

**Word on Campus**

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“What is your favorite horror movie of all time?”

Statement from Glickman Ends Controversial Tangle with Board of Regents



Former UCONN president Philip Austin is the interim president of the Board of Regents. Photo by Peter Morenus, courtesy of uconn.edu.

By Patience Collier, Live Wire Staff Writer
And Live Wire Staff

With an elegant statement about her commitment to Manchester Community College, Pres. Gena Glickman ended two weeks of controversy that began with the passage of a law that affects how state colleges deal with students in need of remedial help and ended with a shake-up in the leadership of the Board of Regents for Higher Education.

“I will continue to advocate for this college and its students as long as I am effective,” said Glickman during a special meeting of MCC faculty, staff, administrators and students held Oct. 16 in the SBM Charitable Foundation Auditorium.

It was the first public statement from Glickman since news reports accused her of misstating an alleged offer to her and the 11 other presidents of Connecticut community colleges to leave their posts if they did not like the direction the BOR was headed.

It all began in May of 2012, when Gov. Dannel Malloy signed a bill into law that changed a great deal about the courses offered at the state’s 12 community colleges. The law, Public Act

12-40, was developed by State Sen. Beth Bye earlier this year and had the intended purpose of helping students avoid spending their money and financial aid on remedial courses. Such courses are offered to students who do not test into college level math or English courses. Remedial courses are designed to raise students’ skills, but are not credited or added to a student’s overall college grade point average.

The law’s supporters argued that remedial education in Connecticut is broken, and cited as evidence the fact that the graduation rate of students who had to take remedial courses was incredibly low. In a press release on the bill, Bye stated that “Thousands of students have been wasting time and money in non-credit remedial courses.”

Opposition to the bill argued that merging students who were not yet able to do college level work into an average college course would not give them a fair chance at passing. To accommodate these protests, the bill was modified to include embedded remedial education – a form of extra help available simultaneously, alongside college courses – and an “intensive college readiness program,” which would be developed by the BOR, for students who were not yet prepared to pass college-level courses.

However, no extra funding was granted to community colleges or the state’s public universities to help develop these programs; it was expected that any funding which had been going to remedial education classes would be directed to the new programs, instead.

When the bill was proposed, several community college presidents, including Glickman, expressed their opposition. So did many students across the state.

In fact the BOR Student Advisory Committee released a formal letter of opposition to the bill. But, according to Alex Tettey Jr., an MCC student who chairs the committee and is a student representative on the BOR, the response from legislators and media outlets was lukewarm, and the measure was passed. It became law as of July 1.

However the community college presidents may have felt about the bill, once it was passed, fighting it was no longer an option, said Tettey.

“All the community college presidents, to my knowledge, were taking steps to implement Public Act 12-40, but they still had significant concerns about it,” he said.

BOR Executive Vice President Michael Meotti told the *Journal Inquirer* newspaper that he felt

that the presidents, who were responsible for implementing the law, were not fully complying. After a meeting with Meotti and the other college presidents in September, Glickman sent an e-mail to the MCC faculty and staff stating that the presidents had been offered “buyouts” and had until Oct. 31 to decide whether or not they would take it.

A buyout is an amount of money offered to release a worker from his or her contract before the expiration date. After Halloween, Glickman’s email stated, a decision would be made on whether or not to renew the contracts of those who decided not to take the offer.

The information appeared in local news stories and the BOR Executive Staff, including Meotti, denied that the presidents were ever made such an offer.

It is important to note, here, that there are two bodies at work: the Board of Regents, and the Executive Staff. The Board of Regents is the legal governing body, and, although the Executive Staff does make some decisions, they are all appointed by the governor, and they lack the full power of the voting body, the BOR.

The BOR is the body who decides, at the end of a community college president’s term, whether or not they should be rehired – meaning the buyouts were not only controversial, but entirely outside of the authority of both Meotti and BOR President Robert A. Kennedy to offer.

Then things got complicated. On the heels of the buyout controversy, it was discovered that Kennedy had, over the summer, given Meotti a 26 percent raise, adding \$49,000 to his six-figure salary.

This came as a surprise to other members of the BOR who, when asked, claimed that they had no knowledge of this move, despite the fact that all pay raises must legally be brought before the BOR for a vote. Soon, more raises came to light, all of which Kennedy, had assigned without any manner of review from the BOR.

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Grand Opening of the MCC Arts and Education Center a Great Success



MCC President Gena Glickman welcomes attendees to the MCC on Main Grand Opening Celebration reception at the historic Charles Cheney Mansion on Sept. 13. Photo by Brian Lombardo

Story courtesy of MCC Marketing Office

After weeks of construction work and planning, the Manchester Community College’s Arts and Education Center on Main Street

held its grand opening. MCC on Main, as it is known, held its official opening event and fundraiser Sept. 13.

The event was attended by about 150 people and \$12,000 was raised before the end of the night. The celebration included a pre-opening Wine and Champagne reception at the historic Charles Cheney Mansion. That was followed by a dessert reception at the MCC on Main site, 903 Main St. An art show and sale featuring artwork in various mediums by current MCC Fine Arts students was then held, followed by a ribbon-cutting ceremony with MCC President Gena Glickman and officials from the town of Manchester.

The event was made possible by Rockville Bank and Anthony and Paula Viscogliosi. Donations from area companies, including Fresh-Point, HPC Foodservice, Ellen Dougan, Forest Package Store, Manchester Wine and Liquors, Dennis Murphy and John Stafstrom, and Spendless Discount Liquor supported the event. All food was provided by students in the MCC Culinary Arts program with musical entertainment from students in MCC’s Music Department.

The money raised at the grand opening will be used to support future programming at MCC on Main. For a calendar of upcoming events, including art shows, performances, movies, seminars, fitness classes and a Haunted House, visit <http://www.mcc.commnet.edu/mcc-on-main/>.

Manchester Political Union Plans Fall Debate

The Manchester Political Union will be hosting its annual Fall Debate on Monday, Oct. 29, at 3:30 p.m. in the Great Path Academy Community Commons. The debate question this year will be "Who should be the next President of the United States?" Each of the participants will present a 4 minute speech, followed by a 2 minute rebuttal. A panel of three judges will be awarding the following prizes: 1st prize is a \$100 gift card, 2nd prize is a \$75 gift card, and 3rd prize is a \$50 gift card. All students are invited to participate or attend. The event is free and open to the public. If you are interested in signing up to debate contact Angelo Messore at amessore@mcc.commnet.edu or visit his office, Lowe 219e.

Halloween Flu Clinic Planned

Thanks to a partnership between the Eastern Connecticut Health Network and the Visiting Nurses Association of Danbury, a Flu Clinic will be held on campus Wednesday, Oct. 31, from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. on the second floor of the AST Rotunda. No appointment is needed and the clinic is open to everyone. Many insurance plans will be accepted, including Aetna, Anthem BC/BS, Cigna, Connect care, Medicare and CT Medicaid but cards must be presented. All others will be charged \$30, cash or check. For more information contact Kerry McNiven at kmcniven@manchestercc.edu or 860-512-2716.

MCC Paralegal Association Presents Legal Issues Surrounding "Hot Coffee"

The documentary film "Hot Coffee" will be shown Thursday, Nov. 15, at 7 p.m. in the SBM Charitable Foundation Auditorium. The film reveals how "big businesses,

aided by the media, brewed a dangerous concoction of manipulation and lies to protect corporate interest. The McDonald's coffee case has been routinely cited by the media as an example of how citizens have taken advantage of the legal system," according to press information about the film. Connecticut Trial Lawyers Association will follow the screening with a short panel discussion. The event, sponsored by the MCC Paralegal Association, the MCC library and CTLA, is free and open to the public. For more information contact Pat Ronalter at pronalter@mcc.commnet.edu or 860-512-2876.

MCC Advising Weeks Prepare Students for Upcoming Semester

Manchester Community College will be holding academic advising weeks for students from Monday, Oct. 22 - Friday, Nov. 16. Meet your advisor in his or her individual offices. Connecting with your faculty or academic advisor will help students prepare for spring 2013 registration, ensure that they are on the right track for the next semester and allow them to share any concerns they have about majors or transfer issues. For further information contact the Advising and Counseling Center at (860) 512-3320 or go to www.manchestercc.edu/students/advising.

MCC Hosts its 26th Annual Homecoming Dinner

MCC Alumni Affairs invites alumni, faculty, staff and students to the Annual Homecoming Dinner Monday, Nov. 19, at 6 p.m. in the Culinary Arts Center. This event has been an annual tradition since 1986 and all the food will be prepared by MCC students in the Culinary Arts Program. The fee is \$12 for faculty, staff and alumni; \$6 for students. For more information or to make a reservation contact Sara Vincent at 860-512-2909, or svincent@mcc.commnet.edu.

Veterans Club Fundraiser Will Help Remember Those Who Served

The Veterans Club will hold a fundraiser on Nov. 7 and 8 to raise money for new flagpoles. Purchase a mini-flag that can be donated in memory of anyone of your choice. The tables will be set up from 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. outside the Lowe cafeteria and from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the AST Rotunda each day. For more information contact Veterans club secretary Murry Clingerman at murry1971@yahoo.com.

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

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As of last August, all state employees have been in a wage freeze, while tuition for state universities and community colleges was increased. With all of this in mind, an unelected official being given such a large raise upset a lot of people.

"I can go on official record as saying I feel like I'm being left in the dark," said Tettey, "and I talk to my colleagues, same thing. It seems like they kind of slipped it past."

Meotti quickly turned down his raise, but the general feeling was that refusal - after he had been receiving the additional money for several weeks - was too little, and too late.

"It's not enough to change unethical behavior just because of public outcry," said one MCC student, who did not want to be identified.

