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Encounter

students of Kearney State College

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KSC Student Magazine
Volume 5 Issue 4
Tuesday, May 9, 1978

KSC's ghost legends pgs. 8-9
SO LONG!
Have a good summer.
We've enjoyed serving
You.

Magazine reflects KSC

In four issues of the magazine, we editors became aware of who we wanted to direct our efforts toward, published stories based on campus, community and national issues and changed the name to reflect our objectives.

Basically, the Encounter is a student news magazine, differing in its approach to news coverage from that of the college newspaper. The Antelope, functions specifically as voice of the campus, whereas the magazine can and does fill the void of providing an in-depth approach to events and reaches out for news beyond the confines of campus. Both publications feature articles and artwork by students in and outside of the journalism field.

In the first issue of the magazine published during this academic year (then still referred to as the Ozone), we published such stories of community and national impact on Civil Defense, solar heating, Chevyland and the marijuana issue in an effort to appeal to the college scene — meaning students, faculty, administrators and staff.

In subsequent publications, such stories as cults, science fiction, senior citizens, natural gas and the renter's insurance were featured.

Campus-oriented stories have also been featured in past issues on such facets as KSC's underground newspaper, minority students (to which one student replies in this issue) and a special section on 75 years of KSC.

With this issue, the final one for 1977-78, three of our writers dug for facts about ghosts on and off campus and we have featured the stories in the centerfold.

In a further pursuit to appeal to our readers, we developed projects throughout each issue to attain your input. Disappointingly, we received little response from most of you so we don't know what you think. But to those of you we did hear from, especially commendations to the issue featuring the history of KSC, we thank you.

Every editor is faced with judgments; deciding what interests readers and how it should be presented to them. We were, and hope our judgments met your anticipations. Next year's staff will also have to make decisions, and can. So to the new editors Diane Schutt, Vicki Hunzeker, Marcia Hughes, Camille Whitefoot and Cindy Arnold, good luck.
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Students dream of fates, futures

by Karen Kilgarin

College students, still remembering those childlike dreams of becoming an astronaut or a movie star and at Kearney State College many dreams are being pursued.

"Although I have a social work major, I want to pursue a career in student personnel guidance," said Dan Ostergard of Gothenburg. "I want to work within the post-secondary educational system as a student programming adviser."

Before Ostergard can begin that career, he says he needs to return to school for his master's degree.

"I want to live in New York City and be rich," said Ostergard. "It will be nice when I get a stylish condominium and my two cars — a Datsun 280Z and a 924 Porshie."

Ostergard doesn't want to be famous, he just wants to be remembered as a "gu­y who has his shit together."

"I'd like to be married by the time I'm 25 but I have some traveling to do first," he said. "I plan on hitchhiking from coast to coast, and I want to spend at least one month getting lost in New York City."

Ostergard says he'd also like to go to Europe, China, Russia and Africa. "I'd especially like to spend time in Kenya, Africa, as a driver on a safari."

However, Fremont student Johnson says, "I am preparing myself for working as a medical technician or as an athletic trainer. But I want to follow in Paul William's footsteps and be a lyricist. I have always wanted to work with Carol Burnett or Lucille Ball as a comedian, but since both their shows are off, so are my plans."

Johnson doesn't want to become rich, "I just need a 10-speed bike, a head of lettuce and crazy friends," she said. "I foresee marriage in the future, but I don't know if I can do it." Johnson plans to make a pilgrimage to Sweden because she's Swedish. She also would like to live in Sweden or Colorado. "The one thing I would like to accomplish is to find a cure for menstruation," said Johnson.

Kathy Bradley of Omaha would like to work for an adoption agency. "I will probably get married before I'm 25, but before I settle down I have lots of traveling to do," said Stana. "I plan on seeing Europe and all the states for sure. I want houses in various places, with my main home in the Alps or mountains somewhere."

Bradley hopes to be someone who people can look up to and depend on.

Brian Ludtke of Arcadia wants to "be­gin my career as a speech teacher and later become an auctioneer. I plan on building rich with a very elaborate home to be built in Nebraska on a hill."

His dream house will be 12 feet off the ground and circular with glass window­s surrounding it, according to Ludtke. It will rotate very slowly and will produce its own electricity and use solar heat.

"I also want two cars — a four-door silver-and-maroon Mercury Marquis and a green Honda," he said.

Ludtke wants to be married before he's 30, but he does want children. "I want to own a string of hotels with tropical fish stores in them," said Ludtke. "I also plan on visiting Germany, England and Scotland. I want to see the castles. They are so neat maybe I'll buy one."

Ludtke wants to be well-known, but as he says, "not so important that kids have to study about me in history books. I want to make my mark in this world by being outspoken on politics and philosophy."

Omaha student Lloyd plans on working as a journalist for an airline magazine. "I hope to win the Pulitzer Prize by the time I'm 40 years old," said Lloyd. "I also want to get enough legal background to become a lobbyist for a special interest group that is concerned with rape victims, child abuse victims or wife abuse victims."

Lloyd says she doesn't care about being rich. "I just want to be very comfortable," she said. "I do want a library in my home and a grand piano, although she says she doesn't know how to play."

"I considered being either a doctor or a dancer," said Lloyd. "I really would have preferred being the first Episcopal woman priest, but some chick beat me to it."

Lloyd says she will probably get married but she wants to find herself as an individual first. "There is one requirement for my prospective husband," said Lloyd. "He must be in favor of the Equal Rights Amendment."

Lloyd plans on having three children — "one boy, one girl and the third one is a toss-up," she said. "My travels will include trips to Israel, New York City and Ireland. "I want to visit the Irish Spring Soap Factory in Ireland and I plan on living in Minneapolis," Lloyd said.

Dave Sterner of Menza says, "I don't care what I'm doing as long as I'm happy. I don't want to be rich, just comfortable. I would like to be married by the time I'm 30, but since I'm 20 I suppose I'll have to settle for 27. I want a beautiful wife with a great personality."

Sterner says he sees no reason to leave his mark in the world. "He who has the biggest tombstone is just as dead as the rest of us," he said.

Omaha student Kerber, on the other hand, wants to work as a medical techni­cian in Denver. Kerber likes the outdoors and wants a Huskie because she likes big dogs.

"I would love to be a cross-country truck driver and take my Huskie with me — like in 'Smoky and the Bandit'," said Kerber.

Kerber doesn't want a fortune. She says she'll be satisfied to have "a light blue Camaro with a racing stripe and a sunroof."

"I do not want to be married in my life for quite awhile," she said. "I enjoy being independent."

Tom Piva of Chappell plans on staying near Kearney and teaching English or speech pathology. "I do not want to be rich, it causes too much trouble," said Piva. "I want to live comfortably and be able to take care of myself."

Piva plans on seeing Europe after grad­uation. "I especially want to visit southern France, Spain and Italy," he said.

"I want to get married before I'm 30," he continued. Piva says he wants to work "with the people, not above them. I see no need in leaving my mark in this world, I just try to be the best person I can and live my life to the fullest."

"I want a job I enjoy so much that it wouldn't matter if I was paid or not," said Claire Kelly of Verdon. "I don't care about being rich, but I want to be secure."

Kelly says she won't get married in the near future. "I always wanted to be beautiful," said Kelly. "I really got off watching Cinderella and the Miss America shows when I was young. Now I just want to be remembered as a nice person."

Kelly plans to visit Ireland. "I want to see the County Clare — my namesake," she said.

