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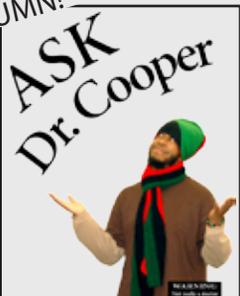
Volume 23, Issue 5 February 23, 2007

Manchester Community College

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Culinary Arts Center is Finally Completed

By Robert Cooper
Live Wire Assistant Editor

After months of construction behind a boarded up wall, the Culinary Arts Center is completed and open. The Center will give students in the culinary department a state-of-the-art learning and practicing area as they pursue a career in the restaurant or hospitality field.

Tours and events celebrating the reopening got under way on Feb. 6 with several demonstrations by the culinary department, including knife sharpening, simple cake decorating, marzipan modeling and plate garnishing.

Work began on remodeling what was formerly just the Cheney Dining Room last semester. The room, which was last remodeled in the 1980s, was expanded and new lighting, carpeting and furniture were added to create a more modern look. Three new floor-to-ceiling windows also allow a better view into the center. The center now houses three dining rooms, named for benefactors and friends of MCC. They



Robert Cooper/Live Wire
Aaron Gilberto a student in the Culinary Arts department pours raspberry vinaigrette over a mescaline and goat cheese salad.



Robert Cooper/Live Wire

Members of the Culinary Arts team that prepared the meal served Feb. 8 during the grand opening of the newly remodeled Culinary Arts Center.

are now named the Cheney Dining room, the Alice and Alexander Jarvis Dining Room, and the Geraldine and Vincent Lesunaitis Dining Room.

On Feb. 8, the grand opening of the remodeled center was held during a formal dinner for faculty members, students from Phi Theta Kappa and the Student Senate, MCC Board members, local politicians, and Manchester's Chief of Police, James O. Berry.

The culinary arts students prepared a meal for both those who eat meat, and those who were vegetarians. The meal began with a choice of either a vegetable soup, or a Bisque de Shrimp soup, followed by a mescaline and goat cheese salad with raspberry vinaigrette. The main dish for the meat eaters was Paupiettes de Veal, which was a stuffed veal roll with sweet potatoes on the side, while the veggie eaters were treated to Fettuccini Primavera. For dessert was a Chestnut Rum Cheesecake.

President Jonathan M. Daube, welcomed those in attendance, and

introduced Geraldine Lesunaitis. One of the dining rooms is named after her and her husband. Lesunaitis has been one of MCC's biggest supporters, donating her late husband's collection of wines, which are auctioned off at the annual Evening of Fine Wine's fundraising event. She has also donated a Rolls Royce to the college to also be auctioned off at this year's event in April. Dean of Administrations Affairs Thomas Baviera and Marcia Jennings, of the Hospitality Department, also spoke at the dinner.

"It's been a busy week, but well worth it to showcase this wonderful center which will serve as both a dining room and classroom," said Sandra Jenkins, who teaches in the hospitality department. "I've been teaching for over 30 years, and never thought I would see this day. It's truly amazing."

Daube said he has high expectations of the program.

"This means we can bring this program to another level of excellence," he said.

Dr. Henry Louis Gates Jr. at MCC

"It is important for everybody to understand the history of African-Americans, because we played an important part in the development of America."



DR. HENRY LOUIS GATES JR.

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MCC News

Campus Briefs

MCC assistant men's soccer coach wins award

Ian Gordana, assistant coach of the men's soccer team, has been named the Thomas E. Krusewiski Memorial Award winner by the Connecticut Junior Soccer Association (CJSA). Gordana, of Rocky Hill, received the award for the top young soccer coach on Jan. 26 at the 16th Annual CJSA President's Dinner at the Marriot Hotel in Farmington. For three straight seasons, the Cougars have reached the National Junior College Athletic Association's Division III men's soccer tournament quarterfinals under head coach Jim Insinga and Gordana.

Regional Job Fair comes to MCC

The 18th annual MCC Regional Job Fair is scheduled for Saturday, March 31, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Booths will be located on the first and second floors of the AST building, and on the 2nd floor of the LRC building. More than 60 employers will participate. After March 1, a complete and regularly updated list of this year's registered companies will be available at: www.ctdol.ct.us/jobfairs/2007/Schedule.htm. The job fair is open to students, alumni, and community members and is co-sponsored by the Connecticut Department of Labor and the Journal Inquirer newspaper. For more

information contact Carl Ochnio, director of Career Services, at (860) 512-3372 or email cochnio@mcc.commnet.edu, or call Julie Greene, associate director of career services at (860) 512-3374, or email her at jgreene@mcc.commnet.edu.

Upcoming Student Senate meetings and events

The Student Senate will meet Fridays Feb. 16, March 16, April 20, and May 18 in the AST room T-201 room, from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. with free pizza. On Feb. 5, photos are being taken for student ID's. The cost is \$5 and semester decals are free. Free popcorn will be given out Feb. 7 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the AST Rotunda. Feb. 21 is Club Day, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Lowe lobby, and 3:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. in the AST Rotunda. March 20 in the AST Auditorium is the Dance Club Talent show from 5:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. The Student Senate also offers locker rentals for \$5 a semester, Showcase Theater movie tickets for \$6, with a student ID (only one ticket per ID) and \$8 without ID, and billiards for \$3 an hour. Student volunteers are needed to help plan and implement events and elections. To join the Student Senate, please call (860) 512-3292 or 860-512-3283, or stop by the Student Activities Office, L-154i.

Officer Openings available on the Student Senate

Would you like to help govern the interests and activities of the student body? Applications for Student Senate officer positions will be available starting March 2 online at www.mcc.commnet.edu, at the AST information desk, the library, and the Student Affairs office, L-154i. The deadline to apply is Friday, March 16, at 5 p.m. Seven positions are available with a stipend of between \$600-\$1,500 per school year. The term of office is one year, and student officers must have a GPA of 2.5 or higher, and have completed three MCC credit hours to apply. The positions available are president, vice president, social vice president, secretary, treasurer and executive senators I and II. For more information, please contact Jennifer Perez, chairperson of the election committee, or the Student Activities office at (860) 512-3232.

Pizza with the President Planned

Manchester Community College President Jonathan M. Daube will host Pizza with the President Monday, March 26, from noon to 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. in the Culinary Arts Center, on the second floor of the Lowe building. For more information contact Umesh Vig, assistant to the dean of students, at 860-512-3204.



