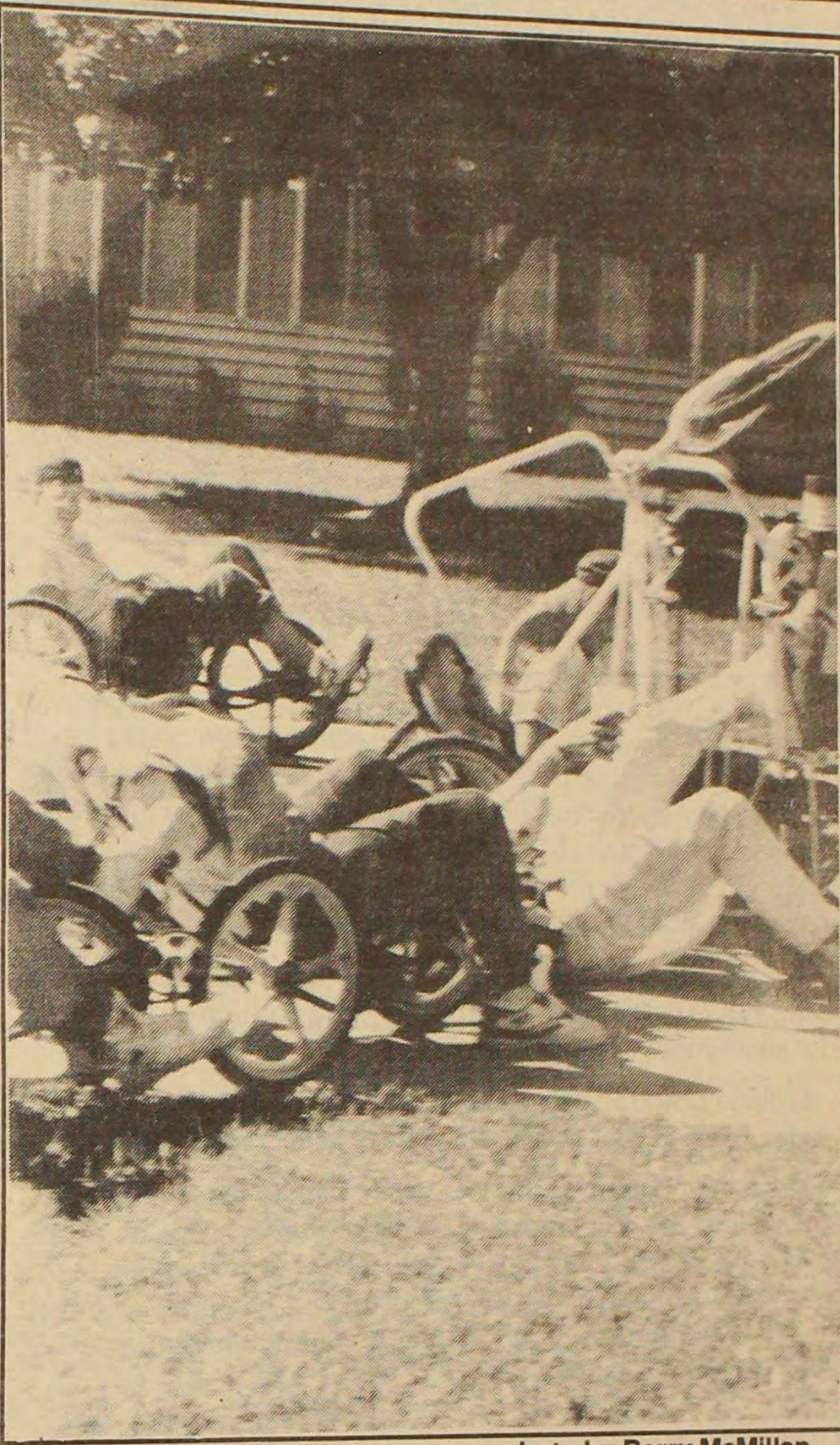


photo by Barry McMillan

Fun cycles? No: Disaster cycles! Pat Queen (legs and feet at right) warms up for Homecoming weekend. Others involved are (l.n background) Dan Grizzel; (l.) A.J. Farias; (r.) Sean Lux. On the far left, a pair of unidentified feet.

