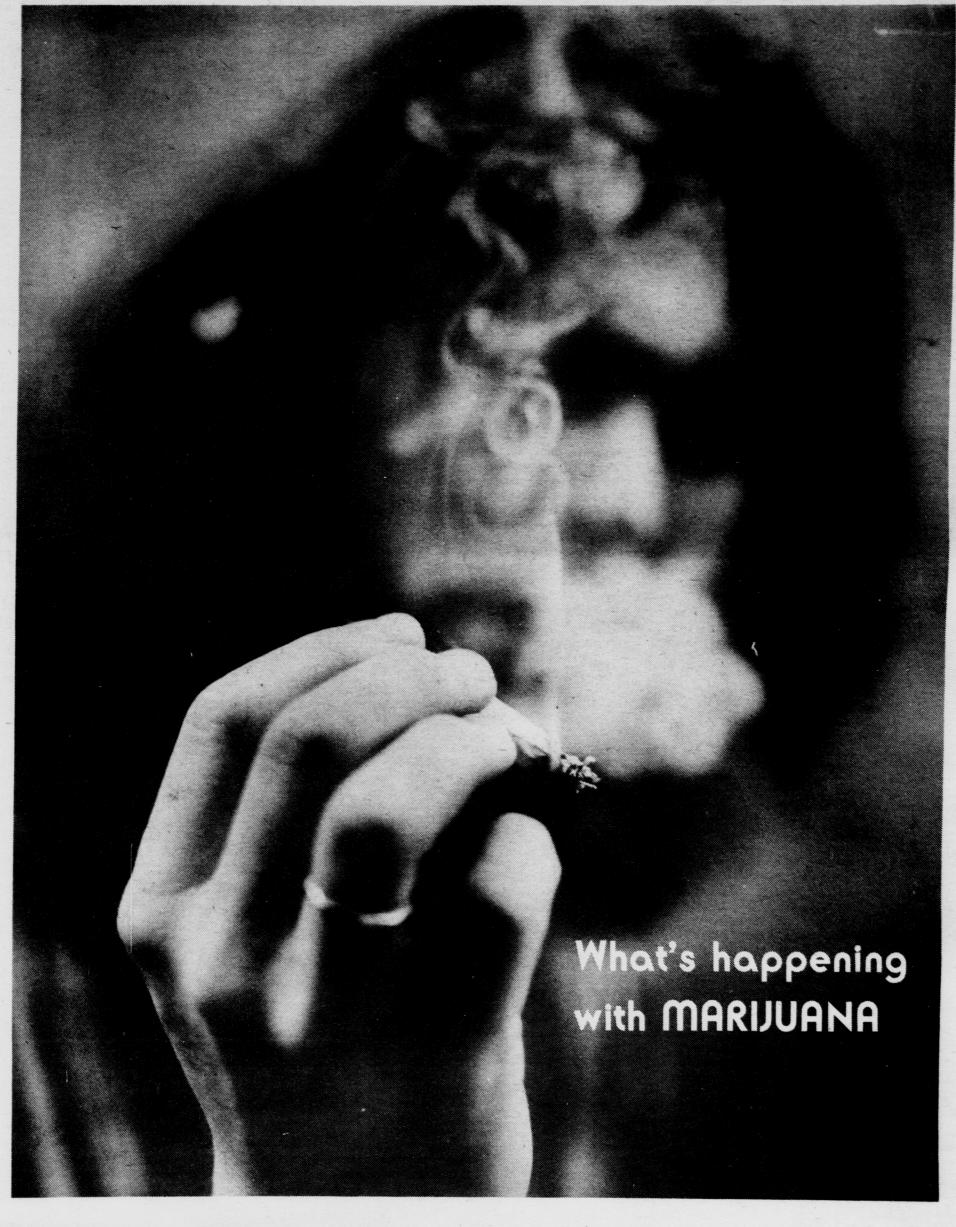
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pril 23, 1974

MSU's only gospel choir seeks recognition, delivers religion



ANGELA C. MARTIN

Twenty - five black students sit laughing and conversing in a small room on the third floor of Case Hall. Then, when she feels that enough time has passed waiting for latecomers, one of the students, a short, sparkly - eyed young woman, Wanda Lindsey, stands in front of the group and says, "Let's start with 'Open Our Eves.'