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Summer Course Offers Help to New Orleans

By **Beth Scorzato**
Live Wire Staff Writer

While most students are just waiting for the freedom of summer vacation, some Manchester Community College students are looking forward to classes this May.

Community Involvement, a sociology 100 course, will be offered as a three week class during the first summer session. It offers an opportunity to both learn about and participate in community service and has been offered before. But this year, the community being served will be a little further away from home: New Orleans.

Despite the almost two years since Hurricane Katrina struck New Orleans, the city is far from rebuilt. That's why Lucy Anne Hurston, who teaches the class, is taking students to the Musician's Village in the 9th Ward to help build houses with Habitat for Humanity for one week of the three week intensive.

"This type of grassroots project is not new," said Hurston. "It rises from the lack of adequate and timely response from government and other structured organizations who fail to meet the needs of people in crisis."

Hurston said she got the idea to go to New Orleans from colleagues at Saint Joseph College, in West Hartford, and Holyoke Community College, in Massachusetts, who have completed similar projects with classes.

In addition to rebuilding, the group from MCC will be touring the levee system with the Army Corp of Engineers, taking walking tours and a riverboat tour with the National Park System, and visiting local cultural sights like the Oak Plantation. Participants will also have an opportunity

to interview people living within the 9th Ward neighborhood and meet and interview the author of their course textbook, "Why New Orleans Matters."

However, students can not simply sign up for the course like any other. "We want to be sure to take students who have it in their heart to help and who concur with the mission of the trip," said Hurston. "Therefore, an intensive screening process has been put in place after the application phase."

Along with their applications, students must provide letters of recommendation and pass an initial interview. Originally, the deadline for application was January 24, but due to immense response, the deadline has been extended to March 5. Of those who apply, 25-30 students will be selected. These students may be responsible for paying a portion of their travel expenses, although fundraising is in full swing to reduce the costs.

Several faculty members have also committed to the trip, including Jean Wynn, associate professor in the Social Science and Hospitality division, Jeanine DeRusha, an English instructor, and Stephania Davis, journalism instructor.

Interested students can pick up an application outside Hurston's office, T-307, or at the Social Sciences division desk on the third floor of the AST Tower.

For those who cannot go on the trip, but would like to help, donations are always welcome, said Hurston.

"But it is important to support such a vital national issue by keeping it at the 'top of the pile' on the national conscience," she added.

For more information on Habitat for Humanity's projects worldwide, visit www.habitat.org or call (229) 924-6935.



Robert Cooper/Live Wire

During a Health Care Forum at MCC Feb. 6, Angelo Messoro, far left, who teaches political science, moderates the discussion. Participating are, from left, State Rep. Andy Fleischmann (D - West Hartford), State Sen. Donald E. Williams Jr. (D - Brooklyn), and Eric George, who is associate council for the Connecticut Business and Industry Association.

Healthcare forum comes to MCC

By **Robert Cooper**
Live Wire Assistant Editor

One of the main problems facing countless Americans today is healthcare. It's in the news headlines, it's talked about during political campaigns, and it's discussed in community forums. On Feb. 6, at the SBM Charitable Auditorium, one such forum was held to discuss ways of providing reliable health care for Connecticut residents.

The forum was sponsored by Greater Manchester Young Democrats, Connecticut

Young Democrats, and the Manchester Political Union from MCC. State Sen. Donald E. Williams Jr., D - Brooklyn, state Rep. Andy Fleischmann, D - West Hartford, and Eric J. George, associate council for the Connecticut Business and Industry Association made up the panel. Angelo A. Messoro, who teaches political science, moderated the forum.

After a brief introduction by Messoro, each guest offered their ideas on how to handle the issue of affordable health care.

"If you look at the healthcare system in Connecticut today, it is in bad shape," Fleischmann said.

Three principles that could improve health care for all are making it universal, affordable, and continuous, he said. Fleischmann suggested a single-payer system, where individuals pay health insurance premiums to one agency, which then pay for medical expense.

"If you are a parent, or a family member, then you could recognize that proper health care is a human right," said Fleischmann. "Provision of healthcare is not a luxury, it's a privilege."

George looked at the issue from a business perspective, saying that "if you improve the quality of healthcare, you reduce the cost." He also pointed out that promoting general wellness in the U.S. would also help control the cost of healthcare.

Williams offered a more community-based approach. He said a Medicare program for everyone should be pursued in Connecticut, and the state should invest in community health centers and chronic disease management.

During the session, many in the audience said they were frustrated with the rising cost of health insurance, and what it often didn't cover. Geoff Luxenberg, the president of the Greater Manchester Young Democrats, said the forum was a way for getting legislators and the community to talk about the problem together.

"Health care is an important issue for all young people," Luxenberg said. "We wanted to have a forum to inform folks in the community of what's happening at the state level with health care policy."

MCC News

Dr. Henry Louis Gates brings African-American history to MCC

By Robert Cooper
Live Wire Assistant Editor

The long road to the publishing of an encyclopedia about the African-American experience was full of false starts and rejection, but ultimately, triumph, as told by Henry Louis Gates Jr., an eminent historian who finally saw the encyclopedia published.

Gates told the story to a packed audience in the SBM Charitable Foundation auditorium Feb. 8. as part of Manchester Community College's observance of Black History Month.

The star of the story was W.E.B. DuBois, also an eminent historian who died in 1963 before he could complete the encyclopedia. Gates, who is chairman of African and African-American Studies and director of the W.E.B. Dubois Institute for African-American Research, at Harvard University, called DuBois "the greatest Black historian."

"DuBois got the idea of creating the first Encyclopedia Africana in 1909," Gates said, adding that dedication to education and the abolishment of racism became the two driving forces of DuBois' life.

Du Bois believed that racism was a product of ignorance, and that by documenting the full history of Blacks from Africa to the Americas, he could instill a sense of purpose to the Blacks in America, Gates said. This ideal became his life's work, but it was in the early 1960s, in the years just before his death, that DuBois moved to Ghana, in West Africa, and became editor of the first "Encyclopedia Africana."



Robert Cooper/Live Wire

Gates gives a demonstration of his Encarta Africana computer program. The program works as a virtual encyclopedia, and is full of historical firsts, facts and events of Africans and African-Americans. Photo by Robert Cooper

In his life, Gates picked up where DuBois left off. He is the author of several books, including "America behind the Color Line: Dialogues with African-Americans," "Colored People: The Future of a Race," and "Wonders of the African World."

