



Gov. Malloy Comes to MCC, Closed Meeting, Tough Questions

By Dan Dobbyn
Live Wire Staff Writer

Gov. Dan Malloy made a surprise visit to Manchester Community College earlier this month, speaking to a group of students in two classes in the Great Path Academy Community Commons.

After taking a tour of the campus with MCC Pres. Gena Glickman, Wednesday, March 9, Malloy discussed the pressing budget issues facing the state of Connecticut. The free ranging talk included Malloy's support of Planned Parenthood and how it wouldn't decrease the state's deficit by much to cut its services.

Malloy also said he would cut the deficit by \$1.5 billion through taxes and cut spending by \$800,000.

"It's not an easy thing to do," Malloy said, according to a story published March 10 on the Manchester Patch website. "It's not a popular thing to do, but I'm not trying to be popular, I'm trying to be successful, and there's a difference."

The governor also answered questions about the dirty political ads he and Republican Tom Foley ran against each other during the campaign for governor last year. Malloy said that if one doesn't respond to smug campaigns, then the voters will assume that what is said is true.

Regarding the state's job market, Malloy said he thinks jobs in the future will be in medicine, technology and energy research. He also appeared on the fence on whether high-end manufacturing jobs, such as creating jet engines, will come back to the states.

Malloy will be back on campus Tuesday, March 29, at 7 p.m. during a stop on his Listening Tour of the state to hear from the general public about the state budget. The appearance was originally scheduled to be held in the Hearing Room of the Lincoln Center Building, but has been moved to the SBM Charitable Foundation Auditorium in the AST lobby. The event will end at 8 p.m. and is free and open to the public. The governor will speak for half an hour and take questions from the audience for the other half.

Below: MCC Student Ever Teran asks Gov. Malloy a question at the closed door meeting in the GPA Community Commons.



Photo By Rich Carpenter

Gov. Dan Malloy addresses student concerns at a closed door meeting March 9.

Why I Testified About College Budget Cuts

By Alex Tettey Jr.
Special to the Live Wire

On Feb. 28, more than a dozen students, faculty and staff from Manchester Community College went to the capitol in Hartford to take part in a public hearing on proposed cuts to the Connecticut Community College System. Alex, an MCC student, testified during the hearing.

During one meeting of Manchester Community College's Political Union, my faculty advisor professor Angelo Messore brought up the topic of newly-elected Gov. Dan Malloy's budget. He spoke of the details, describing how the proposed budget would mean deep funding cuts to the Community College System. I had come to understand that these funding cuts would force the Community College System and MCC specifically, to stretch its resources further than they already had been. The reduction in funds would mean a diminished ability for the school to offer the services they currently provide, a reduction in teachers and administrators and worst of all, higher tuition costs for students.

Messore also mentioned that a group of students and faculty had been formed by MCC Pres. Gena Glickman, to follow and research state legislation that would have an impact on the college. Ironically, later that day I received an email inviting me to join this group. Already possessing the background knowledge of the budget cuts attained through discussions in the MPU,

I was anxious to find out what help I could provide.

During a meeting of this select group, called the Legislative Advocacy Task Force, it was announced that the Connecticut General Assembly's Appropriation Committee would be holding a public hearing on the proposed cuts. I began preparing testimony for the hearing; I was looking forward to the opportunity of having my voice heard.

That Monday evening I arrived at the Legislative Office Building, adjacent to the State Capitol, a few hours before the hearing was scheduled to begin. The corridors of the building resembled a college campus. There were large groups of students from all over Connecticut that had come to show their support for the educational institutions. It was truly inspiring. The majority of them were wearing colored T-shirts with their specific institution name emblazoned on them, and all seemed to be in good spirits.

One specific shirt that a group of Naugatuck Valley Community College students were wearing happened to catch my eye. Across the back were the words "Democracy is not a spectator sport."

Judging by the large crowds of enthusiastic, motivated students that descended on the building that night, the statement was more than appropriate. It felt good to be a part of this. Shortly before the hearing began many more groups of students began to arrive at the building, including a large group from Manchester Community College. It was good to see my fellow students, members of the faculty, and even the president herself.

The Appropriations Committee called the hearing to order at 5 p.m. and the public testimony began. I began to look over my testimony and make a few last minute revisions. The speech I wrote was somewhat brief; I stated my rationale for opposition to the budget cuts, I added details like what the community college means to me specifically.

Also, I noted that being a young veteran transitioning back into civilian life, MCC has been my

See **Testified** on pg 3



Photo By Rich Carpenter

MPU Debate and Movie

The Manchester Political Union will hold a debate on Wednesday, April 13, from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. in the SBM Charitable Foundation Auditorium. The question is "Are Republicans Better Than Democrats?" To sign up or for more information, contact MPU advisor Angelo Messore, amessore@mcc.commnet.edu. The union will also sponsor the showing of the documentary film "The Most Dangerous Man in America: Daniel Ellsberg and the Pentagon Papers," Wednesday, April 20, from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m., also in the auditorium. The film showing is free and open to the public.

Name the Cougar, Win \$100

The Office of Student Activities and the Student Activities Committee of the Student Government Association (SGA) are proud to present the "Name the Cougar" contest. Manchester Community College is represented at athletic and community events by our mascot, the *Cougar*. But he, or she, doesn't have a name. Suggest the winning entry and receive a \$100 gift certificate to the MCC Bookstore. Visit www.mcc.commnet.edu/students/activities/cougar.php, enter your Banner ID number, e-mail address and your "Name the Cougar" entry. Finalists will be selected from all entries by the Department of Student Life and the SGA, the winner will be voted on by the MCC community. So get your entries in by April 8. For more information contact T.J. Barber, director of student activities, at tbarber@mcc.commnet.edu, or visit the Student Activities office, Lowe 154-C.

Outdoor Club Plans Hikes

The Outdoor Club has planned several hikes for this semester. They include Devil's Hopyard on April 10, Chauncey Peak on April 24 and Hammonasset State Park on May 8. For more information about the club or upcoming hikes contact club President Katie Mullaly at outdoorclub06045@gmail.com.

Legalize Drugs, Argues MCC Speaker

Richard N. Van Wickler will give lecture and Q&A on the topic of legalizing some drug use in the U.S Tuesday, May 3, from 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. in the Great Path Academy Community Commons. Wickler has worked in law enforcement for more than 20 years, the last 17 as superintendent of the Cheshire County Department of Corrections in New Hampshire. The event, which is co-sponsored by the Criminal Justice Club, is free and open to the public. For more information contact co-sponsor Donna Nicholson, who teaches Criminal Justice, at dnicholson@mcc.commnet.edu or by phone, 512-2756.

ICE Radio Wants You

The ICE Radio club, MCC's online radio station, meets every Wednesday

from 11 a.m. to 12 noon in LRC B149 (the Conference Room in front of the Continuing Education Dept.). New members are always welcome. Or stop by the ICE Radio studio in the Lowe building, room 148, next to the MCC Bookstore and talk to one of our on-air staff members. For more information call the station at 512-3295 or email iceradio@mcc.commnet.edu. Or contact faculty advisor Albert Kim at akim@mcc.commnet.edu.

Discussion Focuses on "The Future of the Middle East"

On Wednesday, April 6, The Manchester Community College Diversity Committee will present a program to discuss the recent revolution and uprising in the Middle East. This free event will start at 9:30 a.m. with a panel discussion where individuals from Libya, Egypt, and other countries will discuss their experiences. Following the discussion, a talk about the future of the Middle East will be led at 11 a.m. by Dr. William Baker, who teaches International politics at Trinity College. Both sessions will take place in the SBM Charitable Foundation Auditorium. The lectures, which are open to the public and co-sponsored by the MCC Foundation, will conclude at 12:20 p.m. For more information or to reserve a spot at this event, please contact Fatma Antar, co-chair of the Diversity Committee, at fantar@mcc.commnet.edu.

Raise Awareness for Those Without Homes

Manchester Community College and the MCC Habitat for Humanity chapter are hosting Cardboard City again this Spring on Tuesday, April 26. Participants will experience what it is like to spend the night in a shelter made from cardboard boxes. The Cardboard City will sprout up on the lawn of the Arts, Sciences and Technology building beginning at 8 a.m. Tuesday morning, rain or shine. For more information, contact Ali Smith at alir.smith@mac.com, Abby Bibins at abibs1008@yahoo.com, or Lucy Anne Hurston at 512-2791 or via email, lhurston@mcc.commnet.edu. Join us on Facebook for more information at www.facebook.com/mcchabitat.

Become a Student Leader at MCC

Don't let the opportunity to become a student leader in the 2011-2012 school year pass you by. The Student Government Association is accepting applications for leadership positions. Applications are available in the Student Activities Office, room L-154C in the Frederick W. Lowe building, at the Help Desk in the lobby of the Arts, Sciences and Technology building, in the library and on the college's website. Positions available include the president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, office manager and pr/marketing manager. Stipends for the positions range from \$550 to \$750 per semester. Applications are due by Tuesday, April 4. A debate for those in the running will be held Monday, April 11, and the elections will be held Wednesday and Thursday, April 13 and 14. Make a difference in your community here at Manchester Community College by being an advocate for students.

Meet Manchester Community College's Administrators

Manchester Community College is holding a meet and greet with MCC's president, deans, and Great Path Academy's principal. Come meet these administrators on Wednesday, March 30, from 12:00-1:30 p.m. and 5:30-7 p.m. The sessions will be held in the Great Path Academy Community Commons. Refreshments will be provided. To RSVP or for more information, contact Student Affairs assistant Umesh Vig, at uvig@mcc.commnet.edu, or call 512-3204.

A Dinner in Transit

Save the date! On May 4, Manchester Community College students participating in the Federal Transit Administration-funded project to pilot a community service learning model of public involvement will share their results from this semester's research during a dinner prepared and served by MCC Culinary Arts students. This event will serve as the culmination of a year-long student-led and discussion-based research of transportation needs of youth, minorities, and people with low incomes.

The project is headed by Rebecca Townsend who teaches communications at MCC. The evening will begin with a poster session and appetizers from 6 - 7 p.m. in the lobby outside the Culinary Arts Dining Room and dinner will be served at 7 p.m., with selected student presentations and discussion of findings. The event is free and open to the public, but does require pre-registration. No tickets will be available at the door. For more information or to register for the dinner, contact Elijah Coleman at koollyric@yahoo.com, or Rebecca Townsend at rtownsend@mcc.commne.edu.

Evening of Fine Wines Approaches

The Manchester Community College Foundation will be hosting the 19th Annual Evening of Fine Wines Friday, April 1, from 7 to 10 p.m. to raise funds for scholarships and programs at the college. The event will feature wine tasting and both a Silent and Live Auction across different locations on campus. The annual event will feature wineries from Connecticut and across the globe. In addition, guests will also be served a variety of hors d'oeuvres and desserts, prepared by MCC Culinary Arts students. Tickets are now available for \$75 per person and include a souvenir wine glass for the event. A group rate is also available. For more information or to purchase tickets call 860-512-2905 or visit the Wine Auction website at www.mcc.commnet.edu/wine.

