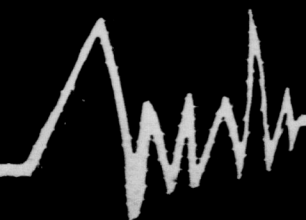


# COUNTERPOINT



A bi-weekly supplement to the State News

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# THE EXORCIST



and other mystics

Why do people believe them?



# "The Exorcist" — How to get that special feeling from being scared to death...



By  
JOHN TINGWALL

## Exorcism.

If the "word of the year" awards were held today, this word would be the hands-down favorite to win.

The word appears, in one form or another, on the cover of nine million books, on movie marquees throughout the country, on bathroom walls, ("Don't impeach Nixon, exorcise him") and in almost every other joke told on television.

William Peter Blatty baited people with a tale of demonic possession when "The Exorcist" first appeared in bookstores in 1972. The public has swallowed his bait, savoring the taste of mysticism, violence and perversion served in one helping. The film version, whether it disgusts or enthuses people, may challenge "The Godfather" as the biggest money-making film in history, and since its opening Dec. 26, 3,775,000 copies of the book have been sold.

Regardless of objections to its graphic portrayal of possession, or to media "overkill" you will probably succumb to curiosity sooner or later and end up in a block-long line paying \$3 to see "The Exorcist." Some may hold out for lower prices at the box office, but before the end of the year, most will join the ranks of the four million that have seen the movie in its first

seven weeks in theaters.

Why will people pay the prices and fight the lines to be entertained by a movie that has left people anxious, sleepless and sick to their stomachs? Psychiatrists and psychologists at MSU offered a variety of opinions to explain the frenzy and its uniqueness to 1974.

"The classical psychoanalysis used to explain interest in such a movie, according to Freud, as projection and externalization of a person's repressed sexual and aggressive impulses," Joseph Reyher, clinical psychologist, said. "Man sees these rampant in society and himself, but won't admit it. He wants to disown them, but gets vicarious satisfaction from seeing his sexual fantasies and murderous impulses acted out," Reyher said.

Norbert Enzer, chairman of the psychiatry department, concurred with Reyher, saying that the success of "The Exorcist" came as no real surprise to him.

"It has the same appeal to violence and sadism that a movie like 'Bonnie and Clyde' had, and that drew capacity crowds, too," he said.

"The thinking and considering of violence is more acceptable today than in the recent past, psychiatrist and anthropologist Ronald Simons explained. "It's not that people have changed that much in the last few years, but that acceptance has made people

less inhibited about seeing the violent "Exorcist."

"The Exorcist" has made a timely appearance at movie theaters. Curiosity about the occult and psychic phenomena, a mystic revolution seems to be in full swing.

The cover of Newsweek magazine (Feb. 11) depicts a priest clutching a crucifix, a crucial part of the exorcism rite that expels the devil from possessed souls. Inside, a six-page spread traces the interest in exorcism from author to priests to nauseated viewers, including actual case studies of exorcism, past and present.

Time magazine (March 4) features an in-depth study of the interest in parapsychology, the study of psychic phenomena.

"There has been a re-awakening of interest in non-scientific modes of thought," Simons said. "Formerly a dream-like interest, people are really curious about the occult today. They want real answers to their curiosities," he continued. "The Exorcist" is definitely cashing in on the times."

"The movie and the topic are certainly more believable today than before this occultism fad," Reyher said.

Beside the Freudian analysis and the interest in the occult, the simplest explanation of interest in "The Exorcist" remains an important one — the special pleasure derived

## ...and enjoy every minute of it

from being "scared to death" and enjoying every minute of it.

"It's part of human nature to enjoy the feeling of being totally frightened and enveloped by a movie," Daniel Wegner said. A graduate assistant who conducted a study of the occult as a psychology course last year, Wegner cited "the classic example of such feelings" to explain, Bill Cosby's recording titled "Chicken-heart."

"Little children used to listen to radio horror programs, relishing the thought of such total anxiety, knowing they would end up sleeping with their parents. The same psychology is responsible for the throngs of people waiting to see "The Exorcist," he said.