But it is "Africana: The Encyclopedia of the African and African-American Experience," along with "Encarta Africana," a computer program that he co-edited with K. Anthony Appiah, that Gates said he is proudest of.

The "Encarta" is a CD-ROM encyclopedia of African and African-American historical facts, events and people. The program also contains audio of speeches from several key people, including Marcus Garvey, known as the father of Pan-Africanism, and video of several others like Malcolm X giving a speech and Jessie Owens, who won a gold medal during the 1936 Olympics in Berlin, Germany.

At MCC Gates also stressed the importance of Black history.

"It is important for everybody to understand the history of African-Americans," Gates said, "because we played an important part in the development of America."

The visit by Gates was sponsored by MCC's division of Social Sciences and Hospitality and arranged by Lucy Anne Hurston, who teaches sociology. Hurston, the niece of famed Black Renaissance author Zora Neale Hurston, said she has known Gates for 25 years. The two have worked together to create a DVD about the late author.

When she asked Gates to come speak at MCC, she said he jumped at the chance. Gates told the audience how he began his college career at a community college in West Virginia before transferring to Yale University, in New Haven. After a year of planning the visit, and a week where the event was rumored to be off, and then back on, Hurston said she was pleased to have been able to bring Gates to the college.

"MCC deserved this visit, and the Manchester community deserved the chance to be in his presence and to hear what he had to say," Hurston said. "He's a stunning and spectacular, captivating intellectual who makes you feel at home in his presence."

Gates is currently working on his latest book, "Finding Oprah's Roots." The book and accompanying one-hour documentary features the genealogical and genetic heritage of talk show host Oprah Winfrey that was found using DNA to match that of people in a certain region of Africa.

Tom Stringfellow, a 1976 graduate of MCC who attended the talk, said he was moved by the lecture.

"He is a perfect example of an educated African-American who works with all people," Stringfellow said. "That's what America is about. I'm glad he took time out of his busy schedule. It's not everyday a speaker of his caliber comes to a community college."

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Editorials



Freedom of Speech Doesn't Dictate Good Taste

Keith Rugar

When it comes to the world of satire, not everyone can be as witty as Jon Stewart on Comedy Central's "The Daily Show," and

recently John Petroski, the ex-opinion editor for the Central Connecticut State University school newspaper, The Recorder, learned just that. He wrote an opinion piece in an attempt to get peoples attention and get them reading more than just the front page. His Feb. 7, article titled "Rape Only Hurts If You Fight It" did that and much more. Petroski and the paper's editor, Mark Rowan, said the article was supposed to be a sarcastic look at this controversial issue, but not too many people got the joke.

With lines like "rape is a magical experience that benefits society as a whole," I am not surprised that the intended sarcasm was not felt. However, writers like to provide information and promote debate; that is why papers have a "Letter to the editor" section where readers can respond to what is published. But Petroski got more feedback than he bargained for as hundreds of his fellow students protested the article and called for his and Rowan's resignation.

The attempted satire used an example the mythological Roman tale of the "Rape of the Sabine Women," calling rape "a tremendous help to society." In the tale, the depleted Roman population did not have enough women to produce offspring, so Roman soldiers attacked their neighbors in Sabine, stole the women and raped them, leading nine months later to a bunch of Roman babies.

This may have seemed like a good example to Petroski, but perhaps some people just don't like history. I think the overall problem with the article was that it made too many generalized statements and did not provide real facts or the writer's true opinion. In a reference to "ugly women," Petroski wrote "if it weren't for rape, how would they ever know the joy of intercourse with a man who isn't drunk?"

The piece, which can be read at <http://clubs.ccsu.edu/recorder/currentissue>, is sort of like that uncle who points to your chest, says "what's that on your shirt?" and then flicks your nose when you look down. It may be funny the first time, but after three or four times you want to punch him in the nose. In this case that is exactly the type of backlash that the article received.

Sarah, a freshman at CCSU who was raped at the age of 15, said in a Feb. 9 Hartford Courant article "I couldn't believe anyone in this day and age would write something like that, and that someone would publish it."

CCSU President Jack Miller said the article crossed the lines of journalistic freedom. This sentiment prompted a greater debate on campus

about the Freedom of Speech and what is appropriate. A town hall meeting was held Feb. 12, where students voiced their opinions and considered what topics should be permissible. I believe that no school or government body should infringe on the Freedom of Speech. Once one topic is deemed off limits, then you end up making a list of things that are out of bounds, and this weakens the freedom of expression.

This article was irresponsible, insensitive, and ill-conceived, but the Freedom of Speech and of the Press do not dictate what is and is not appropriate. It is up to the editors and writers to test ideas, and determine what their audience would accept. I believe that in writing this article, Petroski was writing for his friends, and those on the newspaper staff who understood his sense of humor, and that the impact the material would have on their campus readership was not taken into account.

In their defense, the editors of the paper said they felt that the article was a jab at the sensationalistic nature of the modern news media. But the article did not provide facts to this effect, it just gave the reader a twisted point-of-view that went too far.

If the author really wanted to jab at sensationalism, he author could have mentioned the year-long coverage of the Duke University rape accusation case, where three lacrosse players were accused of raping a female stripper they invited to their off campus home. The case was later thrown out after the alleged victim admitted she couldn't remember what happened that night. It was later determined that the prosecutor was using the case and the media to gain popularity.

In my mind the over sensationalized nature of the media is true. Whether it's war or a murder story, news agencies sticks with the story that provides the most impact. But this point was not made in the article; it was, however, achieved through the coverage the issue got in local newspapers and on television. The outrage showed that the issue of rape is not funny, sarcastically, literally, or fictitiously.

I believe that Petroski lost sight of who his audience was and perhaps he felt that his comments were so outrageous that know one would take him seriously. I believe that he could have made his points clearer or stuck with discussing the media's sensationalistic nature. However, the reaction to the article was not all negative; it did reaffirm that the Freedom of the Press is still strong and that people on both sides of story have a right to an opinion. I also believe that it is important to promote debate and open dialog with your readers and protests are not a bad thing if they accomplish that.

So, please send all questions, comments, or protests to the Live Wire, room L-253. Just Kidding.

livewire@mcc.comnet.edu

War on Terror becomes the topic of debate at MCC Political Union

By Keith Rugar
Editor-in-chief

Manchester Community College students took first place against groups from other area schools in the college's first intercollegiate debate.