Color-chemistry of fall

What's in a color?

Spec staff

Along the sidewalk that runs northeast from Beeghly Hall there are a couple of young oaks, planted two years ago when the lawn behind Brown Auditorium was reseeded and repaired. One of the oaks has changed color; the other seems determined to wait till after Halloween, at least, to give in to autumn.

"There's a lot of genetic variation for traits like that," says Dr. Gilford Ikenberry, pointing out the difference.

On campus and all over town trees are showing off: rust-brown reds, purple reds, day-glo orange-pink, mottled green-yellows, glowing yellows. Some of them

make you stop in your tracks and stare.

The sort of show you see depends on how the summer has gone, and on the fall weather. "If there's been enough rain, then the most colorful displays occur when sunny autumn days alternate with very cool or freezing nights," says Ikenberry.

Photosynthesis slows down in the leaves, and chlorophyll (the substance that gives plants their characteristic green color) is broken down as usual but no longer resynthesized at growing-season rates. As chlorophyll's masking green color disappears, the reds, yellows, and purples that

See COLORS, p.4

X-Country, Volleyball, Tennis Updates

Dogs meet Ottawa tomorrow, looking for another win

Spec Staff

The Mac football team meets Ottawa here this Saturday at 1:30. Ottawa is 3 and 5, and Coach Dan Thiessen expects that the Dogs can beat them with good play.

"They're big and strong," says Thiessen, "but they have weaknesses that we can exploit. With

the right mental attitude and our fair share of the breaks, we can win it."

The Dogs are thin in some positions this year, so some team members are feeling the strain of having to play without sufficient rest and recovery time. Injuries

sometimes don't get enough time to heal.

Thiessen comments that it's a tough situation not only for individuals but also for the team. "They're very supportive of one another," he says, "even if they're

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SPECTATOR

2

I had the strangest dream the other night. Maybe you can help me understand it.

In my dream, I woke up in my room here on campus. I got ready and went to class. Class was different from what I'm used to, though. You see, everything was being taught from an Afro-American point of view. The bulletin board told me, however, that next month was to be different. Next month was to be White History Month.

After class I went to Miller Library. In front of the library there was a ramp and I saw people in wheelchairs using it. There was a sign instructing able-bodied persons to use the stairs by the back door.

When I had finished my work in the library, I went back to my residence hall. I noticed that the word "breeder" was scrawled on several message boards. This perplexed me until I went to lunch and noticed several same-sex couples being open about their relationship. The community was heterophobic and homosexual!

Commentary

The next class I went to was taught in sign language. Anyone who could not communicate in sign was expected to learn to read hands. When I found a translator, she explained to me that my teacher was talking about upcoming holidays the campus would be celebrating. She spoke of Hannukah, Martin Luther King Day, the Chinese New Year, Cinco de Mayo, and some Native American holidays. This dream was just too weird!

As I walked out of class I saw signs that the off-campus folks who run STUCO put up. They were opening up a position on the council for an on-campus representative.

I couldn't stand all this madness anymore. I decided to find a little sanity. Where better than at a basketball game? I love basketball!

Much to my surprise, however, when I got to the Sport Center I found the men's team finishing up their warm-up game for the big event: the women's basketball game! The crowd was filing in to a standing-room-only gym, full of energy and complete with male cheerleaders in revealing outfits and an enthusiastic announcer...all for the women's team!

Needless to say, this shocked me right back to reality. I woke up in a cold sweat.

Strange, strange dream. I mean...really...can you see this community being that discriminatory?