Is the reaction to "The Exorcist" unique to 1974? Some psychiatrists and psychologists believe the conditions for such a reaction are ripe in society.

The economic conditions today that may bring recession or depression scare people who have never experienced a depression," Barbara Reimer, social psychologist, said. "People who feel they can do nothing about their lives identify with the simple explanation involved in exorcism."

Father Michael Murphy, a priest at St. Gerard Church in Lansing, said economic factors are "probably the biggest force in attracting people to "The Exorcist." The possibility of losing material goods scares people."

The loss of faith in government has added to insecurity.

"People want the system legitimized, and when it cannot be, it produces anxiety in their usual secure outlook," Reimer said.

Peter Manning, associate professor of psychiatry, furthered this point.

"When fear is induced and people lose faith in the future, it leads to the study of simple things, as in the existential philosophy," he said. "We are

reverting back to individual solutions to crises, and the occult is consistent with this ideology."

Simons suggested that the movement toward transcendentalism, Jesus, vegetarianism, and even yoga, are attempts to "discover something to act as an anchor."

Adding to these insecurities, science has failed to solve the problems it seemed to have had under control in the post-World War II era, Lester Hyman, psychologist, said.

"We've been enamoured with physical sciences and they have been incredibly successful, but things are starting to fall apart at the seams," he said.

Arthur Elstein, professor of psychiatry, shared this view. "There is a new mistrust in science. The nuclear holocausts have made the values of science questionable and added more real fears to everyday living."

"We're disillusioned with our science," Hyman said. "So instead of sending someone to a psychiatrist, why not an exorcist?"

Others dispute the position that such a frenzy over "The Exorcist" is unique.

"Nothing has really changed since the 1940s. People stood in line for four hours for 'Frankenstein' and fainted there, too. It's just a loosening of the screen code that allows us to see more on the screen today than in the 1930s or 1950s." Lionel Rosen, asst. professor of psychiatry, said.

"The psychoanalytic conditions, have always existed for such a film like this," Reyher said.

Student reaction to the film fluctuated between, "It was gross," and "It was a waste of money," to "It kept my interest," and "It was better than a roller coaster ride."

Very few, though, discounted possession by a devil as impossible. One student remarked, "I don't know if there can be possession, and I doubt that there is, but, I'm really not sure."



# Would you believe an armful of cats could run a radio station? They do!

By  
WOODY AYEN

What type of mascot would a rock radio station have? Cats, of course.

WVIC radio in Lansing has just that: four feline friends. But the cats are not mascots; they are residents of the station, some of them having been there longer than some employees.

The oldest is Chantilly, who belonged to an engineer who was called into active National Guard duty. He had nowhere to leave his pet until he came back, so it was agreed he could leave it at the station. The

Old Tom was found last December by one of the disc jockeys in an alley behind Beggar's Banquet restaurant. The cat had evidently lost in a tom fight and was half frozen. Since the disc jockey was on his way to work, he just brought the cat in.

"We have had as many as 13 cats in the station at one time," Sorrell said. "And probably close to 30 in the past eight years."

When the first cat, Chantilly, came to the station, she provided a badly needed service of ridding the place of mice. Now there are no mice in

dog, but he was turned down. "Most people here like the cats or at least tolerate them" Sorrell remarked. "And

everybody brings them treats." Chris McClure, newsman and sportscaster for WVIC, said he does not mind the cats.

"They are generally unobtrusive," he said. "Like women, they know their place."

*"We have had as many as 13 cats in the station at one time and probably close to 30 in the past eight years."*

*-Jane Sorrell*

engineer finally returned, but Chantilly had become a permanent fixture.

Jennifer is the daughter of Chantilly, and has been raised at the radio station.

One cat is extremely unusual in appearance. She is tortoise-shell gray and has no tail. The reason for the lack of a tail is that the kitten is half manx, a wild feline, which has no tail, from the Isle of Man. The cat is commonly referred to as "Little Girl" or "Kitten," even though she was named Lisa Strata after the famous woman in Greek mythology who organized women to refuse their men bedmates.