Mark Elliker of Waverly intends to "go into the U.S. Army to see the world. After my military career, I plan on teaching in­dustrial education in a high school." Elliker has always dreamed about traveling the states on his motorcycle. "I'd just let the road take me where it wanted," he said. "I want to live comfortably, just an average American."

Undoubtedly, the fate and future of these students, their ideas and careers can only be left to the pursuit of their dreams.
Dropouts drop in on alternative education

by P.J. Bosak

Mike doesn't know what he wants to do with his life. At 16 he doesn't even think about what will be happening next month, let alone next year. He knows one thing, though. He doesn't want to go to school. He has had enough of it and the continual being lifted by teachers who don't know him or who think they know him all too well.

Mike and hundreds more like him are lost in a world of rules and "That's the way it is supposed to be," and they just don't care anymore.

These kids used to be part of a horrifying statistic the education system called dropouts. Some people refer to them as discipline problems, irresponsible kids or just plain lazy, long-haired bums. Actually they are normal kids with no direction in their lives. All the labels put on them are just symptoms of a deep seated problem that can be cured.

"Cheshire Puss . . . said Alice, "would you tell me, please, which way I ought to go from here?"

"That depends a good deal on where you want to get to," said the Cat.

"I don't much care where," said Alice.

"Then it doesn't matter which way you go," said the Cat.

"So long as I get somewhere," Alice added as an explanation.

"Oh, you're sure to do that," said the Cat. "If you only walk long enough."

Lewis Carroll

Alice's Adventure in Wonderland

The Cat is saying something traditional education hasn't said to the students. A new approach was started eight years ago to remedy that problem and the results have been phenomenal. Alternative Education, as the program is known, has made a dent in the staggering numbers of dropouts because of its unique approach to education in the public school system.

Alternative Education isn't just a catch-all for the kids who don't make it in the regular school setting. The theory of the program is to offer children a more meaningful education and at the same time keep them in school with their peers.

Kearney started an Alternative Education Program last fall under the guidance of De Tonack. The converted mathematics teacher got involved with the program and still believes it must be an integral part of the high school system.

According to Tonack, the program isn't just a place for wayward kids. "We aren't here to baby sit the kids because some teacher was having trouble with them," she said. "We have very bright, alert kids in the program who just want more from school than the traditional approach provides. Our program is just one of many that come under the Alternative Education label."

There are several other similar programs in Nebraska and each goes about their business in an individual way. "Each school handles the program differently," said Tonack. "Our room is part of the school but it is unique in that there is a door to the school and one to the outside. This gives the kids a chance to come and go without being ridiculed by other students."

According to Tonack, when the program first began one student said she wouldn't come unless there was an outside door. Tonack had a difficult time convincing the community and the school faculty what the designs of the program entailed. "Last summer I made at least 56 home visits to inform parents what we were planning and I contacted kids who had dropped out to get them back to school," she said.

"The faculty was a little easier because I had to talk individually with each of them so I could be sure they understood."

Kids have to be referred to the program by a parent, teacher or counselor before they can enroll. The typical student doesn't exist in Alternative Education because each one has a different problem and a different direction to take in solving it. Most seem to be low motivation types who need to mature and gain some self-esteem if they are to succeed.

Success in the Alternative Education Program isn't necessarily a diploma, according to Tonack. "There are some kids here who won't get their diploma, but we can give them some help in finding themselves and a place in the job market."

"We don't give out credits for anything, the kids have to work for them," Tonack said. "The staff has developed lots of packages for the kids to complete on their own and then we help them on a one to one basis. We also have group projects like income tax, job skills, death and dying that we do a class on."

The style of instruction is different in Alternative Education too. Guest speakers from the surrounding areas come in and talk with the students about their particular field of interest. Morticians, lawyers, poets, counselors and pro and anti-abortion spokespersons are but a few who have visited this spring.

"We try and make everything we teach relate to the real world on an immediate basis. All of the English, science, social studies and math skills are approached from the angle of how they are necessary in everyday life." Tonack said. "The traditional approach hasn't worked for these kids so we always try something new. If it works we keep it, and if it doesn't we try it and try again with something else."

Not wanting to neglect physical development, the program offers a wide variety of physical education skills. This spring the class has been cross-country skiing, bowling, sledding, hiking, rappelling and playing racquet ball and frisbee.

The kids in Alternative Education also go downtown to local businesses. According to Coordinator Darrel Muehling, the employers show the students what their businesses do and how they do it and let the students try their hand at it. The experience may be just the impetus needed to stimulate a student to give school another try.

The reactions to the program have been varied. "Most people who knock the program do it because of the type of kids we have, instead of the program we offer," Tonack said. "We get a lot of favorable comments, too, when our kids do well or show improvement."

With 40 kids in the program, hassles are bound to occur and Tonack said the class has its share of hassles.

" Skipping is the main problem we encounter and there are some battles," she said. "I call parents and counsel the kids about it. They feel hurt, but the give and take is a part of life and they soon realize it. If they learn to accept some responsibility by being here, then I feel we have made progress."

Tonack said her job wasn't one for an experienced teacher or for any insecure people. "We have a great staff, including JoAnn who has an English background, Mary Bauer who is our grandmother-secretary and Darrel who handles the business assignments. It is rough on us because we all have to study subjects we have to teach outside of our field. But when you see a kid do well it makes everything worthwhile."

Tonack said if it is too soon to tell whether the program is successful, "I know it is because I have seen the change in the kids and that is positive," she said. "We try and go beyond what others have done to reach these kids and when they improve their behavior, the way a lot of these kids have, I don't see how you couldn't call it successful."
Expectations of going home

by Jill Jershin

The end of school is in sight. Soon it will be time again to say goodbye to college friends, the dorm and Slaters — hello to home cooking, family life and one’s own personal room and privacy. “Home sweet home.”

During the entire drive home you have been picturing in your mind the happy faces of your family as they run to meet you. Your favorite dinner will be waiting on the table and everyone will be anxious to be the first to tell you about the excitement you’ve missed since your last visit home.

After dinner (you have volunteered to help with the dishes but your mother refuses) you walk into your good old room. Yes, just as you left it. There is your favorite poster on the wall and that newspaper clipping of the time you won the pie eating contest in high school is still on the bulletin board where you left it. Tonight you’ll sleep in your own bed. Anything can be better than those lumpy things at school...

Oh, oh, better pay attention to the road, you’re almost there. Looks like they have added a few more houses to the neighborhood since you were there last. You can spot your house a block away, just waiting for your return. But wait, something isn’t right.

The driveway is full of cars and you have to park on the street. What is the big idea? They knew you were coming home today. The least they could have done was let you room in the driveway. And you thought your parking troubles were over for a while.

Where is the welcome committee you expected to come running to meet you with open arms? Oh, well, maybe they didn’t know you were coming home today. As you step inside the door and announce your arrival: your mother calls a pleasant “Oh, Hi, Honey. Are you back already? Could you come downstairs and give me a hand?” How could she have made it all semester without you?

You are soon informed of everyone’s whereabouts. Your father went golfing after work, your sister is visiting some friends, your brothers are at baseball practice and your mother is just getting ready to walk out the door — bridge club tonight. But someone will be home soon, she tells you, and if you are hungry, there’s a TV dinner in the freezer. “It’s good to have you home again,” she calls on her way out the door.

Well, better start unpacking. You took a lot of stuff to school so this might take quite a while.

