

The McPherson College
SPECTATOR

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Fifteen senior science majors present projects in annual Research Forum

Shelly Hendricks

Spectator Staff

Fifteen students presented their senior science research at the 16th Annual Science Research Forum on April 16.

"Since I've been here, it was one of the best overall presentations I've seen," said Roy Johnson, Jr., sr., Dawsonville, Ga.

This research forum was the final event for the students' senior research class, which is designed to give students an opportunity to plan, conduct and report their own scientific research.

According to Jonathan Frye, assistant professor of biology, there are two ways in which students can really complete their scientific research: presentation and publication. In this research class, students do both. They are required to present their research at the Annual Science Research Forum, and their work is published in the McPherson College science department's in-house journal, *Cantaurus*.

"Research isn't done until it is shared with other people. [Research is] really what scientists do, so it's their first experience doing real science. Experience is the only way to learn," Frye said. "I've been really pleased over the years with the students sort of rising to the occasion. They get dressed up, and they act like professionals."

According to Damian Harris, sr., Houston, Texas, the science research course is very beneficial for students.

"I've developed my organizational skills and my lab skills," Harris said. "However, the project causes so much stress our senior year that we all dread it. You have to push yourself to do this."



photo by Cheri Norworthy

Fifteen senior science majors presented their research projects on April 16. Front row from left: Jasmine Zitnik, Sarah Hooten, Levi Torrison, Katharina Schenk, Mandi McGoyne and Jenny Amiot. Back row from left: Damian Harris, Justing Dennis, Roy Johnson, Willie Norman, Eric Putnam, Cameron Koster, Brooks Thode, Matt Friesen. Not pictured: Janet Bowen.

Harris' project examined one particular aspect of an artificial wetland. He chose his topic after seeing someone working to develop an artificial wetland.

"My presentation was humorous. Everything that could go wrong did go wrong," Harris said. "First of all, my marker ran out of ink. Secondly, I couldn't erase the ink off of my transparencies, and then the transparency machine simply turned off. Finally, when I was finishing up my presentation, somebody farted, which made everyone laugh."

"I felt so relieved when it was over that I would have kissed President Dill on the mouth," Harris said.

The seniors began preparations for

their research by choosing a research topic in their Research Methods course, taken during their junior year. They selected an advisor, who helped them develop a research proposal. The project was finished after the students presented their work at the forum.

According to Frye, one advantage of the senior research project is that if students apply for graduate school, they'll have an abstract in a publication.

Students also recognized the future advantages possible due to this course.

"I think my presentation went well, and I'll be able to use it when I look for a job," Johnson said.

Johnson's research involved the study

of DNA transfer between bacteria that code for antibiotic resistance. He selected the topic after looking through problems the Center for Disease Control was studying, and knowing it could be researched at the college.

The senior research program is unique because, according to Frye, most undergraduate schools do not have something similar. When the program first began in 1983, it was the only place McPherson College faculty knew of in the United States that required all seniors to do their own scientific research.

While some schools now provide the opportunity for students to do independent scientific research, few mandate

this in order for students to graduate. McPherson College is the only ACCK school that requires its science majors to complete a senior project.

Frye recognized that this senior research forum is not necessarily something that should exist only for science majors.

"One thing I think the college as a whole could do in the future, since all majors have a senior project, is plan for a day when all students present their senior project, not just science majors. That would be neat," Frye said.

The students involved with this research are eligible for two types of awards granted to show excellence in research. The Burkholder Research Award honors outstanding achievement, and the Merit Research Award honors significant achievement. If students are recognized for their work with such an award, it will be announced during the McPherson College Awards Convocation on April 26.

The senior research course for students in the biological and physical sciences is taught by Andrew Bobb, assistant professor of biology, Frye, Shingo Kajinami, professor of chemistry, and Kent Noffsinger, associate professor of physical science.

The fifteen seniors who presented their research are Jennifer Amiot, Rockford, Ill., Janet Bowen, McPherson, Justin W. Dennis, Las Vegas, Nev., Matt Friesen, McPherson, Harris, Sarah Hooten, Colorado Springs, Colo., Johnson, Cameron Koster, Winona, Mandi McGoyne, McPherson, Willie Norman, McPherson, Eric D. Putnam, Woodland Park, Colo., Katharina Schenk, Marburg, Germany, Brooks Thode, Marfa, Texas, Levi Torrison, McPherson, and Jasmine Zitnik, Marienthal.

Minnich promoted to position of chief financial officer

Becky Ullom

Editor in Chief

Dale Minnich has been named the new executive director of college operations at McPherson College.

"I have lots of enthusiasm for this new position. There will be lots of opportunity to help the college keep getting stronger. It feels good to be in this role," Minnich said.

Minnich joined the McPherson College community in 1997, when he began serving as the director of planned giving. Recently, Minnich filled the interim position of director of college operations.

"I knew that the college needed solid interim leadership immediately after Peter Selo left," Dill said. "When he began work, it immediately became clear that he was exactly what the college needed to fill that full time position. Dale is an incredibly gifted and talented person.

His experience with the Church of the Brethren General Board, as well as his background in economics made him a very qualified candidate."

Minnich's responsibilities involve managing the physical plant and the financial resources at McPherson College. Minnich foresees challenges with his new appointment.

"Clearly, one challenge right now is that we are in the midst of construction projects that are fundamental to enhanc-

ing the environment at Mac. We're going to tear our campus up this summer and then put it back together by next fall. We would all like our nice campus back as soon as possible," Minnich said.

The executive director of college operations is responsible for balancing the normal operating budget, managing a \$23 million dollar endowment fund, overseeing management of 10,000 acres of farmland and 15 tracks of farmland, making decisions about rental proper-

ties, working in human resources, and managing the college's investments.

"I see myself as a steady person who can work with people well. I like to make good decisions that the majority of the college community can agree with and support. I think it is important to listen to all sides. My strengths lie in administration and problem solving. I like to take a problem, analyze it, consider the possibilities and make an appropriate decision," Minnich said."

EDITORIAL

THE SPECTATOR

Editorial Staff: Becky Ullom, LeAnn Wine, Sarah Stover, Corin Blickenstaff, Kelly Steiner, Cheri Norsworthy.

Laptop proposal needs student discussion

A proposal affecting campus technology for the 1999-2000 school year has been recommended by the Instructional Resources Committee. This proposal will give students the option of leasing a computer through the school, with the software currently in use by the college and a support system in place in case repairs are needed.

Next year's student participation will be voluntary, but if the proposal is accepted on a permanent basis, future Mac students could need a laptop to function in McPherson College classrooms. This is a major step into the unknown for McPherson College, and students need to think critically about the issue.

Participation is the key. Students must realize how vital their choice will be next year. The number of students participating in the trial may affect whether or not the college moves towards requiring students to lease a laptop.

Mandating uniform software would unite the campus, and solve some internal issues, but will students lose the independence of owning the software of their choice? By simply buying the software chosen by a college committee, they are missing the experience of making an independent, informed decision.

