

SPECTATOR

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TWO TEAMS STILL UNDEFEATED IN FIVE-ON-FIVE INTRAMURAL BASKETBALL



Dorms to test new visitation hours

Jennifer Marquette
Spectator Staff

Upon return from spring break, dorm residents will test new visitation hours on a trial basis.

SGA has surveyed and researched students' opinions on visitation hours since the fall semester and will be announcing the trial period and the proposed visitation schedule soon.

SGA gathered much of their information from polling students. The final survey took place this week on March 9 and 10.

The survey allowed students to indicate their two most-favored visitation schedules.

SGA was still evaluating the surveys at press time.

Survey results will determine which visitation

schedule will temporarily in effect after spring break.

"Hopefully, we will know appropriate hours to change for the trial period," said SGA president Rebecca Stover.

After the trial period, feedback from students, resident directors' and resident assistants' opinions will determine the final outcome of the project.

"I think it has been good for us to have a task like this to tackle," Stover said.

"We have put a lot of team work and effort into his project and have had great dedication from the board," Stover said.

"We are so thankful of the students taking time to fill out the surveys for us and helping us make decisions with our direction on the issue," Stover said.



Nicole Harkins, fr., McPherson, Jared Ratzlaff, Jr., Fredonia, and Jamie Hand, fr., Leander, Texas, hang out in a Bittinger Hall dorm room. Students will test new visitation hours on a trial basis after spring break.

Auto restoration program speeds toward changes

Walker Phillips
Sports Editor

The reshaping of several personnel and program changes across campus significantly affects the auto restoration department, which is the campus' largest program.

Ron Hovis announced these changes on Feb. 27 "in an ongoing effort to reshape the use of college resources in ways that most effectively and efficiently support the pursuit of (the college's) Mission and Market Niche, consistent with (the) Strategic Plan."

Among the changes announced is the immediate reassignment of Robert Vaughn, from director of Auto Restoration Technology to a new restoration-centered promotions and resource development position. This post is intended to focus Vaughn's skills specifically to the promotion of the restoration program "with all external constituents."

In addition to directing the newly named National Auto Restoration Institute at

McPherson College Vaughn will "work with friends of the program to provide scholarships" and "facilitate the presence of more faculty and students at industry events," Hovis said.

The administration is continuing to evaluate the position of Veryl Leach as technology department secretary, and "no decisions have been made" concerning Leach's reassignment to another campus department, Hovis said.

To more effectively integrate the restoration curriculum within the school's "career-minded liberal arts" niche, Hovis said the college is continuing to move away from the two-year associate's degree program traditionally offered for restoration students towards a four-year bachelor's degree program.

"A bachelor's degree is critical to the future success of our graduates," Hovis said, and has been recommended and praised by the restoration department's National Advisory Board. A \$100,000 grant given to the school by Mercedes-Benz

USA in mid-August was intended specifically for the development of the four-year degree.

Stacy Puckett, a two-year restoration student feels the bachelor's program "is a great idea." She is eager to see the integration of restoration related courses into the liberal arts curriculum.

Puckett also feels that more advanced restoration courses would benefit students.

Further changes, such as the reassignment of Vaughn and the hiring of two new restoration positions, are intended to accommodate the "explosive growth" that has occurred over the past four years. Since Vaughn assumed the post of director of restoration technology operations in 2000, the program has grown from approximately 15 students to nearly 100.

To facilitate this expansion, a restoration project manager will be assigned to keep track of progress and "coordinate the work on vehicles within the curriculum," Hovis said.



Fiscal year to end under budget

Patricia Goering
News Editor

The Board of Trustees approved the budget for 2004-05 school year and the three-year financial plan at its annual spring meetings March 5-6.

In his campus briefing concerning the trustee meetings last Monday, President Ron Hovis also reported that the college projects that it will complete the fiscal year within the authorized budget.

As a result of the "better than budgeted" spring enrollment and expense management, Hovis said he does not anticipate an across-the-board budget freeze.

Although there will be no announcement to freeze spending, Hovis did ask faculty and staff to make sure that each expense is necessary and reasonable.

The three-year financial plan presented to the trustees hopes to almost eliminate excess endowment withdrawals if all goes as planned, Hovis said. The board approved the plan after including a provision that required cost of instruction studies each year.

The board also approved the strategic plan, which includes the college's mission statement, its market niche, its vision and strategies to reach that vision, and a description of the ideal McPherson College graduate, as well as indicators of how well the college is doing in achieving the vision.

Hovis reported to the board that campus life remains good. Co-curricular participation is strong and attendance at campus events is also generally good.

Another indicator that is not generally ascribed to campus life is the increase in residence hall population.

Only nine of the 40 stu-

THREE YEAR FINANCIAL PLAN

Key Assumptions

- Increase Enrollment and retention
- Manage tuition discounts
- Increase donor support
- Increase other sources of revenue
- Make each expenditure productive in support of increased enrollment and/or donor support

dents who became eligible to move off campus at semester did so, Hovis said.

Re-accreditation from the Higher Learning Commission another big topic at the meeting and will continue to be until at least the fall of 2005, Hovis said.

Low enrollment, operational financial weakness and inability to demonstrate assessment of academic programs from the past decade were identified as areas that the college needs to improve upon.

"Annual Scholarship Fund giving to date has been most encouraging," Hovis said.

Pledges have surpassed 90 percent of the \$500,000 goal although only 65 percent of the goal has actually been received.

Hovis also reported that much progress has occurred with the marketing of the college. There has been positive local media exposure, as well as sports coverage in The Sentinel and on the radio.

There was also unexpected national exposure on ESPN that would have cost over \$100,000 to obtain.

'Best retention rate in many years'

Spring enrollment numbers are in

Jaymie Bickford
Spectator Staff

Nineteen new freshmen, transfers and re-admitted students were added to the student population when students returned to campus to begin the spring semester.

At the beginning of the fall semester the college had 386 full-time students, and that number fell slightly to 363 at the start of spring semester.

"We exceeded our retention goals and we have achieved the best retention rate in many years," said Carol Williams, director of admissions and financial aid.

The admissions office is expecting to enroll about the same number of students in the fall of 2004 as in the fall

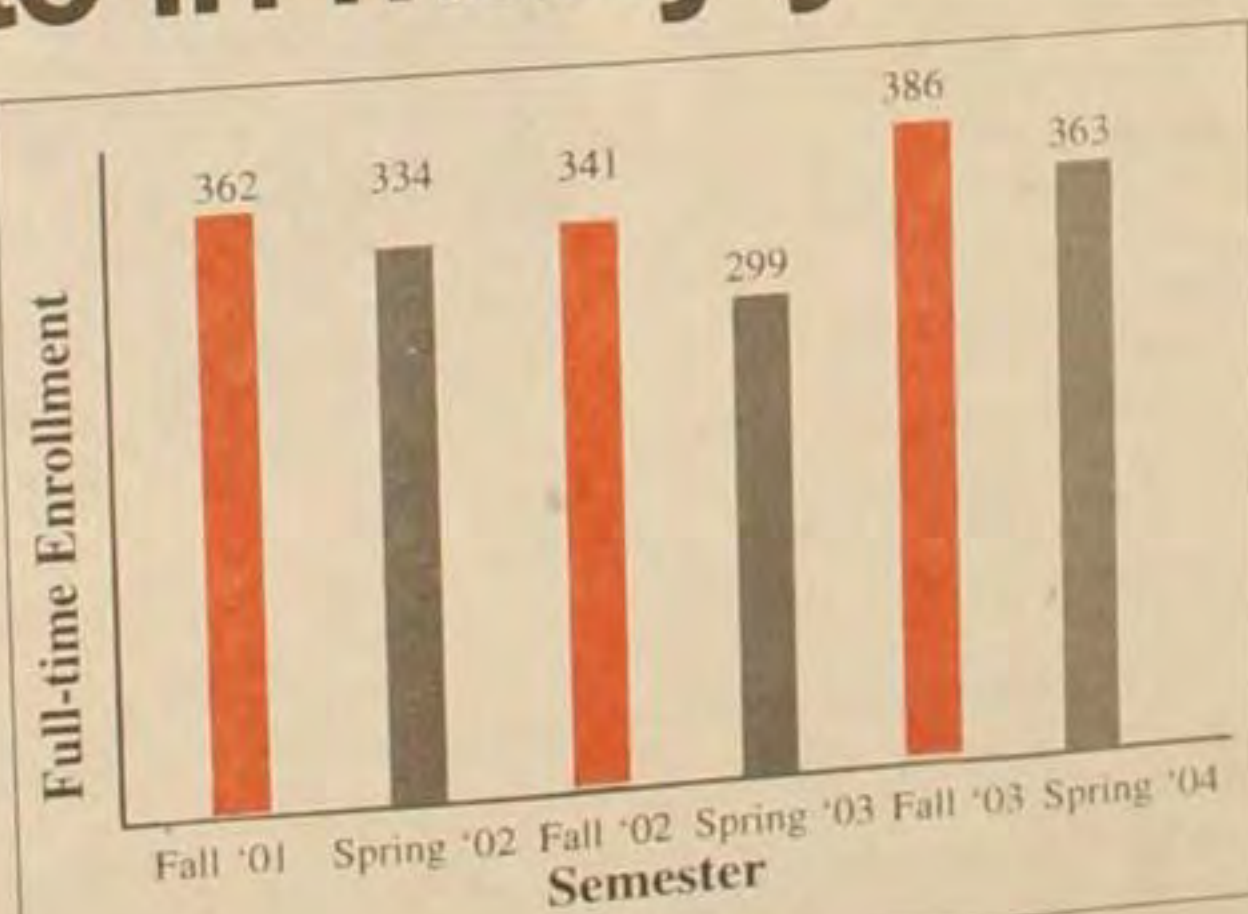
of 2003, President Ron Hovis said in the campus briefing last Monday.