One step into your room and you stop dead in your tracks. You don’t recognize anything of your own in the room. In fact, the whole personality of the room has changed. Just then you hear the front door slam. Ah, ha, your sister is home. You’ll get an explanation from her or else. She calmly explains that little brother decided to move into your room because mom wanted to use his room for sewing. Looks like you’ll be sleeping in the basement this summer.

This is the limit. It sure isn’t the welcome home you had expected. But then, maybe you had expected a little too much. Looks like life goes on whether you are home or not.

The family members have returned now and you haven’t stopped talking for hours. So many questions and stories to tell. Maybe your family really missed you after all. Tomorrow they are planning a picnic at the nearest lake. Guess it does feel good to be home again.

The summer will probably go quickly and all too soon it will be time to go back to college life. Better take advantage of living at home while you can. “Home Sweet Home.”

Key—view of problems, not color

The key happens to be what we view as our problems.

I recognize that by some people’s standards I am a minority student. In fact, my blackness may have caused problems for others, but at KSC being black has not created any particular problems for me.

I suppose I could choose to permit my race to be a problem for me. I could focus all my attention on coping with only that problem.

But I’m doing so, I’d only shortchange myself in regard to the real reason I came to KSC — for an education.

Therefore, I am more concerned with dealing with my goals and aspirations, the success of my studies and enjoying people as people. It is consequently very satisfying to me when I am confronted by people who deal with me only on the basis of my race.

This is, I believe, true for me as well as most minority students. We’re too busy, just like the rest of you, trying to make it in this world.

Therefore, if we hinder ourselves by creating a problem out of our race, or by permitting others to create a problem out of our race — we all lose.

It’s important to remember — no one needs to lose. We must strive to evaluate an individual as a whole and accept characteristics which differ from our own.
**Freedom, National Security and Politics**

**Cultural geographers of the world via slides**

by Joan Patterson

For just three credit hours, a student can travel to South America, Central America, Asia, Europe, Africa and Latin America in Cultural Geography 106 under Bob Lind, assistant professor of Geography.

Since his arrival at KSC in 1967, Lind has spent each summer in a different country of the world, learning about the history and culture of these regions. In helping his students record his impressions of the places he visited, Lind has taken more than 10,000 slides over the past 16 summers. The entire format of Lind's class is based around the use of the slides. Lind considers his use of slides as important to his teaching as a microscope is to microbiology or music for dancing.

"Students learn more about physical and cultural phenomena of the world from these," said Lind. "Of course, only a part of the slides are used in class, and these must be sorted immediately after he returns from a trip."

Before embarking on a trip, Lind says he does a lot of reading on the area so "I know what to look for. By reading, I can visualize a general idea of what a place looks like. Of course, one always has preconceived images of a place that a photograph can rarely match, but you see things you don't anticipate."

Lind makes his summer plans early in the year so he can be prepared. Already this year, he is making plans to visit the Liberian part of Liberia and has already done some reading on the history and culture of the area.

"During the first semester of school, I reflect on the previous summer's trip," said Lind. "The second semester is one of anticipation. Right now I'm in the period of anticipation," he admitted.

Lind usually travels by himself, except when he travels with a fellowship group for two summers. "I have to travel by myself because people would go crazy trying to keep up -- I travel at a very slow pace."

Besides visiting the typical tourist places, Lind enjoys going to the 'out of the way' places in industrial regions, rural areas, villages and seaports. "When traveling to the more remote areas, Lind sometimes rents a jeep, and four wheel drive vehicle and translator. Communication is sometimes difficult." Lind said. "The elite usually speak English, but most locals speak a Spanish dialect." Lind speaks some German and is now working on learning Spanish for his trip this summer. "I'm not a language expert."

As a seasoned traveler, Lind has visited 54 countries and has been in all but two states in the United States. This includes a representative area of all the major regions of the world, except Antarctica, Australia and New Zealand, which he plans to visit some time in the future.

Still, he doesn't sing out a best country. "There are so many different areas that are interesting," Lind said. "Some regions impress one with their physical geography and others with their cultural geography. India was the most intellectually stimulating," Lind found.

"I want to go to everywhere I've been, yet I want to go to new places, too," said Lind. Lind is making plans to return to Africa in 1979.

Although Lind says he has received some status being an American in certain places, he has never felt any anti-American sentiment in Africa. "Neither in Africa nor in Asia was I insulted for skin color either."

Lind said that, psychologically, one feels cosmopolitan but it is educational. "You feel more at ease with minorities in your own group," Lind said. "By traveling, I look at my own culture more objectively," he added. "I can see good and bad aspects."

One thing that bothers Lind is the treatment of the elderly in the United States. "It is difficult to age here," Lind pointed out. "Emphasis is on the youth culture. In India, people age gracefully. The elderly are respected in the family and they receive more respect."

Lind also noted that poverty is relative to a country's culture. Poverty is based on standards of living. For instance, someone considered wealthy in an underdeveloped country may be middle class in the United States.

While traveling, Lind has been able to view living under different forms of government. He has visited countries with right-wing dictatorships, left-wing dictatorships, communist and democracy. "In general, free people usually are more happy," Lind said.

Born in Fort Morgan, Colo., a town halfway the size of Kearney, Lind attended school there 12 years, then went on to the University of Northern Colorado. Lind earned both his bachelor's and masters degrees there and did graduate work at Michigan State and Louisiana State Universities.

"I am a true outdoorsman, not materialistic. I find my travels stimulating and good mental exercise," Lind said.

"The more I read and travel, the more I realize how little I know in relation to what is out there. I want to return to the larger physical and cultural world," Lind concluded. "It's very overwhelming."
The attic is another site of strange happenings.

"Early in the morning, if you open the door to the attic, you can hear some very strange things — like a woman moaning," Hvam said.

Hvam is doubtful as to whether the house is actually haunted. "I don't think you can say the house is haunted but there is a presence there. You just can't antagonize whatever is there," he said. "It doesn't like noise. One time I was doing a physics experiment with ultrasonic waves. Again, I was totally sober and straight. Suddenly, all the books in my room started flying." Before that experiment, Hvam said he didn't mind living in that house. "I didn't bother me. I could study, rent was cheap and it was close to campus."

"Things disappeared from our apartment all the time — dishes, food, money. It's a strange house."

The house was built during the same era as the Frank House, now owned by KSC. Frank, a land developer, built the house for a prominent judge in town.

Hvam and Guge discovered a secret room up in the penthouse (the same area where other sources claim there was a hanging). "We went into the room and found several Valentine cards from this judge's daughter to a guy named Teddy," Hvam said. Hvam believes the name connection is not coincidental. "There were valentines and lace all tacked up on the walls. We turned all the stuff, mostly from 1912 to 1920, over to the Frank House." Hvam also believes that Teddy was the son of Frank.

The seance, which the Sig Taus heard about, did actually occur according to Hvam, who claims to have participated in it. "We were really into it (the ghost) by this time, so we tried to contact this spirit. There was a group of friends together one night, one of which was my ex-sister-in-law, Connie McDonnell," Hvam said. "Connie became the driving force behind it all. I was in some kind of deep space type of thing and I tried to kill her."

"My soul was floating in a peaceful void and the next thing I knew it was five or six minutes later and four people were holding me down and I had a death grip on her neck."

McDonnell did not hesitate to give a detailed account of the seance. "That was pretty weird," she commented. "There were six people. We sat in a circle with a candle in the center and held hands. Teddy started to chant. 'We wish to see you, contact us.' It wasn't working so I took up the chant."

