

Happy Holidays! Live Wire

Volume 25, Issue 3

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Manchester Community College

Free

Inside this Issue ...

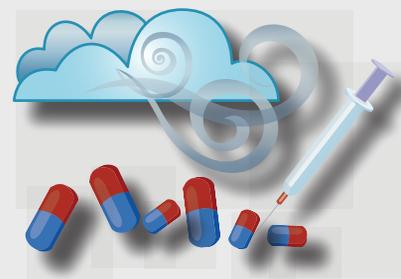
NEW COLUMN!



He Said, She Said on page 16.



Read about a stand out student at MCC on page 3.



Get and update on the TB scare on page 8.

Get some ideas from the Live Wire Gift Guide on pages 12 and 13.

WORD on campus

What would make you come out and support MCC's sports teams?
page 24

Campus Briefs	2
MCC News	3
Health.....	8
Editorials.....	10
Arts & Entertainment....	14
CD Reviews.....	17
Cartoons.....	22
Word on Campus.....	24

Rash of Smash and Grabs Raise Safety Concerns

By Ashley E. Lang
Live Wire Staff Writer

Smash and grab is the latest trend hitting Manchester Community College hard this semester with a random string of break-ins in cars parked in lots on campus. MCC police are still investigating reports of a series of car vandalism and thefts, some as recent as late October.

In recent weeks, parking lots B, C, and D have been the locations where unidentified person, or people, broke into to cars, smashing the windows, and looting stereos and other visible belongings.

"[We] don't know who was responsible [for the acts], there were no witnesses," said Susan Gibbens, director of Public Safety and Environmental Health and head of the MCC police.

According to reports that were sent via email to faculty and staff, there were two separate incidents in the past year. The most recent act that took place on Oct. 23, between 6 p.m. and 8:20 p.m. Radio/CD/tape systems were stolen from three separate cars parked on campus. Each car had a side window that was smashed and its stereo systems removed from the dashboard. In addition, one of the vehicles, along with the stereo, had several other items also stolen that were



Graphic courtesy of Google Images

occasionally someone is up to no good."

The concern that arises from the break-ins for many people on campus is whether or not the police are doing everything possible to prevent them.

"What more can we ask them [MCC police] to do? The school is lit up like a Christmas tree and cops [routinely check] the parking lots," said Anthony Goiangos, a General Studies major who is also active in student government.

Others feel the incidents are isolated and don't reflect the safety of the campus.

in plain view.

The earlier smash and grab occurred on March 26, between 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. when a female student, who was parked in the west side of C-Lot, found her right rear passenger window smashed and two pairs of expensive sunglasses missing out of a bag on the floor of her back seat.

The most recent incidents are not the first to have occurred on campus, Gibbens said.

"It seems like we have a couple of incidents a semester," she said.

"We're an open campus and

Please see **Safety** on page 3

Night of the Chefs Ends with Big Buddha Prize

By Jason Cunningham
Live Wire Editor

Tall white hats are rushing all around; under them are the finest culinary students that Manchester Community College, The Center for Culinary Arts, and Norwalk Community College has to offer. They are rushing for a good reason. It's Nov. 17, the second annual Night of the Chefs, held this year at MCC.

Night of the Chefs is an event to benefit Everybody Wins! CT. The organization helps state children learn how to read through two programs, the Readers as Leaders, program where older students read to kindergartners, and the Power Lunch program, in which a volunteer sets aside their lunch hour to read to local schoolchildren. Both programs have made a difference to children in the greater Hartford area and nationwide.

"We're thrilled to be here because we think the facilities are wonderful since they've been upgraded, the new kitchens are extraordinary, and the dining rooms are lovely," said Ann Waller, president of Everybody Wins! CT. "We're very happy to have Manchester Community College

host this event and good luck to all of the competition and all of the schools that are competing today for scholarship prizes."

As the event went on, patrons viewed three teams of chefs from competing schools make the best dish they could using mystery ingredients. The event was aired in a hall outside of the kitchen and on a big screen in the Cheney Dining Room.

"I think it's pretty exciting that the kids don't know what they're going to be working with until the very last minute," said Grace Talaga, MCC Food Lab Manager, "so we had two mystery proteins and a mystery vegetable... So they have to really think fast on their feet. We call it Grace on fire around here, but it's cooking under pressure without a doubt, hats off to all of them."

The cakes in the individual cake competition were elaborate, ranging from a fruit cart full of marzipan candy fruits to a

winter-themed cake with skiing polar bears. MCC's team competition cake featured a giant Buddha made out of

rice krispies on top of a floral themed cake, which took first prize in the team cake competition. MCC also took home first prize places for the categories of butter cream cake, string work cake, marzipan cake, and rolled fondant cake.

During the evening guests were treated to Brie cranberry quesadillas, Mediterranean pasta, chicken quesadilla wraps, and various other gourmet foods. Alcoholic beverages were also on hand.

MCC took first prize last year in the cooking competition, but that was not the case this year. The Center for Culinary Arts of Hartford won first place, followed by NCC in second and MCC in third.

Please see **Chefs** on Page 3

"...it's pretty exciting that the kid's don't know what they're going to be working with..."

-Grace Talaga

MCC News

Writing Contest Winners Announced

The winners of the 2006-2007 Writing Contest will be awarded during a ceremony Friday, Dec. 14 at 6 p.m. in the Fireside Commons, located in the LRC Building. The authors will be given awards for their winning essays, short stories, and poems. All members of the community are invited to attend. The winners are: Jessica Bauer, Miranda Bergeron, Ann Marie Carroll, Caitlin Dailey, Linda Davenport, Doreen Downham, Penny Field, Jess Fitzgerald, Jennifer Gates, Anthony Goiangos, Kathleen Kiley, Edgar Kunz, Nicole Marella, Brie McNamar, Christina O'Connor, Shannon Prescott, Cynthia Roberts-Diaz, Diana Ruman, William Sandoval, Russ Stockton, Kelly Whinnem and Dawn Williams. For information, contact Jeanine DeRusha, 512-2670.

Collecting Toys for Snow Angels

The MCC Criminal Justice Program is having its 10th Annual Snow Angels Toy Drive for the children of Clark Elementary School. Toys should be worth approximately \$8 - \$10 and are needed for boys and girls, ages 4-10. Toys need to be wrapped and labeled, and dropped off at Donna Nicholson-Martin's office, LRC A-244, or in one of the collection boxes located next to the first floor elevator in the AST and near the cafeteria in the Lowe Building. Toys will be collected until Dec. 14. For more information contact Donna Nicholson-Martin at 512-2756.

New STRONG-CT Coordinator Hired

MCC welcomes new staff member Teshia Levy-Grant as the school's STRONG-CT Project Coordinator. Funded by the National Science Foundation, the Science and Technology Reaching Out to New Generations in Connecticut, or STRONG-CT, is a partnership between MCC, Quinebaug Valley Community College, Three Rivers Community College and the University of Connecticut, which aims to recruit and retain minority and first generation students to careers in science. Levy-Grant is a graduate of Central Connecticut State University and was previously the coordinator of diversity initiatives for Saint Joseph College. She holds a masters degree in counseling and a bachelor's degree in English/Premed, both from Wesleyan University. Students in the STRONG-CT program will earn their associate degrees at one of the participating community colleges before transferring to UCONN for a baccalaureate degree.

Help Support MCC While Enjoying a Glass of Wine

The Manchester Community College Foundation will present the 16th annual Evening of Fine Wines April 4, 2008. Tickets go on sale Jan. 2 for \$75 per person. Proceeds from the event will help support scholarships, student services and program needs. Last year, the event raised more than \$100,000. For more information, contact either Linnette Velazquez-Welle or Dorothy A. Kaminski at 512.2905, or via email at atvelazquez-welle@mcc.commnet.edu or dkaminski@mcc.commnet.edu You can also visit the Web site, www.mcc.commnet.edu/wine for a brief history and a photo gallery of past events.

Poetry Club Begins

MCC introduces its new Poetry Club, which will meet Wednesday, Dec. 12, at 3:30 p.m. in room AST T201. MCC's student activity programs provide opportunities for students to gain personal growth and development outside of the traditional academic environment. For more information about the Poetry Club contact Jeanine DeRusha at 512-2670, or via email at jderusha@mcc.commnet.edu.

Winter Arts Festival Planned

The Winter Arts Festival, which serves as the opening event for the Student Art Show, will begin at 6 p.m. Friday, Dec. 14 in the Hans Weiss Newspace Gallery on the first floor of the AST. The show will run until Jan.21. In addition to student art, the festival will feature the showing of student films and performances by student vocalists and instrumental groups. Refreshments will also be served. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Susan Classen-Sullivan, at 512-2693, or email her at sclassen-sullivan@mcc.commnet.edu.

Bake Sale Success Reported

The Manchester Political Union had a bake sale on Oct. 31 and raised \$245 for the Yellow Ribbon Fund. This fund provides assistance to the families of wounded service members who have returned from Iraq, Afghanistan, and other conflict areas. The MPU thanks all members of the MCC community who donated to this important cause. Additional donations can be made by visiting www.yellowribbonfund.com. For information on the MPU, contact the club at mccmpu@gmail.com or through advisor Angelo Messore at 512-2755. The MPU meets Mondays from 3:30 – 4:30 p.m. in the AST T-201.

Corrections:

In a story titled "Farmers' Market Draws in a Crowd" that appeared on page 4 of the Oct. 29, 2007, issue of the Live Wire the byline was inadvertently omitted. The story was written by Jean Wright.

In a story titled "Sunset Rubdown Rubs Boston the Right Ways" on page 7 of the Oct. 29, 2007, issue of the Live Wire an incorrect name was given for a band. The band is called Frog Eyes, not Fog Eyes.

The photo that accompanied the story titled "Women's Soccer Team Struggles to Pull Ahead" on page 14 of the Oct. 29, 2007, issue of the Live Wire was incorrectly attributed. It was taken by Jonathon Michals, not Ben Davis.

Live Wire



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MCC News

Continued from **Safety** page 1

“MCC is fairly safe,” said Donna Nicholson-Martin, who teaches Criminal Justice.

While the MCC police are trying to get to the bottom of the criminal acts, there are many things that students and faculty can do to protect themselves and their belongings from possible predators, Gibbens said.

According to the Personal Safety and Crime Prevention Guide, which is available outside of the MCC Police station in the Lowe Building lobby and online at the MCC web site, www.mcc.commnet.edu, there are a number of ways to help prevent criminal acts.

Being aware of your surroundings is key. Make sure that you pay attention not only to what you are doing but also where you are and who is around you. Also, make sure not to leave your valuables unattended. If you do choose to leave objects in your car, lock them in your trunk. That way they are not openly visible.

“Any thief is looking for the easiest and quickest way of accomplishing the theft,” said Gibbens. “[It is] the path of least resistance.”

Cars should be locked at all times and should be parked in well-lit areas. Check the back seat before

entering to make sure no one is hiding and waiting for you to enter.

Being aware of your surroundings can help keep you safe and being aware of what is going on on campus in general can also prevent other crimes from occurring. Just last school year, there were reports of graffiti littering various places throughout the campus. Two students in the criminal justice program helped catch the culprits.

The two individuals involved, both male students at MCC, were charged with criminal mischief, convicted and required to serve mandatory community service. One of the individuals, said Gibbens, spent his hours cleaning and repainting the areas he had vandalized on the campus.

“What you find in general, [if graffiti remains] it gets more acceptable,” Gibbens said. “[If we] put a stop to it then folk’s get discouraged. If that is a style of art get a canvas.”

Nicholson-Martin said the episode is an example of the commitment students have to a safe, clean campus.

“Kids here on campus are phenomenal,” she said. “They look out for each other and the campus.”

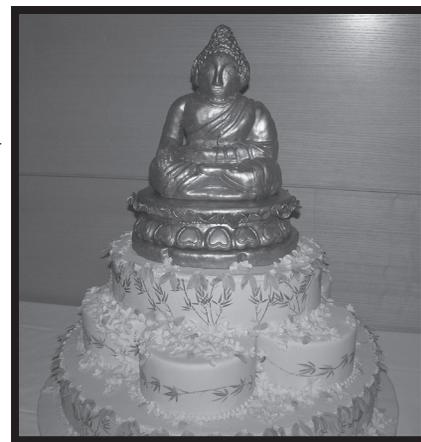
While the mystery of who is breaking into cars still remains under investigation, MCC police are asking that if students, faculty or staff see someone or something suspicious to call it in. The number for the MCC police station is 512-3111 from an outside line, and 3111 from inside the building.

Continued from **Chefs** page 1

The night ended with all of the competing teams taking home at least one trophy, and with more than \$14,000 being raised for Everybody Wins! CT.

Right: MCC's first prize winning team competition cake.

Photo by Jason Cunningham



Starry-eyed Student Stands Out at MCC

By Jason Cunningham
Live Wire Editor

Manchester Community College is known as one of the best community colleges around, preparing students for ventures beyond their associate’s degree, and encouraging them to reach for the heights. We see many types of students at MCC, but one has gone above and beyond to make his future bright.

His name is James Haynes, and he is a 28-year-old, full time student at MCC. He’s working on his associate’s degree Liberal Arts and Sciences and plans to graduate in the spring.

Haynes said he decided to go to college in 2004, after the death of his grandmother.

“I thought ‘It’s time to do something’,” said Haynes, who had been working since he left high school.

Haynes lives in Colchester with his roommates and has lived in Connecticut for eight years. He has worked as a

security guard and at S&S Worldwide, a big crafts company.

Before moving to Connecticut, Haynes lived in the South Bronx, New York. He is the child of Jamaican immigrants and attended famous Bronx High School of Science. He never finished due to personal reasons, but later earned his GED.

So far it seems Haynes has lived an average life, but don’t be fooled. He is far from average.

He is the first community college student to receive the Research Experience for Undergraduates astronomy internship at the University of Hawaii Institute for Astronomy, as well as the first African-American student and the oldest student to do so. That’s a lot of firsts!

