



LIVE WIRE

Volume 29, Issue 8, May 7, 2012 Free
Manchester Community College

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WORD ON CAMPUS (back page)

“What do you wish you had tickets for?”

Latest Election Snafu Reveals Need for Major Reform at MCC

Flier wars: Candidates and their supporters tacked up hundreds of signs across campus in preparation for the hotly contested Student Government Presidential and Vice Presidential races. Photo by SallyAnn Garvey-Lumumba

By Nathan Cheatham
Live Wire Staff Writer

For the second year in a row, a re-vote was needed to complete the election of some candidates for the Student Government Association.

Some 450 votes students cast April 25 and 26 for SGA president and vice president were thrown out and a re-vote was held April 30 and May 1 for those two races, the only contested positions.

T.J. Barber, director of Student Activities, the campus office that coordinates the election sent notice of the re-vote to students via email.

“Due to a number of issues, both technical and behavioral, surrounding the election of the President and Vice-President positions,”

See **Election** pg. 3

MCC Student Auditions for the X Factor



Star powers: MCC Student Adam Landerman has big aspirations, and auditioned for the talent competition reality show The X-Factor. Photo by Rich Carpenter



Adam Landerman, of West Hartford, auditioned for the TV show *The X Factor*, Friday, April 13, at Foxwoods Resort & Casino. He performed a sports-themed poem. Adam, who is studying English here at MCC, will learn if he gets to audition again, this time for Simon Cowell and the other judges, sometime between May 9 and July 1.

So look for Adam when the show starts, or email him to lend your support, adam-ray06117@hotmail.com. Also check out his Facebook page at Adam Ray Landerman.



Graphic courtesy of guiltypleasures.co.uk

SGA Officers for 2012-2013



President
Jonathan Colon



Vice President
Erik Gilbert



Social V. P.
M.J. Hockenberry



Secretary
Kayla Lopez



Executive Senator 1
Toni Coble



Webmaster
Nirav Shah

Photos courtesy of the MCC Office of Student Affairs

Briefs

Mishi-maya-gat Spoken Word & Music Series Hold Year-end Session

The final edition of the Mishi-maya-gat Spoken Word & Music Series will begin at 7 p.m. on Thursday, May 17, with a reading by poet Ellen Doré Watson, director of The Poetry Center at Smith College. Her most recent work is "Dogged Hearts" (Tupelo Press, 2010.) Also reading will be D.M. Gordon, recipient of a 2008 Massachusetts Cultural Council Artist Fellowship and author of "Fourth World" (Adastra Press, 2010). At 8 p.m., David Mack, a multi-instrumentalist with six CDs to his credit, will perform a solo blues set. He is the leader and guitarist of the much-traveled and popular "Dave Mack Band." The event, which will be held in the GPA Community Commons, is free and open to the public. For more information contact Stephen Campiglio at scampiglio@mcc.commnet.edu or 860-512-2824.

Breakdancing Shakespeare Presents *Romeo and Juliet*

The Hartford Stage Education Department presents "Breakdancing Shakespeare: Romeo & Juliet" Thursday, May 17, at 7 p.m. in the SBM Charitable Foundation Auditorium. The play is performed by Hartford High School students and combines the original Shakespeare verse with modern music, breakdancing, hip hop and rap to tell the story of doomed lovers Romeo and Juliet. The play is enjoyable for ages 7 through adult. It is free and open to the public. For more information contact Carleigh Cappetta at ccappetta@mcc.commnet.edu or 860-512-2804.

International Film Series Presents Mexican Import

Saving Private Perez will be the next film shown in the International Film Series Friday, May 18 at 7 p.m. in the SBM Charitable Foundation Auditorium. The film, from Mexico, tells the story of Julian Perez, Mexico's most notorious leader of organized crime, who must embark on a mission given to him by the only authority he respects... his mother. Joined by a colorful band of infamous criminals, Julian must risk his life to fulfill his mother's wish and rescue his brother from the war-ridden bowels of the most treacherous land in the world, Iraq. Miguel Rodarte stars. The film is in Spanish and is 105 minutes long. The event is free and open to the public. For more information contact Evelyn Angry-Smith at angry-smith@mcc.commnet.edu or 860.512.2874.

International Artist Holds Live Drum Clinic at MCC

Join us on Wednesday, May 23, 7 p.m. in the SBM Charitable Foundation Auditorium for a live drum clinic with Keith Carlock, a modern powerhouse that has played the world's largest stages alongside artists Steely Dan, Sting, John Mayer and James Taylor! Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door, and \$15 for students and may be purchased at the Summit Studios, 421 Main Street, Manchester or ordered online at the website, www.summitstudios.org. Then pick them up at the Studio, or print out your order confirmation and present it at check-in at the auditorium the night of the event. For more information contact Summit Studios at 860-645-1502.

22nd Annual Awards Ceremony

The 22nd Annual Awards Ceremony to recognize outstanding Manchester Community College students will be held Wednesday, May 30, at 6 p.m. in the SBM Charitable Foundation Auditorium. Awards presented during the ceremony include athletic, academic, MCC Foundation Scholarships, leadership, Presidential, and Honor Society awards. The event is free, but invitations are required for the general public. All MCC faculty and staff are invited. For more information contact Dr. Pamela Mitchell-Crump at pmitchell-crump@mcc.commnet.edu or 860-512-2605.

School Year Ends With Commencement 2012

The 48th Commencement Exercises will be held on Thursday, May 31, at 5:30 p.m. sharp, at the Bicentennial Band Shell, on the campus lawn. The 2012 commencement speaker will be Lewis J. Robinson, Jr., Esquire of Hartford, chairperson of the Connecticut Board of Regents for Higher Education. Robinson is a seasoned attorney with a comprehensive background in business, law and government affairs, as well as charitable organizations. Since his retirement as General Counsel of Travelers Property Casualty (Personal Lines), he has served in a volunteer capacity with a variety of non-profit organizations. Most recently, Robinson was Chairman of the Board of The Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, and a board member of the Capital Community College Foundation. The event is free and open to the public. For more information contact K. Umesh Vig at uvig@mcc.commnet.edu or 860-512-3204.

MCC Administrative Professionals Club Luncheon

Members of the Administrative Professionals Club held a luncheon earlier this year. Featured speakers included MCC faculty members Carla Adams and Colleen Kim and a Hartford Hospital representative who discussed health issues. Above, club members pose with the speakers to commemorate the event.

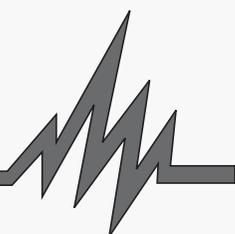
Photo by Eilyn Nieves.



Please submit briefs to Live Wire advisor Stephania Davis by emailing sdavis@mcc.commnet.edu

Friday May 11TH, 6 pm
 The Fine Art Student Exhibition, (May 11th- June 20th)
 Vocal and Instrumental performances by MCC Music Students
 Student Films, (shown 6-7:30pm in room E-202)
Hans Weiss Newspace Gallery
 SBM Charitable Foundation Building
 Manchester Community College, CT
 For more information contact: Susan Classen-Sullivan at
sclassen-sullivan@mcc.commnet.edu | (860) 512-2693

THE LIVE WIRE



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Editor
SallyAnn Garvey-Lumumba

Assistant Editor
Dan Dobbyn

Layout Editor
Rich Carpenter

Business Manager
Lakia Lightner

Staff Photographer
Faith Montaperto

Faculty Advisors:

Stephania Davis sdavis@mcc.commnet.edu
 Robert Kagan rkagan@mcc.commnet.edu

**Student Leadership Positions for
 the Fall semester will be open in
 September.**

livewire@mcc.commnet.edu

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Main Number
 860-512-3290

Asst. Editor
 860-512-3289

Continued from Election pg. 1

Specifically, according to several people who observed the elections April 25 and 26, a major concern was the amount of campaigning occurring near polling locations as well as the use of iPods and other unapproved devices to cast votes.

Several students were concerned that the school administration hijacked the election.

"I have been active on campus during two SGA elections that have ended in a revote," said Jesse Parrott, president of the Manchester Political Union, "both times proper representation of the students have been in question. I feel that election reform is needed in SGA to reduce outside influence from the school administration."

After the revote the new members of the SGA are Jonathan Colón, president, Erik Gilbert, vice-president, M.J. Hockenberry, social vice-president, Kayla Lopez, secretary, Toni Coble, executive senator 1, and Nirav Shah, webmaster. Hockenberry, Lopez, Coble and Shah ran unopposed. The positions of treasurer, publicity manager, office manager and executive senator II positions are still open.

Why is the election of SGA members such a big deal? Well, each student pays a \$10 student activity fee, and since there are somewhere near 7,500 students attending MCC, both full-time and part-time, the student government coffers see nearly \$75,000. Most of that money is given to clubs, but around \$40,000 is spent by SGA members officeholders on activities throughout the school year. All students are members of the SGA and can vote on expenditures and other items after attending several meetings.

It is clear to many students that the topic of restructuring the SGA should be taken up again, this time taking a close look at the election process. Plans should be put in place to prevent another re-vote.

For more information about a position on the SGA contact T.J. Barber at tbarber@mcc.commnet.edu or visit the Student Activities office, Lowe 154h.



Graphic courtesy of divaybes.com

NEASC Assessment of MCC Mostly Positive

By Zachariah Hand
Live Wire Staff Writer

Manchester Community College was recently the site of a visit by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, or NEASC, the association through which schools in New England receive accreditation services.

During the three-day visit, April 1-4, the NEASC committee investigated several aspects of the environment at MCC, from the college's academic program to the resources that it possesses. The purpose of this investigation was for the NEASC committee to determine if MCC sufficiently meets several Standards of Accreditation that are required by NEASC. These standards include educational aspects, such as the college's mission and purposes, as well as public relations aspects such as information disclosure.

