

Live Wire



Vol. 30, Issue 4 January 28, 2013 Manchester Community College

Free

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United States would technically have been without a president for 24 hours.

The Inauguration was also held on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. This is the second time a president has been sworn in on that day; the first was former President Bill Clinton.

In his address after taking the oath a second time on Monday, Obama drew parallels between American progress through the ages, and progress needed in our time, which could be seen as a way of acknowledging and honoring King's dream. As King said on Aug. 28, 1963, "I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character."

As the MCC buses entered the Robert F. Kennedy stadium parking lot, we joined the army of coach buses from all over the nation transporting the mass of people who would eventually make their way to the National Mall. It was a long walk without taking the Metro, but the feeling was one of energy and excitement mingling our excitement with that of about one million people who also attended the event, according to published crowd estimates.

Every few paces, there was someone selling memorabilia of various types: T-shirts, buttons, pins, hats, and everything between. The crowd was excited despite the cold, and everyone had their own story, and their own reasons for being there.

There were several points at which the mass of the crowd made it difficult to continue moving, though police officers and some U.S. military personnel kept things orderly along the way. Still, the closer to the National Mall, the more crowded things got, right up until the Inauguration Ceremony began. The energy in the crowd was electric; everyone was focused on the U.S. Capitol, even those of us too far away to see much more than the vague shape of it.

When the oaths began, the crowd was silent, even as far out as the very last row of people, nearly up against the fence of the Washington Monument. That feeling of solidarity continued all the way through the Inaugural address, as Obama spoke of America's potential for greatness, and the need to work together.

There were shouts of "Amen!" and cries of support when the president went into the need for a more reasoned national discourse and an end to substituting spectacle for politics. Although there was a range of enthusiasm, with some people seeming more reserved about the speech, the crowd was wholly attentive, even as the ceremony moved from the speech into closing.

See **Inauguration** pg. 3



The crowd cheered when President Barack Obama was announced. Photo by Alta McKinney.

2013 Inauguration Exciting and Inspiring

By Patience Collier
Live Wire Staff Writer
and Nathan Cheatham
Live Wire Editor

Progress does not compel us to settle century's long debates about the role of government for all time, but it does require us to act in our time."

President Barack Obama's statement reflects a theme that was consistent during the 2013 Inaugural events. Thanks to the Manchester Community College Student Government Association two busses full of students, faculty, staff and their guests were in Washington, D.C., Monday, Jan. 21, to enjoy the experience along with thousands of others.

Technically, Obama began his second term on Sunday, Jan. 20, when he took the oath of office in a brief ceremony held in the White House. The 20th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution defines the term limits for the nation's highest offices such that had Obama not been sworn into office by noon on January 20, the

Budget Crisis Means Tough Times for MCC in 2013

By Patience Collier
Live Wire Staff Writer

Anyone who's been listening to the news, whether on the radio, in the newspapers, on television, or in the streets, knows that the nation is facing a serious financial crisis.

Everyone seems to be talking about the fiscal cliff, the deficit, the national debt, and all the potential for financial disaster, nationwide.

But how does this affect the average Manchester Community College student? That is the problem for all of us – it's all connected.

MCC, being a public community college, gets a significant amount of funding from the Connecticut state government. In turn, the Connecticut government gets its money not only from taxes, but from the federal government. In an economic recession such as this one, when the federal government has less money to spend or use, the state also has less money, and that means that MCC misses out on funding that the college needs.

Part of the problem, said MCC President Dr. Gena Glickman, is that not all of MCC's tuition goes into the college's account. The state of Connecticut has a general fund that supports all the state and community colleges, and MCC puts about 20 percent of all tuition funds back into that general fund, meaning it is not available to MCC. Money has to be saved somewhere to keep the college spending within its means.

This means, unfortunately for MCC students, a likely tuition increase for the Fall 2013 semester.

There will also be some serious cuts to programs that many people value.

Two years ago, one of the first major losses was in the athletics department. Baseball was cut last year, and now soccer, which offers men's and women's teams, will likely be cut as well, said Glickman.

For some students, this may not seem like a big deal, but it speaks to serious problems for the college, including questions of a loss in enrollment, and therefore tuition.

"Athletes have a high retention rate," said Glickman. "Students would come from across the state for these programs."

Of course, sports aren't the only thing to go. Another way to save money for the college is reducing part-time staff. This means fewer people to handle student paperwork, fewer hours for computer labs and the library, and in some cases, the cancelling of classes.

Some students have already had classes that they need to graduate cancelled. Brian McPhearson, one such student, said two of his classes were cancelled before the first day of classes.

"It's detrimental to our goals as students, and our academic careers," he said.

As MCC tries to stretch the budget further, without taking resources away from students, and the Board of Regents increases pressure on all 17 community colleges and state universities to balance their budgets, the situation is a delicate one – especially since the BOR is also dealing with pressure from above, namely Gov. Dan Malloy's and his new budget plan.

"I do see how Governor Malloy is dealing with this," said Alex Tettey Jr, an MCC student and member of the BOR. "He has to close this deficit."

Malloy has been after all of his departments, including the BOR, to tighten the belts, said Tettey.

See **Budget** pg. 3

Fine Arts Faculty Displays its Work

On Thursday, Feb. 7, at 6 p.m. an exhibition of work by the Fine Arts Faculty of Manchester Community College will open in the Hans Weiss Newspace Gallery in the lobby of the AST building. This exhibition will include painting, drawing, photography, sculpture, ceramics, printmaking and video. It is free and open to the public. For more information contact Susan Classen-Sullivan at 860-512-2693 or via email to sclassen-sullivan@mcc.commnet.edu.

MCC Spring 2013 International Film Series

Several Films will be shown as part of the Spring International Film Series. All films are shown at 7 p.m. in the SBM Charitable Foundation Auditorium. Admission is free. Contact either Evelyn Angry-Smith, 860-512-2874, or Bob Kagan, 860-512-2687, with questions. There will be a brief discussion after each film along with potluck dessert. *MCC Library owns circulating copies of all film series' titles. Go to <http://mcc.commnet.libguides.com/mccifs> to view the trailer for each film.

The lineup includes:

Feb. 15 – *The Intouchables* (France) - A rich quadriplegic, living in a mansion in Paris, requires a live-in care-giver. A young offender turns up for an interview, but he is not really looking to get the job. However, to his surprise, he is hired. The two men then develop a close friendship. Based on a true story. Stars François Cluzet and Omar Sy. Omar Sy won the 2012 César Award for Best Actor. 112 mins. Biographical dramady. French. Rated R.

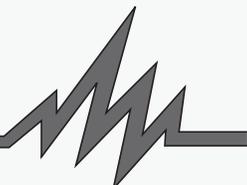
March 15 – *Applause* (Denmark) - Recovering alcoholic stage actress, Thea Barfoed has gone through turmoil. Having divorced her husband, Christian, and relinquished custody of their two boys during her heavy drinking days, Thea wants to start over. On stage, Thea plays the binge drinking, ostentatious Martha in *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* Ironically, her stage character bears an uncanny resemblance to her personal life. Paprika Steen stars. 85 mins. Drama. Danish. Rated R.

April 12 – *The Other Son* (France) - As he prepares to join the Israeli army for his national service, Joseph discovers he is not his parents' biological son, but that he was inadvertently switched at birth with Yassin, the son of a Palestinian family from the West Bank. This revelation turns the lives of these two families upside-down, forcing them to reassess their respective identities, their values, and their beliefs. Stars Jules Sitruk and Medhi Dehbi. 105 mins. Drama. French. Rated PG-13.

May 10 – *Argo* (United States) - When militants seize control of the U.S. embassy in Tehran during the height of the Iranian Revolution, CIA agent Tony Mendez creates a fake Hollywood film production in order to rescue a group of American diplomats who have sought refuge at the home of a Canadian ambassador. Inspired by actual events. Ben Affleck stars and directs. 120 mins. Drama. English/Persian. Rated R.

February Mishi-maya-gat to Feature Poets and Pianists

On Feb. 21, at 7 p.m., the February edition of the Mishi-maya-gat Spoken Word & Music Series will be held in the gallery at MCC on Main, 903 Main St., Manchester. Poets Mark Lamoureux and Christina Strong will begin the evening. Lamoureux is the author of several books, including *Berlin Poems*, featuring ekphrastic poems based on work in art museums in Munich and Berlin. He is editor and publisher of *Cy Gist Press* (<http://cygistpress.blogspot.com>). Strong is the author of *Fifth Plateau*. Here website is <http://christinastrong.com>. At 8 p.m., pianist and composer of new classical works Ryan Jespersen will perform with special guests. His website is www.ryanjespersen.com. The event, sponsored by the MCC Foundation, is free and open to the public. For more information contact Stephen Campiglio at 860- 512-2824 or via email at scampiglio@mcc.commnet.edu.

The Live Wire

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MCC Celebrates African American History Month

On Tuesday, Feb., 5, from 12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. in the Great Path Academy Commons the Opening Ceremony of MCC's Celebration of African-American History Month will be held. This year's theme is *At the Crossroads of Freedom and Equality: The Emancipation Proclamation and the March on Washington*. Community, faculty/staff and students will be recognized and awarded for their leadership efforts. In addition, the keynote address will be given by our own Dr. Deborah Simmons and Professor Lucy Hurston on the topic of, "Where We Have Been, and Where We are Going as a People and a Nation." Following the main program, traditional soul food cuisine will be served.

Other events are planned, each is free and open to the public:

Walk through History

Feb. 6 - 28, Lowe, AST Rotunda and LRC

Take a look back in time at iconic figures who changed history in politics, science and technology, music and entertainment and the arts. Stop by the Office of Minority Students and Mentoring Programs, Lowe 154i, to pick up a scavenger hunt form and complete it for a chance to win a \$100 gift card to the MCC Bookstore! When the form has been completed, return them to the same office. The answers can be found in the biographies of iconic black figures located on A-frames around campus. Completed forms must be returned by Thursday, Feb. 28, at 2 p.m. in order to be placed into a raffle. The winner will be notified on Tuesday, March 5. Good luck!

A History of Hip-Hop

Tuesday, Feb. 14, 2 – 3 p.m., GPA Commons

Come learn of the influence and robust history that hip-hop has in the nation as Zee Santiago, a rising hip-hop artist and an ambassador of hip-hop, discusses the art, music, and history of hip-hop culture. Santiago achieved a master's degree in American Studies, and shows continued success in the music industry, opening for stars such as Drake, Big Sean, Common, Lupe Fiasco, and Fabolous. He continues to inspire those around him as a grassroots organizer and an established hip-hop academic. He is the founder of the first college chapter of KRS-One's Temple of Hip-Hop and co-organized the Annual Trinity International Hip-Hop Festival.

Neal Shoemaker: African American History Performance

Tuesday, Feb. 19, 12:30 p.m. - 2 p.m., SBM Charitable Foundation Auditorium

Straight from Harlem, come listen to the sounds of Neal Shoemaker and his band, featuring a piano player, drummer, saxophonist, and vocalist. Also enjoy a look-alike of author Zora Neale Hurston and many others as they impersonate, role play, and perform songs from the Harlem Renaissance period. Food and refreshments will also be provided.

African American History Month Films: Lincoln

Wednesday, Feb. 20, 12:30 p.m. - 3 p.m., GPA Commons

Join us as we watch and discuss the film *Lincoln*. As the Civil War continues to rage, President Abraham Lincoln struggles with continuing carnage on the battlefield and fights with many inside his own cabinet on the decision to emancipate the U.S. slaves. After the movie there will be a brief discussion.

African American History Month Films: The Great Debaters

Tuesday, Feb. 26, 12:30 p.m. - 3 p.m., GPA Commons

Join us as we watch and discuss the film *The Great Debaters*. The exciting drama, starring Denzel Washington, is based on the true story of Melvin B. Tolson, a professor at Wiley College in Texas. In 1935, he inspired students to form the school's first debate team, which went on to challenge a team from Harvard University in the national championship. After the movie there will be a brief discussion.

Closing Celebration of African American Culture

Thursday, Feb. 28, 6:30 p.m. -8:30 p.m., GPA Commons

Together let's celebrate the end of an amazing month by enjoying some African American culture. Come see African dancers, gospel choirs, a jazz artist, a spoken word artist, and more. Let's end this month with a BANG!