Please see **Starry** on page 7

Discussion Touches a Buffet of Topics During Pizza with the President

By Zachary R. Ahern
Live Wire Staff Writer

Topics ranged from athletics to new construction as Manchester Community College President Jonathan M. Daube took questions from more than 30 students during his annual “Pizza with the President” event Nov. 7. The event was Daube’s last such session with students, as he will retire at the end of the spring 2008 semester after 20 years as head of MCC.

“Let’s fill up the seats in the front, they’re not dangerous,” Daube said with a smile as students gathered around the table in the Arts, Science and Technology T-201 conference room.

Once attendees were settled, Daube announced that there was no question too big or small for him to answer and that he would answer all questions to the best of his ability.

One sports-minded student asked Daube if there was a possibility of there being a men’s basketball

team.

“If there is a perceived need and there is enough interest, then yes,” said Daube. “Athletics are terrific and I wish more people would participate. As of next semester there will be money coming for the athletic program for equipment; however, academics come first.”

Soon, a question was asked about the funding of construction of Great Path Academy, a high school that is now housed in several classrooms in the Lowe Building. A new, state of the art building for the high school is under construction on campus and expected to be completed in 2009. Daube said that the money for the GPA building was funded by the state. He also said that, with athletics in mind, there will be a physical education requirement for GPA students because obesity is a problem in this country.

A concern raised by another student was the lack of a police presence on the MCC campus as well as dimly lit parking lots in the evenings.

“Accessible they are, visible they are not,” Daube said of MCC police,



MCC Pres. Jonathan M. Daube, center, talks with students during his annual Pizza with the President event Nov. 7. Daube will be retiring from MCC at the end of the Spring 2008 semester. Photo by Endia DeCordova-Murphy.

adding that the lighting in parking lots is not bad, but it could be better. He mentioned that student safety is a priority for the school

The topic of students with disabilities was brought to the president’s attention from a quiet voice in the corner of the room.

“We are always trying to improve services for students with disabilities,” said Daube. He also made it known that all students are entitled to the same academic experience at MCC. But, he added, that for the time being MCC will maintain its size as a two-year school.

“There are no plans to make MCC a university because I prefer a first rate community college,” he said. “[MCC] lacks the facilities for a university campus, plus the cost would be great.”

Daube said that he is very satisfied with the addition of more than \$100 million worth of new facilities at MCC in the 20 years he has been president. He said that he has had an amazing experience being president of MCC, and is overwhelmingly grateful for all the wonderful people he has met and those he has been able to work with.

MCC News

Hip Hop Headlines Hosts' Talk

By Scott Zemantic
Live Wire Staff Writer

Hip hop music, history, social issues, and education were discussed during author and educator Solomon W.F. Comissiong's speech at Manchester Community College Oct. 24. His talk was aimed at illuminating positive elements of hip hop music and applying them in academic studies.

Comissiong is the author of the book *Mining the Positive Motivators from Hip Hop to Educate: How I met Knowledge and Education thru Hip Hop*, a guide book for using examples from hip hop music and culture in the classroom. He is also an educator at the University of Maryland, in College Park, Md., where he teaches two courses based on hip hop culture.

As attendees entered the SBM Charitable Foundation Auditorium in the Arts, Science and Technology building, a song by rapper Big Daddy Kane played over the speakers. The auditorium was half full with a mixture of high school and college students, and a few educators.

"We got in touch with the local community colleges and eventually got calls from the residential places

and juvenile treatment centers and they wanted to bring some students who need to be motivated and are immersed in the culture," said Ta'Shema Odoms, a counselor at MCC and a member of the colleges Minority Caucus, which sponsored Comissiong's visit.

Comissiong opened his speech by quoting the late civil rights leader Marcus Garvey: "People without knowledge of their past, history, origin and culture is like a tree without roots." He connected the quote to rapper Intelligent Hoodlum, who mentions Garvey in his song "Black and Proud."

"Rappers I grew up with were talking about conscious things," said Comissiong. "I was profoundly interested in the messages that were proliferated through my boom box."

In his talk, Comissiong quoted several rappers, including Kool Moe Dee, KRS One and BDP and OC. He also touched on works by authors John Dewey, Edward Bernays and Noam Chomsky, as well as civil rights figures Carter

G. Woodson, Clear Channel CEO Lowry Mays, and former U.S. President James Madison.

Comissiong spoke briefly about his book, which contains strategies for using hip hop to teach, as well as classroom activities that use hip hop references as examples. Most of the speech covered media corporations, and their use of hip hop music and imagery to generate revenue.

"I try to put things in a different light," said Comissiong, "to get people more critically engaged to the media outlets that they're supporting indirectly." Comissiong also tried to bring attention to hip hop artists who are under-promoted by the media.

"There are so many other rappers who are talking about positive things," he said, "songs about respecting women, positive issues, and global issues."



Author Solomon W.F. Comissiong, right, appeared with his friend and book illustrator Justin Chase, left, at MCC Oct. 24. Comissiong lectured to an audience of more than 100 people about using hip hop music in education. Photo by Scott Zemantic.

Comissiong ended his speech by returning to the topic of education and how young people learn better when they can relate to the material being taught.

"When you engage young people critically," he said, "the results are unbelievable."

Charging to Print May Help Environment

By Scott Beaulieu
Live Wire Staff Writer

Free printing in the library and open computer labs at Manchester Community College is about to end. Starting in January, printing in both locations will cost 8 cents per page, a move school officials say they hope will cut paper usage and even impact the environment.

Why now? "Too much waste," said Duncan Harris, dean of Academic Affairs. "I've come here on weekends and literally seen students print 100-page papers."

So, to get users to be more conservative in their printing choices, school officials will introduce special rechargeable cards users will purchase to pay for printing. Each card will cost 40 cents; however, the machines that will sell them will accept dollar bills, so that when

the cards are issued, they will already be loaded with 60 cents. The card can then be swiped at printers for 8 cents per page or at copying machines, for 15 cents per page.

CopyCo, an Indianapolis-based company, will install the card machines and swiping system. The company has provided the same service to multiple college campuses nationwide, including in Indiana and California.

Lemar Harris, a music major who also works as a computer lab attendant, said the change is justified.

"We'd be rich! People print like 80 to 100 page papers daily. We at least go through one packet [500 sheets of paper] a day," he said.

But Duncan Harris said the change is not

primarily financial.

"The main reason that students are being charged to print is not about the money, but it's about being ecological," he said.

Waste management and recycling are quickly becoming unavoidable issues in the world's ever-changing climate. Reducing waste created by schools is part of the American College and University President's Climate Commitment, Duncan Harris said.

The group's Web site describes the program as "a way to exercise leadership in their communities and throughout society by modeling ways to minimize global warming emissions, and by providing the knowledge and the educated graduates to achieve climate neutrality."



Graphic by Ashley E. Lang

"It's about being aware, it's learning to be socially responsible," said Duncan Harris.

The new print costs will also hopefully stop non-students from using the school's resources, such as business people and students from other colleges taking advantage of MCC's old free-of-charge printing.

But some students are not in favor of the idea of paying to print.

"I really don't see the reason to print more than 10 copies anyway," said Liberal Arts major

Danielle Chmielewski. Some students who do not have access to a computer or the Internet at home will feel the change the most, but the new printing costs can be seen as another investment in a student's education.

Regardless of what students think about the change, MCC will be doing its part in aiding climate stability. So remember to bring your wallets the next time you have to print something in the library or open computer labs.

There are multiple options to consider other than printing, like using a flash drive or emailing the information for later use at home. Flash drives come cheap, some even going for less than \$10, and are sold at the MCC bookstore and other retail outlets. Many email services are free, only requiring access to the Internet.

MCC News

Student Government Offers Many Opportunities

By Johanna McCashland
Live Wire Staff Writer

If involvement in student life, beyond attending classes, interests you consider being a delegate in 2008 to the Student Electoral Assembly in Hartford.

The SEA is a group that focuses on getting student representative from all 12 of the state's community colleges together to work on issues that affect the campuses. Once each semester, the group meets in Hartford at the Legislative Office Building. The fall meeting was held Oct. 27.

Six students from Manchester Community College were chosen by the Student Senate Oct. 10. They were Donna Chambers, Eric Franklin, JoHanna McCashland, Michelle Nickerson, Lindsay Payne, and Elizabeth Ponchak.

Once gathered in Hartford, the delegates from each college elected three people to represent the group in future meetings with state legislators. It was also a day that each delegate could find commonalities with fellow community college students and work to build cooperative relationships for events.

A president and secretary to conduct the assembly were selected. Alex Levere of Middlesex Community College was elected president, while Sean Kennedy of Asnuntuck Community College was elected secretary.

There were supposed to be a total of 43 delegates, but only 34 attended. Eight delegates missed an opportunity to travel the state in one room, to visit with fellow community

college students, and have a say in their representation to the Board of Trustees.

By the close of the day, it was clear that each campus is dealing with many of the same issues, issues of communication and involvement, transportation, transferring of credit from community college to community college, and financial aid availability.

Ababkre Mounir of Gateway Community College was elected Technical Student Trustee. He joins MCC's own J. Ashley Odell on the Board of Trustees of Community-Technical Colleges. Odell is the Non-Technical Student Trustee on that board

Mounier said there are many benefits to involvement in student

government.

"To better not only the student's lives as individuals but their future as leaders, to see how they can make a difference in their families, neighborhoods, cities, states and maybe the country or the whole wide world," he said.

For more information on how to join the Student Senate, the Student Electoral Assembly, a governance committee or a club contact Linda Thomas, advisor to the Student Senate, at 512-3282, or via email at lthomas@mcc.commnet.edu. You may also contact Cynthia Washburne, director of Student Activities, at 512-3352, or via email at CWashburne@mcc.commnet.edu. You may also visit www.mcc.commnet.edu/students/life/.



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MCC News

New Projects Aimed Toward Gaining Support for Library

By Julio Rivera-Martinez
Live Wire Staff Writer

Officials at the Manchester Community College Library hope they have finally found a successful method to create a bridge between it and the student body with "Inside 5," which is a newscast that takes a slightly more casual approach to presenting library services, and a video project that is focused more on library services to teach lessons and educate.

These projects are under the supervision of Randolph S. Fournier, director of Library Services, and Evelyn Angry-Smith, a reference and instructional librarian.

Inside 5 is a traditional-style newscast conducted by the MCC library with MCC student, Alycia Sollecito, as the anchor. Viewers will see everyday news about the school and other topics. The episodes are taped in the MCC TV studio, where they are later edited. So far four episodes have been taped.

The episodes can be viewed by going to the college's Web site, www.mcc.commnet.edu/library. Podcasts are also available. A podcast is a service that alerts subscribers to the site that new episodes have been posted. That way they won't have to check in to see if something new has appeared since their last visit. For the less technologically-savvy, there is another, more familiar place to view the broadcasts: on Youtube.com.

The second project the library is conducting is to use volunteers of the student body as actors to put together short videos of skits. Unlike Inside 5, these are not about current events, but rather about the services offered by the library and how to use them. Topics range from "How to Obtain a library card" to "What is Plagiarism?" just to name a few. The video project does not yet have an official name, but the first episode is expected to be shot by December.

Students will make up the cast of the skits, and they will be rotated to help keep the tapings diverse and unique with fresh faces. The video project will be available to view by the same methods as Inside 5.

"Each episode will have a lesson hidden in it," said Angry-Smith, adding that the project is aimed at causing a buzz among students and helping them become engaged and familiar with library resources.

Both Inside 5 and the video project have the same goal, Angry-Smith said.

"Students are working along with library staff to create tools to help teach information literacy in a fun way," she said.

For more information about either project, contact Evelyn Angry-Smith at 512-2874 or by email at eangry-smith@mcc.commnet.edu.



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JUST ONE MINUTE AWAY FROM MCC



MyCommnet Means All for One and One for All

By Carlos Rosario
Live Wire Staff Writer

Have you ever wanted to check your final grades, do research for an assignment, and, out of curiosity, begin searching for next semester's courses all within one sitting? If this was the case several days before Nov. 17, you would have needed to hop between anywhere from two to four different Web sites in order to acquire all of this information.

Fortunately, as of Nov. 21, this has all changed drastically, due to the introduction of "MyCommnet." What is MyCommnet? It's a one stop spot for all student and faculty online resources and information using only one banner ID login for access. There are many features that can be accessed through this site via different links, including college library catalogs and online databases; the Connecticut Community College Web site, which allows you to visit MCC's homepage as well as any other Connecticut community college website; "Student self service," where you can apply for admission, check or make changes to your current schedule by adding or dropping courses, as well as having the ability to check to status of your financial aid; "My courses" which will allow you to check on class

related material and bulletins via the use of WebCT Vista; and online tutorials for users having trouble navigating the new system.

While the implementation of MyCommnet experienced some bugs the first few days it seems to be running well now. Some students like the simplified system.

"I think it's a lot easier having everything under one page for us to look at," said student Leandro Cieri, "more so than having to use two or three different sites."

Others aren't as pleased. "I don't understand why MyCommnet is necessary to a community college," said student Jason Cunningham.

While these two students seemed to be well informed about MyCommnet, many who were asked about still seem to be in the dark. But they will have to learn about it quickly because right now the only way to access WebCT Vista, banner online self service and library databases off-campus is through MyCommnet. For help and information visit <http://my.commnet.edu>, or the college Web site at www.mcc.commnet.edu.



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MCC News

Clubs New and Old Offer Broad Range of Activities

Continued from **Starry** page 3

The internship entailed an all expenses paid trip to Hawaii to study astronomy. While there this past summer, he studied extra solar planets and simulations with planetary systems.

Haynes was recommended for the internship by Michael DiRaimo, a professor of English and film study at MCC.

"Teaching is often frustrating, particularly at open admissions institutions where students seem to be at some degree of struggle," DiRaimo said, but when you get a James Haynes, someone committed to excellence, they're really a breath of afresh air. He's fun to work with, and has helped rekindle my faith in teaching."

Haynes said he would like to see others take hold of the same opportunities he did.

"I'm not afraid of competition, anyone interested in astronomy should apply for this scholarship. You can find it right on the National Science Foundation's Web site," said Haynes.

