

## Poetry Corner

*Drifting from the pearl-gray sky,  
It casts a calm over the earth's soul.  
All is serene; even the wind sighs quietly  
through the trees.  
Intense silence captures my senses and  
sends them floating numbly on the air.  
Dark limbs spread their crystal-coated  
fingers to grasp the stillness;  
While the snow glows with the coming  
twilight and golden lights sparkle from afar.  
Nothing stirs around me. As the gentle snow  
touches my face, my heart feels at peace.*

Ninette Humber



## Patterson, Graves Lead Rebounding, Scoring

By SCOTTY MILLER

Though the 1976-77 Lion cage season has had its ups and downs with consistency often lacking, one fact can be safely agreed upon: that the team has worked well as a unit. Several individuals have helped make this possible. Jimmy Graves continues to pace Mars Hill in most categories. He is averaging about 20 points and 7 rebounds a contest, leading the Lions in both areas. Jimmy was recently named runner-up in District 6 balloting for player of the month in December. Kim Dewese has clearly asserted himself as floor leader and has raised his average to over 12 points a game. He also averages about 5 assists every game and leads the team in that category. Three freshman reserves — James Hannah, Greg Simpson, and James Allen — have gained tremendous experience and provide about 17 points between them. Wayne Miles shows improvement week by week as his playing time has increased over the season. These players, along with Bridges Hollingsworth, provide the kind of depth that Lytton can go to at any stage of the ball game.

John Patterson contributes about 12 points a game, along with 6 rebounds. Reggie Gaskin pumps in 9 points a game, and being a 6'4" guard has been a big asset on the boards. Carlos Showers scores 6 points a game as well as contributing 5 rebounds.

With eight regular season games remaining, Mars Hill looks to put it all together for the playoffs. Six of the eight are with district opponents and these games hold the keys to the season.

With basketball season half over, head coach Jack Lytton looks with interest to the remaining action. The most critical part of the campaign is yet to come. With the District 6 playoffs looming only a month away, being one of the eight teams to participate has to be a goal for the Lions. However, there are a few more goals to be considered as well. One of these is to finish within the top four of the district to insure the home court advantage for the playoffs. At present, Mars Hill is third, so that goal is presently being met. Another important attainment is to peak into the squad that the Lions are capable of being.

Surely opposing coaches must have anxieties about playing Mars Hill. They know the talent and the depth that the Lions have; their only hope must be that Lytton's squad not mature and explode at their expense. It has already happened at the expense of a few coaches. For instance Mars Hill outscored Allen 62-36 the second half to claim a 20 point victory. The key to Mars Hill being a great team and not just a good team will be their ability to put together two good halves of basketball. When the Lions begin to do this, Kansas City may be a lot closer than many think.

**In the December 10, 1976 issue, one of the All-district football players from Mars Hill was incorrectly named. Joe Jordan, rather than Alan Hunter, was awarded this honor.**

## Travel

# Even the Camera Fails To Grasp India's Essence

By MARC MULLINAX

I left you in the midst of luxury in the vale of Kashmir, a state that is totally unlike the rest of India. Kashmir is rich, mountainous, Moslem, and a backpacker's paradise: India is very poor, flat, Hindu, and safer to see in a bus.

To understand India, one has to understand Hinduism, the religion of 90 or more percent of the people. Many gods, along with nature, are worshipped. Shiva, the god of destruction, is the most important god. Vishnu (perfection) and Brahma (creation) are equally powerful but less popular. Reincarnation, the threat of a bad future-life, affects the people greatly. Over 80% of the people (600,000,000) live in the 564,000 villages, making the rural, superstitious life hard to change and modernize for the corrupt Indira Gandhi. There are 15 national languages and 50,000,000 don't even speak one of these official languages, worsening further the problem of emerging nationalism that Ms. Gandhi wants. The villages are at every intersection, mud huts clumped together with the doorless doorway as the only source of light. Walls are made of interwoven bamboo, the communal toilet outside of "town" a few yards away. Sacred cows wander everywhere, making traffic hazardous. The only occupation is farming, and the rice fields are not far away. The average village population is from 50 to 100.

India is still officially under an emergency status that is over a year old now. Many threats to Indira's government are still in jail awaiting trial or charging. A propaganda campaign bombards everyone by highway signs that stress obedience, very hard work, and piety to the state. My opinion is that most of the peasants have not heard of Dehli, the capital, of Gandhi, or know where India is on the map. Nor do they desire to know. I don't blame them.

New and Old Dehli are as different as two cities can be, yet they are side by side. The new part was built in the 1920's and 30's during British occupation and the old still remains from the 1650's. New Dehli's government buildings line a street not unlike the Champs Elysees in Paris. Homes for the government officials are large, walled, and have pools and tennis courts. But old Dehli is as poverty-stricken as anywhere, even more than the countryside. People still live on the streets by the thousands; sometimes the trees are used by those with a better balance. Utterly unbelievable and depressing. Other large cities possess the same story only with different surroundings.

The difference between the rich and poor is so wide that if India were a western country, rebellion by the poor would have occurred years ago. Luckily for Ms. Gandhi, the Hindu religion teaches all to accept their "kharma" — their fate in life — without question.

Like I have already said, the living standard in the village is a bit higher because of easily available food production. But kids under the age of three and four are naked from the waist down. But this is not from a lack of clothing but from an abundance of common sense. What mother wants to spend all her time washing a kid's clothing who is not potty-trained? The kids don't mind their lack of modesty and after a while, neither do I. Like all fun-loving kids they get dirty, but they are well fed.

Without a doubt the world's best and most prolific builder was Shah Jahan, who ruled northwestern India in the mid 1600's. In this area, his accomplishments include all of Old Dehli, the largest mosque in India, and several Red Forts with square miles of palaces and temples inside the 60 foot walls. But the work that he is most known for is in Agra — the Taj Mahal. Beyond space, time, and my attempts of description, I can only de-

scribe it as a supreme paradox — "The immortal and exquisite fashioned by the mere mortal and worthless." Pictures can't adequately expose what is in Agra town. I spent four mesmerizing hours in its shadow, yet now I find it hard to remember what I did or where the time went that I spent there.

What Rome is to Catholicism and Mecca to the Islamic world, Benaves is all this and many times more to the Hindu world. Many pilgrims spend their whole lives in route to here, home of the Immortal Mother Ganges river that flows out of Shiva's head in the Himalayan mountains. Their aim is to find death here for to die here and have your ashes spread into the Ganges is to end the reincarnation cycle and to enter the Void — to die the last death of this hell on earth. This morning found me at the river's banks, or steps, watching the meditating Brahmins, the bathing Hindus, and last, but certainly not least, the cremation and spreading of ashes of those who have died their last death. Benaves is a very reassuring place to die if one is a Hindu. Right now I am as clean as I shall ever get in the Hindu's eyes for I bathed in the Ganges myself this morning, involuntarily dipping myself the prescribed three times.

India is a varied place — full of so many surprises that I find it impossible to mention a fraction of what I have seen and done. The varying paces of life, thought, and customs would overwhelm me, I'm sure, were I to realize fully what I am experiencing in relation to my forgotten life in the United States. My advice to future travelers to India is to travel to less "sense-arresting" countries first to get one used to what they will find in India. Living expenses can be kept easily to under three dollars a day.

I only wish I could write twenty more reports on India so that I could satisfy myself with a job half-way done. However, my next report will describe the forbidden land of Taipei.