

Live Wire

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Live Wire

Volume 23, Issue 4 December 11, 2006 Manchester Community College

free

MCC Culinary Dept. Takes 1st Place In Cooking Competition

By Robert Cooper
Assistant Editor

In a contest that featured two other schools with more recognition and more funding the MCC Culinary Department took first place recently to become the new cooking champion of Connecticut

The Connecticut Student Chef Competition featured the three American Culinary Federation schools in the state: MCC, the Connecticut Culinary Institute and the Center for Culinary Arts.

Fred Huhn, a student on MCC's team, said that although the team may have been the least known of the three schools, they were just as good.

"We were thinking that we were going up against two more expensive and publicly known schools, so we had something to prove," he said. "We took it as a challenge to do better than the other schools."

The win will serve notice that MCC is a school to reckon with as well as having a top notch culinary program, he said.

The MCC team was made up of five students

who are enrolled in the culinary program. Albert Lavoie, Theresa Olchanowski, Brendan Chapman, Huhn and Justin Reich made the team after trying out in a cook-off with five other students. After making the team, the students practiced for the competition for weeks, having chefs from local restaurants, faculty members and even MCC Pres. Jonathan M. Daube sample and critique their creations.

"We had them critique it for taste and presentation, and to make suggestions," said Lavoie. "The first couple of times the meals were ragged, but after a while they got better."

The competitors did not know exactly what they would be making before the competition. The only thing they did know was that they had to make a salad, an appetizer, and an entrée with a starch and vegetables on the side.

"We knew that it would be either one of four different fishes and four different meats, but we did not know which one it would

be until the day of the competition," said Linda Coons, an associate professor in the Culinary Dept.

When the competition began, the teams found out that they would be preparing meals that would consist of shrimp and lamb. The squad was then able to assign each member with a task based on their strengths.

"We had a sauce person, someone on salad, a meat man, and a mom who kept them all straight," said Coons.

Each team had an hour to prepare the meal. When they were done the team had made an assortment of dishes that drew from influences around the world.

please see **Culinary** on page 4



Photo by Gail Sherman

African-American Historian and Author to Speak at MCC

By Becky Silver
Live Wire Staff Writer

Manchester Community College, welcomes Henry Louis Gates, Jr. the W.E.B. Du Bois professor of humanities at Harvard University in Cambridge, Mass., on Feb. 8 to speak about African-American culture in a lecture titled "Africana: the Encyclopedia of the African American Experience."



The presentation is based on the book of the same name he co-authored. Gates was invited to speak at MCC by assistant professor of sociology Lucy Hurston because of his knowledge of African-American history.

"Gates is a prestigious and renowned educator, and I thought that Manchester would benefit from hearing from him speak," said Hurston.

Over the years, Gates has worked to create public awareness and knowledge about African-American history, and has authored many books about the topic. His most recent books include "America Behind the Color Line: Dialogues with African Americans," "African American Lives," and "The Annotated Uncle Tom's Cabin."

Books are not the only media that Gates has been involved with. He has also written and produced documentaries like "African American Lives," "Wonders of the African World," and "America Beyond the Color Line." He is currently working on a book and documentary titled: "Finding Oprah's Roots," to be released in February 2007. Gates describes the upcoming book as a meditation on genetics, genealogy, and race. The coinciding documentary will cover the genealogical and genetic heritage of talk-show

host Oprah Winfrey.

Gates is also the author of "Figures in Black: Words, Signs, and the Racial Self," a collection of essays, and a memoir titled "Colored People," that traces his childhood in West Virginia in the 1950's and 1960's.

Gates' visit in February will be free and open to the public. It will be held in the SBM Charitable Foundation Auditorium at 1 p.m. Following the speech, faculty and staff are invited to a private sit down discussion with Gates in the Fireside Commons from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

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MCC News

Campus Briefs

Two MCC players named NJCAA Div. III Men's Soccer All-Americans

Two players from the MCC's soccer team have been named All-Americans. The National Junior College Athletic Association named sophomore forward Andreas Blamo to the first team for NJCAA's Div. III Men's Soccer. Sophomore back Andrew Repay was named to the second team.

"This is great for Andreas, Andrew, and MCC soccer," said coach Jim Insinga, who has coached the team for seven years. "They represented our program well and propelled us into the NJCAA Div. III Men's Soccer tournament quarterfinals."

Blamo, had a team high of 17 goals, tying him with freshman midfielder/forward Jemmy Cange with a team best 42 points in 2006. Repay, a sweeper back, anchored the defense which allowed only 21 goals in 20 games. This is the second straight time MCC has had two All-Americans in one season.

The Cougars went 15-4-1 overall, and were ranked number 5 in the final NJCAA Div. III Men's Soccer poll.

MCC Writing Contest

Winners of the Manchester Community College Writing Contest have been announced and the awards presentation will be held in the Fireside Commons Friday, Dec. 15 at 6 p.m. All

students, faculty members, staff, and members of the community are invited to share in the celebration. Authors of the winning essays, short stories, and poems include Lynne Alexander, Alan Baker, Joel Barkasy, Julie Batulevitz, Erica Bennett, Marie Linda Bohara, Lisa Butler, Dustin Castaldo, Morgan Ceramicoli, Caitlin Dailey, Stacy Giguere, Hsiu-Chen Hsu, Amy Kendall, Andrew J. King, Ryan Linares, Joel Presa, Bill Rapp, Jennifer Toney, Melanie Tongren, Kelly Whinnem, and Latisha Wilson. Excerpts from the winning entries will be read.

New Dining rooms at MCC named

Pres. Jonathan M. Daube has announced the renovated dining rooms in the college's Culinary Arts Center have been named for families close to the area and the college. The Cheney dining room is named for Manchester's Cheney family, founders of the world's largest silk mill and were responsible for Manchester being known as an "ideal industrial community." The Alice and Alexandra Jarvis Dining Room is named in honor of two prominent Manchester real estate developers. The third dining room is named after Geraldine and Vincent Lesunaitis. Geraldine Lesunaitis is the premier benefactor of the College's "An Evening of Fine Wines." In 2000, she donated a large portion of her late husband's wine collection to the MCC foundation. The renovation will be completed later this year and a dedication ceremony is planned for February of 2007.

Flu Clinic Gets Healthy Turnout

By Carlos Rosario

Special to the Live Wire

More than 100 people from within and outside the college, took advantage of the flu clinic at Manchester Community College Nov. 16.

Vaccines were given for \$30, said Kerry McNiven, a professor of science and health careers who helped to organize and plan the event. This is the sixth year that MCC hosted a flu clinic, she said, and it has become a popular event.

But it was not the sixth consecutive year of the clinic.

"Last year there was a vaccine shortage," said McNiven, "and there were a lot of people in line but not enough vaccines."

To solve this problem a new numbering system was used, requiring all participants to first grab a numbered slip of paper from one of the assistants before getting in line. McNiven said that in this way "people can avoid an unnecessary wait."

Most people sat patiently awaiting their shot and enjoying food provided by the Hospitality and Food Services department. Those who missed the flu clinic and still wish to obtain a shot of the flu vaccine should call 1-888-NOTOFU for more information.

Campus Club Offers Students Access to Local Politicians

By Keith Rugar and Ross Hilton

Live Wire Staff Writers

Politics may be for geeks, but the Manchester Community College Political Union is trying to bridge the information gap between politicians and students by bringing local politicians to campus.

Students Kyle Johnson, Linda Dettore, and Johanna McCashland started the club in the fall of 2005 in order to do that and raise student's awareness of political issues. The group then asked political science professor Angelo Messoro to become the club advisor.

"The students are the ones responsible for starting the club. They came to me with the idea," Messoro said.

The club now consists of 15 regular attending members who meet once a week and debate political issues and encourage civic engagement. The group consists of individuals with diverse beliefs along with strong, educated opinions. Some of the issues the club discusses are the War in Iraq, the Bush administration, various issues in Central and South America, and the war on drugs.