"The men working here just never liked the name," said Jane Sorrell, corporate secretary of WVIC.

the building itself, but the cats manage to find them outdoors and bring them to the back door of the station.

The cats have pretty much free run of the station, except in the control room or production studio.

Sorrell told of an incident in 1969 when one of the kittens living at the station jumped on the back of a newscaster while he was on the air. Another time one of the cats unplugged a turntable.

Bob Sherman, principal owner and licensee of the station, said "I don't know anything about those cats."

But, Sorrell said, "If Bob didn't like them they wouldn't be here."

Walt Sorg, WVIC newsman, said he offered the station his



One of radio station WVIC's feline friends sits atop a turntable while one of the disc jockeys purrs on the microphone.

Photo by Dave Schmier



# The end of political radicalism: Are students tasting a return to the '50s?

By  
R.D. CAMPBELL

Most MSU 1974 undergraduates never occupied a building or threw a rock.

The age of student activism that climaxed in Chicago at the bloody 1968 Democratic Convention and again with the fatal shooting of four Kent State students following the May 1970 Cambodian invasion has quietly faded into history.

The last major surge of campus activism at MSU came in the spring of 1972 when 4,000 students blockaded Grand River Avenue, an action symbolic of the mining of Haiphong harbor. A sense of outrage and frustration about an apparently senseless war has the bond between protesters.

But de-escalation took the wind out of the war protest.

Fewer students were being drafted. Fewer Americans were listed as dead in the Walter Cronkite postbattle us - them statistics.

Then too, the nomination of George McGovern at the 1972 Democratic Convention signaled new hope in the American political process to college youth across the nation. MSU students who had blockaded Grand River Avenue were now spreading the good news of McGovern by knocking on doors until their knuckles were raw. But November came and the missionary fervor was stilled once more as Walter Cronkite issued a new set of postbattle statistics.

"I remember my roommate turning the TV on Tuesday night and her scream. I thought we had it, but the people were too stupid," an

MSU McGovern campaigner reminisced.

Massachusetts became the isle of serenity amid the 49 seas of confusion, yet there was no mass exodus. The activists had channeled their energies into the accepted political process only to be beaten once more. Fatigue was overwhelming, yet there remained the adrenalin for one final statement, the inauguration.

"We knew this would be the last protest," Joanne Geha, 242 Mason Hall junior, recalled. She was one of a handful of MSU students who worked in Democrat Richard Vander Veen's upset victory in the race for Vice President Gerald Ford's congressional seat.

So the obvious question is: Where have all the protesters gone?

The answer is complex because the protesters have scattered in a variety of directions for many reasons. Vietnam and the draft was the stimulus which led to protest and criticism not only of the war but of the social injustices and problems that were root causes of the Vietnam conflict.

Charles P. Larowe, MSU economics professor and long-time labor activist, said that protest spread from minority to majority appeal "in '69 when the sons of the middle class started being drafted because of the end to college deferments."

"It scared the shit out of the faculty to see what students were doing," he said. "Students were saying that the reason for the war was that the older generation lost touch with social problems."

Students were not initially disturbed by the war for principles,

but for the sake of expediency. They didn't want to get killed in a senseless war, Larowe said.

"Most people are incapable of thinking about issues in the abstract," Larowe said. "They act only when they have been impinged upon."

He sees employment uncertainty and other economic problems as being the most immediate student concerns these days.

Henry Silverman, professor of American thought and language and author of "American Radical Thought in the Libertarian Tradition," thinks American college youth have entered a period of wait and see.

"I believe there still is a radical concern among students," he said. "They say things they wouldn't have said 10 years ago."

He also says that economic conditions are "what is causing anxiety among students."

During the unrest of the '60s groups like SDS grew as the war spirit grew, Silverman said, and not because the new members were espousing the Marxist views of the organization.

He sees fallacy in the belief that "because students aren't burning down buildings, we think they're apathetic."

Mark Grebner, manager for the McNeil / Brown city council campaign last fall thinks that protest and political activism was a passing fad, "just like cross-country skiing."