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
1/8 page ad per school year.**

**email: livewire@mcc.commnet.edu
or sdavis@mcc.commnet.edu**

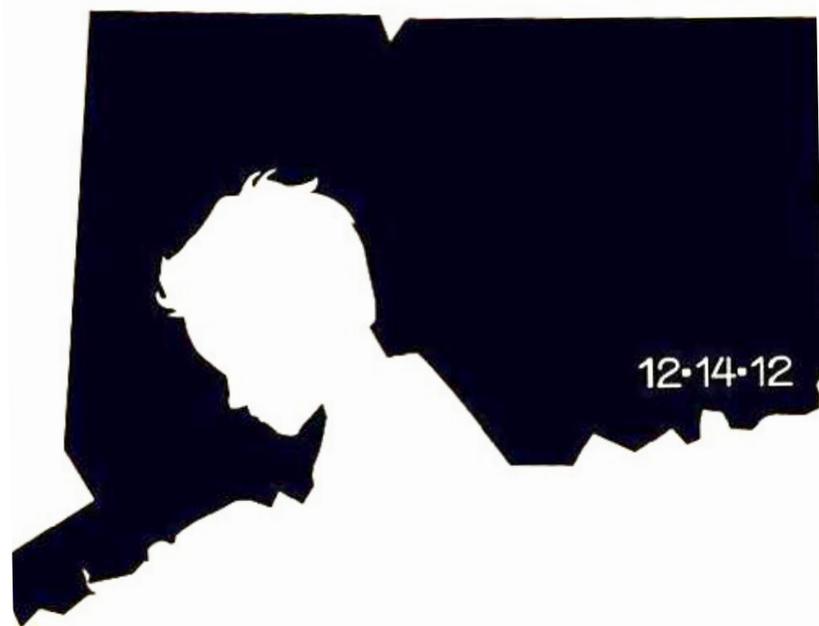
Continued from **Inauguration** pg. 1

As the crowd dispersed, following Obama's address, many moved on to enjoy the rest of the city.

From the Lincoln Memorial to the Smithsonian Museum campus, the excitement of the day spread through the city. At the Thomas Jefferson Memorial some people relaxed on the high staircase leading up the hill to where the statue stood. A 19 foot bronze statue of the third president and founding father is surrounded by quotes from Jefferson's writings, including the Declaration of Independence. The proportions of the monument, especially looking up towards the ceiling, were dizzying, and some visitors experience vertigo. The lower level of the monument houses placards informing visitors of great moments in Jefferson's life and a video of the biography of Jefferson, made by documentary filmmaker Ken Burns, plays in the background.

There was an air of exhilaration throughout the city, and even in the quieter areas surrounding the monuments and memorials, such as the walk dedicated to President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, people stood together talking excitedly; across the Potomac River, people could still be seen wandering throughout the National Mall. The feeling of celebration was strongest around the memorial to King. The newest addition to the National Mall was crowded for the national holiday as well as the Inauguration.

Some may not have liked the content of the Inaugural Address and may have reservations about Obama's second term. But on Monday in D.C., there was a definite air of accomplishment in the crowds that left the city; people were friendly to each other as the day ended, adding to the feeling that we are capable of unity, solidarity, and coming together for a greater purpose.



Graphic courtesy of <http://facebook.com/sundhookRP>

The thoughts of the Live Wire staff are with the Newtown community at this time.

Like us on Facebook, and follow us on Twitter!

Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/LiveWireMCC>

Twitter:

<http://twitter.com/livewiremcc>

Continued from **Budget** pg. 1

"I'd love the deficit to be closed, but not on the backs of the students," he said.

The BOR realizes that some student services will be cut, Tettey said, since only so much tuition money can be brought into the budget, even with a raise in tuition.

Relief from the state government may be in the works. But state representatives Henry Genga and Jason Rojas, of districts nine and 10 respectively, have both said that the struggle in front of them now is prioritizing the state's issues.

Every group that gets state funding can come up with a solid case defending themselves against budget cuts, Rojas explained recently, and when politicians only hear from individuals on occasion, it is difficult to know where the majority of constituent support is.

The school shooting in Newton has pushed many other issues out of the public eye, for now.

"The biggest priority is public safety," said Genga. "The state must provide secure schooling."

But if students, faculty, staff and other interested parties want to keep the budget crisis at MCC in the minds of state legislators, it is important that they make their voices heard. Contact information for all state legislators is publically available, and most meetings of the Board of Regents are open to the public as well. For more information about the BOR, visit www.ct.edu.

Improve your Interviewing Skills

Introducing
MCC's new FREE
online resource,
InterviewStream!



What is it?

InterviewStream is the leading online practice interview system that allows job seekers the opportunity to record and review their own interview sessions.

How do I use it?

Using a webcam, job seekers can simulate job interviews by responding to pre-recorded interview questions while practicing both verbal and non-verbal communication skills.

And???

Afterwards, all of the recorded interviews are available to share with career services staff, mentors, and/or professors for evaluative feedback.

For more information, please visit
Career Services in the Lowe Student Services Center, L-120,
or go to <http://mcc.interviewstream.com>
to access this helpful and interactive web-based tool.

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TRANSFER INFO SESSIONS

Thursday, March 7, 2013
Thursday, March 14, 2013
Thursday, March 21, 2013

MCC Professor Publishes Second Book of Poetry

By Sharlene Rob
Special to the Live Wire

Manchester Community College long-time English Professor Steve Straight has published a collection of poems. *The Almanac* is the Manchester native's second book and debuted in October.

Straight's first book was *The Water Carrier*. He has given readings as well as workshops on poetry and teaching throughout the eastern United States. In 1998, he was named a Distinguished Advocate for the Arts by the Connecticut Commission on the Arts.

Now a resident of South Windsor, Straight said he began writing as a child; he and a friend wrote a newsletter about their softball team, adding comical stories to go along with the articles. At Manchester High School, Straight said, he wrote an underground magazine. Considering himself to be a serious writer, Straight went on to study English at the University of Connecticut, also working as an editor and weekly columnist for the newspaper while there. Eventually, he wrote a novel for his master thesis.

Straight said he dedicated himself to poetry when he began teaching at MCC. The title for his new book, *The Almanac*, comes from one of his poems.

"The poems stand for the themes of the book," Straight said. "The original title was going to be 'The Flag of Cucumber,' another poem in the book, but my wife thought it was a little crazy and talked me out of it."

On the cover of the book there is a picture of Straight at the age of two. The cover was designed by Straight's daughter, who is a professional designer in New York City. The poems in the book are based on events that have happened to Straight directly; some are ideas and

some are hypothetical occurrences. For example, the title poem is a mixture of Straight's life experiences, he said.

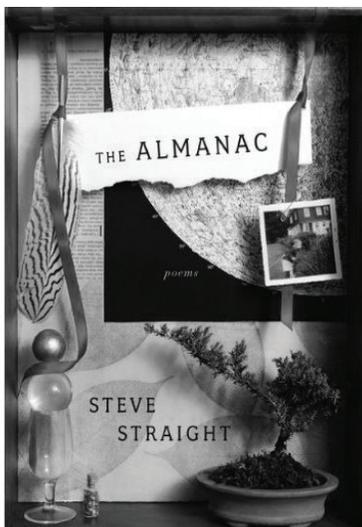
Writing does not come easy to Straight, he said.

"The hardest part of writing *The Almanac* was getting things just right, but most of the writing is fun," he said.

Aspiring writers should read, Straight said, adding that the poetry of Billy Collins has been a huge influence on his own writing.

"If you want to write poetry, you have to read good contemporary poets of all kinds, do not just read the poetry, also look at the writers' technique," Straight said. "Read as a writer."

Straight will give a reading from his book Wednesday, Feb. 13, at 7:30 p.m., in the Fireside Commons in the back of the library. Sponsored by the Cultural Programs Committee, the event is free and open to the public. For more information contact Straight at 860-512-2688 or ssstraight@mcc.commnet.edu.



Graphic courtesy of amazon.com



Image courtesy of: ManchesterDems.com

Ask Jason

Hello readers! For returning students - Welcome Back - and for new students - Welcome to Manchester Community College.

For those students who are new to campus *Ask Jason* is an opportunity to ask an MCC employee – me, Jason Scappaticci, coordinator of transitional programs here at MCC - questions related to MCC and college academics. If you have questions about MCC policies, offices, where to find help or academic problems, I will get you answers! Please feel free to email your questions to askjason@mcc.commnet.edu.

I thought I would devote this issue's *Ask Jason* column to some tips to get your semester off to a good start. Here are some pointers from staff, faculty and your fellow students:

1. **Attend every class.** One of the most important reasons is because professors go over what they expect you to know. In that way, class prepares you for exams and assignments.

Now I know how tempting it is to skip sometimes, especially because nobody is going to be following up on you if you do skip. College is so different from what most of us experienced in high school. It may be true that we won't get into disciplinary trouble if we don't show up but we will get into trouble academically. Failing a class has far reaching impacts on us as students. While attending doesn't guarantee a passing grade in a course, it certainly makes a difference.

One more reason to attend every class is because you paid for it! It costs \$482 to take a 3 credit class (provided that there are no studio fees). This works out to roughly \$11 for each hour of class. So skipping one 90 minute class costs about \$16.50. So you lose more than instruction when you aren't there. Even if you have the benefit of financial aid, it lasts only so long, and can be taken away for poor performance.

2. **Buy your books now.** How can you read your assignments without them? And reading before the class lecture is one form of college studying! The lecture will be a review of the material and an opportunity for you to gain a better understanding of the material and what the professor thinks are the most important parts of what you've already read.

3. **Read all assignments.** Professors expect that you will have completed all reading before class and they will have a lecture or activities prepared to compliment the reading. The class will be very challenging to follow if assignments haven't been read.

4. **Get to know your professors.** At least once a week I have a student who is unable to tell me who their instructor is. You may not know their names the first week of classes, but after a month you should really know who is teaching the class. What is more important is that if a student doesn't know the name of their professor it means they haven't engaged with them. Ask your professor questions during class or after class. Get to know them; it will make the MCC experience even more fulfilling for you.

5. **Dedicate enough time to coursework.** New students frequently don't realize how much time is necessary to complete required reading, assignments and studying. For each credit hour spent in class you can expect to spend 2 to 3 hours outside of class on coursework. This means that a 3 credit course will require 6-9 hours of work outside of class each week. Keep this in mind if you are planning to work and/or have a family to take care of. Being a full time student may require only 12 hours spent in class each week, but coursework for 12 credits means 24 to 36 hours outside of class. Plan accordingly.

Meet a Professor: Tom Bieluczyk, Communications

By Steve Patitucci
Live Wire Staff Writer

Tom Bieluczyk is a part-time communications professor at Manchester Community College. He teaches the class Contemporary Issues in Media, which focuses on ethics in journalism. I had a chance to sit down with him and talk about his career in the media and as a teacher. He is going into his fourth semester here at MCC and has also taught at Central Connecticut State University.

But his first career was as a newspaper editor, which he practiced all over Connecticut before going into teaching. He got his degree in English from Providence College. Growing up he never wanted to be a teacher; for that matter, he really didn't know what he wanted to do. So he followed his love of writing.

Where have you worked?

I worked at the Bridgeport Post, which eventually became the Connecticut Post. I worked there for two years; I covered the town of Danbury. I got that job because of luck. I had applied to many daily newspapers here in Connecticut. I really wanted to get a foot in the door so I tried to talk them into a face-to-face interview. The Bridgeport Post was the one place I didn't ask for an interview. They called me because their reporter for Danbury just quit and they figured I would know the town. I also spent 10 years at the Waterbury Republican-American as a reporter, two years at the Danbury News Times as an editor and 23 years at the Hartford Courant as an editor.

What was your favorite part of being in the media?

I love to write, and at the time newspapers were all there was for writers. Sure, there were magazines, but they were hard to get into if you didn't have any experience. It was 1972, so at the time TV and radio weren't very big.

How did you start teaching?

I got started through a program with [the University of Connecticut] and the Hartford Courant. I would teach 3 courses and was able to take 2 courses. After the winter semester, I got a call from the head of the department. He asked me to stay and teach another semester. I said sure because I liked doing it, plus I got a little extra money. I've taught journalism at UCONN,



Photo by Steve Patitucci

Central Connecticut, and the University of Bridgeport.

