

The McPherson College SPECTATOR

Vol. 82, No. 11

"Serving to inform a community"

April 24, 1998

UNDERCOVER

NEWS

Family relationships not a factor in current employment practices

The College does not currently have a nepotism policy affecting employees, but this may change in the future.

Minor weaknesses found in endorsement areas

The curriculum and instruction department is preparing a rejoinder to defend weaknesses sighted by the KSDE.

See page 8

FEATURES

Diet pop: worth it or not?

Want some methanol? It breaks down into formaldehyde in the human body!

Whose words these are you'll learn to know...

when you read student-submitted poetry in celebration of National Poetry Month.

See pages 4 and 5

SPORTS

Student recognized for academic and athletic achievement

Nate McLaughlin, jr., is the first McPherson College recipient of the A. O. Duer scholarship.

Head football coach announces resignation

Bruce Grose says goodbye to McPherson as he moves to Colorado to coach at Cheyenne Mountain high school.

See pages 6-7

Soar like an eagle



Christy Wymore, soph., makes her landing in the triple jump. For more about the Bulldogs' most recent track meet, see page 6.

photo by Cheri Norsworthy

Students can apply today for pods

by Jen Bosserman

News Editor

Administration answers questions and clarifies details about living arrangements and dorm sign-ups for the 1998-99 academic year.

Students may pick up applications to live in pods from the office of the assoc. dean for campus life, Mohler 121, today, Friday, April 24.

Students signing up to live together in a pod must be of the same gender; there will be no mixed gender pods. Students may only apply as a member of one pod. A student's name can not be on more than one pod application.

Room reservation sheets for students not applying to live in a pod will be distributed under residents' doors between Friday April 24 and Saturday April 25. These students will be able to sign-up for a specific room in

Dotzour Hall or Metzler Hall.

Students will need to plan to room with upperclasspeople, not incoming freshmen.

Applications to live in pods and room reservation sheets to live in Dotzour Hall or Metzler Hall will be due at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, April 29. Students may submit these applications to their hall director.

Once all the applications are turned in, next year's student government executive officers will randomly draw four female pod applications and four male pod applica-

tions. These pods will be placed in one of the two new dorms in an attempt to provide diversity in each hall. Pod groups will not choose which dorm they will live in or which of the other pod groups they will live with.

"We want placement to provide diversity for students," said Kathryn Whitacre, assoc. dean for campus life.

Placement decisions also depend on the number and gender of residential handicapped students. Residential handicapped students have the option to reside in the new dorms in one of the handicapped suites.

"A handicapped person may choose to live in the special accessibility suites or in Dotzour or Metzler depending on their needs," Whitacre said.

If the handicapped suites are unoccupied, it is possible that RAs may live in the suites so that twelve people could be accommodated in some pods. The applications to live

Continued on Page 8

Women's softball to become a reality

by LeAnn Wine

Spectator Staff

Women's softball at McPherson College is nearly a reality. The Athletic Committee made the unanimous decision on April 9 to recommend the school institute softball at the club level in 1998-1999, with the intention of moving to NAIA intercollegiate status in 1999-2000.

The committee came to its decision after a thorough research process.

"The Athletic Committee researched costs, student retention, competitiveness in KCAC, etc.," said Dave O'Dell, assistant professor of accounting and committee chair.

The committee received positive responses to the questions regarding these topics.

"The actual cost is manageable," said Lowell Flory, professor of business and economics and coordinator of co-curricular activities. For the first year, the school will provide bats, balls, catching equipment and the first baseman's glove. The other fielders will be asked to provide their own gloves.

"The major cost of a softball program is the field," Flory said. "But the city would be willing to share its facilities."

The facilities at Wall Park are potential practice fields while the new facilities north of Eisenhower Elementary School would be used for games. The total estimated cost is \$5,000, which Flory said may already be coverable within the 1998-99 budget.

Another concern of the Athletic Committee was the impact softball games would have on class attendance. The committee found that absences would be minimal.

"Most of the games will be played in the evenings or as double headers on the weekends," Flory said.

Deborah "Polky" Polkinghorn, fr., played a factor in the committee's decision. Polkinghorn presented a survey to the members that included women on campus who were in favor of starting a softball program. Sixty-five names were listed, and over half indicated interest in playing, according to Polkinghorn.

"The level of student interest presented

by Deborah Polkinghorn was a key factor in voting in favor of women's softball," O'Dell said.

Polkinghorn recommended that a softball team should not participate intercollegiately right away. She said the first year should be spent recruiting and training of players. Starting at the club level will give the college time to recruit players and hire a coach.

"We'll have a chance to get our feet wet before participating intercollegiately," President Gary Dill said.

Even though the softball team will be at the club level for a year, it will be able to compete with intercollegiate teams. At an athletic directors meeting, Mel Wright, Athletic Director and O'Dell spoke with other coaches from the KCAC about their softball programs. According to Wright, those schools are very interested in playing a team from McPherson.

The committee considered how softball

Continued on Page 8

EDITORIAL**Considering the costs; what will we lose?**

SHE EARNED HER PhD FROM A DISTINGUISHED INSTITUTION and has done extensive post doctoral work. She has a brilliant mind, a love for teaching and dedication for her work and students. Her qualifications and values would benefit the higher institution of learning. However, she will not be hired because her father is a dean of the college, and the college just implemented a nepotism policy.

As the McPherson College administration considers developing and implementing a nepotism policy, the administration and campus community should weigh the benefits and costs of the policy. First, the best qualified applicants for a job should be hired. Secondly, consider one of the main principles upon which the college currently prides itself—its family-like atmosphere.

While it is wrong for any institution to hire someone unqualified simply because he or she has a family member currently employed by the same institution, it appears equally wrong not to hire the best qualified person for a job simply because another family member works for the same place. Denying students the opportunity to learn under the expertise of the person who is best for a job because of family relations appears to defeat the purpose of this institution.

The family-like environment that exists here is one thing that makes McPherson College unique from other institutions of higher learning. And that atmosphere is developed in part because of the family members who are employed by this institution. Those spouses and parent/child combinations bring different interests and abilities, as well as a sense of family, that provides both a solid education and a second family for students.

The basic idea of family is to build trust and support for one another in good and bad times. Generally, people feel freest to be themselves when they are with family members; the deepest bonds exist among family. Currently, Mac college is able to provide students with that trust and support. It may be lost if a nepotism policy is implemented.

So, she applied to another institution of higher learning, and its students benefited from her knowledge and care. Will McPherson College let those people go?

by Jennifer Bosserman
for the Editorial Staff

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Campus Cough

by Tony Waldron

**"Thou shalt not speak with uncouth ignorance"**

Columnist analyzes, praises and urges individual awareness of language



Just Like That
by JD. Bowman

According to my newest issue of "Entertainment Weekly," a new book is getting great reviews. Elizabeth Wurtzel's "Bitch: In Praise of Difficult Women" is her follow-up to her best seller "Prozac Nation."