Throughout the fall semester the club invited local politicians to the campus.

"We have tried to pull politicians from different political groups. We are not saying that kids should be Democrats or Republicans, just that they should be involved and be aware of what's going on," said Dettore, the current president of MPU.

This election season the group was successful in attracting local politicians like 4th District State Sen. Mary-Ann Handley, and Senate challengers Ned Lamont, both Democrats, Republican Senate challenger Alan Schlesinger, Green Party Senate nominee Ralph Ferrucci, and the Green Party nominee for Governor Clifford Thornton.

These sessions enabled students, faculty and staff to hear the politician's view on many topics and offered a question and answer period.

"The question and answer sessions have been very successful and interesting, because students get to ask politicians about things that they care about," Dettore said.

The biggest event this year for the club was on Nov. 2 when Lamont came to speak to a packed audience in the SBM Charitable Auditorium. That appearance also brought some local and national media to the college. Later that same day, Schlesinger spoke to a smaller group of about 10 students.

Dettore credits professor Messoro for his work in getting the speakers to the campus.

"He was our main contact to the politicians," she said.

During the spring semester, MPU is hoping to hold more political events and hope more students will get involved, said Dettore. She said she feels that it is important for students to understand politics because they are the generation who will run the country.

"We should be aware of political issues like social security, and the War in Iraq," she said.

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Muslim Students Offer a Taste of Ramadan

By Robert Cooper
Live Wire Assistant Editor

The Muslim Student Association at Manchester Community College held an event to bring about awareness of the holy month of Ramadan and the significance of fasting. "A Taste of Ramadan" was held in the lobby of the Lowe building Oct. 19.

The event began with an introduction by MSA President Amir Muhammad, a prayer recitation and a video presentation that stressed the importance of tolerance, acceptance, and gaining knowledge about people with different faiths and cultural backgrounds. There were scenes from inside different mosques, highlighting the prayer rituals of people of Islamic faith.

Muhammad said the MSA plans become more active on campus.

"We hope to promote knowledge, peace, and harmony with people from various cultural and religious backgrounds," he said.

Ramadan begins on the ninth month of the Islamic lunar calendar, and lasts either 29 or 30 days. On the 29th day of the eighth month, also known as Sha'ban, Muslims look to the western horizon for the new moon. If the new moon is sighted, Ramadan has begun with the sunset, but fasting will begin with the next dawn.

Fasting, or Sawm, begins at dawn and ends at sunset. A pre-dawn meal called Sahur is eaten along with fluids to prepare them for fasting. During the day, Muslims are required to not eat, drink or engage in sexual activity and must adhere to the moral code of Islam. Immediately after sunset, the fast is broken by eating dates and drinking water or juice. After the fast is broken, there is a sunset prayer called the Maghrib, followed by a full meal.

Guest speaker Marwa Aly discussed the value and different levels of knowledge for the holy month. Ramadan is the most sacred month of the year, she said, and brings Muslims closer to God. Aly said that the fasting during Ramadan is not easy in the beginning.

"The first couple of days are difficult," she said. "You may be light-headed, and find it hard to concentrate. It's a major sacrifice."

Fasting is also not only about eating, she said. Muslims must forgive all



Robert Cooper/ Live Wire

Participants in the celebration of Ramadan at MCC Oct. 19 included, from left to right, Altay Eren, Muhammad Arif, and Ahmet Caglar, who are praying. Ramadan is the ninth month of the Holy Calendar in the Muslim tradition, the time when it is believed the Quran, or Holy Book, was sent down from heaven. The month is marked with prayer and fasting.

those who have may have harmed them.

"Real fasting is fasting of the heart," said Aly.

After Aly spoke there was a brief question and answer period and then Muhammad the Adhan prayer breaking the fast.

Tables full of food from Pakistan, and various countries in the Middle East were offered. The meal included hummus, baba gannoush, rice pilaf, beef and chicken kabobs, baklava, bean pies and pineapple upside down cake. MCC President Jonathan M. Daube said the food was great and that it was wonderful that Muslim students felt comfortable at the college.

The MSA was active at MCC several years ago, but ceased to exist after the graduation of many of the members, said Muhammad. He said he was approached by a Muslim woman who asked him where he prayed. Then, he said, he realized that there should be a school club for Muslims.

The purpose of the club, he said, is to be a support group for Muslims students academically, socially, and spiritually and break the negative stereotypes some people have of Muslims.

MCC Class Takes on Housing Issues

By Keith Rugar
Editor

At the beginning of the fall semester, assistant professor of sociology Timothy Woods and his Sociology 100 Community Involvement class started a project with the Manchester Initiative for Supportive Housing. Through this project the class looked at the needs of the homeless and low-income families in the Manchester area.

Woods said the sociology department looks at issues in the community in all of its classes but this class gives the students the ability to put what they know back into the community. The Community Involvement class was new this semester; Woods came up with the course over the summer.

John Munez, a general studies major and student in the class, said he was surprised that Woods was letting the class go out and tell people about the program.

"It gives the class the opportunity to not only educate others but also educate ourselves about these issues and from the start I was ready to jump into the project and get started," he said.

The goal of the initiative is to inform and educate the residents of Manchester about homelessness and supportive housing

as a successful way to reduce or eliminate homelessness, according to a flyer about the project. Several speakers, including Manchester Mayor Stephen T. Cassano and David Blackwell of the Manchester Initiative for Supportive Housing, visited the class to discuss ideas.

Munez said the class started by looking at ways to support low-income families and homeless people, but soon the students began to look at other issues, like single parent homes and low-income families who work day-to-day just to make it by.

"The goal is to do what ever we can to help," said Munez. "But if we could find housing for people through supportive housing with the Manchester Housing Authority, that would be a great accomplishment."

Munez said 176 people are homeless in Manchester and 63 percent of them are children.

"That may not sound like much compared to state figures, but it is a lot for a town," he said.

The class is divided into four groups that are responsible for different areas.

We have a video team who film the people who come in to support us or take footage at local shelters; the political group contacts local

politicians; a research group gathers information on homelessness and compares it to information from past years, and the fourth group is trying to get the word out around the campus, Munez said.

"At first the class wanted to call the local planning and zoning department and establish land for housing," Woods said. "But the students learned that they needed to establish things step by step."

Through the semester Woods said he has noticed how involved his students have become with this project.

"Unlike most classes where students leave after the lecture is over, my students meet after class to discuss the project," he said.

Woods said that the project is ongoing and will continue in the spring with the next Sociology 100 class.

The class may not only find housing for local residents but it might also provide some students with a career path.

"If I was to get into this kind of work after college it would not be bad," said Munez. "I would be helping someone get back on their feet, and it would be worth it."

MCC News

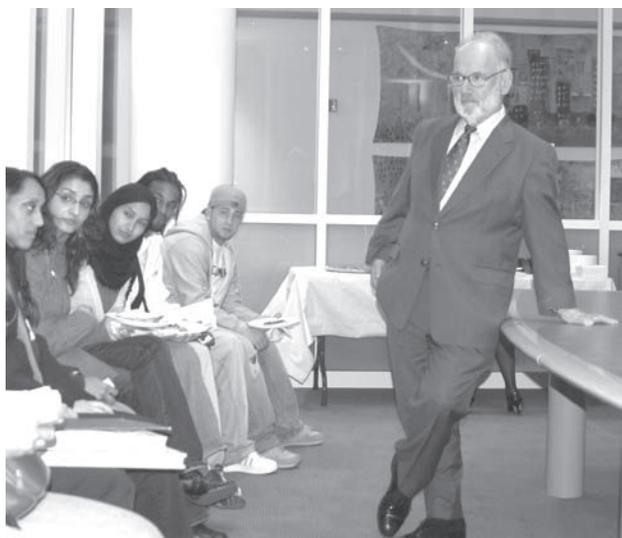
Students Chow Down with the President

By Bill Rapp
Special to the Live Wire

Around 50 students gathered on Nov. 14 to eat free pizza and ask Manchester Community College Pres. Jonathan Daube anything that was on their mind. The meeting was the first of its kind, but not the last.

