

THE LIVE WIRE

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Manchester Community College

Free

Manchester Community College Delegation Shows Unity for a Change

By Jason Cunningham
Special to the Live Wire

Most of the Manchester Community College students who attended Pres. Barack Obama's presidential inauguration on Jan. 20 could agree that there was a collective feeling of accomplishment in the air. Most of us felt like there was something to be proud of in our support for Obama and his promise of change.

Regardless of how you feel about our new president, no one in Washington, D.C., on that day could ignore the widespread joy unleashed by the millions who watched the man they fought for so adamantly take his oath of office.

It's that joy that stuck with me after my return to Connecticut. I was moved by how many people seemed inspired by him. The word "hope" had been transformed, even if it was only for that day, into a word that embodied Obama. Even now when I think of the word I associate it with his image.

Several people on the trip from MCC had personal reasons for wanting to be at the event.

"It was important for me to go to the inauguration because you hear stories from your parents, grandparents, where they can say "I was there" or "I stood for what was right," said Avi Morales, an MCC communications major and ICE Internet Radio disc jockey. "Our generation is sick of our lack of unity. Seeing this shows me that America is the great melting pot I was always told it was."

Obama has a killer combination of John F. Kennedy and rock star appeal, but that won't necessarily be enough for him to accomplish his goals. We've seen this very prominently as Republicans battle against his new stimulus bill. People need to be behind our president as he attempts to rebuild our country.

No matter whom you voted for, we can all agree our once great nation is in pretty bad shape. Let's all support the man trying to fix our problems. His techniques are far different from what most of us are used to, but as Obama says himself, it's time for change. Unity is key to the success of our country.

"I needed to be here on this day because it's so historically sig-

nificant. I need to tell people I've seen it, I was there," said Jason Scappaticci, who works as a Student Retention Specialist at MCC.

Being there is what made the experience so powerful. I've always been truly amazed by the power of one man to do great things. I'm overwhelmed by the thought of a nation united. Together we have the ability to move mountains; we can certainly fix our country.

Obama has the weight of the world on his shoulders; if we can put personal feelings aside and join together to work out the problems we face we will level out from the tailspin our country has endured.



Above, left to right, are Derek Scheer, Tom Sullivan, Jason Cunningham, Avian Morales, and Jonny Dailey, who all joined the MCC bus trip to attend the 2009 Inauguration in Washington, D.C.

Photo by Evan Shaw-Mumford



Above, in pink hat, is Associate Prof. of Sociology Lucy Hurston as part of the crowd who gathered on Jan. 19 for a concert on the Mall the day before the inauguration of Pres. Barack Obama in Washington, D.C. She organized the MCC bus trip.

Photo courtesy of Lucy Hurston

WORD
on campus

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Correction:

On page 15 of the Jan. 20, 2009 issue of the *Live Wire* a story about the MCC Women's Basketball Team was rerun from the previous month in error. The correct story can be read on the Live Wire web page, www.mcc.commnet.edu/students/life/livewire.

MCC Drama Club Forming

Would you like to perform in one-act or mainstage plays, attend live, local performances or write and produce your own original work? Then join the MCC Drama Club. The club's first meeting is Tuesday, Feb. 24, from 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the SBM Charitable Foundation Auditorium in the lobby of the Arts, Sciences and Technology building. For more information, contact faculty advisors Albert Kim, at akim@mcc.commnet.edu, or Kaarina Finegan, at kfinegan@mcc.commnet.edu.

Advising Weeks an Opportunity for Students

The MCC Counseling Center reminds all students that IT'S TIME TO CONNECT... WITH YOUR ADVISOR DURING SPRING ADVISING WEEKS, Monday, March 30 – Monday, April 27, 2009. Over the years, studies have confirmed that quality academic advising has a direct correlation with student success and persistence to graduation. The sole purpose of this month-long effort is to provide students an opportunity to connect with their respective advisors to discuss their particular programs of study, requirements, future goals, etc. Students are strongly encouraged to take advantage of this great opportunity. For more information, contact counselor Wanda Reyes-Dawes at 512-3329, or by email at wreyes-dawes@mcc.commnet.edu.

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MCC Summer Job Fair



WEDNESDAY
March 18, 2009
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, Sr. Assoc. Director of MCC Career Services at (860) 512-3374, or stop by Career Services in Lowe 177, opposite the bookstore.

MCC Culinary Arts Team Cooks up Prestigious Awards

By Joseph P. Cavanagh
Live Wire Staff Writer

Three years ago, when the Manchester Community College Culinary Arts team made their state competition debut, they were susceptible to making rookie mistakes.

"We didn't know we were going until a month before," said Marc Cutler, student and team co-captain, of that maiden voyage. This time, they were ready.

Cutler co-captained the team to a victory in the Connecticut Student Chef Competition in January, where it earned a silver medal, and to the regional competition in February, where it earned a bronze medal.

The first competition included knife skills and preparing a four-course meal, helping them earn that silver medal. While this may sound like second place, it was indeed the top honor at the state level. Individual teams are judged using a point system, and awarded gold, silver, or bronze—or nothing at all. The team awarded the highest medal is declared the winner, and with their silver medal, MCC earned a spot in the American Culinary Federation,

Inc. regional competition held at Boston University the weekend of Feb. 6.

"We've come so far. I'm just so proud of our team," said co-captain Liz Bunker during a Feb. 16 celebration to toast her victorious team. "Just so, so proud."

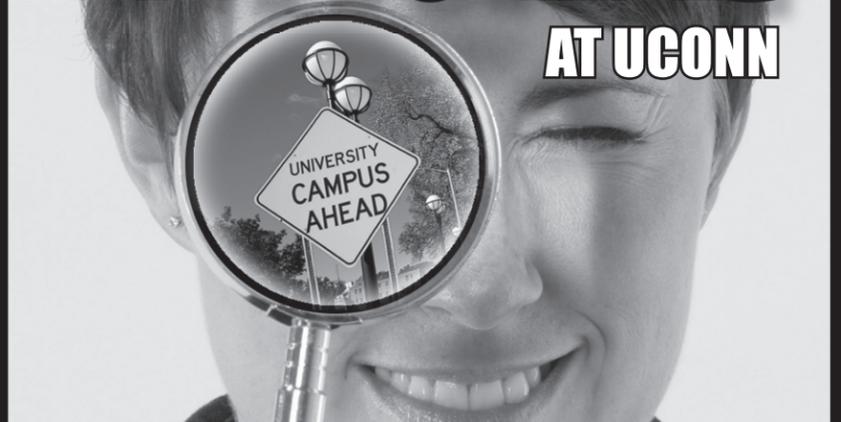
The team's four-course meal portion of the competition included a frisee salad with pecans, sautéed pear, cucumber curls and a grape tomato, skinned and prepared to resemble a koi fish. The "ballotine de poulet en hiver" entrée was comprised of stuffed chicken, a mash of turnip and potato, and brussel sprouts with baby carrots, said Bunker. Bunker prepared the portion, a trio of delicacies.

"We were the *cheap* ones too," said MCC associate culinary professor Linda Coons with a laugh, noting the victory meant competing with two other schools which focus entirely on culinary arts: Connecti-

See **Culinary**, Page 4

find it

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Cont. from **Culinary**, Page 3

cut Culinary Institute and the Center for Culinary Arts in Cromwell.

"We were stunned when we won," said Bunker.

The regional competition in Boston adhered to a similar format as the state level, albeit adding a cold platter component. Eight states sent teams to Boston, including all the New England states, and New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania, Cutler said. Teams would compete for several hours and then have several hours off, or, as Bunker noted, several hours to prepare for the next stage.

"The judges kept saying, 'Great job guys,' during the competition," Coons said. "I kept thinking, we might get a medal!"

While the competition took place at Boston University, the competitors were invited to prepare for the event at TD Banknorth Garden by Garden executive chef, Kevin Doherty, 2008 American Culinary Foundation's Chef of the Year Award recipient.