What is your most memorable part of teaching?

I enjoy a couple of things. One, I get a lot of satisfaction when my students get good grades. This is because it shows that they get it, and that I'm doing my job. I also love my interaction with young people; I like to hear their view of the news and media. I also love it when kids don't cut my class because it means they enjoy the class and it's important to them.

Which did you like more, teaching or being in the media?

At first, I would have said I can't decide, I like both. However, after thinking about it, I would have to say I liked being in the media more, simply because I got to write more when I was in the media. But I do enjoy both.

Do you have any advice for students who want to join the media?

Find something you love doing every day, so you don't hate your job. Then, at that point, the money is just gravy. The media won't get you rich, but you can still make a decent living. I think journalism isn't going to die. There will always be journalism. Try it. If you think you like it, take a couple of classes here at MCC or try an internship. Just don't make the same mistake twice that's all.

MCC's Student Government Association Ready to Start New Semester

The Student Government Association has made some changes over the semester break. So the spring semester begins with both old and new faces, and still some blank spaces, on the executive board.

Here is a current roster:

President - Jon Colon

Vice President - Joshua Quintana

Social Vice-President- Toni R. Coble

Secretary- Sofia Rodriguez

Treasurer- Gordon Plouffe

Publicity Manager- Kimberly DeJesus

Webmaster- Nirav Shah

Executive Senator 1-David Blake

Executive Senator 2-Brian Nwafor

The SGA is always open to help students and student clubs so come on down to the Office of Student Activities, Lowe 154h. And if you're looking for a specific SGA officer their hours are posted there.

Come join us at the monthly SGA General Meetings coming up Feb. 6 and Feb. 26 from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. in the Great Path Academy Commons. The SGA is always interested in giving students the opportunity to attend and be a part of our campus democracy and to help shape the experience of all students on campus.

If you are interested in serving in the SGA contact Jon Colon at:

MA-SGA-President@mcc.commnet.edu.

Spring 2013 Job Search Workshops

Tuesday afternoon workshops are held from 12:00 - 1:30 pm

Tuesday, February 5..... Resume Writing
Tuesday, February 12 Interviewing Tips
Tuesday, February 19 Job Search & Cover Letters
Tuesday, February 26 Effective Career Choices
Tuesday, March 5 Resume Writing
Tuesday, March 12 Interviewing Tips
Tuesday, April 2 Job Search & Cover Letters
Tuesday, April 9 Effective Career Choices

Thursday night workshops are held from 6:00 - 7:30 pm

Thursday, February 7.....Resume Writing
Thursday, February 14 Interviewing Tips
Thursday, February 21Job Search & Cover Letters
Thursday, February 28 Effective Career Choices
Thursday, March 7 Resume Writing
Thursday, March 14 Interviewing Tips
Thursday, April 4 Job Search & Cover Letters
Thursday, April 11 Effective Career Choices

Workshops are held in Lowe, L-107 (1st Floor - Computer Lab)

ALL WORKSHOPS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!

No advance registration is required, but is encouraged via MCC Credit Free Programs.

Please contact MCC Career Services for more information:

cochnio@mcc.commnet.edu

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

Connecticut Pot Laws: Growing Trend to Reshape Justice System



By Nathan Cheatham
Live Wire Editor

In June 2011, Gov. Dannel P. Malloy signed into law legislation decriminalizing possession of under a half-ounce of marijuana in Connecticut. This began a string of events that would allow Colorado and Washington to pass amendments to their state constitutions legalizing recreational use and sale of the drug.

These laws have been controversial because they are in direct violation of congressional acts establishing federal bans against the possession and use of marijuana and other recreational drugs.

In 1952, Congress passed the Boggs Act, bringing about the first mandate of minimum sentencing for a crime in American history. It called for a minimum sentence of two years in prison and a fine up to \$20,000 for any possession of recreational drugs, including marijuana. Although in 1970 Congress repealed the mandatory penalties, the Anti-Drug Abuse Act established different penalties in 1986.

Mandatory minimum sentencing has become more widespread as more federal and state laws tie the hands of judges for an increasing number of offenses. These laws promoted a growing shift in American philosophy of retributive justice, where crimes are considered offenses to the state, and has led to the police state mentality fostered by our legislators.

Did you know there was a time when an officer of the law held less power and was primarily a peacekeeper? But with crimes being thought of as offenses to the state, legislators have increased the number of laws and have given police officers enough legal weapons to ticket or arrest nearly any citizen.

The majority of these laws have the sole purpose of increasing revenue for towns, cities and states. Without these laws, the debt crisis in the whole country could be worse because the state would not make as much in court fees and penalties for stupid laws, like the one in Philadelphia, where it is illegal to make even a single dollar from a blog unless you buy a \$300 business license.

I think as a country the United States needs to shift towards a justice system that goes farther than taking away your freedom if you break a law, but instead rehabilitates an alleged offender so that they can become a contributing member of society. There also needs to be set up an easier path to leniency so those who make a mistake once, do not destroy their future.

The purpose of government is to protect infrastructure and provide a sense of security to citizens. In matters of crime, an alternate philosophy of restorative justice should replace retribution from the state.

The Oxford English Dictionary defines restorative justice as “a system of criminal justice that focuses on the rehabilitation of offenders through reconciliation with victims and the community at large.”

In a sentencing decision for a murder case in June 2006, Judge E. Bertelsmann of the High Court of South Africa wrote of the importance of restorative justice.

“Restorative justice has been developed by criminal jurists and social scientists as a new approach to dealing with crimes, victims and offenders,” he wrote. “It emphasizes the need for reparation, healing and rehabilitation rather than harsher sentences, longer terms of imprisonment, adding to overcrowding in jails and creating greater risks of recidivism.”

Bertelsmann wrote that as part of his verdict in a case of a young woman who had committed murder. She and her husband kidnapped a woman in South Africa, torturing and then killing her together. The husband died before the trial, so his wife faced the trial alone.

During her sentencing, the judge outlined a plan that involved intense treatment and supervision, along with mandated resolution between her and the family of the victim. There was also intense community involvement and resolution required by the judge.

So even though the woman was found guilty of the crime, she was not sentenced to prison.

Restorative justice binds the hands of the state to supervise the process of rehabilitation and healing between the victim and the offender, though this does not rule out imprisoning the offender if the situation warrants it.

For example, crimes relating to drug abuse would have intense drug treatment and counseling as part of the sentencing; programs would be used where the state wouldn’t “half-ass” the treatment but the alleged offender would be treated and slowly reintegrated into society in a way that would reduce the chances of repeat offense. Other examples would be restitution for larceny victims, or intense marriage counseling or treatment for domestic violence offenders.

This style of justice does have critics who say that it trivializes crimes, particularly in situations of men committing violent acts against women.

Malloy gave a good example in a statement to NBC Connecticut when he signed decriminalized the possession of small amounts of marijuana in Connecticut in June 2011.

“Let me make it clear: we are not legalizing the use of marijuana. In modifying this law, we are recognizing that the punishment should fit the crime, and acknowledging the effects of its application,” he said.

Though there has been a growing shift for alternative justice plans due to policy shifts in the War on Drugs, there has also been a push for softer federal consequences to crimes. Congress has made no attempt to lessen sentencing on any federal crimes committed, but in the past 10 years an act to allow for expungement has been circulating.

Expungement in the legal system is a term for a process that erases a criminal conviction from the record of an offender. This erased conviction would be hidden from the view of employers and local police records, but would be attainable by the U.S. Department of Justice and the Secret Service.

Each state has its own process for expungement, but the federal government currently does not. The president is able to pardon offenders, but even when he does the conviction still stands.

The proposed Congressional Act, known as the Second Chance Act, authored by U.S. Rep. Charles Rangel, a Democrat representing New York’s 13th district, outlines an amendment to the federal criminal code to “allow an individual to file a petition for expungement of a record of conviction for a nonviolent criminal offense.”

There have been three different votes on this bill since it was first introduced in 2007, the last one in 2011. Currently, it remains in the House of Representative’s judiciary committee.

If the Second Chance Act passed, Congress could finally have a positive effect on our judicial system. This first step to reshaping our system is allowing one-time offenders of non-violent crimes to have the hope that they can be successful and not kept back due to their criminal record.

As a country, we need to say “Yes” to restorative justice and treating offenses as a matter between a victim and the alleged offender, not the alleged offender and the state. It’s the first step to begin a process of healing for both parties.



Bipartisan cooperation will be crucial for President Obama’s second term, especially on issues like drug decriminalization. Photo by Nathan Cheatham.

If the Media was Anymore of a Circus, Barnum & Bailey Would Sell Tickets

By Jelani Burrell
Live Wire Staff Writer

The weeks leading up to the royal wedding of Prince William and commoner Kate Middleton were some of my most unbearable ones in April 2011.

The wedding was a couple weeks before exams, and even my professors couldn't keep the topic out of class. It's was as if the Earth's rotation stopped for the benefit of this wedding.

But that's not the only celebrity "news" that has flooded the airwaves in the last few years. In 2012 alone, we heard a lot about Olympian Gabby Douglas's hairdo, or lack thereof, and former CIA head Gen. David Petraeus' inability to control his penis. We seem to be incredibly obsessed with things that have less importance than I can possibly imagine. I say our "obsession" because the media, for the most part, is only attempting to deliver what sells.

If you don't believe me, go checkout the supermarket checkout line. America has shifted its focus to celebrity drama and I feel like it's affecting the way our media chooses to prioritize information.

For example, when Casey Anthony was on trial the summer of 2011 for the murder of her daughter, Caylee, 2, I couldn't get much in the way of information on world politics or Congress without doing my own digging. It's a real issue when we turn on CNN and all we can see are tweets from some random 15 year-old in Brooklyn about Gabby Douglas's hair.

Why did news and outlets spend weeks overanalyzing Petraeus's infidelity when it was 1) personal, and 2) a mild security issue? I can only begin to talk about the man hours put into finding out more details of this man's private life. It's interesting how we talk about the sanctity of marriage, but we fervently troll gossip rags to see if actor John Travolta was caught "cheating" on his wife with some bloke off the street.

The thing that bothers me the most is how scarce alternative information becomes when this nation is bent on foolishness. The presidential election of 2012 was similarly overexposed. Americans were bombarded by information and only a handful of us actually know what's true and (at least) attempted to verify it.

We all know that what happened in Newtown was a tragedy and incredibly heinous, but we talked about it so much that I'm not even sure how many people realized that four days earlier more than 20 children in China were stabbed. Or that the same day that the shooting at the movie theater in Aurora, Colorado, occurred, July 20, 2012, 300 Syrians, mostly children, were bombed off this planet.

When we sensationalize things, we put other potentially more pertinent information on the back burner, and if it relates to the current subject in the least, it's automatically deemed more relevant. Now we've got trigger-happy conservative gun nuts saying that the Newtown shooting was staged to drum up support for gun control and that those shocked, grieving parents, of whom we've seen myriad, gratuitous pictures, were paid actors.

When does it stop?

Let's Just Call it the "Steroid Era" and Keep it Moving

By Nathan Mair
Live Wire Assitant Editor

Barry Bonds is without a shadow of a doubt one of the greatest players to have blessed the game of baseball. I considered it a treat to be able to watch him play through the 2000's and I especially saw at as a treat when he recorded his 756th career homerun on Aug. 2, 2007, breaking the career record held by Hank Aaron.

I was a junior in high school at the time and unfortunately the entire game wasn't broadcast on ESPN, but they did give periodic updates on Bonds' homerun status. When the news broke in that he did it, my heart filled with joy. To see an African-American player in my generation achieve such a milestone was extremely encouraging. I felt invincible! I couldn't wait for my high school baseball team's season to start so that I could use Bond's achievement as a motivational tool for my predominantly black team.

But then, of course, came the controversy. Although Bonds had achieved a great milestone in Major League Baseball, he still faced a barrage of steroid allegations thrown in his face. In fact, the allegations had started years before he set a new record.

In 1998, baseball fans took notice of a "new" Bonds with enhanced physical features. His head, arms, legs, and chest had without a question bulked up. In 1996, Bonds had a more trim, almost slender physique; weighing about 180 pounds. But during the 1998 season he weighed more like 210 pounds.