Events moved quickly after that. On Friday, Oct. 12, both Kennedy and Meotti announced their resignations.

In an emergency meeting of the BOR that day, the members retreated behind closed doors to discuss a recommendation for someone to lead the BOR for the interim, until a more permanent replacement could be found. The crowd outside the meeting was fairly large, and several people seized the chance to voice their displeasure with the BOR, and its staff.

Josh Quintana, office manager of the MCC Student Government Association, was there as an observer, and, like several others, questioned the wisdom of gathering all 12 community colleges under one umbrella organization, pointing to this scandal as further evidence of the idea being a poor one.

He also laid the blame for the buyout scandal on Public Act 12-40.

"Laws are made to be repealed," he said.

Angelo Messore, who teaches political science at MCC, also attended the meeting. He said he disagreed strongly with what he saw as a move to try to push out all 12 community college presidents.

"Such an action would have been not only unfair, but very expensive for the state of Connecticut," Messore said.

When the doors of the meeting room were again opened to the public, the chairman of the BOR Lewis Robinson, announced that it had decided to recommend Gov. Malloy appoint Dr. Philip E. Austin to serve as interim president of the BOR. Austin was president of the University of Connecticut from 1996 to 2007. Along with the recommendation, the meeting served to discuss the special committee put into effect by Robinson to investigate the events of the previous few weeks and put up safeguards to prevent the same things from happening again.

Robinson estimated the search for a new BOR president would take five to six months.

Following the standing ovation she received for her statement to the college community Oct. 16, Glickman urged everyone to look forward, not back.

"We have a lot of work ahead of us," she said.

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

Submit an advertisement for an upcoming issue!

**All clubs are eligible to receive a free
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Ice Radio Switching onto AM

By Zachariah Hand
Live Wire Senior Staff Writer

MCC's radio station, Ice Radio, will soon be available on an AM frequency across campus.

Ice Radio's addition of AM access comes after years of being exclusively available on the Internet, and existing in relative obscurity to most students. In years past, the radio station struggled to find a consistent following of listeners. With the addition of an AM frequency, Ice Radio hopes to greatly expand its listenership.

"It gives students easier access to be able to listen," said Joseph Neusel, an Ice Radio intern in his first semester with the club. "It's a good step in the right direction."

The AM connection is made possible through a new antenna being installed above the Ice Radio office. The signal from this antenna allows Ice Radio's broadcasts to reach throughout MCC's campus, and be heard by all students that tune into the radio station off campus.

Originally, Ice Radio had hoped to be broadcasting over its AM frequency by mid-October, but due to recent complications with installation, the launch date has been pushed back to late October or early November.

Kaitlyn Smith, Ice Radio's president, first heard about the AM connection in August from Albert Kim, Ice Radio's faculty advisor.

"It's a big deal for the school," said Smith. "(Ice Radio) finally has a way to break ground with students. They are able to tune in to our shows from the parking lot on their car radio."

Smith went on to say that broadcasting over AM will allow the station to broaden its horizons in terms of what goes into a broadcast.

To advertise the switch, Ice Radio plans to display signs and flags in front of entrances to MCC. The club also hopes to put an advertisement on the home page of the Manchester Community College website as well as the TV monitors around campus.

To bulk up its programming, Ice Radio has also begun collaboration with the *Live Wire* student newspaper. *Live Wire* staff writers have been writing brief news updates of local and national stories that are then broadcast by Ice Radio in two-minute segments. Both clubs have so far enjoyed the collaboration, and it has worked out well.

"I like it," said Smith. "It's a really good way to get information out there."

When the AM broadcasts begin, students will be able to listen throughout campus, and Ice Radio should serve as a great source of both local and national news. To listen to ICE Radio online right now visit <http://www.manchestercc.edu/ice/>.



Image Courtesy of Culturemap.com



Image courtesy of: ManchesterDems.com

Hi Jason,

I am failing a class and I don't know what to do. My friend said something about withdrawing. What is that? Can I do it?

-Struggling Student

Dear Struggling Student,

You have brought up an issue that many students have questions about. Withdrawal is an option that should be used as a last resort. Before withdrawing from a course you want to be sure you have done everything possible to bring up that grade. This includes:

Speaking with your professor about how to improve

Using the Academic Support Center (L282)

Connecting with Student Development Specialists about how to develop better study skills (L125)

Getting an Academic Coach from Student Retention Services (L127)

If you have tried all of the above and, for whatever reason, it looks like you won't be able to pull up that grade, then withdrawal is still an option in most cases.

The main reason that students might prefer a withdrawal is because a "W" on the transcript is not averaged into your grade point average (GPA). So, for example, if you were getting an "F" in a course and you withdraw from that course, your transcript would have a "W" where the grade would be. This "W" is a permanent part of your transcript even if you retake the class and get a passing grade. However there are a few very important things to remember when it comes to deciding if you should withdraw.

-Withdrawing can negatively affect your financial aid status. To get you an answer on this I contacted my friend Jody Bailey in our Financial Aid Office. She said, "**Students must make satisfactory progress in order to be eligible for financial aid.** This means that they must succeed in 66.6 percent of credits attempted and maintain an acceptable GPA (1.5 for under 16 attempted credits, 2.0 once they have attempted 16 credits or more). The "W" grade does not affect GPA, but it does count into the 66.6 percent calculation.

It is important to remember that even though MAT 075, 095, and ENG 003, 066 and 093 are not for college credit they do get averaged into the 66.6 percent calculation. Having a grade of "W" may affect a student's eligibility to continue to receive financial aid. **Individuals should check with the Financial Aid Office (Lowe 177) before withdrawing from a class.**

Withdrawals can also negatively affect your Satisfactory Progress standing and can lead to credit limits and suspension from the college. I contacted Florence Sheils in the Office of Student Retention Services for more information about that. She said, "The Board policy states that a student must successfully complete at least 50 percent of their attempted credit hours. If 50 percent of your grades are W, F, I and N a student will be on Progress Probation, which means a limit of 11 credits in their next semester. More importantly, four consecutive semesters of Progress Probation results in a 15-week semester suspension from the college. We don't want that to happen, so students should be very careful about the decision to withdraw." She suggested you see her, in Lowe 127, if you're at all confused about your decision.

So, AFTER you have done all of the above and still think withdrawal is the best thing for your academic career, here's the "How To."

Each semester a Withdrawal Date is set by the Registrar and each semester you need to be aware of it just in case you run into some trouble. The Withdrawal Date is Nov. 1 for this semester, and this is the last date that you may withdraw from a course without permission from your professor. If you try to withdraw after this date you might not be allowed to do so. To withdraw before Nov. 1 you simply get the "Course Withdrawal Form Before Two Thirds of the Semester" online at the "Form Depot" (it's listed under Registrar) or go to the Registrar's Office. Fill it out and turn it in to the Registrar's Office before Nov. 1.

If the professor allows withdrawals *after* Nov. 1, it will be printed in the course syllabus. Always be aware of your professor's individual course policy regarding withdrawals. Some professors will not allow a withdrawal after the official Registrar's date; some will and under certain conditions only. So check out the syllabus and follow whatever it says to do in your specific case. Use the professor's office hours to have an in-depth conversation about possibilities and processes.

If your professor allows withdrawal after Nov. 1 you must complete the "Course Withdrawal Form After Two Thirds of the Semester." This form is available online at the "Form Depot" and at the Registrar's Office. Immediately complete the form, get it signed by your professor and bring it to the Registrar's Office.

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

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The Club Scene At MCC



By Susan Garvey
Live Wire Staff Writer

Have you gotten involved with the club scene at Manchester Community College? What's that? You didn't know that there was a club scene at MCC? If you thought everyone just raced off campus as soon as classes end, you are sure missing out.

There is a club at MCC for just about every interest. Here are a few you might want to stay on campus and get involved with.

- The MCC Arts Club boasts that it is the biggest club on campus.

"You don't need to be an artist, just interested in the arts. We are always open to new ideas and events that support the arts on campus," said club advisor Pat Carrigan. The Arts Club meets every Wednesday from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. in AST D110, the Printmaking Studio. The actual meeting lasts about half an hour and the second half hour of a recent meeting included a fun one minute art lecture by co-advisor Olivia Chang and plenty of time for club members to socialize over refreshments and to work on their own art projects. For more information contact pcarrigan@mcc.commnet.edu.

- Advisor Jeanine DeRusha reports that the Poetry Club is alive and well and meeting at a table outside of the Lowe cafeteria on Tuesday afternoons at 3:30 p.m. Just look for the Poetry Club sign or contact jderusha@mcc.commnet.edu for more information.

- Another popular club on campus is the Habitat for Humanity Club, which in past years has taken trips to New Orleans to rebuild homes for Hurricane Katrina victims. Habitat's plans for this school year include several builds in partnership with the Hartford Chapter of Habitat for Humanity and volunteers are needed. Contact club advisor Kevin Skee at Habitat@mcc.commnet.edu for more information on their build events, fund raising activities and out of state trips.

- "The point of the Science and Engineering Club is to have fun with science," said club president Tyler Wadhams. "We won't be calculating vectors or solving problems all day, although that may be required. Our first job is to get the half-built trebuchet launcher up and running. Now who doesn't want to launch cantaloupes?" The club meets every Tuesday from 2 to 3 p.m. in Lowe 102. Interested students can contact Wadhams at TWads.TW@gmail.com or club advisor Stephen Moore at smoore@mcc.commnet.edu.

- The Veterans Club meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 3:30 p.m. in the Veterans Oasis, on the first floor of the Lowe building. Two programs on campus are specifically for veterans: counseling with Timothy Fahey from the Hartford Vets Center, available bi-weekly on Tuesdays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.; and Yoga Warrior Classes with certified yoga warrior instructor Robyn Hall on Wednesdays through December 3 (no class Nov. 21) from 5-6 p.m. in L154K, the Student Lounge.