"It was such an honor to have

been invited by [Doherty]," said Bunker, who will seek a degree in culinary ethics after completing coursework at MCC. "He opened up all seven kitchens [in the arena] to all the teams in the competition."

"He told us that we're not inventing something, we're just perfecting nature," said Cutler, referring to advice from Doherty given the team prior to the competition.

Le Cordon Bleu of Pittsburgh earned the gold medal at the regional competition, taking top honors. But the MCC team still had a lot to be proud of, Coons said.

"We've come such a long way," she said, "and I'm just so proud of our team."

The American Culinary Federation, Inc. was founded in 1929 and "is based on promoting the professional image of American chefs worldwide through education of culinarians at all levels," according to a press release regarding the ACF regional event.

Relocation of the Learning Center Receives a Warm Welcome

By Danish Rehman
Live Wire Staff Writer

What was once known as Manchester Community College's College Learning Center has gained a new home and a new name during the break between the fall and spring semesters.

It's now the Academic Support Center and it's securely located at nexus between the Frederick W. Lowe and the Library Resource Center buildings, on the second floor, above the bookstore, just before the walkway between the buildings. Previously, the tutoring center had been on the first floor of the Lowe building. The problem was, not many students knew of its location. Because of the location, not many students used it either.

One MCC student, who wanted to remain anonymous, said that she had only been in the old center a few times but it reminded her of a dentist's office.

"The old one was hard to find, and I had to ask an advisor where it was," she said.

G. Duncan Harris, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, echoed those same sentiments. He said the location was picked because it's "right in the heart of student traffic between the two buildings, and we wanted an attractive area. We wanted to ensure that we maintain the same sources available to students as were offered before and in addition, make it easier for the students to utilize those services."

To make the appropriate space available for the location, a little bit of construction had to be done, Harris said. It involved moving the Office of Institutional Development down to the where the Learning Center used to be and tearing down

a few walls to even out the space because the area was very disjointed.

Several things have not changed, though. The tutoring services offered in the Center are provided by a variety of tutors: professional tutors that have master's degrees in the field in which they are tutoring; student tutors, who go through an interview process to see if they are qualified to tutor other students; and a few faculty members, who along with teaching their classes, take on the extra work of tutoring students, said Harris. Currently, the Center is looking for student tutors to expand the peer tutoring program.

Current MCC students are happy about the relocation.

"I think it's a good idea because now it makes it easier to access the tutoring services, and it stands out more," said Ray Shearer, who is a hospitality and tourism major.

Adam Tremblay, a business administration/accounting major, agreed.

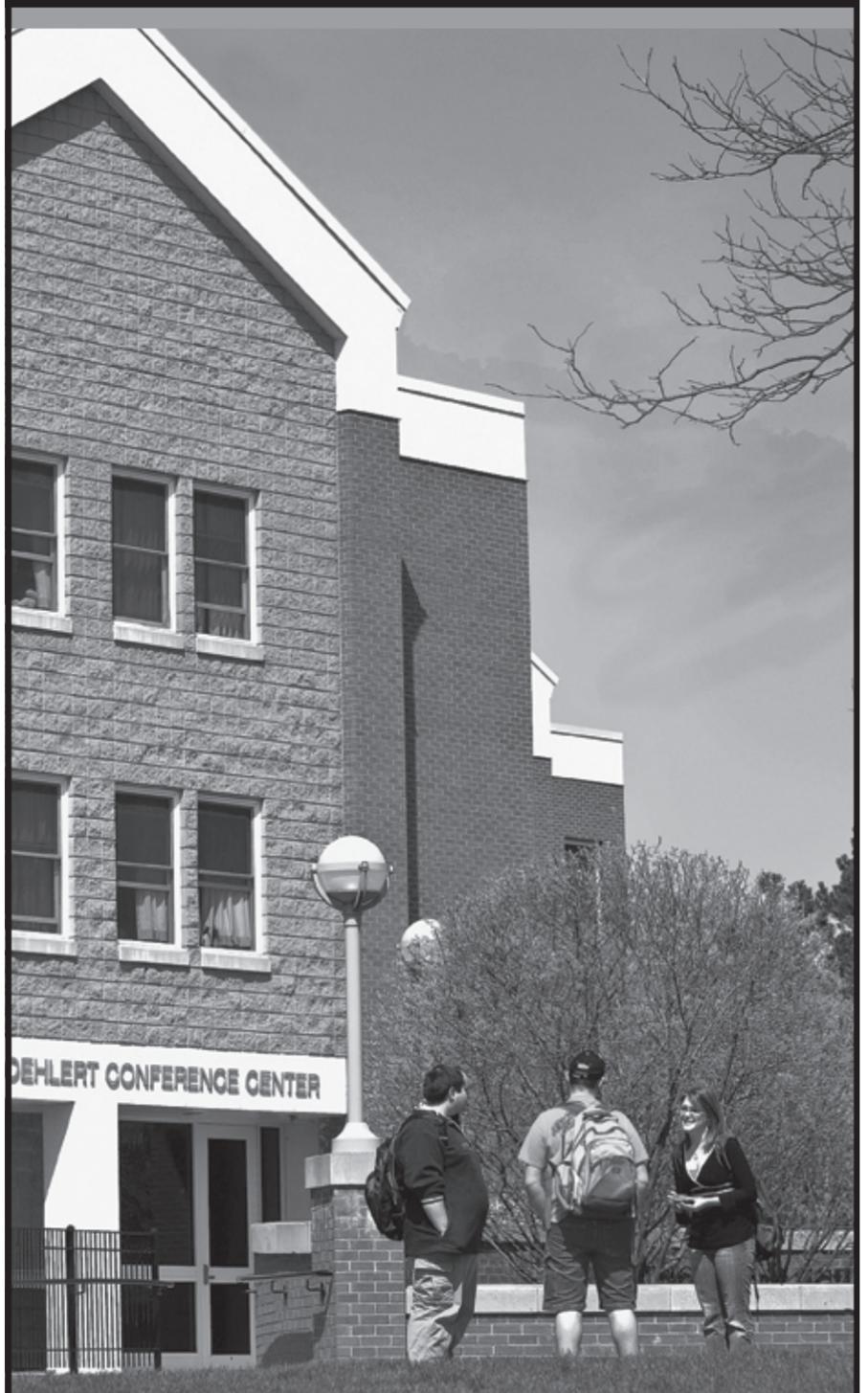
"I know a lot of people that think it's more accessible. I didn't even know we had a tutoring center before today, when I walked by it," he said.

The tutoring services offered at MCC are free. Students are allotted two 30-minute tutoring sessions per week. To set up an appointment, students are advised to come to the Center and set up a meeting time. Students who are interested in becoming a student tutor, should contact Harris at 512-2604 or via email at gharris@mcc.commnet.edu.

For those that can't make it to the Center for additional help, MCC also offers eTutoring, which allows students to ask for help online from tutors 24/7. The services available from eTutoring can be accessed at www.etutoring.org.

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Wrapping it up with Great Path Academy

WHAT, WHEN, & WHERE

By Melissa Wright
Great Path Academy

Food Drive

During the month of October and the first three weeks of November, students at Great Path Academy united and donated canned goods for a good cause. The food collected was given to the Manchester Area Council of Churches for families that could not afford to have a Thanksgiving dinner. Thanks to the students and faculty at GPA for making a difference in the homes and lives of others.

The Senior Dinner

On Oct. 29 the graduating class of 2009 and their parents assembled in the Fireside Commons for the annual senior dinner. But this was not just any dinner; students were able to discuss prospective colleges and sign up for financial aid while enjoying music and a hot meal. Parents also got the chance to speak with faculty and receive information regarding college finances. Who wouldn't want to learn of new ways to save money for college?!