"I could tell Teddy was going into something. I said something and he didn't repeat it," she continued. "Both of his hands came to me and everyone freaked out. When we snapped him out of it, he said he felt he was flying and then tried to choke me."

Hvam added, "At that time, everyone in that house was very good friends, but after that seance it was pretty much all shot to hell."

McDonnell had a friend. Rosie, who lived in another apartment in that house. Together they witnessed some other unusual events. "One day in Rosie's downstairs apartment, I came in following Rosie. I saw some money laying there on the floor. It wasn't there when she walked by and I was right behind her."

There were other money games. "Rosie had a roll of silver dollars from her father. One day she went back and there were two of them," according to McDonnell.

"Her friend Rosie was in bed one morning, heard her husband leave and then saw a shadow go across the door. She never figured out what it was."

McDonnell said there were also music games in the old house. "There was a radio in the upstairs apartment that went off when we were out in the other room. One time Rosie went to bed, woke up and the light was on. Her husband woke up later and the light was off." She also claims the animals in the house behaved strangely. The cats would sometimes jump up and run around and then come back. "You could see their eyes watching something. Sometimes animals have a psychic ability."

So what has become of the ghost? Did she really move out with a tenant, as the story says?

"I don't know if it's true she moved out with a tenant, maybe with me," Hvam said. Although he doesn't claim to have seen the ghost again, he says she is still around.

"There are times I'll sit at the table (at my new apartment) and she'll come in. I don't want you to think I'm crazy, but wherever I go this lady follows me."

Hvam believes he has good reason to think she is following him. "She does weird things, like she steals my socks and stuff. I take a lady home, it gets upset and breaks things."

He said he had a glass top on his dresser, which he is sure was in perfect condition when he got up one morning to shower. He came back after showering and it was shattered.

"It's strange, I'll admit that. I don't try to explain it, but I'm not afraid of it. I understand it in a certain way, but not totally."

"It's spooky if you believe it is the soul of someone dead, but I think it's some kind of energy field. To tell the truth, I don't think about it. Once you accept it, it's a lot easier to live with," Hvam said.

"I believe in it. My opinion is that ghosts exist, but in a different dimension than we are living in," he added.

"I don't believe in her, but then I do. She was very good looking, but unfortunately she walks through walls — not the kind of girl you want to take home to Mom."

"That's one face I'll never forget."
by Diane Schuitt

Legend has it she is a young woman in her twenties dressed in white. She has long, dark hair hanging down her back. She loves to stand in lighted windows so one can see her shadows moving from outside. She is a ghost.

The ghost, commonly referred to as Mary at the Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity House, has appeared to people there since the middle ’60s, when a local fraternity, the Caledonians, took over the building.

The favorite story among Sig Eps about Mary’s suicidal hanging in the Sig Ep basement is that the house was a brothel and that Mary was an unhappy inhabitant. She got out of it by hanging herself.

Mary is at least a very mysterious individual. She most often appears to men at the house when there are only one or two members at home—especially over vacations, breaks or late at night. As for the young men who have seen Mary, one can see the fear in their eyes, said one Sig Ep member.

Former KSC student and Sig Ep member Bill Weeks had an encounter with Mary during the spring of his sophomore year in college.

“I came home late, about three in the morning and was the only one up. I went upstairs and was reading the bulletin boards on the second floor level of the house. I heard this creaking noise like someone was walking upstairs. It turned the corner and walked to one of the back rooms. I got a little spooked while this was going on so I went and stood in one of the doorways of a room. I could see there was no one in there.”

Weeks recalled another story. I can’t remember who it was or who saw it but somebody was walking past our showers in the bathroom and saw somebody in there. There’s only one entrance to it, but when they went in no one was there.”

Weeks is now attending the University of Nebraska Medical School.

Mary is similar to others. Steve Napali, KSC graduate and Sig Ep member had this to say about the Sig Ep ghost.

“I think the most frightening time was when it was Christmas or Spring Break in 1975 when I heard noises. I walked into the house one night and I heard a party upstairs, people talking and laughing. I went up there but there was nothing upstairs. Then the noise was downstairs, but there was nothing there.”

Nabity also heard similar ghost stories from other Sig Eps.

“One guy saw it. He walked upstairs to the sleeping dorm. All of a sudden he said he got real cold around him. He got scared and left. Once outside he looked back at the house and saw a nude woman standing in one of the upstairs windows.”

Curiosity regarding Mary and ghost stories told around the Sig Ep House prompted two activities to find out what they could about the story. Dan Drain of Lincoln and Steve Ball of Blair began by looking at abstract house deeds at the Buffalo County Register of Deeds Office. They discovered the Sig Ep House was built in 1905 and owned by the Dryden family.

According to recorded transactions, “One father would give it to a daughter as a wedding present for $1,” Drain said.

Altogether the property changed hands about 10 times, sometimes staying in the same family for as many as three generations. Eventually it was turned into an apartment building.

From here Drain talked to two older women at the Kearney County Library to see if they remembered the event. He also went to the Kearney Daily Hub to see if he could find a write-up on the death but found nothing. Drain checked police records and talked to Kearney Chief of Police Dallas Samp to see if he knew any facts about the death.

After a day, “we gave up,” Drain said. “I just wasn’t paying off. I guess you could say our research wasn’t too extensive.”

But if one continues the research, as this reporter did, one discovers some of the legends are indeed fact and other parts are just that, legend or myth.

Sometime between 1959 and 1963 a woman 35 to 40 years of age committed suicide by hanging from the basement rafters of the Sig Ep House. This was then an apartment building. Robert Munscher, a private Kearney lawyer, said part of his duties as attorney included serving as coroner. The police called him to the suicide to sign the death certificate.

“I saw some grizzly things while in office. This was one of the most horrible memories of my life. She had used a white cord and wrapped it around one of the basement rafters. In order to suspend herself she was hanging with her knees only about two inches off the floor when I saw her,” he explained.

Jack Rall, Kearney resident documented that “Mary was a very good friend of mine and I went over and stood outside with the crowd while he was inside. I remember them carrying out the dead body.”

From there the legend is fantasy. The fraternity house is never a house of ill repute. Rall, a lifetime Kearney resident, said he remembered the house when he was a small boy walking to school. “The house was always a family home. Well kept. It always had a beautiful green lawn. After that it was an apartment building, believe me.”

Whether Mary is a restless lost soul or the invention of the zealous imaginations of a group of men after a long night at bars remains living in the city. But there is enough to keep several individuals in and around the Sig Ep House believing in her existence. Mary is the best way to keep someone up, especially at late night in one of the basement fraternity rooms, in the presence of a few scared and nervous young women. Perhaps that’s why the legend of Mary the ghost is still with us.
EDITORS NOTE: This article introduces five KSC seniors. All are outstanding in their fields, according to professors. Yet, none of the five see themselves as having any special impact on other people.

The students have goals and careers to pursue and, as their stories will indicate, the willingness and tenacity to succeed.

by Rosie Reimer

Lori Bendickson

"Teaching has never been a high-paying job, but I'm hoping there will be a lot of intangible rewards to it." With that attitude, Lori Bendickson, elementary education major from Scottsbluff, is eagerly awaiting her first teaching position in the fall.

"I don't know if people stop to consider that children are probably our most valuable natural resource, and it's something significant to offer them as a teacher," Lori said.

Lori lives by the philosophy that the good things in life probably influence people more than the negative. "Whether a situation is considered bad depends on how the individual deals with it. I don't think anyone can fail on the basis of one incident. Bad experiences can be put to good use in helping us to grow and change."