If the trial is successful, labs would likely be a thing of the past. Students would no longer be up all night waiting for a computer to open up in the lab, but they would need to go to the lab to pick up anything they printed (unless they bought their own printer).

Of course the college's progressive ideas are admirable. Students should appreciate the effort the college is making to keep the campus up-to-date technologically.

No doubt it will take much conversation and understanding to figure out exactly what will happen. Now is the time for discussion to start between students and administration. Because details of the proposal still need to be worked out, students need to hold final judgement until all the information is available, and administration needs to release the appropriate information.

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McTOON



BY MIKE HORNER

Appreciate silence

And now, for part two of Sarah's series on silence. For those of you who missed the first part of this series, dig it out. This column will make more sense if you can compare it to the loud annoyance of part one.

Silence interests me. I've been known to ask people if they listen to silence. Most people raise their eyebrows in confusion, but when I find someone who understands what I'm saying, I've found a friend.

My trip to the Dominican Republic over interterm reminded me again how valuable silence is. Sabana Grande, the town we stayed in, was dotted with restaurants and bars that used loud music to attract customers. The premise was the establishment with the loudest music would be most appealing to customers. (The local car salesmen we hear constantly on TV must work under the same premise.)

We ate all of our meals at the best restaurant in town, a reputation earned by quality food and expensive sound equipment. To get to our restaurant we had to walk by a small bar that blared its music, even at 7:30 a.m. The owner sat directly under the speakers, and I truly believe she must have been deaf, because my ears hurt twenty feet away.

Individuals also made an effort to play their music as loudly as possible. Playing loud music was an indication of a stereo, a symbol of status. The music was upbeat and fun, and every song was danceable, but by the end of the month I was craving silence.

I looked forward to times when the electricity would shut off, as it sporadically did. Only a few businesses had private generators to run their stereos, so for a few hours a day, silence would fall over the city.

Let me qualify the word "silence" in that sentence. Silent stereos meant the sounds of crowing roosters and moped with missing mufflers and barking dogs could be heard more clearly. Still, the relative silence was wonderful.

When I returned to school I didn't turn on my stereo for several weeks. I had broken the habit of walking to my stereo



On Her Orange Crate

SARAH STOVER

to turn it on as soon as I walked in my door. When I did start listening, I appreciated the music more, because I had silence to compare it to.

The point of my last article was that too often we allow our lives, our media, and our conversations to be filled with noise. "Noise" meaning all the unnecessary sound-trash that floats around. "Noise" in this article means just that, the actual sound produced by TV, stereo, and people around us.

Are you addicted to noise? Here's a little quiz to help you find out if you are the type of person who fills your world with constant sound.

- Do you carry music with you when you run, or bring music to work out to?
Do you leave your TV on all day?
When you drive do you always listen to music?
Do you have music playing in your room as soon as you enter?
Do you feel uncomfortable with silence in conversation?
When a group is silent do you wrack your brain trying to think of something to say to fill the space?

Now count the number of checks you made and multiply by one over pi. Instead of writing a cute diagnosis for each possible "score," I'll just write some suggestions, and you can decide for yourself which ones you'd like to consider.

- Turn off the TV.
Turn off the radio.
Break the habit of listening to music constantly in your room (or car).
Ask your rambling friend to listen to silence with you.
Or for less adventuresome folk...
Mute commercials (or change the station).
Talk less and listen more.

MAC-ISM

The "Penny Incident" of Morrison Hall is a part of a long tradition of pranking on campus. In 1974, McPherson College set a record for having the largest percentage of the student body streak across campus. In 1984, nearly all the seats in Brown Auditorium were removed before the last convo of the year.

POETRY CORNER

My Pit Falls

My pit falls—clean out of my body.

In the middle of the mighty United States of America, sitting in a college classroom,

gazing out at greenpurplepink spring, my pit falls.

With carpet under my feet, a whole, strong body and adequate clothing, my pit falls.

My pit falls—in the bottom of my stomach, my pit falls.

It falls after the words World War III ricochet off the walls of reality during conversation.

My pit falls with mementary terror when I hear the consuming rumble of a bomb run.

A PRACTICE bomb run.

My terror dissipates almost as quickly as it came, because I am an American and I live in the middle of the mighty United States of America.

Ugly, thick ache fills my consciousness.

Don't know why I'm privileged.

Don't know why I'm lucky.

Don't know why.

And when I hear the windows rattle as a military jet skims over, remembering the luckless, remembering the underprivileged,

I am ashamed of what people do to other people...

and... my pit falls.

Nigerian student adjusts to Mac community and racism

I arrived in the United States on February 28, 1998, and I came straight to McPherson College that same night. My dad came to give me moral support, but the moment I stepped in the school, he said, "Young lady, you're now on your own. Good luck."

My brother, who was already a student here, was with me most of the time trying to show me around. That helped a lot. He even took me to Akin's apartment that same night so I could meet the only other Nigerian who goes here. I was tired from the trip so I decided to lay down for the night. I still remember the first black person I saw was Billy, who is my brother's roommate.

The next morning I woke up and looked out of my window. There wasn't much to see, because my window only showed out to the church and the preschool. I got ready to go to admissions and get all my papers and fill out necessary information to attend school here.

As I stepped out of my room, I saw two white girls standing in front of my door, and I asked what I could do for



International Perspective

BUSOLA GRILLO

them. They looked at me for a long time and one of them finally spoke. The question she asked me almost made me want to give her a taste of a well-rounded knuckle sandwich. She asked if I was the new girl from Nigeria, and I said yes, but then she went on to ask me why it was so easy for me to get used to wearing clothes and shoes on my second day in the U.S. She went on asking me strange questions like if I lived in trees, or slept with lions and tigers.

I looked at her and I said to myself, "This is your second day in a place you've never been to, so don't get mad." At the time I was offended, but my brother told me to get used to questions like that because a lot of people are

ignorant of what they don't know, or places they've never been to.

I remember that day, that everyone I met was white, and it was hard for me to tell the difference because they looked just alike. I felt out of place in an entirely different culture, a place full of white people, and in a community this small.

As the days went by, I met more black people and I felt much better. I began to settle down and try to fit in, one of the hardest things I have had to do in a long time. Actually, I didn't think I'd survive on my own in a community as small as this. But thanks to God I got by on my own. Today, I think have adapted to the change except the food, and I can tell white people apart from each other. I can also tell a blonde from a brunette.

Although I say "no" when people ask me if I like it here, I think McPherson is a nice community, and only people who are used to being in this kind of place can really enjoy being here. The only reason I am here is because this is where my Dad wants me to go. He and my sister graduated from here, and he wants most

"Where I come from... our eyes don't pop out when we see people with a different color skin..."

of his kids to graduate from here too. The people are nice and there is no reason why I shouldn't like it here, but I come from a totally different culture.

I was born and raised in a community of two million people. Also, as much as the college tries to tell you there is no discrimination on the basis of race, religion or sex, I believe there is racial discrimination on this campus, and in the community. Where I come from, there is nothing like racial discrimination because everyone is black, and our eyes don't pop out when we see people with a different color of skin, such as white Americans, Koreans, or the English people.