Legendary Art to Graces the Walls of Manchester Community College Gallery

The Hans Weiss Newspace Gallery will be present the show "Above and Below," featuring works by renowned American artist Adolf Dehn. The opening reception will be held March 17 at 6 p.m. in the Arts, Sciences and Technology building, on the first floor near the gallery. The show will run through April 27. Gallery hours are Mon.-Fri. 11 a.m. - 8 p.m., and Saturday noon - 5 p.m. For more information contact Curator/Director Susan Classen-Sullivan at sclassen-sullivan@mcc.commnet.edu, or 860-512-2693.

Mark Earth Day with Dirty Socks!

In celebration of Earth Day, April 22, 2011, the MCC Chapter of Habitat for Humanity will sponsor a Dirty Sock Contest. This contest demonstrates how auto emissions affect air quality. Signup for this event will take place at Cardboard City April 26-27, 2011 - look for the tall signs with SOCKS on them. Each contestant will pay \$1 or donate one canned food good to enter the contest. A clean white sock will be placed over the car's exhaust pipe and then the car's engine will be run for 30 seconds. The contestant with the **dirtyest sock** wins a \$150 Tune-Up Gift Certificate, while the one with the **cleanest sock** wins a free round-trip Amtrak ticket to New York City. A panel of staff and faculty will select the winners. All socks will then be washed and donated to a Hartford area homeless shelter. Canned goods will be donated to the Food Bank of the Manchester Area Council of Churches, while monetary donations will be used to help fund the next trip to New Orleans to rebuild homes by the MCC Chapter of Habitat for Humanity. For more information, contact Habitat club advisor Lucy Anne Hurston at lhurston@mcc.commnet.edu.

THE LIVE WIRE



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Murder They Will Serve

By Jon Aidukonis
Special to the Live Wire

The Manchester Community College Drama Club is preparing for their annual fundraiser, a murder mystery dinner to be held April 6 at 6 p.m. in the newly renovated Cheney Dining room. They expect it to be a success.

"Last year it sold out in three days," said Kaarina Finnegan, a staff advisor for the club.

Last year's show began based on the experience of Albert Kim, a club advisor who is an assistant professor of communications at the college, who had previously worked in dinner theater. Finnegan said that it was evident that there was a growing community of performing arts students that were interested in such collaborations.

This event is promised to be an evening of humor for all who attend, said Finnegan.

"The best part is how much laughing we do," said Chris Savage, a club member who also co-wrote this year's script, which is a secret since it is a murder mystery.

The event relies heavily on crowd interaction and there is a large amount of improvisation involved, Savage said. Guests can expect to be part of solving the mystery and leave with prizes and souvenirs, which are also being kept top secret by the cast.

With an expectation of more than 50 guests, seating has been expanded to accommodate the increase in attendance. The show is open to students, faculty, staff, college donors, and community members.

The food for the dinner will be prepared and served by students in the MCC Culinary Arts program. This year, patrons can expect a multiple course serving of fine Asian cuisine.

Finnegan said that in these hard economic times, this event is a great value for the \$20 cost of admission. Proceeds will be divided between the culinary arts department and the drama club itself to help increase funds for both departments.

Tickets can be reserved at the MCC cashier's window in person or by calling 512-3645. MCC students with a valid school ID are eligible for reduced admission of \$10 per student.

Cont. from **Testified** pg 1

second chance and new beginning.

It is because I greatly value the opportunity that I've been afforded at MCC that I do not wish to have the opportunity diminished for those who will come after me. While looking down at my speech making mental revisions, the student currently testifying before the committee members caught my attention. It was a young woman with a soft voice explaining how she was the first in her family to attend college, and it had been her dream since she was young. She pleaded with the members of the committee to continue to fund the Community College System adequately, and to view the money spent as an investment into the minds of future leaders of Connecticut. Her words seemed very heartfelt and touching. She held the attention of everyone in the room. When she concluded her speech the room burst into applause and raucous cheering in a show of support for our fellow student.

As the night continued, the students' enthusiasm didn't subside. After each student concluded, the room would erupt with applause and a few hoots and hollers. The atmosphere was extremely positive. One by one the students testified and voiced their overwhelming support for our educational institutions. The stories from the students who spoke were quite unique and always endearing.

When my name was called, I approached the microphone, sat down and calmly delivered my speech. While concluding, I thanked the members of the appropriations committee for affording myself and my fellow students the opportunity to speak and returned to my seat accompanied by the same rounds of applause that had been extended to my fellow students. The testimony concluded around 9 p.m., and the public hearing was adjourned.

Although a bit tired, I felt great about the events of the day. Advocating on behalf of our educational institutions was empowering. The entire experience of listening to my fellow students' thoughts and concerns, sharing our stories and coming together was of great value to us all. This was a great experience from which I believe we will all benefit.

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MEET A



RAE STRICKLAND

Photo by: Rich Carpenter

PROFESSOR

By Rhonda Ransom
Live Wire Business Manager

Rae Strickland, a longtime professor, teaches English 101, Introduction to Literature, and Creative Writing, among other classes. She says English 101 is her favorite class to teach.

1. What is your hometown?

Manchester, Connecticut

2. Where did you go to college?

Graduated from Manchester Community College in 1977, Bard College in New York, a master's in creative writing from the University of Iowa, and a doctorate from the University of Durham in England.

3. Where did you worked previously?

Director of Public Relations at MCC and Hartford Stage Company, and I have been with MCC since 1993. I've worked here for 18 years full-time and before that, 5 years part-time.

4. Why did you choose to work as a professor?

Because I love it. Every day's like Christmas morning, and then I get the summer off.

5. Why did you choose to work at Manchester Community College?

Because I went here and community college is where it's at. We have a variety of ages here and diversity. There's no set age group like 18-24.

6. What activities are you involved in at MCC?

I'm involved in many committees, online teaching of English, and program development for English classes.

7. What are your favorite books?

"A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man," by James Joyce. I have to pick it because I spend so much time with it and make my students read it. Also, I'm constantly reading, so it's so hard to pick one book. In the summer, for fun, I read mysteries.

8. Who is your favorite author(s)?

Marilynne Robinson, right now.

9. Have you written anything that has been published?

Yes, I used to publish a lot, I worked as a freelance writer on articles like human interest, feature stories, and short stories.

10. What is your favorite movie(s)?

How Green Was My Valley, and Memento.

11. What is your favorite music genre(s)?

Rock & Roll, because I'm a child of the 1970s.

12. Who is your favorite artist (e.g. artwork, musician, etc.)?

Bruce Springsteen (musician).

13. What do you do in your spare time?

I love to travel whenever I get the chance no matter how bad the day is. I also love reading and going to the theatre.

14. If there were someone from history you would like to meet, who would it be?

The time and place I would like to go is Paris between World War I and World War II and meet all the writers that were living there like F. Scott Fitzgerald, Gertrude Stein, Ernest Hemingway, and Samuel Beckett.

15. If you were stuck on an island, name a person or thing you would like to have with you?

My husband, a copy of "A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man," and a really nice red wine.

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MEET A STAFFER

CEDRIC JOHNSON



Photo by: Rich Carpenter

By Rhonda Ransom
Live Wire Business Manager

Cedric Johnson is a cash accounting clerk in the Bursar's Office. His is one of the faces students meet when they pay their tuition bills.

1. **What is your hometown?**

Hartford, Connecticut

2. **Where did you go to college?**

I'm still going to college, Manchester Community College, currently enrolled and expecting to graduate this May.

3. **What are you studying?**

I'm taking two classes this semester. My degree is a double major in General Studies and Graphic Design Multimedia. What I'm going to do with my degree is continue doing graphic design. After finishing here at MCC, I'm planning to transfer to Central Connecticut State University.

4. **Where did you work previously?**

Before working here at MCC, I was in the U.S. Army. That was my major job while working a part-time job.

5. **Why did you choose to work at Manchester Community College?**

I primarily love MCC because it's an open community. I'm surrounded by younger crowds and also I'm a student and worker here at MCC so that gives me an opportunity to share my experience with the students.

6. **How long have you worked at MCC?**

I've worked for MCC for 5 years.

7. **Are you actively involved in any activities at MCC?**

I'm participating in the Brother-2-Brother Leadership Institute Shadow Program. On occasion, I collaborate with the Vets Club.

8. **What is your favorite movie(s)?**

"Casino"

9. **What is your favorite music genre(s)?**

Old school R&B, early 1980s, and Hip-Hop.

10. **What do you do in your spare time?**

Work on my car, spend time with my wife, and create new designs freelancing.

11. **What are your favorite books? Authors?**

True crime stories. It's intriguing to read because it lets you know what's going on in the world. It's not like a fiction story. My favorite book is "Perfect Victim" by Christina McGuire. And I don't have any favorite authors.

12. **What is your philosophy in life?**

Doing anything your heart desires, if you have a goal go for it, don't hesitate.

13. **What is your favorite restaurant?**

My favorite restaurant is Sakura Garden Japanese Steak House.

14. **What is your favorite place to go on vacation?**

Grand Cayman

15. **If you could live the life of a cartoon character, who would it be?**

Batman, because it reminds me of myself, living life with two hats.

Blood Drive Monday

March 28, 2011

9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

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in front of the
AST building**

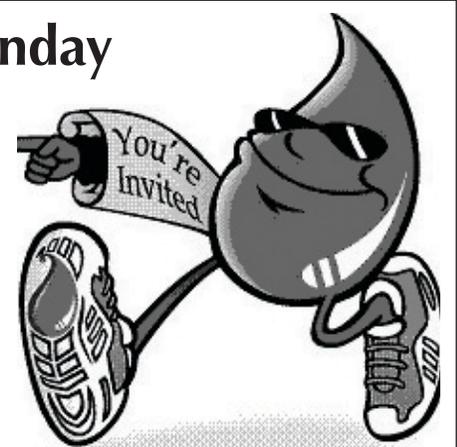


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True Colors Conference Celebrates and Embraces Sexual Diversity

By Shae Sau
Special to the Live Wire

True Color's 18th annual conference was held March 11 and 12 at the University of Connecticut. The conference consisted of more than 160 different workshops for LGBT youth and professionals, with a special welcome by gay rights supporter Gov. Dan Malloy.

More than 3,000 youth and professionals attended the conference throughout the course of the weekend, making it the largest LGBT conference in the world. True Colors is an advocacy group that advocates for the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender youth.

"According to our feedback they are [a big success]," said True Colors founder, Robin McHaelen. "We lose money every year on the conference, but we believe it is important enough to continue it."

McHaelen was studying for a master's degree in social work at UCONN, when she organized the first conference in 1992. It included workshops about LGBT youth and the risks of being in the sexual minority, according to the True Colors website, www.ourtruecolors.org.

During this year's conference, the opening session was held at the Jorgensen Auditorium on Friday and at the Student Union Theater on Saturday.

"We need to build a system of support for young people," said Malloy at Friday's opening session. "We must make this society move forward and you are the people to make this society move forward."

The opening session also included a speech from State Comptroller Kevin Lembo, and State Sen. Beth Bye, who said she also supports True Colors.

"True Colors is an amazing organization because you are going to know how to be comfortable, feel comfortable, and be who you are," said Bye.