The instant speculation from the baseball world was that he was using chemicals to enhance his performance. Bond defended his image by stating that he increased his workout regimen during the offseason.

But his denials and the fact that it has never been proven that he used performance enhancing drugs did not matter to the members of the Baseball Writers Association of America who, earlier this month, did not vote anyone into the National Baseball Hall of Fame for the first time since 1996. Up for eligibility were Bonds, Mark McGwire, Roger Clemens and Sammy Sosa.

The 90's was "the save baseball era" and during this time the MLB suffered a major decline in popularity and fan attendance following the 1994 strike. Mark McGwire, and Sammy Sosa essentially brought popularity back to the sport in 1998 with their powerful swings, and both players broke Roger Maris's single season home run record, which was then at 61. Bonds put up impressive numbers during that season as well, but the attention was mostly on McGwire and Sosa.

A few years later, in 2001, Bonds broke the single season homerun record, hitting 73, (which still stands today).

As the years went on, Bonds continued to put up impressive numbers, but the steroid allegations continued to pile on as well. There was even a book released on him in 2003 entitled *Game of Shadows*, in which the authors alleged that he did in fact use banned performance enhancers. Bonds has since continuously denied he knowingly took steroids; he even went in front of a subcommittee of the U.S. House of Representatives during a hearing on steroid use in 2008 and denied these claims. To this day Bonds has not tested positive for steroids.

I don't know if we'll ever find out if Bonds took steroids or not. But even if he did, he still belongs in the Hall of Fame in my opinion. Not only does Bonds belong in Cooperstown but so do McGwire, Sosa and Clemens, who are all alleged steroid users as well. The BWAA are a bunch of buffoons for not voting any player in this year. They belong in Cooperstown.

Although Bonds, Sosa and Clemens have eligibility for another 15 years, there is really no legitimate excuse as to why these players shouldn't have made it in this year. The BWAA need to accept the fact that we are now in the Steroids Era and we have been since the 1990s.

I compare it to when Babe Ruth played and for baseball it was the Segregation Era, when players of color were not allowed on major league teams. Despite that, there was no dispute when it came time to induct Ruth into the Hall of Fame.

It wasn't fair that blacks and Latinos weren't allowed to play in the major leagues at that time and it isn't fair for players to be taking steroids. It gives them an advantage over others. But I don't think it is ultimately fair to punish players for being a product of an era, especially when the "banned substances" are so easily accessible.

Sure, Ruth didn't play against people of color and sure McGwire admitted using steroids, but that still does not take away take away the talent and years of hard work that these players put in to achieve great numbers and break records. People just have to accept the eras that these players played in and take their numbers for what they are at the end of the day.

Steroids are a plague to this era of sports, no question about it. I don't condone their use. It is unfortunate



Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York. Graphic courtesy of <http://www.nj.com/travel-outside-nj/>

that athletes in this generation are tempted by easily accessible performance enhancers. But it's only human nature to want to be the best in anything that involves some degree of competition. And, of course, when one is faced with an aid that can provide an edge for them to one up everyone else, it's very difficult to turn your head. A baseball player is no exception.

One of the most exciting things in baseball is to see a player crush the ball out of the park. Baseball players get praised and paid if they can put up impressive numbers in the homerun column. There is a direct correlation between steroids and driving more balls out of the park as well as running faster and throwing a little harder.

But steroids do not directly cause someone to perform efficiently in these areas. Correlation does not equal causation. Steroids are more of an aid to already established skill and technique.

For example, there are a lot of mechanics involved in hitting a homerun. You can be 6'6 and 275 pounds of nothing but pure natural muscle but that still won't help you hit a homerun unless you have the technique down pat, which takes players like Bonds, Sosa, and McGwire years to perfect.

So I hope the BWAA realizes that by the time next year rolls around because these players belong in the Hall of Fame.

But that should not make it okay for star players coming up in this generation to use steroids. Hopefully they'll look at these "heroes" who are receiving a hard time for their alleged steroid use as an example, and ultimately go on to have a drug free career, so when their time comes around to get into the Hall of Fame, there is no debating.

Using the Bible as a Weapon Against Homosexuality

By Alta McKinney
Live Wire Layout Editor

In 2001, the Netherlands became the first country to legalize same-sex marriage.

Eleven years later, what has happened? Have the homosexuals started World War III? Has God come down to smite each person who engages in one of these taboo unions? Has Cthulhu risen from the depths and devoured California? No. None of these things have come to pass because none of these things make sense. Marriage of any sort is about love and unity, not destruction or hatred.

When the topic of homosexuality comes up, the typical religious response is to dash for a Bible and the oft-recited verse from Leviticus: "A man shall not lie with a man as he would lie with a woman, it is abomination" (18:22).

There are several things wrong with the rationalization that the Bible abhors same-sex couples.

First, each translation of the Bible has its own unique spin on Leviticus's infamous verse. Some are more critical than others, damning the homosexuals to be killed, while others say they will be punished in the afterlife for their sins. The common theme is that "homosexuality" is wrong. However, the term homosexuality was only recently coined, in the 20th century. Before this, the Bible referred to sexual relations between men in other terms, one of which was sodomy, in reference to the events of Sodom and Gomorrah.

The Bible says that the sins of Sodom and Gomorrah led to the towns' demise. A lot of people interpret this to mean that Gomorrah was destroyed because of all the immoral gay sex going on.

When one actually reads the story in question, however, it becomes clear that these "sins" were not acts of love between two men, but actually refer to the raping of men by other men. Of course rape is considered a sin in God's eyes. If someone is a rapist, homosexual or otherwise, I will agree with the church and say he or she deserves to be in hell.

An act of love, however, should never be forbidden. The act of consensual anal sex was still illegal until 2003 in many states. The penalties varied per state and, thankfully, grew less harsh as the United States became less ignorant over time. Until the law was changed, a man caught or reported to be involved in the act of sodomy could be fined up to \$2,000 or imprisoned for two to 10 years.

Another issue to take with the previously mentioned Leviticus verse is the wording.

The word "abomination" has not always meant what it does in today's connotation. "Abomination" has come to mean a horrible,

detestable thing. In biblical times, this was not the case. An abomination was something that was simply different and not easily understood as it often referred to traditions the speaker was not accustomed to. Many other things in the Bible were considered abominations; they were almost always various customs from other cultures.

If we actually followed all the rules from the Old Testament today, things would be much different. Leviticus forbids man from eating shellfish (11:10) and swine (11:7), so no more shrimp or bacon. A farmer is wrong to plant different types of crops in the same field (19:19), not even if it's economical or good for the soil. Of course, it's also clearly explained that a man is allowed to have slaves, as long as they come from nearby nations or he bought them fairly from his neighbors (25:44-45).

The good news is the Old Testament is not a how-to guide for Christians. The word "Christian" literally means follower of Christ. Jesus came to spread a message of love and peace, which is a completely different vibe from the previous books in the Bible. He preached acceptance, not hatred.

Remember: "God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save it," (John 3:17). I have read the entirety of the book, but it never states "Gods hates fags" or "Jesus hates the homos." These are fictional statements created out of scorn by people who do not understand the Bible's true message. These people are no more Christian than I am a duck, and I am not a duck.

The human race will never agree on religion, which I have come to accept. Christianity, as a whole, is not likely to change its entire stance and embrace same-sex marriage. Still, I have hope that the human race will come to its senses. Every society is moving at its own pace, but each is slowly evolving to be more open minded and accepting.

Just recently, Uganda repealed the law that gave some the right to murder a man or woman who has committed homosexual acts. It is progress, and I can only pray that my fellow Christians around the world will learn to spread love and not hate.



The opinions published in the Live Wire are those of the writer and not of the newspaper staff. If you would like to respond to an opinion piece published in the Live Wire, send a Letter to the Editor to livewire@mcc.comnet.edu. The Live Wire reserves the right to edit or refuse any submissions.

Comic by Alta McKinney

PRIDE Celebrating Diversity in Congress



Photo by: Nathan Cheatham

By Marc Changanqui
and Alta McKinney

As newly elected Rep. Tammy Duckworth of Illinois, one of the many new legislative ladies and also an Asian-American, double-amputee Iraq veteran, said "...it is nice to see Congress starting to look more like the rest of America."

The demographic make-up of the 113th United States Congress is a pleasant surprise when compared to its predecessors. This Congress, created from the House and Senate elections in November, will be the most diverse in United States history. Many of the 13 new Senators and 84 new House Representatives reflect the changing demographics and public opinions of the world today.

The 113th Congress represents a much wider array of ethnicities, ages, religions and sexual orientations than any of the 112 preceding it. In total 98 women, 43 African Americans, 31 Latino Americans, 12 Asian American and Pacific Islanders, and seven openly gay or bi-sexual individuals are serving in the legislative branch of the country's government. Perhaps most surprisingly, it is not just elected Democrats that defy the traditional racial make-up of elected Congresspersons. Sen. Tim Scott, the first African-American elected to the Senate from the South since Reconstruction, and Cuban-American Sen. Ted Cruz are both Tea Party Republicans.

This Congress has also inducted a record number of women, including Sen. Elizabeth Warren, the first woman elected to the Senate from Massachusetts, who will be sitting on the Senate Banking Committee; Tammy Baldwin, the first woman elected to the Senate from Wisconsin; and Rep. Tulsi Gabbard of Hawaii, the first American Samoan, the first Hindu, and one of the first female veterans in the House of Representatives.

In another historical first, a woman, specifically Sen. Barbara Mikulski of Maryland will serve as the chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Different racial groups and women are not the only people with cause to celebrate their inclusion in the 113th Congress. The LGBTQ community is represented significantly more than it has been in the past.

Sen. Tammy Baldwin of Wisconsin has become the first openly gay senator inducted to Congress and Rep. Kyrsten Sinema from Arizona is the first openly bi-sexual member to sit in the House.

The seven individuals openly identifying as LGBTQ who serve in Congress may seem to many an insignificant amount of representation. However, that these seven are able to proudly be themselves as they actively serve our country is a wonderful social progress that indicates our society is gradually becoming more accepting and open minded than it has been in the past.

Computer Repair & Share Club's

Tech Tips

Have you ever had a cell phone fall into a pool of water? Many of us have. Here is a quick tip that might save that water logged cell.

Believe it or not you can save a cell phone just by using rice. All you need is about a cup or two of uncooked rice and a small, airtight container.

Whenever an electronic device gets submerged in water the first thing you need to do is remove the battery, or turn the device off if the battery isn't removable. The sooner you do this the more likely you will be to save it.

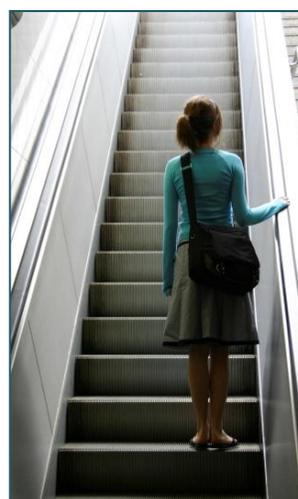
Place the phone in the container and pour in the rice, seal the container and wait a couple of hours. The longer, the better, but it shouldn't take more than 24 hours to dry fully. The rice will absorb the moisture from the phone.

This won't always work but it's better than paying and waiting for repair service. If that does not work, bring the device down to the CRS Club. We'll see what we can do.

And remember, the CRS Club is open to everyone as a technological resource and we welcome anyone with questions or problems to stop by C139 in the AST, where the club meets, or email us at info@crsclub.org.

Not sure where you're headed?

Find your way with Focus 2 MCC's Online Career Guidance Tool



**Explore major areas
of study and career
fields that are
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Click on Career Exploration & Focus 2 and follow the instructions to create a new account using access code.

FOCUS-2 is an interactive career and education planning system that combines self assessment, career exploration and decision making into one comprehensive program.

Once you have completed FOCUS-2, please stop by our office located on the first floor of the Lowe Building, in Room L-120, to schedule a follow up appointment.

