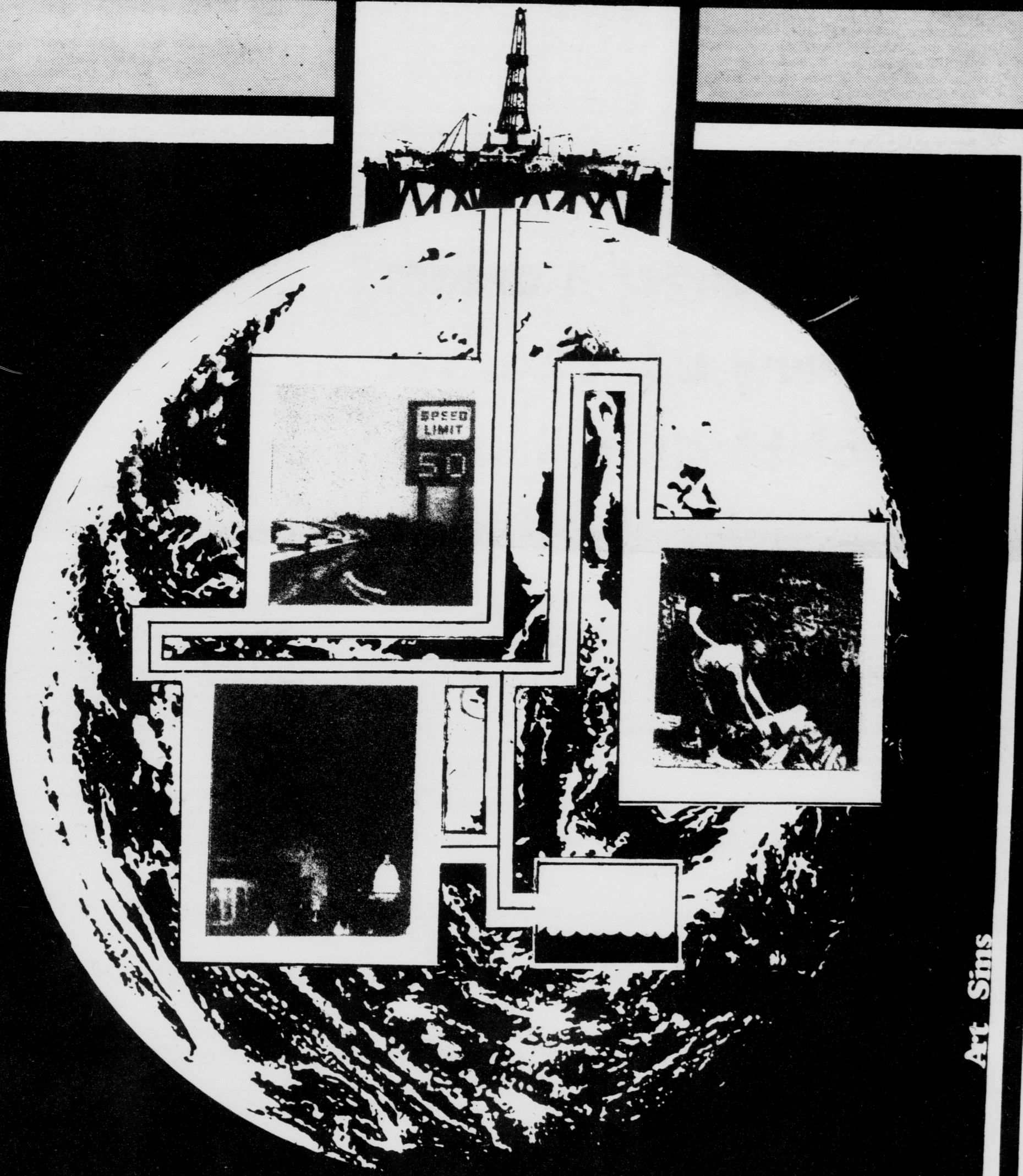


COUNTERPOINT

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Art Sims

A FUEL CRISIS

AND MORE INSIDE

By JANE SEABERRY

What are the nation's cities coming to? Or, rather, what's coming to the cities? Black mayors are coming to the nation's cities with plans of serving all the citizens, not just blacks.

Richard Hatcher, one of the nation's first black mayors of a major city (Gary, Ind.), said once that "The cities really represent the beachhead for black political power."

However, not only will they represent a basis for power but also a starting point for other problems. A black majority could mean loss of finances because many whites would flee to the suburbs and take with them the middle-class economic base that cities depend on. This has already been seen to a degree in Gary.

Black Lansing City Councilman Joel Ferguson, who was defeated in Lansing's Nov. 6 mayoral race, said the major issue

crimes—but which had become an issue with blacks who claimed the unit was taking its toll of black citizens.

As mayor, Young proposed to put more police on beats and set up mini-police stations in different neighborhoods.