Critics are saying that Wurtzel's "Bitch" is passionately written and argues about everything from the Clinton's marriage to Nicole and O.J. Simpson.

And do you know what bothers me most about that? The title bothers me.

I remember one of my friends from my freshman year at McPherson College. She was throwing language around as if she had invented it.

When I stopped her (mid-sentence) and told her that her language was hard for me to get past, she flippantly replied that I should grow up because, "Everyone talks like that. Besides," she said, "America is becoming more desensitized."

Can this be true? Am I really becoming more accepting of crass language and vulgar meanings?

The answer is too simple. I throw around colorful metaphors like they are going out of style.

However, I have noticed (while watching old reruns on TVLand) that overall, certain language has become more acceptable.

Internationally distributed periodicals such as "Newsweek" and "Time," are now printing words such hell, damn and even bitch. And you can't sit through primetime television without hearing those words at least once.

I am not trying to offend anyone by writing this. I merely want to make certain everyone is aware of what is happening.

This isn't "city-talk" and it isn't something that is a generation thing. It is happening here on campus and around the world.

I don't mean to condemn it. If someone chooses to use that language, that is cer-

tainly his or her prerogative.

Even on this "Christian" campus, I think it is allowed. After all, the ten commandments say not to take the Lord's name in vain. They do not say, "Thou shalt not speak with uncouth ignorance."

I'm not taking either stand on this issue. I want to bring up this point so people realize what is happening to their language. They have a choice. I suggest that we all be more aware of our uses of language.

However, this issue it is not mine to judge. I have never met a sailor mouth who has made fun of someone who wouldn't cuss, but I have met many "hallowed perfect" Christians who judge and look down on anyone who chooses to use rude language.

So, as an adult, I would hope that people could choose their own language (like they choose their socks, their drinks, their goals in life) and not have it be looked down upon.

Instead, I fear that people are choosing their own language (like they choose abortion, communion, or stereotyping). They do it and, according to society, are either right or wrong.

Elizabeth Wurtzel's "Bitch" might push some limits, but if you are offended enough by that title not to buy it, then you might have missed the point of the book already.

If you turn off the radio every time the Meredith Brooks song "Bitch" is aired, you aren't hearing how it clued men in to the different sides of Eve.

In other words, I can be more tolerant of certain language just to get to the point.

I may not have to agree with the idea that America is becoming desensitized, but it is happening. It may not be "cool as hell" (that one's for Amber Jauken and Adam Dixon), but crass language is becoming more widespread. And I'll be damned if any one person can stop it.

CAMPUS FORUM

Elections not just "song and dance"

I am writing in response to the editorial printed in the April 9 issue of the Spectator. As president of this student body, I understand fully that this is an opinion column and respect it in that factor, but other than that I feel that Shelly Hendricks twisted the facts to support her opinion. For the record, I would like to state my position and observation of this year's SGA elections.

If one had been paying any attention, one would have noticed that after my little "song and dance," I spoke about having a positive mental attitude (PMA) and my enjoyment in working as SGA president. Secondly, I also stated my name and where I was from; maybe you didn't catch that.

SGA elections are quite different to those on larger campuses and we as a student body must recognize that. We don't run on a slate, invest the time and money in a campaign, and to top it off have people who are willing to run for those positions and get their petitions in on time.

But this is not the issue. Did the students really hear what the candidates were saying or were you so caught up in the fact that you wanted to eat and not enjoy the creativity of your newly elected executive officers?

I will say it time and time again; when running for office you must appeal to those who just mark a name on a ballot, as well as those who enjoy discussing issues.

And addressing the issue of song and dance, is "Hail to the Chief" not the song that is played for our nation's president as he makes his grand entrance? Forgive me for making a different entrance rather than running on stage, like I did last year. Dismayed by the whole issue,

**ShaRhonda Maclin, soph.,
student body president**

The editorial in the last issue by our Editor-in-Chief, Shelly Hendricks, was completely out of line and very rude.

To say that Jill Gibson was not elected because she didn't do a little song and dance is ridiculous. Jill was treasurer for a year, did her best and when she ran for re-election, the student body decided not to re-elect her.

As for the other candidates, I think they should all get a round of applause. They were creative and were able to get the attention of the students at a convo, which is rare as it is.

Most people don't want to be at convo and the only way you are going to be able to get their attention is to be funny, entertaining and exciting. No one is going to listen to boring election speeches. These girls wanted to get elected, and they did what was needed to get elected. They deserve a hand, not disapproval.

If people have such a problem with the way SGA elections were conducted, then get out there with a petition and run yourself. No one wants to hear you gripe about it.

And people wonder why this place has such a low retention?

Jessie Miller, soph.

No pods, please

There's no beating around the bush this time, folks. Residence Life staff have gone and found the most cliquish and prejudiced method of dividing up the new dorms. They then put this method into effect.

I'm talking about pods. Pods bring up

the feelings of peas: peas in a pod is a cliché for people of similar taste. Pods also bring up the image of cute dolphins. A pod of dolphins has more love for peace and nature than a crows of humans.

A pod of ten humans is a small tightly knit club that you or I can't join, and that a member can be kicked out of if the other eight or nine members don't get along well with that member. A pod of humans is the same as allowing these humans to group themselves into a single unit which is not community oriented, but is "pod oriented," and therefore against the community.

The idea behind this is that the former residents of Fahnestock Hall will not be able to dominate one of the new dorms. The other reason is that these dorms will be coed by pod. I sit and laugh.

Pod people with pod mentalities will rule the college. My science major pod is not in favor of theatre major pod's proposal for a dorm dance. The football pod and the wimpy English major pod rumbled in the parking lot, resulting in a freak atmospheric microburst that destroyed property, and although there were several ambulances, no one really was harmed seriously. We mean it. The Brethren ladies pod has declared that dorm hours will be noon to 2:30 in the afternoon because they have to study.

The freakish part of the new housing plan is the regulation of freshmen to special freshmen wings. God forbid we have an honors dorm or an upper-class dorm, except if they make pods and live in a new dorm, because it will reduce the amount of community mingling or some crap which I was told five years ago when I first made a campus visit. But not the freshmen will bond together better if they are placed together. OK, sure. That's the way to get community thinking in their minds.

What'll really happen? The freshmen next year will bond all right. They'll pod up for their sophomore year. They'll decide to have only pod activities that other classes can't attend and have secret pod handshakes. The rest of the school can simply blow away for all these freshmen care, because they bonded with each other. But hey, at least they're not leaving in droves because like-minded people will form pods and help...wait, no, entire pods will now pack up and leave after their season is over at Christmas. Convenient.

One allegation being made by opponents of pods is that the random selection process will be anything but random. I'm not sure what this means. Considering that the new dorms would have the best facilities, rooms and new furniture, who would be first in line to be recruited... No, I didn't say that word, asked is a better word, to join college teams, I mean the college community?