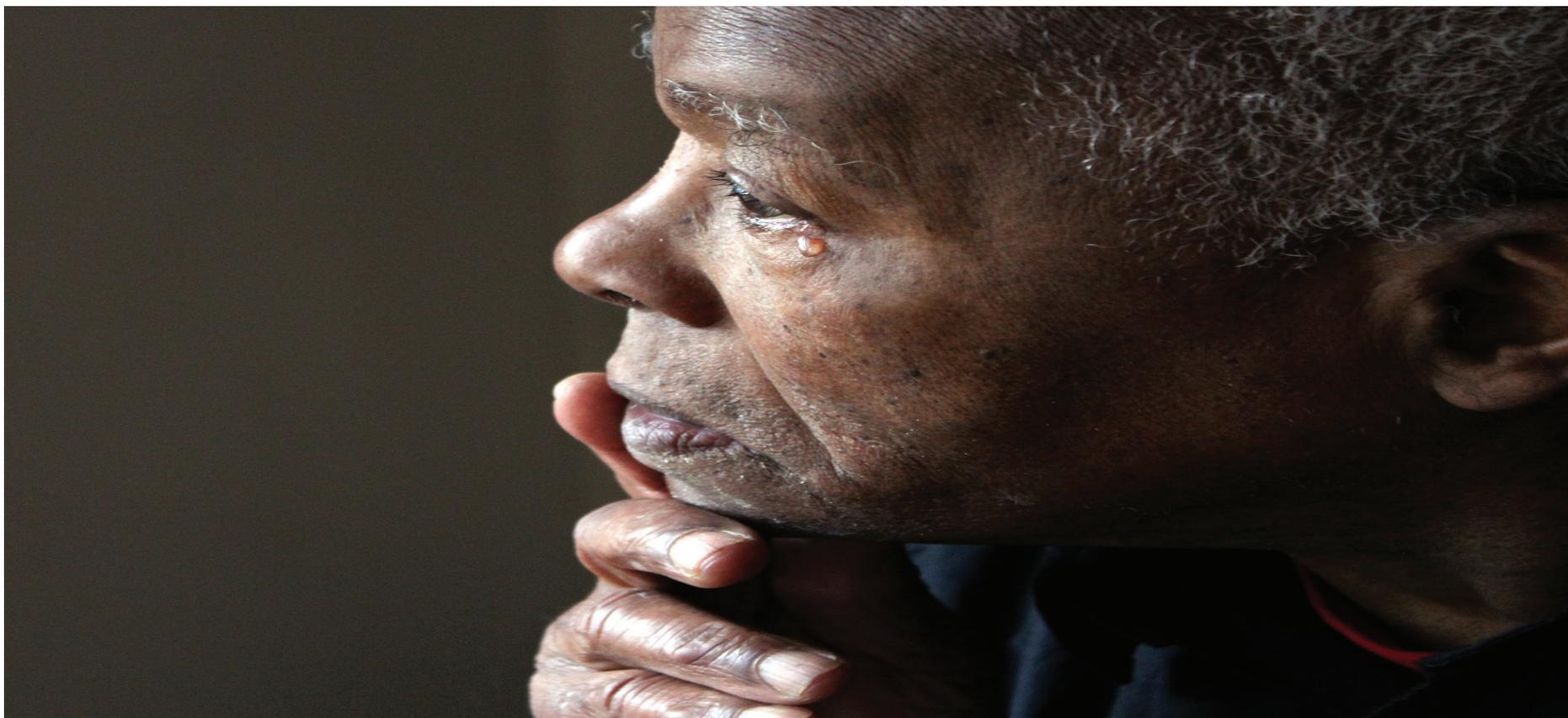
PRIDE Club meets Mondays at 3:30 p.m. in AST building, Room D229.



Contact us:

pride@mcc.commnet.edu

<http://facebook.com/mccprideclub>



Nathan Rawlins - A Grandfather and an Inspiration

By Melissa Rawlins

When I think of my grandfather there are a few things that come to mind. First, he is the most kind, respectful, dignified, and intelligent man, full of integrity; which is not to say he doesn't have his quirks.

He loves watching wrestling, gardening, writing poetry and his family. My grandfather is 94-years-young. He has lived one of the most interesting lives I've ever heard and he is a true inspiration to me and my family.

Nathan Rawlins came here from Saint Kitts and Nevis, a two-island state in the West Indies, as a young man. He worked in Harlem, New York, as an apprentice, but his passion was writing poetry during the Harlem Renaissance, a cultural movement of writing by African-Americans that spanned the 1920s and 1930s. He once had the great opportunity to write with celebrated poet Langston Hughes.

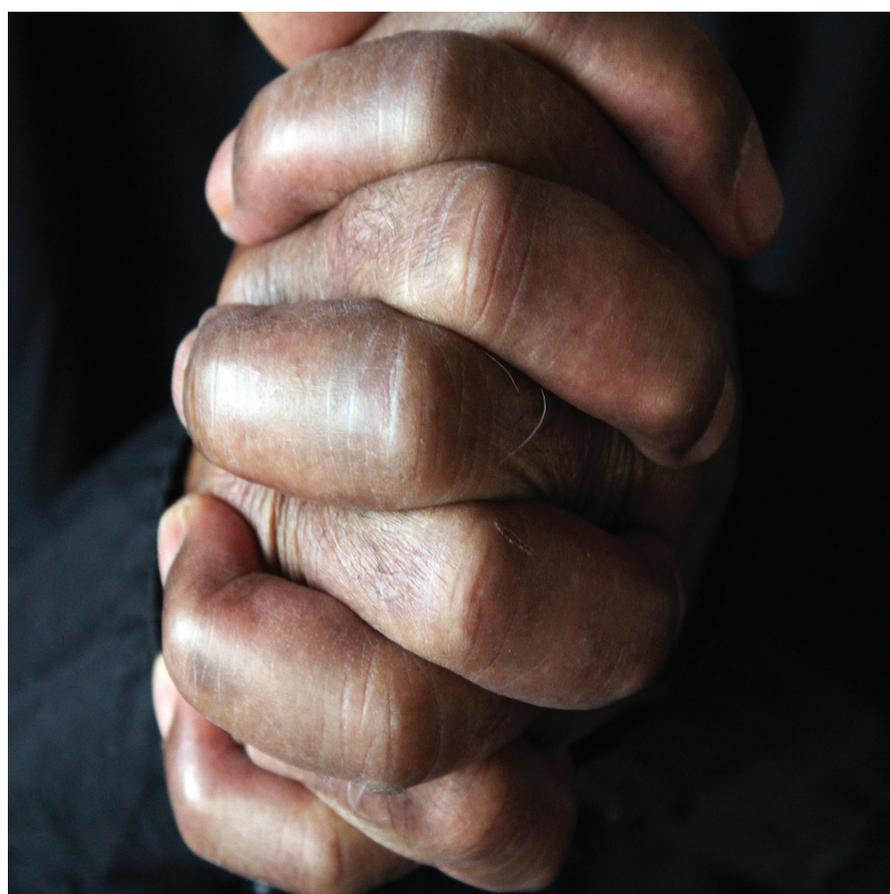
Later in his life, Rawlins moved to the Bronx, New York, and started a family. He had six children: Philip, Janice, Michael, Roslyn, Marilyn and Norman. He helped get all six of his children through private colleges by working at Pratt & Whitney in East Hartford. This was a huge accomplishment for an immigrant who came here with absolutely nothing. To have six minority children graduate from top universities, still today, amazes me.

During his life he has had two great losses. He has out lived his oldest son Philip Desmond Rawlins, who died of a heart attack 10 years ago. He also lost his wife at a very young age. Through these trials he turned to religion to keep him strong. This comes out in many of his poems, which usually have a religious tone to them.

Although he has many skills, including working with leather, gardening, and stamp making, the biggest passion he has is poetry. Throughout my childhood I always remember seeing him sitting down at the kitchen table writing poems on any sheet of paper he could get his hands on in Acrostic style. This is when the first letter or syllable of a word is written in capital letters and then those letters are used to spell out a word or message. Over the years he has written poems about events in the United States, including the terrorist attacks for Sept. 11, 2001, the inauguration of President Barack Obama, and others.

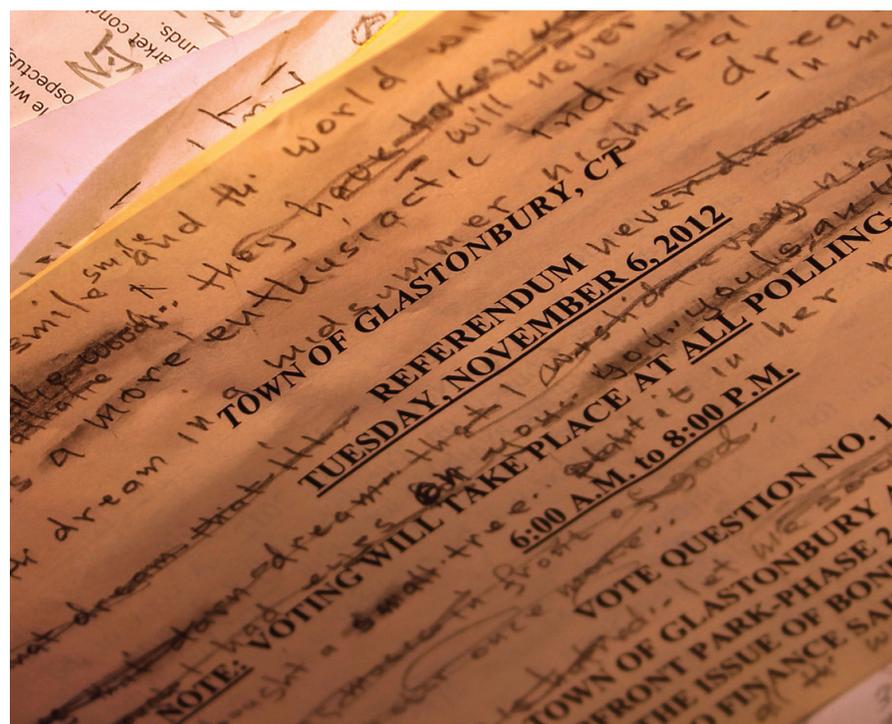
At 94 this man has seen and lived an amazing life, touched many lives and always remained positive and humble. He is an inspiration to me and my cousins and the rest of my family.

With a tear in his eye, Nathan Rawlins recalls the loss of his wife and son.



(above) Nathan Rawlins clasps his hands in prayer while talking about his life as a poet.

(below) Rawlins has spent his adult life writing poetry on a scrap of paper at hand, including letters and bills from the day's mail.



These photos and stories were the result of a photo assignment for instructor Stephen Dunn's Introduction to Photojournalism class for the Spring 2012 semester. Students were charged with producing an in-depth look at a subject of their choice in documentary journalism style. The *Live Wire* is proud to publish the top three on pages 10 through 12.

MCC Student Excels in Cowboy Mounted Shooting

By Bob Cohs

Who doesn't love a great western? With guns a-blazing, horse-back riding, and Wild West get-ups, they wistfully harken us back to an era of America long gone, but which dominated movies and television until the series "Bonanza" ended its active run in 1973.

You don't have to travel back in time, or even leave the state, to experience a taste of the Wild West firsthand. Lisa Buggie, a student Manchester Community College is a participant in the growing sport of Cowboy Mounted Shooting, a competitive equestrian sport that pits riders against the clock and each other in terms of horsemanship and marksmanship, all while wearing the attire of those days gone by.

Buggie said she has been riding horses since she was 9, both with and without a saddle. She rides Miss Kitty at least once a week to deepen the familiarity they've established, which is necessary to be able to excel in a Cowboy Mounted Shooting competition. She said success relies heavily on unspoken communication between horse and rider.

"I've been riding her for two years now," Buggie said. "I feel like I'm one with the horse, feel like she knows what I'm thinking. Everything has become very mechanical for me; for the horse and I. Pretty much what I do is muscle memory. You just know how to ask



The mascot of the barn sports a fake smile taped on by Lisa Buggie.



(above) Lisa Buggie takes Miss Kitty through her paces.

(below) Horse Chiclet "smiles" for the camera inside the barn.



her and the right amount of time to ask her to hold back, lead, or to switch."

This is important for when Buggie has to let go of the reins to fire her .45 Rugger pistol at the five red and five white target balloons in competition as she maneuvers Miss Kitty about the course.