Young fought for black rights first at Ford Motor Co. and in the U.S. Army Air Corps and became the third ranking leader of the state AFL-CIO before becoming Democratic floor leader in the Michigan senate and then Detroit's mayor.

Another recent addition to the cities' black hierarchy is Tom Bradley, mayor of Los Angeles, Calif., the nation's third largest city. Bradley, who was born on a Texas cotton plantation and who was a track star at UCLA, defeated incumbent Mayor Sam Yorty with 56 per cent of the vote. Blacks accounted for only 15 per cent of the vote, so Bradley won nearly half of the white vote in addition to 98 per cent of the black vote.

will tend to look more carefully at everything I do."

Conversely, former mayor of Washington, D. C., Walter Washington, was criticized by blacks for catering too much to white pressures when he endorsed a rather controversial crime bill. Critics on the other side charged that he was not prosecuting slumlords enough and he was not lobbying hard enough for funds in Congress. His budget request was cut by one-fourth.

Former Cleveland Mayor, Carl Stokes, also faced black criticism when he appointed a black, retired Lt. Gen. Benjamin O. Davis, Jr., as director of public safety. He was in charge of the police and fire departments.

However, less than six months after his appointment Davis resigned, accusing Stokes' administration with aiding enemies of law enforcement. Stokes also had

No longer a dream? Many U.S. cities see surge of black political power

facing a black mayor is "bringing the total community together and letting the white population know that he is a mayor of all the people and not just the blacks."

When Hatcher took office in Gary he got money for 3,000 low and middle-income housing units, but working-class whites grumbled because they felt neglected.

Coleman Young, Detroit's new black mayor, said, "There is a minority in this city who see this victory as a chance to strike back for 300 years of oppression. Anyone who sees the election in these terms must be smoking pot."

Young beat former police commissioner John Nichols 232,000 votes to 217,000.

The major issues of the cities seem to be crime and white residents' flight to the suburbs. Nichols had set up a street crime unit, STRESS (Stop the Robberies, Enjoy Safe Streets) which had cut down the

Bradley plans to raise Los Angeles above its crime and political corruption in addition to working better with the city council.

"We have a crime problem that is of great concern for me," Bradley said in a recent interview, "and I'm going to make that my number one priority."

Like the other black mayors, Bradley does not intend to favor any particular interest group but does consider black problems as part of his responsibility.

"I think the major worries affecting blacks are unemployment, miseducation, social dislocation and the inability to cope with the pace of the 1970s," Bradley said. He continued, "One of the main things I want to do in that process is produce jobs."

He added that he'll be "like something under a microscope all the time. People

problems with Cleveland's whites over low income housing.

Ferguson, who feels that he still has time to rise in the political scene, said the time will come when a man will be elected not because he is black, but because he is a man.

"They'll be running not as black men. I think the cities will get more comfortable with black men and just consider them as men," he said.

Which city will be next? Mayor Richard J. Daley of Chicago has already said he may not seek re-election in 1975. Ferguson said that a black mayor in the nation's second largest city is inevitable, but not necessarily in the near future.

"We're gaining all the time. We're on the move," Ferguson said. "The more black mayors we have, the more people will look at us as mayors, not just black mayors."



Richard Hatcher is mayor of Gary, Ind., serving for his second term.



Tom Bradley was recently elected mayor of Los Angeles, Cal. He succeeds former mayor Sam Yorty.



Joel Ferguson, Lansing city councilman, was defeated in the Nov. 6 mayoral election. He lost to incumbent mayor Gerold Graves.



Carl Stokes, former mayor of Cleveland, Ohio, was one of the first black mayors of a major U.S. city.

American lifestyles change as energy sources shrink

Will the family dog replace the electric blanket?

By CHRIS DANIELSON

If the plummeting stock prices or the plethora of speeches and newsprint about the situation are any indication, the energy crisis has definitely stunned the nation.

But within a decade, the widespread fuel shortage may be transformed from a crisis into a fact of American life.

Though it is impossible to predict all of the changes that will take place in the lifestyle of what is popularly referred to as "our middleclass citizenry," some of them can be outlined, taking our reknowned power of adaptation, "Yankee Ingenuity," into consideration.

The advertising industry already is preparing the public for the turn in the road of progress up ahead.

The advertisements of the gasoline producers — the first to be hit by the shortage — were the first to reflect the growing antiselling campaign.

Whether it came from a popular singer, superwoman or the girl - next - door, the message was the same: conserve gas and buy as little of our product as possible.

The driving practices that had been made possible by years of automotive research were discouraged with a curt "Don't you know there's a gas shortage on?"

The reason that the altruistic

oil companies can afford this innovative type of sales pitch is clear. We have gone from a buyer's to a seller's market.

As the lack of energy cuts the production rates of all consumer goods, retailers will be forced to utilize this mode of advertising to discourage the crush of buyers.