Lisa Ann Pierce

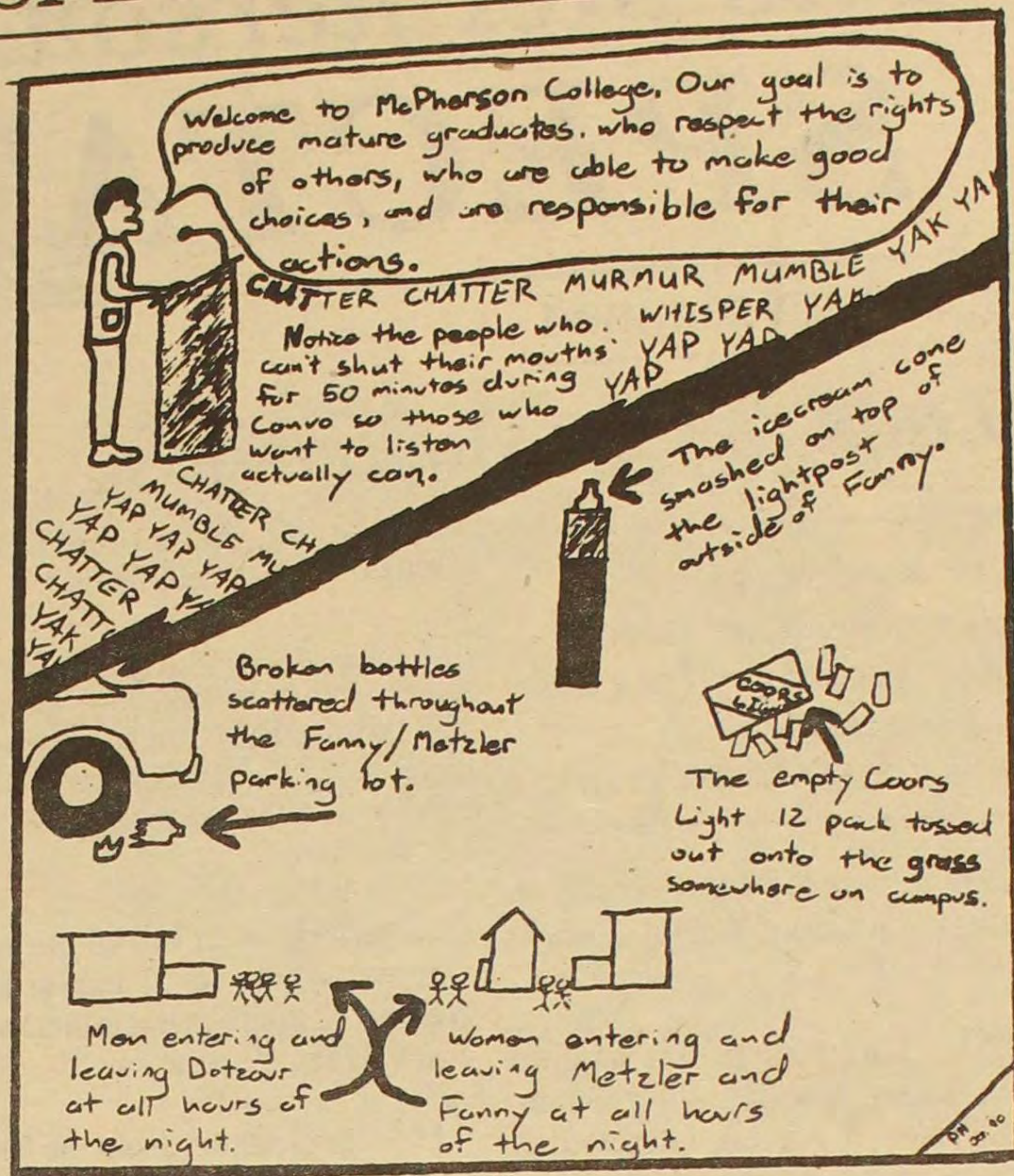
The McPherson College SPECTATOR

Volume LXXV Number 4

November 2, 1990

The McPherson College SPECTATOR is an official publication of McPherson College, McPherson KS 67460, under the sponsorship of the Student Council of the college. Published twice monthly during the fall and spring semesters, allowing for the interruption of school holidays. Subscription information available on request from the above address.

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Or, as the fellow says, good intentions butters no parsnips.