The idea behind Pizza with the President was Daube's, he said. The two sessions, one from noon to 1 p.m. and the other from 5-6 p.m., were an informal way for students to meet and ask questions, Daube said. The purpose was to get unfiltered information on what the students were thinking.

As students arrived, they were given name badges, shown the pizza table and beverage coolers and found seats. The president arrived and gave a brief introduction while students filed in and made their way to the pizza. When the president was done, he invited questions from the students. The students appeared to be engaged,



Robert Cooper/Live Wire

MCC Pres. Jonathan M. Daube listens to student's questions and concerns at the Pizza with the President session, on Nov. 14.

although not everyone participated. The questions in the evening session ranged from the role of the Student Senate to parking. Not all the questions were school related. Some of them were about

what the president did in his personal time and were the most surprising, said Daube.

Although the meeting was the Daube's idea, Umesh Vig, assistant to the Dean of Students, was given the responsibility for putting the idea into reality. Vig, with the help of students, sent almost 700 invitations by mail. Of that, there were just five responses, he said.

"The hope was to get a broad cross section of students," Vig said. "Future meetings will be advertised differently."

The cost of the event was around \$400, and did not come from student funds, said Vig. The meetings were catered by the school's cafeteria manager, Tim Stuart. Stuart made between 45 and 50 pizzas on short notice and provided excellent service, Vig said. Any leftovers were passed to students and campus staff.

The meetings were a success, said Daube and Vig, and are being planned for next semester, but exact dates and times have not yet been determined.

Culinary continued from page 1



Photo by Julie Carlo

The winning MCC Culinary team is, from left to right, Albert Lavoie, Culinary Arts professor Linda Coons, Brendan Chapman, Fred Huhn, Justin Reich, and Theresa Olchanowski.

Olchanowski made a salad of baby spinach, arugala, and other greens, croutons made from bleu cheese, and apple walnut vinaigrette.

The team also made anisette shrimp on a bed of roasted ritacco, with a fennel sauce. The main entrée was panko encrusted rack of lamb with a leek comfit, tempura battered sugar snap peas for the vegetable, and a purple potato tower for the starch.

"The way the lamb was prepared made a big difference," Lavoie said. "It came out superior to our competition, giving us good points from the judges."

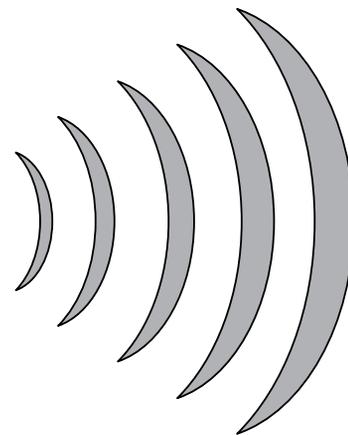
When the win was announced

the team was ecstatic.

"We all just started yelling, we were all very excited and shocked," Reich said. "Before the competition, we were just hoping not to come in third place."

"This was a good victory that made people realize MCC is more than a community college, the students here learn, they're excellent, and displayed great teamwork," said Coons.

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December Soduko

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Road to MCC Leads Past Ground Zero for Student

By Krystal Caron

Special to the Live Wire

Sherry Webb, 30, was scheduled to be in the World Trade Center, on the 23rd floor, at 8 a.m., on Sept. 11, 2001. Webb, a salesperson, was supposed to be sealing a business deal that would have made her enough money to retire at the age of 25.



Krystal Caron/Live Wire

Sherry Webb, a former businesswoman, is now a surgical technology student at MCC. Her life changed after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, when she was spared after a meeting set for the World Trade Center was cancelled.

But fate, in the form of devastating terrorist attacks that killed more than 3,000 people, intervened saving her life and leading her down a different path to Manchester Community College.

“I can’t even put it into words, oh I’ll never forget that day,” she said.

At 5 a.m. that day, while sitting at the Hartford Train Station, that she received a phone call telling her that the manager of the company she was supposed to meet with never made his flight out of California. Webb said she had a feeling that something was going to interrupt this huge deal, because it was almost too good to be true.

“I was so disappointed. This was going to be a very sizeable commission, something only in my dreams,” she said.

So instead of heading to N.Y. she went to her office in Hartford to start working on other proposals. Webb was listening to the Howard Stern Show in her office when she heard the news of the attacks on the World Trade Center.

“He all of a sudden starts talking about how a plane has just hit the World Trade Center. I was like is this some kind of sick joke,” she said. She remembers sitting in her chair asking herself if this was really happening. Many of her colleagues worked at the World Trade Centers, including a close friend at MCI.

“I just started laughing hysterically,” she said.

That was just her first reaction.

“Then I started crying,” she said.

Webb went home that day and, like many in the rest of the world, watched events unfold on television.

A native of Boston, Webb’s family moved to Connecticut when she was three. She spent her teenage years in Enfield, then attended Asnuntuck Community College in Enfield and later the University of Connecticut, where she majored in business management in marketing.

“I drooled over briefcases and my pens,” she said. “I wanted to be a power business woman.”

Webb never graduated college. She got a job before then at a small sales marketing company. At 20, she sold data packages and web pages, stressing to the selected companies that they needed to expand their data capacity through the Internet. It was a challenging job for her because back in the mid 1990s selling web pages was new and Internet was in its infancy.

“I was selling websites when they first came out and nobody wanted them. They thought that it wouldn’t be that big,” she said.

But she managed to convince many of them and later landed at AT&T. She was hired at an entry level position, but that soon led to a promotion representing AT&T at Fortune 500 Business in Boston. By now she had perfected her pitch to businesses about the importance of doing business on the web.

“I managed to sell some very large companies, and I made a name for myself,” she said.

Webb was promoted to manager shortly after she turned 21.

“I knew I would make manager in a couple of years, I wanted to make director before I turned 30, and I wanted to retire before I was 40. I was well on my way of accomplishing that,” she said.

Along the way she made several friends. One was a woman who worked for MCI, an AT&T competitor, in New York. Her friend’s career took off with MCI, but the two women helped each other. Webb lost her friend on Sept. 11. The woman was working at the World Trade Center that morning.

Fighting back tears, Webb describes how much her friend meant to her.

“She was totally like my mentor, and she was one of my closest friends,” she said.

By 2001, Webb’s salary and commission had doubled and she had offices in Stamford, West Hartford, Rochester, N.Y., Boston, and at home. But Sept. 11, 2001, changed her life. She decided she could no longer be all about business and money.

“I felt there was another reason why I am here, and it’s not to make a lot of money,” she said.

Webb is now a surgical tech student at MCC. She has completely taken her life in a new direction.

“I wanted to go home and not say ‘wow look at how much money I’m getting.’ I wanted to focus on the experience and have it mean something personally to me,” she said.

Webb tried to visit Ground Zero two years ago, but broke down before she made it there. Webb said she does not hold any regrets in life. She believes that where her life stands today is where she is supposed to be. The terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001 redirected her life, but it is a direction she takes as a blessing.

“It was just a day that made me realize who I was, and I had been given a second lease on life to become who I was supposed to be, and for that I’m grateful,” she said.

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The Live Wire Holiday



It's the holiday season and what better time to give to those who have given so much to us? Celebrities and people in the public eye in particular have given us lots to laugh about, cringe about and even shake our heads about. So here is what we would give – if only we could – to some of them this holiday season.

President George W. Bush – For our fearless leader, The “Dummy’s Guide to Public Speaking.” May it help him keep his foot out of his mouth.

Kevin Federline – For Britney Spears soon-to-be ex-husband, some talent and a good divorce lawyer. He’s going to need both if he ever want to see his kids again.

Alan Schlesinger – For the underdog Republican candidate to the U.S. Senate that lost the race to Joe “Which Party Do I Belong to Again?” Lieberman, a trip to the Foxwoods casino where he can drown his sorrows at the high rollers table. He’ll probably run into Ned Lamont there.