Due to rising prices, record profits such as those being currently experienced by the oil industry may continue for a while, but as unemployment snowballs, due to scaled - down production operations, the number of buyers will diminish and a recession or outright depression may develop.

when President Nixon announced to the nation that all federal thermostats — including his own — were being set down to 68 degrees.

Not to be outdone in hardship by their commander - in - chief, the governors of many states immediately ordered their office temperature to be reduced to 67 degrees.

By the time this trend had winded its way down through the lower echelons of government, poor assistant undersecretaries were shivering in sub - 60 degree "heat."

Overlooked was the fact that Nixon had kept this self - proclaimed health secret from

"A more daring architect may even bring back the old world combination stable and house in which animal body heat warms the habitat. The necessary livestock would also provide transportation, and could even save trips to the grocery store."

The unemployed will stand on deserted streets selling matches for a quarter, as their grandfathers sold nickel apples 40 years ago.

The lack of energy will have more direct results, of course.

One phenomenon that is being experienced already is nationwide energy conservation competition.

This contest got its big boost

his constituents for almost five years.

Summer temperatures also will have to be combatted through depowered methods. Hand - held fans should be the in - thing at next spring's fashion shows. And any cars which are running may well have rolled - down windows, indicating that the mileage - cutting air - conditioning systems have been turned off or removed.

House styles also will change. The game room, study, den, pool room, library, guest bedroom, sewing space, third bathroom, walk - in closet and bar may disappear from the average house due to astronomical heating costs.

Some modern Frank Lloyd Wright will begin building houses with functional fireplaces.

A more daring architect may even bring back the old world combination stable and house in which animal body heat warms the habitat. The necessary livestock would also provide transportation, and could even save trips to the grocery store.

Electric blankets will surely be replaced by the family dog, and optometrists will flourish as reading by candlelight becomes prevalent.

Government efforts to cut down of the use of electricity will usher in pay TV at undreamed of rates, and the kitchen stove will replace the boob tube as the center of the American home.

Transportation will be



heavily affected by the shortage.

Gas siphoning will become a greater problem than auto theft — on the average, it will be impossible to do one without doing the other.

Plane flights may be as rare 10 years from now as moon trips are today.

Taxis will become extinct as only those who already have chauffeured limosines will be able to afford the rising tab.

The poor may go from cradle to grave unable to save even the fare for a trip from Detroit to Chicago.

Many of the freeways will be turned into playgrounds or eight - lane bicycle paths, and the sight of an airport will induce waves of laughter.

The federal government already has placed the production of fuel near the top of the priority list for diesel fuel users, and the fuel industry will soon be self - perpetuating, with fuel being produced to produce fuel to produce fuel.

Recreational forms will be greatly affected. Golfers may regain the use of their legs when their golf carts stop rolling, and major league baseball relief pitchers will once again be making that long walk to the mound from the outfield.

Night games, of course, will

be a thing of the past as cities black out, sign off and vanish at night.

Cross - country skis will supercede the snowmobile, and fishermen will never be bothered by waterskiis again.

Pianos, harmonicas and kazoos will provide home music instead of elaborate stereo systems.

Finally, the American ethic will be changed at the roots.

Hands will no longer be subject to atrophy through disuse, as shoes will be polished and dishes, floors and what cars there are will all be washed by hand.

Once again the family underwear will flap majestically on outdoor closelines, and the frozen paragons of the old progressive order will find that they are warm - blooded after all, as Americans return to nonelectric razors.

And parents will impress their children — who will be lucky enough to be able to walk to their one - room schoolhouses in the great outdoors — with stories about the hardships of the "old days."

"When we were your age," they'll begin, "we had to sit cramped up for hours in an old rattletrap called a school bus that was always late or getting stuck in a ditch or..."



"My parents are migrant workers"

**Children
remain
proud
of
migrant
parents
while
seeking
degrees**

By IRENE EVANS

A labor force of more than 500,000 migrant families in the U.S. earn an average income of \$2,700 for a family of four. This income is earned when the family moves into a region for about three months to help harvest and process crops.

The 800,000 children under 16 working in the fields along with their parents may not get adequate schooling and many drop out of school by the time they reach the sixth or seventh grade.

But some students at MSU are the children of migrant workers, and they feel no shame because their parents are poor and must work hard for little money.

"I'm not proud that my parents are migrant workers," Linda Medina, 310 W. Shaw Hall junior, said. "But I'm not ashamed to own up to the fact that they are migrant workers."

Medina explained that the life of the migrant family is a hard one and that the family cannot make plans for the future.

"We live on a day - to - day

basis as far as money is concerned," she said.

Most harvest seasons begin in April and end in mid-October, often causing the children of migrant workers to lose time in school.

Leopoldo Cavazos, G - 054 E. Shaw Hall freshman, said that as a child, he always had to check into school late and check out early.

"Our family stopped going to a lot of states because it was too much trouble for school," Cavazos said. "You don't really get used to the moving around even though you do it every year."

"It always seemed like we were the new students in our classes," he added.

