

LIVE WIRE

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Manchester Community College

Free

New Lab Will House Redesigned Developmental Math Classes

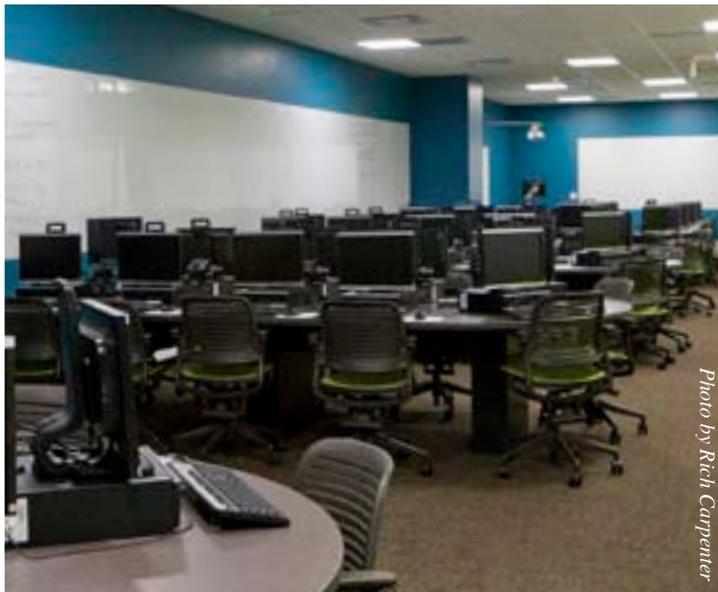


Photo by Rich Carpenter

The new facility located in Lowe 250, has over 70 computer spaces for developmental math courses.

By SallyAnn Garvey-Lumumba
Live Wire Editor

One new edition on campus will be hard to miss, thanks to the brightly-painted walls.

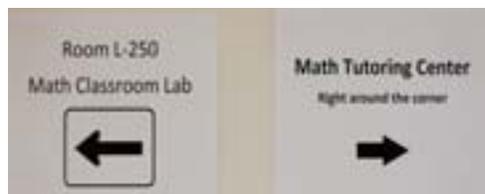
The Transitional Math Lab, located in the Frederick W. Lowe building room 250, has taken the place of what was once an entire hallway of offices.

All 075 and 095 math courses at Manchester Community College will be taught in the math lab in an attempt to improve the rate of students successfully moving from developmental to non-developmental courses, said Marcia Jehnings the director of the Math, Sciences and Health Careers division.

The lab was funded, in part, by the National Center for Academic Transformation, which is supported by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

The lab has more than 70 computer stations, and will be used for courses with 50 students; the additional computers will be available for enrolled students to complete their homework. The large size will enable students and teachers to work in small groups, if needed, and students will also be able to work through material at their own pace, said Jehnings. Each class will have a professor and two or three teaching assistants for a 1-15 teacher student ratio, she said.

Although it is right next to the Academic Support Center, the Transitional Math Lab does not replace the ASC's Math Walk-In Tutoring center, located in Lowe 283.



Two signs direct students to the math lab and the math tutoring center, now located within feet of each other.
Photo by Rich Carpenter

The lab will use software called ALEKS to monitor each student's progress and evaluate the student's grasp of mathematic concepts. The software will also allow students to receive immediate feedback (in either English or Spanish) about their progress and one-on-one assistance in the lab. A student who fails a module will be able to pick up at the point at which they did not achieve mastery without repeating the entire course.

The lab was created to meet the needs of students, Jehnings said.

"Research showed that students who began taking Mat* 075 had only an 8 percent success rate in moving forward and completing MAT* 138, the first credit-bearing math class," she said. "The statistics are not much better for students beginning in MAT* 095. Their success rate in completing MAT* 138 was only 30 percent."

see **Math Lab** on pg. 2



The Hans Weiss Newspace Gallery was filled with student works of art during the Winter Arts Festival, which opened Dec. 16. Above is just a fraction of the work that was on display in the gallery.

Manchester Community College Winter Arts Festival



Above: As a class project, each student painted a section of the finished piece.

Left: "Bernini Among the Wild Beasts" by Matt Becker, Painting III.

The 2011 Winter Arts Festival featured student produced work, and ran from December 2011 to January 2012.

All photos by Rich Carpenter

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WORD ON CAMPUS (back page)

"Who was the most interesting person of 2011 and why?"

Continued from **Math Lab** pg. 1

It presented an opportunity to redesign the developmental math sequence. For of the college's math teachers, Paul Edelen, Myrta Groeneveld, Christopher Hamelin, and Milaim Tahiri, worked on the redesign. That team, Jehnings said, redesigned MCC's math courses into modules which allow students to work at their own pace with some limitations, and complete the work spending more time where they need to and less time when they already know the math.

"It's possible for students in this format to actually complete MAT* 075 or MAT* 095 in less time that the full semester, if they work hard," Jehnings said.

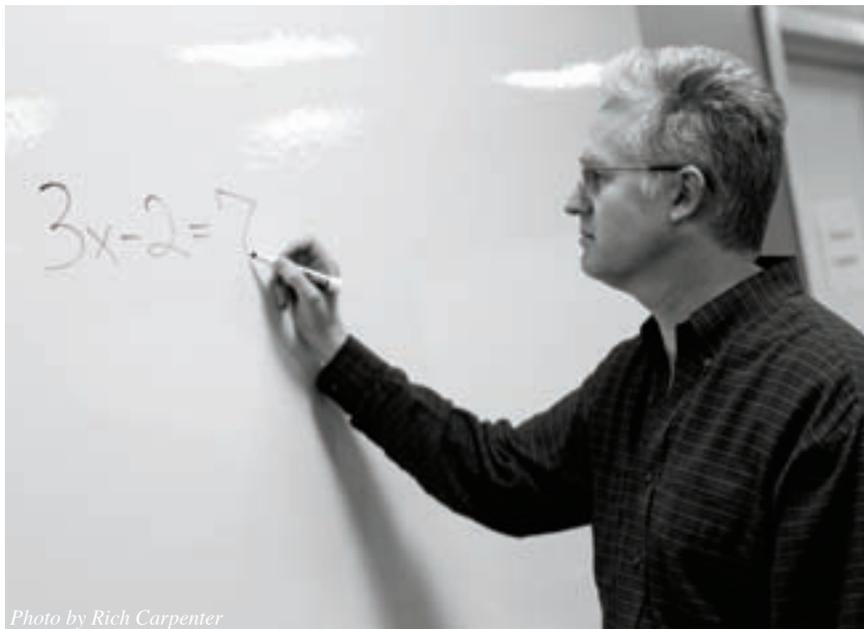


Photo by Rich Carpenter

Robert Pearson, the full-time Transitional Math Lab Supervisor, tries out the new facility, which will be used for all future developmental math courses at MCC.

Briefs



Sweetheart Dance

 Friday February 10th 7-11pm

 in the Cougar Cave

 Tickets for Students: \$15 or

 2 tickets for \$20

This February we will be holding the FIRST EVER Sweetheart Dance for students (and a guest) to be swept off their feet! This is a semi-formal event and all proceeds will go to benefit the Habitat for Humanity Club. There will be a **special presentation** from our Ballroom Dance Club and a kissing booth!

Hans Weiss Newspace Gallery Opens New Exhibit

In conjunction with Manchester Community College's celebration of African-American History Month, the Hans Weiss Newspace Gallery is presenting works by renown artists Chotsani E. Dean and Howard el-Yasin. The opening reception will be held Thursday, Feb. 2, at 6 p.m., in the gallery. Admission is free and open to the public. The exhibit will run through March 12. For additional information, contact Susan Classen-Sullivan, gallery coordinator, at 860-5121-2693.

African-American History Month Opening Ceremony Planned

Part of the celebration of African-American History Month will include the presentation of the second annual Leadership Awards to recognize those who have exhibited outstanding leadership and activism within the community. The awards will be presented Tuesday, Feb. 7 at 12:30 p.m. in the Great Path Academy Community Commons. It is free and open to the public. For more information contact Kendrick T. Roundtree, coordinator of Mentoring and Minority Student Programs, at 860-512-3350.

International Film Series Offers "The Help"



image courtesy of Moviecarpet.com

The next film in the Manchester Community College International Film Series is "The Help," (United States), which will be shown Friday, Feb. 10, at 7 p.m. in the SBM Charitable Foundation Auditorium. Set in Mississippi during the 1960s, Skeeter Phelan is a southern society girl who returns from college. She is determined to become a writer, but turns her friends' lives - and a Mississippi town - upside down when she decides to interview the black women who have spent their lives taking care of prominent southern families. Emma Stone, Viola Davis, Bryce Dallas Howard and Octavia Spencer, who won a Golden Globe award for her performance, star. Drama. English.

146 minutes. The event is free and open to the public. For additional information, contact Evelyn Angry-Smith at 860-512-2874.

Got Game? Prove It!

Intramural sports restart the week of Jan. 23. Students, faculty and staff are welcome. The fee to participate is \$15 per month. All activities but flag football have drop-in participation. Here is the schedule:

BASKETBALL	Mon & Wed	1/23-4/4	2:15-4:15pm
INDOOR SOCCER	Tues	1/24-4/24	2:15-4:15pm
VOLLEYBALL	Thursday	1/26-4/26	2:15-4:15pm
FLAG FOOTBALL	Mon & Wed	4/9-5/5	2:30-4:30pm

CORRECTION:

In a piece entitled "Giving Back One Nail at a Time," which ran on page 2 of the Dec. 12, 2011, issue of the Live Wire two people were misidentified. In the photo were Barbara LeGrande, in the hat, and Anne Hawthorne.

Would you like to promote your club in the Live Wire?

Submit a brief for the February issue by Feb. 20

All clubs are eligible to receive a free
1/8 page ad per school year.

email livewire@mcc.commnet.edu
or sdavis@mcc.commnet.edu
for more information!

THE LIVE WIRE

Like what you see?

Join the Live Wire!

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Time Warp: The Ups and Downs of 2011

It was a long year; well 12 months, like any other year, but a lot happened that made 2011 memorable. Before you move on to breaking your 2012 resolutions, here are some reminders of major stories in the previous year.

Manchester Community College

The spring semester started late, thanks to some snow. It was followed by more snow, ice, wind and rain, a hurricane, an earthquake and more snow. Weather made travel to and from campus treacherous at times, but the college still managed to graduate 750 students in May. Angelo Sosa, a contestant on TV's "Top Chef" and an MCC graduate came for a visit in April and even Gov. Dan Malloy visited the campus.