In order to meet the enrollment goals for the next school year retention efforts will once again be critical, Hovis said.

At this point recruiting efforts for the fall of 2005 surpass that of the past two years and numerous initiatives are also planned for this spring and summer, Hovis said.

The admissions and financial aid office is also going through some personnel changes. Angie Gribble, former senior, admissions counselor, assumed the position of admissions operations manager on March 1.

In this position, Gribble will ensure effective and efficient departmental oper-



ational procedures, manage the operation of all support processes for admissions and financial aid, as well as lead and direct admissions and financial aid employees.

The admissions and financial aid office is also looking to fill a half-time admissions counselor position and a half-time human resources position.

Campus personnel are welcome to express interest

in the positions. College marketing is also undergoing changes as college media, such as the view book, search brochures and posters, will obtain a new look this spring.

Also this spring, a new release of the college Web site is planned.

"I feel that there are many really good things happening on campus to help retain our students," Williams said.

OUR LEAD EDITORIALS

SGA takes appropriate steps in addressing visitation hours

Issue 1: SGA working to change visitation. Our Position: SGA is taking the right steps to meet the wants and needs of all involved.

Dorm visitation hours will change when students return to campus from spring break.

SGA has finished polling students and will try out the results for a trial period after spring break.

SGA is handling the visitation hours issue in an appropriate way. They have taken students' opinions and needs into consideration and are acting on them.

Not only are they acting, they are taking into account the opinions of everyone involved by implementing different things for a trial period of time, leaving the final decision to residence life staff.

SGA has taken the right steps in acting on student needs. Because students will be required to live on campus until the age of 23 beginning next year, it is important that SGA helps students feel their voices have been heard and makes the residence halls a place where they want to live. Although this isn't limited to the residence hall visitation hours, it's a good place to start. SGA has moved in the right direction of helping act on student opinions, and the Spectator staff hopes they keep it up.

Renovations, recruitment to thank for retention rates

Issue 2: Retention strongest campus has seen in years. Our Position: Thanks to renovated facilities Mac appeals to students.

It seems that the renovated facilities and new student and student-athlete recruitment strategies have succeeded in bringing in students who want to stay at McPherson College.

The official enrollment figures are in. According to college administrators, retention from fall to spring is the best that McPherson College has seen in years and has surpassed the retention goals

set last year.

The restructuring of the admissions department beginning this spring seems like it will only help enrollment to grow. A freshman class equal in size to this year's, or larger, is expected next fall.

The number of full-time students registered this spring is significantly larger than that at last year at this time.

If retention continues to thrive, it looks like the enrollment goals for the next few years will be met.

The McPherson College SPECTATOR

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MAC OPINIONS

What are you doing for Spring Break?

"I'm going home." Rhonda Hoffert, fr., Golden, Colo.



"Work." Joe Sook, fr., Wichita



"Amanda and I are driving to my grandparent's house in Illinois." Bryan Grosbach, soph., Kansas City, Mo.



"Riding my motorcycle." Matt Treis, fr., St. Louis, Mo.



"I'm having surgery on my knee." Amber Wright, soph., Cushing, Okla.



"I'm going to Arizona." Austin Klumpe, fr., Madison

New movie reveals "The Passion"

GUEST COLUMNIST

David O'Dell

The film directed and produced by Mel Gibson depicts the final 12 hours in the life of Jesus Christ. This includes His crucifixion and resurrection with most of emphasis on the crucifixion. It is based on the four biblical Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. The languages spoken are the original languages of the period and include Aramaic and Latin with subtitles shown in English.

Billy Graham, President of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, said, "After watching the 'The Passion of the Christ,' I feel as if I have actually been there. I was moved to tears. I doubt if there has ever been a more graphic and moving presentation of Jesus' death and resurrection."

As Dr. James Dobson, Focus on the Family, said "It is easily the most heart-wrenching, powerful portrayal of Christ's suffering that I have ever seen". As Dobson was, I also was "moved by the stark depiction of the brutality and humiliation that Jesus endured on our behalf."

Some critics state that the film is dramatically flat but "visually vibrant." They agree that the repeated beatings of Jesus with torn flesh, dislocated bones, and penetrating body piercing "became nothing more than a grueling marathon of horrors for the audience to get

through. It is sluggish and vapid, painful but nothing deeper."

I was certainly drawn into the realism of not only the physical abuse but also, the tenderness of the Christ. The movie is about love and redemption. It is a message of hope. Since all of us are sinners we are all to blame for Christ's death.

As David Limbaugh, noted columnist, in July 30, 2003 stated, "God didn't just zap out man's sinfulness by divine edict. Being a God of perfect justice and unlimited mercy, He had to deal with sin — that is, physically and spiritually deal with it. The Son, while still 100 percent God, humbled and demeaned Himself to become man, to suffer all the indignities of human existence, to become separated from the Father with whom He was united in perfect love and harmony, and to suffer His full wrath for the sum of all mankind's sins."

So, Gibson portrays that in order for man's redemption to be possible Christ suffered, was betrayed, and was separated completely from God, the Father. This had to happen to the human,

Jesus Christ. "The Passion" hones in on the full value of the ransom Christ paid for all of us in the greatest demonstration and act of love ever exhibited.

I found it intriguing how Gibson cast Satan, a fallen angel, in several key points in the movie. It is appropriate in that Satan is a constant presence lurking in and out of shadows and among the rulers. A gloating Satan even proudly displays his own son, the Antichrist, in the midst of Christ being torn apart by the whips of the brutal Roman militia. After all, Satan is seeing God defeated via his son. It is the final hours of the only man, Jesus Christ, who can defeat Satan by overcoming temptation, anger, resentment, and bitterness and bringing a perfect forgiveness and love to each of us.

Rob Bloss, pastor of Countryside Covenant Church, said, "It was gruesome and disturbing, but no more violent than the reality of what happened. It portrayed the love of God. There is not one group to blame (referring to the anti-Semitism comments), we're all in the same company. There is a bit of Judas, a bit

"Don't let fear, confusion, or pride be a barrier to understanding the foundation of the faith in Christ."

—Dave O'Dell

of the Sanhedrin, and there is sin in all of us. That is why he went to the cross."

I appreciated the flashback sequences of Jesus' life as a youth, communion with disciples, etc. Those flashbacks pointed the audience to the direction of the cross and resurrection. The frequent slow motion allowed me not only to process what I was seeing but also, let the "message" become a part of me.

As I was driving home, tears filled my eyes and flowed down over my face and joy filled my being. As I prayed a prayer of thanksgiving, I realized God has blessed me and my family.

All who view the movie with an open mind will become aware of why Christians call The Christ "The Savior of Mankind."

Don't let fear, confusion, or pride be a barrier to understanding the foundation of the faith in Christ. Follow the perfect example, Jesus the Christ, The Savior, as the Holy One.

David O'Dell is an associate professor of business.

Spring: a season of new life and motivation

Change is in the air, friends and fellow students.

The weather seems to have turned a corner for the better. If this is not your first year, you know there will most likely be more snow, or at least some frosty mornings yet. But for now, the air blows warm (comparatively) and the sun shines (when it's not behind a cloud).

New lighting on campus shines down instead of up, a definite improvement. The removal of the short lights along the sidewalk also cleans up the look.

Flowers are pouring into the greenhouse that will soon spruce up the overbearing brown. Spring break rears its beautiful head only four weeks from now. Hotel rooms are still available on South Padre Island. Thanks to Jan, term, the spring semester seems quite short.

To a prospective student, this list is but a rundown of the obvious. However, to a poetic romantic like myself,

Indiana Insights



Luke Eberly

it offers quite a bit more than an overview of recent occurrences.

The arrival of spring, or the appearance of the arrival, means more daylight; more time to get stuff done.

"Stuff" means working outside, or sitting, depending on which way you cut it, instead of holding the couch down inside-of-doors. It means putting the window down when you take off, not worrying about where you left your stocking hat, or scraping the windows whenever you want to drive somewhere. It means readying the bike for that first way-too-cold ride.

The new lighting shines down, not up. It is better-suited to its job that way. May this be an inspiration to you, as it is to me, to better

"Do nothing in haste, and keep an eye open to the pain you may be causing others as you tear through life."

—Luke Eberly

suit yourself for the job ahead, be it scheduling your homework time or building a superior resume. May you be wise in choosing equipment that will best help you to achieve your goals.

A little known fact about the lighting system is the headaches it gave to the maintenance and ground crew members helping the company who buried the cables. Apparently there were many different contractors hired to lay the underground sprinkler system and the previous lights. Along with that, the new cables were buried wherever was most convenient, with no regard to tree roots or existing pipes and cables. Always carefully evaluate

what you are doing. Do nothing in haste, and keep an eye open to the pain you may be causing others as you tear through life. While it may be fun to tear from here to there without a plan or direction, it's not always the best plan.

A methodical life is not necessarily an exciting one, but there is definitely a lower amount of stress. It's nice to know you've got a plan, both for the seen and the unforeseen.

Summer is coming, but spring is standing on our doorstep. New leaves will soon appear, and the winter wardrobe will be retired for a few months.

Spring is a time of growth and change. A dreary landscape becomes beautiful again. Don't end the spring-time beauty at the trees and flowers; use it as a spring-board to increase the beauty in your life, be it organization, peace of mind, or simply sitting in the sunshine.