The audience applauded and cheered as McHaelen had a few True Colors assistants place a long rainbow chain on Malloy, Lembo, and Bye.

The workshops this year had a wide range of topics, including speaking out in schools, learning values about relationships and how to respond to questions about gender.

In a workshop entitled "I Just Need to Pee," two people from Rhode Island explained the struggle that some people go through, not knowing whether to go into the men's or women's bathroom because they felt that their gender didn't fit with what their body told them.

"Everybody's just got to pee in peace," said Yael Levson, who helped present the workshop.

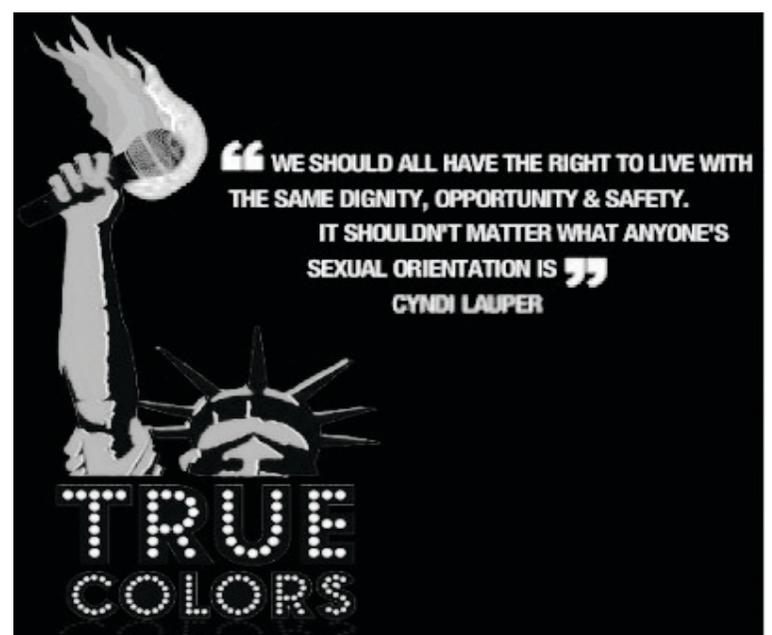
By the end of Friday's conference, Robyn Ochs, an internationally known bisexual activist and writer, ended the conference with the audience coming up and commenting or asking questions.

"How many of you felt alone at home?" asked one member of the audience. As hands were silently raised, the audience member continued. "How many of you felt alone at True Colors?" The audience cheered loudly as no hands were raised.

Saturday's workshop ended with a youth dance, and a drag ball, hosted by Harlette LeFleur, who also performed at MCC's Drag Show in December.

"True Colors is very inspiring," said Kayla Montalvo, a member of the Manchester Community College Pride Club.

"There's such a positive energy and everyone is just so happy to be around people who accept them," she said.



2011 Big Read Focuses on México

By SallyAnn Garvey-Lumumba
Live Wire Editor

The Manchester Community College annual "Big Read" event began earlier this month with a Mexican Fiesta dinner March 15. The food was chosen to coincide with the the book that is the focus of the 2011 Big Read: "Sun, Stone, and Shadows," a collection of Mexican short stories edited by Jorge F. Hernandez.

The book is filled with bite-size stories that only take a few minutes to read. "Sun, Stone and Shadows" was a quite unique choice because this collection of stories was created specifically for the Big Read, said MCC librarian Patricia Ronalter.

The MCC library will also sponsor two book discussions, moderated by MCC faculty, in mid-April as well as a screening of the film *Frida* from 2002 about the life of Mexican-born artist Frida Kahlo. Each discussion will cover two of the stories in "Sun, Stone, and Shadows." All of the events are free and open to the community.

The fiesta began with a Mexican dinner prepared by International Foods students in the MCC Culinary Arts Department. The evening's appetizer was fresh-made salsa, guacamole and warm tortilla chips. Followed by tortilla soup, ancho chili rubbed pork tenderloins, Mexican rice and traditional Mexican sweet buns. Desert was heavenly apple empanadas, vanilla ice cream and an accompanying cup of homemade hot cocoa.

After the meal, Anne Hebebrand, an MCC drawing instructor and Great Path Academy art teacher, highlighted two celebrated Mexican painters, Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo.

Hebebrand talked about the professional and personal lives of Rivera and Kahlo, who married, divorced and re-married one another between 1930 and 1940. She also noted that although Kahlo's work is often thought of as surrealist, it instead combined narrative and Mexican traditional themes. Kahlo painted as long as she could, even when bedridden, until her death in 1954. Rivera outlived Kahlo until 1957, when he suffered heart failure.

Hebebrand discussed the national pride of both artists.

"Diego Rivera put it upon himself to tell the story of México," she said.

The Big Read is an initiative sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts and Arts Midwest. The program was created in 2004 to encourage Americans to read one of 31 selected works from U.S. and world literature. A "Readers Circle" of distinguished writers,

scholars, librarians, critics, artists, and publishing professionals choose the Big Read selection each year.

Previous Big Read selections have included; "Fahrenheit 451" by Ray Bradbury, "The Great Gatsby" by F. Scott Fitzgerald and "The Maltese Falcon," by Dashiell Hammet.

There will be two book discussions about "Sun, Stone and Shadows" on campus. The first will be held on April 19 at 7 p.m. in the Learning Resource Center room A142 (the classroom outside the library). This event will highlight the stories "Tell Them Not to Kill Me!" by Juan Rulfo and "The Carnival of the Bullets" by Martín Luis Guzmán. **Steven Torres, who is an MCC Assistant Professor of English,** will moderate the discussion.

The second discussion will take place on April 20 at 3 p.m. in the Arts, Sciences Technology building in room C203 and include "My Life with the Wave," by Octavio Paz and "Chac-Mool," by Carlos Fuentes, with Linda Burk, an MCC professor of Spanish.

The Big Read events will conclude with a film screening of *Frida* presented by Robert Kagan, an MCC communications professor. The screening will take place Friday April 29 at 7 p.m. in the SBM Charitable Auditorium; it is also a free event.

Burk has a long history with the two works covered in her discussion group. She wrote her doctoral thesis on Paz entitled "¿Aguila o Sol?: A Riffaterrian Analysis of the Prose Poems of Octavio Paz." "¿Aguila o Sol?" means "eagle or sun?" because Mexican coinage features an eagle on one side and a sun on the other similar, to "heads or tails?" in U.S. currency. She has participated in previous Big Read events at MCC, but this is her first year taking on a more instrumental role, she said. Burk has also met both Paz and Fuentes.

She met Paz at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City in 1994 at a bilingual poetry reading to celebrate of his 80th birthday. Burk described Paz as "very energetic" even though he was turning 80-years-old. He was at the museum from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. for the reading then headed to a dinner at the French embassy with no sign of slowing down, Burk said.

Paz read his works in Spanish while noted American poets such as Mark Strand read them in English to a multi-lingual audience. After the reading, Paz signed a copy of his book "¿Aguila o Sol?" for Burk, and she described the event as "one of the biggest thrills of my life."

For more information visit the official Big Read website, www.neabig-read.org, or, for information on MCC Big Read events, contact MCC librarian Patricia Ronalter at 512-2876 or pronalter@mcc.commnet.edu.

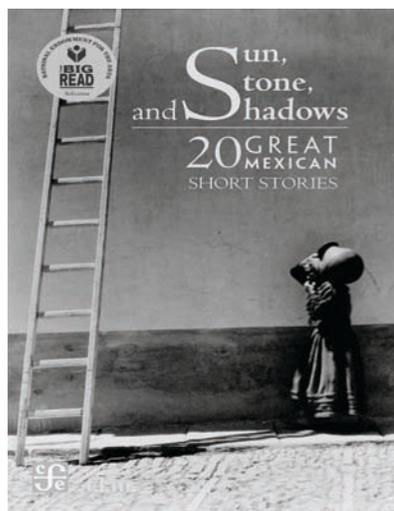
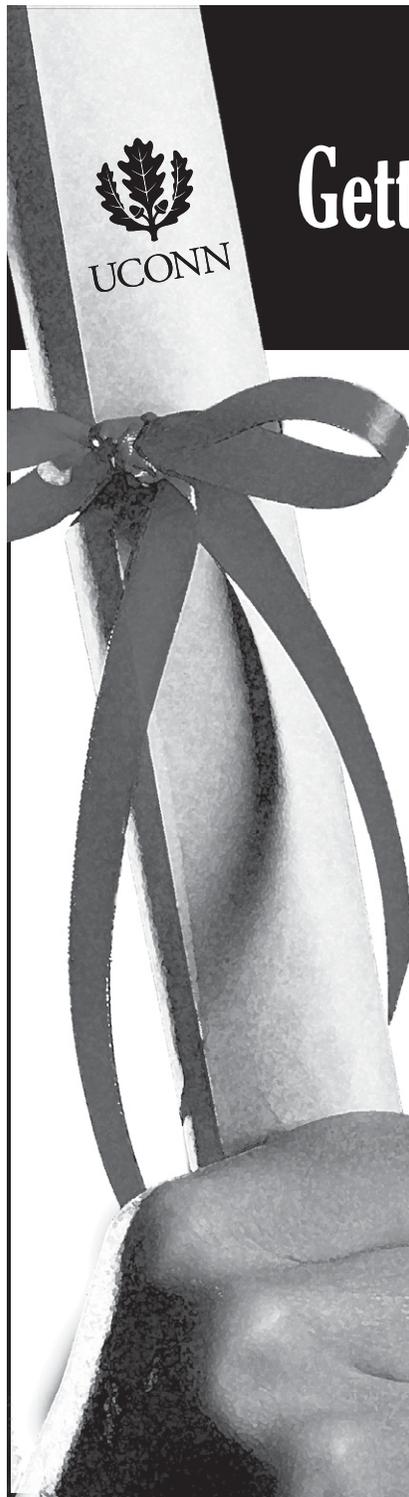


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Rally Supports Capital Community College Student's "Dream" to Remain in U.S.

By Susan Garvey
Live Wire Staff Reporter

Mariano Cardoso, Jr. is a 22-year-old engineering student at Capital Community College in Hartford. He came to this country with his parents from Puebla, Mexico when he was just 22 months old. He was scheduled to receive his associate's degree in May. But instead, he is facing deportation because of his undocumented status.

Although he has no criminal record, Cardoso was arrested without a warrant along with his uncle on August 27, 2008, during a family barbecue by Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers who were searching for someone else facing drug-related charges. When he was asked for identification, Cardoso offered his community college identification card.

ICE agents determined that Cardoso's circumstances merited a chance to fight the deportation order in court and they did not immediately deport him as they did his uncle. However, the judge ruled against Cardoso in court and his lawyer does not see any chance for success in filing an appeal. Cardoso is now awaiting a final deportation order which will force him to exit the country.

Cardoso visited his grandparents in Mexico once when he was seven, but the United States is the only country that he has ever called home.

"I feel like an American. All my friends are here, these are the streets I grew up on," Cardoso said when he was interviewed by a reporter from The Hartford Advocate newspaper following a Feb. 14 demonstration held in front of the Federal Building on Main Street in Hartford to draw attention to Cardoso's plight. "I've always kept a clean record, and I thought that would help me but now I don't know."