But Malloy's name was mud later in the year, when budget woes saw some receive pink slips, though they were soon rescinded. But budget cuts did mean the end of MCC's men's baseball team. There is talk of raising money to bring the program back, but it hasn't happened yet. Maybe in 2012? Only time will tell.

Staff Contributors



image courtesy of lowamennonites.org

Music

2011 as a very interesting year for music, especially artists Drake, Kreyashawn, Neon Hitch, Tyler the Creator, M83, Foster the People, Katy Perry, Mumford & Sons, Gaga, JoJo, Chris Brown, and Frank Ocean, Tyga, and even Patrick Stump.

There were lots of surprised last year. Eminem blew up the Grammys with 10 nominations, Adele took home three VMA's and Bruno Mars rocked the end of the summer with a riveting tribute to the late Amy Winehouse's, *Valerie*.

There also many musical losses in 2011, including Winehouse, Dobie Gray, Nate Dogg, Heavy D, Gil Scott-Heron, Billy Grammer, and Andrea True.

But our spirits were buoyed by catchy tunes like Kreyashawn's *Gucci Gucci* and Katy Perry's *Last Friday Night. Rolling in the Deep* by Adele and *Tonight Tonight* by Hot Chelle Rae were summer staples on the radio. 2011 also showed us how influential the Internet can be in reaching out to new fans and creating a fan base. Underground artists like Karmin, Kreyashawn, Snow the Product, and Tyler the Creator didn't bother waiting for a label to recognize their talents, and instead took to sites like Twitter and YouTube to market directly to their fans and communicate with them.

Using YouTube as a jump-off point isn't anything new, as this is how Justin Bieber made his meteoric rise, but Twitter enabled budding artists to build a very dedicated and involved fan base. 2011 also showed us that dubstep was a force. DJ's Like Skrillex, Unicorn Kid, and Nero came out of the woodwork, and I was surprised by the catchiness of the genre.

All in all, 2011 was good for music. We lost some greats, and found new talent and horizons to follow. I think that if 2012 carries on in this manner, we should all be in for a treat.

Jelani Burrell

see **Best Of** on pg. 4



Devastation caused by an earthquake that struck Japan in March of 2011. Photo courtesy of: earthquakejapan2011.com

World Events

From rebel uprisings to natural disasters, failed predictions and the death of great enemies of the world, 2011 was a year that was full of memorable events.

The year began with a bang, as radicals in Tunisia revolted against their government, and forced Pres. Zine El Abidine Ben Ali to flee the country. The winds of revolution were also blowing in other parts of the world, as only a few weeks later the people of Egypt rebelled against their own government and Pres. Hosni Mubarak, who had long been their oppressor. In March, a natural disaster of epic proportions occurred, as an earthquake that registered at a magnitude of 9 on the Richter scale struck the nation of Japan. The earthquake was followed by a subsequent tsunami, which led to the fear of a nuclear disaster, as several nuclear power plants were affected. In all,

more than 15,000 people were killed, and several thousands were injured.

In May, the man responsible for the U.S. terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, Osama bin Laden, was confirmed by Pres. Barack Obama to have been killed by American military forces during an operation in Pakistan. The death of bin Laden, who had been in hiding for several years, caused celebration in the United States, as people rejoiced at the death of the man who had only a decade prior left an unforgettable scar on the face of the nation. Later that month, the prediction of the Biblical event known as the rapture failed to come to pass, as followers throughout the world became disappointed that they had to continue with their everyday lives.

In October, Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi was killed during the Libyan Civil War, ending his reign of terror and extinguishing another enemy of the United States. This effectively ended the war, and allowed the National Transitional Council of Libya to take full control of the country. In December, after years of military occupation, the United States officially announced an end to the Iraq War, and the full withdrawal of troops began. It is the hope of the United States that the nation of Iraq will now be a much more stable and self-reliant nation.

Later in December, Kim Jong-il, the leader of North Korea, died of a heart attack, and was succeeded by his son, Kim Jong-un.

Zach Hand



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Meet a Staffer: Jason Scappaticci

Student Retention Specialist, Center for Student Development

By SallyAnn Garvey-Lumumba
Live Wire Editor

What's your hometown?

Manchester, CT

Do you have an all-time-favorite TV show?

I love "Family Guy."

Do you have any secret hobbies or talents?

I don't know that they are a secret but I have a few hobbies. I run regularly and during the season I play tennis as well. I also enjoy cooking and people tell me I do it very well.

If you had to list your top 3 favorite books what would you pick and why?

The Pillars of the Earth by Ken Follett. He completely transports the reader back to the world of Medieval England. You find yourself thinking about the characters during the day and you're eager to read just one more chapter so you know what happens next.

The Prince and the Pauper by Mark Twain. I am a huge fan of Mark Twain so I have to include at least one by him. This is one of his less serious books but it is still a great book and a pleasure to read. I really like the way he makes up words to describe things. For example in this book he describes the residents of the London Bridge houses as people who do "bridgely things." Of course "bridgely" isn't a word, but somehow you know just what he means.

A Night to Remember by Walter Lord. I have enjoyed this book since I first read it as a child of 11. I have read it many times since then. It is a wonderful history about the sinking of the Titanic. The author truly knows his topic and the book is packed full of detail, but is still very readable. It was adapted into a movie of the same name in the 1950s but the book is significantly better.

What did you want to be when you grew up?

When I was a child I wanted to be an orthopedic surgeon probably because my mother worked as an orthopedic nurse and I thought it was interesting. In high school I thought I would be a history teacher.

Is there one place you love to visit or want to visit soon?

I would really like to visit Russia, in particular Saint Petersburg. It was the capital of Imperial Russia and from what I have read about it the city still maintains a lot of its opulence and splendor from that time. I would especially like to tour the palaces of the royal family that are in the city and the surrounding countryside.

If you could only eat one meal for the rest of your life what would you pick?

I have been told by a friend that, "You don't eat Jason, you dine." Because of that



Register today & begin looking for your next job on this fully searchable on-line job board!

MCC Career Services offers web access to one of the most comprehensive on line job listing services on the Internet. Job seekers can upload résumés and connect to full-time, part-time, and summer jobs, as well as internship and volunteer opportunities.

Your Next Job May Only Be A Click Away!

Register and find a job at:

www.collegecentral.com/manchester



Jason Scappaticci (front right) as "Altirde Brown" during the Manchester Community College Murder Myster Theater Dinner in the Spring of 2011. Professor Rae Strickland looks on.
Photo by Rich Carpenter

a meal for me usually involves multiple courses. So here goes:

Appetizer: Wedge salad with a homemade blue cheese dressing and warm bacon crumbled on top

Soup: Lobster bisque

Main Course: My grandmother's homemade potato gnocchi in a pesto cream sauce

Dessert: A dish of gelato with a scoop of each of the following flavors: ricotta, hazelnut and chocolate

Do you enjoy about your job as the Coordinator of Transitional Programs? What would you change if you could?

I really enjoy my job as the Coordinator of Transitional Programs. I am fortunate that we have a history of strong programs and I have awesome staff members who work as a team to implement our plans. One thing that I would change would be our physical space. We have grown too large for the space we have. Many of our students come back to our common area to study and socialize and we don't have enough space for them all anymore.

Is there something that drew you to MCC?

I was told to apply to my first position here by Florence Sheils [currently director of Student Retention Services]. She said that I would be a good fit. She was absolutely right. I loved it from the start.

What are the parts of your job you find the most rewarding?

Without a doubt the most rewarding part of my job is watching students change from high school students to college students. There is a big difference between those two and I like being a part of helping people grow into successful college students.

If you could have any career for a day what would you choose and why?

I would like to try being an actor for a day. I always enjoyed doing theatre in high school and college so I would like to see what it is like being a professional actor.

You were recently elected to the Manchester Board of Education. Why were you interested in running? Were you always interested in political office?

I have always been interested in politics. I have volunteered for the Manchester Democrats since 2004. That involved addressing envelopes and making phone calls, I never thought I would be a candidate myself. However this past summer, after discussions with family and friends, I decided to submit my application to be a candidate. I was interested in running because I have lived in Manchester my whole life, I am a product of the town and the schools and I would like the opportunity to give back to Manchester. The Board of Education interested me in particular because of my career and my passionate belief that education can be a driving force for good in many people's lives.

What do you hope to change or improve about the educational system in Manchester?

What is most pressing is hiring a dynamic and qualified superintendent. We are in the process of doing just that. We have decided on the search process and we will begin engaging with the citizens of Manchester through focus groups and a survey.

You serve as the advisor of the MCC Pride Club. What is your favorite part of advising and why did you choose to advise a student organization?

My favorite part of advising is watching the students work together to implement their ideas. MCC PRIDE has done some really great things, for example The Drag Show. It takes a lot of work to put that show on, and the students work together to make it happen.

I chose to become an advisor because when I started here in 2003 there wasn't really an active gay/straight alliance and I felt it was important so I took it on. I am lucky to have had great co-advisors so I didn't have to do it alone. Florence Sheils was the first, then Jody Bailey [associate director of Financial Aid] stepped up and now [associate professor of psychology] Francine Rosselli-Navarra has joined us and is doing a great job.

If you could impart one token of wisdom to our readers, what would it be?

When I was a teenager I was brought by a friend to see [the musical] "Rent" and one of the lines always resonated with me: "No day but today." I think of this often. The future is unpredictable so be who you are now, make today count! Also go see "Rent," it is an awesome musical.

Any final thoughts you'd like to share with our readers?

I know that college can be overwhelming. Sometimes it probably seems too difficult, but it isn't supposed to be easy. Remember that people here want to help you succeed, take advantage of what we offer. No day but today!

INTERGALACTIC EGGS AND MORE SPACE AT MANCHESTER'S COSMIC OMELET

By Jelani Burrell
Live Wire Staff Writer

A popular breakfast spot in Manchester has recently been reopened after making some changes.

Cosmic Omelet, located at 485 Hartford Road, reopened on Dec. 12. Manager and owner Tracy Devine was enthusiastic about the changes that were made.

“We were closed for about a month for renovations,” she said. “We doubled our kitchen space, and we now seat almost 90.”

Before the renovations, the restaurant only had space for about 50 patrons. But the closing of an adjacent laundromat allowed the eatery to expand.

Other changes to the restaurant include the floor, which now features a hand-painted design of planets, Saturn and its rings, and other heavenly bodies. And the upgrades don't stop with the building and décor, Devine said.