March 12, 2004 A from Something I received across in my Bible something already mind. The main focus in column was what for in a person and find and show re This time, it's wh look for. I'll begin with found the other Proverbs: 11:22 "Like a gold ring snout is a beautiful who shows no dis Think of it this gold ring might c eye and be beau fascinating, but the the bigger picture can see what the and it's a little story. Contestant num the woman witho tion, is exactly How she's dressed fascinating and al you have to stop who she really is. How does this you? You guys What Why is everyon Or I guess the be tion is, why ar departments' being given the o to leave? Recently the named some of retirements and s They affect on departments, and turbing to the s those programs. dents don't unde process, and I am ent. An administrat speak to the col about the proce college plans to replacing Dr. Lan don't mean to ins but the messa across a little sug Band members students aren't h same things from same places, and versation with the trator didn't help thing up for us. W different things, are the same thin administrator cam Misc I have been ov acquaintances talk the difficulties t had with some c friends because v verbal miscomm tion. Someone is best friend one and then gives yo of death the next. People are Change makes life ing, but someti tough to deal with who changes all th As if the human n complicated enou ure out, one must lyze another's beh determine how to them in order to friendly exchange. Why do people so make it impossible an understanding a Of course, I'm s looking from the o these disagr that the people I tal had because of ho react immaturely them.

A further look at love from the book of Proverbs

Something I recently ran across in my Bible added to something already on my mind.

The main focus in my last column was what to look for in a person and how to find and show real love. This time, it's what not to look for.

I'll begin with what I found the other night in Proverbs 11:22. It says, "Like a gold ring in a pig's snout is a beautiful woman who shows no discretion."

Think of it this way: that gold ring might catch your eye and be beautiful and fascinating, but then look at the bigger picture and you can see what the owner is, and it's a little different story.

Contestant number two, the woman without discretion, is exactly the same. How she's dressed might be fascinating and alluring, but you have to stop and realize who she really is.

How does this apply to you? You guys out there



GUEST COLUMNIST

Nick Anderson

who actually try to control yourselves, you know how hard it is to keep from looking at girls who show off their bodies more than necessary. That gold ring in the pig's snout might look attractive, but the owner is probably nasty. In the same way what a girl is showing off might look tempting, but she may be equally offensive and unpleasant.

Women need to understand the objective of this too, only from the other side of it. Girls/women, you should never feel like you need to act or dress in certain ways to draw attention from guys. That kind of attention is clearly based on all the wrong reasons.

People should be able to

see you as attractive because of your true beauty, and not because of what you look like. I was never good at math, but there is a simple ratio that explains this: the amount of respect that males give females is directly proportional to how much a female wears. Think it over.

I hope my point is obvious. When you are looking for someone to date or eventually marry, you better have your homework done on a person so you know exactly who they are and who they aren't before you waste your time getting involved. All too often we see people hooking up right and left because they like someone's body, or they know they can

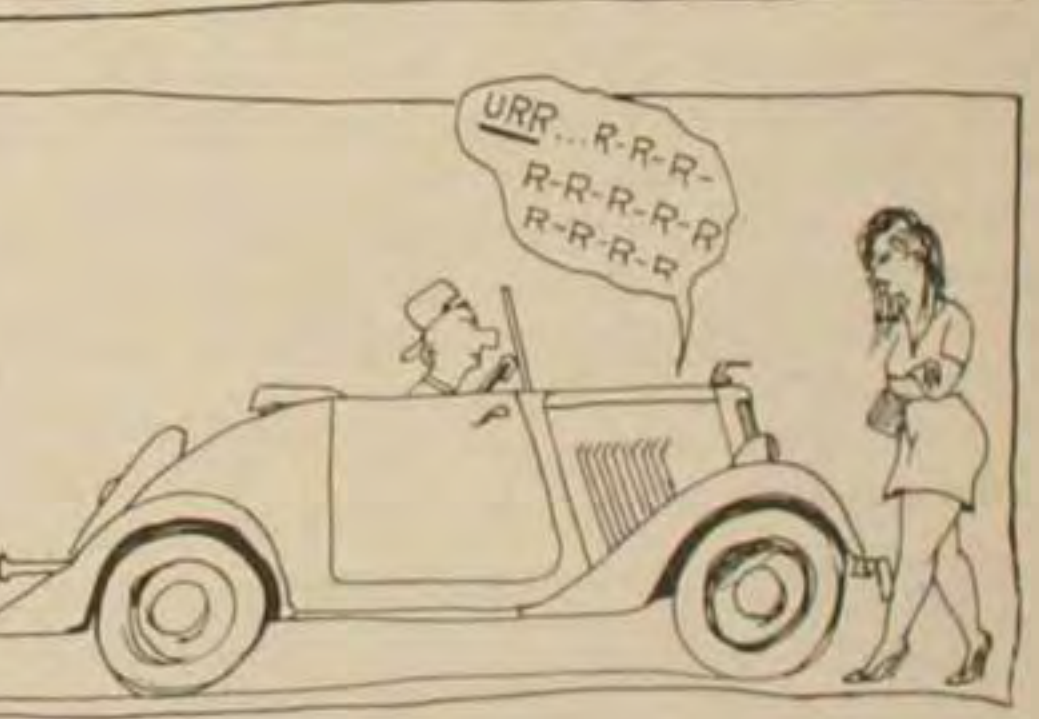
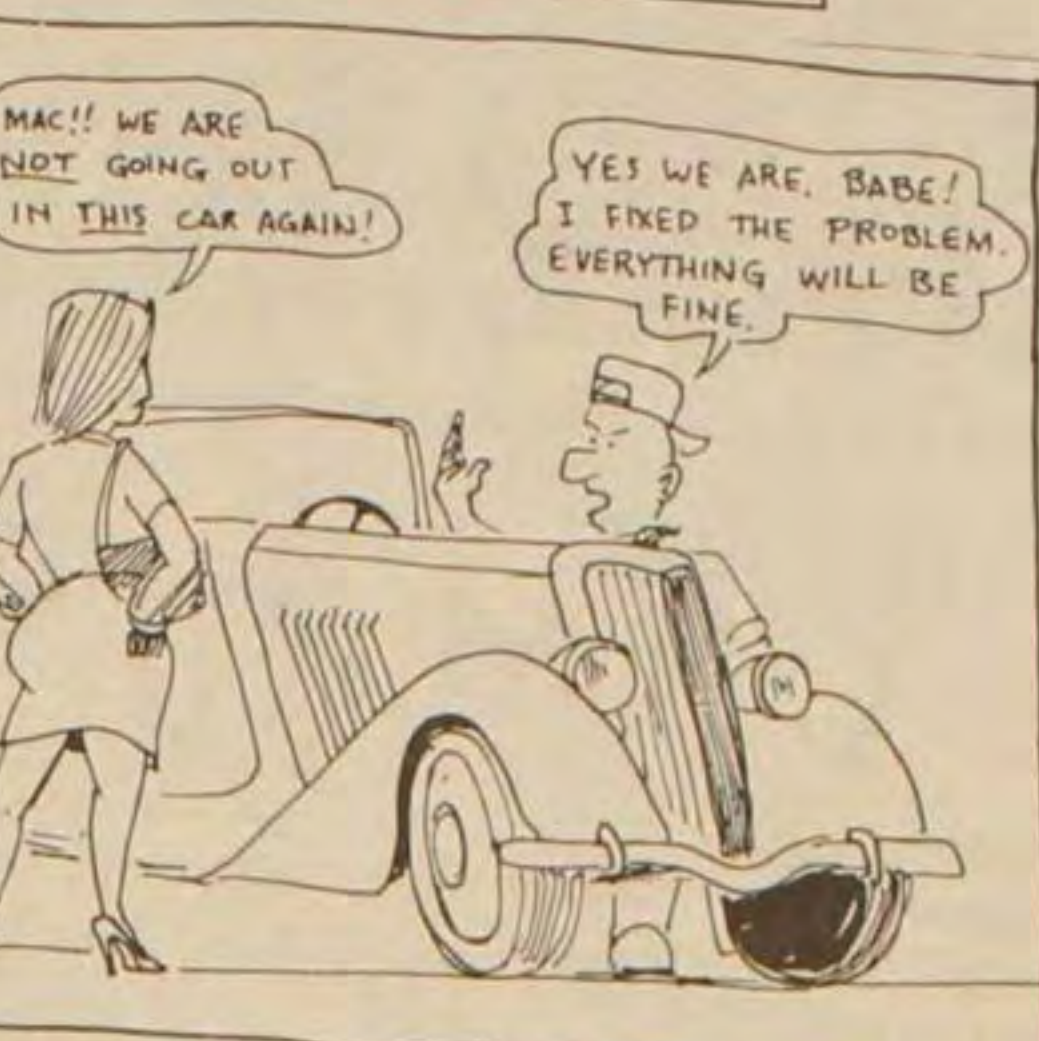
get what they want from a person. This is because too many people lose sight of what they're truly looking for.

What is the reason we go after relationships? Most people don't even know that what they're looking for is love - something that can't be found in looks or sex.

Many people sell themselves short by holding interest in very shallow relationships with thin bonds. They get too interested in being physically attached to others, and forget about anything of real importance. It's easy to do because it's whatever "feels good" or is "fun" for the moment. Well, sensation and fun are overrated because they only last for so long.

Good looks are great, but they go away eventually, and if that's as deep as a relationship reaches, it will usually get abandoned for the next "good feeling."

I believe people can do better than that.