She motions to the pianist, raises her arms and starts to count. On the fourth count, as if by magic, 25 giggles are turned into one mellow, moving sound. The magic Lindsey has induced is the result of many long and not always easy hours of practice and more practice on the part of the Black Orpheus Gospel

Every Wednesday night and Sunday afternoon for the past three years, the Case Hall music room has been reserved for the choir's rehearsal. The group was started in the fall of 1971 by Amy Boyce, Mickey Assata and Lindsey. When the original seven member group began to sing around campus, other students started to show interest in becoming a part of Black Orpheus.

By winter of 1972, the choir had acquired reputation enough to sing at Central Michigan University's Black History Week festivities.

In April 1972, Black Orpheus presented its first formal concert in Erickson Hall kiva. The program consisted of both pop and religious songs with the

kiva filled to standing room only.

A major change in policy brought about by the first concert was the decision of the choir to restrict itself to religious songs.

"Students do tend to separate their religious beliefs and feelings from outside activities," said Lindsey, explaining the change. She and the choir felt students didn't appreciate the mix of religious and social perspectives.

This academic year, the choir has made another big change in policy by becoming officially affiliated with MSU. The choir hopes this decision will help with the poor financial status of the group. The choir members' biggest ambition, said Lindsey, is to get a

bus so that they can do more traveling.
"We have been deprived by MSU," said Lindsey, "but I can see the fault as being on both ends, because we haven't pressured any administrators or other influential people to assist us. But on the other hand, neither has anyone offered to help. We still have to hold our concerts in Erickson Hall kiva, which is not adequate enough."

Kevin Miller, another choir member, agreed with Lindsey but added that he did not like being affiliated with the University when the choir was not getting the same kinds of assistance as other choirs affiliated with MSU.

Looking on the bright side, Lindsey expressed her biggest goal for the choir: to be recognized as MSU's

own gospel choir. Black Orpheus is the longest organized black gospel choir in MSU history, according to Roger Groves, a former president and business manager of the group.

"For many black students up here," Lindsay said, "Black Orpheus is the only contact they have with a religious atmosphere."

"Being in the choir is a greatly needed religious outlet for me," Marilyn Blue, Orpheus member, said.

Kathy Joseph said that she joined the choir because she likes to sing and because she doesn't get a chance to go to church often, "It's brought me closer to God," Joseph said.

To Miller, being in Black Orpheus has been a relaxing and enjoyable experience. "It's like coming home," he said.

"We're just trying to make people aware of the presence of God in a way that they can all easily feel and relate," Lindsey said.

Black Orpheus' annual spring concert will be Sunday, May 19 - still in Erickson Hall kiva.
"Hopefully," said Lindsey, "even President

Wharton will come."

As two residents of Case Hall walked out of the grill amid the noisy clanging of pinball machines, they were suddenly aware of the more harmonious and peaceful sounds of voices raised in angelic praises. Two doors down from the grill, they were compelled to stop and watch and listen...



Wanda Lindsey explains a point (above) to Black Orpheus choir members (left) during a practice

Photos by Dave Olds

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USES FAITH, AGENCY IN BATTLE

Woman fights sickle cell anemia

By HARRIET WILKES

What does a woman do when she learns her 10 - year - old son has less than a year to live?

Marion Jones is a 35 - yearold Lansing divorcee and mother of seven boys. Her second oldest son, Cornelius, is a victim of sickle cell anemia. Resigned, yet determined, Jones says she talks to God day in and day out.

"Cornelius is your child," she prays. "You only loaned him to me. You didn't say how long he'd be mine. When it's time for him to be removed from this earth, let your will be done."

Since Cornelius was six or seven months old, his mother has known he was destined for an early death. It was then that a blood specialist in Detroit's Children's Hospital diagnosed sickle cell anemia as the cause of her child's refusal to eat and his high fever and swollen fingers. Jones remembers Cornelius as an unusally quiet baby who stared at the walls most of the time. Even while gasping for breath, he seldom cried.

Jones hadnever heard of sickle cell anemia but soon found that she and her husband carried genetic traits for the fatal disease. The union of two individuals who both

carry a trait may or may not produce a child with sickle cell. Two of her seven sons carry traits but did not inherit the

Sickle cell is characterized by half - moon shaped red blood cells which cause a loss of energy, poor health and a short life span.