"The Vets Club is holding a fundraiser to sell flags to honor a service member that will be placed around the AST flagpole on Veterans Day in November and a paintball trip this semester," said club president Eran Peterson. "We're always looking for new members and you don't have to be veteran to join." For more information contact him at epeterson@mcc.commnet.edu.

-The Computer Repair and Share Club would like students to know that anyone interested in the club, whether they want to join the club or they want to have a computer fixed, can find a club member or advisor in room AST C139 on Mondays or Wednesdays from 9 a.m. -12:30 p.m., 4-5 p.m., and 7-9 p.m.; also Tuesdays and Thursday from 9-11 a.m., 3-5 p.m. and 7-9 p.m. Students can find out more about the club by stopping by during club times or by contacting them at info@repairandshareclub.com. Students can register to receive a free computer refurbished by the club via the signup form at www.mcc.commnet.edu/freecomputer.

- There are two clubs on campus for students interested in politics and the law: the Manchester Political Union and the Paralegal Club. The Manchester Political Union president Dimitri Karaferius said the club is planning a voter registration drive, a food drive, a debate on the presidential candidates and a trip for this school year. The club meets on alternating Monday and Tuesday afternoons at 3:30 p.m. in AST T-201. Contact MPU@mcc.commnet.edu for more information.

The Paralegal Club invites everyone to attend a free screening of the documentary "Hot Coffee" at 7 p.m. on Nov. 15, in the SBM Charitable Foundation Auditorium. According to a press release, "Hot Coffee" examines legal cases

"including the case of the woman who was seriously burned by McDonald's coffee, and reveals how big business, aided by the media, brewed a dangerous concoction of manipulation and lies to protect corporate interests." The free event is open to the public. For more information on the film and the Paralegal Club, contact Pat Rowalter at prowalter@mcc.commnet.edu.

- To learn about the fall activities of the MCC Education Club, students can contact advisor Paul Edelen at PEdelen@mcc.commnet.edu. The contact for the Administrative Professionals Club is Carla Adams, cadams@mcc.commnet.edu.

- Do you want to practice your French or Spanish? Those interested in French culture and language can join Le Cercle Français, which meets the second Tuesday of the month in the language lab, LRC B210, at 2:45 p.m. Plans for this semester include attending a French Film Festival in November. For more information about the club contact French professor Barbara Place at bplace@mcc.commnet.edu. Professor Linda Burk said that "although most of the members of the Spanish Club come from Spanish classes, anyone may join." Contact her for more information at lburk@mcc.commnet.edu.

- Ice Radio holds meetings every Thursday from 2 – 3 p.m. in AST T-204. For questions and show suggestions email iceradio@mcc.commnet.edu or leave a message in the "Ice Box" at 860-512-3295. Come to the Live Wire office across from the Student Activities Office for our weekly meetings from 5 -6 p.m. every Thursday if you are interested in writing, drawing or taking photographs for the paper.

- MCC Pride, which supports the LGBTQ community at MCC, meets Mondays from 3-4 p.m. in AST D229.

Sadly, some of the clubs that have been active in previous years have not returned this school year, including the Dance Club, the Outdoor Club, the Mänge, Anime and Gaming Club and the Muslim Student Association.

If you are interested in restarting one of these clubs, the Student Activities Office keeps a list of other students who expressed interest at September's Club Day. Contact T.J. Barber, director of Student Activities, for more information about resurrecting an old club or starting a new one. Go to the Student Activities Office in Lowe 154c, or email him at tbarber@mcc.commnet.edu.

It's not too late to become a part of the MCC Club Scene yourself!

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- Entrepreneurs

Meet a Professor: Lois Ryan, Liberal Arts

By Patience Collier
Live Wire Staff Writer

Lois Ryan, who teaches English at Manchester Community College, was inducted into the Manchester Arts Hall of Fame at a ceremony held at the Lutz Museum this past summer. As stated in the official citation, Ryan received this honor “in recognition of her dedication to, advocacy for, and achievement in the arts of



Photo by: Alison Rodriguez

the Manchester community.” She has coordinated and curated the Manchester Art Association’s exhibit at MCC since 1990 and is an accomplished visual fine artist who paints in watercolor and oil. The citation was presented to Ryan by Jay Moran, the deputy mayor of Manchester. Here is what Ryan had to say about the honor and her time at MCC.

Where are you originally from?

I’m actually from Manchester; I went through the whole school system here.

How long have you been teaching here, and what subjects do you teach?

I started at MCC in 1981, and I teach English and Public Speaking.

How do you feel about your recent induction into the Manchester Arts Hall of Fame?

Flattered and honored... and humbled, really. It’s nice to be noticed, to be appreciated; I’ve been curating the summer exhibit for 20 years, and it’s nice to be recognized.

What artistic mediums do you work in, and how long have you been doing this?

I work in oil and watercolor, and I have been doing that for 22, since 1990.

Where do you get your inspiration?

From nature, usually - you see a beautiful sunset and become inspired, you see something that really affects you. Some of us take a photograph of it, we try to recapture that moment. I took it one step further; most of my paintings are landscapes and seascapes, so I guess I’m trying to recapture, to relive that scene.

What made you want to start painting?

All my life I loved art, and felt that I had a little bit of talent for it. I finally got around to taking some art lessons, and immediately joined the Manchester Art Association in 1990. It gave me an opportunity to see what other artists were doing, and to learn more from other artists. That same year, I asked the Art Department at MCC if the Manchester Art Association could display art here in the summer, and they have been doing it ever since. It helped MCC to reach out to the community, and as a result, a lot of members of the Manchester Art Association have taken courses here. I would like to say that I am very appreciative of the MCC Art Department for allowing the Manchester Art Association to display their artwork in the summer.

How has your experience with the Manchester Arts community been?

They’re very open, very appreciative - and very supportive of all expressions of art.

How does your profession affect your art?

Well, I am an English teacher, and that is a humanities course. It’s all part of that self-expression, my art and writing.

You write, as well? What do you write?

Poetry, short stories through the years... a variety of things.

What inspires you to create art?

Sometimes you think of something, and it keeps reoccurring, and you need to find a way to express it - through a poem, or a story, or something - you can’t let go of an idea, it needs to manifest itself somehow.

Trip to Salem, Mass., is Spooky Fun

By Jacob Doherty
and Melissa Hafey
Special to the Live Wire

If you’re looking for a day trip, or a weekend getaway, visiting the city of Salem, Mass., is well worth the two hour drive up from Connecticut. A bus full of students, staff, faculty and their guests from Manchester Community College did just that on Oct. 12, to visit the city infamous for the Salem Witch Trials of 1692. But Salem has more to offer than that grisly history and it really comes alive at night.



“Salem is a great travel destination, not only for its historical value, but for its atmosphere as well,” said MCC student Callista Berman, who had visited Salem once before. The trip was organized and sponsored by the MCC Student Government Association

Upon arriving, expect to be greeted by locals dressed up in costume, many as witches and wizards. It’s helpful to stop by the National Park Service Visitor Center on Essex Street. There, guides, calendars and local magazines are available to take for your stay in town. These provide a map of town, directory of businesses, and schedule of events.

Indeed, there are plenty of historical landmarks, museums and events to keep you busy all day. There is a memorial dedicated to the 19 people who were convicted as

witches and killed in 1692. Although this is what Salem is mainly known for, taking a walk down the shoreline to the historic maritime section of Salem shows the true history of the town and is definitely recommended by most of the locals. After the Revolutionary War, Salem became one of the largest port towns in America. Since the waterfront is now a nationally recognized historic area, many of the old buildings, and one ship, are preserved for the general public to admire and enjoy.

As beautiful as the shoreline is, it’s not the only historic place you can visit in town. All around the downtown section there are museums dedicated to different pieces of Salem’s history. You can see The House of Seven Gables, which was home to the famous author Nathaniel Hawthorne, a pirate museum and, of course, your choice of several witch-themed museums.

One unusual spot is New England Magic, located at 131 Essex Street. From jewelry, incense and essential oils, to candles, cauldrons and crystal balls, customers can enjoy an organized store that is bright and clean.

The owner of the shop, Joanna Thomas, was even front and center, seated right near the middle of the store, available to customers as they walked in. She said that while the witch trials took place hundreds of years ago, witchcraft is alive and well in Salem.

“Yes, there are a lot of practicing Wiccans in Salem,” Thomas said. “Some are definitely practicing for the wrong reasons, but you’ll find that anywhere I guess. Regardless, there are a lot of good people in this town and there’s a lot of great history here.”

There is no doubt the town embraces and benefits from its history when it comes to tourism, especially during the month of October. Many visitors there that day, including those from MCC, were there to take in all the horror-themed events going on. Walking

around the downtown area, you’ll pass various magic and occult shops, and even be stopped by the occasional method actor, dressed in witch- trail period clothing.

Harry Potter fans won’t want to miss visiting Wynott’s Wands, located at 75 Warf Street, in the city’s waterfront district. It will make you feel as if you’ve been transported right into the Diagon Alley store from a Harry Potter movie. The shop carries wands that are stunning replicas of those seen in the movies. Ever tried Butter Beer? This is the only store, in this part of the country that sells this butterscotch flavored soda, making it one of the store’s most popular selling items.

But nighttime is really when the city awakens, with costumed witches, zombies, vampires and even Frankenstein wandering the cobblestones streets. Also wandering the streets are tour groups hearing about the many haunted homes of Salem.