Ennedina Gonzales, 653 W. Wilson Hall freshman, also started school late every year.

"I never entered school on time," she said. "I always wanted to, but we always traveled."

Gonzales said that she and her sisters and brothers would miss about six weeks of school per year, but that they would always catch up with the rest of the class.

"If a person really wants to catch up, he can do it on his own," Gonzales said.

The Gonzales children went to special schools for migrant children until they reached high school.

Gonzales' parents provided the encouragement that lead Gonzales to seek a college degree.

"At first my father didn't believe the girls should be educated," Gonzales said. "He also didn't believe that machines would take over the harvesting of crops. But now he wants us to continue our educations."

"He doesn't want us to go through what he does. I guess it's because he's used to this mode of life."

The four children remaining in the Gonzales family all plan to go to college.

Adolfo Mata, 454 W. Wilson Hall freshman, wanted to quit school in the seventh grade in order to help raise money for his family.

"But a teacher got after me. She kept me in school, and got me a job through the work experience program," Mata said. "We've kept a close relationship ever since."

Mata is the first of eight children to graduate from high school.

"My father was hooked on the idea that I should quit school," Mata said. "But my mother understood. Everyone in school was after me to stay in. Then I got a better job through work experience and took home \$60 a week."

Mata expressed great pride in the fact that he was the only Chicano to graduate from his Florida high school.

"Chicanos are really changing fast, and it's easy to see the change in us," Mata said. "It used to be that a Chicano got married and had kids, kids, kids. Now they have fewer kids."

"For instance, my brother has been married four years, and they only have one son. Already they are saving money for him to go to college."

Chicanos realize that if they have fewer children to support, they will be able to give them more and better things and not have to work in the fields all their lives, he said.

Another change Mata pointed out was the fact that more migrant workers are buying their own homes and fixing them up.

"It shows that they care about themselves," Mata said.

None of the students interviewed expressed any shame in the occupation their families held.

economic situation.



Lettuce picked by nonunion workers was boycotted earlier this fall in an effort to help the migrant worker improve his

Photo by Julie Blough

Mata, who worked in a department store this summer, took three weeks off from his job to join his family in Ohio to pick tomatoes.

"I kind of missed it. I just felt like going," he said. "When we're in the fields, and even when we're not in the fields, we're very close together as a family unit. That's something unusual with white families," Mata said.

Gonzales also comes from a very close family, and does not mind the travelling involved with her family's occupation.

"I don't mind the traveling. It helped me make friends and to learn to talk to people," she said.

"I'm proud of what I am,"

Gonzales said. "If I am called names, I'm still proud."

She plans to become a social worker because she likes helping people, especially the migrant children.

"I worked in the migrant nursery with the preschoolers," she said. "The most important thing we had to teach the children was that they were cared for and we loved them. It was better for them to be there than to be in the fields."

All of the students interviewed expressed the desire to help their parents out when they graduated from MSU.

"My parents are getting older, and they can't always work in the fields," Mata said.



A shopper purchases some of the fresh produce migrant farmers spend their summers picking.

Photo by Julie Blough

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Gov. Milliken... in his office the... speeds and to cu... he is also workin... energy crisis co... ideas are rumore... from some legisla... In the legislati... preparation cons... ably to one a... massive efforts th... effectively with t... in the form of... dep. William... chairman of the j... on the energy cris... But Milliken... leaders have d... where the cent... should lie.

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By PAM WARD

As MSU's men's athletic program has become the target of increasing criticism for its declining budget and performance, one is forced to look elsewhere for a source of pride and recognition.

This source could be the women's sports program, which has become a leader in the progressive movement of women's athletics and is considered one of the best women's programs in the Big Ten.

An increasing commitment to support the rights of the woman athlete has become apparent in the philosophy of MSU's athletic officials. The current \$84,000 budget allocated to the women's sports program represents an \$81,000 increase in the past two years. MSU's program, which now offers nine varsity sports, is one of the biggest in both the Midwest region and the Big Ten conference.

Nel Jackson, asst. director of athletics in charge of women's



Can women's athletics renew pride in MSU sports?

sports, said MSU is gaining recognition through its women's programs.

"I think it's because we have a much superior organization," Jackson continued. "In the state, as well as in the Big Ten, I think we have the best program."

"Of all the schools that we've played, or that I've come in contact with, State has the most extensive program," Polly Ayers, senior member of the field hockey team agreed. "A lot of schools, like Michigan, don't even have uniforms. Our program has really expanded and I'm pleased with it."

Not only is the budget evidence of the improvements of the status of the woman athlete, but the recent performance of MSU's sports teams is also proof. Last year the women Spartans captured two Big Ten championships, one Midwest title and one state championship.

So far this year, the women have taken the Midwest golf title and harboring the Midwest individual golf champion is senior Manono Beamer.

There is little doubt in the minds of the women sports officials that the added support and money given to the program has contributed in part to their success.