Right now there are two black people singing in the campus choir. I remember one day after a concert an older lady said

to me, "It must feel weird being the only colored person on the McPherson College choir." It was the first time I ever realized that, and right there and then I did feel weird. I said to the old lady, "I bet it gave the music a colored sound," and smiled.

I don't refer to myself as being colored; I refer to myself as beautiful, and so is every other person around me, whether white, black, blue or green, because everything God made is beautiful. Some people don't feel that way, but like my friend always tells me, "this is America, get used to it." I am used to it now, and I will be for the next two years.

One thing I never figured out is the girl who asked how I got used to wearing clothes and shoes. I can't remember what she looks like, but I know she's white. If you're still here, feel free to ask more questions. I have had to answer worse questions, but they don't hurt anymore. Instead, I am happy to help people around me understand the world outside of the United States.

CAMPUS FORUM

Softball swings into season with support

We, the members of the McPherson College women's fast pitch softball team, would like to thank those of you from the college community and beyond who have supported us this season. This is our first season, and we had only a handful of games, but we appreciated every fan that sincerely supported us by attending.

We regret that the support of some members of the college community was blatantly mocked on Saturday, April 10, the day of our first games. For those of you who have not heard, 10 balloons were placed on Coach Scheef's door the day before. A note wishing the team good luck was attached. Unfortunately, someone with access to the coaches' office complex

took the balloons prior to the team's arrival that morning. The majority of the team never saw the balloons at all.

On the return trip to the college, 10 balloons were found on a post at the corner of Kansas Ave. and Maple St. The balloons had the same ribbon and tape as those placed on Coach Scheef's office door. However, the balloons had been completely tangled in the wind and deflated a good deal.

Why would someone steal the team's balloons? Why would anyone take the balloons knowing they were meant to support the team? No one deserves this kind of treatment, especially from someone of the same close-knit college community.

We are not suggesting that everyone

should support the softball team. We would simply ask that those who do not support us let the support of others be known. Don't mock their support and degrade it by petty theft.

With the continued support of the campus community the softball program can only achieve new levels of success. Thanks again for the support we received this season.

—Val Ebersole,
Jennifer Flood, Brenda Jansen, Nancy LaPrad, Christa Livingston, Jessica Miller, Denise Morales, Cheri Ouellette, Eyvonne Rodriguez, LeAnn Wine

College should focus on "the forest, not the trees"

After a brief stint in never-never land, I have returned to my Spectator soapbox. It is once again time for dispensation of intriguing thought on the condition of McPherson College.

First, I would like to share a silly little story. I recently attempted to dial maintenance's extension. After punching in 1240, a voice answered, "Hello, Plant Operations!"

Naturally I almost hung up. Surely some freak accident surged my connection to Certainteed. As a manufacturer of plastic, they would be deemed a "plant," right?

What possible line of reasoning resulted in changing the name of the maintenance department to "Plant Operations?" It's enough to make you ask exactly what Mac is "producing." What type of mechanical beings are "they" trying to create? Perhaps we as students are being shuffled through a production line. Identity crisis, anyone?

The flowers are absent this year. That fact is sorely obvious. One just can't underestimate the value of fresh flowers. They stimulate the senses and give strength, especially amongst all the construction.

It has been a beautiful spring - and we can still enjoy the trees on campus. To get a reminder of new life, we can focus on their growth.

Maybe that atmosphere is prevalent in more ways than one.

Speaking of trees, the college is undebatably going through a period of reformation. While tackling many new issues, it is unmistakably missing the forest for the trees! (In some instances destroying the trees as well....)

In working to achieve a better McPherson College, we have learned to limit our perspective to chop and slice problems into more manageable bits. To fix one fragment at a time is to miss long-term effects on the whole of the college. Eventually, we will realize that many developing problems are foreign creatures - founded on yesterday's "solutions."



Guest Column

JILL GIBSON

Let's switch gears away from maintenance for this one.

Consider the housing issue. Surprise, I don't mean the on-campus/off-campus issue. Not the ridiculous "no single rooms in new dorms" issue either. No, I have chosen an issue that profoundly hits home on my theory of focusing on the trees. Follow with me.

The problem: freshman retention. The "solution:" group them all together in the dorms. The assumed result: let them share experiences and connect so they feel close to each other and, ultimately, the college.

The actual result: No upperclassmen leadership, increased cliques, decreased communication among the totality of students, resentment from displaced returning students. Ironically, the freshmen get the worst of the deal in the end. Every year, they will be scattered in leftover rooms, while the new freshmen inhabit their old bonding-grounds.

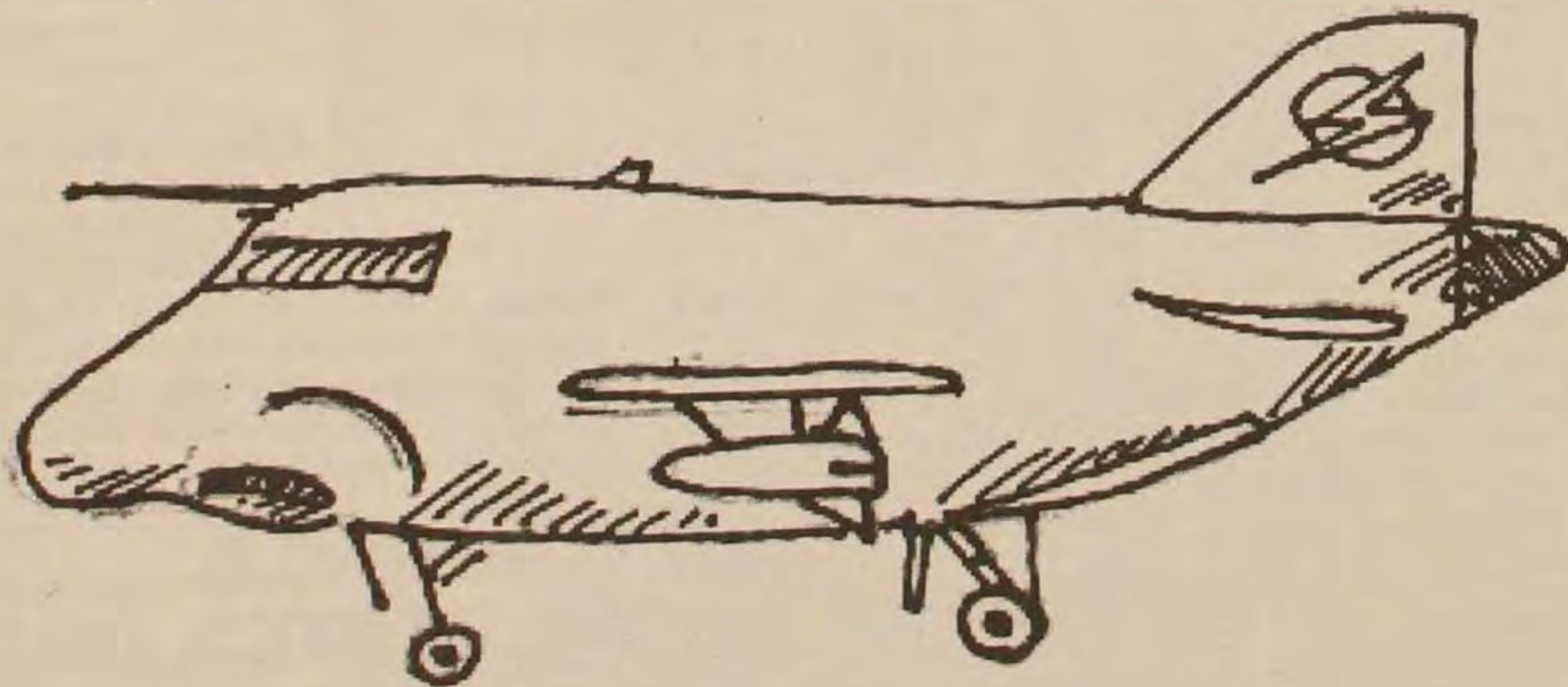
Did someone focus so sharply they could no longer see the true problem? See what the components of the problem were? Consider all possible results?