A sense of humor, a positive outlook and complete honesty are the three most important qualities Lori values in people. "If I find things in others that irritate me, it's probably because I recognize them in myself. I have a great deal of respect for people who achieve the goals I want to, and I really admire people who take responsibility for their own lives."

Lori has been and continues to be involved in social and educational groups at KSC. She is president of the Student Education Association, a member of Kappa Delta Pi, an APhi little sister and is active in her department's major's club. Before moving off campus, she was a RA in Martin Hall and is currently one of four undergraduate representatives on the Teacher Education Committee. Last year she was named to "Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges." I try to run on my own initiative, but sometimes I need a push," Lori said.

Ten years because people can change drastically in just one year. I feel good about my education and where I'm going but I can see change in myself already. It goes back to the old cliche, 'your parents get smarter as you get older.' I'm just now beginning to appreciate their sacrifices."

For Lori, self-satisfaction has to be the motivator in achieving success. "In some areas, a grade point is important in affecting the chance for success. But to me, a well-rounded person who works up to potential in several areas has developed dimensions a grade point couldn't have."

"For Lori, immediate plans include graduating and handling the decisions that come with it. "There's going to be a lot of competition in the job market, but I think I can handle myself under pressure. Decisions are just a natural part of life and even though I conform to a lot of things, I think I have my own mind."

Lori is sure in there are several ways to meet success and people shouldn't hesitate to tackle problems. "The only difference between an obstacle and a challenge is that an obstacle is something to be overcome and a challenge is an invitation."

Shari Kinder

Shari Kinder has been at KSC for five years and believes she is ready for a bigger city. "Too many kids from Nebraska are scared to move away and make changes," said Shari. "To be successful, I'm going to have to do what I really enjoy doing and I'm limited by this area of the country."

What Shari enjoys doing is performing in musicals and theatre productions. During the summer of 1976, she played flute in the orchestra of the Young Americans. "I missed the chance to sing when I had my motorcycle accident. I was laid up for quite a while because my leg was broken in three places. I guess I haven't really thought too much about my plans because I'm still kind of coming out of a slump."

But she still wants to sing. "I would like to think that opportunity would come to me," Shari said. "But I'm sure I'm going to have to go out and look for it. I am ready to start working, and I work hard at what I like. I'm an anxious person and I get restless waiting for things to happen."

Shari considers herself an individual who enjoys being creative. "The only thing about creativity is that it takes time. I wish you could be more creative in college, but you can't. For example, we only have one composition class in music (at Kearney State)."

Offstage, Shari enjoys a good party. "I love to party. My friends are important to me and I value them a lot. I like to do things for people and I guess I pretty much react to their friendliness to me. The only thing I don't like is a bad party — one that is too static."

"I don't consider myself a super outgoing person, and I know I'm slow to meet people sometimes, but I really can't be competitive for the sake of competition. I've tried to be involved at KSC in the way of musicals and recitals, and I've learned a lot. It's just time to move on."

No department is without its faults, and Shari doesn't hesitate to name one of the music department's. "We need more jocks — there just aren't enough to arouse the students. Shari considers the ultimate in her career goals is having the choice between a Broadway play and an opera."

"There are a lot of things I'd like to do, but the main thing is to be happy. Very few things, with the exception of bad music, bore me."

"Marriage? Well, I'll think about it when the time comes. Right now I just want to have a good time."

Larry Bragg

When people ask Larry Bragg if he is going to make a good doctor, he doesn't hesitate to say yes, and with good reason. Larry seems to demonstrate the tenacity and scholarship necessary to succeed. He has recently been accepted into the University of Nebraska Medical Center at Omaha, and plans to begin studies in the fall.

"Grades are certainly not the only measure of a person," Larry says, "but they are of real importance in my field. Had I not been accepted into med school, I would have blamed it on too low a grade point."

Larry's interest in medicine stems from his interest in biology and his belief that medicine is a practical and worthwhile application. "I know I have a lot to learn, but as dumb as it might sound, I do want to help people. It's going to be hard to adjust to the image. No, I don't know how I'll tell a patient he is going to die, or what I'll do when a patient won't name his contacts, but I hope it will come with time."

Larry, who grew up in Kearney, confesses that he hasn't always worked hard in college. "In fact, I wasted my first three semesters here. The greatest temptation to me right now is wanting to go out and have a good time when I shouldn't."

Independence is of extreme importance to Larry, who views himself as "usually knowing what I want.‖ He admires others who like to have fun but at the same time have a degree of self-discipline. "I know how hard it is to make it and I guess that's a lot of what I admire in other people. I'm adventurous in that I like to have fun, but I don't think I take dangerous risks. I like to set my own guidelines and work up to them."

Larry is realistic about the high income that many view as a primary incentive for being a doctor. "Sure, I wouldn't mind being rich — I think most people strive for that. But you have to remember a doctor's income is really limited by how hard and how much he is willing to work. I have never liked doctors who can't find time to really talk to patients. I haven't decided on my area of specialization yet, and that is going to play a big part in determining where I will be in 10 or 20 years."

In his spare time, Larry enjoys working at a local greenhouse and gardening, as well as doing just about anything out-of-doors. He sometimes wishes he had more time for getting rowdy. "I think people need it. But I guess that studying is the main thing right now.

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Mike Walcott

Mike Walcott

Mike Walcott loves the colors green and red, pure competition and the movie "Rocky." Mike, a graduating business and economics major from Shelton, is a self-motivated individual whose interests are as diverse as the things he likes.

"I think everyone has some inborn talents they have to find, and when they do, they are good in those areas. I work hard, but I love competition," Mike said.

Mike was recently named "Future Business Executive" in state-wide competition sponsored by Phi Beta Lambda. To earn the honor, he took a written test and went through a series of interviews with business executives. "I'd like to go into management or sales or maybe even go back to farming, but first I have to gain some independence."

Mike is definite in expressing his need for independence. "I love it. I have to have it. I think I'm just now starting to value it more.

"People make their own breaks. I admire people who know how to work for what they want. Some people are successful, but they always knew they would be. Everything was going for them. Somehow, having to overcome a lot makes it all the more admirable. I guess that's why I usually root for the underdog."

As a counselor in the academic advising center, Mike helps freshmen pick classes and arrange their schedules. "I remember what I was like at that time," he said, "and about all it amounts to is helping them to look to the future."

Details bother Mike, who would rather "be good at several things than be super at only one." He considered psychology and math as majors, but chose business because it is practical. "If I ever go into farming, business will be of value in teaching me what I need to know — when to spend and when not to."

As Mike sees it, his strongest point is liking people. He believes communication is a two-way street. "Sometimes I wonder when I meet people what's going on in their heads, but I should be asking myself all of the time what I can give to that person in exchange for what they can teach me. It's just like this interview. I should be trying to learn things about you, too."

In his spare time, Mike enjoys mechanics, reading on psychology, working and getting in "a little dancing." He likes to date, but doesn't see marriage in the near future. "I think everyone needs someone to come home to, but I don't want to get married yet. I'm very content right now, and I don't mean to brag, but I think I'm pretty happy, too."

If Mike could possess one abstract quality he hopes it would be the ability to be honest and genuine with himself. "I think Shakespeare was right in that respect," he said. "It's easy to fool yourself, probably easier than it is to fool others, and I hope I can always tell myself how I really feel. I sometimes try to figure others out, but I think I spend more time trying to figure myself out. I think that's important to everyone."