“We dropped Pepsi and we carry Hosmer Mountain Soda, which was a great decision,” said the proprietor. “We also now make everything with fresh ingredients.”

On a recent visit, I ordered the spicy corned beef hash with toast and hash browns, which I could tell was made from brisket and not from a can. I also noticed the awesomely crunchy pieces of fresh jalapeno pepper in the hash, along with cracked pepper.

It's easy to see why regulars call it “cosmic”; the food is - insert cheesy cliché here - out of this world. Cosmic Omelet seems like the perfect place to start your morning, especially since it is right

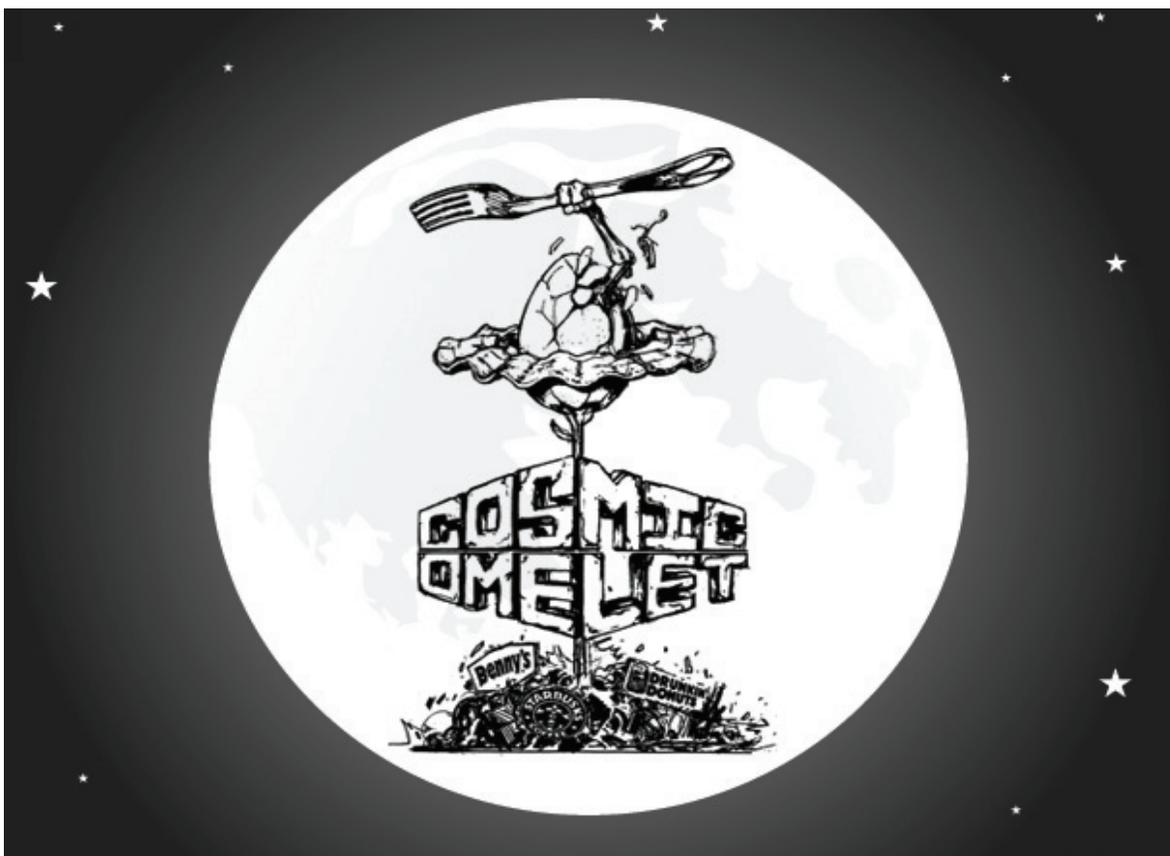


Image courtesy of cosmicomelet.com

around the corner from Manchester Community College and offers a great reprieve from the standard cafeteria fare. Prices aren't bad either, with the average bill \$8 or less. Crowd pleasers like French toast and

biscuits and gravy will be sure to wake up students with early morning classes. For a menu, directions and other information visit www.cosmicomelet.com.

Over 100 Students Receive MCC Foundation Scholarships

By Susan Garvey
Live Wire Staff Writer

It was standing room only at the Manchester Community College Foundation Awards Ceremony held in the Great Path Community Commons on Dec. 9 as 143 students received scholarships. Since each was allowed to invite up to two guests, the room was crowded with proud family members. Also, in attendance were the members of the MCC Foundation and some of the donors whose tireless efforts ensure that scholarships will continue to be awarded each year.

Endia DeCordova, the associate director of Institutional Development and Community Engagement, has been involved with the scholarship process for two years. She said she found her job very rewarding.

“At the end of the day, my job and the job of those on the selection committee which is composed of faculty, staff and college administrators, is about helping students to continue their education,” she said. “The Finance Board is composed of volunteers who work tirelessly to fund these scholarships.”

Awards range from \$50 to \$1,300 and the amount is determined by selection committee scoring on five criteria: the quality of the application essay, the strength of the candidate's recommendations, a student's academic record, financial need and the applicant's record of community service both on and off campus.

“Some scholarships we award are merit based and others are need based. We take into account each applicant's work history as well,” said DeCordova. “In awarding scholarships, we also take into account the individual's work history. We understand if a student is working all the time and therefore cannot do community service.”

Also attending the ceremony were some of the donors for whom awards are named. Francis Segal, who is 100 and has been taking classes at MCC for several years, presented a book award named in her honor to two MCC students. Police Chief Marc Montminy, himself an MCC graduate in 1998, was the guest speaker.

Money for scholarships is raised through the Annual Fund Campaign, individual gifts and corporate partners. But most of the money is raised at the annual Evening of Fine Wines event. This year is the 20th anniversary of the event, which includes a wine auction and a silent auction of other items, food and entertainment from the MCC Music and Culinary Arts Departments. Last year \$160,000 was raised to fund

MCC Foundation Scholarships. For this year's event on April 27 at 7 p.m. the goal is to raise \$200,000 or more, said DeCordova.

For the recipients, the scholarship gives needed support.

“This is my first semester here and receiving this scholarship means that my hard-work paid off,” said Lakia Lightner, a public relations student at MCC. “I will make good use of this opportunity through continued perfect attendance and good grades. After graduating MCC I plan to transfer to Spelman College and major in Comparative Women's Studies.”

Applications for scholarships awarded in the Spring Semester will be available in the Office of Institutional Advancement in late February and early March. The deadline for applications this semester is April 9, 2012. For more information contact Endia DeCordova at 860-512-2902 or via email at edecordova@mcc.comnet.edu.



Image courtesy of MCC EOFW

Continued from Best-Of pg. 3 Year In Review: *The Internet*

2011 was a great year as far as developments on the Internet. There was the fad of planking, where people try to lay flat on or over a surface in awkward places for no reason. There was the audiobook for the children's novel, “Go the F**k to Sleep,” written by Adam Mansbach and narrated by Samuel L. Jackson. We also had a commercial for the one and only Chuck Testa's Ojai Valley taxidermist service.

Ah, but there were dark times, too. There was the circus surrounding actor Charlie Sheen's firing from CBS' “Two and Half Men” in March. The “Elder Scrolls V: Skyrim” was released for PS3, XBOX 360 and PC, resulting in a joke that got old before anyone had actually beaten the game. We also had to bear the burden of the fourth Twilight movie (and yes, that is a burden on the internet).

There was the homeless man from Cleveland, Ted Williams, who panhandled using his golden voice and has since been offered numerous jobs (and is currently working as the official voice of the New England Cable Network) after being filmed and uploaded to YouTube. Also, my personal favorite, the Nyan Cat premiered in the spring, and has since been the basis of numerous cultural parodies and a website devoted to recording how long you can listen to it.

As far as the public eye is concerned, however, I don't think there was a more poignant moment on the Internet than the dreaded “Friday” music video by Rebecca Black. Black's family paid the Ark Music Factory \$4,000 to film a music video with her as the lead singer. The result was a firestorm of hate and over-the-top cyberbullying at a level many of us have ever seen. The video amassed more than 167 million views between its upload date of March 14 and June 16, 2011, when the original video was removed from YouTube. Of those, 3.1 million people disliked it (that's 87 percent of everyone who voted), and Black received multiple negative comments and even a few death threats. She even had to be removed from public school and is now home schooled due to all of the jeers and jokes she received from fellow students.

Black still aspires to become a successful pop artist, although it appears, in her case, that “successful” is to “appealing” as “famous” is to “popular.”

I'm still left with one question about the whole ordeal: why is the driver in the music video rapping? It kind of seems to me like this middle aged guy's decision to be involved in the music video was a tad more questionable than Black's.

Dan Dobbyn

Spring 2012 Job Search Skills Workshops!

Effective Resume Writing		Interviewing Tips	
Tuesday, January 31	12:30 - 1:45 pm	Tuesday, February 7	12:30 - 1:45 pm
Wednesday, February 1	12:30 - 1:45 pm	Wednesday, February 8	12:30 - 1:45 pm
Thursday, February 2	6 -7:15 pm	Thursday, February 9	6 -7:15 pm
Tuesday, February 28	12:30 - 1:45 pm	Tuesday, March 6	12:30 - 1:45 pm
Wednesday, February 29	12:30 - 1:45 pm	Wednesday, March 7	12:30 - 1:45 pm
Thursday, March 1	6 -7:15 pm	Thursday, March 8	6 -7:15 pm
Job Search & Cover Letters		Making Effective Career Choices	
Tuesday, February 14	12:30 - 1:45 pm	Tuesday, February 21	12:30 - 1:45 pm
Wednesday, February 15	12:30 - 1:45 pm	Wednesday, February 22	12:30 - 1:45 pm
Thursday, February 16	6 -7:15 pm	Thursday, February 23	6 -7:15 pm
Tuesday, March 13	12:30 - 1:45 pm	Tuesday, March 27	12:30 - 1:45 pm
Wednesday, March 14	12:30 - 1:45 pm	Wednesday, March 28	12:30 - 1:45 pm
Thursday, March 15	6 -7:15 pm	Thursday, March 29	6 -7:15 pm

All workshops are held in L-107, the computer resource room across from the Career Services & Co-Op Suite on the first floor of the Lowe Building.

WORKSHOPS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!

No advance registration is required.