Let's just say that I'm sorry to see the family nature of McPherson College be dropped aside for a more gang-oriented mentality.

Concerned and not living on campus next year.

James Garrison, sr.

Professor opposes death penalty

When Mario Cuomo was governor of New York he regularly vetoed the state legislature's efforts to reestablish the death penalty. He paid for that at the polls. His opposition to capital punishment contributed decisively to his defeat in 1994. The new governor had promised to back a death-penalty law, and he signed one into effect in March of 1995.

We all know that it is currently expedient for a politician to support capital punishment. In his second presidential campaign, Bill Clinton boasted of having promoted a federal crime bill that prescribes the death penalty in some 60 categories.

Yet Mr. Pataki and Mr. Clinton surely know what most criminologists know: There is no solid evidence proving that capital

punishment deters crime.

Although many citizens think Mr. Cuomo was right, and Bill Clinton is wrong, they recognize that today they are on the losing side.

After the Supreme Court in 1976 allowed resumption of capital punishment 424 people have been executed—74 just last year, another two today. In 27 of the 38 states that have legalized the killing of people, 3,200 are currently on death row.

Faced with this horrible situation unanimously condemned by all the Western democracies, most of the church communities are silent, when in fact they should be calling for the abolition of the death penalty because of their belief in love, repentance and forgiveness.

With their pervasive silence we can expect to continue hearing many church goers of whatever denomination quoting the Old Testament phrase, "an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth" as a confirmation of their acceptance of the death penalty, seemingly unaware or conveniently ignoring the Gospels' message.

It is reassuring, then, to see the emergence of some religious groups and associations working rigorously to educate the public in regard to the complicated issues raised by the application of the death penalty.

One of those groups in Murder Victims Families for Reconciliation, made up of more than 4,000 members who have had relatives murdered or executed. It was one of those members, SueZann Bosler, who stood before us Monday, bringing her message of forgiveness and opposition to the death penalty.

"I am against the death penalty. Don't kill for me," Bosler said.

Her passionate message brought tears to many eyes and encouragement to us Christians who want to be faithful to the command, "Thou shalt not kill."

Human life is inviolable. If we violate it, we violate the moral order that sustains our civilization. The deliberate will to kill a human is wrong, no matter who does it or under what pretenses.

We must stand up every time that human life is threatened. When the sacredness of life is attacked, we must proclaim that no one ever—no governmental authority, no court—has the authority to destroy a human life. Every individual is a unique and unrepeatable creation of God, with the inalienable right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Courage is needed to resist pressures and false slogans and arguments and to proclaim the supreme dignity of all life and to demand that society itself and its institutions give it its full protection. A distinguished American, Thomas Jefferson, once stated, "The care of human life and not their destruction is the just and only legitimate object of good government" (March 31, 1809).

**Antonio Fuentes,
assistant professor of Spanish**

No one wins a war

Though our country was separated from England by war, most rights we have were a result of an open debate with a unified interest in solving everyone's problem. In order to have this kind of open debate on a world wide level would also take the same unified interest in solving everyone's problems.

What would it be like if war were not an option when considering how to solve disagreements? If we saw all people as our brothers and sisters, then we certainly wouldn't have wars or problems like racism and sexual discrimination. These kinds of negative views are a result of thinking "I" rather than "We." Maybe it's time for all of us to start thinking "we."

**Your brothers and sisters
in Peace Vigil Group**

Take advantage of info opportunities

The April 9 issue of The Spectator included a letter from Steve Benne expressing concern about the dissemination of information on the McPherson College campus.

In his letter, Steve asks, "Do we have a PR system that is supposed to inform the current students as well as the alumni, trustees, and donors?"

The answer to this important question is a resounding "YES!" For the members of the immediate McPherson College community, there are several opportunities to stay connected to campus information and activities:

1) Read the weekly "Communicator"—it is available on-line at www.mcpherson.edu/comcator.html or in printed form on the table near the mailboxes in the basement of the SU. (The trustees also receive the "Communicator" by mail.) Bring your joys and/or concerns to Kris Boyer or Donna Swenson in Mohler 115 & 117.

2) Visit the college's website at www.mcpherson.edu. Look under "What's New," for updates on news releases about campus activities. If you have information to contribute, contact Kris Boyer at boyerk@mcpherson.edu.

3) Read The Spectator and most importantly, contact the editor (Shelly Hendricks) if you feel there are issues or stories that are not being covered to your satisfaction.

4) Make an appointment to talk with the people who can answer your questions. President Dill, along with other members of the administrative team, has advertised an "open door" policy and have promised to share any information that is publicly available.

5) Attend convocations—announcements about activities and meetings are given at each convo session. If you have announcements to make, turn them in to the switchboard before 11 a.m. on Mondays.

6) Watch "Channel 5"—this cable public access station is operated by the college and provides announcements about community and some campus events. If you have information to share, bring it to Mohler 117 at least two weeks in advance of the event you want to publicize.

If none of these channels of communication addresses your questions, or if you don't know who's responsible for the information you want, please talk with me. I would welcome the opportunity to help you find answers or to strategize about how to get information to the right audiences.

All of these means of publicizing the news of the college are dependent upon and reflective of the McPherson College community.

In other words, students, faculty and staff help to shape the issues and events that are publicized. It's up to each one of us (a) to make those who distribute the news aware of what is of interest to us; and (b) to share important information that is of interest to the rest of the community.

I hope that we can continue to improve the methods of distributing information on campus (and the e-mail system holds some promise in this regard).

However, we will always be dependent on individuals to supply the information, and it will be up to individuals to choose to access that information and it will never be a completely automated process.

So keep writing, Steve, to remind us that we need to communicate with each other.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond.

**Kristin J. Boyer,
College Communications director**

4

Diet soft drinks—they float while others don't

by Jen Taylor
Spectator Staff

Dana Cordova could easily be called the campus Diet Coke Queen. Everyday the McPherson College junior drinks around eight cans of her favorite drink; some weeks she drinks up to 60 cans of diet Coke.

"About 97 percent of what pop I drink is Diet Coke, the other three percent consists of Diet Dr. Pepper and Diet Sprite," Cordova said.

Cordova, like many others on campus, is addicted to diet soft drinks. With only one or two calories per serving, low salt and improving taste, it's not hard to see why young people are drinking so many diet soft drinks.

Jen Bosserman, jr., is also noted for drinking diet pop. But her "poison of choice" is Diet Dr. Pepper.

"I really like the taste of Diet Dr. Pepper, it makes me happy, plus I'm a caffeine addict!" Bosserman said.

A serving of Diet Coke has 45.6 milligrams of caffeine, while regular coke has grams of caffeine. For those who aren't addicted, many brands of diet soft drinks are also available in caffeine free versions.

"Just for the taste of it?" Not everyone on campus is a fan of diet soft drinks. In a random non-scientific poll, most people who consume diet soda are female.