Trip to Boston

Great Path Academy's junior class took a day trip to Boston Oct. 28, and what a day it must've been. Students participated in a scavenger hunt along the Freedom Trail and had lunch and time to shop at Quincy Market. Not only did the students go sightseeing, they also got the opportunity to see a real war ship! Student Myle Pham spoke for all when she said, "Even though it rained, the trip was a great experience to learn about history and I had a lot of fun."

Ice Skating

On Dec. 22, Great Path Academy students were rewarded with an ice skating trip the day before the holiday vacation began. The event took place at the Veterans Memorial Ice Skating Rink in West Hartford. Both students and faculty had a good time on and off the ice. Whether they were making figure 8's or falling down this was just what everyone needed to start their vacation with a bang, or, in my case, a thump!

Bushnell Trip

Mrs. Mary Caplan's English 4 classes went to the Bushnell Memorial Theater in downtown Hartford Dec. 2 to see poet Lemon Andersen perform his jarring coming-of-age memoir, The Beautiful Struggle. The author is a self-taught poet who uses hip-hop to give voice to the stories of his life. Everyone enjoyed the trip and some students are planning a trip to Broadway in New York City to see him perform his new show.

Until next time, I guess this just about wraps it up!!!



Above, left to right, Allyson McGuire and Christina Ramos organize donations to the Food Drive.



While in Boston students toured the USS Constitution.

Photos by Anthony Ettienne-Modeste



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**Social
Vice Pres.**
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per semester*

Presides over Student Activities Committee.
Works to coordinate and implement diverse co-
curricular activities for MCC students. Co-chair of
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Vice Pres.
*Stipend: \$550
per semester*

Shall assume duties in absence of President.
Preside over Elections, Constitution, and serve
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Club Day and acts as Club liaison.

Secretary
*Stipend: \$550
per semester*

Keep accurate minutes of all meetings. Maintains
files of minutes and reports, types correspon-
dence. Re-orders inventory. Serves on College-
wide committees.



Treasurer
*Stipend: \$550
per semester*

Responsible for administration of Student Activity
Fund. Maintains accurate financial records of
Student Senate and all its business.

**Senator I &
Senator II**
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Senator I and Senator II serve on the Student
Activity Committee, maintain inventory, preside
over and prepare all publicity materials and serve
on College-wide committees.

Student Senate Elections

For more information on Student
opportunities, visit Student Activities
L154i or call 512-3282,
www.mcc.commnet.edu

Applications Available Beginning: Monday, March 2nd
in the Library, AST info desk, Student Activities Office Lowe 154i, and on MCC website

Petitions Must Be Received By: Friday, March 20th

Student Senate Debate: Tuesday, April 14

Student Senate Elections: Wed & Thurs, April 15th & 16th

Teens Are Too Young for Marriage and Parenthood



By Rachel M. DePenning
Live Wire Editor

So another Valentine's Day has come and gone, but love still very much remains in the air. I recently ran into my best friend's fiancé, who gushed about their newborn son as he showed off pictures of the little guy to me, like any proud new dad would do. It was clearly obvious he has a lot of love for my friend and their baby. And though I'm happy for the both of them, there's one thing that bothers me about all of this – they're very young; only in their very early 20's and they already have a child together and plan to wed. This is a path that many have taken, either by accident or purposely. And though my friend accidentally stumbled onto this path, others I know of have deliberately chosen this path for themselves.

One morning last semester, I sat down in my living room to eat my breakfast and noticed a copy of *The Hartford Courant*. A story on the front page caught my attention. It was about a teenager who married and had a baby at the age of 17. But the pregnancy wasn't an accident, and the marriage wasn't a result of becoming pregnant. It was all planned. And it is completely ridiculous. So ridiculous I felt I should write about it.

Jazmin Cartagena fell in love with her 24-year-old boyfriend Carlos Pingo. She loved him so much that she wanted to marry him, despite being so young. Naturally, her family was unsupportive because they felt she was too young to know if he was really "the one." So, Jazmin purposely got pregnant. Her family was still unsupportive of her plans to marry Carlos because of his inability to support Jazmin and their child on his McDonald's salary. But she did it anyways. And now, after giving birth to their daughter and marrying Carlos, she realizes just how hard motherhood and marriage are.

I honestly couldn't believe what I was reading. I can't believe that someone would go through so much trouble to marry someone, and so easily make major, life-changing decisions, like getting married and having kids like it was nothing. "Oh, I'll just get pregnant because I'm responsible enough to take care of a baby and it's probably not that hard, and then I'll be able to marry this guy," she apparently thought. Oh sure, parenthood is just *so* easy. And marriage, too. Don't you think that if it was really that easy everyone would do it at any age and at any time in their life?

I can't understand why young people, especially girls, are so willing to devote their entire lives to someone while they're still so young. Don't they realize that love isn't going to get them a good paying job, or an education, or a nice house and car, or a fulfilled life? Seriously, why choose this path over a successful and satisfying life where love will come in time?

I also have another good friend who is engaged to a young man down in South Carolina. My friend is only 20 years old. She met this guy online, dated him for three months, and then got engaged. She hadn't even met the guy in person! Not to mention that she had to buy her own engagement ring.

But the most unfortunate part of this is it's not the only time she's been engaged. In our junior year of high school she was engaged to a guy down in Florida, who she also met online and never met in person. She was only 16. Of course, things didn't work out. But now she's planning to wed this new guy. She's a certified Massage Therapist, but hasn't done anything with it. For some reason, she chose to continue working at the bakery in Sam's Club until she moved down to South Carolina to be with her fiancé. She doesn't have her life together at all. Yet she's wasting all her time, money, and focus on this guy. I told her how I felt about all of this, but she wouldn't listen. She "wants to wake up to him every morning." Wow, what a great reason.

I love my friends, I really do. I just don't agree with some of their life choices. I wish they and every female would focus on getting an education and degree, and start building a career for themselves. I have three jobs, including being editor of the Live Wire, plus I go to school full time and I'm graduating from MCC this semester. I'll be attending Eastern Connecticut State University in the fall, and look forward to the great opportunities ahead. If only more young women were just as focused and determined to create a stable and successful life, all the judgments and misconceptions about women would vanish.

I strongly encourage everyone to review your life and decide what your true priorities are or should be. Life will be so much more gratifying when you do things for you, and things that will benefit you in the long run, rather than someone else. Yes, it's wonderful to share it with someone. But let that someone be your significant other, not your spouse or 'baby mama' or 'daddy'. Take time to enjoy being in an undocumented relationship, as in a relationship without licenses or certificates that legally bind you to someone. Don't rush your life.

Don't get me wrong, I'm more than willing to make time for dating, but dating and boys aren't something I focus all my time on. I know what my priorities are, and they are to work hard on getting an education and placing my foot in doors that will bring greater career opportunities. And this is exactly what I'm doing.

Raising the Bar – The Decibel Level of the Xlerator®, an Opposing Point of View

By Joan Butler
Special to the Live Wire

If you haven't already noticed the Xlerator®, the new hand dryers that have been installed in the restrooms, turn one on and you will. The roar that permeates from these new and very expensive dryers (\$402 each, without installation costs, according to public records) sounds like something you would expect to hear on the runway of a major airport rather than on a community college campus.

The Xlerator® is sensory activated, can completely dry your hands in as little as 10-15 seconds, and boasts that it is so economical that it can provide an average of 80 percent in savings in energy costs. Why then with all this good news would anyone complain about its existence in the restrooms?

Simply stated, it has to do with the decibel (dB) level of the Xlerator® and the elimination of all paper towels in campus restrooms. Unlike the old, quiet, and not so economical hand dryers that used to exist in the restrooms, the Xlerator® has a decibel rating of 78-80 dB, according to an information and specification sheet available at www.airdelights.com.

In fact, the Xlerator® is so loud that several complaints have already been made, despite the short term they are activated when turned on. Perhaps this has something to do with the fact that the Xlerator® rests upon the cusp of where permanent damage to hearing can occur. According to www.dangerousdecibels.org/hearingloss.cfm, if a sound reaches 85 decibels (dB) permanent damage can occur. The amount of time you listen to a sound affects how much damage it will cause.