To Mike, how a person sees himself is of extreme importance in how successful he will be at anything. "I think I heard a quote once that might explain it better than I can. It went something like, 'You are what you think you are. Sometimes more, but never less.'"

Marilee Langhoff

Marilee Langhoff

"I think you have to find out what's going on in the world before you actually get out there. Taking a risk means that there's a decision every time and sometimes you just have to be daring to move ahead."

That's how Marilee Langhoff, criminal justice major from McCook, justifies her willingness to take a risk. Marilee, who is the only student and the only woman on the Executive Board of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, is candid in her belief that people have to recognize and accept their own opportunities.

"I'm not intimidated by my position in the academy. In fact, I think its members have taken extra consideration in supporting me. It's been a great experience."

Marilee would eventually like to be an administrative assistant in a department of corrections, but in the meantime, has accepted a teaching assistantship with Washington State University at Pullman.

Marilee is adamant in her belief that all people are good at something and everyone has something to offer. She was once criticized for advising a young woman at the York Center to do what she wanted to do if she believed in it and did it well. The crime was prostitution.

When asked how she could advise a woman to continue a life of prostitution, Marilee responded, "I told her to move to Nevada. I caught hell."

When asked about her views on marijuana use, Marilee said she believes "a lot of our laws are outdated and that frustrates me." She added, "Red tape, my pet peeve, gets in the way of changing them."

By traditional standards, Marilee might be considered a "women's liber," but she sees herself in a different sense. "I enjoy being a woman, and there are a lot of things I'm not ready to give up. I think there are a whole lot of ways individuals can express themselves and the main thing is that they do what they feel free in doing."

"I probably value my independence now more than ever. And marriage just doesn't fit into her plans at this point in her life. "Right now, the most important thing for me to concentrate on is my work. I have a lot of maturity to gain from it and I can't get married until I learn more about myself."

Like many college women, Marilee wonders about the transition from college to a job, but doesn't see marriage as an alternative. "Too many women jump from one family right into another without ever having had that independence. There has to be some kind of 'in between.'"

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Students pursue crafts in spare time

by Kim Knox

With classes, homework and part-and-full-time jobs, there’s very little hobby time left for KSC students. But many find hobby and profit making uses for this limited time.

Some students, like Jim Manker of St. Louis, work with wood. Jim has been into wood making since he was five. “I’ve always had a natural ability to build things,” he said. “I have made a medicine cabinet, footstools, clocks and furniture. I’ve built rough-wood pieces that are two inches thick. Right beside the board there is a mirror. It’s my own design. It’s about three feet tall. Weaving consumes a lot of time for students, like Jim Manker of St. Louis, work with wood. “I like to be able to take a tree stump and make it into a nice piece of furniture,” he said. “The more time I spend with it. It’s more costly taking a chair apart and repairing it. For an example, it’s more costly taking a chair apart and repairing it than making something of your own,” said Manker.

His favorite project is a clock that he’s working on now. “Usually the last thing you’ve been doing is the first thing you get,” he said. “The clock is my own design. It’s three feet tall and two feet wide. The most unusual thing about it is that the clock will be mounted on a board that’s two inches thick. Right behind the board there is a mirror. If you look into the mirror, you will see the clock. The mirror will make the clock look twice as thick as it is,” said Manker.

Manker finds satisfaction in working with wood. “I like to be able to take a tree stump and make it into a nice piece of furniture and actually that’s what you are doing.”

Another creative outlet for students is pottery. Lane Chesley of Callaway has been into ceramics for two years. “I first took a beginning ceramics course,” Chesley said. “I had a little time that semester and I had a close friend taking the same class. My interest just grew the more time I spent with it.”

What separates the beginners from the advanced ceramics people is the whole design of the ceramics,” Chesley said. “It’s just the whole design of the pots—making the pots more of an unified structure.”

Chesley exhibited two of his ceramics at the recent Kappa Pi show. “I always have a sale in my hometown at Christmas and give some as presents,” added Chesley.

Chesley said, “I get a great deal of satisfaction, when I get a good feeling about a pot. When I see the relationship between the shape, color and texture.”

But Chesley said, “The worst thing is I don’t have much time to spend on it (ceramics) and I have lots of ideas of things I can do with it.”

Another art that consumes time for Marsha Spradlin of Cozad is glass blowing. Spradlin has made vases, bowls and plates. But her favorite piece is a glass-blown sculpture. “I call it ‘Maladi,’” Spradlin said. “It’s a human form with plumes. I spell the title strange because it isn’t an exact reproduction of a lady.”

Spradlin enjoys glass blowing sculpture because of the artistic aspect. “When the functional aspect is emphasized, they lose their artistic expression.”

Weaving creates yet another outlet for spare time. Bev Garrison of Kearney enjoys weaving as much as she intends to go into it professionally.

“I’ve been into weaving for about a year and a half,” Garrison said. “I guess I always had an interest in textiles. Weaving is my favorite thing to do, but I do consider it as my profession. I want to be able to teach weaving in workshops.”

Garrison added, “I guess, the most interesting thing for me is to enter shows and see how my work compares with other people’s. It gives me an idea of what’s happening in weaving.”

Right now Garrison is interested in stuffed tubs. “The one I’m working on now is 36 by 41 inches and it will be suspended from the ceiling. It’s a wall hanging.”

“Another thing I’m into is clothing. When the piece is not being worn, I want to hang it on the wall as a wall hanging. So it serves two purposes,” Garrison said.

Her favorite weaving piece is a tunic. “It’s very bright,” said Garrison. “It is lime green, purple, bright pink and blue. The tunic is about 48 inches long and 18 inches wide. It has fringe on the bottom, that’s macramed yarn with bells and beads on it.”

Garrison uses mainly wool — goat hair and sheep’s wool—in her weaving projects. She also finds satisfaction in knowing that she designed the piece and wove it herself.

One of the highlights in Garrison’s weaving came last fall when she entered a weaving contest, sponsored by Northern Illinois State.

“It was called the ‘Hip Pocket Exhibition’ because the pieces couldn’t be larger than 10 inches by 10 inches,” said Garrison. “My piece was accepted and I won a purchase order.”

Sewing occupies the free time of Judie Unick, Litchfield, who sews clothes for herself as well as for her brothers and sisters.

Unick started sewing when she was nine years old. “I decided to make doll clothes and mom showed me how.”

Unick finished sewing when she was nine and a half, “I guess I became interested in the theater.”

Items Unick has sewn include down-filled quilt jackets, formal gowns and men’s pants.

“I make clothes for my little sisters and brothers. I use a pattern that fits them and experiment as I go along to fit something that they see at the store,” said Unick. “I like to use different things. I use a variety of fabrics and patterns.”

Unick likes to sew for other people better than for herself. “People always ask me to sew something for them.”

However, Unick finds handwork to be one of her least favorite things. “I always get sewing as something. I guess because I really only have time consuming,” she admitted.

On the other hand, “I especially like starting clothes from scratch because I get to feel that I started it and finished it, so it’s mine,” Unick added.

However, for Larry Bartruff of Fairlfield, theatre is where life’s happening. Bartruff has been involved with both acting and technical facets of theatre. He starred in “Guys and Dolls” and did technical work for “Kismet” and “Black Elk Speaks.”

“I guess I became interested in theatre through my older brothers,” Bartruff said. “They were in shows in high school. I liked to go to town shows, so I picked up on it.”

First tech work I ever did was for the Raymond Dance Company last fall — set up lights and did the curtain,” he said.