"People became disenchanted when they learned that in the end you don't recapture the Holy Land," he said.

Grebner thinks that one of the

major reasons protest rallies no longer surface is because "they are not effective political tools."

"Rallies show a sense of outrage," he said. "I never got into outrage. I never even threw a rock."

Spiritual and religious movements are also taking in old protesters, Grebner said.

"The more psychologically disturbed activists are now getting into Jesus," he said. "Not only Jesus, but the Gooie Maharishi Bungle. I think followers of Gooie would have thrown rocks."

Walter Adams, past MSU president and now a distinguished University professor, agrees in the sense that students are becoming more interested in the spiritual world.

"Students have turned from mass action and protest to what might be called the contemplative life," he said.

"Bull sessions are becoming intensely personal," he explained. "Questions as to whether the war may be still going on or about race issues come up quite infrequently and quite peripherally. Ideals are quickly seared. When that happens the student turns away and inward upon himself."

Adams perceived that the major upswing in activism began in 1965 when President Johnson removed graduate school draft deferments.

He thinks the waning of activism is partially due to the "attention span of young people, which is naturally and understandably relatively short."

"Students have become disillusioned with the efficacy of

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Masses of students join together in antiwar activities while numerous unseen students take over the Administration Building during the spring 1972 antiwar protests.

Photo by Craig Porter







# Radical concern becomes 'wait and see' for activists

(continued from page 4)

mass action and protest," he said. "You can't march one day and expect a solution the next day."

The increasing availability of entertainment in East Lansing coupled with the 18-year-old drinking law and the increasing ease in finding drug- and sex-oriented diversion has also paralleled the subsiding of student activism.

Students are looking for a more comfortable, compatible moral code to live by," Silverman said.

James Heyser, Democratic Ingham County commissioner elected in 1972 from a heavy student district in East Lansing, said the activism today involves much more than lending body and voice to protest marches or trashing sprees.

"It takes more commitment to sit behind a desk and do the important, but unexciting work than march in a protest," Heyser, who works at the Coalition for Human Survival in East Lansing, said.

The coalition purports to be an umbrella organization taking in a conglomerate of issue-oriented activists with similar political, philosophical and moral leanings. Its membership usually fluctuates with the local political fluctuations.

In January, the coalition began publishing the newspaper The Outsider as a viable alternative to Joint Issue, an ideology-oriented rather than issue-oriented paper.

But the small numbers of students working at the Coalition compared with numbers of activists in the late '60s implies that student concerns have changed.

One coalition member said he would like to know how extra help for projects could be enlisted, but given the attitudes of students in 1974, thinks it is next to impossible.

Last fall the "student" candidates in the East Lansing City Council elections, Margaret McNeil and Nelson Brown, were defeated by Mary Sharp and John Polomsky, the "homeowner" candidates. Many students voted for Sharp and Polomsky while only a few homeowners voted for Brown or McNeil.

The significant factor was that in "the student ghetto," an area approximately three blocks north of Grand River Avenue from Harrison Road to Gunson Street, only 1,000 students voted while McNeil / Brown campaigners were expecting 5,000.

"Naturally I'm disappointed with the student turnout, but I still think we have the potential for something here," Brown said on election night.

"I just can't believe we're going back to the '50s," he added.

Though there is a visible nostalgia for the '50s, as exemplified in student acceptance of the movie "American Graffiti," an ideological return to that era would ignore the progressive social change of the '60s.

Last Thursday, Daniel Ellsberg of Pentagon Papers fame received a standing ovation from 3,000

students when he walked onstage in the Auditorium. He also recalled the '50s as a distasteful period filled with racism and a bundle of other social ills.

"You are being invited to remember the '50s, and if you are invited to forget the '60s, then your are invited to waste your lives," Ellsberg said of the current nostalgia craze.

The crowd once more came to its feet. Apparently students are not willing to forget the days of student activism.

Silverman said the speech evoked "residual sympathy" from people who didn't know what Ellsberg was specifically saying.

But though many students were foggy on the subject matter most understood that the man at the podium—who had believed in the people's right to know so intensely that he risked criminal prosecution

—was indeed, a good guy.