The debate, held on Nov. 30, in the MCC SBM Charitable Foundation Auditorium, pitted teams of students from MCC, Three Rivers Community College, and Western Connecticut State University on the topic "Is the United States winning the War on Terror?" The event was sponsored the Manchester Community College Political Union.

Teams spoke for the affirmative, that we are winning, and the opposition, that we are losing the war on terrorism.

Christopher Miller, of the MCC team, was the speaker of the house, and spoke for the affirmative.

"As long as we have patience and see the light at the end of the tunnel we will win the war on terror," he said.

The parliamentary-style debate had individuals speak one at a time and try to best present their case for the judges, and audience. The judges then gave points to individual speakers and for the teams. The judges were State Rep. Ryan Barry, D-12 district, Wallace Irish, chairman of the Republican Town Committee in Manchester, and Alfred Carter, MCC dean of students.

Amy Kendall, of MCC, said that countries around the world see the U.S. as a bully and an imperialist nation. As an example she pointed to the U.S. lack of attention in parts of the world such as Darfur, Africa.

"Until poverty and hunger in the world are changed and the U.S. changes its role in the world, we will not win the war on terror," she said.

Western, which has a policy debate team at their campus, came prepared for the event.

Sean Swanson, of Western, said he prefers parliamentary debates, because the audience can get involved, and that policy debates are more about providing evidence for an opinion.

Swanson said that the idea of democracy is thriving in Iraq because 70 percent of the people voted in recent elections.

Sean McSherry, also of Western, brought his experience of a serving a year in Iraq as a member of the National Guard, to the debate.

"I saw the mismanagement of funds from the ground up," he said. "The problems in Iraq are that there is not enough electricity, and not enough jobs, and people without jobs become insurgents."

MCC won the honors for best team, while Kendall won for best overall debater, Ryan Ford, of Western, won for the best in affirmative, and McSherry won for the best in opposition.

Linda Dettore, president of the MPU, said she was pleased with the debaters and the audience turnout.

"It was a success, and I think it could only get better for the next time," she said.

Ask Dr. Cooper

Welcome to the first installment of “Ask Dr. Cooper.” This month, there were a few questions in my advice box located in the library. I hope that the number of questions will increase, as people get a feel for what this section is about. I will answer any question. But be forewarned, I don’t bite my tongue, and if it’s a question that needs a stern reply, I will give it. Having said that, let’s get on with it.

Dear Dr. Cooper: Is Graduation for the advancement of self or is it only for career opportunity?

That’s an important question, and I’m glad you asked. The answer is that graduation is for both the advancement of self, and for career opportunity. Graduating from a college only helps to make you a more well-rounded individual, opening the door to a wealth of opportunities. This open door of opportunities includes improving your career options. Have you looked lately at the jobs that do not require a degree? They include working fries at any number of fast food restaurants, gas station attendant, grocery bagger, or the ever popular homeless man holding a “will work for food” sign. So it’s your choice: get the education, and have the opportunity to live a comfortable life, or look forward to a life of meaningless jobs.

Dear Dr. Cooper: I’m really lonely, will you be my friend? Call me (860)8-***8. p.s. if you like men.**

Sorry to disappoint you, but Dr. Cooper is strictly all about the ladies. However, it’s not a good thing to be lonely. So since you are looking for a friend, I would suggest looking up the local gay bars in your town, and finding someone with the same interests as you. If you have no luck, there’s always prison. I’m sure you will have no problems meeting friends there.

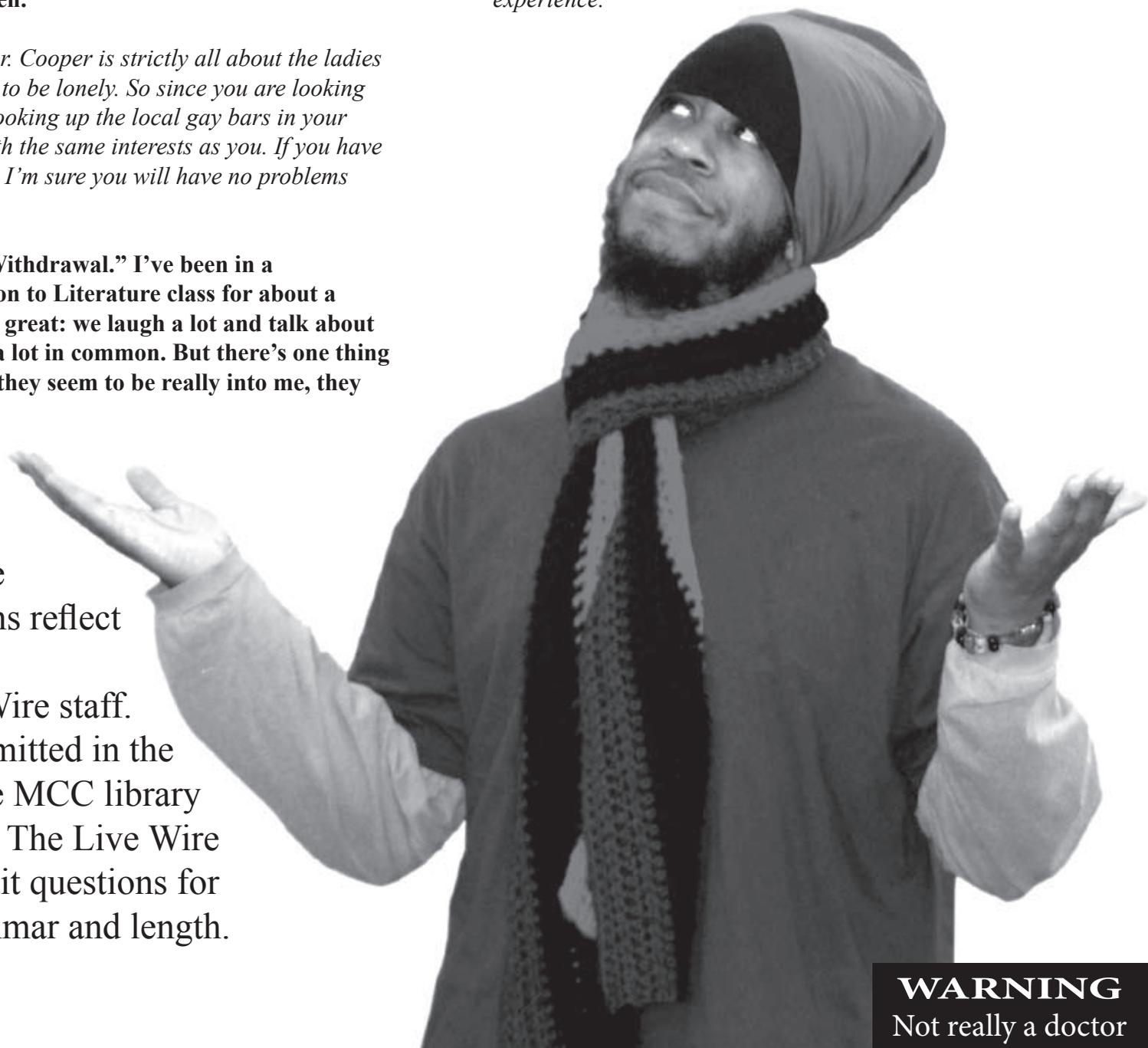
Dear Dr. Cooper: “Premature Withdrawal.” I’ve been in a relationship with my Introduction to Literature class for about a month now. We’re getting along great: we laugh a lot and talk about our ideas, and we seem to have a lot in common. But there’s one thing I don’t understand. Even when they seem to be really into me, they