Ned Lamont – For the underdog Democratic candidate to the U.S. Senate that lost the race to Joe “Which Party Do I Belong to Again?”

Lieberman where he can rollers table. Schlesinger t

Mel Gibbs mouth tends time member

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Donald R Defense, a o Iraq so he ca women fight years.

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Area Charities Seek V

By Amy Grigitis
Special to the Live Wire

Hunger has no season, but during the cold winter months a little can go a long way. At the very least, it can make the season a little better. Since we all have a greater sense of charity in us around the holidays, local charities that are always looking for volunteers benefit from the generosity of others, and any help is highly appreciated.

For Priscilla Brayson, the director of the Enfield Loaves and Fishes soup kitchen at 28 Prospect St., the battle against hunger is ongoing. “People are hungry and homeless all year round, not just the holidays,” she said.

Stopping by the kitchen recently on a rainy Monday night, the dinner had just ended, and a few people were still sitting around the tables in the dining room, enjoying their coffee.

With the freezing weather approaching, Brayson said, food demand is on the increase, along with the number of people visiting the kitchen. To decrease the demand, Brayson said the kitchen works with more than 200 volunteers, but more are always needed. Volunteers help prepare and serve the food, and clean up the dishes afterwards.

Brayson said the kitchen served 46,646 meals last year alone. Thanksgiving and Christmas plans are well under way.

Another organization dedicated to providing food and clothing

Day Gift Guide

on, a trip to the Foxwoods casino
n drown his sorrows at the high
He'll probably run into Alan
there.

on – For the actor/director whose
to go racist when he drinks, a life-
rship to Alcoholics Anonymous.

ackson - For the ageless pop icon
U.S. resident, some more plastic
a new passport photo should he
visit us again.

se and Katie Holmes – For the
- now on honeymoon after the
celeb-packed wedding at a castle in
g Hollywood marriage, which, on
e days, is about 6 months.

Richards – For the “Seinfeld” alum
a racist rant at a comedy club
by the way – some advice: Enough
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umsfeld – For the former Secy. of
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v- Ex-hypeman for the legendary
p Public Enemy, and current VH1

television personality,
known for wearing a
clock around his neck,
should receive a clock that
tells him his 15 minutes of fame
are over.

Britney Spears- The ex-pop princess and
soon-to-be-divorced mother of two should get
a couple of dummy proof baby car seats.

Iraqi President Jalal Talabani- An armored
Hummer and all the luck in the world at
keeping the ever increasing hostility in the
country away from the breaking point of
Civil War.

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadine-
jad, - For the diminutive guy, some platform
shoes and a self-autographed copy of the
United Nations Non-proliferation Treaty.

Osama Bin laden- For the terrorist leader
and the FBI's Most Wanted man in the
world, a glow-in-the-dark T-shirt with his
name on it, and a Global Positioning System
locator.

North Korean President, Kim Jong Il – For
another short world leader, some stilts and a
self help book. Maybe he could learn to not
feel so insecure about the size of his country,
and perhaps he'll put the missiles away.

Compiled by Live Wire Staff

Volunteers and Donations

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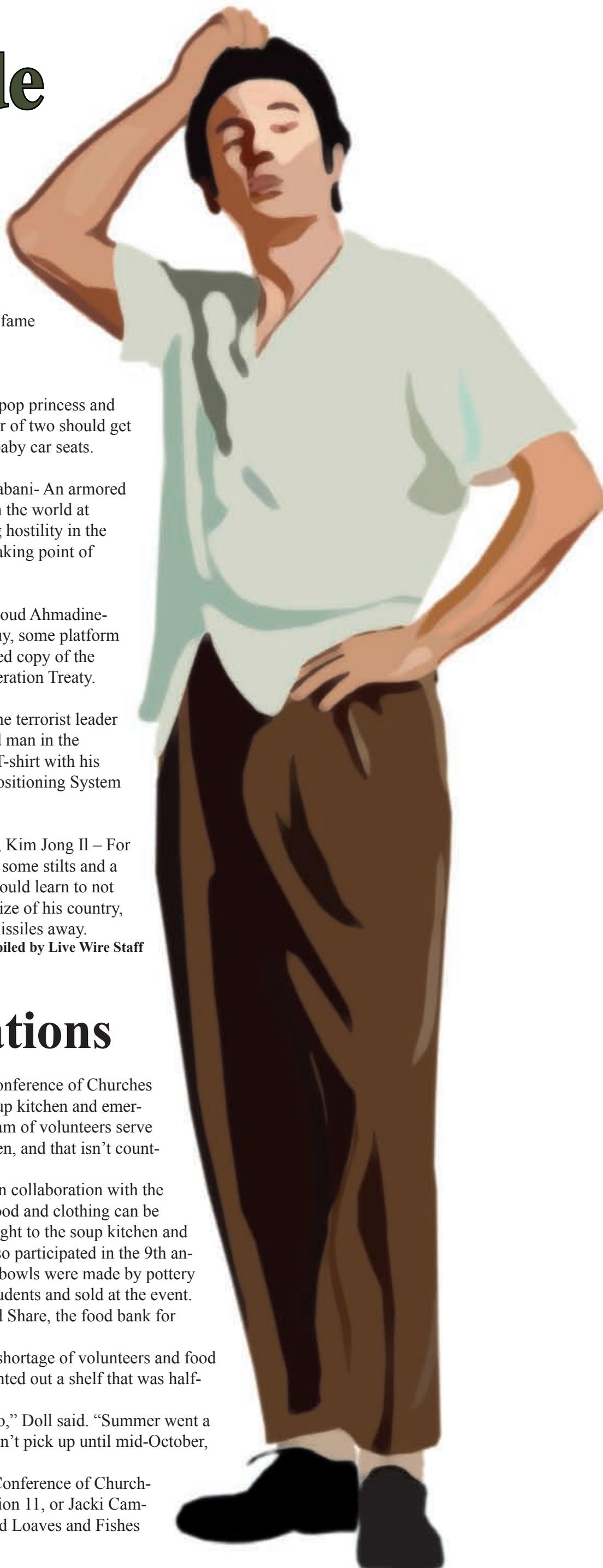
services for the needy is the Manchester Area Conference of Churches at 466 Main St. Dale Doll, the director of the soup kitchen and emergency shelter in Manchester, said she and her team of volunteers serve an estimated 3,600 meals per month at the kitchen, and that isn't counting the holiday dinners.

Manchester Community College is working in collaboration with the soup kitchen on a food drive for the holidays. Food and clothing can be donated at the school, which will in turn be brought to the soup kitchen and the shelter. Last month, the MCC community also participated in the 9th annual Empty Bowls event. For the event ceramic bowls were made by pottery students and soups were prepared by culinary students and sold at the event. The \$17,000 raised was donated directly to Food Share, the food bank for soup kitchens in Hartford and Tolland counties.

Doll agreed with Brayson that there is a shortage of volunteers and food donations. During a tour of the facility, Doll pointed out a shelf that was half-filled with canned fruit and vegetables.

“That shelf was empty about a month ago,” Doll said. “Summer went a little long this year, and so the food donation didn't pick up until mid-October, when it started getting cold outside.”

To volunteer with the Manchester Area Conference of Churches, contact Dale Doll, at (860)-647-8003, extension 11, or Jacki Champion, at extension 18. Priscilla Brayson at Enfield Loaves and Fishes can be reached at (860)-741-0226.



Program Explores Role Minorities Played in Connecticut History

By Keith Rugar
Editor

The rich history of Connecticut was made possible through the involvement of many minority groups that don't get recognition in history books, according to the presenters during the Association for the Study of Connecticut History's program held at Manchester Community College Nov. 4.

"Insiders and Outsiders Ethnicity, Immigration, and Status in Connecticut" brought many local historians and history teachers to campus to offer students, and those interested in history a focus on the involvement of Blacks, Native Americans, and other minority groups in the development of local communities.