But his favorite technical job was doing the lighting for Kismet. “It was the first time I ever did something as far as lighting去了. There were no major mess-ups, so I felt I did pretty good.” He said. “Running lights includes focusing on certain spots on the stage. Some jobs we had to do were focusing on a tree and a window on the scrim. These were done just by guesstimate.”

A gel is a small piece of hard, colored gelatin that filters the light. Acting sometimes includes dancing and tumbling. Tracy Enck of Grand Island teaches and practices both.

She’s been tumbling and dancing since she was three years old. “I guess I got into it because I was too young to go to school. So I had to do something,” she said.

Enck teaches tumbling and dancing in Grand Island and Kearney. “I teach students from age three,” she said. “My oldest students are in high school. She’s been teaching ever since she was a sophomore in high school.”

Enck enjoys seeing the results of what she has taught in the performance of her students. In tumbling and dancing herself, she finds keeping in shape the best advantage.

At her students’ recitals, Enck does all the choreography herself. “Usually my recitals have a theme. Then I divide my students into groups, pick out the music and make the routine with steps they can do,” Enck said.

Enck has also attended conventions in New York City, Denver and Kansas City.

KSC students also find time to be “pinball wizards.” Mark Blackledge of North Platte uses time between classes to play the pinball machines in the Memorial Student Union. Blackledge spends three to four hours a week in the game room. His favorite machine is the “light ball.” “I’ve tried almost all of them (pinball machines) but this one is my favorite,” he said. “You can get rid of a lot of frustrations by hitting the ball a little.”

But whether it’s experimenting with a craft they hope to develop professionally or playing pinball between classes to relieve their frustrations, KSC students know how to apply their spare time away from books and jobs.
Skydiving requires training, practice

by Steve Miller

Members of the Kearney Sport Parachute Club were folding and packing their parachutes at a private airstrip five miles north of Minden. They were razzing me about the jumping experience. “How are you going to write an accurate story without actually jumping?” one asked. Not really having an answer, I retorted that I can write about car accidents, but I sure didn’t want to go through one to qualify me to write about it.

I looked at the aluminum Cessna 182 and my eyes wandered toward the ceiling. On the eaves was a cast molded to fit a leg that I’ve never had a parachute on before, and the reserve chute felt uncomfortable. While Tollefson snapped me in, I reached for an innocent looking ring to pull the chute closer to my chest. “Don’t!” Tollefson yelled. Too late. The reserve chute squirmed 20 feet out of its pack. “God,” said Tollefson, not referring to the deity. “At least you know it works.” It was the first time I had flown, and the take-off was bumpy on the private runway. Perhaps I should have been a little nervous, but I was in the back of the plane and I really couldn’t see anything. Besides, the thrill of the new experience overwhelmed the nervousness.

At 3,000 feet the hatch was opened, and a static line jumper positioned himself on the little step while hanging onto the wing strut. One moment he was there, the next, flying through space.

Now for the two jumpmasters. As we climbed to 7,800 feet, I was placed in the front of the airplane, beside the hatch. It somehow seemed larger now. I wondered whether there was a strong suction when the hatch was opened, there sure was enough wind. I braced my legs against a support inside the plane.

At 6,200 feet, the hatch was opened. I sat two inches from nothingness. My breathing increased. I tried to control it but there was nothing I could do. Looking down at the earth from an altitude of nearly a mile and a half without glass or metal between me and the hard ground was a natural high.

Hiedemann’s chute was little more than a foot from my chest. I was mildly surprised at the relaxed attitude he had toward something their lives depended upon. But I could also see an undercurrent of the nonchalance was a confidence in knowing what he was doing. Steve said he hoped the parachute together right. Jokingly, he said, “Give it to the students and let them try it out.”

Steve Hiedemann was fixing a parachute, somewhat nonchalantly I thought. I was mildly surprised at the relaxed attitude he had toward something their lives depended upon. But I could also see an undercurrent of the nonchalance was a confidence in knowing what he was doing. Steve said he hoped the parachute together right. Jokingly, he said, “Give it to the students and let them try it out.”

Greg Adams is a member of the KSC Sport Parachute Club, a subsidiary of the Kearney Sport Parachute Club. Describing the shock of the parachute opening, he said, “It doesn’t hurt at all.” Explaining further, he suggests, “It’s like putting on the brakes of a car going fast.”

This reporter had the notion of parachuting out of an airplane for this story, and asked Adams what would happen if someone did just that, without training or experience. “Guaranteed suicide,” Adams said. “He wouldn’t know how to land properly,” Adams continued. “He wouldn’t know what to do if his lines tangled, or how to exit properly.”

I stood watching the silver airplane climbing to where I guessed it to be 7,800 feet. It had already tossed out two less experienced jumpers. I heard the two jumpers’ chutes open with a muffled pop and watched as the wind carried them away from the landing target.

Now, Tollefson and Hiedemann were jumping. Two specks appeared and, perhaps five or six seconds later, two rectangular Stratostar chutes. Hiedemann maneuvered his chute in smooth, tight circles, being swung like a ball at the end of a string. Meanwhile, Tollefson maneuvered his chute so he was directly on top of Hiedemann’s. Then they swung in slow circles together. Tollefson all the while standing on Hiedemann’s chute. The Stratostar chute handled more like hanging gliders than parachutes and, despite the wind, Hiedemann hit the target, with Tollefson landing within twenty feet.

Toby’s mother, Mrs. Ed Tollefson, says she’d like to skydive. “I’d love to give it a try, but my son won’t let me.” When Toby first started, I was scared to death, she says. “But not now. I think the more a person knows about something, the less frightening it is. Besides, he’s 27 years old. He knows what he should or shouldn’t be doing by now.”

I had decided I’d like to go up and see what it’s like from the air. “Okay,” Tollefson said. “But we’ll have to put a chute on you.” I’d never had a parachute on before, and the reserve chute felt uncomfortable. While Tollefson snapped me in, I reached for an innocent looking ring to pull the chute closer to my chest. “Don’t!” Tollefson yelled. Too late. The reserve chute squirmed 20 feet out of its pack. “God,” said Tollefson, not referring to the deity. “At least you know it works.” It was the first time I had flown, and the take-off was bumpy on the private runway. Perhaps I should have been a little nervous, but I was in the back of the plane and I really couldn’t see anything. Besides, the thrill of the new experience overwhelmed the nervousness.

At 3,000 feet the hatch was opened, and a static line jumper positioned himself on the little step while hanging onto the wing strut. One moment he was there, the next, flying through space.

Now for the two jumpmasters. As we climbed to 7,800 feet, I was placed in the front of the airplane, beside the hatch. It somehow seemed larger now. I wondered whether there was a strong suction when the hatch was opened, there sure was enough wind. I braced my legs against a support inside the plane.

At 6,200 feet, the hatch was opened. I sat two inches from nothingness. My breathing increased. I tried to control it but there was nothing I could do. Looking down at the earth from an altitude of nearly a mile and a half without glass or metal between me and the hard ground was a natural high.

Hiedemann’s unbraced legs while climbing out of the plane. Tollefson and he were on the step for a moment, then they jumped. I took a quick picture and then they were only falling specks. The pilot closed the hatch and we began the descent. On the ground, Tollefson asked me if I wanted to jump, saying there was really nothing stopping me. I remembered what Adams said about jumping with no training or experience, and the cast on the airplane ceiling. I declined. Five miles down the road I wondered why I did.

There are two parachute clubs in Kearney. The Kearney Sport Parachute Club and its subsidiary, the KSC Parachute Club. $100 will get a hopeful parachutist into either of the two clubs.