Whether you live in the dorms or on Carrie Street or in Ohio, if you are reading this you are part of the college community. As members of this community, we should consider the impacts of our actions. Well-intentioned procedures that reap negativity won't benefit anyone.

By the way, sometimes you may plant a pretty tree and then realize it just doesn't belong in the forest. Give us back our humanity and ditch "Plant Operations."

CAMPUS COUGH

BY TONY WALDRON



The Airforce just introduced a new bomber, the B-61 nostril. The plane is great at sticking its nose in other people's business.

Tattooing fad reaches Mac campus

Sarah Marie Hendricks and Corin Blickenstaff

Spectator Staff and Features Editor

McPherson College students are tattooed. For reasons ranging from rebelling to acquiring a "work of art" to individuality, students are having their bodies tattooed again and again.

Ten years ago, having a tattoo meant that a person was either a biker, a "bad boy," or a "bad girl." But that stereotype is quickly becoming obsolete. Tattoos have become popular among people from all walks of life, including college students. Walk into any classroom on campus and chances are at least one student has marked herself or himself with a tattoo.

Damian Harris, sr., Houston, Texas, has two tattoos. One is a black panther and the other is an intertwined heart and cross. He got the panther because at the time he was Muslim and it was representative of his religion. He got the heart and cross for his child that died. Harris designed both tattoos himself. The panther took him a week to complete.

"I wanted something with special meaning, not something that everyone else has," Harris said.

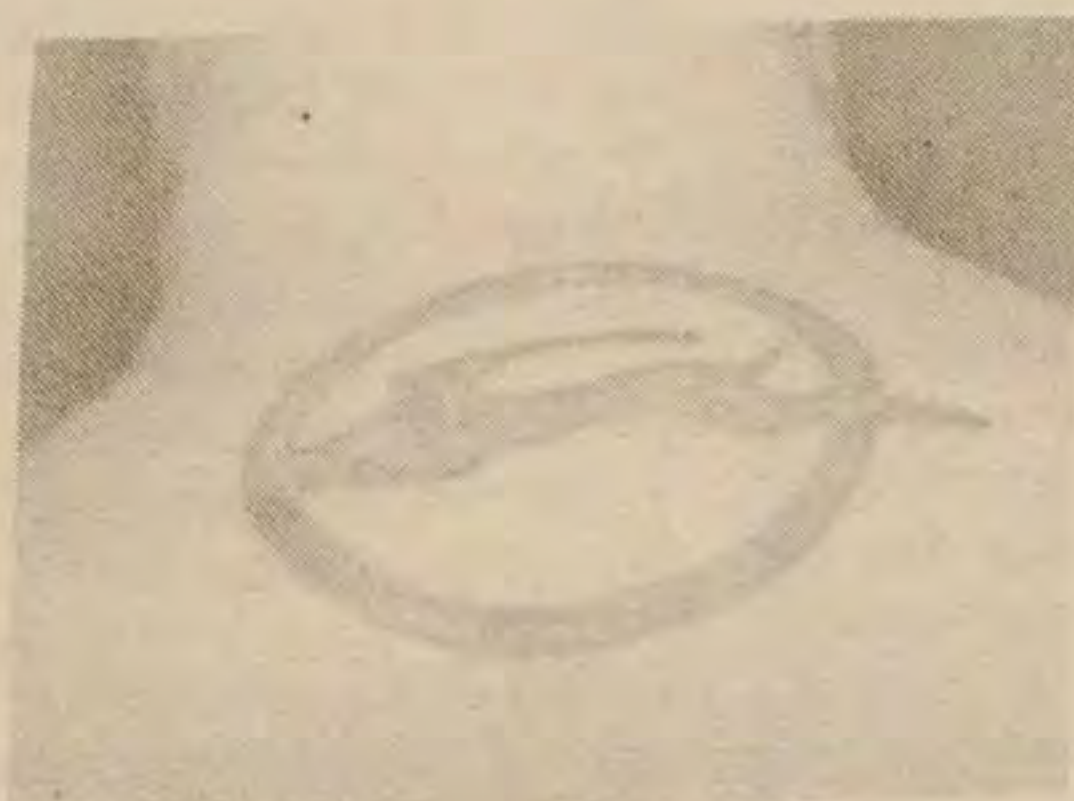
Other students on campus have tattoos for various reasons.

Charlie Hill, fr., Cedar Lane, Texas, has a piece of wood with his initials in it on his left arm. His brother also has one with his initials in it. Hill describes it as "sort of a family thing."

Jennifer Flood, fr., McPherson, has her birth year, 79, tattooed on her ankle. She chose this because she knew it was one number with significance that wouldn't change over time. Her second tattoo is a starfish on her lower back.

Kyle Pettibone, jr., Phoenix, Ariz., has two letters of the Chinese alphabet tattooed on the inside of his forearms. Pettibone wanted something different so he chose Chinese characters. The letters are the initials of his grandma - I for Irene and C for Chase.

Pettibone also has a large sun tattooed on his arm. He saw the sun on an Alice in Chains CD cover and adapted the design, integrating more detail. The tattoo took a total of seven hours to finish - three hours one day and four hours the next day. His fourth tattoo is a Samoan tribal band around his left



arm. "My friend has a tattoo gun. He likes to give them and I like to receive them," Pettibone said.

Jenny Boynton, jr., Lewiston, Minn., said she got her tattoo because, "I didn't do much rebelling in high school so when I turned 18 I got one. It's my form of rebellion and independence."

Boynton's tattoo is Tweety Bird looking over a heart on the inside of her ankle. She said she chose the design because Tweety is sly and usually gets the last laugh.

"It reminded me of me," Boynton said.

Denise Morales, fr., Fabens, Texas, has two

tattoos. One is a tribal band around her left ankle and the other is two overlapping hearts below the belt line. For Morales, the tribal band represents how life keeps going around and her ability to deal with things. She drew the band herself so "no one on this earth could have one like mine."

Justin Leese, fr., Blairstown, N.J., also has two tattoos, both on his forearms. One is a Japanese tribal dragon

that extends from his wrist to elbow. The other is a Chinese symbol that represents immortality.