When asked why he thought this was true, Ben Brubaker, sr., replied, "Females buy it because none of the rest of us [males] will drink it because it tastes like crap." Others believed it was the diet factor that caused most women to drink so many diet soft drinks.

"It's pretty culturally biased, that diet pop is mainly for females because they're always



Dana Cordova's, jr., Diet Coke tower, above, is one of the seven wonders of the world in Dotzour Hall.

trying to lose weight," Ryan Myrick, Jr., said.

Some males must be drinking it however, since Diet Coke is the third-best selling soft

drink on the market in the United States.

What exactly is in diet soft drinks that make it taste so good, or so bad? Most are

sweetened by Nutrasweet, which is a brand name for aspartame, a sweetener. Taking a can of Diet Coke and a can of regular Coke and placing them in water can prove this. (The diet can will float, the regular should sink because of the density of the amount of sugar in the drink).

The FDA, Food and Drug Administration, accepted aspartame in 1980, but since then aspartame has been controversial. In fact, aspartame has caused more complaints than any substance in the FDA's history.

Aspartame is made up of approximately 10 percent methanol, which is wood alcohol not fit for human consumption. It has also been proven to break down into formaldehyde, the substance that is used to preserve the body after death. Essentially, getting too much aspartame can be like pickling oneself alive.

The Nutrasweet company, however, insists that even fruit has methanol in it, and when someone drinks a diet soft drink, she is consuming the same or less amounts as she would if she were eating a piece of fresh fruit. They also insist that aspartame is so safe that a person could drink up to 18 cans of a diet soft drink a day for the rest of his life, and he wouldn't be affected.

Both sides of the story can be confusing and stretched to fit our own opinion. If someone is worried about her aspartame intake, he can check out the following websites: www.nutrasweet.com and www.dorway.com/nuidex1.html. Both give good information on the effects of aspartame.

As for Cordova, she's not worried about it. "If I die [from drinking too much aspartame], I'll die happy, hopefully drinking a Diet Coke!"

Taking care of trash the earth-friendly way

by Sarah Stover
Spectator Staff

You whip out your mail key and fling open your mailbox. Inside is a single flyer, for the bookstore perhaps. You read it quickly as you head to lunch.

As you leave the mailboxes, you have several options:

1) You could frame the flyer and hang it on your wall till the end of the year, at which point you'll decide you're tired of looking at it, and you'll throw it in the trash.

2) You could just hang it on your wall without a frame, get tired of looking at it, and throw it in the trash.

3) You could just throw it in the trash.

4) You could aim for the trash can but miss, the flyer ending up in the strange looking cream container next to the trash can.

5) Aim for the strange looking cream container to begin with.

The most earth friendly options are numbers four and five, because the paper ends up in the strange looking cream container. What are those containers, how did they arrive, and who is responsible for emptying them? Is it true that they are strategically placed for Resident Assistants to hide in them and monitor lobby activities?

No. The strange looking cream containers are actually for recyclable office paper, and the story of how they arrived on our campus begins with trash.

The college is charge for the amount of trash it generates by weight. Dr. Jonathan

Frye, biology, wrote a proposal for a recycling program on campus, but no action was taken.

Frye also has connections with the McPherson Area Solid Waste Utility, which later brought a proposal agreeing to provide as many bins as the campus requested and agreed to empty those bins brought to a specified point every Friday, between nine and noon. The college accepted.

Kathryn Whitacre, associate dean for campus life, came to Student Government Association and asked members to give input on how a recycling program would be best executed on campus and suggested that they take an active role in the process.

As a result, a recycling committee was formed. Cameron Mahler, sr., is committee chair. He was also responsible, through his job with the maintenance department, to place the bins around campus.

"I just hope that students use the recycling bins that have been attained for that purpose with respect, for the environment and for saving money for the college," Mahler said.

SGA decided not to take responsibility for setting the bins out for emptying. Instead, the committee asked one person from each building to assume the task.

"We decided to let someone more permanent be involved on a volunteer basis. One person [from each building] has agreed to be responsible for [taking the bins to the circle drive] every week," Mahler said.

A recycling bin is now in almost every building on campus, including all three residence halls. The bins are extremely friendly,

but there are certain items that should not be placed into them. A list of recycling "do's" and "don'ts" can be found on the top of each bin.

Following these guidelines prevents contamination of the mix of paper and prevents major problems later on in the process. If impurities make it to the paper factory they can cause rips in the new sheets of paper as the impurities are being rolled out, or the impurities can mess up the machinery. Impurities also lower the value of the paper when it is being sold to the reclaimer.

Where does your flyer go after you make the right decision and put it in the bin? Your flyer travels to McPherson's recycling drop-off center just south of town. Office paper has a special container there and is kept separate from newspaper.

Next your flyer is transported to the landfill, where it is compacted into a bail that weighs between 1500 and 2000 pounds and is worth about \$10 on the market.

Rich Klemeschmidt, the director of recycling for McPherson County, holds the fate of your flyer in his hand. When roughly 30 bails accumulate (approximately every seven months), Klemeschmidt sells the mixed office paper to a buyer, which may vary from sale to sale depending on the market. From there your flyer is reclaimed, which means it is stripped of its identity as a McPherson College Bookstore flyer, and it becomes a part of a massive amount of pulp, ready to become paper again.

So when you are cleaning out your binders and folders at the end of the school year, you have more options than just saving your papers, burning them with grand ceremony, or cramming them into a trash can. Convenient recycling is only a few moments away.

And perhaps the next time you open your mailbox, you'll be holding part of the same flyer you put in the recycling bin! (Although probability is no doubt working against you on that point.)

ILLUSIONS

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Campus life celebrates National Poetry Month

by Sarah Marie Hendricks

Spectator Staff

The Academy of American Poets organized the nation's first National Poetry Month in April 1996. The goal is to bring publishers, booksellers, literary organizations, poets, schools, libraries and the everyday reader together to celebrate poetry and its place in American culture. National Poetry Month is each April and is celebrated the duration of month in many ways. It is the hope of the Academy of American Poets that people will again appreciate the power and simple beauty that poetry brings to our culture.

Alone

A flower blooms and stands alone
Its petals reaching high to the sky
The flower is picked
A bouquet is arranged
the flower is no longer alone
Flowers then die and are thrown by the side
Each flower dies alone

-by Krissy Williams

The Secret

The whispering pines call out
"Come, we have a secret to tell."
I go, not knowing what to expect.
Maybe, the story of the mountains, or the
truth of the ages.
But before I can reach the storytellers,
another sound evades my thoughts.
It is laughter, soft, pleasant and infectious.
The aspens have heard the secret.
Why are they laughing?
Because I am still without the truth?
No. They laugh because I am young,
too young to hear,
too innocent for the truth.

-by LeAnn Wine

When WARS take their course
views are forced.
Upon the masses words are spoken

LIES and talk of old and new
fill the stone room.