The hard work and dedication have certainly paid off. Buggie has participated in 18 competitions with Miss Kitty, in locations as close as Granby, and Enfield, and as far away as Bethpage, New York, where she won in her very first year of competition. There are no trophies in Cowboy Mounted Shooting; instead Buggie received a big cowboy belt buckle which sits proudly on her shelf at home that reads: "2010, Miss Kitty and Lisa, Women's Level 1, New York."

It may be 2013 and not 1813, and we're living in New England not out on the western plains; yet even here and now, a piece of the Wild West lives on.

Success Captured by Photographer

By Lisa Trotta

Photography has long been Mary Beth Morrissey's passion and she always wanted to work for herself, even if it seemed as though her family wasn't entirely supportive. "You'll never make money in photography," was her father's oft-repeated mantra, she said.

Still, that didn't deter Morrissey. While attending Sacred Heart University in Bridgeport to study to be a teacher to please her father, Morrissey took evening classes at a creative arts workshop in New Haven to hone her craft.

"I just didn't want to give it up, so I took classes whenever I felt like it. Sometimes I'd attend a winter session, sometimes a spring session," she said.

To prove to herself that she could sell her photography, Morrissey spent five Saturdays on the Guilford Green during a cold winter selling the photographs that she had printed and framed at Wal-Mart for \$20-\$30 per piece. Five weeks and \$1,000 later she felt vindicated, she said.

It has been six years since the Guilford Green. Today she enjoys success at being the owner of Capture Photography in Essex. Specializing in weddings, boudoir and second shots, Morrissey has been photographing families in her recently rented studio to fill her time around the holidays before wedding season begins.

After graduating from Sacred Heart, Morrissey got into sales during the day. But then she began doing family portraits for her sisters' friends. Her services were free for a time, but then she began charging. She also got a few weddings under her belt before she felt comfortable charging for those as well. Fast forward four and a half years and Morrissey "held her breath and jumped in" to owning her own business.

Morrissey said she chooses to network face-to-face. She visits many businesses in and around Essex to get to know everyone on a first name basis.

"I like to let them know that I'm here and take them out for coffee. Four

years ago, I introduced myself to everyone at the Old Saybrook Inn and I'm a preferred vendor there now."

This is far different from how she began marketing herself, which was printing postcards and putting them on car windshields in the Stop & Shop parking lot. Morrissey also employs Facebook. But mostly it's word of mouth or advertising on theknot.com and weddingwire.com that gets Morrissey most of her customers. That's why she went "back to her roots" of doing family portraits for the holiday season.

"I just wanted to reach out [to families in the area] and make money any way I can. My brand is built on weddings, boudoir and second shots – which is a lot like trash the dress but it involves the groom. I want to make sure I always have a steady flow of work."

And have a steady flow of work she does, booking 30 weddings per year. Morrissey also shot about 30 boudoir sessions in 2012 and had 14 portrait sessions on December 1 alone.

Morrissey is very personable and knows how to project comfort to her clients. During a recent shoot, children walked aimlessly around the back dropped area of her studio while playing with ornaments or clinging to their parents red-faced and screaming. She was a master at gently getting the kids to focus and putting the parents at ease during the 20 minute mini-sessions before she was faced with the next client.

At 31, with one and a half years of sole proprietorship under her belt, Capture Photography is earning Morrissey roughly 20 percent more than what she earned in sales. At a time when the fiscal stability of the country is in flux, Morrissey has taken the chance of a lifetime and it seems to have paid off. She said photography is where she plans to stay.

"If I had to go back to selling my prints on the street to pay the rent, I would," she said.



(above) Mary Beth Morrissey works her magic on a family in her studio.
(left) Morrissey, the owner of Capture Photography in Essex, sports some of the colorful props she uses in her photo studio.
(bottom) Morrissey dresses up her studio set with some colored lights while working with a young subject.



Toys for the Tall and Small Made up the 2012 Holiday Craze

By Brandon Fern
Live Wire Staff Writer

With the holidays past, many people are enjoying the memories of kids opening gifts, or opening their own and trying not to think about any crippling debt they may or may not have acquired. What did all that money get spent on this year? Well, there were a few items that made buyers crazier than others.

It is not surprising that most of the hot gifts this year were technological. The top gift ended up being the iPad, both in regular and mini sizes. A close second was the Kindle Fire. Many other Apple products also sold very well, including the iPhone 5 and iPod.

Many gaming systems came out in 2012, especially the Nintendo 3DS and the Play Station Vita, but the most popular one for holiday gift giving was the Nintendo Wii U. It was released Nov. 18, so it's not a surprise that it was the most wanted console out there.

Considering toys, Mattel did well with its Fisher Price line, as well as with Hot Wheels track sets like the Wall Runners and Terrain Twisters. On an interesting note, the Furby returned. For those who don't remember, Furbys are robotic owls that can talk, move their eyes, and respond to you. They actually became so popular in 2012, after being off store shelves for 14 years, that some stores sold out within minutes on Black Friday.

Another retro toy that was popular were the Beyblades. The makers of the battling tops, a hot item during the holiday season of 2011, came out with a "Battle Dome" set that allows for the tops to fight in a 360 degree ball arena. Other toys that were coveted after were the Spyro Skylanders video game starter kits, which allow you to play a character by putting its statuette on the "Portal of Power," Tabeo, a tablet capable of everything an iPad can do but designed for children, Lego Ninjago sets, Doc McStuffins "Time for Your Check-Up" doll, and, surprisingly, the Razor Pocket Mod Electric Scooter, and Power Wheels Dune Racer.

While those last two do get kids outside and away from the TV's mind numbing radiation, the Y-Volution Flicker F1 Scooter actually gives kids exercise while playing outdoors. This Toys R Us exclusive works by having the rider go from side to side in order for them to move down the street, or hallway, depending.

So all in all, the 2012 holiday season saw some pretty cool toys. Doesn't matter if you got a Wii U or an iPad, or even a Furby, plenty of kids – large and small - had no reason to complain this year. That is, unless you got just socks.



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Django Unchained Revives Old Insults, Stereotypes

By Nathan Mair
Live Wire Assistant Editor

On Christmas Day, I got a chance to see director Quentin Tarantino's latest film *Django Unchained*, starring Jamie Foxx, Kerry Washington, and Leonardo DiCaprio. It is an indirect remake of the 1966 classic *Django*, as well as the 1975 film *Boss Nigger*, starring Fred Williamson. *Boss Nigger* is a Blaxploitation film and so is *Django Unchained*.

Blaxploitation is a genre of films, mostly popular in the late 1960s, early 1970s, that featured black characters in positions of relative power. Instead of maids and butlers, which is how many mainstream films portrayed black people, those featured in Blaxploitation films were pimps, cops and con artists who were smarter than the white characters.

I can be a very harsh critic when it comes to the Blaxploitation genre, though, granted, I am guilty of enjoying some of them, and yes, in this case, I will be expressing some harsh criticism toward this film as well some praises.

But before I do that, let me give you a brief synopsis of the plot.

The movie is set in the Deep South, two years before the Civil War. Django is a slave who becomes a free man thanks to the German Bounty Hunter, Dr. King Schultz. Schultz, played by Christof Waltz, frees Django while he and a group of slaves are being taken across the country after being sold at a slave auction. Schultz confronts the slave masters, the Speck Brothers, and asks to purchase Django. When the Speck brothers refuse to give him up, Schultz uses his gun skills to kill one brother, injure the other and free all of the slaves. Django and Schultz ride off together.

The reason Schultz wants Django is because Django once lived on a plantation owned by a gang of killers who have a bounty on their head. Schultz needs Django's help to recognize and then capture them. Django can share in the cash, become a free man and find his wife Broomhilda, played by Washington, who has been sold to a plantation known as "Candyland."

I thought the movie was brilliantly written and had a very compelling plot. *Django Unchained* is without a doubt one of Tarantino's best productions, an instant classic. It's just too bad it had to be a masterpiece at the expense of making a mockery of the African-American community.

But Tarantino has tried to defend the film, calling it a "Spaghetti Western." Yes, the movie did have sort of a Western feel to it but I am calling it like I see it and I'm calling it Blaxploitation! As a matter a fact, Tarantino has a reputation when it comes to producing controversial Blaxploitation-like films. Remember 1997's *Jackie Brown*, which starred Pam Grier and Samuel L. Jackson? *Jackie Brown* featured heavy usage of the "N" word as does *Django Unchained*. In an interview, Tarantino confirmed that the film uses the "N" word more than 100 times. Considering the time period, the usage of the word is very historically accurate; that's not my problem with the film. My problem is the way that the characters, including the slave masters, were "jiving" as they used it; it was thrown around very light-heartedly, much the way you can find some African Americans using it within the community today. It was a slap in the face, to me.

Not only were the characters "jiving" with the "N" word but black slaves, particularly Samuel L Jackson's character, used "mothafucka" repeatedly. I doubt that word was a regular piece of the vernacular during the time period, but I could be wrong. To me, "mothafucka" is more of a 20th century term that can be heard a lot today.

As much as I regard Tarantino as being one of the greatest filmmakers in history, I disapprove of his unnecessary usage of these terms, especially the "N" word, which you can hear in almost every scene; it made me sick.

What made me sicker is the fact that members of the audience watching this movie at the screening I attended found this to be hilarious and laughed hysterically, even my own black brothers and sisters. Granted, there was a lot of humor in the film, and I even had a hard time holding back some laughter, but I don't find anything funny about the hardships of slavery. It is an awful and disgusting piece of American history.

My black predecessors were dehumanized to the highest degree. There is no other racial or ethnic group in the history of the world that underwent the same brutal dehumanizing process that black folks went through.

Tarantino did a decent job, overall, capturing the brutal mistreatment of black slaves during that time but I thought there were way too many scenes with mocking undertones. One scene that stuck out to me, for example, was when Django and Schultz make it a plantation to collect a bounty. The slave master there, played by Don Johnson, doesn't appreciate them coming in uninvited, but when Schultz tells him that he has \$5,000 to purchase one of his "nigger gals," he has a change of heart and tells a young, black slave girl to show Django around. Referring to the master as "Big Daddy," the slave asks "ya want I should treat him like white folks?" He tells her no. When the young, pretty sister walked Django around and opened a dialogue with him, she did not sound like much of a slave to me, she sounded more like a stereotypical Shaniqua from the ghetto. If this was a manipulation technique by Tarantino to have his audiences' subconscious associate her as a Shaniqua or if this was just a result of bad acting, I don't know. But either way I was offended by that. This was just one of the many scenes in the movie that pissed me off.

Overall, the movie was good and it will most likely go down as a classic. Yes, I was upset at some of its content but the gun slinging, Western-esque action and compelling plot sort of made up for it. They weren't the best action sequences but they were good, no doubt about it. Tarantino also delivered as he always does with his sound track selection. He had some hip-hop in there that blended in well, some vintage western compositions, and "Ain't No Grave," a classic by the late Johnny Cash.