Due to today's economic crisis, there is no question that MCC must reduce costs in as many ways as possible in order for the institution to remain healthy and viable. In fact, I firmly believe that the decision to eliminate paper towels from the restrooms is a reactive budgetary one rather than a thoughtful and carefully targeted decision.

The lack of paper towels in the restrooms means there is nothing available to clean up with in the event that an individual--you or someone you may know--becomes ill, has an accident and is bleeding, spills something, or even wants to wipe up around the sink and toilet, particularly in the unisex restrooms in the AST tower, after they have been used. In fact, the elimination of all paper towels in the restroom merely shifts costs from a green technology—paper towels that can be recycled—to additional electrical expenses that are not green technology. Despite anticipation that the Xlerator® will save funds by eliminating \$26,000 yearly in paper towel usage, in all probability it will never be realized.

Although I strongly support the theme of a Green Campus, I decisively believe that an institution of higher education could and should be supporting education of conservation, rather than forcing conservation. Moreover, the individual's freedom of choice to make an educated and informed decision, or the right to make the right choice has been taken away - "why use two when one will do"- from those who wish to use paper towels instead of the Xlerator®.

Furthermore, the excessive noise generated by the Xlerator®, even for short periods of time, and the elimination of all paper towels in the restrooms continues to concern many.

I continue to embrace change, and commend the sustainability committee (aka "The Green Team") and its efforts to promote, enhance, and effectively provide measures and services that will help MCC reduce energy costs to run our buildings more effectively.

However, I am unable to blindly accept the decision to stand behind or defend the institution's decision of installation of the excessively loud Xlerator® in the restrooms on campus and the new initiative to completely remove all paper towels from the restrooms. As the institution continues to embark on its new initiative of a Green Campus, as is true of all new endeavors, mistakes will be made in the learning process. Perhaps installation of the excessively loud Xlerator® and the removal of all paper towels from the restrooms is one of them.

There is no question that the institution has a responsibility to manage its facilities and that tough decisions will need to be made to get through the economic crisis. The task at hand is not an easy one, nor one that can and will meet the needs and expectations of everyone on campus.

However, how the institution handles the tough decisions that it needs to make during this time of economic crisis will determine how they are accepted and perceived by the community both within and outside its walls. How it handles or corrects the mistakes that are made will be the true measure of MCC's success.

Pres. Barack Obama has become the first African-American to be president of the United States, but he is t

- **1870** - Republican Hiram R. Revels of Mississippi becomes the first African-American elected to the U.S. Senate when he is chosen to complete the term vacated by the former Confederate president, Jefferson Davis. Later the same year, Republican Joseph Hayne Rainey is the first black elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. Re-elected four times, Congressman Rainey enjoys the longest tenure of any black during Reconstruction.
- **1888** - At the Republican convention Frederick Douglass becomes the first African-American to have his name placed in nomination by a major party.
- **1901** - The last African-American congressman elected in the 19th Century, George H. White, Republican of North Carolina, leaves office. No African-American will serve in Congress for the next 28 years.
- **1928** - On Nov. 6, Oscar DePriest, a Republican, is elected to Congress from Chicago's South Side. He is the first African-American to represent a northern, urban district.



Ma

1870

1928

And they may follow in his footsteps...

Roland W. Burris (Democrat)

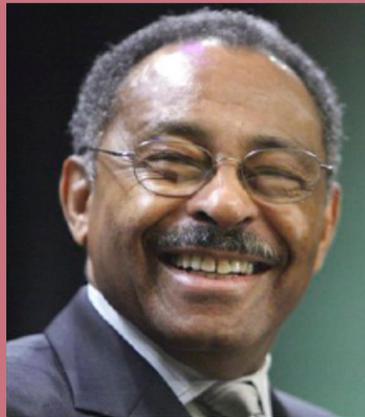
Senator from Illinois

Bio: Born in Illinois, earned a bachelor's degree in political science from Southern Illinois University Carbondale, graduated from Howard University School of Law in 1963; only African American who at this time occupies a seat in the U.S. Senate, first African-American elected to a statewide office in Illinois in 1978; married, two children. He is 72.

Quote: According to U.S. News & World Report, Burris has erected a granite mausoleum for himself in Chicago's Oak Woods Cemetery. Carved under the words "Trail Blazer" is a long list of Burris's accomplishments.

Known for: After losing three bids to become governor of Illinois, was appointed to the senate to fill the seat vacated by Pres. Barack Obama by now-impeached Gov. Rod Blagojevich. He was first refused entry by the senate because his appointment was deemed tainted, but was seated just before Christmas.

What's next? His senate seat is already in trouble because he apparently did not tell the whole truth about his connection to Blagojevich, according to recent news reports. He may not make it to the end of the two-year appointment, let alone run for election.



Cory A. Booker (Democrat)

Mayor of Newark, N.J.

Bio : Born in Washington, D.C., earned a bachelor's degree in political science and a master's degree in sociology, both from Stanford, won the Rhodes scholarship to attend Oxford University (England), and graduated from Yale University Law School in 1997. He is 39 and single.

Quote: He said in 2006 in *U.S. News & World Report*, "The stories I would hear from my parents were often of the ugliest pictures of America, but my parents raised me to believe that I had to be a part of this unfolding story, and that the best way to do that was to be a part of the struggle."

Known For: When he became mayor in 2006, he was living in a run-down building in a crime-ridden part of Newark known for housing crack dealers. He only moved out when it was condemned. Also rumored to have dated Oprah's BFF Gayle King and political commentator Arianna Huffington.

What's Next : Young, black, handsome, smart. Sound familiar? All he needs to do now is find his "Michelle."



1973

1993

- **1973** - On May 29, Thomas Bradley is elected the first black mayor of Los Angeles in the modern era. He is reelected four times and thus holds the mayor's office for 20 years.
- **1989** - Gen. Colin Powell (1937 -) is appointed Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, becoming the first African-American to achieve the highest military ranking in the U.S. Armed Forces.
 - Ronald H. Brown (1941 - 1996) is elected as the first African-American chair-person of the Democratic National Committee.
 - Douglas Wilder becomes the first elected African-American Governor. (Virginia)
- **1992** -Carol Moseley Braun of Illinois becomes the first African-American woman elected to the U. S. Senate.
- **1993** - Dr. M. Joycelyn Elders becomes the first African-American and the first woman to be named U.S. Surgeon General.



To Power

the result of years of struggle, setbacks, and sacrifice made by dozens of other black people throughout history.



Marshall

1966

- **1966** -On Jan. 13, Robert Weaver, Pres. Lyndon B. Johnson’s nominee to head the newly created Department of Housing and Urban Development, is confirmed for the post by the U.S. Senate. Weaver becomes the first African-American to hold a cabinet post. On Jan. 25 Constance Baker Motley is appointed by Pres. Johnson to the federal bench in New York City. She becomes the first African-American woman elevated to a federal judgeship.
- **1967** - Thurgood Marshall, formerly an NAACP attorney, is appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court becoming the first black justice.
- **1969** - Democrat Douglas Wilder is elected to the Senate, becoming the first African-American senator from Virginia since Reconstruction.
- **1972**- New York Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm makes an unsuccessful bid for the Democratic presidential nomination. She is the first African-American to campaign for the nomination. Barbara Jordan of Houston and Andrew Young of Atlanta become the first black Congressional representatives elected from the U.S. south since 1898.

1972

Yvette D. Clarke (Democrat)

Representative of New York’s 11th District

Bio: Born in Brooklyn, earned a scholarship to Oberlin College, but left with six hours of credits yet to fulfill toward graduation. She was elected in 2001 to the New York City Council, an accomplishment she shared with her mother, Una S.T. Clarke. Yvette Clarke was elected to the House of Representative in 2007. She is 44 and single.

Quote: In 2006, in *The New York Times* newly elected representative said about following her mother onto the New York City Council, “It was never something that we sat down and planned as a family goal...I think that we both wanted to see a more prosperous community and that we were both compelled to look at every means of making that happen. And we arrived at the same conclusion.”