Though he suffers from weak resistance, Cornelius has suprisingly survived illnesses which doctors believed would kill him. Spinal meningitis drew Cornelius' eye balls toward the back of his head at one time, briefly leaving two empty dark sockets. A slight limp is the only aftereffect of this illness.

Active and attentive in his fifth grade class, Cornelius sits in a front row seat to hear because he is completely deaf in his right ear.

After - school hours are often spent playing baseball and basketball. He was recently awarded a Boy's Club trophy for checkers.

Though Cornelius associates with other children through his participation in sports and school, the first sign of fatigue and exhaustion means an end

to physical exercise.

Cornelius is not aware of his approaching death because his mother believes the emotional shock would be too much of a strain for him. However, the innocent, but cruel games of neighborhood children almost revealed Jones' secret.

The children's teasing chant, "Cornelius is going to die," drove him crying and running home to his mother.

"Mama am I going to die because I'msick? Am I going to die?" he cried.

As calmly as possible, Jones explained, "Cornelius, I'm going to die, you're going to die... everyone does sooner or later, but none of us could ever know when it will happen. We could walk out into the street and get hit by a car or get shot by some madman, but you'll never know how or when it will happen."

After consoling her child, Jones visited a couple of the neighborhood children's parents explaining the dangers which further innocnet teasing might cause.

For eight years, Jones pitied herself and felt sorry for Cornelius. But realizing that petting and sympathizing with her son has not erased the inevitable, Jones began her attempt to save others from the sleepless nights, uncontrollable tears and helplessness she has faced in learning to cope with her son's illness.

Numerous long distance calls to randonly selected oganizations and strangers sometimes added upto \$200 - a - month bills. When Jones was not at home spreading the word about the danger of sickle cell, she walked from door, to door showing Cornelius' pictures to residents.

She also traveled to Flint and Battle Creek warning social club members of the effects of sickle cell.

One effort led to another until Jones finally organized and became chairman of Lansing's Sickle Cell Foundation. But as a 40 hourper - week sickle cell volunteer, housekeeper and part - time Lansing Community College student, her time consuming schedule led to her resignation as chairman of the foundation.

Jones is majoring in Child Education and Social Work, with intentions of owning a private Day Care Center in California.

Jones remains active in planning a research fund raising event, inviting MSU faculty and students, local politicians and residents, to a Sickle Cell Dance, at 9:30 p.m. 2400 Rio Road.

Jones is also looking for volunteer entertainers for the dance. If interested, call 355-9555.

Proceeds are to be donated for the advancement of sickle cell research and education.

Contributions from Lansing's Michigan Avenue Junior High School, Sexton Junior High and Haslett High School have also expanded the growth of the foundation. Okemos High School's \$500 donation was one of the largest contributions.

Jones' efforts to educate the public are a result of an optimistic outlook she attributes to her mother's teachings.

"Mon always said, first you have to believe, then you put one foot forward and God will make a way. But first you have to believe."

Marion Jones, a loving and protective mother, cannot risk telling her 10 year - old son Cornelius that doctors believe he will live only six months to a year longer. The tragic news could trigger a dangerous reaction, since he has both sickle cell anemia and a severe heart condition.

Photo by John W. Dickson



Students push for changes in drug laws

They want to decriminalize, not legalize



By PETE DALY

The burning question on many minds lately centers around the legalization of marijuana. With a new push underway for legalization the flames of that debate will be fanned even higher in Michigan's November election.

Dan Page and Bob Mendenhall, both of 414 Michigan Ave., want to see the decriminalization of marijuana in Michigan. The two MSU students are part of a statewide movement, the Michigan Marijuana Initiative, begun three weeks ago to acheive that end.

The initiative is circulating petitions it hopes to fill with at least 300,000 signatures before the July 1 deadline. If the group succeeds, the proposal to legalize pot goes before the people in November.

"Compared to alcohol, marijuana is incredibly benign," said Mendenhall, a junior in criminal justice. "There is no reason why marijuana shouldn't be legal, too."

Mendenhall and Page stressed the difference between 'decriminalization' and legalization.

"We aren't pushing for marijuana to be legal in a commercial aspect. We just think the laws against using it, growing it and possessing it should be dropped," Mendenhall said.

"If it's totally legalized, then we'll have the government

regulating it and raking in a lot of taxes from it," Page said.

