

N O R T H E A S T T O D A Y

November 24, 1986

No Opinion on vos Savant

If you came to the lecture by the smartest woman on the planet expecting to see a bespectacled librarian type and to hear a heated lecture on current issues, you may have been surprised.

Marylin vos Savant, IQ 228.33, is a fair-skinned, black haired, well-preserved 40-year-old who is "neither Republican nor Democrat" and who doesn't like to form an opinion.

Not forming opinions, or intellectual relaxation, was the theme of her lecture, "You Forgot your Parachute," or "Jumping to Conclusions" in the Georgian Room of the Student Union Building, Nov. 17.

"I have noticed so many people have very set ideas at a very, very early age in life," the St. Louis native said. She said we approach situations with such a framework, which clouds reality. Vos Savant told those gathered never to form an opinion on an issue.

"The less tense you are, I believe the more brilliant you can become," she said.

Vos Savant listed five exercises to intellectual relaxation: accept a critical belief, admit what is wrong in your own mind; leave an opening when answering questions; stop using the word opinion; seek out conversation with those with opposing viewpoints; and cultivate friendships with those of very different backgrounds.

Several at the lecture questioned vos Savant's philosophy, or lack of it, arguing that sooner or later, one must take a stand on an issue.

Paula Presley, a graduate student, said she does agree that people must keep their minds open.

"She wants us to be just like a sponge and absorb everything. When is it time to start squeezing some of it back out?" Presley asked.

Judgments can be made from available information, vos Savant said, but ideas should not be set in stone.

How does the most intelligent person in

the world define intelligence?

"I equate it (intelligence) with understanding and that can be applied to problem solving. Intuition and insight fit into this. Insight is the ability to see what's in front of everybody but nobody else understands it. With intuition, he or she may be able to pick up environmental cues," she said.

Vos Savant doesn't put much stock in the very thing that designated her the smartest person on the planet—IQ tests. Her mother, father and two older brothers have never taken an IQ test. She didn't allow her two children, who are both pre-med majors at Washington University in St. Louis, to take the test.

"I don't want them to end up with a label that is going to make them think, 'I can only accomplish so much because I have an IQ that is whatever,'" she said.

The label vos Savant ended up with has caused her only a few problems, she said. She credits her parents with making her a self-starter, but said they expected her to act like a little adult all the time.

"People tend to expect me to perform feats . . . 'What was the weather like on August the eighth, 1942?' I call them parlor tricks," she said.

Vos Savant also said people try to push her towards specialization. She said she values great thinkers who have "a comprehensive view, a grip on the big picture," like Siddhartha Gautama, Confucius and Will Durant.

Vos Savant said she tries to grasp that big picture in her lectures and her current novel, a futuristic political fantasy. She is also working on a book about problem solving, worked in the investment business for 10 years, has a question and answer column in *Parade* magazine and has written a Broadway play. Vos Savant never finished college at Washington University in St. Louis. The printed word, she said, will be her legacy.

"I personally want to leave some books that would help people gain a better understanding in the systems under which they operate," she said.



Senior Mary Moore speaks with Marylin vos Savant after her lecture, Nov. 17, in the Georgian Room of the Student Union Building. Vos Savant took the Stanford-Binet IQ test when she was 10-years-old and scored 228.33. We wish we could report her ACT score, but she never took that test.



Dr. Robert Jarvik, inventor of the Jarvik 7 artificial heart, signed autographs for and spoke with students at vos Savant's lecture. Jarvik accompanied vos Savant on her visit to Kirksville.

Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, entry deadline for the Northeast Today is 5 p.m. today. (Entry deadline for following issues will return to 5 p.m. the Wednesday prior to Monday's issue.) Entry forms are available in the Public Relations Office, A/H 202.

'Tis the Season for Men's . . .

Legendary North Carolina basketball coach Dean Smith once said the best thing about freshmen is they become sophomores. NMSU Head basketball coach Willard Sims can't wait that long.