Cold and harsh as the room dies
dim,
thoughts of hope rush in,
on my heart,
HOPE sits on the rim.

A JOKE to millions,
TRUTH to only a few.

Soon that cold and harsh stone
room
will house the BRIGHTEST OF
ALL VIEWS.

-by Chris Rice

Your Eyes

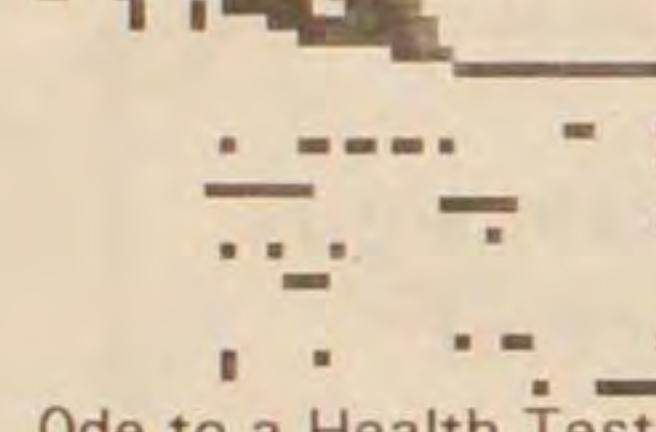
I see mystery, deep, livid pools of
mystery. Whispering black clues yet
guarding the pure white secret.

I see laughter. One moment bubbling
under the surface, The next
rushing overflowing the banks.

What else might I discover hidden,
dwelling in the pools; love, joy, ha-
tred?

Show me.
Let me look deeper.
Let me look in your eyes.

-by LeAnn Wine



Ode to a Health Test

(written while studying for Dan Hoffman's Wholistic Test)

Oh, how wonderful it is to study the complex human body!

The mandible, phalanges, gluteus maximus—vocabulary words fall upon my head like hailstones.

Plaque that the dentist cannot remove

Metal that courses through our veins

Platelets that do not belong to your mother's china set

Such intriguing notions!

Did you know that electrolytes are not part of an electrical circuit?

Fat globules and lipoprotein hypertrophy, causing knowledge to be squished out of my muscular brain.

Or is my brain a muscle?

Of course it's a muscle!

That would explain why it always cramps on test days!

I wonder, is studying anaerobic?

No, I think it is aerobic, and I just forgot to breathe.

And if I'm not breathing, my studying methods must not be very wholistic.

So my question is this: how am I going to pass a wholistic test if I cannot study wholistically?

OH NO!

Now I'm getting stressed out, which will increase my blood pressure,

which will increase the risk of stroke,

which will increase the amount of work my heart has to do,

which will increase risk of heart attack,

which equals death.

I'd better quit studying while I'm still alive.

-by Becky Ullom

On a Cruise for a Moon Pie

Late at the convenience store, the lights making it an island. I saw into a car parked at the edge of the lot.

In and out of the shadows, in and out of the glare of halogen, a man's face and hands moved as if in conversation.

Two young men, strutting by in their leathers, looked at him and laughed.

In the store near the candy a cardboard athlete sold deodorant aimlessly.

A woman at the pump hurries fumbling with the hose and nozzle glancing toward the car mottled in shadow and light

In ten minutes, no one who was there will be.

-by Kevin Hadduck

Zack was a wife beater

when school was out...he was the one burning books

when the skinheads walked along... he was the one who looked when elders stood tall...he thought he knew it all when temptation came near...he was bringing up the rear

when times got hard...he'd fight'em out in the yard

when his job sucked...his wife knew she was fucked

when his eyes are filled with hate...no one can set him straight

when she lay on the ground...he said not to make a sound and when they took him away...she and the sun shone that day

-by Andy Waggoner

CASSIDY'S LEGACY

I'VE BEEN WALKING DOWN THIS STREET THROUGH ROWS OF BROKEN TENANT HOUSES. A PLACE WHICH USED TO BE A LITTLE ITALY. ICE-CREAM STAINED CHILDREN, SUNDAY DINNER FAMILIES, PIPE SMOKE AIR.

I'M WALKING TOWARDS HER HOUSE, RING AND QUESTION. SLUGGISH STEPS WITH ONE FOOT IN DESTINY, ONE FOOT TO RUN AND HANDS FREE TO HAIL A CAB.

THE STREETS I WALK ARE DARK, AND THE HOUSES LARGE. LARGE HOUSES, LARGE SHADOWS, IN LIGHTS OF NIGHT. ME, I HIDE IN THOSE SHADOWS. AND IF THERE IS A LIGHT THEN THERE IS A SHADOW FOR ME.

I SALUTE THE SHADOWS, AND THE ITALIAN CHILD'S FREEDOM, AS I RUN. IF I KNEW WHY I RAN THEN I PROBABLY WOULDN'T HAVE, BUT I RAN. STRAIGHT THROUGH THE SHADOWS, PAST HER HOUSE AND OUT INTO NIGHT. I QUOTE CASSIDY, "IT'S NOT THE FIRST TIME I'VE COMMITTED SUICIDE."

-by Paul Liepelt

Then and Now

At one time, we smoked,
Only to pray.
It's meaningless now,
It's done every day.

We use to give thanks
For sunrise, sunset.
Now, no matter what,
We always forget.

"Respect your elders."
I hear someone say.
It's sad to think,
It's no longer that way.

-by Ruth Haag

LOVE SPILLS FROM HER LIPS

AND TEARS FROM MINE ON A FALL AFTERNOON SHE WAS SHOT WITH A NINE. A SHOT THAT CAME FROM ACROSS THE STREET THE BULLET WAS NOT FOR HER BODY TO KEEP, AND FOR HER LIFE I WOULD SURELY TRADE FOR THE BULLETS AIM WAS MEANT FOR ME. AS SWEET AS AN ANGEL DID SHE LAY, BUT HER MOTHER STILL CURSES ME TILL THIS DAY.

NOTHING ELSE HAS EVER HURT SO MUCH TO KNOW NEVER AGAIN I WILL FEEL HER TOUCH FOR THIS HER MOTHER WISHES FOR ME. A LIFE SPENT IN HELL AND DORMANT FOR ETERNITY THAT READY COME TRUE AND I KNOW NOT WHAT I DO.

-by Damon Harris

6

McLaughlin receives A. O. Duer Scholarship

by Amber Jauken and Brent Briggeman
Spectator Staff and Sports Editor

Nate McLaughlin, a junior at McPherson College, recently received one of the highest honors possible for a student athlete.

McLaughlin, an All-KCAC football player as well as 4.0 scholar, received the A.O. Duer Scholarship for the KCAC. To be eligible for this award a student must be a junior with a 3.75 GPA, and be involved in athletics. Nate easily fulfilled all the criteria.