"I've always been interested in tattoos," Leese said, "they are a work of art."

One McPherson student (who prefers to withhold her name) has a total of seven tattoos, and more to come. Student X first got interested in tattoos when she saw bikers with them. She has a tattoo of a snake on a tree branch her brother drew.

"I'm proud of him and his drawings," she said.

Student X also has a lotus flower with a flame coming out of it on her shoulder, a cobra in a pentagram that is symbolic of an unbroken spirit and a large dragon that starts on her stomach and wraps around her hip. The dragon is not finished though. She has had the tattoo for three years and hopes to get it finished this summer. So far, Student X has spent \$700 on her dragon tattoo.

Point Blank reports that they give more heart tattoos than any other design. But that does not mean that a heart is the only option. A person can take any design or picture into the parlor and the tattooist can scan it into the computer. Once the design is in the computer, it is possible to change the size and delete or add detail.

Tattoos bring the inevitable issue of pain. However, student opinions vary about how much it hurts.

Pettibone described it as an annoying pain, while Flood admitted that it hurt.

"I won't lie to anyone because everyone told me it wouldn't hurt, but trust me, it does," Flood said. Student X went into shock for three hours after she had her hip tattooed because of the extreme pain from such a sensitive area.

"After they reminded me to breathe, it wasn't too bad," Boynton said.

"It was annoying pain," Hill said, "after a while



I got used to it and it didn't hurt too bad."

For some Mac students, wanting and getting a tattoo isn't simple because parent approval plays an issue.

"My mom thought it was a cut at first and I begged her not to tell my Dad. My Dad told me he would disown me but obviously he didn't," Boynton said.

"When my Mom found out, I was awoken to a beating at four in the morning," Hill said.

One thing is for sure, tattoos don't come cheap in terms of money or time.

Tattoos are priced by the overall size of the tattoo. The price also varies with the amount of detail that the design involves and where the customer wants it placed. Areas of the body that have soft skin, such as the stomach or chest, are more expensive.

Point Blank, a local tattoo parlor in Hutchinson, reported that the average sized tattoo costs between \$100 and \$120.

"The larger tattoos can cost around \$500 and up, and the smaller tattoos can be closer to \$40 or \$50," a Point Blank employee said.

Students at McPherson College seem to stay in the less expensive range.

"I have a small butterfly tattoo on my ankle and a daisy on my back," said Emily Lewis, soph., Arkansas City. "I think they both cost around \$40 each."

"My Winnie-the-Pooh tattoo on my ankle was \$60, and my other two tattoos were each \$50," said Jessica Miller, jr., Bartlesville, Okla.

An average-sized tattoo takes between 20 and 40 minutes to complete. The larger tattoos can take multiple sittings to complete.

It seems to be the norm for individuals to have more than one tattoo.

"Tattoos are addicting," Morales said.

Several students are planning to add yet another work of art to their bodies.

"I'm going to get a bulldog with NAIA National Champions written on it after we win it next year," Hill said.

Student X plans to get a couple of leg pieces done to add to her array of body art and Morales is designing something to be tattooed on her back.

Tattoos may be fun now, but what about when students get old, with wrinkles and grandchildren? Will they still have no regrets?

"I regret it sometimes already, like when my grandma or my mom are around," Hill said.

"I can't predict the future and I might not like them then, but as of now, no regrets," Pettibone



said. "Perhaps I'll regret it when I'm 80 with grandkids, but not now," Morales said.

Finally, who decides that a tattoo is right for them? Point Blank said that people wanting tattoos are from all walks of life - doctors, teachers and a lot of college students. Surprisingly, about the same number of men and women get tattooed.

People assume that tattoo parlors are dirty places without rules; however, Point Blank negates that view. For instance, a person must be 18 years old to get a tattoo without parental permission. If a person is 16 or 17, a parent must accompany the customer. The staff there will not tattoo anyone who is drunk, high, or otherwise incapacitated. Point Blank said that they treat everything as if it has been contaminated. After a tattoo has been finished, they sterilize the chair, the floor, any instruments that have been used and the area around the chair. All needles are used only once and then disposed of appropriately.

This fad has swept the nation and the tattoo business is booming, as proven by Mac students.



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Sarah Stover "punishes" Katie Sue Nicklos in the lobby of Dotzour for being caught without her pin.

photo by Cheri Norworthy

APO initiates members

Anna Arasmith
Spectator Staff

Once a year McPherson College students may act like blenders, utensils or other bizarre objects, and wear the ugliest "pins" you have ever seen.

"What are they doing?" They are participating in the the Alpha Psi Omega initiation process. These students have been selected to be part of this fraternity because of their contribution to the theater. Initiates are instructed to act like idiots in front of the campus to show their dedication to theater.

Alpha Psi Omega (APO) has been initiating members on this campus since the 50's.

APO is one of the few frats here on campus that students must be invited to join. To be invited, students must have a certain number of technical points (which are accumulated by building sets, painting, etc.) and a certain number of acting points.

Initiation happens in four parts. To begin, an invitation is extended.

Next, the pinning ceremony occurs. Each pin has a special meaning because it is made specially for the initiate it goes to. Such noticeable pins are given to the initiates because APO wants the campus community to know the reason initiates are doing weird things all over campus.

On to pledge week. This is when initiates are asked, "What is the motto?" If the initiate responds inappropriately, an APO member assigns them "punishment." Usually the punishment means acting like an idiot in front of friends, professors and anyone else who happens to be around.

Initiates are only allowed to give the motto to other APO members. If a non-member asks for the motto and the initiate responds, punishment is due.

The final part of initiation is a dinner. During the dinner initiates perform some Shakespeare, recite the Greek alphabet, vote for new officers, and are relieved of their pins.

"This whole process gives you confidence, teaches you humility and gives you a sense of belonging and accomplishment," LeAnna Hulce said, junior vice-president, jr., Overbrook.

ACCK college choir student gather in Lindsborg to sing music of Jackson Berkey

Janelle Flory
Spectator Staff

Getting up at seven o'clock on a Saturday morning is not fun according to most college students. Yet last Saturday, campus choir members from Mac dragged themselves out of bed and drove to Bethany College for the ACCK Choral Festival.

Once there, students were greeted by Joel Panciera, conductor of the Bethany College choir, who shared the day's agenda.

The festival was designed to combine the choirs from Sterling, Bethel, Bethany and McPherson colleges into a massed choir of approximately 300 members.

"We're so used to fighting and competing with each other that it's nice to do something together," Panciera said.

Panciera also introduced our featured clinicians, Jackson and Almeda Berkey. Jackson is well-known as principle keyboardist for the musical group Mannheim Steamroller. He is

"Music is the universal language which always gives these experiences a certain coziness."

also a prolific composer and arranger. Almeda directed us while Jackson provided piano accompaniment.

Within the first half-hour of rehearsal, the group knew they were in for an interesting day. Some students reported getting goosebumps as soon as the whole choir started singing and after Jackson had all 300 students cough in unison, the group loosened up.