Haynes said he plans to work as an astronomer after completion of college, researching planets outside of our solar system.

"A lot of people ask what kind of future is in astronomy. I always tell them \$103,000 a year, that's what kind of future," said Haynes.

By Lori E. Kula
Live Wire Staff Writer

Manchester Community College offers not only a great atmosphere for learning and studying, but it also offers a chance to meet new people and participate in a variety of clubs that offer students a chance to expand their knowledge in academics, sports or a hobby. This school year, a few more clubs have been started to appeal to a range of interests.

The Computer Repair & Share club will offer students a chance to be a part of repairing and configuring donated computers for distribution to MCC students in need of services. Club members will also assist students who need help fixing their own computers. All the computer services will be free of charge. For more information, contact advisors Charles Russell, 512-2632, and Russell Sabadosa, 512-2629.

The Internet Radio Club, which will be known as ICE, will provide inform, educate and entertain the MCC community using the mass medium of Internet Radio. If you're interested in joining the club, contact advisor Albert Kim at 512-2797.

The V.E.T.S, or Veterans Empowering Themselves to Succeed, club will help veterans who want to become students enroll in the college, apply for veterans' benefits and financial aid. This club will also help veterans transition smoothly

back into school after long absences. For more information on how you can participate contact club advisors Ivette Rivera-Dreyer or Justin Tedford 512.3380, club president Alahna Torres, 860-982-0401.

MCC currently offers 13 clubs, with focuses ranging from politics, to law and dance. The clubs offer not only exposure for students to more than just books, it also gives them experience with the subject and often the chance to work with students are other colleges to achieve a common goal. All these things are important to help shape a student for their future outside of a classroom, said Cynthia Washburne, director of student affairs. MCC has had a decline in club participation from previous semesters, she said.

"I would like to see more involvement," said Washburne, adding that MCC's Web site lists a number of clubs that are not currently active due to lack of participation.

If a club you see on the Web site is not actually meeting, don't be dissuaded. Contact Washburne, at 512-3353, or Mary Boileau, student activities assistant, at 512-3283 and they will try and help get you involved in the club that's right for you.



Michael J. Hogan, right, near water bottle, president of the University of Connecticut, and Marc S. Herzog, left, Chancellor of the Connecticut Community College system, signed a formal agreement that will give students at community colleges like MCC with a "B" average or higher guaranteed admission to any UCONN campus. The agreement for the program, known as the Guaranteed Admissions Program, or GAP, was signed in the Fireside Commons Nov. 20. Photo by Ben Davis.

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Health



WARNING:

FLU SEASON RETURNS



By Rachel M. DePenning
Live Wire Staff Writer

Another season of fevers, coughing, sore throats, and body aches – also known as influenza - has begun, according to documents from the national Department of Health and Human Services.

But, though, the flu is highly contagious, it is preventable.

This department, in conjunction with the national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), said the best way to reduce the risk of catching the flu is by receiving the flu shot.

Manchester Community College hosted a flu shot clinic on Nov. 6, which was provided by the Visiting Nurses of New Britain, said

Kerry McNiven, a professor in the Math, Sciences and Health Careers division.

“We vaccinated almost 160 people,” said McNiven. “Attendance was good, but it was less than in prior years.”

This year, there was plenty of vaccine to go around, and no one was turned away, she said.

She said that MCC is not planning on having another flu clinic, but those interested in getting vaccinated, can go to www.flucliniclocator.org where information about future clinics, acceptable insurance, and the cost of the shot can be found.

If you are skeptical about getting vaccinated, here is

some insightful information about the flu shot, according to the CDC:

- this virus-killing vaccine is given by needle in the arm muscle, and protects for up to a year

- all children from, six months up to five years, and anyone 50 years and older should get vaccinated

- women who will be pregnant during the flu season and those with weakened immune systems, muscle or nerve disorders, and long-term health problems, like asthma, anemia, and diabetes, should get the vaccine as well.

For all the “needle phobes” out there, there is another way of receiving an anti-flu vaccine. LAIV, which stands

for “live attenuated influenza vaccine,” is a nasal spray recommended for people from the age of five to 49, and not pregnant.

It is best to get vaccinated in October or November, according to CDC officials, but receiving the vaccine in December or later will still be beneficial. Flu season can run from October to May, but most cases occur in January and February.

Any questions about the flu or the vaccinations can be answered by calling the Flu Hotline at 1-888-No-To-Flu. This toll free number is open weekdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. October through December.



TB Situation Under Control, say School and Health Officials



By Rachel M. DePenning
Live Wire Staff Writer

Since news of a possible tuberculosis, or TB, exposure at Manchester Community College erupted in October, many members of the faculty, staff and student body have been tested for the bacterial infection, said Charlene A. Tappan, director of Marketing and Public Relations at MCC.

The first round of testing was done on Oct. 15 by the Manchester Health Department, said Maryann Cherniak Lexius from the Manchester Health Department. She said testing took place on campus and was free.

“We were not expecting any [students to have been] exposed [to TB],” said Lexius.

She said the test that was given was a Skin Sensitivity Test, which consists of planting or injecting a substance into the skin to see if the skin reacts. She said the results are read three days after testing.

But the test shows if someone was exposed to TB, not infected

with it. So even if someone tested positive, that does not mean that they are sick with the illness, said Lexius. The second round of testing consists of going over the results of the first test, and performing additional tests for those who tested positive. And, she said, sometimes chest x-rays are taken.

A case of exposure to TB was reported to the Manchester Health Department in October

by the health department of another town, said Lexius. She said when the infected person was questioned he or she mentioned that they were a student at the school. School officials were then notified and the alert was announced campus wide.

A letter was sent to those people on campus in October who were thought to have had the most exposure, said Lexius. She said those who received letters were

selected to be tested by what is known as Contact Investigation. She said the list was formed based on the infected persons’ answers and that the individual was very cooperative.

.....
: “...It didn’t
: really hurt and
: was quick.”
:
:

One student who received a letter and was tested said that the letter explained the situation and advised them to be tested.

“I wasn’t really concerned at the beginning because I thought [the letter] was sent to [every student at MCC],” said the student, who asked that her name not be used.

She said the test consisted of an injection in the arm, and a few days later returning so that officials could run their hand over the arm to see if there was a bump.

“[The test] was very professional and clean,” she said. “...It didn’t really hurt and it was quick.”

The student tested negative for TB.

But what exactly is TB? The website, www.webmd.com, has the answers. TB is a bacterial infection caused by slow-growing bacteria that thrives in parts of the body such as the lungs. There are two different types of TB – latent, which cannot be spread to others but can be developed, and active, which is contagious when spread to the lungs.

In order to contract TB by an infected individual, you must have significant exposure to the infection. One would have to inhale air that contains the TB bacteria that is exhaled by the infected person.

Those with latent TB do not have symptoms, but those with active TB may experience the following symptoms: an ongoing cough that brings up thick, cloudy, and sometimes bloody mucus from the lungs, fatigue, weight loss, night sweats and fever.

For more information about this issue, contact the Manchester Health Department at (860) 647-3173.

Great Path Academy

As Great Path Academy grows, so does its faculty. Below are profiles of some new members of the GPA team written by their students.



Photo By Tierney Maston

By Kayla Cruz

Live Wire Staff Writer

Lisa Stein is the new Algebra, Geometry, and Algebra 2 teacher here at Great Path Academy. She has been a teacher for approximately seven years, and has taught at such schools as Windsor Locks High School, Howell Cheney Technical High School, and Henry Abbott Technical High School.

Stein said she was inspired to teach by various teachers and coaches throughout her education. She attended Bentley College in Massachusetts and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. Her first encounter with teaching was in high school, where she taught gymnastics, and she has been teaching ever since.

"I have enjoyed, and continue to enjoy, my teaching experiences," she said. "I enjoy the learning opportunities and working with my students."

Stein is one of those people who has always enjoyed helping other people specifically with helping them set, achieve, and be successful with their goals.

There were many reasons why she decided to take a position as a teacher at GPA. The main reasons were the location and college atmosphere, the staff, the size of the school, the learning environment, and the diverse student population, she said. So far, she enjoys the technology in the classrooms, as well as the resources on campus. She is also really enjoying having such supportive colleagues and students.

Stein said she feels that some of GPA's greatest attributes include the "the opportunity for students to have access to the campus' facilities, community events and college level courses." She also said that "it offers an alternative setting that can really open doors for our students."



Photo By Tierney Maston

By Luis A. Fuentes

Live Wire Staff Writer

Gary Jameson is the new English and history teacher at Great Path Academy. He said he thinks that the staff is dedicated to molding young minds and that "they are great."

Jameson enjoys teaching his students. Even though it can get complicated at times, he finds the time and patience to teach the

students.

Jameson's hobbies are ice hockey, reading, and coaching sports such as baseball and hockey.

In the coming years, Jameson said he looks forward to GPA's new building, saying "It will be nice to have my own classroom!"



Photo By Tierney Maston

By Luis A. Fuentes

Live Wire Staff Writer

Paul Muska is the new guidance counselor at Great Path Academy. He helps students with their schedules, medical related problems, and so on.

Muska said he transferred to GPA because of the professional and personal opportunities, such as leadership development. Some of Muska's hobbies are golf, yard work, and camping. But most of all, he enjoys being at the school and helping students with school problems.

Muska said he enjoys the new staff.

"It is a whole different environment," he said, "the new staff is laid back."

He said he expects more from the students, now that they are on a college campus.

In 2009, a new building will open for GPA.

"I think the idea is great!" he said. "I think that it keeps the college atmosphere flowing throughout the school, and it is very open. I like the different aspects of it."



Photo By Tierney Maston

By Shalaya Shazel

Live Wire Staff Writer

James Smith is a new science teacher at Great Path Academy. Smith has not taught at a middle college high school before, but that he is now committed to the concept.

"I know someone who used to teach at GPA and when this vacancy opened up I went for it," said Smith, who has previously taught at a community college. "All the teachers at this school are very welcoming and co-

operative."

Smith said he has many hobbies.

"I live in the country and manage a small forest, there are beavers living in the marsh behind my house," he said.

Like the students at GPA, Smith said he looks forward to the new building.

"I'm very impressed that the state of Connecticut is prepared to make such a significant investment and I can't wait to move in," he said.

Editorials

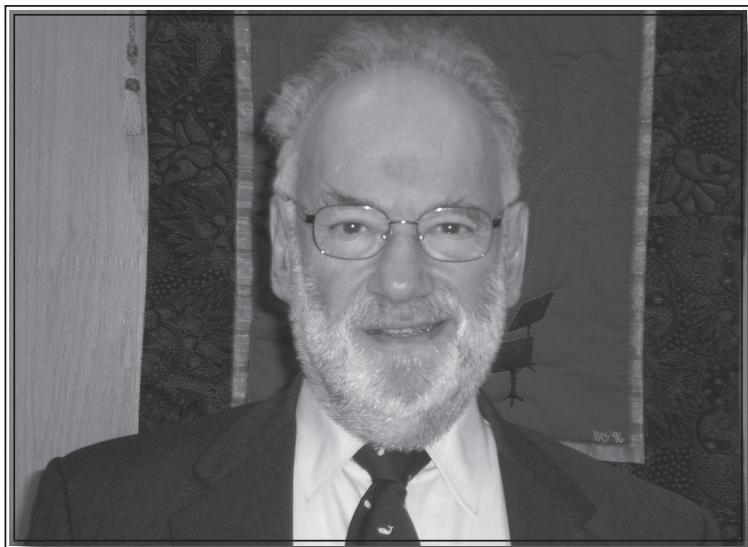


Photo by Ashley E. Lang

The *Live Wire* asked Pres. Jonathan M. Daube to write a piece for this last issue of the semester to reflect on his 20 years leading Manchester Community College. *Live Wire* staff members submitted three topics he could address. Pres. Daube will write another piece of the paper during the Spring semester. If you have questions for him or would like to suggest a topic he could discuss, please submit it to the *Live Wire* by email, livewire.mcc.comnet.edu or in person to our office, Lowe 253.

By Jonathan M. Daube
MCC President

Thanks to the *Live Wire* editors for the invitation to write something. And thanks for the three suggested topics.

Yes, the rumors are correct this time: I'll be retiring in June. I have been a community college president since May 1978, when I first went to Berkshire Community College in Pittsfield, Mass., and I moved to MCC in the fall of 1987. It's time, don't you think! Besides, I do have things I want to do: some teaching; some writing; some traveling. I want to go to India, do lots of reading, and spend more time with my granddaughter, 6, and twin grandsons, who are about 20 months old.

So to the three questions you asked:

How do you feel a new president will impact MCC?

I hope that all the people who get interviewed for the position get a sense of the specialness of the place, the caring for students, the sheer quality. Yes, I know: no place is perfect. But MCC is as good as it gets; and if you don't believe me, visit some other community colleges, preferably in other states. MCC is, by any standards, a very fine institution that is constantly striving to become even better.

I hope your new president will realize how fortunate he or she is to be working here. I hope he or she catches the rhythms of the place. I hope he or she has the intestinal fortitude to manage and survive the inevitable crises that will occur from time to time.

I hope the new president has the courage to think creatively, to make proposals that I, for one, would never have thought of; and I hope he or she then has the strength to be a bit obstinate! And this is where you, the *Live Wire* readers, come in: the new person's success depends, in large part, on your support, tolerance, and ability to move on.

What is the most memorable experience you have had as president?

Well, I won't tell you about how I was threatened by someone twice my size or how I took the then-Governor – John Rowland – around the East Campus during a downpour and he told me he agreed we needed a new building, or how I choose to forget [English professor] Mike DiRaimo's latest joke or how I

have learned never to mess with [Athletics and Fitness director] Cindy Washburne.

I do have two sets of experiences that I can never ever forget:

- The pride I feel when I talk with students – and there are many of them – who have unbelievable difficulties and have had the sheer strength to pick themselves up and emerge successfully. I have seen students who come to us with learning difficulties, no money, family problems, health issues and I-don't-know-what-else ... and they make it! They are the miracles that make MCC what it is; and, more often than not, they are too humble to recognize how inspiring they are. I see them walking in the halls; I see them at Commencements: I'll miss them in a way, but the memory of them will be very strong.