The committee found that MCC not only meets each of these standards, but also excels in certain areas.

During a presentation on the last day of its visit, members of the NEASC committee went so far as to call MCC a "jewel of the community," praising the positive influence the college has had on the city of Manchester as well as the surrounding area.

This presentation gave students, faculty and staff of MCC an opportunity to hear what the six-member NEASC team had learned during their visit firsthand.

They had both positive and negative findings, but team members offered suggestions for improving.

One aspect of MCC that was especially praised was the college's commitment to its academic program and its strong support of students so that they may be successful. The committee also praised the enthusiasm of the teaching staff, saying that the faculty is "excited to teach." However, they also expressed concern that MCC may be somewhat understaffed, and could use new faculty members.

In response to NEASC's review of MCC, Pres. Gena Glickman issued a statement, expressing her satisfaction with the report.

"It was clear from the team report and from the informal conversations reported by many of you, as well as my own conversations with team members, that the team was very impressed with our college," Glickman wrote in an email to the college community. She also stated that it was "a great visit" and expressed her pride in the college for meeting each required standard.

The final report of the committee is expected to be given to Glickman before the end of the year.

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Student Breaks the Prison Cycle at MCC



By Nathan Mair
LiveWire Staff Writer

269077 was Rasheen McKay's number while he was serving more than nine years (on separate occasions) in Connecticut's prison institutions. He was 17 when he was first incarcerated for breaking and entering and larceny, back in 1994 while living in North Carolina. At the time, McKay spent only one night behind bars, but it wouldn't be the last night he would see the inside of a jail cell.

As the years went by McKay, would get progressively worse when it came to criminal behavior. In 1995, he served four months for armed robbery, four months for drug and assault charges in 1996, nine months for larceny and violation of parole in 1999, four years for drug charges in 2002 and five years for the same thing in 2006.

During his last sentence, McKay said he began doing a lot of soul searching, reading and thinking. But his ultimate desire for change came after Barack Obama became the first African American President of the U.S.

"I'm not saying that I never thought that there would be a black president, but not while I'm alive" McKay said. "That was the big game changer for me."

From that point on, McKay, now 34, said he began setting goals for himself and one of them was finishing college. Manchester Community College became one of the vehicles that he would use to make changes in his life. Now McKay, who is a manager at Sonic in Manchester, has a new number – his banner ID – from his new institution.

Q. Where are you from? Please describe how you grew up

A. Well, I was born on December 5th, 1976 in Brooklyn, New York. I stayed out there for the first seven years of my life with both parents. I was the oldest out of 6 siblings. My mother was on drugs and we actually had to flee from Brooklyn to the Bronx because she owed some Jamaican guys on Flatbush Avenue some money. So we moved into my grandfathers' house. From there we moved into a welfare motel downtown.

One day, my mother got really strung out on drugs and she badly abused my little sister; my little sister told me to go call the cops. From there, we were thrown into foster homes. I was about eight or nine years old. I lived in Long Island with my aunt for a while, went into a group home for a year, and then at the age of 14 my father took my sister and

I in. We were living in a one bedroom apartment with nine other people. I got into a lot of trouble in school. I got suspended and expelled a lot for fighting students and even teachers.

I was just so angry at the world at a young age. It was so bad that I had to visit a therapist once a week. I watched a lot of violent movies growing up, and they had a strong influence on me. I watched movies like "New Jack City," "Scarface," "King of New York," "Rambo," and "Commando."

Q. Did it hurt seeing your Mom on drugs?

A. I just got used to it. I was growing up with guys who were actually selling drugs to their moms just to make sure the money was staying in the house.

Q. When and how did you first get involved in the narcotics trade?

A. In 1994, I was 17 and I started not too long after I got released from spending one night in jail. My mom disappeared and left me alone by myself. A guy named Jose gave me a pack of drugs to sell for \$300. He told me to keep \$100. And right then, I got addicted because I got the money all in the same night. I was also homeless so I used to give drugs to the drug addicts so I could have a place to sleep.

Q. After being incarcerated as many times as you did, why didn't you change?

A. The first \$100 did it for me because the money just came fast, no problems. I already knew the consequences, but I always thought I was smarter. One thing that helped me, but hurt me at the same time was my alcohol problem. After I turned 20, all I did was drink. My father and my grandparents were alcoholics, so it was something I inherited.

Q. Was there anything you saw in jail that made you want out?

A. I can adapt to environments very quickly. But being in there at 30 was a whole different thing. Usually when I went to jail, I had money saved up, family members writing me and sending me money, etc. But this time I went to jail, I didn't have anything. I had some money on the streets, all of it disappeared, cars disappeared, and this time my siblings weren't writing me.

When I was younger and getting incarcerated, I used to look at the 30 year olds and think to myself, "man when I'm 30 years old I'm not going to be in jail." And there I was, 30 years old sitting in jail. So I told myself it was time for me to something different.

So instead of staying in there, playing cards and scheming to do something stupid, I went in there and grabbed a psychology book. And I just started self-educating myself. And from there on, all I did was read. The psychology books helped me to understand who I was and how I got this way. I also started looking around my prison environment, and I began to realize how disgusting it was to live in such a controlled environment. But the real game changer for me was when Obama became president. That's when I told myself "no more excuses."

Q. As soon as you were released from prison, what was your first plan of action?

A. Start working at a restaurant, get to a management position, and go to school and major in service management. Get my own place, a car, and do it the right way. I used to think to myself "before I end up in jail, I'll sell drugs." I don't think like that anymore. I'd rather live in that shelter today and try to build myself back up then go back to jail for the next four or five years.

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ASK JASON

Jason Scappaticci is interim coordinator of Transitional Programs at Manchester Community College. If you have a question about MCC policies, offices and traditions or academic problems, Jason will get you answers. Email him your questions at jscappaticci@mcc.commnet.edu.



Image courtesy of: ManchesterDems.com

Hi Ask Jason,

Q. I am thinking about taking 3 summer classes. Is that a good thing?

-Summer Student

Dear Summer Student,

I think that summer courses can be a great benefit to students. I took a few of them myself when I was a student. If you are trying to transfer or graduate more quickly then they really come in handy. That being said there are a few things to remember regarding summer courses.

First off, remember that they are not easier than a traditional class taught in the Fall or Spring

Semester. Many students think that since the course is offered in less time (either 3, 6, or 8 weeks) then it will not cover as much material. NOT TRUE! In a summer course they teach all the material from a 15 week course in a shortened time period. Professors still cover all the material and assign the same assignments.

Second, remember that a summer course moves rapidly. The course will meet twice a week, sometimes more, and you will have less time than usual to complete readings, assignments and prepare for tests. For that reason, I always advise students to cut back work hours and begin the readings before the class even starts. That may sound a bit extreme, but it can be really helpful. Don't forget you won't just be spending 6-9 hours a week in class but you will be studying 2-3 hours outside of class for each hour in class. That could be 12-27 hours of work outside of class.

Third, there is support on campus for students during the summer. Don't forget that the Academic Support Center is open for summer hours and tutoring is available as well.

If you want to take more than one summer course, I strongly recommend not taking two at the same time. Through careful planning you will be able to take two without overlapping. Look at the start dates for the different sessions offered this summer. Be sure that you don't overlap any classes.

Length	Dates
3 Week	5/21-6/8
6 Week	5/21-6/30
8 Week	6/4-7/28
6 Week	6/18-7/26
6 Week	7/2-8/11

Good luck "Summer Student" I look forward to seeing you around this summer.

Hello Ask Jason,

Q. I am making a schedule for the Fall semester. Do you have any words of advice about that?

-Trying to Schedule

Dear Trying to Schedule,

I am really glad you asked this question. I do a lot of academic advising with my students and I find a few common mistakes and I have a few strategies for you to consider as you build your schedule.

The first common mistake you are trying to remedy by writing to me is that students don't get advising. Advising is important to make sure that you are on schedule and taking the courses you need to graduate. The best place to get advising is from professors in your program of study. However, if you can't get there for some reason, the Counseling Center has walk in advising hours for any student.

Students often wait to register. This is a big mistake. If you are working and will need classes at specific times, then register early to get them. If you are not a morning person and want classes in the afternoon, then register early to get them. If you wait until it is too late you may end up with classes at times you don't want, which will make it very challenging for you. College is already tough enough, don't make it more difficult. Register early!

When I meet with new students, one of the things I frequently find is that they take on too much. This is even true of some students who have already been here for a semester or two. If you are planning on taking 4 or 5 classes remember that is the equivalent of a full time job. Don't try to take a full time load of classes and work full time. If you have to work full time then take two classes. Remember it isn't about how fast you finish college; it is about how well you do when you are in college. If you are planning to transfer keep in mind that the Admissions Office at your next college isn't going to be impressed by how fast you got your degree. But they are going to be impressed by how many A's and B's are on your transcript.

Finally, when you are making your schedule put some time in between your classes. For example if you are taking a MW 8:00 a.m. - 9:20 a.m. don't book the next one at 9:30 a.m. Give yourself some time after class to think about what you just learned, organize and review your notes and write questions that you need to find answers to for the next class. If you need to go to the library to do some research, time between classes is perfect for that. It also gives you time to just decompress a little bit after class. I also recommend taking only two classes per day.

I hope this helps "Trying to Schedule."



photo by Rich Carpenter

Do “Unpaid” Internships Offer *Experience* Or *Exploitation*?

ships are supposed to offer: the chance to learn a profession and gain experience in a hands-on fashion. People have been doing this type of thing for dozens of years. It was known as an apprenticeship, where young men were bound to their master (employer) to work for a certain amount of years with the goal of learning a skilled trade, like blacksmithing or accounting. Modern internships, and the laws surrounding them are in much more murky water.