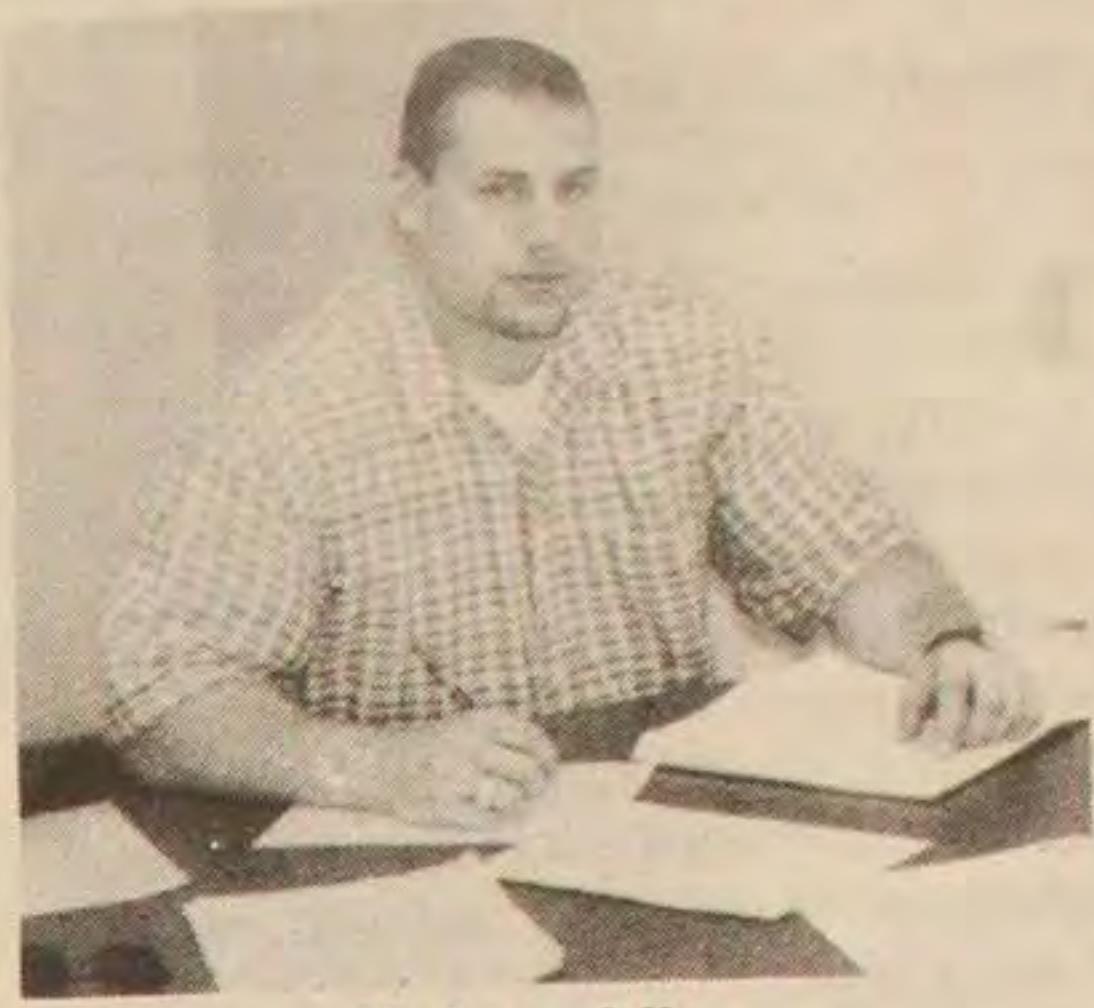
McPherson College President Gary Dill

presented McLaughlin with the award during convocations on April 20. In his presentation Dill commended McLaughlin for his high achievement in the classroom and on the gridiron.

McLaughlin, a transfer student from Mesa Junior College, has made an immediate impact since coming to Mac. On the football field he was an outstanding center, and doubled with a few appearances in the backfield. In fact, in his first carry of the season, he scored the game winning touchdown over Kansas-Wesleyan. He was recently named a captain for off-season training and next season.

In the classroom, McLaughlin's performance has been equally impressive. A biology and pre-med major with a chemistry minor, McLaughlin has a straight 4.0 across the board. He is also a member of Fellowship of Christian Athletes and was recently elected to student government as a representative at large. Following his undergraduate studies, McLaughlin plans on going to medical school to become a cardiologist.

McLaughlin will represent McPherson College and the KCAC at the national NAIA student-athlete conference later this year.



McLaughlin



Matt Friesen, Jr., and Brent Johnson, Sr., race for the finish line in the 100 meter dash.

photo by Cheri Norsworthy

Track team starts to take its stride

by Brent Briggeman
Sports Editor

After a weather-induced slow start, the McPherson College spring sports teams have started to hit on all cylinders.

The track team recently completed its third meet of the season at Bethany. The Swede Invitational saw more individual success for the Bulldogs. Some individuals with strong showings were Katy Neusch, who placed second in the long jump, missing first by a mere inch. The women's 4x100 relay team came in fourth,

and Jeremy Showalter place sixth in the javelin.

The track team also performed at Tabor. The highlights of this meet included a team victory over Pratt Community College, and more individual performances.

Christy Wymore, soph., had a very good meet; placing second in the high jump and third in the long jump. Dana Cordova placed fourth in the shot put, and despite hurting his arm, Showalter placed seventh in the javelin.

Coach John McNamara is pleased with the progress made by the team:

"The new members of the team are con-

tinuing to improve," said McNamara. "Mark Godfrey is improving his sprint performances and Chris Rice recently set his personal best in the 400 meters."

Next up for the track team is a trip to Sterling on Saturday and the conference meet at Tabor.

"I'm confident we'll do well in Sterling," said McNamara. "With only one and a half weeks left in the season we're picking up the intensity in practice. We're at the point now where it's just a matter of fine tuning everything. It's been a good season so far and we look to close out strong."

McPherson Business Club hosts Turkey Creek golf scramble

by Brent Briggeman
Sports Editor

The McPherson College Business Club hosted its first annual golf tournament on April 18. Held at Turkey Creek, the tournament was held in two-man scramble format, with 11 teams participating.

Mother Nature came through in grand style, providing ideal weather for golf.

The tournament was open to McPherson College students and faculty and their guests. Prizes of golf balls, T-shirts, and gift certificates to Wal-Mart were given to the top three finishing teams.

Coming in first place for the tournament with a score of 69 was the team of Tim Herrs and Eric Vogel.

"The tournament was a great time," said Brian Cooper. "I think everyone had a good time. It's definitely something we'll want to do every year."

Basketball team signs hometown legend

by Brent Briggeman
Sports Editor

The McPherson College basketball team made huge strides toward next season by signing McPherson High alum Josh Alexander.

Alexander is currently a sophomore at Hutchinson Community College where he was recently named to the All-Jayhawk conference team as a guard. At McPherson High, the 6'2" Alexander led the Bullpups to two state championships.

He finished his career as an all-state performer and is the all-time leading scorer in school history.