-The joy I feel when I interview the finalist for a position working at the college and I know in my gut that this is the right person. Search committees, directors and deans do the work to get that person to my office, but I get to claim the credit! I have been responsible for the hiring of about 90 per cent of the faculty and staff at MCC, and I am prouder of that than I am of the buildings or anything else that I can think of in my professional life. These people have become my colleagues; many of them are my friends: that's my gift to the new president.

What are the differences between college education here in America and in England? Do you feel the higher education system in England is more rigorous, or is ours? Why or why not? Is there something done in England that you think should be adopted here in the U.S.?

In case you didn't know, I was born in England and educated in Scotland and in London, the center of the universe, some years before going to graduate school in Cambridge, Mass. I emigrated to the U.S. 45 years ago, but I spent 10 weeks visiting Great Britain in 2002. My wife is from Minnesota and my children and grandchildren are, of course, New Englanders.

When I talk to British educators, they are intrigued by the leading American graduate schools and by our community colleges; nothing in-between seems to interest them. Leading American universities are at the top of all international rankings, and this is recognized throughout the world. When people are asked what American institutions they admire most, colleges and universities are always on their list. (So isn't it strange when Washington politicians choose to take swipes at American higher education?)

People come from all over the world to see how we in the United States deal with issues of access and opportunity. There is nothing like the American community college anywhere in the world, with its stress on helping all kinds of people with all levels of preparation and of all ages. We who work and study in community colleges know that there is much that still needs to be done, but other countries have even further to go.

What would I like to change? I wish high school and college students read more: books, newspapers, anything. And remember: the more you read, the better your reading skills. There's not much from the U.K. that I would import to the U.S.: maybe the BBC (British Broadcasting Corp.) and some of the better newspapers ... which I can now read online. And trains that run on-time.

So my message to student readers of the *Live Wire*: look inside yourself. You're lots stronger than maybe you think. Make the best of your time at MCC. Talk to faculty and staff, whether you've met them before or not. And try hard to find something amusing every single day.

Editorials



A Day Last Spring is Still on My Mind

By Jason Cunningham
Live Wire Editor

The geese, those adorable geese. Last spring, my girlfriend and I went to feed the geese. We went to Elizabeth Park in New Britain, expecting it to be nice, but instead it was all mucked up. It was so dirty it was almost too unbearable to walk through. We brought bread to a whole family of geese, and they rushed us both, they couldn't wait to eat. All of them had little metal bracelets around their ankles. One was even lucky enough to have a big yellow piece of paper wrapped around his neck with big black numbers on it. When they finished their meal, they went off into the pond, but the water was sludge, a soup of mud and baby diapers, old milk cartons, and other various forms of trash. The geese didn't seem to mind, but I was troubled.

Everything about the park bothered me: the people walking their dogs, letting their huge pets poop wherever they wanted, and never picking it up; the old, rusty, and most likely dangerous playground that looked more depressed than the parents of the kids who were watching them play on it; the soccer field, all patchy, half dirt, and half grass, and only one of the goals had a net; the baseball cage, where tons of kids probably played their little league games, collapsing in on itself, with a baseless diamond. This was a park? This was wrong. THIS was sad.

I realized that day what it meant to be human. Unless you live in an area that has money - which means you most likely have money - nothing will ever be nice. Everything will always be rundown and littered. Everything will always be disgusting. Then I realized it wasn't the officials who made this park as awful as it was. Yes, some maintenance would do it wonders, but it was more than that. It was the people who used this park that made it horrible. Normal, careless, stupid people, who are selfish enough to destroy another creature's home. And isn't that what we've been doing all along, with our buildings, housing developments and highways?

Then my mind drifted back to those geese, those poor geese that were obviously being tracked by some group of people as I could tell by the ugly metal around their ankles. Who are we to interfere with their lives? Aren't they dying out because of us in the first place?

Then I thought of the popular science fiction movie *The Matrix* and I remembered this one line that Hugo Weaving's character Agent Smith said:

"I'd like to share a revelation that I've had during my time here. It came to me when I tried to classify your species and I realized that you're not actually mammals. Every mammal on this planet instinctively develops a natural equilibrium with the surrounding environment but you humans do not. You move to an area and you multiply and multiply until every natural resource is consumed and the only way you can survive is to spread to another area. There is another organism on this planet that follows the same pattern. Do you know what it is? A virus. Human beings are a disease, a cancer of this planet. You're a plague and we are the cure."

How far off was he? This fictional robot makes a pretty good point, doesn't he? What are the first steps to fighting a plague, when you yourself are the plague? I drive a car, I use oil heating, and I know I've probably left some garbage behind at some point in my life. What to do, what to do, what to do? Eventually every animal besides us will probably be dead. Then what'll be next? Nothing? Does it have to be that way?

How often is it that we stroll on by those green bins that say "recycle" in the hallways of our school and instead place our aluminum cans and plastic bottles into the trash barrel instead of tossing them into a container so that they can be taken to a place that'll actually use these materials for something other than another sky high monster of garbage? How often is it that we see those signs in the restrooms on the paper towel dispensers that say "Why use two, when one will do?" and instead of taking the advice use three or four or five paper towels? How often is it that we throw away wasted printing paper instead of tossing it in the blue bins that are used for recycling? How often is it that we don't do every little bit that we can to save our environment because we don't realize every little bit helps?

It's pretty sad that we can't take the smallest bit of time to make this world a nicer, better planet. Oftentimes I myself am guilty of not always "thinking green" and for that I feel awful, but not anymore. I have no right to complain about the sorrows of our planet's dying days if I am not doing everything I can to try and save it.

So, from this day forward, I'm forcing myself to do the right thing. I'm forcing myself to think green, and I'm forcing myself to be more of the solution, and less of the problem.

I beg of you readers to do the same.

Where Science and Money Combine, Ethical Issues Rise, says Sociologist

By Lesley Petersen
Special to the Live Wire

On Sept. 14, 2007, Manchester Community College hosted the Outstanding Biology Teacher award ceremony. The keynote speaker was Dr. James Hughes, a bioethicist and sociologist who teaches at Trinity College. Dr. Hughes' lecture centered on the constantly changing areas of science and technology and brought up some very good points about where we, as concerned citizens of the planet Earth, should be attempting to focus our attention.

Unfortunately, according to Dr. Hughes, it appears that the population of the United States, as a whole, is less interested in newsworthy events that affect our lives and the level of interest in the field of science and technology is much lower here than in other countries. This is creating a negative effect on the nation's ability to attract scientists and engineers from elsewhere; in other words, the "brain drain" no longer seems to be able to compensate for our own lack of interest in these areas.

Dr. Hughes feels one of the ways to halt this decline in interest is to try to capture the enthusiasm of young people and begin to create what he calls "Technocitizens." Historically, our great inventors and visionaries have had a passion for learning and a belief in a better future, for human beings, through science. He said some current topics that he feels we should focus on are the new behavior modification drugs, genetic engineering and the pursuit of artificial intelligence, as well as other areas of interest. I thoroughly agreed with his view that people need to lose some of the negativity that is currently being directed towards scientific investigation and regain the passion and interest required to make truly great advances.

The opportunity exists, Dr. Hughes said,

to extend human life, to eradicate disease and to turn the aging of our population into a "longevity dividend" sooner than a "longevity deficit" through science. He did caution, however, that we, at all times, need to remain cognizant of the ethical questions that will arise as we explore, for example, genetic engineering. He spoke of the creation of a human/animal "chimera" in England to illustrate his point. At what level do we consider human/animal DNA combined to be human...or animal? What rights should be granted to subjects of these investigations?

For me, personally, this is where our most serious responsibility lies. Many areas of gray appear when you begin delving into the realm of cloning or genetic engineering and my own apprehension is that, in the pursuit of knowledge, we will lose track of the human and personal, not to mention the ethical, aspects of such research. There must also be factored in the power of the "almighty dollar" from large businesses that fund research, which can, I believe, sometimes influence the scientific avenues of research that we follow. When scientific advances are made with the view to monetary gain only, less of the interest and passion that Dr. Hughes mentioned earlier, is present.

In his summary, Dr. Hughes again reiterated that we, as a population, need to become excited about our world and the future that exists through advances in science and technology. At the same time, we need to remember that questions should always be framed in the correct context and that consideration, concern and investigation of long-term ramifications should always be given to the arrival of any new theory before putting it into practice. This, I believe, is of paramount importance.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

A careful comparison between the school president, Dr. Jonathan M. Daube, and the Student Senate President, whose name we have come to forget, makes us realize how useless the latter is.

A survey of about 186 freshmen yielded a negative response when they were asked who the SSP is? They look into our faces like a deer staring at headlights. On the other hand, almost all knew of, or have heard of, Dr. Daube.

The senate serves as the student body's legislature. Like every representative to his or her constituency, the SSP ought to be known by MCC students. It is like being in an emergency and not knowing who to call upon for help. That is why it is your duty to make yourself known to the people you represent.

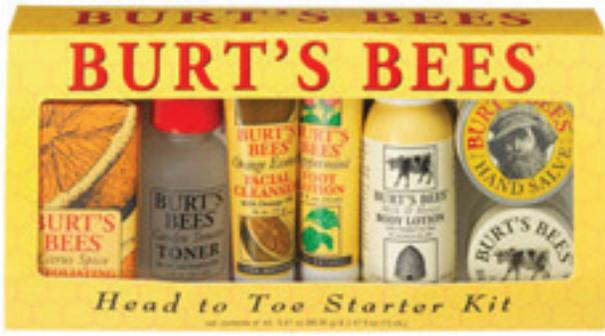
It is amazing how a person becomes the solution during courtship and vaporizes into thin air when time comes for action. We do not recognize any "spring flowers" as promised [during the spring campaign for office], but it is fall and leaves are either dying or dead. We also wonder how a visionary can suddenly have a mental blockage, but we are neither psychologists nor psychiatrists.

What we do know, though, is the Student Senate President has not delivered as promised. What has become of "I am here to represent you all; call on me anytime and I will be available," [as she said during elections]? How do people call on someone they do not know?

Sincerely,
Sean Toli and Kofi Sowah
MCC STUDENTS

Editor's note: The Live Wire encourages submission from readers. If you would like to submit an editorial piece or Letter to the Editor, please bring it to the Live Wire Office, Lowe 253, or email it to livewire.mcc.commnet.edu The Live Wire reserves the right to reject all submissions and to edit those that run for grammar, spelling, content and length.

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Tis' the Season to Give, But Donations are in high demand

By Alycia Sollecito
Live Wire Staff Writer

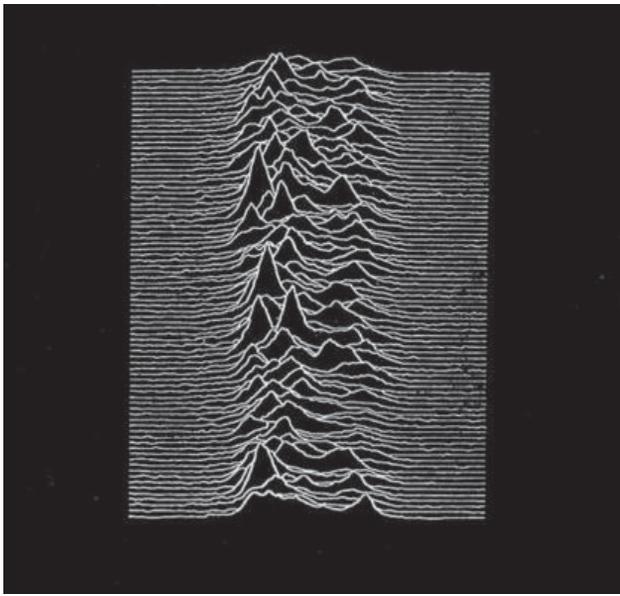
Hats, scarves, toys, they'll take it all! What better time to donate to than the holiday season. There are organizations and charities world wide more than happy to accept gently used or worn items.

Many, including the Salvation Army, accept gently used or worn items. If you are thinking about giving for the holidays but don't know where to go, check out local charities as well as on the Web to make giving easy. Local charities include Glastonbury High School that has donation boxes as well as a giving tree. This is a non-profit organization, so every gift is given directly to those in need. This is a non-profit organization, so every gift is given directly to those in need on 330 Hubbard St., and the phone number to call is (860) 652-7200.

Toys for Tots, a campaign run annually by the U.S. Marine Corps, collects toys directly to those less fortunate. Collection boxes for Toys for Tots are available at many stores in the greater Hartford area. Local post offices also have collection boxes for the needy through Toys for Tots. For more information, visit www.tftots.org.

In addition to its bell ringers and kettle collections across the state, if transportation is a factor, then this is the ideal charitable organization to choose which type of donation would fit best.

No matter what your financial state may be, any small contribution



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- * Bosconian
- * Dig Dug
- * Rally-X
- * Galaxian
- * Requires 4 AA batteries (not included)

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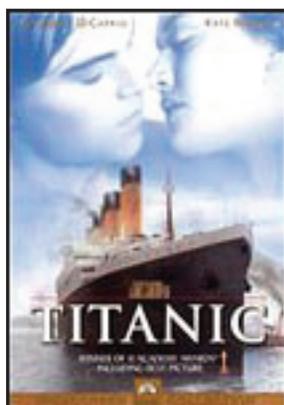


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Don't Forget the Needy: During the holiday season

those less fortunate than you, than around the holiday happy to take any merchandise you may have to offer. As well.
 Where to begin, look no further. There are organizations. If you live near East Hartford or Glastonbury, think about donating toys to the Interact Club. This is a club within a tree set up at the school to which anyone can donate. Help the less fortunate. Glastonbury High School is located at 1000 Main St., Glastonbury, CT 06033.
 Toys for Tots, is another charitable cause that gives all donations to children in need. You can be found at local Toys R' Us and Babies R' Us stores. Each year thousands of toys are given to children in need. Visit toysfortots2007.com.
 The Salvation Army also has its own Web site. So visit www.salvationarmyusa.org and see how you can help during the holiday season.