Please contact MCC Career Services for more information or if you would like to set up an individual appointment:

cochnio@mcc.commnet.edu

jgreene@mcc.commnet.edu or cmcgadney@mcc.commnet.edu

Living Life on Your Terms!

By Yvonne Hurtado
Great Path Academy

As a new semester gets underway, it might be overwhelming, with new teachers, new obligations, new assignments. Change is not comfortable; change is annoying, change is exhausting, change is what happens when we want to succeed and no matter how hard it is, we will get through! I know that when I want something really bad or to win something that is really important to me, I will work hard to reach my biggest goals.

I have learned that in life you cannot stop if you want to be the best, not even if you are tired. You must keep on trying. On this campus we are all joined together by a common goal, something that we really want: *“Live so that your life is an accomplishment. Hold your own life in your own hands.”* credits! matter a Great Path student or an MCC student (or both); we all are trying to accumulate the credits we need to accomplish our goals and dreams. No matter what, we have to stay motivated and do our best. Our motivation will pay off. We all have dreams we would like to reach, no matter how far they are.

As we enter February, Black History Month, let our Civil Rights' heroes motivate you when you think you can't possibly juggle any more responsibilities or due dates. Remember, they embraced change, fought for change, died for change and when they were tired, they kept on trying to reach their goals and dreams.

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said “A nation or civilization that continues to produce soft-minded men purchases its own spiritual death on an installment plan.” He reminded us during his 1963 speech entitled “Strength to Love” that we must have a strong mind if we are to hold our lives in our own hands and truly live.

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10

Tips for Studying

By Chelsey Serrano
Great Path Academy

As all of us have started a new semester in our classes, we have to adjust to the work. Luckily, I have some really useful tips on studying that I have compiled throughout my educational experience. The tips work in my high school classes and in my Manchester Community College courses. I hope that they can help you too!

Chelsey's Top Ten Tips for Studying

1. Review what you learn right after class because it's still fresh in your brain.
2. Study the most difficult information first while you are still awake!
3. Study in a group.
4. Take notes.
5. Listening to relaxing music such as classical or jazz on a low volume can relieve some of the boredom of studying.
6. Pay attention in class (by taking notes!)
7. Find a good study environment (If you need occasional food, caffeine and a brief distraction, try a bookstore).
8. Set reasonable goals.
9. Use your resources- the MCC Student Writing Center is great!
10. Save *everything* from your classes! Don't throw it out until your mother drops it off at your house 10 years from now!

A Day in the Life of Tay

By Taylor Stanizzi
Great Path Academy

Sitting in bed, nauseous, dizzy, feeling like nothing could be worse than this. If you are thinking that maybe I shouldn't have partied as much, I wish; I didn't even go out last night. If you are thinking that I am going to write another article about teen pregnancy, think again, that's not my problem. That may never be my problem.

My name is Taylor Lynne Stanizzi. I'm 17 years old and I have Polycystic Ovary Syndrome, or PCOS. It is one of the most common female endocrine disorders, affecting approximately 5 percent to 10 percent of women of reproductive age (12 – 45 years old).

According to the U.S. National Library of Medicine, PCOS causes a hormone imbalance and classic symptoms include excess facial and body hair, acne, irregular menstrual cycles, obesity and infertility. It is a condition where numerous cysts accumulate on the ovaries.

I have had PCOS since I was 12 years old. Symptoms usually appear around the start of menstruation. However, some women do not develop symptoms until their early to mid-20's. It affects women of all races and nationalities and no two women have exactly the same symptoms.

Each day is a new experience for me. I have been made fun of because of things caused by PCOS, things that I can't control. Please think about this when you are about to giggle or make rude statements. It is much easier for me now at 17 years old to deal with others' immaturity and/or ignorance. It is much harder for a young girl of 12 or 13. Think about how a stray insult from middle school may still be lodged in your memory forever. They don't have to make it up on the talk shows; our teenage years can be hell.

Having PCOS is very difficult, but I do wake up every morning with a smile on my face because thinking positively always helps. For more information about PCOS please visit www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmedhealth.

Abby
Class of 2013
Leesburg, VA
Economics

DISCOVER YOURSELF

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

Abby fell in love with RWU even before she transferred here at the end of her freshman year. From the campus and community feel to the friends she made, Abby knew RWU was the place for her. Today, Abby is a member of Delta Sigma Pi—the business fraternity, is an admissions ambassador, a member of the Intercultural Center, a DJ for WQRI and an Enterprise Fellow in the Mario J. Gabelli School of Business. This spring she'll be traveling to France and Germany to study their financial markets and Parliament as part of an International Business class. This summer? An internship — preferably in Paris. Abby is expanding her horizons. What will you do?

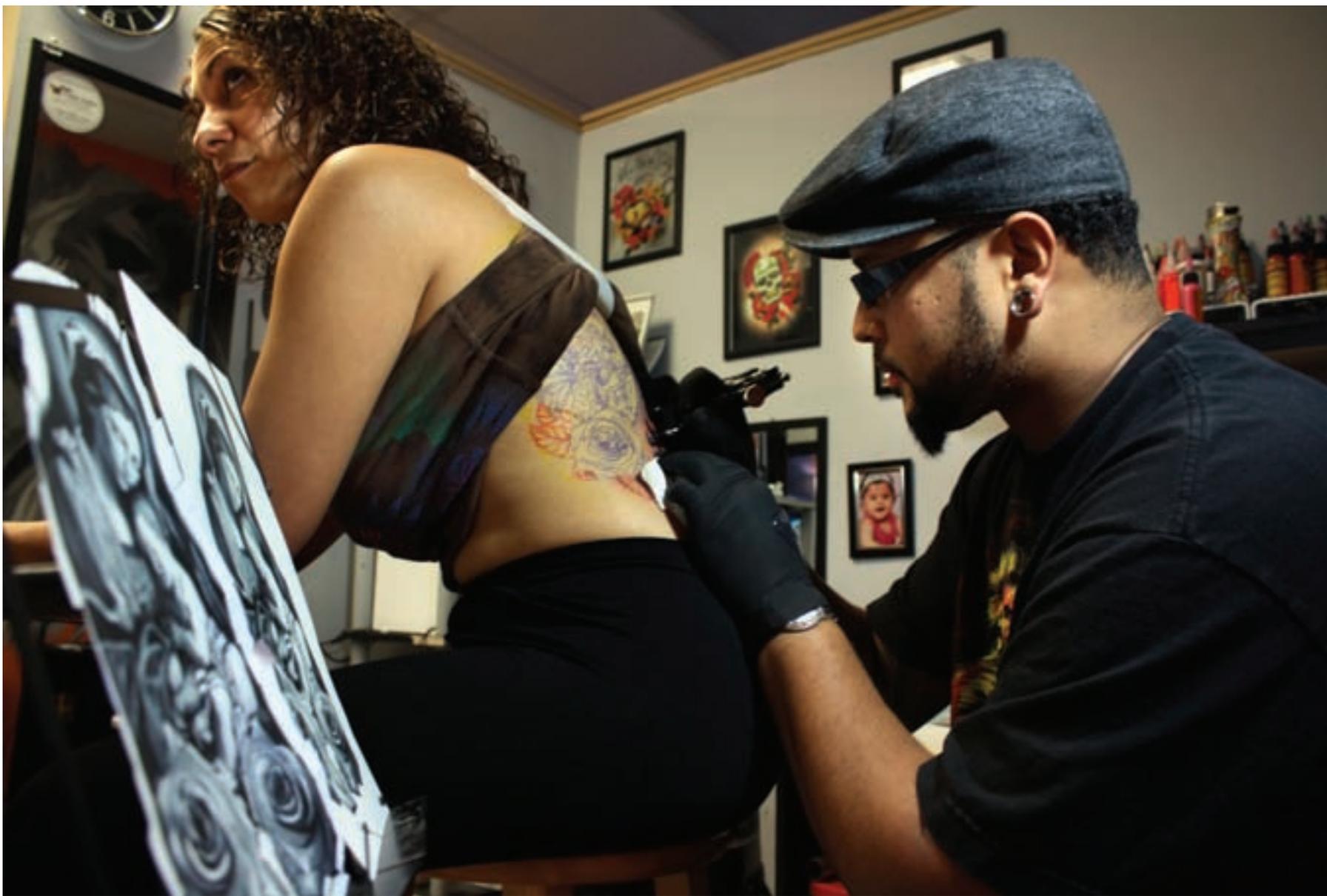
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Above: Rene "Fame" Montalvo, a tattoo artist and piercer and owner of The Lion's Den in Willimantic, works on an elaborate tattoo on a client's back in his shop.

By Kattarina Pelletier
Special to the Live Wire

Fame Montalvo has been drawing since he could hold a pencil, but he never really appreciated it until now.

He had entered and won contests for drawing in elementary and middle school. When he went to Windham Middle School, he had designed one of the patterns on the floor in the main area. When he was in high school, he had drawn tattoos for his friends without even thinking about making it a career or anything.

But after he graduated, he found a tattoo shop on lower Main Street in Willimantic, and he wanted to learn more. He showed the owner his sketchbook, and was given an apprenticeship. The first week he worked there, all he did was watch the owner tattoo people.

The next Monday, Fame's mother gave him \$3,000 to get all of the equipment he needed to become a tattoo artist, so he went to a store in Enfield to buy it. During that week, he tattooed four of his friends in the Willimantic shop.

"That's not the best way to do it," he said, which became clear when the next week the shop closed and the owner disappeared. That was the end of his apprenticeship.

But Fame got started again and he has been tattooing for about 10 years now, six of them from his home. Over the years he has opened and closed his own shop and worked in others in Connecticut and New York.

Now Fame owns a parlor called The Lion's Den. He has a real passion for it, and he couldn't see himself doing anything else.

One thing Fame said he likes to do is go to conventions. It's where top artists go to compete. You're basically in an 8' by 10' booth, and you can be there and make money. A lot of people go to conventions because they know that there are going to be good artists there. You can show off a tattoo that your tattoo artist has done, and you can help the artist can win prizes if it is really good.