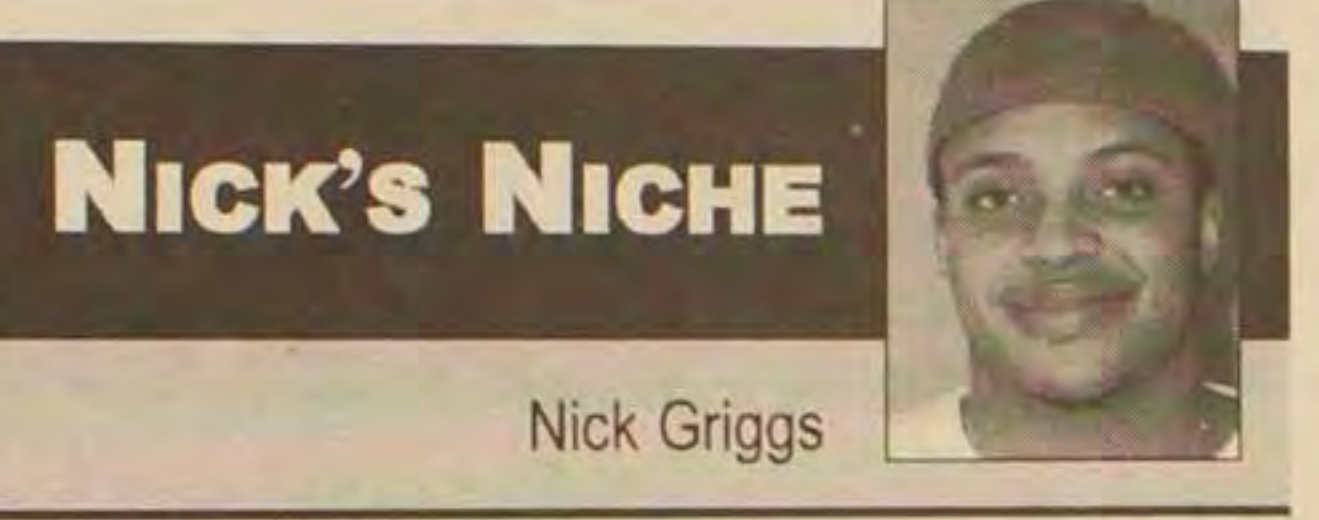
What's becoming of music program?

Why is everyone leaving? Or I guess the better question is, why are certain departments' professors being given the opportunity to leave?

Recently the campus named some of the latest retirements and severances. They affect only certain departments, and that is disturbing to the students in those programs. Many students don't understand the process, and I am no different.

An administrator came to speak to the college band about the procedures the college plans to pursue for replacing Dr. Larry Kitzel. I don't mean to insult anyone, but the message came across a little sugar-coated.

Band members and music students aren't hearing the same things from all of the same places, and the conversation with the administrator didn't help clear anything up for us. We still hear different things, and they are the same things that the administrator came to clean



Nick's NICHE

Nick Griggs

up. The fact of the matter is, the music program is expensive. We know that. But is that a reason to treat the program as if it is expendable? If that is the case, then come out and let us know that.

My fellow majors and I are worried that a music program might not last long enough for us to finish our degrees; or, that we will be the final products of a closed program. I think that could jeopardize my job opportunities if a potential employer saw that the McPherson College music program was non-existent. What do you think?

Although college administrators have told students in the music department that they understand McPherson

College could not be a liberal arts school without music, what did they mean by offering all of our music professors the chance for severance and compensation for unfinished contracts?

What would have happened if those professors didn't love us and decided to take the offer to leave? We would have three music professors leave, and then what would the school replace them with? There is much needed experience within the music faculty, and suddenly to lose all of that would ruin the program. We wouldn't have a program any longer. We most likely wouldn't have any current students return to the program, and we pre-

sumably wouldn't have many students want to enter the program the ensuing year.

I don't know what "whoever and whatever" meant by that. The music students don't understand, and, personally speaking, I don't want the run-around any longer.

Tell us the truth. What is the college trying to do with the music program here?

I was told that participation was included as well as service and scholarship in what the ideal student was supposed to strive to be here at Mac. I have tried to accomplish those three goals so far. But my question is, will the college take away the opportunity to participate in music just because the department doesn't make enough money for the college?

I don't understand what is going on. I hope and pray that someone who does understand will come and explain to me and the music department.

Miscommunication? Speak up!

I have been overhearing acquaintances talking about the difficulties they have had with some of their friends because of non-verbal miscommunication. Someone is your best friend one minute and then gives you a look of death the next.

People are dynamic. Change makes life interesting, but sometimes it is tough to deal with a friend who changes all the time. As if the human mind isn't complicated enough to figure out, one must also analyze another's behavior to determine how to approach them in order to make a friendly exchange.

Why do people sometimes make it impossible to reach an understanding about the simplest of disagreements?

Of course, I'm speaking looking from the outside of these disagreements. However, it bums me out that the people I talk to feel bad because of how others react immaturely towards them.



GROUND-LEVEL PEDESTAL

Michael Warner

I try to be reliably stable when it comes to being social. Life is relatively easy like this. Granted, it makes life a little boring because I know how to take care of problems amongst my friends. If there is tension lingering between me and a friend, I either sit back and let time handle the conflict by allowing the stress to ease, or I try to solve it and let the situation go without exchanging ugly looks or calling names.

I'll admit I come across as being stiff towards people that interrupt my day just to tell me something irrelevant or try to stir up a different response other than "Hello." I see it this way: If you give me an unconventional salutation, I'll give you an

unconventional comeback. That is just how I function.

What infuriates me is that sometimes people treat you badly because they have a bad attitude. It's discouraging when you try to say hello to someone and the response is a cold stare and silence.

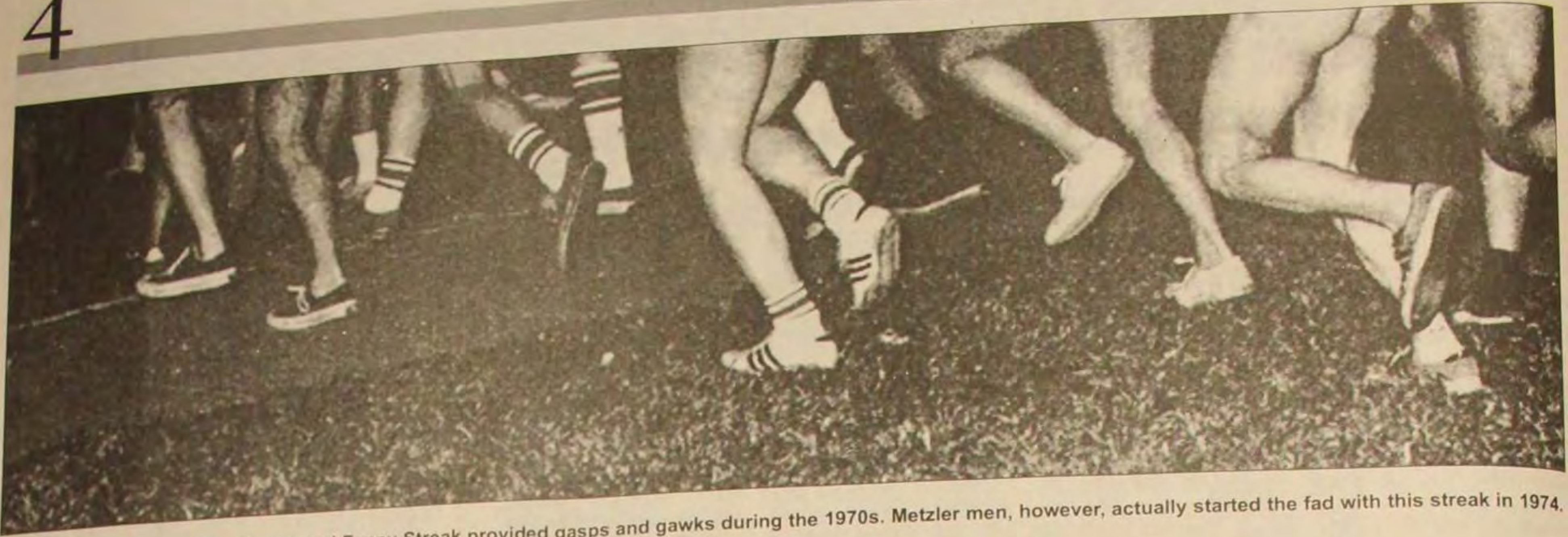
I wish people came with teleprompters mounted onto their foreheads that told you what they wanted to hear. It would look a little silly, but boy, life would be much easier.

By the time this issue is out, I will be in Iowa on the music tour. It may sound nice taking a break from lectures, but I'm going to be in a bus full of people, and that kind of environment invites trouble from time to

time. I'm not saying that I won't enjoy myself. I don't have any beef with others on the tour. But the idea of sitting back and watching the same people interact over a period of four days is scary because over that amount of time some short fuse is bound to get lit and then, alas, conflict ensues.

I'm not trying to encourage people to conform to my social priorities. If you experience these same problems, whether you are the one treating people badly or tired of people taking their frustrations out on you, I challenge you to make a change. If there is a problem, do something constructive about it. We are all adults. We shouldn't have to endure behavior reminiscent of our junior high years.

As I recline in my seat on the bus for this music tour, I hope to enjoy smooth social sailing. However, there is the chance that if you listen close, you might be able to hear me screaming.



A Fahnstock Hall tradition, the Annual Fanny Streak provided gasps and gawks during the 1970s. Metzler men, however, actually started the fad with this streak in 1974.

CAMPUS PRANKS : Through all of Mac's time...

Patricia Goering & Lara Lichty
News & Features Editors

Kermit the Frog was murdered. Herb Smith came to class one morning to find poor, beloved, stuffed Kermit stabbed through the heart. Around that time a cigarette mysteriously appeared in the hand of the rubber skeleton also boarding in Smith's classroom.

College pranks such as Kermit's alleged murder seem few and far between in the 21st century. Faculty, who have the opportunity to observe trends in student jokes and pranks agree that today's students carry out fewer pranks than students of previous times.

"There are too few pranks," says Herb Smith, professor of philosophy and religion. Some worry that the dearth of pranks suggests a lack of creativity among contemporary students. Others think students are simply more cautious and considerate, abandoning ideas for pranks that might destroy property or create a potential for danger-and that often result in severe consequences.