"Here was a guy who attacked the system. That can only be refreshing," Silverman said. "He was a sensitive person. He was their kind of guy."

Earlier that same day about 50 picketers marched at Cunningham's Drug Store, 101 Grand River Ave., protesting the sale of Gallo wine. East Lansing is the state headquarters for the Gallo boycott. The United Farm Workers union argues that Gallo producers are oppressive employers.

Cunningham's in East Lansing responded to the pickets Saturday by taking all Gallo wines off their shelves.

If these two apparently unconnected events, the Ellsberg speech and the Gallo wine boycott, illustrate anything, it might be the activist sentiment is willing and eager at MSU, but the flesh it takes to implement that thought is weak.





From singing  
the Spartan fight  
song to  
hosting Jimmy Breslin:

## Stabley and Vista have done it all

By  
JACK WALKDEN

Preparing athletic booklets. Hosting banquets. Serving as hosts in the press box. Providing facilities for radio and television. Answering special requests for materials even to the point of singing the Spartan fight song over the phone.

These are just a few of the many duties which Fred Stabley and Nick Vista perform as the one-two punch in MSU's Information Services sports department. The two are recognized across the country as the best in their field, and it's not surprising considering the way they handle requests, especially the unusual ones.

Probably the most unusual request was one which involved Vista and his singing of the MSU fight song over the phone to a group in Lincoln, Neb. "When the football team was going great guns in the early 60s, I received a call from a Nebraska group holding a big banquet," Vista related. "The music group, the Mills Brothers, was entertaining there and they wanted the music to the MSU fight song right then."

"Well, there was no way to mail it to them," he continued. "How could we do it? Finally he got out the tape recorder at the other end and had me sing the fight song over the phone

within a sensible range musically so he could make a quick arrangement.

"So that's just what I did. First, I whistled, it, then I hummed it and then I sang it over the phone."

Even though singing the Spartan fight song over the phone isn't one of the official duties, Stabley and his staff are prepared for anything.

Stabley's experience started with a bachelor's degree in journalism at Pennsylvania State University and includes a seven-year tenure with the Associated Press. He came to MSU in 1947 and has been a part of Spartan athletics since then.

While Stabley has been editor of the sports information department at MSU for 27 years, Vista is now in his 19th year as Stabley's assistant.

Vista, a Battle Creek native, is a graduate of the MSU School of Journalism and he got his first writing experience on the State News. He worked as a student assistant in the sports information department under Stabley from 1952 through graduation in the summer of 1954.

After a few months with the United Press, now United Press International, Vista came back to MSU as part of the news bureau portion of Information Services.

In the spring of 1955, he

finally got his big break.

"I got the chance to come back in and work in the sports information department and this is what I had always wanted to do," Vista said.

In his 19 years here as No. 2 man, Vista has received numerous opportunities for becoming the boss at another location including Western Michigan University, the University of Wyoming and Purdue and the San Diego Charger professional football team. He's turned each down for the same reason.

"I've never felt that the new job opportunity has surpassed the total picture that exists here in terms of given salary, salary potential, fringe benefits and what have you," he explained. "The administration here has seen fit to make it very attractive to be

a member of the staff in terms of salary adjustments and the atmosphere for practicing the art of public relations.

"I feel it's important to work in an area where the atmosphere, the general attitude and the outlook for positive public relations all exist.

"Even though staying here meant turning down a change at being the boss, I'm not afraid of it. I prefer to work in an operation that's big league all the way and I think we are."

Stabley places the work of the sports information department into two major phases.

"One part of our work is publications such as programs, brochures, special publications of various natures and ticket information," Stabley said. "We produce, all told, better than 100 publications a year. "The other part is media relations," he added. "We work with the mass media of newspapers, television, radio wire services and magazines on MSU Sports. We're actually a service bureau acting as a midway point between athletics at MSU and the mass media."

Three incidents in recent years help to explain why MSU's sports information department is at or near the top of its field. Tops on the list would have to be the 1966 Notre Dame football game which matched the top two teams in the country against

television and almost 100 photographers. You add them all together and you come up with 745 people.

