

**MUSHROOMS, ATHLETE'S FOOT,
AND OTHER FUNGI**

October 1982

Until the August meeting of the New Orleans Group of the Delta Chapter, most of us Sierrans were grossly ignorant of the wide variety of mushrooms in our state. Most people knew about toadstools and the mushrooms you buy in the store, and that was it. Now after vivacious Vivian Newman's very vigorous visual verification of the vitality and variety of mushroom viewing, many Sierrans will soon become ardent mycologists. In fact, inspired by Vivian's slides of the elusive and ephemeral morel (*Morchella esculenta*) and impelled by that mushroom's superior flavor, a bunch of Delta Sierrans has formed a splinter group of the Louisiana Mycological Society. It is call The Morel Majority.

Members of this group are intense about their dealings with mushrooms.

"A dose of athlete's foot is meaningful in relating to mushrooms," said an officer of The Morel Majority.

"If you're hosting a fungi on your person, you can get in touch with your mushrooms better and relate to them in a more meaningful way."

These mycological mavens of The Morel Majority do not limit their activities to quests for mushrooms. They are out to improve the image of their beloved fungi, too. One project is to purge the English language of the phrase "mushroom-shaped cloud" in describing the aftermath of a nuclear blast. As members of The Morel Majority point out, the nuclear blast cloud is also tree-shaped and patio table-shaped. However, they concede that "Toadstool-shaped cloud" is not offensive to them.

To raise funds, The Morel Majority is selling pins and bumper stickers. Don't be surprised if you see "Have you hugged your fungus today?" on the back of the car in front of you. Two bucks will buy you a plastic button that says "I (big red heart) MUSHROOMS." Tee

shirts and sweatsuits will soon be available.

At the October meeting of the New Orleans Group of the Delta Chapter, a musical quartet of The Morel Majority will perform their new rhythm and blues numbers, “Tiptoe Through the Toadstools,” “Spores Get In Your Eyes,” and “There’s a Fungus Among Us.”

Don’t miss it.

– Earl Higgins