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Arts And Entertainment

Mo-Mo Taro Offers Large Menu, But Lacks Flavor

By Grace Talaga
Live Wire Staff Writer

Mo-Mo Taro is in the Shop Rite plaza a few minutes from Manchester Community College's 'C' lot, making it a convenient new choice.

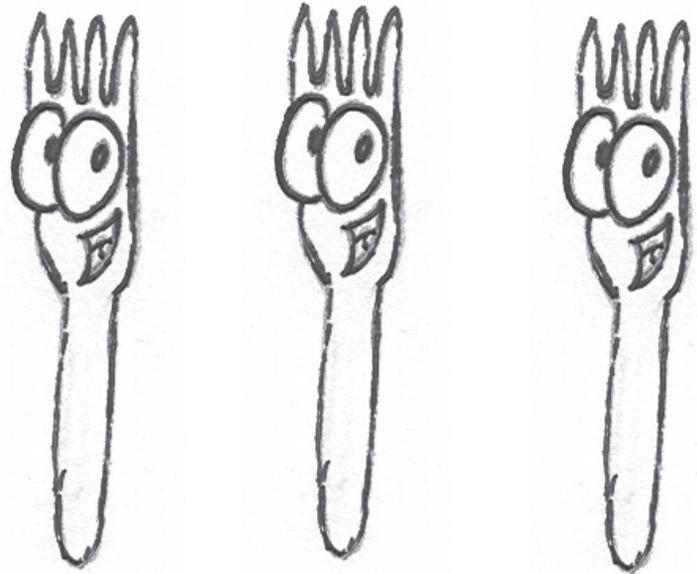
The eatery bills itself as Japanese and Chinese Cuisine, but when my party and I entered on a recent visit, we noticed they advertise Thai food as well. This newly-renovated restaurant was gleaming when we arrived for an early supper in the middle of the week. We were greeted by a very friendly hostess who's obviously delighted we have come to eat. The transformation of the space from the Pearl Garden Chinese restaurant that was there just a few months ago to Mo-Mo Taro - which means "peach" in Japanese, by the way - are well done, everything is pretty, clean and bright. My dining companion and I are both ravenous so we order much more food than any two people could possibly eat in one sitting.

We began with the deluxe seafood and bean curd soup for two. At \$5.25 this was a steal. It could have easily been dinner in itself. We purposely packed some to go so we could save room. Next up, were steamed shrimp

dumplings and spring rolls off the appetizer menu. The dumplings were cooked to perfection, but lacked flavor. Same for the spring rolls, they were cooked well and pleasing to the eye, but less flavorful than I'd hoped.

My dining companion decided on the firecracker beef for his entrée. I opted for the House Special lo mien. By this time we needed neither, but gave it the good old college try. My companion was disappointed with his meal. There seemed to be very little firecracker with his beef. Again, a lack of flavor seemed to be the most prominent complaint. I enjoyed my lo mien well enough, but it surely wasn't worthy of being named "House Special." The service was friendly and they really tried to please, but the meal was lacking in flavor.

On a subsequent visit during what should have been the lunch rush we found the place deserted. This is too bad because I think it's probably a better lunch stop than a dinner venue. They offer a wide selection of lunch specials all priced below \$5.95, offering plenty of food quickly. That would have been too easy for those



Graphic by Noah Scammon

of us in the review business. So we started with the sushi menu for appetizers. They offer really nice combinations. We enjoyed the Boston and the AAC (avocado, asparagus and cucumber) rolls immensely. The Crab Rangoon's left much to be desired. They were filled with cream cheese, but we could find no crab. My cup of wonton soup was simple and satisfying. I ordered the scallion and ginger chicken. It was loaded with onions, which is good if you like onions (I do) but I never tasted the ginger or the scallions. The accompanying pork fried rice was uneventful.

My guest ordered the boneless spare ribs for her entrée and claimed them to be pretty good, but a let down after the delightful sushi.

A final thought on Mo-Mo Taro. Another dining companion said the Pu -Pu platter was as good as any he'd had previously, but he was a fan of the Pearl Garden and said Mo-Mo's garlic beef couldn't compete with that of the previous owners.

I think this place is a good spot to try for lunch. After all, for six bucks plus tip you won't leave hungry. The owners have potential but seem like they're still trying to get their footing. They'd better hurry, there's always another Asian-style restaurant in this area waiting to take their place.

Mo-Mo Taro, at 234 Spencer St., is open seven days a week for both lunch and dinner. They offer an extensive take out menu and free delivery. Call 860-649-1818 for details.

2007 Films Featured Good, Bad and Downright Ugly

By Jonathon Michals and
Matthew Costello
Live Wire Staff Writers

As the price of movie tickets steadily rises, and our paychecks seemingly remain static, film-goers expect a similar rise in the quality of the movies they spend their hard earned bucks, or credit, on. The film industry has seen tickets sales continue to increase in 2007 after the dismal slump that hit it in 2005. The consumer demanded more, and the industry appears to have heard the call.

The Year of the Sequel

It is clear that the film industry wants to reproduce the success (read: money) of 2002, which was the highest grossing year in more than a decade, and whose top 10 money-makers included six sequels. Their strategy has worked, as four of the top five grossing movies so far this year have been sequels. *Spiderman 3* and *Shrek the Third* occupy the top two spots, respectively, which is unfortunate, as they were actually two of the worst follow-ups released.

My top pick from this category easily goes to *The Bourne Ultimatum*, which, despite a rather far-fetched ending, still improved upon its wonderful predecessors, and is one of the most tense and exciting experiences I've had in front of the silver screen. *Live Free and Die Hard* came out of left field and defied expectations, proving itself worthier than the last installment, and also that Bruce Willis is can still school other action stars. Honorable mentions go to *Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End*, which continued the decline of humor in the franchise, but was at least more consistent than the previous installment, and to *Ocean's Thirteen*, which continued to charm, despite the series' repetition.

The Fun (brought to you by Shia LaBeouf)

It's difficult for me to admit that I immensely enjoyed *Transformers*, not because of the cheesy cartoon and toys, but because it is directed by Michael Bay, who

brought us such atrocious best sellers as *Armageddon* and *Pearl Harbor*. But dazzling special effects and the presence of the endlessly entertaining LaBeouf render the laughable plot inconsequential. The young actor also brought life to the tense and unexpectedly fun *Disturbia*, a smart, sharp homage to Alfred Hitchcock's *Rear Window* which had the whole audience yelling and laughing and completely involved.



Graphic Courtesy of Google Images

inspired, heart-warming, funny, and, well, brilliant. I call it all of those things, as well as Pixar's best release since *Finding Nemo*.

The Thrilling

The sleeper hit *Zodiac*, David Fincher's beautifully shot story of the real life San Francisco serial killer, deserved more press, and a wider release than it ultimately got. More people had the chance to see *The Kingdom*, starring Jamie Foxx. The violent film, which throws out political correctness for thrilling, edge-of-your-seat excitement, suffers from the lifeless acting of Jennifer Garner and Please see **Films** on page 14

Grindhouse, Quentin Tarantino and Robert Rodriguez's love letter to the cheesiness, exploitation, and carnage that played on double-bills in the scum-filled, similarly named theaters throughout the 1970s, was a financial flop. The same reasons that kept many audience members away - the length, the cartoonish amount of gore, and the ridiculous, over-the-top plots and dialogue - are the exact reasons why I would happily pay to see it again and again. To me, it is pure, filthy, brilliant fun from two of the most original minds in mainstream cinema.

"Original" is only one of the many ways to describe director Brad Bird and Pixar's latest effort, *Ratatouille*. It could also be called

Arts And Entertainment

Continued from **Films** Page 14

loses its message somewhere in the bloodshed, but was enjoyable nevertheless. An honorable mention goes the espionage thriller *Breach*, which, despite an extremely smart script and an Oscar-worthy performance from Chris Cooper, is held back by the incapable Ryan Phillippe.

The Real and The Dramatic

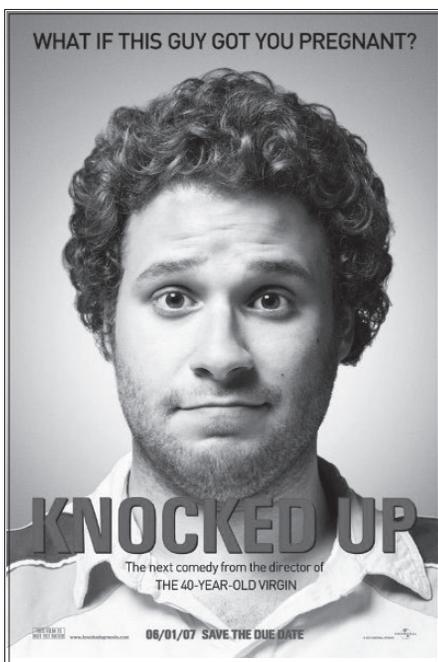
No Country for Old Men is being heralded as a return to form for the directing/writing brothers Joel and Ethan Coen. It is also widely regarded as a shoe-in for many Oscar nominations, and for good reason. Veteran Spanish actor Javier Bardem turns in the most frightening, as well as one of the most humorous, portrayals of the year, and Josh Brolin continues a streak of dynamite performances.

Celebrated, though undeniably odd, directors David Cronenberg and Werner Herzog both turned in underrated films this year. Cronenberg's *Eastern Promises* features Viggo Mortensen in the frighteningly convincing role of a London-based Russian mobster. Christian Bales shines as usual in Herzog's true-life based prison drama *Rescue Dawn*, but it is the long under-appreciated Steve Zahn who stole that show.

Good drama wasn't only in the form of the fictional narrative this year. The much-maligned Michael Moore's highly anticipated documentary *Sicko* combined the harrowing with the laugh out loud funny in the way he does best. Whether you agree with Moore's brand of politicking or not, the film's examination of healthcare and the uninsured in the U.S. is engaging, not to mention enlivening.

The Sweet

There has been a surprising new trend in film in 2007: the genuinely sweet movie. Leading the pack funniest film, *Knocked Up*. Seth Rogen and Katherine Heigl are a rare couple romantic comedies both good comedic chemistry. Though raunchy and crude, sweet, feel-good, start to finish. Even *Lars and the Real Girl* stars the infallible seriously socially inept office worker size mannequin-the Internet, treats alive, and honestly love with her. The will cause most give this one a chance. What's extraordinary is the fact that there is not a single cruel joke in the whole film, and the filmmakers have deftly avoided every single cliché and perverse quip that one might expect. Everyone surrounding Gosling's Lars is genuine and loving, and it is easily one of the most moving films of the year.



Graphic Courtesy of Google Images

is also the year's Judd Apatow's Apatow veteran Katherine Heigl in the litany of in that they have and occasionally it is also strikingly and hilarious from more surprising *Real Girl*, which Ryan Gosling as a and romantically who orders a life like sex doll on her as if she is believes he is in synopsis alone to turn away; but chance. What's

The Struggling/Dying Genres

The science fiction film has rarely found its way outside of the hands of its niche audiences, the *Star Wars* franchise aside. When Danny Boyle decided to make the visually stunning film *Sunshine*, about a shuttle crew hurtling through space to re-ignite the sun, he achieved the incredible task of making a small market genre more accessible to the masses; a task in which he had also succeeded in the zombie/horror genre with *28 Days Later*. Unfortunately, the release of the film was fumbled, and it failed to find financial success in the U.S., but I feel certain it will enjoy a certain cult status on DVD.

If science fiction is a tough sell, though, then the western is a nearly impossible one. Generally, once every few years a western is released that meets with at least slight box office success. This year, though, saw two, high profile, critically praised westerns meet with the film-goers' money. *The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford* and *3:10 to Yuma* both shook the idea that the western is dead. Both have exceptional casts and able directors, and both are certainly worth the money, but I doubt that their success will spark a resurgence in the genre.

Fantasy Films

A few movies in 2007 tried to cash in on the fantasy trend that the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy started a few years ago. One of them was *Eragon*, a film based on the novel by Christopher Paolini. Although the special effects and computer animation were well done, the story line was completely flawed. You might as well say that the director butchered the book and hastily put the plot together in poor fashion. This lead to numerous elements not being used in the film, like dwarves or elves. How could this be a fantasy film without mystical creatures? If more time was spent in trying to follow the book precisely, it could have been a blockbuster in theaters. Instead, it's ranked as one of the worst fantasy films of all time.

Those that Defy Categorization

These are films that are so odd, or so eccentric, or so nonsensical that it is truly useless to try to group them into any other category. But that doesn't mean that these films aren't bad, or at least not fun to watch.

Writer/Director Wes Anderson's films might always be considered eccentric, and his most recent *The Darjeeling Limited* is no different. The film follows Owen Wilson, who got his start in Anderson's extraordinary *Bottle Rocket*, and his two brothers on a journey across India in search of something they might never have had: family unity. While the film can be meandering and stylistically micromanaged, Anderson finds the setting of India an enthralling character in itself, finally expanding his generally inclusive universe into the real world.

The world is in danger in *Southland Tales*, the epic sized, odd, sophomoric effort by *Donnie Darko* writer/director Richard Kelly. The movie has The Rock, also known as Dwayne Johnson, Sarah Michelle Gellar, spontaneous singing, post-apocalyptic conspiracy theories, a movie within a movie, and the strangeness continues from there. But what the movie lacks in continuity and a comprehensible story, it more than makes up for in creativity and pizzazz. You will either continue to watch because you long to understand it, or because it is such random fun.

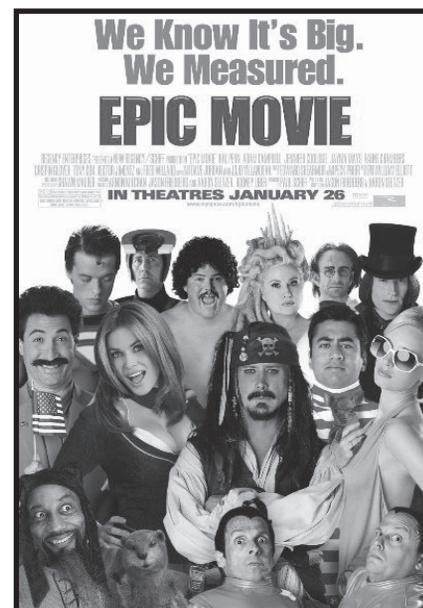
Random is possibly the best way to describe *Aqua Teen Hunger Force Colon Movie for Theaters*. The crew behind the cult Adult Swim animated television show chucks any and all of the rules about what makes a movie out the window. What results will be unwatchable for some, and laugh out loud funny for others. The opening 10 minutes are pure comic genius, though. But this one's not for the kiddies.