"The first people to arrive came on the Sunday before the game. By Monday we started having press conferences daily in the press box with MSU coach Duffy Daugherty presiding and visiting with the writers.

"By Wednesday we had about 75 people here. We kept daily written summaries of the press conference, too, so a guy coming in Wednesday could pick up summaries from the press conferences held Monday and Tuesday.

"We set up special bus service for the writers to pick them up and get them out here so they could go to the press conferences and watch some practice and then take them

*"We had everyone who amounted to anything in the Midwest plus the people we like to call the national press...the big wheels like Red Smith and Jimmy Breslin and from the West Coast, Paul Zimmerman."*

*—Fred Stabley*

each other.

"For that game we had 745 people in the press detachment," Stabley said. The facility adequately seats just over 200. "It was the largest assemblage of media people ever to cover a college football game in the history of the sport.

"We had everyone who amounted to anything in the Midwest plus the people we call the national press," he continued. "We had the big wheels like Red Smith and Jimmy Breslin and from the West Coast Paul Zimmerman. They were all here."

"Besides that we also had 19 radio originations, national

back to their hotels.

"Some of the writers stayed as far away as Jackson and Battle Creek. Some of them stayed in Detroit. We didn't get any rooms ourselves in Detroit, but we did get accommodations for quite a few of the writers well out of town. There were no accommodations of any kind left here in town."

In 1971, Spartan running back Eric Allen broke a total of 17 records including NCAA Single game rushing record as he rambled 350 yards against Purdue. Had it not been for

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Fred Stabley and Nick Vista practice old Spartan fight songs while performing their duties at sports information service.

Photo by John Martell



# Armenians: Still 'flipped out on the American dream?'

## 1973 Armenian queen keeps faith in her heritage



Kathy Darakjian looks out her Landon hall window, a long way from her Armenian homeland.

Photo by Dale Atkins

By  
BOB OURLIAN

Sociologists often remark that cultures displaced to the United States become, in time, "Americanized."

When this happens, the culture's members subscribe less and less to tenets and values of the culture before Americanization and tend to adopt American value systems.

Gradually, the culture dilutes and spreads out under this process as its members try to realize the "American dream" and, in the final analysis, all traces of the culture fade away.

Kathy Darakjian's ancestors came from Armenia. Darakjian herself is a third generation immigrant residing at 328 Landon Hall.

Between 1895 and 1920, systematic massacres by Turkish nationalists and an attempted deportation of the entire 1.7 million population of the country resulted in the deaths of more than three million of Darakjian's

predecessors.

Informed historians have referred to the Armenians as the "Jews of World War I."

Those years were the culmination of many centuries of persecutions of Darakjian's ancestors, however, and today Armenians are scattered throughout the world.

The sociological phenomenon of Americanization of Armenians in this country seemed to be coming off during the lives of second generation immigrants, who, Darakjian admits, "were flipped out on the American dream."

And while the original immigrants were concentrated in cities and ghettos, the second generation, seeking affluence, spread to suburban climates.

Consequently, many third generation immigrants, Darakjian included, grew up in an American society with only mere hints and incidental frills of the ancestral heritage.

Darakjian says she does not know enough of the language to carry on a conversation with someone fluent in the language.

"I totally regret that I didn't learn it," she said. "It's so easy, and I would get just so much out of it."

But Darakjian emphatically denies that her heritage will dissipate and be forgotten in the United States.

It suffered a setback when the second generation of

Armenians in this country became less loyal to the heritage and will suffer another one when the original immigrants have all died off, Darakjian says, but she is sure the culture will revive.

For Darakjian, her trip to the Armenian Soviet Socialist Republic in 1968 was one of the most influential events in her lifetime.

"That just completely brought back everything," she thought back.

Spending three weeks at a boarding school and two additional weeks at a camp, Darakjian feels she has had quite an exposure to Armenian society, even though it is now under the heel of the Soviet Union.

She says the optimism she expresses comes from what she has observed here since her exposure to Armenian culture.