Oil, Money, and Politics

The Cold War was recently resolved with much dialogue and a little violence. The excitement and zeal have simmered as past dictatorial governments go about rebuilding their country and constructing

governments that will effectively compete in the post-Cold-War era, both politically and economically. The Cold War was an unstable and rough time in the history of international politics, in which the West and East competed directly and indirectly for world supremacy. As we emerge out of this era of uncertainty, a new threat appears on this international horizon.

Today the world seems to be involved in a grand international turmoil—a complex mega-crisis that has summoned the comments and opinions of the masses. Once again a powerful commodity has sent shockwaves throughout economies and has become a catalyst in determining the fate of nations and people.

The commodity, "black gold", has captivated the attention of the politically enlightened as well as those of us who are politically deprived. The world is talking OIL, everyone is talking OIL. If you happen to bump into the town drunk (if we have one) sleeping

by the Quick store or in the park with the ducks, and you sober him or her to reality asking that person what the latest news is, chances are the individual will scream out "OIL!" Most individuals today can freely converse with you in the field of petroleum.

Yes, the media do a good job informing us about the Gulf Crisis. They constantly bombard us with jargon like "embargo," "blockade," "chemical weapons," "Arabs," "desert," "warheads," "the Reserves," "war," "the U.N.," "the Arab Nations," and "OPEC," which are all intricately mixed up in OIL-MONEY- and-POLITICS.

Where is this oil bash? What really is going on the the Gulf, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, or wherever all this commotion is taking place? Who is this man called Saddam Hussein, alias "Insane Hussein"? What is this so-called "naked aggression and threat to the American way of life" that the honorable President George Bush so eloquently speaks of?

This Gulf issue reeks with a political smell that can be inhaled anywhere from the peaks of Capitol Hill to the humble town of McPherson, Kansas.

Consequently, it has generated

See OIL, p. 3

PUZZLES

Puzzle No. 5. Decipher the following cryptogram:

TXBEO HOLLN ENIAS
NPCTC IURIU TWAAD
BARRA ASCYL CAEHI
KFMAT

Real five-letter groups, just like real spy stuff, not the silly cryptograms in the Wichita Eagle. But no harder to solve. Just a different perspective required, really.

Puzzle No. 6. In an old book we found an explanation of the "Loisette System of Memory" that includes the following as a sample of the way to remember the sequence of American presidents:

JEFFERSON
Judge Jeffreys
bloody assize
bereavement
parental grief
mad son
MADISON

And another:

GRANT
award
school premium
examination
cramming
laborer
hay field
HAYES

More effort than it's worth, it seemed to us, but possibly a source of amusement.

Puzzle No. 6 is to make a chain of words in similar fashion (by puns, or sound-similarities, or by association of ideas) linking any three consecutive in the series: Kennedy—Johnson—Nixon—Ford—Carter—Reagan—Bush.

For example (linking just two):

Kennedy-Irishman-. . .-yawn some-Johnson. The problem then is to get from Irishman to yawning.

What could be easier? The intermediate words must be: Irish wake—up all night!

Another example:

Nixon—"I wouldn't buy a used car from him!"-Ford!

The object of the game here is to be witty and surprising, but not unintelligible. Five dollar prizes for both Five and Six.

Solutions to be submitted in writing to the Official Puzzle Keeper and High Judge and Arbitrator of Contests, Carolyn Coon.

A winner! The Spec would be proud to pay \$5 to the fellow who got COAL from MINE in only five steps (! as good as Lewis Carrol) if we could only read his last name on the answer sheet he turned in. First name appears to be "Troy."



Hiromi Suzuki (left) and Emi Yamanoi demonstrate Japanese calligraphy for visitors at Mac's Homecoming celebration, Saturday Oct. 13.

photo by Barry McMillan

OIL, from p. 2

a lot of opinions fueled by both the American and Arab press. While the American media strive to justify an American role in the Gulf Crisis at the expense of the opposition, so also do the Arab media try to stir up ill will and divisive actions towards its aggressor. Both use the media to their own advantage...and the other's disadvantage.