Dr. Cooper is not a licensed doctor and the answers to his questions reflect his own views and not those of the Live Wire staff. Questions may be submitted in the drop box located in the MCC library at the circulation desk. The Live Wire reserves the right to edit questions for content, spelling, grammar and length.

start packing up to go before I’m ready. Today they started packing up 10 minutes before I had reached the climax of the lesson! They remain physically present, but they’re cold and distant. It’s clear that once they’ve finished, they don’t care about me or my lesson plan one bit! What can I do to make them stay until I’ve been satisfied?

**Signed,
Left Wanting More**

LWM, your situation is all too common. It seems pre-mature ejac...I mean pre-mature withdrawal afflicts a great number of students. It usually starts 5 minutes before class is over, and the lesson is still going on. What you need to do is take the time to talk to your class. Make them understand that your need to complete the lesson aren’t being met, and if they really cared about making the relationship work, they would take the time to see the class to completion. When both partners are satisfied, it makes for a beautiful and fulfilling experience.



WARNING
Not really a doctor

Arts & Entertainment

“Fences” offers an enjoyable evening at Hartford Stage

By Robert Cooper
Live Wire Assistant Editor

Ason needs a good father. He needs a father who will set the example for what a responsible, providing, and hard-working man should be. However, sometimes the hardships of society and life can create a father who is not the model of a true man.

August Wilson’s play “Fences,” which is currently running at the Hartford Stage, is the story of a father hardened by racism, bitter about his place in the world, which in turn has a negative effect on his relationship with his younger son.

The play is set in 1957. Dwight D. Eisenhower is president, the Cold War is in full swing, and the civil rights movement is in its genesis. Former Negro League baseball player turned garbage man Troy Maxson, who is played exuberantly by Wendell Wright, has just protested to his union about the Black employees only being allowed to heavy lifting, while the white workers get to drive the trucks. Maxson, along with his co-worker and best friend, Bono, played with cool by scene-stealer Don Mayo, drink whiskey and shoot the breeze. The two talk in the vernacular of the everyday blue-collar Black man as they complain about their jobs, brag about their sexual prowess, and let the word “nigger” flow constantly from their lips. This form of common dialogue is the signature of Wilson’s script writing.

Maxson’s wife, Rose, played effectively by actress Wandachristine, is the quintessential 50’s housewife. She cooks soul food with an apron, is affectionate, and caters to her husband. Gabriel, humorously played by Ray Anthony Thomas, is Maxson’s brother, who suffers from a head injury he received while fighting in World War II. Maxson used his brother’s disability checks to pay for his ancient brick house.

Maxson’s two sons are as different as night and day. Che Ayende plays the older son Lyons, a pretty boy jazz musician who consistently shows up at the house on Maxson’s payday.

The younger son, Cory, played by Rob Riley is more stable, and is blessed with being a gifted football

player. Cory’s gift is also his curse. It is his football ability that leads to the conflict of the story, as Maxson despises the fact that his son has a chance to go places with football that he never got the chance to go with baseball. This anger causes him to resent Cory, as well as the Black ballplayers – Jackie Robinson and Willie Mays - who broke the color line and integrated Major League Baseball.

Wilson effectively captures the feel and the voice of a portion of Black Americans living in the north during that time period. All the actors play their roles so convincingly; it would be hard to imagine them as their true selves. The stage set is very realistic, with the big brick house with brown and orange colored leaves in the front yard. The yard is also home to a couple of sawhorses and the planks for a half completed fence that Maxson has long been promising to complete for Rose.

“Fences” is one of Wilson’s 10 play cycle chronicling the Black experience of the 20th century, with each play set in a particular decade. Nine of the plays take place in Pittsburgh’s Hill District where he was born. Other plays in the cycle include “Gem of the Ocean” set in the 1900’s, “Seven Guitars” set in the 1940’s, and “Jitney” set in the 1970’s. Before his death in 2005, Wilson, who was born August Kittel in 1945, won a Pulitzer Prize and Tony award for “Fences,” several New York Drama Critics Circle Awards, and a National Humanities Medal in 1999.

“Fences” ended its run at the theater Feb. 18. The next production will be Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner, by acclaimed playwright Luis Alfaro, from March 1 to April 1. For more information call 860-527-5151 or visit www.hartfordstage.com.



Wendell Wright (Troy) appeared in the Hartford Stage production of August Wilson’s play “Fences.” Photo by T. Charles Erickson.



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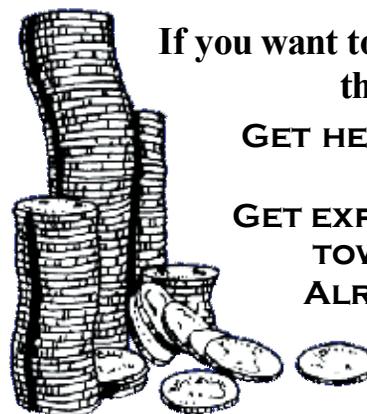
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Black History Month at MCC



Famous African Americans

By Bridget Gaddy
Special to the Live Wire

In celebration of Black History Month, the Live Wire highlights famous African Americans who died in 2006. Their contributions live on in our community.