"It was neat not only to work with a musician of such high caliber, but also to see that he has so much fun with music as a profession," Raechel Sittig, sr., Waterloo, Iowa, commented.

Each of the Berkey compositions we learned had a completely original style. "Arma Lucis" combined Gregorian chant with twentieth century style. "Evening Shadows" used dynamics,

melody and harmony to create visual images, while "Turkeys and Badger's" made us feel like hicks at a square dance.

"Almost everyone came in with a good, non-competitive attitude. It was good to see the talent from all of the choirs come together for the purpose of making music," said Danny Ramsey, sr., McPherson.

For three and a half hours the choir perfected the details and style of each piece to reflect exactly how Berkey intended for them to be performed. He explained the mood and purpose of the pieces so vividly that the group easily connected with the music.

"Music is the universal language which always gives these experiences a certain coziness," Almeda said.

After lunch we were allowed an hour to ask questions about Jackson's compositions and lifestyle. Although he spends two months a year on the road with Mannheim Steamroller, a group that specializes in modern synthesized music, his main priority is composing piano, chamber and choral music.

"For me, it all hit home at the concert when everything pulled together with such tremendous power. It made the tedious job of taking everybody off campus well worth it."

During the concert, each choir sang two selections on its own. Berkey helped Mac's choir refine his arrangement of "Amazing Grace," a piece the choir has performed all year. Berkey then performed several of his "Piano Derivations." Finally, all 300 of us sang together.

Alan Gumm, asst. prof. of music, reflected on the event, saying, "For me, it all hit home at the concert when everything pulled together with such tremendous power. It made the tedious job of taking everybody off campus well worth it."

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KCAC conference track meet nears

Shelly Hendricks
Spectator Staff

McPherson College's track team will compete at Sterling College tomorrow in preparation for the conference meet on April 30 and May 1.

"I am looking forward to the conference meet," said Matt Friesen, sr., McPherson. "We have several people that could place in the top three in each of their events."

Friesen will compete in the 100-meter and 200-meter runs tomorrow. At the Tabor Invitational on April 17, Friesen was second in the 100 and fourth in the 200.

"I had my best performance of the year, and I hope to take first place at the next meet," Friesen said.

Lynn Walters, jr., Hutchinson, earned first place in the 800 meters at the Tabor meet. Walters led the entire race, finishing with a time of 2:04.

Walters will run the 5000 meters at Sterling tomorrow, which is a new event for him. Because the conference meet is a two-day event, Coach Rob Lyons wants Walters to compete in one event each day. Walters will compete in the 5000 meters on the first day and in the 800 meters on the second day.

"It'll be a new experience," Walters said. "I've never run long distance like this. [Coach Lyons] just wants me to try it and see what I can do."

Elizabeth Stover, fr., Quinter, will also compete in the 800 and 5000 at conference. Stover ran both events at Tabor's invitational. She ran the 1,500 for the first time in Wichita, finishing in 5:43.

"It was really good competition, and I felt good about how I ran," Stover said. "I would have liked to have had a better finish, but overall it was good."

Lyons expects Friesen, Walters and Stover to all compete well at the conference meet. Lyons also expects field athletes Ed Bennifield, fr., Edmond, Okla., and Bobbi Williams, fr., Newton, to do well in their events, the shot put and javelin, respectively.

According to Lyons, all of the athletes have consistently been performing well at practices.

"It's just a shame we don't have more members out," Lyons said.

Williams, James Copp, jr., Hutchinson, Friesen, and Walter competed at the Tabor Invitational. Friesen and Copp ran the 200-meter dash. Friesen finished with a time of 22.7 seconds, placing him fourth overall. Copp finished with a time of 29.0 seconds, placing him 17th. Friesen ran the 100-meter dash and finished with a time of 10.9 seconds, placing second. Copp finished 11th in the 400 meter dash with a time of 69.2 seconds. For a first place finish, Walters ran the 800 meter run and finished with a time of 2:04.8. Williams threw the javelin 102 feet and three inches, earning fourth place.

"At the Wichita meet, several schools, including junior colleges, competed," Lyons said. "Everyone ran their best time of the year."

James Copp, jr., Hutchinson, Janet Doyle, fr., Hanston, Friesen, Stover and Walters all competed at the Wichita Invitational. Copp competed in the 200-meter dash, finishing with a time of 29.85 seconds. Doyle threw the shot put 8.54 meters, scoring 13th place. Friesen finished the 100-meter dash with a time of 11.58 seconds, finishing sixth, and he ran the 200-meter dash in 23.67 seconds, finishing 12th. Stover ran the 1,500, and she also competed in the 800, finishing 14th with a time of 2:37. Walters also ran the 800 in a time of 2:01, finishing in 13th place.

Four-man golf team tees up

Becky Ullom
Editor in Chief

The McPherson College golf team is winding down the season and preparing for the KCAC meet at Rolling Meadows in Junction City on April 28 and 29.

The team, consisting of four men, began its season in the first week of March. Playing this year for the golf team are Chet Buchman, fr., McPherson; James Lopez, sr., Denver, Colo.; Brent See, sr., Leoti; and Josh Woody, soph., Ludell.

The team practices at the Turkey Creek Golf Course, which is open to them

"The season for the team has been rocky."

every day. However, head coach Roger Trimmell indicated that just because the course was open to them doesn't mean that the weather is appropriate for practicing.

"It seems like it is always hard to find good weather to practice in," Trimmell said.

The team has competed in five tournaments so far this season. The team has competed twice at Turkey Creek, once in Winfield, once in Salina and once at

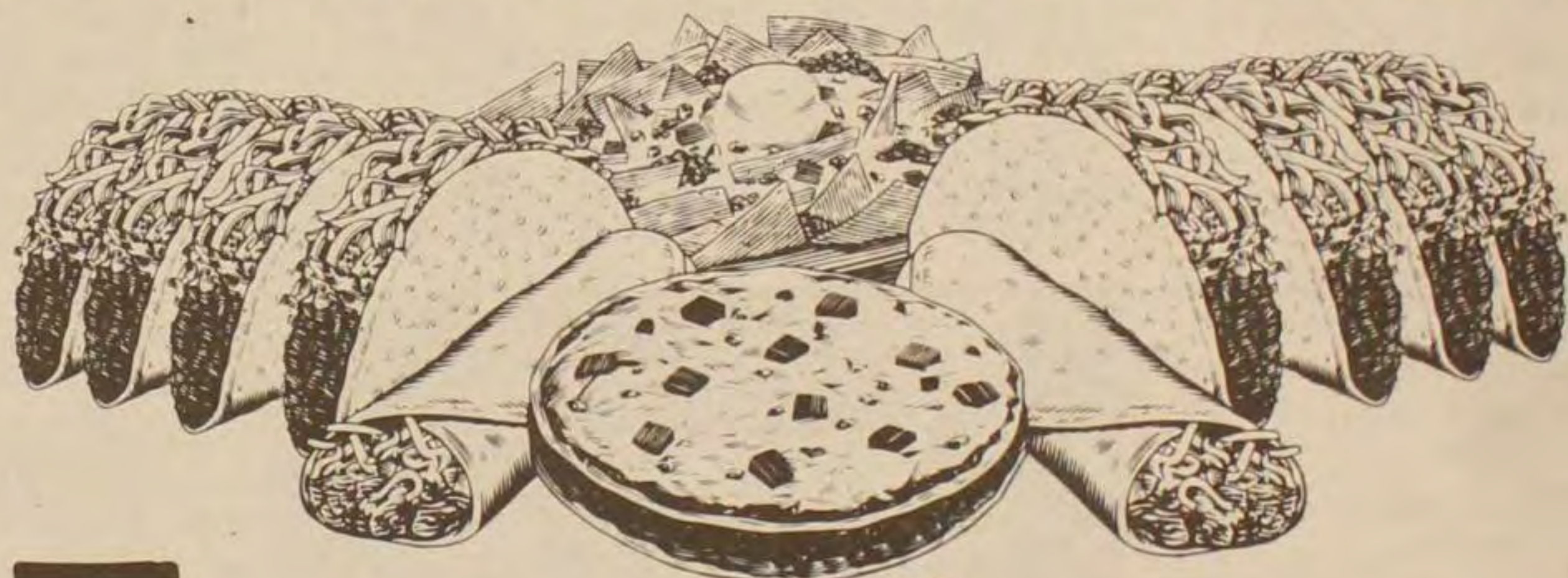
Rolling Meadows.