About 75 people attended a rally for Cardoso on March 12 at CCC. The rally was co-sponsored and publicized by Stop the Raids, a student run group at Trinity College that has been credited with bringing Cardoso's case to the public's attention.

"Stop the Raids formed in 2007 to rally support for 11 Ecuadorian day laborers that were arrested in a federal sting that involved a local Danbury police officer. They became known as the Danbury 11, in part due to our efforts to publicize the case," said Theresa Meehan, a senior at Trinity who is vice president of Stop the Raids. "They actually recently settled their case against ICE. They received \$400,000 and the sting was deemed a case of racial profiling."

Stop the Raids is a small group consisting of about 10 members but they are still trying to make a difference. Sandra Gonzalez, who is president of Stop the Raids, was the opening speaker at the rally and she quoted former Pres. Theodore Roosevelt who, in 1919, declared that if a man comes to the U.S. and assimilates, he should be accepted by all others. Gonzalez noted that undocumented students are so assimilated that many of them don't know that there is a problem with their status until they face an occasion when they need a Social Security number for the first time.

Other speakers at the March 12 rally included advisors and fellow students of Cardoso who described his as active on campus and a mentor for high school students at area high schools helping them achieve high grades and recruiting them for college as well.

Rosemary Avecedo, a senior at CCC who will receive a degree in social services, attended the rally with her two-year-old daughter Sofia. She confided that whenever she had a question pertaining to numbers she sought out Cardoso. She said that the rally was supposed to have been held a few days earlier but that it was unexpectedly cancelled and it was because of the persistence of professors and advisors as well as students that it was eventually held.

"This has nothing to do with Democrats or Republicans," she said. "It has do with Mariano. It is so unfair. He is such a good kid."

Parking was free for those attending the rally because the Hartford Parking Authority had declared it a free day for those who had come to town to attend the annual Saint Patrick's Day Parade. The irony was not lost on speakers at the rally who noted the sharp contrast between the boisterous crowd bedecked in green waving little Irish flags who lined the street outside and the somber crowd inside CCC who had gathered in the Walter Markiwicz Community Room to demonstrate their support for Cardoso in his attempt to stop his deportation order.

U.S. immigration has shaped the country and its demographics since the 1500's, said Werner Oyander, the acting executive director of the Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission,

"Why would a family decide to cross a border and to leave everything behind? It is for the same reason that it has always been historically," he said, noting that the Irish immigrated because of the potato famine and many other groups of Europeans came to the U.S. to escape religious persecution. "The situation we are confronting here is no different than that. What law did Mariano break? Doesn't he deserve to be here?"

William Gheen, president of Americans for Legal Immigration, would answer no.

"People like to use students like this for political purposes and they want us to grant broader amnesty based on his boo-hoo sob story," said Gheen in an interview with The Hartford Advocate.

Americans for Legal Immigration was one of the groups that helped to defeat the Dream Act last year. The Dream Act was very specific in its aim, proposing strict statutes on future immigration law violations at the same time that it proposed to create a legal path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants, but only those like Cardoso who had arrived in the United States with their parents before the age of 16 and on the condition that they attend college or serve in the military. The Dream Act was defeated in the U.S. Senate in December.

Oyander said Gheen and other opposed to the Dream Act have not considered the hurdles to getting into the U.S. legally.

"Opponents say that undocumented workers did not wait in line to be here. I want to tell you that there are not enough visas issued for the poor," Oyander said, adding that the poem by Emma Lazarus inscribed on the base of the Statue of Liberty has resonated worldwide. The sonnet includes the lines "Give me your tired, your poor, Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free..."

"Don't demonize people, forgetting the immigration history of this nation," Oyander said. "This is not just a moral obligation but a constitutional obligation. We need comprehensive immigration reform so that people are not living in the shadows."



Mariano Cardoso, Jr. spoke to fellow Capital Community College students, Trinity College, and members of the community at the March 12 rally organized to halt his imminent deportation.



Supporters posted signs at the rally for Cardoso held at CCC.

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Photo by Susan Garvey

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By Samson Zarek Hampton
Live Wire Assistant Editor

In hard economic times it's hard to find a job, nearly impossible in some areas. What if there was a bill proposed that would help a minority group have a better chance at getting a job and it would cost the state nothing?

There is. It's HB 6599, a bill raised in the Connecticut House of Representatives that would simply add Gender Identity and Expression to the already existing Non-Discrimination Act. This would protect the entire

gender variant community of Connecticut from harassment and other forms of discrimination in the workplace. According to a recent National Transgender Discrimination Survey, 83 percent of the transgender population in the state reported being harassed or mistreated at work and 43 percent reported not being hired for a job because of their gender identity and expression.

Not everyone is well versed in this language so, to break it down for you, gender identity is what gender someone identifies as regardless of what their biological sex is. Gender expression is how someone expresses their gender by the way they present themselves including dress, appearance, behavior and mannerisms.

So, put simply, this bill would protect people from being fired or discriminated against based on how you present and identify your gender. The non-discrimination act prohibits discrimination in education, housing, credit, employment and public accommodations. So this will also help the gender variant community in acquiring housing, which is a big issue for this community. In that same survey I referenced above, 25 percent of those surveyed reported becoming homeless and 17 percent reported being denied a house or apartment because of their status. No one should have to worry about being fired or denied housing because of who they are.

On March 21, dozens of individuals testified in front of the House Judiciary Committee at the state legislative office building. Transgender individuals, allies, social workers and parents of gender variant youth, psychologists, and other experts from the community all testified in favor of the bill.

But some members of The Family Institute of Connecticut testified against the bill,

claiming that it would allow transgender individuals to become teachers and harm the morals of students. Many people believe that queer individuals are teaching children to become immoral, when, in fact, approximately one in 10 teachers identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender and that has hurt the morality of students in the past. It has only created safer, more accepting school environments.

So if you would like more information about the bill you can contact CTEquality at www.ctequality.com or the Connecticut Trans Advocacy Coalition at www.transadvocacy.com.



Dream Act for Non-citizens? Not on My Dime!

By Michael Brosnan
Special to the Live Wire

To be clear, I'm not anti-immigration or against any specific individuals personally for their ethnicity or current citizenship status. I am against giving rights to people who have stolen the right to be here.

My traveling has brought me to every continent except South America and the two poles, either by force in the military or legally with a passport. In both cases, I was well aware of the country's laws and the legal position I held while I was in those countries. Recently, Americans have been asked to support the Dream Act and I feel it is necessary, that if someone is going to request we support this act, they should also understand the repercussions of their actions.

The federal Dream Act would create a pathway to citizenship for undocumented students under certain criteria. It failed to pass in the U.S. Senate in December. The Connecticut Dream Bill would provide in-state tuition to undocumented students at the state's public colleges. A public hearing on the issue was held March 15. Legislators who oppose the bill say it would take away places in colleges from citizens and legal immigrants. They also suggest that people who are in this country illegally cannot be hired for jobs, even after earning their degrees.

Dictionary.com states that the definition of the word *invade* is "to enter as if to take possession; to invade a neighbor's home." What is actually happening in America is a form of invasion. Most people figure that the only crime an illegal alien commits is the act of crossing the border, which is incorrect. Every day that a person, or persons, stay within the country illegally they are actually stealing the right to be here; they know it and most probably fear being caught.

If the Dream Act became law, we would now have an illegal alien, who knows he or she is in the country illegally receiving the benefit of getting a great education.

Therefore, I ask this to the people in support of the Dream Act: since you feel it's appropriate to lobby our government in support of allowing illegal aliens to stay because they do well in school, is it not a form of favoritism and or segregation?

I don't see people lobbying for the illegal day workers or migrant farm workers to stay, but now we are supposed to feel guilty because some parent broke the law with child in arms. This goes back to the idea of stealing a place to be here. We are a civilized society and there are many countries and people applying to be here. When someone breaks the law and stays, this is keeping out another person or family who is attempting to be here legally. And college students have lobbied for this?

I have seen poverty in other countries and relish the fact that I live in a country that provides so much for our citizens and our guests. I have said in the past that our poor in our country have it better than some rich in other countries. If you are so much in favor of illegal aliens in this country to stay, go ahead and open your doors to them and let them stay with you.

To twist it and say it's our problem when they steal the right to be here, drum up support for their cause, and prey on liberal views of sympathy is fine by me - I'm not the law. But

these same laws are in place to support and protect citizens of the United States, and when I was in foreign countries I was subject to their immigration laws. Some countries handle illegal immigration more harshly with fines and even jail time, whereas, here we often release them and expect a civil person to respect our laws.

To all the people in support of the Dream Act, I say I'm not surprised that you support it. It's very compelling to see someone's life dependent upon a law. They may only know our country as their own. But then I have to ask, where are the parents and what responsibility are they taking for their actions? Ultimately, are they not the people who put their child in this situation?

Granted, the benefits were a great education that they may not have gotten in their country, but now they should understand the consequences of their actions. Then, look at it from this perspective. What if you are working in the U.S. immigration department and have to turn down countless families from all over the world because of a cap on people allowed in? If the millions of illegal aliens did not steal their way into this country, we could then allow more applicants to legally enter the country.

I'm all for legal immigration; I'm not for the Dream Act, or any act that says I like "YOU," so we want "YOU" to stay. I'm also not for granting someone the benefits because they feel like stealing from someone else and provide them the right to lobby for the right to stay. Once we set a precedent of allowing select people to stay for any reason other than the legal methods, we open a doorway for more people to try to achieve the same goal. The Dream Act would be like telling foreigners, "Come to America, raise your kids, and when they become adults, if they are smart, they can stay."

Instead, I propose this to all the people who want to help support the Dream Act: open your doors and let those children stay with you, you raise them on your dime and you be responsible for them if they don't succeed. Then you can tell them, "Sorry you have to go home."



Image courtesy of Visitingdc.com

FAST FOOD CHALLENGE

The Live Wire sent Alex Obert to five local restaurants to find the best deals possible on a \$5 budget. Below is the now declassified report. (All photos by Alex Obert)

TACO BELL:

268 Silver Lane
East Hartford

Taco Bell is very “five dollar friendly.” They have items available for 89 and 99 cents. What I chose to purchase here was a “2 Dollar Meal Deal.” It gives you the option of choosing one of four items and it comes with a bag of Doritos chips and a medium drink. I chose to get the double-decker taco, which has a crunchy shell layered with a soft tortilla, with beef, shredded cheese, and lettuce in the middle. I asked to replace the beef with chicken, especially after recent stories in the news about what’s REALLY in the Taco Bell beef. It will cost you a little extra, but their chicken has always been better than their beef anyways. The chips make a great companion to any of the four items. For the medium drink, I chose to get “Mountain Dew Baja Blast,” a tropical lime-pineapple flavored version of Mountain Dew, and it is only available at Taco Bell. I also made sure to ask for no ice in my medium drink because that way, I get a full cup of soda, rather than a semi-full cup due to all of the ice taking up space. I also ordered a “crispy potato taco,” which is a flour tortilla and inside is lettuce, shredded cheese, pepper jack sauce, and crispy potato bites. This is a great choice for you vegetarians out there. Overall, it’s a solid meal, which you can get late at night because of Taco Bell’s hours. **The total came to \$4.02, including tax.**



DAIRY QUEEN:

684 Hartford Road
Manchester

Just down the road from MCC is a Dairy Queen that some students might not be aware of. This Dairy Queen doesn’t just serve Blizzards, it is also home to great meals that can be enjoyed for lunch or dinner. The restaurant features something known as “Sweet Deals,” where a customer can purchase items off of the menu, whether it be two for \$3, three for \$4, or four for \$5. I chose the “three for \$4” and purchased a medium order of onion rings, a cheeseburger, and a crispy chicken wrap.