The two men recently mailed petitions and information to county sheriffs and prosecutors all over Michigan. Most of the respondents were negative, especially from northern areas of

"One sheriff sent back a letter which said, in effect, '___ you guys.' Then he had all his deputies sign it, and his wife signed it, too," Page said.

The two men said they were serious about sending information and petitions to the sheriffs and prosecutors.

"What we really want is a community - oriented drive for decriminalization. Everybody, young and old, who has something rational to add should get out and discuss it.

"We want everybody who has smoked pot and not gone crazy to come out and say 'hey, I smoked pot, and I didn't go out and rape little girls or kill people'," Mendenhall said.

Page said they are trying to organize meetings where representatives for the pros and cons can debate each other with the facts about marijuana and its effects.

What are the knowledgeable people saying about pot?

Richard H. Rech, an MSU professor with a Ph.D in psycho-pharmacology, worked in the area of psycho - active drugs — especially those most commonly abused — for 18 years. During his research on hallucinogens and central nervous system depressants, he has contributed to three books on psycho - active drugs and has edited a university textbook on the subject.

Rech is also the current program chairman for the nationwide Winter Conference on Brain Research, an annual meeting that was held this year in Colorado.

"The way marijuana is used today by most people is probably not very dangerous," Rech said. "That's an obvious fact that has been known for a long time. It has been reported in the Indian Hemp Drugs Commission Report of 1894, the LaGuardia Committee Report from New York in 1944, a Canadian report issued in 1970, and even the National Commission on Marijuana and Drug Abuse, organized by Congress and President Nixon in 1970."

"However, I do feel that marijuana has potential dangers, although not as much as alcohol," he said. "Alcohol is a very dangerous, physically addictive drug.

"Of course, some people will abuse marijuana. They're the



The marijuana question:

ones who would lay around all day, just smoking marijuana and not working or studying. But these are the people who would abuse any intoxicating drug in that way."

Rech said marijuana is a "hybrid drug" with the elements of both a central nervous system depressant and a hallucinogen.

"If it has any long term dependency effects, they are probably due to a CNS reaction," he said.

According to Rech, the hallucinogenic qualities of pot can cause panic reactions in imaginative and highly excited individuals who are new to smoking pot. In those cases, the most important factor is the person's emotional environment.

"On the other hand, most people don't get high the first few times they smoke pot because they are nervous, and don't recognize the subtlety of the high.

Rech, who claims he has never smoked pot, said that only recently has conclusive research begun on tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the active chemical in marijuana. He said the U.S. government is largely to blame for the delay.

"Synthetic THC was known about by the Army in 1954, but it was kept secret. The University of Michigan did the research on it for the Army while I was studying there in '54 and '55. They were researching the possible use of THC in chemical warfare.

"After that, the government strictly discouraged any independent research on THC. Finally, in 1965, an Israeli scientist cracked the formula which the army had refused to reveal," Rech said.

He added that research has shown that no more than 700 milligrams of THC can be ingested by a nonuser before risking a dangerous toxic overdose. That would be the amount of THC in at least 350 marijuana cigarets. People who do use marijuana regularly would have a higher tolerance level.

"Marijuana cigarets contain from .5 to 1.5 milligrams of THC, with really potent stuff having 2 milligrams," he said.

On April 14, Ann Lander's nationally syndicated newspaper column published a letter from a Dr. Gabriel Nahas of Columbia University who wrote that recently concluded studies of pregnant animals injected with THC revealed serious genetic damage to the offspring. "I would have to see all of his data to be sure, but I am guessing Nahas is way off base," Rech said. "He is a well-known antimarijuana crusader, so what else could you expect his conclusions to reveal?"

Rech said some scientists attain reputations for achieving particular research results. That policy tends to win for the scientist much publicity and financial backing of people pleased with his results.

Rech said he suspects the animal research reported in Nahas' letter is the recent and widely touted work of a researcher at the National Institute of Drug Abuse.

"That person injected pregnant rats with 250 milligrams of THC, a dosage so strong it actually killed some of the rats immediately. The ones that survived had a higher incidence of deformed offspring, but that's not surprising."

"I could probably get the same results by heavily bleeding female rats, and replacing the blood with a saline solution. Their offspring would have a higher rate of deformity, too," he said.

"I have never yet seen any conclusive research indicating that marijuana use causes genetic damage," Rech said.