"We have received a commitment from Burt Smith (athletic director), Gale Mikies (chairman of the Dept. of Health, Physical Education and Recreation) and the University to support our program," Jackson said. "This philosophy

and encouragement behind our system has been helpful in our development.

"We don't have to fight for facilities," Jackson continued. "Other schools are still fighting for facilities and time. We've gone through and above this stage."

MSU's coaching and the growing acceptance of the woman athlete by the general public have also been cited as factors in the success of MSU's women's programs.

MSU is allowed to choose its

coaches from the general public. It is not confined to the faculty alone as several other schools are.

"We have a stronger coaching staff than most schools," Karen Peterson, coach of the women's volleyball team, said. "We are able to get the best coach available whether she is on the faculty or not, and this is the big difference."

MSU has two women coaches who are not on the present faculty, and both have

coached teams to major titles. Mary Fossum has lead the golf team to two regional titles and Elaine Hatton coached the tennis team to a Big Ten championship last spring.

Also, general public attitudes and research on the role of women in athletics has helped the development of the sports program.

"The public is beginning to take the woman athlete more seriously," Jackson said. "Research has disproved the ideas that competition is

harmful to women and masculinizes them. A change in attitudes can be seen."

Though the women's sports program is progressing rapidly further improvements are needed, according to the athletes. The need for practice uniforms, complete outfits, assistant coaches and printed schedules can be seen.

The major complaint, however, is the lack of recognition and publicity given to the women athletes. The media's ignorance of women in sports often strikes a bad note for the woman sports participant at MSU.

Why are there three stories a week on the football team and no mention of the women's field hockey activity? Why are results of the Lions football game printed in the State News while the winning performance of the women's volleyball team is neglected? These are often heard complaints by the women varsity sport members.

"We haven't received enough recognition yet," Peterson said. "A lot of these girls are dedicated and outstanding in their sport and they don't get near as much recognition as the guys."

"Some of the problem is the lack of publicity," Peterson continued. "I don't believe that the people wouldn't show up at a women's event. I went to school in Iowa where the men's and women's sports were played right after one another, each getting the same publicity and the stands were full. The spectators will be there if the publicity is given."



A member of MSU's women's baseball team attempts an out in a game last spring against Calvin College in Grand Rapids.

MSU's women's athletic department is considered one of the best in the nation. Photo by Milton Horst

MSU's top offensive threat: Mike Robinson He's a star on and off the court

By CHARLES JOHNSON

It was about 10 years ago when Mike Robinson, as an 11-year-old youngster in Detroit's Brewster Projects, began amazing the big guys on the basketball court with his unique jump shot.

Though he was usually "too scared" to drive to the hoop under the flailing arms of his much larger opponents, Mike found it easy to outrun his man and spring free for an open shot from the top of the key.

Today, Mike Robinson is a senior at MSU and is about to enter his third season as the Spartans' top offensive threat and the Big Ten's premier scorer. His main offensive weapon is still the jump shot, but now his arsenal contains the elusiveness and driving ability he was once too scared to exercise.

"Back then, the jumper was all I had, so I made it good," Robinson said explaining how the 'J' became his forte. "But since my playground days in Detroit, I think I have become more adept in other facets of the game."

The 5-11 guard is considered primarily an offensive player, but he is quick to acknowledge his disagreement with that assessment.

"I would like to consider myself a complete ball player, rather than just a shooter," Robinson said. "But, I realize that my job is to score and, consequently, some of my other assets are never brought to light."

"When I make a good defensive play or grab a number of rebounds, I get more satisfaction than when I score because I know that I'm doing other things that are just as important," Robinson said.

On the court, Robinson is usually a cool cookie, but the pressure of being the key to the Spartans' whole offense sometimes gets distressing to him.

"In my first two years, I really wanted to do what was expected of me," Robinson said. "I knew that I was supposed to score and I tried my best to do just that. But sometimes in tight game situations when a basket was crucial, the pressure was unbearable. If I missed a key shot, I felt useless . . . like a vegetable."

"But this year, I'm not going to get down on myself. I know that my job is to score and I'm going to try to do my job. But if I happen to have a bad night offensively, I'm not going to get overly upset because I'll know that there are other things I did to help the team," Robinson said.

Having had two spectacular seasons already — capturing the Big Ten scoring title as a sophomore and a junior — Robinson is satisfied with what he has achieved individually and is hoping for the entire team to start getting some of the acclaim.

"I've been fortunate enough to lead the conference in scoring for two years, but what I really want is for the team to play well enough to get in one of the post season tournaments," Robinson said. "And we can do it with this year's team."