So, I do recommend this movie to anyone because it was put together brilliantly by one of the greatest directors ever. But watch it consciously, especially my black people out there, because if you don't you'll end up enjoying your own past mistreatment and the negative perpetuation of your image.



image courtesy of www.imdb.com

Ice Radio Music Calender

By Patience Collier



Graphic courtesy of <http://wcarts.wordpress.com/category/uncategorized/>



<http://blackeyedsallys.com/>

Black Eyed Sally's, Hartford

February 1st, 9pm Rhett Tyler & Early Warning	February 9th, 9pm Debbie Davies	February 16th, 9pm Paul Gabriel Blues Band	February 22nd, 9pm John Fries & The Heat with Matt Zeiner
February 2nd, 9pm Alexis P. Suter Band	February 13th, 8pm Open Blues Jam, Tommy Whalen	February 20th, 8pm Open Blues Jam, John Fries	February 23rd, 9pm Milo Z
February 6th, 8pm Open Blues Jam	February 14th, 8pm Dana Lauren	February 21st, 8pm Little Ugly with Paper Hill Casket Company	February 27th, 8pm Open Blues Jam, Tim McDonald
February 7th, 8pm Heather Maloney \$8 tickets	February 15th, 9pm Shaka & the Soul Shakers Two Virgins	\$5 tickets	



<http://www.thehungrytiger.com/>

The Hungry Tiger, Manchester

February 1st, 9pm Savage Brothers Band \$8 charge	February 2nd, 9pm Sirsy \$7 charge	February 11th, 9pm Open Mic/Jam, hosted by Tommy Whalen	February 21st, 9:30pm \$5 cover Addison Station
February 4th, 9pm Open Mic/Jam, hosted Brandt Taylor	February 7th, 9:30pm \$5 cover Balkun Brothers	February 14th, 9:30pm \$5 cover Supergreen	February 22nd, 10pm Diamondback \$7 charge
February 8th, 10pm Shakedown \$8 charge	February 9th, 10pm The New Remains \$7 charge	February 15th, 10pm 1800 \$7 charge	February 23rd, 10pm Idlewilde \$6 charge
		February 16th, 10pm Rhythmic Circus \$7 charge	February 25th, 9pm Open Mic/Jam, hosted by Gene Donaldson
		February 18th, 9pm Open Mic/Jam, hosted by Ed Bradley	February 28th, 9:30pm \$5 cover Indian Summer



<http://www.webstertheater.com/>

Webster Theater, Hartford

February 1st, 5:00pm, both stages- "TAKE ACTION TOUR 2013" The Used We Came As Romans Crown The Empire Mindflow	February 15th, 6:00pm, Underground- Indie's On The Move	February 24th, 3:00pm, Main Stage- Break Thru Music Presents Headbang For The Highway Vena Amoris December Sky Beneath the Marrow Senseless Doomsday Machine Behold the Beginning Lament Under a Serpent Sun
February 6th, 6:00pm, Underground- Fit For An Autopsy/Bermuda-Direct	February 16th, 6:00pm, Underground- Moufy	
February 8th, 6:00pm, Underground- Sever The Drama	February 22nd, 6:00pm, Main Stage & Underground- Slipknot Tribute Slip-Knot	
February 9th, 4:00pm, Underground- "GORILLA MUSIC PRESENTS MOTEL RAGE PROMO PARTY" Black Heart Heroes Comeback Of The Year Enraged Youth Subject To Interpretation Mark My Words Meet Emily Something Aquatic	February 23rd, 4:00pm (Underground), 6:00pm (Main Stage)- Flyleaf Drowning Pool Nora Stone Mongrel Fear The Masses Your Desire Explode Waking Elliot	



Graphic courtesy of bestclipartblog.com

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED To Help At MCC Evening of Fine Wines Fundraiser.

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21st Annual Evening of Fine Wines

POETRY CORNER

By JeAngra Davis-Macellin

HIS VIEW

She swears the thought of you...

Brings the joy SHE feels.

WHEN darkness, takes her mind and all she feels.

THE LAST thing that blinds with a light SOOO BRIGHt.... ITS YOU

If her backs against the wall; She HEARS your voice, OH YES! IT CALLS

and it is his words that fill the heart.

She isn't sure if she should love/start war. For she knows not who you really are.

Do you share the blooming buds? or are you simply her for the rose?

Well its seems as if you want to grow. So for now WE shall stay low.

HER VIEW

To Him; He had done NO WRONG

They Brought...HIS HEART Before him,

and began to whip her strong.

Telling her to BARE the pain

As she looked at him

LOVE took all her strains.

FRIENDS and themselves would be blind

To see the marks left behind.

HE tries to comfort the wounded tree

Yet SHE shakes away the LEAVES.

She doesn't want him today

For HE is the reason for the pain

SO even though it's not his fault....HIS Heart will take all the blame.

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Air Jordan's New Sneaker a Must Have

By Anthony Little
Special to the Live Wire

The holidays have gone and gifts have been given and received. The best gift I got this year is a pair of the new Air Jordan XI "Bred," by Nike. These sneakers are suave, partly because they were the talk of the town in the weeks before the holidays. These sneakers don't just look like a million bucks, there is plenty of history behind them as well.

The best thing about the Air Jordan line of shoes is that it represents a struggle. When the legendary basketball player Michael Jordan, for whom the shoes were named, first wore the shoe during the 1994-1995 NBA season his team, the Chicago Bulls, didn't win the NBA championship (they lost to the Orlando Magic in the Eastern Conference finals). Then, in 1995-1996, Jordan showed what he could do, particularly those high-flying dunk shots for which he has become known. The Bulls went 72-10 for that season and beat the Seattle SuperSonics (now the Oklahoma City Thunder) for the NBA championship.

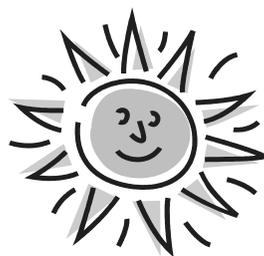
Not only did Jordan lead the Bulls to win the championship, he did it with style. And that style has been transferred to this re-interpretation of the original design.

The "Bred" design is simply amazing. The sneaker has a clear and solid red sole, displays the Air Jordan logo (jump man sign), incorporates carbon fiber (black and gray material), and has cushion pads (white circles). So when you jump, like Jordan, you have protection for the landing. The midsole is also awesome, but I think the black patent leather surrounding it is what makes the shoe. The release also incorporates Jordan's iconic jersey number - 23 - on the back of the heel, embroidered into the cloth.

In making the original sneaker, Nike took into consideration that Jordan wanted a sneaker that could be worn on the court or as a formal shoe. This retro version is still appropriate for work or play.

This sneaker is a must have for any sneaker collector or fan of Jordan. But plan to pay for the privilege of ownership: they are selling for \$150 and more online and in stores.

MCC Summer Job Fair



TUESDAY

February 26, 2013

10:00 am - 1:00 PM

SBM Charitable Bldg

At this annual event, recruiters from local businesses will be on campus promoting a variety of both full and part-time short term and/or seasonal positions.

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For more information about the MCC Summer Job Fair, please call Julie Greene, Sr. Assoc. Director of MCC Career Services at (860) 512-3374, or stop by Career Services in Lowe 120, opposite Counseling.



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2012 MLB Offseason Moves Set Spring Training Expectations

By Zachariah Hand
Live Wire Senior Staff Writer

As 2012 ends, so does another offseason in Major League Baseball. As always, high profile free agents found new homes, and teams made blockbuster deals to put themselves in the best position to compete for the 2013 World Series.

For the second year in a row, the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim are viewed as one of the offseason's biggest winners. During the 2011 offseason, the Angels signed highly coveted former St. Louis Cardinals first baseman Albert Pujols and lured starting pitcher C.J. Wilson away from the division rival Texas Rangers. These moves lead many to believe that the Angels were the team to beat. However, the 2012 season did not go as planned for Los Angeles, as they failed to make the post season after a slow start and lackluster finish.

The Angels followed up their disappointing season by once again signing the biggest free agent on the market, this time outfielder Josh Hamilton, who is also a former Texas Ranger. With Hamilton, Pujols, and many other powerful bats, including 2012 American League Rookie of the Year Mike Trout, the Angels easily have one the best lineups in all of baseball.

On the other side of North America, the Toronto Blue Jays have also positioned themselves to make a run at a championship in 2013. In November, the Blue Jays were the beneficiaries of a fire sale by the Miami Marlins, who specialize in making profits rather than investing in winning teams. The Blue Jays were able to acquire shortstop Jose Reyes, starting pitcher Josh Johnson, starting pitcher Mark Buehrle, and catcher John Buck, all former all-stars, in exchange for several younger players.

In December, the Blue Jays further improved their pitching rotation, acquiring National League Cy Young

Award winner R.A. Dickey from the New York Mets in exchange for Buck and several young prospects. After making these moves, the Blue Jays are seen as a clear favorite to win the American League East, and advance to the post season for the first time since their World Series championship year of 1993.

Also making moves in the AL East were the Boston Red Sox, who are coming off of their worst seasons since 1965. So far, the team has signed outfielder Shane Victorino, starting pitcher Ryan Dempster and shortstop Stephen Drew, as well as others. Boston



Graphic courtesy of www.sportslogo.net

also traded for former Pirates closer Joel Hanrahan in December, solidifying the back end of the bullpen. However, even with all these moves, the Red Sox are likely not cut out for a deep run into the post season.

With the Red Sox and New York Yankees both looking mediocre for the 2013 season, and the Baltimore Orioles most likely set to regress from their strong 2012 campaign, the Blue Jays biggest threat in the American League East will likely come in the form of the Tampa Bay Rays. The Rays, who lost center fielder B. J. Upton to the Braves via free agency,

were able to recoup some of their offense, by trading pitchers James Shields and Wade Davis to the Kansas City Royals for top prospect Wil Myers and several other minor leaguers. Myers, who is yet to appear in a Major League game, was last year's Minor League Player of the Year and has the potential to become a serious power threat at the Major League level.

In the National League, the Los Angeles Dodgers have once again made a big splash. After acquiring Carl Crawford, Adrian Gonzalez, and Josh Beckett from the Red Sox and Hanley Ramirez from the Marlins, many believed that the Dodgers would take a quiet approach to the offseason.

However, this was not the case.

In December, the Dodgers signed Zack Greinke, the best pitcher available, to the largest deal ever for a right-handed pitcher. The team also announced the acquisition of South Korean pitcher Ryu Hyun-jin, which will further bolster their pitching staff. With these additions, the Dodgers may have both the necessary offense and pitching to do battle with their division rivals, the defending World Series Champion San Francisco Giants.

As it currently stands, the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim and the Los Angeles Dodgers appear to be favorites to face off in the World Series.

But during Major League Baseball's long existence, not once has the World Series been won during the offseason. The only way to know for sure how good these teams are is to watch them in action. Remember, pitchers and catchers report to spring training in February.

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MCC first-year coach Katie DaCosta talks to freshmen Ally Nuccio (left) and Brittanymarie Barber during a timeout. Photo by Jerry Rowan.

MCC Women Growing Up on the Court with DaCosta

By Paul Ofria
MCC Sports Information

Katie DaCosta cringed as the conversation turned to the stat sheet.

DaCosta, who is in her first year of coaching the Manchester Community College Lady Cougars, keeps meticulous track of all things basketball – points, rebounds, steals, etc. - and she will throw the numbers at you long after the scoreboard is shut down and the chairs are folded up and put away.

The lights were dimming and security needed to lock up, but DaCosta was on a roll. She talked glowingly of the eight-member team she cobbled together last fall, including three soccer players who didn't know a double dribble from a double chin. She talked about two players who adjusted their games and about an injured player who comes to practice every day.

But when the subject of individual accolades was broached, the talkative DaCosta stopped talking.

"I never speak about stats to my athletes because it's never about one or two," DaCosta said. "It's about a team. I've never focused on one player because it's so much harder to beat a team of eight vs. a team of one."

It's hard to overlook the numbers put up by a pair of freshman – Arianna Rivera and Haley Cole – but the 2012-13 Cougars, who were 4-6 as of January 16, have emerged from the let's-just-have-a-team mode to a contender for a spot in the Region 21 tournament mainly because they work so well together.

"I've been very impressed with Katie and her ability to teach the game," said MCC Director of Athletics Cynthia Washburne. "She is teaching them about dedication, commitment and teamwork. Katie is also focused on their performance in the classroom which translated into very good grades last semester for the entire team."

Rivera, who played at Manchester High and was an All-Region 21 selection on the MCC women's soccer team last fall, leads the team in minutes played, free-throws made (39), rebounds (8.8 per game) and assists (5.5) while averaging 17.3 points per game. Cole, who is a 2012 graduate of RHAM High School, scored a school record 44 points in a come-from-behind victory over Bristol Community College in December. She leads the team in scoring (18.5) and has team highs in steals (54) and blocks (14).

Both Rivera and Cole have earned high marks from their coach, not so much for the gaudy numbers, but for the adjustments they made for the team.

"They both used to be role players and now they have to come in and kind of taken the role of scorer or the role of leading, whether they are used it or not, which is big to ask of anyone, let alone freshmen walking in the door," DaCosta said. "I had to put them out of position and the two of them have never complained. They have owned it."

Three soccer players who never even thought about playing basketball - Brittanymarie Barber (East Hartford), Ally Nuccio and Kai-lee Doerfler, both from Tolland - traded their cleats for sneakers in October and have taken to their new sport quickly, contributing with strong defense and timely baskets.

DaCosta, who is only 27 but has been teaching the game at all levels since she was in high school, knows her team is young, but has trouble conceding the inexperienced label.