Would Rech vote for marijuana to be legalized?
"I would vote against the legalization of marijuana. It would just be introducing one more toxic drug with a potential for dangerous abuse.

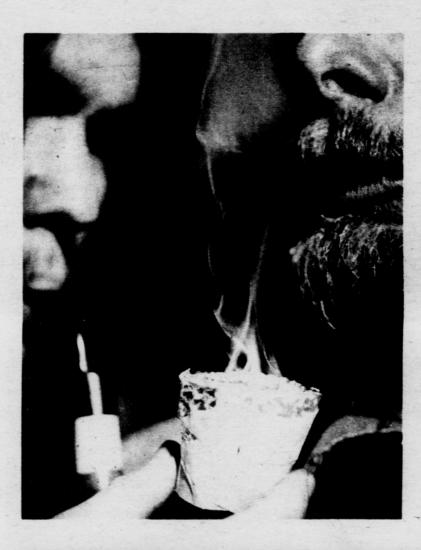
"At the same time, speaking as a scientist, I would also have to admit that I feel alcohol should be illegal. I would miss it myself if it were, but we would all be better off," Rech said.

The question of legality may be answered either way if it comes up in November, but one thing is certain. When the smoke clears, people will still be using pot, whether legal or not.



Marijuana smoking doesn't have to be complicated; however, many connoisseurs prefer using a number of smoking utensils, from pipes to fancy roach clips (left). The cigaret is rolled on commercially sold papers

To legalize or not to legalize?





 some flavored — and the marijuana is usually sold in plastic food storage bags (right). Above, marijuana smokers enjoy the effects of the plant.
 Photos by John Dickson

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She's no ordinary freshman:

Woman wins scholarship for golf caddies

By PAM WARD

At first glance, Jane Kersjes appears like any other MSU freshman. She's a slender, tall woman, with straight dark hair, who laughs easily and walks slowly. There appears to be nothing odd or unusual about her.

But there is one thing that makes Kersjes one of a kind. She is a rarity in Michigan and, for that matter, in the entire United States.

Kersjes has just become the only woman in Michigan to be accepted as an Evans scholar. She is one of five women Evans scholars in the country.

How did she do it? And, more importantly, what is an Evans scholar? To qualify, she had to be in the top 25 per cent of her high school graduating class. She had to pass personality interviews and

go through mounds of paperwork and red tape.

But all of these are secondary. Most important is that Kersjes had to be a golf caddy

To be eligible for an Evans scholarship an applicant must have caddied for at least two years.

"Everybody laughs when I tell them what an Evans scholar is," Kersjes remarked. "I admit it sounds funny that golf caddies are awarded scholarships. But they pay for my room, board and tuition for four years and that's great. It's really a great organization."

The organization is the Western Golf Assn. that was formed in 1899. In 1930, under the direction of Charles Evans Jr., a nationally recognized amateur golfer, the Evans scholarship program was initiated.

The program is chiefly financed by contributions from golfers. Approximately 85,000 golfers contribute \$100 each annually through the Par Club. Special gifts and donations also help to finance the program.

Kersjes was a caddy for three years for a club near Rockford, her hometown.

"One summer a girlfriend of mine got a job at the Blythe Field Country Club as a caddy," Kersjes, a computer science major, explained. "She There are 2-6 guys in a room now and they don't have a single to give to me."

Kersjes currently lives in Butterfield Hall but tries to go to the house as often as she

"I go there for meetings and parties," Kersjes commented.
"I like it there. Most of the guys are nice and seem to accept me. They're always willing to help me and they tell me to come over whenever I

"One thing I feel bad about is that because I live in Butterfield I get out of all the house duties," she added. "The guys don't really get their meals paid for, they have to work in the house for them. But I never have to do any of the meal or maintenance jobs."

This will probably change as more women are accepted by the Evans scholarship program. Kersjes said there appears to be more and more women caddies

"Everybody laughs when I tell them what an Evans Scholar is. I admit it sounds funny that golf caddies are awarded scholarships. But they pay for my room, board and tuition for four years and that's great."

Jane Kersjes



Jane Kersjes holds a pledge paddle she received as an Evans Scholar. The program offers scholarships to golf caddies.

Photo by John W. Dickson

wanted some support, some other girl to go with her, so I applied and got the job.