Whether categorized as pranks or crimes, student high jinks occurred frequently throughout McPherson College history.

Convocations have been a particularly attractive target for pranksters. As with most other educational institutions, Mac students have routinely rolled marbles down the floor of Brown Auditorium. But McPherson College convocations have also witnessed a few exceptionally creative pranks.

Presidents seem to be prime suspects in student pranks.

One year, during the closing convocation, former president Paul Hoffman gave his annual speech as usual. As he addressed the audience someone backstage began to lower the curtains behind him. Finally, unable to ignore the snickering, Hoffman turned to view the display of lady's lingerie pinned to the curtain, Smith and Al Dutrow, associate professor of agriculture, said.

According to Angie Gribble, an alum now working in the admissions office, a similar event happened to former president Gary Dill. During a speech in 2001, Dill's last year here, a string lowered in front of the curtain with all sorts of underwear attached to it. "He took it quite well," Gribble said.

Mac's presidents seem to take pranks well. Earlier this year when President Hovis found mashed potatoes in his cake, he simply examined it with curiosity.

Larry Kitzel, professor of music, recalls a temporarily funny but ultimately expensive prank that was pulled one night before a convocation. A group of students super glued every lock in Brown Auditorium. Students got out of the convocation, but officials caught the offenders and forced them to replace the pricey locks, Kitzel said.

When Kent Noffsinger, associate professor of physical science, attended McPherson College in the mid-1960s, he observed a convocation prank that he "didn't pull necessarily." Fifty guys decided to sneak

"There are too few pranks."

—Herb Smith

white rats from the science lab into convocation.

Even though administrators caught wind of their intentions and searched each student as he entered, those 50 guys managed to each sneak in one rat. On cue they let all the rats loose, Noffsinger said.

The rats threw the entire auditorium into chaos. People screamed and jumped out of their seats.

Noffsinger said he would never forget one big student from Oklahoma in tight jeans and cowboy boots. Lifting one of his big boots, the Oklahoma cowboy stomped down on a poor, defenseless rat. With cries of "eew" and "gross," students backed away from the bloody mess and escaped from the rat-infested auditorium.

Another prank that Kitzel remembers targeted a male professor while he lectured out of the textbook. The students managed to distract the professor long enough to insert a Playboy centerfold into the text. They then waited impatiently until he turned the page and looked out at the class with an astonished and embarrassed expression on his face.

Dutrow remembers a time before campus improvements when Eshelman Street divided the campus, forcing the women going from Dotzour Hall to the Student Union to cross traffic. This prompted many pranks. On repeated occasions, Dutrow said, he noticed "Cattle Crossing"



In the early 1980s students unbolted all the seats from the floor and shoved them to the front of Brown Auditorium the night before President Hoffman's convo speech.

signs posted by the cross-walk. Pranksters went as far as to "borrow" the bull from the local Sirlain Stockade and deposit it in front of the Student Union.

Kitzel also remembers a visit from a cow back when the music department occupied the fourth floor of Hamley Hall, the old science building. Overnight, a few creative and patient students managed to coax a cow up the four flights of stairs to the music department.

Teachers arrived the next morning to find a cow among the musical instruments. Getting the cow down posed even more complications. The frightened cow went up the stairs more easily than it came down, but the college officials managed to get all four hooves safely back on the ground.

Steve Gustafson, professor of music, remembers a time in the late 1980s when some students put a steam whistle on stage in Brown and had it rigged so that each time they pulled a string during convocation, the whistle would sound.

Anne Kirchner, communications, recalls snow sculptures of male body parts being built outside the cafeteria when she was going to school here.

Less extreme pranks have also taken place here at Mac.

Nancy Pennell, professor of theatre, recalled all that went on with a six-foot long swordfish that used to hang in student union stairwell. Students would always add things to the sword of the

fish, including, underwear, bras, food, and even other fish.

One of the most creative pranks that Susan Taylor,

the Student Union and Beeghly Hall.

The last "Fanny streak" occurred in 1980, when the streakers ran past the cafeteria windows during a speech being delivered by then-



Tee-peeing has long been favored as a practical joke because of the innocuous way it conveys its message.

head librarian, remembers occurred about 15 years ago. The theme for Homecoming was "A Moment in Time." Everyone woke up during spirit week to find no clocks in any of the buildings on campus.

"Of course the clocks were all returned," added Taylor. "When I went to school here ('69), one kid threw a Cherry Bomb down the toilet seat in Metzler," said Taylor. "I also remember someone putting a mouse in the microwave in the cafeteria."

Streaking was a tradition at McPherson College in the 1970s. Metzler men conducted the first en masse streak in the spring of 1974, running a lap from Metzler down the main sidewalk between Brown and Mohler, in front of Dotzour, and returning to the dorm by way of the walk in front of

Kitzel. McPherson College has seen some pretty dangerous "pranks" as well, including a shoot-out between the two male dormitories, Noffsinger said. Administrators kicked some students out of school for that one, he said.

Faculty members seem to recognize that a big part of college life includes having fun and causing a little trouble, but they urge would-be practical jokers to not damage anything or hurt anyone.

As for poor, beloved Kermit the Frog, not long after the murder took place, the rubber skeleton confessed everything.



Sometime in the early 1960s, these chairs from the cafeteria found their way to the SU basement where they blocked the entrance to the women's restroom.

Shandi Schomling
Editor in Chief

Four candidates for 2004-05 executive have filed their petitions. Rebecca Stover, Porter, Rhonda Hoffman, Jonathan Rothrock, the ballot as next SGA officers.

Voting will take place Tuesday, March 30. The election will be set up in the Student Union for online voting. Because none of the candidates have any opposition, the vote will be to elect them, said Stoddart, SGA sponsor. Students can also vote from any computer campus by going to www.mcpherson.edu. Rebecca Stover, from Quinter, is h

Frig

Lara Lichty
Features Editor

Kelly Frigård, professor of art, will say goodbye to McPherson College this spring. She has several other members have announced their resignations.

Frigård teaches history courses as well as fibers, jewelry and smithing, design, media, and drawing. She sponsored interterm abroad trips to Italy.

Frigård came to McPherson College from the Chicago area, but lived in Sweden and Finland two years as a Fulbright Fellow.

Frigård plans to return to Sweden for another teaching position.

Xal

Tom
Guest

SGA announces candidates

FOUR STUDENTS RUN UNOPPOSED FOR EXEC BOARD POSITIONS

Shandi Schoming
Editor in Chief

Four candidates for SGA's 2004-05 executive board have filed their petitions.

Rebecca Stover, Colleen Porter, Rhonda Hoffert and Jonathan Rothrock are on the ballot as next year's SGA officers.

Voting will take place Tuesday, March 30. Stations will be set up in the student union for online voting. Because none of the positions have any opposition, the vote will be to accept the candidates rather than to elect them, said Tracy Stoddart, SGA sponsor.

Students can also vote from any computer on campus by going to the link www.mcpherson.edu/vote.

Rebecca Stover, a junior from Quinter, is hoping to

continue in her role as SGA president.

Stover is an art education major. Aside from SGA Stover is involved in choir and has been in many theatre productions during her time on campus. She is also on the track team.

Colleen Porter is running for vice president.

Porter is a sophomore from Quinter, Kan. Porter is also involved in choir and theatre and is currently the sophomore class representative on SGA.

Porter feels that an office on SGA will allow her to be in a position where she can be a voice for the students.

"I think students' opinions and involvement in college activities is vital," Porter said.

Porter is majoring in philosophy and religion and



Rebecca Stover



Colleen Porter



Rhonda Hoffert



Jon Rothrock

hopes to add a double major in psychology.

Rhonda Hoffert is on the ballot to be elected as next year's SGA secretary.

Hoffert is interested in this position so she can "become more involved on campus." She hopes that as SGA secretary she can "help to meet students' needs."

Hoffert is a freshman chemistry major from Golden, Colo. She currently serves as the activities/publicity coordinator for SGA and SAB.

Jon Rothrock is the candidate for the 2004-05 SGA treasurer position.

He would like to be treasurer because he "enjoys

SGA and was asked to run." Rothrock is currently the SGA Morrison Hall rep. He is also a member of the Bulldog soccer team.

"I hope to give my opinion on behalf of the student body," Rothrock said. He also hopes that he will be able to "get the job done" because SGA had a few

problems with that this year.

Rothrock is a sophomore majoring in business administration with an emphasis in finance. He is originally from McPherson.

Petitions for class and dorm SGA representatives will be available to those interested later this spring.

Frigård puts finishing touch on Mac Masterpiece

Lara Lichty
Features Editor

Kelly Frigård, professor of art, will say goodbye to McPherson College after six years this spring. She along with several other faculty members have announced their resignations from Mac.

Frigård teaches various art history courses as well as fibers, jewelry and metal-smithing, design, intermedia, and drawing II. She also sponsored interterm, study-abroad trips to London and Italy.

Frigård came to McPherson College from the Chicago area, but taught in Sweden and Finland for two years as a Fulbright Fellow.

Frigård plans to get another teaching position at

another university or liberal arts college. There are no concrete locations in mind for Kelly, her husband Leif, and daughter of nine months, Ronja.

Frigård is an artist herself, which adds a nice dimension to her classrooms. In fact, she and her family will be leaving for Finland tomorrow as Frigård will be the visiting artist in textiles at the University of Art and Design in Helsinki.

Frigård will miss her students and her colleagues in the fine arts department the most but will also miss the art facilities here.

"I think the facility is wonderful. It is a very well-equipped art studio," Frigård said.

Rebecca Stover, jr., Quinter, expresses how

much she appreciates Frigård's skills and ability to teach.