Members need to be 19 and have a statement from their doctor saying they are physically able to take the rigors of skydiving. The fee covers 20 hours of ground school including packing a chute, how to exit from a plane and how to land properly; a subscription to Parachutist magazine, membership into the U.S. Parachute Association; a $10,000 liability insurance plan, the jumpmaster’s fee and the first six jumps.

After the first six, each jump costs $3.
She finds art of lapidary intriguing, exciting

by Stephanie Dawson

Quartz, agates and petrified wood are the basis for Donna's hobby. Donna Buchholz of Lexington gathers, polishes and shapes stones into jewelry. Donna says, "To take something common like a rock and make it into a necklace gives me a thrill."

In 1973, Donna's father, Wayne, started rockhounding with him around the gravel pits near Lexington. The rockhounding grew from a hobby into a business netting $600 a year. Donna was 14 when she first started gathering the stones and a year later made her first piece of jewelry. She begged her father during that year to teach her to cut the crude stone into a cabochon, a cut and shaped stone placed in a setting called a bell cap. The other is cabochon.

While polishing, Donna applied too much pressure breaking the heart. The piece flew across the room and the broken heart turned into a teardrop. Donna has continued to create jewelry and ornamental articles. She chooses stones from a stack of 100 already cut, polished and ready-to-mount rocks. Some stones are mounted onto bolo ties, pins and cuff links while others go into key chains, pen bases and bracelets.

She uses unfinished slabs of rock to make the backdrop for a wildlife scene, creating a unique, decorative item. Slabs ranging from gypsum to petrified wood are used for these articles. Donna said the lightly pencils the design onto the slab and then paints it with acrylic paint. The slabs are retained in their natural state to keep their beauty and not make the scene look like a "picture postcard."

Her nature designs can also be made three-dimensional. Donna buys small animal and scenery figures at dime stores. She glues the figures onto the slabs creating the 3-D effect. Some of the scenes are sold, but all of the painted designs are kept for display purposes.

Donna works with two areas of jewelry. The easier of the two is baroque, she said, explaining that a baroque piece is an unshaped but polished stone placed in a setting called a bell cap. The other is cabochon.

Working with a cabochon piece, Donna recalls the time she mounted a Mexican fire agate in the wrong setting. The fire agate was of "high quality," and she mounted it into a "lacky looking setting." To remove the stone, she had to freeze the necklace for a week to loosen the stone. "Epoxy glue was used to mount the stone and this glue, when subjected to extreme cold temperatures, cracks, freeing the setting."

The rock business picks up during the Christmas season. During the 1977 season, Donna and her dad made and sold more than 50 wind chimes.

Donna and her father price the pieces from $2.50 to $15 depending on the stone and the setting. Cost of rings are $2.50, belt buckles $5.50 and $8.50, and pen bases are $7.50. Prices for jade pieces vary from $50 to $200.

To Donna, the rock business is always exciting. She recalls the time she cut open a thunderegg, an igneous ball of rock that is one-to-four inches in diameter — and found a pattern depicting a campfire and cactus beside it. Thundereggs, as well as Mexican coconuts and geodes, have mineral deposits that crystalize forming the unique patterns.

Donna equates her lapidary experiences to this verse:

"When you cut open a rock,
You're the first person in the universe
To see what God has put inside."

She finds art of lapidary intriguing, exciting.
Band sparks games with cheers

By Camille Whitefoot
Alaman! Alaman!
Alaman octavia.
Sis gah dah boom bah,
Ray postoria! Go!
Kearney! Kearney!
Puuussshhh the ball!

ranks.

wonder if the band was speaking a foreign band members, all of whom speak

ban at a football game, the crowd would

unusu a l fun. For instance, football fans

about KSC’s band.

the band’s cheers are just for fun and are

created spontaneously. "I don’t think any-

body plans cheers ahead of time, they just

happen," he said.

One such cheer is done at the end of a particular drum cadence. The words are

"Hit! Stomp!" Actually, this isn’t a cheer, but instead more like a type of conditioned

response. When marchers reach the place where they are supposed to stop, they

"hit" with the right foot and "stomp" hard with the left so they remember to stop

marching.

The cadence preceding this cheer was played when the band marched onto the

field for the half-time show at Ft. Hays last fall. They practiced the show so many
times that the response of "Hit! Stomp!" had become successfully conditioned into

them.

With the help of language majors, another cheer, "Go Big Blue!" was trans-

lated into Spanish, Italian, German, Polish and French. It was also done with a British

accent. For instance, in French it is "Allez Grand Bleu!" and in Polish "Go ski Big ski

Blue ski."

When football games get long and bor-

ring, the band has another type of cheer to

while away time. They changed the cheer

"Let’s Go North!" to "Let’s Go Home!" or

"Let’s Go South for the Winter."

There have also been numerous songs

about cold weather started in the trumpet

section, such as "Singin’ in the cold, just

singin’ in the cold," performed to the tune

of "Singin’ in the Rain;" and "I am freez-

ing, I am freezing, I am cold," to the tune

of "Frere Jacque."

Many of the band members are music

majors so the group often sings songs.

"Baby Face" and "Shanty Town" were

both originally part of the half-time shows

and are now sung whenever the band feels

like singing them. "You are My Sunshine"

is also a favorite.

Steve Main of North Platte and Glenn

VanVelson of Ogallala wrote this song:

We rip and slash for Kearney,

We cut ’em up for KSC.

For Lopers we kill quarterbacks.
We kick ’em in the knee.
We set fire to referees.
Rip, slash, kill, aagh!
We all love football!
With all the blood and gore.
We mutillate the other team.
Throw bombs at marching bands.
With all the blood and gore.
Football is the game that we adore!

The band also sounds off a few cheers

aimed at particular band players. One of

these is "Beryl Linch is bullish on trum-

pet." Linch is a trumpet player from

Lexington. The cheer is a modification of

"Merrill Lynch is bullish on America."

Periodically, the band tries to embar-

rass cheerleader Ray Corona of Bridge-

port, with the cheer "Who? Ray!" which is

intended to sound like "Hurray."

Football players are also the band’s tar-

gets. One time, Brad Ritter of Pleasanton

started the band yelping "Who’s he?" after

each member of the opponent’s team was

introduced.

A cheer Tom Frerichs of Upland likes is

aimed at KSC’s cheerleaders. The cheer

follows this routine: "Let’s hear it for the

band," and the band cheers vigorously.

Next, "Let’s hear it for the band," fol-

lowed by wild applause. Then, "Let’s hear

it for the cheerleaders." The band is silent

and the cheerleaders—if they fall for it—

are left cheering for themselves.

Another band member, Todd Thalken of

Ogallala, finds it amusing when the band

stands up and points toward the press box

just to see if people will look up there.

One of Linch’s and Frerich’s favorite

cheers is "We back our team. " The cheer

is said five times. Each time a different

word is emphasized and the last time all

two words are. Then the band stands up

and turns around with their backs toward

the field.

Crocker enjoys changing the cheer "De-

fense" by emphasizing the wrong syllable

so it says "De FENCE." "It sounds like you’re talking about a picket fence," Crocker

said.

Crocker contends the band and its

cheers may have been responsible for the

outcome of the games. "Many times the

band has started cheering when Kearney

was behind. The band got the crowd going

and it just kept snowballing and Kearney

would win the game."

He in particular recalled a football game

where Kearney made two touchdowns in

the last three and one half minutes, win-

ning the game.
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