"I had never heard of the Evans scholarship program until my junior year of high school when the caddy master told me I should apply for it," Kersjes continued. "If I wasn't accepted I would have gone to a junior college because I didn't have the money to come here (MSU)."

Currently, there are 29 universities across the country which recognize the Evans scholarship program and over 3,000 caddies have received financial aid.

The MSU Evans scholars are required to live together at the chapter house, located at 243 Louis St. An exception had to be made for Kersjes..

"I would like to live at the house if I could. It would be a good experience," she said. "The reason I can't is that they just don't have the room.

and the Evans program will inevitably reflect this trend.

Caddying is not an easy job, though, according to Kersjes. "Sometimes it is pretty hard to carry around those bags," she explained. "My shoulders were rubbed raw a few times. But on the whole I enjoyed it. I met a lot of people and got a lot of exercise and sunshine."

There's no doubt that caddying turned out to be a good experience for Kersjes. It helped to get her room, board and tuition paid and gave her some spending money during high school.

But she has since given up the job.

"There's just no money in it," she explained. "I'd like to do it but I need to get a job where I can make a little bit more money."

Kersjes is on the other end now. She has taken up the sport of golf.

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Golfing family coaches winning MSU teams

STEVE STEIN

"Golf is one of the finest character - building sports there is," MSU men's golf coach Bruce Fossum said as the spring sunlight beamed into his Jenison Fieldhouse office. "You have to find out how to control your emotions if you want to play well.

"A person who has a consistently bad attitude stands little chance of succeeding. You've got to keep your cool at all times and concentrate on each shot as it presents itself."

Fossum, well known in golf circles as a coach, professional golfer and instructor, is beginning his ninth season at the helm of the Spartan men's golf team. He is also chairman of the eight - member NCAA golf tournament committee, which selects a team and individuals to play in the national championship.

"Our athletic director has been kind enough to allow me work time to accomplish all the things that have to be done," Fossum said.

Fossom's wife, Mary, an amateur player, is coach of MSU's highly successful women's golf squad. Mrs. Fossum won the Wisconsin state title three times.

The women will start their second season of competition and beginning this school year, will play for six weeks in the fall and five in the spring.

Last year's team was led by national champion Bonnie Lauer.

With the opening of the Forest Akers courses last week, MSU's golf family discussed the game which has become America's top individual sport.

Fossum said he believes that whatever level of skill a golfer has attained, he should enjoy playing the game.

"The average player should accept his own capabilities and really enjoy golf for the fun of it," he said.

"The fun for the competitor is in playing better than he thinks he knows how and constantly striving to be better. Winning, eventually, is the final goal."

Fossum suggests that players should practice several days



Gary Domagalski putts while golf coach Bruce Fossom, left, and Ron Schmieding keep their eyes on the ball.

Photo by Dale Atkins

Fossum said. "Then it would be wise to hone in on the short game and gradually build up your swing.

For the woman who is thinking of taking up the game, Mrs. Fossum suggests taking some lessons first to learn the fundamentals.

Fossum believes the biggest problem for the average man is in maintaining good balance in his swing.

"Men generally swing too hard and get off balance." he said. "Women have the opposite problem."

"Even the girls on my team don't take enough time to practice their putting," Mrs. Fossum said. "And, they have to think their way around the golf course more.'

Mrs. Fossum believes the only difference between the men's and women's games is that women just can't hit the

ball as far off the tee.

"As good as Bonnie Lauer was, she couldn't have made Bruce's team," Mrs. Fossum

The couple both praised the growth in facilities and the golf program at MSU.

"Our total facilities are some of the finest collegiate facilities in the country," Fossum said. "Our west course (an 18-hole layout) is one of the top competitive golf courses in the state."

The nine - hole east course is scheduled to become another 18 - hole course in the future.

"The quality of our golf program has increased and our teams have been very competitive in Big Ten circles," Fossum said. "With the women's team, we have an added quantity to a quality championship program."

Mrs. Fossum, who said she

"jumped at the opportunity" to coach the women's team, added that she loved coaching.

She said she was "Male oriented" because of her interest in her husband's coaching.

"I never realized how marvelous it was to work with young ladies," Mrs. Fossum said. "They're great. They work hard, they're very unselfish and thoughtful. They take care of me sometimes, too."

Fossum has felt the cutback on nonrevenue sports with his team but is not pessimistic.