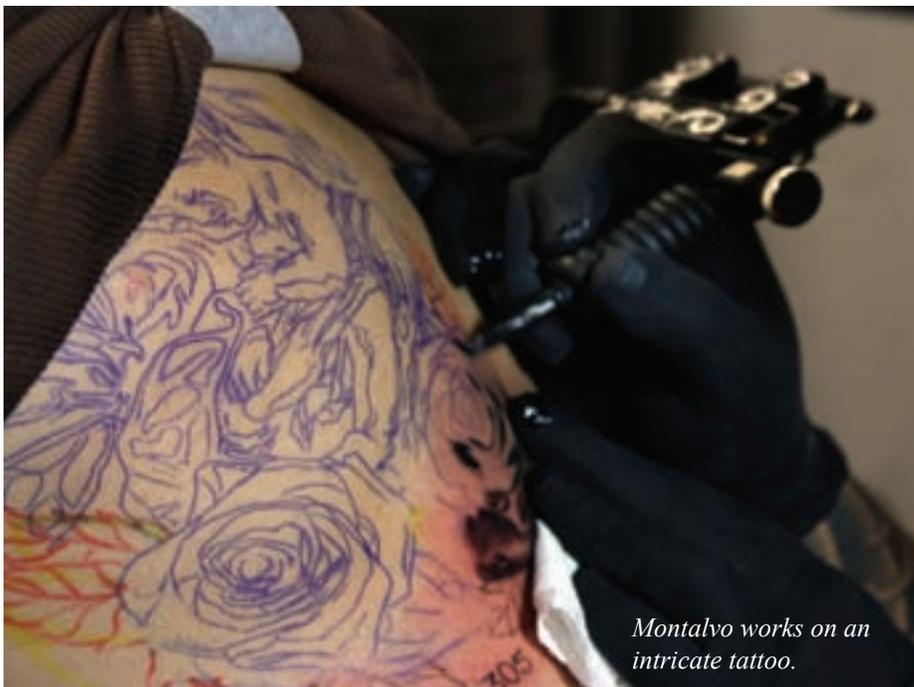
Fame said most people get tattoos that have actual meaning, rather than getting them just for the hell of it. Tattooing for Fame is kind of like a therapy. It keeps his mind off any drama or anything that is bothering him because he can focus on only tattoos.

"When you tattoo someone, it usually takes hours so they open up. They tell you everything. Being a sort of therapist basically comes with the job," he said.

His motivation for all of his hard work is his kids. He wants to give them a good life and being a tattoo artist, it's hard for him to be there for them all the time, but he tries his hardest. A lot of tattoo artists specialize in one form of tattooing, whether it's black and white, cartoon-like tattoos, Japanese, or color. Fame likes to do all of those because he wants to be original and different from other tattoo shops.

Fame posts pictures of tattoos he's done on his personal Facebook page, and the shop website.

"Even though I learned it the wrong way, it turned out really good. In the industry people won't help you become a tattoo artist unless you pay them, so if you want to be a tattoo artist, make sure you learn in a shop and continue learning in a shop rather than learning on your own," Fame said.



Montalvo works on an intricate tattoo.

Enter The Lion's Den: Inspired Ink



The Lion's Den is located on Main Street in Willimantic.



A Walk on the Wild Side of the Tracks

By Nigel Nickles Special to the Live Wire

“Zion,” a graffiti artist, says that an artist’s tag name is synonymous with who they are without giving up their birth name. Because graffiti is illegal in most cases, Zion uses his alias and wears a mask over his face when working. It is quite literally art on the run.

While traveling abroad a few years ago, I remember exiting a train station in London and instantly noticing this work of art on the side of a building, better known as graffiti.

It was a striking image: a blown up portrait of a Muslim woman whose face was completely covered, except for her eyes. The image was so captivating I haven’t forgotten it since. I’ve always been interested in the culture of graffiti and, as luck would have it, since my travels in London, I’ve come across a local graffiti artist here in Connecticut and have had the privilege to understand the art form more and what motivates the artist.

So when I met “Zion,” he explained to me first and foremost that the artist tag name is synonymous with who they are without giving up their birth name. Let’s remember that graffiti is illegal in most cases; it is quite literally art on the run.

Zion informed me that when he was about 13 or 14 he would take the city bus into downtown Hartford to a place referred to by local skaters as “Heaven.” This is where he first began to drop “tags,” or graffiti. Nothing serious, a name drop here and there. Although the act was illegal, Zion said the police for the most part were okay with people doing their art work there, almost as if it were an unofficial graffiti/skate park. Years later, when he really got involved with graffiti, he continued to go to this park and paint with no worries of police.

I asked Zion if he thought Hartford was a different place 10 years ago and how has that affected his art now. Zion instantly placed himself back in a time where our state’s capital actually had businesses. He mentioned shops inside the former Civic Center as well as a shopping mall called the Richardson Building. Most importantly, he points out there were less security cameras on the streets back then, an ideal situation for a graffiti artist. Moving forward 10 years, Zion jokingly mentions that most graffiti artist have to go underground to practice their art. Underground means train tunnels, rooftops and abandoned buildings; anywhere, basically, out of sight. He said the city has security cameras everywhere downtown making it ever harder for an artist of this type to show his or her work. We continued to converse about the culture of graffiti and during our talks he told me he wanted to tell me a story. This story turned out to be quite the adventure, a walk on the wild side of the tracks.

Zion jumps right in, saying that the day had been going rather smoothly. He said around late afternoon he was feeling the urge to hone his skill and wanted a bit of adventure. At that moment he prepared himself with all the necessary equipment and materials: a facemask, spray-paint, and backpack. Destination, not sure, but almost instinctively Zion said he headed for the railroad tracks.

After walking for about 30 minutes alone, sunset fading in the distance behind Hartford’s skyline, Zion told me he came to a tunnel which had the perfect clean canvas for him to do work. As he prepared his materials, out of the corner of his eye he saw a figure approach out of the shadows. Zion told me he braced himself for anything, considering not too many people hang out under tunnels after dark.

With a flick of a lighter, the darkened figure became illuminated. Zion said the man walked up to him and asked him if he smoked, and after a quick once over, Zion said he replied “not what you smoke.” After Zion’s reply the stranger pulled out of his pocket a glass stem with what looked like a white pebble inside. The stranger pressed it to his lips, fired up one end of the stem and exhaled the smoke. He then asked Zion what he was doing down there. Zion told the stranger he was painting and oddly enough the crack user took another lung full of smoke and told Zion you shouldn’t be down here doing that, exhaled his smoke and walked off into the shadows. Zion laughed and asked me “How is it that I’m receiving life advice from a crack head in a tunnel?”

Shortly after Zion finished his work of art, he decided that the railroad tracks had brought more than enough excitement and decided to hit the streets to discover his next canvas. He told me after a short walk of about 15 minutes he was fortunate enough to find a secluded spot in which he could work where his tag would be exposed.

He began to paint when out of nowhere he saw three camera flashes. Immediately, he dropped his cans and ran.



Zion adds a coat of spray paint to his work. Often, he uses multiple cans of paint to complete a single project.

No questions, no looking back, Zion told me he was not getting caught. About 5 strides into his mad dash he heard a ladies’ voice say, “Hey I’m not the police, I just find you interesting.” Zion laughed and joked about almost having a heart attack from the sprint and all along it was a passerby.

To me it’s a shame graffiti is against the law because it allows people to express themselves in a way they might not otherwise.



Zion steps back to survey his latest creation.

Surrogacy

By Briam Kenny
Special to the Live Wire

People grow up thinking that they will one day have a child of their own. Many will think to themselves, "Is my child going to be like me when I was growing up? Are they going to do the things that I did?" "I hope not," most would say.

But as people get older and closer to the age of actually having a child, they start asking more serious questions such as "Will I be able to have a child?" Many couples find out that they are unable to produce children due to medical reasons, and other couples cannot produce because of their sexual preferences, like a couple of the same sex.. This is when a lot of couples turn to adoption or surrogacy.

I have come across one young married couple who has a family of their own with two young, beautiful boys. The mother's name is Autumn and she is very enthusiastic about how other people should find truth and love in having their own families. Instead of just hoping that everyone can have a family like hers she went out and did research on how she could help couples that were unable to have children. She found a very highly recommended surrogacy Web site that told her about the opportunities that she could have to help many couples. Right then and there she signed up to help.

Autumn was a perfect candidate to be a surrogate: a young, healthy women who was very enthusiastic and has a strong family of her own to prove that she was capable of performing the task of carrying someone else's child. Shortly after signing up, she was contacted to be a surrogate for a young couple from France

Autumn was very excited as she read the couple's profile. They were two young men from France who had tried the surrogacy process eight times already! The previous attempts failed for many different reasons and Autumn wanted to be the one that finally succeeded in helping these men have a child. She agreed and several appointments were set up.

First, Autumn and her family were to meet the couple and both sides needed to approve one another. Not only did the couple from France need to approve of Autumn as their surrogate choice, but Autumn had to be comfortable doing this for the couple as well. This made Autumn at ease because if she met this couple and didn't like them she could say no. This wasn't a problem though and both sides approved of the other right away. Each family saw the love and strength of the other and Autumn said she knew that these men were wonderful and deserving of a family.

Autumn decided to become a Gestational Surrogate. This means that she is not genetically related to the child. Eggs are extracted from an egg donor and are mixed with the sperm of the intended father. The resulting embryos are then transferred to the gestational surrogate.

Many tests were set up right away to get the process going as soon as possible. Autumn and her husband Jeff had to fly to Indiana to meet with the surrogacy agency's chosen psychologist. They went through two full days of psychological evaluations to make sure they were mentally and emotionally

capable of going through with the process. Next, Autumn had to go through several medical examinations to make sure she was physically capable of being a surrogate. All the exams went well and then she had to start taking injections that would make her body think it was pregnant. Finally, the time came where she could be flown out to Oregon to receive the embryos. The egg donor lived in Oregon.

A few of Autumn's family members and friends were not very supportive. They thought that it would be a problem for her to give the baby away because she would become too attached. But Autumn said she is a strong woman and knows that she is not genetically related to the baby and that what she is doing is for a very deserving couple.

Autumn was in Oregon only for a long weekend as they performed the procedure, implanting two embryos. Once again the procedure went off with out any problems and she was sent back home to Connecticut on bed rest for just a couple of days. The doctors told her to treat this as any other pregnancy and don't do anything different than what she had done with her own children.

From then on she did treat it as any other pregnancy but, unfortunately, one of the embryos did miscarry. But the remaining baby is healthy and the pregnancy is going along very well. Autumn is just about through her first trimester and constantly checks in with the couple from France just to let them know of any updates on the baby. They stay in contact through email daily and talk on the phone or Skype weekly. She loves



Autumn, a surrogate mother, is carrying a baby which will go to two young men from France who had tried the surrogacy process eight times before meeting her. Above, Autumn's son checks out how big her belly is.