All-MIAA conference forward senior Steve Liford is out with a back injury. Junior college transfer Milton Crutchfield, from Grayson County Junior College in Denison, Texas, won't be eligible until January. That leaves Sims with five freshmen, two junior-college transfers, a walk-on from the football team and three returning lettermen to start the 1986 basketball season. If the upperclassmen start, Sims' depth will be comprised of six freshmen who are now enrolled in NCAA basketball 101. Sims knows the importance of experienced depth. "It may be a lean first part of the year, simply because we have to get some experience. Once we get some experience and get Steve [Liford] back and Crutchfield eligible, we could really surprise some people in the conference," Sims said.

The loss of Liford will hurt the Bulldogs in the front court. Liford averaged nearly 19 points a game last year, and

the new NCAA three-point line might have put him in the national scoring race. Without him, the Bulldog returning starters have a 13-point average between them.

"Not having Steve really hurts. He could be one of the best, if not the best player, in the league. But, we've got a good nucleus back with Erik Hansen, Dan Storek and Baron Olden," Sims said.

Sims' tentative starting five puts Storek, a 6-7 junior, and Olden, a 6-3 sophomore, at the forward positions with Hansen, a 6-8 senior, at center. Roger Whitehead, a 6-5 junior, and Doug Shippy, a 6-1 junior, will fill the guard slots. Storek, Hansen and Olden return from last year's 12-15 squad. Shippy is from Dawson Community College, Glendive, Mont., and Whitehead enters from Lon Morris College in Jacksonville, Texas. Despite the lack of game experience as a unit, Sims is optimistic.

"These guys are really coachable and they have good attitudes. They are hard workers and while they may not have the talent of past teams, their cohesiveness or chemistry is a lot better," Sims said.

After the starters, the depth is a question mark. Freshmen Dennis Derrioux, Kris Dunn, Rick Roberts, Mike Stenger and Gregg Taylor are talented, according to Sims, but have no experience. Junior walk-on Steve Jones is a "good athlete," but due to football, he needs to learn the system.

"We think we got a good bunch of freshmen, but they're just freshmen. They need some experience. But, if we have to play the way we think we will, they won't be freshmen long," Sims said.

Although the only decision made at the MIAA pre-season coaches meeting was where to go for lunch, Sims is optimistic. Central Missouri State University, Warrensburg, was picked to win the conference, but received no first-place votes in the points-system voting. The conference is a mystery, and Sims' Bulldogs feel right at home. Pershing Arena won't be the only place in the MIAA where the only predictable thing could be unpredictable.

"I'm not sure how we will play at the first of the year. This club knows it has to play at 110 percent or it won't be successful. We could be a big surprise or a big question mark," Sims said.

and Women's Basketball

Men's basketball coach Willard Sims and women's basketball coach Tarry Parrish have little in common—at least as far as their respective teams go.

With the 1986 basketball season just underway, Sims' squad has only three healthy returning lettermen. Parrish's Lady Bulldogs return five starters, including their leading scorer. Parrish is cautiously optimistic about the season.

"We should continue improving our basketball team this season, but the returning players can't carry the team all of the time. We'll need some relief from the newcomers," Parrish said.

Despite losing four letter winners from last year's 11-16 squad, Parrish returns a good nucleus. Hilde Petterson, a 5-8 sophomore forward, averaged nearly 11 points a game last year while earning honorable mention all-MIAA honors. Tami Billerbeck, a 6-0 senior center, and Jeanette Cleven, a 5-7 senior guard, each averaged more than eight points a game. Jackie Thornburg, 5-8 senior forward, and Sandra Fitzpatrick, 5-7 senior guard-forward, are other returning starters who will play valuable roles.

Two players, Deb Weno and Teresa Bell, left the squad for personal reasons. Bell led the team in rebounds with 176, while averaging seven points a game.

Weno averaged three points a game and had 32 total assists.

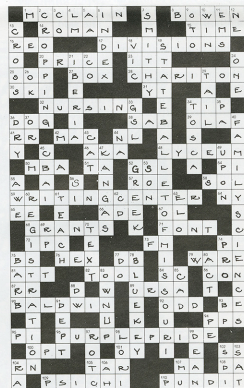
While Parrish will look to the returnees for leadership, newcomers will provide the depth.