The program, which was brought to the campus by history professor Goucun Yang, began with the keynote address by William Fothergill, who is a counselor at Central Connecticut State University and in his spare time researched his family's history back to the 1600s. Fothergill, who is Black, found out that he is related to a distant

cousin who grew up thinking that her whole family was Irish. He posed the question "are we who we are, or are we who people see us as?"

"Who is actually Black and who is actually white, who is a Native American? The inconsistency of racial groups is social-political rather than ethnic," he said. "Let's keep an open eye, and an open mind because we might not be who we appear to be."

The sessions were far reaching and covered many issues involved in the history of immigration in Connecticut.

Jesse Nasta, a senior at Wesleyan University in Middletown, looked at the existence of Black communities in Middletown after the Civil War, and their relationship to the greater white community surrounding it. Middletown was a stop on the Underground Railroad, and perhaps the first planned Black community in Connecticut, Nasta said.

"These Blacks were insiders within their own

community, but outsiders in the view of the greater white community," he said.

David J. Naumec, of the Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center in Mashantucket, presented a lecture that looked at how many Native Americans in Connecticut formed military regiments and fought in the Civil War.

He said that a misperception of race and ethnicity has made researching Native American populations difficult because of the past practice of calling all non-whites "colored." Although Native American people were less noticeable to the greater white community, they were still in existence, just interwoven into society, he said.

This was the first time that the ASCH held its annual event at MCC, and Pres. Jonathan Daube said at the opening ceremony that he hoped that the association would return in the future.

Beta Dance Troupe Performs Dances of Ethiopian Jewry

By Robert Cooper
Live Wire Assistant Editor

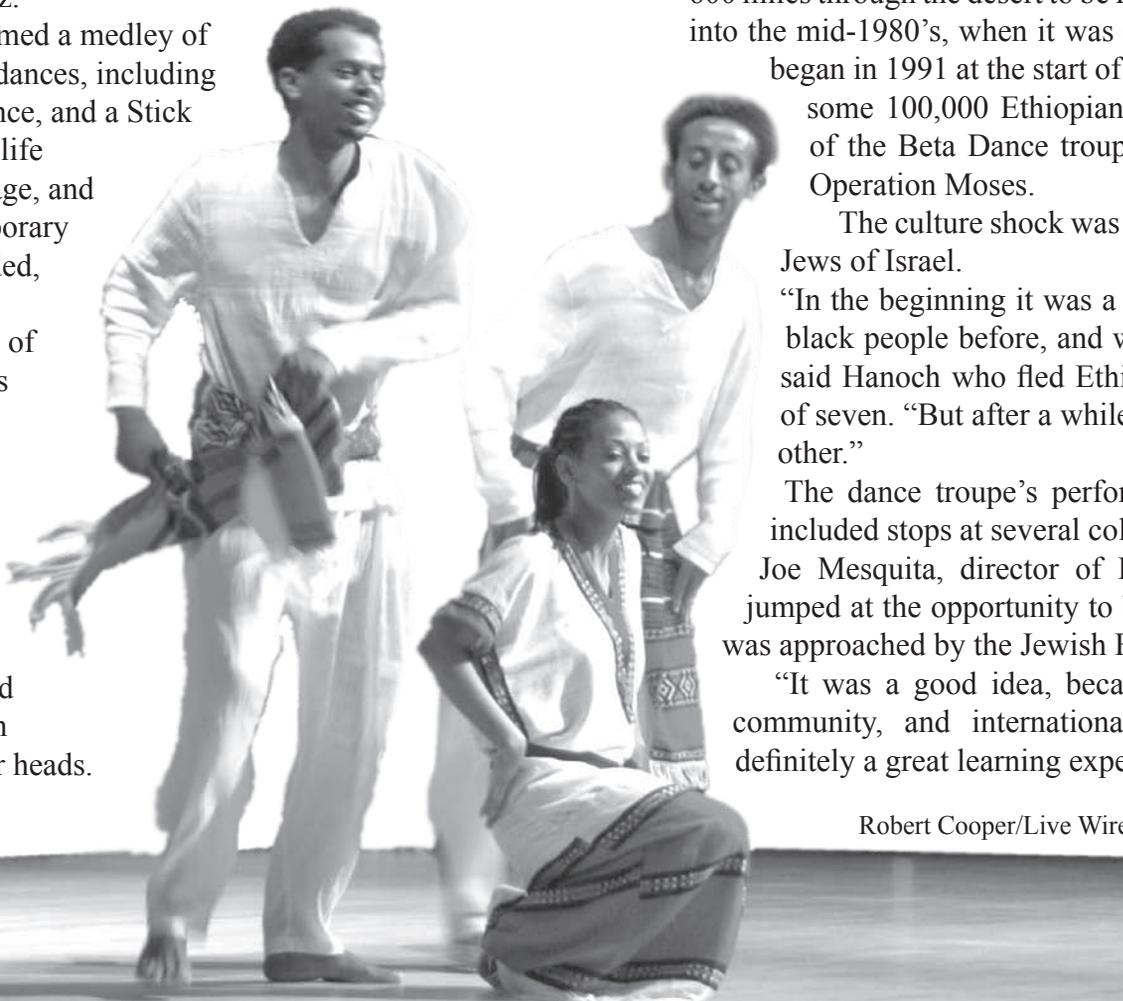
The SBM Charitable Foundation Auditorium was the site of a unique performance that combined the sounds and dances of Ethiopia. The Beta Dance Troupe came to MCC in a presentation titled "Eskesta Shoulder Dancing of Ethiopian Jewry."

The dance troupe's performance featured traditional dances that combined elements of Ethiopian tribal dances, mainly the Eskesta, or shoulder dancing.

"Dances in West Africa use a lot of legs and arms, in South Africa they use their behinds and chest, in Ethiopia we use our shoulders and necks," said singer and dancer Dege Hanoch.

Hanoch, Gilate Bayene and Gila Betualin were the female dancers. The male members were Aman Chole, Avi Gola, and Sissay Meniwab. Dancing was the major focus of the performance, but the members also sang, played the drums and chanted in the sacred language of Ethiopian Jewry known as Ge'ez.

The troupe performed a medley of traditional Ethiopian dances, including the Guraghe Foot Dance, and a Stick dance that brought to life stories of love, marriage, and masculinity. Contemporary dance numbers included, "What the Shoulders Remember," made up of traditional movements with more up-to-date choreography. The "Opus for Heads" was done by the three female members sitting on chairs, dressed in pink clothing and head wraps, and focused on the movement of their heads.



"The accentuation of the shoulders and the head movements was very interesting to me," said student Kyle Bennett. "You could tell there was a lot of communication in their movements."

The dances are the result of a complicated history for those of the Jewish faith who were born in the east African country of Ethiopia. Ethiopian Jews lived in the northwest region of Axum, before it was invaded by Christians. The Jews battled with Christians, who tried to convert them, for three centuries, before the last independent stronghold fell in the 17th century. Many converted to Christianity, while a few living in small villages maintained their Judaism under threat of persecution.

When the state of Israel was established in 1948, the Jews of Ethiopia also wanted to be part of the migration to the Jewish settlement. A debate arose as to whether or not they were Jews, which deferred their immigration for decades. In 1977, a mass migration to the neighboring country of Sudan known as "Operation Moses" began. Thousands of Ethiopian Jews walked 600 miles through the desert to be flown to Israel. The movement lasted well into the mid-1980's, when it was exposed in the press. Another migration began in 1991 at the start of a revolution in Ethiopia. Today there are some 100,000 Ethiopian Jews living in Israel. All the members of the Beta Dance troupe came to Israel at some point through Operation Moses.

The culture shock was felt by both the Jews of Ethiopia, and the Jews of Israel.

"In the beginning it was a little harsh because they had never seen black people before, and we had never seen white people before," said Hanoch who fled Ethiopia in 1985 with his family at the age of seven. "But after a while it got better, and we learned about each other."