Bebe Rebozo

James Brown



Singer and songwriter known to the world as the "Godfather of Soul," Brown died Dec. 25 at 73 of congestive heart failure in Atlanta. He had a major impact on funk, R&B music, and rap.



Victoria Jackson Gray Adams

A pioneering civil rights activist, died August 12 at 79. She was a field secretary for the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee and led a boycott against businesses in Hattiesburg, Miss., her hometown. She went on to crusade against segregationist politics in Mississippi and was part of a group that forced the Democratic state party to send an integrated delegation to the annual convention. Adams said she learned in 1964 that there were two kinds of people in grass-roots politics, "those who are in the movement and those who have the movement in them. The movement is in me, and I know it always will be."



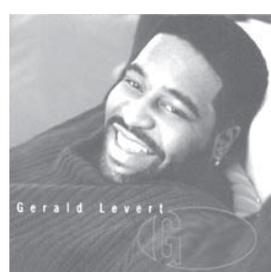
Katherine Dunham



A renowned dancer and choreographer, Dunham died May 21 at 96. A pioneer of dance and the arts, she called on everyone to share this passion she called, "something more constructive."

Gordon Parks

An acclaimed photographer for Life magazine, Parks died Mar. 7 at 93. He also gained fame as the first major black director. His huge success was the movie "Shaft."



Gerald Levert

An R&B singer known for his bedroom ballads, Levert died of a heart attack Nov. 11 at 40. He gained popularity in the 1990's as a member of the group Levert and as a solo artist.

Singer Rawls... He was well re... in fundraising... Fund. He used... commercials... to his album...



Sandra Samuels, left, and Mellissa Craig, right, of The Cultural Dance Troupe of the West Indies Inc., performed several numbers during the opening ceremony of Black History Month celebrations at MCC Feb. 1 in the Lowe building lobby. The ceremony kicked off a month of movie screenings, presentation, luncheons and other events. Monday, Feb. 26, the Black History Month Health Fair will take place in the LRC Galleria from 12:30 p.m. – 2 p.m. **The celebration will end Wednesday, Feb. 28, with a Jazz Performance and closing reception from 5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the SBM Charitable Foundation Auditorium and AST Rotunda.**

Photo by Endia DeCordova-Murphy

ans Gone But Not Forgotten

Wire remembers some notable African Americans
our government, arts and culture and our

Bebe Moore Campbell

An author, Campbell died Nov.27 of brain cancer at 56. Some of her work includes "Brothers and Sisters," "Singing in the Comeback Choir," and "Your Blues Ain't Like Mine."



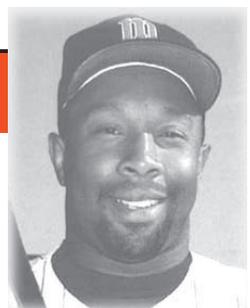
Coretta Scott King

The widow of civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., King, died Jan.3 after suffering a stroke and heart attack at 73. She and their four children carried on his fight for racial equality after his death.



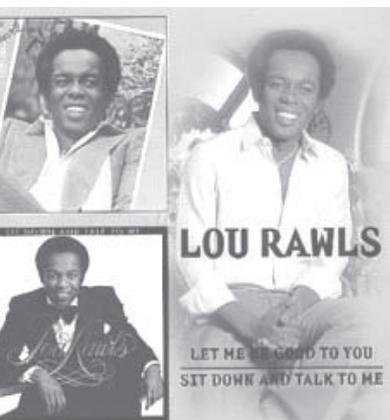
Kirby Puckett

Puckett, who died in March of a stroke at 45, led the Minnesota Twins to two World Series titles, in 1987 and 1991, and was a lifetime .318 hitter who had to retire because of vision problems. Puckett's post-season play left such an impression on sportswriters that he was voted into the Hall of Fame in 2001 on the first ballot after a dozen years in the majors.



Wilson Pickett

A singer who straddled the fence between country and R&B, Pickett died on Jan.19 at 64 of a heart attack. His most famous hit was "In the Midnight Hour."

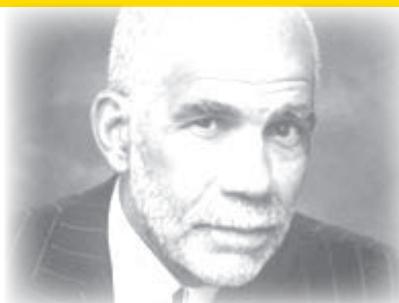


Lou Rawls

died on Jan.6 at 72 of cancer. respected for his involvement y for The United Negro College d his soulful voice in television movies, and TV shows, in addition

Ed Bradley

An award-winning broadcast journalist, Bradley, died of leukemia, Nov. 9 at 65. He was a longtime member of the CBS show "60 Minutes" known for his tough questions, love of jazz music and sartorial flair.



Tamara Dobson

A fashion model for Vogue Magazine, Dobson died Oct. 2 at 59. She also appeared in several Blaxploitation films, including "Cleopatra Jones" in 1973, and "Casino of Gold" in 1975.

Photos credits:
Bebe Moore Campbell courtesy of <http://authors.aalbc.com/bebe.htm>
Victoria Jackson Gray Adams courtesy of www.nacacad.org

Retired law enforcement officer calls for an end to the War on Drugs

By Christina Lewis
Special to the Live Wire

All drugs should be legalized because the U.S. war on drugs is a failed policy, said a retired police detective during a lecture at Manchester Community College on Feb. 1.

Lt. Jack Cole, who worked for the New Jersey State Police for 26 years, 14 of them as an undercover narcotics officer, spoke on behalf of Law Enforcement Against Prohibition, or LEAP.

LEAP is an organization of current and former members of the law enforcement and criminal justice community who believe that the U.S. war on drugs is ineffective, and support alternative policies like ending drug prohibition.

As one of the founders of LEAP and its executive director, Cole said he believes that if all drugs were legal, they could be controlled and regulated and law enforcement officers would be more effective in keeping them out of children's hands.

February Sudoku

1		7					9	
6				4	8			3
	5				2	7		
	7	3		8	1			
				2			6	
				4	9		8	1
		5	3					8
	9			8	6			7
	3						9	4

Solution to December Sudoku

6	5	9	4	1	8	2	3	7
8	7	3	2	6	5	1	9	4
1	4	2	9	7	3	6	5	8
5	8	4	7	2	9	3	6	1
2	9	6	3	4	1	7	8	5
3	1	7	5	8	6	9	4	2
7	2	5	6	3	4	8	1	9
9	6	1	8	5	2	4	7	3
4	3	8	1	9	7	5	2	6



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 will complement your academic training and give you practical experience in your field? Are you interested in learning about a wide range of exciting summer jobs available throughout the US?