"In regards to the team we are still young," DaCosta said. "I would still say that. But inexperience is just a term. You can be as skilled as you want to be and if you don't have the heart to go behind it, the skill can't take you as far."

Kayla Facey is closing in on her associate's degree and played some basketball in her hometown of Windsor, but never on a team. She may have been considered inexperienced in October, but she has emerged as DaCosta's most improved player on a team full of most-improved players.

"She had no ideas of the rules, the guidelines, the discipline and structure of the game," DaCosta said. "If you want to look at the stats, the first time she stepped into a game she had something like 18 turnovers and has now dropped her turnovers down to maybe two, three a game. She is making better decisions because she has a better understanding of angles, the passing lanes. You can see the growth not only as an athlete but as a person."

DaCosta has just one sophomore amongst the eight: Janell Smith, a 5'9" forward from Malone, NY, who played sparingly last season, but is right behind Rivera in minutes played while averaging 5.9 points and 7.2 rebounds. Smith contributed to the team in a subtle, behind the scenes way by recruiting Facey.

"This team meant enough to her that when we were down on numbers, she went into her class and went up to a person she didn't know to ask about coming out for the team," DaCosta said of the soft-spoken Smith. "That showed her commitment to the team and as the season has gone on, you can see her confidence on the court growing."

DaCosta's eighth player can't officially play in a game until next season. Amy Bellone (South Windsor) played 21 games last season on a severely damaged shoulder and had surgery last March. She has recovered nicely and been a steady contributor to the team at practice and from the bench during games.

"Amy's health is our first priority" DaCosta said. "She has a sense of commitment and unity and is treated just like them except she doesn't play."

DaCosta was hired late in the recruiting game last spring, but the word is out and potential players for next season have been contacting her at a surprising rate.

For the next six weeks, however, the former Classical High girls coach will concentrate on getting her first MCC team ready for a run at the Region 21 tournament.

"I can't ask for anything more," said DaCosta. "They are in here every day, working really hard, 100 percent and improving every step of the way."

Upcoming February games are listed below. Home games, in bold, are played on campus in the Great Path Academy gymnasium.



Janell played sparingly as a freshman but has stepped up her game as the lone sophomore on the MCC women's basketball team. Photo by Julia Connor

Date	Game Description	Location	Time
Sat Feb 2	Massasoit CC	Brockton, MA	1:00 PM
Wed Feb 6	UConn-Avery Point	New London, CT	7:00 PM
Sat Feb 9	Community College of Rhode Island	Manchester, CT	1:00 PM
Sat Feb 16	Bristol CC	Fall River, MA	1:00 PM
Tue Feb 19	QUINSIGAMOND CC	Manchester, CT	6:00 PM
Sat Feb 23	Dean College	Franklin, MA	1:00 PM

MARK GRANT NAMED TO NJCAA ALL-AMERICAN TEAM

MCC Sophomore moving on to Dominican College with soccer scholarship

By Paul Ofria
MCC Sports Information

Mark Grant came to Manchester Community College from Tokyo in June of 2010 with an ability to dictate the flow of a soccer game, but very little knowledge of the English language.

Two and a half years later, Grant is leaving the school with a 3.36 GPA, an associate's degree, a scholarship to Dominican College (in Orangeburg, NY) and recognition from the National Junior College Athletic Association as a men's soccer All-American.

Grant, who was a two-time NJCAA Region 21 (New England) Division III first-team selection, led MCC in scoring in both his freshman and sophomore seasons. In 2011, the Cougars won the New England championship as Grant led the way with 17 goals and nine assists.

Last November, Grant once again led the Cougars to the championship game and scored 19 goals and assisted on 14 others (53 points) over 19 games. The 5'8" graduate of Fujieda Higashi High racked up 95 points on 36 goals and 23 assists and started all 37 MCC games over two seasons.

Men's team head coach Darren Foster said he was proud of Grant.

"Mark is a remarkable player," he said. "I'm very privileged to have coached such a talented player, with the skills and work ethics he has. He carried our team on his back plenty of times."

Grant chose Dominican over a number of colleges that were recruiting him based on its strong business program. Foster said he feels Grant will be able to make an immediate impact on the soccer field.

Grant, who started classes at Dominican on Jan. 16, thanked his teammates and said, "pretty much everyone help out," when asked about his All-American selection.



Photo courtesy of MCC Sports

What to Expect in the NFL Playoffs

By Zachariah Hand
Live Wire Senior Staff Writer

Another exciting regular season in the NFL filled with broken records and many thrilling games has come to an end. In the aftermath, 12 teams were left standing to compete in the postseason.

The AFC playoff picture was made up of the East division champion New England Patriots, the North division champion Baltimore Ravens, the South division champion Houston Texans, the West division champion Denver Broncos, and the two AFC wild card winners, the Indianapolis Colts and the Cincinnati Bengals.

The NFC featured the East division champion Washington Redskins, the North division champion Green Bay Packers, the South division champion Atlanta Falcons, the West division champion San Francisco 49ers, and the NFC wild card winning Minnesota Vikings and Seattle Seahawks.

Of all the playoff teams, the Broncos and Falcons finished with the best records, each going 13-3 during the regular season. These teams were tailed by the Patriots and Texans, who each went 12-4, and the 49ers, who went 11-4-1, thanks to a tie with the St. Louis Rams. Following these teams were the Colts, Packers, and Seahawks at 11-5, and the Ravens, Bengals, Redskins, and Vikings at 10-6.

The Wild Card round of the playoffs included games on Jan. 5 between the Bengals and Texans and the Packers and Vikings, and on Jan. 6 between the Colts and Ravens and the Seahawks and Redskins. The Texans, Packers, Ravens, and Seahawks proved victorious in these contests, thus earning the right to move on to the Divisional round of the playoffs.

Of the 8 teams still alive in their quest for a Super Bowl championship, 3 stand out as favorites to win the big game: the Broncos, Patriots, and 49ers.

The Broncos deserve to be highly regarded due to the performance of quarterback Peyton Manning, who has answered all questions about his health after returning from multiple neck surgeries to the tune of an MVP caliber season.

Also helping Manning's drive for his second Super Bowl ring is a strong defense, which gave up the fewest points of any AFC team and allowed the second fewest yards per game in the NFL.

What may doom the Broncos is a defense that is yet to prove itself against a powerful offense, and turnovers by Manning. During the regular season, the Broncos three losses came to the Texans, Falcons, and Patriots, each of whom ranked in the top 10 in offense. Since losing to the Patriots in week 5 of the regular season, the Broncos won 11 games in a row.

But these wins came mainly against teams that did not feature prolific offensive attacks. Peyton Manning threw interceptions in 7 of these 11 wins, including at least one per game during a stretch of four games in a row from Nov. 18 to Dec. 6. If this type of play should continue into the postseason against teams with the ability to put points on the board, the Broncos will not last long.

However, based on the overall strong play of both the offense and defense, Denver should be considered the Super Bowl favorite.

After losing the Super Bowl last year, many believed that the New England Patriots would suffer from a Super Bowl hangover, resulting in a mediocre season. After starting the season 3-3, the Patriots rebounded, winning 9 of their remaining 10 games behind strong play from quarterback Tom Brady and his receiving core, along with a rejuvenated running game.

The Patriots biggest weakness is their defense, which allowed the most passing yards of any AFC team and the 4th most in the NFL. The Patriots can also be neutralized if Brady can be pressured successfully, as proven by the Giants in their two Super Bowl victories over New England.

Because of these weaknesses, the Patriots should not be viewed as the clear pick to win the Super Bowl. However, New England's offense, which scored the 3rd highest point total of any team in NFL history, and their ability to force turnovers on defense, should still place them high on the list of championship favorites.

Throughout their history, the 49ers have had great quarterbacks who have carried them to several championships. These quarterbacks have included the likes of Hall of Famer Steve Young, and the quarterback considered by many to be the greatest of all time, Joe Montana.

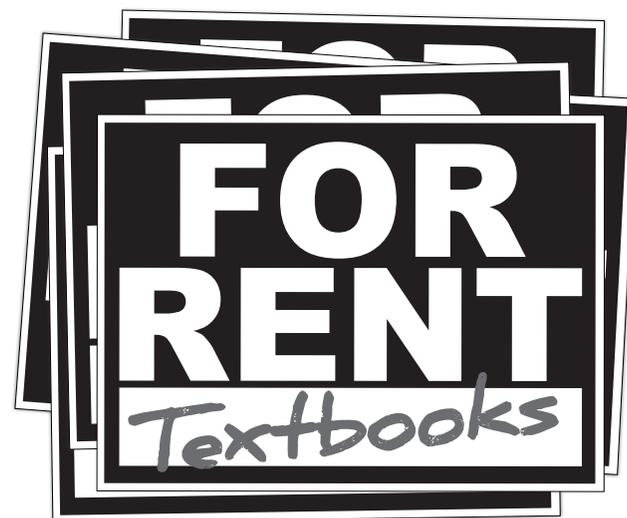
In 2005, the 49ers drafted Alex Smith with the number one pick, with the hope that he too could develop into a franchise quarterback and help San Francisco add to its total of five Super Bowl titles. While Smith was able to help the 49ers reach the NFC Championship Game in the 2011 season, he has since been replaced as a starter (first due to injury and then due to the play of his successor) and it has become apparent that he was not destined to become the next great 49ers quarterback.

That honor may belong to the man who replaced Smith, Colin Kaepernick. After Kaepernick took over for Smith as the starting quarterback following week 10, the 49ers went 5-2 to finish the regular season. While Kaepernick's play has contributed to these wins, the 49ers have also boasted one of the league's best defenses, allowing the third fewest yards per game in the NFL.

The biggest challenge that the 49ers face is Kaepernick's inexperience, as he never started a game before the 2012 season, and is still largely unproven in high pressure games. The team's defense also faces some questions, as they have had lapses during the season, giving up 26 points to the Giants in week 6 and 34 points to the Patriots in week 15.

Though these three teams appear to be best equipped for a Super Bowl run, anything can happen in the NFL. There is no guarantee that any of these teams will win the Super Bowl, or even make it that far in the postseason. There is a reason that games continued to be played despite the best predictions.

The Super Bowl XLVII will take place in New Orleans at the Mercedes-Benz Superdome at 6:30 p.m. Feb. 3.



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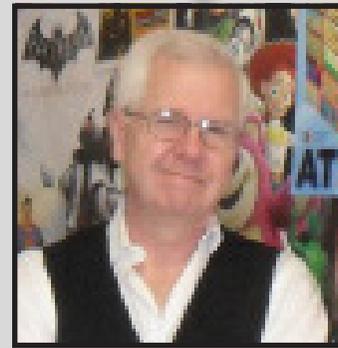
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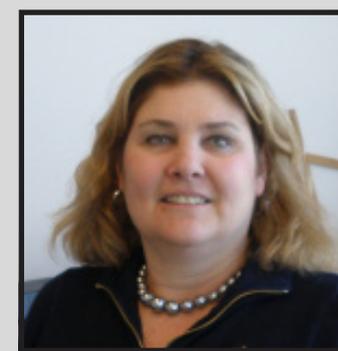
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*A diverse crowd of onlookers intently watched the events.
Photo by Nathan Cheatham.*

(above right) A vendor sells posters touting President Obama's reelection as the "Return of the King, Rebirth of the Cool." (above left) The Washington Monument stands high above the Capitol. Photos by Nathan Cheatham.



(above) Thousands of eager supporters walked to the National Mall to listen to President Obama's Inauguration Speech. Photo by Alta McKinney.

"Attending President Obama's Inauguration Ceremony was a once in a lifetime experience, one that will live on forever as a part of American history. The President's speech ranked among the best of his political career, and I am proud to have heard his rally cry for justice and equality in person. This will be a moment to look back upon fondly for years to come."

-Zach Hand

"My favorite part of the Inaugural speech is that it felt like President Obama finally took his gloves off. He deftly took down his opposition, from [Gov. Mitt] Romney, to the Tea Party, to the conservative right. It wasn't just a smart move, it was the right move. It feels like Obama 2.0 has teeth."

-Jelani Burrell

"It means more than I can say to hear my president openly acknowledge Stonewall alongside Seneca Falls and Selma. I feel like I finally have a president who wants to recognize all the sufferings that the gay community has endured and cares about our rights, too. Go Obama!"

-Amber Roberge

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