The dance troupe's performance was part of a 17 day tour that included stops at several colleges in Connecticut and Massachusetts. Joe Mesquita, director of International Student Services, said he jumped at the opportunity to bring the performance to MCC when he was approached by the Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford.

"It was a good idea, because this office is involved with social, community, and international affairs," said Mesquita. "This was definitely a great learning experience for the students here."

Robert Cooper/Live Wire

The dancers, from left to right, Avi Gola, Gila Betualin, and Sissay Meniwab from the Beta Dance Troupe, perform the Shoulder Dance on Nov. 6 in the SBM Charitable Auditorium.

Editorials



Why should I be the editor?

Keith Rugar

As the semester comes to an end, I guess that is what is on my mind. It is not that I am the most qualified student for this leadership role. I am not the best writer, student, or leader. But out of the 6,094 students that Manchester Community College has enrolled this semester, I stepped up to fill this position.

Now, to say that I am not the best qualified student is perhaps unfair. I have been an active member of the *Live Wire* since November of 2004. So, that says a lot about what being involved on campus can achieve. Since I have been involved with the *Live Wire* I have found that putting together a campus newspaper, and helping to manage the paper is a great responsibility. In many respects I feel that it is more important than any of the classes I took this semester. However, I don't receive a grade for it, so it does not help me in that respect.

MCC has many other campus clubs that students can get involved with, like the Manchester Political Union, the Dance Team, the Spanish Club and many others and there are many active students in these clubs; but, as with the *Live Wire*, I think that more students could be involved. From my point of view it would be great to have more students writing and being actively involved with the paper. I fully appreciate the students who have found the time and the interest to have been involved with us this semester, but the more students that get involved with the paper the better the paper will be. So, I encourage any communications or journalism student, or any other student with an interest and something to contribute to get involved with the paper.

Being involved with campus clubs like the *Live Wire* shows that, as a student, you do more than come for class. It shows that you are more a part of the campus community. I feel that more students should look for ways to

Letters to the Editor

Time after Time The Tower Café Taking Their Time

It's 3:31 p.m. on Tuesday afternoon. I just got out of a three hour biology lab and boy, am I hungry!

I look at my watch again. It's now 3:41 p.m. and my order is finally being taken by the one employee working at the Tower Café. I took last semester off and now I'm back at MCC and to no avail the Tower Café is still the same.

If you recall, in the fall semester of 2005 I wrote a letter titled "The Tower Café Not Up to My Standards." Since that article, I have noticed few changes. One change I have noticed is that every time I have ordered, the employee has worn gloves. On the other hand, they fired their best employee. Moreover, the café is pretty regularly out of a number of cold cuts or salads or cookies by 3 p.m. They do have a few employees who seem to care but when they are under pressure because it's only them working by themselves, understandably they're rushed, overworked, understaffed and underpaid.

As I have said before, it's a good thing that the Tower Café isn't going to be franchising anytime soon. I don't know how Subway would have made it if they took 10 minutes to take your order. Truthfully, the only thing the Tower Café has going for them is location. It's hard to say it's a bad location when you're in the middle of a 3,000 person college. There are 3,000 potential customers per day and "sorry there's no more roast beef, or we only have wraps today?"

Unfortunately, I bet on some days I could get in my car, drive down to Blimpies sandwich shop, get served and make it back to eat in the AST dining area in under 10 minutes.

Don't get me wrong, I'm not blaming the employees. They seem to be doing the best they can, while working in a suboptimal environment. I think maybe what they need is a change in management.

P.S. Beware of the soup: it is so hot, that the steam coming from the spoon full of soup on its way to my mouth burned my tongue.

Matthew Gileau

be active on camps. Many students graduate from college and will receive the same degrees and credits that allow them to transfer to other schools. So, in a way, everyone does the same class work, but it is often the work that you do outside of the classroom that sets you apart from other students.

So, as the spring semester approaches I hope that more students will take the time to participate in a campus club, because it not only benefits the club, but in the long run your involvement is something that will also be a benefit to you.

livewire@mcc.commnet.edu

Richards' Comments Raise Some Serious Questions About Race in America

By Robert Cooper

Live Wire Assistant Editor

Michael Richards, who for nine seasons played Kramer on the sitcom "Seinfeld" on NBC, is the latest celebrity to get in trouble after putting his foot in his mouth. Richards joins fellow bigots actor and producer Mel Gibson, sports commentator Jimmy "The Greek" Snyder, and the band Motley Crue's Nikki Sixx, among others, who have made racially insensitive comments.

The controversy started after a stand up performance at a comedy club in Los Angeles, where Richards launched into a profanity-laced, racist tirade at a couple of Black hecklers in the audience. Included in his rant, that would make the Skinheads proud, Richards repeatedly called the hecklers "niggers," and added that "Fifty years ago you would be hanging upside down from a tree with a f***ing fork in your ass." The crowd was shocked at Richards; some argued with him, while others walked out.

During an appearance together with his former boss, Jerry Seinfeld, on the "Late Show with David Letterman" shortly after the incident, Richards offered an apology that had some audience members chuckling. Some people, though, within the Black community were still angry about the remarks.

That "some" should be a "many." But there is a lot of apathy on the part of many Black people who are far removed from the struggles of the Civil Rights Movement. I think the apathy is inexcusable.

During the appearance, Richards admitted to saying things about "Afro-Americans" and claimed he was not a racist. The only thing he didn't do was offer the most used response to racism charges and claim some of his best friends are Black.

Richards next move was to hire public relations expert Howard Rubenstein, who arranged for the comedian/actor to call the leading African-American leaders of the country. Who those leaders may be I have no clue, but he ended up talking to the Revs. Jessie Jackson and Al Sharpton.

This outburst from one of America's most beloved television characters has once again put a spotlight on the most hateful word on earth: nigger. It once again brings up the age-old debate over who can and cannot use the word. Well, it is my belief that no one, I mean **no one** should use the word. Black, white, yellow, brown, it makes no difference to me who utters the word, it is still offensive.

I know there are a lot of African-American people who feel the word is a term of endearment. That is because they lack knowledge of self, and knowledge of the history and true meaning of the word.

The word nigger is used as a means of oppression, degradation, stereotyping, and as a means to justify discrimination. White people during the era of slavery attached negative characteristics to the word to describe Black people. Many whites believed Blacks were lazy, ignorant, buffoons, prone to violence, hyper-sexed, animalistic, and over-indulgent. This belief was driven home through art depictions and minstrel shows where whites would dress in ragged attire, paint their faces Black with charcoal and exaggerate their lips and perform the most outrageous and buffoonish comedic routines, complete with song and dance.

None of those characteristics describe me or many other Black people I know. However, this doesn't mean that there aren't those within the Black community who do personify, profit from, and revel in those characteristics. Lately there has been a return to such behavior, and a return to a mind state that pre-dates the Civil Rights and Black Power eras.

please see **Richards** on page 10

Arts & Entertainment

New Games and Consoles on the Shelves for Christmas

By Mark L. Giroux

Special to the Live Wire

Video gaming has emerged as a new cultural form of entertainment for many people in America. According to the Entertainment Software Association, or ESA, 69 percent of American head of households play computer or video games. With the holiday season approaching, the battle for consumer dollars is centered on two competing console systems: the Xbox 360, created by Microsoft Corp., and the Playstation 3, created by Sony Computer Entertainment America, or SCEA.

The Xbox 360, which was released in November of 2005, has already sold five million consoles. Microsoft recently displayed several new games and developments for the Xbox 360 at an event they called "X06" in Barcelona, Spain. One upcoming new release is "Halo Wars," a real-time strategy game set in the world from the successful "Halo," now about two years old. The title will be made by Ensemble Studios and is scheduled to debut during the first part of 2007. Another highly-anticipated title for the Xbox 360 is "Gears of War," an action/horror game developed by Epic Games.