A confirmed Christian, Darakjian teaches Sunday school and says the way in which five- and six-year-old kids pick up the language amazes and reassures her.

"I have a lot of confidence in this generation and in generations to come," she said.

In downtown Detroit, annual ethnic festivals include an Armenian festival at which Darakjian was crowned queen in 1973.

"I do feel very much part of it," she said. "By everybody contributing what they can, and working together, we can make it a unity."

## Stabley and Vista

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Stabley and his crew, however, Allen might never have set the record.

"Late in the game Allen had been substituted for and we checked with press box officials and found that at that point Allen had 325 yards, 22 short of the record," Stabley recalled. "We checked to make absolutely sure and then went to the coaches booth and told them the situation."

"They called down to the bench and told Duffy. Duffy then called Allen over and said to him, 'You have a chance to break a national rushing record so you're going back into the game and you're going to carry the ball every play until you break the record.'"

"When Allen went back into the game, we had the ball on Purdue's 27-yard line and on the first play, he ran it in for a touchdown to break the record."

Vista recalled one trying occasion in 1963 when the Spartans were preparing for an important football game with Illinois.

"We were scheduled to play Illinois for the Big Ten championship and Rose Bowl bid,"

Vista said. "But the game had to be postponed due to the death of President Kennedy."

"His death happened on a Friday afternoon when the game was already to go with a full house and press people all over the area. It was really trying with the impact of this tremendous tragedy as it unfolded. We didn't expect the national mourning because we did not have a modern precedent for that sort of thing."

"Finally at 10:30 Saturday morning, we postponed a game which everyone was already starting out to go to. We rescheduled it for the following Thursday."

"It was just the physical drain in getting all this huge project done in terms of hundreds of phone calls to let people like the radio and television know about the postponement. It was the most colossal mess you'll ever see."

With a combined 46 years of experience at MSU, Stabley and Vista have many memories of their time here.

"Certainly the three Rose Bowl experiences were great ones," Stabley reminisced. "Each of them is about three weeks work for the sports information directors. He

goes out well ahead of the team to visit with the media there."

"It's the same kind of work done at home; arranging press conferences, going loaded with pictures and biographical information of the athletes and coaches and statistics."

"One of the other top memories would be the great basketball teams we had in the late 50s when we went to the semi-finals of the NCAA championships and lost in triple overtime to North Carolina. The following night North Carolina won the national championship also in triple overtime over Kansas and jumping center for Kansas in that game was Wilt Chamberlain."

Vista has always been one to root for underdogs and the two highlights he remembers the most involved underdogs who came through in surprising fashion.

"One of my top memories involved the 1966 hockey team," Vista said. "We had a team going nowhere early in the year and then, gaining a hot hand, it won 12 of its last 14 games to go all the way and win the national championship."

"We had been a complete underdog and riding back with the team on the bus to the hotel, we

were all singing the fight song. It sounds kinda corny and childish, but it was genuine and we had a lot of fun doing it."

"I also remember one in baseball in 1970 when Steve Cerez was a freshman. We're playing Ohio State and we're not in the championship race, but Ohio is."

"It gets down to the last pitch of the game, a three and two count on the batter with two men on and Ohio State winning 3-2. If Ohio State gets that out, they win the Big Ten championship."

"Well, Cerez knocks the ball out of the park and one last pitch costs Ohio State the game and the Big Ten title."

The job done by Stabley and Vista does not go unrecognized.

Bob Reid, the statistician for the Western Collegiate Hockey Assn. probably summed it up best. In compiling the statistics for the WCHA, Reid has to rely on the sports information departments of the league's 10 schools to phone him the results on Sunday after two weekend games.

"Nick Vista is always the first or second one on the phone," Reid said. "He's so prompt, I can usually set my alarm by him."



# Free breakfast program: low funds but full stomachs

By  
THOMAS WHITFIELD

Black, Chicano and white children stuffed themselves with "Cap'n Crunch" cereal and hot chocolate at a community drop-in center on the west side of Lansing before being bused to school.