MCC attendees enjoyed a walking Ghost Tour that consisted of several stops in downtown Salem, a tour guide dressed in late 17th century fashion, a lesson on historical happenings at each stop and many spooky ghost stories.

Maybe it was the time of year, or the constant bombardment of the occult, but some of the stories seemed very believable at the time.

“I am as sensible and reasoned as the next guy, but this ghost tour made a strong case for the paranormal,” said MCC student James Hilton.

With all that Salem has to offer – including the town’s rich history, beautiful shoreline and great local shops - it is easy to see why it is considered a great travel destination.

For more information about Salem, visit www.salem.org. For information on other upcoming trips offered by the SGA, visit the Student Activities office, Lowe 154i.

Death Penalty Abolition Makes Connecticut a Trendsetter



By Nathan Cheatham
Live Wire Editor

On April 25, Gov. Dannel Malloy signed legislation that made Connecticut the 17th state in the United States of America to abolish the death penalty.

Malloy said the move made sense.

“In the last 52 years, only two people have been put to death in Connecticut -- and both of them volunteered for it,” he said in an April 25 article on CNN.com by David Ariosto. “Instead, the people of this state pay for appeal after appeal, and then watch time and again as defendants are marched in front of the cameras, giving them a platform of public attention they don’t deserve.”

When the legislation was signed into law, it affects all future cases, and was worded to directly exclude the 11 prisoners currently on Connecticut’s Death Row. Of these 11 inmates, two are the men convicted of the Cheshire home invasion that occurred in July of 2007, left a mother and her two daughters dead, and drew national attention.

Now that Connecticut has abolished the death penalty, supporters are saying that it is fueling a momentum in for other states to follow suit. Not long after Malloy signed our legislation, California collected enough support to put the issue on its ballot this November. This movement could possibly even begin discussion on an amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which hasn’t been changed since 1992 when the 27th amendment on congressional salary increases was added.

All of this discussion in other states really brings back up the topic: should heinous crimes be punished by death?

I have been against capital punishment since I first took American government my sophomore year of high school. My teacher had challenged me to connect the issue of abortion with capital punishment. He had argued that both of these issues wrestled with the value of human life and the authority of the state to pass laws either for or against it.

My teacher also brought up the duplicity in nature between the views of liberal Democrats and conservative Republicans on this issue. It is strange to me to imagine that liberals who are pro-choice would be anti-death penalty, while pro-life conservatives support the death penalty. I understand life is not black and white, but even at a young age I wanted to be morally consistent.

Once my teacher had brought up this idea of a link between the death penalty and abortion, I began boiling down the issues to get to the root. In my opinion, the root controversies surrounding the issue of the death penalty are when does life begin, and does man have precedence over human life.

Let’s look at when life begins first. I believe that life begins when it can continue to form without outside interference. This makes fertilization of the ovary the beginning of life, since female eggs and male sperm alone cannot form life. So life begins at conception, and ends when the final breath is taken, which, to me means whatever is true at the beginning of life is also true at the end.

So does man have dominion over another man’s life? My belief is no. If I will not have a part in ending a life before it is born, I will advocate for life until its natural expiration. Morally, if we are state mandating the ritualization and pre-meditation of the murder of a criminal, are we not committing the same crime as that individual?

Also, isn’t death the great equalizer? Everyone dies, so all we are doing is giving these individuals an easy, peaceful exit from the world, which is a lot better than most people who have to deal with cancer or other infirmities get to have.

Wouldn’t it be more torture for these criminals of heinous crimes to be kept alive, with little freedoms, thinking on what they had done?

Outside of the moral issue, there are many economic and social problems that transpire from death penalty legislation. Once an individual is sentenced to death, there is an enormous appeals process that follows before a solid date of execution. This process clogs up the judicial courts with endless appeals and state paid attorneys for these defendants, sapping taxpayers’ money.

On the other hand, sending these criminals to spend the rest of their lives in captivity would save on money and provide a real punishment for the crimes they have committed.

That seems just to me.



Image courtesy of www.therealkenjoness.wordpress.com

My Favorite Holiday: Halloween

By Nathan Cheatham
Live Wire Editor

At age 5, I remember sitting in my highchair (a make-shift step stool I had become fond of), in my grandmother’s house in the Detroit area, while my father and grandfather pasted bits of hair all over my face and hands. I was having a ball: I got to stay up later than normal, was promised tons of candy, and would be walking to all the decorated neighborhood houses.

I’m describing, of course, my earliest memory of Halloween, and to hear my mother tell it, I was the cutest werewolf around.

Halloween has always had a special place in my heart, from being a kid and getting to dress up as my favorite Power Ranger, to being an awkward teenager just looking for an excuse to be someone else for a night. As an adult now, it carries even more weight in my life since, as a Pagan-Buddhist I observe the holiday of Samhain (pronounced Sow- When), while also dressing up and going to a party. Though I do observe the holiday, my celebrations stray little from how non-practicing Christians observe Easter: I decorate my house, light a few candles, and think about loved ones who have passed as I go about my day.

Samhain, itself, is the holiday behind secular American Halloween. This was the day the Celtic and Gaelic pagans in Great Britain would celebrate their bountiful harvest, and was thought of as a night where “the veil between the living and the dead was at its thinnest.” This was because they saw this night as the end of the “lighter half” of the year and the beginning of the “darker half,” and so it was possible for spirits to pass into our world. These spirits could be either good or bad, and what followed became two sets of rituals.

During the bountiful harvest feast, those who had recently died would have seats set aside for them, allowing their loved ones to pay respect and remember them. The other ritual that came out of this is one that is the root of modern costume play and “Trick or Treating.” Originally, men would dress up in tattered clothes and soot their face so as to appease the ghosts that the living respected the dead. This was thought to keep the evil spirits from spoiling their crops and ruining the harvest. Over time, this ritual fell to the children, who would then go around to houses in the village and be rewarded with little cakes or money for ridding the house of evil spirits.

Once the Romans invaded and took hold in Great Britain, they brought with them Christianity. The leaders of this early religion created a holiday around the local beliefs to win over new converts. This Christian holiday, originally named All Hallows Day fell on November 1st and was a celebration of all the saints that had died, known or unknown. This allowed the church to provide a smooth transition to new converts who wanted to keep their old rituals.

Samhain now falls on the eve of All Hallows Day, beginning the transition to the night of the year Americans celebrate as Halloween (or All Hallows Eve). Around the start of the 20th century, corporations like Hallmark and Hershey’s began using it to get to consumers to buy decorations and candy.

Even though the holiday has become a secular, corporate, monstrosity of what it originally was, if you really dig deep you’ll find the childhood memories and fond experiences that we all share.

Now that’s not so bad, is it?

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IN LOWE 154 J

Innocence is Both Comedy, and a Lesson in Waiting

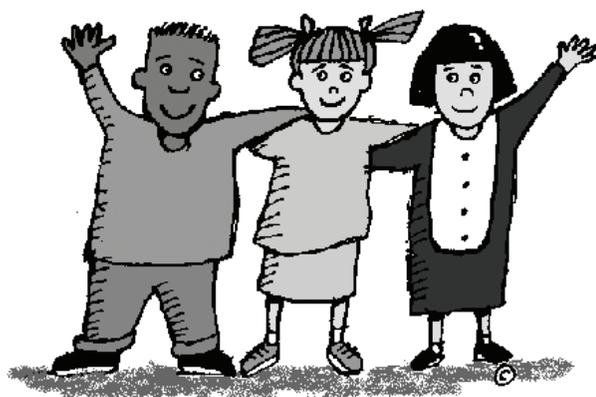


Image courtesy of www.school.discoveryeducation.com

By Joshua P. Shaw

Live Wire Staff Writer

Children are the cutest beings on earth. Some may say that it's because of their

looks, or the way they sound. Those are all superficial features, though. I am talking about their innocence, the inability to lie, and the fact that they have absolutely no filter.

This combination is the perfect recipe for true comedy. I mean, how many times have you seen a young child smile at you innocently before asking why your pants are falling down? I for one have seen many parents dive toward their children with arms outstretched in a sad attempt to stop the inevitable.

I am just unsure as to why the parents are upset. "Honesty is the best policy," so far as the children know. Now there are exceptions? That can't be good. Soon those very children will learn what a "white lie" is.

Still, the most amusing story I have ever heard was when a young boy asked a woman if she was pregnant. She wasn't of course, much to the dismay of everyone involved, except the child.

Comedian Bill Cosby definitely got it right when he hosted the TV show "Kids Say the Darndest Things." The lengths parents go to for control leaves me puzzled that there haven't been any companies that sell muzzles for human children. There definitely is a market for it, seeing as how widespread the use of leashes for children is.

Regardless of parents' desire for a mute-controllable child, children can teach us all a lesson. They deserve to be heard. Parents only want to silence the child when they say something as mentioned above because they are afraid others will be offended. The child doesn't even recognize rudeness as an option. He or she is just curious about different cultures and seeks knowledge without judgment. This is how everyone in the world should feel. No one should feel like whatever they say will offend someone, just as the recipients of an inquiry shouldn't even take into consideration the possibility that the question is ill-mannered. This would spread cultural understanding throughout the world.

The best example of this type of issue came to me when a 4-year-old girl asked me what it was that a certain lady was wearing. At first I did what other people normally do: covered her mouth and whistled like nothing ever happened. Of course that didn't work. Children will ask the same question over and over until they are satisfied with an answer.

Once the woman had left the range of our voices the ensuing conversation went like this:

"It's called a burka," I told her.

"What's a burka," she retorted. I so should have seen that coming.

"It is a type of clothing worn by people from the Middle East," I answered.

"It looks weird," she said, my heart dropping.