Known for: Claimed to have graduated from Oberlin College when she was still several credits shy of a degree and ten years after the councilwoman left the Ohio liberal arts school behind, state officials went to court saying she hadn’t paid all of her student loans. Clarke still owed \$4,268, officials said.

What’s next? Has recently been appointed Chairwoman of the Homeland Security Subcommittee on Emerging Threats, Cybersecurity and Science and Technology. Proof that you can still get ahead without a college degree. But is the House of Representatives as far as she can go?



Jesse Jackson Jr. (Democrat)

Rep. of Illinois’ 2nd District

Bio: Born in Greenville, South Carolina, Jackson graduated magna cum laude from North Carolina A & T State University in Greensboro, in 1987 where he earned a bachelor’s degree in business management. Three years later, he earned a master’s degree in theology from the Chicago Theological Seminary, and in 1993, received his law degree from the University of Illinois College of Law. He was elected to the House in 1995. He is the son of former presidential candidate and civil rights activist Jesse Jackson. He is 43, and married with, two children.

Quote: According to *The New York Times* said “I am honored to be a servant of this body,” Jackson said after he took his oath of office from House Speaker Newt Gingrich. “Together, we must make the American dream possible for all Americans.”

Known for: Jackson was tagged as “Senate Candidate #5” during the investigation into Gov. Rod Blagojevich of Illinois. Jackson was alleged to have agreed to raise money for the governor in exchange for appointment to the senate seat left empty by Pres. Barack Obama. Jackson denied having anything to do with the scheme and he has not been charged with a crime.

What’s next? Jackson’s polling numbers have plummeted since the fallout with Gov. Blagojevich. But he is still considered a serious contender for the senate in 2010 and later, the presidency.



2009

2001

- **2001** – Gen. Powell is appointed Secretary of State, becoming the first African-American to ever hold that position. Condoleezza Rice takes the position of National Security Advisor for the Bush administration. This is the first time either of these posts is held by an African-American.
- **2004** - Illinois State Sen. Barack Obama is elected to the U.S. Senate, becoming only the fifth African-American to serve there.
- **2005** - Condoleezza Rice is appointed Secretary of State. She is the first African-American woman, second African-American (after Powell), and second woman (after Madeleine Albright) to serve as Secretary of State.
- **2008** – Sen. Obama becomes the first African-American to win the Democratic nomination for U.S. president. Obama wins the presidential election on Nov. 4th, becoming the first African-American president-elect.
- Lt. Gov. David Paterson becomes the first African-American governor of New York, and the first legally blind governor of any U.S. state.
- **2009** - On Jan. 20 Obama became the first African-American president in the history of the U.S.



Rice

Seth Rogen, Show Stealer

By Alex Obert
Live Wire Staff Writer

Here's a question that any MCC student can answer easily. How many of you saw the movie "Knocked Up?" How about "Superbad?" or "Pineapple Express?" If you've seen at least one of these movies, then you are clearly familiar with Seth Rogen, actor, comedian, writer and film producer.

In "Knocked Up," Rogen plays Ben Stone, a slacker who has a one night stand with a woman, which results in an unexpected pregnancy. In "Superbad," he plays Officer Michaels, a cop that hilariously abuses his powers and goes on a journey with everybody's favorite character, McLovin, played by Christopher Mintz-Plasse. Although McLovin is the most remembered character from the movie, all of the characters added different elements to the movie which is why it was such a success, not only at the box office, but also with critics. In "Pineapple Express," Rogen plays Dale Denton, a process server who witnesses a murder by corrupt cops.

But how does Rogen make these movies hilarious? MCC student Kamaal Lowen said one way is Rogen choice of topics.

"The thing that sets Rogen apart from other actors/directors is that he has the ability to transform a somewhat serious topic or situation into a funny one," he said. "He does this by sculpting storylines and scenes that viewers can relate to."

Let's take a look at this. Unexpected pregnancy sounds serious on paper, but Rogen turns it into a comedic performance. A dimwitted cop may sound like an issue in real life, but on the big screen, it makes for a great movie. Witnessing a murder and smoking marijuana may sound like serious issues, but of course they are made hilarious by Rogen.

So what's next for the man? He's working on a comedy-drama set to be released on July 31 called "Funny People." In it, Rogen stars with actor/comedian Adam Sandler in the story about two stand-up comedians who face life's challenges, including trying to figure out an on-stage persona (Rogen) and having a year to live (Sandler). I have a feeling that this will be a huge hit this summer at the box



Courtesy of Google

office. I'm not the only one who thinks so.

"He's really good at casting, he knows how to assemble a cast that will have good comedic chemistry and work well together," said another MCC student, Taylor Hansen.

Another film that Rogen is set to star in is, quite possibly, one of the most controversial film subjects in quite some time. The film is called "I'm With Cancer" and is about a man's struggle to beat the disease. This movie is being written by Will Reiser, who is currently struggling to beat cancer. Can he and Rogen take cancer and turn it into a comedic film? Only time will tell. But Rogen has succeeded so far, said Lowen.

"By sculpting storylines and scenes that viewers can relate to, Rogen draws an invisible connection between viewers and the on-screen character. But, this line is often what separates a good film from a dull roll of glossy tape," he said.

The world has seen quite a few comedic characters over the years, including Jim Carrey, Chris Rock, Will Ferrell, Jack Black and the late Chris Farley. Those are just a few of the names of actors who have made us laugh over the years. In the present day, Seth Rogen has established himself as a household name in the world of comedy. Call me crazy, but I have a feeling that 50 years from now, Rogen will be talked about with reverence.

ASK PHOEBE

By "Phoebe"
Live Wire Staff Writer



Courtesy of Google

Hi readers. My name is Phoebe, and I will be your new resident advice columnist. I know we've had difficulty in the past with getting enough questions from the student body, (HINT HINT) but I am hopeful that there are a few desperate souls out there that need some advice. I will try to answer your questions to the best of my abilities and hope that my advice will help you in any way possible. Since this is the first issue I am featured in, I have no questions from the public to answer. I do hope to have a few for the next issue (again, HINT HINT) that I will be glad to answer. So, seeing as how I have no advice to give, I thought I'd talk about a few issues that have come up recently.

I'm sure most of you have at least heard of the 33-year-old California woman named Nadya Suleman, who had octuplets (eight babies) that were conceived through in-vitro fertilization. She already had six children before, also from in vitro, now giving her a total of 14 children.

Now, I'm all for people having the freedom to do whatever they wish in this country, but I am a bit worried about this situation. The woman's mother described her daughter as being obsessed with having children. To have a single mother raise 14 children is a challenge, to say the least. It's difficult for married couples with a few children to make ends meet nowadays, let alone a single, unemployed woman. How could this woman possibly support her 14 children?

Now, what's going to happen is this. The state of California and the United States government will have to step in to help the woman out, with the tax money of hard working Americans. I am in no way against people having children, but this situation is a bit ridiculous. Why would a single mother want to have 14 children without a support system set up to ensure adequate necessities are always available for the children?

Psychologists have also expressed worry about the psychological impact being part of such a large family will have on the children. Surely, they will experience some psychological problems in the future, such as lack of appropriate attention and the challenge of living with that many siblings. And then there's the mother. Is having 14 children just because you'd like to a justifiable reason. I feel she should do what's best for the children and give them up for adoption to parents who are unable to conceive. What those children need are families that can adequately support them while they grow up. They shouldn't have to worry about the financial aspects of living because that's the parents' job.

There's also speculation that the woman is only doing this for the publicity and the money. And there is ample evidence for this claim. She was offered an interview by talk show host Oprah Winfrey and, in return for doing it, Suleman asked for \$2 million. So publicity isn't enough for this woman, she wants money as well.

No matter how this situation is looked at, it all boils down to this: a woman, who is currently unemployed, has 14 children. Her own mother is disapproving of her lifestyle and all this seems to be a scam for money for Suleman. You fill in the blanks.