"Kelly is very knowledgeable about the subjects she teaches, but also encourages discussion and interpretation when working with new or abstract concepts," Stover said. "Because she is an artist, she is able to add a personal element into a lot of the subject matter of her classes. It's been those first-hand accounts that have helped me understand and retain the material better than traditional methods."

"She cares about what she teaches, and even more about the students who are being taught. Those are two of the most important qualities to have as a professor at McPherson College," Stover said.



photo by Shandi Schoming

Kelly Frigård spins wool in the Hess studio. Frigård will not return to Mac next fall.

Xalapa: Can Kim Stanley's sabbatical coax you to study abroad in Mexico?

Tom Halliburton
Guest Writer

Kim Stanley is spending her sabbatical in Xalapa, Mexico and she took her husband Tom Halliburton along. This is part of what they have to report about Xalapa, where they will be living for several months.

Part I

Getting here can be easy and very cheap. For example, we arranged a round-trip flight from Lubbock, Texas, to Veracruz for \$300 each. The very comfortable first-class bus trip from Veracruz to Xalapa lasted two hours and cost us each about \$7.

Buses leave about every half hour, about 20 hours a day. At rates like these you could even go home for Christmas during your year abroad, or even have your family visit you in Xalapa. A clean, decent motel room with private bath can be rented for \$20 a night, or even less. A luxury room can be yours for the cost of an ordinary room in Colby, KS.

Your money will go a long way in Xalapa.

For \$4 apiece we can get a four-course meal with world-class coffee. A reasonable sandwich and drink would sell for \$1.

A bus ride anywhere in the city is less than 50 cents, a taxi across town for two people is about \$5. The most expensive first-run movie will only be about \$4 in the evening, or \$2.50 for a matinee.

It is easy and cheap to stay in contact with friends and family here. The mail, we admit, is not very good, but there are Internet cafes on almost every block downtown, where you pay a dollar or less an hour. There are special deals for phoning from the US to Mexico, for as little as 10 cents a minute.

Intensive language instruction here lets you come with only a year of college Spanish. Immersion is likely to make you able to conduct your life in Spanish rather quickly.

People with Hispanic heritage are the fastest growing part of the U.S. population, so for teaching and business, the ability to speak New World Spanish is obviously a permanent and growing personal investment. It helps that Xalapa is a friendly, safe city; people really warm up to you when they see you are using your Spanish.

As with all BCA programs, there is an on-site director whose job is to help make your year abroad safe, productive, and FUN.

Part II

The National Council for Public Safety (of Mexico) recently named Xalapa the safest and pleasantest city in Mexico (Diario de Xalapa, March 3). We weren't surprised. People here are friendly, helpful, and kind. Maybe this is because Xalapa isn't a big vacation spot for badly behaved gringos. The young soldier will give you the nicest shy smile while he gives directions, the bus driver will help you get the right bus. Everybody is happy to have you try out your Spanish on them. People here think foreigners are interesting.

There are lots of fun places to go and fun things to see and hear. For absolutely no cost you can attend any of the following: many art exhibits, musical concerts, history exhibits, movies at the universities, lectures. Students at the Univ. of Veracruz and the Univ. of Xalapa are always doing interesting things; the University of Veracruz student paper has six pages of announcements, stories and ads about art, music, theater, cine and history events. The life on the streets is an entertainment of another kind. This is a really hustling, colorful, city life. Down in the plaza one night some college kids were doing street theater with juggling and unicycles and clowning around, for an enthu-

siastic audience of a few hundred. One of the guys sure looked gringo to me. This could be you!

The BCA set-up here allows for about five weeks of traveling to important historical and cultural sites during a two-semester stay. The travel takes you through Veracruz state, Oaxaca, usually the Yucatan, etc.

There is a whole new and different cuisine here. This isn't Tex-Mex (though you can find that here, too). This is an education for your mouth! Kiss Dillons goodbye! Kim says the city is so hilly that no matter how much you eat, you can walk it off before the next meal. I'm losing weight.

Kim found a ladies' clothes store and bought half a dozen beautiful Mexican blouses and skirts for maybe 20 percent of what similar items would cost in the US. She's looking good and our credit card won't even notice the hit.

I have a whole page full of places just around downtown here where you can go and dance. (We are too old for that.) There are many kinds of music, live and recorded. Ladies, it's a fact that Mexican guys like to dance. Gentlemen, Mexican ladies like to dance. 'Nuf said?

Championship bid ends at semis for Bulldogs

Bulldogs fall to Sterling 73-61, Warriors move on to win KCAC

Walker Phillips
Sports Editor

FEBRUARY 28, 2004
McPherson 61
Sterling 73

Despite relentless attempts by senior Kenny Romero to keep the McPherson Bulldog's conference title hopes alive, the Bulldogs fell 73-61 to the Sterling Warriors in the KCAC semifinals Feb. 28.

The men finished the 2003-04 season with 20 wins for only the third time in school history.

Romero, who is McPherson's record-holder for both career points and career rebounds, scored his 2,000th career point in the final minute of the game. With his teammates struggling to contribute (particularly in the second half), Romero finished the game with 28 points and 11 rebounds.

Afterwards, head coach Roger Trimmell remained positive. "We've got a lot to be proud of," Trimmell said hoarsely. "We can't fault our effort. We did all we could."

With the Sterling crowd on its feet the entire game in an uncomfortably warm gym, McPherson managed to grab a seven-point lead early on before falling behind by seven. Despite chants of "airball" from the gallery, the Bulldogs had the game tied until Sterling's Chris Snyder hit a three at the halftime buzzer for a 36-33 Warrior lead.

McPherson never led again as team shooting dropped to 23 percent in the second half. The Bulldogs ended the game a dismal one of 20 from behind the arc.

"We were cold, just ice cold (in the second half)," said Trimmell. "It just seemed like the basket had a lid on it, and we just kept falling a little further and

further behind."

While the 'Dogs did not end the season as KCAC champs, they did show a very consistent effort. "We went the entire season and never lost more than one game in a row," Trimmell said.

As Trimmell predicted in a pre-season interview, the Bulldogs delivered exciting basketball, pushing the ball on fast breaks "when the opportunities were presented." Furthermore, the team improved significantly on defense, Trimmell said, thanks to the "hard-nosed attitude" of Cody Rierson and the guarding abilities of Lee Gustafson, "our most improved player."

The greatest challenge facing the Bulldogs next year will be replacing Romero.

"Kenny brought maturity and leadership to our program," Trimmell said. "McPherson College and Kenny have been a very good fit, athletically and academically. He put up some incredible numbers in both points and rebounds, records that will be difficult to break."

"(However,) I think

Kenny would be the first to give credit to his teammates for playing unselfishly and getting him the ball in a position to score. He is certainly worthy of All-American recognition."

As a team, Trimmell said his players "were receptive to coaching and worked hard to improve," citing "the number of times we were on the floor for loose balls."

"The fans were great, loud



Kenny Romero played his last game as a Bulldog in Sterling on Feb. 28. He finished his career with a school record 2,000 points.

photo by Sheila Bevan

and boisterous. At a small college the support of the community can be one of our greatest assets," Trimmell said.

With a strong nucleus of

players returning next year, the Bulldogs promise to remain both entertaining and competitive.

"Our goals are always to reach the conference cham-

pionship and national tournament, but players are made in the off-season," Trimmell said. "Our recruiting will emphasize young men that will be a good fit

athletically and academically for McPherson College. We have much to offer here at McPherson."



McPherson tracksters Tim Cox and Val Thompson stretch during practice Thursday in preparation for this weekend's meet at the Bethany College Invitational.

photo by Shandi Schmitt

Taylor, Cavenee compete at NAIA Championships

Outdoor track schedule begins March 13 at the Bethany College

Lamar Holmes
Sports Writer

McPherson College finished its indoor track schedule March 4-6 at the NAIA National Indoor Championship in Johnson City, Tenn. Two Bulldog sprinters, Seth Cavenee and Preston Taylor, competed in the 55-meter dash. Taylor finished in 6.6 seconds, placing him 30th nationally.

Taylor also competed in the men's 200-meter dash. He finished the race with a time of 22.60 placing him 24th nationally.

"This was one of the biggest meets I ever competed in," Taylor said. "I am just a freshman. I have

many more to go, and I will only get better."

Head coach Bart Gray thought the guys did really well.

"It was a real eye opening experience," he said.

The team starts its outdoor schedule March 13 at the Bethany College Invite.

Gray's team is quite young. Most of them are true freshmen and had never run indoors before. Many times they were extremely nervous, Gray said. The lack of a conference meet in indoor track also presents motivation problems.

But the outdoor season should see improvement.

"We will be much more explosive (outdoors)," said

Pam Gray, assistant coach and wife of head coach Bart Gray. "The atmosphere is very different, everyone is very excited, and we have added several new members since the move outdoors."

Athletes have been recording personal bests in almost every event, the coaches said. Practices are much more intense, and they are pushing the athletes harder since the move outdoors.