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 (located outside the Financial Aid Office, 1st Floor Lowe Building) for ideas.

BROWSE through the summer employment related brochures and resource guides located in the Career Services Office Library (Lowe-177), as well as thousands of summer job listings across the U.S.

VISIT MCC Career Services at: www.mcc.commnet.edu/career, to discover more links and summer job information.

SCHEDULE an appointment with a Career Services Office staff member to discuss summer employment opportunities.

ATTEND the **MCC Summer Job Fair** on Wednesday, March 28th, 2007 from 10 AM - 1 PM in the AST Building, where employers will be promoting summer 2007 employment opportunities.

Summer Jobs

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

“Do you know what happens if you get caught with a marijuana cigarette? If you got a lot of money it doesn't matter, but if you don't, and you're in [college] working through with some grants and loans, their gone,” Cole said. “But if that same person were convicted of rape or murder, then no problem, they can go right down and get any loan. That is a strange law.”

Cole said racism also drives the war on drugs. Whites constitute 72 percent of all U.S. drug users, and Blacks 13.5 percent. But 37 percent of those arrested are Black and 42 percent of those in federal prisons for drug violations are Black, he said.

Even some of the most prestigious people in government, like former President Bill Clinton and current President George W. Bush were drug users at one time, Cole said.

But the clearest evidence that the war on drugs is a failure is the fact that in 1968 1.3 percent of the population were addicted to drugs and, after 39 years of this “war,” the number remains the same.

Cole's alternative drug policy includes first legalizing all drugs. Second, he said, the government should import or produce drugs so that it can control their quality and potency. Third, the government should give free maintenance doses of drugs to any adult requesting them in order to treat and curb addiction. And last, the U.S. should take a portion of the \$69 billion it now uses to fuel the war on drugs, and redirect it to programs to help addicted people. The rest, he said, should go to true drug prevention education.

Heather Parylak, 22, an MCC criminal justice student who attended the lecture, said that she thinks that the country should think about legalizing soft drugs, such as marijuana, cocaine and mushrooms, at first.

“But to say all drugs should be legalized is jumping in too fast,” she said.

For more information on Lt. Jack Cole and LEAP, visit www.leap.cc



After winning the Connecticut Students Chef Competition in December, the Manchester Community College Culinary team has qualified to compete in a regional competition March 2-4 in Pittsburgh, Penn. The team, under the direction of associate cooking professor Linda Coons, will be competing in a hot food and knife skills event. The team includes, from left to right, Fred Huhn, Justin Reich, Theresa Olchanowski, Brendan Chapman and Coons. Photo by Keith Rugar.

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**MANCHESTER
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Arts & Entertainment

The Academy Awards: Then and Now

By **Evan Shaw-Mumford**
Special to the Live Wire

For nearly eight decades, the Academy Awards have steadily become a part of America's pop culture. It is arguably the most prominent award ceremony broadcast on television and many classic films have set high bars for other films through this program.

This year, the 79th Academy Awards will be hosted for the first time by comedian and talk show host Ellen DeGeneres. DeGeneres, who hosts her own daily TV talk show, said she was very pleased when she got the phone call from producer Laura Ziskin.

"I was thrilled," DeGeneres said, according to a story on oscars.org. "There's two things I've always wanted to do in my life. One is to host the Oscars. The second is to get a call from Laura Ziskin. You can imagine that day's diary entry."

DeGeneres has had plenty of experience with award ceremonies. When her show *Ellen*, was launched in September 2003, the program won four Daytime Emmys including Outstanding Talk Show.

"She just sparkles," said Academy President Sid Ganis. "She is such a pleasure to watch."

Actors Reese Witherspoon, Nichole Kidman, Will Ferrell, and Daniel Craig, the new James Bond, are a few of the guest presenters expected in the program. When the awards are broadcast Feb. 25 from the Kodak Theater in Hollywood, they will become part of a long and prestigious history.

The Academy Awards first began in 1929, the same time that "talkies," films with actual audible dialogue began to make their appearance. The official ceremony was held on May 16, 1929, in the Blossom Room of the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel, which held 250 people for \$10 a ticket.

The first live coverage of the event was in 1930. It was carried by a radio station in Los Angeles. The report was only an hour long, but as interest grew, along with technology, coverage expanded in 1944 and television reports began in 1953.

Since then, the Academy Awards have appeared at various theaters, ranging from Grauman's Chinese Theater to the Los Angeles Shrine,



Photo by Tish Wilson

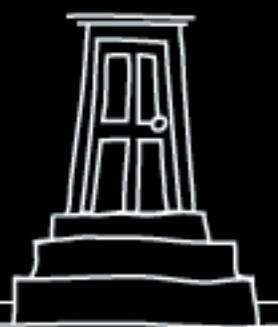
the Melrose Avenue Theater to the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion. The 16th Academy Awards was the first ceremony to be carried by a network and the program was broadcast to the American GIs who were fighting in World War II.

Here are our picks for the winners, but since the Live Wire is not a member of the academy, tune in to the broadcast to see who wins what:

For best picture, the nominations went to "Babel," "The Departed," "Letters from Iwo Jima," "The Queen," and "Little Miss Sunshine." Although all these films received positive criticism from movie critics, Martin Scorsese has received a great deal of recognition for

Oscars continued on page 13

Arts & Entertainment



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MCC Summer Job Fair



Wednesday
March 28, 2007
10:00 AM - 1:00 PM
AST Building

At this annual event, recruiters from local businesses will be on campus promoting a variety of both full and part-time short term and/or seasonal positions. Recruiters from Summer Camps and Resorts in and around CT will also be here promoting summer employment opportunities in the areas of camp counseling, recreation, hospitality and food services.



For more information about the MCC Summer Job Fair, please call Julie Greene, Associate Director of MCC Career Services at (860) 512-3374, or stop by Career Services in Lowe 177, opposite the bookstore.

Oscars continued from page 12

his film "The Departed," so it is likely that the crime drama will have the last laugh.

For best actor, the nominations went to Leonardo DiCaprio, Ryan Gosling, Peter O'Toole, Will Smith, and Forest Whitaker. Smith is a quality actor and because of his powerful performance in the true story of Chris Gardner, he is likely to receive the award.