The American media picture Hussein of Iraq as being aggressive, assertive, imperialistic, and, to an extent, irretrievably deranged—a modern day Hitler violating international laws to satisfy his own personal appetite. The West and its allies see no place for such an aggressor in contemporary politics. For them Hussein is an unreasonable man who needs to be stopped.

On the other side of the coin, the Iraqis led by their "lunatic" speak against western (American) intervention. Hussein appeals to his Arab brothers, calling the Americans intruders in Arab affairs. He does not view himself as the enemy but rather perceives that Western presence may breed and create a more combustible atmosphere for conflict and possible war, thus defining them as a wolf in sheep's clothing.

Analyzing the Gulf situation at a quick glance, it is easy for one to condemn Hussein's actions. But looking at it in detail and politically, Hussein's actions are justifiable. The man was driven by economical factors. Acquiring Kuwait was a remedy to his economical problem, insuring the survival of his country.

It is often said that good politics is good economics. According to one of my profs, good and efficient economics has no room for morals. Therefore, economics can be immoral and politics also immoral, since the one is a foundation for the other. In terms of political and economical survival, Hussein deserves an A+. The man was/is willing to take risks to insure the survival of his state and people.

Obviously, Hussein did not expect to get unanimous applause for his economical and political ingenuity. In fact, counter-actions were taken by many in dispute of his aggression. For those who felt they had a lot at stake, a more rigid counter-strike was implemented.

America's presence in the Gulf, like the Iraqis's, is one of political and economical survival. Sending troops and spending dollars to protect the oil trade insures a stable economy both for America and its allies. If fighting Iraq preserves the American way of life, then Americans should not question their leaders' decisions. Bush's actions are designed to sustain the American way.

The predicament is delicate. The survival of many countries is involved and relates directly to economics and politics. Neither side is politically or economically wrong. Both are taking specific political and economical actions to survive—directly or indirectly. Once again, "good politics is good economics," and what may seem to be "bad politics" in the public eye is really good politics: survival!

Emmanuel Samci

A day in the life—

Big sister

Willie Marshall

It's 10 in the morning and I wake up to go downstairs. I get my favorite bowl out, and I look through the cabinets for some cereal (Captain Crunch). Minutes later my brother and sister come down. Both of them fumble through the dishes, looking for a frying pan. I guess I'm just too lazy to cook breakfast.

When we finished eating we noticed a letter hanging from the

A Salad Song

This morning I was given a cucumber.

"Tell me some of its characteristics," he said.

Its color, shape, and texture...

green, oblong, and bumpy.

"Any past or future experiences with this vegetable?" he asked.

To say the least, my father's favorite choice... at home, work, and play.

"Can you metaphorically compare them?" he asked.

Many varied ideas I thought...

a pleasant plump snake? a baton? and dagger handle...

Katrina Husong

front of the microwave; it's my mom telling us to clean up the house. She wants someone to vacuum, someone to clean the kitchen, and someone to scrub the bathrooms.

There were a lot of dishes to wash. My sister said she would vacuum, and she told my brother to clean the bathroom. So I got stuck with a pile of dirty dishes. I don't like the way my sister just assigned us stuff to do. How come it's me that washes dishes? Couldn't I do the vacuuming? My sister said, "Ah, it won't hurt you to wash dishes!" But I refused and went upstairs to lie down.

Ever since I was little, she's been able to do things that my brother and I couldn't do. For example, there was this one time that my mom and her friend threw a birthday party. After the party we helped them clean up, and sometimes we would drink a little leftover beer or wine that was there in the cups. When my mom saw me drinking, she yelled at me: it was like the sound of a jet plane flying low at the ground and coming at you. I said, "But Carmen is drinking some, too." My mom said, "Well, she's old enough to try it!"

When my mom goes off to work she almost always leaves things for us to do around the house. If I don't do what has to be done, my sister calls my mom at work and

tells her. But when she tells my mom, she always exaggerates a little bit. She'll say, maybe, that I just flat refused to do the work, or she'll say that I said "You can't boss me around!"

This always makes me look like the bad guy.