"The game looks to have an interesting story and the gameplay looks innovative," said Nick Lavigne, a gamer for 15 years and student at MCC. "The weapons also look like nothing I have ever seen...a chainsaw on a rifle, that's just awesome."

Sony's Playstation 3 was released Nov. 17. The company has more than 20 titles available for purchase through the holiday season, according to an Oct. 19 press release. The Playstation 3 uses blu-ray discs, or BD, instead of high definition discs. These discs allow for greater visuals while also providing a larger storage capacity.

The Playstation 3 has two different consoles, one with a 20 gigabyte hard drive disk, and one with a 60 gigabyte hard drive disk. This is different from the Xbox 360, which only offers a system without a hard drive, and

another system with a 20 gigabyte hard drive. However, the Playstation 3 will cost \$499 for the 20 GB hard drive and \$599 for the 60 GB hard drive, whereas Xbox's consoles retail for around \$300 and \$400, respectively.

These prices are comparatively high, considering that the Playstation 2 started out at around \$300 and is now about \$120. Do high prices deter gamers from purchasing industry products?

"No. If the game is good then it is worth the price," said Lavigne. "I understand that they put in a lot of time and money to deliver most games, and if they are good then why not buy them?"

Jessica Dennin, 20, an MCC student and longtime gamer, said that high prices will keep her from purchasing new games and consoles.

And yet, video and computer game software sales were a \$7 billion industry in the U.S. for 2005, according to the ESA. With so much money up for grabs, and sales predicted to increase on a yearly basis, hardware and software gaming developers look for new ways to entice both new and experienced gamers.

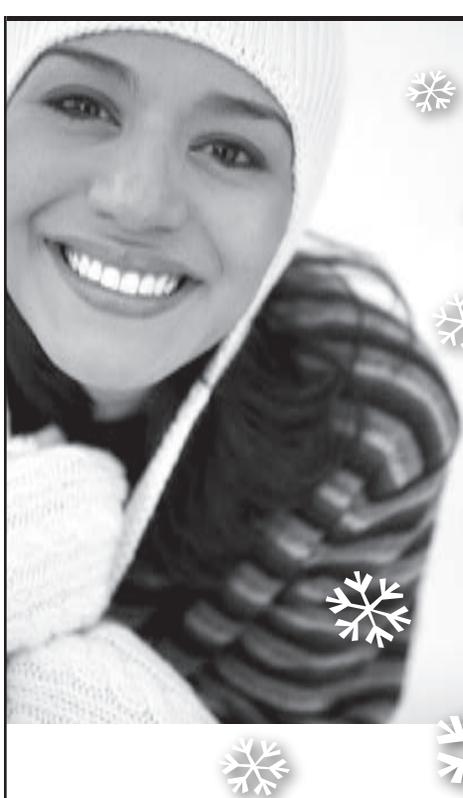
This often means adding more content to a system besides the games themselves. For example, the blu-ray discs with Playstation 3 also let the user watch movies. It will also allow talking between players via video or text chatting and users can browse the web, download and view videos or listen to music. According to Microsoft, a new high definition DVD player will be available that can be bought for the Xbox 360. Both the Xbox 360 and Playstation3 also offer multiplayer games that are played on a live, worldwide network.

Although new consoles try to be complete entertainment systems, their gaming worth can only be measured by the strength of the titles they have. It will be interesting to see if the titles for Playstation3 can match the already impressive and growing library for the Xbox 360. Microsoft plans to have around 160 titles released by the end of 2006.

The Xbox 360 features creative new titles like "Gears of War" and "Dead Rising," a game that immerses you in a shopping mall overrun by zombies. It also will be bringing back old classics like "Sonic the Hedgehog," originally released on the Sega Genesis in 1991, and a new title from the "Banjo Kazooie" franchise from Rare. Not to mention sequels to previous hit Xbox releases like the much anticipated "Halo 3" and the second installment in the "Fable" series.

The Playstation3 is poised to have the most titles accompanying the launch of a new console, but will they be good games? The Playstation1 cemented Sony's place in the video game industry, but this was largely because of the titles it offered. From innovative role-playing games such as "Final Fantasy Tactics," to entertaining platform games such as "Tomba," to the creative shooter "Einhander."

Hopefully the Playstation3 will have such titles as well, which personally were lacking from the Playstation2. "Resistance: Fall of Man," a first person shooter, has the ability to bring new depth to the genre by offering more immersive visual and sound effects. The Playstation3 is anticipated to sell well, but the test of its quality will be if it can offer great, not just good, game titles throughout its run as a console system.



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Richards continued from page 9

On television, Black Entertainment Television, or BET, is nothing more than a 24-hour minstrel show, with rappers and singers selling sex, violence, and materialism. VH-1's biggest hit of the year was "Flavor of Love" featuring entertainer Flavor Flav, ironically a member of the most revolutionary hip-hop group of all time, Public Enemy, clowning for the camera as he looked for a bride from a group of 25 strippers and Internet porn chicks.

The current state of mainstream music is pathetic and full of songs glorifying violence, promoting thugs and gangsters, endorsing alcohol consumption, and misogynistic behavior. Too many of today's youth worry more about fashion trends and jewelry instead of making a future for themselves through hard work and education. Black women are disrespected by men who feel their only purpose is to provide sexual relief, instead of a strong partner worthy of a lifetime commitment. The Black family structure has fallen apart.

This is definitely not the vision great Black freedom fighters like Marcus Garvey, Malcolm X, and the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. had for us. Richards may have said niggers, but too many of us are spending our time being niggers. That to me is the worst part of this controversy.

Arts & Entertainment

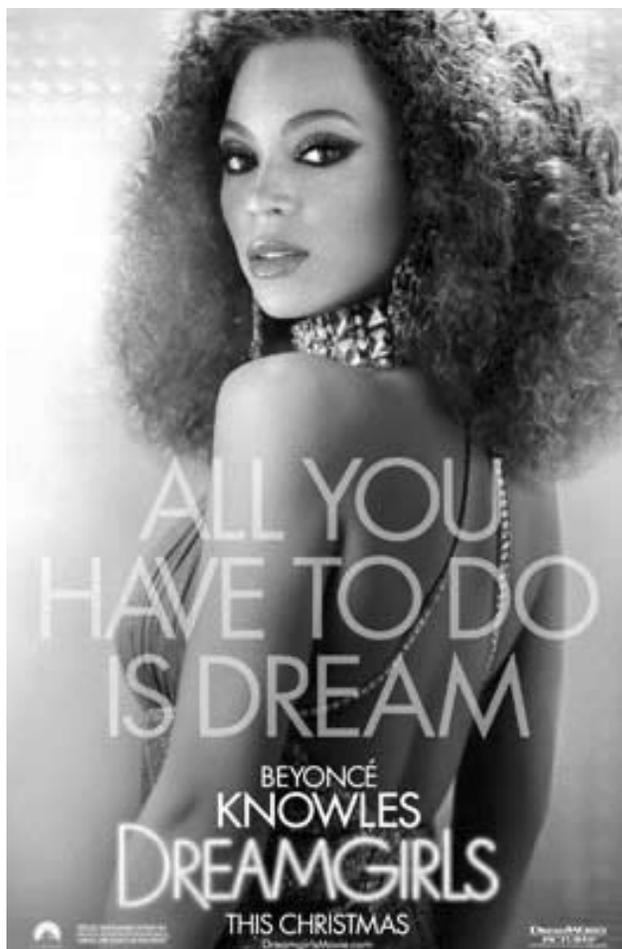
From “Dreamgirls” to Diamonds, the Holiday Movie Season Features Variety

By Robert Cooper
Live Wire Assistant Editor

There are two times during the year when the big-budgeted, hyped and over-hyped movies are released in theaters. One is during the summer and the other is over the Christmas holiday season. Well, the holiday season is here and with it are a whole slew of movies all vying to reach into your pockets to take what is leftover from shopping for loved ones. If you are an avid movie lover, a casual movie-goer, or just want to catch a flick for dating purposes, chances are there will be a movie for you. Here is a look at a few of the coming attractions.