"I would have to say that the season for the team has been rocky. In the last tournament, two of our top players got back into the normal score range. It has just taken a while for skills and ability to gel, I guess. I hope that people can continue to improve all the way through the KCAC tournament," Woody said.

In Salina, Buchman shot 76, which ranked him in the top ten. See ended with a score of 78.

"I am particularly pleased with the last meet and the scores that our top two players turned in. I believe that Chet has the opportunity to place high at the conference meet," Trimmell said.

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ATHLETE OF THE ISSUE

The Spectator Athlete of the Issue is Matt Friesen, sprinter for the men's track team. Friesen, sr., McPherson, has placed at several meets including the Indoor National Meet.

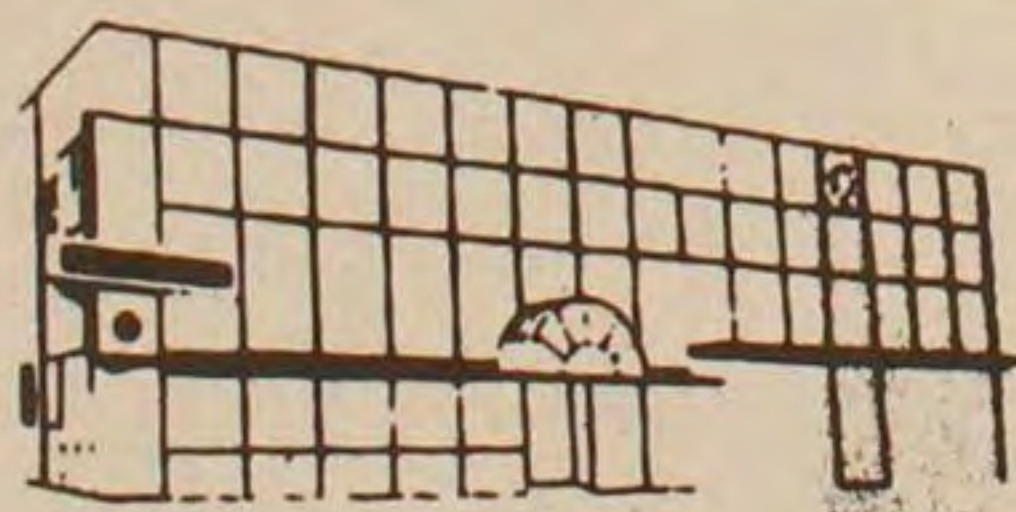
"Matt has been one of our top performers in both indoor and outdoor track," said Head Coach Rob Lyon. "He rarely misses practice and gives 100 percent, all the time."

"It's been my best season," Friesen said. "I hope to win the 100-meter dash at the conference meet."



Matt Friesen

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Left: Jessica Miller anticipates the throw at first base.

Center: Nancy LaPrad swings through for a hit.

Right: Cheri Ouellette pitches to a Sterling Warrior.

photos by Tyler Kerst

Softball season winds down

Becky Ullom
Editor in Chief

The McPherson College women's softball inaugural season will draw to a close on Tuesday night. The team, composed of 10 members, played only eight games this season. Being a new team in the area, they were classified as a club team. Thus, their schedule wasn't full, and they weren't allowed to compete for post-season honors.

Even though the team faced obstacles, such as practicing in sub-standard conditions, the team experienced success.

"Success has been overcoming a lot of obstacles we knew that we would have to face because this is a new program. Success has also been overcoming obstacles thrown in our direction, the ones that we've simply endured. We've stayed together and maintained team unity," said head coach Suzanne Scheef.

A handful of loyal fans have avidly supported the softball team this year. Fans that have seen them play can verify that this team brings a lot of passion to the field. Positive attitudes are maintained through verbal support and high fives after errors. Grit and determination is often seen in the face of batters.

"Our biggest accomplishment has been team unity. We started with a variety of skill levels. Coach has done amazing things with us. We have maintained positive attitudes even though we couldn't meet all expectations," said Brenda Jansen, fr., Wichita.

"Our greatest accomplishment has been having 10 people out there competing with heart and desire, giving it their best shot no matter what the score was or how much the odds were against us. Eighty percent of our players are new. The teams we played are at an advantage from the get-go because of their experience, knowledge of the game, and knowledge of strategy," Scheef said.

Next season, the team hopes to build on the foundation they've laid for a dynamic softball program.

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College may lease laptops next year

LeAnn Wine
News Editor

McPherson College's Instructional Resources Committee has approved a proposal that would begin the leasing of laptop computers to students on a trial basis for the 1999-2000 academic year.

IRC has recommended to President Dill and the faculty "that the college initiate, on a one-year trial basis, a program to offer students laptop computers through a lease/buy agreement." The recommendation must be approved by the Faculty Executive Committee and President Dill before the trial program will be initiated.

The college is looking at several different hardware and software packages. These include two to four year leases.

One option is a two-year lease at an estimated cost of \$450 per semester. After the two-year period, the student would have the option to buy the laptop at 10-20 percent of the original cost.

Depending on the vendor chosen, the software package may or may not be included in the original price. If the software is not included, the college may buy several site licenses and resell them to students at no profit.

An advantage to requiring students to lease laptops is that all the computers would be the same.

"If each student has the same computer, it will be easier to share information and receive on-campus support," said Dwight Christie, director of computer services.

According to Christie, the on-campus

support would include spare laptops if a student's computer needed to be repaired. Also, if students are willing to pay a premium, full on-site support would be available within 24 hours.

Each student having a laptop would help the advancement of technology at McPherson College.

"We want students to have access to technology in the classroom," Christie said.

Creating classrooms where laptops could be plugged in to both power and network sources at students' desks would be one way to increase the amount of technology in the classroom, according to Christie.