The onion rings were great and left me very satisfied. The cheeseburger had a “homemade taste” to it. The chicken wrap has always been my favorite item there and it is much, much better than the Snack Wrap served at McDonald’s. This meal at Dairy Queen left me very full and it’s always a great choice. **The total with tax was \$4.18.**



Wendy's:

262 Spencer Street
Manchester

Wendy’s features a \$2.99 Value Meal menu. You can pick either a crispy chicken sandwich or a double junior cheeseburger, and both include a side of fries and a drink. I went with the chicken sandwich, which seemed like a good choice, especially since it came with bacon. The sandwich was small, but it was big in taste. The fries, despite having a new look and taste, were extremely salty. I also ordered a 99-cent Vanilla Frosty, a frozen dairy treat that has been a Wendy’s signature for as long as I can remember. **The total for the meal came to \$4.10, including tax.**



Burger King:

708 Silver Lane
East Hartford

Burger King features a \$1 value menu. I chose to purchase a “Single Stacker,” which is a bacon cheeseburger, a small order of fries, a four-piece order of chicken tenders, and a small drink. The flame-broiled burger was satisfying and filling. The chicken tenders were a good value for \$1, and go great with any of their sauces. Burger King fries, in my opinion, are some of the best fries out there in the fast food world. Overall, Burger King has some great choices for their value menu. **The total came to \$4.24, including tax.**



McDonald's:

70 West Center Street
Manchester

McDonald’s is home to the well-known “Dollar Menu.” From this menu, I purchased a McDouble (which is a double cheeseburger), a small order of their famous fries, a four-piece order of Chicken McNuggets, and two apple pies. The McDouble did a great job to fill me up and strangely enough, it costs less than a single cheeseburger. The Chicken McNuggets have always been a favorite of mine since I was a little kid. The fries are always great. The two apple pies are good, and you can’t go wrong with getting two for \$1. Overall, a filling and great meal. **The total came to \$4.24, including tax.**



Manchester Businesswoman Attracts Locals and Celebrities with Divine Treasures

By Kate Sheely
Live Wire Staff Writer

If you ever shop at Manchester's Parkade Plaza, you may happen upon a quaint chocolate shop called Divine Treasures. Chocolatier Diane Blanchette-Wagemann owns and operates the business, which opened in 2006. Nestled among typical strip mall neighbors, Divine Treasures offers anything but your typical fare. Individual chocolates in unique flavors, such as *Cranberry Bog*, *10 Million Smooches*, *Amaretto Sundae* and *Lavender Blues*, adorn the display cases.

Blanchette-Wagemann's creations are enjoyed not only by locals, but also by celebrities like comedian Ellen Degeneres, actor Chevy Chase and actress Alicia Silverstone. Adding to the allure, she even has a client we'll dub the "Mystery Man" who, wishing to remain anonymous, sends in the stewardess from his private jet to purchase these chocolaty wonders.

You're probably wondering what makes these chocolates so special. There is much more behind these candies than delectable flavors. Blanchette-Wagemann said she makes an effort to use organic, local and fair-trade ingredients when possible. She purchases the raw chocolate from Belgium. The cocoa originates from small, organic farms in Venezuela, Madagascar and Ecuador, she said.

Perhaps more important than what's *in* the chocolates is what's not in them: they do *not* contain trans-fats, gluten, refined sugars, corn syrup or dairy (with the exception of the sugar-free chocolates, which do contain 1 percent whey).

Blanchette-Wagemann takes care to use quality ingredients and ethical business practices. In a recent interview, she explained the thoughts behind her actions.

"You know what somebody said to me and I truly believe in that? Every dollar that you spend in this world is a choice you're making. Therefore, every dollar that I receive or every dollar that I spend on my products is a choice that I am making," she said. "I don't want to be attached to slavery. I don't want to be attached to buying cheap stuff from China. I make sure my boxes are made in the United States and my bags are made here in the U.S. I try to stay with U.S. products as much as I can."

Blanchette-Wagemann admits that her upbringing has influenced her values.

"One of the things my father instilled was: to keep a country great, or keep your town great, you have to spend your money within the town or within the country," she said. "I didn't realize how much he instilled that into me until I started getting older. He would buy his cars all at really small local places. He only bought American cars."

As a young child growing up on the Maine-Quebec border, Blanchette-Wagemann often spent weekends making chocolates with her grandmother, but she hasn't always been in the chocolate business.

After earning her bachelor's degree in marketing from Post University in Waterbury, she worked doing international marketing for Pratt & Whitney and also did consulting work for the health food industry. Things changed after her grandmother passed away and she was given her chocolate recipes. She began experimenting with the recipes while on vacation.

"My husband and I went to vacation on Martha's Vineyard. While I was there, I started playing with the recipes. I took them out and I started converting them to become vegan," she said.

Amused with her vacation project, Blanchette-Wagemann visited a chocolate shop on the island. Realizing she needed a tempering machine to manufacture her treats, she ordered one before the vacation was over.

"I bought one of the largest ones that that company has. You can produce 500 pounds of chocolate a day on that machine. So, we get home and there's the tempering machine.



image courtesy of achanneofactory.com

Just a few of the vegan treats offered at Divine Treasures, located at Manchester Parkade Plaza.

"My husband says, 'Well, what are you gonna do?' and I said, 'Well, I think you need to build me a commercial kitchen in the cellar,'" she said, laughing. "And he did!"

Blanchette-Wagemann pursued her interest by calling a chocolatier in New York. A mutual friendship was formed in which she spent several months engrossed in the world of chocolate in exchange for sharing her marketing knack. After taking some classes at Princeton University in New Jersey and Johnson & Wales in Rhode Island, she opened Divine Treasures in 2006. It wasn't long before word spread about her confections.

"Whole Foods from West Hartford called up and they wanted the products. I was very fortunate because it usually takes about 4-5 years to get into a Whole Foods, and *they* came after *me*. So, within three months of being in business I had a Whole Foods account," she said. "Then from there I branched out to other health food stores and then other chocolate stores."

Today, Divine Treasures stocks more than just chocolate. There are gluten-free baking mixes made by a friend from Ohio, greeting cards made by Kathy LeDonne of Manchester and jewelry made by Betty Goyette of Manchester. Blanchette-Wagemann also makes soft serve dairy-free, gluten-free ice cream.

"It's really, *really* good," she said.

To those hoping to open their own businesses, Blanchette-Wagemann encouraged gaining experience through working, even if it means working for a low wage or for free. She also advises folks to find a knowledgeable person who can mentor them and help them start their business. However, she cautions entrepreneurs to filter any advice they receive.

"If it doesn't sit right with you, if it doesn't feel like it's coming from the right place, throw that advice away because you will never stay focused and be true to yourself if you're trying to listen to everybody," she said. "It's okay to have people help you and to accept their help, but you are the only one that truly knows what direction you want to go."

As for the future of Divine Treasures, Blanchette-Wagemann said she is excited to improve her online presence. She just hired a website designer and programmer. Not yet entrenched in the world of social networking, she marvels at the marketing opportunities available online.

"They have these things called blogs, right? And I didn't realize bloggers have followings. So I started looking at vegan bloggers. This one girl has 3,000 followings for the vegan blog!" she said.

Blanchette-Wagemann said she hopes to utilize social networking sites like Facebook and Twitter and is aiming to launch an improved website at the end of April.

Meanwhile, you can visit Divine Treasures in the Manchester Parkade Plaza (near Stop & Shop) or on the web at www.divinetreasureschocolates.com.

A few more of the varied assortment of "treasures" on display



Lessons We Can Learn from the Japan Catastrophe

By D.P O'Keefe
Special to the Live Wire

The United States has a lot to learn from examining the videos and coverage of the March 11 Japanese earthquake and resultant natural and technological disasters. They are not lessons in civil preparedness, environmentalism or economics, however. They're lessons in how to unite, motivate and support each other in the aftermath of a crippling disaster.

I was able to see (after sifting through the voyeuristic video footage that America seems to love) something that I *never* have before in the coverage of recent disasters elsewhere in the world, especially right here in the U.S. There was no blaming, there was no political polarization, there were no sociological accusations, and there was no gouging or profit taking. There was only a sad, but dignified realization that Japan is in a horrible position, and that the only way out was to start about the business of improving it, immediately.

I think back to a few months ago after a blizzard of 22 inches hit New York and several streets went unplowed even days after the storm ended. Ambulances were unable to access homes, and there were fatalities. Everyone I talked to about this – everyone - mentioned the fat lawsuit due to the families of the deceased because of the city's negligence. I wonder how many people stared at the stranded ambulance, the street, the snow and the house, with shovels in their hands, saying, "I know a good lawyer?" I'm certain there were plenty of people taking footage for the news.

Had this happened in Japan, I'm sure the entire neighborhood would have come together and plowed the streets with spoons if need be, and addressed culpability at some other time, if at all.

The average U.S. citizen has grown fat with a sense of entitlement. It's someone else's job because, after all, "What are we paying taxes for?" And what better way to prove how seriously we take this fact than by the gothic act of watching suffering and then accusing those responsible?

I was watching a film of a crowd of people on a landing in one of the coastal Japanese villages as a tsunami enveloped the town in the background. I focused on one woman with a child, who was frightened to death. The woman wasn't screaming in front of the camera yelling "help us now." She was speaking softly to her daughter to distract her from the sirens and sound of the streets below. Others came to her side to do the same.

Americans will watch house after house burn down, complaining that the fire department is running late. Americans will sue a neighbor for practicing CPR if their certification has expired by a few days. Americans will slow down at a tractor-trailer roll-over and take a good look, but won't get out seeing if they can help. Some of them will even hold their phones out of the car window to take a picture.

It seems as though, "Who is going to do something about this?" is our new national motto.

In the days to come, watch or listen to our political pundits who are trying to make a point about nuclear safety, funding for disasters or the need for more



A baby survivor is fed by a member of the Japanese Red Cross' National Disaster Response in Ishinomaki, in Miyagi Prefecture. (AP/Japanese Red Cross)

taxes for – well – whatever this "opportunity" affords them. Then log onto BBC.com and watch the Japanese media's reaction, their politicians' handling of resources – and notice the blame-free apolitical manner in which they do it.

And, most importantly, watch how the Japanese people treat each other and conduct themselves in front of our own parasitic news personnel.

What lessons can we glean from all this?