The dilemma faced by students is that it’s nearly impossible to opt out of internships. Colleges encourage (and often require) that students take part in pre-professional internships, and offer college credit rather than payment. This practice leaves students to make ends meet in some other way, hoping their experience will lead to a job in their field in the future, or at least a letter of reference.

Often, students must take part in one or more internships to be considered qualified by an employer, even for entry-level jobs. Undergrads face the additional burden of competing against college graduates, graduate students and even well trained individuals with years of experience, all trying to make it in a tough job market.

The quality of the unpaid internship market is also an issue. Most students have heard an internship horror story from a friend or classmate: the boss who made them fetch dry cleaning or coffee, the hours of boredom spent in a cubicle, the tedious clerical work, or their general treatment as the lowest level of the office caste system. It must be considered that perhaps employment and education cannot function together as an internship. Perhaps “synergy” (to use some corporate jargon) is not possible for all things.

One of my fellow interns at the General Assembly admitted that he was confused about the cost of his internship.

“I thought I was being paid in credits,” he said, adding that he did not know that he had to pay for the course that results in the internship.

This student

had gone halfway through a two-day-a-week internship not knowing that his time was not being rewarded with extra credit toward his degree; instead the money to cover the internship credits cost was being covered by federal government Pell Grants.

Why should the U.S. government, cash strapped as it is, and on the verge of cutting it’s funding of Pell Grants, spend tuition dollars so students can work for free? Do the possible positives of an internship outweigh the negatives? I think not. The student I mentioned above was not taking part in an unpaid internship, because the costs were being covered and incentivized with college credits paid for by the federal government.

Companies and colleges who validate the unpaid internship cycle do nothing but undermine the work being done by students. That \$250,000 the state of Connecticut saved through its internship program, if divided evenly among 60 college students would equal \$4,166 for one semester of work.

How do we resolve this issue? Hopefully, at the federal level more detailed and discerning labor legislation can be created to mend the growing flaws present in the current internship market.

This issue concerns more than just interns; any employee should want the internship question resolved, lest they wake up in a world where their job can be done by a “free” student source instead.



photo courtesy of cornonthejob.com

By SallyAnn Garvey-Lumumba
Live Wire Editor

As the number of internships continues to grow, so does the percentage of them that are unpaid. Even worse, many students face internships where they gain a subpar educational experience as a source of little more than free labor. It’s unlikely employers will choose to start paying out thousands of dollars in salaries to a workforce that settles for a few college credits instead.

For example, I took part in the Connecticut General Assembly Legislative Internship this semester. Through Manchester Community College the internship is worth 6 credits or about the cost of taking two classes. For most students, this cost is covered by their financial aid, which is funded by the federal government.

According to State Senator Joseph Crisco Jr. (D-7th district) at a ceremony in recognition of the work of interns, the state saved \$250,000 through the unpaid internships of approximately 60 college students from across Connecticut.

I’m not arguing that there isn’t merit to what intern-

Opinions in Brief:

No “Stand Your Ground” Laws in Connecticut... Yet

By Nathan Cheatham
Live Wire Staff Writer

The largest controversy in the Trayvon Martin case in Florida revolves around the established “Stand Your Ground” law. The existence of the law on the books of the state of Florida is the reason why George Zimmerman, the neighborhood watch member who shot the unarmed 17-year-old back in February, was not initially arrested for the shooting.

These laws have swept the nation, due to the National Rifle Association realizing that after tragedies like the Oklahoma City bombing and the Columbine shooting, they could push through laws “for the safety of the populous.” National tragedies cause an uproar in how safe people feel. To combat this fear, we see a rise in gun sales, restocking of people’s emergency food and water supplies, and greater support for laws that can make people feel safe in the short term while having deadly consequences in the long term.

The NRA took advantage of national unrest following the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, Hurricane Katrina, and the election of Pres. Barack Obama - which caused record sales in ammunition and rifles - by using its political power to sway lawmakers into passing these “Stand Your Ground” laws, largely unnoticed.

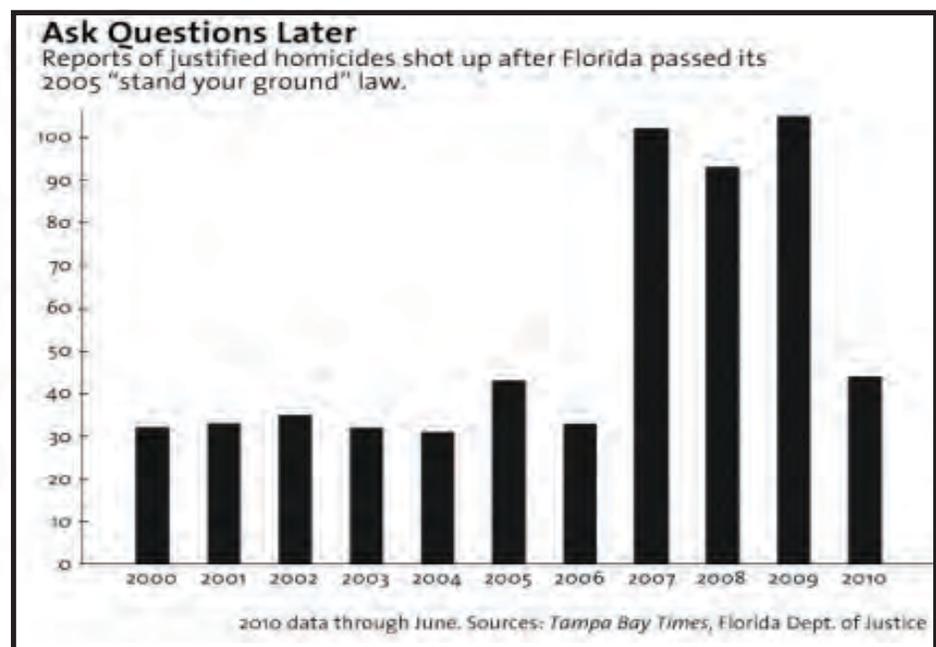
These laws are a mutated form of the old “castle” laws formed in the middle ages, allowing someone’s home to be “their castle” and defend themselves in case of an intruder without fear of criminal charges. These laws are pre-firearms, and were meant for homeowners to toss intruders out of their house at the end of their sword, not necessarily killing them.

Protection of our basic right to defend our home is pivotal to supporting our government, and feeling safe, but the NRA drafted legislature that expands upon castle law. The “Stand Your Ground” legislation allows anyone to assess a threat and take action without backing down, in or outside of their home.

“Until 2005, it was generally considered self defense if someone tried to get into your home or invade your property, so long as you could show deadly force was the last resort,” according to a report on CBSMiami.com March 20, 2012. “In 2005, the ‘Stand your Ground’ law removed the need to retreat before using force, even in public.”

Florida is not the only state with these laws in effect, but they do have the loosest gun laws compared to other states. Other states, including Connecticut, have variations of this law. Connecticut’s current laws allow for force to be used in one’s occupied dwelling or in public, but only if you have no apparent means of escape. Connecticut law also allows for concealed and open carry of firearms, but only with a proper permit and gun safety classes.

Many states even out safety from intruders with numerous regulation about public concealment and restrictions as to who is able to buy firearms.



graphic courtesy of sayitainsoalready.com

Me & My M16: An MCC Student Serving In Afghanistan Reports from the Front Line



FORWARD OPERATING BASE, Edinburgh, Afghanistan - Sunset over the mountains of Helmand province, Afghanistan. April 07, 2012. Photo by Monique Yorgensen.

By Monique Yorgensen
Special to the Live Wire

I carry an M16 with me everywhere I go. It is there to protect me. I work and live in a war zone, anything can happen. At night it sleeps right next to me, ready for anything.

I am currently at the flight line waiting for a helicopter to take me to a smaller area of operations. I am on a base that has about 19,000 people and, if I am lucky, indoor plumbing. The place I am going, however, is much smaller by about 18,700 people and has no plumbing at all. There an outhouse is a luxury. So I packed lots of baby wipes and hand sanitizer.

Traveling in Afghanistan is a little different than flying in the U.S. We don't take our shoes off, but you still have to be careful of your surroundings. My flight is delayed, so I wait, not in the comforts of an airport, but outside in the hot sun with my weapon. When I get on the plane I have on full body armor, and it is required to wear earplugs, eye protection and gloves. Everything I bring I carry myself, so I make sure to pack light, only the essentials. Every ounce feels like a pound.

I finally make it and the base is smaller than expected. It has many functions though, including a Role II medical facility, fighter jets, an emergency medical helicopter unit and drones.

At night, I can hear the sounds of rockets and jets firing up.

But I am not scared, for I know I have my weapon and we all have each other's backs. It is hard to sleep, though, so I head out of the tent. There are mountains all around and tonight I can see the stars. They are so clear and bright. It makes me think of home, back in Manchester, and the stars there, remembering the hot summer sleepless nights in my backyard, wishing upon them.

I wish upon these too now, but for different reasons.

Tonight, I wish that all the Marines are safe, the ones who protect our freedom. I wish for some decent food and a good night's sleep. I wish for peace in a country whose culture is completely opposite of the one I know. And I wish that this will be over soon for all of us.

It is strange, at times, being deployed. I miss my children and my liberty. It is almost over for me here. I have been here six months so far and have a few more to go. It is almost the end of the semester too. I was able to do my internship online for my degree at Manchester Community College. I am so grateful to have been able to do my internship out here. At times communications get rough, but "adapt and overcome" is our motto.

I plan on graduating in August with my associate's degree in communications. I am continuing my education at Eastern Connecticut State University in the fall.

Another day has gone by and that just means another day closer to coming home.