"I needed a strong power forward and additional quickness for the guard position. I think I've got the power forward with Dawn Labbert [6-0 junior] from Ellsworth [Iowa] Community College. Another forward recruit, Robin Thomas [5-10 junior], is extremely aggressive and plays really good defense," Parrish said.

The quick-guard spot could be filled by freshmen Becky Arthod or Lisa Buschling. Kathy Lewis, a 5-9 freshman, will provide depth at the forward spot.

The Lady Bulldogs could be a factor in the MIAA race this season, but they will have to improve on their 2-10 conference record of a year ago. Parrish is hopeful the returning players will lead the way.

"Last year, we played an excellent pre-season, but the MIAA [schedule] slowed us down a bit. Hopefully, the returning starters, with the addition of the recruits, can jell together, and we'll have the strength we need to win the close games and compete in the conference," Parrish said.



OK, so I made a couple mistakes. Sorry to all you frustrated puzzle workers, I'll try harder next time.

No More Butts

More than 320,000 Americans will die prematurely this year of diseases linked to smoking. That's as many Americans as have been killed in all the wars fought this century," according to reports by the American Cancer Society.

That figure was enough reason to get many smokers to punt puffing for a day, Nov. 20, for the Great American Smokeout. (Last year a record-breaking 39.8 percent of American women and 33.4 percent of men quit temporarily.)

Frightening smoking statistics are an even better reason to join FreshStart, a quit-smoking program of the American Cancer Society sponsored by NMSU's Student Nurses Association.

The society provides printed and taped material for the program, and they trained senior Michele Murphy and junior Gail Duenckel to be "facilitators" during the four sessions, Nov. 18, 20, 25 and Dec. 2. The society urges those interested to attend all the sessions; Murphy and Duenckel said if enough further interest is generated, they will sponsor another FreshStart.

The purpose of the four sessions, held in Room 6 of the Student Union Building, is not only to get people off cigarettes, but to keep them off.

"I picture it like a diet group; the group support is really important here," Murphy said.

The first session serves as an informational meeting, giving the why and how of quitting. Most smokers are psychologically, physically and habitually addicted to cancer sticks. They can quit cold turkey, taper off the number of cigarettes each day, or postpone their first smoke each day progressively until they quit. Many smokers get burnt by the last two methods, using them as a form of procrastination instead of a means of cutting down.

"Cold turkey has been the most successful method and the one tried most by smokers..." said Priscilla Waller of the Kansas City, Mo., office of the American Cancer Society, who worked under Dr. George Sanders who originally began FreshStart in the '60s.

In following sessions, smokers learn to deal with the first few days of discomfort, to overcome long-term effects, like weight gain; and how to enjoy their now poison-free lives.

During each session the interaction among members—how-to tips, feeling and frustrations, personal experiences—is essential in keeping the morale of the group up, Murphy said.

FreshStart began as an eight-session program, but reduced to four in the 1970s because of a high drop-out rate. More than 30 percent of the people who attend Freshstart are still off cigarettes a year later. FreshStart is also available in home video and audio cassette, as well as in paperback.

Those interested in a fresh start should contact Michele Murphy at 665-0770, or Gail Duenckel at 785-5801.

Let's see if we can scare you into contacting them:

Lung cancer now exceeds breast cancer as the leading cause of cancer deaths in women. Smokers have a 10 times greater chance of developing lung cancer than nonsmokers. Only 13 percent of lung cancer patients live five

or more years after diagnosis. Cigarette smokers account for about 83 percent of all cases of lung cancer.

No more butts, quit smoking. "Regardless of the type of cessation program used, significantly more smokers (37 percent) were still not smoking one year later than those who tried to quit unaided (18 percent)," according to reports from the American Cancer Society.

S A B a n d K T U F p r e s e n t :



Friday, Dec. 5,

8:00 p.m.

Baldwin Auditorium

Tickets will go on sale, Nov. 19,

from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the

SAB Office. Tickets are \$5 with an

SAB sticker and \$9 without.

Reisen nach Deutschland

(If you can read at least part of the above, you could take a "trip to Germany")

The University of Konstanz, West Germany, will host NMSU students during a month-long German study program during the summer of 1987.