"We are very pleased to have Josh sign," said basketball coach Roger Trimmell. "He will undoubtedly make an immediate positive impact on our basketball program."

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Football coach Grose heads to the mountains

by Brent Briggeman

Sports Editor

Shockwaves spread throughout McPherson College on Tuesday, April 21, as head football coach Bruce Grose announced that he will accept a job in Colorado Springs next season.

Grose, a 1982 graduate of McPherson College, returned to his alma mater in 1993 from Hotchkiss, Colo. In his tenure at McPherson, Grose has witnessed drastic improvement. The 1993 Bulldog team finished at 0-8. Through the next four years under Grose, the records increased every year, leading to this season's record of 6-4.

"My five years at McPherson have been great," said Grose. "It's been a great experience. It's been fun to see the improvement in the program. The overall caliber of student athletes has gotten better year after year. It's just been incredible to watch."

Grose will take over the head coaching

"The number one thing I'll miss will be the players and the relationships formed with the players."

—Bruce Grose, head football coach

duties at Cheyenne Mountain High School in Colorado Springs. A 4A school with an enrollment of 1,200, Cheyenne Mountain is one of the most respected schools in Colorado in both academics and athletics.

"There are a number of reasons why we chose to make the move. My wife's family is from that area. Also without the time restraints of recruiting I'll be able to spend more time with my family. Also with the salary increase, it was the better option. But I do want to emphasize that I leave with no animosity and no regrets. I've had a great

five years and I wish the program all the success in the world."

This year's win over Bethany and the victory over Southwestern last year stand out in Grose's mind as highlights of his five years at McPherson. Both wins broke losing streaks that dated back over 20 years. Other highlights include having four academic All-Americans, especially two who were 4.0. Having 20 blocked punts over the last two years also stands out in his mind.

Grose had some closing thoughts to leave with his students and players at McPherson College.

"I want to express my appreciation for the players. They make the difference. From '93 on, everyone in the program has made a major contribution; working with the players has been fun. The number one thing I'll miss will be the players and the relationship formed with players. At the college level it's a little different because the kids come in from all over and live together and

a bond is formed. In high school the kids graduate and go to college, in college you get to see them find their wives and start their careers. I'm going to miss that."

"It'll be different, no question," said freshman Jonas Lichtry. "I think he's a good coach and a good guy. I just hope we can find a good replacement."

Other students and athletes expressed worries about the future, but congratulated Grose on his excellent opportunity.

"We're definitely going to miss Coach Grose," said athletic director Mel Wright. "His enthusiasm has been wonderful and he is an excellent role model for the students. He has brought our football team to the level where it can compete for a conference championship within the next few years."

A search committee to find a replacement was formed Thursday and hopes to find a replacement within the next week or two to ensure that the program can keep its recently signed recruits.

SPORTS BRIEFS

O'Meara masterful in Augusta

In dramatic style, Mark O'Meara drained a birdie put on the eighteenth to break a three-way tie and claim the Masters Championship. The surprise of the week was the performance of legend Jack Nicklaus. Nicklaus, at 56, finished in sixth.

Utah gains home court

The NBA regular season came to a close last week with no clear favorite for the playoffs. The Utah Jazz, led by MVP candidate Karl Malone earned home court for the Western Conference. The two-time defending champion Chicago Bulls earned home court in the East.

No surprises in the draft

The NFL draft went through its seven rounds in fairly predictable fashion on April 18 and 19. As expected Peyton Manning and Ryan Leaf went one-two to the Indianapolis Colts and San Diego Chargers, respectively. Andre Wadsworth, Charles Woodson, and Curtis Enis rounded out the top five. Marshall wide receiver Randy Moss, thought by many to be the best athlete in the draft slipped to the 21st pick because of what many teams called character problems.

NHL playoffs underway

The NHL playoffs got started Wednesday night. The clear favorite appears to be the Dallas Stars. However, the Colorado Avalanche, Detroit Red Wings, and the Buffalo Sabres led by superstar goalie Dominique Hasek will certainly make things interesting.

All-time sack leader retires, unretires

Reggie White has been in the headlines often recently but it has nothing to do with chasing quarterbacks for the Green Bay Packers. White, an ordained minister recently made comments that many felt were stereotyping races. Then, last week White made headlines by retiring from the NFL. Two days later he announced that God told him to come back, and he decided to return for another year.

Elway ponders future

John Elway, the quarterback of the Super Bowl champion Denver Broncos, has yet to declare whether or not he will be back for another season. As a safety measure, the Broncos drafted Michigan quarterback Brian Griese.

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President addresses nepotism issue to clarify confusions

by Shelly Hendricks & Jennifer Bosserman
Editor-in-Chief & News Editor

Although he hopes to implement a nepotism policy in the future, current employees of the college will not be affected by that policy. President Gary Dill said earlier this week.

A nepotism policy is designed to prohibit institutions from showing favoritism toward family members through hiring practices.

Members of the campus community began to question the college's stance on nepotism after Adam Smith, assistant professor of biology, was not rehired for the 1998-1999 academic year.

Some believed that Smith was not rehired because his parents, Drs. Herb and Jeanne Smith, are also professors employed by the college.

According to Dill, the college has no nepotism policy; Smith was not affected by any similar policy. Smith served a one-year term as a faculty member, and he was encouraged to apply for the biology faculty position.

However, the biology faculty search committee preferred applicants with a doctorate degree and, if possible, some postdoctoral experience. Smith does not yet have his PhD.

"If Adam had applied for the position,

and he did not get rehired, it would not have anything to do with his father being Herb Smith and his mother being Jeanne," Dill said.

Even though nepotism was not a factor in the Smith situation, it is an issue that Dill is addressing. Dill has intentions to work with the administrative team during the 1998-1999 academic year to develop a nepotism policy for the college.

"It was pending agenda this year, but will be active next year," Dill said. "I'm in no hurry to put together an emergency nepotism policy. We'll take whatever time is required to develop a good policy."

In Dill's opinion, having a nepotism policy makes things helpful with the legalities that arise in different situations.

"Our society is very litigious," Dill said.

According to Dill, lawsuits are growing increasingly common, provoked by issues such as sexual discrimination, racism and family relations. Legal advisors are cautioning colleges and universities about nepotism, and they are advising institutions that do not currently have a nepotism policy in place to implement one.

Dill has tried to encourage those who are in positions to hire other college employees to consider his personal practice of not hiring family members.

"I strongly recommend that we do not hire someone who is supervised by a member of his or her own family," Dill said.

If the nepotism policy is implemented, it will not affect those family members currently employed by the college. However, for future hire, it will be the president's intention to not employ family members that would work in the same line of supervision.

"Current staff are unaffected by my personal practice," Dill said.

Another concern Dill has about nepotism is that it can cause persons to be judged on the basis of to whom they are married, rather than for their expertise in an area.

"I wouldn't want any member of my family to be working for the college," Dill said.