Monique Yorgensen is a student at Manchester Community College. She is a Mass Communication Specialist for the United States Navy and is currently deployed to Afghanistan. After her tour of duty, she plans on taking summer classes, going to the beach and spending time with her family. Monique is transferring to Eastern Connecticut State University in the fall to finish her bachelor's degree in journalism. She is scheduled to return from overseas in June.



map courtesy of globalresearch.ca

Evil Companies of the Month: Who's Doing it Wrong?

By Dan Dobbyn
Live Wire Assistant Editor

Let's face it: There's a correlation between how big a corporation is and how evil and greedy they are. Whether it's through shipping jobs from America to overseas sweatshops, doing environmental harm, or embezzlement by their CEO's, some people just don't know when to stop making money, and some have forgotten what it's like to feel. Here a few of the most recent offenders on the Live Wire Evil Meter.

The LWEM is on a scale of 1 to 10, 10 being evil beyond redemption and possibly reality, (such as RDA from the movie "Avatar," and Cyberdyne Systems from the "Terminator" series) and 1 being not really evil at all, and possibly just incompetent (like the Acme Corp. from Looney Tunes cartoons).

McDonald's (4.0 out of 10 on the LWEM)

Now, I shouldn't have to tell anybody that Mickey D's feeds you utter garbage every day. What I might have to tell you, however, is that up to 15 percent of the meat they feed you might be "pink slime."

Pink slime, also known as "lean finely textured beef" (LFTB), consists of sinew and trimmings of beef that you would otherwise not want to eat. Not to mention it is usually contaminated with salmonella, E. coli bacteria and similar sorts of garbage. This stuff is usually processed and turned into food for your cats and dogs.

However, in 2001, a process was developed to turn the worst part of the cow into something "fit for human consumption." They essentially separate the fat from the meat, cleanse the meat of contaminants with ammonia, and then strain it so it can be eaten at your local fast food chain.

McDonald's has actually claimed that they will stop the use of pink slime, so I'm only giving them a 4.0 out of 10 on the evil meter, pending on when and if they keep their word.

However, most ground beef in grocery stores, school cafeterias and even non-fast food restaurants use pink slime as well. Therefore, I'd also like to give the Food and Drug Administration (the FDA) 8 out of 10, because they make it legal to feed people ground beef that could be up to 15 percent pink slime without the need for labeling. Tsk, tsk, America. Tsk, Tsk.

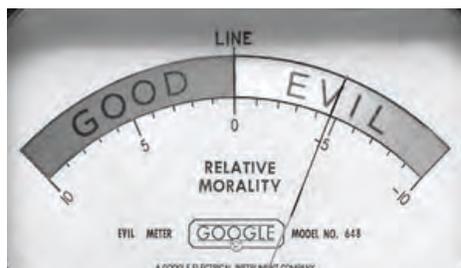


Image courtesy of getty images

Kentucky Fried Chicken (6.9 out of 10)

Staying with the theme of fast-food, we have Kentucky Fried Chicken.

A family from Sydney, Australia, became sick after eating a Twister from KFC. Mind you, this is nothing out of the ordinary; people get sick from eating KFC all the time. What makes this case noteworthy is that Monika Samaan, then age 7, suffered a stroke afterwards, and is now confined to a wheelchair and can no longer speak.

So, her family sued KFC and won \$8.3 million, which lead KFC to appeal the Australian courts to get their money back. In reality, \$8.3 million dollars is not a lot to a billion-dollar international corporation like KFC. However, KFC is appealing over the principal of the matter, claiming they have "...a responsibility to defend KFC's reputation as a provider of safe, high-quality food."

What KFC cannot grasp is that people ate their "high-quality food" before this lawsuit, and they're probably going to continue eating it afterwards. However, defending a reputation that is not actually there by trying to get out of paying this family what amounts to nothing to KFC, is downright malicious. Therefore, I'm giving KFC 6.9 out of 10 on the LWEM.

Spirit Airlines (7.7 out of 10)

Jerry Meekins, 76, and three other war veterans are picketing Spirit Airlines at Tampa International Airport after Meekins was denied a \$197 refund for a ticket he purchased in March. Meekins was going to fly into New Jersey to tend to his daughter, who's having surgery next month. But Meekins' esophageal cancer has weakened his immune system to the point where his own doctors won't allow him to fly. So he's been trying to return the ticket. But Spirit Airlines is upholding their policy of only refunding tickets to those who die before their flights.

Meekins, a veteran of the Vietnam War and a former police officer, only has a few months to live, but unless something tragic happens, he'll probably die shortly after the flight is scheduled to happen. Not to mention he doesn't actually want the money from his flight back. He says he'd like to donate it the Wounded Warrior Project, a charity that aids soldiers wounded in battle. That's in the event that Spirit Airlines' Grinch-sized heart grows three sizes and they decide to grant him his refund.

It seems very unlikely that this will happen. On behalf of Spirit Airlines, spokeswoman Misty Pinson said, "We don't make exceptions to that policy just because a person has an unusual circumstance or goes to the media."

For not letting a dying veteran and former cop have \$197 in the so-called interest of fairness gives Spirit Airlines a 7.7 out of 10 on the evil meter, this being the official "most evil company of the month."

Congratulations, Spirit Airlines, for winning this most sinister of awards.

We Used to Be Green: Retroactive Green Policies Are Bad for Everyone



image courtesy of campnickleby.blogspot.com

Paper towels like these pictured above are now back in MCC bathrooms.

By Erik Gilbert
Special to the Live Wire

With Earth Day passing on April 22, time should be taken to reflect on whether or not we are doing everything possible to best conserve and protect the environment that we coexist within.

I'll reflect on myself and my green practices, and admit that I am not doing everything possible. When I have plastic soda bottles at school I have difficulty going out of my way to find a recycling bin, as they are limited to certain areas of the school. I can't help but wonder how many other students do the same thing because of the lack of enough green policies at Manchester Community College.

Sure I've seen recycling bins in the Cougar Café, the AST Tower, and a few scattered around the Lowe building, but how many students actually go out of their way to recycle at those locations? MCC should be making a more conscious effort to put recycling bins in every class room on campus.

There may be questions as to the cost of such an endeavor; however easier accessibility to recycling bins will mean more recycling. No matter how small it might seem, the five cent bottle deposits will add up, eventually paying for the bins and maybe providing revenue for the MCC Green Club. Most people would scoff at the concept of nickel and diming, but Benjamin Franklin once said "a penny saved is a penny earned." This will help the school accomplish two things: earning some minimal extra income to go towards a necessary club and conserving and protecting our environment.

In addition to the economic factor, there have been talks about budget cuts around the state and around the school. At the same time, while talking about budget cuts, I am sure most students have noticed the reemergence of paper towels in all of the bathrooms on campus.

Why are we using paper towels when we have high efficiency hand dryers? It just seems like a huge waste of money and resources. Also,

I have to wonder why the paper towels reappeared in campus bathrooms seemingly overnight, with no campus-wide discussion of the move.

A few years back there was an open dialogue, similar to our current issue of arming the campus police, which resulted in the transition to high efficiency hand dryers. But I guess all that hard work was for nothing.

Granted, paper consumption in an academic institution is acceptable in instances of courses and places where it is not wasteful. But as paper towels in the bathroom are a waste, so too is the amount of paper used in our student clubs. Being a part of the Manchester Political Union, I have seen our paperwork binder kept by the Office of Student Activities and it is bursting at the seams with paper. As clubs, we shouldn't be using paper except for when it is absolutely necessary; for example, club accounting purposes are a completely reasonable cause for paper use.

The 21st century has seen many corporations and institutions developing greener policies, but in the case of MCC it seems that we have retroactive green policies, or close to no green policies. If I was a professor grading MCC on its environmental conservation, I would give the institution a "D," which, as most of us know, would not allow us to move forward to the next course along the line.

Maybe I am a harsh grader but the year is 2012 and there is no excuse to not be as green as possible. The fault is not just in the institution alone, but each of us individually. Each of us should push to go greener; after all, we have only one planet and we should do our part to keep it healthy.

So treat every day as if it is Earth Day or Arbor Day; that means recycle whenever you can and whatever you can: use paper responsibly, go out and plant trees and plants, don't waste water, etc. I am not a tree hugger, I just realize, as any rational human being would, we only have one planet and we should do our best to preserve it for future generations.

Student Drug Abuse and Addictions Can Impact Future

By Melissa Gottier
Special to the Live Wire

In this economy, in this day and age, education is the most important part of any young person's life to ensure they get a proper job. The student body needs to focus on homework and any issues that may arise and occur simultaneously in their lives and at school. This is difficult to do in itself, but it becomes more difficult when you mix drugs into the equation.

Drugs, alcohol, and students are three words that should never be blended in the same sentences. The problem with many hard working students in Connecticut is there is no turning them away from the thrill or excitement they feel drugs may provide. Unfortunately, many of these thrills are mind altering and can have many negative effects and lead to devastated futures.

Young people today start using drugs at a disturbingly young age. According to Carol E. Bower, author of the "Healthy Connecticut 2010 Final Report" produced by the Connecticut Department of Public Health, Planning Branch, Planning and Workforce Development Section, in 2007, 8 percent of the Connecticut population 12 years of age and older reported using one or more illicit drugs in the past 30 days. And this number only counts those who sought help. Certainly, there were many users who did not report using drugs.

The same report two years later surveyed college students. Twenty-four percent of those age 18-25 years old claimed to have used drugs in 2009 in Connecticut. Remember, this was only the group that notified health centers of their drug use.

Users can access a number of drugs and alcohol. Most of these are psychoactive drugs, which in turn are narcotics or opiates, stimulants and marijuana. Psychoactive drugs are chemicals that influence consciousness or behavior by altering the message system within the brain and how those messages are processed.

Take alcohol for example. This mood-altering substance affects the nerves that pass messages around the body by slowing them down. The more you drink, the greater the effect. The reason people often get livelier when they've had a drink is that alcohol affects the part of the brain responsible for self-control.