"We've had to cut down on travel arrangements, food and equipment," Fossum said. "But we're existing."

"We're still competitive with most of the Big Ten schools and you have to compare yourself with the schools you have to beat."

"The fun for the competitor is in playing better than he thinks he knows how and constantly striving to be better. Winning, eventually, is the final goal."

- Bruce Fossum

There is no compensation for that post.

In the eight years under Fossum, the men's team has finished in the top three in the Big Ten five times, including a conference title in 1969. Fossum has coached seven all -Americans including Steve Cole, a sophomore on this year's team.

before hitting the courses for the first time of the season.

"It's tough to walk out there after a long winter," he said. "You can become discouraged in a hurry."

Going to a driving range or even swinging in the back yard is good practice.

"It's best to begin with some coordinated exercises,"

MSU scientists may have found the answer to country's shortages



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CHRIS DANIELSON

"If humans had been increasing in size over the past million years at the rate Americans have been growing lately, they'd be roughly 2,600 feet today," stated a recent magazine feature story.

Studies show that the average U.S. citizen is one inch taller today than his or her statistical counterpart from the early 1940s.

Meanwhile, experiments by two MSU biophysicists in lowering fruit fly body temperatures may lead eventually to the discovery of a drug lowering human body temperatures that could extend the human life span up to 200 years.

The development of a super race of 270 year - old giants is not a pleasant prospect at a time when the "shrinking" spaceship earth already is beset by the shockwaves of a population explosion.

Serious thought should be given to making human lives substantially shorter before any attempt is made to have them live significantly longer.

Reversing the frightening upward trend by reducing human stature to, say, an average of 2 feet 11 inches would be a timely space - saving measure that should be considered an absolute prerequisite for any attempt to increase life

Perhaps traditionalists will have some objections to the halving of man, but they will be placated as soon as they realize that this is really a reactionary program to line us up with our shorter forbears.

Height variances would still be permitted, of course. Basketball centers would range up to 3 feet 5 inches, while the "All - American Girl" would have a standing of two - foot - two to match her eyes of blue.

Some stick - in - the - muds may grumble that it would be hard to get used to throwing around the diminutive measurements in everyday discourse. This problem could be resolved - for Americans, at least - by changing over to the metric system - the average metric American would be a whopping 89 centimeters high after the model changeover.

Fears that shortened people would fall victim to chest - high dogs, gargantuan insects and knee - high frogs are unfounded, since the shrinking process would be tested initially on monkeys, dogs, rats and other creatures.

The practical results of taking half of man's measure are many.

Most of the automobiles now on the road could be converted into mass transit vehicles, while a train or a jumbo jet could transport the populations of entire cities.

Fuel would also be saved by doubling the floor space of the existing buildings. Hubbard Hall, for instance, would be refurbished as a 24 story sky - scraper and most single - family homes could be transformed into duplexes. Twice the living space would then be heated by the same amount of fuel.

Spartan athletic officials would have at least one less worry - Jenison Fieldhouse's seating capacity would be boosted to at least 24,000.

Another benefit of the shortening program would be an easing of the world food crisis. Each potato would go twice as far, and just 183 apples would insure a person's health for a year.

The cotton shortage would be alleviated as clothing sizes would shrink. The soaring price of gold would plummet as the amount needed for dental work was reduced. And, present day economy - size diamonds would become respectable sparklers in their own right.

Shortening up would improve the economic outlook in general, and the goal of zero unemployment could be realized during the massive conversion process best called "making two of everything."

While many objects, such as buildings, would be merely modified to accomodate the smaller people, recycling could gain a much - needed foothold in the national consciousness as billions of outmoded products are broken down into valuable resources.

The changeover also would provide a valid excuse for producers to try out new modern styles of every product.

Those goods remaining from the high times would foster a whole new era of antique collecting.

Shortened people would be able to re establish contact with the environment. Rude meetings with low tree limbs - such as the tryst that cost Absalom his life - would be drastically reduced, and our other fallings would be kept back as we kept close to the

Much of the awe Nature formerly inspired in mankind has been displaced by the machine gods of the technological age. However, a Mt. Everest twice as high and a Grand Canyon twice as deep would doubtless provide new inspiration to three - foot poets and adventurers.

Prospective scientific saviors, take note. The future of the human race may depend on the development of a half - sized fruit fly.