Autumn and her husband, Jeff, have their son help cook dinner at their home.

the relationship that her family and the couple have and says they have met two great people who feel like a part of her own family now.

The couple from France has also visited a couple times already, wanting to become closer to Autumn and her family. They are so thankful to her for giving them the birth of their own child and the start of their own family. Every time they visit, they bring presents and love to both of Autumn's two children, showing that they are going to be wonderful parents to this child.

Autumn has always been a person that loves to help others in need and show them love. She has grown up and found happiness in her own experiences of having a family with a wonderful husband and two young, healthy boys. When she reached out to help she found the wonderful couple from France who she met and knew right away they were the ones deserving of this same joy.

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The Downside of Student Loans:

U.S. Student Loan Indebtedness Approaches \$1 Trillion



Photo by Rich Carpenter

By SallyAnn Garvey-Lumumba
Live Wire Editor

It has become the norm for students to graduate college with some debt, but the amount of debt a student will owe is far from normal.

According to figures in an October 25, 2011, article in the *Los Angeles Times*, the total student loan debt in the United States is approaching 1 trillion dollars.

“About two-thirds of the students who were in four-year colleges in 2009 used loans to pay tuition, accruing an average debt of \$24,000,” said Lauren Asher, the president of the non-profit Institute for College Access and Success. “One in 10 owed \$40,000 or more.”

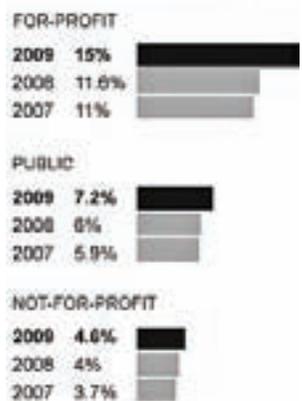
Here at Manchester Community College, as well as the state’s other 11 community colleges and state universities, tuition will be raised 5 percent next year, according to President Gena

Glickman in her Jan. 17, 2012, address to faculty and staff. This could force more MCC students to seek outside help like loans to cover college costs.

Even adjusted for inflation, students are borrowing twice as much as they did just a decade ago. Many students suffer due to complicated or misleading language when selecting a loan, and face astronomical increases to their debt. Others choose loans with payments that are near to impossible to pay back on a typical salary.

Student Loan Defaults Rising

Of the 3.6 million borrowers who began repaying students loans in fiscal year 2009, 8.8% defaulted within two years.



Source: U.S. Department of Education

News reports frequently cover the amount of credit card debt Americans accrue but, until recently, less time has been devoted to student loans. According to a Jan. 17, 2012, published in the *Jacksonville Business Journal*, the amount of credit card debt owed in the U.S. has decreased by 11 percent since December 2010. But, the amount of student loan debt is steadily increasing. The College Board reports that Americans now owe more on student loans than on credit cards.

The results of all this debt are far-reaching, industry experts say.

“It’s going to create a generation of wage slavery,” said Nick Pardini, a Villanova University graduate student in finance to a reporter with *USA Today*. Pardini uses his blog to warn investors that student loans are the next credit bubble, with borrowers, rather than lenders, as the losers because of higher rates of default.

Data from the U.S. Department of Education data shows that for the 3.6 million individuals who started to pay back student loans in the 2011 fiscal year, the rate of those who fall nine months behind on their payments and enter default has increased from 6.7 percent to 8.8 percent.

Ron Paul says that if he becomes president he will do away with student loans completely. President Barack Obama said he sympathizes with indebted students. In an Oct. 25, 2011, *Los Angeles Times* article he recounted that he and his wife each left law school with more than \$60,000 dollars in debt. He added that for more than a decade they paid more toward their loans than toward their mortgage.

The bottom line for students searching for private or federal loans is to read the fine print, and determine if they can pay back a loan on a just-out-of-college salary. Loans are a viable option for students who have no other means of affording an education, but they can have long-term consequences, and should be viewed as a serious part of a student’s financial future.

STUDENT LOAN DEBT



Source: Economic Research, Federal Bank of Saint Louis

ThinkProgress.org

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IN LOWE 154 J

Common Sense Student Loan Advice:

Tips for Minimizing Student Debt

- Borrow federal first since these loans have better repayment terms than private student loans. There are also more consumer protections for them.
- Live like a student while you are in school so you don’t have to live like one after you graduate. Students who graduate with high student debt often find that after they pay their loan payment on top of paying rent and other bills that there is nothing left over.
- Don’t borrow more for your entire education than your anticipated starting salary when you graduate. Otherwise, you may well have economic difficulties and even risk default.
- If you are borrowing more than \$10,000 per year for college, transfer to a less expensive school.
- Students should check out a college’s loan default rates before deciding to enroll.

For more information visit www.FinAid.org.

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Video Game Review

Gears of War 3: RAAM's Shadow *a Good Addition to a Great Series*

By Andrew Wynne
Special to the Live Wire

Serving as a prequel to the entire series, RAAM's Shadow is the first story driven downloadable content. Is this a time trip worth taking?

Recounting the events of the fall of the city of Ilima, RAAM's Shadow follows the members of Zeta squad as they try to help evacuate the city before the sky darkens and flying piranha-like Kryll tear its citizens apart. This team is composed of old standbys of the first two Gears, and is lead by cigar-smoking protagonist Michael Barrick, who will be unfamiliar to anyone who has not read the comics.

The events are rather straightforward, and there are some moments that will resonate with fans, like seeing personal favorite Jace Stratton in his younger years. The episode spans five chapters as players make their ways through Ilima's bank, city hall, an abandoned high school, and even an orphanage. These new locations, and the depressing atmosphere that goes along with them, are the most interesting parts of the story.

There are no Lambents this time. Instead the who's-who of Locus all-stars keeps players on their toes as they topple brawling Boomers, blast ape-like Wretches in the principal's office, and exterminate electric Serapedes in the locker room.

Rather than the hand-held Hammer of Dawn lasers, players will find stations that allow them to take down enemies from an aerial viewpoint. Players will also want to keep plenty of Bolo grenades in stock to combat the emergence holes that Gears 3 brings back to a much-satisfying return.

Late in the game, one encounter includes dark, Kryll infested areas. But since the allied AI's have the IQ of a gnat, players will find themselves saving allies that run into the shadows rather than making any real progress.

It would not be called RAAM's Shadow without having the big, silent, immortal savage make an appearance. Luckily, some sections of the game put players in the boots of General RAAM and his squad of elite Locus. The fearsome leader stabs and shish kebabs Gear-head soldiers that stand in his way, while swarms of Kryll surround him and block him from any bullet damage. They can be directed to shred one COG after another to bits. It's an immensely satisfying role reversal. But considering how strong the developers made RAAM, and any lack of challenge or variety, it does not take long for these missions to wear thin.

There is a distinct visual journey where players start under clear, sunny skies that will gradually darken with Kryll as the Locus attack. Likewise, the bank's pristine marble interior gives way to the jumbled, make-shift barricades that crowd the school's hallways.

Clocking in at just two and a half hours, the game seems more like a money grab at \$15. The gameplay is there, and it has its fun moments, but the story feels insignificant compared to the events of the first game and it is over before players know what hit them.

Final Verdict - Average: Players do not get the variety of Red Dead Redemption's Undead Nightmare, or the character driven plots of Mass Effect 2's Lair of the Shadow Broker. But for the fans of the Gears franchise, it is a must.

Concert Update

Andy Grammer Brings 1st Tour to Connecticut

By Eden Cornwell
Live Wire Staff Writer

If you've heard the song "Keep Your Head Up," now in heavy rotation on local radio, then you have heard of Andy Grammer. Grammer is a rising artist in the music industry. The pop, rock and r&b musician plays the guitar and piano and can also beat box.

On Feb. 7, Grammer is bringing his first headlining tour to Connecticut at the Ridgefield Playhouse at 8 p.m. Opening for Grammer is Ryan Star. Grammar will feature songs from his self-titled debut album, Andy Grammer.

I had the privilege to meet him after I entered a fan contest. I was one of five chosen from Connecticut to help promote the tour. Last year I was able to have a nice conversation with him about things that have gone on in his life. I like that Grammer is a very genuine person. All of the songs on his CD have a story behind them and how they came about.

For more information about Grammer visit www.andygrammer.com. While you're there, if you like what you hear, buy tickets to show support and help to sell out his first headlining tour!

Campus Crossword

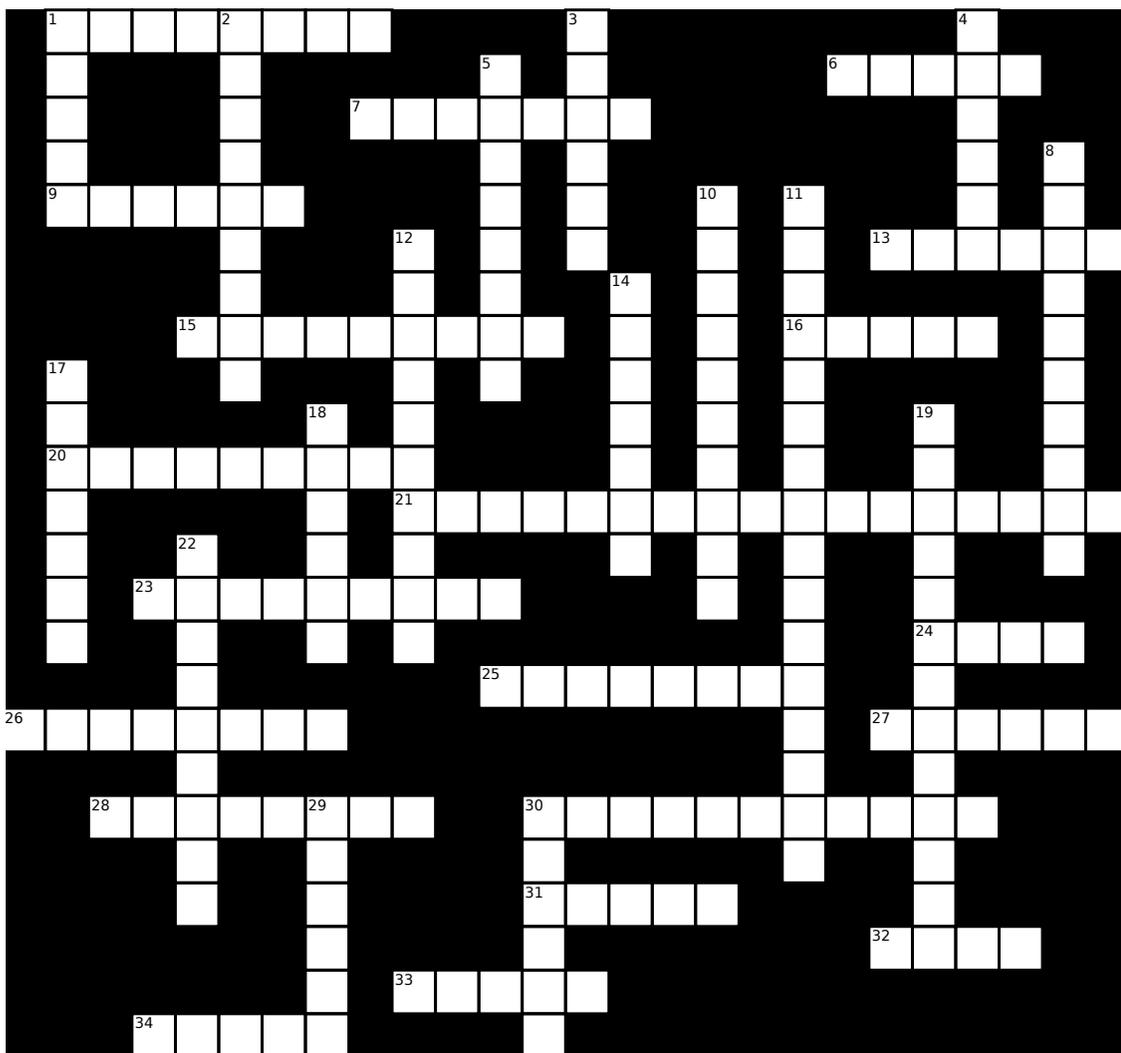
By SallyAnn Garvey-Lumumba
Live Wire Editor