Stimulants are substances that excite the central nervous system, heightening arousal and activity levels. These include caffeine, amphetamines, nicotine, cocaine, and ecstasy. Some people take these items for legitimate pharmaceutical purposes. That cup of coffee, for example, gets you going in the morning and keeps you alert throughout the day. However, when these are taken in doses for non-pharmaceutical purposes, or recreationally, they can become addictive. Addicted students will spend too much time with their drug use and far too little time on their academics.

Students in Connecticut need to pay more attention to their studies and lay off of the parties. Not only are they spending hard-earned money and time that should be spent on school on drugs and alcohol, but their health is jeopardized with every drink and substance they embrace.

Drinking and drug use of children at the young age of 10-18 needs to be restricted and supervised. Counseling should be more concentrated on the young so that when these future scholars are ready for college, the statistic of 24 percent of students using drugs and alcohol can be reduced to 0 percent.

The future hope to stop the narcotics and poisoning deaths of Connecticut residents can be achieved. Student's use of alcohol and drugs however, needs to first and foremost come to an end.

If you are a struggling student at MCC, please do not hesitate to contact a counselor for help. Call the Counseling office's secretary at 860-512-3320 to schedule an appointment. Do not worry, they are here to help, not judge. For more information about alcohol addictions and solutions visit <http://www.drinkingandyou.com/site/us/health/effects.htm>.



image courtesy of campnickleby.blogspot.com

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

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Hedgehog Happiness

By Brendon Velez
Great Path Academy

When you visit a friend's house and they tell you they have a pet, what is the first thing that comes to your mind? A dog, a cat, a bird? Certainly, not a hedgehog.



Domestic hedgehogs, like the one pictured above, make great nontraditional pets!

This is an unusual pet indeed, and not many can say that they have owned one. True, your only thoughts of hedgehogs may be from the video game, Sonic, but there *are* benefits to becoming a hedgehog owner.

To begin with, the hedgehog is cute, small, and low-maintenance as it doesn't do much. There is special hedgehog food to buy, but ferret food will work also, according to Yahoo.com. they also like some fruits and vegetables and insects, like mealworms. The food they eat might give you the sniffles for a small amount of time, but if you keep their feeding and sleeping area clean, this should not persist. Developing an actual allergy to your hedgehog is rare as they do not produce dander.

"This is a plus for so many people out there," according to the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America. "Approximately 10 million people are allergic to cat dander, the most common pet allergy."

This information alone is enough to want to make you go out and purchase a hedgehog for all of the pet-deprived allergy sufferers. In addition to the physical issues surrounding an allergy, the economic impact of allergies can be harmful as well. The AAFA reports that, "For adults, allergies... [are]...a major cause of work absenteeism...resulting in nearly 4 million missed

or lost workdays each year..." This is money lost that high school and college students cannot afford!

A major issue with many pets is the sniff factor. Admit it, your puppies and old dogs use the house as a toilet, and most small pets smell. But this is not the case with hedgehogs, said Dick Gail on his website Miller Meade's Farms.

"...hedgehogs do not have a scent gland..." so they don't have a really strong smell that comes off of their body, he wrote. Also, their urine has a very small level of ammonia in it and won't smell like the urine of a guinea pig or rabbit.

The website Hedgehog Central provides a little background on these lovable guys. There are 17 species of hedgehog found through parts of Europe, Asia, Africa, and New Zealand. Hedgehogs are nocturnal, which means they will like to hang out with you at night and live for about 8-10 years in captivity because their diet is regulated and they do not have to worry about predators.

Why is this information important to you? As students, we are BUSY people; but we need love too. This is why the hedgehog is a perfect pet for you. They are easy to take care of, but will give you less responsibility, with the bonus of having a small bundle of fun.

UConn Bound?!? It Still Doesn't Feel Real



www.econ.uconn.edu

By Brittany Roberts
Great Path Academy

When I was five years old I decided that I would run away. I packed a peanut butter sandwich and some animal crackers. I spent what felt like an eternity, but probably was only about a half hour, in the park across the street from my house. When I went back

home, nobody even noticed that I had gone.

These memories and others are brought up all the time now that I'm a senior in high school and the time to leave for real has come.

The realization that next year you're on your own comes with being a senior. I remember when I first started college applications, on my own. I was afraid I was doing everything wrong. Also, I continually thought of how long and boring it was, especially with the Common Application. The application meant endless clicking, nagging teachers for references, and again, fear of doing the wrong thing. I needed acceptance letters and financial aid for sustenance on this trip, not just crackers and peanut butter – even if it took an eternity.

Acceptance letters bring a strange feeling. My first acceptance letter came unexpectedly. I was sitting at the kitchen table when I heard my aunt call, "There's mail here for you!"

It clicked; I hoped that the telephone book sized package was what I thought it was. I could not believe it: I'd been accepted into the University of Connecticut!

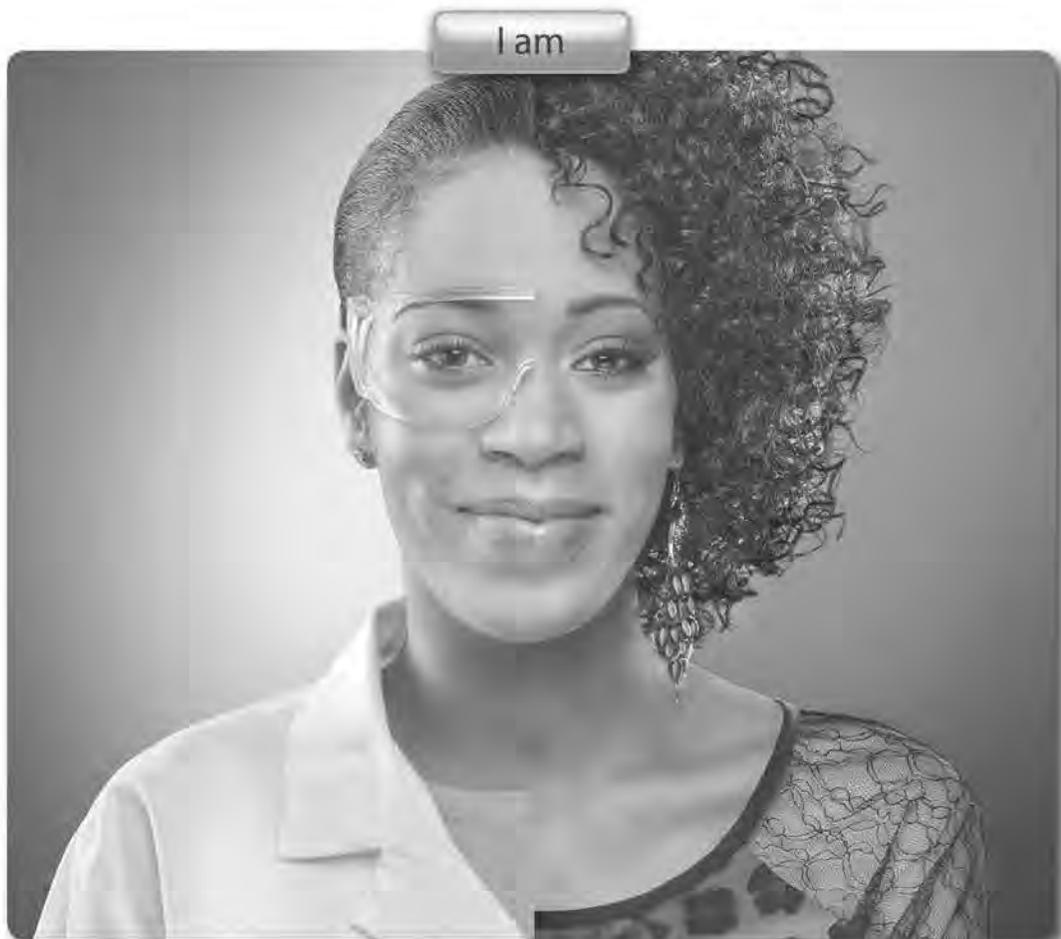
I broke down and cried tears of joy, fear, and hope. Here I am now, about nine hours after I've been accepted into the University of Connecticut and it still does not feel real. I'm waiting for my family to jump out and yell, "You've been punk'd!"

Or maybe a school will call me, laughing hysterically and saying, "Just kidding."

Hopefully, these two things will never happen. I also now realize that I can be anything I want as long as I have three essential tools: a dream, determination, and resilience.

I have come a long way from the five year old who "ran away" from home with a peanut butter sandwich. In late August, I may carry some peanut butter and even some animal crackers to my dorm, but in my backpack will be a high school diploma and a college acceptance letter.

It will feel real.



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The 20th Annual Evening of Fine Wines

By Karol Wrobel
Special to the Live Wire

The 20th Annual Evening of Fine Wines, Manchester Community College's major fundraising event, garnered more than \$258,000 for student scholarships. It is the most money ever raised since the event, featuring the live and silent auction of wines, jewelry, trips, gift certificates and other items, began in 1992. This year's event was held in numerous venues throughout campus on April 27.

Many people on and off campus are responsible for the triumph, said Endia DeCordova, Acting Associate Dean of Institutional Advancement.

"The success of this event is made possible through the support of many people who dedicate their generous time, talent and financial support," she wrote in a congratulatory email to the campus community May 1. "Without the support of our faculty, staff and [MCC] foundation board members we could never have reached this goal."

Beside silent and live auctions, the evening also featured more than 25 tasting tables from wineries around the region, including the Olde Burnside Brewing Company. Bob McCullen, who represented the East Hartford vendor, said this was the 10th year the company has participated. This year, Burnside's table featured its signature Penny Weiz, Ten Penny and Dirty Penny Ales.