If I ever did anything wrong outside my house, my sister always found out and told on me. One day my brother and I were shooting sling shots. We were hiding in some bushes and just when we were about to make a run for a new hiding place, my sister came out of nowhere and said, "Hey, what are you guys doing hiding in those bushes?" Well, we couldn't keep it a secret, and of course she told on us.

But I guess the main reason my sister has power is that she is a very intelligent person. I think she figured out that since she was the only girl, and she did everything that mom did, she became very close to our mom. They would always go shopping together, and even wear each other's clothes!

My sister always got good grades in school. She would come home and go outside to play and never get herself into any kind of mischief. She wouldn't stay out late or sneak out at night to play with friends, the way my brother and I would do. Whatever she asked for, she got, because she was "mama's little girl."

Vote?

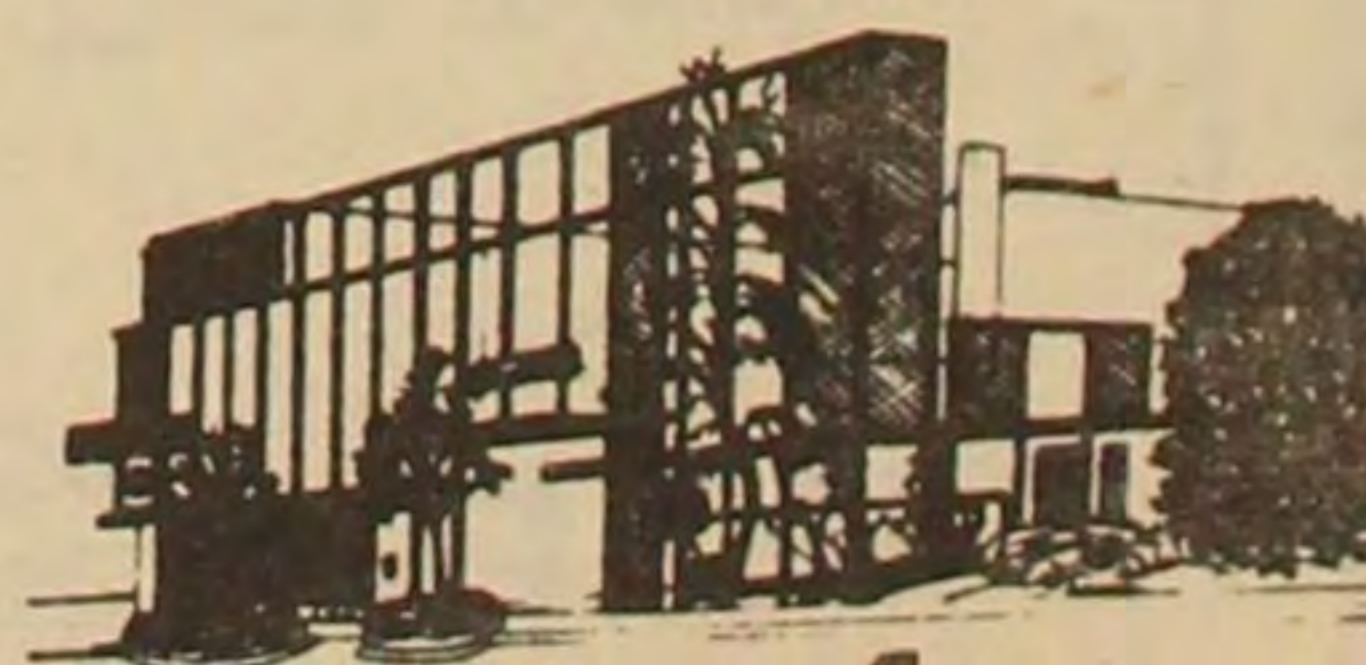
This is the place where you expect we should be telling you to go out and vote on November 6. But some of us never really got straight about that

going to vote business. We voted for Johnson because he wasn't going to widen the war, and then he did. And we didn't vote for Nixon because we knew him; but it didn't matter. And some guys (snicker, snicker) voted for Bush because he wasn't going to raise taxes. So go figure.