To comment on this piece or to "Ask Phoebe" a question on another topic, please email the Live Wire at livewire@mcc.commnet.edu, or bring your question to the Live Wire office, Lowe 253, above the bookstore. The column is for entertainment purposes only and the views expressed are those of the writer, not the Live Wire staff or the administration of Manchester Community College. The Live Wire reserves the right to reject any question.

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HE SAID



She Said

How do I go about meeting girls at MCC?

Easier said than done. There are some guys who can meet a new girl every day, but, in reality, for the 99 percent of the rest of us, it's a pretty daunting task. There are always the sweaty palms, the stuttering, and even the tripping over your own feet.

First things first: smile. How many girls like seeing a guy with a frown or a mad face? I don't think many girls would want to be approached by a possible significant other with a nice, mopey face on. To be approachable we have to be happy and confident. Now I know most of us guys are not always confident, but if the girl thinks that you are confident then it's one step closer. Now by confident, I don't mean cocky because cocky guys are the ones the girls watch out for and stay away from. It'll take some time, but you will find that balance between cocky and confident.

I know many people have lives outside of MCC, but a good way to meet people, girls especially, is to join a campus club. Now, with your smile and confidence you can showcase it with a new bunch of people. Though girls sometimes like the shy, quiet guys, if you are in a club, you increase your chances of meeting new girls dramatically. Meeting girls in hallways for a guy is almost an impossibility. The walk-by technique of saying "hi" works probably 1 time out of a million. For me, at least, the walk-by doesn't work. In a club, you have the opportunity to be yourself. The club lets you relax and be genuine, whereas in the hallways you have to puff up your chest and look "cool." Clubs allow you to be someone that you want to be, which helps the girls in the club see you for who you really are. Girls, I believe, tend to appreciate guys better when they aren't with their obnoxious friends and get to see you for what and who you are.

Some may say luck has a lot to do with it and sometimes it is luck that helps two people get together. I am not saying join every club MCC has to offer, but join a club you know that you will enjoy. If you join the dance club just to see some girls dance you are in the wrong club. But if you really pick a club that suits you, then you should be a shoe in to meeting someone that could potentially become your significant other.

Meeting girls is different for everyone. It may not take on your first try and it may not work on your eighth. Meeting new people is about determination. If you don't try, then obviously you won't find anyone. But if you do try, then you could find that one person.

Put yourself out there, and good luck.

Jonathan Stankiewicz

If you have any questions that you would like answered by two of our staff members please drop them off in the He Said/ She Said box located at the circulation desk in the Library!

Meeting people is never easy and meeting girls is even more daunting of a task, but it's not entirely impossible. First of all, it's never easy to meet people, it takes effort. Especially at a community college where you come to school, go to class, maybe grab some food, possibly go to another class and then leave to do God knows what else. So pay attention to what I am about to tell you: **You need to put yourself out there!** Change your routine up a bit. Get involved within the school environment; join a club, volunteer for a function at the school, attend an event, etc. I know that might sound lame, and you might be hesitant... at first. But if you don't change your boring routine then you will never meet anyone new. Most of the girls that I know look for a guy who is both confident (but be careful not to confuse confident with cocky) and funny. They like someone with whom the conversation is never dull. But don't be too eager and talk obsessively, either, because otherwise girls are going to hate that you never give them the chance to talk, so be careful to listen as well. Chivalry is also key. I'm lucky enough to have found the one guy left on this planet that still opens doors and buys flowers on a regular basis. So when you do meet that girl, and yes I'm going to assume that you are going to join a club and put forth some effort into meeting someone, make sure that you put the same amount of effort in meeting that special someone as you would dating her.

Ashley E. Lang

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“Notorious” Worth the Trip and the Money

By Joseph P. Cavanagh
Live Wire Staff Writer

Telling the story of someone who lived for many years - a *full* life some might say - is a tall task; such as in a eulogy or an obituary. To realize and relate all of the important details of another's life is more difficult than remembering the twists and turns of one's own life. When the subject of remembrance fails to live said *full* life, but achieves the dreams that the masses only hope to stumble upon, the task becomes only taller. Couple this with that life ending in an unsolved murder, and you've got the material to craft a story that could be manipulated, and sugarcoated, to glorify the fallen hero.

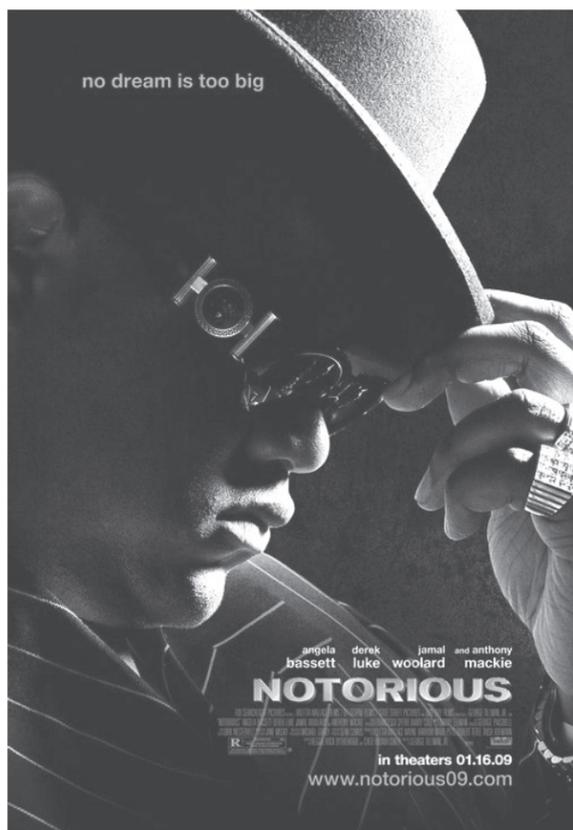
I don't claim to be a rap expert, never mind a Notorious BIG expert, but going into the theater, I expected something rather specific from the co-producers of the film “Notorious” Sean “P-Diddy” Combs and Voletta Wallace (BIG's friend/business partner and mother, respectively). Usually when someone goes in to the theater expecting one thing and getting another they are unhappy. The opposite happened in this case. What I took from this film was at least an attempt at candidness: a non-sugarcoated glimpse into the life of a murdered rap superstar.

“Notorious” tells the story of a boy, Brooklyn-born and raised, named Christopher Wallace. Brought up by his single mother, Wallace, played by Angela Bassett, the film shows that young Wallace had a chance to live a crime-free life. His mother enrolled him in private school, instilling morals in a seemingly immoral world in an attempt to shelter the future rapper from the

violent surroundings in the New York City borough. Bassett's performance embodies the struggle any inner city single mother would endure in a winner-take-all battle with the streets for her most prized possession: her only child.

Not to be out done, Jamal Woolard, aka “Gravy,” an underground rap star, delivers an impressive performance while reliving the metamorphosis of Chris Wallace into Notorious BIG. Bassett and Woolard certainly lend the movie its two strongest individual performances. This is not surprising considering Bassett's resume, which includes an Academy Award nomination, and Woolard's singing and rapping ability. The film also includes BIG's real-life son, Christopher Wallace, Jr., who plays Biggie from age eight to 13.

“Notorious” also captures the perspectives of three of the most important women, besides his mother, in Biggie's life: Jan, the mother of his first child; his wife Faith Evans; and Kim Jones, aka “Lil Kim.” As I mentioned before, “Notorious” is thankfully not just a sugarcoated biopic, and especially not when covering the lives of these three women, and their respective volatile relationships with the rap star. The film portrays the progression of Jones, first as Wallace's lover, into Lil' Kim, a fellow performer under the same record label, quite well, including the influence of her and Wallace's relationship on her musical performance style. The portrayal of Biggie's sometimes-sordid personal life lends the film a suggestion of reality.