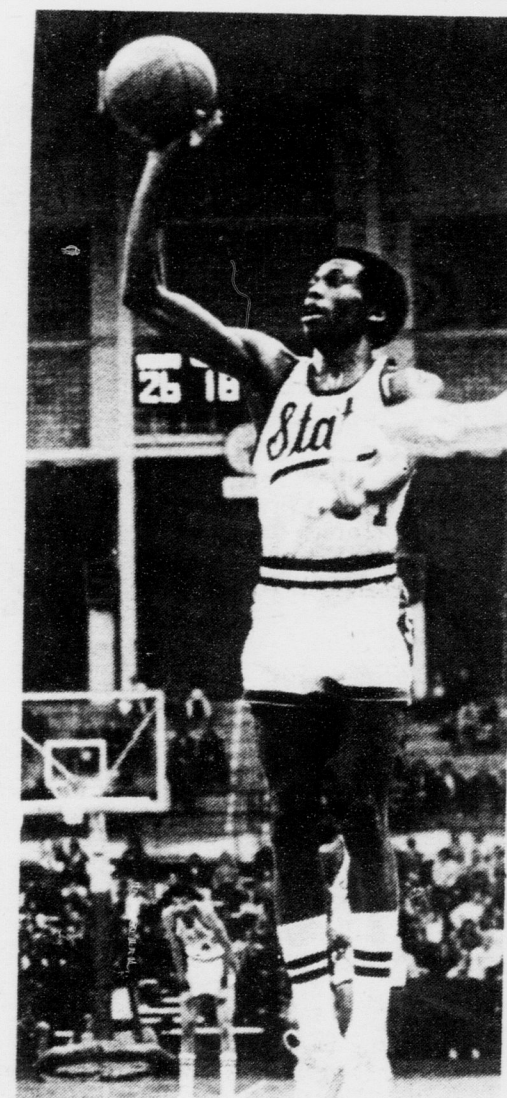
"Talent-wise, I wouldn't hesitate to say that we have the best team in the Big Ten. We had a good team last year, but we ran into trouble because of confusion about who was supposed to do what. We have ironed out that problem this year and everyone understands that the rebounders should concentrate on their job and the shooters should concentrate on theirs," Robinson said.

"It's all a matter of respecting each other's talents. There was a lot of dissension last year and most of it was because we didn't respect one another. Winning takes respect and I think this team has that ingredient," Robinson said emphatically.

Mike was recently elected captain by his teammates and he is hoping to provide the leadership qualities needed to hold the team together.

After a hard day of basketball practice, he usually settles down in his Wilson Hall room to tackle his academic work. His major is recreation and after graduation he hopes to fulfill a career in that field.

"The main requirement for academic success for an athlete is to budget his time," Robinson said. "My major requires a lot of professional courses and believe me, they are difficult. But my lady, Nadine (Mathes), helps me a lot with my



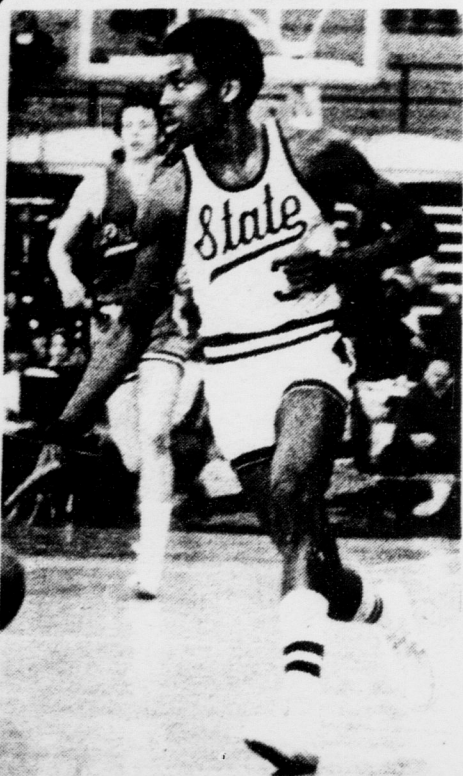
Mike Robinson is sure to sink this one. It's the shot that he has become famous for, the jump shot.
Photo by Milton Horst

studies and I appreciate that very much. She is a 3.0 student and, hopefully, some of that will rub off on me. It eases my mind to know that I have someone in my corner."

In the summer, Robinson spends a lot of time on the same basketball court which he played on as a novice in the game.

"I usually go back down to my old neighborhood and reminisce about the old days," Robinson said. "It gives me a lot of pleasure to see how much I've progressed over 10 years."

Though Robinson is probably one of the most likable guys you will ever meet, you would have a hard time convincing his opponents of that when he pumps in one of his "deadly" jumpers.



Mike Robinson dribbles down court for an easy shot against the Purdue Boilermakers.

Photo by Milton Horst

Spartan basketball star Mike Robinson is as cool on the court as he is preparing for classes in his Wilson Hall room.

Photo by Milton Horst



"Well I think it's fine building jumbo planes, or taking a ride on a cosmic train . . . Well you've cracked the sky, scrapers fill the air, but will you keep on building higher 'til there's no more room up there . . . I know we've come a long way, we're changing day to day. But tell me, where d' the ch'ldr'n play."