The computer services staff would like student feedback concerning this proposal. Students can send their comments to helpdesk@mcpherson.edu.

Morrison residents "penny-locked"

Denise Norsworthy
Spectator Staff

Twenty-five Morrison residents were penny locked in their rooms Saturday morning April 10. Though the prank was taken lightly by some, it could have endangered the lives of the residents, according to student services personnel.

When a person is "penned in", his or her door is jammed shut with pennies. Sometimes the person can get out, other times a person on the outside has to remove the pennies.

Penny jamming is against community code. The student handbook states, "Due to the potential danger associated with blocking, propping, or jamming outside doors, students who are involved in this action are subject to approved disciplinary action and have legal liability for the safety of the occupants in the residence hall. This includes jamming inside doors by any method including the use of coins wedged in door jams."

Some of the residents pennied in laughed at the prank while others weren't sure what to think.

"I thought it was hilarious," said Sara Myers, jr., Oklahoma City, Okla.

"I thought it was a Jen Taylor prank until I saw that it happened to her too. Then I thought, 'Oh, that was lame,'" said Krissy Williams, jr., Russell.

The prank is intended to be fun, but it can also be dangerous. If a fire occurred and residents were pennied in their rooms, the fire could spread so quickly that the residents wouldn't have the time to unjam their doors and get out. They could easily be

trapped inside the burning building.

"It's a real safety hazard," said Jenny Richardson, resident director of Morrison. "I just wish that people would stop and think about the bigger picture...what could happen. A prank is funny if no one could get hurt."

When incidents like pennylocking or pulling fire alarms occur, residence life staff follows a general procedure to find information about the incident. The staff asks persons who were near by at the time or actually saw the incident what happened.

If a certain name comes up consistently, a residence life staff member will talk to that person. Sometimes the person will confess and sometimes they will not. Either way, the residence staff will give this person educational information on the dangers of surrounding the incident.

The incident is kept on record for future reference.

"Unless somebody saw it, someone was there, or there is physical evidence, it will only be documented," said Kathryn Whitacre, associate dean of students.

When resident assistants go on a round, they document who was around the hall at certain times. This could be used to help determine the guilty party in an incident.

"RAs aren't out to catch people on their rounds like people think. We don't have time for that," Whitacre said.

In the case of the penny locking in Morrison Hall, no one has admitted to pulling the prank. RAs cannot monitor the halls all day, every day; thus, the resident assistants hope the party responsible will come forward or be turned in by other students.

Kosovo bombings violate pacifist views

LeAnn Wine
News Editor

McPherson College was founded by the Church of the Brethren that holds a non-violent, pacifist position. Many faculty, staff and students on campus are Brethren and they have found the situation in Kosovo to violate their belief in pacifism.

NATO forces began bombing Kosovo, a province in the Yugoslavian republic of Serbia. The purpose of the air raids is to force the Yugoslavian president, Slobodan Milosevic, to stop persecuting the Albanians that live in Kosovo.

Connie Andes, professor of history, believes that people will view a war depending on their perspective. For example, in the U.S. the citizens hear only negative news about Milosevic and support the efforts of the government. If Americans were Serbians, they would support the Serbian government.

Andes compares the rigidity of Milosevic to that of Hitler and Mussolini. She thinks that "war is the end result of inflexibility."

Even though this war may be inevitable, Andes doesn't think force will end the ethnic hatred in the area.

"Ethnic hatred will always be around in totalitarianism," said Andes.

Being raised in the Brethren faith, Andes wastaught the value of pacifism. However, she questions the application of pacifism in a situation like this.

"Pacifism is internal. That's why it's difficult to translate into something that works against a government," Andes said.

Herb Smith, professor of philosophy and religion, also believes that

Milosevic's leadership is similar to that of historical tyrants such as Hitler.

"Milosevic is a tyrannical, genocidal maniac," Smith said.

Smith, also a pacifist, feels that the key to peacemaking in Kosovo is to defeat Milosevic while allowing the leader to save face.

"If Milosevic's perception of his manhood could be preserved, we would have peace," Smith said.

According to Jonathan Frye, assistant professor of biology, the U.S. and NATO feel they have the moral right to bomb the Serbians.

"Sometimes leaders feel like they have to choose the lesser of two evils. Then you have a just war," Frye said. "I don't believe in just war."

Frye believes that sending in ground troops may save the lives of some Albanians, but neither troops nor bombing will solve the ethnic problem in Serbia. He thinks NATO should have thought through their means of intervention more thoroughly before resorting to violence.

Manny Diaz, campus minister, also thinks bombing is not the way to find peace. He believes humanitarian means would have been better in this case.

Several students have raised concerns about the U.S. involvement in Kosovo.

"We're wasting troops and money," said Seth Good, soph., Annville, Pa. "The guy (Milosevic) is not going to back down."

"We're doing the right thing in preventing people from killing each other, but the same thing has happened in Africa and we don't seem to care," said Jonas Lichty, soph., Quinter.

"We should not be there simply because we can't win another country's civil war," said Ben Matthaai, jr., McPherson.

NEWS BRIEFS

SGA revises constitution

SGA approved a change in the constitution eliminating SAB. Two new executive positions, Student Activities Director and Publicity Director, have been added to the board.

New game room equipment installed

The installment crew completed the assembly of the equipment earlier this week. The new equipment includes an air hockey table, ping pong table and pool table.

Phil Hudson arrives

Hudson assumed his position as director of plant operations, on April 12.

Dwight Christie resigns

Christie, director of computer services, resigned his position at the college. He has accepted a position at Unified School District 305 in Salina

as the network administrator.

Amanda Gutierrez resigns

Gutierrez, director of annual giving, has resigned her position in the development office. She plans to spend more time working with her husband at their family-owned restaurant.

Samantha Bradfield resigns

Bradfield was employed as an admissions counselor during the past year. She has accepted a resident director position at Manchester College.

Candidates for faculty positions visit campus

A candidate for the one-year sabbatical leave chemistry position visited the campus on April 14. A history candidate visited on April 21.

Spectator receives journalism awards

The McPherson College Spectator is the second best college paper among four-year private colleges in Kansas, according to the Kansas Associated Collegiate Press. The Spectator Staff received this award at the annual KACP award ceremony held in Wichita on April 9 and 10.

In addition, seven different staff members received eleven individual awards.

Individual Awards

■ Jen Bosserman, Peace Vally, Mo.: 1st place, Front Page Design

■ Sarah Marie Hendricks, South Bend, Ind.: 3rd place, Features Writing

■ Mike Horner, Springfield, Colo.: 2nd place, Illustration

■ Cheri Norsworthy, Clovis, N.M.: 3rd place, News Photography

■ Sarah Stover, Quinter: Honorable Mention, Headline Writing Honorable Mention, Column Writing 2nd place, Editorial Writing

■ Becky Ullom, Wiley, Colo.: 2nd place, Headline Writing 3rd place, Editorial Writing 3rd place, Series Writing

■ LeAnn Wine, Imperial, Neb.: Honorable Mention, News Writing