Many notable figures attended the event, including MCC benefactor Hans Weiss, who actioned one of his paintings to benefit student scholarships. Gov. Dannel Malloy and his wife also attended the Evening of Fine Wines and bid on several items throughout the night. Malloy said his administration supports the type of quality higher education offered at MCC.

"There are over 600,000 people with some college credit in Connecticut who don't have degrees," he said. "I'm very proud of what goes on every day in places like MCC."

Many attendees remarked on the food catered and served by students in the MCC Culinary Arts program, including passed hors d'oeuvres, soups served in shot glasses and a variety of sweets.

Paulette Cheratte said she thought the culinary students "did a fantastic job" and suggested that next year the Culinary department should auction a catering job.

"I definitely would place a bid," she said.

Honorary Auctioneers Logan Byrnes and Erika Arias, the anchor team of FOX CT Morning News, said that, although they get asked to do a lot of events, the EOFW was something they were really excited to be a part of.

"We are happy to help with the costs of school, especially with the tough job market," said Arias, "not to mention it's a really fun event."

Byrnes agreed.

"The food, the wine, the company, Erika's dress, it's all so good," he said.



Kyle Hamilton & Melissa Connery of the Culinary Arts Program prepare a colorful stir fry.



Honorary Auctioneers Logan Byrnes and Erika Arias, news anchors from the FOX CT Morning News, discuss the items available for auction at the Evening of Fine Wines, April 27th.



INKED



Name: Brett Giglio
Major: Management

Brett Giglio didn't mind taking off his shirt to show his tattoo.

"I chose a dragon because they represent divinity, integrity and power. They're from mythology, but I believe that they did exist at one time," he said.



Name: Julia Wuertz
Major: Art

Julia Wuertz had a sunflower tattooed on her wrist in 2005 in memory of her father, who had died.

"I was 16 and I chose a flower because he had a thing for gardens and flowers, and a sunflower in particular because it is my favorite."

The pain of getting the tattoo was equivalent to a cat scratching her, Wuertz recalled.



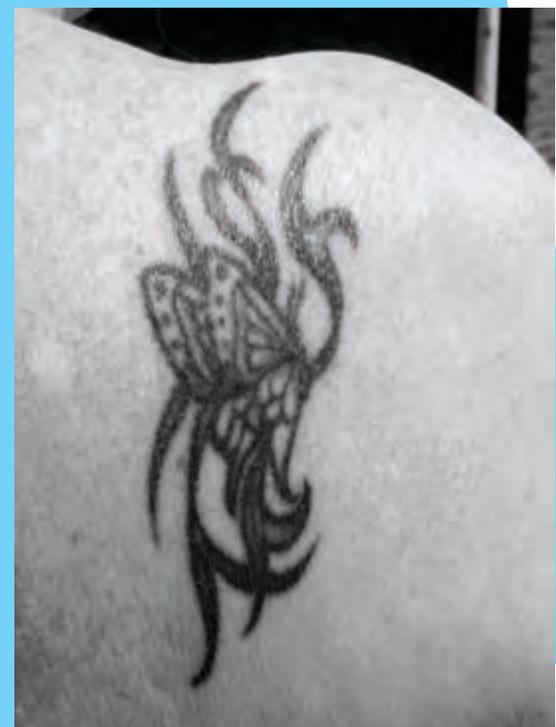
Name: Joan Warnick
Major: Art

Joan Warnick was happy to share the evolution of her tattoos.

"In 1993, I had the large butterfly tattooed on my right shoulder directly over my first tattoo, which was a tiny butterfly that my mother was dead set against me getting in the 80's."

The tribal tattoo on her left shoulder is not unusual, Warnick said.

"I think people get tribal tattoos because they want to belong," she said. Warnick's tattoo was done by the renowned tattoo artist Lazonga in 1995, she said, during a visit to Seattle to meet her grandmother for the first time.



SEE MORE INKED STUDENTS ON PAGE 12

Credits:
By Susan Garvey
Live Wire Staff Writer
Photography by Faith Montaperto
Additional reporting
by Nathan Cheatham

Name: Nathan Cheatham**Major: Journalism**

Nathan said the quote on his forearm serves as a reminder.

"I have always been a political and opinionated person, and fell in love with our third president Thomas Jefferson," he said. "He was very pivotal in drafting a lot of the freedoms we hold dear. I came across his quote 'Every generation needs a new revolution' while reading a book in high school, and it stuck with me until last April when I permanently added it to my body. It reminds me to always challenge the system to make it better."



Photo by Rich Carpenter

Photo by Rich Carpenter



poetry corner

The Narrator (Why Did He Leave Me?)

By Robert Kelly

You were birthed to a reverse upside down frequency

Whatever static sent by the scholars waves

Is now sorted into white noise and misery

Fickle reverberations among galactic marrow

Can you love the snake and the sparrow?

I wonder who will speak up or swallow

The murmurs break through your bones; leave you hollow.

Silver spear sent back through your vision

Simple photograph of dark forks and linens

She's wrapped around the legs of the dinner table

Fighting fires stealing whatever she is able

Her feeble heart shudders with every pulsation

A contraction of muscle, a lonely sensation

Her mind is there, but offers no explanation.

Coils of blue spiral through the veins,

Blood interprets a message, sends it to the brain

"All she has left is to preserve her youth"

And she is willing to chew through a television cable

To find the truth.

Please submit poems to Live Wire advisor Stephania Davis by emailing sdavis@mcc.commnet.edu



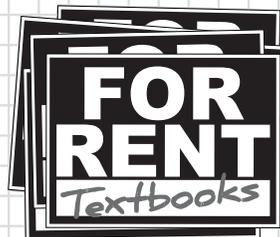
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May 15

Student Leadership Profile: MCC Habitat for Humanity Club President Mary Justine Hockenberry



photo courtesy of Paul Ofria

By Paul Ofria
Special to the Live Wire

Lucy Hurston got right to the point.

The Manchester Community College Sociology professor needed a leader for the Habitat for Humanity Club she advises and put a piece of paper in front of Mary Justine (MJ) Oleksiw Hockenberry.

“Sign this,” she said. Hockenberry obliged her mentor with a signature, and then asked, “What did I just sign?” “You are now the president of Habitat for Humanity,” Hurston said, admitting that it was somewhat of a sucker punch.

Hurston and Hockenberry will lead the MCC Habitat chapter on an eight-day mission to New Orleans in July to help with the ongoing task of rebuilding the city from the damage caused by and during the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in 2005. It will be the fourth New Orleans trip for Hurston and the club that she helped

start six years ago.

Hurston said she did not choose Hockenberry as the club’s leader arbitrarily. She was, Hurston said, a confident, passionate student in Hurston’s sociology 101 class who wasn’t afraid to challenge ideas and was also a regular visitor to Hurston’s third floor Tower office. The professor sensed her former student was ready to lead a campus club. And she was right.

Hockenberry has helped turn the club, which is the only Habitat chapter among the 12 Connecticut community colleges, into a fundraising juggernaut practically overnight while giving Habitat’s mission well-deserved exposure on campus.

“I’m scared of them,” Hurston said with mock-fear of this year’s solid core of 20 members who have raised close to \$9,000 of the \$16,000 it will take to send them to New Orleans. “MJ is totally out of control. She has taken this on as her project. She has a leadership attitude about her and a good head on her shoulders, initiates meetings, is extremely creative – she themes all of our bake sales – and is dedicated to seeing that all of the officers learn each other’s responsibilities so that the club stays strong in the absence of this leadership that will eventually graduate and move on.”

In the 2011-2012 school year, Habitat sponsored a dance in February which netted the club \$900, has held bi-weekly bake sales throughout the school year, a paintball event in Coventry and the grand finale, the fifth annual Cardboard City on May 1-2 where students constructed cardboard houses in front of the SBM Tower and spent a night in them to raise money and awareness of the reality of homelessness.

“They have followed MJ’s model of how important this is,” Hurston said. “We have been very fortunate to find students with good hearts that are dedicated and bring in like-minded people.”

Hockenberry, who is also a Phi Theta Kappa member, was not always the confident leader she is today. Six years ago while working in an accounting office, she slipped on a floor, broke a bone in her upper back and suffered a severe concussion that left her with memory loss. Doctors recommended that she return to college, in part to exercise her brain, which she

did in 2009. She had 25 credits in the bank from the 1980s and graduated from MCC last summer with an associate’s degree in Liberal Arts and Sciences.

The South Windsor resident continues to take classes at MCC that will eventually transfer to a four-year school, most likely St. Joseph’s College or Central Connecticut State University, where she said she will pursue a bachelor’s degree and eventually a master’s. She had thoughts of becoming a math teacher, but that changed when she met Hurston.

“She really helped me grow and be a leader,” Hockenberry said. “She saw things in me that I thought I had, but was afraid to take the leap. She gave me that encouragement. I would love to be a sociology professor. Being in Habitat, I’ve learned about our community, here at the college and the whole community – not just Manchester or South Windsor, Hartford, Connecticut itself – and how things are affected in the world. I still love my numbers – I’m going to minor in math – but I am going ahead as a sociology major.”

Hockenberry said she has seen growth in the student body and the student government during her time at MCC and has been able to engage other clubs to participate in campus activities. She said she hopes to work at MCC after she completes school, perhaps as a liaison for transitioning students, an area where she can apply empathy.

Before she can come back, though, Hockenberry has to leave.