"That's not very nice," I explained to her. "If you don't have anything nice to say, don't say anything at all." Of course we have all heard that saying when we were young. I groaned when I realized I was becoming like my parents, at only 17 years old!

"I wasn't being mean," she explained. "I meant weird as in different."

"Well, most people think that weird means something bad."

"I think she looked pretty," she said with a smile.

I was at a loss for words. It just goes to show you. From afar, children look to be silly and innocent. In reality though, they are far smarter than any other age group. For once just listen to them and remember that they aren't judgmental. You will get a good laugh and a whole new outlook on life in return.

Mitt Romney's Positions Here, There and Everywhere

By Alta McKinney

Live Wire Staff Writer

Whenever the country faces an election, the people are presented with so much

propaganda, full of name calling, finger pointing, and nonsense conspiracy theories, that it sometimes becomes difficult to see what the candidates actually stand for. The 2012 Election has been no exception to this rule.

It is easy for a voter to get caught up in the gossip and rumors, but sometimes the best way to figure out what a politician stands for and what they will do is to look at what they have done in the past.

Republican Presidential Candidate Mitt Romney was governor of Massachusetts from 2003 to 2007, and, depending on whom you ask, his leadership was either a devastating failure or a lukewarm victory. His fiscal policies are generally accepted as a complete disaster, but socially his policies were astonishingly liberal.

Romney raised revenue by drastic budget cuts, particularly in the areas of education and state aid to towns and cities. He also increased various taxes and fees for things like marriage and fishing licenses. Economists are also generally quick to point out that under Romney's governorship; Massachusetts's rate of job growth fell to 1.5 percent, which is abysmal when compared to the national average of 5.3 percent, giving Massachusetts the third lowest job growth rate in the entire country.

Most of his fiscal policies can be directly linked to his belief in the alleged "trickle-down effect," which basically states that if the upper class is given tax breaks and legal loopholes in which they can keep their money, their prosperity will eventually "trickle down" to the middle and lower classes. This idea is, of course, flawed and laughably unrealistic, but his fervent belief in the system will probably be reflected against the entire country if he should be elected president.

Socially, however, Romney was much more successful and progressive. Despite his claims in the presidential campaign that he does not support gay marriage, Massachusetts was the first state to legalize gay marriage in 2004. While Romney may not have personally liked the idea of it, he firmly believed it was up to the state to decide whether or not to legalize gay marriage. It is incredibly confusing that a man who pushed for equal marriage rights, before any other state, now could support the idea of a constitutional ban on marriage between two men or two women.

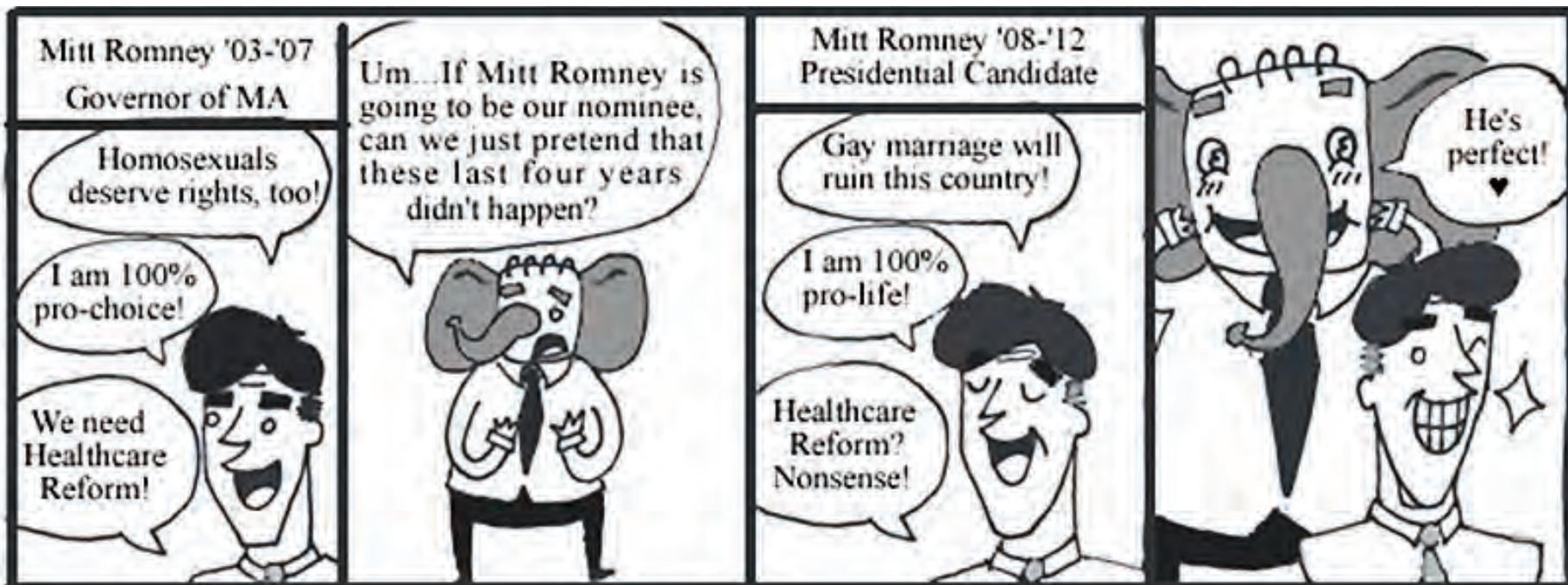
Another thing that has many voters confused is Romney's past position on women's rights. While governor of Massachusetts, Romney was a pro-choice advocate. Somewhere between his term as governor and his

presidential candidacy, he decided to support the more conservative, exclusively pro-life view.

Similarly, his opinion on health care reform has inverted itself. Obamacare, a frequent target of ridicule from Republicans, including Romney, is based off of his own widely successful health care plan, which left 99 percent of Massachusetts residents with health insurance. Now, he brushes his past accomplishment aside and says that his plan for Massachusetts wouldn't work with the rest of the nation.

This switch from liberal to severe right has become an active trend with Romney. It seems he ignores his past accomplishments and purposely changed his mind to better fit the ideas of the Republican Party. Or maybe he really has had some radical change of heart. Either way, it obviously isn't a problem because no one has acknowledged it.

Keep it up, America! If we don't do something on Election Day - that's Nov. 6 - we'll be electing a man who doesn't understand why airplane windows can't be rolled down.



Cartoon by Alta McKinney

Alta McKinney '12

/ Paul Ryan (R): to Reform?

Pres. Barack Obama / Vice Pres. Joe Biden (D): Keeping Hope Alive?

Education:

ry:

Education has to be held at the local and state level, not the federal level. We need to get the federal government out of education. And secondly, all the talk about we need smaller classroom size, look that's promoted by the teachers unions to hire more teachers. We looked at what works for good education in our state. What we found is that the best thing for education is great teachers, hire the very best and brightest to be teachers, pay them properly, make sure that you have school choice, test your kids to see if they are meeting the standards that need to be met, and make sure that you put the parents in charge."

2012.candidate-comparison.org/?compare=Romney-vs=Obama&on=Education-issue



Image courtesy of Exiledonline.com

and excessive government intervention on his part to allocate and effectively

08/13/2012
ml

Healthcare reform, of course. There are a number of things that need to be put in place. One is to make sure that those who are in the marketplace allows their family, their family up to whatever age they want to buy insurance, health insurance, on their own basis through their company."

2012.candidate-comparison.org/?compare=Romney-vs=Obama&on=Healthcare

Healthcare is universal, affordable health care for all Americans. The federal government bureaucrats. Equally important, we need to use government spending, but uses the money we have. paulryan.house.gov/healthcare/

Healthcare is America's engine of job growth. That means reducing the burden of regulations means that we must rein in the skyrocketing cost of healthcare. <http://www.gop.com/news/press-releases/2012/10/10/ryan-remarks-excerpts-from-address-at-union-convention>

Healthcare. "You cannot grow this economy if you do not have small businesses. When we tax our job away from foreign competitors, they win, we lose."

<http://www.nashuatelegraph.com/news/977326-469/rep-ryan-vp-nominee-paul-ryan-fires-up.html>

answered!

election, which do you support most?

Jobs

Health Care

on

photo by Alta McKinney

On Jobs:

Obama

"After a decade that was defined by what we bought and borrowed, we're getting back to basics and doing what America always done best... we're making things again."

We can help big factories and small businesses double their exports and, if we choose this path, we can create a million manufacturing jobs in the next four years.

The Associated Press



Image courtesy of Cache.Boston.Com

Biden

"We know that The Recovery Act is working because we can see the results all around us. Thousands of road projects are not only creating jobs -- they are making for faster, safer transportation. Superfund sites are being cleaned up and commuter rail tracks are being repaired. Work is underway on water, weatherization and construction projects -- creating jobs now, and making critical improvements in our nation's infrastructure for the future."

www.votesmart.org

On Education:

Obama:

"Millions of students are paying less for college today, because we finally took on a system that wasted billions of taxpayer dollars on banks and lenders and now you have a choice; we can gut education or we can decide in the United States of America, no child should have her dreams deferred because of a crowded classroom or a crumbling school. No family should have to set aside a college acceptance letter because they don't have the money."

Federal News Service

Biden:

"You don't need a doctorate to know there's four things everybody out there knows we have to do. Every parent knows it intuitively. Got to start kids to school earlier, got to put them in smaller classes. In order to do that you need 100,000 more teachers, but you've got to pay teachers. The pay's not competitive. And, lastly, you've got to provide access to college, and that costs money. And we can easily pay for it. It's about our priorities."

2007 Moines Register Democratic Debate, Dec 13, 2007



Photo by Carolyn Kaster, AP Photo.