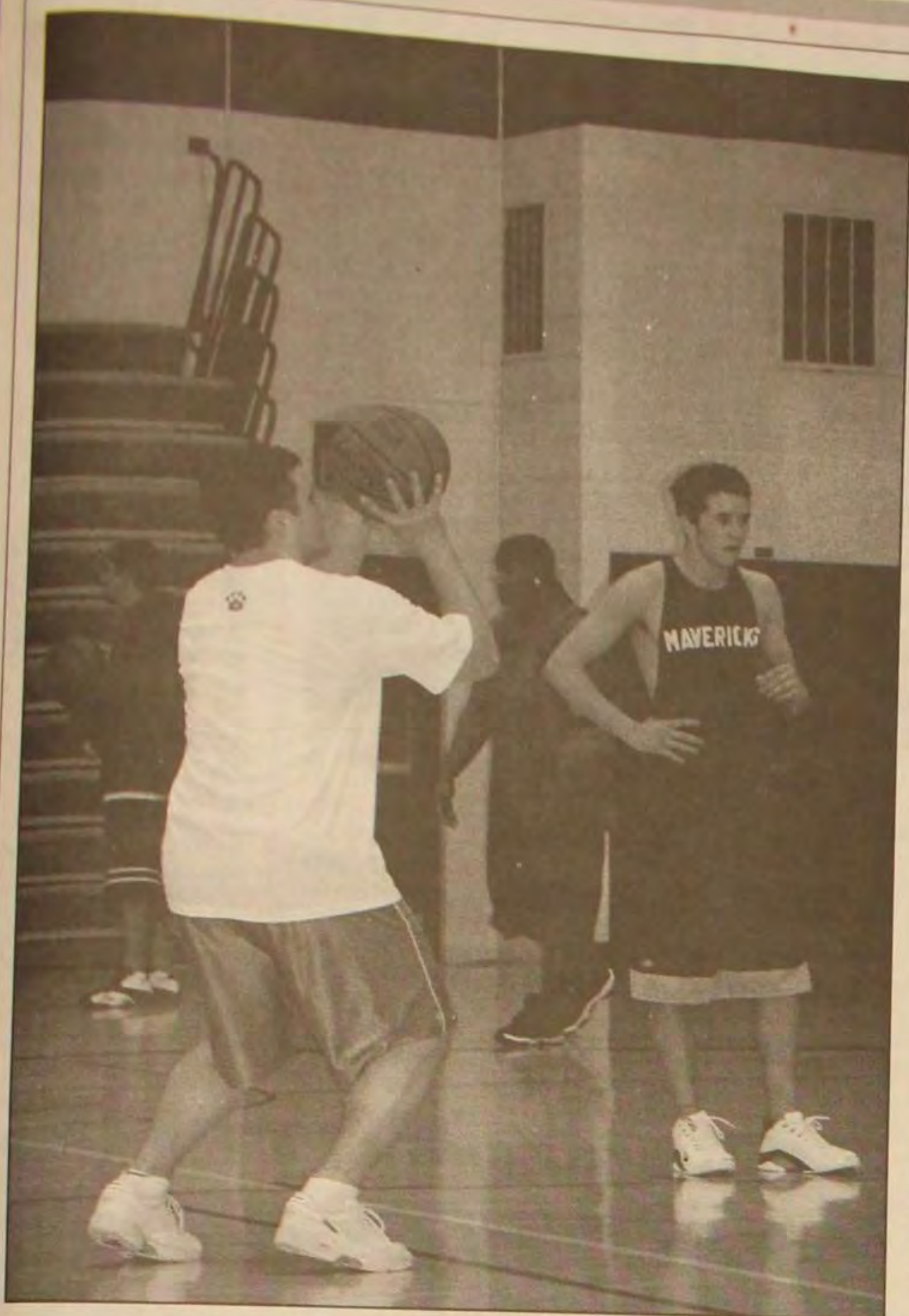
One squad member, Scott Phillips, is ready for the outdoors.

"I think it will help me," he said. "The indoor shot put is harder. The outdoor shot put is easier to grip."

Derrick Mead Turon, during

BULLDOG ATHLETIC CALENDAR

- Mar. 12 Grant
- Mar. 13 Wall Park
- Mar. 16 @ Southwes
- Mar. 19-20 @ Sterl
- Apr. 2-3 @ Oklah
- Apr. 5 Friends
- Apr. 6 @ Haskell
- Apr. 7 Okla Wesleya
- Apr. 8 Ks Wesleya
- Apr. 13 Sterling
- Mar. 13 @Bethany In
- Mar. 20 McPherson i
- Mar. 27 @Butler Cou
- Apr. 3 @Friends In
- Apr. 10 ACKK Championships



FIVE-ON-FIVE INTRAMURAL BASKETBALL IN FULL SWING

FIVE-ON-FIVE STANDINGS

RED DIVISION

Benedict & the Cruisers4-0
Unknown4-0
Old School3-1
Big Dawgs1-3

WHITE DIVISION

Gunners1-3
Da Bus Drivers1-2
GSN1-2
The Players0-4

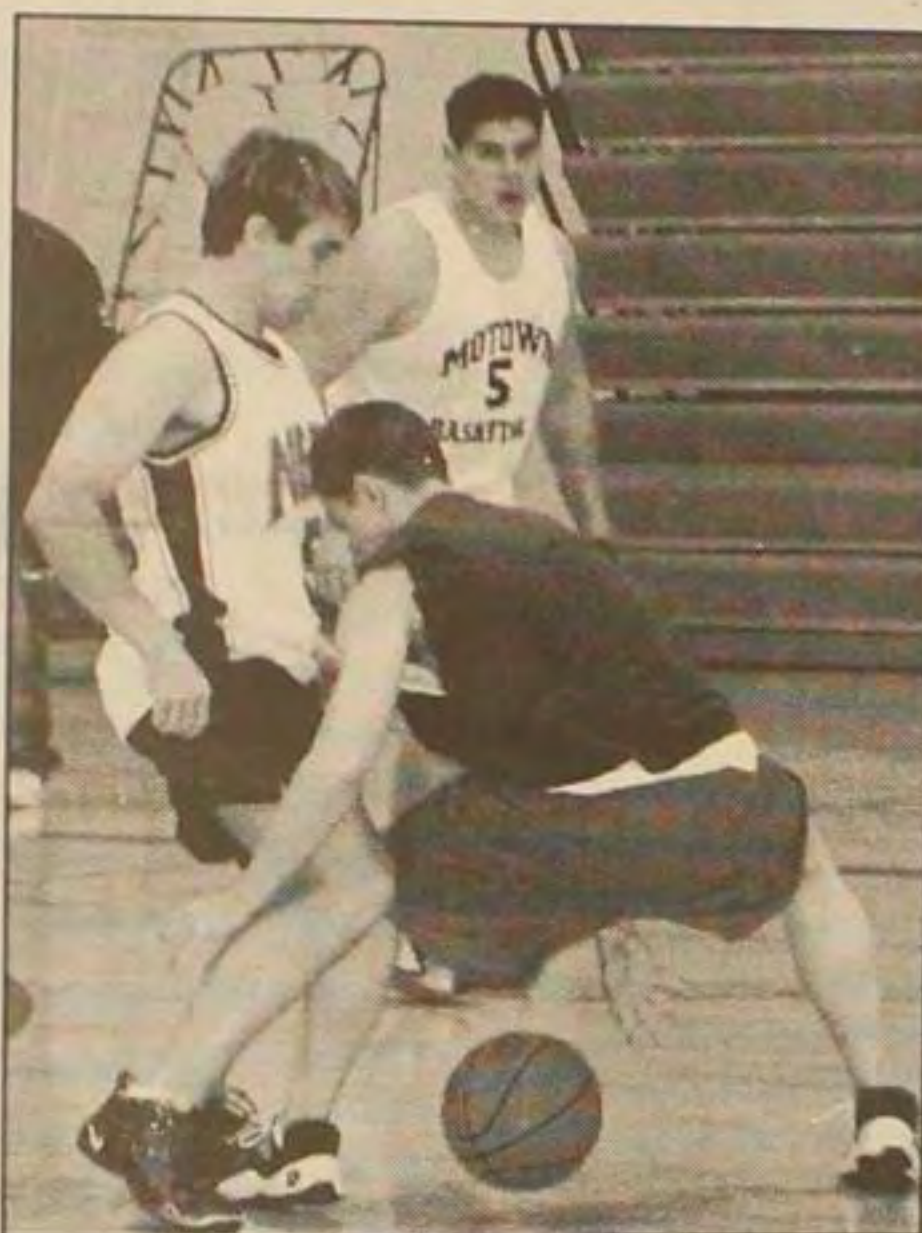
Jared Ratzlaff, fr., Fredonia, shoots a free throw as Stacy Cavenee, fr., Tribune, looks on.



Mike Miller, fr., Bennett, Colo., and Renee Hall, fr., Geraldine, Ala., watch the five-on-five tournaments.



Derrick Mead, fr., Pretty Prairie, guards Jose Morales, sr., Turon, during the five-on-five games.



Eddie Chavez, jr., Santa Barbara, Calif., watches as teammate Branden Patterson attempts to retrieve the ball from the opposing team.

Photos by
Sheila Bevan

BULLDOG ATHLETIC CALENDAR

**MAR. 12-
APR. 16**

Softball		
Mar. 12	Grant	10 a.m.
Mar. 13	Wall Park	9 a.m.
Mar. 16	@ Southwestern	4 p.m.
Mar. 19-20	@ Sterling	TBA
Apr. 2-3	@ Oklahoma City	TBA
Apr. 5	Friends	5 p.m.
Apr. 6	@ Haskell	3 p.m.
Apr. 7	Okla. Wesleyan	4 p.m.
Apr. 8	Ks. Wesleyan	1 p.m.
Apr. 13	Sterling	5 p.m.
Track (outdoor)		
Mar. 13	@Bethany Invite	10:30am
Mar. 20	McPherson Invite	10:00am
Mar. 27	@Butler County Invite	TBA
Apr. 3	@Friends Invite	TBA
Apr. 10	ACCK Championships	TBA

Bulldog softball hosts tournament

Walker Phillips
Sports Editor

The Bulldog softball team will host its 10-team invitational this weekend. The tourney will give the women the rare opportunity to play seven games in two days.

After the Friends Invite was rained out last weekend, the Bulldogs, the KCAC coaches' conference favorite, faced tough competition from Newman on Wednesday. McPherson lost both matches in the double-header, 8-0 and 3-0, to the fellow NAIA team.

The 'Dogs were their own worst enemy against the Jets. In the first game, pitcher LouAna Nuss gave up a one-run home run in the third inning, and the game remained tight at 1-0 for much of the game. In the fifth and sixth innings however, "they pulled away from us," said assistant coach Tony Segovia.