The holidays are coming soon ...

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COLORS, from p.1

were there all along begin to show themselves.

"Chlorophyll is the only one of these various colored substances that's directly involved in photosynthesis, but the others play an indirect role. These red, yellow, purple pigments absorb sunlight at different wave-lengths (different colors) and make this energy available to the chlorophyll-centered reaction that produces food for the plant. It's a clever arrangement, you might say: more efficient use of the sunlight."

Trees differ characteristically in the relative abundance of these "accessory pigments" in their leaves. Oaks, for example, are long on reds, as you can see from some of the deep purple-red ones planted out by the entrance to the college on Kansas Avenue. Ginkos and cottonwoods are examples of tree-species that have relatively more carotene, a yellowish pigment.

Sugars present in the leaves retard chemical breakdown of these accessory pigments, so that they remain long after the more delicate chlorophyll molecules have degenerated.

"You see the same sort of thing in the ripening of an apple or of a banana," Ikenberry points out.

"The dropping of leaves is primarily an adaptation to scarcity of liquid water in wintertime. Water is always being lost at a tremendous rate through leaves, and if the ground gets frozen, and if water falls as snow or ice, well . . ." Deciduous trees cope with the water-shortage by closing up shop until spring.

Conifers (your Christmas tree, for example) have a different adaptation; water-loss from leaves is minimized by the thick, waxy outer covering on their needles (which are leaves, in fact). ❁ ❁ ❁

Among American adults, 42% cannot name a country bordered by the Pacific Ocean. (Business Council for Effective Literacy)

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SPORTS, from p. 1

doing the normal criticising of one another. They're a tight bunch of guys this year, a good bunch."

"We can end the season in sixth place if we win this one with Ottawa and the next one against Tabor. That would be a respectable finish for us this year, considering the kind of difficulties we've been facing."

"One of the things that has impressed me most during my time here at McPherson is that none of my teams has ever rolled over and given up. It takes more than just physical strength to hang on like that."



Cheap thrills

Chapman. Site of the first county high school in the United States. Prof. J.H. Canfield of the Univ. of Kansas originated the idea of a state-wide system of county high schools in the 1880s, and in 1887 the Kansas legislature enacted provisions to establish high schools in all counties with populations over five thousand.

Nov. 6, from 8 p.m. to ??
Holiday Manor Convention Center: Election-Watch Party for Dick Nichols. free!

Cross Country Wrap-up

The X-country team competed in the Southwestern Invitational in Winfield this past weekend (Oct. 27). Katrina Husong led the women, receiving 14th place. Other runners were Denise Kelly, Liz Meckfessel, and Teresa Hess.

The women ran a three-mile course.

Willie Marshall led the men's team. Other members competing were Justin Mitchell, Eric Hadley, and Nick Lee. The men ran a live-mile course.

Marshall took 37th place in the event. "It was my best time of the season," he said, "so I'm satisfied."

The next event for the team is the District 10 competition this Saturday in Lindsborg.



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Tennis

The tennis team finished the season in fourth place.

"I was disappointed in our first round losses, but I also feel good in general about the improvement we've made during the season," said coach Doris Coppock.

At the KCAC tournament on Oct. 19 and 20 in Wichita several individuals and doubles teams placed. Sharri Grove finished first in the #6 singles; the team of Melia Dell and Sandi Willis took first place in the #3 doubles; and in #2 doubles Tawana and Tera Holton also placed third.

Dell and Willis both finished third in #4 and #5 singles, respectively.

"I feel good about our players who placed in the tournament," says Coppock. "Several of them placed higher than expected."

Volleyball

The volleyball team finished the season with a KCAC record of 5-13 and an over-all record of 9 and 27. Head coach Deb Moore judges that the team did well this season but had trouble with morale.

"In the beginning of the season we had a desire and an effort from everyone to compete and have fun," said Moore. "But after we started losing games, morale got low and the team started getting down on themselves."

Still Moore is looking forward to next year's season. "With five returning juniors and new recruits, the team will be very strong," she says.