On Healthcare:

Obama:

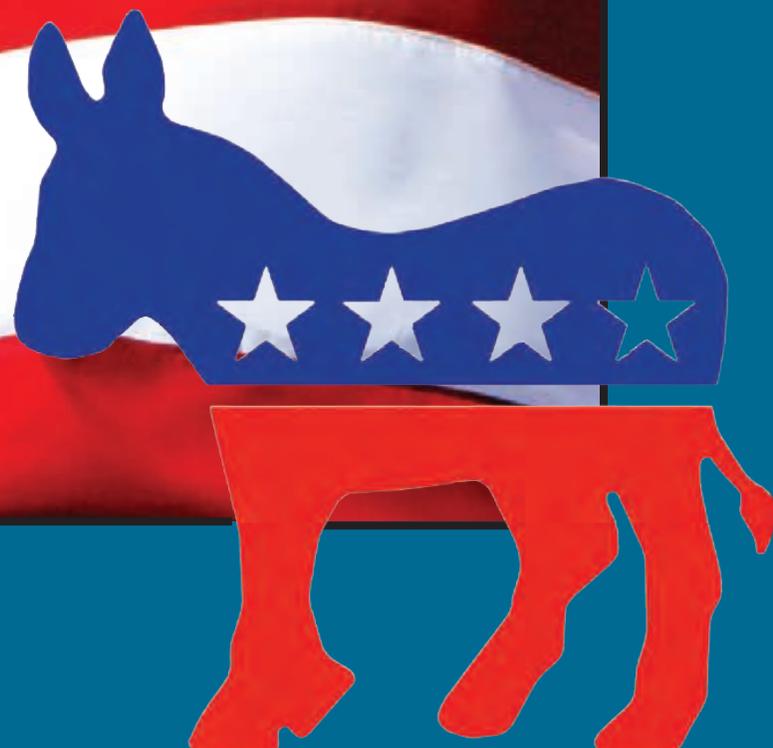
"I will never turn Medicare into a voucher. No American should ever have to spend their golden years at the mercy of insurance companies. They should retire with the care and the dignity that they have earned. Yes, we will reform and strengthen Medicare for the long haul, but we'll do it by reducing the cost of healthcare, not by asking seniors to pay thousands of dollars more. And we will keep the promise of Social Security by taking the responsible steps to strengthen it, not by turning it over to Wall Street."

Federal News Service

Biden:

"[T]his debate about the philosophic differences echo the debate that probably took place in the mid-'30s on Social Security -- it was mandated. And it was mandated because everybody knew you couldn't get insurance unless everybody was in the pool. And they knew if only some people were in the pool, what would happen is a lot of people when they got old we would take care of them anyway and you'd have to pay for them. So it's kind of a -- it's not the same thing, I'm not making the exact, but it's the same philosophic debate that took place back in the '30s."

www.votesmart.org



NOVEMBER 6TH!

New Fall TV Shows as Inevitable as Leaves



Image courtesy of Filmaffinity.com

By Brandon Fern
Live Wire Staff Writer

Every year when September rolls around it usually means a few things: kids return to school, stores put up Halloween merchandise for about a week and then bombard shoppers with a TON of Christmas stuff, and the fall TV line up starts to roll out. This year, viewers have been reunited with some returning favorites like "Family Guy," "The Simpsons" and "The Big Bang Theory." But there are also some new faces on new programs, including "The New Normal," "Go On" and "Elementary."

"The New Normal," on NBC, stars Justin Bartha and Andrew Rannells as David Murray and Bryan Collins, a Los Angeles gay couple who wish to start a family and have a baby. After their first surrogate fails to conceive and proves to be manipulative, the couple is directed to Goldie Clemmons (Georgia King) who wishes to carry the couple's child in exchange for money she plans to use to follow her dream of becoming a lawyer and making a bet-



Image courtesy of TVlistings.zap2it.com

ter life for her daughter (Bebe Wood). "The New Normal" also stars Ellen Barkin as Goldie's conservative and bigoted grandmother, as well as NeNe Leakes as Bryan's personal assistant. The show carries itself well as a sitcom, balancing the humorous moments with the lovey-dovey ones. For example, following the discovery that both men wish to be the biological father of the child, the next scene has them work it out with Bryan wishing the child to be related to David because David is an only child.

Of course, with this being a sitcom about a gay couple wishing to bring new life into the world, there has to be the homophobic adversary and this is where Barkin's character comes in. Jane Clemmons is the person who not only hates gay men and women, but also carries the racism and close-mindedness of years past. She does not want Goldie to be a surrogate to a gay couple, but when Goldie conceives however, Jane decides to stay in L.A. so as to remain an influence over her granddaughter and great-granddaughter. The show also deals with many political issues, such as the right of gay people to marry and the 2012 presidential election. But the show doesn't forget to add humor so the viewer can escape reality, if only for 30 minutes.

Another sitcom, "Go On," also on NBC, features former "Friends" star Matthew Perry as Ryan King, a sportscaster for a radio station. He recently lost his wife in a car accident and his boss orders him to receive counseling to avoid any emotional outbursts, either on air or in public. Ryan agrees to attend group sessions, but only to get them over with so that he can return to his life's passion.

While in the group, Ryan meets some interesting characters, such as Anne, a lesbian lawyer grieving over her lover's death and coping with anger issues; Sonia, who is grieving over her cat; and Owen who opens up to Ryan about his brothers coma only after he and Ryan talk about funny Google earth pictures Owen used to share with his brother.

The show combines happy and sad moments. While Ryan starts out loathing every minute of the sessions, suggesting everyone simply move on, he eventually begins to open up and inch toward finding closure about his own loss.

There are also new dramas this fall. "Elementary," on CBS, sets classic character Sherlock Holmes in modern-day Manhattan. Johnny Lee Miller stars as Holmes and Lucy Liu plays his sidekick, Watson. Holmes is a police consultant and Watson is his post-rehab transition partner. There's the familiar deductions and cynicism, added with the struggles of a recovering junkie.

All in all, the shows of the fall lineup have interesting traits within themselves: "The New Normal" gives viewers a glimpse into the life of an expecting gay couple, "Go On" offers a comedic view of group therapy, and "Elementary" brings the story of Holmes into modern America while also giving us an option to watch a crime drama other than "NCIS" or "Criminal Minds."



Image courtesy of Movieweek.com

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Trinity IDP
Engineering Major

Sandbox Bullies

By

Joshua P. Shaw

Ever seen a Donkey and an Elephant play nice?
I haven't. Just too much vice.
Seems they can use a shovel real well,
Dug their own holes even after they fell.

The Donkey's soldiers could use a few weapons.
Too bad, the Donkey said,
They'd hurt themselves on buttons.

The Elephant's soldiers don't fare much better.
Slinging mud earns you the Scarlet Letter.

The Donkey's soldiers are left with a blind spot.
The Elephant's soldiers are just left to rot.

Their wondrous castle is left incomplete.
Seems they'd rather drown in conceit

poetry corner

Poetry isn't dead!

It's not layin' about,

Dirty from the

feet treading upon it.

Poetry isn't dead.

It's alive in the music you hear,

The Jingles that surround your head,

And those that steal your

silenced voice.

Poetry isn't dead.

The very words you speak,

Pull from the fountain of worth.

That is what poetry is, divine.

The life's blood that flows,

From mankind's tongue,

To that parchment in your hands,

All call upon the heavenly prose of God.

Poetry rules both light, and darkness.

Sunrise and Sunset,

Each event in your life.

And even you as well.

So don't think that poetry is dead.

It is alive in you, and all around.

'Takes an open heart, and wide eyes,

But this gift is yours for the taking.

Poetry is Alive

By

Joshua P. Shaw

Eminent Journalist Dan Rather Talks Politics, but not Predictions during ECSU Appearance

By Patience Collier
Live Wire Staff Writer

"CBS News" anchor and "60 Minutes" correspondent Dan Rather talked current events and politics during an appearance at Eastern Connecticut State University Oct. 9.

The event took place at the Francis E. Geissler Gymnasium as part of ECSU's Arts and Lecture Series. While Rather talked about past presidential elections, he refused to make any predictions on the current race between Pres. Barack Obama and Republican Candidate Mitt Romney.



MCC Student Joe Young (right) poses with Dan Rather (left) at his recent appearance at Eastern Connecticut State University. Photo by: Patience Collier.

"I have learned over the years that on my best days, I'm a pretty decent reporter on what has happened... but I have learned that people who live by a crystal ball eat a lot of broken glass, and I've eaten more than my share," he said, to laughs from the packed audience. But he did implore the audience to think carefully about its upcoming decision.

Rather opened with an anecdote about his beginnings as a journalist, and spoke for some time on the small-town culture in East Texas, where he grew up. Moving on to the presidential campaign, Rather said voter turnout would be the most important factor in deciding the election.

"Your decision to vote or to stay home not only could, but definitely would turn the tide," he said. "Especially in the swing states."

Rather also emphasized that issues of the U.S. and the world will be decided by whoever wins on Nov. 6, like the serious possibility of nuclear war, adding that voters should consider which candidate would best handle that situation. It was a sobering moment for many in the audience.

After he was finished with the prepared notes, Rather took a 'lightning round' of questions from members of the audience. One man, a veteran of the National Guard, thanked Rather for his coverage of the 2000 elections, and not compromising the facts of former Pres. George Bush's less than stellar military record.

Following the speech, Rather signed copies of his books – he has written eight and the latest, "Rather Outspoken," is available in stores now – spoke briefly with attendees. When asked about his favorite presidential election of all the ones he'd covered, he told said that the race of 1968 – between Republican Richard Nixon and Democrat Hubert Humphrey; Nixon won - was one of the more exciting ones, and was often overlooked.