I believe that we have stopped fixing anything in the United States. We are trapped in analysis paralysis. We need to stop this, and follow Japan's lead. The United States *used* to run on basic common sense for the common good. Somehow we've become a "get mine" society.

We elect people to do our voting for us. We watch documentary filmmaker Michael Moore or politician Sarah Palin get enraged, spit fire and pieces of lunch, and we feel vicariously vindicated. We give money to the NRA or to NPR and rest easy that our money is well spent. And at the end of the day, we pat ourselves on the back for being responsible citizens.

But a responsible citizen takes care of his fellow citizens, works toward the betterment of his community, and bands together with other citizens to get out of a hole. They don't look to the government for "something" to be done. They don't need direction from their political party and they don't need to listen to their favorite talking head to give them their opinion.

Watch which people and organizations use this disaster to advance their agendas. It won't be long before they start to emerge with some kind of banner in-hand spitting fire and pieces of lunch. You may agree with them, or you may not. But ask yourself, "What good are they doing, and for whom?"

Then think of that woman on the landing in Japan and ask yourself the same question.

Can we learn something from this? I hope so. Because the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath and the blizzards of 2010 and 2011 were horrific examples of how America finds fault before it finds a solution.

Women's History Month: Should MCC Celebrate it in a Larger Way?

By Rhonda Ransom
Live Wire Business Manager

Shortly after the celebration of Black History Month ended in February, I wondered if Manchester Community College celebrates Women's History Month, in March. I saw no events posted around campus, as I did for Black History Month.

So, I did some investigating. I went around campus and asked several people what the school is doing for the celebration of Women's History Month.

I learned that MCC does do things for women on campus, mostly for faculty and staff, but students don't hear about it as much compared to Black History Month and Hispanic Heritage Month. For example, there is a Women's Caucus on campus and it holds a luncheon each month. I also learned that Nylsa Ubarri-Young, an MCC counselor, also coordinates events for women not just in March but also throughout the academic school year, including sessions on Awareness and Prevention of Sexual Assault, "Girls Rock! Why attending a Women's College May be the Right Choice for You," and a stress workshop on how to handle work, school, and family.

The question is should the college celebrate Women's History Month in a larger way? I think it should because women have made a large impact in the U.S., just as men have. We hear about women making history but not nearly as much as we do about the accomplishments of men.

I believe women have come a long way from housewives and housemaids since this country was built to being doctors, lawyers, schoolteachers, politicians, musicians, business, and so much more today. Did you know that, according to a recent news report, more women than men are attending college in the last 10 years or so and still get paid less than men in the workplace? It's because women are still facing discrimination and sexism to this day. These are one of the hot topics we can discuss in Women's History Month.

That trend is reflected here at MCC, where 52 percent of full-time students are women, according to a fact sheet about the college found on the MCC web site. Another interesting fact: there are about 164 female and 125 male faculty and staff members.

According to www.history.com, Women's History Month grew out of a week-long celebration of women's contributions to culture, history and society organized by



the school district of Sonoma, California, in 1979. The idea quickly caught on within communities, school and organizations across the country. In 1981, the U.S. Congress made it official, passing a resolution establishing Women's History Week.

But still many people don't hear so much about it, not just in schools but also throughout this country. That is why I'm strongly supporting that we should promote it more. Who should we recognize? The women faculty, staff, and students at MCC.

But planning requires the time commitment of the MCC community, said, Ubarri-Young, including students. She can't do it alone, she said, and it's always good to have a students' perspective because MCC is all about the students.

So, if you are going to be here in the Fall 2011 semester and want to help out, contact her for more information at nubarri-young@mcc.commnet.edu.

In conclusion, MCC should celebrate Women's History Month starting March 2012 so that future generations can learn about the contributions of women, both within and outside the campus. Together as a college we can make this happen.

The World According to Comic Sans

By SallyAnn Garvey-Lumumba
Live Wire Editor



A very wise man once told me that “You can’t get very far without knowing how to write.”

Everyone is busy texting and not paying attention. One of the quantifiable lessons we gain in college is the ability to explain our opinions on paper. More and more students are taking remedial courses when they start their college education. One of the most important lessons you gain is the ability to write a college essay. I’ve assembled this editorial not to be mean or annoying (though it is a little annoying), just to show how many traps we fall into when writing down our opinions. Assumption: “The font you choose says a lot about you as a person.”

I’m not totally sure that sentence is true. Maybe I’ve talked to one too many graphic designers or spent a second too long on formatting options. But, to an extent, your font says a lot about what type of person you are. It says how long you studied, how well you spell checked, if you read your syllabus or are in the running for teacher’s pet.

Student A) *A font so big even sign-makers would blush.*

Ah, the rushed student who forgot, misplaced or abandoned his syllabus. Or, who finds the assignment too trivial to complete or too daunting to attempt. This student will write approximately 47 words for a 300-word requirement. All of these words will be in a font so large an alien could read it from space. This student will also have used Times New Roman, as though writing in 42 point font is magically corrected by using the teachers preferred font choice (not true).

Most likely, after receiving their grade, this student wrote a full 300 word rating of his or her professor on *ratemyprofessor.com*, but unfortunately, all of that writing has absolutely no substantive value in your art course.

Student B) *Arial 12 point = 3 pages, Times New Roman 12 point = 2 pages.*

Oh, the joy of reading this essay, with enough hyperbolic words to make an English teacher weep (though we can all admit that poet Emily Dickinson was “pretty cool by contemporary standards”). These crafty kids will respect and honor the code of the bare minimum (and willfully and continuously overlook the professor’s request for “Times New Roman only.”) If Arial is bigger, then Arial is better. If only teachers hadn’t joined the digital age and learned these tricks they might be fooled.

Student C) *“Oh, the red lines mean the words are spelled incorrectly?”*

This kid might mean well, but a grammarian wouldn’t be able to tell. Why? Well, because the meaning is highly ambiguous depending on the method of encoding.

Student D) *“This font is pretty, so very pretty.”*

These are the students who think writing about Chaucer in a frilly handwriting font is cool. Also, they think that typing your “Computers in Society” research paper in a MATRIX themed font will bump you up a letter grade. Usually these choices suck, because after awhile the coolest stuff starts to get boring (just ask the band Hansel or your vintage Furby and pet rock).

Student E) *“Oh wait, I have a color printer!”*

This is a very rare breed of student (who I have only encountered once), the type that thinks making their type blue adds an “emotion” or “theme.” In reality, it makes the reader’s eyes sore and a little sad due to such a waste of colored inks. The exact effect of colored font on emotion has yet to be documented.

Student F) *The syllabus Nazi (Sure your teachers love you... but....)*

You bake your professor cookies? Offer to carry their books? Hang after class to discuss Esmeralda Santiago? If you don’t have a serious question or a questionable crush you might be trying too hard. Yes, professors are people too, and yes, I am sure your anecdote was clever but there is a fine line between friendly and mildly deranged. (Try not to cross it).

Student G) *No font choice (aka the blank sheet of paper that wishes it got to be an essay).*

Ah, the soul mate of Type A students. Instead of writing very little they write nothing at all. There is no scientific way to decide what their font choice would be. They might still be unaware of the ability to choose annoying fonts for all we know.

They are highly creative though, even if not on paper. Often, their most clever thoughts are new excuses: illness, car problems, dead distant relatives, Phillies tickets, babysitter abandonment, sick pets, lost assignments/syllabi/computers, stolen jump drives, magically deleting computers and emails, spilled beverages, family vacations, appointments with dentists, doctors, chiropractors...stop me if you’ve heard these before. But, to those who ever do have a sick hamster, hate that kid who said their furry companion “Reggie” died two semesters ago and stole all your credibility.

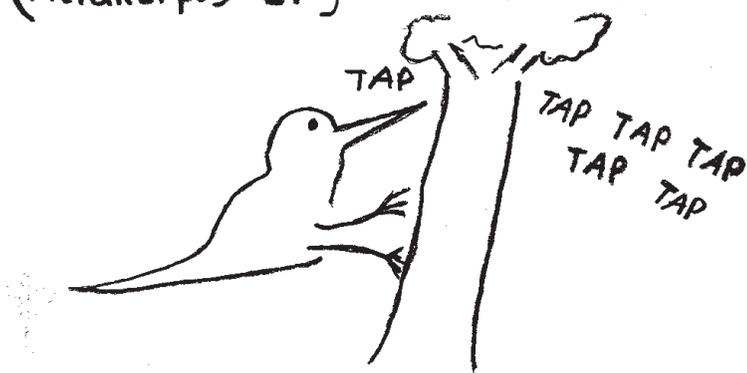
Don’t feel bad students; you have paid for the privilege to complete or abstain from the dreaded essays. Half the fun is procrastination anyway. But, if you don’t work you don’t learn. And that is why we’re here, right?

Disclaimer: this article was written in the hopes of amusing the reader... I try to be an equal opportunity offender so if there is anything I forgot to mention and belittle email me at livewire@mcc.commnet.edu.

The End

EDITORIAL CARTOON: by Joe Marandino

The North American
Red Headed Wood Pecker
(*Melanerpes Erythrocephalus*)



Stats:

Wing Span - Est. 12"

Sightings - rare

Habitat - wooded areas

Outstanding Characteristics - graceful, hardworking, intelligent

Threat to Species - human expansion, forest depletion

The North American College
Student Texting FOOL
(Ignorant a-nam-ous maximus)



Stats:

Attention span - 2.1 seconds on a good day

Sightings - extremely overpopulated (unfortunately)

Habitat - ALL CLASSROOMS!

Outstanding Characteristics - Distracting, clueless, ignorant, limited attention span

Threat to species - having actual verbal dialogue face to face with another human or paying attention in class for more than 2 minutes

Poetry Corner

UNTITLED

BY KATE SHEELY

Oh, New England:
 harsh in wind and word.
 Frozen breath, vision blurred,
 we call out, unheard
 amongst the nests of stones,
 these ancient bones,
 their hearts: alone
 beneath the icy floor.
 Defeated in war,
 or swept away from shore
 and drowned;
 some were never found,
 marked in this burial ground.
 A sister, a brother,
 a father, a mother,
 one after the other
 succumbing to illness.
 Now they lie breathless
 at peace in their stillness
 alongside this road,
 in this biting cold
 their stories are told.

FAST PACED LOVE

BY VALYN EUGENE

This new man I've found...
 This new woman I've found...
 I love him so...
 I love her so...
 It's been a couple months you know
 And everything is just so right...so perfect...
 In mine eyes.

And then it's a year and things are still great...
 But 3months down the line..
 After this oh so perfect year...
 Things start crumbling down..
 Is it her?
 Is it him?
 It's us both you know.

We've become so attached and so complacent...
 That we take each other for granted..
 Failing to realize and appreciate..
 The very little things that in the..
 Beginning made me love you..
 And you love me..

Now we're on this roller coaster..
 He hates her..
 She hates him..
 Oh how hurtful this all is..
 The pain, the tears, the anger
 How could I have loved you so...
 And now this love is all a blur?

You see my friends...
 The problem today is that we don't take time to...
 Slow down...take one step at a time..
 We're living in this fast paced world...
 And everything is here today and gone tomorrow...
 But this shouldn't be..