CAT STEVENS

Lansing activity center responds to city youths and racial tensions

By GARY SCHARRE

How much turbulence can a society take before the foundations that support it begin to crumble? That question looms paramount when considering the upheaval that has characterized the past decade.

We have been confronted with nuclear destruction and the uncertainties of a long and vicious Cold War that, when melted, left us with only a frustrating and repulsive conflict in Southeast Asia.

We have seen our most effective leaders and hopes gunned down and obliterated. And we have felt racial tensions, which became even more antagonizing when erupting into violence, attacking the basic purpose of life and leaving doubts about humanity.

The adult generation is ultimately responsible for these frustrations. The youth answered with a drug movement, an escape, perhaps, that has no precedent. But what about the younger set, those called children? What is their direction?

Fortunately the adults who clawed at each other during the extremes of the racial disturbances of the late '60s felt obligated to protect the innocence of the youngest in our society.

The city of Lansing's response was the establishment of neighborhood recreation centers to provide a sense of unity, something their parents lacked. The East Side Drop In Center, 2301 E. Marcus St. is such a place, created to shape the future mold of the present younger set.

The center is now five years old, some of the club's older

members were its youngest at its conception. Some of the children utilizing the center are as young as three years, some as old as 22. In the summer the center is a meeting place for as many as 200 - 300 neighborhood kids in one day, though those stopping on a regular basis number 150.

"Our program is not real structured," Jim Keyton, 33, asst. director of the east side center, said. "We go by what the kids want to do. They might just want to play ping-pong or pool. We're just here to serve their needs."

"The basic concept is to keep kids off the street and out of trouble," the personable Keyton said. "It gives them some kind of direction."

"After the riots and troubles in the cities the city council (Lansing) hoped tensions could be eased if there was a central place in the community where kids could meet, where there could be friendship and where they could get to know each other and relate to each other through recreation."

The Lansing City Council attempted to establish centers in areas where neighborhood children were left without much to occupy their time.

"It seemed like the only people who had something, or something to do were the kids

in the more affluent areas," Keyton said.

The center, one of four in Lansing, offers softball, football and basketball programs with divisions for both girls and boys, a pool table, ping-pong table, a place to play cards and a place for cheerleading. Occasionally the group will travel to compete against centers in Flint, Jackson and Saginaw.

Keyton said the jaunt to other cities and the chance to meet other people is one of the favorite attractions for the east side center neighbors, or members, as they call themselves.

The Lansing Park and Recreation Dept. funds the center, providing the small, three-room building and materials to run various programs.

Marvin Ray, director of training in the state civil service department, coordinates the east side program.

"We go to him for any of the big things that we might need," Keyton said. "We look to him for direction. He's our big daddy."

Keyton is sort of a daddy himself. The youngsters follow him and look up to him and go to him with many of their problems.

"You can tell right away

when a kid is down," Keyton said. "You get to know them just like part of your family. Actually, that is what this is — just one big family."

"We got some good kids. We're not hard on them, we just use common sense and a little patience with them," he said. "A lot of times the kids come to us with problems that they wouldn't necessarily go home with. This shows us a lot. It makes you feel good when you know you're getting through to them."

When Keyton says he "likes kids" one feels sincerity. He and his wife have seven children of their own and recently qualified as foster parents for an eighth child. Despite working at the center six evenings and being employed by General Motors, Keyton says he never tires.

Some might label the center's children underprivileged, but Keyton does not accept that word.

"Any time a child has his health and can go to school he's not underprivileged," he contends. "Underprivileged means you're deprived of something. These kids aren't deprived of anything — except maybe a little love once in awhile."

Despite its lack of some of the status symbols found in

more affluent areas, Keyton likes the east side neighborhood.

"We have people here that you could say are in the low-income bracket, but basically it's a nice neighborhood," he said. "When people don't have a lot they can't look down their nose at somebody else because they're all in the same classification."

Keyton, who has been at the center since 1969, said he has seen improvement among relations between the children.

"Oh heck yeah. There's an example right there standing in the doorway," he said, pointing to a slender young man. "He was a tough little kid when I first met him. Now he's an honor student and possible all-state basketball material. He's a graduate of our program. I really feel good about it, and he's not the only one."

Greg Lloyd, 16, led Lansing Eastern High School's basketball team in scoring last year as a sophomore and credits the center for changing his direction.

"When I was small I was getting into all kinds of trouble," he said. "I was bad. I came around here every day. It helped me when I was having problems."

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Drop-in center: A recreational Success story

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"This place is like a big brother," Lloyd added. "They know what you're going through and can help you. Right now I have a strong goal so I can survive. When you have a goal life is a little easier."

Lloyd, who plans to continue his education and play collegiate basketball, now works with those younger than himself.

"Some of the younger kids are hard-headed and just don't understand, but the kids in junior high listen because they know that I was bad and into all kinds of trouble," he said. "I tell them not to get into drugs or smoke and drink if they want to be something."