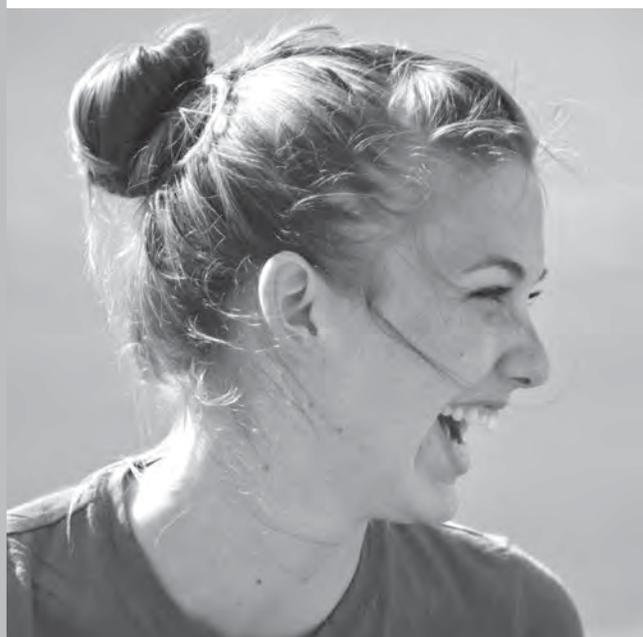
“First I’m going cry,” she said in a half-serious way about that day. “I’m going to be ok. Leaving is going to give me strength. I talked to Dean [Duncan] Harris last week about what I want to do, about the comparison to St Joseph’s, to Central and he showed me a whole program they have there, not only to finish my bachelor’s in sociology but to get my master’s degree in order to come back here. My goal is closer. I was so afraid to come back to school in 2009, but with the strength and knowledge I gained at MCC, I am ready to walk through the doors once more with a bigger purpose: the students.”

For more information about MCC Habitat for Humanity contact Lucy Hurston via email, lhurston@mcc-commnet.edu, or visit the student activities office, Lowe 154h.

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Italian Mystery Dinner Features Murder Most Fagioli



Barbara Savage-Anderson, as Saxafonna Alto, bemoans the loss of her husband, whose picture she holds.

By Jelani Burrell
Live Wire Staff Writer

From author Agatha Christie to Camelot Cruises, Connecticut residents are no strangers to dinnertime crime. Last month, the third annual Murder Mystery Dinner Theatre was held at Manchester Community College, adding to the tradition.

The casual, yet comedic affair took place in the Cheney Dining Room in the Lowe building at 6 p.m. The Italian-themed dinner was prepared and served by students in MCC's culinary arts program.

I arrived slightly late, but fortunately I missed nothing. As I took

my seat at the *Scarface* table – each table was named for a different famous mobster movie – the minestrone soup was served piping hot, with a nice kick. As our empty soup bowls were being taken away, the colorful master of ceremonies Chuck E. Chan (played by MCC communications teacher Albert Kim) introduced the plot to us in a hilarious setup.

Apparently, the patriarch of the Alto family, Alberto, has passed on to the big pizzeria in the sky. Alto's two children, Alanna and Mickey, as well as his wife and twin brother, Saxafonna and Alfredo, are all vying for a piece of the (pizza) pie during the reading of the will later on in the evening. Also present at tonight's affair are the family lawyer Sonny Buono (played by Jason Scappaticci, coordinator of transitional programs) and FBI agent Anita Kaloo (played by English teacher Kaarina Finegan).

As the night went on, the audience got to interact with the characters between the skits which featured them interacting with each other. I chose this time to grill the family lawyer about the will. Mr. Buono upholds attorney-client privilege posthumously; he divulged nothing. I asked Agent Kaloo if she had any ideas about the inheritance, and her lips too were sealed.

The food was just as fulfilling as the acting. Everybody received two mini personal pizzas for their appetizers, which were soft, chewy, and moist. The main course was a veal bragirole stuffed with pork, served on a bed of rice, with a nice medley of squash, sweet potatoes, and other veggies. These culinary students obviously know what they're doing.

When it was finally time to read the will, Mr. Buono handed each beneficiary an envelope, at

which point the second murder occurred! Mickey "Snake-Eyes" Alto collapsed onto the floor. The entire restaurant was in an uproar. There was a murderer in our midst and we knew not who!

I was sitting with a table of lovely and smart women, among them associate professor Stacey Giguere and her sister. Their company was engaging and we began speculating on the night's events. After another round with the characters, we put our heads together and came up with our theory of the crime. Each table at the fictional restaurant Figlio Prediletto (Italian for "favorite son," hint, hint) did the same.

Shortly after our tiramisu dessert, each table got two minutes to present their culprit, motive and explanation of the crime. Each table's theory was more ridiculous than the last.

As it turned out, the culprit was Mr. Buono, by way of cyanide poisoning, with an envelope because he was actually Alto's illegitimate son and stood to inherit nothing despite the fact that he may have been the most deserving out of the bunch. The *Goodfellas* table members received certificates for the most creative answer (which involved several love affairs and a federal cover-up) and the members of the *Scarface* table received certificates for the most accurate answer.

It was honestly the most interesting thing I'd done that month. I don't know if that's a good thing or a bad thing, but it's definitely something I'd do again.

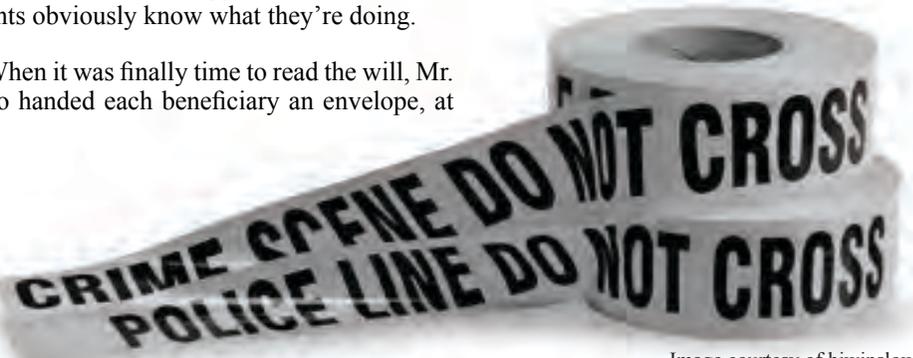


Image courtesy of bjwinslow.com

Campus Climate

Live Wire Staff

Very Hot: According to President Glickman \$258,000 was raised for student scholarships at the 20th Annual Evening of Fine Wines. Read more on page 10.

Warm: The NEASC evaluation of MCC for reaccreditation was mostly positive. Read more on page 3.

Mild: Spring Fling was rained out for the second year in a row. Festivities took place in the AST Tower lobby instead. See pictures on page 18.

Chilly: The damp mid-50's weather hanging around for most of April.

Cold: Paper towels are stocked in all bathrooms after years of abstinence due to "green initiatives." Why are they back? Read an editorial by Erik Gilbert on page 8.

Freezing: Repeating Student Government Association elections after widespread reports of slander and voting on unauthorized devices. Read more on the front page.

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Student Production of *Vagina Monologues* Raises Funds for Sexual Assault Awareness

By Kelly McCluskey
Special to the Live Wire

The Vagina Monologues made its debut here at MCC in hopes of raising awareness regarding sexual abuse and rape. The show was presented by staff and students as they shared the voices of vaginas around the world.

Originally written and directed by Eve Ensler, *The Vagina Monologues* is an episodic play that gives the audience a real-life and personal insight to the vagina. The five actresses involved in the presentation sat united in a row upon the stage. They each read a variety of the monologues, all of them relating to the vagina whether it was through sex, love, rape, menstruation, or mutilation.

The Vagina Monologues was inspired by the violent environment that Ensler lived in.

"Eve [Ensler] was sick of turning on the TV and constantly seeing violence against women, so she traveled the globe and listened to the stories of real women," said director and MCC student, Faith Montaperto.

Montaperto is a survivor of sexual abuse and chooses to share her story with as many people as she can because she hopes to help them join her in recovery, she said, adding that one in every three women is sexually assaulted in their lifetime and letting it out is a great way to overcome the battle.

"I think it's important to be vocal about sexual assault," said Montaperto.

Some monologues performed included *My Angry Vagina*, in which a woman comically rages about injustices that the vagina must endure, such as tampons and the tools used by doctors; *My Vagina Was My Village*, compiled from the Bosnian women exposed to rape camps; *The Little Coochie Snorcher That Could*, where a woman remembers painful sexual experiences in her childhood and a healing sexual experience with an older woman; and *Because He Liked to Look At It*, in which a woman describes a sexual experience with a man named Bob who liked to spend hours looking at it her vagina.

The play continues to be shown all over the country and has made a significant impact on the lives of many women and men. The success of the monologues inspired Ensler to launch a global non-profit organization, V-Day which has raised more than \$75 million for women's anti-violence groups.

Attendees to the MCC show in the SBM Charitable Foundation auditorium paid \$10 per person to attend and, of that, 90 percent of the proceeds will be donated to the Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Service, said Montaperto. For more information about the group visit www.connsacs.org.



Above: Two artists perform at the April 26 event.

Below: MCC student and the director of the production Faith Montaperto delivers a monologue for a good cause.



Photos courtesy of Faith Montaperto.

Painting Provokes Curiosity on Campus

By Susan Garvey
Live Wire Staff Writer

No one who walks down the first floor hallway of the AST Building can miss Manchester Community College student Chris Roque's painting gracing the wall near the doors entitled "Ecce Homo," or "behold the man" in Latin. It features two images of the same nude, brown woman, each with a seemingly exaggerated backside.

Roque, a visual arts major, painted the piece for Rick Harden's Painting I class in the Fall of 2010. The assignment was to paint a person from history; not George Washington or Abraham Lincoln, but someone who was not so well known. Roque chose Sarah Baartman, a black woman whose Dutch slave

owners took her from her native South Africa in 1810 to display her, nude before crowds in London and Paris. Billed as the "Hottentot Venus," crowds gathered to gawk at her what-was-then-unusual anatomy. When she died at 25, her bones were exhibited in a French museum.