Across

- 1 What you shouldn't be doing in class
- 6 Teachers, Plumbers, and Actors can join a...
- 7 Halfway through a course you might take a...
- 9 Bookstore Co.
- 13 T.J.'s last name (SGA)
- 15 "MCC" middle word...
- 16 Vets Center
- 20 Where buying books meets MCC
- 21 Where to go for a student I.D. (two words)
- 23 You'll graduate here
- 24 An awesome janitor's first name
- 25 MCC Newspaper (2 Words)
- 26 Your Professor might assign...
- 27 G. Duncan or Peter...
- 28 Pres.Gena
- 30 Where Macs and PC's go to congregate (2 Words)
- 31 University of Connecticut abbreviated
- 32 Where to buy food on campus
- 33 English professors love when you write an...
- 34 Doesn't make sense? Head to the Academic Support Center to find a...

Down

- 1 Common phrase: "Faculty & _____"
- 2 Might be teaching your class
- 3 Another word for cashier
- 4 Sport offered for men and women
- 5 You'll find them in every class
- 8 President of Student Government Association (2 Words)
- 10 Best place to look up an unfamiliar word before the
- 11 When you graduate you might receive your... (2 Words)
- 12 06040-06045 zip codes for what town?
- 14 Hard to find at the beginning of the semester
- 17 Books! Books! Books! all in stacks
- 18 Another word for class
- 19 Honor Society? (3 Words)
- 22 Gallery Benefactor (2 Words)
- 29 "Death of a Salesman" author Arthur...
- 30 MCC Mascot



Theme: "The Old College Try"

Difficulty: ★ LW ★ LW ★ LW ☆ ☆

Answers on p. 14

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FATHER'S DAY

FAITH MONTAPERTO

THERE WAS THAT TIME,

I THINK I WAS 7,

AND WE TOOK OFF

THE LITTLE WHEELS,

YOU RAN BESIDE ME,

DECIDING WHEN TO LET GO,

BUT YOU NEVER REALLY DID;

SKINNED MY KNEE,

PRETTY GOOD THAT DAY,

STILL HAVE THE SCAR,

BUT IT WAS SO WORTH IT

TO SEE YOUR FACE—

LOOK MA, NO HANDS.



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Lady Cougars on the Prowl

By Dan Dobbyn
Live Wire Assistant Editor



Photo by Rich Carpenter

As the National Junior College Athletic Association postseason looms closer, the Manchester Community College Lady Cougars are going strong.

Led by sophomore captain and only returning player Elise Chase, the Cougars have amassed an 8-3 record, as of earlier this month.

Chase is described by the teams' head coach, Mary Roickle, as a "swing forward" for her ability to play form anywhere on the basketball court. Other key players on the team include forward Lyndsey Nash, who's been described as "basketball savvy," Rachel Francis, who plays the post, and Asia Beatty, who

pledged recruiting as a big deal to her and the team. However, she said she doesn't want to settle for the current 11-person roster. She hopes to max out the roster to 15 players for next year with a "grassroots effort" and forming one-on-one relationships with the potential players and students of MCC.

Roickle said she has also recruited eight male MCC students to scrimmage situations that they have to improve on or have yet to see in a real game situation. The scrimmage team has even shown up for Lady Cougar practices over the winter break to help out.

The team's most recent win was over Navy Prep Academy, 71-51. The next home game is against Lincoln College of New England in the Great Path Academy gymnasium Tuesday, Jan. 24 at 6 p.m. After that, the Lady Cougars have a huge road game at rival school Roxbury Community College in Roxbury, Mass., Saturday Jan. 28 at 4 p.m.

Roxbury is ranked 4th in the nation in the NJCAA, so if the Lady Cougars want to return to the national tournament (where they themselves took 4th place last year), the road will most likely go through Roxbury.



Mary Roickle, the Manchester Community College women's basketball head coach.

Photo by Rich Carpenter

plays the role of a point guard and a "spark plug" to excite the rest of the team, Roickle said.

The amazing advantage that the Lady Cougars have is that, other than Beatty and starting shooting guard Nadiyah Bell, the entire team is at least 5 feet, 6 inches tall, giving them a significant height advantage over most of their opponents. Not to mention that despite having only one returning player, they have 11 players ready to go for them for any game, which is above the amount of players that the average junior college has on its team, Roickle said.

The deep bench is considered a victory for Roickle, who, in her first year as head coach, has



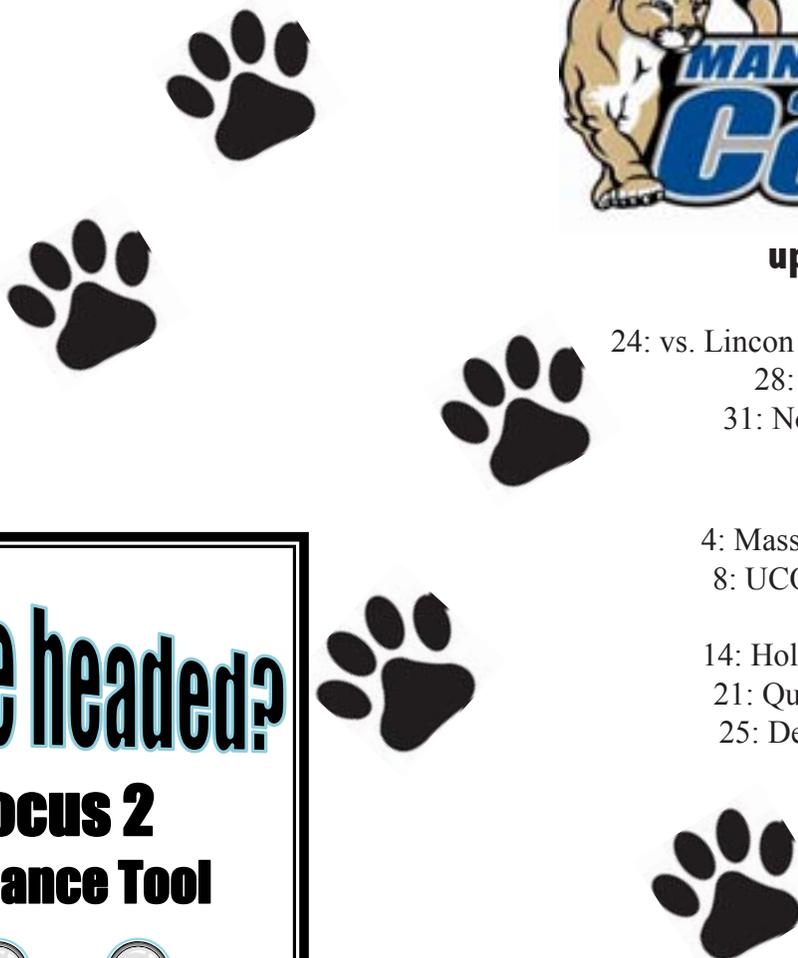
upcoming games:

JANUARY

- 24: vs. Lincon College of N.E. (home) 6:00 pm
- 28: Roxbury CC (away)
- 31: Northern Essex CC (away)

FEBRUARY

- 4: Massasoit CC (home) 1:00 pm
- 8: UCONN Avery Point (away)
- 11: CCRI (away)
- 14: Holyoke CC (home) 6:00 pm
- 21: Quinsigamound CC (away)
- 25: Dean College (home) 1:00