Stephanie Meyer made the KCAC Honor Roll for her second year, and Karme Clark and Trudy Case received Honorable Mention for the second time.

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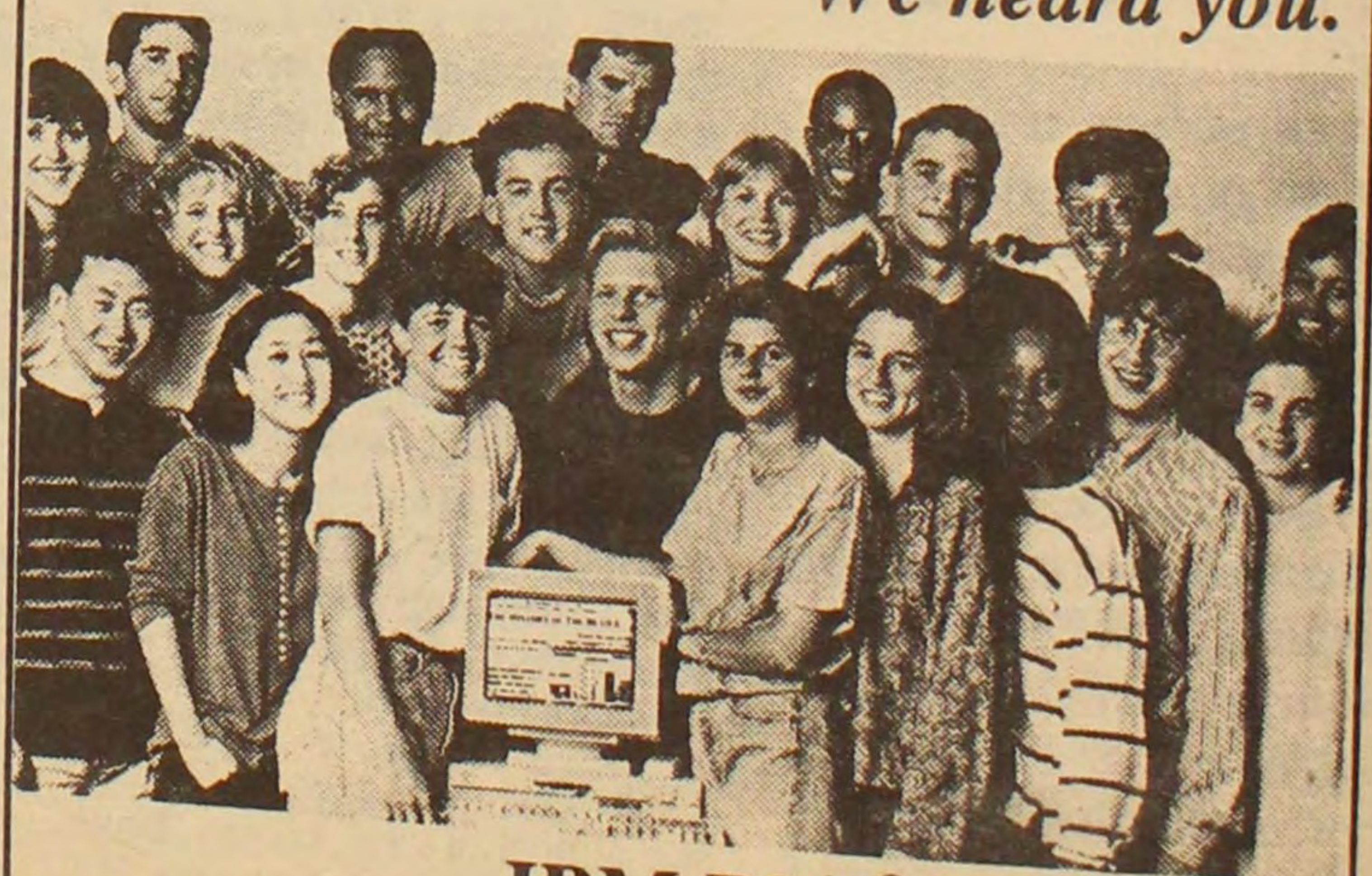
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