Best actress nominations went to Penélope Cruz, Dame Judi Drench, Helen Mirren, Meryl Streep, and Kate Winslet. Our vote goes to Meryl Streep for her icy performance in "The Devil Wears Prada."

Supporting actor nominations went to Alan Arkin, Jackie Earle Haley, Djimon Hounsou, Eddie Murphy, and Mark Wahlberg. Wahlberg has proven himself to be a very talented actor, so he will most likely get that award.

Best supporting actress nominations were for Adriana Barraza, Cate Blanchett, Abigail Breslin, Jennifer Hudson, and Rinko Kikuchi. Hudson may not have become an "American Idol," but because of her show-stopping performance in "Dreamgirls," this is the competition she will most likely win.

Best animated film nominations went to "Cars," "Happy Feet," and "Monster House." The nice thing about when you go to see a Pixar film is you can always expect an original, clever, and amusing movie. Because of this, "Cars" will drive away with golden prize.

Best director nominations went to Alejandro González Iñárritu, Scorsese, Clint Eastwood, Stephen Frears, and Paul Greengrass. Although Eastwood's film, "Letters from Iwo Jima," was a different style for him, and Greengrass' "United 93" was very well done, Scorsese has been called one of the best directors of our time. It will be a big shock if he doesn't receive the best director award.

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Arts & Entertainment

Talent Show Auditions Approach

Do you have a talent or a fashion sense that you would like to exhibit? If so, the Manchester Community College Dance Club is holding its annual Fashion and Talent Show in the SBM Charitable Foundation Auditorium April 20.

Jasmine Lopez, the Dance Club president, who is organizing the event, is encouraging students to participate.

"Students should be involved because it's all about having fun and showing off your talent to others," she said.

But faculty and staff members are also welcome to compete. Auditions will be held Feb. 26 and 27 in the auditorium, from 3:30 p.m.

to 5:30 p.m.

Wanda Haynes, the Club's advisor, said the talent show has been going on for quite a few years.

"Before the Dance Club ran the talent show it was just a show that was open to the public, but that did not go so well," she said.

The show will be emceed by communications professor Robert Kagan and sociology professor Lucy Anne Hurston.

For more information contact Haynes, at 860-512-2691, or Katherine Jones, admission secretary, at 512-3213.



Sleeves

By Jason Cunningham

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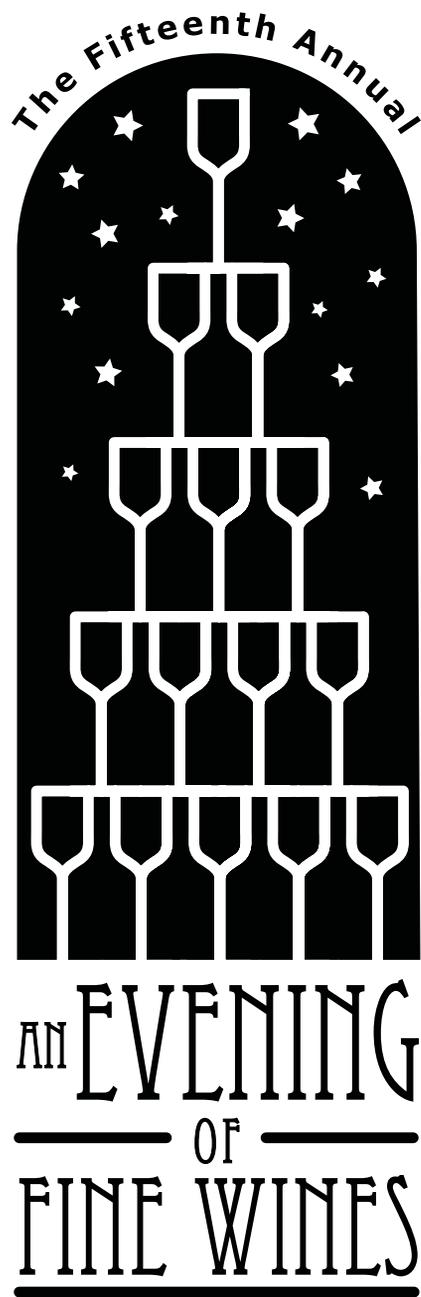
For more information, please stop by MCC Career
 Services in the Lowe Building, Room 177.

Sports



MCC Women's Basketball Team Fights for Survival in the Remaining Season

The Manchester Community College Women's Basketball team is, from front row L-R, Natasha Lopez, BonnieLynn Zannoni, Aimee Bycholski, Britt Olander, Jaritza Martinez, and back row L-R, Coach Robert Turner, Tiffany Arena, Tina Pagano and Assistant Coach Yuri Westry. Missing from the photo are, Lee Paholski, assistant coaches Katie Chilberg and Jon Carter. The team came up short in a 72-58 loss against UConn at Avery Point Feb 19. This loss has added to what has been a difficult season. The Cougar's are 7-13 overall in the NJCAA Division III Region XXI competition, and one place shy of a preseason berth. However, the team did rack up some impressive individual achievements. Sophomore forward Bycholski tied her career high by scoring 22 points against Avery Point. Freshman forward Pagano scored 15 points and 13 rebounds, and sophomore forward/guard Olander scored in double digits with 13 points. The team will play its final regular season game on Feb. 24 against Suffolk County Community College in Selden N.Y.



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Friday, April 13



www.mcc.commnet.edu/wine

WORD

on campus

Do you agree with President Bush's "surge" plan to increase the number of troops the U.S. sends to Iraq?



Jen Arnt
General Studies

"I feel it's unnecessary to increase the troops; we already have so many there. We haven't lost that many troops to send over 20,000 more."



Katie Pellett
General Studies

"If it were effective, I would be okay with it, but I haven't been convinced that it would be more effective."



Pablo Fernandez
Communications

"At this point in particular, we might as well send more troops there. Bush admitted he made mistakes, but given that we are there now and their government needs help, we should send the troops so they can be in some control."



Vanessa Brown
Journalism

"I think it's unnecessary because more and more people just keep dying, and the president just doesn't seem to understand that. Are we even winning the war?"



Jackie Benjamin
General Studies

"I don't agree with it because the war is stupid, and fighting is bad news."



John Huff
General Studies

"I think it's a bad idea. We already got Saddam, so why are we still there?"

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