A tall, black MSU student, dressed in blue denim jacket and jeans, served them breakfast on a long table in a one-floor recreation hall.

Ralph Hanson, head of the Free Breakfast Program, discussed the project as he served the youngsters slices of bread, toasted from an oven.

"The purpose of the Free Breakfast Program for children is to give them a breakfast before they go to school," he said. "It feeds 65 kids: 50 blacks, 10 Chicanos and 5 whites."

Hanson, a senior, stood at the breakfast table and watched a group of children playing creative games while the others finished their breakfast.

The children are bused from Lansing's West Side to predominately white schools. Hanson says this presented a problem for most of the black children.

"When the kids are bused to white elementary schools, like Everett, Maple Hill or Sheridan Road, they don't get a substantial breakfast though

the government is supposed to provide one," he said. "What the children get at these schools are milk and crackers because the majority of white parents are able to give their children a decent breakfast. Some of the West Side parents can't afford to give their kids breakfast in the morning. Each morning the children drop in between 7:30 and 8:30 to get a breakfast here before going to school."

The center is situated on the corner of Butler Boulevard and West Kalamazoo Street in a poorer section of Lansing. Deteriorated homes make up a large percentage of the neighborhood.

"We didn't choose the neighborhood because it was poor," Hanson said. "No child is turned away because he isn't poor. I can't afford to separate the kids and send them back home."

Hanson left the table and strode over to the food counter laden with large boxes of cereal packets, cups of juice and a soup pot of hot chocolate. He scooped the hot chocolate out of the pot with a soup ladle and served it to the children in plastic cups. He said he does not have disciplinary problems with the children.

"If they misbehave, I put them outside," he said. "Generally their parents discipline them."

Hanson said the program was started by George Fleming as part of the Black United Front, a black student organization at MSU, in 1970.

"George saw a need to provide a free breakfast for black children living on the West Side," he said. "Now he is somewhere up in Buffalo, N.Y., doing social counseling after getting his doctorate in psychology at MSU."

Despite the apparent success of the project, Hanson pointed out that the program had its share of problems.

"The government was supposed to provide money for free breakfast, but it was cut off two years ago," he said. "We used to get the food free from the Lansing school system, but they changed their attitudes toward the program."

"Another problem is the changing of the old Capitol. Landlords are trying to get the people to move out of the West Side area. The city wants to expand the capitol area four blocks, wiping out this neighborhood. I'm not worried because I haven't heard anything more about it."

Hanson said he gets donations from the Akers Hall blacks and various black fraternities and sororities in the MSU community. He added that the program is non profit.

"Center of Urban Affairs gave us \$1,000 and a van to carry the food from the campus to the center each morning," he said. "The management of Akers Hall allows me to use their storeroom to store the food."

"I purchase the milk from the school system and I get free bread from the Schafer Bakery, Hanson said. The Schafer people have been real nice about it. George was the one who got the deal started. He approached them and they agreed to do it. I buy most of



Children seem to have a good time while receiving a warm, nourishing breakfast every morning at the free breakfast program held at the Lansing West Side community center.

Photo by Craig Porter

the food from the campus food store without getting a discount."

When the Black United Front, declined on campus, the Office of Black Affairs took its place and funded the project. They gave Hanson a voting membership on its executive council for his work in the program.

"I have taken some pressure off of them," he said. "Since I get donations from other sources, they don't have to contribute as much to it as they used to."

"The present need right now is to find somebody to take my place," he said. "I'm graduating from MSU soon and I plan to go to medical school. When I came to MSU, I got involved in anything that

helped black people. I heard about the program and George got me into it."

Hanson said he recruits black students from residence halls and maintains a staff of 10 MSU students who help him to distribute food.

A yellow Lansing school bus pulled up at the bus stop outside the center.

"The bus for Maple Hill is here," Hanson yelled.

Children from Maple Hill school dashed through the center's door for the bus with their schoolbooks. A chubby, little black girl ran for the bus, but Hanson grabbed her around the waist before she could escape. She had forgotten her hat. He gave it to her and she ran off to school with a full stomach.

## COUNTERPOINT

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