For more information about ECSU's Arts and Lecture Series and upcoming presentations visit <http://www.easternct.edu/artsandlecture/index.htm>.

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Quest: Student Seeks Support for Upcoming Mission to South Africa



From left to right: Katelyn Saylor from Cambridge, Massachusetts (Faculty member and Quest mentor) -Emily Faita from Waterbury, CT (Questie) -Luke Powers from East Hartford, CT (Questie) -Rebecca Varghese from Tewksbury, MA (Questie) -Nick Duenas from Boston, MA (Questie) -Julie Suza from Malden, MA (Questie) -Gary Lok from Boston, MA (Questie) -Tori Coulter from North Kingstown, RI (Questie) -Ken Hall from Worcester, MA (Faculty member and Quest mentor) -Stephanie Larosee from Plainfield, CT (Faculty member and Quest mentor)

By Luke M. Powers
GPA Student

Today, I would like to announce the upcoming arrival of a service trip that I will be attending in February to the country of South Africa. I have been selected to participate in Quest, a leadership development experience for high school juniors. I am currently enrolled as a junior at Great Path Academy.

Quest is sponsored by the Baptist Convention of New England (BCNE) and consists of an application process and three "phases" over a seven-month period. Our team, Q14 – this is the 14th year this program has taken place - consists of 20 students, representing 14 church congregations, and 10 faculty members from across New England.

In January of 2011, at the age of 14, I attended a weekend-long youth retreat organized by the BCNE called Youth Encoun-

tering Christ (YEC). There I was introduced to the student leadership development program known as Quest, in which youth from different parts of New England form three teams to travel to three different locations across the globe, respectively.

Over the next five months, I gathered recommendations from individuals with whom I had formed close relationships such

as my pastors, parents, friends, and mentors. In June of 2011, I followed up on the program by attending a week long camp known as *Crosswalk* at Gordon College in Massachusetts, where I met many of the other members from what would soon become my Quest team, thus initiating Phase One.

During the week, we explored biblical doctrines, examples of leadership, spiritual gifts, and our own personal leadership style as they relate to the trip. Upon returning from Phase One, I was given a series of assignments to carry out in order to prepare for the second phase, which took place the weekend of Oct. 6. During Phase Two, the participants of Quest, known as "Questies,"

worked on team building, cultural awareness, sharing our spiritual stories, and worshipping with churches similar to those where we are travelling.

The third and final phase of Quest is an overseas trip in February of 2013. Each of the Quest teams will be travelling to a different location: one to Central Asia, the second team, of which I am a member, to Durban, South Africa, and the third team to the Dominican Republic. The locations to which Questies travel are determined by our skills, gifts, and individual leadership styles in relation to those within our teams.

Over the course of 10 days, my team will be learning from local believers and missionaries in South Africa. We will visit schools and churches to serve children in whatever ways we can. Other opportunities may include working with those affected by AIDS, and learning the culture and faith journey of the country's people.

As I enter this next step in my life, I ask for your prayers that I may contribute to the mission of Quest in whatever ways I can. In addition I would ask you to consider supporting this opportunity financially. My financial responsibilities for the Quest experience involve raising \$2,200 for the trip itself. Of this \$2,200, I was required to raise \$500 by personally earning it, which I carried out through work and fundraisers. The additional funds for my mission will be raised through my fundraisers, family friends, my local church, and anyone else who chooses to contribute.

Through Dec. 1, I will be conducting a series of fundraisers through Great Path Academy, in order to earn the necessary funds to carry out this journey. I appreciate what role you choose to play in my life and I ask that you pray for the journey of the Questies, which will take place Feb. 13-23.

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Great Path Academy Teacher Spotlight

By Malik Dyer
GPA Student

Each issue a Great Path Academy student will interview a teacher from GPA. Here is the first installment.

Teachers Name:

DaSheena Robinson

Q. Where were you working last year?

Last year I was working at Weaver High School in Hartford.

Q. How many years have you been teaching?

3 years.

Q. What subjects do you currently teach?

English and Advisory

Q. Who was your favorite teacher growing up?

My favorite teacher was Ms. Downer. She was one of my high school teachers and also my cheerleading coach. Her class was a great learning environment and we also had fun.

Q. Where are you originally from?

Delaware.

Q. What is one fact about you people probably do not know?

I'm a twin!

Q. Anything you want to share with our readers?

I feel blessed to be part of the GPA family. I am also part of the ZUMBA event here at the college and GPA. The event is raising money towards our music band. The event will take place on Nov. 2, 2012. Tickets for adults are \$15 and students are just \$7.



GPA teacher DaSheena Robinson, left, with her twin sister, Dominique Robinson.

Bod-Mod May be Welcomed or Scorned, Depending on the Workplace

By Jelani Burrell
Live Wire Treasurer

Do you know what a labret is? It's a piercing centered under the lower lip. I didn't know that until Google images enlightened me, at which point I realized my aunt's insurance agent has one.

Whether you know the names of a particular piercing, tattoo or other modification or its placement, chances are high that you've encountered a person in a professional environment with some form of body modification. Most are inconspicuous, and easily concealed behind long-sleeved shirts or a tuft of hair. Sometimes they are more obvious, such as a "Monroe," named for its resemblance to actress Marilyn Monroe's beauty spot. Or stretched earlobes, like the one's sported by the gentleman who made my sandwich at a Subway restaurant the other day.

Body modification, or bod-mod, as some call it, is becoming an increasingly prevalent phenomenon in work environments all across America. A 2007 study by the Pew Research Center states that 36 percent of individuals ages 18-25 have at least one tattoo. More than 31 percent of the same age group has at least two piercings.

One would think that if almost 4 out of 10 members of "Generation Next" are sporting some form of ink, there might be more openness about it. But that is not always the case.

"I've been discriminated against because of my stretched earlobes," said Chris Parsons, the dairy manager at Geissler's Supermarket in Bloomfield. "I almost regret getting them just because of that."

Parsons experience represents a growing problem in the workforce: discrimination based on one's aesthetic appearance.

Geissler's store manager William E. relayed a similar story.

"I... was told by my boss that I [my tattoos] were desecrating God's body, and I was going to go to Hell for it," he said.

Such attitudes are wrong, say some Manchester Community College students who were recently asked about the topic.

"I believe it's [discrimination] is unwarranted, but it depends on the nature of your business and your clientele," said one woman. "It shouldn't matter what you look like as long as you can properly execute your duties and it doesn't impact your clients. Working at a tattoo parlor is a place where they are definitely welcome, but if you're tatted up with 3/4" gages and you work at Disney World as Belle or something, that's not going to work out."



Medical assistant Lauren Powell-Smothers loves her piercings, but her boss won't allow the septum horseshoe while she's on the job.

Photo by Jelani Burrell



Store Manager William E. displays his arm tattoos.

Photo by Jelani Burrell

Myriad corporations have policies regarding tattoos and "mods." Hartford Public Schools, for example, asks that teachers and other classroom staff do their best to hide them, but partial visibility is okay, provided that the work itself isn't profane, such as swear words.

Conversely, many companies are happy to let their employees display their work. According to FedEx spokeswoman Sally Davenport tattoos are acceptable if you aren't in a customer facing position. She also adds that you don't have to cover them if one's manager doesn't mind.

MAC Cosmetics encourages the individuality of its employees. A recent visit to a counter at the Connecticut Post mall confirmed this. A stylist had her septum and bridge pierced as well as a barbells in her wrist. She did her eye makeup in such a way that it highlighted her bridge piercing. It was quite stunning.

If tattoos were the definition of Generation X, piercings are definitely the defining characteristic of Generation Y, along with the iPod. As bod-mod becomes more prevalent, its acceptability in the workplace will have to become more prevalent as well, because just like fashion, the world of bod-mod will continue to evolve and proliferate throughout the younger generations.

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RECPass: Gateway to Great Ways to Stay Fit and Have Fun at MCC

By Zachariah Hand
Live Wire Senior Staff Writer

Manchester Community College is offering students the opportunity to participate in various types of athletics at a minimal cost thanks to the RECPass.

The RECPass, a card that grants access to these athletics, is available for \$25 per semester at MCC's Fitness Center. Students that possess a RECPass are able to participate in activities such as Zumba® Fitness classes and yoga classes, among others. The RECPass also allows unlimited access to MCC's Weight/Cardio room and free access to Fitness Center special events.

"I think every student should get [a RECPass]," said Robert Attenello, an MCC student who regularly works out in the Weight/Cardio room. "It's something that not many schools offer and students should take full advantage of it."

In addition to taking fitness classes, students also have the option to participate in intramural sports, including volleyball and the highly popular basketball, which was formerly 3-on-3 games but has been expanded to games of 5-on-5.

"It's definitely worth the price," said Natalie Acosta, an MCC student who signed up for a RECPass mainly to participate in intramural sports. "When you think about it, it's not even one cent a day. You get your worth out of it."

Since RECPasses for the fall semester became available in June, more than 400 students have signed up for one, an increase of more than 80 students over last fall, said Joanne Britton, MCC's Assistant Director of Fitness, Intramurals and Recreation.

"[When you do intramural sports and workout] you just feel good," she said. "When you feel good about yourself everything in life becomes empowering."

Students who wish to sign up for a RECPass can do so by paying the \$25 fee to the Cashier's office and bringing the receipt to the Fitness Center, located in the Lowe Building. Students must then complete the RECPass application.

Women's Basketball Team in Rebuilding Mode



Janell Smith
Photo by Paul Ofria

By Paul Ofria

MCC Sports Information First-year coach Katie DaCosta has two returning players and a cast of unknowns in what looks to be a rebuilding year for the Manchester Community College women's basketball team.