By far the movie that is generating the biggest buzz is the super-star loaded film adaptation of the long running Broadway play, “Dreamgirls.” Set in the 1960’s, “Dreamgirls” is the story of the hardships a female R&B trio called the Dreams goes through as they grow from amateurs to stars. This movie is filled with star power and a couple of the actor’s names are being floated around for Oscar nominations. Beyonce Knowles, Eddie Murphy, Jamie Foxx, Danny Glover, and former American Idol contestant Jennifer Hudson should make this a highly rewarding movie. “Dreamgirls” is slated to be released on Dec. 21. But if you can’t wait that long and think paying \$10 at the local theaters is pocket change, there will be special showings in New York City from Dec. 15-24 for a whopping \$25. For information on where to obtain tickets, visit www.clearviewcinemas.com.

Mel Gibson hopes that moviegoers will forgive his drunken, Jew-bashing tirade earlier this year and watch his latest film project “Apocalypto” on Dec. 8. Despite the title, this is not another Christian movie like his last release “Passion of the Christ,” and it’s definitely far less controversial. “Apocalypto” tells the story of a warrior who has been picked for human sacrifice by tribal



Beyonce Knowles stars as Deena Jones in the movie “Dreamgirls,” one of the coming attractions due in theaters this holiday season.

elders in the last days of the Mayan Empire.

Moving from the serious to the truly absurd, Sylvester Stallone will put back on the red, white, and blue shorts to hop back in the ring one last time as Rocky Balboa. The movie, if you have been keeping count, should be called “Rocky VI”, but instead it’s called “Rocky Balboa”. The premise for this movie has a 60-something-year-old Rocky getting the boxing itch again after a computer predicts that a fight between him and the current champ would result in the senior citizen pugilist being victorious. Yeah right, but hey we all know Hollywood loves nothing more than

sucking whatever life they can from a franchise to make a quick buck. “Rocky Balboa” is coming to an empty theater near you on Dec. 22. If you miss it during the two weeks it’s at the theater, don’t worry, it should be out on DVD the next month.

Nerds who may be suffering from “Lord of the Rings” withdrawal may find some comfort in a fantasy adventure movie called “Eragon”, when it hits the theater on Dec. 15. “Eragon” is the first book of the trilogy called “Inheritance”, written by Christopher Paolini. Edward Speleers plays the title character who lives in a village called Carvahall, located in the fantasy world Alagaesia. Eragon finds a dragon egg, the egg hatches, out pops a dragon Saphira, and that’s when all the fun begins. Expect a movie full of CGI special effects, exciting and magical locations, middle earth fashions, Shakespearian dialogue, and British accents.

Finally, since movie studios don’t want to make a serious movie about the death and destruction diamonds bring to African nations, why not make an Indian Jones-style movie about it? “Blood Diamond” starring Leonardo DiCaprio, Jennifer Connelly, and Djimon Hounsou debuts Dec. 8. DiCaprio, fresh from two movies where he learned to speak with an Irish accent, will now try to master the South African accent as he and Hounsou go on a quest to find a priceless diamond in Sierra Leone that could change their lives. Hounsou’s character, Solomon Vandy, could use the diamond to rescue his family, and DiCaprio’s Danny Archer could begin a new, much richer life. Connelly plays Maddy Bowen, a journalist who falls in love with Archer.

These holiday releases as well as others should provide some release from the hectic holiday grind. Check your local newspaper, theater, or the Internet for showtimes, and be careful driving in the snow.

Bob Dylan Soars at the Mullins Center

By Pierre Bonet
Special to the Live Wire

A crowd of fans went to see one of music’s most influential singer/songwriters, Bob Dylan, who gave an amazing performance at the Mullins Center on the campus of the University of Massachusetts in Amherst Nov. 15.

Dylan and his band took the stage in matching gray suits and hats, except for Dylan, who was flawless in black. They had an energy and in sync agility to make the two-hour set seem effortless.

Dylan sang mostly songs from his latest critically-acclaimed blues album, “Modern Times.” When Dylan begins to perform you cannot help but focus on his lyrics. They are so profound that they leave you on the edge of your seat. Although, I have heard Dylan’s distinctive voice on albums for years now, his voice is so much better live. One of his most influential contributions to music was that he showed that to be a good performer you didn’t necessarily have to have a good voice. Yet still, at the age of 65, he continues to break that same barrier.

Each song performed by the Dylan is meticulously planned to the most minute detail.

He began singing “Rollin’ and Tumblin’,” which is an upbeat song that relied on his band and the already energetic crowd. He followed with “Nettie Moore,” which is dark and slow, relying on his voice and the mood set by the dim lighting. It wasn’t until four or five songs into his set that Dylan introduced his band as well as himself (as if he needed to.)

The opening band for the event was the Raconteurs, a rock group made up of old friends, including Jack Lawrence (bass), Patrick Keeler (drums), Brendan Benson (guitars, vocals, keys) and Jack White (guitars, vocals, keys). White is more widely known as one half of the rock/blues duo “The White Strips.” He’s great as the lead vocalist of The Raconteurs. They had the crowd going wild from start to finish of their one-hour set. When you see the band perform live you’re able to see how well they work together feeding off each other’s performance. The subtlety of Benson’s voice goes well with White’s melodic yells. One of the stellar moments of their performance was an unexpected cover of Nancy Sinatra’s “Bang Bang (You Shot Me Down).” They performed the

song with all the lights out except for low dimmed purple lights on stage, giving the performance a hauntingly beautiful feeling.

Although Dylan’s performance was incredible, I have to say there were moments of disappointment. I enjoyed the concert, but I think that because he sang songs that were mostly from his newest album, he might have not satisfied everyone. I had the feeling that a lot of people were expecting him to sing some crowd favorites such as, “Times are Changing,” and “Blowin’ in the Wind.” The only old songs he performed were “Like a Rolling Stone” and “Highway 61.” And the tone of those songs sounded nothing like the classic Dylan, but in the same blues style as the rest of his new album.

On the other hand, to me, it wasn’t just another concert; it was the experience of a lifetime during which I got to witness a legend at his best. It’s great when you go to a concert and the opening act is actually good; it’s even better when the main act shatters your expectations. To me Dylan was the embodiment of what good music should be.

Word on Campus



Aura Perrica
Undecided

“I once got a set of astrology dishes from my mother. I am not interested in astrology, but they were also really ugly too.”



Bryan LeBlanc
Business Management

“An ex-girlfriend of mine bought me a cat, not knowing I was allergic to cats. I felt really bad, so I didn’t tell her. I suffered a whole month before I finally told her.”



Marissa Carpio
General Studies

“My mother took me to this party where they were selling silverware. She bought a whole bunch of the silverware, and said ‘here’s your Christmas gift.’ On Christmas day, she had wrapped them all in paper bags, and handed it to me and my brother.”

What is the worst holiday gift you have ever received?



Kevin Nowall
Math

“The worst gift I was given was a gym membership. What made it even worse was it was from my Dad.”



Vanessa Phillips
Accounting and Business Administration

“I got a really ugly sweater from my brother’s sister-in-law. It was one of those kinds of sweaters that didn’t fit too well either.”



Monique Yorgensen
Therapeutic Recreation

“I was married for three years, and I didn’t receive anything from my husband. That was pretty bad.”

CT CPA Conference Visits MCC



More than 260 area high school students came to Manchester Community College last month for the annual Accounting Careers Conference, sponsored by the Connecticut Society of Certified Public Accountants. The conference is intended to expose the students, their teachers and guidance counselors to the college and opportunities available in a CPA career path. The conference is held annually at one of the 12 colleges or universities that offer an accounting degree and for the first time ever a two-year college, MCC, was the venue. The students began their day with a campus tour and were entertained in auditorium by the Accounting Crows, a rock band made up of local CPA’s. Several informational sessions were held throughout the day. Above, students participate in a question and answer session. Photo by Jill Wise of the CSCPA.