Participants in the program may earn up to six credit hours studying German language and culture. Sponsored by the International Studies Association, the program is for students who wish to study language in the country in which it is spoken. Native instructors, who specialize in educating American students, will teach the courses.

To be eligible, a student must have a 2.8 GPA and be enrolled in a German language course in the spring of 1987. All students with an interest in German, regardless of their major, are encouraged to apply. The total cost of the program is \$2,495, which includes transportation from New York, room, board, tuition, sightseeing and other activities.

Up to \$2,400 in scholarships is available for the program based on the student's GPA and performance on a German test to be given in March. Students will take a test at their level. For example, beginning students will take an elementary test, and so on. To take the test, students must pay a non-

refundable registration fee of \$45 before Dec. 31. The total will be \$90 between Jan. 31, 1987 and March 30, 1987 and is credited toward the total program cost. NMSU will pay the fee for 15 students selected by the German faculty at the end of the fall semester. Eligibility requirements are: 1) outstanding achievement in the German course in which the student is enrolled during the fall semester 1986; 2) enrollment in the succeeding German course for the spring semester 1987; and 3) firm commitment to apply for, and participate in, the program in the event of an award of a scholarship of \$500 or more on the basis of test performance. Applications must be submitted by the students selected by Dec. 12, 1986.

The University of Konstanz is located in Konstanz, West Germany, and overlooks Lake Konstanz, the largest lake in Europe. It is a short distance away from Switzerland and Austria and trips to Liechtenstein, Bonn and the Rhine region are planned.

For more information, contact Constance Reid, assistant professor of foreign language, Baldwin Hall 279, 785-4509.

Thanksgiving

24 MONDAY

9:30 a.m.-4:20 p.m.—**The German Club** will sell Advent Calendars, today and Tuesday, A/H lobby. The calendars are filled with ornament-shaped chocolate pieces and show holiday scenes. Cost is \$1. Proceeds go to German Club Scholarship for study abroad.

6 p.m.—**Summer Japanese Language and Cultural Studies Program** informational meeting, A/H 215. The program includes eight weeks of intensive language study at NMSU, three weeks in Japan at Hosei University and other Japanese cities, a weekend stay in a Japanese home and 15 credit hours.

7 p.m.—**Delta Sigma Pi** professional business fraternity meeting, SUB, Alumni Room. Nancy Roberts, from Boise Cascade, will speak on "Quality Control."

25 TUESDAY

ACT Assessment (make-up), time to be announced. SUB

7 a.m.—**Thanksgiving Breakfast**, Baptist Student Center, 110 Normal St. Donation of 50 cents requested.

7 p.m.—**German Study and Travel Program** informational meeting, Baldwin Hall 285. Scholarships for the program will be discussed and material will be distributed.

8 p.m.—**Chinese Magic Revue**, sponsored by SAB, Baldwin Auditorium. Free tickets are available in the SAB Office, SUB.

27 THURSDAY

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

NOTES

The Division of Nursing will host an open house from 3:30-5 p.m., Dec. 1, in the Kirk Building. Students who are uncertain about a major or who are interested in professional nursing are invited.

THIS WEEK

The University String Orchestra, directed by Karen Becker, will perform works by Handel, Bartok, Pachelbel, Albinoni and Elgar at 8 p.m., Dec. 3, at the First Presbyterian Church, McPherson and High streets.

Student Senate will sell purple and white "cheer towels" with a bulldog

and "Bad to the Bone" printed on them. Sales start Dec. 1 in the A/H lobby and residence halls. Cost is \$2.50.

An Art Show, sponsored by Blair House, will feature works by Blanton-Nason Hall residents. The show is from 3-8 p.m., Dec. 2, in the Blanton Hall main lounge.

Sign-up for a shopping trip to Columbia Mall in the SAB Office, SUB. Cost is \$3 or \$2 with an SAB sticker. Group will leave at 10 a.m., Dec. 7, from A/H circle drive.

The Writing Center is accepting applications for student tutors for the spring semester. Interested students should visit the Writing Center, A/H 303, to fill out an application. Deadline is Dec. 1.