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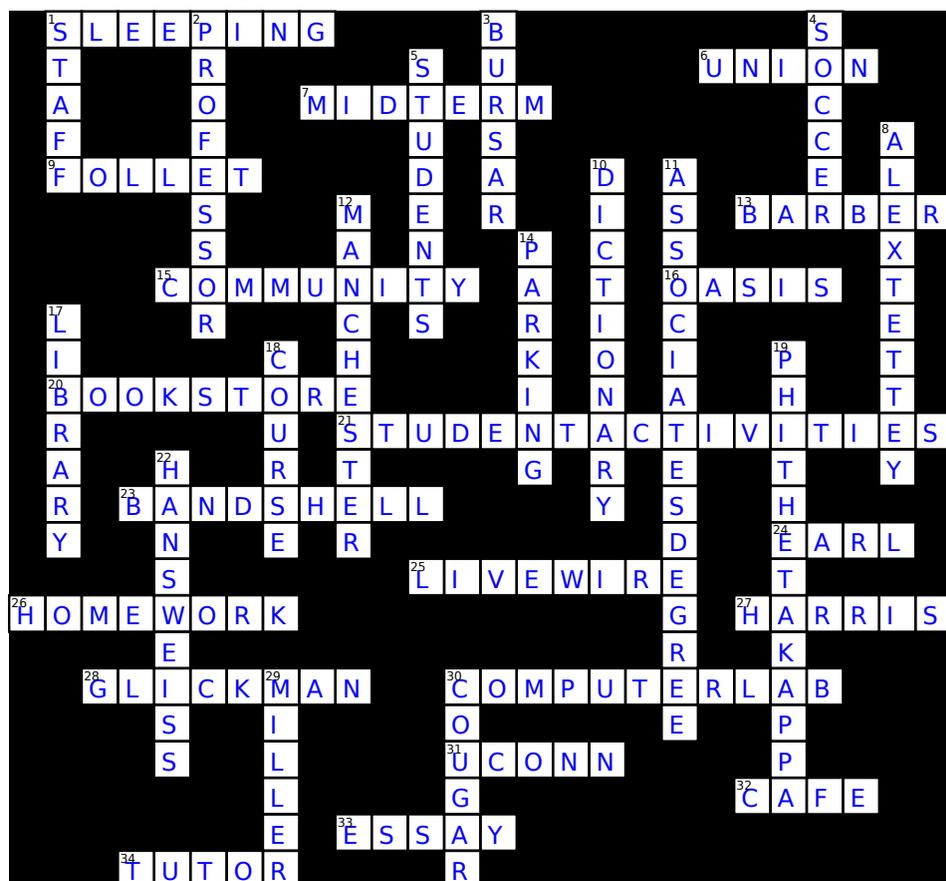
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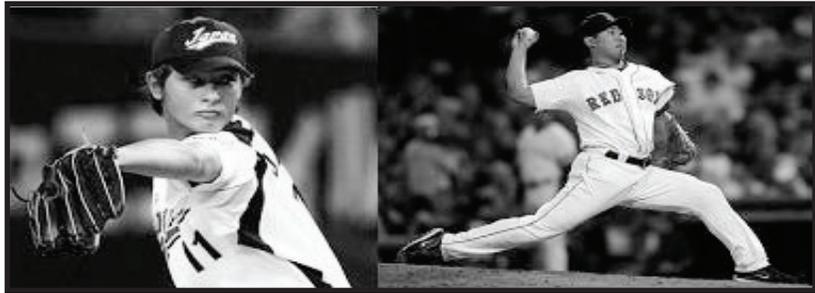
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Campus Crossword Answers



Japanese Sensation Yu Darvish Wants to Play in MLB



Will Japanese phenom Yu Darvish (left) be the next Daisuke Matsuzaka? photos courtesy of: bleachernation.com and redsoxbeacon.com

By Zachariah Hand
Live Wire Staff Writer

He stands at an enormous 6'5" and a robust 215 pounds, with arms that seem to extend from the pitcher's mound into the catchers glove. He is armed with a fastball that reaches speeds in the upper 90s, the type of weapon nearly all pitchers wished they possessed. He can throw a "shuuto," or in American terms, a screwball, which breaks inside to a right-handed hitter. His slider breaks downward, and is exceptional at producing ground ball outs, though he possesses exceptional strikeout ability as well.

He won a gold medal in the 2009 World Baseball Classic. He carries the hopes and dreams of a baseball crazy nation on his shoulders, and has the potential to be a national hero to his native land. Ladies and gentlemen, he is Yu Darvish, formerly of the Hokkaido Nippon Ham Fighters of Japan's Pacific League, and now the target of Major League Baseball's Texas Rangers.

But despite all of his talents, and all that is expected of him, will Darvish be a successful MLB pitcher? Or will he fall into obscurity and mediocrity, in the same fashion as several other Japanese baseball players who have come to the United States?

When a player on a team in Nippon Professional Baseball

But despite all the hype at the time that surrounded Matsuzaka, he proved to be somewhat of a disappointment during his rookie year, due to the fatigue of a longer season and pitching on only four days rest, as opposed to the five pitchers receive in Japan.

Since that season, Matsuzaka's career has been up and down, with the pitcher missing significant amounts of time due to various injuries, possibly because of throwing so many pitches early in his career in Japan, where pitch counts are much less strict compared to those in MLB.

Darvish, despite all of his hype and the belief that he is a better pitcher than Matsuzaka, will likely experience the same set of issues. The 25-year-old is not used to the grueling schedule of a 162 game MLB season, plus playoff games (all of which he will endure in the heat of Texas).

He is also not accustomed to facing hitters as great as those he will face in MLB, who are much more disciplined than hitters in Nippon Professional Baseball. While it is not out of the realm of possibility that Darvish will be successful in the United States, it should not be a surprise if he turns out to be the next Matsuzaka, a player who is slowly fading from his once prominent stature as a cultural hero into obscurity.

wishes to come to the United States and play he most go through what is known as the posting process. In this process, each team has an opportunity to place a bid on the player during a set period of time. The team that places the highest bid then wins the right to negotiate a contract with the player so that he may join an MLB team.

If the two sides agree to a contract, the money from the bid is paid to the player's former Japanese team. If the two sides cannot come to an agreement, the player must return to the Japanese team and wait a year to begin the process once again.

In the case of Darvish, the Texas Rangers were the team that bid the highest amount and won the right to negotiate a contract with him. The Rangers bid upwards of \$51 million for this right, and had until January 18 to sign Darvish to a contract (as of January 17, Darvish and the team were still negotiating).

Darvish is not the first player to undergo this process of transferring from Nippon Professional Baseball to Major League Baseball.

In late 2006, Daisuke Matsuzaka of the Seibu Lions and the reigning World Baseball Classic MVP announced that he would be coming to America via the posting process. At the time, Matsuzaka was regarded as the best pitcher in Japan, and seemed to many as a top of the rotation starter for most major league teams. The highest bid was placed by the Boston Red Sox, who later signed Matsuzaka.

Year In Review: Sports

By Nathan Mair
Live Wire Staff Writer

Man what a great year in sports 2011 was! We saw it all last year, from history being made to outrageous scandals to a lockout on the NBA season.

Let's start by taking a look back at what happened in the NCAA only because our great state had its Division 1 university, the University of Connecticut Huskies, capture its third National championship thanks to the great leadership of the junior Kemba Walker. Walker took the nation by storm with his great performance throughout the 2010-2011 season. Check this out: named the Final Four's most outstanding player, named Big East most outstanding player and led the nation in scoring, just to name a few of his accolades. Let's see what this guy accomplishes his senior year... OH Yeah that's right he's not going to have senior year because he was selected 9th in the 2011 NBA draft pick by the Charlotte Bobcats. So I should be saying "let's see what this guy accomplishes in his bright NBA career."

Speaking of the NBA, the 2010-2011 season ended in historic and dramatic fashion as the Dallas Mavericks captured its first NBA Championship after defeating the Miami Heat. Then came the lockout, after players and owners failed to agree on a new contract. After over 100 days of heated negotiations, owners and players finally reached an agreement on Nov. 26 and the lockout officially ended on Dec. 8, with the first games of the season played on Christmas Day.

In baseball the big story was Yankee Derek Jeter recording a milestone 3,000 hits on July 9. As if recording 3,000 hits wasn't good enough, Jeter's 3,000th hit came in the form of a home run in a game that he went five for five in, in front of his home crowd.

St. Louis Cardinal Albert Pujols, who is arguably the best player in the MLB today, solidified his name in baseball immortality after recording not one, not two, but three homeruns in the World Series against the Texas Rangers. But on Dec. 10 Pujols, signed a 10 year deal worth around \$254 million with the Anaheim Angels. I think it's safe to say that 2011 was a bittersweet year for Cardinals fans because they won the World Series but they lost one of their best players.

College football was rocked by scandal in November when former Penn State University assistant coach Jerry Sandusky was indicted on charges of sexually abusing young boys throughout the course of 15 years. Legendary head coach Joe Paterno was allegedly aware of one incident of Sandusky sexually molesting a young boy within the athletic facilities, but failed to report it to the police. That caused the university to fire the 85-year-old. Penn State's student body wouldn't take Paterno's termination lightly and more than 2,000 students hit the streets rioting and yelling "We want Joe!" There is no doubt that this case will go down as one of the biggest sports scandals of all time.

In the NFL, the Green Bay Packers took Super Bowl 45 after defeating the Pittsburgh Steelers in a very close competition. The game had its many exciting highlights, but perhaps the most memorable moment was when pop singer Christina Aguilera botched "The Star-Spangled Banner." Aguilera later apologized and stated that she got caught up in the moment which caused her to lose her place. Hey, happens to the best of us.

Employment Opportunities

Store Manager Trainee

Full & Part Time Positions Available

Job Description - Firestone Complete Auto Care a Division of BFS Retail & Commercial Operations, LLC (BFRC) employs over 23,000 teammates in North America. BFRC consists of more than 2,200 company-owned consumer and commercial stores in the United States and Canada. With over 2,200 locations across America, we may be in just the right place for you to build a career. Learn more. As a Store Manager, you will be responsible for:

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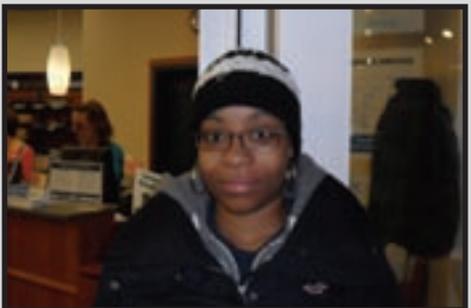
Join our team!



Contact: Bob Petrucelli
bpetrucelli@bfrc.com
860-965-9438

“Who was the most interesting person of 2011 and why?”

WORD
ON CAMPUS



Amanda Lebrun

“The President because everyone was bashing him and he still kept on doing what he needed to do.”

Surgical Technology



Michael Scavetta

“Herman Cain. When a guy with a vague political background like him runs for president I find it kind of amusing and the way things all turned out is very amusing.”

Social Services



Hector Hernandez

“It would be Dr. Brian Ruggiero, who I had for anatomy and physiology class last semester. I had a hard time in a science class I took before, but the way Dr. Ruggiero taught me was very helpful and he is the best professor I ever had.”

Physical Therapy



Kristo Vjesto

“I read the news every day on the Internet from the Albanian newspapers where I am originally from. I would pick Germany’s Chancellor Angela Merkel because she is very intelligent and has done a good job in helping the European Unions.”

Maintenance Dept.



Daniel Brodie

“The bus driver who drives the MCC Flyer every morning because he has a great personality. He was always in a good mood and really happy to be driving the bus.”

General Studies



Zsofia Kovessi

“Actually, I meet someone interesting every day. Everyone is unique.”

General Studies

Photos by Faith Monteperto

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