Roque said he learned about Baartman as a high school student at the Hartford Art School. During his sophomore year, he said, he studied with a famous South African poet, Diane Ferris whose poem "I've Come to Take You Home" was a petition that Baartman's bones be removed from the French museum and returned to South Africa for a proper burial.

The tale stuck with Roque.

"I never forgot her story, about how the British found her body and, in particular, her buttocks odd and how she was displayed in chains and mocked," said Roque. "Throughout her life - even in death in her bones - she was on display and through my painting I wanted to keep her on display, not for her body but to keep her story and what she stood for alive."

Roque said he used a thin paint to cover her breasts and vaginal areas in a drapery effect to show her respect.

"The painting is meant to reference the fact that she is indeed not a specimen but a beautiful woman," he said.



photo by Sally Ann Garvey-Lumumba

Art in Perspective: "Ecce Homo"
by MCC Artist Chris Roque

TransfeRWU

Meet Omar '11
from North Providence, R.I.
an English major

When Omar transferred to RWU, he knew he wanted to jump right into the community. A member of the Multicultural Student Union and an Orientation Advisor, Omar made connections all over campus. But the English major may be best known for his commitment to his craft. After joining the RWU community, he organized a campus-wide poetry slam each year, and even spearheaded the request for a Latino Literature course—which drew the interest of students across disciplines. Omar paved his own way at RWU and left a legacy of poetry on campus.

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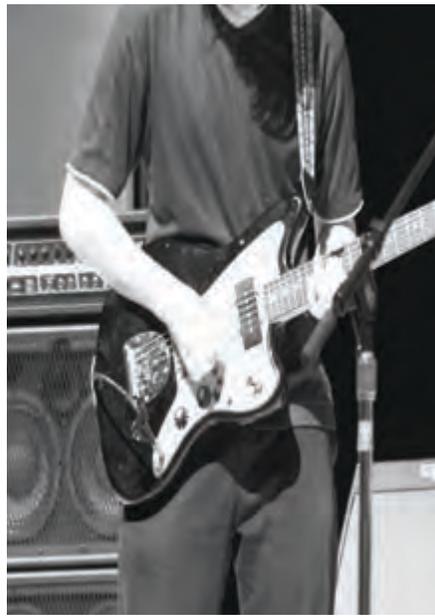
**Roger Williams
University**
Learning to Bridge the World

photos by Rich Carpenter

Rain Can't Dampen Spring Fling

- • • • •
- May 1 was a rainy day, but that fact didn't stop the slew of Field Day events planned across campus. In addition to club tables, and food provided by MCC Culinary Arts students, attendees were treated to live music performed by local acts at the Manchester Political Union's Battle of the Bands. Also
- MCC Habitat for Humanity constructed their annual Cardboard City to raise funds.
- • • • •

Local act *Regarding the Ordinary* played an impassioned set at the 2012 MPU Battle of the Bands.



Manchester Political Union Battle of the Bands



Habitat for Humanity Cardboard City

Right, participants attempt to build cardboard homes, which they will occupy for the next 24 hours, to raise awareness about homelessness.

Below, a popsicle home constructed by club members at Habitat's table.



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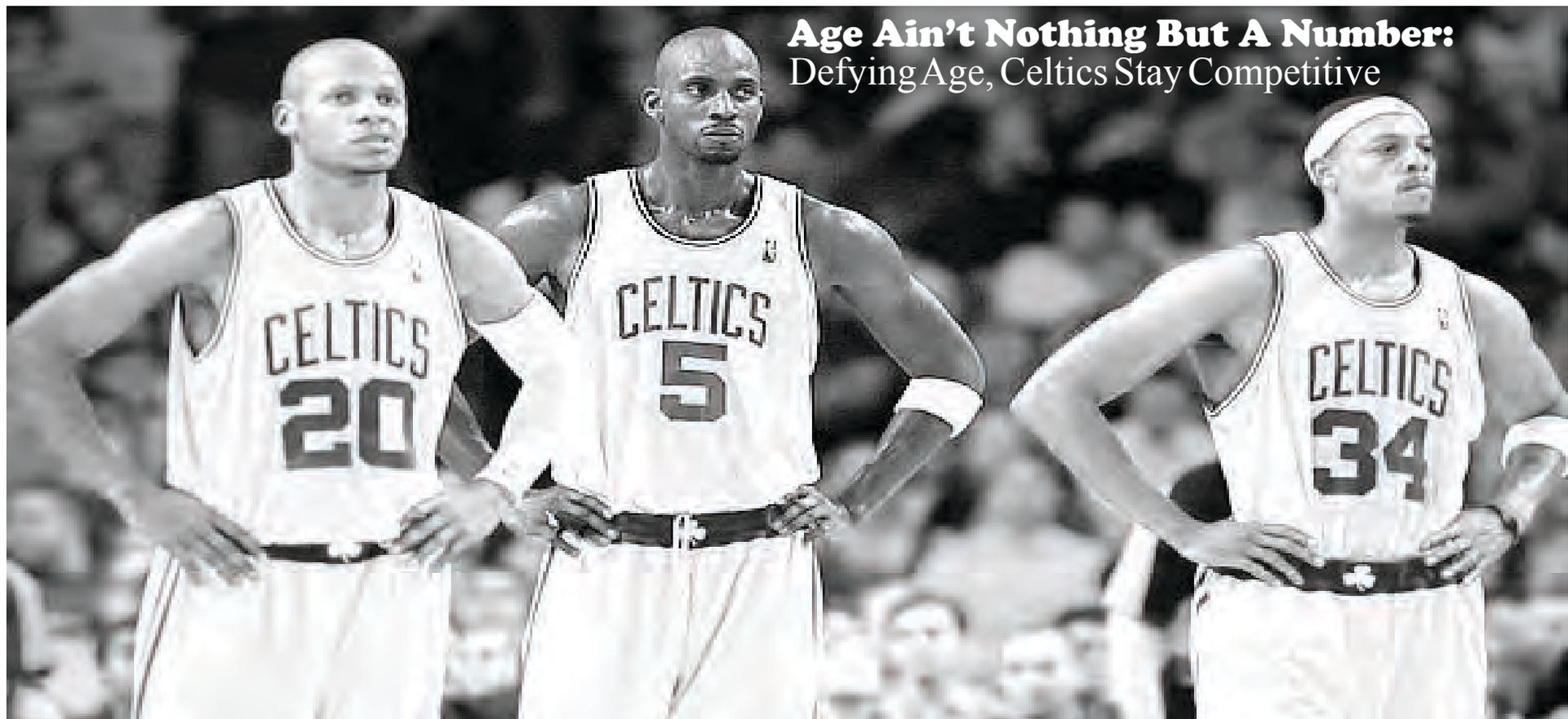
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Age Ain't Nothing But A Number: Defying Age, Celtics Stay Competitive

From left, Ray Allen, Kevin Garnett, and Paul Pierce, lead the Celtics in age and experience. Photo courtesy of espn.go.com

By Zachariah Hand
Live Wire Staff Writer

Age is the worst enemy of a professional athlete. It cannot be fought off or prevented, as it is inevitable that everyone must get older as time passes by.

As an athlete gets older, their skills begin to diminish, and they are not able to play at the level that they had become accustomed to in their younger years. These athletes become more prone to injuries, or simply slow down over the years. In most professional sports, athletes retire by their mid to late 30s, or around the time that they turn 40, after their skills have already declined. Because of this, it is unlikely that an NBA team which features three everyday players in their mid to late 30s could compete for a championship, especially when going up against teams that feature younger players currently in the prime of their careers.

This season's Boston Celtics apparently do not know that.

This Celtics team features veterans Paul Pierce, 34, Kevin Garnett, 35, and Ray Allen, 36. At one point, each of these players were young stars, leading the Celtics to the NBA Championship during the 2007-2008 season, and to the NBA finals during the 2009-2010 season, where they lost to the Los Angeles Lakers.

Now, each player is older, yet wiser. Though they do not possess the same skill level that they once did, each of these players has gained vast amounts of experience, and has been able to use this experience to its full extent during the 2011-2012 season. What the three also possess is the desire to win, despite their age and all those reminding them of it. Additionally, these

veterans are aided by younger players around them, such as Rajon Rondo, who has no doubt benefited from veteran leadership.

After they got off to a poor start in the opening month of the abbreviated NBA season, many people determined that the Celtics were too old to compete for an NBA title, and would lose to younger teams like the Miami Heat and the Chicago Bulls. However, the Celtics began to play better after the All-Star break, surprising the doubters.

While they still face an uphill battle on the path to an NBA Championship, the Celtics have proven that despite old age - by professional sports standards, anyway - a team can still compete as long as the players have knowledge of the game and a desire to win.



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You couldn't go wrong seeing the Lakers. I'd like to have tickets to see the Lakers play, especially since I don't get to go out much because I'm always so busy.

Joshua Baczek

Liberal Arts



I'd like tickets for a play at the Bushnell. I've seen quite a few plays but I haven't seen "Les Miserables" yet.

Paula Anzellotti

Assistant Accountant



That's really easy actually: a plane ticket to Bosnia, the country I came to the United States from in 2007.

Mersida Becirovic

Business and Accounting



Aerosmith in concert!

Nikki Chagnon

General Studies



I'd like tickets to travel the universe, which isn't possible, so, around the world. I've travelled a lot - from Bosnia to Croatia to Serbia and to Turkey - and travelled to Virginia and California by car. You see more travelling by car than by plane so I wouldn't just buy plane tickets but would do as much a part of my worldwide trip on land as I could.

Enis Hodzic

Accounting



I'd get tickets to see the New England Patriots play because they're amazing.

Jerome Dickens

Custodian

photos by Faith Montepetro

2012 Cultural Diversity Day



April 25

MCC Village Courtyard

all photos by Rich Carpenter