MARCH 10, 2004	
McPherson	0
Newman	8
McPherson	0
Newman	3

McPherson errors gave Newman seven runs to close the game.

"LouAna pitched really well, we just gave up unearned runs. We couldn't hit the ball," Segovia said.

The second game painted a similar picture. Pitcher Jamie Schropp "gave up one run, but the other two came off errors," Segovia said. "We threatened, but made some silly mistakes. It was a little cold, but you can't take it away from (Newman). They're a good team, and they pitched well. It's early yet. I think our bats will come around."

The women face three games back to back today to kick off the McPherson College Tournament. Their contests will be played on

Field B of the Grant Complex on N. Main St. At 10 a.m., the 'Dogs meet conference rival Sterling (in a non-conference game), followed by Tabor at 11:30 and Haskell at 2 p.m. Following an afternoon break, the Bulldogs face a cross-town fight against Central Christian at 7:30.

On Saturday, the action shifts to Wall Park, where McPherson will meet several other successful NAIA teams from out of state. The Bulldogs start the day at 9 a.m. on Hess Field against Dakota State University. At noon, Mac faces William Jewell from Kansas City, Mo., on Lemberg Field. Finally, the team finishes back on Hess Field at 3 p.m. against Graceland from Iowa.

"We're excited about playing the (out of state) teams. They each had good years in 2003 in the NAIA, and we're expecting some tough competition," Segovia said.



Outfielder Lisa Salazar runs for a fly ball during a practice. The Bulldogs host the McPherson Softball Tournament March 12-13.

Class agents return to campus

Shandi Schoming
Editor in Chief

Thirty-six class agents met on campus last weekend, March 5 and 6, for their annual meeting and workshop.

The class agents arrived on campus Friday night to attend a dinner with the board of trustees. Both groups were then given the opportunity to attend the theatre production, "Steel Magnolias."

"It's great to have the two groups on campus together," said Cyril Russell, associate director of institutional advancement.

Russell's office tries to ensure that each class has an agent whose primary responsibilities include writing two class letters per year and planning class reunions every five years.

The class letters include college updates and personal information shared by class members. Their principal purpose is to help classmates informed about and in touch with one another.

Initially, the graduating class chooses class agents. If a class agent resigns from his or her duties, the college advancement office tries to recruit the replacement.

Saturday consisted of a series of workshops. The class agents received updates from admissions, career services, academic departments and residence life and toured the recently renovated athletic facilities.

Professors and students participating in interterm trips also came and briefed the group on their experiences. President Hovis met with the class agents to update them on the feasibility study of the proposed capital campaign.

Normally class agents stay with friends in the area or are lodged in local hotels, but this year those without a place to stay were lodged in the residence halls, not only for cost-saving benefits, but also so they could be more in touch with campus life.

Russell said the feedback from the agents was positive and somewhat "nostalgic"



Class agents tour the new weight room in the Sports Center during their visit to campus last weekend.

for some of the women who used to live in Dotzour Hall.

The class agent program was developed in 1974. At that time phonathons, then called telethons, were held at call stations all over the country by alumni who called classmates to increase alumni giving per-

centage. Although the goal of these telethons was to make contact with alumni, there was a fear that some may see this contact only for the monetary gifts.

It was then that the college supplemented the phonathon with the class agent program.

"The fact that they are agents for their class means that they are also agents for the college," Russell said. "We rely on them to be active supporters of the college and to encourage their class members to be active participants and supporters as well."

CRS lecturer questions purpose of universe

Dean Feasenhiser
Spectator Staff

Everyone likes to feel they have a purpose in life. What about the universe, though? Can an infinitely huge, expanding cloud made up mostly of nothingness and hydrogen be moving towards a goal?

That was the topic explored at the recent Center of Religion and Science lecture, "Science, Religion, and the Quest for Cosmic Purpose" delivered Sunday, March 7, by Dr. John F. Haught.

Why should Mac students care if the universe has a purpose?

Because, Haught said, quoting W. T. Stace, "If the whole scheme of things is pointless, then so are our individual lives."

Haught's lecture touched upon several traditional religious, philosophical and scientific viewpoints as well as several modern viewpoints that attempt to bridge the gaps between the two extremes.

Haught first highlighted the religious and philosophical traditions.

Their ideas are based on a hierarchical principle, Haught explained, where comprehension of lower levels does not imply an ability to understand the next higher level, since levels of understanding become more elusive and they become more comprehensive. The ultimate meaning is beyond the comprehension of anyone other than God.

Haught next contrasted the traditional religious and philosophical view of the universe with the traditional scientific viewpoint.

From this view, the history of the universe can be represented; Haught said, by a shelf of 30 books, each book having 450 pages, and each page representing one million years of history.

In traditional scientific thought, however, the books tell no coherent story, but only "sound and fury," Haught said.

Life is just an accident occurring around book 21.

The mind is an afterthought that has no real significance until near the end of page 450 of the 30th book.

In the traditional scientific model, then, coherent meaning or purpose in the universe is simply a projection of human desire.

Haught also discussed the atomizing of the classic hierarchy, which came to popularity due to the rise of classical physics and the theories of Charles Darwin. This represented a break of mind from matter, or "Cosmic Pessimism."

But, Haught went on; the field of astrophysics now believes it may be able to detect purpose in the universe.

He presented a chart showing a regression from the sentient mind to the formation of the universe, and pointed out that conditions at the point of the Big Bang were precisely right to produce the sequence of events leading to the formation of the mind.

This theory creates a connective thread between books one and 30 of the scientific history of the universe.

To close, Haught examined the ideas of Pierre Teilhard de Chardin and Alfred North Whitehead. Teilhard de Chardin married scientific evolution to the traditional religious hierarchy, suggesting that the human mind pointed to another great evolutionary stage that he called the "noosphere."

Similarly, Whitehead saw the universe evolving or moving toward "beauty." Whitehead views God as a guiding force, acting through persuasion, not coercion, with the goal of maximizing "beauty."

This is not beauty as we tend to think of it, Haught said, but a higher beauty that is bound up in an all-encompassing love.

The universe is walking a thin line on the path to this beauty, with a misstep potentially throwing it into the darkness of complete chaos or monotony.

NEWS BRIEFS

Rasure runs for State Senate

Danny Rasure, 2003 graduate of McPherson College, is running for the Kansas Senate seat for District 40. Rasure will be challenging incumbent Stan Clark.

Rasure recently completed a four-month internship with Congressman Jerry Moran and also spent a summer working for U.S. Senator Sam Brownback.

Rasure's campaign focuses on economic development and the survival of western Kansas.

He also emphasizes healthcare and education.

"Northwest Kansas has one of the largest numbers of aging," Rasure said. "We need to make sure we have enough doctors and nurses to take care of them to keep them here."

Rasure worked with the McPherson Chamber of Commerce Visioning Task Force, conducted focus groups, built databases and participated in event planning while a business major at McPherson College.

MC begins local business campaign

The annual local business fundraising campaign kicked off last Monday with the volunteer orientation luncheon under the direction of Erik Vogel, director of development.

McPherson College's focus on career-oriented liberal arts education has strengthened relations with the local community, Vogel said.

So far this year, 80 students have been involved with 50 different organizations, businesses and schools in McPherson.

"McPherson is fortunate to exist in a community with a solid economic base," Vogel said. "And with the recent implementation and growth of the career services program, local schools, organizations, and businesses have been a tremendous partner for student internship opportunities."

Choir to present spring concert

The college choir will present its spring music tour concert on Sunday, March 14, at 7:30 p.m. in Brown Auditorium.

Featured in the program are the McPherson College Trombones, the McPherson College Singers, and a Dixieland band.

The program includes religious and secular music from the past and present.

Featured compositions include Russian church music, selections by J.S. Bach, music of Sweden and Norway, traditional spirituals and works by contemporary composers.

The college choir students and instrumentalists will have been on their annual spring tour in Nebraska and Iowa this week.

IS IT SPRING BREAK YET?



Michael Schaarschmidt, soph., Northampton, Pa., and Brian Schoenecker, fr., Akron, Colo., enjoy a game of fussball in the Doghouse.

Melhorn houses alternative school

Tiffany Barry
Spectator Staff

Hidden away in the corner of the basement in Melhorn Science Hall is a place that few students know about: McPherson's Alternative High School.

"Having the alternative school at the college is a benefit to the students," said director Karen Meats. The atmosphere at the college is the right environment for the students to be successful.

The alternative high school was originally housed in Hamly Hall; the science building that preceded the construction of Melhorn. When the program first began, the district had little money so the college donated the space in Hamly.

"If it had not have been for the support of the college, the school would not be in existence," Meats said.

In the beginning the alternative center enrolled only

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—Karen Meats, director

10 students in the morning and 10 students in the afternoon. There are currently 53 students enrolled at the school. Twenty-six students will graduate from the school this year.

Alternative schools have a reputation for enrolling students who are in trouble, but that is not the case in Mac. There are four gifted students, and the majority of the other students are kids who have difficulties socializing.

Of the students who do have behavioral problems Meats said, "If you just respect them, they will respect you back."

The school is a strict, self-motivated environment with 100 percent attendance

required.

The students work most of the day on the computer at their own pace and the students earn three credit hours per semester.

"The students learn more in this program because they can't move on until the students receive at least an 80 percent," Meats said. "In a regular high school environment the students could have just sat in the back of the class, got a D, and moved on."

Admission into the Alternative High School is a challenging process.

The student and the parents must apply and then sit in front of a board of seven or eight people to be interviewed.

While few if any McPherson College students have been directly involved with the alternative center, Meats said that any education students interested in volunteering would be a welcome addition to the program.