Encourage healthy living..
 Stop the bullshitting...
 Take time to know her...
 Take time to know him...
 Slowly...
 Then..
 He GROWS to love her...
 She GROWS to love him...
 That is love in all its majesty...
 In all its glory..
 IN all its beauty..
 The real love of God..

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Community Music & Events Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
MARCH 27	28	29	30	31	APRIL 1	2	
	The Funeral Pyre / The Secret / Black Pyramid / Ferocious F*cking Teeth @ Daniel Street (Milford); 8PM, 21+, \$8	Arabrot / Wizard Rifle @ Daniel Street (Milford); 8PM, 21+, \$8 An Horse @ The Space (Hamden); 7PM, \$10	Those Darlins / Eurisko @ BAR (New Haven); 9PM, 21+, Free		The Life I Lead / All These Elements / The Sophomore Beat @ The Space (Hamden); 7PM, \$10	Eilen Jewell/ Sarah Borges @ Cafe 9 (New Haven); 9PM, 21+, \$10	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
Yukon Blonde/BOAT/ Creeping Weeds @ Daniel St. (Milford); 7PM, 21+, \$8		Mike Watt & the Missingmen / Estrogen Highs / Electric Bucket @ Daniel St. (Milford); 8PM, 21+, \$12	Gobble Gobble / Great Caesar / Slam Donahue @ BAR (New Haven); 9pm, 21+, Free	Todd Kramer / Jamie Bendell @ The Outer Space (Hamden); 7PM, 21+	Cloud Nothings / The Wools @ Cafe 9 (New Haven); 9PM, 21+, \$8	Dies A Hero / Casting Call / Lost in Society @ The Space (Hamden); 7PM \$10 Japanther @ UCONN	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
Heirloom Arts Indoor Flea Market (Danbury); 12-7:30PM, w/ live music @ 5PM	Acid Mothers Temple / Shilpa Ray and Her Happy Hookers @ Daniel St. (Milford); 8PM, 21+, \$12	Hawthorne Heights / After Midnight Project @ The Space (Hamden); 7PM, \$12 Koji / Midi & The Modern Dance @ Heirloom Arts (Danbury); 7PM, \$8	Parts & Labor / Ap-pomattox @ BAR (New Haven); 9PM, 21+, Free	BlackVeil Brides / Destroy Rebuild Until God Shows / I See Stars @ Toad's (New Haven); 6PM, \$15		The Slackers @ Daniel St. (Milford); 8PM, 21+, \$12	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
Local H @ Daniel St. (Milford); 8PM, 21+, \$12 Maps & Atlases @ The Space (Hamden); 8PM, \$12	Jucifer @ Daniel Street (Milford); 8PM, 21+, \$8		Grandchildren / M.T. Bearington @ BAR; 9PM, 21+, Free	Ameranouche @ Cafe 9 (New Haven); 8PM, 21+, \$8		The Fad / We Are The Union / The Forthrights @ The Space (Hamden); 7PM, \$10	
24	Films @ Real Art Ways (Hartford): April 1-3: <i>Strongman</i> Opens Fri. 4/15: <i>Bill Cunningham New York</i> Opens Fri. 4/29 <i>Queen of the Sun</i>		26	27	28	29	30
			Of Montreal / Painted Palms @ Toad's (New Haven); 7PM, \$20		Ted Leo / Drew O'Doherty / Midi & the Modern Dance @ The Space (Hamden); 7PM, \$12		Low / Lower Dens @ Daniel St.; 8PM, 21+, \$18

This calendar details upcoming events in CT. This information is subject to change. Please contact the appropriate venue for details.

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The NFL Lockout: A Cold September?



By Dan Dobbyn
Live Wire Sports Writer

With the National Football League players' union decertified and a class action lawsuit in the offing, some may have reason to panic over the 2011 NFL season. There may not even be one if the negotiations do not continue. However, there is a larger issue at hand that few are seeing about the current labor debates in the NFL.

Here are the facts: the collective bargaining agreement was supposed to expire in March 2012. The owners used a clause in the contract to unanimously vote on cancelling it a year early. Despite two extensions over the course of eight days after the collective bargaining agreement was set to expire on March 3, there was no new deal in place. The talks stopped, the players decertified in order to sue the owners, and that's where we are today. There is still to be an NFL draft taking place in April.

The big problem I have is that the owners backed out of the deal a year early in an attempt to renegotiate how to split up the revenue in the NFL. Every one of these men was extremely wealthy before deciding to invest in an NFL franchise. The NFL has only expanded their wealth and power into the billions of dollars.

Statistics show that NFL owners make significantly more profit than National Basketball Association and Major League Baseball owners despite the fact that the NFL season has significantly fewer games a year. Yet, they decided to cut the current deal they have with the players to get more.

In my mind, this officially puts NFL owners in the ranks of oil companies, Enron and AIG as some of the most evil people in our country. If you already have millions upon billions of dollars and you're still trying to gain more at what is ultimately someone else's expense, it's no longer doing business, it's no longer greed. It's being sinister.

Let me give you an example. The Seattle Sounders of Major League Soccer lost a game in front of a record home crowd by four goals last May. In response to the embarrassing loss, the management of the Sounders, including "Price is Right" TV game show host Drew Carey, decided to give a credit for season ticket holders, good toward renewing their season tickets for the following year.

Sounders co-owner and General Manager Adrian Hanauer agreed with the move.

"We want our fans committed for the long haul and we think this is the right thing to do for our fans," he said. The Sounders currently hold the largest average attendance for a home match in the MLS.

In comparison, the Washington Redskins put down a stinker of a game at home on Monday Night Football on Dec. 21, 2009. Capped by poor play and the worst coaching imaginable, they trailed 24-0 at the half to their divisional rivals, the New York Giants. This was the biggest lead a team has ever had going into the half on Monday Night Football. To boot, the people at the game had to shovel through inches of snow to get to FedEx field to watch the Redskins deliver their worst performance of the year.

What did Redskins owner Dan Snyder do? Snyder sat on his throne made of the 2nd biggest revenue total in the league, and did absolutely nothing.

I can imagine Redskins General Manager Bruce Allen walking into Snyder's luxury box at halftime that night, and suggesting to Snyder that he should do something similar to what the Sounders would do in the MLS five months later. I also may imagine Snyder dropkicking Allen out of the luxury box, sending him plummeting into the cheap seats (Redskins tickets averaged at \$79.13 that year) in response to the word "refund."

By the way, if you side with the owners and you aren't in the top 1 percent income bracket of this country, let me remind you that although the players are millionaires, they're doing the same thing as many people in the middle class in America. They aren't fighting to gain more from the owners; they're fighting to keep what they have. They just happen to have an occupation that pays millions.

The owners, on the other hand, want the NFL players to play 18-game seasons, which will shorten their careers with no guaranteed compensation. The owners do not want to guarantee health benefits and invest in head trauma research for NFL retirees, who consequently are dealing with severe depression and painkiller addictions.

These NFL owners have complete apathy toward what the game of football is. They probably don't even enjoy watching it. They don't care what the records are, how the players play, who the players are, or most of all, the fans. They don't care about the fans. At this point, I am thoroughly convinced that they'll run this league by any means to make another dollar, no matter how unethical the decision.

The owners of the NFL are trying to do the players what the big businesses of this country did to this country, and that's put it into a recession. The fact of the matter is, the money didn't get up and leave the face of the earth. Most of it didn't even leave the country. It all went to one place, and that is in the hands of the top 1 percent.

By the way, the collective bargaining agreement is to expire after the current NBA and MLB seasons, too. This may leave us with nothing to follow but the National Hockey League, a league that, ironically, lost popularity due to a player's strike in the 2004-05 season.

So, if a deal can't get done for any of these leagues, than get your sweaters ready. It could get cold in this September in more ways than one.

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Major League Baseball Season Predictions

By Zachariah Hand
Live Wire Staff Writer

It's that time of year again. The time of year when the snow begins to melt, the green fields of grass taking their place covered in newly bloomed flowers stretching as far as the eye can see. The leaves return to the trees, the birds begin to sing once again, and the sun reveals its warm rays more and more each day.

Yes, it is spring, a season welcomed with open arms by many New Englanders after a long, harsh winter. The warmer weather and change in scenery are not all that this wonderful time of year has to offer. Along with these happenings comes perhaps the greatest occurrence of all: the beginning of the 2011 Major League Baseball season.

As the old saying goes at the beginning of each baseball season, hope springs eternal. What this means is that at the beginning of the season, each team is in first place, and everyone has an equal chance to win the World Series (except for teams like the Pittsburgh Pirates and New York Mets, who are virtually guaranteed to have losing seasons once again and miss the playoffs). While nearly every team has an equal chance to win it all at this time of the year, favorites have already been chosen based on a number of factors. Below are my personal picks to win their respective divisions, and advance to the playoffs for a shot at the World Series crown.

First, there is the American League East division, which is home to the Boston Red Sox, New York Yankees, Tampa Bay Rays, Baltimore Orioles, and Toronto Blue Jays. For many years, this division has been considered to be one of the toughest and most competitive in baseball, due to the fierce Red Sox-Yankees rivalry as well as the recent improvement of the Rays. This year figures to be no different. The Red Sox made it big during the off season when they traded to acquire All-Star first baseman Adrian Gonzalez from the San Diego Padres and signed All-Star free agent left fielder Carl Crawford.

In addition to improving their fielders, the Red Sox also acquired former White Sox relief pitcher Bobby Jenks and former Rays reliever Dan Wheeler in order to improve a bullpen which was among the worst in all of baseball in 2010. With these new editions and the expected returns of All-Stars Dustin Pedroia and Kevin Youkilis from injuries in 2010, the Red Sox are my pick to win the AL East in 2011.

Finishing behind them will be the Yankees, who lost big during the off season when star pitcher Cliff Lee decided to go to Philadelphia, ignoring the big dollars the Yankees had offered for his services. Despite losing out on Lee, and having at most two reliable starting pitchers, the Yankees figure to have a decent bullpen and a very good lineup. They are my pick to win the American League Wild Card.

However, that still may not be enough to advance past the first round of the playoffs. Third in the division will be the Baltimore Orioles, who made big moves of their own during the off season, bringing in Vladimir Guerrero and Mark Reynolds.

Fourth will be the Toronto Blue Jays, who were a surprise team in 2010 after trading All-Star pitcher Roy Halladay to Philadelphia. Finishing last will be the 2010 AL East winner, the Tampa Bay Rays. The losses of Carl Crawford, Carlos Pena, Matt Garza, and most of their bullpen will be too much for the Rays to overcome in 2011, even with the additions of aging stars Manny Ramirez and Johnny Damon.

The American League Central division has also been extremely competitive over the past few seasons. The most successful team has arguably been the Minnesota Twins, who have won the division three times since 2006. However, this regular season success has not translated into post-season success, as the Twins did not advance past the first round of the playoffs on any of these occasions. They are, however, my pick to win the AL Central once again, due to the fact that they still won 94 games in 2010, despite not having All-Star closer Joe Nathan or former American League MVP first baseman Justin Morneau for much of the season.