The Terrible

Some might have noticed that I have gone the whole article without mentioning the movie *300*, and there is a good reason for it. I thought it was absolutely terrible, and, knowing that a large percentage of movie-goers have probably seen it more than once by now, I thought it best not to let it interfere with the rest of the article. Sure, it made a lot of money. Yes, the visuals were unique, and, at times stunning. But the film should not be forgiven for its third grade dialogue, absent-minded acting, and plot-holes large enough to fit a Persian war elephant through.

I was equally disappointed with this year's iteration of *Halloween*. I have a lot of respect for Rob Zombie as a filmmaker. His *House of a Thousand Corpses* was a lot better than most give him credit for, and *The Devils Rejects* was downright brilliant. But *Halloween* suffers from overflowing vulgarity, terrible acting, and a first and second half that seem like two separate movies.

The two prior mentioned films are bad, but they are nothing compared to the dreck that is *The Comebacks* and *Epic Movie*, which I would hope those of you still reading have avoided, or will do so.



Graphic Courtesy of Google Images

That's a Wrap

While 2007 hasn't been the strongest year in cinema, it is an improvement. The studios have found the latest surefire trends that the public will go for, and we can expect them to milk them to exhaustion. But business is business, and what do we care anyways? We just want to be entertained.

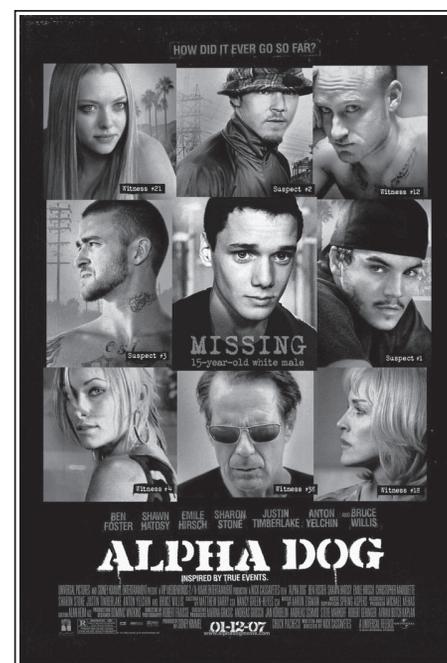
The Rest

Here are some more think are worth seeing, theaters or on DVD or *Dog*; *The Astronaut Shooter*; *The Hoax*; *Surf's Up*; *La Vie En Potter and the Order of Interview*; *Talk to Me*; *Death at a Funeral*; *Up*; *In the Valley of the Universe*; *Into the White*; *Feast of Love*; *Michael Clayton*; *Gone American Gangster*;

The Upcoming

The year isn't through, generally expected that best films of the year are last few weeks. Here are films with positive buzz:

Atonement; *The Golden Compass*; *I Am Legend*; *The Kite Runner*; *Juno*; *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street*; *Walk Hard: The Dewey Cox Story*; *Charlie Wilson's War*; and *There Will Be Blood*.



Graphic Courtesy of Google Images

2007 films I either in cable: *Alpha Farmer*; *Fracture*; *Bug*; *Rose*; *Harry the Phoenix*; *Superbad*; *Shoot 'Em Elah*; *Across Wild*; *Sydney Lust*, *Caution*; *Baby Gone*; and *Beowulf*.

and it is some of the saved until the some of the

I'm Not There;

Sweeney

Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street;

Walk Hard: The Dewey Cox Story;

Charlie Wilson's War;

and *There Will Be Blood*.

Arts And Entertainment

“Lions for Lambs” Provokes Questions About War

By JoHanna McCashland
Live Wire Staff Writer

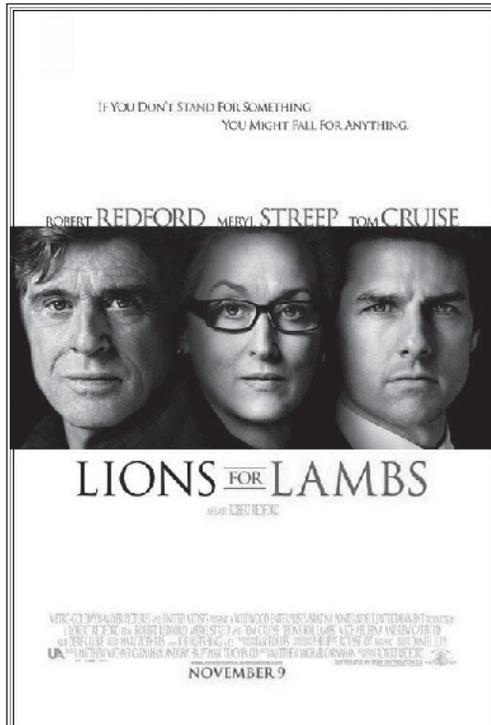
Regardless of ones view on the “War on Terror” the new film *Lions for Lambs*, starring Tom Cruise, Meryl Streep and Robert Redford, is a must see. The movie details how most wars are fought on two fronts, at home and abroad.

The movie, written by Matthew Michael Carnahan and directed by Redford, opens with a look at the media coverage of the “war on terror.” Then players – in this case, lambs - who help shape our perception of the war are introduced. These three players are the solution to the conclusion of this conflict. The solution includes YOU and the choices you make, we all make.

Cruise plays Sen. Jasper Irving, who introduces journalist Janine Roth, played by Streep, to a way to end the war. He asks Roth to help him sell the solution to the American public. Meanwhile in Afghanistan, two U.S. soldiers have fallen out of a helicopter.

Those soldiers are former students of Stephen Malley, played by Redford, a political science professor at a California university. He is having a conversation with another student about those two former students of his who paired up to give a presentation about civic engagement in his class. Arian Finch, played by Derek Luke, and Earnest Rodriguez, portrayed by Michael Pena, used their presentation to make a point: at some time between leaving high school and college graduation each citizen must chose among three choices, such as joining the Peace Corps, AmeriCorps or ROTC. They urged learning about civics through involvement; to them, no one should be allowed to sit on the sidelines. Then, they took their own advice, which is how they ended up on that helicopter in Afghanistan.

Lions for Lambs acknowledges some class differences between those who are sent to fight wars and those who shape the perception of those wars. The student Malley is talking with at the start of the film is an example of the latter. Todd, portrayed by Andrew Garfield, leads



Graphic Courtesy of Google Images

a leisurely life driving a new car and hanging out with his fraternity brothers. He has not shown up for class and is disenchanted with political science. Malley offers Todd a choice: either show up for class and participate and receive a “B” or never come to class again and receive a “B.” The point, and the film’s tagline, is: “If you don’t STAND for something, you might FALL for anything” regardless of economic status.

Lions for Lambs sparks a question: What can you or I do to change things? First, we can become educated. Next, we can participate through discussions, letters, and other such exchanges with neighbors and elected officials. By getting involved, we can take a stand similar to that of the fictional Finch and Rodriguez.

History has the chance to inform our future. What we, citizens of le monde, do today will determine the quality of our tomorrows.

If you would like to write to your elected representatives visit <http://www.cga.ct.gov/maps/townlist.asp>.

To learn more about the war, read “Heads We Win: The Cognitive Side of Counterinsurgency,” by David C. Gompert, or visit http://www.rand.org/pubs/occasional_papers/2007/RAND_OP168.sum.pdf

Another good source is the “Iraq Study Group Report,” by Lee H. Hamilton and James A. Baker. To find it online visit http://www.usip.org/isg/iraq_study_group_report/report/1206/iraq_study_group_report.pdf.

New Albums Reach New Heights

By Jeff Raymond
Live Wire Staff Writer

The Black Dahlia Murder
Nocturnal
Metal Blade Records

First and foremost, if you are not a death metal fan, move on to the next review, or you can give this genre of music a shot with an open mind. After a two-year absence, our favorite Motor City (that’s Detroit, Mich.) death metal stoners The Black Dahlia Murder are back with *Nocturnal*, The band’s third and, I dare say, most melodic record to date. After what some said was a disappointing release in *Miasma*, and what seemed like countless lineup changes, the band somehow managed to compose itself enough to compose a nearly deadly album. The album’s first noticeable “growth” is singer Trevor Strnad’s noticeably higher pitch squeals and deeper growls then the bands previous releases, sung (if that’s even what you want to call it) over fresh melodic-to-chug riffage of Brian Eschbach and John Kempainen, and devastating double bass drumming perfected by Shannon Lucas. Such is the case on tracks like *Deathmask Devine* and *Of darkness Spawned*. Lyrically the band has gotten back to its old ways of “gore and horror” themes with a touch of poetic grace. Topping it all off to complete the total package is cover art by Kristian Whalin (who also did the cover for Emperor’s classic *In the Night Side Eclipse*) to give it the “evil” look us metal fans love and adore. *Nocturnal* is an album, which simply can’t go wrong. The Black Dahlia Murder has returned and they’re out for blood!



HIM
Venus Doom
Sire/Warner Bros. Records



I recently read an article in Revolver Magazine documenting the process of Finland’s Goth/Love rockers HIM making their new record *Venus Doom*, and I remember reading that singer Villie Valo was severely depressed while making this record, (for reasons unknown.) And to be fair, it shows. Songs like “Sleepwalking Past Hope” and “Song or Suicide,” which, at first listen, sounds like a man reading his suicide note over a doodling acoustic guitar, bring the listener straight into clinical depression with Valo. But songs such as “Dead Lovers Lane” and “Bleed Well” pick up the pace and exemplify the band’s classic upbeat romance flavor. But I have to say, I have not heard such a beautifully depressed and upbeat rock album since “Razorblade Romance,” with band classics like “Your Sweet 666” and “Join Me.” Valo’s lyrical descent into the blackness of depression and desperation is chronicled with ghostly and cryptic rhyme schemes put together by HIM’s suicide poet. From start to finish, the band takes us on a journey into addiction and out of recovery, with sing along choruses and enchanted verses. Two thumbs up for *Venus Doom*.

Arts And Entertainment

CABELA'S MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE

By Ashley Lang
Live Wire Staff Writer

"Oh my God" were the first words that came to mind as I entered Cabela's for the first time. This superstore is so grand that it is completely and utterly overwhelming. It's almost insane not to stand and gasp in sheer shock, or rather horror (for me), at the amount of stuff that is jam packed into this gigantic, cabin-like vessel. The atmosphere is somewhat scattered and my eyes can't seem to focus on any particular section, they just scan frantically from one section to the next, never settling.

Cabela's, a fabulous outdoor, fishing and hunting store, on the outside resembles more of a log cabin house than a mega store. But walking through the giant glass doors at the front of the building reveal much more than meets the eye.

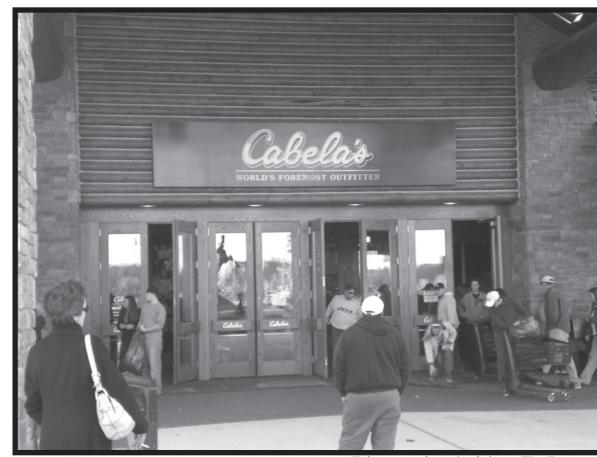
Both the outside and the inside are covered with wooden features. There is a wooden stair case that leads to the second level off to the left as you enter. The railings up the stair case follow the outline around the second floor and are also carved and made of wood. The ceilings are also supported by a mixture of wooden beams and metal.

Standing in the entrance, I searched my cluttered purse for my cell phone, issuing a small search and rescue attempt to locate it, and called my friend who worked there to come find me, since clearly, I cannot master this store on my own. After wandering aimlessly in circles around the mountainside, which, along with the elk, bears, and goats, also houses a fish tank, I wandered into a sea of fishing equipment complete with lures, poles, string, and tackle boxes.

After losing myself amongst a sea of fake bait, I was finally rescued by my friend.

"Thank God! This store is huge, oh my God, how can you stand it?" I said. He laughed at my semi-overwhelmed and obvious terror, and so began my journey through Cabela's.

After a brief introduction into the world of Cabela's, which consisted of a very quick walk through, my tour guide was forced to return to his regular duties of actually working and I was left alone. I began my more in depth solo exploration on the ground level, circling the mountain again, and exploring the aquarium filled with catfish, bass, and other fresh water species. Back in the fishing section, there was row after row of poles, bait, string, and any thing else a person out to



Photos by Ashley E. Lang

Above left: Dragon statue made of wood. Above right: Main entrance to Cabela's.

catch a few might need. Further back, I noticed a few large fishing boats on display, where a group of men were standing and studying the features. After strolling past them, I noticed that most of the boats on display were already sold.

Most of the first level is home to clothing, everything from socks to hats, sweatshirts, sweaters, jackets, and thermal wear and pants, for men, women, and children. All the

clothing, while still maintaining a fashionable side, is geared towards being functional. Next to the clothing, lies the home section, filled with China plates with forest scenes painted on the front, mugs, and jewelry, and bins of stuffed animals. Past that is a kids' toys area, equipped with video games, a station to test the games out and more stuffed animals, clothing and cork guns. These are wooden toy guns that have a cork attached to a string in the barrel of the

gun so that when you pump air into the barrel it forces the cork out, making a pop sound.