According to Dill, some people have suggested that Vicki Dill, president Dill's wife, hold a teaching position at the college, as she is qualified and very talented.

"She has decided, and I support her, that she would never work for the college while I am president," Dill said.

The Associated Colleges of Central Kansas (ACCK) has a nepotism policy, but each individual ACCK college is a separate entity and each campus decides whether or not to implement a nepotism policy.

According to Dill, the ACCK college's range from having no nepotism policy, like McPherson, to one that practices a fairly significantly stated policy.

NEWS BRIEFS

College hosts RYC

McPherson College is hosting the Church of the Brethren's annual Regional Youth Conference (RYC) this weekend.

High school students from four different Church of the Brethren districts will attend the conference, which begins tonight and concludes after the Sunday morning worship.

Chris Douglas, director of Youth and Young adult Ministry in the Church of the Brethren, will lead the sessions for the weekend.

Shawn Kirchner will lead all of the music for the conference. Kirchner will also be performing in a concert on Saturday night at 9 p.m. The performance will be in Brown Auditorium, and it is open to all who wish to attend.

Faculty promoted, sabbaticals announced

The board approved three faculty promotions and three requests for sabbatical leave at the March meeting of the McPherson College Board of Trustees.

The promotions are Dr. Doug Burkholder, associate professor to full professor of mathematics; Prof. David O'Dell, from assistant professor to associate professor of accounting; Dr. Rick Tyler, from associate professor to full professor of speech and theatre.

Future sabbatical leaves were approved for professors John Burden, who serves in the area of psychology; Lowell Flory, business and economics; and Dan Hoffman, physical education.

Student featured in Smoky Hill Art Exhibition

A clay pot entitled "Wounded," by Kevin Thrift, jr., has been chosen for exhibition in the 29th Annual Smoky Hill Art Exhibition held in Hays, Kan., April 24 through May 29 in the Hays Arts Center, 112 E. 11th Street. According to Wayne Conyers, associate professor of art, this exhibition is largely dominated by professional artists, and it is very unusual that undergraduate students are selected to show. The exhibit is open to the public.

Rejoinder defends decision of review

by Sarah W. Hendricks
Editorial Editor

A program review committee of the Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) found minor weaknesses in some of the college's endorsement areas. The curriculum and instruction department, chairs in program areas as well as some administrators are preparing a rejoinder, due at KSDE by May 1, to show how departments are covering the weaknesses found.

"We feel really confident in being able to provide things that prove we are capable," said Dr. Marilyn Kimbrell, chair of the curriculum and instruction department.

The program review committee, consisting of officials in higher education and the public school system, met in Topeka on

March 30-31 to evaluate program folios provided by the college. Small groups read reports pertaining to endorsement areas and evaluated whether or not the college was meeting the required standards.

All endorsement areas had to include documentation from within their departments such as class syllabi. A matrix (a list of each standard and what course or objective meets those standards) was also included in the report.

"We feel good that we have the opportunity to send details and defend ourselves and our programs," Kimbrell said.

Along with the program folios, an accreditation upgrade report was submitted to the state department by the college on March 1. This upgrade was a result of the institutional accreditation stipulations re-

ceived in 1995. Since that time many areas of endorsement programs have been improved and evaluated from within the campus framework.

"None of the stipulations we received had to do with the quality of students and instruction," Kimbrell said. Rather, "we weren't documenting everything as accurately as we should have."

After the program rejoinders are handed over to the KSDE, the college will not have another chance to defend weaknesses found in programs. All of the documentation will go to the Evaluation Review Committee on June 18; the committee will decide whether the standards are being met.

"The standards are there, and I don't have any problem with us proving we're meeting them," Kimbrell said. "What we're going through now is basically standard operating procedures. This is the procedure that every teacher education program in the state goes through."

Continued from Page 1

Softball a possibility for Mac women

would complement the other sports offered at McPherson College. Softball would offer another sport option for women in the spring.

"Many girls don't have a spring sport," Flory said. "It would permit more women to compete in a dual sport combo."

According to Wright, the volleyball/softball or soccer/softball combinations are quite feasible. A basketball/softball combination is more difficult due to the back-to-back seasons.

No final decision has been made about a coach for the softball team. A physical education teaching/coaching position has been advertised; it includes preference for an individual with abilities to coach softball.

"We fully expect to hire a coach who has the ability to recruit," Wright said.

Recruiting women to play two sports has not been successful, however.

"We'd like to develop each sport so that it brings in its own players," Wright said.

"I'd love to have a coach hired when we start the new year," Dill said. "However, if it takes longer to find the right person, I'm willing to take the time."

A slight possibility exists that an off-campus coach may be hired.

The next step for the Athletic Committee is to present their recommendation to President Dill. He will then decide whether to approve it. This decision does not require a vote by the Board of Trustees.

"We will inform the board of what we're doing," Dill said. "But this is a program decision that helps us implement our mission statement which the board has already approved."

Even though a final decision has not been made by the administration, the results of the Athletic Committee's research have been positive.

"We have done good research for the softball program," Nate McLaughlin, jr., said.

"Overall it will be great for the school."

"I was glad the committee took the time to look at the questions and findings before making a final decision," Flory said.

The President will have the final say when he receives the recommendation.

"The proposal makes sense," Dill said.

Students to live in pods

in a pod will include a space to name an eleventh and twelfth person that members of the pod would like to live with if space permits.

Every attempt will be made to place pod groups that are not randomly drawn in clustered rooms in Dotzour Hall or Metzler Hall.

The unselected pods will be placed in clusters depending on where there are enough open rooms next to each other.

Other students will have already signed up for specific rooms which could limit the number of connecting open rooms.

Decisions have not been made as to who will live in the new halls and how people will apply to live there if not enough pods apply.

Also, decisions have not been made as to who will live in Fahnstock Hall if one of the new dorms is not completed by the fall.

Those decisions cannot be made until pods have been selected and it is determined how long construction will take.

According to Whitacre, the reason for allowing students to apply as self-selected units for the pods in the new dorms is to ensure good relations among those living in such a close proximity.

It is also a way to fill the new halls for next year without predisposing the hall to a particular personality type.

However, students will not sign up in to live in pods for the 1999-2000 academic year. Students who currently want to live in the new dorms, but who are not a part of a pod will have the opportunity to sign up to live in the new dorms in 1999-2000.

The fourth resident director has not been selected. This selection will be made after interviews in May.

Students who want to live off campus, but do not meet the qualifications may not have their parents sign a lease to an apartment and then live there without their parents.

The college cannot physically force people to abide by the residential policy. And the college cannot force students to break a lease and move back to the dorms, but the college can charge students for room and board if guidelines indicate they should be a residential student.

Due to new halls being built and Dotzour and Metzler being divided into freshmen and nonfreshmen sections, all residential students are experiencing change.

Few people will live in the same room that they lived in this year. Students are losing something, but hopefully will also be gaining new experiences, according to Whitacre.