Courtesy of Google Images

While the film does tackle some of Notorious BIG's shortcomings, it is predictably one-sided when depicting the infamous east coast vs. west coast hip-hop rivalry, and specifically that between Tupac Shakur and Notorious BIG. With both rappers dying, victims of unsolved shootings, there could be no transparent truthful way

to tell this story. Especially when supporters of the east coast blame the west coast for Biggie's murder, and, vice versa. The film represents BIG as having no real role in creating the east coast vs. west coast rivalry. While this may very well be true, I'm sure it's not a widely accepted reality for west coast supporters.

“Notorious” takes on the tall task of interpreting the life of a rap superstar and what led to his tragic demise. It is at some points a seemingly inspirational tale, based on true events, encouraging the viewer that no dream is too big to realize. It is also at times a cautionary tale, warning that, if your dream is fame, there is always a price.

In light of today's ease of access to obtain “bootleg” copies of DVDs and to find yet-to-be-released films on the Internet, I'm going to rate this film based on its actual worth—its cost to the viewer if it is viewed in the theater.

Based on a ticket price of \$9.75, “Notorious” deserves an \$8 rating. I encourage anyone to spend the money to see this film in the theater; buy a large popcorn, some soda and some candy. It's worth it.

Besides, as Notorious BIG so eloquently states in the film, “Mo' money, mo' problems.”

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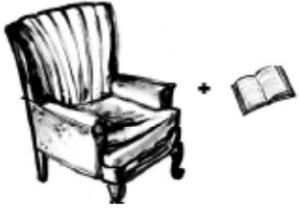
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Poetry Corner



The Depths of Love

My heart swells like the ocean tides,
Full,
Strong,
and deep.
Our love is vast as the sea.
Tides, currents, and wind
intertwine us together.
A rich past,
Full memories,
And a future,
abundant with stories yet to be written
and shared.
Take my hand,
Stand by my side.
May we overcome mountains and valleys,
Oceans and rivers,
all in the name of love.

Rainy Days

The corners of my mouth slowly curve into a smile
My heart becomes afloat when I read your words
etched along the paper.
Remembering all the days we've had,
and all the days to come,
makes me feel free and light.
Love is slow to anger,
and unconditional.
No matter what,
I will always love you.
These raindrops patter on my window,
and stream down like shooting stars.
Those raindrops are tears I shed when I think
of how faraway you are.
Alone in this room,
cold and lonely.
I wish you could hold me,
and listen to the rain pour down.
Cause rainy days are the best days,
when spent with you.

Poems by Olivia H. Brown

Inside Hausbeck's Head: A Look at the New York Native's Passion

By Ashley E. Lang
Live Wire Layout Editor

Discarded scrap metal, old motors, and forgotten childhood toys are all that is needed for artist Chris Hausbeck to create his work. His art, an eclectic mix of metals, electric motors from movie projectors, and old, discarded toys all intertwine to create visually stimulating, thought provoking, and sometimes downright frightening works of art. Several pieces are now on display in the Hans Weiss Newspace Gallery on the lower level of the Arts, Sciences and Technology building in an exhibit titled "Hausbeck's Super Ultra Device and Other Mechanisms that May Cause Discomfort."

One work of art that is on display is called "Trigger Happy" and incorporates dog bones into the mix. Hausbeck removed the face from a plush toy and replaced it with the skull of a deceased dog and hung it from wires on top of an old worn box.

"I like skeletons and skulls. It's the architecture of the human body," said Hausbeck on Feb. 6 during the opening reception for the show.

While animal bones are a frequent sight in Hausbeck's work, he not only draws his inspiration from the human form but from his experiences in life as well.

"I'm not a trained artist, I make this stuff... some of the things evolve, I'm very open to what they have to do," he said.

My own personal favorite piece in the show is "A Month Before July," which showcases a mother holding her bare bottomed child while a seemingly vicious dog is catapulted off of a jump biting the child's bum each time it goes around.

Hausbeck described his influence for this piece as an old friend, a former nun who devoted a good portion of her life to serving the church and its community.

"[This was] my take on her decision to give up love and children for God," he said. "Now she is watching her whole family die of cancer."

Like a true artist, Hausbeck showcases his own feelings and perceptions of the world and brings them to life in his art, but he said the path of an artistic life is not always an easy one.

"I hope you can see I do what I love and it's a lot of fun... I take back scrap metal for food. You have to do what you have to do, but it's my path."

While most of Hausbeck's work can be rather frightening at first glance, once you fully submerge yourself into it and truly look at it not as random objects strewn together but as life, as a story, as art, you can truly understand and appreciate his work.

The exhibit will in the gallery until March 12. I highly suggest that anyone, whether you're an artist yourself, or just a passerby, stop in and take a good look around. You will surely not walk away disappointed.



Shown above is Hausbeck's art work "Trigger Happy" which incorporates the use of dog bones.



Shown above is artist Chris Hausbeck, whose work is now on display in the Hans Weiss Gallery until March 12.

Photos by Ashley E. Lang
More photos, see **Hausbeck**, page 14

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Cont. from **Hausebeck**, page 13



Above, is one of the sculptures in the Hans Weiss Newspace Gallery by Chris Hausbeck. Left is a plush Energizer bunny stuffed toy with a monkey skull, which is also on exhibit in the Gallery until March 12.

Photos by Ashley E. Lang

My name is Shannon Hogan and I'm your local music reporter. I've been actively involved in the Connecticut music scene for about 10 years as a musician and a fan. I like anything and everything and I'm always interested in new acts and upcoming shows. Feel free to email me at the Live Wire, livewire@mcc.commnet.edu, with show dates or your band's website.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Feb.						Thursday @ Webster, Hartford
	23	24	25	26	27	28
Mar. Fountains of Wayne @Iron Horse, Northampton, MA		Mudvayne @ Webster, Hartford		Fabulus @ Toad's Place, New Haven		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Hollywood Undead / Senses Fail @ Webster, Hartford		Ok Go @ Toad's Place, New Haven			Doomstar! @ Cherry Street Station, Wallingford	Busta Rhymes @ Toad's Place, New Haven
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	Less Than Jake @ Toad's Place, New Haven	St. Patrick's Day	The Game @ Toad's Place, New Haven			
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
		The Mountain Goats @ Pearl Street, Northampton, MA				
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
			Apr.	Vanna @ Webster Underground, Hartford	The Brian Jonestown Massacre @ Pearl Street, Northampton, MA	The Bad Plus @ Iron Horse, Northampton, MA
29	30	31	1	2	3	4

Sully on Sports

United We Progress Towards a More Perfect Sports Union

By Tom Sullivan
Live Wire Staff Writer

Inspired by my recent excursion to Washington D.C. to celebrate the inauguration of our nation's 44th President, I think it's time we take the theme of "change" that everybody is so into, myself included, and apply it where it's most needed and where we know it's most important: the world of sports.

This month has already started with a flurry of controversy, from Michael Phelps' infamous bong hit, to Joe Torre's shocking tell-all book (sitting on my desk waiting to be read), and culminating with the less than shocking news that the best baseball player of the current generation spent a few years taking performance enhancing drugs; so, clearly, there is no better sport to begin with than Major League Baseball.

There are plenty of points argued constantly involving pro-baseball: designated hitter or no designated hitter, early games or late games, short season or long season, and so on. My concern for baseball, though, isn't about the game itself, it's about how we view players, statistics, and records as they relate to baseball. With Alex Rodriguez's recent admission to steroid use from 2001-2003, clearly it's time that we finally accept baseball's steroid era for what it was and not treat these players any differently.

Sure it's tough to see that Sammy Sosa has hit only 51 fewer career home runs than the great image of baseball purity Willie Mays, but it's reality. No one can tell me that they didn't enjoy watching Mark McGwire bop 500 foot dingers all over the country back in 1998 when he shattered Roger Maris' long standing single season home run record. Even then we knew, in the back of our minds, that something was fishy, but there was no testing, and it wasn't technically illegal at the time, so why wouldn't these guys have wanted to get an edge? As more information has become available to us over the past few years it's even safe to say that many of the pitchers of that era were just as juiced as guys like McGwire, Sosa, Barry Bonds, and Jose Canseco, so why should we throw their numbers out the window?