In second place will be the Detroit Tigers, who will improve upon a 2010 season that was an overall disappointment where they finished in third place. The Tigers just have too much talent to be a third place team, and have only improved during the off-season with the acquisitions of Catcher Victor Martinez and relief pitcher Joaquín Benoit.

Third place, I think, will be home to the Chicago White Sox, who will see a drop in production from 2010. Though the White Sox made some noise in the off-season with the signing of first baseman/designated hitter Adam Dunn, they simply will not have the pitching to compete with the likes of Minnesota or Detroit.

The third place team will be the Cleveland Indians, who have recently fallen on very hard times since coming within one game of a World Series appearance in 2007. In last place, as usual, will be the Kansas City Royals, who may in fact be worse than they were in 2010, after trading away 2009 AL Cy Young Award winner Zack Greinke.

The American League West winner will be the defending American League Champion Texas Rangers, who will be bringing back many of the same players that got them to the 2010 World Series. Their only major loss is starting pitcher Cliff Lee who decided to take his talents to Philadelphia, but they should be able to make up for the loss, provided their other pitchers live up to their capabilities.



Cliff Lee decided to leave New York for Philadelphia even in the face of increased compensation by the Yankees.

Photo courtesy of Associatedpress.com



Bobby Jenks, a recent arrival in Boston, as part of the Red Sox.

Photo courtesy of GettyImages.com



Zack Greinke was traded away by the Kansas City Royals earlier this year.

Photo courtesy of Mancavesports.com

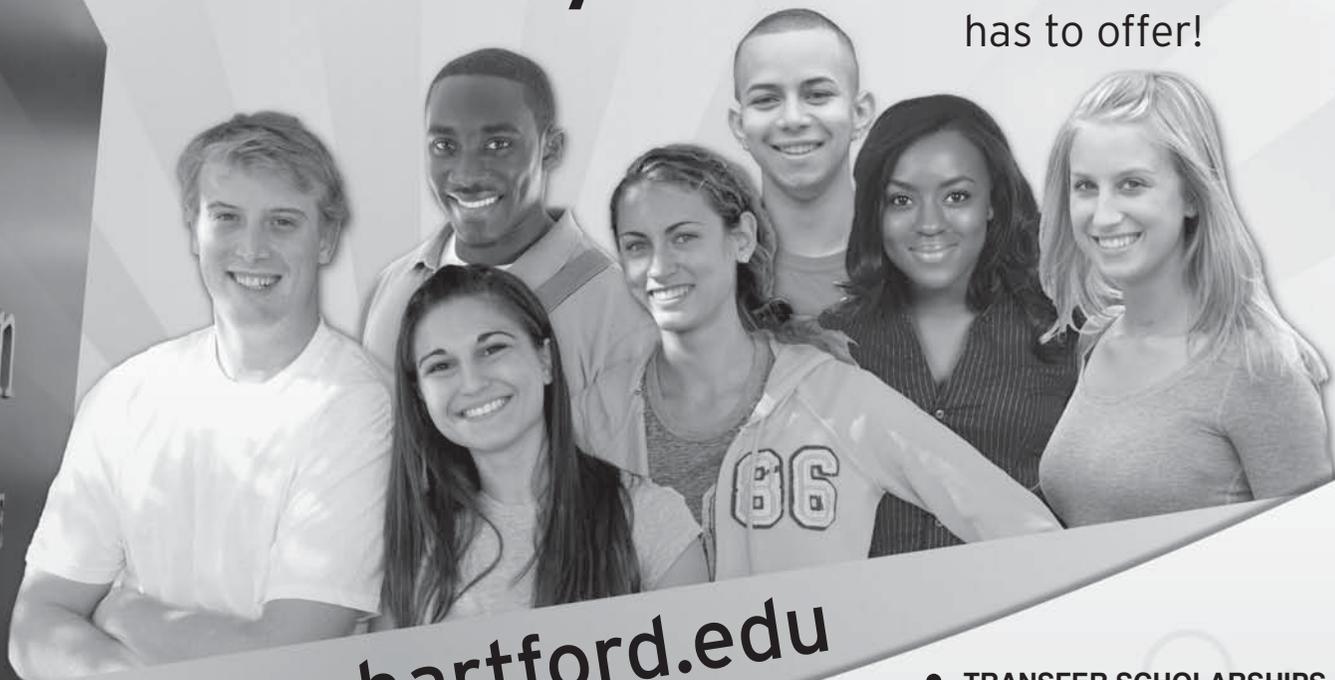


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Manchester Community College Foundation

SERVICE ANIMALS ONLY no pets allowed

UPPER ROOM BIBLE CLUB

**Meetings: Tuesdays 2 pm-3:30 pm
Thursdays 4:30 pm-5:30 pm
Location: AST T201**



John 8:12

When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, “I am the **light** of the **world**. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the **light** of life.”

Cont. from **League** pg 17

The American League West winner will be the defending American League Champion Texas Rangers, who will be bringing back many of the same players that got them to the 2010 World Series. Their only major loss is starting pitcher Cliff Lee who decided to take his talents to Philadelphia, but they should be able to make up for the loss, provided their other pitchers live up to their capabilities.

Second place will be the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim, who will rebound from a tough year in 2010. Third place will be the Oakland Athletics, who just do not have a good enough offense to win the division. In fourth, once again, will be the Seattle Mariners, who do not have much in the way of talent after 2010 AL Cy Young winner Felix Hernandez and perennial All-Star outfielder Ichiro Suzuki.

The National League East winner will be the team considered by many to be the best in baseball: the Philadelphia Phillies, who employ all-stars Roy Halladay, Cliff Lee, Roy Oswalt, and Cole Hamels, as well as a potent lineup.

Second place will be the National League Wild Card winners, the Atlanta Braves, who figure to be extremely solid, lead by young right fielder Jason Heyward and new second baseman Dan Uggla.

In third will be the Florida Marlins, who are still a few years away from seriously competing, but have enough talent in the likes of shortstop Hanley Ramirez and outfielder Mike Stanton to remain respectable. Fourth place will be the Washington Nationals, who are also a few years away from being considered a serious contender, despite signing outfielder Jayson Werth to a gigantic contract during the off-season. The last place team will be no surprise to most baseball fans—the New York Mets, who just have so many on and off field problems that they are impossible to list. This quote from Hall of Famer Casey Stengel sums it up best: “The Mets have shown me more ways to lose than I even knew existed.”

The National League Central winner will be the St. Louis Cardinals, who despite losing all-star pitcher Adam Wainwright for the entire season will be the best among a group of mediocre teams. Look for Albert Pujols to have a big season in the final year of his contract.

In second place will be the Cincinnati Reds, lead by 2010 NL MVP Joey Votto. Third place will be the Milwaukee Brewers, who figure to improve after acquiring Zack Greinke. Fourth place will be the Chicago Cubs, who will once again fail to win their first World Series title since 1908, despite acquiring Matt Garza and Carlos Pena. Fifth place will be the Houston Astros, and last place should be no surprise to anyone, baseball fan or not: the ever-lovable Pittsburgh Pirates, who have not finished with more wins than losses since 1992 and are widely regarded as the worst team in baseball.

The National League West is home to the defending World Series Champion San Francisco Giants, who will defend their division crown behind “The Freak,” two-time NL Cy Young Award winner Tim Lincecum.

Second place will be the Colorado Rockies, who have several pieces in place to make a serious run at the NL West crown, including starting pitcher Ubaldo Jimenez and shortstop Troy Tulowitzki. Third place will be the Los Angeles Dodgers, who have several issues at the moment, including a very public divorce between the two team’s owners. Fourth place will be the Arizona Diamondbacks, who are still rebuilding. Expect right fielder Justin Upton to display more of the enormous talent he possesses en route to becoming a superstar. In last, will be the San Diego Padres, who traded away their best hitter, Adrian Gonzalez, for future prospects. With the loss of Gonzalez, the Padres have no real offensive threats, and are in for a rough year.

Well, there are your 2011 Major League Baseball regular season predictions. As for the playoffs and the World Series, that will be up to the players. Remember, you can read all the predictions you want, but that is no reason not to root for your favorite team (even if it is the Mets or Pirates).

After all, there is a reason that they play the games. Just ask the 2010 San Francisco Giants or the 2008 Tampa Bay Rays.

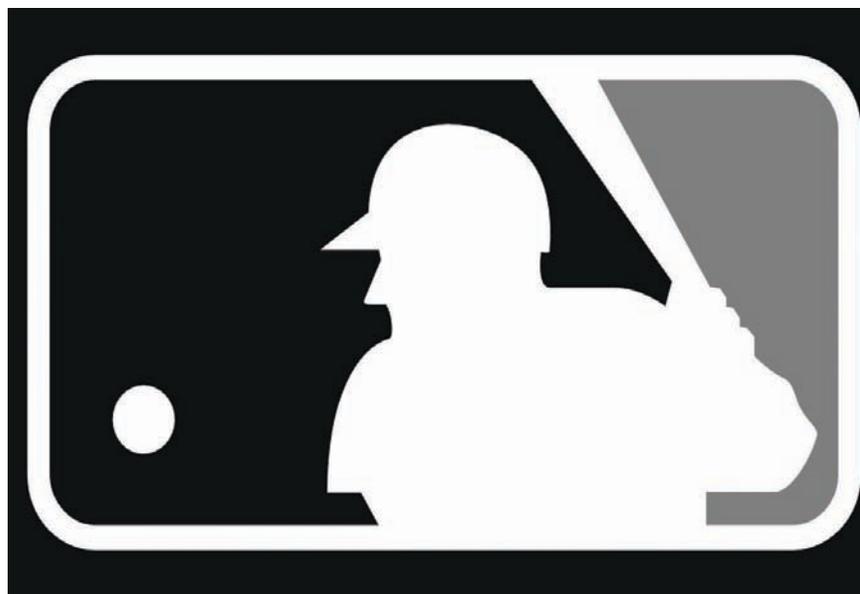


Image courtesy of Smtexas.net.

"IF YOU COULD LIVE ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD OUTSIDE THE U.S. WHERE WOULD IT BE?"

WORD

ON CAMPUS



Mike King
"Japan."
Willington,
Visual Arts



Matt Henry
"Southeast Asia."
South Windsor,
Accounting



Allison Plucker,
"Italy."
Vernon,
Psychology



Jessica Wyatt
"Ireland."
East Windsor,
Liberal Arts & Sciences



Sara Branciforte
"Italy."
Coventry,
Surgical Tech



Kwasi Tandoh
"Ghana, West Africa."
Manchester,
Criminal Justice



Joe
Class of 2011
Albany, N.Y.
International Business and Economics

DISCOVER YOURSELF

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

Joe's visit to campus sold him on the RWU experience. He got caught up in the excitement and energy he saw here and got his application in just one day before the deadline. Since then, Joe has studied for a full academic year in France, where he received his Bachelor's in Business Administration from ICN Business School; became a tutor in the writing center; a member of the Delta Sigma Pi Business Honor Society; and tutored his peers in accounting, economics and finance. Oh, and he's also a member of the University Honors Program, which means that when he graduates in May, he'll be wearing an honors medallion and cords to signify his achievements. Joe is pushing himself to be the best he can be. What will you do?

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