Slowly I made my way upstairs, past the hanging yellow and orange airplane to where most of the archery equipment is housed, along with the guns and accessories. Mixed in amongst the bows and arrows were camouflage patterned items, from boots to overalls to hats.

Then I made my way to the Candlewood Grill, a

Please see Cabela's on page 21



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Arts And Entertainment

Kevin Devine Blows Minds

By Jason Cunningham
Live Wire Editor

Sometimes there are a few stars shining out of the rusty nails we see in the bucket of young folk singers of this generation, strumming away as they voice their poetry into a microphone. Kevin Devine is one of those stars and on Oct. 10, at The Space in Hamden, he put on a show that was nothing less than stunning.

Following his friends the Jealous Girlfriends and Aeroplane 1929, Devine came on stage standing alone, guitar in hand. What followed was a deep dive into the young songwriter's soul, as he engaged us with his catchy melodies and thought-provoking lyrics. After singing a handful of tunes alone, Devine was joined by two members of what he calls "The God Damn Band," presenting some songs well complimented by electric guitar, drums, and occasionally, bass.

The drummer, Brian Bonz, who is an excellent singer/songwriter



Kevin Devine at The Space in Hamden,
on Oct. 10, 2007

Photo By Jason Cunningham

in his own right, played the drums like a mad man. He often sang along with Devine, adding a stage presence to the band that did nothing but entrap the audience. After playing a solid set with a backing band, Devine was once

again alone on stage, pouring his heart and soul out to audience members who looked on wide-eyed at their folk hero. He even gave them a few new songs and covers, as well as a duet with Holly Miranda, front woman of

the Jealous Girlfriends. Miranda has a voice that'd make an angel weep at its beauty.

The best song of the set for me was No Time Flat off his third LP "Split the Country, Split the Street." Devine's set almost hit the two-hour mark, and not one song disappointed. He frequents this area often and thanked the staff of The Space for their hospitality and support.

Devine is currently in the middle of an extensive tour, just returning from Europe. This show was his first back in the states, beginning his two-month U.S. tour. The Space is an excellent venue, bringing a sense of art, style, and hominess that most venues don't have. If you're ever in the Hamden area I suggest catching a show there.

Devine's latest album, "Put Your Ghost to Rest," is available at most retailers. If you can't catch him live, definitely check it out.

New Releases Have that Holiday Feeling

By Mitch Greene
Live Wire Staff Writer

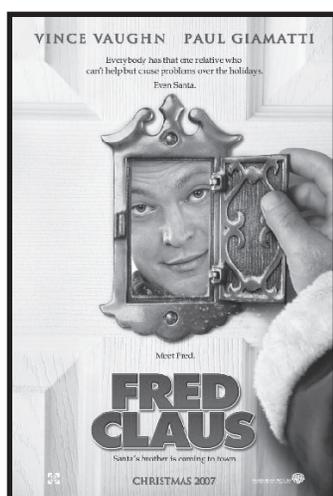
With the holiday season approaching rapidly there's nothing better than kicking back and attending a holiday movie with family and friends. And Hollywood producers, directors and actors are counting on it. Several films that will debut this holiday season feature comedy mixed with holiday whimsy.

For some people, seeing a holiday film is a family tradition.

"One of my favorite things to do during the season is relax and watch Christmas movies with my family," said Manchester Community College student Lindsey Debellis. Several upcoming films may fit the bill.

"Fred Claus" stars actors Vince Vaughn and Paul Giamatti. Vaughn plays Claus, a repo man who gets thrown in jail because he steals the items he repossesses instead of returning them to their owners. In order to get out of jail he must travel to the North Pole and help make toys. Vaughn's marvelous acting and quirky behavior are what make this a must see holiday movie.

If you're looking for more of a magical movie then "Enchanted" might be a good choice. It stars Patrick Dempsey, James Marsden and Amy Adams. Adams plays a princess who is banished



Graphic courtesy of Google
Images

from her magical kingdom to modern day New York City in this romantic comedy penned by Bill Kelly.

One last film that will be part of this holiday season is "Christmas In Wonderland," starring Carmen Electra, who undergoes a long distance move from Los Angeles to Edmonton with her husband and two kids. During the trip they visit the West Edmonton Mall and encounter a magical sequence of events.

All of these movies are rich in holiday spirit.

"What I look for in a movie coming out during the holiday season is laughs, um, the holiday spirit and just good acting," said student John Cantazaro.



Have you ever felt the urge to travel and learn about a different part of the country? Meet new and interesting people? Find a job that complements your studies and offers practical experience in your field? Are you interested in learning about the wide range of exciting summer job opportunities that are available throughout the US and Canada?

If you answered **YES** to any of these questions, you could soon find yourself working at a Summer Camp or Resort, a National Park, Theater, Amusement or Theme Park! You choose the location!

To get started...

Check Out the MCC Summer Job Board (outside Financial Aid Office).

Browse through the summer employment related brochures and resource guides located in the Career Services Office Library (Lowe-177).

Visit the MCC Career Services website: www.mcc.commnet.edu/career

Schedule an appointment with a Career Services Office staff member to learn more about summer employment opportunities.

Attend the **MCC SUMMER JOB FAIR** on Wednesday, March 26, 2008 from **10 am - 1 pm** in the **A&T Building**.

Summer Jobs

For more information, call Julie Greene, Sr. Associate Director of MCC Career Services at (860) 512-3374.

Arts And Entertainment

TRUE LIFE HITS THE BIG SCREEN WITH “AMERICAN GANGSTER”

By Nico Sanchez-Roosa
Live Wire Staff Writer

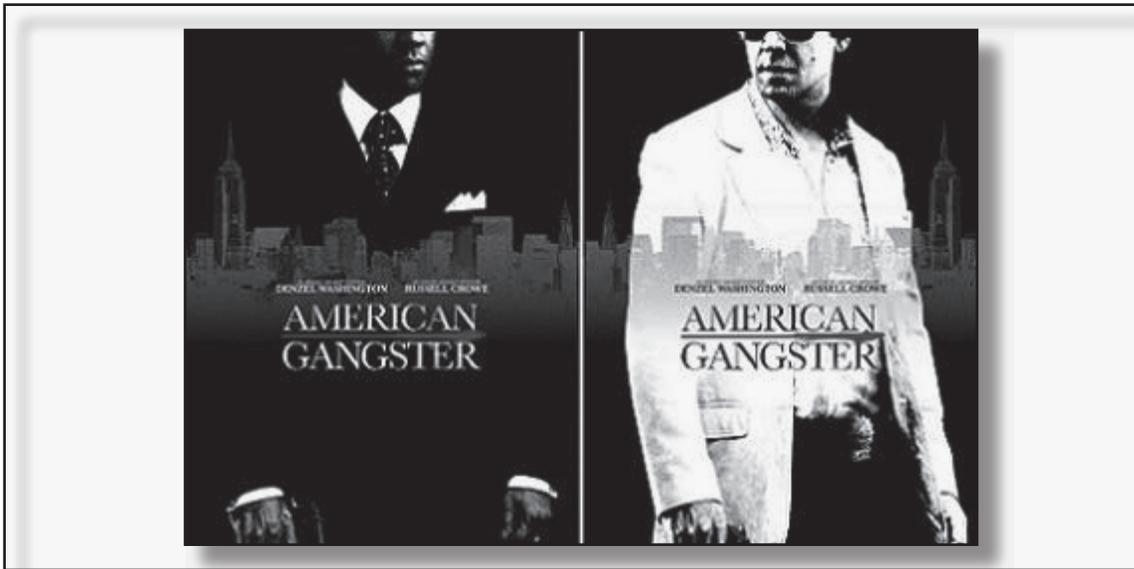
Due to the popularity of gangster movies such as the “Godfather” trilogy, “Scarface,” and “Goodfellas,” there was high anticipation for the new film “American Gangster,” which opened nationwide last month. It stars Oscar-winner Denzel Washington as Harlem drug lord Frank Lucas and Russell Crowe, also an Oscar winner, as Richie Roberts, the police officer who brought him to justice.

The film is based on the true story of Lucas, the character played by Washington, who was born in North Carolina and moved to New York City where he was introduced to a life of crime by reputed Harlem drug lord Ellsworth “Bumpy” Johnson. Robert’s life, by contrast, is not as glamorous as Lucas’. He struggles with child

support payments and he’s a womanizer, but he is an honest cop on a police force full of dishonest ones.

According to PR Newswire, Lucas grew up in a violent environment. When he was only six years old, his cousin was killed by the KKK for looking at a white woman. Lucas stole money and food to be able to help out his family. He then headed to New York City after stealing more the \$400 from his old boss and burning his business down.

The movie takes place during the late 1960’s and early 1970’s in New York City. Lucas develops into a crime lord after Bumpy’s death. But he wants to become his own boss in Harlem. To do so, he decides to make large amounts of money by trafficking heroin. Lucas does not want to depend on



Graphic courtesy of Google Images

anyone for his dealings, and so he wants to cut out the middle men, in this case the crooked police officers. He creates a crew of drug dealers from his brothers and cousins, who he brings up from North Carolina. And he gets to the main source of the drug by going on many repeated trips to Thailand. There he finds an unusual method of bringing the drugs into the United States without detection.

Roberts suspects that Lucas

is a much bigger player in New York City than the police originally thought. His investigation is the backbone of the plot of the movie. Even with his personal drama, Roberts still finds a way to go after Lucas with his rag tag team of do-good narcotics officers.

What makes this movie worth seeing is how the soundtrack and scenery fits very well with the

time period. Washington and Crowe’s acting are marvelous in the way that their characters share a rigorous ethical code, despite being on opposite sides of the law. Washington really makes the viewer think that he is a gangster, that’s how good his performance is.

The movie is well worth the price of admission to those who like great acting and gangster genre movies.

Like Working With Children?

The new Speech-Language Pathology Assistant Option prepares graduates for careers working in schools with children who have communication disorders. SLPAs work under the supervision of a licensed, certified Speech-Language Pathologist.

In addition to required General Education courses and other required courses, specialty courses include:

- SLP* 111 Communication Development
- SLP* 112 Speech and Language in the Educational Setting
- SLP* 120 Communication Disorders and Intervention I
- SLP* 121 Communication Disorders and Intervention II
- SLP* 130 Processes and Function of the Speech and Hearing Mechanisms

A supervised internship is also required.

Upon successful completion of all Disability Specialist Program SLPA Option degree requirements, graduates will

- Describe the process of communication and the characteristics of effective communication.
- Differentiate between communication disorders and communication differences.
- Describe the stages of language and literacy development and distinguish among language delays, language disorders, and culturally-based language differences.
- Explain and differentiate among the characteristics, etiologies, and impact of phonology, voice, fluency and language disorders.
- Explain the effect of hearing loss on the development of communication skills.
- Describe the role of the speech-language pathology assistant in supporting therapy plans for students in educational settings.

For more information on the SLPA option, please contact:

Dr. Eileen M. Furey (860) 512-2792 • efurey@mcc.commnet.edu

Office Location: T405



Arts And Entertainment

Continued from Cabela's on page 18

small cafe area. The grill has two food options: a deli where you can get a sandwich made from meats including ostrich and wild boar, and a grill area, which serves pizza, cheeseburgers, hamburgers, bison burgers, chili-dogs and regular hot dogs. There is also an array of desserts like lemon meringue pie, chocolate cake, cheesecake, and a chocolate silk crème pie that melts in your mouth. All items on the menu are under \$10. While I was there I tried the chili-dog, which was a regular beef hotdog, and the chocolate silk crème pie, both of which were good. My favorite however, was the pie. As for the prices, \$3.99 for a chili-dog seemed a little high, but the pie, which was around \$4.50, was worth every penny.

By this time, my slight issue with overcrowded enclosed areas – also known as claustrophobia – began to worsen and so I found myself in front of the gun library in what I consider to be the most comfortable leather chair and stool that in all of my 19 years of life I have encountered.

So here I sit, writing my story, thinking back about my adventure throughout the store. My final exploration was the gun library behind me which is quite exquisite in itself. There are walls of guns lining the entire room. One of the most impressive guns, a Winchester 70 custom with a price tag of \$2,500, is

made of gold with a beautiful vine like pattern edged in throughout the piece, resembling more art than machine. It is quite beautiful.

As begin to exit I overhear a man talking about Cabela's.

"Quite a place," he said

I agree this is quite a place.

Cabela's is located at 475 East Hartford Blvd. North, in East Hartford. The store is open Monday through Saturday 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Sundays, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. For more information, including special holiday hours call 860-290-6200 or visit www.cabelas.com.



Left: Owl carving on the sidewalk of Cabela's

Above: View from the second floor of the mountainside.

Right: Butterfly carving on the sidewalk of Cabela's.