Take a look at A-Rod. He's always been a polarizing figure. He came into baseball with a lot of hype, and he pretty much always lived up to it. The only thing that could keep A-Rod down was his own mind, he was never able, and still hasn't proven to be able, to handle pressure. A-Rod gave in to the pressure. Not the type of pressure caused by 50,000 rabid Yankees fans breathing down your neck, down one run, in the bottom of the ninth; but regular old peer pressure. All the cool kids were doing it, so why wouldn't little Alex. I have always been an A-Rod defender, and I admit it's tough now, but hopefully when all is said and done for little Alex, we'll have been able to drop the obsession we have with statistics and performance enhancers, and look back and his career for how awesome it was.

It's time we step down from the top of Mount Pius and start remembering the great moments in baseball like we remember moments in other sports. It's not the numbers we pay attention to in football and basketball, but everybody remembers Franco Harris' immaculate reception, Mi-

chael Jordan's game winning three pointer to beat the Jazz in 1998, an of course Adam Vinatieri's 48 yard field goal to beat the Rams in Super Bowl XXXVI. The steroid guys will always have a shadow cast over them, and rightfully so, but that doesn't mean we should ignore them entirely.

On to other areas of sport!

I don't want to bore anybody but I've heard a great idea for making NHL Hockey better. The idea comes from ESPN's "Sports Guy" Bill Simmons. Quickly, we contract the league to 22 teams and instead of having an East and West conference, we have 11 teams in the U.S. and 11 teams in Canada and the idea of national pride could help incite some interest in hockey in America. The season would be shorter, teams would be more talented, and the game would be way more fun to watch.

The 11 Canadian teams could be in Montreal, Toronto, Ottawa, Winnipeg, Edmonton, Quebec City, Calgary, Vancouver, Hamilton, Halifax, and Saskatoon. The 11 American teams would be perfect. We get rid of teams in cities like Nashville, Atlanta, and Charlotte, and keep hockey where it matters. The 11 teams would be New York, Boston, Detroit, Chicago, Los Angeles, Dallas, Minneapolis, St. Louis, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, and...Hartford, let's do it!

Changing the NBA for the better is easy; just shorten the playoffs. Eighty-two games isn't too long for the regular season, but do the playoffs really need to extend two entire months? Last season the Boston Celtics began the playoffs on April 20, 2008 with a 104-81 win over the Atlanta Hawks, and finished on June 17 with a 17th championship. My suggestion: make it like the NFL playoffs. Six teams from each conference, the highest four seeds on each side play each other in a single elimination to see who takes on the two lowest seeds in the next round, and play best-of-seven from there.

Speaking of the NFL, I'll conclude with them because their season just concluded, and I'm now as far away as I could be from my Patriots playing a game. I know we all think the NFL is perfect, and their television ratings and merchandise revenues show it, but we were all disappointed this past season when the San Diego Chargers versus Indianapolis Colts game went to overtime and the referees handed the Chargers the game without even giving the Colts an opportunity to possess the ball. I'm a big proponent of not changing the way a game is played for any reason, especially not just for a specific circumstance. I don't like college football overtime, penalty kicks, or hockey shootouts. I think the game should finish the way it was played the entire game. So, in lieu of the current sudden death system that the NFL has used since 1974, I think if the game ends regulation with the score tied that they should just play another eight or ten minute period, to allow the teams to continue to assert their game plan and not have to worry about a silly coin toss deciding their fate.

We're moving into a new era as a country, starting fresh, and thinking logically. So why not start a new era in sports. My suggestions seem logical, but I could but be wrong. Hey...it's change I can believe in.



Home Slate Ends with a Bang for Cougar's Basketball

By Tom Sullivan
Live Wire Staff Writer

It was an emotional and electric night Wednesday, Feb. 11, as the Manchester Community College Cougars women's basketball team defeated the Lady Pointers of the University of Connecticut-Avery Point 75-68.

Off the court that night it was a celebration, as two chapters of MCC athletics came to a close. Not only was it the final home game for the team's four sophomores, it was the last time MCC basketball would be played at the East Catholic High School gymnasium. The new Great Path Academy high school gym will be its home next season.

MCC said goodbye to the sophomore leaders during a heartwarming pre-game ceremony to honor their MCC careers. Katurah Andrews, Jhenel Franklin, Amy Griswold, and Shanika Hines all played important roles for the team all season, and also in the victory over UCAP.

Griswold, the school's sole two-sport athlete, a defensive specialist in both soccer and hoops, was a much-needed defensive spark plug for the Cougars. With quick feet and excellent ball-shadowing skills, Griswold was a menace to opposing offenses all season long.

Also proving to be a strong defensive presence, leading the team with 38 blocked shots heading in to the game against UCAP, Andrews showed the type of grit and intensity that 180 vivacious spectators (by far the most all season) came to see.

"[Katurah] is an excellent jumper with very long arms, so she makes it very difficult for anybody to shoot over her," said Head Coach Robert Turner Jr.

The spotlight that night was on Hines and Franklin, though, as Hines poured in 26 points along with 11 rebounds and Franklin awed with her unconventional passing style, recording 12 assists.

"Her passes come very quickly and at odd angles," said Peter Harris, one of the team's assistant coaches and director of admissions for MCC.

Hines, a preseason All-American, was third among NJCAA Division III scorers, averaging more than 21 points per game. She was also a model of consistency, playing in every game of her two-year career with MCC.

Franklin lead all Division III players with 187 assists and was third in the nation with 102 steals prior to the last game. She also led the team in rebounds.

"I think [Hines and Franklin] are the best players in the region," said Turner. "Their desire to win pulled the whole team through."

Also putting up stellar numbers that night was freshman stand-out Erika Murphy who scored 21 points in what proved to be the Cougars' 9th straight win.

It was a bittersweet send off for the sophomores as there is no postseason on the horizon for the Cougars even though they dominated their conference.

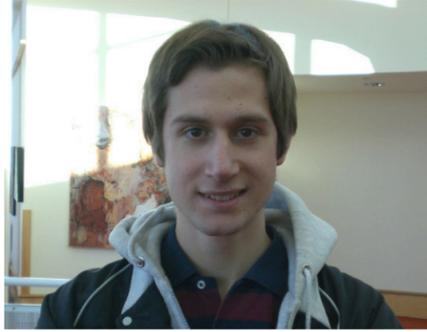
It was also bittersweet as MCC athletics said goodbye to the East Catholic gymnasium that Cougar Basketball has occupied for a long time, but they are looking forward to moving into their own, on campus, gym next season.

MCC Athletic Director Cynthia Washburne thanked East Catholic Athletic Director Tom Malin in front of the crowd, prior to the game against UCAP, and thanked him for his years of gracious hospitality.

"Without this gym, there would have been no basketball [at MCC], men's or women's," said Washburne.

WORD on campus

What do you think is better : graduating from MCC or transferring without a degree?



Justin Quagliano
Communications

“Graduating because it is more of a success than transferring.”



Denise Crawford
Paralegal

“Graduating because you get the satisfaction of the degree.”



Derek Maloney
Communications

“Transferring because there is no film school. I can’t get what I want and it’s not hands on.”



Jen Anderson
Communications

“Graduate and then leave because it is good to finish before paying all that money.”



Jon King
Sport and Exercise Studies

“Graduating because you have the degree in hand.””



Robin Davis
Psychology

“Graduating because you have the degree before you go to a 4-year school.”



Above, are Deborah Wilson, director of human resources, Dean of Students Affairs Alfred Carter, Grace Scollo, administrative assistant, and Umesh Vig, assistant dean of student affairs, at the grand opening of the remodeled cafeteria in the Lowe Building on Feb. 16.

Photo by Tom Sullivan