Anne Hawthorn and Janell Smith are the lone holdovers from the 2011-12 Cougar team that finished with a 15-8 record in former coach Mary Roickle's only season as head coach.

"They are the backbone in regards to their work ethic and commitment," DaCosta said of Hawthorn and Smith, who are from Stamford and Malone, NY, respectively. "They come every day and work 100 percent and that's a good thing to build a program around."

Hawthorn, who can play both guard and forward, averaged 11.1 points and 5.7 rebounds in 22 games a year ago and will be a leader both on and off the court for the team. The 5'9" Smith played sparingly last year, but has shown tremendous improvement in the preseason and will be a key player at forward for DaCosta.

Despite the lack of experience behind Hawthorn and Smith, DaCosta has been impressed by her young and inexperienced team.

"Every girl is coming here with the attitude that we are going to work hard and get better," said DaCosta, who was the head varsity girls coach at Classical Magnet High School before being named interim coach at MCC in May. "I have been fortunate enough to work with athletes who have not been taught the game in the past. I've had horses, which is great, but I have had the other end with kids that just want to play and be part of a team. It's really about molding it to the personnel that you have."

The Cougars will scrimmage against St. Joseph's University on Friday, Nov. 2, and open the regular season on Nov. 6 at home vs. Gateway Community College. The team will take to the road against national power Onondaga Community College on Nov. 10.

"I know the girls are looking forward to going to Syracuse, NY, and getting to have that overnight stay and going to play against some tough competition and only coming out stronger from it," DaCosta said.



Anne Hawthorn
Photo by Paul Ofria

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Joey Plude Rests Case on Defense: *Mark Grant and Tyler Jones lead offense as Cougars prepare to defend Region 21 title*

By Paul Ofria

MCC Sports Information

The stat sheet doesn't tell Joey Plude's story very well.

The sophomore captain hasn't registered a goal or an assist this season, but anytime the soccer ball is in the middle of field, there is a very good chance Plude will put a body part on it.

Plude made the transition from attacking midfielder to the backline during the preseason and is one the reasons the Manchester Community College Cougars are 8-2 in Region 21, Division III play, as of Oct. 18.

"There was kind of a tough learning curve," Plude said before boarding a bus to for a game at Springfield Technical Community College, where MCC won 7-0. "I was going from scoring goals to having to stop them."

The Cougars, who were 9-6 overall as of Oct. 18, are the defending Region 21, Division III champions and will head into this year's tournament as a legitimate contender to repeat. MCC will host the tournament on Nov. 3 and 4.



Sophomore captain Joey Plude (#22) has completed the transition from offense to defense as MCC prepares to defend its Region 21, Division III title.

Photo by Paul Ofria

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"Joey was put into a new position as a defender," first-year head coach Darren Foster said. "I saw leadership qualities in him and knew he would be able to adjust from offensive to defense."

MCC opened the 2012 season with three consecutive losses against tough opponents – Suffolk County Community College, Community College of Rhode Island and Massasoit Community College – while the backline struggled to find an identity. By the time the division schedule began, the Cougar defense settled in and the team reeled off win streaks of four and three games.

"It went from makeshift, trying to get everybody used to their roles, to people accepting those roles," Plude said describing the evolution of the team's defensive unit.

Goalkeeper Steve German has enjoyed a firsthand view of Plude's outstanding play in the defensive end, and has been one of the main beneficiaries of the tightened defense.

"He has the athletic ability, he's a fast player, he's quick and has knowledge of the game," German said of Plude. "We had a lot of trouble with the back line in the beginning of the season. But we figured out a different formation and it has been working well. I have a lot of faith in them now."

Plude was a scorer at Nathan Hale-Ray High School in Moodus and registered a goal and two assists for MCC as a freshman in 2011, but has settled into his new role comfortably.

"I have a little more responsibility," he said. "As a forward, I didn't have to do much. This is a little more exciting."

Pure defenders are hard to find at the college level and Plude understands why.

"Everyone comes up from high school as goal scorers," said Plude, who lives in East Haddam. "But goal scorers become defenders because they can anticipate what other people are going to do. Not everybody is going to be a goal scorer in college."

Sophomore Kwasi Boateng, who also spent the bulk of his playing career as an offensive player, has been a key contributor on defense along with freshmen Edgar Hernandez and Eric Fleher.

Foster has plenty of offensive weapons, led by sophomore Mark Grant, who has team-highs in goals (12) goals and assists (10). Grant is a dynamic player and a threat to score any time he touches the ball.

"I just feel bad for the other goalie sometimes," German said of Grant, who lives in Coventry but played soccer in Tokyo, Japan in high school. "He's is so smart when it comes to finishing. He knows it doesn't have to be pretty, he just has to find the net and he usually does."

When Grant has the ball inside the opponent's 18-yard box, Plude said his thoughts are usually, "Goal time - I'm ready to run for the corner."

Freshman Tyler Jones has 11 goals and six assists and has been a pleasant surprise for Foster.

"Tyler flew under the radar coming from Rockville High but when he showed up the first day, I could see that he was going to be a good player," Foster said. "His work ethic has been phenomenal. He is a good player for us this year and one of our key players next year."

The Cougars have scored 57 goals over their first 15 games with contributions from Richard Cousley, who has 10 goals, Anibal Sanz, with six, and Chris Grant and Tim Goodale with three each. Sophomore Brandon Elvas has a pair of goals and four assists.

MCC will need both its offensive and defensive games in order if it wants to return to the National Championship tournament, which will be held in Herkimer, NY on Nov. 8-11. The Cougars lost both regular season games to Region 21 favorite Bunker Hill Community College and could face them in the championship game again. But Foster is confident that his team is peaking at the right time and will be able to challenge for the title.

"The guys are playing more as a team now," Foster said. "We went on a little winning streak. The morale and confidence is up, they are trusting each other more to give them the ball and they are moving it around and creating opportunities."



Mark Grant (#20) leads MCC with 12 goals and 10 assists for 34 points.

Photo by Paul Ofria



WORD ON CAMPUS

The Exorcism of Emily Rose

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Friday the 13th

Paranormal Activity

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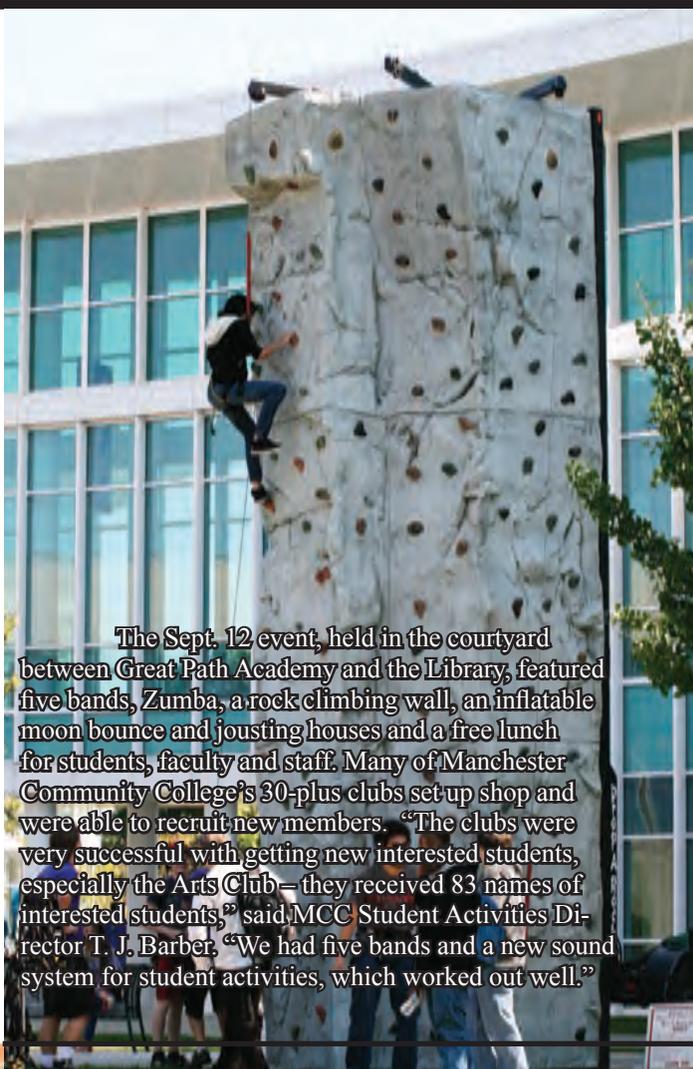
Amber Roberge

Kali Morin

Machinery

Early Childhood Education

General Studies



How do you engage students? Throwing a big party with live music, food, dancing and activities is a good starting point. This year's Fall Welcome Festival had all of the above ingredients with a picture perfect New England fall day as a backdrop. "The number one goal of SGA is to get people involved and I would say we accomplished that goal today," said Student Government Association President Jonathan Colon. (Pictured left)

The Sept. 12 event, held in the courtyard between Great Path Academy and the Library, featured five bands, Zumba, a rock climbing wall, an inflatable moon bounce and jousting houses and a free lunch for students, faculty and staff. Many of Manchester Community College's 30-plus clubs set up shop and were able to recruit new members. "The clubs were very successful with getting new interested students, especially the Arts Club—they received 83 names of interested students," said MCC Student Activities Director T. J. Barber. "We had five bands and a new sound system for student activities, which worked out well."



The Fall Welcome Festival was created to recruit incoming students and get people excited about the year. It is a bookend event with the Spring Fling, which is a celebration of the end of the school year in May. "Everyone is having a great time. Music, dancing, food, activities - you name it," Colon said as he caught his breath after a little moon bounce action. "It's a great day." *By Paul Ofria of MCC Student Activities Office. All photos by Paul Ofria*