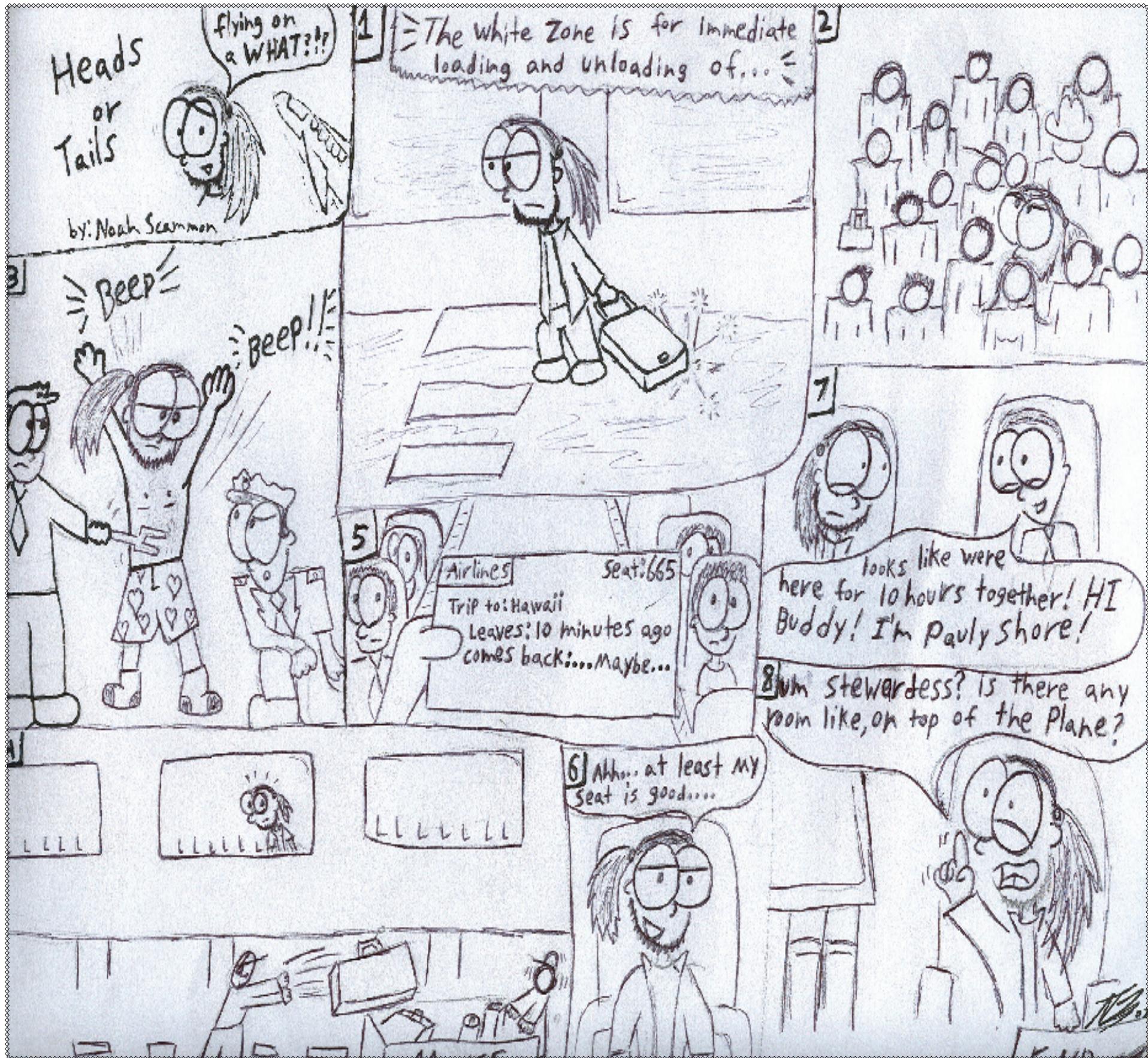


There's a Class For You This Winter!

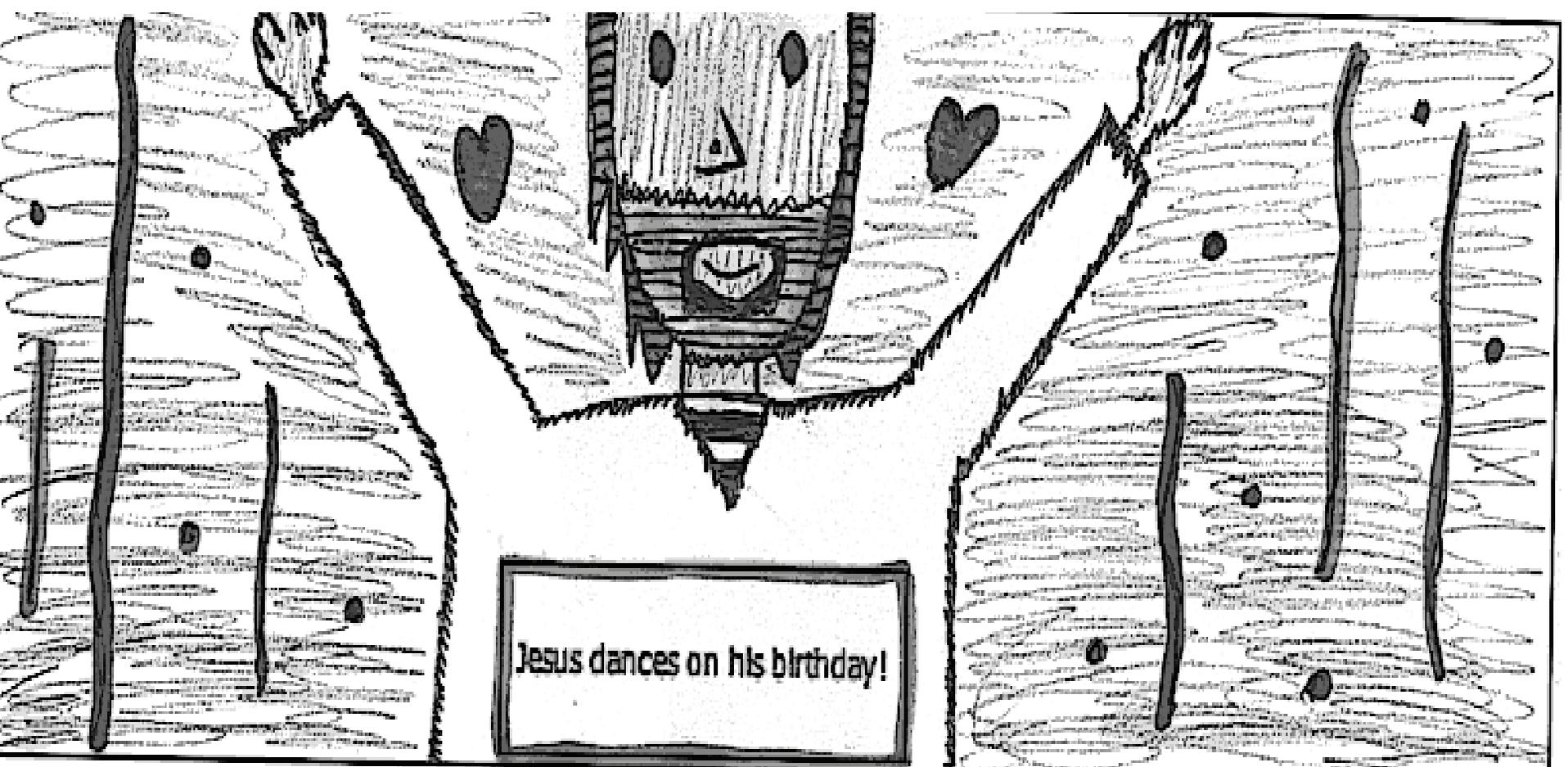
- Earn 3 credits per course; only \$120 per credit
- Day, weekend and online courses beginning in December, February and March
- Transfer credits to another school or apply toward a degree at MCC
- Register early—classes fill quickly

Also, more than 70 credit-free courses to choose from, including cooking, computers, photography, yoga and more, and 250 online choices.

Cartoons



Sleeves by Jason Cunningham



Poetry

Poet's Corner

From Headlines to Horror Shows

By Jeff Raymond

As the clouds wash
the sky away into an
unquestionable blackness,
I remember the days of old
when things were different.
Things seemed easier.
Things could be repaired.
Not so easy anymore.
Now, I'm down in the
trenches with both of my
arms
Bloody and a loaded gun
with battle scars to prove
that
I've been to hell and back.
I've come all this way with
little and or nothing to
show.
Because of what you did to
me,
I'm left alone, to battle my
memories and to fight this
war all by myself.
And that's fine for me,
Because they say nice guys
finish last.
Well, at least I finished

Windy Spirit

By Lisa Turcotte

If the wind were right,
And I were light,
I would open my arms
And be lifted up,
To be carried away
To a cloud,
Past the twinkling stars
Far, far away
And arrive in a dream.
I used Outer space as the
place
Where I disguised,
within the shadows of the
moon,
In myself what I despise.
I've searched the universe
For some special star,
Using the light to blind
What I'm trying to hide.
And I found myself in a
twilight zone
Confused and wanting to go
home.
It was your belief in me that
Showed me I had what
I was seeking all along
Thank you for always be-
lieving in me,
And showing me how to
believe in myself.

Cloudy Skies

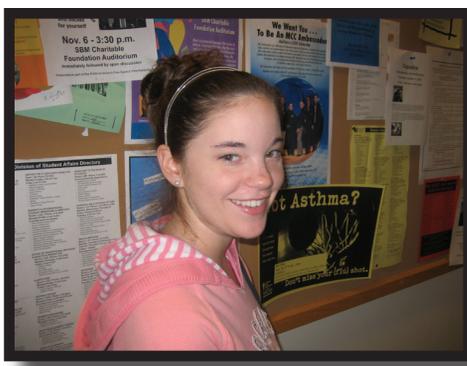
By Ashley E. Lang

The silence is deafening
The ground is cold
Why can't you hear me?
The stone is rough against my
skin
Blistered and worn.
The make up stains have
become permanent,
against this fair skin I own.
Everyday reminders.
Constant failure.
Did you give up?
Is that why I continually
suffer?
I would give the world to see
you again.
Instead I stand in the blistering
cold,
staring down at a soulless
grave.
Death surrounding.
A brutal realization.
I cannot forgive your weakness
I will not forgive my own.
The rose petals shrivel and die
As they touch the white
blanket that rests upon you.
Nothing stays alive.

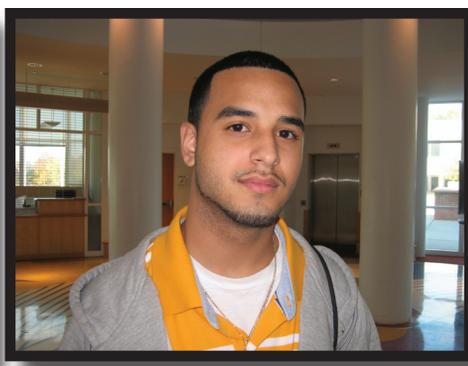
If you would like to publish your original poem in the Live Wire's new Poet's Corner, please send your submission to livewire@mcc.comnet.edu or bring it to the Live Wire office, room 253 in the Lowe Building. Please include the author's name and contact information. The Live Wire reserves the right to edit or reject any submissions.

WORD on campus

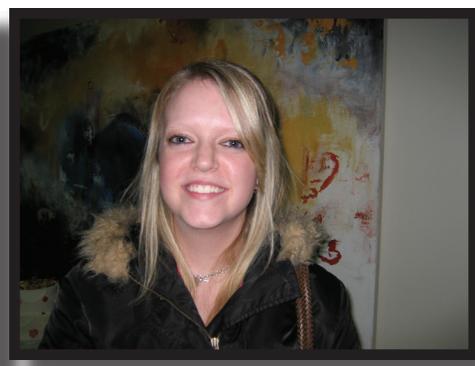
What
would
make you
come
out and
support
MCC's
sports
teams?



Colleen Curylo
Communications Major
"I didn't even know we had a sports team. There should be more team spirit, and more sports team advertising."



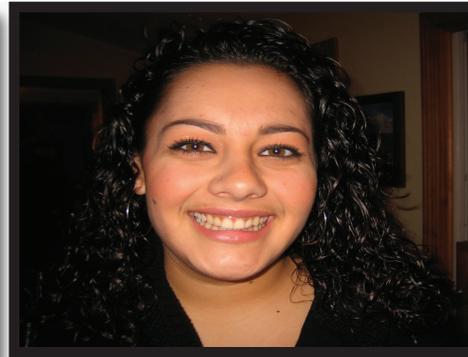
Joel Martinez
Human Services
"Pep rally's, more flyers and announcements would be good, also maybe some statistics on the games. I never see any flyers or information anywhere."



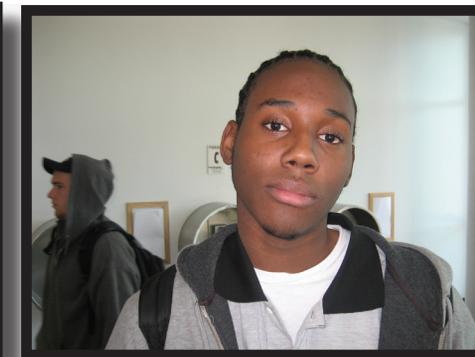
Leanne Jones
Communications Major
"Maybe they could advertise a little more, teachers could make announcements to the students about the games. The team members could wear their team warm-ups on game day."



Patrick O'Sullivan
Communications Major
"Make the sports programs a little more accessible. Their office is tucked away in a corner, no one ever sees them."



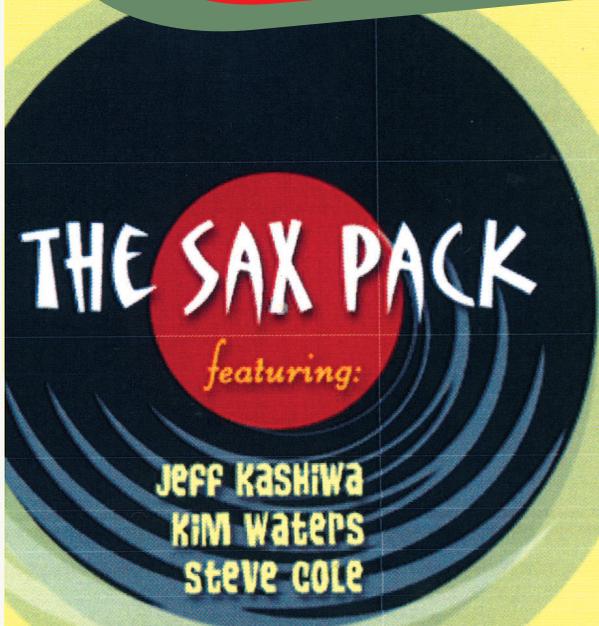
Melina Nsyrios
Liberal Arts
"I would like to hear stories or statistics on individual athletes, different people may connect with them, and would definitely go support the team."



Prince Guthrie
Accounting
"Maybe if I knew who was on the teams or even advertise with a mascot. We never have information on the games."

AN EVENING WITH SHANACHIE RECORDING ARTISTS

THE SAX PACK



Sunday, December 30

7:30 p.m. • \$40

Doors Open at 7:00 p.m.

Manchester Community College

SBM Charitable Foundation

Auditorium

For ticket information, visit www.jumpstartjazz.com