Cheerleading is big with the young ladies who wave pompons numerous hours each day. Several years ago group leader Carolyn Branson held a sewing program and girls made their own uniforms. Almost each girl wants to become a cheerleader.

"I come here everyday," little Tracy McClelland, 10,

said. "I like to cheerlead. It's fun."

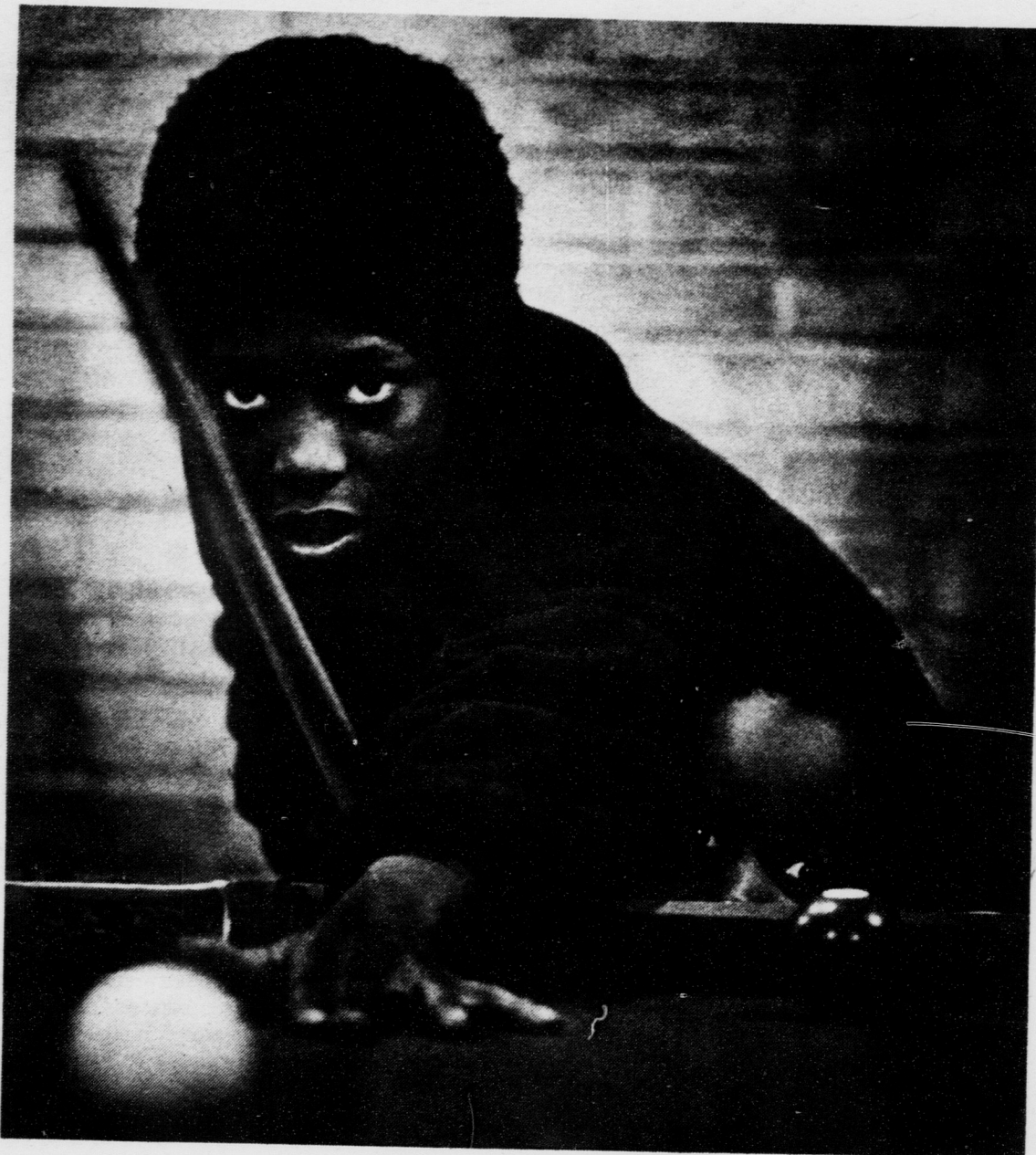
Tanya Murchison, 7, said she comes to the center "almost every day" because she likes to go places.

"We learn new cheers, that's my favorite," she smiled before running off to join her friends in another cheer.

The center is a bustling place for kids of any age to gather, a place where skin color blends into the various activities and a place where the problems of adults seem far removed. Perhaps these youngsters will set the climate for future generations when prejudices and bigotry are finally defeated.

"The kids were roller skating one time, and blacks and whites held hands in their trios," Keyton reminisced. "I made a remark to the staff, wishing that some of the parents could see the children."

"Some people have hang-ups, but this is 1973," Keyton emphasized. "Color should never enter the picture. The kids really show that grownups can learn so much from small kids."



Photos by Craig Porter